

THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXIX, NO. 13, Issue 4557

\$ 2.00

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

France Bids Farewell to ‘Giant’ Charles Aznavour

PARIS (AFP and *Guardian*) – France paid a moving national homage on October 5 to the late singer Charles Aznavour, the little man with the very big life.

With honors that are usually reserved for national heroes, one of the greatest songwriters of the 20th century was lauded as a cultural giant by the leaders of his two homelands – France and Armenia – at a ceremony in Paris.

Aznavour – who was still touring at 94 – died in his bath on Monday, October 1, just days after he declared that he would like to breathe his last on stage.

He had concerts planned in both Brussels and his hometown of Paris over the next month.

The ceremony at the Invalides began with Aznavour’s coffin, draped in the see FUNERAL, page 5



Relatives of French-Armenian singer-songwriter Charles Aznavour and France’s President Emmanuel Macron follow his coffin carried by French Republican Guards during a ceremony at the Invalides in Paris

Street Renamed for Artsakh in Glendale

GLENDALE (*Glendale News-Press*) – A sign for Artsakh Avenue – formerly a stretch of Maryland Avenue – was unveiled Tuesday, October 2, during a street naming ceremony hosted by the city of Glendale.

The event drew officials from near and far: All five Glendale City Council members were present, in addition to state Sen. Anthony Portantino and Robert Avetisyan, a US representative for Artsakh, which is a contested republic between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In June, the City Council voted 4-0 to rename a two-block section of Maryland Avenue, between Wilson Avenue and Harvard Street, to Artsakh Avenue.

During the decision-making process, Councilman Ara Najarian said it was overdue to have a street referencing the city’s large Armenian-American community.

Approval of the name change followed see GLENDALE, page 20



Artsakh Representative to the US Robert Avetisyan speaks.

Archbishop Aykazian as Part of Delegation Meets With Cuban Leaders, Iranian Foreign Minister

By Aram Arkun
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WASHINGTON – Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Diocesan Legate and Ecumenical Director of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, participated recently in clerical delegations traveling to Cuba, meeting with the Cuban president, and speaking with the Iranian foreign minister.

The Council of Churches of Cuba invited a delegation from the National Council of Churches of Christ in the US (NCC) to go to Cuba from August 22 to 25 to help celebrate the 70th anniversary of the creation of the World Council of Churches. Five church leaders went, including Aykazian.

Aykazian explained that the Cuban government knew of their visit and invited them to meet with various authorities. Minister of Foreign Affairs Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla cut short his vacation to speak with them.

see AYKAZIAN, page 20



From left, Hagop Vartivarian of the Central Board of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the US and Canada, President Armen Sarkissian, Nouneh Sarkissian, Kevork Marashlian, chairman of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party Eastern District Committee

President Sarkissian Honored with East-West Institute’s Global Statesman Award

NEW YORK – On October 3, President Armen Sarkissian of Armenia was given the 25th annual John Edwin Mroz Global Statesman Award of the East-West Institute at the New York Athletic Club. Sarkissian is vice president of the East-West Institute. Mroz was the founder of the Institute, which continues to attempt to lessen tensions between the East and the West.

Previous winners of the Mroz award include President George H. W. Bush in 1995, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in 1999, British Prime Minister Tony Blair in 2005, former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in 2008, and Hong Kong chief executive Tung Chee Hwa.

see STATESMAN, page 3

NEWS IN BRIEF

President Sarkissian Congratulates New Iraq President

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian sent a congratulatory message to Barham Salih, the new president of Iraq.

Sarkissian wished success for the newly elected Iraqi president, expressing confidence that during his tenure the problems facing Iraq will be solved, the country and people’s welfare will be restored.

US Announces Increase In Assistance to Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – US Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills announced on October 9 that there will be an increase in assistance provided to Armenia by the US.

The US has provided an extra \$14 million for supporting Armenian initiatives connected with political changes, while during the upcoming year the US plans to provide \$26 million, which is \$20 million more compared to previous totals.

These funds will support programs rather than political processes, including civil society and the independent media.

Prime Minister, President Hold Talks to Defuse Tension

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan met with President of Armen Sarkissian on October 9 to discuss the domestic political situation and developments in Armenia, including issues referring to the holding of early parliamentary elections.

Sarkissian said, “We had agreed during our telephone conversations, as well as our meeting in Paris that we should meet. I have already met with [Parliament Speaker] Mr. [Ara] Babloyan and I would like to discuss the domestic political situation with you.”

Pashinyan said, “It’s really very important that we discuss this issue also with the President of the Republic. In fact, I can say now that in the recent days a number of developments take place, which seem to lead to a solution. Particularly, we signed a memorandum with the President of the Prosperous Armenia Party Gagik Tsarukyan on holding early parliamentary elections in December and another 16 MPs have supported that idea in a written form. I think that the process has taken the direction of de-escalation, which is positive.”

Sarkissian said, “I am also very happy that the process goes on in the atmosphere of dialogue and tolerance. It’s very important that the problem is really solved.”

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Yerevan Opera Hosts Caballé Tribute Concert

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) – A concert to honor Montserrat Caballé, a world-renowned Spanish opera singer and a friend of the Armenian people, took place at the Alexander Spendiaryan Armenian National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet on October 9.

Caballé died on October 6 in Barcelona aged 85. She had been suffering from poor health for some time and was admitted to a hospital in Barcelona last month.

Her career spanned 50 years, the BBC reported.

Caballé had stints with the Basel Opera and Bremen Opera before her international breakthrough in 1965 in Lucrezia Borgia at Carnegie Hall in New York. She went on to perform with the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera and Vienna State Opera, appearing opposite the likes of Luciano Pavarotti and Plácido Domingo.

In 2013, Caballé visited Armenia and Artsakh. In the same year she released an album titled “Armenia and Artsakh – An Isle of Christianity.”

Astronaut Delivers Flags From Int. Space Station

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Russian astronaut Anton Shkaplerov personally delivered the Armenian flag in Yerevan after 197 days in the International Space Station (ISS).

Shkaplerov is a former Commander of the ISS.

Speaking to reporters at the Zvartnots airport of the Armenian capital, the astronaut – or as Russian say cosmonaut – noted that he has circled the Earth more than 8000 times, that he has seen Armenia, Yerevan and Lake Sevan from space many times and taken photos.

“I was dreaming about coming to Armenia and thanks to philanthropist Hrachya Poghosyan I had the chance to arrive and get to know the country up close. Unfortunately I’ve come on a short time, only three days, because currently I am in a rehabilitation phase after the spaceflight, but I will manage to at least see the main sightseeing sites. I think I will stay a lot longer next time,” Shkaplerov told reporters at the airport.

The cosmonaut later presented the flags to Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

IMF Forecast More Growth for Economy

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – According to a new forecast of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Armenia will record 6 percent real economic growth in 2018.

The October forecasts on Armenia in the IMF’s World Economic Outlook report have significantly improved compared to the April report.

In April the report had forecast a 3.4-percent growth.

Forecasts for 2019 have also improved from the previous 3.5 percent to 4.8 percent.

Republican Party Won’t Nominate PM Candidate

YEREVAN (Armenpress) –The Republican Party of Armenia issued a statement on October 9 about the early parliamentary elections of Armenia, noting that in case Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan resigns, the party will not nominate a candidate from the party.

“We remain committed to our policy and do not want to create obstacles for the works of the Government of the Republic of Armenia. We have expressed our position on early parliamentary elections numerous times. We are not against early elections, the responsibility for which lies on the shoulders of the Government.”

The statement noted the party’s preference for holding the elections in the spring.

However, later, 16 members of the party signed a petition supporting Pashinyan’s initiative to hold elections in December.

Premier Receives Outgoing US Ambassador Mills

YEREVAN – Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on October 8 received US Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills who is completing his diplomatic mission.

Pashinyan thanked Mills for his tenure-long efforts and significant contribution to the strengthening of Armenian-American cooperation.

“Our bilateral relations have been developing and deepening in many spheres during your tenure. I want to thank you for your balanced position during the velvet revolution. The United States is an important partner for Armenia, and I am confident that the Armenian-American friendly relations will continue to expand in the years ahead,” Pashinyan said.

Mills, in turn, thanked Prime Minister Pashinyan for constructive cooperation, noting that he will remain a friend of Armenia and would be pleased to keep in touch with our country and people.



US Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills presents to Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan a biography of President John Adams.

“My term as the Ambassador of the United States is nearing completion,

and I am proud to state continuously developing ties between our two countries, from business to governance and civil society. I am confident that these ties will be further strengthened in the coming years. Now, as the government and the people of Armenia are navigating this crucial period of Armenian history, I wish all the best to you, Mr. Prime Minister,” Richard Mills said.

The parties exchanged views on the US-Armenia cooperation agenda, the ongoing programs and development prospects. Reference was also made to Armenia’s inner political developments in the recent period.

Pashinyan noted that ever since the Velvet Revolution the country has embraced rule of law, and transparency in the system of public governance. Mills welcomed the government’s steps and reforms in the aforementioned areas.



Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan with US Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills

Armenian Tycoon Arrested

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A wealthy Armenian businessman who has benefited from government connections in the past was arrested over the weekend for reasons that remained unknown on Monday.

“We can confirm that Samvel Mayrapetyan was arrested,” a spokeswoman for Armenia’s Special Investigative Service (SIS) said in an interview. “But in the interests of the investigation we cannot give any details at the moment.”

The official, Marina Ohanjanyan, would not say what Mayrapetyan is accused or suspected of.

Under Armenian law, law-enforcement authorities have three days to formally charge or free detainees. As of Monday evening, it was not clear if the SIS has brought any accusations against Mayrapetyan.

The businessman is one of the country’s leading real estate developers who also owns a national TV channel and a car dealership. His company was involved in a controversial redevelopment of old districts in downtown Yerevan during the 1998-2008 rule of President Robert Kocharyan.

Media outlets critical of the former government for years linked Kocharyan’s elder son Sedrak to the Toyota dealership officially belonging to Mayrapetyan.

The elder Kocharyan is currently

under investigation over his role in the deadly breakup of post-election demonstrations in Yerevan staged during the final weeks of his decade-long presidency. Last month, the National Security Service (NSS), a more powerful law-enforcement body, launched a separate corruption inquiry into the

Kocharyan and his family members. Vanetsyan promised two weeks later that their findings will be made public “soon.”

Kocharyan has denied enriching himself or his family while in office and accused the current Armenian authorities of waging a political “vendetta”



Samvel Mayrapetyan at the official opening of his Toyota car dealership in Yerevan, June 23, 2009.

embattled ex-president.

The NSS director, Artur Vanetsyan, said on September 11 that investigators are scrutinizing what he described as hundreds of millions of dollars’ worth of assets belonging to

against him. He has only admitted that his two sons are engaged in entrepreneurial activity.

Sedrak Kocharyan reportedly filed a defamation suit against Vanetsyan last month.



ARMENIA

President Sarkissian Honored with East-West Institute's Global Statesman Award

STATESMAN, from page 1

Master of ceremonies Reena Ninan invited Ross Perot Jr., the chairman of the institute, to welcome the guests. Afterwards, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America Fr. Daniel Findikyan gave a prayer.

Philanthropist Aso Tavitian, who played a large role in organizing this event together with Berge Setrakian of the Armenian General

Sarkissian with the award. Ross Perot said, "We are honored to hand the John Edwin Mroz Global Statesman Award to the representative of Armenia, His Excellency Armen Sarkissian for his long-lasting career and achievements in statesmanship as well for considerable contribution to global development. The selection of the President of the Republic of Armenia has come to augment his vast experience in the

areas of physics, private sector, and state administration. In the times, when Armenia is going through the period of great changes, Sarkissian was entrusted with ensuring stability and creation of a new vision for his country which, we are confident, he will lead towards a more democratic and prosperous future. The EastWest Institute is committed to the development of innovative and creative solutions to solve current problems and get ready for the future challenges. Individuals like Sarkissian make our efforts possible."

In accepting the award, Sarkissian declared, "It is a great honor for me to represent my nation and my state here. I really have a dream or vision for the future and that dream or vision includes also the fact or reality that we are facing, i.e. where this world is moving to.

"If the 20th century was the century of natural resources, and, based on that, political and



Left, Aso Tavitian, with President Armen Sarkissian holding his award.



President Armen Sarkissian with the Global Statesman Award

Benevolent Union, was the keynote speaker. Prof. Vartan Gregorian gave a concise historical overview of the political life of the region.

Sarah and Ross Perot, Jr. presented

other powers, the 21st century is going to be different. ... The 21st century is the century of research, development, new technologies. The 21st century is the century when it will be done and ruled by new ideas, by new research, by those who are quick, by those who are young That will be the 21st century. The politics will be run differently."

Sarkissian continued: "And I do truly believe that the 21st century is a century for Armenia. That's why I think we will be victorious. I am happy to belong to the Armenian nation, a small state but a global nation, a nation of the 21st century. There are not many of us, that

sort of nation. But I do believe that small states but global nations that have the global connectivity, that can accumulate and build their country for the first time, it's the future, and I do believe that the institutes like the East-West are going to be one of the leaders of the 21st century."

Armenian organizations represented at the event included the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Diocese, and the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

AGBU Participates in Exhibition of International Contemporary Art in Yerevan

YEREVAN — On September 28, Yerevan opened its doors to the contemporary art of over 70 established and reputable artists from 25 countries in a city-wide event titled "International Contemporary Art Exhibition: Armenia 2018" (ICAE2018). The exhibition spans seven major cultural venues throughout Yerevan, including the AGBU Gallery at the Armenia headquarters of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). The exhibition will run through October 25 and is listed as a coinciding cultural event of the Francophonie Summit 2018, hosted by Armenia.

The scope of the exhibition includes an array of genres of the visual arts: Painting, sculpture, photography, video, installation of iconic pieces on loan from the world's top galleries and collections, as well as commissioned works in situ which are produced specifically for the site in which they are on display.

"Our idea was to bring artists from as many countries as possible, let them interact with local talents and engage with the country, understand Armenian culture and traditions and then serve as its ambassadors," said Fabio Lenzi, CEO of Shaula International, a Yerevan-based consulting firm which organized ICAE 2018. With this project, Shaula International aims to make Armenia "a hub for arts in the region" and put it on the world map of contemporary art.

ICAE 2018, a two-part exhibition, is curated by experienced curators Mazdak Faiznia and Marine Hakobyan. According to Faiznia, both were specifically designed for Armenia, "because the works that were selected and artists that came have a very specific exchange with this country."

One exhibition, "The Soundlines of Contemporary Art," which explores themes such as cultural interaction, identity, mobility, pres-



Artwork of over 70 established artists from 25 countries is on display in seven major cultural venues in Yerevan.



From left, curators Mazdak Faiznia and Marine Hakobyan, AGBU Armenia President Vasken Yacoubian, and Fabio Lenzi, CEO of Shaula International, during a press conference announcing the launch of the contemporary art exhibition in Yerevan.

ence and absence, demonstrates how Armenia's contemporary art aligns with international trends. Located at the Artist's Union of Armenia "Open Sounds of Contemporary Art," the other one, served as an opportunity for local artists to submit their artwork through an open call. ICAE 2018 also offers Arts and Business Symposium and a rich program of educational presentations and workshops.

The high caliber talent and cultural significance of the exhibition have attracted such patrons as the Canadian Government, the Government of Quebec, Armenia's Ministry of Culture, and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities of Italy, a project of the Italian Foreign Ministry "Vivere all'Italiana" and the Embassy of Italy in Armenia. Institutional partners include AGBU, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia, the Armenian Tourism Agency and the EU Delegation in Armenia.

As an institutional partner, AGBU provided infrastructural support for the implementation of

ICAE 2018. "AGBU has always supported cultural, educational and development projects which contribute to the prosperity of Armenia. This initiative is following the same philosophy, creating the link between our history and the future," explained Anna Gargarian, the cultural and creative programs officer at AGBU Armenia. She also pointed out that the AGBU Gallery displays the works of established contemporary artists as well as major modernists, like French-Armenian Leon Tutundjian, whose surrealist works helped changed the course of modern art. In light of this year's Francophonie Summit, 50 percent of the works shown at the AGBU Gallery represent Francophone artists.

A comprehensive two-volume catalogue of ICAE2018 has been published by Manfredi Edizioni. The first volume is dedicated to "Soundlines of Contemporary Art" and the second to "Open Sounds of Contemporary Art."

For more information about ICAE2018, visit www.icaearmenia.org.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Azerbaijan Arms Sales 'Unacceptable,' Lawmaker Tells Slovaks

ANTALYA, Turkey (Panorama.am) – The sale of arms by Slovakia's MSM Martin company to Azerbaijan is "worrying and unacceptable," Deputy Speaker of the Armenian National Assembly Edward Sharmazanov said at a meeting with Slovenia's National Council President Andrej Danko this week.

During the meeting held on Tuesday, October 9 as part of his working visit to Antalya, Turkey, Sharmazanov stressed Azerbaijan uses the weapons purchased from the Slovakian company against the civilian population of Artsakh (Nagorno-Karabakh).

The officials attached importance to finding a peaceful settlement to all the conflicts, including the Artsakh conflict, the parliament's press service told Panorama.am.

Sharmazanov and Danko also discussed issues related to the cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

Romania Ratifies Armenia-EU Agreement

BUCHAREST, Romania (Armenpress) – The Romanian parliament on October 9 finalized the ratification of the European Union - Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which was signed on November 24, 2017 in Brussels, Armenia's Ambassador to Romania Sergey Minasyan said on Facebook.

The Romanian Senate ratified the deal unanimously, while the lower house of the parliament had ratified it in June.

Armenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Luxembourg, Poland have ratified the agreement so far.

Parliament Deputy Speaker Asks Azeris to Recognize Artsakh

ANTALYA, Turkey (Armenpress) – The third international conference of Speakers of Parliaments of Eurasian States took place in Antalya, Turkey during the previous week.

Armenia's Deputy Speaker of Parliament Edward Sharmazanov took part in the conference.

During the conference Azerbaijani Speaker of Parliament Ogtay Asadov addressed the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, and used the usual Azerbaijani terms such as "20-percent occupation," "Armenian and Artsakhi military separatism" and "Armenia being an aggressor."

In response, Sharmazanov said: "Both Armenia and Artsakh are in favor of an exclusively peaceful settlement of the issue. My Azerbaijani colleague spoke about peaceful settlement of the issue. Mr. Asadov, if you truly want to solve the issue, then first of all you must recognize the complete exercise of the right to self-determination of the people of Artsakh."

Aix-en-Provence Hosts Days of Artsakh Festival

AIX-EN-PROVENCE, France (Panorama.am) – The Days of Artsakh in France festival was hosted in the city of Aix-en-Provence, with the events planned within the frameworks of the festival to run through October 13, the Artsakh Foreign Ministry announced.

Artsakh Permanent Representative to France Hovhannes Gevorgyan, member of the France-Artsakh Friendship Circle Senator Sophie Joissains, ex-Mayor Alain Joissains, members of the City Council of Aix-en-Provence, as well as representatives of NGOs and journalists participated in the ceremonial opening of the festival in Aix-en-Provence.

Exhibitions of photographs and graphic works dedicated to Artsakh, lectures on Artsakh and documentary films screenings were part of the festival.

Days of Artsakh in France festival, which kicked off on November 21, 2017 in Villeurbanne with the participation Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan, concluded in Aix-en-Provence.

2018 Nobel Peace Prize Awarded to Yazidi Activist and Congolese Doctor

By Rukmini Callimachi, Jeffrey Gettleman, Nicholas Kulish and Benjamin Mueller

OSLO, Norway (New York Times) – In the midst of a global reckoning over sexual violence, a woman who was forced into sexual slavery by the Islamic State and a Congolese gynecological surgeon were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday, October 5, for their campaigns to end the use of mass rape as a weapon of war.

The award went to Nadia Murad, 25, who became the voice and face of women who survived sexual violence by the Islamic State, and to Dr. Denis Mukwege, 63, who has treated thousands of women in a country once called the rape capital of the world.

They have worked through grave risks to their own lives to help survivors and to bring their stories to the world.

Berit Reiss-Andersen, the chairwoman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said, "We want to send out a message of awareness that women, who constitute half of the population in most communities, actually are used as a weapon of war, and that they need protection and that the perpetrators have to be prosecuted and held responsible for their actions."

In a year when women have turned the world's attention to an epidemic of sexual abuse in the home and in the workplace, the award cast a spotlight on two global regions where women have paid a devastating price for years of armed conflict and was a rebuke to what Reiss-Andersen described as the failure of the global community to prosecute perpetrators of wartime sexual violence.

When the Islamic State overran her homeland in northern Iraq in 2014, Murad was abducted alongside thousands of other women and girls from the Yazidi minority, the group singled out for rape by ISIS.

Whereas the majority of women who escaped refused to be named, Murad insisted that she be identified and photographed, and her advocacy helped to persuade the United States State Department to recognize the genocide of her people at the hands of the terrorist group.

Mukwege's work, meanwhile, has been centered on a conflict half a world away in one of the most traumatized places on the planet, where villagers have fallen prey to militias, bandits, government soldiers and foreign armies: the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

In a bare hospital in the hills above Bukavu, where for years there was little electricity or enough anesthetic, he performed surgery on countless women and campaigned relentlessly to bring attention to their plight.

On Friday, from his hospital in Bukavu, Mukwege told reporters: "This Nobel Prize reflects the recognition of suffering and the lack of a just reparation for women victims of rape and sexual violence in all countries of the world and on all continents."

He dedicated his prize to "women of all countries bruised by conflict and facing everyday violence."

In a statement, Murad congratulated Mukwege and said she was "incredibly honored and humbled." She said she shared the award "with Yazidis, Iraqis, Kurds, other persecuted minorities and all of the countless victims of sexual violence around the world."

Using the Arabic acronym for ISIS, she added: "I think of my mother, who was murdered by Daesh, the children

with whom I grew up, and what we must do to honor them. Persecution of minorities must end."

Born and raised in the village of Kojo in northern Iraq, Murad, along with her family, was at the center of ISIS' campaign of ethnic cleansing. Kojo, on the southern flank of Mount Sinjar, was one of the first Yazidi villages to be overrun by ISIS, which launched its attack from the south on August 3, 2014.

Residents were herded into Kojo's only school, where women and girls were separated from the men. The male captives, including six of Murad's brothers, were loaded into trucks, driven to a field outside the town and executed.

The women and girls were forced into buses. Murad was taken to a slave market, where she was sold to an ISIS judge. While the wives of ISIS members were ordered to wear full-covering face veils and gloves, Murad was forced to wear makeup and suggestive dresses with spaghetti straps.

At night, the militant forced himself upon her, viciously beating her if she dared to close her eyes during the assault, she recounted. He warned her that even worse things would happen if she tried to escape. When he caught her jumping out of a window, he ordered her to undress. Then he sent in his bodyguards, who took turns raping her until she passed out.

"At some point, there was rape and nothing else. This becomes your normal day," Murad wrote in her autobiography, *The Last Girl*. "You don't know who will open the door next to attack you, just that it will happen and that tomorrow might be worse."

She continued, "There is only rape and the numbness that comes with accepting that this is now your life." But she eventually escaped.

For years afterward, she refused to wear makeup. She embarked on a worldwide campaign, speaking before the United Nations Security Council, the United States House of Representatives, the House of Commons in Britain and other global bodies.

Whereas other Yazidi survivors testified before the same bodies with a blanket covering them so that TV cameras would not capture their images, Murad broke with the norms of her honor-based society and insisted on showing her face.

In Yazidi villages in her former homeland, she has become an icon. Many carry her image on their cellphones, and posters of Murad adorn telephone poles.

Murad has said that she was exhausted by having to repeatedly speak out, but she said she knew that other Yazidi women were being raped back home: "I will go back to my life when women in captivity go back to their lives, when my community has a place, when I see people accountable for their crimes."

She became the second-youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize after the activist Malala Yousafzai, who was honored in 2014 after surviving a shooting by the Taliban. In 2016, Murad was

named the United Nations' first goodwill ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking. That same year, she was awarded the Vaclav Havel Human Rights Prize.

In August this year, she announced she was engaged to a fellow Yazidi activist. A documentary was released this month, "On Her Shoulders," follows Murad as she travels the world to enlist global leaders in her fight. In her autobiography, Murad writes: "I want to be the last girl in the world with a story like mine."

In Congo, the injuries Mukwege has treated are ghastly: women who have had assault rifles stuck inside them; others pierced with chunks of wood; some victims collapsing on the hospital steps with deep rope burns on their necks from where they had been lashed to trees. Mukwege has also treated 2-year-olds and women in their 70s.

"It's not a women question; it's a humanity question, and men have to take responsibility to end it," Mukwege



Nadia Murad, Dr. Denis Mukwege

once said in an interview. "It's not an Africa problem. In Bosnia, Syria, Liberia, Colombia, you have the same thing."

In 2012, Mukwege delivered a fiery speech at the United Nations, upbraiding the Congolese government and other nations for not doing enough to stop what he called "an unjust war that has used violence against women and rape as a strategy of war."

His advocacy nearly cost him his life. Shortly after the speech, when he returned to Congo, four armed men crept into his compound in Bukavu. They took his children hostage and waited for him to return from work. In the hail of bullets that followed, his guard was killed, but Mukwege threw himself on the ground and somehow survived.

He spent more than two months in exile, but decided that he had to return. "To treat women for the first time, second time, and now I'm treating the children born after rape," Mukwege said. "This is not acceptable."

When he returned, he received a hero's welcome. Banners flew across town with messages like "Welcome our Superman." To the people in the crowd, Mukwege urged hope and forgiveness.

Though he has criticized the Congolese government for acts of sexual violence by its troops, the government congratulated him on Friday for the prize, even while chiding him for politicizing his work.

In awarding the activists, the Norwegian Nobel Committee bypassed an unlikely trio of leaders who had been the favorites among bookmakers around the world: President Trump, Kim Jong-un of North Korea and President Moon Jae-in of South Korea.

They have taken on the herculean task of trying to denuclearize the divided Korean Peninsula, achieving a shaky détente.

(Steve Wembi contributed reported from Nairobi, Kenya.)



INTERNATIONAL

France Bids Farewell to Aznavour, its Little 'Giant'

FUNERAL, from page 1

French tricolor flag, being carried into the cobble courtyard to the haunting Armenian lament, *Dle Yaman*, played on a traditional *duduk*.

French President Emmanuel Macron said Aznavour knew suffering and “carried the scar of the genocide of his people” which was why “for millions his songs were a balm, a comfort and a cure.”

He praised the singer’s “loyalty to his roots” by throwing himself into helping Armenia recover from a devastating earthquake in 1988 and becoming an ambassador for the country to the UN.

“Some heroes become French by spilling their blood. This son of Armenian immigrants, who never went to secondary school, knew instinctively that our most sacred sanctuary was the French language,” and used it like the poet he was, Macron added.

Earlier both the Armenian and French national anthems had echoed around the 17th-century Invalides complex which houses Napoleon’s tomb.

Fans lined the streets outside as his family, led by his widow Swedish-born Ulla Thorsel, took their places at the ceremony, which was attended by France’s last two leaders, Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy.

Born Shahnour Varinag Aznavourian in Paris in 1924 to parents who had fled the massacres of Armenians in what is now Turkey, Aznavour sold more than 180 million records in a career spanning eight decades and as many languages.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, who had called the singer a “national hero,” said “every Armenian thinks of him as a kind of parent who has carried our name to the world and given Armenians a new pride.”

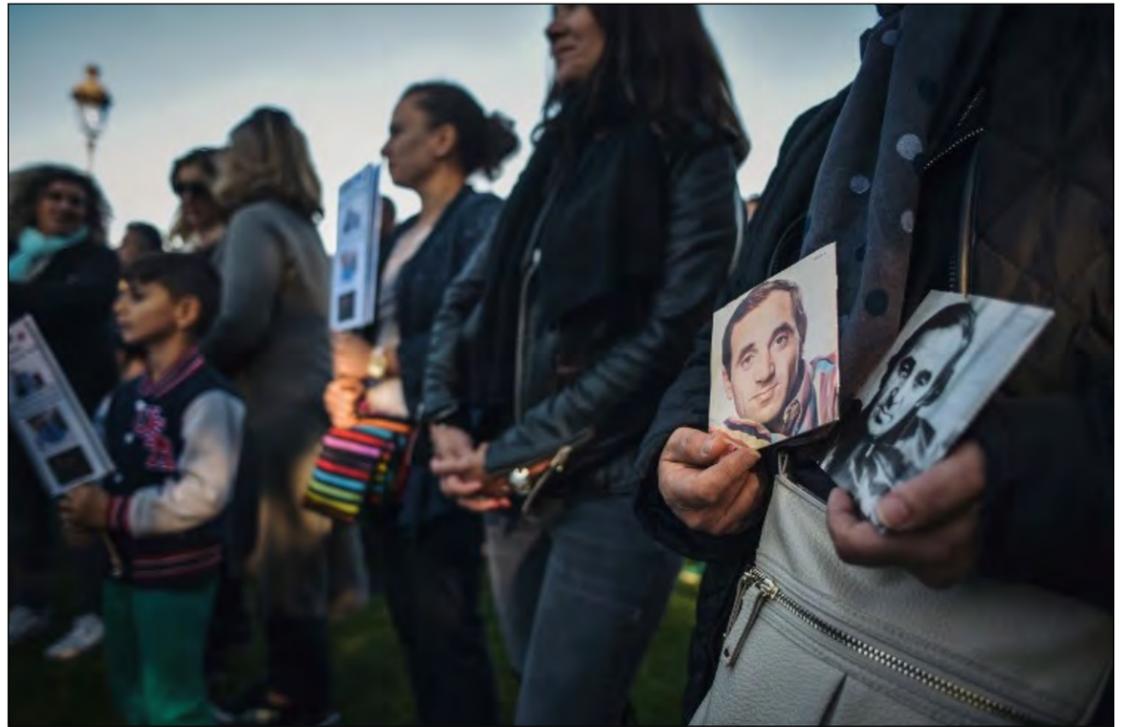
loose grouping of French-speaking nations. He revealed on Monday that he had asked Aznavour to join him on the trip.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan also delivered a eulogy at the farewell ceremony attended by Aznavour’s family and dozens of dignitaries, including former French Presidents Francois Hollande and Nicolas Sarkozy and actor Jean-Paul Belmondo.

Pashinyan hailed the legendary signer as a “great Frenchman” who “breathed a new life into Armenian pride.”

Pashinyan also spoke of Armenians’ “special respect” for France. “I want to express the gratitude of the Armenian people to the French state and the French people for giving shelter to Armenian survivors of the genocide [in Ottoman Turkey,]” he said.

In 2004, Aznavour received Armenia’s highest state award, the title of National Hero, in recognition of his support for his ancestral homeland. Then President Robert Kocharyan praised him for “presenting Armenia to the world.”



Fans hold photographs and CDs of the late singer.



Relatives of French-Armenian singer-songwriter Charles Aznavour and France’s President Emmanuel Macron follow his coffin carried by French Republican Guards during a ceremony at the Invalides in Paris

“In France, poets never die,” Macron said, standing before the coffin draped in the French national flag. “Armenians of all countries, today I am thinking of you,” he said. “He was supposed to be one of us next week in Yerevan, his absence will leave a giant void.”

Macron will travel to the Armenian capital for a state visit and a summit of Francophonie, a

Kocharyan’s successor, Serzh Sargsyan, granted Aznavour Armenian citizenship in 2008. A year later Sarkisian appointed him Armenia’s ambassador to Switzerland and international organizations headquartered in Geneva. Aznavour played a largely symbolic role in that capacity.

The Armenian government has declared



The delegation representing the Armenian government included the prime minister, president and foreign minister, as well as Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II.

Saturday a day of national mourning.

In France Aznavour’s family are regarded as heroes of the Resistance for risking their lives to hide Jews and Communist partisans in their tiny Paris apartment during the Nazi occupation.

The star – the author of such songs as *She* and *For Me Formidable* – got his final standing ovation as his coffin was carried out of the Invalides, with the crowd breaking into spontaneous applause.

Fittingly for a man who was devoted to rhythm and had a genius for describing melancholy, one of the most poignant moments in the ceremony came when the silence of the vast military courtyard was broken by the steady sound of footsteps on cobblestones as marchers carried his coffin draped in the French flag with a wreath in Armenian colors.

His coffin was lifted away at the end to the sound of his hit song, *Emmenez-Moi* (Take Me Along).

The ceremony recognized Aznavour’s grit, fiendish hard work and determination to keep knocking on doors that were so often, at the

the “eternal” legacy of the “gentleman” of traditional French song, while Elton John wrote on Twitter that he was “honoured” at having sung with the man known as the “French Sinatra.”

Multilingual, Aznavour sang in several languages, and his fanbase spanned the world.

He began writing songs for the legendary Edith Piaf before being catapulted to fame by Francois Truffaut’s film “Shoot the Piano Player” in 1960.

He enjoyed huge commercial success in America, with Bob Dylan saying his Carnegie Hall show in New York in 1963 was the best concert he had ever seen.

Aznavour brought a rare intensity to the stage, turning every song into “a one-act play.” His dramatic style has since become commonplace.

On Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles, well-wishers laid flowers on the pavement star bearing his name.

In Paris, the Eiffel tower was lit up in



President Emmanuel Macron

start of his career, slammed in his face. French critics had initially dismissed him as repulsively ugly, too short, with a terrible cavernous voice and dubious song titles. His stellar success in the face of adversity was part of his great appeal in France: a national loser who became a winner – someone who was able to pinpoint emotion and magnify it.

The French poet and artist Jean Cocteau once said: “Charles’s true success comes from the fact that he sings more from his heart than from his vocal chords.”

Fans Mourning

Aznavour’s legions of fans have been left heartbroken by his death, while fellow entertainers line up to pay tribute to his influence as a taboo-breaking singer and highly original songwriter.

His songs have regularly been covered or sampled by everyone from Elvis Costello to the rappers Dr. Dre and Sean Paul.

Rock stars Sting and Lenny Kravitz lauded

Armenian gold Monday night in his honor, while Mayor Anne Hidalgo called for the French capital to rename a street after him.

The Spenidiaryan Opera and Ballet Theater will host two concerts on October 29 and 30 in honor of Aznavour.

The concerts had been planned long ago and Aznavour was expected to participate in the concerts, says Minister of Culture Lilit Makunts.

The idea came in 2017, when the first “For you, Aznavour” concert was organized in Yerevan with the singer present at the event.

“We decided that the concerts should be continuous to pay due tribute to the Great Maestro, says singer and actor Hayk Petrosyan, who performed Aznavour’s songs at the previous concert.

The program will include Aznavour’s most popular songs, including the Armenian translations. The legendary singer’s life and work will also be presented.

Vardan Petrosyan will also participate in the concert as a special guest.

Community News

Service Armenia 2018 Completes Another Successful Summer Program

BERKELEY, Calif. – The Paros Foundation's Service Armenia 2018 group wrapped up another great summer of service, touring, and fun bringing the number of program alum to over 100. The nine participants and coordinator from around the United States joined us in Armenia to work on impactful service projects. During the one month program, participants also visited historic sites and developed lifelong friendships. Service Armenia was established in 2013 and provides Diaspora youth ages 17-22 years the opportunity to work on meaningful service projects and to have fun in Armenia. Next year's program will run from June 23 to July 23, 2019. Applications are now available at www.parosfoundation.org.

This summer's service work included renovations at the Zorakan Village School in the Tavush region. Service participants painted six classrooms as part of the second floor remodel. The remainder of the second floor was completed prior to the start of classes, however, \$75,000 is still needed for the renovation of the first floor of the school. The Zorakan Village School services 135 secondary school students. At the Kanakeravan Art School in the Kotayk region, participants poured the subfloor and installed new flooring in three rooms. This combined with the complete renovation of these classrooms has created a beautiful environment for the art school students.

One of the highlights of Service Armenia is always visiting the Debi Arach Children's Center in Gyumri. This year minor renovations were done at the Center and a "Packs on Backs" distribution was carried out, providing 185 children



A visit to and lunch at the Geghard Monastery was among one of the many historic and religious sites visited throughout the month long program.

with the necessary school supplies and backpacks. Service youth had a chance to get to know students at Debi Arach through a fun day of dancing, playing sports, and socializing. While in Gyumri, Dustin Hochmuth, a repeat participant of Service Armenia, also spearheaded the "Groceries for Gyumri" distribution for 100 families. His efforts included raising the necessary funding, obtaining and assembling food packets with his Service Armenia peers, and coordinating the delivery of basic grocery staples, fresh fruits and vegetables, and personal hygiene products to families in need.

Other 2018 highlights included four exciting excursions with the Yerevan Children's Home, see SERVICE, page 9



Sam Babayan and the Dirty Diamond Band

Bridge of Health Guyn Gala Helps Give Children Battling Cancer a Fighting Chance

LOS ANGELES – On September 23, the fourth annual Bridge of Health Guyn (Color) Gala was held at the Great Caesar Banquet Hall in Tujunga. People from all backgrounds, many of them young adults, and from across the country, congregated with the goal of raising awareness and funds to benefit children in Armenia battling cancer. Guests included the city of Glendale

By Michael Melkonian

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Mayor Zareh Sinanyan, film actor Ken Davitian, and writer and publisher of the *California Courier*, Harut Sassounian.

Master of Ceremonies Tatevik Ekezian kicked off the gala with her the opening remarks as she provided an overview of the Bridge of Health organization and its mission of helping pediatric cancer patients at various stages of need including diagnostic, recovery, and drug funding. This non-profit organization is the link which connects pediatric cancer patients in Armenia with the financial means necessary for optimal care and recovery.

Ekezian then introduced the opening entertainers of the evening's program. Comedians Mary Basmadjian and Michael Passion entertained the assembled with jokes and impersonations while drawing roaring laughter from the audience. Guests dined as the internationally acclaimed virtuoso guitarist Vahagni serenaded them with classical music.

The Armenia Chapter President of the Bridge of Health, Anahit Barseghyan, was then called upon to speak. Barseghyan shared her emotional story as she described receiving the news that her young son had developed cancer and her gratitude to the Bridge of Health for coming into their lives and funding the treatments which eventually cured him.

A video of one of the Bridge of Health supported facilities in Armenia showed young cancer patients as they were laughing and being entertained by superheroes and Disney princesses, all the while continuing to receive treatment on the arduous road to recovery.



Anahit Barseghyan, who was instrumental in starting the organization

see HEALTH, page 7

UCLA Chancellor Gene D. Block and Dr. Eric Esrailian Visit the American Univ. of Armenia

YEREVAN and LOS ANGELES – In ongoing efforts to solidify a partnership between the University of California system and the American University of Armenia (AUA), Dr. Gene D. Block, Chancellor of UCLA, and Dr. Eric Esrailian, co-chief of the Division of Digestive Diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, made an official visit to the AUA campus on Wednesday, September 19.

On an official invitation by President Armen Sarkissian to explore potential areas of collaboration between UCLA and higher educational institutions in Armenia, the distinguished guests were greeted by AUA President Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, Provost Dr. Randall Rhodes, Vice President of Operations Ashot Ghazaryan, Vice President of Finance Gevorg Goyunyan, as well as two members of the AUA Board of Trustees, Vasken Yacoubian, President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Armenia, and Dr. Yervant Zorian, Chief Architect and Fellow at Synopsys and President of Synopsys Armenia.

After learning about the history and accomplishments of AUA, the UCLA delegation took a tour of the campus, including the AGBU Papazian Library, the Entrepreneurship and Product Innovation Center (EPIC) and its prototyping lab, as well as the newly constructed Student Union, Faculty Center and Amphitheater. Throughout the afternoon, participating members discussed areas of partnership, such as student and faculty exchanges, development of education and nursing degree pro-



Dr. Michael Kouchakdjian, director of the Entrepreneurship and Product Innovation Center, speaks with the UCLA delegation



President Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian greets the UCLA delegation.

grams, joint research projects in digital humanities, and the establishment of an Institute for Interdisciplinary Armenian Studies. College deans, program chairs and directors of research centers also joined the meeting, making presentations on degree programs, research center projects and offering ideas in order to advance AUA's educational mission and generate new opportunities for partnerships with UCLA.

"We appreciated the thorough description of AUA's programs and vision," said Esrailian. "Thank you for being a shining educational light for the global Armenian nation and we look forward to exploring further collaborations between UCLA and AUA."

see AUA, page 9



COMMUNITY NEWS

Bridge of Health Guyn Gala Helps Give Children Battling Cancer a Fighting Chance

HEALTH, from page 6

Robert Agaverdian, president and founder of Bridge of Health and the clinical director of Medical, Surgical and Telemetry Units at Pacifica Hospital, was then asked by the master of ceremonies to speak. Agaverdian reflected, "What inspired me to get involved with organizations such as Bridge of Health came from my college years, when I saw a picture of a young Armenian child fighting for his life and was very moved. I then raised money through my fraternity to help the child get through the many expensive cancer

treatments. This got me to create Bridge of Health with a few other people, which is dedicated to helping as many children in Armenia as possible to fight cancer." Agaverdian spoke about the Bridge of Health's many achievements, including how the organization has helped more than 120 children in Armenia battle cancer, in which many were able to beat cancer completely and are alive and well today.

Agaverdian's moving speech was then followed by acclaimed Armenian singer Armen Aloyan and whose songs brought the guests to



Comedian Michael Passion



Comedian Mary Basmadjian goes for laughs.

the dance floor. The dancing continued with the performance of Sam Babayan and The Dirty Diamond Band, a crowd favorite who performs at packed Los Angeles venues including the House of Blues, the Viper Room and the Troubadour.

Meline Aleksanyan, a medical committee member, then spoke about how the Bridge of Health established a cancer registry in Armenia, the first of its kind in the country. This was then followed by yet another artistic component, poet Lilit Malkhasyan, who recited several of her works.

Every cent of the money raised, according to the Bridge of Health team, will go to children in Armenia, which in turn, helped make this event not only memorable, but meaningful.

To learn more about the organization, visit <https://www.bridgeofhealth.org/>

St. James Armenian Church Men's Club Dinner Meeting Will Feature Lucine Kasbarian

WATERTOWN – On Monday, November 5, there will be a St. James Armenian Church Men's Club dinner meeting at the St. James Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center. The speaker will be writer, editor, political cartoonist, and book publicist Lucine Kasbarian.

In her presentation, Kasbarian will discuss the origins of political cartoons; the use of humor or sarcasm to diffuse difficult topics; how hot-button issues have been/are being raised by Armenian and non-Armenian cartoonists; and why she began cartooning. She will present illustrated excerpts of her works. She has been involved in book, magazine, newspaper and online publishing for more than 30 years.

Kasbarian was born into an Armenian family of teachers, musicians, writers, artists and activists and in which the arts, humor and politics shared equal stage. She has been involved in the New York-New Jersey Armenian community from an early age. She graduated from the New York University School of Journalism with minors in political science and studio art. She pursued graduate studies at New York's School of Visual Arts.

As a cartoonist, her intention is to spotlight realities about the Armenian condition that do not receive adequate coverage in global media; and to drive her points home in absurd or paradoxical ways by drawing from history, popular culture and personal experience.

She will present illustrated excerpts of her works. Following questions and answers, she will sign copies of her new book, *Perspectives from Exile*, which will be available for purchase.

The program will start at 6:15 p.m. with dinner to follow at 7 p.m.

The Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall, is located at 465 Mt. Auburn St.

For additional information call the St James Church office.



Lucine Kasbarian

NAJARIAN LECTURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT FANEUIL HALL

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:30pm

Doors open at 6:45pm

Historic Faneuil Hall, Boston

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Author, *Enforcing and Defending Chapter 209A Restraining Orders in Massachusetts*

Marc A. Levin, Esq

Vice President of Criminal Justice, Texas Public Policy Foundation and Right on Crime

Founder, Foundation's Criminal Justice Program

Moderator: **Middlesex County Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian**

President, Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association

Founding Member, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration

Reception follows at The Bostonian Hotel

Free and open to the public, *The Najarian Lecture on Human Rights*, a public program of Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, is endowed by George K. and Carolann S. Najarian, M.D. in honor of Dr. Najarian's father, Mr. Avedis Albert Abrahamian as "he taught so many about the need to pay attention, spot injustice and speak out wherever and whenever it occurs".



COMMUNITY NEWS

Holy Trinity Armenian Church to Honor Nancy Kasarjian and Carol Krikorian

By Seta. A. Buchter

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston and the Parish Council of Holy Trinity Armenian Church announce that Nancy Kasarjian and Carol Krikorian will be honored on Sunday, October 28, as “Parishioners of the Year,” at the 57th Anniversary Celebration of the Consecration of Holy Trinity Church on Brattle Street. Both Nancy and Carol will be retiring after 30 years each of dedicated service to the Holy Trinity parish. The afternoon’s program and catered Reception will be held following Church Services, in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall of the church complex at 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge.

The morning will begin with the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m., celebrated by Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian who will offer special prayers for the departed souls of the faithful who worked and built Holy Trinity Armenian Church at its present site in Cambridge.

“This time around, saying ‘Thank you’ just doesn’t convey enough,” states Kouzouian. “How do you thank two people who individually and collectively have shown limitless devotion to their church, so much so, that their home lives and their professional lives, have blended into one over time? The Holy Trinity Armenian Church has been blessed for 30 years by the dedication of Nancy Kasarjian and Carol Krikorian. These two selfless parishioners have been integral and key members of our church staff. Their footprints can be found in all corners of parish life. Both Nancy and Carol are among the most unwavering fibers of parish life here in Cambridge. We, as a parish, have benefitted from their work-ethnic, sense of duty and caring hearts since the late 1980s. They have led by their professional example and moved our church office forward with Faith, Hope, and Love as their guiding beacon. On their retirement from our office staff, our parish will place upon them an honor long over-due. Bestowing this honor upon them together is most befitting — as it was together that they accomplished so much over the years. Side-by-side they worked together, they innovated, they created and they shaped the Holy Trinity office into a place that made us all proud to call our own. I look forward to all our parishioners and friends joining us on Sunday, October 28, for a befitting reception in their honor. I hope you join me in thanking them for their devotion to all of us as a parish.”

Nancy Kasarjian

Almost 29 years ago, Kasarjian assumed the role of executive director which was a newly created position by the Parish Council. At the time, the Parish Council needed someone to assist with property management, church rentals, maintenance and managing the growing office staff in addition to the many church events such as banquets, bazaars, festivals, receptions



Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian with left to right, Carol Krikorian and Nancy Kasarjian

and other special occasions. She had just completed six years on the Parish Council, including three years as chairman. The move to executive director seemed like a natural progression. During her almost three decades in the position, Kasarjian has provided guidance, support, encouragement, and mentoring as she tirelessly carried out her parish responsibilities.

In 2016, she was elected as a Diocesan Delegate. She co-chaired, with her niece Janice Dorian, the annual Diocesan Assembly that Holy Trinity Church hosted in 2011.

The Armenian Church has always been a natural part of Kasarjian’s life. She was raised in St. Mary’s Armenian Church in Irvington, NJ (presently in Livingston, NJ) where she first met Fr. Mampre A. Kouzouian who became pastor of St. Mary’s. In 1960, Nancy moved to Boston and married Dr. Parnag Hagop Kasarjian in 1961. Holy Trinity Church was where they raised their children, Steven, Arlene and Linda.

Under Fr. Mampre Kouzouian’s tutelage, Kasarjian learned a great deal about the Armenian Church and it was Fr. Mampre who gave her the confidence and encouragement to fulfill her role as executive director.

Fr. Vasken Kouzouian arrived in 2002 bringing with him a new energy and spirit to the Holy Trinity parish, and together new chapters were fulfilled in parish life.

For Kasarjian, Holy Trinity Church has been her home away from home. She is deeply grateful to her husband, Jack, for his patience and willingness to endure; to her son, Steven; daughters Arlene and her husband Dean, and Linda and her partner, Renard; and her grandchildren Ani, Aram and Sona.

She is looking forward to retirement after almost three decades, but is forever grateful for the opportunity to serve her Church in a meaningful way.

Carol Krikorian

In July 1988, when Carol Krikorian agreed to “temporarily help out” when the church secretary, the late Rose Mamishian, was going on an extended vacation, little did she realize that help would extend to 30 years. Realizing the enormous workload and when the December 1988 earthquake in Armenia struck, Krikorian knew she couldn’t leave. Once on board, she never looked back even though her commute time from and to her home in Southborough grew to over an hour. She has served as secretary to the pastor for both Fr. Mampre A. Kouzouian and then for Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian. She has been responsible for the church publication, *Dajar*, the weekly Sunday Bulletin, invitations, programs, booklets, flyers and personalized notes of thanks for the Gregory Hintlian Memorial Golf Tournament, the Trinity Christmas Bazaar, the Erevan Choral Society as well as for all major fundraising events. Krikorian states that she is proud to have been the first to have a computer in the office, starting out working on the MS-DOS system; no Windows, no mouse, all keyboard and self-taught.

Krikorian has been a parishioner of Holy Trinity since 1965, when she married Gregory Krikorian, deacon and Diocesan delegate of the Church and himself a “Parishioner of the Year” in 2013. She is a faithful, devoted attendee of church services every Sunday.

Krikorian served on the committee for the recent celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Fr. Mampre A. Kouzouian’s Ordination to the Priesthood, as well as the committee for his 40th Anniversary in 1998. Other notable committees included the 2011 Diocesan Assembly hosted by Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Holy Trinity’s 50th Anniversary Celebrations in 2011-2012, and the 2014 committee to celebrate Fr. Vasken Kouzouian’s 20th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. She served in the Sunday School for 28 years, 13 as a teacher and 15 as a substitute. Over the decades, she has been a constant volunteer at the Trinity Family Festival and Trinity Christmas Bazaar.

Krikorian was born and grew up in Woonsocket, RI; she is the daughter of the late Rinaldo and Nevia Pierannunzi and sister of Anthony Pierannunzi and his wife, Marcia. Carol and Dn. Gregory met at the US Army Natick Laboratories where they both worked. They have two children, Lisa and her husband, Scott Wentzell of N. Yarmouth, Maine, and Gregory and his wife, Lisa Krikorian of Westford, Mass., and five grandchildren, Scotty Wentzell and Ella, Luke, Ruby and Blake Krikorian.

On October 28 as the church community honors Kasarjian and Krikorian upon their retirement, it will also honor Parish Council members Susan K. Derderian, Stephan Hovnanian, Catherine R. Minassian and Alexandra Tashjian.

The deadline for purchasing tickets is October 19. There will be no tickets at the door.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting the Holy Trinity Church Office, emailing office@htaac.org, or logging onto www.htaac.org/calendar/event/588/.

Hrag Papazian to Speak at Inaugural Zoravik Event

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The newly formed Zoravik collective invites the public to an informal talk and discussion with Hrag Papazian on Sunday, October 14, 7 to 8.30 p.m. at Outpost 186 here.

In his talk, titled “Looking for a Contemporary Armenian Left: Nor Zartonk as a Model,” Papazian will present the Istanbul-based activist group Nor Zartonk as an Armenian movement with a universal progressive agenda that could serve as a model for Armenians throughout the world. His talk will

also draw parallels with Armenia, the inequalities and injustice within, and the recent political transformations.

Papazian is PhD candidate at the University of Oxford. His research focuses on the Armenians of Turkey. He is currently based in Yerevan.

Over the last decade, the Istanbul-based activist group Nor Zartonk was one of the few truly Leftist Armenian political organizations, if not the only one. Although currently less active, it was a successful example of intense intersectional activism, with its focus on not only minority rights and historical justice for Armenians, but also social, economic, environmental justice, and gender equality. In this talk Papazian will not only argue that Armenian and trans-Armenian activisms can be compatible today, as proven by Nor Zartonk, but also make a case for the necessity of Leftist/Progressive activism both in the diaspora and Armenia, especially in light of the recent developments in Yerevan.

Zoravik (“in solidarity”) is a Boston-based Armenian activist collective that promotes new avenues for political and grassroots organizing and project-based engagement for progressives. Formed in the wake of the Velvet Revolution, the group seeks to mobilize the political, cultural, and social institutions of the diaspora to support and encourage transformative efforts in Armenian communities worldwide.

The venue is located at 186 1/2 (rear) Hampshire St., Cambridge.

For more information, visit facebook.com/zoravik or email zoravik@gmail.com.



Hrag Papazian

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COMMUNITY NEWS

**Tekeyan Cultural Association
of Greater New York
Presents a lecture
by Dr. George Bournoutian**

**The Emergence of
Present-Day Armenian State!
Armenian Republic 1918-1920
Russian Armenia 1828-1917
Soviet Armenia 1921-1989**



Friday, October 19, 2018

7pm

Tekeyan Center
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RSVP required

Free Admission
Please call:
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@ 201-615-2441 or
email: TekeyanNYNJ@aol.com

**Service Armenia 2018 Completes
Another Successful Summer Program**

SERVICE, from page 6
the Vanadzor Orphanage, the Kharpert Home for Special Children and the Ghoghjanj Children's Center. The Service Armenia group also toured many monuments and important historic locations throughout the country, along with overnight stays in the Lori Region and Artsakh. In addition to the well known religious and cultural sites, the group was able to experience hikes at the Hunot Gorge and the Kobayr Monastery, a tour of the Areni Caves and the Noy Cognac Factory, and to visit the World UNESCO Heritage sites, Sanahin and Haghpat Monasteries. From Artsakh to Zorakan, Service Armenia 2018 was definitely a summer to remember.

"This program was executed perfectly for the age and the interests of our group," said Ani Shahinian. "In the three times I've been to Armenia, this was my favorite experience. I thoroughly enjoyed the trip!"

Applications for Service Armenia 2019 are available on our website www.parosfoundation.org. The program includes tours to historic, religious and cultural sites in Armenia and Artsakh, English speaking staff and guides, safe and well located accommodations and transportation combined with interesting cultural and educational activities that will ensure all will have an engaging and memorable experience. The program is open

to both Armenian and American young people wishing to participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity. Knowledge of the Armenian language is not required. Join us and create a lifetime of great memories and friends. The deadline to submit the completed application is April 1, 2019.

For more information, contact Peter Abajian at peter@parosfoundation.org



Service Armenia 2018 participants visited the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial.



Service Armenia participants spent four days working on the art school in the village of Kanakeravan.



*Celebrating
the Life &
Work of*

Diana Der Hovanesian

Organized by
The Armenian Cultural Foundation
and co-sponsored by

Amaras Art Alliance, Armenian General Benevolent Union-New England,
Armenian International Women's Association, Armenian Museum of America
The Friends of the Longfellow House, Hamazkaine-Boston
National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, New England Poetry Club
Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada

"Performs a valuable scholarly service.
The translations are graceful and moving."
John Updike

"Masterful translation."
Michael Arlen

"A magnificent poet who has opened up the book
of her people to the English-speaking world."
D. M. Thomas

"We are lucky to have Diana Der Hovanesian
move these poems from Armenian to English
and about time too. Read them and rejoice."
William Saroyan

"One of the best contemporary poets."
Peter Viereck

"Hovanesian is a brilliant poet who has opened
up a new world to the English reader."
London Times Literary Supplement

Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 3:00 PM



ARMENIAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION

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The event is free and open to the public

**UCLA Chancellor Gene D. Block and Dr. Eric Esrailian
Visit the American Univ. of Armenia**

AUA, from page 6

Der Kiureghian said it was a privilege to welcome the esteemed delegation from a UC campus.

"As an affiliate of the University of California, and pursuant to a collaboration agreement with

UCLA that was signed in 2015, we have had a number of very fruitful joint efforts, including a symposium on identity and hosting UCLA doctoral students as researchers and lecturers

at AUA," said Der Kiureghian, an Emeritus Professor of UC Berkeley. "We hope that these collaborations and engagement will be further enhanced as we strengthen our ties."

"It is a great honor to visit this magnificent university," said Block. "Its inspirational origins along with its connection to the University of California and with UCLA in particular warms my heart."

-Taleen Babayan



The UCLA delegation with AUA leadership.

Read News in Armenian at:





COMMUNITY NEWS

Hundreds of Guests from Across the US Celebrate Annie Simonian Totah at Armenian Assembly National Gala

WASHINGTON – Hundreds of guests hailing from 16 different states across the US attended the Armenian Assembly of America's Gala honoring Annie Simonian Totah, closing out the Assembly's National Advocacy Conference. Assembly President Carolyn Mugar and Co-Chairs Anthony Barsamian and Van Krikorian presented Totah with the Assembly's Distinguished Humanitarian Award for her 40 years of advocacy for the betterment of Armenia, Artsakh, and US-Armenia relations.

Totah also received the Movses Khorenatsi Medal from the government of Armenia presented by Armenia Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Grigor Hovhannissian. The Movses Khorenatsi Medal is awarded for outstanding achievements in the spheres of culture, art, literature, education, social sciences, and sports. Ambassador Hovhannissian shared congratulatory remarks from Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan thanking her for her devotion to Armenia and recognizing the Assembly's leadership as a "forward-thinking organization [that] continues to be at the forefront of many critical issues."

"I am truly touched and grateful to receive these two prestigious awards and to have the benefit of sharing the evening with so many wonderful friends and colleagues," Assembly Board Member and honoree Annie Totah remarked. "I very much appreciate the honors and accolades bestowed upon me and it will be my privilege, my will of duty to continue with my advocacy work. I would also like to thank the many generous



Ambassador Grigor Hovhannissian and Annie Simonian Totah

and wonderful sponsors and guests for helping ensure the success of our three day extravaganza," Totah concluded.

Special guests, including Senate Foreign Relations Committee Member, Senator Edward J. Markey (D-MA); House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD); and Armenian Caucus Co-Chair and Founder Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), reflected on their experience working with Totah, and her tireless efforts.

"If you were to look up 'Armenian excellence' in the dictionary, you would see a beautiful photo of Annie," stated Senator Markey. "She has spent her life fighting for recognition for the



Armenian Assembly of America Co-Chair Anthony Barsamian, President Carolyn Mugar, Board Member Annie Simonian Totah, and Co-Chair Van Krikorian

Armenian people and the Genocide. And tonight, we finally give her the recognition which she deserves, presenting her with the Distinguished Humanitarian Award. Annie has always been a trailblazer," he continued. "Congratulations, Annie. Nobody deserves it more," he concluded.

Markey also spoke about the Armenian Assembly's extensive work with Congress, noting the organization's efforts in displaying the "orphan rug" and supporting Armenian Genocide



The large California delegation gathered for a group photo.

legislation in the Senate. He noted Armenia's peaceful transition and its strong democracy showcased this year, especially at a time when neighboring nations' democratic values are "heading backwards."

"This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Nagorno Karabakh Liberation Movement. This anniversary is an important reminder of how far the Armenian people of the region have come, but also how far we have yet to go. Since Azerbaijan launched its brutal offensive against Nagorno Karabakh, it is our duty to stand with the Armenian communities who remain to rest; it is our duty to end this sort of gruesome aggression against Armenian peoples; it is our duty to call out this violence for the crime that it is. As long as Azerbaijan continues to violate the ceasefire agreement and attack Armenians, the United States should cut off all military aid to Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan spends more on its military than the entire national budget of Armenia," Senator Markey exclaimed during his remarks.

House Majority Whip Congressman Steny Hoyer spoke highly of the Armenian American community, and especially his experience working with Totah over the past three decades to strengthen US-Armenia relations, where, he explained, she has been involved with "every step of the way." He described her as a "force of nature" and "a woman of great inner strength that time and faith have not diminished, whose heroic heart has blessed us all, and who continues to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

"Annie has been involved in every aspect of the Armenian Caucus," stated Pallone. "She was very influential to get Members to join in the very beginning. Needless to say, I don't think there was ever a time when we were not trying to get the Armenian Genocide resolution passed when she wasn't there - at the committee, outside the committee room, calling Members." He added: "I cannot think of a time when she has not been involved."

Congressman Pallone also shared a statement in the congressional record on behalf of Totah, stating in part: "For over 40 years, Ms. Totah has been a leading defender of human rights, and a local advocate of Armenia, Artsakh, and the Armenian American community." On the House Floor, Congressman Pallone said: "I rise today to congratulate the Armenian Assembly's 2018 Distinguished Humanitarian Award honoree, Ms. Annie Simonian Totah...I have known Annie throughout my entire congressional career and I can say without hesitation that Annie's passion, dedication, and commitment to Armenia and Artsakh is unparalleled."

In addition to the Prime Minister of Armenia, the Assembly

also received congratulatory letters from Senate Democratic Leader Charles "Chuck" Schumer (D-NY), the leadership of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, the President of

continued on next page



Rep. Frank Pallone Jr.



Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.)



COMMUNITY NEWS

from previous page

Armenia, Dr. Armen Sarkissian and the President of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, Bako Sahakyan.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to express my admiration for the outstanding work of the Armenian Assembly of America and Mrs. Annie Simonian Totah," Senator Schumer's letter stated. "Thank you for your commitment and dedication in promoting democracy and representing the interests of Armenian-Americans. I know the Armenian Assembly of America will continue these efforts for many years to come," he continued.

"Your voice is powerful and as the Co-Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Congressional Armenian Caucus, it gives us great pleasure to commend the Armenian Assembly for its nonpartisan advocacy and successes over these many years, especially in strengthening the relationship between the United States and Armenia. We applaud the Assembly's steadfast commitment in support of a strong and vibrant homeland free from blockades, at peace with its neighbors and secure in its borders," the leadership of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues said in



The honoree flanked by her children, Karina, Nicole and Elliot Totah

a joint letter.

"I extend my congratulations to the Armenian Assembly of America on the occasion of its national Advocacy Conference and Gala in Washington, D.C., and for honoring a longtime champion of many causes on behalf of the Armenian people in their homeland and in the diaspora," stated the president of Armenia, Dr. Armen Sarkissian. "We attach a great importance to the activities of the Armenian Assembly of America, the organization, which I know from the first days of its foundation. I am pleased to join you as you honor one of your long-time leaders, Annie Simonian Totah. She has been a pillar of the Armenian American community for many decades and her activism on many fronts has been a major service to our country and our people."

"From the very beginning of the Karabakh Movement, the Assembly has stood shoulder to shoulder with us, and as we struggled for our very existence, the Assembly opened new corridors in the diaspora for our survival. In fact, the Armenian



Personalized, Engraved Bricks Raise Funds at St. Nersess Seminary

ARMONK, NY – There are many ways to describe St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. Join The Path Forward Campaign and add your memory of St. Nersess on a brick that will remain visible for generations to come. Personalized engraved bricks at the Founders Garden pathway, located on a pedestrian footpath in front of the Theological Center, or on the Prayer Garden pathway, located in a secluded area adjacent to the Theological Center, will support the education of priests and non-ordained leaders for ministry in the Armenian Church in North America and beyond. For more information and to donate a brick, visit www.stnersess.edu.

Assembly of America has an anchor in Washington for the Armenians of Artsakh," Nagorno Karabakh (Artsakh) President Bako Sahakyan explained in his congratulatory letter. "Artsakh is proud of its long-standing friendship with the Assembly and is deeply grateful for its hospitality and leadership in America. With individuals like Annie Totah, and organizations like the Assembly, we are confident that the diaspora will continue to stand with us in defense of our freedoms and people," he added.

The evening concluded with light-hearted and personal stories from three of Annie's children - Nicole, Elliot, and Karina, reflecting on their mom's dedication over the years, and her steadfast determination.

"On behalf of the Armenian Assembly, I would like to thank our special guests and all of our donors and supporters, including partner organizations AGBU and the Eastern and Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, for making the National Advocacy Conference a success and the Gala such a wonderful evening," stated Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. "I would also like to thank our amazing Master of Ceremonies, Aram Bakshian, who kept the evening flowing smoothly with our featured speakers and the beautiful performance by Milena Oganesyanyan, giving the guests a special opportunity to experience Armenian dancing featured at this year's Smithsonian Folklife Festival."

ART EXHIBITION
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 of Greater New York

Artist:
Simon Samsonian
 (1912-2003)
 Cubist-Impressionist

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COMMUNITY NEWS

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Arts & Living

Visiting Lecturer from England Sheds Light On Armenian Origins Of English Travel Writer H. F. B. Lynch

By **Aram Arkun**
Mirror-Spectator Staff

BOSTON – Christopher Young, a retired Crown Court judge from England, gave a talk titled “What Attracted H. F. B. Lynch to Armenia? Origins and Influences” on October 1 at Boston University, organized by the Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at the university.

Henry Finnis Blossie Lynch (1862-1913), informally known as Harry, is most famous for his comprehensive two-volume work, *Armenia: Travels and Studies*, published in 1901 with plentiful illustrations, which covers Armenian geography, history, architecture, culture and politics in detail. Young focused in his talk, illustrated with slides, on Lynch’s Armenian family connection, his commercial, political and military interests, and his interactions with various contemporary English political figures. He was introduced to the audience by Prof. Simon Payaslian, holder of the Kenosian Chair.

The story began in the 1790s, when Lynch’s maternal grandfather, 20-year-old ensign Robert Taylor, was sent to Bushire to learn Persian as part of the British East India Company (EIC)



His Honour Christopher Young (photo: Aram Arkun)

army, and eloped with Rosa, the 12-year-old daughter of Hovhannes Moscow, an Armenian merchant of Shiraz. Taylor, who eventually became British consul and resident at Bagdad, had four children with Rosa. One of these daughters, Caroline, married Lt. Henry Blossie Lynch, of the EIC navy.

The latter saw potential for commerce and navigation on the Tigris and invited two of his brothers to join him from the family home in Ireland. Thomas, a classical scholar of Trinity College in Dublin, ended up marrying Harriet, Caroline’s sister, who became the mother of H. F. B. Lynch. A second brother, Stephen, married a daughter of another Armenian merchant. The three brothers founded the Lynch Brothers, which later became the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company.

Young, basing himself on published and unpublished works by Lynch family members as well as documents such as wills and census returns, concludes that the Lynches were “wealthy, cultured, well connected and ambitious.” Thomas became British consul-general for Persia. Both he and Stephen brought their families to London, while maintaining mansions and land in Basra and Baghdad. Rosa, who had become a widow and blind, lived in London with Thomas and Harriet.

H. F. B. Lynch was born there in 1862, and his Armenian grandmother died 15 years later. He also grew up near his uncle Stephen’s Armenian wife Hosanna and interacted with his mother’s brother John George Taylor, who had become British consul at Erzerum and traveled with his Armenian dragoman.

see LYNCH, page 14



Nicole Babikian Hajjar, left, with filmmaker Bared Maronian

An Afternoon of History and Collaboration

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

LEXINGTON, Mass. – “Lights! Camera! Stories!,” a collaboration between the Armenian Women’s Welfare Association (AWWA) and Armenian International Women’s

Association (AIWA), held at the Scottish Rite Masonic Museum and Library on Sunday, September 23, attracted a large, diverse audience for an afternoon with filmmaker Bared Maronian.

Event chair Nicole Babikian Hajjar introduced Maronian, a veteran documentarian who has won several regional Emmy Awards, as a born storyteller. “This man knows how to put the story in history,” she said.

“We hope [this event] can inspire many more collaborations,” Hajjar said.

The program raised about \$18,000, which will be divided between the two sponsoring organizations for their projects, the Hanganak NGO Clinic Elderly Project in Stepanakert, Artsakh, and the Women’s Support Center in Yerevan.

Maronian showed an abbreviated version of his award-winning 2016 film, “Women of the Genocide,” with clips about some Armenian women, such as Genocide survivor Aurora Mardiganian, as well as non-Armenian rescuers such as Danish Missionary Maria Jacobsen.

He also showed footage he had shot during the Velvet Revolution in April and the upcoming “Titanic Love,” about descendants of two Armenian survivors who had boarded the ill-fated ship. Six people from the same village, Keghi, were fleeing the Hamidian massacres.

see MARONIAN, page 15



Bared Maronian

Saroyan’s 110th Anniversary Commemorated by Tekeyan in California

By **Ara Aharonian**

GLENDALE – On the 110th anniversary of the birth of Armenian-American writer William Saroyan, the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Los Angeles chapter organized a literary evening dedicated to his work on September 28 at the Glendale Central Library.

TCA chapter chairman Parsegh Kartalian welcomed guests and presented excerpts from Saroyan’s publications. He invited well known reciter Arsho Melikian to read some Armenian translations of Saroyan’s works and then invited poet Khachik Khacher to speak about Saroyan’s



Parsegh Kartalian

oeuvre. Kacher then read letters sent by the president of the Writers Union of the Republic of Armenia, Eduard Melitonyan and the president of the Writers Union of Mountainous Karabakh, Vardan Hakobyan.

Salpy and Sossy Kerkonian provided a musical dimension to the evening by performing two pieces on harp and flute. They were followed by keynote speaker Prof. Osheen Keshishian, editor of the Armenian Observer weekly newspaper, who spoke on



Prof. Osheen Keshishian

the stages of Saroyan’s life. Saroyan lost his Bitlis-born father at the age of 3 and was left to the care of his mother in Fresno. Without graduating high school, he became a self-made writer.

Keshishian spoke about his friendship with Saroyan’s children, Aram and Lucy, and spoke about the literary work of the former. William Saroyan participated in the 1935 writers conference in Soviet Armenia and visited Moscow. He made additional visits to Soviet Armenia over the years and became familiar with Soviet Armenian writers. When he died at the age of 73, according to his wishes, half of his ashes were brought to Armenia and interred on May 29, 1981 at the pantheon of writers. Karen Demirchyan, Vardges Petrosyan and Keshishian participated in the ceremony.

At the end of the program, the guests were provided printed copies of a special interview conducted by Keshishian with Saroyan in the 1970s and viewed photos provided by Keshishian and placed at the entrance of the hall.

(Translated from the Armenian)



ARTS & LIVING

British Lecturer Sheds Light on Armenian Origins of English Travel Writer H. F. B. Lynch

LYNCH, from page 13

At the same time, the Lynches moved in fashionable and elite English circles. Thomas' two daughters were presented at court and his son Henry went to Eton College and then Cambridge University, studying classics. The family was Protestant and conservative, being anti-Russian and imperialists. While opposed to Irish home rule, they were compassionate toward the poor during the Irish Potato Famine.

In the late 1880s, Henry was sent to Baghdad to learn the company business and expand it into Persia. He must have met and perhaps lived with Armenian relatives while there. His travels to Armenia in the 1890s might have been precipitated by this or by the Armenian revolutionary activity fermenting in the Ottoman Empire at this time. He collected newspaper clippings on the Yafra Affair of 1893, and in June of that year wrote to the Royal Geographical Society that he hoped to begin a journey through Russian and Turkish Armenia late that summer.

In his travel party was his cousin Captain Henry Blossie Lynch of the Devonshire Regiment. Young quoted from both Lynch's diary and his published work to show how Lynch "was falling under the spell of the landscape" and of interesting Armenian figures like Catholicos Mgrdich Khrimian, whose consecration he attended.

Young stated that during Lynch's visit to Erzerum and discussions with British consul Robert Wyndham Graves, Lynch developed the

idea of a semi-autonomous Armenian state within the boundaries of a reformed Ottoman Empire, which he wrote about the following summary in his articles in the *Contemporary Review*. He wrote some more articles to mixed reviews, while,

according to Young, his attempts to meet with British politicians did not lead to any practical results.

Lynch also feared the results of Russian intervention in Armenia, unlike many Armenians of

the time. Young examined the question of whether Lynch could have done his research and preparations for his book for the British intelligence services but determined that Lynch's contacts with British government officials or military officers were merely part of what his Baghdad firm usually did – pass on interesting or useful information.

Young examined why Lynch's two-volume book did not reveal much of himself or his connection to Armenia. On the one hand, Lynch had an Armenian grandmother and continued personal connections to Armenia. Young surmised that Lynch's connection with the small and subject nation of the Irish as well as the sympathy evinced by Lynch's parents during the Irish Famine may have strengthened his feelings about Armenia. Young said, "He wanted to capture part of his own heritage in words and photography before it was too late." Lynch also enjoyed the opportunities offered by travel in Armenia for mountaineering and meeting the challenges of difficult terrain. The trip could also allow him to write a book similar to that of George Curzon on Persia which would make him the preeminent authority on Armenia and the region. He avoided mentioning his personal Armenian connections in order not to give the book a partisan air.

Young summed it up as follows: "His whole approach, therefore, and the book which resulted, is a unique combination, fed by his origins and the influence of family and friends, of a love of Armenia and its people, and 19th-century British imperialism, of which he was a firm advocate."

Young based his talk on archival sources in Britain and Armenia, as well as private Lynch family papers and published and unpublished articles and books. Young obtained a master's degree in Byzantine Studies at Kings College in London after his retirement from his career as a judge, and he continued to Pembroke College, in Oxford, to research Lynch's life.

Young has published "The Quest for Henry Finnis Blossie Lynch," a chapter in *Between Paris and Fresno: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouymjian* (ed. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, 2008, pp. 499-509). His most recent lecture, entitled "Anglo Armenian links in 19th century Baghdad," is available on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdDBpHxzSxg>).



Christopher Young, left, and Prof. Simon Payaslian (photo: Aram Arkun)

Recipe Corner



by Christine Vartanian Dalian

Southwest Bulgur Pilaf

INGREDIENTS

2 cups coarse bulgur
 4 tablespoons unsalted butter or 1/4 cup olive oil
 1/2 cup vermicelli pasta, broken into pieces
 1 cup chopped onions
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 1/2 green, yellow or red bell pepper, seeded and chopped or 1/2 (4 oz.) can diced green chilies
 1/2 cup diced celery
 1 tablespoon tomato paste
 3 cups low sodium chicken, beef or vegetable broth
 1 cup tomato juice or crushed tomatoes
 1 cup shredded cooked roast beef, lamb, chicken or pork (optional)
 1 tablespoon salsa
 1 tablespoon lime juice
 1 small jalapeño pepper or red Fresno chile pepper, seeded and finely diced
 1/2 teaspoon each cumin, chili powder and Spanish paprika
 1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
 Salt and black pepper
 Dash of hot sauce (optional)

Toppings: Chopped cilantro and green onions, salsa, sour cream, sliced avocado, Jack cheese, crumbled Queso cheese, diced black olives, and sliced lemon and lime wedges

PREPARATION

In a large pot, sauté vermicelli in butter (or olive oil) until golden brown. Add onions and garlic and cook a few minutes longer until onions are tender. Add bell pepper or green chilies, celery, and tomato paste, and stir. Add bulgur and stir until all ingredients are combined. Add broth, tomato juice or crushed tomatoes, choice of meat, salsa, lime juice, jalapeño pepper, spices, and hot sauce, and bring to a boil. Stir, cover, reduce heat, and cook for 20-25 minutes or until all liquid has been absorbed; remove pilaf from heat and let stand for 5 minutes. Fluff with a fork. Garnish with toppings and serve with soft warm tortillas on the side. Serves 6.

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



Boston Artist Varteni to Exhibit Paintings at Installations in Armenia

BOSTON – On November 9, the Modern Art Museum of Yerevan (MAMY) will launch an installation titled "Palimpsest: A History in Drawers," showcasing works by Boston-based painter Varteni.

In the early 1980s, Henrik Igityan, founder of MAMY, was at Harvard University for a lecture. Varteni and Igityan met at that time and the latter visited the artist's studio and applauded her work and invited her to come to Armenia for an exhibition.

Now, decades later, this dream is being realized.

Before the MAMY show, the installation will be shown at the Berlin Art Hotel, Gallery 25, Gyumri, on October 20.

"Palimpsest: A History in Drawers" is a reimagining of a time just a few steps back, before the digital reshaping of modern times and a time when memories had a hard-copy extension tucked away in a drawer somewhere in a corner of the house. As the artist puts it, "This is an art installation expressing some moments of my remembrance, remembrance of separation and distance, letters from loved ones tucked away in a drawer and then years later found and read with longing. A moment for now ..." The "now" that Varteni mentions is the question that the installation asks. Are we making any "hard copies" of our memories and leaving them behind in some drawer, somewhere?

The Berlin Art Hotel show will take place October 20 to November 4, with the opening reception on October 20, 6 p.m. and feature a performance by Hasmik and Alec Harutyunyan.

The MAMY show will run November 9 through 20, with the opening reception on November 9 at 6 p.m.



ARTS & LIVING

An Afternoon of History and Collaboration

MARONIAN, from page 13

Maronian was in Armenia in April to show "Women of 1915" during the uprising and he was moved when he "witnessed amazing human kindness" by people in the leadup to the toppling of the regime. "There is an alternative to violence" when it comes to revolutions, he said. "This is the true message."

He also spoke at length about the Cultural Impact Foundation, emphasizing that its work in making documentaries, with Armenoid Production, which he founded, is focused on encouraging and highlighting the positive in human interactions. "It is all about enlightenment and shedding light on darkness," he said. The effort, he said, will show the power of documentary filmmaking "as an educational tool in educating non-Armenians" about the tragic chapters in Armenians' past.



Bared Maronian shows a still during his talk.



Nicole Babikian Hajjar

Hajjar, in her introduction, spoke about Maronian successfully making connections, such as in the case of Dr. Chris Sassouni, who as a result of a chance meeting with Maronian, became involved with working on his film, "Orphans of the Genocide," and found out that his grandfather had helped rescue many during the Armenian Genocide.

Sassouni, who knew next to nothing about the Armenian Genocide before meeting Maronian, now is the chair of the Board of Directors of the Cultural Impact Foundation. The foundation has raised \$80,000 so far to help it achieve its vision.

Zela Astarjian, the head of the New England chapter of AIWA, after the program expressed her pleasure with the afternoon. "The collaboration was one of the most amazing I have experienced," she said.

She added that she was crying during the



The organizing committee, from left, Rouzan Abrahamian, JoAnn Janjigian, Margarit Belorian, Cynthia Kazanjian, Ani Stepanian, Nicole Babikian Hajjar, Susan Deranian, Zela Astarjian, Marina Dermenjian, Marlene Fereshetian and Piruz Bogossian



From left, Nicole Babikian Hajjar, Bared Maronian and Jean-Jacques Hajjar,

program because her grandfather was "one of those orphans in Lebanon." The program "showed the resilience of the human spirit," she concluded.

Jackie Abramian, the co-writer of the "Women of 1915," was also in attendance. "Working with Bared has been superb. We met on LinkedIn and I've been working with him



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Jackie Abramian and her husband, Harout DerSimonian

more than 10 years."

Abramian is the senior media strategist at Bridgeview Marketing in Portsmouth, N.H. and founded Global Cadence in Kittery, Maine, where she and her husband co-own Haley Art Gallery.

The award-winning "Women of 1915" is gaining traction nationally and will be shown on Voice of America Television, as well as PBS, later this fall.



C A L E N D A R

CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 14 — Pianist and composer Tigran Hamasyan, Sunday, at 5 p.m., Royce Hall,, UCLA 10745 Dickson Court, Los Angeles. Hamasyan, considered one of the most remarkable and distinctive jazz-meets-rock pianists of his generation, fuses potent improvisation with the rich folkloric music of his native Armenia. Featuring works from his latest album, For Gyumri, the solo concert will benefit the Children of Armenia Fund. Tickets: Single tickets: \$29–\$59. Online: cap.ucla.edu. UCLA Central Ticket Office: 310-825-2101, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Royce Hall box office: open 90 minutes prior to the event start time.

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 or visit eyecareproject.com/gala

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MASSACHUSETTS

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

OCTOBER 14 — Nor Serund youth folk ensemble from Armenia, Sunday, 4 p.m., at Longy school of Music, 27 Garden St., Cambridge. Hosted by Hovaness Badalian Music Fund. visit www.amarasonline.com or call 617-331-0426 for more info.

OCTOBER 19 — The Armenian Museum of America will embark on a bus trip to The Metropolitan Museum of Art on Friday to see their new exhibition "Armenia!," which explores the arts and culture of Armenians from the 4th-17th centuries. Two illuminated manuscripts from the Armenian Museum's collection will be among the incredible objects on display. Tickets are \$175 and for members only. The bus will leave Watertown at 7 am, and tickets include round-trip transportation to The Met on a coach bus with WiFi and restrooms, admission to The Met, an Armenian continental breakfast on the bus, and a guided interpretative tour from Christina Maranci, PhD, Professor of Armenian Art and Architecture. The group will leave The Met at 6 p.m., and an evening snack will be provided on the bus before arriving back in Watertown around 10 pm. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.armenianmuseum.org or call 617.926.2562, ext. 4.

OCTOBER 20 — Fall Harvest Bazaar, Saturday, noon to 7pm, First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Avenue, Belmont. Handmade choreg, manti, Armenian pastries and more. Grilled kebab all day. All are welcome, rain or shine. MBTA and handicapped accessible. Information: www.facbelmont.org, or call 617-484-4779

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 21 — 5th Annual Trinity Tailgate, New England Patriots vs. Chicago Bears, sponsored by the

Trinity Men's Union of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 12:15 p.m., Sunday, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. All are invited to a tailgate party to watch the game, 1 p.m. kick-off, on a 12 foot high-definition screen. Lots of food, beverages and snacks. For further information, call the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617.354.0632 or email office@htaac.org.

OCTOBER 28 — 57th Anniversary Celebration of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston Honoring "Parishioners of the Year" Nancy D. Kasarjian and Carol Krikorian upon their Retirement, following Church Services, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA. Sunday. Donation for catered reception: \$30 per person. RSVP requested by October 19 by calling the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617-354.0632, emailing office@htaac.org or www.htaac.org/calendar/event/588/

NOVEMBER 3 — Thanks-for-Giving Luncheon at the Belmont Country Club in Belmont, hosted by the Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA). An afternoon of socializing with old and new friends, exciting raffle prizes from various artisans in Armenia, Super Market prizes and other fun events. AWWA sponsors the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and the Hanganak Clinic Elderly Project in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabagh. Saturday, 12-4 p.m. Limited number of tickets. Complimentary Valet Parking available. Please call Karen, Martha or Lalig at 617-319-2651 for tickets or information.

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 affiliate, Armenian International Women's Association, Armenian Museum of America, The Friends of the Longfellow House, Hamazkaine Armenian Educational and Cultural Society - Boston, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, New England Poetry Club, and Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada. Sunday, 3 p.m. Armenian Cultural Foundation (441 Mystic Street, Arlington). Admission free and open to the public.

NOVEMBER 5 — St. James Men's Club Dinner Meeting, social hour and mezza at 6:15 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. St. James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center - Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown. Speaker will be writer, editor, political cartoonist, and book publicist Lucine Kasbarian. Following questions and answers, she will sign copies of her new book, Perspectives from Exile, which will be available for purchase. Mezza and a Losh Kebab & Kheyma Dinner \$16/person. Call St. James Church at 617-923-8860 or call Hapet Berberian at 781-367-6598.

NOVEMBER 14 — Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Historic Faneuil Hall, Boston. Wednesday. Doors open at 6.45. Program at 7.30 p.m. "INCARCERATION Untangling the web of injustice." Speakers: Secretary Andrea J. Cabral, former Massachusetts Secretary of Public Safety, Author, Enforcing and Defending Chapter 209A Restraining Orders in Massachusetts; Marc A. Levin, Esq, Vice President of Criminal Justice, Texas Public Policy Foundation and Right on Crime; Founder, Foundation's Criminal Justice Program Moderator: Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. 30th Sheriff of Middlesex County. President, Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association. Founding Member, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime & Incarceration. Reception follows at the Bostonian Hotel. An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway. Advance Registration is appreciated. hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

NOVEMBER 16 and 17 — Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church, Annual Food Festival and Fair, 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford, Phone 978-256-7234. Armenian Food and Pastries and Vendors, Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tours of the church sanctuary and complex - Friday, 11 a.m. and Saturday, 4 p.m. Tavloo Tournament - Saturday, 2 p.m.

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

DECEMBER 9 — Christmas Holiday Concert — Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, 7 p.m., Church Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Save the date; details

to follow. For further information, call the Church office, 617.354.0632 or email office@htaac.org.

DECEMBER 2 — Acapella Christmas Concert by Boston Jazz Voices to Benefit the Armenia Tree Project. 5 p.m. at the Jenks Center, 109 Skillings Road, Winchester. Free parking. Event will feature an acapella performance, refreshments, raffle, and silent auction. Tickets are \$30 each and a family four-pack of tickets is available for \$100. Tickets available via Eventbrite at www.armenia-tree.org/acapella

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

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

NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 19 — Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York presents a lecture by Dr. George Bournoutian titled "The Emergence of Present-Day Armenian State," Armenian Republic 1918-1920, Russian Armenia 1828-1917 and Soviet Armenia, 1921-1989. 7 p.m., Tekeyan Center, 560 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs. RSVP required. Free admission. Call Nadya Boyadjian, 201-615-2441 or email Tekeyannj@aol.com

OCTOBER 23 — At the Foot of Ararat: Armenian Folk Dance, on Tuesday, 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. and 7 to 7.30 p.m., at the Paramus Campus, Technology Education Center, TEC-128. Refreshments will be served. RSVP Nvair Beylerian at nbeylerian@bergen.edu or www.bergen.edu/pjr/events. Presented by the Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation and the Bergen Community College Dance Club. Susan Lind-Sinianian of the Armenian Museum of America will introduce and teach line dances that she has collected over the last 40 years. Park in Lot B-Section G.

OCTOBER 27-28 — Art Exhibition sponsored by the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York with artist Simon Samsonian (1921-2003). Opening reception, Saturday, 7 to 10.30 p.m. and Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m. Tekeyan Center, 560 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs. Free admission. For more information email Tekeyannj@aol.com

DECEMBER 8 — Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group will present a Christmas gala with Sarina Cross. Save the date. Details to come.

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>

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 Dokmecian, 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.

RHODE ISLAND

OCTOBER 13 — The Cultural committee of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church proudly presents "Nor Serund" (New Generation) Folk youth group from Armenia. Saturday. Adults \$25. Children under 16 Free. 7 p.m. Egavian Cultural Center. 70 Jefferson Street, Providence. For tickets call: Janna Guegamian 401 861-3573, Mariam Saribekyan, 401 714-6327, or Church office 401 272-7712. Reception to follow in the Hanoian Church Hall.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Dashdondog Bayarsaikhan: 'Armenian Sources Are Very Important for Mongol Studies'

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN/ULAANBAATAR – Prof. Dashdondog Bayarsaikhan teaches history at the National University of Mongolia, specializing in the Mongol Empire and Mongol-Armenian historical relationships. She studied at the Department of Armenian Language and Literature of Yerevan State University and defended her doctoral dissertation (“Mongol-Armenian Political Relations (1220-1335)”) at Oxford University (UK).

Bayarsaikhan worked on the section on Armenian sources for the *Cambridge History of the Mongol Empire*. She is the author of *The Mongols and the Armenians* (Leiden: Brill, 2011) and *The Essays on the Ilkhans: From Hülegü to Abu Sa'ïd* (Ulaanbaatar, 2016), both monographs in English, the translation from Armenian into Mongolian of *The History of the Nation of Archers by Grigor Aknerci'i* (Antoon Mostaert Centre for Mongol Studies, Monograph series, v. 4, Ulaanbaatar, 2010), as well as many articles and papers in international conferences in Mongolian and English.

Bayarsaikhan often travels to Europe, Asia and the US to lecture and participate in conferences and projects along with her colleagues working on the Mongol Empire.

My interview with Dashdondog Bayarsaikhan was conducted via email.

Dear Bayarsaikhan, I remember your report on Mongolian words in medieval Armenian sources at the international symposium on medieval Armenian literature back in 1986.

That paper was based on the work I did on my bachelor's degree. There are many Mongol words mentioned in medieval Armenian sources: in Kirakos Gandzaketsi's work alone, there is a glossary of about 70 Mongolian words and their Armenian meanings. These Mongolian words stand uniquely, since they shed a light on Middle Mongolian and deserve close study from linguistic point of view.

The Armenian sources mention Mongols as *azg netoghats* – the nation of archers – and

provide much information about them. As a specialist on this matter, how reliable do you consider the Armenian sources on the Mongols?

Only in Armenian sources are the Mongols called the Nation of the Archers, which deserves much appreciation from modern Mongols. The majority of the Armenian sources on the Mongols are written in the 13th-14th centuries, meaning that the historians were eyewitnesses, so the reliability of the sources is undeniable.

Seven years ago, your book *The Mongols and the Armenians (1220-1335)* was published in Leiden. It is the result of your long years of study. What is the importance of Armenian sources for the history of the Mongolian people and for Mongol studies?

The Armenian historical sources make me proud. When I was accepted to Oxford University to pursue my doctoral thesis on the Ilkhans, the Mongol rulers in Middle East and the Caucasus in the 13th-14th centuries, some of professors were sceptical about my contribution to the topic, which was already well addressed in academic circles. However, I convinced them that the Armenian sources on the Mongols is a special subject that deserves fuller attention. Here, I have to mention Prof. Theo van Lint, who was one of my supervisors at Oxford University. As a result of hard work, the book was published.

The Mongols built the largest land empire in the world history. In order to study this subject, one has to read sources written in many languages, including Mongolian, Chinese, Persian, Arabic, Latin, Greek, Syriac, Korean, Japanese, Russian, Turkic, Uyghur, Tangut and even Hebrew. Among them the Armenian sources are listed not only as important, but also as written in many genres: historical compilations, chronicles, hagiography, colophons, inscriptions and poems. This fact stands unique among the sources written in other languages about the Mongols.

In the aforementioned symposium, the whole audience was impressed hearing your fluent Armenian. Your knowledge of our language became even more striking when after you a lady from Yerevan delivered her report



Dashdondog Bayarsaikhan lecturing

in... Russian. How did it happen that you became a student at Yerevan State University?

My fluency in Armenian by that time was not sudden. I lived in Armenia for six years studying at Yerevan State University from 1975-1981. I came to Armenia according to an agreement between the Academy of Sciences of Mongolia and Armenia. The former president of the Armenian Academy of Science, the late Prof. Victor Hambartsumyan, and the former president of Academy of Sciences of Mongolia, Prof. B. Shirendyub, decided to open a position at Yerevan State University for Mongolian students for Armenian Studies. In 1975, I was graduating from the general education school in Ulaanbaatar. Since I had very good scores, I was given the priority to choose the subject of my further education. I was looking for universities where Oriental studies, whether in Turkic, Persian or Arabic, was taught. However, in that year there were only Japanese and Chinese studies and Armenian. With the great excitement of my parents, especially of my father, who was a theater critic, and who had visited Armenia previously in 1969 for Hovhannes Tumanyan's 100th anniversary, I chose Armenian Studies.

When I was a student at the Armenian Language and Literature Department at Yerevan State University, our late Professor Hovhannes Barseghyan, sometimes unhappy with us, would give the example that the students from Mongolia excelled the locals. I also remember an acquaintance of mine, who was your classmate, once said she used to copy Barseghyan's lectures on the history of Armenian language from you. How did you gain this level of mastery of the language?

I do cherish the sweet memory of my teachers at the Yerevan University. I very much loved Professor Barseghyan's lectures on the history of the Armenian language. It was a period during which I was getting involved in the subject, and obtaining my insights about the history and language of the Armenians.

I do owe much appreciation to another teacher of mine, Professor Suren Avagyan, who taught me *grabar* [Classical Armenian] and who was my supervisor for those years. He was the one who introduced me to the Armenian historical sources and who brought me to the Matenadaran, where I had spent much of my

time during my study. I realized, though only later, that he also introduced me to the scientific secretary of Matenadaran, Levon Ter-Petrosian, a former President of Armenia. I was very thrilled getting emails and even books written by the latter from Ter-Petrosian last year.

So what happened to the other Mongolian students who studied in Armenia?

There were several students from Mongolia studying at the Yerevan conservatory. They became successful musicians in Mongolia. Some of them are in contact with me. They are all so nostalgic about Armenia.

Have you succeeded in maintaining your knowledge of Armenian after so many years while living in a country with very few Armenians?

Of course, speaking practice does not exist. But I was reading in Armenian and working on the history of the Mongols through Armenian sources.

What can you tell us about the Armenian inhabitants of Mongolia?

Unfortunately, I have no direct contacts with Armenians in Ulaanbaatar, but I do know there are some Armenians living in Mongolia engaged in small businesses.

Do you continue your research on Armenian-Mongolian relations?

Yes, my research on Mongol-Armenian relationship continues. I am writing on the Armenian sources, on Armenian historians of Mongol period as well as on cultural interactions of the Mongols with the Armenians. Some of my works are accessible in English and some are in the process of being published. Very recently I submitted a paper on Kirakos Gandzaketsi, on his experience working with the Mongol Noyan by the name of Molar during his imprisonment.

You have not returned to the city of your student years of many years ago. When we will meet you again in Armenia?

A very good question. I really miss Armenia. I have not been there since the late 1980s. If such a chance arises, I would love to visit Armenia and Yerevan. I have two master's degree students to whom I teach Armenian. It would be nice to bring them with me to Armenia to show them a place of great culture and history.

CALENDAR

RHODE ISLAND

OCTOBER 25 – The Armenian Historical Association of Rhode Island and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research present The Art of Armenia: An Introduction. Illustrated lecture by Dr. Christina Maranci, Arthur H. Dadian and Ara Oztemel Professor of Armenian Art and Architecture, Tufts University. Thursday, 7 p.m. Armenian Historical Association of Rhode Island (AHARI) Museum, 245 Waterman Street, Suite 204, Providence. Admission free.

NOVEMBER 3-4 – Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, 88th Annual Food Fair and Bazaar. 70 Jefferson St., Providence. Saturday, 11:30 a.m.- 10 p.m.-Sunday, Noon – 6 p.m. Daily Raffle & Silent Auction, Kids Games, Kids Movies, Arts & Crafts, Balloon man. Shish Kebab, Losh Kebab, Kufta, Kheyra, Yalanchi, Armenian Pastries, Lahmajoon & many other delicious food available. All are welcome. Handicap accessible. Cash, Check, Visa and Mastercard Accepted. For further information, call church office 401-272-7712.

CANADA

NOVEMBER 14 – Book presentation by Adrienne G. Alexanian on her father's memoir, *Forced into Genocide: Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier* in the Ottoman Turkish Army. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. AGBU Montreal Center – Demirdjian Hall. 805 Manoogian Street Saint Laurent, QCH4N1Z5. Reception and book signing to follow. (All proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated to the AGBU)

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.

Mirror Spectator



Established 1932
An ADL Publication

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

Baikar Association, Inc.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

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COMMENTARY

The Hazardous Mission of Journalists

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Having survived an assassination attempt in my youth as a journalist, every case of violence against fellow journalists brings back painful memories.

There are two categories of journalists: palace journalists and mission journalists.

Palace journalists have safe and comfortable lives, since nobody wishes to interfere with them. They are hired by the authorities, whose policies they support. And therefore, their opinions have no impact on the public.

The second category of journalists comprises professionals with a sense of mission. They are committed to their vocation and the truth serves as their guiding post. These journalists realize how dangerous their paths are yet they persist.

In civilized countries, they are protected by law, but more often than not, civilization cannot offer enough protection for their lives. They are subjected to violence, they are tortured or murdered and sometimes higher authorities turn up to be behind their tragic deaths.

These days, almost simultaneously the media attention is caught by several high-profile cases of violence against journalists. One is that of 30-year-old Bulgarian journalist Viktoria Marinova, whose lifeless, brutalized body was found in a park near a river. Marinova was a director of a small TV station in the Bulgarian city of Ruse, near the Romanian border. Apparently she was investigating the misuse of the European Union funds in Bulgaria and was after some incriminating evidence when her life was cut short.

The other case is that of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi who entered a Saudi consulate in Turkey and has never come out. No hard evidence is being presented but the situation does not leave hope for a happy resolution.

The Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Audrey Azoulay routinely condemns the murder or disappearance of journalists. The statistics released by UNESCO present the following pic-

ture: "Local journalists killed from 2006-2016, 868; foreign journalists killed from 2006-2016, 62; female journalists in the same period, 60; male journalists in the same period: 870.

ture: "Local journalists killed from 2006-2016, 868; foreign journalists killed from 2006-2016, 62; female journalists in the same period, 60; male journalists in the same period: 870.

Sven Giegold, a German member of the Green Party in the European Parliament has said all of Europe should worry about Marinova's slaying: "First Malta [Daphne Caruana Galizia], then Slovakia [Jan Kuciak] and then Sweden [Kim Wall]," referring to killings in EU countries.

The mystery continues about the disappearance of the Saudi journalist and it will have political ramifications as Turkey and Saudi Arabia were already in a political standoff, when Riyadh tried to blockade Qatar and Turkey sided with the latter.

Even the US is worried with the case; "I pray Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi is alive," Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican, tweeted. "But if this deeply disturbing news report is confirmed, the United States and the civilized world must respond strongly and I will review all options in the Senate."

It remains to be seen what a Senator can do, when the US has a special relationship with Saudi Arabia. The Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman, who has become a virtual dictator in his country, recently put under house arrest almost all princes, extracting from them \$100 billion in penalties before he released them. The next day, he signed a military contract with the US worth \$110 billion. Of course, as the US military industrial complex churns up more sophisticated military hardware every year, where else can it dump vintage armaments, if not in

the Arabian desert.

Discussing the deal with the Saudi prince, President Trump, referring to one piece of equipment which is worth \$500 million, jokingly said, "Of course, this is peanuts for you." In that kind of relationship, one human life must be worth less than a peanut.

Turkey has taken a more serious stand and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed to pursue the issue "personally."

However, Ali Shahibi, head of the Arabia Foundation, a pro-Saudi think tank in the US, has said, "If Jamal is still missing or God forbid, dead, then the judgement should be left to an independent investigation carried out by a credible international party. The Turks are not a neutral party."

Erdogan already has the blood of journalists on his hand. He is one of the major torturers of journalists in the world and it is a most cynical stand for him to pretend to speak in defense of people in that profession.

Just last week, as Erdogan was visiting Germany, he warned that he would not attend a press conference if the prominent Turkish journalist Can Dunder were in attendance. The journalist, who lives in exile now in Germany, was the editor-in-chief of the Turkish daily *Cumhuriyet*, before Erdogan sacked all independent journalists and put them behind bars. Dunder himself was sentenced to more than five years in prison. The day that he was convicted, there was assassination attempt against him. In response, he quipped, "In the space of two hours, we have experienced two assassination attempts. One was done with a gun, the other was judicial. This confirms that journalism is on trial."

Dunder was charged with betraying state secrets, because his newspaper had written about catching Erdogan red-handed as he was supplying arms to terrorists in Syria.

Erdogan's government has its own deep state to persecute and assassinate journalists. Hrant Dink was one of the victims of that state-sponsored system of terrorism.

Supposedly, Erdogan had dismantled the deep state which was operating under the code name Ergenekon and he replaced that system with his own. During his attempt to rid the nation of Ergenekon, he arrested many high-level military officers and

civil servants, in essence neutralizing a sector that could pose him a threat, rather than concern for values or rights.

The previous deep state, which was in collusion with the government security forces, used the Grey Wolves extremist group to commit political assassinations. One highly-publicized case was the murder of a prominent journalist, Abdi Ipekçi, who promoted minority rights in Turkey and advocated reconciliation with Greece. He was gunned down on February 1, 1979. Two members of the ultra-nationalist Grey Wolves, Oral Celik and Mehmet Ali Agca, were apprehended. Agca received a life sentence but after serving six months, he escaped from the prison with the help of sympathetic military officers. Later on, he was sent to kill Pope John Paul II in 1981. How could this criminal escape from prison, cross borders, carrying guns, if he did not have government support?

Successive Turkish administrations not only have provided guns and protection to the murderers, they also have built up the

hatred against independent journalists to make the crime even more palatable.

Accusing Erdogan and the pro-government media of whipping up a frenzy of hatred against him, Dunder said, "We know very well who showed me as a target. This is the result of provocation. If you turn someone into so much of a target, this is what happens."

That targeted hatred is exactly what happened to the late journalist Hrant Dink, who was shot to death as he was standing trial for violating Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code which addresses "denigrating Turkishness."

This state persecution of the Turkish-Armenian journalist was coupled with a media campaign against him. He was assassinated on January 19, 2007. The murderer was identified as Ogun Samast, and he reportedly shouted, "I shot the infidel."

Dink's funeral was attended by many government officials, but Erdogan himself had an excuse to miss it because he said he had to attend the scheduled inauguration of the Mount Bolu Tunnel.

Dink's assassination became the most celebrated such case after the death of Abdi Ipekçi. Huge crowds participated in the funeral and condemnation of the incident swept through Europe.

As Erdogan "personally pursues" the Khashoggi case, he has hundreds of journalists rotting in jail cells and many others murdered by his security forces.

Despite all adversities and dangers, professional journalists continue their dedication to their vocation to bring out the truth to hold governments accountable and to keep society sane.





COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Trump Administration Cancels Two More International Treaties

I wrote an article in September criticizing the Trump administration's dismissal of the International Criminal Court. I considered the US action to be a lack of respect for justice and the rule of law.

Last week, the Trump administration took two more scandalous actions further flouting international law and avoiding the peaceful option of legal recourse to conflict resolution.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the United States was terminating the Treaty of Amity signed in 1955 between the US and Iran, after a unanimous ruling on October 3, 2018, by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), also known as the World Court, that the United States had to resume the export of humanitarian goods and spare parts for civil aviation safety services to Iran, despite US sanctions. This was certainly a victory for Iran as it had sued the United States in the World Court. The US withdrawal from the treaty made it look like a sore loser.

President Trump renewed the US sanctions after withdrawing this May from the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran and several other major powers. The sanctions covered dollar transactions, food exports and sales of aluminum and steel. In November, the US will add new sanctions against Iran's oil sales, energy and shipping sectors and foreign financial transactions.

After the verdict, ICJ President Abdulqawi Yusuf

announced that "the court's order applies to medicines and medical devices; foodstuffs and agricultural commodities; and spare parts, equipment and repair services for civil aviation. The United States must also ensure that licenses and authorizations are granted and that payment for such goods and services are not subject to any restrictions," the Washington Post reported.

Although the rulings of the International Court of Justice are binding, they are not enforceable. US National Security Adviser John Bolton, during his appearance at the White House press briefing on October 3, stated that Iran had "made a mockery" of the Amity Treaty. In response, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called the United States "an outlaw regime."

Ironically, the United States files cases against other countries in the International Court of Justice when it suits its interests. Back in 1979, the United States sued the government of Iran after the takeover of the US Embassy in Tehran by Iranian militants. The US won that case and the ICJ ordered Iran to release all American hostages and pay compensation. It is strange that the United States government is now cancelling its treaty with Iran and not in 1979 during the hostage crisis!

The *Washington Post* reported that "during meetings at the United Nations last week, Trump, Pompeo and Bolton railed against Iran and berated various other member states and U.N. bodies for not bending to American interests. Their approach elicited an icy reaction. At a Security Council session chaired by President Trump, every other member of the U.N.'s most powerful body scolded Washington for its rejection of the nuclear deal, an agreement the council had endorsed."

On October 3, 2018, Bolton also announced that the United States would withdraw from the "optional protocol" under the Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations. This decision was prompted by the filing of an ICJ complaint in September 2018 by the Palestinian Authority against the

United States for moving the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The Vienna Convention is an international treaty which sets out diplomatic relations between states and provides immunity to diplomats. Ironically, Bolton stated: "the United States remains a party to the underlying Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and we expect all other parties to abide by their international obligations under the convention."

Bolton further announced that the United States will review all other international agreements to safeguard US sovereignty. In less than two years of Trump's presidency, the United States has withdrawn from the nuclear agreement with Iran, the global climate agreement, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, threatened to distance itself from NATO, left the UN Human Rights Council, and cut off funding to UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) which has been providing humanitarian aid to millions of Palestinian refugees for the past 70 years!

Constitutional lawyers may question the legal right of the Trump administration to abrogate international treaties which are ratified by the US Senate. Shouldn't the Senate give its consent to the White House before it withdraws from such treaties? In the first 189 years of America's history, 40 treaties were abrogated after both houses of Congress agreed to do so. Just two treaties were abrogated by the Senate only, after a vote by two-thirds of its members. Unfortunately, in recent years, due to congressional ineptitude and historical inactivity, the Executive Branch has taken the initiative of unilaterally abrogating international treaties. This is an issue that the US Congress should review, particularly if Democrats win the majority, in order to restrain Pres. Trump's arbitrary decisions which embarrass the United States in the eyes of the world.

Hopefully, the next more responsible US President will reverse Trump's deeply flawed decisions on international agreements and other vital issues.

May His Legacy Continue to Inspire Us and Shape Future Generations

By Nora Armani

CHARLES AZNAVOUR, Shahnour Vaghinak Aznavourian, is no more. An era has come to an end. A great man has died, one who was the author of thousands of poems turned into songs that portrayed every single universal nuance of the human emotion of love. He was 100 percent French, he was 100 percent Armenian, he was 100 percent universal. He was bigger than life, and yes, he was 300 percent a man. He was above any national boundaries, because his sense of national belonging was not determined by geography or any historic limitations, but defined by the boundless limitless love that he sang of throughout his lifetime.

His songs were all about this love for his fellow human beings, about their qualities, but more importantly about their shortcomings and their flaws, that he depicted lovingly. He sang of all the outcasts, all the downtrodden, he sang of marginality, he sang of fulfillment in love, and also of unrequited love; he sang of poverty and made it sound romantic. He mocked the bourgeois values that trade love for social standing. He sang of a father's love for his daughter, of a husband's love for his wife despite her "letting herself go." He sang of the non-hearing, he sang of impossible love of a teacher for his student, of his love for Paris, France and its traditions, the French language and its differences with English. He sang of all the women in his life, and in other peoples' lives. He sang of love for art, for creation, for sexual preferences, gender roles. He sang of yesterday, today and even tomorrow, and he sang for his beloved Armenia and his Armenian people.

Yesterday, when I was young, his songs were the constant soundtrack of my dreams, of my loves and my aspirations. And even now, as I write these lines, his songs parade through my mind on a loop, bringing a smile to my face, joy to my heart, enriching me with a philosophical outlook but also leaving me with a bittersweet sadness because he is no longer with us.

I am honored to have met him several times. The first of these encounters was back in Cairo in 1978 during his concert tour of Cairo and Alexandria. We were newlyweds with my then-husband Gerald Papasian, and we rushed to purchase tickets for his concert at the Gezira Club as soon as we heard he was coming. We were the first ones in front of the box office, so early that it had not opened yet. Later, we had the opportunity to meet him in person, and even perform his poems for him, in French, in English and in Armenian.

We had many opportunities to see him perform in concerts and years later when we moved to the US, we met him again socially, this time in Los Angeles, where he used to come often as he had a house there. With his sister Aida, brother-in-law Georges Garvarentz and a few other friends, we passed many intimate evenings and spoke of art, of performance, of love, of Armenians. He was our inspiration and our role model throughout these years and numerous encounters.

But one memorable encounter happened in New York, at the Meridien Hotel, when he was on tour at Radio City Music Hall. Gerald Papasian and myself had performed "Sojourn at Ararat," our award-winning staple show in its French translation in Montreal following the successes of its English version internationally, and wanted to tackle the challenge of taking it to France. We asked Aznavour's advice and he immediately connected us with an agent, Philippe Ouzounian, son of playwright Jean-Jacques Varoujan who readily took on the show. This became our stepping stone into France, via Avignon, then Paris, and the positive reviews establishing our presence in France. He was generous with his mentorship and that meant a lot to us at the time. He had not seen us perform then, but trusted us because of our enthusiasm and our desire to tell our story. That enthusiasm probably reminded him of his youth and his own journey.

Once we were established in France, we had the honor to perform it for him as well, and indeed it was a rare honor to be seen in actual performance rather than on a mere social encounter or a photo opportunity. The years went by, and every time Charles Aznavour would see us separately he would inquire about the other, even though we were no longer together. He would remember the circumstances of our meetings, the details of our conversations, and would inquire about matters that we had ourselves long forgotten. He was a great Man in the real sense.

How is it possible to imagine a world without Charles

Aznavour, without his infinite wisdom, talent, inspiration and generosity?

His resilience, his hard work, even his stubbornness for never giving up when pursuing a dream, have been huge inspirations for us. His caring for his health and well-being was done only to preserve the God-given receptacle, his body, where God had stored all these songs. There were many more waiting to be sung, to be sent out into the Universe with a universal message of love, tolerance and sublime human values.

He was a great actor, and managed during his career to squeeze in some 60 films in which he played unique characters that only he could portray with such memorable truth.

What a prolific career! And, unlike some who would only do these for their own glory and self-satisfaction, Aznavour gave generously back. He gave to Armenia, specifically after the earthquake in 1988, and continues to give until even after his death.

He was rightfully proclaimed cultural ambassador and peace politician, a title that he proudly carried and put to good use. There was a Charles Aznavour; when will come such another?

And this morning, in the early hours, as I watched live on TV France 24 the national homage that France gave him at Les Invalides, in the presence of four presidents, two prime ministers, many dignitaries, ambassadors, ministers and members of his beloved family, I was filled with pride as an artist, as an Armenian, as a Parisian, but most of all as human being.

Charles Aznavour, Shahnour Vaghinak Aznavourian, is no more. He left us orphaned, and with his departure the flame of our dreams, our aspirations, our hopes has been dimmed. Our flag is flying at half-mast. But the love he instilled in us is overflowing from our hearts

and its warmth will continue to brighten our paths and will guide us in our artistic and human endeavors.

As President Macron said this morning in his words of homage to our great poet-singer, "Poets Never Die!" Charles Aznavour will be with us as long as we live and love!

May you Rest In Peace dear Charles Aznavour and may your legacy continue to inspire us and inspire future generations.

(Nora Armani is an award-winning actor, writer, performer and film curator. She performs internationally on stage and on screen in many languages, and holds an M.Sc. in Sociology from the London School of Economics. Nora is currently based in New York and is the Founder and Artistic Director of SR Socially Relevant Film Festival NY.)



Actress Nora Armani flanked by Charles Aznavour and Gerald Papasian



Archbishop Aykazian as Part of Delegation Meets with Cuban Leaders, Iranian Foreign Minister

AYKAZIAN, from page 1

He said, "We discussed how we can breach the differences between the US and Cuba and create a peaceful coexistence between Cubans and Americans." He said that as always on his trips and meetings, he brought up the question of the Armenians. He related that they played an important role in the life of Cubans and that Soviet leader Anastas Mikoyan was an



President of Cuba Miguel Diaz-Canel, left, with Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

anything to do with this and the US government accepts this.

The Cubans asked the delegates to talk with church leaders in the US as well as American officials to assure them that Cuba is not a threat to the US. On the contrary, they said that they really wish a good relationship, as they are only 70 miles away from Miami. These requests were made of the delegates because the NCC has always been in touch with the Cuban Council of Churches and played a much appreciated and important role, for example, in sending back the child Elian Gonzalez to his home.

Later that month, when the president of Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Canel, came to New York to attend the United Nations meeting, he invited a small group of US church leaders to meet with him. On September 27 the clerics had a very good conversation, Aykazian reported, in the same spirit as the meetings back in Cuba. The president repeated his desire for normal relations with the US and thanked the clerics for



Foreign Minister of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif, at right, with Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

Armenian. The foreign minister replied that of course, he knew about this very well, and that Mikoyan was a hero for Cubans.

There are very few Armenians living in Cuba now, said Aykazian. They probably do not number over 50, he estimated. He did not have the opportunity to encounter any of them.

The clerical visiting delegation was on Cuban television every day of its visit. It met with local people, church leaders and other governmental authorities, including ministers and former representatives of Cuba to the US. The problem of what is happening to American diplomats in Cuba was discussed. The Cuban officials assured the delegation that they had nothing to do with it and invited the US government to come and check on the spot. Aykazian said that by now, it is clear that the Cubans do not have

continuing to do what they have done for so many decades. Unfortunately, Aykazian said, relations have gotten worse between the two countries after the election of President Donald Trump.

While in New York, a small group of roughly 10 religious and civil leaders received an invita-

tion to meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif of Iran on September 30. The group included the president of the National Council of Churches, and one leader each from the Evangelical, Episcopalian, Methodist and Armenian churches. There were also civic leaders such as US congressmen and Columbus School of Law of Catholic University Prof. Marshall J. Breger. This group is involved in the Dialogue of Abrahamic Religions, which was the organizer of this meeting. The Dialogue of Abrahamic Religions works to bring the Iranian and America people closer to each other.

The group of Americans went to the Iranian mission to the United Nations, where the meeting began with a prayer offered by Aykazian. The foreign minister described the current situation in Iran, including the nullification of the accord signed with the Europeans and the US after the election of President Trump. Zarif said that his government did not know what would happen next, but that meanwhile, the sanctions were affecting the ordinary Iranian people a lot.

The members of the group began to ask questions. Aykazian thanked the Iranians for

being very friendly toward the Armenians and supporting the Iranian-Armenian community for over 400 years. He said that the Armenians never have had a problem with Iran and are renewing or building churches there in the 21st century while Iran's neighbor Turkey every month destroys an Armenian church.

He said that as an Armenian, he always worked for peace and the integrity of human beings. He promised to work for peace between the two nations of Iran and the US.

The foreign minister replied that when an Iranian says to somebody that he is like an Armenian, that means that he is a very correct person because the Armenians have been an integral part of Iran and have been a very, very correct people. By correct, the minister meant honest and hardworking.

The meeting lasted 1½ hours. The majority of the Americans present were supportive of a peaceful resolution to the Iranian-American crisis in relations, and the Evangelical delegate promised to attempt to pass a message to President Trump, whom he said it is possible to work with and is not a bad man.

Street Renamed for Artsakh in Glendale

GLENDALE, from page 1

months of heated debate between stakeholders including business owners, Glendale residents and Unified Young Armenians, a group of activists who proposed the name change in February.

To address business owners' concerns that

the name change will adversely affect them, the city set aside \$1,000 for each of the 131 businesses on the two-block portion of the street to help cover costs of reprinting materials with new addresses.

Businesses can apply for the money as a grant.



Permanent representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) in the United States Robert Avetisyan, left, and Glendale city council members unveil new street sign name during ceremony that changed the 100 north and south blocks of Maryland Ave. to Artsakh Ave., in Glendale on Tuesday, Oct. 2, 2018. The name change goes from Wilson to Harvard and businesses affected can apply for a \$1,000 grant to use for expenses related to the name change. All five members of the city councilmembers were present, including mayor Zareh Sinanyan, second from left, Ara Najarian, center, Vartan Gharpetian, second from right and Paula Devine, right. Councilmember Vrej Agajanian was off to the left, out of frame. (Raul Roa / Staff Photographer)



The Artsakh sign

THE CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION AND
THE BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE DANCE CLUB PRESENT

At the Foot of Ararat: Armenian Folk Dance

Tuesday, October 23, 2018
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
and 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
at the Paramus Campus,
Technology Education Center - TEC-128
(Park in Lot B - Section G)
Refreshments will be served.
RSVP to Nvair Beylerian at nbeylerian@bergen.edu
or www.bergen.edu/pjr/events

The traditional village dances were as characteristic of Armenian culture as the language, food, songs, and other ancient customs. Susan Lind-Sinanian, Textile Curator at the Armenian Museum of America in Watertown, MA will introduce and teach line dances that she has collected over the last forty years from immigrants and survivors of a lost generation from western Armenia. Come join us in the footsteps of our ancestors to learn and celebrate this heritage. Wear comfortable footwear. Appropriate for all ages.

Bergen Community College | Office of Multicultural Affairs
peace, justice & reconciliation
TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
AIWA
ARMENIAN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.