

ADL Delegation Meets with President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian



WASHINGTON — A delegation of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) met with visiting President of the Republic of Armenia Armen Sarkissian and Ambassador to the United States Grigor Hovhannissian on June 28. Together they discussed a number of topics ranging from foreign policy questions concerning the situation in Nagorno Karabakh to Armenian domestic issues such as the ongoing political changes, the state of the courts, and the degree of reliability of the Armenia media.

In the picture, from left, members of the ADL Supreme Council Kevork Marashlian and Edmond Y. Azadian, President Armen Sarkissian of the Republic of Armenia, President of the Supreme Council Vartan Nazerian, and Supreme Council member Hagop Vartivarian.

Fr. Dajad Davidian, Dynamic Former Leader Of St. James Parish Dies

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN — Fr. Dajad Davidian, the former pastor of St. James Armenian Church, died on July 14. He was 84.

He served the church from 1969 to 1999 and was succeeded by Rev. Arakel Aljalian.

Aljalian, speaking on Monday, July 16, remembered him as a larger-than-life personality, as well as mentor and cheerleader for the church.

see DAVIDIAN, page 10



Henry Morgenthau II, Grandson of Ambassador Morgenthau, Dies at 101

WASHINGTON — *Lifelong Supporter of US Recognition of Armenian Genocide*

Henry Morgenthau III, who dedicated himself to honoring the memory of his grandfather, Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, passed away on July 11 at age 101. The cause was complications from aortic stenosis, his daughter Sarah Morgenthau said.

In public presentations, in television appearances and in numerous publications, Henry Morgenthau III recounted his recollections of his grandfather with whom he lived in New York City. He was honored on many occasions by Armenian organizations across the country.

The Armenian National Institute and the Armenian Assembly of America organized his trip to Armenia in 1999 where he was honored by the National Academy of Sciences, the Armenian Genocide Museum, and the City of Yerevan.

Morgenthau was joined by his sons Dr.

Henry Ben Morgenthau and Kramer Morgenthau, as well as Armenian Assembly President Carolyn Mugar, longtime person-



Kramer Morgenthau, Henry Morgenthau III, and Dr. Henry Ben Morgenthau standing underneath a photo of Ambassador Henry Morgenthau at the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan

al friend from the time of his residence in Cambridge, Mass., and Kitty Dukakis, wife of the former governor of the state of Massachusetts and a board member of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

“My grandfather frequently told me that his attempts to save Armenian lives at the time of the Genocide and the establishment of the Near East Relief effort were the achievements that meant the most to him,” Morgenthau explained on the occasion. Ambassador Morgenthau served as President Woodrow Wilson’s emissary to the Ottoman Empire during World War I.

With Henry Morgenthau III’s endorsement, in 1996 the Armenian Assembly of America established the Henry Morgenthau Award for Meritorious Public Service which is given out to public officials in recognition of their contributions in defense of human rights. Recipients of the Assembly’s Morgenthau Award include the first US Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia Harry Gilmore and US Ambassador John Evans who publicly called for official US recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

“The Armenian people have lost a true friend with Henry’s passing. His grandfather Ambassador Henry Morgenthau played a critical role as the first opponent of genocide on the world stage as he defended the Armenian people. With his first-hand familiarity of his grandfather’s legacy, Henry stood with the Armenian people throughout his life, always ready to step up immediately to lend his gravitas in

see MORGENTHAU, page 10

Political Outsider Johnny Nalbandian Gets Himself on CA November Ballot

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Nalbandian, a seafood industry baron and long-time supporter of President Donald Trump, is facing off against Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA-28).

By Michael Melkonian

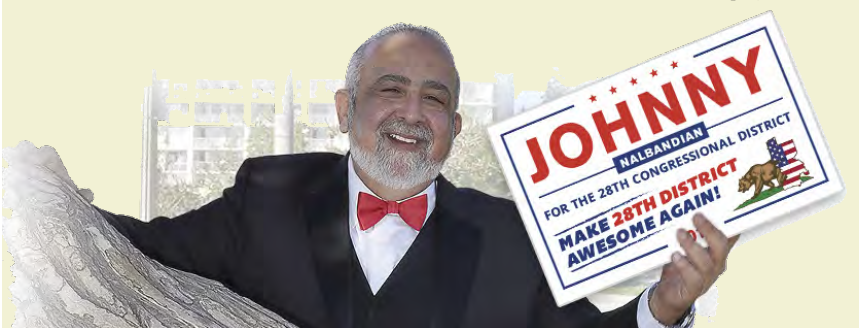
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Schiff has represented the district in the House since 2013. In the June 5 open primary, in which the top two vote-getters advance regardless of party, Schiff got 72.2 percent of the vote and Nalbandian got 22.2 percent. They will go head to head this fall.

Nalbandian was born in New Jersey and raised in California by his Armenian parents who hailed from Yerevan and Russia and immigrated to the US in 1944, fleeing Stalinist purges.

Nalbandian grew up working odd jobs from selling newspapers on street corners, to washing dishes in his parents’ restaurant, and cleaning restrooms at gas stations. Fueled by a strong drive to achieve his vision of the American

see NALBANDIAN, page 20



NEWS IN BRIEF

Prime Minister’s Son Conscripted

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan’s son, Ashot, was conscripted into the Defense Army of Artsakh on July 9, without participating in the draw, in accordance with his request.

In accordance with the law on Military Service and Status of Serviceman, Ashot Pashinyan wished to be stationed in Artsakh during the military service. He has been stationed in one of the military units of the Defense Army with the most difficult conditions.

Armenian Man Detained in Azerbaijan

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — A resident of an Armenian border village was detained by Azeri authorities after crossing into Azerbaijan the week-end of July 14-15.

The Azerbaijani military claimed to have captured the 34-year-old Karen Ghazaryan while thwarting an Armenian incursion into Azerbaijani territory.

The Armenian Defense Ministry was quick to deny the alleged incursion attempt, insisting that Karapetyan is a civilian resident of Berdavan, a village in the northern Tavush province located just a few kilometers from the Azerbaijani border.

“He suffers from mental problems and because of that didn’t serve in the armed forces of Armenia,” Tigran Balayan, the Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman, said on July 16.

Berdavan’s mayor, Smbat Mughdusian, also said that Ghazaryan suffers from mental disorders.

The mayor suggested that Ghazaryan lost his way and accidentally crossed the Armenian-Azerbaijani border. The man’s family house in the village is closest to the frontier, he said.

According to Balayan, the Armenian authorities are now trying to help repatriate Ghazaryan, including through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). An ICRC spokesperson in Yerevan said its representatives in Baku are already trying to visit him in custody.

Three Armenian nationals are currently held captive in Azerbaijan, according to the ICRC.

Yerevan Mayor Resigns, Elections to Follow

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan resigned on July 9, City Hall reported.

Taron Margaryan addressed a message to the Yerevan residents on this occasion.

He said, in part, “During the path we passed together I have tried to listen to the voice of each of you and gradually settle the issues of the capital, have been faithful to my promise and programs.”

A new mayor has yet to be elected.

INSIDE

Smithsonian Exclusives

Pages 14-15

INDEX

Arts and Living	13
Armenia	2,3
Community News.	6
Editorial	18
International	4,5



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

New Director Named to Armenian Genocide Museum

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The session of the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Foundation kicked off on July 3.

During the session 11 members of the Board of Trustees unanimously elected Raymond Kevorkian chairman of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Foundation.

Vladimir Vardanyan was appointed secretary of the Board of Trustees.

Hranush Kharatyan, a member of the Board of Trustees, said the staff of the Board of Trustees has already been approved according to the decree of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

During the session Deputy Minister of Education and Science Hovhannes Hovhannisyan proposed to transfer the duties of the acting director to scientific secretary of the Institute Narine Margaryan. The proposal was accepted unanimously by the members of the board.

Glendale Mayor Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan has held a meeting with Zareh Sinanyan, mayor of Glendale, the city home to a large Armenian community.

“Our countrymen from Los Angeles and Glendale provided great support during the political processes which took place in Armenia. We hope that in the post-revolutionary period this support will be inclusive with its content,” the Prime Minister said, expressing hope that the ties between Yerevan and Glendale will be strengthened even more.

In turn, Sinanyan noted that a great excitement exists among the Armenian community of Glendale over the revolution which took place in Armenia, relating to the new situation, presence of a legitimate government and other circumstances.

“Our ethnic Armenian residents are looking forward to substantive developments. I am convinced that there are many directions of cooperation, we must find the most effective options and be able to provide the best results,” the Glendale Mayor said.

The sides attached importance to implementing programs which will ensure repatriation and preservation of Armenian identity in the Diaspora.

Four Armenians Killed In Russia Accident

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Four Armenian citizens have been killed and another heavily injured in a traffic accident which took place on a Russian highway on July 2.

Armenia’s ministry of emergency situations representative in Russia reported that the crash took place on the Tolstoy – Dankov road in Russia’s Lipetsk Oblast.

The driver, Davit Iskandaryan, 37, passengers Liana Sargsyan, 35, Alisa Iskandaryan, 12 and Anna Iskandaryan, 1, were killed instantly. Another passenger, Arevik Iskandaryan, 8, has been hospitalized.

Although no other details were available at the moment, the surname of the victims indicates that they were related. The vehicles involved were a Volkswagen Passat and a Hyundai Sonata. The Armenian nationals were traveling in the VW.

Hrazdan Mayor Resigns

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Aram Danielyan, mayor of Hrazdan, a town 45 kilometers northeast of the capital Yerevan, has officially resigned.

Danielyan has convened a special sitting of the city council for early termination of his powers on July 2.

During the sitting the city council members unanimously voted in favor of the mayor’s resignation.

“11 out of 15 city council members attended the session who unanimously voted in favor of the mayor’s resignation. That was the request of the mayor,” Alvina Zakaryan, a spokesperson of the Hrazdan City Hall said.

Danielyan has resigned on June 25. He was serving as mayor of Hrazdan since 2002.

Pashinyan Meets French President On First Trip To Europe As PM

BRUSSELS (RFE/RL) – Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan emphasized the “privileged” character of Armenia’s relationship with France when he met with French President Emmanuel Macron in Brussels on July 11.

Joined by their foreign ministers, the two men held talks on the sidelines of a NATO summit in the Belgian capital. Pashinyan was due to attend a session of the summit focused on the ongoing NATO-led mission in Afghanistan. The multinational military contingent deployed there includes 130 or so Armenian soldiers.

Macron and Pashinyan exchanged warm greetings in English at the start of the meeting held at the NATO headquarters in Brussels. The French president could be heard saying in front of TV cameras that he is “very happy to see” the Armenian premier.

An Armenian government statement cited Pashinyan as saying that “Armenia highly appreciates its privileged relations with France based on traditional friendship and mutual respect of the two peoples.”

For his part, Macron was reported

to say that France is ready to deepen economic and political ties with Armenia. He also said he looks forward to paying a state visit to Yerevan in October.

first high-level foreign official to arrive in the South Caucasus state since a popular uprising that swept Pashinyan to power earlier in May.

Macron was likewise the first



French President Emmanuel Macron (R) and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan meet at the NATO headquarters in Brussels, 11 July 2018.

The visit will be timed to coincide with a summit of Francophonie, a grouping of over 70 mainly French-speaking nations, which will be held in the Armenian capital.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian visited Yerevan in late May to discuss with Armenia’s new government preparations for the summit. Le Drian stressed the fact that he is the

Western leader to meet Pashinyan during the latter’s first-ever trip to Europe in his current capacity.

According to the government statement, the two leaders also discussed the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, with Pashinyan praising international efforts to resolve it which have long been spearheaded by the United States, Russia and France.

US Hopes For ‘Impartial’ Audit Of Armenian Mining Project

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The US government expressed hope on July 11 that an environmental audit of a massive gold deposit in Armenia developed by a US-based company will be conducted objectively and “in strict accordance with the law.”

It said it also expects the new Armenian government to carry out similar inspections of other mining companies operating in the country.

All roads leading to the Amulsar deposit have been blocked since June 23 by a group of residents of nearby communities protesting against gold mining operations planned there by the Lydian International company. They thus halted the multimillion-dollar construction of Lydian’s mining facilities which was due to be completed this fall.

The blockage is continuing despite repeated appeals from Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. He has said that Lydian must be allowed to resume its operations pending the findings of an ad hoc government task force that will start inspecting the company soon.

The mining site remained blocked even after Pashinyan visited the mountainous area about 160 kilometers southeast of Yerevan last week. He met with leaders of the protest and senior executives of the company employing more than 1,400 people. Many of those workers are also local residents.

Commenting on the continuing standoff, the US ambassador to Armenia, Richard Mills, said: “We are pleased the government is conducting an environmental audit of Lydian’s Amulsar project, which was requested by those concerned with the project’s environmental impact and which must be standard practice for such projects.”

“We hope that it will be carried out in strict accordance with the law, engaging professional and impartial

expertise. We also expect that these audits will be unilaterally applied across the mining sector,” Mills added in written comments.

Pashinyan promised in late May thorough inspections of “all metal mines” aimed at verifying and, if necessary, ensuring their compliance with environment protection norms and their tax obligations. He went on to assign that task to Artur Grigorian, the new head of an environment protection government agency.

Grigorian is a well-known environmentalist who has for years campaigned against the Amulsar project. He said late last month that Lydian will be the first company to be audited by a working group formed by him.

The group comprises officials from various Armenian government ministries, Lydian representatives as well as non-governmental activists strongly opposed to gold mining at Amulsar. It is supposed to submit recommendations to Pashinyan’s government later this month or in August.

Pashinyan said on July 6 that the government’s decisions on Amulsar must be based on “facts rather than emotions.” “If we make any unlawful step in this situation – even one that is deemed unlawful not necessarily from our standpoint but at least from the point of view of international relations – we may face major problems,” he warned.

Lydian, which claims to have already invested more than \$300 million in Amulsar, has not ruled out the possibility of international legal action against the Armenian state that had granted it exclusive rights to mine gold there. It says that it has already lost at least \$14 million as a result of the continuing disruption of its operations.

Environment protection groups say that the Amulsar project, if implement-

ed, will contaminate air, water and soil in the area. They also point to the site’s proximity to Jermuk, the country’s most popular spa resort.

Lydian maintains that it will use advanced technology to prevent any damage to the local ecosystem. The company is registered in a British tax haven but headquartered in the US state of Colorado. Its shareholders include US, Canadian and European investment funds as well as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

The mining project has been supported by the US and British governments. Mills expressed confidence in 2016 that Lydian “will continue to serve as an example of responsible mining, operating transparently in line with international environmental and social standards.”

“Mining in Armenia is an opportunity to diversify the nation’s economy and increase the number of well-paying jobs, but only if mining operations are conducted to the highest international standards to protect the environment,” the US ambassador said on Wednesday. “That is why the US Embassy welcomed the interest in the Armenian mining sector from Lydian International, which operates mining projects around the globe that must meet international environmental standards.”

Lydian has pledged to invest over \$400 million in what would be one of the largest business projects in Armenia’s history. It has said that it plans to produce roughly \$250 million worth of gold and pay \$50 million in taxes annually.

Armenia’s overall exports stood at \$2.2 billion in 2017, according to official statistics. Non-ferrous metals and ore concentrates accounted for around half of them.



ARMENIA

PicsArt Executive Management Team Visits EPIC, Meets Young Entrepreneurs

YEREVAN – On June 19, 2018, the Entrepreneurship and Product Innovation Center (EPIC) of the American University of Armenia (AUA) hosted the executive management team of PicsArt, which is a leading social photo editing mobile app that has been installed more than 500 million times across Android, iOS and Windows mobile platforms and is backed by Sequoia Capital.

EPIC staff and more than 30 EPIC entrepreneurs and guests welcomed the PicsArt executive team headed by CEO Hovhannes Avoyan (MPSIA '95), an AUA Pillar and former lecturer, who was accompanied by COO Artavazd Mehrabyan (CIS '03) and CTO & General Manager Mikayel Vardanyan (CIS '04).

The director of EPIC, Dr. Michael Kouchakdjian made opening remarks highlighting the close ties between AUA and PicsArt. He presented EPIC and mentioned the important role of the PicsArt founders in AUA students' lives: "We regard the founders of PicsArt as an inspiration. They are what all of us aspire to become as entrepreneurs."

"AUA is our second home. It is made for smart, successful and energetic people, who want to change something," said Avoyan. Talking about PicsArt, he continued: "A start-



CEO Hovhannes Avoyan (MPSIA '95), an AUA Pillar and former lecturer, who was accompanied by COO Artavazd Mehrabyan (CIS '03) and CTO & General Manager Mikayel Vardanyan (CIS '04).

up is not for making your living – it is an aspiration to change things for the better. Startups are for changing the existing status quo. PicsArt was created with such an approach in mind: we wanted to give a tool to people to be more creative and to connect them within one network of like-minded people. That strong vision and motivation helps us to survive and go through all the challenges."

PicsArt's executive management team shared their experience with the attendees. Avoyan encouraged EPIC entrepre-

neurs to dream big and to be ambitious to achieve their goals. He highlighted the importance of having good partners and team members in building a successful business. Vardanyan advised the participants: "Do not try to do too many things: focus on one thing, but do it very well to succeed."

The attendees had the opportunity to ask the PicsArt team questions on a number of topics, including new technologies developed by PicsArt, artificial intelligence (AI), and startup culture in Armenia.

Hayastan All Armenian Fund Director after Arrest for Embezzlement

YEREVAN (Armenpress, RFE/RL) – Ara Vardanyan, the former executive director of the Hayastan All Armenian Fund tendered his resignation on July 9 to President Armen Sarkissian following his arrest on embezzlement charges.

He released a statement apologizing to all donors of the fund.

Vardanyan stepped down after authorities revealed he had been misappropriating funds from the charity organization for personal goals and even online gambling. He said he deeply regrets that he has unwillingly compromised the reputation of the Hayastan All Armenian Fund.

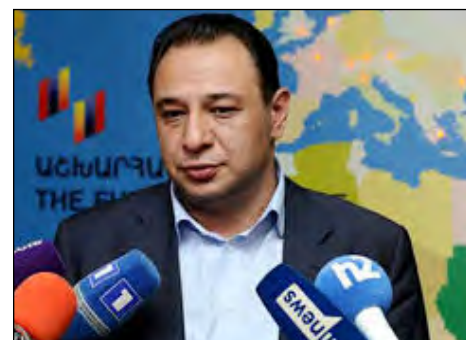
"Yesterday I tendered my resignation as executive director of the Hayastan All Armenian Fund,

clearly realizing that my further tenure will damage the Fund's reputation, which is inadmissible for personally myself," he said.

"Dear people, I would like to apologize to all of you, to all donors of the Fund, small and big, pensioners and major philanthropists, representatives of local bodies of the worldwide Diaspora, all devotees of the Fund. All donations of the Fund had and have their addressed significance, which is the prosperity of our country, construction and reconstruction of schools, kindergartens, hospitals, roads, homes and cultural structures in Artsakh and Armenia. I thank the governments of Armenia and Artsakh for close cooperation, and all philanthropists and devotees for their practical participation in the [development] of our country," he said.

Vardanyan was detained by national security agents on July 2 in suspicion of embezzling the fund's finances. During interrogation, Vardanyan admitted to misusing the fund's credit card for personal goals, including online gambling. He was placed under arrest but later released on a 1,000,000 dram bail.

Sarkissian said that he believes that since the birth of the third Republic the Fund has implemented important and useful programs by uniting national and spiritual structures, philanthropists and hundreds of thousands of individuals. Therefore, the Fund has still a mission to conduct in the life of Armenia, Artsakh and Diaspora.



Ara Vardanyan

Ex-President's Nephew Charged with Kidnapping, Assault

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Yerevan police are investigating a kidnapping and assault case involving Narek Sargsyan, the 31-year-old son of Alexander Sargsyan – the younger brother of former President Serzh Sargsyan.

Narek Sargsyan was previously declared wanted as National Security Service agents discovered large amounts of cash, jewelry and stolen valuable paintings. Sargsyan is believed to have deceived a relative of prominent painter Martiros Saryan and stolen 14 paintings of the artist worth \$280,000. Artem Poghosyan, Narek's chief bodyguard, has been arrested amid the ongoing investigation.

The new investigation concerns a 49-year-old who police say was kidnapped last year in Yerevan and beaten because of his business plans. The man planned to open a nightclub.

Police say Sargsyan's bodyguard invited the

man to a meeting in August 2017. The victim was kidnapped from downtown Yerevan by several men and taken to the basement of Narek Sargsyan's residence.

According to police, the man was beaten, threatened at gunpoint and tortured with a lighter. He was then reportedly relocated to another facility, and again beaten.

Only when assuring that he won't undertake any business activities concerning nightclubs was the man released, according to police. Police forwarded the materials to the Prosecutor General's office for further proceedings.

Artem Poghosyan, 28, the chief bodyguard of former president Serzh Sargsyan's nephew, is remanded in custody in suspicion of another crime.

Narek Sargsyan reportedly fled to Moscow on June 22 ahead of being charged.

He had initially returned to work on July 6.

In the previous week alone, Vardanyan had transferred nearly 14,000,000 drams to online casinos from the fund's credit card. The amount comprises nearly 130,000,000 (\$270,000) in the period from 2016 to 2018.

"The fund is working as previously, nothing has changed in its activities. All our programs are running smoothly. On July 16 we are going to open a community center in one of the communities of Artsakh," she said before his resignation.

Speier Supports MCC Funds for Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – New Armenia deserves the US broadcast support, Rep. Jackie Kanchelian Speier (D-Calif.) told Voice of America last week.

She said the Congress members and executive authorities are holding discussions on providing major assistance to Armenia by the US government's Millennium Challenge Corporation.

"It's a difficult process, getting the ratification of that major support will not be easy, but I am full of cautious optimism," she said.

In case of the approval of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, assistance worth more than 100 million USD can be provided to Armenia.

The Congresswoman said new Armenia is the source of her optimism.

"At the beginning, I was concerned that these events will push Armenia back, that bloodshed will happen. Then I saw what is happening in fact, and it was just a miracle: no stone was thrown, no shots were fired. That revolution was just like a celebration," she said.

The Congresswoman said the United States is interested in Armenia's prosperity. She stated that the US can assist Armenia to independently ensure its own energy needs, create new jobs by using the latest technologies.

Speier is going to bring a group of US Congressmen to Armenia in coming months to introduce them on Armenia and Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

"It is going to be a very important visit. I want to show our support to the Armenian citizens, the new government and the new Prime Minister," she said.

Government Still Vague On Election Dates

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – First Deputy Prime Minister Ararat Mirzoyan again declined to say on July 13 just when Armenia's new government hopes to hold early parliamentary elections seen as vital for its political future.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called for such elections immediately after he swept to power in a wave of mass protests in May. He said that they could be held before the end of this year. However, his government's policy program approved by the Armenian parliament last month says that the polls should take place within a year at the latest.

Mirzoyan cited that program after meeting with members of an ad hoc parliamentary group trying to draft major amendments to the Electoral Code. At that meeting, a member of the group, Sergey Bagratian, wondered when the elections could realistically be held if the code is amended in September.

"We need to look, discuss that together," the vice-premier replied vaguely. "It's not that the government has a position and is trying to impose it on political forces."

Pashinyan's Yelk alliance and the two other parliamentary forces represented in the government, the Tsarukyan Bloc and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun), together control less than half of the seats in the current National Assembly. Former President Serzh Sargsyan's Republican Party (HHK) still has the largest faction there even after losing its parliamentary majority last month following a series of defections.

Changes to Armenian electoral legislation are now being drafted by not only by lawmakers but also a separate government task force headed by Mirzoyan. The latter expressed hope that they will reach a consensus. "Ideally, we should have a single draft agreed with everyone," he said.

Yelk, the Tsarukyan Bloc and Dashnaktsutyun broadly agree on what kind of changes should be made in the Electoral Code. In particular, they want to ensure that Armenians vote only for parties and blocs, rather than their individual candidates running in nationwide constituencies. They say that the HHK unfairly benefited from the existing electoral system in last year's general elections.

The former ruling party remains opposed to the abolition of individual electoral races.



International News

Armenia, Lebanon Have Great Mutual Tourism Benefits

BEIRUT (Armenpress) — Armenia and Lebanon have great cooperation potential in the field of tourism, Avedis Guidanian, Lebanese minister of tourism, told reporters in Beirut, stating that the two countries need to take significant actions on this path.

“There was very active traffic at both directions in June-September 2017. Two airlines were operating, and there were flights almost every day. It means that 150-200 persons were travelling at both directions daily. As a result, the number of people travelling from Lebanon to Armenia was surpassing 40.000, and that from Armenia to Lebanon – 11-12.000”, the minister said. He stated that the mass media plays a key role on this. Both sides need to introduce their broad public circles on existing tourism opportunities.

“If we continue the campaign, there are great opportunities in this sector. am confident that in case of affordable tour packages the bilateral movement will intensify,” the minister said, stating that the Lebanese cuisine, hotel services are unique.

Guidanian attached importance to the activity of Armenia Airlines. He said the airline brought activeness in the market as it was making flexible pricing offers.

Artsakh President Receives France MP

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) — Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan on July 6 received a member of the Artsakh-France friendship circle, former mayor of the French town of Vienne Jacques Remiller.

Issues related to Artsakh-France ties were discussed during the meeting.

The president noted that the development of relations with France is among priorities of Artsakh foreign political agenda, expressing gratitude to Remiller for his active participation in deepening and expanding bilateral relations.

Soccer Great Djorkaeff Offers to Help Team

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Armenia’s Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan began his working day Monday, July 9, with a meeting with Youri Djorkaeff, the legendary French-Armenian football star.

“He [Djorkaeff] said that he is inspired by the Armenian revolution and is ready to seriously assist Armenia and Armenian football,” the prime minister said on Facebook.

Djorkaeff arrived in Armenia for the Legends Match — an exhibition match featuring retired football stars which took place on July 8.

Astana Mayor Praises Ties between Armenia, Kazakhstan

ASTANA (Armenpress) — Nearly 1000 Armenians live in Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan, that city’s mayor, Asset Issekeshv said. He added he wants Armenians to participate more often in events of the city and visit it frequently.

“Several Armenians are famous in Astana. We maintain good relations with Yerevan and other Armenian cities. We have planned to hold Days of Astana and Yerevan this year and next year, as well as mutual visits of cultural delegations. Certainly I want Armenians to have greater participation in events and frequently visit Astana,” Issekeshv said.

He said that Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev’s policy of peace and agreement between nations remains priority.

“He has created an assembly of various nations residing in Kazakhstan, which is entitled to influence Members of Parliament. The assembly gathers once a year with representatives of all peoples,” he said.

He said that Astana has a similar city assembly due to a great multi-ethnic population.

Gratitude from the Diaspora

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

POTSDAM, Germany — Last month a leading Armenian association made headlines in Germany, after it was formally announced that Armenian philanthropist Nour Afeyan was donating 200,000 euros from the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative to a project to reconstruct a historical church now lying in ruins. The Court and Garrison Church in Potsdam, as its name betrays, is a church constructed originally for members of the royal court and military to worship. It was built by architect Philipp Gerlach from 1730 to 1735, on orders of Friedrich Wilhelm I, who was known as the soldier-king. He and his son, Friedrich the Great, were buried there.

In its long and checkered history, it has been destroyed and rebuilt more than once, the architectural victim of shifting political fortunes. At the end of World War II, on April 14, 1945 it was bombed by the British and the nave and bell tower went up in flames, leaving only the external walls intact. With repairs, it was renamed as Holy Cross Chapel in 1949, and was used for services and other parish activities for almost 20 years.

In 1966, the East German Communist regime targeted the building for destruction. Walter Ulbricht, leader of the SED Socialist Unity Party, is quoted as having asked, “What business the ruins had to be there,” and called for it to be removed. He considered it a blemish on the socialist image of the city. Despite protests by citizens, architects, churchmen and cultural historians, the city authorities decreed the elimination of the church by explosion. This took place in summer 1968 and right next to the site they built a Computing Center 1971, which stood as an example of socialist architecture.

The Berlin Wall came down in November 1989 and the regime followed. Soon thereafter Germany was reunified and a long process of rebuilding — political as well as cultural — began. What was to become of the historical buildings still standing? And how should one deal with the monuments to the socialist domination in former East Germany? The church of the Hohenzollern dynasty represented a special challenge.

In 2008, the Potsdam Garrison Church Foundation was inaugurated and joined forces with the Society for the Promotion of the Reconstruction of the Potsdam Garrison Church (FWG), founded in 2004 by citizens of Berlin and Potsdam with the support of church and political authorities. Last June 24, fifty years after the church had been blown up, FWG chairman Matthias Dombert presided over a commemorative service and among those attending was Harout Chitilian, representing Aurora.

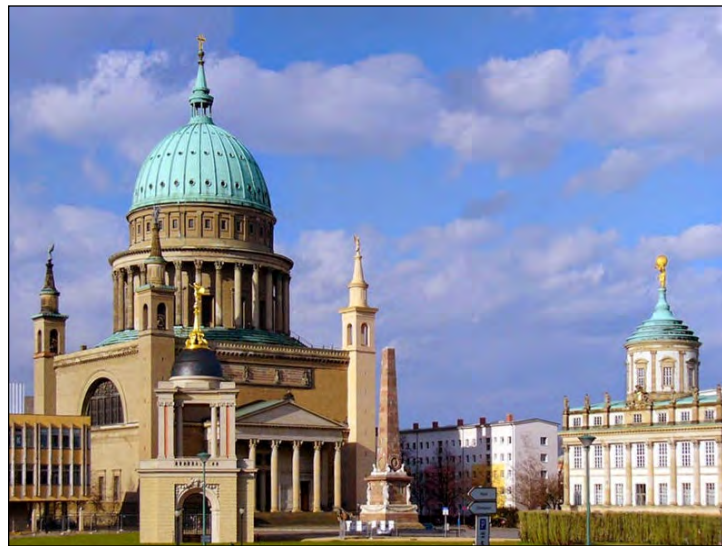
The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative was established by three prominent Armenians whose forefathers were among the fortunate few to survive the genocide (<https://auroraprize.com/en/prize/detail/about>). Over the past few years it has become well known in Armenia for

its annual Prize for Awakening Humanity, which honors an individual whose single actions have contributed to preserving lives, along with institutions that have helped make that individual effort possible. To express “gratitude in action,” Aurora has launched several projects, including scholarships to help refugees, children and victims of conflict and poverty.

Founded in 2015 by Vartan Gregorian, Ruben Vardanyan and Nour Afeyan, the initiative draws inspiration from the past to encourage efforts towards building a future in which “empathy will replace sympathy.” It is a global movement with activities on every continent.

A Personal Story

In keeping with the profile of the Aurora Initiative, the decision to make this donation springs from a personal story, that of Nour Afeyan. As he has related the events in several locations, his grandfather and great-uncle were saved from certain death thanks to the efforts of German officers in Turkey during the war. The two Armenians had been pulled out of a hopelessly packed cattle car at a small station called Belemelik, by German military personnel. The officers were deployed on the



The Court and Garrison Church in Potsdam

Baghdad railway project which the Germans were constructing for their Ottoman allies.

Speaking during an Aurora award ceremony in Yerevan last year, Afeyan described his ancestors. “My grandfather had blue eyes and spoke perfect German. Both [he and my great-uncle] worked at the German Industry Bank in Constantinople. The Germans had the best logistics,” he went on, “and hence supported the genocide, but there were also officers who, as Christians, could not agree to this.” It was such officers who supplied his ancestors, Bedros and Nerses, with German uniforms, as well as documents, and employed them for two years in the Baghdad railway project as book-keeper and supply manager. Afeyan’s great-aunt Armanouhi (who lived to the age of 101) never tired of telling him the story to him as a child in Beirut where he was born. Her husband, the doctor Antranig, was protected by “the Ottoman soldiers because he protected them,” she explained. Bedros and Nerses were her brothers. As Afeyan related it to 100 Lives, the two “would go into the trains as they passed through Belemelik to search for people who they could help escape in order to resurrect the Armenian nation — clerics, educators, writers, doctors. Armanouhi said they felt terrible, knowing the other

people left on the train were surely going to die.” There would be no diaspora if such individuals like the German officers had not provided protection. “We would not be here without our friends,” Afeyan has said.

The Garrison Church reconstruction initiative caught Afeyan’s attention because the promoters had clearly stated their intention to resurrect it as a site of peace and reconciliation. He intends thus to honor those who saved his ancestors, but also the many more unnamed soldiers who acted according to conscience. Afeyan has referred to many families he knows whose ancestors were saved by German and Austrian soldiers. Krikor Balakian, who later served as bishop of the Armenian Apostolic Church in London and Marseille, is another descendant of Armenians thus spared.

One Symbol, Many Meanings

The plan to restore the Garrison Church has been shrouded in controversy from the start, a controversy that springs from the symbolic value attributed to the edifice and the several changes of fortune the church has witnessed.

The opponents of the reconstruction project denounce the church as a symbol of Prussian militarism and hero worship, associated not only with Friedrich the Great but also with the Nazis. On March 21, 1933, in fact, Hitler shook hands with German President Paul von Hindenburg in front

of the church, as documented in photographs. The gesture is seen as emblematic of the fateful alliance between the old Prussian establishment and the new fascist dictatorship, a dictatorship which perverted and exploited Christian values and church authority. Opponents of the reconstruction plan call it the “Cathedral of German militarism.” One further consideration raised against the project is that funds could be better deployed else-

where; there are other churches in sore need of funds for repairs and renovation, as Detlaf Karg, Director of the Brandenburg Office for Preservation of Monuments, has pointed out.

The opposition has organized to block the initiative, by mobilizing 14,000 citizens to sign a petition calling for a referendum on the project. In addition, in 2015 a group of artists set up a Creativity Center in the Computing Center, in hopes of preventing it — a representative of socialist architecture — from being razed to make way for the reconstructed church.

On the other side are the promoters of the effort in the Garrison Church Foundation, who include prominent Brandenburg politicians and church representatives, like former Prime Ministers Manfred Stolpe and Matthias Platzeck, former Interior Minister Jörg Schönbohm, current Science Minister Martina Münch and Potsdam Mayor Jann Jakobs. Representatives of the German Evangelical Church (EKD) are Irmgard Schwaetzer, President of the EKD Synod, and Wolfgang Huber, former EKD council chairman. Television personality and philanthropist Günther Jauch is also involved.

These promoters and their supporters argue that the church should symbolize see POTSDAM, page 5POTSDAM,



INTERNATIONAL

Armenian, Azeri FMs in First Talks on Karabakh

BRUSSELS, Belgium (RFE/RL) —Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan and his Azerbaijani counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov met for the first time late on Wednesday, July 11, to discuss ways of reviving the Nagorno-Karabakh peace process.

The four-hour talks in Brussels began in the presence of the US, Russian and French mediators co-chairing the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group.

“The meeting had an introductory character and was intended for familiarizing with each other’s views,” the Armenian Foreign Ministry said in a statement released the following morning.

It said Mnatsakanyan stressed the importance of respecting the ceasefire regime in the Karabakh conflict zone, creating an “atmosphere conducive to peace” and avoiding “aggressive rhetoric.”

“The co-chairs briefed the Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers on their upcoming plans. Further steps were discussed,” the statement added without elaborating.

According to the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry, Mammadyarov and Mnatsakanyan discussed the stalled peace process “in detail.” The APA news agency quoted a ministry spokesman, Hikmet Hajiyev, saying that the sides agreed on the need to “continue negotiations in the existing format.” The ministers also “exchanged views on steps taken for the purpose of advancing the peace process,” he said.

The mediators reported, for their part, that the two ministers considered “a range of possible confidence-building measures” at their first meeting. “The co-chairs stressed the importance of reducing tensions and avoiding inflammatory rhetoric,”



The foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the Co-Chairs meet in Brussels.

they said in a joint statement issued on Thursday.

“The Ministers agreed to meet again in the near future under the auspices of the co-chairs,” added the statement.

Armenia’s former President Serzh Sargsyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev pledged a

renewed push for a Karabakh peace at their last face-to-face meeting held in Geneva in October 2017. Their foreign ministers held what they described as “positive” follow-up talks in December and January. The mediators said in February that the two sides have pledged to “con-

tinue intensive negotiations” after forthcoming electoral processes in Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Aliyev was subsequently reelected for another term in office, while Sarkisian was forced to resign amid mass protests in Armenia against his continued rule.

Gratitude from the Diaspora

POTSDAM, from page 4

peace and reconciliation. Some stress the fact that King Friedrich-Wilhelm I, the first patron of the church, was a city-builder, a reformer and was not — like his son, Friedrich the Great — engaged in wars of aggression. They point to the bright spots in the history of the church: it was the venue for the assembly of the first freely elected Potsdam Council (Magistrat) in 1809, and in 1817, on the 300th anniversary of the protestant reformation, it hosted the meeting of Calvinists and Lutherans who established the Church of the Old Prussian Union. As for the relationship to Nazi Germany, it is recalled that many of the officers who conspired to assassinate Hitler on July 20, 1944, like Henning von Tresckow, were members of this parish. Finally, there is also the argument that the reconstruction is but one part of a broader effort to restore the historical Prussian city of Potsdam to its Baroque splendor, making it worthy of its designation as a UNESCO world heritage site.

People, Not Stones, Make History

But the decisive factor for the promoters is the human factor; as Huber, former bishop of Berlin-Brandenburg, put it, “The question is not, must the tower be rebuilt? The question is, should it be rebuilt? The opponents say no. I consider this magical thinking, which I as a Christian do not accept. The evil spirit of the past does not hang on walls. It was human beings who were responsible for this spirit. Those responsible for continuing this spirit will also be human beings, not walls. So I would be quite devout and would say: this viewpoint is incompatible with my Christian faith.” The church will be what one determines to make of it and how one deals with its historical burdens. For Huber, “Nowhere in a church-related site can one come so close to the disaster of our history as here.” On October 29, 2017, during a service, he said, “The tower should again become what it was for centuries: an architectural symbol in the city landscape,” and “it should become what it never was: a center for peace and reconciliation.” Precisely because of this history, he considers it an important part of the culture of remembrance. The idea is that

reconstruction will contribute to remembering the lessons of history, learning responsibility and living in a spirit of reconciliation. The project calls for other activities in addition to church services to be held in the tower, specifically pedagogical and scientific events dealing with history.

The enterprise is underway, as the relevant church and political institutions have agreed, and, as mentioned, the funds are coming in. In 2013 the Garrison Church was recognized officially by the federal government’s Representative for Cultural and Media Affairs as a nationally significant monument, and 12 million euros in federal government funds are to be allocated towards the estimated total cost of 27.5 million euros. The EKD has organized 5 million in loans, and private donors have come up with 10 million. Individuals and groups can make small or large donations: they can sponsor tiles for the tower, at 100 euros each, or contribute 10,000 euros to build a threshold; 200,000 euros can finance a vase containing a flame, and 100,000 euros will pay for the capital of a column. Among the private donors is the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, in the person of Noubar Afeyan. It is not clear what specifically the donation should finance, but Afeyan’s declared intention is to contribute to express gratitude for those German officers who saved Armenians, in the spirit of reconciliation.

The Other German Officer

Afeyan may or may not be aware of the controversy around the project. Given the noble intentions motivating their donation, it should be of interest to the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative to learn of another comparable controversy, which involves a famous German officer who saved Armenians from death, as those unnamed officers saved Afeyan’s grandfather and great-uncle. This is the case of General Otto Liman von Sanders, who was the leader of the German military mission on the Bosphorus during World War I. Although German officers were not to interfere in internal Turkish policy, Liman von Sanders used his military position to intervene repeatedly to prevent deportations of Armenians and Greeks slated for extermina-

tion. In 1916 he threatened the Vali (governor) that he would deploy his own armed soldiers to block a planned deportation of Armenians from Smyrna, thereby saving an estimated 6-7,000 persons. He acted again to stop the deportation of Greeks from Urla and the coastal regions. This is recorded in official diplomatic correspondence and in personal eye-witness reports. (See: <https://mirrorspectator.com/2017/01/12/liman-von-sanders-a-matter-of-honor/>)

Despite his extraordinary efforts, instead of being recognized after the war, he was framed and persecuted. In 1919, while en route to Germany with other officers, he was illegally detained in Malta, arrested as a prisoner of war, and released after eight months only after a massive diplomatic effort had been launched to free him. After his death in 1929 he was buried in the Old Cemetery in Darmstadt, his home, and was given a grave of honor, in recognition of his military achievements. Recently however, in 2015, he was stripped of this honor, on grounds that it had been conferred “exclusively for his military successes,” and he was even accused of having been involved in the genocide of the Armenians.

The case of Liman von Sanders remains the subject of heated controversy, as competent historians and journalists have joined to demand that the historical record be rectified and his reputation be restored, along with the honor status of his burial site. Given the mission of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative to honor the memory of those who acted individually and at great personal risk to save our Armenian forefathers, one would hope that the case of Liman von Sanders would come to their attention. There are no monuments to be reconstructed, merely the recognition of the honorable deeds he performed in a spirit of humanity.

(Sources: “Preußens Gloria,” by Christina Rietz, Die Zeit, May 25, 2018, “Aufbau der Garnisonkirche: Ein Armenier dankt deutschen Soldaten,” *Potsdamer neueste Nachrichten*, June 2, 2017, June 21 and 24, 2018, Wikipedia, <http://garnisonkirche-potsdam.de/nc/>, 100 L i v e s , <https://auroraprize.com/en/stories/detail/regular/114/noubar-afeyan>)

Yerevan ‘Working’ On Aid Proposals To EU

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — The Armenian government will make soon detailed proposals designed to convince the European Union to significantly increase its economic assistance to Armenia, a spokesman for Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said on Tuesday, July 17.

Pashinyan criticized the EU for not promising additional aid to Yerevan when he ended a two-day visit to Brussels last week. The head of the EU Delegation in Armenia, Piotr Switalski, countered on Monday that his government needs to first come up with specific reform-oriented projects requiring EU funding.

Pashinyan’s press secretary, Arman Yeghoyan, said that the government is now working on such projects.

“Those proposals are being worked out and I can say in general terms that they will mainly relate to the development of Armenia’s public infrastructures and institutional reforms ... We are going to present clear programs,” he said.

Yeghoyan did not specify the amount of extra EU aid that will be requested by the authorities in Yerevan. “We are talking about a fairly solid sum, but I can’t give a concrete figure,” he said.

Stepan Grigorian, a Yerevan-based political analyst, claimed that Pashinyan’s government will be seeking as much as 1 billion euros (\$1.17 billion) in EU funding.

The EU pledged last year to provide up to 160 million euros (\$185 million) in fresh aid to Armenia over the next three years in line with the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA) signed with the previous Armenian government.

Switalski announced that a senior official from the European Commission, the EU’s executive body, will visit Yerevan later this week to discuss with Armenian leaders their “expectations and needs.” “This must be a very concrete discussion,” the diplomat stressed.

Community News

Sheriff Koutoujian Honored With Valley Collaborative's 'Making A Difference' Award

BILLERICA, Mass. — The Valley Collaborative, an alternative high school in Billerica for students with developmental disabilities, presented Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian with their "Making a Difference" Award at their June Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, June 7.

The award is given to an individual who has made significant contributions to the disability community. The Valley Collaborative Board chose to honor Koutoujian for his creation of the Special Citizens Academy, a free four week program at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office designed for individuals with developmental disabilities who have an interest in law enforcement. The third Special Citizens Academy finished this past May, and 23 Valley Collaborative students graduated as honorary cadets.

"It is so moving to receive this award from the Valley Collaborative. I have been working with the disability community since I was a teenager, and I began the Special Citizens Academy as a way to remind folks that the Middlesex Sheriff's Office is here for every member of our county," said Koutoujian. "I'd like to thank Valley Collaborative, Executive Director Dr. Chris Scott, the Board of Directors, and most especially the students."

The meeting was attended by several Valley Collaborative students who graduated the Special Citizens Academy as well as their parents. Scott noted that the school's graduates are going on to



Peter Koutoujian

careers in the private sector and the military as well as colleges and other educational programs.

"Valley Collaborative was pleased to be able to honor Sheriff Koutoujian with the 'Making a Difference' award," said Scott. "This award is presented annually by the Board of Directors to a leader in their field who has great influence over policy and reforms impacting the most vulnerable in our society. The Special Citizens Academy has offered many of Valley's Adults with Special Needs important life skills training that will keep them safe. Sheriff Koutoujian's community stewardship and good work makes the world a better place."

The next Special Citizens Academies are already scheduled for the fall; interested participants and caregivers can contact Community Affairs Director Ken Doucette to register for the program.



NAASR Headquarters-Front

NAASR Breaks New Ground on Global Center

BELMONT, Mass. — On Friday, June 29, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) marked the start of demolition of its aging and cramped headquarters on Concord Avenue, in preparation for all-new construction of a global Armenian Studies center, rare book library and gathering space for scholars, researchers, and the public, welcoming Armenians and non-Armenians alike.

Edward Avedisian, the lead building donor, was among the NAASR Board members and donors sporting hard hats and wielding sledge hammers to mark this milestone. The lead building donors are Edward and Pamela Avedisian; Margaret C. and Leon J. Atamian and family; and Marta and James Batmasian.

Also present were members of the project's architectural, engineering, and design firm of Symmes, Maini & McKee (SMMA) of Cambridge, well as the general contractor, Altair Construction. Cambridge Savings Bank is also partnering on the project.

Plans call for a soaring glass wall extending the full three floors of the new building and illuminating the interior Garden Atrium and third floor Solarium with natural light. A variety of Armenian features are part of the building, including a carved wooden doorway at the entrance incorporating Armenian designs, and an Armenian alphabet wall along the monumental stairway leading up to the event hall. Out front, a perennial garden with Armenian Scilla and other special plantings will create year-round appeal and a dramatic bench engraved with an Armenian inscription will create a spot for reflection.

To date, NAASR has received financial commitments for nearly \$5 million of the \$6.5 million campaign. "We invite the entire community to become part of NAASR's inspiring plans for our headquarters and have a lasting way to recognize family members," said NAASR Board Chairman Yervant Chekijian. "We are honored and grateful that many generous families have put their trust in NAASR as one of the world's leading institutions to preserve Armenian history and heritage for generations to come," he added.

NAASR's Mardigian Library is one of the top five Armenian libraries open to the public in the diaspora, soon to total 40,000 books, with volumes dating see NAASR, page 7



Attendees from NAASR, SMMA, and Altair Construction

NASA Awards its Highest Honor to Yervant Terzian

WASHINGTON — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced it will award the Distinguished Public Service Medal, its highest honor, to astronomer Yervant Terzian, the Cornell Tisch Distinguished Professor Emeritus. The medal will be presented by NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine at the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston on August 2. The ceremony will be broadcast live at noon EDT on NASA TV.

"Dr. Yervant Terzian has dedicated his life to education, public service and scientific research," according to NASA in its award citation. "He has used his enthusiasm for space exploration and education to bring inspirational experiences to students and the general public across the country."

NASA continued: "Dr. Yervant Terzian has made an indelible impact on education and inspiring young minds. ... He has evoked comprehension and wonder in his students and in his public audiences. These accomplishments and his eminent humanity prove Dr. Terzian worthy of this Distinguished Public Service Medal."

Terry Herter, chair and professor of astronomy, agrees. "Dr. Terzian has been a relentless, eloquent ambassador for the sciences over his entire career, reaching and influencing undergraduates, graduate students, colleagues and the general public. This is a very well-deserved award."

Terzian has served on eight NASA committees, including the Hubble Space Telescope Fellowship Committee, NASA's Diversity in Science Education and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Radio Astronomy Evaluation Committee. For 20 years, Terzian directed the



Yervant Terzian

NASA New York Space Grant Consortium, comprising 19 universities and five industries and science centers. In 2012, the 52 state NASA Space Grant directors elected Terzian chairman.

"The Space Grant has been very successful in implementing space programs for the brightest students across New York state to provide them with opportunities to develop their interest in space," said Terzian. "This is what will keep the United States as the leader."

For 12 years, Terzian served as a visiting lecturer in astronomy for the American Astronomical Society, traveling across the U.S. enhancing college communities' scientific understanding of the universe. He has also contributed to dozens of radio and television programs for public listeners, on topics such as life in the universe, NASA and the space program, the US space shuttle program, and the state of astronomy.

see HONORS, page 9



COMMUNITY NEWS

ADL Delegation Meets with Newly Elected Primate of Eastern Diocese

WASHINGTON – A delegation of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) met with the newly elected Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, on June 28. The delegation congratulated the Primate on his election and discussed with the latter current issues pertaining to the Eastern Diocese and the Armenian Church in general.

The Primate was accompanied by Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan of St. Mary Armenian Church of Washington DC. The ADL delegation included, from left, Berta Baghajian, member of the ADL Supreme Council Edmond Y. Azadian, Fr. Karapetyan, Fr. Findikyan, member of the Supreme Council Hagop Vartivarian, President of the Supreme Council Vartan Nazerian, Supreme Council member Kevork Marashlian, and Tekeyan Cultural Association Executive Director Aram Arkun.



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

NAASR Breaks New Ground on Global Center

NAASR, from page 5

back to the 1600s, and rare periodicals dating to the 1800s, as well as unique personal archives of prominent scholars, early Armenian-Americans, and religious leaders, including Father Krikor Guerguerian's archive of rare Ottoman documents. The new building will have ample space to accommodate existing holdings and allow for substantial growth, within a secure, climate-controlled environment.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has also given full support with a capital grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund of \$225,000 awarded in 2017, primarily for installation of an elevator and other accessibility features under the Americans with Disability Act.

NAASR staff has moved to temporary offices at the AGBU-New England headquarters on Mt. Auburn Street in Watertown. NAASR's rare book library will remain in special climate-controlled storage for a year while the building is under construction, although NAASR is operating its bookstore online at www.naasr.org. NAASR continues to offer programming and co-sponsor conferences nationwide during construction at a variety of venues.

Founded in 1955, NAASR is a one of the world's leading Armenian Studies centers and rare book libraries, promoting education and scholarship through the Armenian experience and connecting scholars of Armenian Studies worldwide with each other and a broad general public to build community and preserve and enrich Armenian culture, history, and identity for future generations.

Read News in Armenian at:





OBITUARIES

Jenny Phillips, Filmmaker, Therapist, Wrote Book On Armenian Americans

By Bryan Marquard

CONCORD, Mass. (*Boston Globe*) — In an Alabama prison, one of her several far-flung outposts of compassion and creativity, Jenny Phillips recorded her conversations with lifers and death row inmates — those discarded in “the dustbin of humanity,” she would later say.

Back home in Concord, she played the tapes as she drove, letting their voices fill her car and spark her imagination. “They wanted people to know their stories so they wouldn’t be forgotten,” Mrs. Phillips, who turned those initial encounters into an award-winning documentary, recalled a few years later, in 2008. “They also wanted their stories to somehow help other people. As well as a wish to be remembered, there’s a wish to be useful.”

Drawn early on to social justice, she found a unique path through a life that spanned continents and cultures, professions and pursuits. She was a nurse and psychotherapist, a writer and filmmaker. She built a clinic in Nigeria, treated patients in Lesotho’s mountains, cared for Inuit villagers in Labrador. She brought a meditation practice to hardened criminals and, just as improbably, bridged an international political divide while preserving Ernest Hemingway’s literary legacy in Cuba.

“She could even charm a dictator,” her husband, Frank, said of the time they dined with Fidel Castro while attempting to set free manuscripts Hemingway left behind. “This was Jenny’s life.”

Early evening on Monday, July 9, Phillips, her husband, and a friend were sailing in Nantucket’s Head of the Harbor when she decided to swim the quarter-mile or so back to shore. A strong swimmer, she was 76 and often leapt into the waves on the way home, but this time she apparently drowned and was found later along the shore of the island’s Wauwinet area.

“Jenny had an interest in racial justice and social justice from a very early age,” said her brother Maxwell King, “and she combined that with fierce strength of character.”

She was a producer, director, and writer for her first film, 2008’s “The Dhamma Brothers,” set in the maximum-security Donaldson Correctional Facility. It is “known as the ‘House of Pain,’ the end of the line in Alabama’s prison system,” she wrote in a 2012 Huffington Post essay.

“There is a heavy atmosphere of misery, hope-

lessness, and violence,” she added, and after her first visit she wanted to “find out if there were solutions or alternatives to the aggressive culture of prison manhood. I wondered if it were possible for men in prison to live with a sense of inner peace and the freedom to experience and express a full range of emotions.”

The resulting film chronicled her collaboration with others to bring to the inmates Vipassana, an ancient meditation practice. A few years later, she edited a book of the prisoners’ writings, *Letters from the Dhamma Brothers: Meditation Behind Bars*.

She collected more awards producing and directing her second film, 2016’s “Beyond the Wall.” Set in Lawrence and Lowell, it focused on the efforts of counselor Louie Diaz, himself a former inmate, as he helped prisoners rebuild their lives after they were released.

“I can tell you right off the bat she changed my life,” said Diaz, who is now a re-entry and outreach specialist for the Middlesex Sheriff’s Office. “She was an amazing person who just had this way of seeing things. There was no ‘noing’ her. It was always, ‘Yes, we’ve got to get in there.’ ”

Mrs. Phillips was fearless while interviewing inmates and released prisoners, said Diaz, who added: “I don’t think she sees any bad in people.”

Her third film, as-yet-untitled, is set in the formidable Louisiana State Penitentiary, known simply as Angola. “She bonded with all those guys,” Diaz said. “She’s sitting in these rooms all by herself with a killer, and not worried at all.”

Born in New York City, Jenny King was very young when her family moved to Alliance, Ohio, her father’s hometown. Dr. Robert G. King was a prominent physician in that small city southeast of Akron. Her mother, the former Louise Perkins, was known as Peggy, and was a daughter of Maxwell Perkins, the iconic literary editor of writers such as Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Thomas Wolfe.

As a child, Jenny attended a civil rights protest at Alliance’s City Hall, where she, her mother, and a brother were the only whites to join the demonstration. The experience was formative.

Phillips wrote and directed several documentaries, including “The Dhamma Brothers.”

“She always wanted to shed that image of her elite background,” said her husband, Frank, the *Globe*’s longtime State House bureau chief.

The Kings sent their five children to boarding school — or tried to, anyway. Phillips refused. “Jenny

didn’t want to go to a place that was special and privileged. She wanted to go to high school like everyone else,” said her brother Max, who lives in Pittsburgh. “And then it turned out that she became the real academic in the family.”

In a family with no shortage of achievers — one sister is a writer, the other an artist; one brother is a newspaper editor, another is an actor — Phillips charted her own course.

She graduated from Simmons College with a bachelor’s degree in nursing, was a registered nurse, and spent a college summer as a health care worker in remote Labrador.

While volunteering abroad for an American Friends Service Committee program, she met Frank Phillips during orientation.

“I was immediately smitten,” he recalled. “She was a beauty, she was dynamic, and she took over the whole group.”

He had returned to college when she and her mother joined the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1965 march in Alabama from Selma to Montgomery. Frank flew down on his own, and as King spoke on the final day, he heard mention of a Boston delegation. “I wondered, ‘Is Jenny over there?’ I went running over and there she was,” Frank said. “She always said later in life that she fell in love with me then. We married the next year.”

Before settling in Concord, they joined the Peace Corps and served in Lesotho. At the end, they traveled through much of Africa by hitchhiking and by train en route home to Massachusetts.

Along with raising their two children, Phillips became a cultural anthropologist, graduating from Boston University with a master’s and a doctorate in the field. She also received a master’s in psychiatric nursing and opened a psychotherapy practice.

And she wrote a book about Greater Boston’s Armenian-Americans — their culture and the challenges of assimilation.

In 2002, she launched the Finca Vigia Foundation, named for Hemingway’s longtime home outside Havana. She co-chaired the organization, which spearheaded preserving the home and digitalizing thousands of the author’s photographs and documents, including scores of letters.

The correspondence included an exchange between Hemingway and her grandfather who, citing the judgment of Mrs. Phillips’ then-young mother, persuaded Hemingway to scrap adding an epilogue to his novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls*.



Jenny Phillips sought Fidel Castro’s help in securing documents of Ernest Hemingway.

Undaunted by the political hurdles in US-Cuba relations, she made inroads where others had failed. “She was just determined to get things done, to do justice, and to complete projects,” her husband said.

“Riding along with Jenny was an experience,” he added. “I just carried the bags and tried to keep up.”

A service will be announced for Phillips, who in addition to her husband and brother leaves two children, Polly Phillips Gilbert of Concord and Maxwell of London; another brother, Perry King of Cool, Calif.; two sisters, Ruth King Porter of Adamant, Vt., and Polly King of Nyack, N.Y.; a grandson, and a granddaughter.

While Mrs. Phillips’ life was expansive geographically and intellectually, her work as a filmmaker in prisons became a defining chapter, rather than a coda.

“I clearly remember a hot summer day when I read a newspaper article in the town paper asking for volunteers to work with prisoners,” she wrote in a 2009 Huffington Post essay.

It was an invitation down a new path, to again help others in a place most feared to tread. “I always thought of myself as a healer for others in need,” she wrote. “I now realize I had much to learn about myself. And prison was to become my classroom.”

Edward Kricorian Veteran, Born in Watertown

WATERTOWN — Edward Leo Kricorian of Watertown passed away in his sleep on July 13, 2018 after a long illness. He was 86.

He is survived by his brother Leo, his wife of 60 years, Irene Gelinas Kricorian, his two daughters, Nancy and Susan Kricorian, and four granddaughters, Nona and Djuna Kricorian Schamus, and Lorna and Jivan Kricorian-Salomón. His brother Dan Kricorian of Alta Loma, California and his sister Grace Kricorian Carter of Houston, Texas predeceased him.

Edward Kricorian was born on October 21, 1931 at Saint Elizabeth’s Hospital in Brighton.

His father Leo (Levon) Kricorian immigrated to Watertown in 1911 after having witnessed the 1909 Adana Massacres in Ottoman Cilicia. His mother Mariam (Mary) Kodjababian Kricorian was born in Mersin, Cilicia, and her parents were from the Armenian town of Hadjin in the Taurus Mountains. She was a survivor of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, and came to the United States as an orphan bride in 1920. Leo and Mary Kricorian were founding members of Watertown’s Armenian Brethren Church, which was later renamed the Watertown Evangelical

Church.

Eddie, as he was called, attended Watertown public schools and worked in his father’s Lincoln Market on Mount Auburn Street. In 1954 he was drafted into the US Army and was sent to Baumholder, Germany where he worked in the commissary as a meat cutter. While on leave from the army, he traveled to a number of European capitals, including Paris, Rome, Berlin and Amsterdam. When he finished his stint in the army, he returned to work at the Lincoln Market. In 1958, Eddie married Irene Gelinas of Contoocook, NH.

After the death of his father, Kricorian sold the Lincoln Market and eventually went to work at the Broadway Supermarket near Harvard Yard in Cambridge where he ran the meat department for more than 20 years, and often provided specialty cuts of meat to Harvard’s president. When the Broadway Supermarket closed, he was hired by Barsamian’s Market where he worked until his retirement in 1996.

He is remembered fondly for his years as a leader of the Christian Boys’ Brigade; for his enthusiastic athleticism as a bowler and a ping pong player; for his storytelling, bird whistles, and harmonica playing; and for the thousands of beautiful color slides that he took using a 35-millimeter Kodak camera that he bought while stationed in Germany.

Funeral Services will take place at the Watertown Evangelical Church, 182 Arlington St., Watertown on Monday, July 23 at 11 a.m. with a visitation period to be held prior to the service starting at 10:30 a.m.

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN

Giragosian

F U N E R A L H O M E

James “Jack” Giragosian, CPC
Mark J. Giragosian
Funeral Counselors

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

DENNIS M. DEVENEY & SONS

Cemetery Monuments

Specializing in
Armenian Designs and Lettering

701 Moody St. Waltham, MA 02543
(781) 891-9876 www.NEMonuments.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

Ancient Armenian Water Celebration Comes to Watertown

By Cristela Guerra

WATERTOWN (*Boston Globe*) – When celebrating Vartavar, there is no such thing as a no-splash zone.

Everyone gets wet.

That's the point of this ancient and joyous Armenian custom: to get drenched and, in turn, drench as many people as possible.

On Sunday morning, July 8, families, kids, and clergy filed out of the cross-shaped sanctuary at St. James Armenian Apostolic Church and changed out of their Sunday best to wage a water fight of epic proportions and make their hometown live up to its name. In a nearby parking lot there were rows of buckets, hoses, and water blasters, three kiddie pools, and 2,000 water balloons.

"It's a festival of life," said Natasha Aljalian, the pastor's wife. "The symbol of water has always been something that's important to Armenians. It's always been a sign of fertility, of life, of celebration."

The ancient festival of Vartavar, or the Festival of Roses, eventually became celebrated on the feast of the transfiguration of Christ. It's still remembered for the pagan feast it replaced, which marked the harvest and the bathing of the goddess Asdghig.

The celebration used to be gentler, said church deacon Herman Purutyan. People used

to sprinkle each other with a bit of rose water. The modern-day festivities in Armenia, however, are no-holds-barred – a nationwide water fight. Fire trucks hose people down in the street. Water is thrown out of windows onto unsuspecting passersby – and into open car windows if drivers aren't careful.

In Watertown Sunday, Arpi Tavil-Shatelyan of Somerville came armed with only a water bottle.

"It gives me memories of being in Republic Square in Yerevan [the capital of Armenia] and just getting drenched," Tavil-Shatelyan, 27, said. "Running around with my cousins where my grandparents live in their village and just maliciously coming up to my aunts and drenching them head to toe. There are only good memories associated with Vartavar."

Samuel Chakmakjian, 23, of Arlington, wondered why it took so long for one of the local Armenian churches to embrace a Vartavar celebration. Watertown has one of the largest populations of Armenians in the nation.

"For me, it's wonderful to have this kind of cultural expression in the open in Watertown," Chakmakjian said. "We've been here for quite a while, and we're sometimes a little bit too cautious about how we express our own traditions in public."

Church leadership at St. James would like to see this mini-Vartavar grow into an annual tradition that acknowledges the fun and remembers the feast day.

By early afternoon, even adults and neigh-

bors jumped into the fray, grabbing hoses, water blasters, and water balloons before chasing anyone that looked dry. Kids squealed as they rode the water slide and tried to avoid

bucket he could find.

"I need to fill her up," Simmons said. "So I can soak everyone."

Water gun in hand, Kevork Atinizian, 18, waited out his brother, Antranig, 15, who was hiding inside the church trying not to get wet. On this day, being dry was not an option. It was a day to remember the joy of living, of surprising others, and the innocence of childhood pranks.

"I grew up going to an Armenian camp, and we did this every summer," said Alexis Demirjian, 40, of Belmont, moments before her 10-year-old daughter Meline, poured water on her and her 2-year-old son, Aram.

"My husband asked me, 'Why did you wear a bathing suit,'" she said laughing. "Because I knew this was going to happen."

The Rev. Arakel Aljalian remembers coming home after sundown last year on the day before Vartavar. He'd just finished performing a baptism. His kids were hidden behind the fence, waiting with water guns and water balloons.

On Sunday, the pastor didn't even remove his vestments as he began soaking congregants. He'd told his wife to make sure to save him a hose.

"We figured it was summer, it was hot, and it's something we all usually do in our own homes," said Natasha Aljalian. "No Armenian is surprised if they're hit with water today, and nobody will get upset because it's just really about celebrating life and being happy."



Parishioners doused the Rev. Arakel Aljalian of St. James Armenian Apostolic Church in Watertown.

streams of cold water. Elders sat in the shade out of the range of hoses, smiling at the antics, while an ice cream truck gave out free Popsicles.

With a mischievous smile, Thatcher Simmons, 8, of Belmont, filled up the biggest



Sponsor A Teacher

In Armenia and Karabagh

18th Anniversary

Since its inception in 2001, TCA's Sponsor a Teacher program has raised over \$642,900 and reached out to 6,427 teachers and school workers in Armenia & Karabagh.

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Tel: _____

Make check payable to: Tekeyan Cultural Association - Memo: Sponsor a Teacher 2014
Mail your check with this form to:

TCA Sponsor a Teacher
5326 Valverde, Houston, TX 77056
Your donation is Tax Deductible.

NASA Awards its Highest Honor to Yervant Terzian

HONORS, from page 6

Terzian said he has been inspired throughout his life by the ancient Greeks and their deductive method of science. "When I was very young and asked my father why there were stars, I was not satisfied with the answers, and I started reading everything I could from the American Library in Cairo," he explained. "The description of nature through our science, through our scientific methods, is still young, and we should expect major discoveries in the future. From the work humans have achieved so far, we can deduce that we are not alone in the universe, and the day will come that we will find life in other planets."

Terzian is known for his studies of stellar evolution and the discovery of regions of hydrogen gas between distant galaxies – a finding that indicated the presence of unseen matter in intergalactic space. His research using national radio astronomy observatories has been supported by NASA and the National Science Foundation. He is the author or co-author of more than 235 scientific publications and the editor of seven books, including "Carl Sagan's Universe."

A member of the faculty since 1965, Terzian served as chair of Cornell's Department of Astronomy from 1979 to 1999. He initiated the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates program at Cornell, which offers summer research for students, particularly women and members of underrepresented groups.

Among Terzian's many honors are NASA's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Republic of Armenia's Gold Medal, its highest honor for scientific achievement. He was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2001.

At Cornell, Terzian has been recognized for the excellence of his teaching with the Clark Distinguished Teaching Award in 1984 and the Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellowship Award in 2001.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Fr. Dajad Davidian, Dynamic Former Leader of St. James Parish Dies

DAVIDIAN, from page 1

“Der Dajad was a unique individual in the Armenian Church. He was dedicated, charismatic and connected with people. People loved him and he loved people,” he said. “I witnessed it and I believe in it.”

“He was a good mentor to many fellow members of the clergy, including myself,” he recalled. “He served our parish and made a big difference in the lives of thousands of parishioners” during the 30 years he served as pastor of St. James.

“We will definitely miss him and Watertown will miss him. Watertown or St. James would not be the same without him. Everybody respected him,” Aljalian said.

Losing Davidian was difficult, he said. “It was a big shock for us all, his family and parish family. And Armenia won’t be the same either.”

Davidian was born in Worcester in 1934. He attended the Theological Seminary of the Armenian Catholicosate in Cilicia, through the arrangement of then-Primate Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, from 1952 to 1955. In 1957, Archbishop Mampre Calfayan ordained him as a deacon. Upon his return to America, he continued his education at the General Theological Seminary in New York City, graduating in 1958. He served as a pastoral assistant at the Holy Cross Church in New York City and in 1958, was assigned as deacon-in-charge at the Armenian Church of Bergen County.

Almost 60 years ago, on July 17, 1960, Fr. Dajad was ordained a priest by Archbishop Sion Manoogian in Worcester. Additionally, he was appointed executive secretary of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America and editor of *The Armenian Guardian*. He was appointed to the staff of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in 1962 and became the pastor of St. Mesrob Armenian Church of Racine, WI.

In 1969, he was assigned as pastor of St. James parish, where he faithfully served until his retirement in 1999.

He served on the Diocesan Council of the Eastern Diocese from 1967 to 1977 and 1993 to 2001, serving as its vice-chair and secretary, and was elected as a delegate of the Eastern Diocese to the National Ecclesiastical Assembly in Holy Echmiadzin. He also served on the Board of Directors of St. Nersess Seminary.

Davidian retired 19 years ago from his duties at St. James and dedicated himself to teaching people there about the Armenian Church.

“He said many, many times that he should have done it sooner,” Aljalian said.

“He related to them. He was one with the people. Every time he came back he was bored,” Aljalian said. “Year after year, Armenia inspired him.”

While there he taught at Echmiadzin Seminary as well as hosting a television program on Bible studies.

“He organized youth pilgrimages to holy places in Armenia,” Aljalian recalled. “Lots of people, especially young people, come to know and got to know Christ because of him. He brought people back to the church.”

It was not only their spirituality that was sated because of him, Aljalian added. For many years, he had supported the village of Karagerd. Every year, St. James hosts visits to either Armenia or Jerusalem. When the parish visited Armenia, Davidian took the visitors to the village about an hour and a half outside Yerevan. “It is a poor village. He wanted the church group to visit and help them. They were so happy to see us. We have contributed to this community because of Der Dajad. We will miss him dearly.”

Edmond Azadian, the senior editorial columnist for the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* as well as a member of the Supreme Council of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, recalled his relationship with Davidian, which dated back to the time he had lived in Boston. After an acrimonious start, the two became close friends, maintaining that relationship throughout the years. “In Armenia he was more effective in inculcating Christianity and the role of the Armenian Church than the local clergy. He was able to put great ideas in simple terms.”

Davidian, whose baptismal name was Arthur, was married to the late Yeretzhin Rosemarie (Abrahamian) Davidian. He leaves his children, Ari Davidian, Susan and her husband Joseph Ferro III, and Raymond A. Davidian and his wife Seta; grandchildren Nicholas, Grayce, Gregory and Nairi; brothers Raymond Davidian and Albert Davidian and his wife Patty, and nieces and nephews Lori Kashgegian and her husband Mark, and of Sara, Paul and Angela Davidian.

In 2010, he and Fr. Arsen Barsamian were honored on the 50th anniversary of their ordinations. Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy, and Davidian delivered the day’s sermon. In the sanctuary, the Primate presented both clergymen with Pontifical Encyclicals on behalf of Karekin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians.

“Today is a day of celebration and a day of recommitment,” then Primate Khajag Barsamian said. “We are here to say thank you to Father Arsen and Father Dajad. It is also an opportunity for us to commit ourselves to the task of ensuring that there will be other priests like them to continue the mission of the Armenian Church.”

His funeral took place on Friday, July 20, with a Divine Liturgy and Final Anointing presided over by the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church, Eastern, at St. James Armenian Church. Interment followed at Ridgeland Cemetery in Watertown.

Memorial donations be sent to St. James Armenian Church or the Armenia Tree Project.

Henry Morgenthau II, Grandson of Ambassador Morgenthau, Dies at 101

MORGENTHAU, from page 1

support of all essential issues for Armenians,” stated Armenian Assembly President Carolyn Mugar.

“Despite his advancing age, Henry continued to participate in Armenian Genocide commemorative and advocacy events. He was honored at the community-wide Centennial Genocide Commemoration in Washington, D.C. in 2015, where he walked on stage surrounded by his children and grandchildren. The Morgenthau family are legendary within the Armenian community, who are grateful that this noted family validated their traumatic history as a people by informing the entire world,” she continued.

A scion of a prominent German-Jewish family, Morgenthau was a son of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s treasury secretary, the older brother of former Manhattan district attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, and a cousin of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Barbara W. Tuchman.

He grew up moving comfortably among Washington and New York political and literary society, although he said his Jewish heritage made him often feel like an outsider at times. That contradiction would inform his professional life as a teller of stories, on screen and in print.

His years as a producer at WGBH in Boston, from 1955 to 1977, coincided with the birth of public television. Mr. Morgenthau was inspired by “the whole concept of using television to educate and also tell stories of marginalized people in society,” his son Kramer Morgenthau said.

He was among the first American TV producers to bring a crew into apartheid South Africa. He also produced “Prospects of Mankind,” a weekly show hosted by former first

“He grew up at a time when the government – and certainly the New Deal – was looking out for the underdog of society,” said Kramer Morgenthau. “That was tremendously inspiring to him, and at the same time he had tremendous pressure on him to live up to his family’s reputation. ... I think he needed to find his own voice.”

Henry Morgenthau III was born at home in New York City on January 11, 1917. He was the oldest of three children of the former Elinor Fatman and Henry Morgenthau Jr., and a great-grandson of Mayer Lehman, a co-founder of the securities firm Lehman Brothers.

Morgenthau attended Princeton University, where he majored in art history, ran cross-country, joined the glee club and served on the editorial board of the student newspaper. Despite his family’s social prominence he was, along with several other Jewish students, denied entry into the university’s prestigious eating clubs.

The following year, he “transcended his hurt and transformed a personal attack into a kind of mitzvah,” author David Michaelis, a longtime friend, wrote in an email to Morgenthau’s children after his death.

Each week during that winter, Michaelis added, “Henry had gone to the rear doors of the most selective of Prospect Street’s eating clubs, and from the African American cooks there in those kitchens, he had received the kindness of large quantities of leftovers and scraped food from the club tables, and he had transported this Depression-era manna back across campus and down Witherspoon Street to the African-American parish that ran a food kitchen for the neediest in the community.”

After graduating in 1939, Morgenthau



International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation Chairman Eduardo Eurnekian, Robert Morgenthau, Armenian Assembly Co-Chair Anthony Barsamian, and Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny

lady Eleanor Roosevelt featuring roundtable discussions of foreign and domestic affairs with political, academic and media experts.

As executive producer at WGBH, one of the country’s premier public television outlets, his shows won Peabody and Emmy awards, among other honors. His 1963 program “The Negro and the American Promise” consisted of one-on-one interviews with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X and James Baldwin. It aired at a fraught period, after Alabama Gov. George Wallace defiantly declared support for “segregation forever” and before the March on Washington. Footage from the Baldwin interview appeared in the Oscar-nominated documentary “I Am Not Your Negro” (2016).

In 1991, he wrote *Mostly Morgenthau*, a book about his family that chronicles the lives of his great-grandfather, a Bavarian cigar maker who moved to New York in 1866, and his grandfather, Henry Morgenthau Sr., who unsuccessfully pushed the US to intervene in the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

His father, Henry Morgenthau Jr., played an integral role in designing the New Deal and in financing US participation in World War II. He pushed for the US to do more to help Jews suffering persecution in Europe, and continued to help shape foreign policy after the war.

served in the Army in Europe during World War II and received the Bronze Star Medal.

In addition to his work at WGBH, he also was acting program manager at WNYC in New York, worked with Eleanor Roosevelt on a radio and TV production business, and served as manager of a communication research institute at Brandeis University.

While working on a documentary about Tanzania, he was introduced to Ruth Schachter, an African politics expert who taught at Boston University and later at Brandeis. They married in 1962.

His wife died in 2006. Survivors include three children, Sarah Morgenthau of Washington, Henry “Ben” Morgenthau IV of Danville, Calif., and Kramer Morgenthau of Los Angeles; his brother; and six grandchildren.

Morgenthau settled in Washington from the Boston area in 2010 and took up a new vocation: writing poetry. Just before turning 100 he published his first collection, *A Sunday in Purgatory*. The poems draw on his memories coming of age in 1930s New York; his father’s account of Franklin Roosevelt’s final dinner; and musings on old age and mortality.

(Tara Bahrapour, *Washington Post*)



COMMUNITY NEWS



President Armen Sarkissian and First Lady Nouneh Sarkissian with Armenian Assembly Board Members, supporters, and staff on June 28, 2018

Armenian Assembly Board of Trustees Meets with President Armen Sarkissian

WASHINGTON – During his first official visit as president of Armenia, Dr. Armen Sarkissian and First Lady Nouneh Sarkissian met with the Armenian Assembly of America at the end of June and held a roundtable discussion with the Assembly's Board of Trustees. During the meeting, the Assembly's Board and the President exchanged views on recent developments in Armenia, and discussed a range of issues.

"As part of his official visit to the United States timed for the opening of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival featuring Armenia, it was a welcomed opportunity to sit down with the President of Armenia and First Lady to exchange views, including the ongoing democratic developments in our homeland. We are committed to continuing our work to strengthen U.S.-Armenia relations and look forward to welcoming additional delegations to our nation's capital to elevate Armenia's revitalized democratic profile," Assembly Co-Chair Anthony Barsamian stated.

Earlier in June, the Assembly leadership met with newly-elected Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan in Yerevan, as well as President Armen Sarkissian, Speaker of the National Assembly Ara Babloyan, Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Artsakh Human Rights Ombudsman Ruben Melikyan, and other officials.



Armenian National Institute Director Dr. Rouben Adalian, Armenian Assembly President Carolyn Mugar, Kramer Morgenthau, Kitty Dukakis, Henry Morgenthau III, and Dr. Henry Ben Morgenthau at Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide Memorial

President Sarkissian was in Washington for the opening reception and ceremony for the 2018 Smithsonian Folklife Festival, being held on the National Mall, which features Armenia

and its culture. While in Washington, the President held additional working meetings with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, the leadership of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

In addition, Assembly Board Member Annie Totah organized a special tour of the Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens for Nouneh Sarkissian and Victoria Hovhannissian, wife of Armenian Ambassador to the US Grigor Hovhannissian.



DETROIT — On July 14, 2018, Dr. Gary Zamanigian was reelected Grand Commander of Knights of Vartan Inc. during the 100th Annual Convocation convened in Dearborn, Michigan. A full story about the convocation will appear in next week's issue.



Armenian National Institute (ANI) Director Dr. Rouben Adalian, Armenian Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny, and President Armen Sarkissian on June 28



Armenian Assembly Board Member Annie Totah, First Lady Nouneh Sarkissian, and Victoria Hovhannissian at Hillwood Estate, Museum, and Gardens



COMMUNITY NEWS

Prof. Alexis Bell: A Descendent of Circassian Armenians Visits Homeland

YEREVAN – While working on my study “The Armenians in World Choreography Art” I learned that Olga Tarassova (1902-1982), the sister of famous French writer of Armenian origin Henri Troyat, was a ballet teacher in New York City. In 2009, through an online search, I succeeded in finding Tarassova’s son, Alexis Tarassov Bell, a professor of chemical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley, and asked him to provide me information about his

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

mother. Bell sent me biographical data and valuable photographs. In October 2011 while in San Francisco I had a chance to meet him in person and enjoy his and his Russian wife, Tatyana’s, hospitality.

Bell was born in 1942 in New York City. He received his BS and ScD degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1964 and 1967, respectively. During the course of his career he has established himself as a leading scholar through his scientific contributions to the field of catalysis and chemical reaction engineering, in recognition of which he has received many professional awards and has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering (1987), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2007), and the National Academy of Science (2010). He has also been awarded an honorary professorship in the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences (2001) and an honorary professorship of the Broeskov Institute of Catalysis in Novosibirsk Russia (2018).

In early June of this year the Bells visited Armenia. This was their second trip to Armenia. My conversation with Alexis is about his ancestors and his links to the Armenians.



Alexis and Tatiana Bell

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: So, Alex, nice to meet you in Armenia. You are an established scholar, known in academic circles in the US, you teach in Russia, China and other places, but for the Armenians you are associated with your family roots going back to Armenia, more concretely – Tsghna village of Nakhijevan, now in territory of Azerbaijan. Your uncle Henri Troyat-Lev Tarasov was quite famous in Armenia; some of his novels have been translated into Armenian. You are a person of mixed background. Although the connections with the Armenian roots were not so close, however, what can you tell about it?

Alexis Bell: Most of what I know about my Armenian roots comes from speaking with my mother when I was a child. Her father’s family came from the Circassian Armenians (Cherkesogays in Russian, gay is hay - Armenian) who lived in Caucasus mountains for centuries until the middle of 19th century, when they descended to what is today Armavir in Russia and helped in establishment of the city in 1839. My mother was born in Armavir, her parents were mixture of Circassian Armenians, Armenians from what is today Krasnodar, as well as some German, Georgian and Russian blood from my grandmother’s side. We have seen Abesolomov house in Tbilisi: my grandmother Lidia was from that family. Going one generation back, my maternal grandfather Aslan and his wife spoke mainly Circassian, not Russian. In fact, my great-grandmother knew very little Russian. But they were part of Armenian church. By religion they were Armenians, by language – Circassians and Russians. This is the background through which I am related to the Armenian culture. My father, Vladimir Belsitzman, was born in Tbilisi in 1900 and grew up speaking Russian and Georgian. Both sides of his family were Jewish immigrants, who had moved to Georgia from Russia several generations earlier.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: So we can say you have Caucasian roots. How they reflected on your personality?

Alexis Bell: I think it is expressed in my openness towards the people, a feeling of communality in Caucasian music and dance, certainly, with food, because I experienced it since my childhood, as my father was a very good cook. He liked to prepare both Caucasian and Russian dishes.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: I know your mother was a parishioner of the Gregory Illuminator Armenian Apostolic church in New York City.

Alexis Bell: When I was born, mother had me christened in Armenian Church but I don’t remember visiting that church more than on one occasion. When we did go to church that was not by insistence of my mother, but to celebrate Easter.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: What memories you have from your grandparents Aslan and Lydia?

Alexis Bell: I remember my maternal grandparents very well. I first met them in 1945, when I was 3 years old, and then saw them subsequently every two to three years, when my mother and I visited France. My grandfather, Aslan, liked to tell stories about his life in Russia, about his house in Moscow on the corner of Skatertnaja i Medvezhii pereulok, and raising horses, some of which he sold to the czarist army. He even remembered the names of the horses that he himself owned. One consequence of grandfather’s love of horses was that my mother became an avid horsewoman in her early teens and rode until the family left Russia. Both my grandfather and grandmother always dressed well and more or less formally. What I remember most about my grandmother, Lydia, were her elaborate hair arrangements, which she did every morning, and the smell of her powder. She was also very much the head of the household. Every morning she gave her housekeeper a list of groceries that needed to be bought for the day or next couple of days, since the only way to preserve perishables was either a small ice box or putting things out on the balcony located just outside the kitchen. Afternoon tea was a family event, which involved pouring a small amount of *zavar* (brewed tea leaves) from the teapot sitting above the *samovar* and then adding hot water and, of course, there were also some sort of jam or sweets to accompany the tea. On those occasions when mother and I spent a month with the family in France, a house was rented in either Brittany or Cote D’Azur, so that all members of the family could live under one roof. Here too, grandmother was in charge and enjoyed tremendously having her three children and five grandchildren with her.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: There are few Cherkesogays. Have you ever met others? Whom?

Alexis Bell: No, unfortunately, I never met any Cherkesogays, other than the immediate members of my family.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: You bear also your mother’s family name – Tarassoff. Part of this family remained in Russia. The name of Russian businessman and political activist of Armenian descent Artyom Tarasov who died last year was quite famous. Were you in touch with your family members in Russia?

Alexis Bell: Tatiana and I learned about Artyom Tarassoff a few years ago. I wrote emails to him on a couple of occasions explaining our relationship, but he never responded.

Somewhat later, Tatiana obtained his cell phone number from a friend of hers. She called him and explained how I am related to him and said that we would like to meet him on one of our trips to Moscow. He said that he would enjoy doing so but could not tell us when he might be able to do so, since he was ill with cancer and was in the hospital when he received our call. Unfortunately, that was the last contact we had with him. To the best of my knowledge, he was the only Tarassoff of whom we are aware in Russia.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: While migrating to Europe Aslan Tarassoff’s family stayed for awhile in Constantinople and obtained Armenian nationality in 1920 translating their family name into Torosyan. Do you have your mother’s Armenian passport?

Alexis Bell: I think I may have my mother’s Armenia passport. If I find, I will send you a copy.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: Olga Tarasova is one of the “heroines” of my study “The Armenians in World Choreography Art.” How a Russian immigrant managed to have three ballet schools in such a megapolis as New York City?

Alexis Bell: My mother had a strong character and did not want to be idle once she married. So, shortly thereafter she opened a studio. My first memories of her studio date to the mid 1940s, when her studio was on the other side of the wall from our apartment. My father had rented a loft on the third floor of a building at 142 West 54th Street in Manhattan, and with the help of a friend of his, a painter names Hans Hoffman, he had the loft converted into a small apartment and my mother’s studio. Amusingly, there was only one bathroom for the whole loft, which abutted the girls’ dressing room. One could enter the bathroom from either the studio or by passing through the dressing room. I remember that when my mother wanted to bathe me in the evening, while the studio was being used by other ballet teachers, she would poke her head into the dressing room and ask “Girls are you decent,” and once she got a positive response, she would trot me through for my bath.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: She was the ballet teacher of Hollywood legend Audrey Hepburn. Has she ever told something particular about her?

Alexis Bell: No, I do not recall mother talking about Audrey Hepburn, but I do recall another one of her famous students, Maria

life. He also told me that he hated public speaking and tried to do as little as possible. He also told me that when was invited to meet Gorbachev at the Élysée, he at first declined the invitation because he was not sure what he might have to talk about; however, he was finally convinced to attend by his wife.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: Henri Troyat was born in Russia, but never visited Russia so as not to destroy the image of the country he had in his mind. You, born in the US, have visited not only Russia, but also Armenia. Why?

Alexis Bell: My interest in Russia was formed at an early age, fostered by listening to stories my mother told me about her childhood in Armavir and Moscow, many, many dinner conversation among my parents’ Russian friends, and most notably the children of Feodor Chaliapin – Boris, Tatyana, Feodor, and Lydia. This group loved to reminisce about their childhood and youth in Russia, sing Russian songs, and enjoy Russian food, usually prepared by my father, who was a very accomplished cook. I also have fond memories of spending Russian Easter at Boris Chaliapin’s home in Easton, Conn. These events involved decorating Easter eggs with gold and silver paints, preparing an elaborate Easter dinner, which has done by Boris’s wife, Helcia, and my father, Vladimir, both of whom were Jews. When all was ready, we would pile into several cars and drive to a small Russian Orthodox church to hear the Easter service, and after that return to Boris’ home for an Easter feast.

As I may have told you, my love of the Russian language led me to join a Russian-speaking dormitory in my freshman year at MIT. This group comprised 15 freshman students and a Russian-speaking tutor, David Perlmutter, who had been a translator at the first Soviet-American trade show in Moscow in the late 1950s. At the time that I met him, he was a graduate student in linguistics at Harvard and also an instructor in Russian language at MIT. David and I were the only members of the dorm who spoke Russian fluently, so it was our task to help the other students develop their Russian language skills. In the second year of the dorm, the Slavic Languages department declared that it had run out of funds to support Perlmutter. Since the students in the dorm were very fond of him, we decided to take matters into our own hands and find funds for his salary. At my initiative, we decided to run a Russian film festival on campus. Every week during the school year, I would order Soviet films – mainly classic Eisenstein films – from Brandon films in New York City, show them on Saturday and Sunday nights, and then return them by mail on Monday. This way we earned \$5,000, which was enough to pay Perlmutter’s salary.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: You are in Armenia for the second time. Do you feel already some attachment to this country? Do you have already some places you prefer?

Alexis Bell: My knowledge of Armenia and Armenian culture developed relatively recently, thanks mostly to the efforts of Gregorii Karapetyan, an Armenian community activist from Armavir,

who invited us to Armavir in 2014 to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the city’s founding. Gregorii also helped organize our first trip to Georgia and Armenia in 2015, as well as our trip this year. These trips, including visits to the national historical museum, the art museum, the Paradjanov museum, as well as visits to Echmiadzin and Lake Sevan have given me a growing appreciation of Armenia and its people. What both Tatiana and I have found is that Armenians are warm and very hospitable people, who are very proud of their heritage and also quite aware of the hardships that their people have endured over the centuries. I have commented that Armenia is much like Israel, a small nations of very bright and industrious people, surround by nations who are not friendly. All of this has given me tremendous respect for Armenians.



Alexis T. Bell with his grandfather Aslan and uncle Henri Troyat

Tallchief, one of a few Native American ballet dancers. On a few occasions when my parents wanted to go out and needed a babysitter, they asked Maria to do so.

Artsvi Bakhchinyan: You remind me of your uncle very much. How were your relations? Do you have a special memory about him? Were you communicating in Russian?

Alexis Bell: I have many fond memories of my uncle, Henri. In my younger days when the whole family would spend a summer month together, he tried to join us for at least a part of the time. He spoke Russian fluently, as well as French. As a teenager, I visited him both his apartment in Paris and his summer home in Peymenade, near Grace. While I did not have a lot of private time with him, I did enjoy speaking about his writing, and he was always interested in what I was doing in my professional

Arts & Living

Creative Armenia And AGBU Launch Fellowships to Champion Innovative Talents

YEREVAN – Creative Armenia and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) announced recently the launch of the Creative Armenia-AGBU Fellowships, which will discover, nourish and promote creative talents across the arts. Through a year-long program of funding, mentorship and tailored promotion strategies, Creative Armenia and AGBU will empower innovative artists to achieve a career breakthrough, both locally and globally.

“As a nation, we take great pride in a heritage of visionary writers, musicians, filmmakers, and artists. But what are we actually doing to discover and empower our future creative visionaries?” said filmmaker and writer Garin Hovannisian, founding director of Creative Armenia. “The Creative Armenia-AGBU Fellowships are our answer to this question.”

The Fellowships represent the first collaboration of AGBU and Creative Armenia, which entered into a strategic partnership in May. Creative Armenia, a global arts foundation for



Garin Hovannisian, founding director of Creative Armenia, speaks about the strategic importance of partnering with AGBU Armenia.

the Armenian people, pursues a mandate to discover, develop, promote, and produce innovative talent. A trusted bedrock of the Armenian diaspora, AGBU has been creating opportunities for Armenian artists for decades to extend their education and showcase their talents to diverse audiences across the globe. The organization formalized its support for the arts with the establishment of the Performing Arts Departments in the United States (in 2012) and France (in 2016).

“The synergy of this partnership opens up unprecedented opportunities for artists to expand their reach and make their work known locally and internationally,” said producer Eric Esraïlian, who is a member of the AGBU Central Board and a founding member of Creative Armenia’s Board of Advisors. “This fellowship will help advance Armenian arts and culture on the global stage.”

The Creative Armenia-AGBU Fellowships are open to innovative talents in all creative fields – including film, music, literature, visual arts, theater, design, and photography. During the course of one year, fellows will gain access to industry connections and tailored strategies to develop, pitch and promote their projects through one-on-one mentorship meetings and workshops. A \$5,000 grant will also be provided. The fellowships are open to artists of Armenian origin and those who have a demonstrated interest in Armenian culture. The presence of fellows in Armenia is not required.

Applications are accepted now through September 15 on creativearmenia.org/fellowships and agbu.org/creativearmenia.

For inquiries, contact Alec Mouhibian at alec@creativearmenia.org and Hayk Arsenyan at harsenyan@agbu.org.



The vocal quintet in Berlin

Young Armenian Musicians Delight Audiences in Vienna and Berlin

VIENNA and BERLIN – Music lovers in Europe are not surprised when they discover an Armenian or two among the performers in the orchestra or chorus on stage at a classical concert. Now and again there are special guest performances

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

of soloists, or dancers that tour Europe, like the famous Geghard dance ensemble. But it is highly unusual to attend a concert of young Armenian children. In late June-early July,

just such a rare treat was offered in Vienna and Berlin, as a group of music students from Yerevan displayed their talents. Both concerts took place in churches, in Vienna it was the St. Hripsime church on June 27 and in Berlin, the Paul Gerhardt Evangelical Parish on July 1. The youngsters are all students at the Alexey Hekimian Music school in Yerevan, and are 14 years old or younger. The classical concert, with Armenian works and the European repertoire, was organized on the occasion of the 2800th anniversary of Erebuni-Yerevan, and received the support of Sergey Avetisyan (Vienna), Abraam

see VIENNA, page 16



Meri Mikayelyan performing in Berlin

Goris Jazz Concert Celebrates Legacy of Konstantin Orbelyan At 90th Anniversary Of Birth

By Sona Hamalian

YEREVAN – On the evening of Sunday, July 8, an extraordinary concert was held in the main square of Goris, Armenia, in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the birth of legendary composer, musician, and conductor Konstantin Orbelyan. Initiated by Lilit Makunts, the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, the concert was performed by the Armenian State Jazz Band under the baton of Orbelyan’s namesake nephew, Constantine Orbelian, who is a world-renowned conductor and pianist, and the General and Artistic Director of the Yerevan Opera House.

“Goris was chosen as the site of our concert for several reasons,” Orbelian said. “Apart from its distinction as one of Armenia’s most breathtakingly beautiful cities, Goris is the 2018 CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Cultural Capital, as declared by the CIS Ministerial Council last year. Moreover, Goris has a very special personal meaning to me, as my father was born in Tatev. There’s even a street in the city, ‘Orbelyanner,’ named after my family.”

Aficionados of jazz and vintage esdratayin (Armenian pop) music from across Armenia as well as Russia and other CIS countries had traveled to Goris to attend the concert. The concert and the three-day cultural events in



Musicians performing with the Armenian State Jazz Band

Goris were hosted by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and his government.

The concert’s program encompassed many of Konstantin Orbelyan’s famous songs, along with songs by Babajanyan, Khachatryan, and Michael Buble, and big-band favorites from Glenn Miller. The songs were performed by soloists Georgy Bunyatyan, Anahit Shahbazyan, Gevorg Margaryan, and Sona Rubenyan to the accompaniment of the Armenian State Jazz Band, with acclaimed instrumentalists including Avag Margaryan (blud and zurna). One of Armenia’s most renowned ensembles, the Armenian State Jazz Band is led by Artistic Director and saxophonist Armen Hyusnunts, who had arranged some of the songs performed at the concert.

Commenting on Konstantin Orbelyan’s compositions, Constantine Orbelian said, “I think one of the most impressive aspects of Konstantin Orbelyan’s legacy is that he didn’t merely bestow jazz and pop with Armenian coloration, but rather transformed these genres into genuinely Armenian articulations of

see CONCERT, page 17



ARTS & LIVING

Armenian Culture Presented on Unprecedented Scale at the First Day of Smithsonian Folk Festival

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

WASHINGTON — The first day of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival began on June 27 with a downpour of rain, but this did not dampen the spirits of the artisans, specialists and volunteers on the National Mall, nor of the guests, many of whom had traveled from far corners of the United States to see this year's two festival components, called Armenia: Creating Home and Catalonia: Tradition and Creativity. Soon enough, the sun came out and the day ended festively among the tents set up on the Mall. In the evening, a reception was held at the National Museum of African American History and Culture to celebrate the start of the festival.

The theme uniting both the Armenian and Catalan exhibits is the linkage between cultural heritage and economic enterprise. The Armenian exhibits include demonstrations of various types of crafts, including ironworking (the old-fashioned way with an anvil), pottery, carpet making, weaving, lace making, and stone and wood carving, and various food-related dis-



phers or academic specialists in related fields.

When guests wanted to take a break from wandering among the various exhibits and demonstrations, they could go to food booths

Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography in the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia. Consequently, at the evening reception, President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian spoke, along with Carolyn Mugar of the Armenian Assembly of America, and various Smithsonian officials, including Sabrina Lynn Motley, the director of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

Sarkissian, in addition to recognizing the importance of the Smithsonian festival, pointed out the seminal role of Armenian culture in world history and encouraged tourists to personally experience Armenian hospitality and

culture in Armenia.

The president of Catalonia spoke and strongly criticized Spanish repression. He was followed by the Spanish ambassador, who refuted the criticisms and strongly countered the Catalan's words, leading to the many Catalans present to depart from the hall, singing national songs and loudly protesting.

The festival ended on July 8. Its official inauguration took place on June 28.



Armenian President Armen Sarkissian at the evening reception

plays, including cooking demonstrations, lectures on Armenian wine, and volunteers collecting information from visitors on their family food traditions. Live music and dance were ever-present, with folk and jazz the dominant varieties of the former. Even Armenian games, in the form of the frik or spinning top, were demonstrated, and there was a shadow puppet show. There were panel discussions, and storytelling and film screenings will also be part of forthcoming programs.

Craftsmen came from various parts of Armenia, not just the capital, and as most did not know English, they were paired with interpreters, some of whom were also ethnogra-

which in the Armenian case featured a variety of traditional foods and wines. A store offered various Armenian, Catalan and other folk items for sale.

For many visitors, it seemed as if a corner of Armenia had been transplanted or recreated temporarily in the capital of the United States. It was an unprecedented event on Armenian culture in the United States in terms of scale and outreach.

The Smithsonian Institution, supported by USAID and the US Embassy in Armenia (and through the My Armenia Cultural Heritage Tourism Program), partnered with the government of the Republic of Armenia and the





ARTS & LIVING

Behind the Scenes at Armenian Folklife Festival

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

WASHINGTON — When Halle Butvin answered her telephone, the gates were being put up at the blacksmith's stand at the Armenian Folklife Festival at the National Mall a few days prior to the official opening. She exclaimed happily that everything was falling into place as it should. The year of curatorial planning and earlier research beginning in 2015 were paying off.

Butvin has been Director of Special Projects at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in Washington from 2016, and prior to that for three years was an advisor at the Smithsonian's Office of International Relations. She was involved in the Armenian Festival from the very beginning, when the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) called the Smithsonian.

She did not know anything about Armenia until she asked Smithsonian Folklife Festival director Sabrina Lynn Motley, when she started working at the Smithsonian, if she could choose any festival anywhere in the world, what would she showcase, and Motley answered Armenia. Motley had a soft spot for Armenia because she grew up in Pasadena and became interested in Armenian culture there. That in turn, Butvin said, “definitely influenced our willingness to go out to Armenia and go about the project.”



Halle Butvin

The Smithsonian Center does research on tangible cultural heritage and people's traditions, and sometimes the research only leads to a paper or a conference. However, when there is a critical mass of both research and a relationship or the right match, then a festival program is the result. In the present case, Butvin said, “we recognized very quickly that the Armenian story of resilience and of being able to sustain tradition over time was something that we really wanted to be able to tell.”

Armenia had the benefit of the already ongoing My Armenia cultural heritage tourism development program (for which Butvin ran the artisan initiative), so that connections had already been made with Armenia, including a partnership with the Institute for Archaeology

and Ethnography of the Armenian Academy of Sciences. This, Butvin said, really set things off on the right track and soon the Smithsonian knew it wanted to prepare a festival program. It was not until more research was done that the decision was made as to what year it would be held and how. The Smithsonian previously had some materials from the Soviet period on Armenia, but not much on contemporary Armenian culture.

Meanwhile, the project aligned with the interests of USAID, which wanted to promote economic growth and development in the regions of Armenia outside the capital. The festival focused on the intersection between cultural heritage and economics. Butvin said that normally USAID projects do not look that much at culture, so this was an unusual circumstance.

USAID was only one of many partners sponsoring the festival. They funded the curatorial team and the research that it did, but the Smithsonian fundraised for the full program largely from the Armenian-American community. Butvin said the community “really came out to support the program.” There were over 40 community donors that made the festival possible. This arrangement, Butvin said, “gave us the intellectual freedom to do representation in a way that really suits the communities that we are trying to represent. I think that is a really beautiful thing.”

In contrast, most other festivals, like that of Catalonia this year which accompanied Armenia, are sponsored through the governments of the relevant people or region. The Smithsonian knew the Armenian government did not have the resources necessary, so it found this workaround. In addition to everything on the Mall, it had to pay for all the costs of the visiting artisans and performers for their two-week stay starting from their trip from their home village to their hotel, food and equipment costs.

The Smithsonian brought 82 artisans, presenters, performers and experts from Armenia. There were another 12 diasporan Armenian participants along with 100 Armenian dancers from the US and Canada who came for a dance summit.

Butvin previously had worked on the My Armenia project with the Armenian researchers from the Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, including Levon Abrahamyan, Satenik Mkrtchyan and Ruzanna Tsaturyan, so when the Smithsonian decided on the festival Butvin served as the lead curator on the Smithsonian side. The festival built on the knowledge of the Armenian researchers, and together the group decided what narratives they wanted to tell about Armenia.

Motley had already fixed the research theme of community-based cultural enterprise for the festival projects of 2018, so both Armenia and Catalonia had to reflect this theme. Butvin said, “what kept resurfacing over and over again was the idea of the importance of the home. Everything we talked about seemed to center on the home. That is where we

came up with the program of “creating home.” Catalonia differed from Armenia in that its cultural life was centered about the plaza, a public space, not in the home.

Part of what the Smithsonian wanted to show is that people are multidimensional. So the cross-stone or khachkar maker, for example, also cooks or sings. More importantly, Butvin stressed that the festival is about connecting people and building understanding. She said, “Armenian culture is incredible in the way that it can be inclusive and bring people together around the table, for example, and never exclude a guest.” Consequently, she continued, “that warmth and hospitality is going to shine through and make it a really incredible experience both for the public and the participants who are here.”

There were approximately 300 different programmed Armenian events happening over the two weeks of the festival at the end of June and beginning of July. The Smithsonian archives did audio recordings of everything at all stages. Furthermore, a photo and video team covers many events, and content will continue to be posted about the festival for months after it is over.

The My Armenia project is continuing and eventually the Smithsonian may issue an updated book on Armenian folk culture. The Smithsonian, she said, would love to have small versions of the Armenian festival in other American cities, but would need financial support.

Butvin said that in general, she was impressed when she worked with young people in Yerevan. She declared, “I think that Armenia has a lot more going for it than other places



Armenian Folklife Festival curators, from left, Satenik Mkrtchyan, Halle Butvin, Ruzanna Tsaturyan, and Levon Abrahamyan

in terms of the next generation being interested.” She couldn't believe the number of young people who have learned skills like needlework or traditional cooking from their grandmothers.

On the other hand, some things are being lost, such as clay *tonir* (oven) makers since electric ovens are being used more now due to convenience. Yet there are new restaurants for tourists which prefer clay ovens since people like watching *lavash* bread being made. The future of Armenian carpet weaving remains to be seen, she said, due to commercialization and competition from China and India.

Some ten days after the end of the festival, Butvin reported that there was overwhelmingly positive feedback about it from both the Armenian-American community and non-

Armenians on social media and emails. She noted that many Armenian families used the festival as a place of reunion and holiday, which contributed to its success.

One exciting unexpected development, she said, was that the Armenian dance participants were going to demonstrate wedding dances as a staged performance but decided on their own to do a spontaneous wedding procession. The ladies who made *lavash* came and draped *lavash* on the bride's shoulders. All the Armenian festival participants made up the procession, as if they were a family, and it turned out very exciting, with the public vying to take selfies.

The signage for the festival has been sent back to Armenia in hopes that it can



be used in 2019 if a similar event is staged there with the support of the Armenian government. Meanwhile, talks are underway with the city of Alexandria to see if the metal arch prepared by the blacksmiths of Gyumri might be installed there to commemorate the festival. There is also a large fountain which may be installed somewhere in the Washington area as another memento.



ARTS & LIVING

Young Armenian Musicians Delight Audiences in Vienna and Berlin

VIENNA, from page 13

Kostanyan, Restaurant Yerevan and Artak Kirakosyan (Berlin). The concert in the German capital was organized under the auspices of the Association of the European and Armenian Experts e.V. – AEAE. The aim of the visit was to build cultural bridges between German and Armenian musicians from the younger generation and to provide them experience in artistic performance.

The ambitious program offered vocal and instrumental music, performed by soloists as

well as ensembles, and in several languages. Among the vocal soloists were Izabella Brutyan who presented Pietro Labriol's *Welle, Welle*, Vivian Gharibyan with Enrico Cannio's *Farewell*, Carme, Kristina Zakaryan with Franz Weckerlen's *Serenade*, Karine Avetisyan who sang Drigo's *Serenade*, and Narek Sahakyan who performed *Groong* by Komitas.

From the Italian repertoire, Augustin Lara sang an aria from Verdi's opera "Rigoletto" and Narek Sahakyan sang Augustin Lara's *Granada*.

Among the ensemble pieces were Komitas's *Dance Songs of the Armenian Peasant*, performed by a vocal quintet, who also presented the Armenian folk song *Nubar Nubar*. Kristina Zakaryan, Izabella Brutyan, and Vivian Gharibyan performed *Swallow* by Komitas. Alexej Hekimian's *Good-natured Stork* was presented by Vivian Gharibyan and Kristina Avetisyan. Narek Sahakyan joined in a duet with Kristina Zakaryan to sing Franz Lehar's *Lippen schweigen* with Vivian Gharibyan in Vincenzo di Chiara's *La Spagnola*.

Instrumental soloists included pianists Anna Nazaryan with Georg Friedrich Händel's *Passacaglia*, Hasmik Manukyan with E. Abrahamyan's *Prelude in E-flat major* and Garnik Hayrapetyan with Arno Babajanyan's *Humoresque*. Traditional Armenian instruments were also featured, with Meri Mikayelyan on the *kanoun*, playing a *Hungarian Dance* by Johannes Brahms and the folk dance melody, *Erzrum's Lullaby*, and on the *santur*, Tsovak Hambardzumyan's *Dance of Trabizon* and Ashot Satyan's *If you know it?*

At the end of the concert in Berlin, the audi-



Lusine Arakelyan with students in Vienna

Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies Releases Latest Volume

FRESNO – The Society for Armenian Studies announces the release of Volume 26 (2017) of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* (JSAS), edited by Dr. Sergio La Porta. JSAS Volume 26 includes four articles, eight communications, and two book reviews.

The articles in this issue address topics in Armenian religious practice, philology, the Armenian Genocide, contemporary literature and the transmission of traumatic memory.

The volume begins with a study by J. Russell that takes a detailed look at the prayer or oath attributed to the sect of the Arewordik', or Children of the Sun, in Armenian sources.

K. Bardakjian examines the development of the origin of the title *amira* among Armenians in the Ottoman Empire.

H. Marutyan extracts contemporary discussions of incidents documented during the Armenian Genocide often interpreted as "rescues," from the domain of an a priori denialist and propagandistic "just memory" formulations. Instead, it brings them into conversation with the principles set forth by the Institute of the "Righteous among the Nations" of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum.

Finally, H. Makhdoumian uses Patricia Sarrafian Ward's *The Bullet Collection* (2003) as a case study to complicate postmemory.

In addition to these articles, vol. 26 contains eight communications that address a broad range of Armenological topics. The first communication by M. Stone explores what he terms the "ornamented Bible" in Armenian.

A. Maghalyan publishes with an English translation the list of Catholicoi of the Aluank' (Caucasian Albanians) from Matenadaran ms. 2561 (1664 CE), while E. CreMeens brings to light an unpublished Psalter and its illuminations from the library of the Armenian Museum of America. A. Sanjian compares the prices and price fluctuations of Armenian newspapers published between 1918 and 1920. A. Arslanian's looks at British policy towards Armenians and other minorities in the Middle East during WWI. Y. Tchekhanovets and Fr. P. Berjekian share excerpts from a report on excavations from the St. James Cathedral in Jerusalem in the 1950's originally compiled by Bishop Shnorhik' Kaloustian.

The final two communications address issues involving Armenian diasporan travel to Anatolia and Western Armenia.

The Executive Council of the Society for Armenian Studies has taken steps which include submitting the *Journal* to a professional academic press and appointing distinguished scholars on its Advisory and Editorial boards. Society for Armenian Studies President, Bedross Der Matossian (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) commented: "We believe that doing so will make JSAS more accessible to the academic community at large and ensure that will have a greater impact on our scholarly disciplines. We are certain that the *Journal* will benefit from the expertise of the new boards and elevate its level to meet the highest academic standards."

Sergio La Porta, California State University, Fresno continues as the editor and the new book review editor is Michael Pifer, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Copies may be purchased online at societyforarmenianstudies.com.

Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

Red Cabbage and Carrot Salad with Cranberries



INGREDIENTS

8-9 cups red cabbage, shredded
1/2 medium red onion, sliced thinly
1 large carrot, shredded
1 cup dried sweetened cranberries, dried tart cherries or golden raisins
1 cup packed finely chopped flat-leaf parsley
2 cloves garlic, minced
4-5 green onions, thinly sliced or diced
Kosher salt and coarse black pepper
1 tablespoon sugar
Olive oil, fresh lemon juice, red wine or balsamic vinegar (or choice of dressing)
3/4 cup candied walnuts or coarsely chopped pecans or almonds
Crumbled gorgonzola or blue cheese (optional)
Fresh sliced avocado (optional)

PREPARATION

Place cabbage, red onions, carrots, cranberries, parsley, garlic, green onions and sugar in a bowl and toss until all ingredients are combined.

Add olive oil and lemon juice (or choice of dressing) and season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle with nuts and cheese and garnish with sliced avocado, if desired.

Note: This salad may be prepared a day ahead of time (without the dressing), covered and chilled overnight. Chopped fresh spinach or kale may be added to this salad. Toss with dressing and add seasonings when ready to serve.

Serves 6.

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





ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

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

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

AUGUST 26 — Armenian Church at Hye Pointe Picnic, 12 to 5 p.m., to be held at our new Family Life & Cultural Center, 1280 Boston Road (RTE. 125) Haverhill. Music by the fabulous Jason Naroian Ensemble. Menu includes Lamb Shish, Losh, & Chicken Kebab Dinners, Kheyma, Pastries, & Beverages. Raffles for Cash Prizes & Gift Certificates. Air Conditioned Hall. Bring your lawn chairs for sitting outside. For more info visit www.hypointearmenianchurch.org or call (978) 372-9227. Take RTE. 495 N to exit 48, bear right at the end of the ramp and follow the signs. Additional parking at Osgood Landing, 1600 Osgood Street, North Andover, with free shuttle bus to the picnic grounds.

SEPTEMBER 9 — Trinity Family Festival, Sunday, 12-5 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Delicious Armenian food with

take-out available; Armenian music for your listening and dancing pleasure; games and fun activities for children. Blessing of the Madagh, raffle drawing and more. Save the date; details to follow. For further information, contact the Church office, 617.354.0632, or email office@htaac.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 6:45 pm, Program at 7:30 pm. Reception follows at The Bostonian Hotel An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway.

SEPTEMBER 21 — St. James Hye Café. Join us for delicious food and fellowship! Kebab, Falafel, Imam Bayeldi, and more. Doors open at 6:15pm. For more information visit www.stjameswatertown.org. St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown.

SEPTEMBER 23 — "Lights, Camera, Stories!" An evening with award-winning filmmaker Bared Maronian, Sunday, 5 p.m. Take 1) Screening of Women of 1915; Take 2) Exclusive footage of Armenia's recent Velvet Revolution; Take 3) Reveal of Bared's Titanic Love. Co-sponsored by AIWA & AWWA, proceeds to benefit the Women's Support Center in Yerevan, and Hanganak Elderly Clinic in Stepanakert. Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library, 33 Marrett Rd., Lexington. Tickets: \$75 - Reception to follow.

OCTOBER 12-13 — St. James 71st Annual Bazaar. Delicious Armenian Food and Pastries. Silent Auction, Attic Treasures, Booths and Vendors. Raffles, Children's Activities, and more. Details to follow. St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. For more information contact 617.923.8860 or info@stthagop.com or visit www.stjameswatertown.org.

NOVEMBER 30 and DECEMBER 1 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 12 noon-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA. Save the date; details to follow. For further information, contact the Church office, 617.354.0632 or email office@htaac.org.

DECEMBER 9 — Christmas Holiday Concert — Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, 7 p.m., Church Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Save the date; details to follow. For further information, call the Church office, 617.354.0632 or email office@htaac.org.

DECEMBER 16 — Candlelit Labyrinth Peace Walk, Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston, Sunday, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Walk the Candlelit Labyrinth. Tie a Ribbon on the Wishing Tree. Hot Chocolate & Desserts, hosted by The Bostonian Hotel . RSVP appreciated hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019 — SAVE THE DATE! InterContinental Hotel, Boston. Extraordinary Benefit for Armenian Heritage Park's Endowed Fund for Care

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 24-25 — Armenian Assembly of America's National Advocacy Conference will take place in Washington, D.C. Join us on Monday for the conference and welcome reception, and on Tuesday for the advocacy day on Capitol Hill, cocktail reception, and gala honoring Annie Simonian Totah. Special hotel rates are available at the Marriott Marquis. Visit www.aimhye.com for tickets and more information.

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.

Goris Jazz Concert Celebrates Legacy of Konstantin Orbelyan at 90th Anniversary of Birth

CONCERT, from page 13
emotion and imagination. In other words, my uncle was able, seemingly effortlessly, to transpose specifically and recognizably Armenian artistic expressions of love, longing, and spiritual ardor into pop and jazz. I think the creation and dissemination of such music, in addition to his vast repertoire of classical music, has been of immeasurable cultural and esthetic importance to the Armenian people, both during the Soviet decades and today, when we continue to draw strength and inspiration from the fountains of classical Armenian pop and jazz."

Born in 1928, Konstantin Orbelyan was a talented composer of classical music (symphony, ballet, chamber ensemble), jazz, and popular songs, and the recipient of numerous prestigious awards. He was recognized as a Composer and People's Artist of the USSR and Armenia, and his awards included the Medal of Honor of Russia, the Medal of Honor of Armenia, and the St. Mesrop Mashtots Medal (Armenia and Artsakh).

Orbelyan had been acknowledged as a pianist and improviser since he was in his teens. At age 15, he was invited to perform with the Armenian State Pop Orchestra. Years later, he became the orchestra's conductor. Under his able direction for 36 years, the orchestra rose to become one of the most accomplished of its kind.

Graduating in composition and piano from Edward Mirzoyan's class of composition at Yerevan's Komitas Conservatory in 1963, Orbelyan achieved early recognition for his

String Quartet, winning the coveted first prize at the International Competition in Moscow, where the chairman of the competition's panel of judges was the composer Dmitri Shostakovich. As a result, Orbelyan's rising tal-

Symphony, he was awarded the title "Laureate of the All-Union Competition." His subsequent *Celebration Overture* achieved the same acclaim. His ballet symphony *Immortality* was composed in 1975 and performed by the

with solo piano, was written in memory of George Gershwin, and was first performed by the Moscow Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Orbelyan's nephew, Constantine Orbelian.

Ever versatile in the scope of his repertoire, Konstantin Orbelyan wrote musical scores for a number of films; music for the theater; pop songs; jazz; and scores for stage musicals. Several of these compositions have won top prizes.

For many years, Orbelyan was planning to write an oratorio dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. He passed away on April 24, 2014.

"During my visits to Armenia in the past, I always enjoyed attending my uncle's rehearsals and concerts, and remember his huge success not only in his native Armenia, but all over Russia and the Soviet Union, as well as some 40 countries around the world," his nephew said.

"Honoring the artistic legacy of my beloved uncle with our concert in Goris has been one of my most thrilling experiences since the start of my tenure with the Yerevan Opera House," the Maestro continued. "This has been one fabulous concert, for which I would like to convey my profound gratitude to Minister of Culture Lilit Makunts, whose initiative and support have been absolutely instrumental; all of the brilliant and dedicated musicians of the Armenian State Jazz Band and its wonderful Artistic Director, Armen Hyusununts; and, last but certainly not least, our energetic, passionate audience, whose presence made the event all the more worthwhile!"



The Armenian State Jazz Band under the baton of Orbelyan's namesake nephew, Constantine Orbelian

ent and success were noted with great appreciation by the doyen of Armenian music of the time, Aram Khachaturyan. Next followed the premiere of Orbelyan's *First Symphony* at Moscow's famous Tchaikovsky Hall. For this

Yerevan Opera and Ballet Theater. This work, too, won First Prize in an All-Union Competition devoted to music for the stage.

One of Orbelyan's more recent compositions in the classical idiom, an orchestral miniature



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Echmiadzin Under Assault

By Edmond Y. Azadian

In the aftermath of the Velvet Revolution, the last thing that Armenia needs is the continuation of further social disturbances. The popular uprising which brought Nikol Pashinyan to power is yet to offer its dividends to the public, which has not yet witnessed any changes in its daily life, except the euphoria generated by the revolution. If expectations are not met in a timely fashion or miss their goals, the euphoria may prove to be ephemeral.

Armenia's domestic issues have to be viewed within the regional political context, which is disconcerting to say the least.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's recent victory in neighboring Turkey has ramifications far beyond that country's borders. Following his victory, Erdogan flew to Baku immediately to fan the Pan-Turkic dreams from the Caucasus to Central Asia. That move was echoed and complemented by Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, who repeated the call for the unity of Turkic peoples. Ironically, Nazarbayev is supposed to be Armenia's strategic ally through its membership in the Eurasian Economic Union.

All these developments resulted in increased troop concentration in Nakhichevan, where the Turkish general staff plans to execute seven consecutive military exercises in the near future.

This situation is further aggravated by the intensifying suspicions of Moscow about the political intentions of the new government in Armenia. A Russian delegation has already visited Azerbaijan and bashed Armenia for its position in the Karabakh issue. The political tension is already in the air, reminiscent of the days in the 1990s when President Levon Ter-Petrosian's government advocated a shift in its policy from Moscow to Ankara and Russia responded in kind by sending arms and strategic support to Azerbaijan, which almost occupied two-thirds of Karabakh, until the Armenian side came to its senses, switched back its policy, recovered that territory last and signed the ceasefire agreement on May 12, 1994.

One wonders who is paying attention in Armenia to this egregious situation when demonstrators are out in the streets calling for a new Catholicos in the new Armenia. Their numbers and their calls could be easily ignored had it not been the government's equivocal position vis-à-vis these disturbances.

A disgruntled priest, Fr. Koryun Arakelyan, who was disciplined by His Holiness, has joined a group of demonstrators who first gathered at the courtyard of St. Anna Church in downtown Yerevan, then moved their show to Echmiadzin and they invaded the compound, hurling slurs and demanding the resignation of His Holiness Karekin II. Some social sites have also joined the chorus, by manufacturing outrageous stories about the Catholicos. That kind of dirt in the newspapers and online has degraded journalism generally in Armenia, where libel laws are still a mockery.

On July 17, the Catholicos of the Armenian Church defrocked Arakelyan for "improper conduct," the Church said.

The movement against the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II came to a boiling point when he recently took a trip to a monastery in the Vayk region. He visited Gundevank, where a group of people surrounded His Holiness's car and forced him to walk. As he walked, they began insulting him by hurling obscene slogans and asking him to resign. They also distributed a video of the demonstration, with their demand for the Catholicos to negotiate with them the terms of his abdication right then and there in that wilderness. Later on, commenting about that encounter, the Catholicos would not talk to his flock. The scene could only bring revulsion to any sane person. Their slogans and their general conduct could only be described as the behavior of thugs. Nothing else.

On his way back to Echmiadzin, His Holiness was stopped and surrounded by his supporters at Khor Virab, where he gave his blessings to them and forgiveness to the demonstrators, saying they are "still our children."

In all this turmoil, the police failed to act. They were only bystanders. Later on, viewing the video, the prime minister

agreed that the police did not behave the way they were expected to, but then he issued statements which were not worthy of a statesman. He said that the situation had not gotten out of hand. If it ever comes to that, the government will act, he said.

"Nevertheless," in his opinion, "the matter has not still become public and there is no need for expressing the government's stance," he said.

His most revealing statement was that he is "not an expert in this area and therefore could be mistaken."

When the Catholicos' life is in jeopardy, he sure is mistaken, and more mistaken are the misguided individuals who continue to comingle the position of the Catholicos of All Armenians with the local issue of General Manuel Grigoryan and his family. Grigoryan's son, Karen Grigoryan, was the mayor of the city of Echmiadzin and protestors ousted him from that position recently.

One priest, Fr. Asoghik, in Echmiadzin said that if the government does not protect the Catholicos, the clergy will.

The positions of the Catholicos and the patriarchs are for life. A case in point is that of Patriarch Mesrob Mutafyan in Istanbul, who is in a vegetative state and yet the people are not allowed to elect a new patriarch.

The election of the Catholicos is the only case when the diaspora and Armenia come together in the National Ecclesiastic Convocation to elect the Catholicos. Therefore, he is technically the religious head of ten million Armenians. These demonstrators were chanting that the entire Armenian nation "dislikes you. You have to resign."

One wonders who has appointed these people to represent "the entire Armenian nation."

This movement is designed by the perpetrators to drive a wedge between three million Armenians living in the homeland and the seven million living in the diaspora.

Prime Minister Pashinyan's benign position reflects this attitude toward the old regime despite his pledge that there will be no vendettas. He still associates the Catholicos with the crimes of Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan's clan, without giving him the benefit of the doubt and realizing that the Catholicos has no temporal power and no choice but to cooperate with the administration in charge. Pashinyan has not verbalized this view but the demonstrators have.

Most of the Dioceses and Primates around the world have expressed their concerns and they have lent their support to the Catholicos.

This movement is not only directed against the Catholicos personally, but it is directed at Holy Echmiadzin to undermine its authority and to destabilize the church because the Armenian Church is one of the strongest institutions contributing to the unity of the Armenian people.

Since the beginning of this protest movement, many speculations pointed to alien sects and foreign agencies, which the protestors denied, until proof was provided recently by a ruffian called

Karen Petrosyan, a vocal protestor who released a video claiming that his institute, called Compass, receives funding from Open Society to do charity work. It seems that one of those "charitable deeds" is to undermine the Armenian Church. Open Society is funded by the Soros Foundation, which commissions agents to destroy the fabric of societies, to undermine their cultural values, under the guise of promoting democracy while destabilizing regimes and collapsing them through popular uprisings, like in Georgia, or through violent overthrows of the government, like Ukraine.

The confession is there for anyone to review.

Karen Petrosyan's case has further developments which complicate the issue and implicate other forces. He was recently appointed as a director of a government educational institute in Gyumri. A journalist asked him whether the position was offered to him as a reward for heading the movement against the Catholicos. He has denied the allegation and has said that the appointment was because he is a "professional." It remains to be seen what profession he has other than serving as a foreign agent.

The situation is tense in and around Echmiadzin. The Holy See has survived many administrative and theological crises. This case is definitely politically motivated campaign.

The Holy See, for now, remains under assault.



Mirror Spectator



Established 1932
An ADL Publication

EDITOR
Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR
Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:
Edmond Y. Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

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

CORRESPONDENTS:

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

Contributing Photographers:
Jirair Hovsepiyan

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

Baika Association, Inc.

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

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

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

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

Baika Association, Inc.

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



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

American Teacher Expelled from Turkey Wins Lawsuit in European Court

I recently became aware of the Turkish government's expulsion of an American teacher, violating her freedom of expression.

In an article published by the Gatestone Institute on April 8, 2018, Turkish journalist Uzey Bulut mentioned that Norma Jeanne Cox, a lecturer at Istanbul University, and subsequently at the Middle East Technical University in Gaziantep, Turkey, had spoken to "her students and colleagues about the 1915 Armenian genocide, the forced assimilation of Kurds, and protested against the film 'The Last Temptation of Christ.' For these 'crimes,' she was arrested, fired from her job and ultimately deported. The [Turkish] Ministry of the Interior claimed that Cox had been expelled and banned from re-entering Turkey due to 'her separatist activities, which were incompatible with national security.' In a suit she filed with the European Court of Human Rights – which in 2010 convicted Turkey of violating her freedom of expression – Cox argued that her rights had been violated by Turkey because of her Christian faith and dissenting opinions."

Since Ms. Cox's case was not widely publicized, I looked up

her lawsuit filed at the European Court of Human Rights on August 28, 2002 against the Turkish government and the judgment it rendered in her favor on May 20, 2010.

Here are the details of her lengthy case: On September 23, 1985, the deputy governor of Gaziantep sent a letter to the Ministry of the Interior recommending that Ms. Cox, a Philadelphia native, be expelled from Turkey because of her "harmful activities." She was accused of telling her students and colleagues at the university that "the Turks had expelled the Armenians and had massacred them. Moreover, the Turks had assimilated the Kurds and exploited their culture," as stated by the European Court. In 1986, Ms. Cox was expelled from Turkey and her return was banned. Subsequently, she returned to Turkey and was arrested for distributing leaflets against the film "The Last Temptation of Christ." She was expelled from Turkey again in 1989. In 1996, Ms. Cox returned once again to Turkey and during her departure, officials stamped her passport that she was banned from entering Turkey.

On October 14, 1996, Ms. Cox filed a lawsuit against the Turkish Ministry of the Interior at an Ankara Court, arguing that her expulsion was "in breach of domestic legislation, the [Turkish] Constitution and international conventions, including Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights." The Interior Ministry told the judge that Ms. Cox "had discussions with her students and colleagues about Turks assimilating Kurds and Armenians, and Turks forcing Armenians out of the country and committing genocide." On October 17, 1997, the Ankara court rejected Ms. Cox's lawsuit. Her appeal to the Supreme Court of Turkey was dismissed on January 20, 2000.

Ms. Cox then filed a complaint against Turkey in the European Court of Human Rights on August 28, 2002. The Court concluded that "there has been an interference with the applicant's rights guaranteed by Article 10 of the [European] Convention" which states that "everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include free-

dom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers." Furthermore, the European Court judged that "the ban on the applicant's re-entry into Turkey was designed to repress the exercise of her freedom of expression and stifle the spreading of ideas."

Ms. Cox had asked the European Court to award her 100,000 euros in damages "as a result of her deportation" since "she had to leave Turkey and had lost her job and income." She had also asked for 100,000 euros for "non-pecuniary damage."

The European Court decided that since it only dealt with Ms. Cox's complaint about the violation of her freedom of expression, it had excluded the issues regarding her deportation and her loss of employment and income in Turkey. As a result, the court ordered the Government of Turkey to pay Ms. Cox 12,000 euros within three months of the judgment for "non-pecuniary damage," as well as any US income tax she may owe on the awarded amount. In case the payment by Turkey was made after the deadline of three months, it had to pay an interest payment at the rate of three percentage points added to the simple interest rate equal to the marginal lending rate of the European Central Bank.

Ms. Cox had also claimed 20,000 euros for costs and expenses, but had not submitted any bills or any other information quantifying this claim. In the absence of such information and substantiation, the court made no award in this respect.

Ms. Norma Jeanne Cox told me last month that she would like to return to Turkey as a "Christian Missionary to preach the gospel." After several expulsions, a few years ago she had made one more attempt to go to Turkey. When she arrived at the Istanbul airport, she was not allowed to enter the country and was sent back to the United States on the next available flight.

Diaspora Must Do Better in Keeping Institutions

By Taleen Babayan

AMONG the maze-like streets of Bourdj Hammoud, where crossed wires hang on for dear life and the Armenian language swirls in the air exist buildings that evoke an integral part of Diaspora history. Once crown jewels, these landmarks now teeter on the edge of obsolescence – an unheard of development for the thousands who once called these corridors home.

Growing up, we all heard stories from our grandparents, who came of age during a significant make-or-break era. Genocide survivors themselves, or children of the brave who escaped the atrocities, they arguably helped save a race from succumbing to destitution. But the stories I heard from my grandfather were seldom set in his birthplace of Aintab. Instead, they took place in the port city of Beirut, in the hallways named after one of the Armenian people's most revered poets.

While it had been three decades since his black leather laced wingtips tapped the concrete floors of the Vahan Tekeyan School, I still felt my grandfather's presence in the classrooms and stairwells during a recent visit; the air tinged with his spirit and service. These were the very same pathways where he served as principal and taught his students, through both word and action, the pride in being Armenian and the importance of contributing to the nation and culture in a positive way. A lesson he made sure to instill in all his grandchildren.

At the height of the school's success – in the gilded Golden Age of Lebanon in the 1960s and early 1970s – my grandfather oversaw the education of thousands of students, each a mere generation or two removed from the crippling Armenian Genocide, which could have very well expunged the remaining survivors. But it was the Vahan Tekeyan School, akin to a handful of its counterparts around the Diaspora, that rose to the occasion – and lifted those students to their rejuvenated feet, citing countless successful alumni in its wake.

But now these venerable institutions are at a crossroads. And it is not just limited to Beirut and the political upheaval of the Middle East. Each carefully constructed Diasporan community, which built up communities and neighborhoods in their adopted countries, is vulnerable.

Armenians are capable of building – there is no doubt about that – but are they capable of preserving?

Far away from the turquoise ripples of the Mediterranean, the polluted East River envelopes the St. Vartan Cathedral, home to the Eastern Diocese, which is on its way to purportedly selling its air rights for \$50 million. The Diocesan Council, ostensibly a democratically-elected body, has not been forthcoming in its public pronouncements of this rumored deal, which according to New York real estate savvy individuals, is well below market value.

What would the founders of the cathedral – those genocide survivors who barely made it to the U.S. with only the tattered clothes on their back – have to say about this charade? And how would they feel about the fact that the new wave of donors who picked up where their forefathers left off were shut out of this ill-conceived undertaking? The cathedral elevated the Armenian Diaspora to new heights in the New World – a golden dome smack dab in the middle of midtown Manhattan. To sell its coveted air rights, for a short-term fix, is shortsighted, to say the least.

Where is the vision that was once tirelessly pursued by leaders of our beloved institutions? It was only 50 years ago, that after decades of tireless fundraising, the doors swung open to thousands of faithful as the 12 Godfathers of St. Vartan Cathedral, their eyes brimming with tears, stood alongside His Holiness Vasken I, of blessed memory, as he consecrated the first Armenian cathedral in the Western Hemisphere.

Why is it that so few today are questioning the status quo and demanding better governance? Why are rational voices stifled as calls for a transparent conversation are neglected? Why are donors quickly called upon in times of financial need but not during times when their opinion should matter most? From top to bottom there is no accountability, discipline or leadership. Could

this be a sign of national amnesia – a nation that is tired of itself?

My grandfather, though rooted in tradition, was a keen proponent of vision. In fact it was this vision early on in his tenure that expanded the Vahan Tekeyan School from an aluminum hovel to a robust, concrete building, all within the course of 10 years. What he was averse to, however, was mismanagement. With thousands of students and hundreds of faculty under his wing, he traveled around the world to fundraise – before, during and after the devastating Lebanese Civil War – inspiring donors to give to the educational institution during a time when the Diaspora wasn't even half as prosperous as it is now. So for those in decision-making positions to claim that these institutions can't be supported anymore, financially, is therefore, a complacent response. It should be the priority of leadership to be fiscally responsible. In this case, the Diocesan Council needs to shore up continued support and interest to sustain the Diocesan Center and St. Vartan Cathedral instead of throwing in the towel – and that can only be achieved by regaining trust in donors and ruling, not with an iron fist, but through transparency and consensus. Prudence and foresight – not egos and backroom deals – should lead commercial deals of this magnitude.

These historic institutions don't just support local communities; they support the Diaspora as a whole. And a strong Diaspora is a prerequisite for a strong Armenia. I vividly recall all of my grandfather's students who would visit him, years after he retired from a 60-year career in education and public service. He remembered each one by face, by name, by voice. Tekeyan wasn't just a school or a job to him. It was his life. His family. Each of those students were his children. So much so that 30, 40, even 50 years later, they still referred to him as their "Harkeli Baron Dnoren Yervant Babayan." My grandfather, who studied in Paris, spoke five languages and could have easily remained in Europe and entered a fruitful life in the private sector, gave his heart to the Vahan Tekeyan School and that is an integral reason for its bone-deep impact. In the case of the Eastern Diocese, there seems to be no business sense, but more dangerously, there seems to be no heart. And with no heart, there can be no pulse.

Lack of funds is not the real problem. Apathy is the evil. St. Vartan Cathedral and the Diocesan Complex were built by thousands of donors, large and small, and there are thousands of donors who still give, large or small, myself included. Yet it's being torn down by a few in front of our own eyes. I'm sure I'm not the only one who remembers the heyday of the dynamic activities of the cathedral and the Diocese: the headline-making all-inclusive One World Festival, the vibrant Armenian school programs, or the talented theater ensemble.

Based on contemporary history, the culturally rich Diasporan communities in the Middle East have faced political turmoil and conflict in addition to financial burdens. It is, to an extent, understandable that the most influential Diasporan communities – Beirut, Aleppo, Tehran, Baghdad, Cairo – don't have the sizable presence they once did, though they continue to possess innate vigor to keep their communities alive. But what about the so-called stable communities in, say, Paris, London or New York? Aren't they also on the verge of gradually dying out? Could the prospect of apathy and assimilation be even more menacing than that of political conflict?

Selling the air rights may spur a fatal domino effect, setting the precedent for New York City's St. Vartan Cathedral and Eastern Diocese to become an "in memoriam" like many other Diasporan institutions, that too, weren't "sustainable" anymore, vanishing into the annals of unrecorded history.

As Armenians, it is not that we can do better, it is that we must do better. Isn't it time to override the corroding dysfunction that plagues many Armenian organizations? We must expect more from those who sought to assume leadership positions. We must read their intentions, their motives and their abilities before entrusting them to make these critical decisions. And we must examine if they are indeed upholding their duties. Above all, we must honor and respect donors – those who have built, stone by stone, the very bedrock of our most revered Diasporan institutions.

I thought fondly of those donors and their sacrifices as I made my way out of the Vahan Tekeyan School, pleased to witness the dedicated staff in action. While stepping back onto the maze-like streets of Bourdj Hammoud, a teacher stopped me. He proudly revealed a book given to him by my grandfather, who had authored the tome. Our family ties went back – his father was a student of my grandfather's in Aleppo when he had served as principal of the Giligian School. And the teacher, himself a graduate of the Vahan Tekeyan School and a holder of a master's degree, chose to educate the next generation at his alma mater. As he clutched the book, he told me he still read through the pages for guidance and inspiration, my grandfather's lessons, too, ringing in his ears.

That, dear reader, is my legacy. What is yours? And more importantly, what are you doing to protect it?

Political Outsider Johnny Nalbandian Gets Himself on CA November Ballot

NALBANDIAN, from page 1

dream and working nonstop, Nalbandian founded a seafood distribution and processing company at 19 named Fisherman Johnny's and became a leader in the seafood industry, having amassed \$60 million in sales at its peak.

Recently, Nalbandian has segued into politics as he has become dissatisfied with the current state of political leadership in California. As Nalbandian likes to put it, he is a "complete outsider when it comes to American politics" but he wants to impact policy change.

Getting into the top two with Schiff is something that Nalbandian said would be "unimaginable" before Donald Trump's victory in the 2016 Presidential race. "His campaign really did inspire outsiders like me to run for office to change the political atmosphere and shake things up," Nalbandian said. His opponent, the incumbent Schiff, has been a supporter of the Armenian community for close to 20 years in office.

When pressed on what makes him different from Schiff and other political candidates on Armenian issues, Nalbandian was adamant that he would be a better supporter for the Armenian cause than any other candidate. "I will be a pit bull for the Armenian diaspora," Nalbandian said. "I have always been involved in Armenian programs, including being the chairman of the West Coast council of the Armenian Youth Federation. I called out corrupt Armenian politicians such as Serzh Sargsyan on the steps of city hall while other politicians refused to even say his name."

On the formal recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Congress and how he would help pass it, Nalbandian said he believes that if elected, he will be the number one supporter for the issue. "I will be at the forefront when it comes to recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Unlike other politicians, I will explain why the Genocide shouldn't just be recognized as a

human rights issue, but that it can also help improve our relations with Armenia greatly, which will be very beneficial to both the United States and Armenia. Plus, I would also want to fight for the removal of Turkey from NATO and fight for Armenia to have access to waterways for shipping goods."

A hot-button issue in the state of California is immigration. With the number of undocumented immigrants in the state above two million, many Californians are split in what the state should do with undocumented immigrants. "My solution to the immigration crisis is to streamline our immigration system," Nalbandian said. "The problem with our immigration system is the bureaucracy. People should be able to get green cards in six months and its cost should not exceed \$2,500. For the people who are here, if they have no criminal record, they should be able to stay and go through a new streamlined immigration system. However, if they have a criminal record, they must be deported immediately."

An issue that has come to the forefront since the enactment of President Trump's "zero tolerance" policy at the border is family separation. "I am a proponent of other Trump immigration policies such as the wall on our southern border, but I am not a proponent of family separation," Nalbandian said. "We should keep families intact in the same detention facilities so we can send them all back together."

The Syrian Civil War has been ongoing since March 2011. This is a hotbed topic for Armenians due to the sizable Armenian population in Syria, with many divided on supporting Assad. "I believe that Assad should be removed if there is complete and unanimous acceptance that Assad is using chemical weapons," Nalbandian said. "However, I am not a fan of nation building, as we have done in Iraq and Libya and failed badly."

Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian collusion with President Trump's campaign has been continuing for over a year. Nalbandian said that although he feels that much of the American media seem to be fixated on it, he cares little for it. "I believe the Mueller investigation is a total and complete witch hunt," Nalbandian said. "Adam Schiff goes on CNN and MSNBC every day and says he has proof of collusion, but what he fails to reveal every time is the proof."

National issues are very important, but Nalbandian and Schiff are running to represent a constituency that encompasses Glendale, Burbank, and parts of Hollywood. When asked what he would do to make that district a better place, Nalbandian focused on the growing homeless population. "The homeless crisis in this area is a very sad situation. Over the past six years, the homeless rate has gone up by 75 percent while my competitor does nothing about it. I believe in creating a program that can help get homeless people back into working society, by providing them career paths and opportunities to make a living. These career paths will be funded not by the government, but by private sector who will gain profit just like the newly employed person. For the mentally ill

homeless people who you can find all over downtown, I would ask the many businesses in that area to each contribute a small percentage of their profit for a rehabilitation center for the mentally ill to get them off the streets and to keep businesses and their employees safe".

On what makes himself different from other Republicans, Nalbandian believes it's his conservative roots. "I like to call myself a patriotic constitutional conservative," Nalbandian said. "Unlike some other Republicans, I am a true conservative, both fiscally and morally, and I fight for my conservative beliefs and constitutional freedoms every day and I will absolutely do so for my constituents."

Nalbandian's path to victory is tough in this district, with virtually every political report stating that the district is safe for Schiff. Nalbandian remains unfazed however, as he believes he will win. "I project we'll beat Adam Schiff by double digits," Nalbandian said. "The people in this district hunger for change which they haven't seen from career politician Schiff. I believe that I am the person to be that change-maker and make the 28th district awesome again."

The general election will take place on November 6.

President Sarkissian Holds Meeting with UK Permanent Under Secretary Simon McDonald

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian held a meeting on July 6 with Simon McDonald, UK's Permanent Under Secretary and Head of the Diplomatic Service at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The president welcomed the British diplomat's visit to Armenia, stressing that high level mutual visits contribute to expanding dialogue between the countries.

McDonald praised the peaceful and constitutional resolution of the latest events in Armenia and the president's role in it.

The sides exchanged ideas over prospects of Armenian-British cooperation. They concurred that a great potential of partnership exists and numerous directions where more tangible results can be achieved.



President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian, left, with Simon McDonald

A **DONATION** TO THE

INSURANCE

FOUNDATION FOR

SERVICEMEN

ENSURES MILITARY **FAMILIES** CAN

RECOVER FROM THE **LOSS** OR **INJURY**

OF THEIR SONS FIGHTING ON THE

FRONT LINES OF ARMENIA

Visit www.1000plus.am/en to

Learn More About Us and Support Our Troops

ԼՈՅՍ ՏԵՍԿԻ

ՅԱԿՈՐ ՎԱՐԴԻՎԱՌԵԱՆԻ
ՊԱՏԱՐԺԷՐ ԵՐԿԸ
ՆՈՒԻՐՈՒՄ՝
**ՈՍՏԿԱՎԱՐ ԱԶԱՏԱԿԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ՊԱՏԱՐԻԹԵԱՆ**



Գ. ՀԱՏՈՐ - 932 ԷՉ
-ԵՐԿԱՍԻՒՆԱԿ-
ԼԱԹԱԿԱԶՄ՝
Ստանալու համար դիմել՝

Tekeyan Cultural Association
P.O.Box 1074
Englewood Cliffs,
NJ 07632-1074
USA

Կամ՝
hvartivarian@aol.com

ԶԻՐ ԴՐՈՒՄԻՆ

ՄԵՇ ԵՐԿՅԻ ՀԱՍՏԱՐԻՆ ՈՐԳԵՆՈՐԵՐԸ
ԵՒ
ՀԱՍՏԱՐԺԷՐԻ ՊԱՏԱՐԻԹԵԱՆ
ՈՍՏԿԱՎԱՐ ԱԶԱՏԱԿԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ

Գ. ՀԱՏՈՐ

ՄԻՋԵՄԸ ԿԱՆ ԵՐԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ԿԱՆ ՄԻՋԵՄԸ ԿԱՆ ԵՐԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ԿԱՆ ՄԻՋԵՄԸ ԿԱՆ ԵՐԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ՍՊԵՏԻՆ, ՈՍՏԿԱՎԱՐ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ

ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ

ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ
ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹՅԱՆ ԿՈՒՍԱԿՅՈՒԹԵԱՆ