

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## Merkel Concludes Visit to Caucasus

### During Armenia Visit Calls Ottoman-Era Killings Of Armenians 'Heinous Crimes'

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) – German Chancellor Angela Merkel described the Ottoman mass killings of Armenians as “heinous crimes against Armenians,” which “cannot and must not be forgotten.”

Merkel, who arrived in Armenia from neighboring Georgia on the second leg of her three-country visit to the South Caucasus on August 24, made the statement following a visit to a memorial dedicated to the Armenian Genocide.

After being greeted at Yerevan’s airport by Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Merkel traveled to the Tsitsernakaberd hilltop complex to lay a wreath at the monument dedicated to the victims.

Before the trip, Merkel’s office said, that

during her stop in Armenia and subsequent visit to Azerbaijan on August 25, the chancellor would encourage efforts to reach “a peaceful and consensual solution” to the two countries’ long-running territorial conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh.

In Yerevan, Merkel told reporters that “it is important that the conflict is resolved peacefully” and that Germany “stands ready” to contribute to a solution.

Merkel noted that Germany is a member of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe



Selfies on Northern Avenue with Chancellor Angela Merkel

(OSCE) which was established to help find a solution to the conflict and that “we stand ready to assume responsibility within the framework of the Karabakh settlement process.”

The stop in Yerevan marked Merkel’s first official meeting with Pashinyan, the former anticorruption campaigner and opposition politician who took office in May after weeks of mass protests against corruption and cronyism.

see MERKEL, page 3

## Police in Turkey Break Up Mothers’ Weekly Vigil

ISTANBUL (*New York Times*) – The Turkish police forcefully dispersed a group of activists, some of them women in their 80s, over the weekend, breaking up a regular vigil in Istanbul to protest the forced disappearances of hundreds of people.

The group, known as the Saturday Mothers, was to hold its 700th meeting on Saturday, August 25, to demand justice for those who disappeared after a military coup in 1980 and in the ensuing fighting between Turkish security forces and Kurdish insurgents in southeastern Turkey. The police used tear gas to stop the protest and arrested 47 people. All were released by Saturday evening.

Among them was Emine Ocak, who is said to be older than 80. She has attended the vigils regularly since her son Hasan disappeared in 1995. His tortured body was eventually found, but his killers have never been identified.

see VIGIL, page 4



The wreck of Aleppo

## A Good Time and a Good Cause in Worcester

WORCESTER – Four Armenian Churches in the Worcester area are coming together for the seventh year in a row to serve a higher purpose: helping Armenian refugees fleeing Syria in the wake of its destruction.

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

On September 29, the four churches – Armenian Church of the Martyrs, Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church and Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church – will host a dance at the Cultural Center of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour to raise money to help families fleeing Syria start new lives in North America.

All funds raised will aid refugees from Syria. Half will go to the Fund for Armenian Relief of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (FAR) and the see BENEFIT, page 16

## TCA Launches New Chapter in Los Angeles

ALTADENA, Calif. – The legacy of the memorable leaders who helped solidify Armenian culture in the Diaspora and the homeland lives on as 10 Armenian Americans have pledged to continue in their footsteps by forming the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Metro Los Angeles Chapter on Thursday, August 23.

Experiencing a period of revival, the TCA’s newest chapter in Los Angeles joins its counterparts around the world as it ushers in a vibrant and cohesive committee of educated professionals who are joining hands to keep the mission of the organization alive, holding in high regard the Armenian language and culture.

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Newly elected members of the Tekeyan Cultural Association Metro Los Angeles chapter with TCA Central Board members of the United States and Canada.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Belgian Royals Conclude Armenia Visit

BRUSSELS, Belgium – The members of the Belgian royal family visited Armenia on August 21 for a four-day stay. The palace has released – according to tradition – a video of the king kite-surfing in Armenia.

The choice of holiday destination is unusual for the royals, who more often opt for traditional holiday destinations like France and Italy.

However according to a report in *De Standaard*, the family – King Philippe, Queen Mathilde and their four children – had already spent some time on the French island Île d’Yeu before heading on to Armenia.

According to protocol, the family arrived on two flights into Yerevan: the monarch and the heir to the throne – his daughter Elisabeth – may not travel on the same flight.

According to local reports, the royals were impressed with the local cuisine and especially the country’s wine, spending five hours on a tasting tour of one of the largest producers Armas.

### Jailed Armenian General Hospitalized

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Manvel Grigoryan, a retired army general arrested recently on corruption charges, was hospitalized on August 22 to undergo medical tests ordered by an Armenian law-enforcement agency.

Grigoryan was transferred from a detention center in downtown Yerevan to the endocrinology department of the Armenia Medical Center late on August 22. Officials at the civilian hospital refused on to comment on his reportedly poor health condition.

Grigoryan was arrested when security forces raided his properties in and around the town of Echmiadzin on June 16. They found many weapons, ammunition, medication and field rations for soldiers provided by the Armenian Defense Ministry. They also discovered canned food and several vehicles donated by Armenians at one of Grigoryan’s mansions. A widely publicized official video of the raids caused shock and indignation in the country.

The Armenian parliament, of which Grigoryan is a member, was quick to allow investigators to prosecute and keep him in pre-trial detention on charges of illegal arms possession and embezzlement. The once powerful general denies the accusations.

Grigoryan’s lawyers have repeatedly demanded his release from pre-trial custody, saying that the 61-year-old is suffering from a number of serious illnesses.

Grigoryan served as deputy defense minister from 2000-2008. Until his arrest he was the chairman of the Yerkrpah Union of Karabakh war veterans, a particularly influential organization.

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Secretary General of La Francophonie International to Visit Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Secretary General of International Organization of La Francophonie Michaëlle Jean will arrive in Armenia on an official visit on September 10-14, Armenian foreign ministry's acting spokeswoman Anna Naghdalyan told reporters on August 28.

"During the visit Michaëlle Jean will participate in the 11th conference of International Non-Governmental Organizations in Yerevan," she said.

The summit of International Organization of La Francophonie will be held in Yerevan in October. Naghdalyan noted that all events within the framework of the summit will be held in French, and no translation would be provided.

## Republican Party Will Not Nominate Mayor

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – The Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) will not nominate a candidate for the mayor of Yerevan, RPA Spokesman, Vice-President of the National Assembly Edward Sharmazanov told reporters this week.

Sharmazanov said the party sees more important foreign and domestic policy issues in the post-revolution situation, which are more pressing than the local self-government elections.

## Billionaire, Instagram Star Bilzerian Visits Armenia, Artsakh

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – American-Armenian billionaire, self-declared Instagram King and poker player Dan Bilzerian has registered with the Armenian Armed Forces.

A spokesperson for the Military Commissariat confirmed the news, noting that Bilzerian submitted all necessary documents.

Dan Bilzerian and his brother, Adam, received Armenian passports earlier this week.

According to the law, every male citizen of the Republic of Armenia should register with the Armed Forces.

"Dan and Adam Bilzerian have just participated in an oath ceremony on the occasion of receiving Armenian citizenship," Head of the Passport and Visa Department of the Armenian Police Mnatsakan Bichakhchyan said in a Facebook post and shared a photo with the brothers.

## Armenia to Veto Azeri Membership in Security Group

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – Armenia will use its right to veto should Azerbaijan decide to join the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), Acting Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Anna Naghdalyan told reporters on August 28.

As for the replacement of the incumbent CSTO Secretary General Yuri Khachaturov, Naghdalyan said consultations are under way on a number of platforms to find constructive solutions and clarify the procedures.

Asked whether the post could be handed to a representative of a different country, the Spokesperson said: "During the CSTO summit in Moscow in September 2015 the participating states made a decision that all member states will assume Secretary General's position in turn, according to the Russian alphabet. According to that order Armenia retains the post for a period of three years."

She stated that all decisions in the CSTO are being taken by consensus.

Armenia started the process of recalling CSTO Secretary General Yuri Khachaturov after he was charged with overthrowing Constitutional order during the March 2018 unrest.

# Chinese School Inaugurated in Armenia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – China has built a state-of-the-art school in Yerevan where hundreds of Armenian children will study the Chinese language in addition to subjects taught in secondary and high schools across Armenia.

The Chinese-Armenian Friendship School was inaugurated on Wednesday, August 22, at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Chinese Ambassador Tian Erlong.

Officials said that the Chinese government has spent more than \$12 million on building and equipping the school located in Yerevan's northern Kanaker suburb. It is designed for up to 405 students aged between 10 and 18 who will have intensive language courses taught by Chinese teachers.

"Knowledge of Chinese opens up opportunities to access information about a huge layer of human history



The Chinese-Armenian Friendship School was inaugurated on Wednesday, August 22, at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and Chinese Ambassador Tian Erlong.

Pashinyan went on, is also opening a "new page" in Chinese-Armenian relations which should now grow closer. China and Armenia have "many common interests" and like "strategic

tistics, China has been Armenia's second largest trading partner for the last several years. Chinese-Armenian trade soared by nearly 50 percent, to \$342 million, in the first half of this year.

Political relations between the two nations have been cordial ever since Armenia gained independence in 1991. Chinese President Xi Jinping and his then Armenian counterpart Serzh Sarkisian reported "mutual understanding on issues relating to pivotal interests and concerns of the two countries" after holding talks in Beijing in 2015.

Beijing further underscored its interest in the South Caucasus country last year when it started building a new and much bigger building for its embassy in Yerevan. The 40,000-square-meter embassy compound is due to be completed by the end of 2019. It will reportedly be the second largest Chinese diplomatic mission in the former Soviet Union.

China has provided at least \$37 million in economic assistance to Armenia since 2012. It has also donated hundreds of public buses and ambulance vehicles to Yerevan. "The Armenian people highly appreciate that assistance," said Pashinyan.



The newly constructed Chinese-Armenian Friendship School in Yerevan

and civilization," Pashinyan said at the ceremony. "I hope that this school will become a channel through which Armenians will gain more in-depth knowledge of the enormous influence which China and Chinese civilization have had on the development of humankind."

The educational institution,

thinking," he said.

Pashinyan said that having many Chinese speakers is also an "economic necessity" for Armenia given a rising number of Chinese tourists visiting the country. Chinese investors are likewise showing a growing interest in the Armenian economy, he added.

According to official Armenian sta-

## ATP Releases Animated PSA to Raise Awareness About Forest Fire Prevention

YEREVAN – Last summer, after a major fire broke out in Khosrov Forest, Armenia Tree Project (ATP) initiated a program to educate and inform the public about their role in the survival of Armenia's delicate forests. Similar to California and Europe, Armenia has been affected by drought and more extreme weather events caused by climate change.

Understanding the human role in the creation and the prevention of forest fires and knowing the importance of education, ATP created a poster campaign about the role people play in starting fires. Posters were handed out to students throughout Armenia to hang in schools and community areas, as well as to partner schools in the diaspora.

Tchalo, the gampr dog created by Alik Arzumanyan for ATP's Building Bridges education campaign, speaks on behalf of the trees. The Tchalo character has been teaching about forest fire prevention including the impact of parking in dry and high grass, appropriate cigarette disposal procedures, and proper fire and campfire protocols.

This summer, in partnership with the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies, ATP also released a public service announcement (PSA) created by Tumo students featuring Tchalo. The short animated video is available on ATP's website, YouTube channel, and Facebook page.

"We're all about partnerships and when we decided to create an educational clip about forest fires, we thought Tumo would be an excellent partner," explained ATP Executive Director Jeanmarie Papelian.

TUMO was hosting a two week animation workshop led by Russian animator and illustrator Max Litvinov, and ATP sponsored the workshop in exchange for the PSA. The project was funded as part of the Building Bridges environmental education program sponsored by the Thomas Kooyumjian Family Foundation.

During the workshop, Litvinov taught animation skills to a group of 16 students, ages 14 to 17, who were participating in Tumo's free educational programs. Under Max's guidance, the teenagers created the ATP PSA featuring the Tchalo animation.







## ARMENIA

# Merkel Concludes Visit to Caucasus

MERKEL, from page 1

She told reporters after the meeting that German leaders “followed the events in Armenia and the velvet revolution [that led to Pashinyan’s election].”

She said she spoke with Pashinyan about both bilateral relations and those within the framework of the European Union.

“Our relations can develop in the economic and cultural fields” and that cooperation can be increased in cultural, education, and IT matters, she said.

Pashinyan welcomed the German chancellor’s visit to Armenia. “I greet you in the capital of Armenia, Yerevan. This is the first visit of a German chancellor to Armenia, and in that sense a historical event takes place. Its value is also underlined by the fact that your visit follows the major political changes in Armenia and in the new situation, in new political conditions, we expect effective negotiations with you. We hope that this visit will mark the opening of a new page of relations between our countries. I am convinced that you have already felt the attitude towards Germany and to you personally in your country. Germany is Armenia’s third largest trade and economic partner and the first in Europe,” said Pashinyan.

Merkel thanked Pashinyan for the warm reception, noting, “This visit takes place after major changes in Armenia. We are interested in the further development of relations with Armenia. Today we are in a city that is 2800 years old and in a country whose people have left traces of history in the world civilization. Today I visited Tumo Center, saw young girls and boys who continue to develop and develop innovations, preserving the roots of Armenian culture. I am convinced of what knowledgeable society exists in Armenia. We know that this is a complicated region and we are ready to help you as your partner is dealing with problems. We are ready to boost and develop bilateral economic ties. We are hopeful that we will be able to record new results in that direction.”

Pashinyan, touching upon Armenia-EU cooperation, attached importance to the ratification of the Comprehensive and Extended Partnership Agreement, reaffirming Armenia’s commitment to implementing comprehensive reforms. According to the Prime Minister, Armenia attaches importance to the expansion of the EU targeted assistance based on the principle of “more for more.” The German Chancellor added that his country is ready to assist Armenia in the implementation of reforms in different directions, as well as the expansion of Armenia-EU cooperation.

The sides also discussed issues related to visa liberalization, enhancing contacts between peo-



Chancellor Angela Merkel at the eternal flame at the Tsitsernakaberd memorial

Sarkissian, telling him Germany wants “to be involved in the reforms” announced by the new government.

“We have closely watched the changes and processes ongoing in your country. We stand ready to continue cooperating on this difficult but important way,” she was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

Sarkissian said that “Germany is a very important partner for Armenia. I cannot fail to mention also Germany’s political assistance, which we feel in the process of our cooperation with the EU, as relations with the EU are of very great significance to us.”

Armenia has pursued a delicate balancing act over the past decade, maintaining strong ties with Moscow while also developing relations with the European Union.

## Georgian Visit

During her visit to pro-Western Georgia, Merkel said she backed Tbilisi’s aspirations to eventually join the EU and NATO, but said she was not able to provide “hasty promises” and that EU membership was not on the “current agenda.”

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said during a visit to Tbilisi that Georgia should be classified a “safe country” of origin, a move that would make it more difficult for its citizens to seek asylum in Germany.

Merkel on August 23 said Germany had seen an increase in the number of Georgians applying for asylum in the country since the European Union in March 2017 liberalized visa rules for the South Caucasus nation, although the numbers have begun to slow in recent months.

“Georgia is definitely a safe country,” she said during a joint news conference with Georgian Prime Minister Mamuka Bakhtadze as part of a three-day tour of the region that will also take her to Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Declaring Georgia a safe country of origin would make it easier for authorities to turn back Georgians seeking asylum to their home nation.

Bakhtadze said his government would continue to assist Berlin in further reducing the number of asylum seekers to Germany and reiterated his country’s desire to eventually join the European Union and NATO.

“We have made our contribution to the formation of European values...but we have no illusions. We still have a lot to do,” he said.

“Proceeding from here, we certainly believe that Georgia will definitely become a member of the EU and NATO,” Bakhtadze added.

Merkel said Germany would support Georgia’s efforts to someday join the two blocs, although she said Georgia was not currently an

active candidate.

Russia has vehemently opposed any membership by the former Soviet republic in NATO, with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev warning earlier this month that Georgia’s joining the Western military alliance could lead to a “horrible” new conflict.

Georgia, a country of some 3.7 million people, fought a brief war with Russia 10 years ago, and Moscow’s continued military presence in the Caucasus country’s territory adds to tensions in the region.

After the war, Russia left thousands of troops



Chancellor Angela Merkel with Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan

in Georgia’s breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, and recognized both as independent countries.

Merkel criticized the continued Russian military presence in Georgia, saying that “during my last visit to Georgia 10 years ago, I demanded the withdrawal of Russian troops.”

“Of course, I am [still] standing by Georgia’s territorial integrity,” she added.

## On to Azerbaijan

German Chancellor Angela Merkel held what she called “intensive” discussions with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in talks that addressed energy cooperation, human rights, and the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The meeting between Merkel and Aliyev in the Azerbaijani capital, Baku, on August 25 included a discussion of the human rights situation in the South Caucasus nation that the German chancellor said was conducted in an “open atmosphere,” Merkel’s spokesman, Steffen Seibert, said on Twitter.

Critics accuse Aliyev’s government of carrying out a targeted crackdown on dissent in recent years, though the Azerbaijani leader has repeatedly rejected such criticism.

“We discussed the issue of the domestic situation in Azerbaijan and addressed human rights, also in a very open atmosphere,” Merkel said, according to a transcript of her press conference with Aliyev released by her office.

“We did not find common ground on all issues. But I argued that a strong civil society must be part of an open, secular society and

made clear that we would like to see this strong civil society,” Merkel added.

Merkel’s stop in Baku on August 25 – the final leg of a three-day tour to South Caucasus – also included a meeting with rights activists and the prominent Azerbaijani investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova, a former RFE/RL contributor.

Ismayilova, who spent nearly 18 months in jail on charges widely viewed as retaliation for her investigative reporting before her release in May 2016, wrote on Facebook following the meeting that she spoke to Merkel “about corruption and how it undermines peace, democracy, and security in Azerbaijan.”

“I asked to be more outspoken on human rights and democracy issues because people here need to see examples of European politicians who aren’t silenced by corruption money,” she wrote.

Merkel “said our concerns are important and some have been addressed in the meeting she had with President Aliyev. I hope to hear more from her,” Ismayilova wrote.

Azerbaijan’s opposition, as well as Western officials and international human rights groups, have accused Aliyev’s government of persecuting opposition politicians, activists, independent media outlets, and journalists, often using what they allege are trumped-up criminal charges.

Aliyev, who has repeatedly shrugged off accusations of corruption and stifling dissent, defended his government’s record on human rights during an August 25 news conference alongside Merkel, saying Baku “is committed to democratic values.”

“All democratic institutions exist in Azerbaijan. All the liberties have been provided, in particular, freedom of speech, freedom of the press. There are hundreds of media outlets in Azerbaijan, including opposition media. Thereby, no one is being persecuted for the criticism [of the authorities] or for the [critical] views in Azerbaijan,” Aliyev said.

The two leaders also discussed energy cooperation between Europe and Azerbaijan, where Aliyev has ruled the nation of almost 10 million people with an iron fist since 2003.

Addressing a business roundtable in Baku on August 25, Merkel described Azerbaijan as “an important partner in the diversification of our energy supply within the European Union,” according to a transcript released by her office.

Merkel also said that Berlin could assist in mediating the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

“Germany wants to help find peaceful solutions,” Merkel told reporters, adding that the conflict over the mountainous territory is a significant burden on the region.

The region, populated mainly by ethnic Armenians, declared independence from Azerbaijan amid a 1988-94 war that claimed an estimated 30,000 lives and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

Since 1994, Nagorno-Karabakh has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces which Baku says include troops supplied by Armenia. The region’s claim to independence has not been recognized by any country.

Internationally mediated negotiations involving the Minsk Group of the OSCE helped forge a ceasefire in the region, which is not always honored, but have failed to produce a lasting settlement of the conflict.

In Yerevan a day earlier, Merkel told reporters that “it is important that the conflict is resolved peacefully” and that Germany “stands ready” to contribute to a solution.

Merkel noted that Germany is a member of the OSCE and that “we stand ready to assume responsibility within the framework of the Karabakh settlement process.”



Walking in Yerevan, from left, President Armen Sarkissian, Chancellor Angela Merkel, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and his wife Anna Hakobyan

ple, cooperation in healthcare, nature protection, road construction, and information technologies. The prime minister underlined that Armenia is ready to become a platform for German companies that want to enter YATM as well as Iranian markets. Nikol Pashinyan and Angela Merkel expressed satisfaction with the Armenian-German cooperation in the spheres of science, education and culture.

Merkel praise the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies, calling it a bright spot for future generations.

Merkel also met with President Armen





## INTERNATIONAL

## International News

## Flights from Bucharest to Yerevan to Be Launched in Sept.

BUCHAREST (Public Radio of Armenia) — The Romanian Tarom Avia Air Company will launch regular flights from Bucharest to Yerevan starting from September 5, “Armenia” International Airports CJSC.

The flights will be operated twice a week.

The Armenian side says the geographical location of Bucharest is convenient for transit flights in major European destinations.

## Kalashnikovs to Be Produced in Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Royalsys Engineering ltd chairman Davit Galstyan and Kalashnikov Concern’s deputy director Andrei Baryshnikov on August 21 signed an agreement on establishing a production of Kalashnikov AK-12 and AK-15 models in Armenia, Artsrun Hovhannisyan — spokesperson of the Armenian defense minister, said on Facebook.

## Russia to Hold its Biggest War Games Since Fall of Soviet Union

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia will next month hold its biggest war games since the fall of the Soviet Union, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on August 28, a massive military exercise that will also involve the Chinese and Mongolian armies.

The exercise, called Vostok-2018 (East-2018), will take place in central and eastern Russian military districts and involve almost 300,000 troops, more than 1,000 military aircraft, two of Russia’s naval fleets, and all of its airborne units, Shoigu said in a statement.

The maneuvers will take place at a time of heightened tension between the West and Russia, which is concerned about what it says is an unjustified build-up of the NATO military alliance on its western flank.

NATO says it has beefed up its forces in eastern Europe to deter potential Russian military action after Moscow annexed Ukraine’s Crimea in 2014 and backed a pro-Russian uprising in eastern Ukraine.

The war games, which will take place from Sept. 11-15, are likely to worry Japan, which has already complained about a Russian military build-up in the Far East, something Moscow has linked to Tokyo’s roll-out of the Aegis U.S. missile system.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is due to attend a forum in the Russian city of Vladivostok over the same period, and a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said on Tuesday that Tokyo always paid attention to shifts in Russian-Chinese military cooperation.

Shoigu said the war games would be the biggest since a Soviet military exercise, Zapad-81 (West-81) in 1981.

“In some ways they will repeat aspects of Zapad-81, but in other ways the scale will be bigger,” Shoigu told reporters, while visiting the Russian region of Khakassia.

Asked if the cost of holding such a massive military exercise was justified at a time when Russia is faced with higher social spending demands, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said such war games were essential.

“The country’s ability to defend itself in the current international situation, which is often aggressive and unfriendly towards our country, means (the exercise) is justified,” Peskov told reporters on a conference call.

When asked if China’s involvement meant Moscow and Beijing were moving towards an alliance, Peskov said it showed that the two were cooperating.

China and Russia have taken part in joint military drills before but not on such a large scale.

NATO spokesman Dylan White said that Russia had briefed the alliance on the planned exercise in May and that NATO would monitor it. Russia had invited military attaches from NATO countries based in Moscow to observe the war games, an offer he said was under consideration.

# Police in Turkey Break Up Mothers’ Weekly Vigil

VIGIL, from page 1

On Saturday, her arrest caused an uproar among the protesters.

“We went to the police bus to take her back,” said Sezgin Tanrikulu, an opposition lawmaker who had joined the sit-in. “Her daughter went behind her. They got Ocak off the bus, but took her daughter into custody.”

“The police detained people by beating them, though they were just sitting,” Tanrikulu said. “They were neither resisting the police, nor disobeying the law of gatherings and rallies.”

The Saturday Mothers have gathered for a weekly sit-in at Galatasaray Square in central Istanbul since 1995, with occasional breaks because of political pressure. The group is said to have been inspired by the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo, who held regular protests to learn the fates of those who disappeared during Argentina’s military dictatorship. Hundreds of Turks are believed to have disappeared



The arrest of Emine Ocak caused an uproar.

while in police custody in the 1980s and ’90s, when the country’s conflict with the Kurdistan Worker’s Party, or P.K.K., was at its peak.

The Saturday Mothers seek the bodies or the burial sites of their loved

ones and the prosecution of perpetrators.

Besna Tosun, 35, has taken part in the sit-ins since 1995, the year her father, Fehmi Tosun, was taken from their home. She was also arrested on



Garo Paylan, right, and Arat Dink, at center, fight the police.



Demonstrators face the police.



A demonstrator supports Member of Parliament Garo Paylan (foreground).

Saturday.

The police crackdown followed an announcement by the authorities of the district of Beyoglu, where the rally is held, that the meeting would be banned. They said that calls for the protest to take place had been made on social media accounts linked to the P.K.K., which Turkey considers a terrorist organization.

The forceful dispersion of the rally comes two months after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won a new mandate with widespread powers, which activists fear will be used to squeeze freedom of expression in Turkey.

During a protest on Galatasaray Square, Istanbul, on Saturday the Turkish police tried to detain Member of Parliament Garo Paylan.

According to Armenpress, Paylan was also participating in the protest of Saturday Mothers.

First the police used force to remove the protesting women and then arrested the other participants who were reluctant to leave the square.

Paylan tried to defend late journalist Hrant Dink’s son, Arat Dink, preventing the police from arresting him. He was assisted by Christian Democrat MPs Ahmet Sik, Serpil Cemalbay and Huda Kaya.

Agos reported the police arrested 47 protesters but later released them.

(Agos contributed to this report.)





## INTERNATIONAL

## Dutch Courts Clear War for Two Preteens to Be Deported to Armenia

AMSTERDAM (Dutch News) — Two Armenian children who have been in the Netherlands for the past 10 years can be deported, the Council of State ruled on Friday, August 24.

The country's highest administrative court said Junior Justice Minister Mark Harbers does not have to give residency permits to Howick (13) and Lily (12), clearing the way for them to be sent to Armenia, where they have never lived.

The children only have the right to asylum in the Netherlands if they fear they will be persecuted or endangered by the Armenian authorities and there is no question of this, the court ruled. In addition, help is available for the children when they return if their mother is unable to care for them, as has been claimed. "The children will not end up on the streets," the court said.

The children's mother, Armina Hambartsjuman, was deported to Armenia in August last year after sending the children to a secret address. They were found a week

later and now live with a foster family. The children were born in Russia and have lived in the Netherlands for more than 10 years, during which their mother made repeated efforts to claim asylum. However, they have not qualified for the government's amnesty for child refugees.

The cases of Lili and Howick are the latest in a string of high-profile deportations of children who have lived in the Netherlands for most of their lives, or were born here.

On Thursday it emerged two children who were deported to Ukraine at the beginning of last month, despite being born and brought up in the Netherlands, are to return to their former home town of Culemborg on tourist visas so that they can go to school.

The family was deported at the beginning of July after spending 17 years in the Netherlands after justice minister Mark Harbers refused to grant them a discretionary residency permit. A final verdict on their case is due in October.



PHIL NUHUIS PHOTO

School friends hold signs asking for the two children to remain in the Netherlands.

## Wall Excavated At Ani Church Archaeological Site

By Cuneyt Celik

KARS, Turkey (Anadolu Agency) — A large section of a wall has been excavated at the archaeological site Ani also known as a "world city" and "cradle of civilization" in northeast Turkey.

According to the UNESCO website, Ani, which is next to the closed border with Armenia, was the capital of the medieval Armenian kingdom of the Bagratids in the 10th century. "This medieval city embodies residential, religious and military structures, characteristic of a medieval urbanism built over the centuries by Christian and then Muslim dynasties," it said, continuing: "The site presents a comprehensive overview of the evolution of medieval architecture through examples of almost

all the different architectural innovations of the region between the 7th and 13th centuries."

The ancient city was mentioned in the

Pamukkale University Archaeological Department Professor Fahriye Bayram said: "We have been doing excavation work since 2012 in Ani. A large part of the walls were



Excavations at Ani

UNESCO World Heritage list in 2016. "The number of tourists increased by 300 percent after Ani was added to the UNESCO list," Kars Province Culture and Tourism Director Hakan Doganay told Anadolu Agency.

unearthed recently." Bayram added, "The mound of dirt usually goes down to 5-6 meters. Therefore, the excavation work is going a little slow. We clean both the bastions and the walls."

## Freed German Journalist Vows to Keep Fighting for Turkish Colleagues

DUESSELDORF, Germany (Reuters) — Journalist Mesale Tolu, released from Turkish prison in December but banned from leaving the country until this week, returned to Germany on Sunday vowing to continue fighting for colleagues imprisoned in Turkey's crack-down after a failed coup in 2016.

Charged with being a member of a terrorist organization and publishing terrorist propaganda, German citizen Tolu was one of tens of thousands of civil servants and journalists detained after the attempt to depose President Tayyip Erdogan.

"I may be here today, but hundreds of col-

leagues, opposition activists, lawyers, students - 70,000 students are in prison — are still not free," she told reporters at Stuttgart airport after arriving from Istanbul.

"So I can't be really happy about leaving the country where I was in prison because I know that nothing has changed there."

Tolu described how masked armed police officers stormed her home in the middle of the night in April last year, waking her sleeping son and subjecting her to abuse as they searched the apartment before arresting her.

Her husband Suat Corlu is still in prison in Turkey on terrorism charges brought after the attempted coup and she said she would return to the country to appear in court despite the fear that she might be arrested again.

Germany has demanded the release of several of its citizens, some of Turkish origin, as a necessary step toward improving ties with Turkey.

Relations between the NATO partners soured after Germany condemned Turkey's arrests of some 50,000 people, and the suspension or firing of 150,000 others, including teachers, judges and soldiers.

Ties have improved in recent months, especially after Turkey released German-Turkish journalist Deniz Yucel in February.

## Dr. Mher Sahakyan Publishes New Book On China

NANJING, China — Dr. Mher Sahakyan, head of the "China-Eurasia" Political and Strategic Research Foundation, member of the British Association for Chinese Studies, has published the new book titled *China's One Belt, One Road Initiative and Armenia*.

The main aim of this study is to introduce a strategic roadmap through which Armenia can be involved in the Chinese "One Belt, One Road" initiative and strengthen its political, military-technical, financial and economic cooperation with China. The author also analyzes the impact of China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative within the framework of the world order and introduced the aforementioned Initiative from the Perspective of China's National Security.

Sahakyan, from 2012 to 2016, conducted his academic research at the University of Nanjing and later defended his academic thesis, therefore, he had the unique opportunity to observe the development of the Chinese strategy of the "New Silk Road" (One Belt, One Road) directly in China. As an invited speaker, he introduced his research during the academic conferences and seminars at the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, Shanghai University, Moscow State University, Nanjing University, Nevsehir University, PIR Center, Delegation of the EU to China and Academic Council on the United Nations System (Vienna).

Dr. Arman Navasardyan, Armenia's ambassador to China, referring to this book mentioned, "I think that this is the right book, at the right time, in the right place. The book is the first of its kind and unique in the Armenian reality. Unfortunately, Armenia has limited understanding about China, and it is very bad that Armenia lacks the opportunity to develop mutually beneficial cooperation with this important country. I do believe, that this contribution is a road map for the development of Sino-Armenian relations. It is also worth mentioning that Mher Sahakyan's book examines aspects of China's domestic and foreign policies, which have not been investigated by Armenian specialists. The greatest value of this contribution is the explanation of the "New Silk Road" in the context of political, economic and socio-cultural aspects. Most importantly, it can be used by Armenia in a direct and practical ways for strengthening bilateral relations with the raising China. This book is an eloquent testimony that Mher Sahakyan is a high-class professional in the field of China's foreign policy studies. It will be an unforgivable mistake, if Armenia does not use his capabilities, skills and contacts for improving Sino-Armenian relations."

The book was published on the basis of the recommendation of the Academic Council of Noravank Scientific Educational Foundation. The academic editor of the book is Dr. Valeri Poghosyan.



Mesale Tolu



# Community News

## Western Diocese Ladies Auxiliary to Honor Archbishop Hovsepian at September 23 Banquet

Beverly Hills, Calif. – The Ladies Auxiliary of the Western Diocese under the auspices of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian is proud to announce that on September 23 it will be hosting a celebration banquet honoring former Primate, Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian and “his ladies” who worked with him in building the Western Diocese. Aptly titled “A Legacy of Love,” this special occasion will be held at the Beverly Hills Hotel beginning with a reception at 12 noon, followed by a luncheon and program at 1:00 p.m.

Cindy Norian, Chair of the Ladies Auxiliary, reports that this event is truly “a legacy of love” and will reflect on Archbishop Hovsepian’s initiative in establishing the Ladies Auxiliary following his arrival in Los Angeles as Primate in 1971. At that time the Western Diocese was centered on Crenshaw Boulevard and consisted of a small office with two rundown typewriters. To quote Archbishop Hovsepian as he remembers it, “It looks as though the typewriters had been left over from Noah’s time.”



Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian

Soon after his assumption as Primate, he sensed the needs of the church and community and eventually purchased the church at 1201 North Vine Street in Hollywood and a 12-unit apartment

building next door. This church building served as Diocesan Headquarters for many years. Following the devastating Northridge Earthquake in 1994, the clergy and staff were forced to evacuate and took cover in the Sunday school rooms of St. Gregory Armenian Church in Pasadena for three years. Through Archbishop Hovsepian’s dynamic leadership, the Western Diocese purchased a huge multipurpose complex in 1994, located at 3325 North Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank, where the present and permanent Diocese Headquarters stands today.

Soon after arriving, Archbishop Hovsepian held meetings and receptions for ecumenical and lay leaders and realized that he needed hostesses, so he invited twelve women from various churches. Margaret Dadourian from Pasadena was the first Chair and her committee consisted of Hadji Haiganoush Dulgarian, Rose Ketchoyan, Sue Chortanian, Norma Sulukciyan, Mary Vartanian, Dorothy Manookian, Isabelle Davidian, Gloria Meghrihan, Hadji Perooz Frankian, Azadouhie Keotahian and Babe Simonian. They set an elaborate buffet for his Christmas receptions and organized countless luncheons and receptions. Under his foresight and direction, the first Debutante Ball was presented in 1972 with Mike Connors as the Master of Ceremonies.

From this early group the Ladies Auxiliary expanded to include many women who are no longer with us, as well as the current membership of approximately 40 women, who continue to serve the Diocese.

The present Chair, Cindy Norian, reports that in addition to honoring Archbishop Hovsepian, and his first ladies auxiliary members under his leadership from 1972 to 2003, former Chairwomen Doris Sarkisian and Lily Balian will also be recognized. In addition to a few surprises, Karin Mushegain, mezzo-soprano, noted for her brilliant opera performances, will delight the audience with her beautiful vocal selections.

For information and reservations please contact Cindy Norian at cnorian@aol.com. Tickets for the banquet are \$125.



(First row, left to right) AUA President Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian with hosts Alice & Ron Altoon; (sitting, left to right) Lilia Mamikonyan, Dr. Ann Karagozian, Dr. Mary Papazian and Dr. Shakeh Kaftarian

## ‘Yes, Armenian Women Can!’ Campaign Benefit in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES – Women’s empowerment took center stage at a benefit for the American University of Armenia (AUA)’s “Yes, Armenian Women Can!” campaign on Sunday, August 12, at the home of Alice and Ronald Altoon, in Encino.

The integral role of women in society and the workplace was highlighted during the panel, consisting of academics Dr. Mary Papazian, Dr. Ann Karagozian, Dr. Shakeh Kaftarian and Lilia Mamikonyan (CS ’19). Throughout the afternoon, the importance of scholarships was underscored to facilitate the education of women in Armenia who have the brainpower and work ethic to contribute greatly to the country.

Emphasizing a significant turning point in Armenia’s history during the successful Velvet Revolution, Papazian, president of San Jose State University, said the time was ripe for women to take a more active role in the country.

“We are in a transitional moment that is incredibly profound and we can either grasp it or let it slip away,” said Papazian. “We need Armenia to survive and thrive and recognize that this investment in the success of women is an investment in the country’s future.”

She highlighted the importance of building up women not only in the capital city, but throughout the rural regions of Armenia, citing the potential of economic growth in the provinces. “It takes a whole population to succeed and we have the chance to create a partnership that enriches all of us,” she said.

Karagozian, Distinguished Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), said AUA has brought a western style education to Armenia and is “one of the best Diasporan investments in the country.”

“The best way to change cultural norms is through education and opportunity,” said Karagozian, who is also a member of the AUA Board of Trustees. “It is essential for the health and well-being of society.”

She expressed her positive impressions of the enthusiasm and intelligence of AUA students and stressed the value of educating women while sharing a personal story of her grandmother, who was denied schooling due to the oppressive rule of the Ottoman Empire.

“My grandmother would tell me that an education is like a bracelet that no one can ever take off your wrist,” said Karagozian. “I want others to have the opportunities she never had.”

As moderator of the panel, Kaftarian, a medical psychologist and Fulbright Specialist, shared the concerning news that women in Armenia are not enjoying the same rights as men in family or in society and highlighted that “education is a tool towards empowerment.”

“AUA took the first step by initiating the “Yes, Armenian Women Can!” campaign that shines a light on empowering urban and rural women through education,” she said.

Alluding to the World Bank’s recent statistics that show a 17-percent growth in IT around the globe, and a 20-percent increase in Armenia, she noted there is an abundant supply of jobs in the field that women can pursue, ultimately strengthening themselves and their lives.

see WOMEN, page 7

## Ken Khachigian Master of Ceremonies At AMAA Centennial

By Joyce Abdulian

LOS ANGELES – Ken Khachigian, an Armenian-American political consultant, speech writer, attorney and veteran of nine presidential campaigns, will be the master of ceremonies at the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Centennial Celebration Banquet on October 20, at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel. Highlighting the evening’s celebration will be the recognition of AMAA benefactors John Sheen, Stephen Philiposian, Sirpuhe and John Conte, and Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian.

Khachigian is a senior partner in the Orange County office of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. He was a longtime aide to President Richard Nixon and chief speechwriter to President Ronald Reagan, as well as senior adviser and principal strategist for Governor George Deukmejian, with whom he had an ongoing friendship. Ken is considered by many, to be the State’s premier Republican strategist and wordsmith, and is regarded as the “lion” of California GOP politics. He directed several campaigns, and is included on the 100 LIVES’ list of “100 Armenians Who Changed the World.”

Khachigian began his distinguished public service career in the White House immediately following his graduation from Columbia law school – rising to the rank of deputy special assistant to President Richard Nixon. President Ronald Reagan commissioned him special consultant to the president in 1981, in which post he served as



Ken Khachigian

chief speech writer and senior White House adviser. Beginning with President Reagan’s first inaugural address, Khachigian collaborated on dozens of major and historic political and policy speeches throughout the president’s two terms of office. He served the

Reagan-Bush Campaign, being one of only two campaign aides who accompanied President Reagan on Air Force One throughout his 1984 landslide re-election. He was also a key advisor and strategist for George H. W. Bush’s successful 1988 election campaign.

Khachigian was raised with his three brothers, Melvin, Luther, and Ronald, in Visalia, Calif., on a 60-acre grape, walnut, cotton and alfalfa farm. The farm was founded by Ken’s paternal grandfather, Harutune, who left Chomakhlou, a village in Gesaria, prior to the Armenian Genocide, intending to earn money to be reunited with his wife and children. But as the Turks began implementing the Genocide, they purged the entire village of Chomakhlou, sending its families into the Syrian Desert. His father, Ohannes, survived, but lost his mother, brother and sister to starvation and disease in Damascus, Syria.

Ohannes John Khachigian emigrated to the United States, arriving in Ellis Island in December, 1920 and began working the family farm with his father. He married Elizabeth, who was born in Fresno, to parents originally from Kharpert.

The Khachigian family was active in the First Armenian Presbyterian Church of Yettem – a close-knit congregation of mostly Chomakhlou immigrants. Khachigian notes, “The AMAA was very dear to my parents over the years. The work it has done for tens of thousands in our international family is immeasurable. It remains vitally important to me to carry on the vision that my family left me.”

Khachigian’s wife, Meredith, served for three terms as Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of California. They have two daughters Merissa and Kristina, and four grandchildren, Kellan, Joseph, Sosie, and Sonny.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Boyamian Family Reunion

BOSTON – More than 50 members of the Boyamian family gathered in Boston for their second reunion the weekend of July 20-22. The first reunion was held in 2016, in San Diego.

The participants of this second reunion came from Canada, California, Pennsylvania and New York joining the rest of the family residing in the greater Boston area.

The organizing committee headed by Avedis Boyamian planned a detailed three-day itinerary that brought the families together for a fun-filled weekend that included a visit to the Armenian Heritage Park in Boston. On this day, the participants wore a white T-Shirt covered with a map of Zeytun, as they all originated from that town, in historic Cilicia. Arpi Youssoufian, who along her brother, Armen, prepared the video montage displaying family photos, stated that “the weekend solidified her appreciation for her family’s resilience, tenacity, and commitment to preserving their culture and heritage.”

It was 103 years ago that the Boyamian family was divided, because of the Armenian Genocide. After a heroic resistance, some perished violently; others survived and ended up in various parts of the world. The current generation of Boyamians have succeeded in their respective fields, while being highly involved and contributing to the Armenian and American/Canadian Organizations.

“The reunion was a good occasion to create strong bonds among the young members of the family and to bring them closer to their roots,” indicated Dr. Hagop Youssoufian. “Hopefully, this reunion will encourage others to find their own meaningful re-connection with their immediate and extended families,” added Hagop Boyamian.



Members of the Boyamian Family at the Armenian Heritage Park

## ‘Yes, Armenian Women Can!’ Campaign Benefit in Los Angeles

WOMEN, from page 6

“Women should have the decision-making power of what happens to them and their children and to live a full life in order to rise to their full potential,” said Kaftarian.

As Mamikonyan shared her journey to AUA from Sissian, a region in Southern Armenia, she served as a powerful reminder of the positive results that can occur when supporting the education of young women.

A rising senior studying computer science, Mamikonyan, a scholarship recipient, has already secured a job offer upon graduation, but remembers the challenges she faced while applying to college. Living a few hours from the

capital city, she had to travel to Yerevan from her hometown to study with tutors for the TOEFL and SAT exams, and also schedule to take the standardized tests in the capital city, as there were no other testing sites.

“There are a lot of bright minds from the rural regions, from Sissian to Megri to Kapan,” said Mamikonyan. “Currently only 7 percent of AUA’s student body is from the rural areas, but if the process was more accessible, many more qualified students would apply.”

In her welcoming remarks, Alice Altoon, a retired judge, emphasized the importance of the scholarship program through the “Yes, Armenian Women Can!” campaign, noting it as

a “worthy cause” that will help young Armenians remain in the homeland and “have hope for the future.”

She commented that scholarships benefited her and her husband’s lives when he received a full scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania to pursue his master’s degree in architecture.

“It made a big difference in our lives and I know the AUA scholarships will make a big difference for these women at AUA,” she said.

Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, President of AUA, said women are an important force in Armenia and are more than half the student population at AUA, who are increasingly pursuing degrees in the tech fields.

“Armenia’s future is bound to technology,” said Der Kiureghian. “Women in this field can play a significant role in the development of the country.” He noted that by establishing an endowment that aims to provide up to 100 scholarships, in perpetuity, for female AUA students studying science and engineering, the country will be on a stronger footing.

Amid the event’s inspirational tone, Elizabeth Agbabian, whose husband, Dr. Mihran Agbabian, helped found the university along with Der Kiureghian, Dr. Stephan Karamardian and Louise Simone, announced she would



President Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian with former President Dr. Mihran Agbabian, founders of AUA

needs it now.”

The goal of the “Yes, Armenian Women Can!” campaign is to raise a \$2.5-million endowment in order to support up to 100 female students at AUA each year, in perpetuity, who are studying science, engineering or technology. Numerous supporters have joined the campaign, in the Diaspora and in Armenia, includ-



AUA supporters at the home of Alice & Ron Altoon

sponsor the education of two AUA students in her mother’s honor to benefit the “Yes, Armenian Women Can!” campaign.

Concluding the afternoon, Ronald Altoon said Armenia is at a crossroads and needs the assistance of the Diaspora and the homeland.

“Sciences are no longer gender specific and the voices of women are essential to our conversation,” he said. “Armenia needs a moral, ethical and cultural transfusion and it

ing Yerevan-based artist Arev Petrosyan, who will donate proceeds of her sold paintings to the program. Additional paintings of hers are available at <http://yawc.aua.am/campaign-supporters/>.

To learn more about the “Yes, Armenian Women Can!” campaign, visit <http://yawc.aua.am/> or contact the Development Office by emailing [development@aua.am](mailto:development@aua.am).



### Knights and Daughters of Vartan

Public Discussion

“At The White House With President Reagan and The Current Affairs In The White House Today”

Guest Speaker



Aram Bakshian

Speech Writer for Presidents Nixon, Ford and Director of Presidential Speech writing for Ronald Reagan

Tuesday, September 11, 2018, 7:00 PM Sharp

St. Mary Armenian Church Cultural hall

4125 Fessenden Street, NW, Washington DC

Free Entrance- Reception





## OBITUARIES

## Hratch Berberian

### Violinist, Pedagogue and Musicologist

BROOKINGS, S.D. — Hratch, “Maestro” Berberian, 91, of Brookings, SD, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and friends on August 15 in Richfield, MN.

Berberian was born in Athens, Greece on January 13, 1927. He began violin lessons at an early age under the tutelage of his father, famed Armenian composer Hampartzoum Berberian. Receiving a violin scholarship, he entered the Cesar Franck School of Music in Paris, graduating with highest honors. In 1957, he immigrated to the United States, and continued his studies at the Boston Conservatory, graduating with a Master of Music degree. While in Boston, he performed and toured with the Boston Pops Orchestra conducted by Arthur Fiedler.

He also performed with the Goldowsky Opera Orchestra, and the Pablo Casals Music Festival in Puerto Rico by special invitation for many seasons.

From 1967-1996, Berberian served as professor of music at South Dakota State University (SDSU) in Brookings, SD and as concertmaster of the SDSU-Civic Symphony. He was instrumental in establishing the string program in the Department of Music.

While at SDSU, he further pursued doctoral studies in musicology at the University of Iowa. Berberian continued his performance career by concertizing extensively as a violinist in the Middle East, Europe and the US.

Berberian loved to compose music, and has written several compositions for strings.

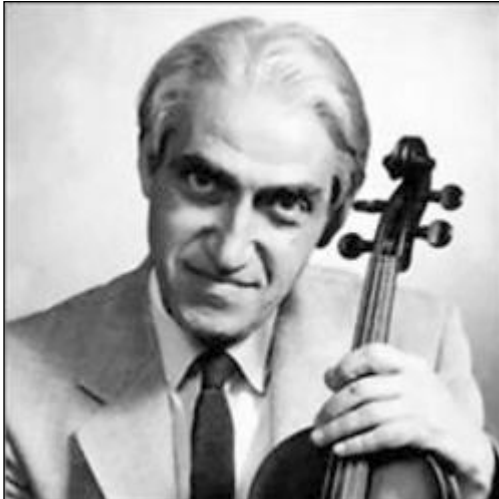
His wife, Arpinee, was an instructor of voice at SDSU. For 47 years, they made beautiful music together, often performing on the stage.

Berberian said that if he had not taught music, he would have been an astronomer, as he loved studying the mysteries of the universe.

As a child, he loved to play soccer. Some of

his pastimes included watching soccer and boxing, and taking summer road trips with his family.

A great story-teller and comedian, he used his life lessons in his teaching. He cared deeply for the well-being and success of his students over



the years.

He touched many lives through his blue eyes, his warm and kind demeanor, wit, and through his music. He was a devoted husband and father.

He is survived by his daughters, Ani Berberian (Curt Christensen) of Berryville, VA, and Shoghig Berberian of Minneapolis, MN; sister, Nayiri Berberian of Watertown, MA; brother, Chahe Berberian of Somerville, MA. He was preceded in death by his wife, Arpinee (Sanoukian); his brother, renowned cellist, Vahe; and his parents, Hampartzoum and Serpouhi.

His funeral took place in Massachusetts, arranged by the Giragosian Funeral Home. Graveside services were held at Ridgeland Cemetery in Watertown on Friday, August 24.

## Dr. Vahrij Manoukian

### Pharmacist, Active in NH Politics

HOLLIS, N.H. — Dr. Vahrij Manoukian, 66, a Hollis resident, pharmacist and selectman, passed away Thursday, August 16, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1952, he was one of four children of the late Nazareth and Anouch Manoukian. He immigrated to the United States in 1977 and resided in Boston before moving to New Hampshire in 1980.

He was a graduate of Northeastern University and completed his residency at

er-in-law, Vani and Sako Azzo of Nashua and Vera Manoukian of New York; three nieces, Annie, Jessica and Bella; a nephew, L.V. and his wife Diane and their daughter, Sloane. In addition to his parents, Vahrij was predeceased by his son, Michael Manoukian in 2004.

For more than 15 years, Manoukian was a senior selectman for the Town of Hollis; was a member of the Hollis Brookline Rotary Club; served as president of the Board of Pharmacy for the State of New Hampshire; played a major role in the Armenian Pharmacy Association of New England; and was a board member of the Child Advocacy Center. Additionally, he was the chairman of the Republican Party of Hillsborough County and member of the legal ethics committee of New Hampshire.

He was the recipient of the Town of Hollis Citizen of the Year award in 2015. In addition, he received the award for Citizen of the Year for the State of New Hampshire by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a major advocate for the veterans of this Country.

Manoukian was proud of his Armenian/Lebanese heritage; he was fluent in five languages. He loved the US; was a true patriot and loved the freedom, peace, and opportunity of this great country. His store became a mandatory stop and landmark for all Presidential Candidates.

In his leisure time, he enjoyed spending time with family and friends and had a passion for cars, motorcycles and the New England Patriots. Additionally, he tirelessly fought to put an end to the opioid crisis and implement the New Hampshire Controlled Drug Prescription health and Safety Program.

His funeral service took place at St. Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Road, Chelmsford, Mass., Wednesday, August 22, followed by interment at East Cemetery in Hollis, NH.



Massachusetts General Hospital and received his Doctorate from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy. Vahrij established the Hollis Pharmacy and General Store, that he has owned and operated for the past 33 years.

He was active in his community and the Town of Hollis adopted him as a native.

Members of his family include a daughter and son-in-law, Christine and Peter Olobri of California; his brother, Vatche N. Manoukian and Linda of Hollis; two sisters and a broth-

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# (The Emotional Toll of) Studying Genocide

## The Zoryan Institute Creates a Space for Open Dialogue Amongst Scholars

TORONTO, ON – The International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies announced recently that 19 scholars have graduated from the Zoryan Institute’s two-week Genocide and Human Rights Program (GHRUP) 2018 at the University of Toronto. Course director Dr. Elisa von Joeden-Forgey guided the students in their interactions with texts, lectures, debates and discussions. She tactfully recognized the importance of creating a safe space for open dialogue, stating that: [Insert quote from Elisa].

The study of genocide and of human rights naturally includes shocking and difficult subject matter. Many might ponder what motivates a student to dedicate their research and studies towards the incomprehensible actions of humankind. Some of GHRUP’s students come to the program with no personal experience besides a genuine interest in exploring the field of human rights and genocide studies. Other GHRUP students asserted that their interest in the field was spurred by personal or familial connections to genocide and human rights abuses. Their connections meant that they understood the lasting



Creative approaches are used in classes.

range of topics from case studies such as the Holocaust, Armenian and Rwandan Genocide, to the psychology of genocide, genocide denial, and gendered genocide, has the potential to take a mental toll. Von Joeden-Forgey often emphasized the importance of self-care, encouraging the students to share with each other how their research and study impacts them emotionally. The class of GHRUP 2018 identified the importance of supporting one another and maintaining community as they grapple with the incomprehensible concept of human rights violations and genocide. Though GHRUP has come to an end, the knowledge and friendships that the class of 2018 has fostered will

continue to grow. IIGHRS looks forward to seeing future collaborations amongst this year’s students. GHRUP 2018’s class included students from 10 countries, and various academic and professional backgrounds including lawyers, teachers, historians and field workers. The students enjoyed interacting and learning amongst people from different national and

professional backgrounds. This cultural, academic and professional diversity demonstrated commonality in the class’s vision for human rights, reconciliation, and genocide education. Some students explained how this collective desire to learn about human rights and genocide gave them hope: that others care as deeply as they do in the study of

museums, Niagara Falls and group dinners. The evening activities enable the students to develop strong relationships amongst themselves, and provide an opportunity for them to discuss further the topics of that day. On the final day of the program, the students presented to their colleagues, professors and the Zoryan staff their personal projects and research. Their presentations covered a range of topics and regions, from femicide in South America to the impact of images on the Armenian revolution, and the status of the Rohingya in Myanmar. The diversity of issues addressed combined with each student’s specialized knowledge made for an informative day filled with constructive debate.

Officially launched in 2002, the institute has since welcomed nearly 500 students from more than 41 countries to join in engaging in research and publication in the field of Genocide and Human Rights Studies. Seventy of the GHRUP graduates have gone on to teach genocide studies in universities around the world, and 11 of the Turkish GHRUP graduates have written dissertations on the Armenian Genocide following the program. This demonstrates the institute’s great success in educating and developing a new



Students have a discussion

impacts of human rights violations and genocidal events on cultures worldwide. Most students agreed that they were motivated by their desire to expose these atrocities and prevent future human rights violations.

A personal connection to genocidal events and a motivation to prevent them does not lighten the load of this field of study. For two weeks, spending 8 hours daily navigating a

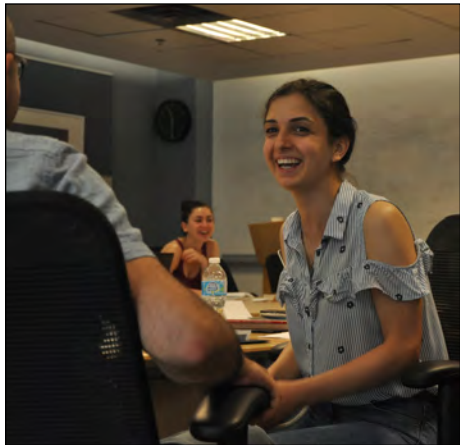
generation of human rights and genocide scholars. Inspired by GHRUP, many have gone on to utilize the methodological approaches introduced to them in the program. Through a comparative and interdisciplinary analysis of cases of genocide, students are exposed to a wide range of topics from a diverse set of instructors. The program encourages an open-minded and inviting setting in which students can learn, question and debate. With the option to take this course for credit towards a graduate level credit at their home institutions, GHRUP offers a unique program like no other.

The Zoryan Institute and its subsidiary, the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, is the first non-profit, international centre devoted to the research and documentation of contemporary issues with a focus on Genocide, Diaspora and Homeland.



tudents receive instruction.

A student in class



A student in class

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# US Ambassador Tours ANI Exhibit on YMCA During First Republic of Armenia

YEREVAN and WASHINGTON — The United States Ambassador to Armenia, Richard M. Mills, Jr., recently toured the exhibit, sponsored by the Armenian National Institute (ANI) and the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly), depicting the critical humanitarian role played by two American YMCA officials during the first republic of Armenia.

On display at the Naregatsi Art Institute in Yerevan, the exhibit, titled “American Relief in the First Republic of Armenia,” was created by ANI to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Republic. The exhibit highlights the role of the YMCA pair of John Elder and James O. Arroll, who rendered exceptional service during the critical early months of the republic in 1918 when a severe humanitarian crisis gripped the newborn country as it struggled with the consequences and violence of World War I.

“This exhibition captures the spirit of the American people’s affinity for Armenia and the Armenian people,” said Mills. “From those first YMCA volunteers to the more than 1,000 Peace Corps volunteers who have followed in their stead, the American people have been working side-by-side with the Armenian people to overcome turmoil and challenge in pursuit of continued peace and friendship between our two nations.”

The exhibit also expressly links the early contributions of the YMCA and other relief workers, who subsequently arrived from the United States in 1919, with the current role of the Peace Corps which has been sending volunteers to Armenia since 1992. Ambassador Mills, whose long association with Armenia began since serving as the State Department’s first Armenia desk officer upon the restoration of Armenian independence in 1991, has been a strong supporter of Peace Corps programs across Armenia.

The exhibit opening and associated events were organized by the Armenian Assembly’s Yerevan office, spearheaded by Regional Director Arpi Vartanian. The exhibit was launched on August 8 with the participation of Armenia’s Minister of Education Arayik Harutyunyan and other officials, as well as representatives of the US Embassy. Upon stirring renditions of the Armenian and American national anthems by New York Lyric Opera soprano Anoush Barclay, US Chargé d’Affaires Rafik Mansour made a compelling statement honoring the memories of John Elder and James O. Arroll for “their American



Armenian Assembly Regional Director Arpi Vartanian explaining the exhibit to US Ambassador Richard Mills, Jr.

idealism, their connections, and their business savvy.”

Additional remarks were made by Armenian National Institute Chairman Van Z. Krikorian, Naregatsi Art Institute Director Nareg Hartounian, and YMCA Europe Programmes Executive Secretary Vardan Hambardzumyan in the presence of government officials, representatives of local, diasporan, and international NGOs, as well as Armenian media which covered the exhibit extensively.

The YMCA in Armenia was represented by a contingent of young members from around the country, as well as YMCA Armenia Acting Director Khoren Papoyan in addition to Hambardzumyan. Joining them were Peace Corps volunteers, who work with YMCA volunteers in Armenia’s regions, and other aid workers. Former Artsakh Foreign Minister Karen Mirozian, Knights of Vartan Yerevan Liasion Gohar Palyan, Near East Foundation-Armenia Representative Arpine Baghdoyan, ABGU Armenia President Vasken Yacoubian, ArmComedy Live’s Narek Margaryan, Artists’ Union of Armenia Director Karen Aghamyan, Aida Khachikyan from the Hayastan All-Armenia Fund, Shant Hovnanian of Hovnanian International, and Sergei Paradjanov Museum Director Zaven Sargsyan, a professional photographer who has documented historic Ani, visited the exhibit. Armenian Assembly summer interns in Armenia along with their families and supervisors also joined the event. The Vozkevas Winery, which has been in existence since 1932, donated refreshments for the reception.

Addressing the audience, ANI Chairman Krikorian encouraged YMCA members, Peace Corps participants, and others engaged in humanitarian services to see themselves in the eyes of the volunteers from 100 years ago.

Upon the conclusion of the display, the ANI exhibit will trav-



US Ambassador Richard Mills Jr. looking at the ANI exhibit on the YMCA in Armenia

el around Armenia and to Artsakh. ANI and the Armenian Assembly are donating the poster set to YMCA Armenia. The YMCA organizations in cities across the country, such as Gyumri, Spitak, and Vanadzor, will bring the story of the original arrival of the YMCA, and heroic tale of Elder and Arroll, to an even wider public. For Armenian audiences, the 24-panel exhibit was augmented with a two-panel Armenian-language introduction summarizing the key events and personalities highlighted in the story. Along with the support of the YMCA of the USA, preparation of the ANI exhibit was strongly encouraged by the YMCA leadership in Armenia and Europe which previously shared the announcement upon the original release of the digital version of the exhibit in April of this year. YMCA Europe shared the news of the display of the exhibit in Yerevan with its audiences on its website.

The exhibit reconstructs the story of the near superhuman efforts undertaken by John Elder and James O. Arroll to rescue Armenians from the many perils they faced during the 1918-1920 independent Republic of Armenia. The exhibit relies upon John Elder’s own words from his published journal, along with

*continued on next page*



Naregatsi Art Institute Director Nareg Hartounian and ANI Chairman Van Krikorian



US Embassy Chargé d’Affaires Rafik Mansour, YMCA Europe Executive Secretary Vardan Hambardzumyan, Armenian National Institute Chairman Van Krikorian, Armenian Assembly Regional Director Arpi Vartanian, and Naregatsi Art Institute Director Nareg Hartounian





## COMMUNITY NEWS

## US Ambassador Tours ANI Exhibit On YMCA During First Republic of Armenia

from previous page

original records that he personally saved from the time of his service, and the photographs that he made and captioned.

Elder and Arroll arrived as two enthusiastic young men dedicated to the purpose of sustaining morale among soldiers enduring long campaigns and treacherous conditions as the Great War kept grinding on, year after year, without end. They departed as two celebrated heroes who stood by the Armenian people at the fateful hour. John Elder wrote on May 26, 1918, as Ottoman Turkish forces advanced to the outskirts of

Yerevan: "You never can tell what may happen. Just as the end seems at hand the pendulum swings the other way...After a two-day battle at Sardarabad, the Turks have been completely routed." With the decisive battle won, two days later, on May 28, 1918, Armenia declared independence.

The only Americans in Yerevan at the time, Elder and Arroll witnessed momentous events and the unfolding of a heart-wrenching humanitarian disaster as the ravages of war were revealed once the fighting stopped. A year elapsed before a new crew of relief workers reached Armenia to lighten the burden that Elder and Arroll shouldered. In the meantime, their efforts and accomplishments had become legend among admiring Armenians and fellow Americans at home.

The exhibit displays 95 images, 64 from John Elder's photo collection, 8 contemporaneous records and documents, and 4 maps. With 32 quotations from Elder's journal authenticating



Armenian Minister of Culture Arayik Harutyunyan greeting guests at the ANI exhibit opening



YMCA members and volunteers in Armenia with Armenian Assembly Regional Director Arpi Vartanian (third from right), Armenian Minister of Culture Arayik Harutyunyan (second from right), and YMCA Armenia Acting Director Khoren Papoyan (far right)

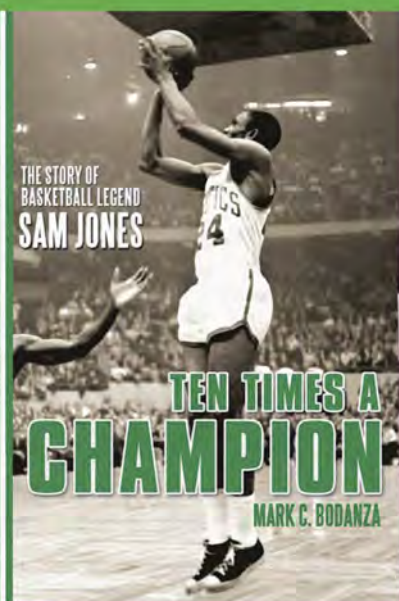
the photographs, along with introductory and explanatory text, the exhibit opens a window into life during the first year of the newly independent Armenian republic in 1918. The exhibit includes the entire set of photographs Elder attributed to his time in Armenia.

Several American relief workers are also mentioned in the exhibit, including Reverend Ernest Yarrow, Gertrude Pearson, F. Tredwell Smith, and Mabel Farrington. Mary Kifer, whose life was cut short after leaving the Caucasus, improbably found romance while conducting relief work in Armenia. Her story parallels "A Farewell to Arms" before Ernest Hemingway wrote his WWI era tragedy.

Other American personalities in the region appearing in the exhibit include F. Willoughby Smith, US Consul in Tiflis, who supported the efforts of the relief workers; Robert McDowell, who was at the front when the Turkish forces broke through and invaded Alexandropol (Gyumri); Dr. John H.T. Main, president of Grinnell College in Iowa, who witnessed the horrific conditions in Armenia firsthand on behalf of the American Committee for Relief in the Near East; missionary Grace Knapp; and John Mott, longtime president of the American YMCA, who, with the encouragement of his friend President Woodrow Wilson, dispatched young Americans wherever they could lend civilian support behind the front to men in combat.

The YMCA digital exhibit is the fifth exhibit developed by ANI. It follows upon other educational material developed for the centennial of the Armenian Genocide, including the four large exhibits displaying hundreds of historic photographs.

### Holy Trinity Men's Union is proud to welcome Boston Celtics' Great Sam Jones



Come for yourself, but bring your children, grandchildren and invite your friends to attend this unique opportunity to meet a Boston Sports legend.

Drafted in 1957, ten-time NBA Champion Sam Jones was called "Mr. Clutch" by many of his peers. His uncannily accurate bank shots, lightning quickness, and cool demeanor helped the Celtics win 10 NBA championships in the 12 years he played with the team, second only to teammate Bill Russell. Sam was a five-time NBA All Star, named to both the NBA's 25th and 50th anniversary teams, had his No. 24 retired by the Celtics, and was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1984.

The Story of Basketball Legend Sam Jones, *Ten Times A Champion*, by Mark C. Bodanza who will accompany and introduce Sam Jones, will be available for purchase and signing by the basketball great.

Another Holy Trinity event celebrating Books of Courage and Legends . . .

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COMMUNITY NEWS

# Dog Therapists, Handlers Discuss Cheer They Spread

By Elizabeth Chambers

JACKSON, Wyo. (*Jackson Hole News and Guide*) – “Have you met my therapist?” read Amanda Soliday’s shirt, beneath the image of a grinning pug.

At her feet sat an actual dog, Otis, a 6-year-old golden retriever. Together, Soliday and Otis are an animal therapy team. They regularly visit St. John’s Medical Center, the Children’s Learning Center, the Senior Center of Jackson Hole and other places around Jackson to let Otis work his magic on patients, children and seniors.

The pair are part of Teton County Pet Partners, an organization that formed in 1997 out of Teton County PAL, short for people, animals and love. Now associated with the national Pet Partners, the group trains people in animal-assisted therapy, a technique that harnesses the human-animal bond to improve the health and emotional well-being of recipients.

Soliday was one of the founding volunteers of the Teton County group. She recalled one visit to the hospital, when she knocked on the door of a woman who was crying to ask if she wanted to visit with a dog. The woman initially declined and continued to weep.

“Are you sure?” Soliday asked her. “They can really help.”

“So I came in, and she quit crying within 10 seconds and was talking and petting the dog,” Soliday said. “That’s a prime example of what it’s for.”

In addition to visiting people, the local Pet

Partners also collaborates on other programs in the community, like “Read to a Dog” for second-graders at the public elementary schools. After reading to canines over the course of the school year, students’ reading levels jumped up. Nowadays, volunteers host the program at the Children’s Learning Center and Teton Literacy Center.

A half a dozen volunteers and their canine companions gathered Tuesday afternoon on the lawn of St. John’s Episcopal Church to educate others on the programs and work that they do. It was an opportunity for the public to meet the teams as well as a chance for interested dog owners to meet the group.

Any dog can become a therapy animal – cats, horses, llamas and birds can be certified as well – but those best suited to the task are naturally friendly and calm around other people.

Martha Maddox and Hazel, a 3 1/2-year-old Lab, have been volunteering at the hospital and Legacy Lodge at Jackson Hole each week for two years.

“When I got Hazel, at 8 months old, I realized she had a really wonderful temperament for it,” Maddox said. “You can train the dogs to be good for this, but she was pretty great right from the start. She just loves people.”

Hazel has also learned on the job how to read cues from the people she visits.

“She can really just walk into a room and know if someone just wants to give her a couple pets or if someone really needs more emotional support,” Maddox said.

Maddox first heard about therapy dogs from canine physical therapist Erin Downey, also a Pet Partners volunteer. As a part-time personal assis-

tant, Maddox has the flexibility to spend her mornings at the hospital and Legacy Lodge.

For others, committing to a weekly volunteering schedule is a challenge.

Emily Bedrosian has been volunteering since 2009 and mostly does one-time gigs now that she has a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old to look after (humans, that is). Still, she and Chief, her 6-year-old Akita elkhound mix, manage to stay involved. Last summer they delighted students at Jackson Hole High School during finals week, and this summer they plan to make an appearance at Teton Behavior Therapy’s summer camp.

Bedrosian, in addition to Soliday and two other volunteers, also serves as an evaluator, testing and certifying new teams.

After potential handlers take an online course, they and their dogs are put through a series of tests and exercises designed to simulate a visit to a therapy recipient.

Evaluators look for basic obedience and how the dogs react to handler cues. They also test the dogs’ reactions to scenarios like crowds, angry yelling and over-exuberant petting.

It’s not only the dogs who are being tested, though.

“We’re looking for as much in the dog as in the handler,” Bedrosian said. “You need a handler that’s personable, paying attention and has a connection with the dog the whole time.”

Each year the evaluators test an average of six potential new teams. About three quarters of them pass and receive their certification. Since the ‘90s the group has grown from a loose cadre of volunteers to an organized group of 36 certified teams.

[RYAN DORGAN/JACKSON HOLE NEWS & GUIDE VIA AP]



Emily Bedrosian and Chief pose for a portrait

At that size the organization requires someone to steer the ship. Kelly Chadwick has volunteered in the capacity of organizer, coordinating the schedules of each of the teams, for the last five years. One perk of the job, she said: “I get to see a lot of dogs.”

Tuesday’s meet-and-greet was the first the organization has hosted, but it might become an annual affair, Chadwick said.

For the future, Teton County Pet Partners will continue to serve the community and strive to improve the health and wellbeing of all its members.

“Hopefully we can continue to grow,” Chadwick said. “More programs and more teams, and then we can continue to spread the love.”

## A Special Khatchveratz At St. Vartan Cathedral On September 16

NEW YORK – New York’s St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral will hold a special service on the evening of Sunday, September 16, to honor the major feast day known as *Khatchveratz*, or the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Beginning at 6 p.m., Diocesan Primate the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan will preside over a *Medz Antasdan* (“Blessing of the World”) service. Clergy and deacons from the throughout the region will participate in the service, which involves moving in procession through the cathedral sanctuary, to invoke God’s blessings over the “four corners” of the earth.

“In former times, our church would perform the antasdan ceremony several times during the year,” the Primate explained, “and the one on the evening of *Khatchveratz* would be the grandest and most comprehensive. We think of the antasdan as the ‘Blessing of Fields,’ but in fact it’s a blessing over the entire world: on all of its varied people and their leaders.”

“It’s amazing to think of our relatively small community of faithful feeling the urgent necessity to bless the whole world – but that’s exactly the meaning of this service,” Findikyan added.

“This was a meaningful tradition for Armenians, which I’d like to reconnect with amid the vast diversity of New York City.”

For this Feast of the Exaltation – one of the five major feast days of the Armenian Church calendar – the Primate will unveil a rarely-seen treasure of St. Vartan Cathedral: an actual relic of the True Cross of Jesus Christ, contained in a magnificent cross-shaped reliquary.

The relic will be led in procession through the cathedral, and worshippers will have a chance to approach and venerate it. “It’s a remarkable piece of our heritage: just a small shard of wood, but holding such meaning for us,” the Primate said. “It originated on the mound of Golgotha in Jerusalem, was brought to Armenia, and from there was transmitted to the safe-keeping of this Diocese.”

All are welcome to join in this evening service, which Findikyan describes as “a kind of Bible study in motion; a reflection on the miracle of our Lord’s cross.”

The Divine Liturgy on September 16 will go forward as is customary at the cathedral, starting at 10:30 a.m.

The *Khatchveratz Medz Antasdan* service will start at 6 p.m., with a duration of about 90 minutes. A reception on the cathedral plaza will follow. St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral is located at 630 Second Ave. (at 34th Street), in New York City.



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# Arts & Living

## BOOK REVIEW

### *Gateway to Armenia: One Diasporan's Journey into The Past and Present*

LONDON — The latest book by author Serge Momjian, *Gateway to Armenia: One Diasporan's Journey in the Past and Present*, is about a subject close to his heart. The book, which came out this August, is released by Heddon Publishing.

The central character of the book is Haig Bedrossian, an American-Armenian journalist, who has lived outside his ethnic community virtually all his life. It is not until he is in his 30s that he realizes his true self lacks Armenian identity, for which he feels a sudden twinge of guilt.

Shortly after a slow integration into his community and gaining a general understanding of

## Gateway to Armenia



*One diasporan's journey into the past and present*

**Serge Momjian**

Armenian history from the internet, he finds himself caught between two worlds, two different realities, and two conflicting sets of values: mainstream American and ethnic Armenian.

His first assignment is to visit the independent Armenia, where the private guided tours of historic sites and the discovery of the country's art treasures significantly increase Haig's knowledge of its rich culture, and engage him in a riveting conversation with his local guide about Armenia's turbulent past, its challenging present and the evolving, complex relationship between homeland and diaspora.

Author Serge Momjian was born in Beirut in 1946. He moved to London in the 1970s and studied journalism then took a degree course in creative writing.

He has worked as a reporter, covering arts and culture for major publications, including Beirut's *Daily Star* (the Middle East's leading English-language newspaper) and London's *Events* magazine. His feature articles have been translated and published in the Armenian press. By the time he reached his 40s, he was devoting his time to writing novels. His works, all published in the United Kingdom, include *Conflicting Motives*, *The Invisible Line*, *The Singer of the Opera*, *Memories of the Past and Komitas*, *The Artist and The Martyr*. The latter, in which he included dialogue for the first time, was written in commemoration of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide.

In recognition of his biographical work, he was awarded the William Saroyan medal in 2015 by the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia. During his literary career his innovative writings have brought him praise.

The book is available from: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Ingram Spark and many online retailers.

For more information, email: enquiries@heddonpublishing.com.



Armen Keteyian speaks at the Glendale Central Library at an Armenian Professional Society event

## Armen Keteyian Shares Career Highlights

GLENDAL — It's not every day you get to meet an 11-time Emmy Award winning investigative journalist, and it's even rarer when that person happens to be Armenian. Armen Keteyian was the featured speaker at the Armenian Professional Society (APS) event on August 23 at the Glendale Central Library where he shared highlights from his incredible 30-year career in journalism.

**By Monique Svazlian Tallon**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Keteyian was born in Detroit, the grandson of Armenian immigrants who came to the US in the 1920s through Ellis Island. He went on to graduate from San Diego State University with a BA in Journalism and started his career as a sports editor for a local weekly newspaper in La Mesa, CA., and then worked at a daily newspaper in Escondido, CA., before moving on to the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and *San Diego Magazine*. Through sheer grit and determination, he landed his first break as a reporter at *Sports Illustrated* in 1982 and within a few years was investigating and reporting on topics such as corruption in college football and basketball, sports gambling in America and the use of steroids amongst professional athletes.

During his talk Keteyian shared stories of his time as an altar boy at St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Detroit and recalled stories about how his grandmother Vartouhi survived the massacres and death marches of the Armenian Genocide. His upbringing clearly impacted his drive for uncovering the truth and fighting for justice. He went on in his career to work for ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings as a network television correspondent and then to CBS Sports and HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel."

He has anchored events such as the Tour de France and covered the Super Bowl and Final Four on numerous occasions. In 2006 he was named the Chief Investigative Correspondent for CBS News and later, a contributing correspondent for "60 Minutes." From 2013-2017 he was as the lead correspondent for "60 Minutes Sports" on Showtime. In addition to his work in television, Keteyian is

see KETEVAN, page 14



Armen Keteyian, center, with members of the Armenian Professional Society board

## Countdown to Landmark Armenian Exhibit At Metropolitan Museum of Art

NEW YORK — The "Armenia!" exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art is set to open on September 22, 2018, and run through January 13, 2019. This major exhibition will feature rare works of Armenian art from around the world — many of them never before displayed in the United States.

This is the first major exhibition to explore the remarkable artistic and cultural achievements of the Armenian people in a global context over fourteen centuries — from the fourth century, when the Armenians converted to Christianity in their homeland at the base of Mount Ararat, to the seventeenth century, when Armenian control of global trade routes first brought books printed in Armenian into the region.

Through some 140 objects — including opulent gilded reliquaries, richly illuminated manuscripts, rare textiles, cross stones



Silver Bible, Illustrated manuscript, 13th and 17th century, made in present-day Turkey, Kayseri. Ink and tempera on parchment, silver, gilt, jewels, enamel, Gift of Mrs. Edward S. Harkness, 1916

(khachkars), precious liturgical furnishings, church models, and printed books — the exhibition demonstrates how Armenians developed a unique Christian identity that linked their widespread communities over the years.

Representing the cultural heritage of Armenia, most of the works come from major Armenian collections: the Mother See of Holy Ecmiadzin; the Matenadaran (Ancient Manuscripts); the National History Museum in the Republic of Armenia; the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia in Lebanon; the Brotherhood of St. James in Jerusalem; and the Mekhitarist Congregation of San Lazzaro degli Armeni in Venice.

Almost all of these works are on view in the United States for the first time; some have not travelled abroad for centuries.

Among the precious items on display will be a magnificent altar covering from Holy Ecmiadzin.

The Eastern Diocese has taken active roles in the exhibit, with Diocesan Primate the Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan contributing a scholarly essay to the exhibit catalogue. One of the exceptional items on display will be the 17th-century Voskan Bible that the Diocese's Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center is lending to the Met for this special occasion.

The exhibition is made possible by The Hagop Kevorkian Fund.

see MET, page 14





# Armen Keteyian Shares Career Highlights



KETEVYAN, from page 13

also the author of numerous *New York Times* best selling books, including the recent No. 1 best-selling biography on Tiger Woods. He also shared a few insights that he's learned throughout his impressive career. "If you work hard, people will notice" said Keteyian. "Don't chase the money - follow your heart, pursue your passion and the money will follow."

(Keteyian was the keynote speaker at the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator's* anniversary program in 2010 in Boston.)

APS President Nerses Aposhian recently took the reins of APS in early 2018. "We've expanded our Board to nine people and this year we're focused on growing the organization through better marketing, outreach and connecting with other Armenian organizations," says Aposhian.

APS will hold their 60th Anniversary Diamond Gala on October 21 where they will be awarding scholarships to several graduate student recipients and honoring Salpi Ghazarian with Professional of the Year award, George Phillips, Sr. with the Lifetime Achievement Award, and Teni Panosian with the Young Professional of the Year Award. "Our goal is to get both younger and older professionals connected with each other, the Armenian community and in the very near future, create a stronger bridge to Armenia. With the new change in government in Armenia, we see a lot of younger people taking leadership positions and we see a lot of opportunities to give back and do creative things that can further Armenians both here and in Armenia."

## Landmark Armenian Exhibit At Metropolitan Museum of Art

MET, from page 13

Additional support is provided by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Michel David-Weill Fund, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Giorgi Family Foundation, the Hirair and Anna Hovnanian Foundation, the Karagheusian Foundation, the Nazar and Artemis Nazarian Family, the Ruddock Foundation for the Arts, the Strauch Kulhanjian Family and the Paros Foundation, Aso O. Tavitian, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The catalogue is made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Tianaderrah Foundation, the Michel David-Weill Fund, the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund, the Ruben Vardanyan and Veronika Zonabend Family Foundation, Joanne A. Peterson, The Armenian Center at Columbia University, Elizabeth and Jean-Marie Eveillard, and Souren G. and Carol R. K. Ouzounian.

St. Vartan Cathedral will be the site of a special vespers service on November 27, which will be one of the official exhibit events planned in conjunction with the Met for the general public.

In the words of exhibit curator Dr. Helen Evans (the Met's Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator of Byzantine Art, and a longtime friend of the Diocese) this will be "the first major exhibition to explore the remarkable artistic and cultural achievements of the Armenian people in a global context." Visitors will view exquisite works covering 14 centuries of Armenian history: from the 4th century, when the Armenians converted to Christianity, to the 17th century, when Armenian control of global trade routes first brought books printed in Armenian into the region.

Met members can visit the museum for an early view on Friday, September, 21, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.



A page from the silver Bible

# Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

## Apricot Orange Cookies

- INGREDIENTS**
- 2 1/2 cups flour, sifted
  - 3/4 cup unsalted butter (6-7 tablespoons)
  - 1 large egg, beaten
  - 1/2 cup white or brown sugar
  - 1/2 cup dried apricots, finely chopped
  - 1/2 cup apricot preserves
  - 1/4 cup fresh orange or apricot juice
  - 2 teaspoons baking powder
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla
  - 1 teaspoon orange zest
  - 1/2 teaspoon each nutmeg and cinnamon
  - Dash of salt
  - 1/2 cup each chopped golden raisins, dates, dried cranberries, dark chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, or finely chopped pecans, almonds or walnuts (optional)
- PREPARATION**
- Pre-heat oven to 375 degrees.
  - In a large bowl, beat butter until soft; add sugar and vanilla and beat until fluffy. Add egg, apricots, preserves, orange juice, baking powder, zest, spices, and salt and mix well. Add flour and mix well.
  - Add chopped golden raisins, dates, dried cranberries, dark chocolate chips, butterscotch chips, or finely chopped pecans, almonds or walnuts, if desired, and mix to combine.
  - Drop dough with rounded tablespoon on an ungreased cookie sheet 2 inches apart and bake for 8-12 minutes. Remove from oven and cool cookies on rack.
  - If desired, sprinkle cookies with powdered sugar when cooled. Makes 2-3 dozen cookies depending on size.
  - Note: Cookies may be glazed with egg white before baking or drizzled with orange glaze when cooled. To drizzle with glaze: arrange cooled cookies on a rack. Use a fork to drizzle the glaze over the cookies.



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





ARTS & LIVING

C A L E N D A R

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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.

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 17 — Join the Armenian EyeCare Project for its Annual Gala at the beautiful Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach, CA. The fun-filled evening will begin at 6:30pm with a cocktail hour and silent auction followed by a delicious Mediterranean-inspired meal, live music and dance entertainment, and an exciting live auction. Tickets are \$500 per person and for those 35 and under, \$250 per person. To RSVP or for more information, please call 949-933-4069, email [leslie@eyecareproject.com](mailto:leslie@eyecareproject.com) or visit [eyecareproject.com/gala](http://eyecareproject.com/gala)

MASSACHUSETTS

SEPTEMBER 9 — Trinity Family Festival, 12-5 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Sunday. Delicious Armenian food — shish, losh, and chicken kebab — paklava, khadaif, and more with take-out available. Armenian music for your listening and dancing pleasure featuring the Greg Krikorian Ensemble with Greg Krikorian, oud and vocals; George Righellis and Kevin Magarian, guitar and vocals; Mark Der Mugrditchian, clarinet; Charles Dermenjian, dumbeg; and Steve Surabian, tambourine. Lots of activities for children including the Moonwalk. Blessing of the Madagh at 4 p.m., followed by raffle drawing for cash prizes. For further information, log onto [www.htaac.org/calendar/event/575/](http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/575/), contact the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617.354.0632, or email [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

SEPTEMBER 10 — St. James Men’s Club Dinner Meeting Monday: social hour, and mezza at 6:15 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM, St James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA. The speakers will discuss the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research’s exciting plans for its new global center for Armenian Studies now under construction in Belmont, MA. They are Sarah Ignatius, NAASR Executive Director, Yervant Chekijian, NAASR Chairman of the Board, and Marc A. Mamigonian, Director of Academic Affairs. Mezza and Losh Kebab & Kheyma Dinner \$16/person. For additional information call the St James Church office at 617-923-8860 or call Hapet Berberian at 781-367-6598

SEPTEMBER 10 — Holy Trinity Men’s Union welcomes Boston Celtics’ Great Sam Jones, Monday, 6 p.m., Social Hour, 7 p.m., Dinner. Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge MA. Everyone Welcome for this unique opportunity to meet a Boston sports legend. Book signing following talk. Donation for losh kebab and kheyma dinner: \$15 per person. RSVP required, call the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617.354.0632, or email [tmuhtaac@gmail.com](mailto:tmuhtaac@gmail.com). For further information, log onto [www.htaac.org/calendar/event/584/](http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/584/).

SEPTEMBER 13 –7th Annual Surf, Turf & Cigar Evening hosted by Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge. Doors open at 6pm at Armenian Cultural & Education Center (ACEC), 47 Nichols Ave, Watertown, MA, Tickets are \$165.00

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; at 2:30pm “Match the Pair”: Game for all ages! Face Painting: For Kids by Kids, Hoodies RSVP appreciated. [hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org](mailto:hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org)

SEPTEMBER 16 — Armenian Church of the Holy Translators invites you to the annual Armenian Food Festival. Come and enjoy a day filled with traditional Armenian food, music, dancing, and fun children’s activities! Sunday, from noon – 5 p.m. at The Armenian Church of the Holy Translators 38 Franklin Street, Framingham. For further information, contact the church office: 508-875-0868.

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](http://www.stjameswatertown.org). St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown.

SEPTEMBER 23 — “Timeless Classics,” Music of J.S. Bach, performed by Sargis Karapetyan Quartet with Victoria Avetisyan, mezzo-soprano; Deanna Johnson, flute; and Nune Hakobyan, piano and organ; 1 p.m.; Holy Trinity Armenian Church Sanctuary, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA. Event is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Church office at 617.354.0632, or e-mail [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

SEPTEMBER 23 — LIGHTS, CAMERA, STORIES! An Evening with Award-Winning Filmmaker BARED MARONIAN. Screening of “Women of 1915,” exclusive footage of Armenia’s Velvet Revolution, reveal of Maronian’s “Titanic Love.” Reception to follow. Proceeds to benefit Women’s Support Center (Yerevan) and Hanganak Elderly Project (Stepanakert). Co-sponsored by AIWA and AWWA. 5:00 PM. Scottish Rite Masonic Museum & Library – 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA Tickets: \$75 (Students with ID \$25). For tickets: E-mail: [lightscamerastories@gmail.com](mailto:lightscamerastories@gmail.com) or Online: [aiwainternational.org/lightscamerastories](http://aiwainternational.org/lightscamerastories)

SEPTEMBER 27 — Annual Fall Dinner and Drawing sponsored by the Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.; Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge MA. All are invited, and you don’t have to be a member of the 1000 Club to attend and enjoy a delicious losh kebab and pilaf dinner. Tickets are \$9.99 per person and are on sale at the door. The dinner will be followed by the regular monthly raffle drawing at 8 p.m., for monthly prizes of \$2,000, plus 4 \$25 door prizes. “One-time” numbers will be sold on the night of the dinner. Special offer: purchase five “one-time” numbers for \$20, save \$5. For more information, contact the Church office at 617.354.0632, or email [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

SEPTEMBER 29 — The 7th Annual Benefit Dance to benefit Syrian Armenian Relief and Fund for Armenian Relief. Saturday, Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Cultural Center, 34 Boynton St., Worcester. Dance to the music and vocals of the Mugrditchian Ensemble with local favorites Mark Der Mugrditchian, Kevin Magarian, Arthur Chingris, with special guest artists Greg Krikorian and George Righellis. Sponsored by the Armenian Churches of Worcester County: Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, Armenian Church of Our Saviour, Armenian Church of the Martyrs, Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church. Doors Open at 7.30 p.m. For tickets, reservations or information contact Jay Kapur (508) 740-4464, Eva Kopoyan (508) 757-6195, Magdy Faltaous (508) 278-3805 or Donna Barsamian (508) 769-3279. Donation \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door. Deluxe Mezze, coffee and dessert, with cash bar.

SEPTEMBER 30 — Holy Trinity Armenian Church Welcomes Susan Osman, Television and Radio Anchor/Host including almost 20 years with the BBC, Author and Screenwriter; 12:15 p.m., in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Her talk, “I Heard God Laughing” Hafiz, will address how God often has different plans for us than we have for ourselves. For more information, call the Church at 617.354.0632, or e-mail [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

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](mailto:info@stthagop.com) or visit [www.stjameswatertown.org](http://www.stjameswatertown.org).

OCTOBER 20 – Hye Kef 5: Onnik Dinkjian Performs at DoubleTree by Hilton in Andover, MA, with Ara Dinkjian and local ensemble, for Armenian Friends of America, 7 pm to midnight. All proceeds benefit the Armenian churches of the Merrimack Valley. For tickets: John Arzigian – 603-560-3826; Lucy Sirmaian – 978-683-9121; Peter Gulezian – 978-375-1616; Sharke Der Apkarian – 978-808-0598; Kathy Geyer 978-475-8309.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER – Armenian Museum of America is planning a bus trip to view the upcoming Armenia! exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC; Join us for a special tour of the show, which includes two very unique and beautiful illuminated manuscripts from our own collection! Stay tuned for dates and details. Contact: Stephanie Garafolo, [\[lo@armenianmuseum.org\]\(mailto:lo@armenianmuseum.org\). \(617\) 926-2562, ext. 4 \(web-site \[www.armenianmuseum.org\]\(http://www.armenianmuseum.org\)\)](mailto:sgarafo-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

NOVEMBER 4 — Celebrating the Life and Work of Diana Der Hovanessian, Organized by the Armenian Cultural Foundation and co-sponsored by Amaras Art Alliance, Armenian General Benevolent Union-New England, Armenian International Women’s Association, Hamazkaine-Boston, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, New England Poetry Club, Tekeyan Cultural Association. Sunday, November 4, at 4 p.m. Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441 Mystic Street (Route 3), Arlington.

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.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 23 — St. Leon Armenian Church Women’s Guild Hosts a 90th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday. With a commemorative luncheon following the Divine Liturgy, at 1 p.m., in Abajian Hall. Honoring 22 Women’s Guild Members with between four and six decades of service. Reservations by September 15. Contact Margaret Ajamian 201-681-7671, [ajamiann@aol.com](mailto:ajamiann@aol.com) or Lynn Beylerian 201-914-0354, [lynnbeylerian@gmail.com](mailto:lynnbeylerian@gmail.com). Send checks to Lynn Beylerian at 823 Peachtree Lane, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417. Cost is \$30 per person, \$15 for children 12 and under. St. Leon Armenian Church, 12-61 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn.

SEPTEMBER 29 – TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group 20th Anniversary Banquet Celebrating 20 Years of Theater at 7 pm. at the Palisadium, 700 Palisadium Dr. Cliffside Park, NJ. Featuring Special Entertainment by Krikor Satamian. Master of Ceremonies Gerald Papasian. Presentations by past and present MMTG Directors. Special Musical Performance by Hovhannes Babakhanyan. Donation: \$150 pp. For more information and tickets please call, Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850, Talar Sarafian 201-240-8541.

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](http://www.bergenPAC.org)

NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 15 — Oceania Street Armenian Festival. Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs’ annual Oceania Street Armenian Festival will take place on Saturday, from noon until 8 p.m. Rain or shine. Ample outdoor covered seating. Street parking available. Come and enjoy delicious Armenian delicacies, musical entertainment by the Tarpinian Ensemble, dance performances, Book-Tique, Attic Treasures, street vendors and much more. Many chances to win great prizes. For more information, call church office at (718) 225-0235.

continued on next page



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# A Good Time and a Good Cause in Worcester

BENEFIT, from page 1

other to the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, which is collaborating with the “Hay Doun” organization in conjunction with the Canadian Government to obtain immigration rights for Syrian refugees.

According to the organizers, since 2015, more than 1,000 families have arrived in Montreal, and another 300 families arrived in 2017. The Montreal church welcomes the Syrian Armenian families who arrive there and offers moral, spiritual and psychological support; provides temporary housing in the church complex or at homes of families within the church and the Armenian community at large; pays for hotel rooms; orients the families to integrate in the city life, such as administrative support, transportation, schooling, learning the language, finding jobs, helps them to find affordable housing and in some cases provides the rent of initial months; and provides all kinds of basic furnishing and warm clothing.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America is also assisting the church financially to continue this ministry.

“This year we are also giving to FAR,” he said, as one of the committee members suggested it.

Money given to FAR is sent to Syrian-Armenian refugees arriving in Armenia.

Every year the program has taken place at the Church of Our Saviour because it has the largest hall. Bob Babigian, a member of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, was one of the original proponents of the idea. Babigian expressed his frustration with the dearth of news about the plight of the Syrians. He also noted that half the aid money is going to Canada because of US policies reducing the number of refugees to historic lows. “This country is not doing a lot about it. Last year all proceeds went to Canada,” he said, because “the US is not admitting them. We don’t hear about any of them coming to the US.”

He added, “This year the money will go to the church in Canada that is bringing in 400 families each year. They house them, get them cars, appliances, food, etc.”

Babigian noted the Canadian government offers some help for about a year to the newcomers.

He said, an Armenian-American man living in a large home in Western Massachusetts, recently made his house available to several families if they came to the US, “but we are not aware of any of them coming into the US” to take advantage of the offer.

The most raised one year at the dance was \$10,000 Babigian said. More recently the figure dipped to about \$4,500 because of expenses.



Dancing for good

This year, Babigian said, the group is optimistic the proceeds will be higher, as the group is using local musical talent and is also offering a raffle.

Talented local musicians will entertain guests, playing fun songs from a variety of genres. The band will feature Mark Der Mugrditchian on clarinet and *dumbek*; Kevin Magarian on guitar; and Arthur Chingris on *dumbek* with special guests Greg Krikorian on *oud* and vocals and George Reghellis on guitar and vocals.

Babigian has been a lifelong Worcester resident. He got the idea for the collaborative effort from the Knights of Vartan, whose members host an annual program in June handing out scholarships to high school graduates. “They don’t look to see which church they go to. They give the kids little Armenian flags” as well as a small gift, Babigian said.

“Sitting there one night [at the Knights of Vartan program] I thought it is not this church or that church. I got the idea that the churches should do this together,” he said.

Babigian, a retired dentist, and his wife, have three adult children.

Another member of the committee is Nicole L. Malo. Born and raised in Worcester, Malo said that she wants to give back and do something for the community. And the plight of Syrians is one that has tugged at her heart. “There is a part of that resonated with me,” she said.

As with the case of many people in the Armenian-American community, she is a descendant of survivors of the Armenian Genocide. “My grandfather and his mother came” from Chmshgadzak, modern Turkey, as refugees. “What you learn is that every family has one of

those stories. There is something to be said for being humble” about one’s background, she said.

Her grandfather, she said, was separated from his mother and finally reconnected after years.

She was baptized in Holy Trinity Armenian Church, she said, but she called herself “a wandering Christian.” She explained that she has attended many churches in Worcester as well as greater Boston.

She currently works in development and thought that

she would be able to use her job skills to her volunteer efforts. “In some little way some of my experience could help with the dance,” she said. “It is great fun and a great mission.”

Since 2015, the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal has helped hundreds assimilate to their new surroundings. Last year’s dance efforts helped over 300 families start a new life in Canada, and that number is expected to be matched or grow this year. There are currently 8.4 million Syrian children residing as refugees in neighboring countries. That is 80 percent of Syria’s children. And now over 22,000 Syrian-Armenians have resettled in Armenia.

Like her fellow committee member Babigian, she decried the government opposition to refugees resettling here in the US. “Unfortunately, in America, if there is one thing we can change, it is that we are not helping any refugees,” she said.

She also praised “great friends” in Montreal who are helping the refugees.

The dance will take place on Saturday, September 29, 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$45 at the door. (\$20 teens 13-18 yrs. Children 12 & under free.)

For tickets contact Jay Kapur at 508-740-4464 or jkapur@aimtek.com or Eva Kopoyan at 508-757-6195 or Henri Bahnan 508-740-0948.

Everyone is invited to the dance that will include a cash bar, deluxe mezze, dessert and coffee.

To learn more about the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, visit <http://hayavedmontreal.com>.

And for Hay Doun: <http://www.haydoun.ca>.

## CALENDAR

### FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

#### NEW YORK

**SEPTEMBER 22 - January 13, 2019 – ARMENIA! at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.** Armenia! is the “first major exhibition to explore the importance of Armenians and their remarkable achievements in a global context...” <https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2018/armenia>

**SEPTEMBER 30 – “Armenia Way” Official Street Co-Naming Ceremony.** Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan and the Parish Council of the Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs are happy to announce that the official ceremony to co-name 210th Street between Horace Harding Expressway and 58th Avenue in Bayside, New York as “Armenia Way” will take place on Sunday, at 12:30 p.m. Please join us as we celebrate this historic occasion with the participation of politicians and community leaders. Special celebratory fellowship will follow the ceremony.

**OCTOBER 13 – Concert: “Armenian Songs From My Heart.”** On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Consecration of Holy Martyrs, Ruthann Turekian (soprano) dedicates this concert to Dn. Onnik Dokmeciyan, Dn. Edward Karnikian and Mary Selvinazian, for their support of her musical pursuits and to her late mother, Margaret Bedrossian Turekian. Concert includes works by Gomidas, Alemshah, Hekimian, Suni, Khachaturian and others. Concert in Holy Martyrs Church sanctuary to start at 7:30pm (doors open at 6:45pm). Tickets \$40 (advanced purchase), \$45 at the door. For tickets, please call (718) 225-0235. Reception to follow concert in Kalustyan Hall.

#### WASHINGTON D.C.

**SEPTEMBER 11 – Public Discussion, “At The White House With President Reagan and the Current Affairs in The White House Today.”** Guest Speaker, Aram Bakshian, speech writer for Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Director of presidential speech writing for Ronald Reagan. 7 p.m. St. Mary Armenian Church Cultural Hall. Free entrance, reception. Organized by Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

**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](http://www.aimhye.com) for tickets and more information.

#### CANADA

**OCTOBER 5 – Montreal book presentation by Adrienne G. Alexanian on her father’s memoir, *Forced into Genocide: Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army*, Friday, 7:30 p.m. AGBU Montreal Center – Demirdjian Hall, 805 Manogian Street Saint Laurent, QCH4N1Z5. Reception and book signing to follow. (All proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated to the AGBU). RSVP – [info@agbumontreal.org](mailto:info@agbumontreal.org) (514) 748-2428**

**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.**

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## COMMENTARY

## COMMENTARY

# Chancellor Merkel's Caucasian Adventures

By Edmond Y. Azadian

One of prolific German playwright Bertolt Brecht's most famous allegorical plays is called "The Caucasian Chalk Circle," which takes place in Georgia. In "The Caucasian Circle," the main characters are a peasant girl working for the governor's wife, Grusho, and Azdak, a judge, while the other two will try to rescue them from the magical chalk circle.

In the play, the child goes to the woman who cared for the child rather than his birth mother.

The above allegory is revived by the recent trip of German Chancellor Angela Merkel to the Caucasus, where Georgia is held tight by Russia, but an overwhelming arbiter offers that country to NATO. However, the chancellor admitted that possibility is not yet on the agenda, and the Russian Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev warned that "horrible things may happen" should Georgia join the NATO structure.

It is in this kind of political atmosphere that the German chancellor visited the three countries in the Caucasus. Before that, in mid-August, she had met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Germany and later on in Sochi. Therefore, she was very well briefed on the red lines which Russia had drawn around what is considered Moscow's sphere of influence.

Chancellor Merkel, true to her unshakable principles, did not budge on her policies but she navigated the choppy waters skillfully. In Georgia, for example, she reiterated her criticism of Russian military presence in Abkhazia and South Ossetia but on the other hand, she cultivated her relations with Moscow on some vital issues that concern both countries. While President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan was expecting her to serve as the salesperson for the Azeri-Turkmenistan gas in Europe, she sharply rebuked that country by stating that there is no alternative to Russian gas. She went further, reminding the Azeri authorities that even during the Cold War Europe depended on gas from the Soviet Union.

The other issue of mutual interest with Russia is the united stand of the two countries against President Trump's decision to scrap the Iran nuclear deal. And finally, the two countries have a joint vested interest in the resettlement of Syrian war refugees. Russia is the guarantor of the survival of the Assad regime in Syria and the promoter of the reconstruction of that war-ravaged country.

Ms. Merkel has been the advocate of an open-door policy for refugees to her own detriment. In addition to the three million Turks living in Germany, she further opened the floodgates to Syrian refugees. Welcoming the Muslim refugees almost cost her her job during the most recent elections. She barely survived with her coalition and came out weakened politically. Some refugees have been returning to Syria. Reconstruction in that country will further relieve Europe of its refugee problem.

Merkel's visit to the three Caucasian republics was carried out on different levels and very different political atmospheres. She had a trade delegation with her to look for business opportunities in the region. In Georgia, she dealt with the issue of visa liberalization, which had encouraged many Georgians to seek asylum in Germany and in the rest of Europe. She determined that Georgia was a safe country and thus the asylum seekers could return.

While in Tbilisi, she not only criticized Russian military presence in the breakaway regions but also laid wreaths to the fallen soldiers defending Georgia's border. This was Merkel's second visit to Georgia, where she was asked when would that country join the European Union and NATO. Ms. Merkel replied that the issues are not yet on the agenda.

The warmest reception was accorded to her in Armenia, where she was received with full military honors. After the airport ceremony, she headed to the martyrs' monument at Tsitsernakaberd, to lay a wreath, plant a fir tree and leave a note in the official register.

She characterized the killings as "heinous crimes against Armenians which cannot and must not be forgotten."

She stopped short of calling those killings a genocide, although later on she revisited the issue by evoking the "spirit of the 2016 Bundestag resolution" recognizing the Armenian Genocide. She certainly had the row in the mind with Turkey when that resolution was adopted and that at this delicate time, when President Erdogan was mending fences with Germany, she avoided another flare-up.

Her stroll along Northern Avenue in Yerevan was remarkable.

The Iron Lady was visibly relaxed and smiling. She was hugging and kissing not only the leaders in Armenia and their families, but also ordinary citizens. How much of that mutual good will can translate into political assets remains to be seen. She acknowledged that she was visiting a capital city that was 2,800 years old which had left its mark on human civilization. She also admitted that the freedom brought by the recent Velvet Revolution was palpable.

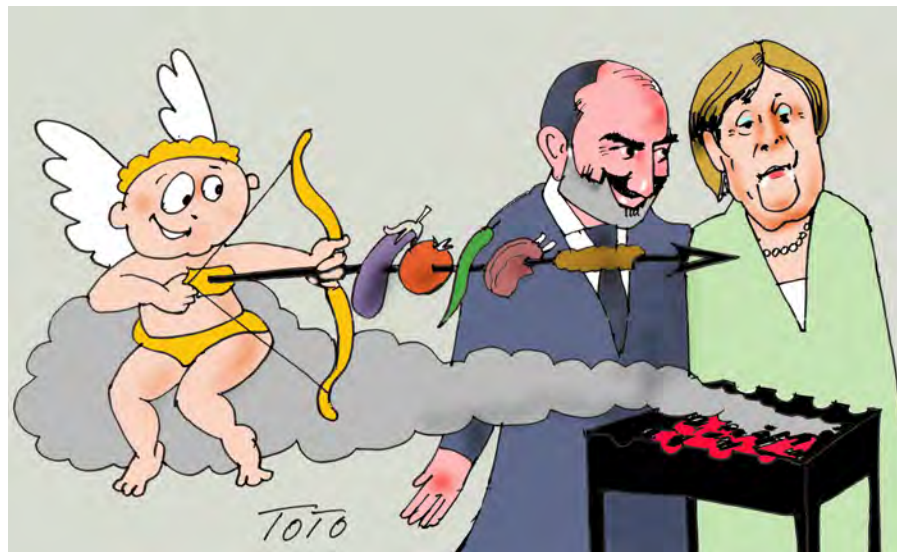
During the banquet honoring the guest and during the joint press conference, Prime Minister Pashinyan stated that Germany was Armenia's third largest trading partner in the world and its first in Europe. He also offered foreign policy clarifications, saying that Armenia does not build its foreign policy with one country at the expense of another. He firmly stated that relations with Russia remain strong, while the country is deepening relations with the European Union.

Ms. Merkel further added that the policy pursued by Armenia may serve as a conduit for European firms to reach out to the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and Iranian markets. She also offered to help resolve the Karabakh conflict, in her capacity as a member of the Organization for the Security and Cooperation in Europe, whose Minsk Group is tasked with bringing peace to Karabakh. Although the chancellor adhered to an even-handed policy on the Karabakh issue, on August 21, the German government's spokesman Steffan Seibert told reporters that the "position of Azerbaijan authorities does not contribute to the dialogue around Nagorno Karabakh."

At the conclusion of the chancellor's visit, it was agreed that Mr. Pashinyan would come up within six months with a way for Germany to help Armenia advance. One of the projects may be the development of the infrastructure of Armenia's irrigation system. When the Bundestag resolution was adopted there was also admission of guilt for German participation – or at least collusion – in the Armenian Genocide.

There is blood on German hands from three genocides in the 20th century. The first was in Namibia in 1904 and 1908 when the Herero and Nama tribe members were exterminated. Today Namibia is suing the German government for compensation.

The second was the Armenian Genocide, which if not organized, was at least tolerated by Germany and the third, of course, is the Jewish Holocaust, for which Germany paid com-



pensation to the new Republic of Israel at an astronomical rate.

There was talk that Germany can voluntarily assume to develop Armenia's irrigation system and save Lake Sevan.

It was a miracle that a 30-kilometer underground canal was dug during the Soviet era to divert the waters of Arpa River into Lake Sevan. Ever since then, the irresponsible use of Sevan's waters is leading to the dangerous diminishment of that water resource and a rescue plan is in order at this time.

Lake Sevan, with a water surface elevation of 6,234 feet is the second highest navigable water body after Lake Titicaca in the Andes between Peru and Bolivia, which is 12,507 feet high.

Chancellor Merkel's Caucasian visit was concluded with a sour note in Azerbaijan, where she was greeted by a third-level government functionary, the deputy prime minister. Even before arriving in Baku, one of her delegation members, Albert Weiler, was labeled persona non grata and she gracefully replaced him with another member. But once in Baku, she did not mince her words in reminding President Aliyev about the corruption in the country, the abuse of human rights and the existence of political prisoners.

Ms. Merkel did not stay overnight in Baku, as she had done in Tbilisi and Yerevan.

That, in itself, was a statement.

At a moment when President Trump is bashing Germany, the strongest country in Europe is cautiously looking for alternative partners, at least in trade, if not in politics. With Germany's help to lift up Armenia's economy, maybe a window over Europe is opening at this time.

# Mirror Spectator

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## COMMENTARY

# A Look at the Long History Of Armenians In Poland

By Grzegorz Pelczynski

Lviv, Ukraine and KRAKOW, Poland – Armenians were settling in the areas of today's Ukraine, later incorporated into Poland, as early as the 11th century. During the following centuries, they established settlement centers in many cities and towns, in particular Kamieniec Podolski and Lvov. They were mainly occupied with trade and craft. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Armenians introduced Orient onto the Polish market, importing from the East a variety of oriental luxury goods, and producing their own from oriental designs for the nobility and patricians. Although they were an affluent community, some restrictions were imposed on them, since members of the Armenian Apostolic Church were regarded as heretics in the Polish society. However, in 1630 they entered a union with the Roman-Catholic Church and became Catholics of the Armenian Liturgy. This advanced their assimilation processes.

Towards the end of the 18th century, the country of Poland, partitioned by Russia, Prussia and Austria, ceased to exist. The area inhabited by the Armenians, i.e. East Galicia with its capital in Lvov, was incorporated into Austria. Soon afterwards, the nearby Bukowina became the settlement place for the Polish Armenians.

In the inter-war period there were almost five thousand Armenians in Poland; one thousand Polish Armenians lived in Bukowina, which then belonged to Romania. Also, in Poland lived about one thousand emigrants from Armenia and Russia who had escaped the 1915-1920 pogroms in West Armenia and the October Revolution. The Polish Armenians were at the time highly Polonized, except for those in the village of Kutu, who had preserved many elements of their culture. One thing retained from the old times was the Lvov Archdiocese of the Armenian Rite, headed by archbishop Józef Teodorowicz, an outstanding politician of the "Second Polish Republic". In the 1930's, the Archdiocese Association of Armenians initiated many cultural undertakings that performed an integrative function. Despite being a small population, the Armenians were highly respected by the Polish people not only in view of their prosperity, as many of them were landowners and industrialists, but also because of their patriotism.

During WWII, the Armenians from Eastern Little Poland (Malopolska Wschodnia) and Bukowina experienced twists and turns of fate similar to those of the other Polish citizens in those regions. During the Soviet occupation numerous Polish Armenians, who represented former elites, suffered severe persecutions. When the Germans invaded the area, the lives of some Armenians became threatened due to the exotic, Jewish-like appearance. At the same time, that appearance was instrumental in saving Jews, for whom Armenian birth certificates could be forged. A significant number of Armenians, particularly those from Pokucie, were killed by the Ukrainian Uprising Army (UPA). In the genocide in Kutu, lasting from 19 to 21 April 1944, over one hundred Armenians lost their lives. For a certain period of time, Armenian collaboration divisions were stationed in Lvov, for whom pastoral service was provided by priests Dionizy Kajetanowicz, the Archdiocese administrator, and Kazimierz Romaszkan. They both became imprisoned and, after the incorporation of Eastern Little Poland (Malopolska Wschodnia) to the Soviet Union, sentenced to many years' imprisonment. Unusual were the stories of the Armenians in Bukowina, who regarded themselves as Poles, yet were residing in a country allied with the Third Reich.

As a result of WWII, the territory for centuries inhabited by the Polish Armenians became part of the USSR. The Armenians, like most of the Polish population living there, left their houses to go west to Poland. They were to become the citizens of the Polish People's Republic (PRL). They settled mainly in the "Regained Territories," predominantly in the Upper Silesia and the Lower Silesia. Many of them also settled in Cracow, Warsaw, the Tri-city (Trójmiasto) and other towns. Some tried to settle where their relatives or acquaintances lived

before WWII. However, they did not manage to create close-knit settlement centers, being widely scattered throughout Poland. The dispersion affected not only members of parishes but also closest relatives, so contacts were often lost.

## Renewed Spirit

For more than 30 years, Armenians had been dissolving into the mass of the Polish society. However, at the beginning of the 1980s, their communal spirit was suddenly roused. At that point their population was estimated at about fifteen thousand, which is a number difficult to accept. It included the Polish Armenians and their children, mostly from mixed marriages, and the families of the pre-war and post-war emigrants. Irrespective, though, of how big or small the population was, there were found in it individuals capable of initiating a revival.

The rebirth of the Armenian community in the 1980s enabled its development in the "Third Polish Republic." In the new Polish society the Armenians became a minority with its own organizations and institutions and a considerable degree of good will.

In September 1990 the Armenian Cultural Society (OTK) was established in Cracow, headed by Adam Terlecki. On June 15, 1991, the OTK organized the First Polish National Meeting of the Armenian Community. In 1993, Biuletyn Ormia skiego Towarzystwa Kulturalnego [Bulletin of the Armenian Culture Society], edited by Anna Krzysztofowicz, was first issued, inspiring an outburst of publishing activity.

Besides OTK, various other organizations were founded, such as the Abp. J. Teodorowicz Association of Armenians in Poland, with the seat in Gliwice. Also worth noting are two other organizations – the Ararat Association of Armenians in Poland and the Association of Armenians in Poland – founded by emigrants from Armenia. Of all those, however, the association headed by Adam Terlecki appears to have made the biggest achievements.

The period described here has been particularly unfavorable for the lot of the Armenian-Catholic rite. Its pre-war tradition was practically terminated by the death of priest Kazimierz

Rev. Isakowicz-Zaleski.

In 2001, the Polish Armenians together with the rest of the Armenian Diaspora celebrated 1700 years of Christianity in Armenia. In June 2001, Nerses Bedros XIX, the patriarch of the Armenian-Catholic Church, led the ceremonies commemorating the 1700th anniversary of Armenian baptism in Poland, performing Armenian liturgy in several Polish cities. Undoubtedly, the anniversary activated the Polish Armenians in Poland, both those present here for centuries as well as the newcomers. By joining the worldwide celebrations, they demonstrated their affiliation with the Diaspora.

## Armenians Move to Poland from Soviet Union

At the end of the 1980s, Armenians from the Soviet Union began coming to Poland. Emigration continued in the following decades. The first groups came from the areas affected by the earthquake in 1988, and were joined by refugees from Azerbaijan at the time when their country was in conflict with Armenia over Karabakh. Once in Poland, they were mostly placed in centers for refugees. Then arrived people escaping poverty in Armenia and in other former Soviet Republics. Some of them stayed in Poland only temporarily before going on to the West. Most, however, remained longer, ultimately to settle. This produced some problems over their legal status, since Poland was only gaining experience in immigration policy and the civil service did not always know how to deal with the new situation. Nevertheless, the emigrants mostly found Poland an attractive place to live, and were aided by well-organized Armenian organizations and institutions as well as the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, which opened in 1998.

A considerable proportion of the immigrants are involved in common trade. However, they do not continue the earliest tradition of importing luxury goods to Poland; instead, they mostly sell inexpensive clothing imported from Asian countries. The Armenian salesmen have to compete with the Polish vendors at market places in big cities, which occasionally leads to disagreements or squabbles. On the other hand, there are also Armenians who have set up independent businesses. Armenian restaurants serving Armenian cuisine deserve special mention. Some Armenians also manage to go into self-employment or freelancing. An exceptional venue is that of the Gagika Persamiana Gallery in Gdansk, which specializes in the sale of Polish Armenians' art work and is involved in the organization of cultural events.

However, not all Armenians are successful in the country on the Vistula. Those without jobs, suffering ill health, devoid of the Polish citizenship or a permanent stay permit, are in a difficult situation, and the Armenian institutions and organizations are not always able to help them, as information about the people in need does not always reach them. Such immigrants can only rely on charity institutions. It is hoped that with the growing stabilization of the "new emigration", as these immigrants are often called, the number of those in need of financial support will be decreasing.

An interesting phenomenon is that of Armenian education. Organized education of children was possible in the more stable conditions of the Armenian communities, essentially in Warsaw and Cracow, two cities inhabited not only by a sufficient number of children but also teachers with appropriate qualifications acquired in Armenia. Weekend schools are run and attended by dozens of children. Not all can be taught in the native language spoken at home; those with parents settled in Poland are educated in Polish schools and often become very good pupils.

A matter of special concern for the Armenians worldwide is the mentioned mass killing of their compatriots in Turkey, also remembered by the Polish Armenians. In the 1980's, their priests remembered the victims while performing Mass; Armenians in Warsaw issued brochures about the subject. The level of interest increased in the times of the "Third Polish Republic", after the new wave of immigrants arrived from Armenia, where the question of the Turkish responsibility for the crime has been one of the most important political issues for decades. Owing to the efforts by the Polish Armenians and following the example of parliaments worldwide, on 19 April 2005 the Polish Sejm adopted by acclamation a resolution paying tribute to the victims of the genocide and condemning the perpetrators.

A year earlier, at St. Nicholas Church in Cracow a Khachkar was erected in order to commemorate the genocide of the Armenians in Turkey, despite the Turkish Embassy's efforts to prevent the initiative. The monument has become an exceptional symbol for the Polish Armenians, who gather around it on April 24, the day dedicated to the victims of the genocide.

The Armenians settled in Poland for centuries and the Armenians immigrants in the last 25 years have formed an extraordinary community. Both groups maintain their own traditions, which however intermesh today in a variety of ways.

(Grzegorz Pelczynski graduated with degrees in ethnology (1986) and theology (1990) from Adam Mickiewicz University. He conducted research in Armenia, Russia and Ukraine. Member of the International Association for Armenian Studies and Poznańskie Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk. He is a professor at the Department of Ethnology and Cultural Anthropology of the University of Wrocław, and manager of the Easter Research Center.)



Armenians at the Khachkar in Krakow

Filipiak in 1992, the last active minister of the Lvov Archdiocese of the Armenian Rite. After Filipiak's death, the legal status of the Armenian rite was standardized. Fr. Józef Glemp, in 1992 erected the Holy Trinity Armenian-Catholic Rite and Parish with its seat in Gliwice. Being a specific parish, it gathered all the believers on the whole territory of Poland. Priest Kowalczyk became the parish priest, whereas priest Cezary Annusiewicz was entrusted with the care over the followers in northern Poland.

Despite his passion and numerous organizational merits, Kowalczyk lost the respect of the majority of his parishioners due to his difficult personal character. As a result of an incident on September 8, 1999, in Gdansk, he was expelled from the Armenian community. On that day, along with a group of men, Kowalczyk attacked Fr. Annusiewicz in St. Peter and Paul's Church in an attempt to seize the painting of the Heavenly Mother of Mercy from the sanctuary founded by Filipiak. The incident was publicized in the media and brought unnecessary shame onto the Armenian community. Unfortunately, Filipiak continued committing misdeeds and frauds, which ultimately led to his imprisonment.

After those incidents, the organizational structure of the Armenian rite became unstable. Over time, the serving minister became priest Isakowicz-Zaleski, earlier banned from travel to Rome, now involved in charity work as president of Brother Albert's Foundation in Radwanowice. The metropolitan of the Armenian liturgy became archbishop Kazimierz Nycz, who at the end of 2009 decided to establish three territorial parishes: the northern one with the seat in Gdansk, headed by Prelate Cezary Annusiewicz; the central one in Warsaw, headed by Artur Awdalian, and the southern one in Gliwice, headed by





## COMMENTARY



## My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Despite an Encouraging Visit to Armenia Chancellor Merkel Didn't Say Genocide

Last week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Media reports indicated that her visit to Armenia and meetings with its leadership were very constructive. Armenian-German political, cultural and trade relations are expected to expand. Merkel's visit resulted in a much needed boost for Armenia's new democratic government.

One of the sensitive issues that both Armenians and the international community were carefully following was Chancellor Merkel's comments on the Armenian Genocide. The German Parliament (Bundestag) almost unanimously adopted a resolution in 2016 recognizing the Armenian Genocide and declared that "the German Empire bears partial complicity in the events."

Immediately after the adoption of the Genocide resolution, Turkey withdrew its ambassador from Berlin and threatened to cut off ties with Germany. Relations between Germany and Turkey remain tense for a variety of reasons, but are expected to improve after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's forthcoming visit to Germany in late September.

While in Yerevan, Chancellor Merkel paid a visit to the Armenian Genocide Memorial. She laid a wreath in memory of the 1.5 million Armenian victims and planted a tree at an

adjacent park. However, Merkel avoided the use of the term genocide in Yerevan, describing Turkey's mass killings as "heinous crimes against Armenians" which "cannot and must not be forgotten." She also stated that she had visited the Genocide Memorial "in the spirit of the Bundestag 2016 resolution." She clarified that the language used was "a political, not a legal classification." Despite Merkel's goodwill toward Armenia and her very positive statements, I hope that Armenia's leaders reminded her that the proper term to describe the planned extermination of 1.5 million Armenians is "Genocide," not simply "heinous crimes."

Armenia's leaders could have informed Chancellor Merkel of a recent report by Ben Knight of Germany's Deutsche Welle (DW) about the weapons provided by the German Reich to the Ottoman Turkish forces to carry out the Armenian Genocide.

According to DW, "Mauser, Germany's main manufacturer of small arms in both world wars, supplied the Ottoman Empire with millions of rifles and handguns, which were used in the genocide with the active support of German officers." Furthermore, quoting from a report by "Global Net—Stop the Arms Trade," DW stated that "the Turkish army was also equipped with hundreds of cannons produced by the Essen-based company Krupp, which were used in Turkey's assault on Armenian resistance fighters holding out on the Musa Dagh Mountain in 1915."

The author of the Global Net report, Wolfgang Landgraeber, wrote that "Mauser really had a rifle monopoly for the Ottoman Empire."

DW revealed that "many of the firsthand German accounts in the report come from letters by Major Graf Eberhard Wolffskehl, who was stationed in the southeastern Turkish city of Urfa in October 1915. Urfa was home to a substantial population of Armenians, who barricaded themselves inside houses against the Turkish infantry. Wolffskehl was serving as chief of staff to Fakhri Pasha, deputy commander of the Ottoman 4th Army, which had been called in as reinforcement."

In a letter to his wife, Major Wolffskehl shamelessly bragged about the killing of Armenians by German troops in Urfa: "They [the Armenians] had occupied the houses south of the church in numbers. When our artillery fire struck the houses and killed many people inside, the others tried to retreat into the church itself. But ... they had to go around the church across the open church courtyard. Our infantry had already reached the houses to the left of the courtyard and shot down the people fleeing across the church courtyard in piles. All in all the infantry, which I used in the main attack ... acquitted itself very well and advanced very dashingly."

Landgraeber also reported that "while German companies provided the guns, and German soldiers the expert advice on how to use them, German officers also laid the ideological foundations" for the Armenian Genocide.

German Navy Attache Hans Humann, a member of the German-Turkish officer corps and close friend of the Ottoman Empire's war minister, Enver Pasha, wrote: "The Armenians — because of their conspiracy with the Russians — will be more or less exterminated. That is hard, but useful."

Furthermore, Landgraeber wrote in his report about "the Prussian major general Colmar Freiherr von der Goltz, a key figure who became a vital military adviser to the Ottoman court in 1883 and saw himself as a lobbyist for the German arms industry and supported both Mauser and Krupp in their efforts to secure Turkish commissions. (He once boasted in his diary, 'I can claim that without me the rearmament of the [Turkish] army with German models would not have happened.') Goltz 'helped persuade the Sultan to try and end the Armenian question once and for all!'"

The above quotations support the admission by Bundestag's 2016 resolution that Germany was complicit in the Armenian Genocide and German President Joachim Gauck's acknowledgment in 2015 about Germany's "co-responsibility" for the Armenian Genocide. Being well aware of these facts, Chancellor Merkel should have called the Armenian Genocide by its proper name: Genocide.

# A Balancing Act in the South Caucasus

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

While on tour in the South Caucasus last week, German Chancellor Angela Merkel was walking a tightrope, in an attempt to carefully balance geopolitical, economic and human rights concerns. Though some critical commentaries greeted her on return to Berlin, the overall evaluation of her trip was positive, and for good reason.

Accompanied by a delegation including parliamentarians as well as industrial representatives, Merkel visited Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan from August 23-25. Her agenda featured relations with Germany and the European Union, migration, asylum, economic ties and energy deliveries. Underlying all these topics was the primary concern to find peaceful solutions to the geopolitical conflicts involving all three post-Soviet republics.

## Russia or the EU?

On her first stop, in the Georgian capital Tiflis, she held talks with Prime Minister Mamuka Bachtadze and assured him of German help in trade, development projects and training programs for youth. Plans include German financial support of 193 million euros for construction of a gas storage facilities as well as water and waste water plants. Georgia has made considerable economic and political progress since its association and free trade agreement with the EU, for which the Chancellor praised her host. One issue raised relates to the considerable number of Georgians who have come to the EU and especially Germany, in search of better economic prospects. They include Georgians asking for political asylum. This trend, as Bachtadze noted, has been declining due to efforts on both sides. Merkel said in this respect that she supported the proposal to designate Georgia as a "safe country of origin," thereby facilitating repatriation for persons whose asylum application is not accepted.

But the burning issues are geopolitical, as became evident during a session Merkel had with Georgian students. They wanted to know from "one of the leaders of the free world," as one student addressed her, when they would be able to join the European Union (EU) and also the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Students also pressed her on the issue of South Ossetia and Abkhazia; though she had characterized the situation of the Russian troop presence there as a "gross injustice," they were not satisfied until she agreed to designate the regions as occupied. In her talks with Bachtadze she made clear that there was still a long way to go, from EU association and free trade to actual membership, not to mention becoming part of NATO.

The German chancellor, who had held in-depth talks with Vladimir Putin a week before her visit, said the Russian president was well aware of her position. She assured her hosts that the conflict around South Ossetia and Abkhazia, which had broken out almost exactly 10 years earlier, "would not be for-

gotten and would be on the agenda and again." She laid a wreath in commemoration of the Georgians who died during that conflict.

## Armenia, an Example

In Yerevan Merkel faced many of the same issues, and was careful in her formulations on sensitive subjects. She was received with full honors at the airport.

According to reports in the Armenian wires, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stressed the respect and sympathy for his guest and her country. In welcoming her officially, he said, "This is the first-ever visit paid by a German Chancellor to Armenia, and in that respect, a historical event is taking place. Its value is enhanced by the fact that your visit follows major political changes in Armenia, and I look forward to holding effective talks with you in this new situation, under new political conditions." He said he hoped the visit would "usher in a new chapter in the two countries' bilateral relations," adding that "Germany is Armenia's third largest trade and economic partner on the global scale and the first one in Europe."

Thanking him for the warm reception, Merkel stated in part, "My visit comes in the wake of a major change in Armenia. While unexpected for us, it may be propitious for your country." She said she was eager to hear his views on the recent democratic developments, the "peaceful protests and the 'velvet revolution,'" and said she could "feel a sense of those changes in the air." Later, during a stroll through the city center, she would witness firsthand the overwhelming support the new prime minister enjoys from the population. "Today," she said, "we are in a city that is 2,800 years old and in a country whose people have left many traces in mankind's history."

After leaving the airport, she went with Pashinyan to the monument at Tsitsernakaberd, to pay her respects to the victims of the genocide. Though she chose not to use the term, she said her visit to the memorial was "in the spirit of the Bundestag 2016 resolution" recognizing the genocide, which was "an important step in the culture of remembrance." "We understand what atrocities were committed against countless Armenians," she was quoted saying. "This suffering should not and will not be forgotten."

She also visited the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies with the Minister of Education and Science Arayik Harutyunyan, where she said she "saw teenagers develop innovations while holding fast to the roots of Armenian culture. I just realized what a knowledgeable society exists in Armenia."

In their extensive official talks, Merkel and Pashinyan addressed bilateral and regional concerns. As in Georgia, the migration issue arose. The mass emigration that has characterized recent years, has seen Armenians going to Russia (where many have become citizens), the U.S. and Europe. Of the three South Caucasus countries on her itinerary, Armenia has the highest rate of emigration, which represents a brain drain for

the country. Merkel called for closer coordination to deal with matters pertaining to migration and asylum, saying there was "still a lot to be done." During their joint press conference, Pashinyan stressed the positive impact of the democratic changes in Armenia, which would lead to a halt in emigration and the return of many who had left in recent years. This was the way he said the problem could be dealt with. In this regard he expressed his hope that the West would recognize the progress made under his leadership, especially in the economic field. Merkel said Germany was "ready to boost and develop bilateral economic ties," expressing hopes that "we will be able to record new achievements in that direction."

Armenia has shown a trade deficit with the EU since the 1990s. For March 2018 it was \$197 millions, according to Economy Watch. Trade with the EU accounts for 23.6% of all Armenia's commerce. It is Armenia's biggest export market, representing 26.7% of all exports. In this context, Pashinyan underlined the importance of the ratification of the Comprehensive and Extended Partnership Agreement, while reaffirming his country's commitment to implementing comprehensive reforms. He said that Armenia looked forward to getting larger targeted assistance from the European Union, based on the "more for more" principle.

Pashinyan was clear in his commitment to continue good relations with Russia, both strategic and economic. Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union is therefore not be questioned; at the same time, he stressed the desire to enhance the free trade agreement with Europe. As noted by Deutsche Welle, Merkel explicitly endorsed this approach, as she considers the interplay between Armenia's democratic development and its de facto dependency on Russia in a positive light. For the German Chancellor, Armenia could set an example, demonstrating the possibility of maintaining good relations with the EU and with Russia at the same time.

Finally, according to Armenian wires, Merkel and Pashinyan also discussed issues related to visa liberalization, enhanced contacts between people, cooperation in healthcare, the environment, road construction, and information technologies. They expressed satisfaction with the bilateral cooperation in science, education and culture.

Angela Merkel was received on August 25 at Echmiadzin by Catholicos of All Armenians Kareken II, who said her visit would provide impetus for further developing bilateral relations. Merkel shared her impressions of her visit and expressed Germany's readiness to boost the partnership. The two also exchanged thoughts on the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

This complex problem played a central role in the political discussions. As a permanent member of the Minsk Group within the OSCE, Germany can and wants to be instrumental in finding a negotiated solution. Recently, in early July, the co-chairs of the Minsk Group, from the Russian Federation, France and see CAUCASUS, page 20



