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Paying Tribute To Diana Der Hovanesian With Poetry, Recollections

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

ARLINGTON, Mass. – On the afternoon of November 4, the award-winning late poet Diana Der Hovanesian was feted at the Armenian Cultural Foundation (ACF) by an enthusiastic audience of about 150 people in the manner that she would have appreciated: through poetry, family, food and friendship.

An array of people from Diana's life as a friend, mother, aunt and fellow poet recited her poems while sharing stories



Robert Mirak opened the program. (Aram Arkun photo)

about her warmth, hospitality and simultaneous love for her Armenian heritage and her cosmopolitan outlook.

Opening remarks were provided by ACF President Robert Mirak, who praised her for

In Solemn Paris Ceremony, Macron Leads Armistice Commemorations

Pashinyan Speaks at Peace Forum

PARIS (Reuters) – President Emmanuel Macron led tributes to the millions of soldiers who died during World War I on Sunday, November 11, holding a solemn ceremony attended by dozens of world leaders in Paris to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice.

US President Donald Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and dozens of princes, monarchs, presidents and prime ministers see CENTENARY, page 3



Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan speaks at the Paris Peace Conference

impeccable judgement and taste as a poet.

He also recalled that the ACF had honored her in that very room in 1999.

Der-Hovanesian, who during her life championed Armenian poetry, poems dear to her father – works by Daniel Varoujan, Vahan Tekeyan and Siamanto – as well as new poets, died in March at age 83.

She was the author of 30 books of poetry and translations, several plays, and twice was a Fulbright professor of American Poetry. She received awards from NEA, Poetry Society of America, PEN/Columbia Translation Center, National Writers Union, Armenian Writers Union, Paterson Poetry Center, Prairie

Schooner, American Scholar, the Armenian Ministry of Culture, and many others too numerous to list. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Agni*, *Nation*, *the New York Times*, *CDM* and *the Paris Review*. She was a gradu-

ate of Boston University and did graduate work at Harvard. She worked as a poet in the Massachusetts schools and frequently lectured on Armenian poetry in translation, and the literature of human rights at various universities both here and abroad.

After Marc Mamigonian of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) recited her poem "Salt," Mary Buchinger, president of the New England Poetry Club, recalled the sharp wit of Der Hovanesian, the longtime president of the New England Poetry Club, noting that when decades earlier, upon joining the group she had been asked to take the role of secretary. She had retorted, "I don't do shorthand." Instead she headed the organization, founded by Amy Lowell, Robert Frost and Conrad Aiken in Cambridge in 1915, for three decades.

"Diana led with a broad vision," Buchinger said. "She invited international poets and established a poetry prize. She walked by Longfellow's House [in Cambridge] and had the idea to bring poetry to the old poet's house."

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Michigan Progressive Mari Manoogian Wins House Race

DETROIT (Combined sources) – Mari Manoogian, a 26-year-old former US State Department worker, won the Michigan State House District 40 seat, currently held by Republicans on Tuesday, November 6.

Birmingham resident and Democrat Manoogian defeated Republican David Wolkinson.

"Tonight, after 15 months of campaigning across every corner of this district, I'm honored to have earned my neighbors' trust to serve as the next State Representative for Michigan's 40th district," Manoogian said in a victory post.

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Mari Manoogian

Guests at the event

Exotic Tekeyan Hall in Cairo Opens

CAIRO – On Thursday, November 8, the opening of the renovated and revamped additional partitions of Goganian club took place in a glamorous atmosphere. Goganian's garden was flooded with lights, and the garden was elegantly set by decorations and comfortable armchairs.

Dr. Kevork Yezengatsian, the chairman of Goganian club, in his opening speech, emphasized the club's aim to provide a warm, pleasant and Armenian-flavored welcome to the visitors of this cozy club, inviting Sato Sarkissian-Apkarian, who had planned and supervised the works, to present her a commemorative souvenir.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Humanitarian Mission To Be Dispatched to Syria

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – A humanitarian mission of the Armenian Defense Ministry will be sent to Syria after procedures prescribed by memoranda are fulfilled, Acting Defense Minister of Armenia David Tonoyan told reporters this week.

"At the moment some memorandum procedures over material and technical supply are coming to an end. It can end very quickly, maybe by the end of the year or the beginning of the next year. The group is fully ready and can be dispatched immediately after the completion of the procedure," Tonoyan said.

Armenian Government Returns Former Presidential Palace to President

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The Armenian government on Thursday, November 8, drafted an amendment that will restore the former presidential palace in Yerevan back to the president.

After a constitutional reform carried out during the previous administration, curtailing the powers of the president in favor of the prime minister, former President Serzh Sargsyan continued to occupy the building located in 26 Baghramyan Avenue even after becoming Armenia's prime minister on April 17.

In line with a controversial law enacted before that, the prime minister would also have a second official seat located in the central government offices in Republic Square.

Armenia's newly elected President Armen Sarkissian, meanwhile, was given a less sumptuous official seat in another location in central Yerevan.

Some two months after unseating Sargsyan and becoming prime minister Nikol Pashinyan pledged that he and his staff would eventually vacate the building that was used as a presidential office for decades and would return it to the president.

Pashinyan, who had criticized his predecessor's decision to convert the presidential palace into the prime minister's main office, explained then that he could not relocate immediately because such a move would require certain legal procedures.

During an event marking Armenia's Independence Day on September 21 the gates to the former Presidential Palace's spacious yard were opened and Pashinyan declared the place open to the public.

In order to take effect the government's decision will need to be approved by parliament.

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Gyumri in Austria

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News From Armenia

Indian Nationals Subjected to Forced Labor in Yerevan by Countryman

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The organized crime department of Yerevan police said on November 12 it received reports that the owner of an Indian restaurant in the Armenian capital is subjecting his employees to forced labor.

Both the restaurateur and the employees are from India, police said. The restaurant is located on Davit Anghat Street.

Police said the owner of the restaurant is currently abroad.

Four employees were brought in for questioning. They said they had been deceived by the restaurateur with promises of high salaries. They were recruited in India and brought to Armenia.

In Armenia, their passports have been forcefully taken from them. The employees found themselves in a vulnerable and difficult situation due to language difficulties and exaggerated debts over repayment for the trip.

The restaurateur forced the employees to work without paying any salary, police said.

An investigation is underway.

Former Ruling Party to Run in Armenian Elections

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The former ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) has officially confirmed its participation in upcoming parliamentary elections and nominated former Defense Minister Vigen Sargsyan as its top candidate.

The HHK announced the decision late on Sunday, November 11, after a five-hour meeting of its governing board chaired by the party's top leader, former President Serzh Sargsyan.

Vigen Sargsyan told reporters that the board approved the list of the HHK's election candidates that were to be submitted to the Central Election Commission on Wednesday. He declined to publicize the list, saying only that it will be topped by him.

He also said that Serzh Sargsyan would not run as a candidate in the snap elections scheduled for December 9 despite remaining the party's chairman, nor will the former president be involved in the HHK's election campaign, he said.

Sargsyan, 64, kept a very low profile since resigning in April.

The 43-year-old Vigen Sargsyan is a US-educated protégé of the ex-president who served as Armenia's defense minister from 2016-2018. He was widely regarded as Serzh Sargsyan's potential successor before the dramatic regime change in the country.

Most observers believe that the HHK is now too unpopular to pose a serious threat to Pashinyan. Some of them say that it will struggle to win any seats in the new parliament.

Sargsyan, who was elected the HHK's first deputy chairman on Sunday, admitted that Pashinyan's alliance will almost certainly win the December elections.

Pashinyan claimed last month that the HHK still counts on the backing of "criminal" local elites.

Armenian Military Launches Uniform Manufacturing Brand

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Armenian defense ministry has developed a special brand called Armenian Army to manufacture uniforms for the Armenian military, caretaker defense minister Davit Tonoyan told reporters on November 12.

"The armed forces of various countries have their own military brands. What I wear while visiting military positions isn't the official uniform of the armed forces. Since I am a civilian, I find that I shouldn't wear the military uniform. We have developed this brand in order to promote the [military]," Tonoyan said.

He said that the uniforms will be entirely made in Armenia.

Yerevan Slams Belarus Leader's Comments On CSTO

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia on Tuesday, November 13, denounced Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko for objecting, at a meeting with an Azerbaijani official, to its efforts to install another Armenian secretary general of the Russian-led Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Russia and five other ex-Soviet states making up the alliance agreed in 2015 that their representatives will take turns to run the organization on a rotating basis. They appointed Armenia's Yuri Khachaturov as CSTO secretary general in 2017.

The new Armenian government cut short Khachaturov's three-year tour of duty after he was controversially charged in July in connection with the 2008 post-election violence in Yerevan. It hoped that another Armenian official will be allowed to replace Khachaturov and run the CSTO until 2020.

Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan insisted on that at a CSTO summit held in Kazakhstan's capital Astana on November 8. Lukashenko as well as Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev demanded, however, that a representative of Belarus be named as new head of the CSTO.

Russian President Vladimir Putin reportedly proposed a compromise solution that would see the CSTO's acting secretary general, Valery Semerikov, retain his position.

The CSTO leaders said they will again try to reach consensus on the issue when they meet again in Saint Petersburg, Russia on December 6.

Lukashenko made a point of reaf-

firming his position when he met on November 12, with a senior diplomat from Azerbaijan. He noted another Russian-led bloc, the Eurasian Economic Union, is also run by an Armenian.

"This is a very heavy burden for a country which is going through a period of transition," added Lukashenko. "Can Armenia carry that burden?"

Lukashenko's comments raised eyebrows in Yerevan. Local politicians and commentators believe he deliberately made them at a meeting with Azerbaijan's ambassador in Minsk in order to add insult to injury.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Anna Naghdalian, also criticized the remarks. "Armenia regards the CSTO as a platform for discussions on the collective security agenda applying to six states ... This development highlights the need for the CSTO to sort out issues within itself, and as regards this situation, I must point out that it is not correct after all," she told reporters.

Lukashenko has never made his secret of his warm rapport with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev. The long-serving Belarusian leader underlined it at Monday's meeting with the Azerbaijani diplomat, saying that all of his agreements with Aliyev are "sacred" for him.

In particular, Belarus has been a major supplier of weapons to Azerbaijan. Those include Belarusian-made Polonez missiles that have a firing range of 200 kilometers. The Azerbaijani military apparently acquired them early this year.

In early 2017, Lukashenko also sparked a bitter diplomatic row with Yerevan after ordering Belarusian law-enforcement authorities to arrest and hand over to Azerbaijan a Russian-Israeli blogger who had repeatedly visited Nagorno-Karabakh without Baku's permission.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry condemned the move and implicitly branded Belarus a "dictatorship." Senior Armenian lawmakers launched even more scathing attacks on Lukashenko at the time.

Justice Minister Attends Meetings In Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (Armenpress) – Acting Minister of Justice Artak Zeynalyan delivered remarks at the Open Government Partnership's Asia-Pacific Regional meeting in Seoul on November 6.

He thanked the Open Government Partnership for inviting Armenia to the meeting. He also thanked South Korea for hosting the event.

Speaking about the events that took place in Armenia in 2018, Zeynalyan described them as "unprecedented and historic," and noted that during those days the Armenian people realized their direct right to power through the Velvet Revolution.

"During April-May, citizens of Armenia took to streets and squares to realize their dream of having a better country. A country where the principles of the rule of law, protection of human rights and democracy will be truly materialized," he said.

"And today, I, as a Cabinet member of the government formed by the people, have assumed great responsibility to materialize and initiate the positive energy that existed in the streets and squares of Armenia during spring of this year," he continued.

As an important step, he mentioned the need to transform the revolution into institutional reforms, something that will be boosted after the upcoming elections.

Zeynalyan said that the continuous involvement of the society in the changes and reconstruction of the system is highly important.

"It is necessary to create a governance of expectations, by giving the public a list of changes with realistic timeframes. This is important because many are waiting for flawless decisions and exclusively positive results, which is very obliging," he said, highlighting the direct participation and support of the civil society and businesses in the ongoing reforms.

As another important factor in materializing the revolutionary energy in Armenia, Zeynalyan pointed out accountability before the society, transparency, and to work openly – the government's adopted policy.

As part of the visit, Zeynalyan met with Speaker of Parliament of South Korea Moon Hee-sang, Presidential Office representative Li Yongsan, Minister of Interior and Safety Kim Boo-kyum, Mongolian governmental chief of staff – Minister Gombozhavin Zandanshatari, Kyrgyzstan's Justice Minister Marat Jamankulov, and Georgian officials.

Bilateral cooperation issues were discussed at the meetings.



From left, Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay, President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian and his wife, Noun Sarkissian

President Sarkissian Seeks UNESCO's Participation in Preservation of Gyumri

PARIS (Armenpress) – President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian on November 13 met with Director-General of the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Audrey Azoulay at the organization's headquarters here.

During the meeting Sarkissian and Azoulay discussed issues relating to Armenia's engagement within the organization, as well as the possibilities to present Armenian culture and values in the structure.

Sarkissian spoke about the ancient and rich cultural heritage of Gyumri, as well as its valuable historical-architectural buildings. He said most of the buildings are in poor condition today and said that it would be desirable if UNESCO participates in the preservation and recovery works of these buildings.

They also touched upon UNESCO's initiative on restoring the cultural heritage of the Iraqi city of Mosul. In this context they discussed an implementation of a joint program with Yerevan's Matenadaran manuscript repository.

Azoulay praised Armenia's efforts and successful experience in the integration of Syrian refugees, as well as providing them the right to receive free education.

The sides highlighted the need and importance of promotion of cultural diversity, universal values and tolerance through joint cultural and educational programs.



ARMENIA

In Solemn Paris Ceremony, Macron Leads Armistice Commemorations

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joined Macron to mark the moment guns fell silent across Europe a century ago.

Those who fought in the trenches of World War I lived through an unimaginable hell, Macron said in a 20-minute address, highlighting that as well as the deaths of 10 million troops, millions of women were widowed and children orphaned.

“The lesson of the Great War cannot be that of resentment between peoples, nor should the past be forgotten,” said Macron, sorrow etched on the faces of former French soldiers standing to attention around him during the ceremony.

“It is our deeply rooted obligation to think of the future, and to consider what is essential.”

The commemoration is the centerpiece of global tributes to honor those who perished during the 1914-18 war and to commemorate the signing of the Armistice that brought the fighting to an end at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918.

In a glass canopy at the foot of the Arc de Triomphe, built by Emperor Napoleon in 1806, Trump, Merkel, Macron, Putin and the other leaders listened through earpieces as the French president spoke. Putin, who was last to arrive at the ceremony, gave Trump a brief thumb’s up as he greeted them.

In a rare public display of emotion by the leaders of two world powers, Macron and Merkel held hands on Saturday during a poignant ceremony in the Compiègne Forest, north of Paris, where French and German delegations signed the Armistice that ended the war.

The conflict was one of the bloodiest in history, reshaping Europe’s politics and demographics. Peace, however, was short-lived and two decades later Nazi Germany invaded its neighbors.

Macron spent the week in the buildup to Sunday’s ceremony touring towns and former battlefields that laid along France’s western front. During the tour, he warned of the dangers of the resurgence of nationalism in Europe, saying it posed a threat to the continent – a theme he touched on again in his speech.

“Patriotism is the exact opposite of nationalism. Nationalism is its betrayal,” the French leader said.

“Old demons are reawakening, ready to sow chaos and death,” he said, warning of how ideology, religion and a disregard for facts could be exploited. “History sometimes threatens to repeat its tragic patterns, and



The leaders gathered in Paris

Pashinyan at Peace Forum

Armenian Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan participated in the Paris Peace Conference. He brought up both the Armenian Genocide as well as the Karabakh (Artsakh) stalemate. He also said that because of the Armenian Genocide, similar tragedies have befallen other peoples.

The conference was opened by the welcoming words of the Vice President of the Paris Peace Conference Executive Committee, Trisha Shetty as well as Macron. The German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres also spoke.

Said Pashinyan, “World War I was a global tragedy for all the peoples involved, and eventually led to the collapse of the referral states. There is conviction that in geopolitical and military terms, there are always winners and losers in wars. However, from the human point of view nobody wins. Wars cause only loss, suffering, and destructions.”

He added, “And despite our united efforts and calls for learning from previous mistakes, these lessons are easily forgotten. During the First World War, the Entente powers first used the definition of ‘crime against humani-

Christians and Yezidis in the Middle East, the violence against the people of Rohingya.”

He then spoke about Artsakh.

“One of the lessons of the war was the formulation of the right of peoples to self-determination in 14 well-known Wilson celebrations. It was then included in the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act, and became the basis for the half of the modern world’s independence.

“As a result of the World War I, the peoples

a few days ago France clearly reaffirmed its principled position on this issue.”

He continued, For that reason, the decades-long struggle of the people of Nagorno-Karabakh has not yet received a proper legal solution to manage its fate. In the 21st century it is absolutely unacceptable that the desire to apply the right of people to self-determination can turn into a biological threat.”

He praised the gathering, suggesting that



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At the Peace Conference with leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Canada, with the UN General Secretary

of the world with the power of the law confirmed their right to rule their own destiny with free expression of will. Here, in France, I consider it necessary to underline that just

the coming together of nations for dialogue reduced tensions.

“That is why we need to remember the most important lesson of World War I. No state can build its success on the misery of others, no one can gain freedom from the slavery of others.

The end of the First World War ended a hundred years ago. And this is a great opportunity to think about the era of peace without wars. I believe that the leaders gathered here in Paris will be able to achieve that goal. And it will be the best esteem of respect for the innocent victims of the preceding century.”

After the speech Nikol Pashinyan handed a symbolic book to the Peace Library, an illustrated book by historian Hayk Demoyan titled Coverage of the Armenian Genocide on the First World Press.

The previous evening, Pashinyan and his wife, Anna Hakobyan, along with other leaders and their spouses visited the “Picasso, Blue and Rose” exhibition at the Musée d’Orsay.

(Material from Prime Minister Pashinyan’s office was used in this story.)



Acting Prime Minister Pashinyan greets French President Emmanuel Macron.

undermine the legacy of peace we thought we had sealed with the blood of our ancestors.”

After the ceremony, leaders returned to the Elysee Palace for a lunch to be hosted by Macron and his wife Brigitte.

On Sunday afternoon, Macron hosted the inaugural Paris Peace Forum.

ty and civilization’ thus condemning the Ottoman authorities for the destruction of 1.5 million Armenians. Later this terrible crime was to be called the first genocide of the 20th century.

“However, only a few decades later, humanity witnessed the Holocaust, the genocides of Cambodia, Rwanda, the genocides of



Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and his wife, Anna Hakobyan, at the Musée d’Orsay



INTERNATIONAL

International News

MFA: Armenia Studying Implications of Iran Sanctions

YEREVAN – Armenia is conducting a comprehensive expert study of the possible implications of the sanctions imposed against Iran, the Armenian Foreign Ministry announced.

“We are closely following the developments, and are in contact with the parties involved. We clearly present our questions and concerns. The traditionally friendly relations with Iran are of vital importance for Armenia. We are conducting a comprehensive expert study of the impact of the Iranian sanctions on Armenia,” spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry Anna Naghdalyan said this week.

Turkey Membership Talks Should Be Dropped: EU Official

BERLIN (AP) – The official overseeing the European Union’s future enlargement says that, in the long term, it would be “more honest” for the bloc to give up talks on membership for Turkey.

EU Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn was quoted on November 13 as telling German daily *Die Welt*: “I think that, in the long term, it would be more honest for Turkey and the EU to go down new roads and end the accession talks.”

Hahn added that “Turkish membership in the European Union is not realistic in the foreseeable future.” He argued that sticking to the talks has “blocked the path to a realistic, strategic partnership.”

Turkey started its EU accession negotiations in 2005 but the talks are stalled amid concerns over Turkey’s political situation, with some nations opposing membership.

Weightlifter Martirosyan Wins World Championship

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenia’s Simon Martirosyan, 21, is eyeing Tokyo 2020 as his next goal after winning the World Weightlifting Championship in Turkmenistan.

Martirosyan and other members of the Armenian team arrived back to Yerevan on November 12 and were given a hero’s welcome by fans and reporters.

“This kind of a welcome is a new motive for repeating and doubling my success in the coming years,” he told reporters in the airport.

“My goal is the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games. I hope I will return from Tokyo with a gold medal also,” he said.

Martirosyan represented Armenia at Rio 2016 where he won silver in the heavyweight division.

OSCE Election Monitoring Mission in Armenia

YEREVAN (Arka) – The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) officially launched on November 13 the early parliamentary vote monitoring mission in Armenia.

Urszula Gacek, the head of the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) observation mission, told a news conference in Yerevan that they were invited by the Armenian government to observe the process of holding early parliamentary elections, slated for December 9.

Gacek said monitoring missions will be sent also by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the Council of Europe.

The OSCE/ODIHR mission will monitor all processes – from candidate registration, technical preparations, media coverage, appealing results, to handling reported problems.

The OSCE / ODIHR mission will also monitor the outcome of possible appeals. Two months after the election, the mission will submit the final report.

Henrikh Mkhitaryan Honored at AGBU London Gala to Benefit TUMOXAGBU Centers

LONDON – While matches with Henrikh Mkhitaryan, a midfielder at Arsenal Football Club draw many of his fans to the stadium, thousands of Armenians across the globe cheer for him on screen, simultaneously taking pride in his stellar athletic accomplishments. On November 3, “Micki’s” supporters and friends of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) gathered at the Dorchester to celebrate his achievements in football (soccer), thank him for his humanitarian outreach and raise funds for the two TUMOXAGBU Centers.

Born in Yerevan in 1989, Mkhitaryan grew up dreaming of playing football. His passion for the sport began watching his late father Hamlet Mkhitaryan – a footballer who played for Armenia’s national team and the local Premier League in the 1980s. Starting in a senior club in Armenia at 17, Mkhitaryan embarked on an international career only four years later. His personal discipline, intelligence and talent landed him contracts with Borussia Dortmund and Manchester United FC. Now, an idol for youth, Mkhitaryan has empowered thousands of Armenian children who look up to him, inspired by his drive and his love of his country. Involved in charity projects early on in his career, he was appointed UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in Armenia in 2016, and has worked with the organization vigorously championing children’s rights and access to education and sports.

A convivial and festive atmosphere prevailed throughout the gala, with Master of Ceremonies Camilio Azzouz, who welcomed guests from across the globe, including French-Armenian football star Youri Djorkaeff. Azzouz, a



French-Armenian footballer Youri Djorkaeff joined Mkhitaryan to raise awareness and funds for the TUMOXAGBU Centers.

trustee of the AGBU London Trust, spoke on the importance of AGBU’s strategic partnerships and the power of programs like TUMOXAGBU, which became a reality with the support of AGBU Central Board Member and CEO of Amber Capital Joseph Oughourlian who was inspired to help expand the

Armenian youth. I would like to thank Youri for being a role model to me when I was younger as I dreamt of playing professional football. We have to inspire our youth and focus on providing them with new life opportunities to encourage them to reach their goals. I am grateful to see the work of organi-



Henrikh Mkhitaryan, with his family and friends, including Youri Djorkaeff at the London Gala on November 3.

reach of the successful Tumo Centers for Creative Technologies (TUMO).

For Oughourlian, the night was one to highlight the work of AGBU and TUMO, and also an opportunity to note defining moments of Armenian national identity. “Growing up in France there was a palpable shift in pride as we watched Youri and the French National Team win the country’s first FIFA World Cup in 1998. With his talent, he brought Armenians to the world of football. And now, once again we beam with joy each time Henrikh Mkhitaryan takes the field and we hear his name cheered in the crowd. Henrikh has taken the opportunity to teach the world of football and its millions of fans about Armenia. They are our success stories and when one of us succeeds, we all succeed,” Oughourlian stated on stage.

This is the third time that Oughourlian, along with his wife Jenny, has hosted the AGBU London Gala.

The highlight of the evening came when Mkhitaryan himself, arriving shortly after his Arsenal match, took the stage to accept the AGBU Global Excellence Award. “I would like to thank AGBU and its leaders for inviting me to be part of this great event organized to support the education of our

zations like UNICEF, AGBU and TUMO,” he said.

Since their inception in 2015, the TUMOXAGBU Centers have touched the lives of 3,000 students. These state-of-the-art facilities offer bright, promising students access to free hands-on programs, helping them discover their talents, acquire new digital skills and boost their creativity. Building on its mission to make innovative and quality education accessible to more young people, AGBU continues to help shape the next generation of skilled and educated Armenians through various programs and initiatives, including the partnership with TUMO, which yielded the establishment of these centers.

AGBU President Berge Setrakian concluded the evening which raised more than \$230,000, saying: “Each generation of Armenians must have their heroes – ones who embrace their identity and share it with the world, as well as ones who encourage us all to strive for excellence. From Aram Khachaturian to the late Charles Aznavour, this has always been the case. Today we have this wonderful role model for our youth. Henrikh, you exemplify all that we think of as a true citizen of the world. Thank you for continuing to bring pride to us all.”

Armenia Backs Berlin Envoy

By Pete Baumgartner

BERLIN – Armenia says it has no intention of removing its ambassador in Berlin after a German investigative report alleged that the envoy may have ties to a brutal Armenian mafia ring operating in that country.

Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Karen Nazarian told RFE/RL that the ministry is in contact with German officials “to clarify the credibility of the allegations that were made in the media” about Ambassador Ashot Smbatyan and the Armenian Embassy in general having links to a criminal group.

“These are certain allegations made in the media. I don’t think that we should take steps based on media reports,” Nazarian added.

The allegations come from a report based on a three-year covert investigation by various German security services into the activities of an Armenian-led branch of an infamous criminal group Berlin has dubbed the “Thieves-In-Law,” which operates throughout Europe and reportedly has tentacles in sports and diplomatic circles.

The magazine *Der Spiegel* and MDR TV and Radio say they obtained copies of the final report of the investigation, code-named FATIL (Fight Against Thieves-In-Law), which concluded this summer and led to the opening of 14 criminal cases involving 42 people.

In addition, a combined team of *Der Spiegel* and MDR reporters spent five months investigating the German operations of the notorious Thieves-In-Law – a powerful, worldwide criminal group that originated in the Soviet prison system and is known for its ruthlessness and for having its own elaborate legal culture.

The reports assert that, in March, Smbatyan offered the Armenian Embassy’s support in the investigation but Germany’s Federal Criminal Police Office told investigators to reject the offer because it could not rule out “possible fusion” between the diplomatic mission and Thieves-In-Law criminal groups operating in Germany.

Other law enforcement bodies in Germany were also cautioned about cooperating with Armenian authorities, the media organizations reported.

In particular, German security services reportedly suspected that Smbatyan – appointed ambassador in 2015 by

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INTERNATIONAL

Majestic Tekeyan Hall in Cairo Opens

EGYPT, from page 1

In her word, Sarkissian-Apkarian, after expressing her appreciation, praised the united spirit which reigns in the club which enables it to reach out for greater possibilities in the future.

Then the Prelates of the Armenian Diocese of Egypt, Bishop Ashot Mnatsakanyan and the Prelate of the Armenian Catholic community Krikor Augostinos Kusan, were invited to open the Tekeyan Hall and the Armenian Terrace.

The guests stayed late into the evening, enjoying the beautiful voice of Ruben Saad and the great hospitality of the day. Arsen Krikorian, the famous Armenian singer joined in to the celebrations with his beautiful sound to add a special boon to the evening.



The elegant garden



Dr. Kevork Yezengatsian with Bishop Ashot Mnatsakanyan



The Tekeyan board members

Armenia Backs Berlin Envoy

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then-Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan – had links to criminal groups, though they offered no specific proof.

‘Absurd’ Allegations

Smbatyan, who was also named Armenian ambassador to Liechtenstein on October 30, has called allegations of his involvement with criminal groups “absurd” and from the “rumor mill,” tagesschau.de reported. His lawyer also declared an allegation that Smbatyan was a member of the Thieves-In-Law to be “nonsense.”

Smbatyan obtained a last-minute injunction from a Berlin court on November 6 that barred the broadcast of a Der Spiegel/MDR documentary on the German investigation on November 7.

The film, “The Godfather In Germany,” details the Thieves-In-Law’s alleged operations in Germany and other parts of Europe, where it purportedly collaborates with Italian and Russian mafia groups, including in the distribution of counterfeit money.

MDR said it did not have enough time after

the November 6 court decision to make the necessary changes to the documentary as required by the legal order and thus had to postpone its broadcast.

It also added that it will appeal the court order.

It is unclear why Smbatyan, 49, wanted to prevent the broadcast.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry says it will take no action against Smbatyan until it investigates the media reports.

“We sent an inquiry,” said Nazarian. “It concerns very delicate issues, in particular the activities of our diplomatic mission and the reputation of its head. I cannot say more at this stage. Let’s wait for the results.”

‘Sobering’ Conclusions

Der Spiegel and MDR claim that, in the investigative report about FATIL, German officials established that Armenian mafia groups have developed “deep roots” and created a “strong network” in Germany.

Der Spiegel called the conclusions of the FATIL report and the media outlets’ joint research into the criminal groups to be “sobering.”

It said those mafia groups – which it says are involved in everything from manipulating slot machines to extortion and money-laundering and even human trafficking – have

“considerable financial resources” and could be a “threat to the rule of law.”

The report is also said to mention Armenian-German IBO world light-heavy-weight boxing champion Karo Murat, his brother Koko, and Armenian-German former WBO and IBF middleweight champion Arthur Abraham; but officials said they failed to find any concrete evidence of their involvement in the Armenian mafia group’s activities, Der Spiegel and MDR reported.

Koko does admit to being present at a bloody shoot-out between Armenian mafia clans at a casino in the eastern German city of Erfurt in 2014, but told the Der Spiegel/MDR reporters that neither he nor his brother have any contacts with the mafia.

Abraham did not reply to a list of questions from the Der Spiegel/MDR reporters about the reported ties to the criminal group, while Karo Murat denied having any business associations with members of the mafia. He also denied being present at the Erfurt incident even though police allegedly found his mobile phone and a car registered to him at the scene.

Armenian mafia groups are suspected of having operated in Germany since shortly after the 1991 dissolution of the U.S.S.R., when immigrants from Armenia and other former Soviet republics arrived in substantial

numbers.

But German security officials turned greater attention to the groups after the 2014 casino shootout between rival Armenian gangs in Erfurt, where the Thieves-In-Law are suspected of having a base.

The classified report also cites possible suspicions in 2005 when the Berlin Public Prosecutor’s Office reportedly investigated Smbatyan for money laundering, Der Spiegel reported.

And in 2008 – when Smbatyan was a staffer at the Armenian Embassy in Berlin – Germany’s Federal Intelligence Service began an investigation into whether the future ambassador was engaged in smuggling, but later suspended the probe due to a lack of evidence.

Smbatyan said he has no knowledge of any previous investigations of him in Germany.

Albert Weiler, a member of the Bundestag from the German state of Thuringia (where Erfurt is the capital), said he was shocked to hear reports about Smbatyan having alleged mafia links.

“I cannot imagine that he is doing anything wrong,” Weiler, who leads a German-Armenian Forum, told Der Spiegel. “If he were [involved in such things] that would set back my image of mankind a bit.”

Community News

Zoravik Collective Hosts Discussion on Environmental Effects Of Mining in Armenia

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Zoravik collective invites the public to an informal talk and discussion with environmentalists and human rights activists based locally and in Armenia on Sunday, November 18. The Amulsar mine is one of several internationally funded-mining projects in Armenia, and it is the most recent to become the focus of local environmental activists. For many Armenians, Amulsar symbolizes the expansion of corporate greed at the expense of long-term environmental and human health.

Activist Arpine Galfayan will join the discussion from Yerevan via Skype to discuss the current state of the campaign to shut down the Amulsar project and will provide ideas for diaspora-based activists who want to support activists in Armenia. Dr. Henry Theriault will help to frame the issues of the Amulsar project within in an international perspective and Ursula Kazarian will moderate the event.

Galfayan is an environmental activist, human rights activist and a feminist. She is also engaged in organizing non-formal education for young people on active citizenship and non-violent civil resistance.

Theriault is associate vice president for Academic Affairs at Worcester State University and president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

Ursula Kazarian is the founder and former president of the Washington, DC-based Armenian Environmental Network.

Internationally-funded mining projects are often portrayed as profitable for emerging economies across the globe. Proponents of mining projects often argue for responsible resource exploitation as a means to support political independence and national security interests, as well as to empower local communities through new and relatively stable employment opportunities. Mining companies and their financial partners also often promise direct economic investment in public infrastructure as “bonuses” for impacted communities. These “extra” investments typically include school upgrades and new roads that will provide improved and long-lasting market access for economic development. However, the realities following such projects typically fall far short of those promises.

Time and again, impacted communities have experienced severe public health impacts due to irreversible environmental damage from mining activities, including the contamination of air, soil, and water used for drinking and agriculture. This is particularly likely when mining activities have not been properly regulated or monitored over a significant period of time due to poor governance and/or limited oversight resources, as has long been the case in Armenia. Now, with renewed government support for the rule of law in regulating mining activities, locally based activism focused on stopping the damage caused by current and future mining projects is critical in empowering communities affected by mining projects.

This event is planned as the first of a series to encourage diaspora-based environmental activism. The program will take place at Hilles Room, P-14, Harvard University, 59 Shepard St., Cambridge, at 1p.m.

All interested are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussion. A question-and-answer session will follow the scheduled presentations.



Edna Tungrian, with 66 Years of service, holding the Khatchkar gift honorees received with name inscribed. Edna, age 90, continues to head up the kitchen crews at St Leon Food Festivals.

Church-Loving Women through Nine Decades: 90th Anniversary Of St. Leon Women's Guild

FAIR LAWN, N.J. – On September 23, following Divine Liturgy in the sanctuary, certificates and gifts were presented to 22 honorees (one posthumously) whose service spanned 45 – 69 years of continuous service to the Women's Guild of St. Leon's Armenian Church here. Collectively these women served a total of 1,228 years! The longest service was rendered by Lucy Dabagian (69 years) who also served as the first chairman of the Women's Guild Central Council (WGCC) in 1986 when it was established by election.

More than 250 parishioners and guests filled Abajian Hall's Community Center with warmth and pride for the celebratory luncheon. Attendees entered the hall to an audio-visual tribute to many Women's Guild members both past and present entitled, “Footprints in the Heart.”

Mistress of Ceremonies Dawn Hourdajian kept the flow of the program going smoothly, interjecting heartfelt thoughts and humorous stories between the various speakers which included Women's Guild Central Council Chairman Charlotte Sevazlian.



Daniella Ashbahian with daughter, Sophie, who sang the American and Armenian National anthems

The highlight of the program was a PowerPoint presentation aptly entitled, “Church-Loving Women thru 9 Decades” created by Ruth Bedevian and edited by Lucy Chagachbanian. Narrated by Ruth, it showcased the dedicated work of the Women's Guild and many of its past members. The audience's “oohs, ahs” and spontaneous applause resounded throughout the presentation, most especially when the faces of dearly departed members appeared on the screen.

Spearheaded by Suzanne Kasabian, the booklet committee created an outstanding and creative commemorative album documenting 90 years with a see WOMEN, page 8

Trinity Christmas Bazaar To Be Held November 30 And December 1

By Seta A. Buchter

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston will usher in the holiday season with its 2018 Trinity Christmas Bazaar, on Friday, November 30 and Saturday, December 1, in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St. Bazaar hours are Friday, from 12 noon to 9 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Co-Chairing this year's Bazaar once again are Gregory A. Kolligian, Jr. and Karen Hovsepian, who have been working with their committees since the summer to ensure that this year's Bazaar offers something for everyone, including new booths and menu options.

“Our parishioners, neighbors and the community always look forward to attending each year to see friends, enjoy delicious food and browse the many booths. This year's Bazaar continues to be the perfect place for people to do their Christmas shopping as there will be a wonderful selection of gift items to purchase,” state Greg and Karen.

The bazaar's traditional favorites will include the “Farmer's Market” with fresh fruits and vegetables; the Country Store, the Silent/Sports Silent Auction, the Punch is Right Game, which has always been popular with children; jewelry and accessories; poinsettias and holiday wreaths; Santa's Gift Shop; ArmenianVendor.com; Purl Leez Jewels; raffles and more. New vendors this year include Gabriella's Gifts, Shady Hill Kids and Abgaryan Hand-Painted Wearable Art (on Saturday only).

Making his annual visit to the Bazaar is Santa Claus who will be stopping by on Saturday, from noon to 1 p.m., in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall.

The Trinity Christmas Bazaar would not be complete without Armenian gourmet foods, delicacies and pastries that will be sold at various booths. Armenian traditional dinners, will be served on Friday from noon to 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Take-out meals and an a la carte menu will also be available.

Children will be able to enjoy the Bazaar with their own special activities on both Friday evening and Saturday in the Peter Adamian Hall; admission is free for all events. “The Polar Express” Pajama Party will take place on Friday, from 7 to 9 p.m. Children are encouraged to come dressed in their comfiest Christmas pajamas to watch the film. The movie is recommended for children ages 5 and older (a supervising adult must remain on the Church grounds). On Saturday morning, there will be an interactive show of comedy, magic and illusions by Emmy-nominated entertainer Matt Roberts. He has performed across the nation, including at Boston Symphony Hall and Walt Disney World resorts, and is a regular on TV. Doors open at 11 a.m. and the show starts at 11:15 a.m. On Saturday afternoon, the movie “The Star,” will be shown from 3 to 5 p.m.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase by calling the Church office or during the two-day Bazaar.

As for parking, where it says “permit parking only” is allowed around the immediate perimeter of the church complex over the two days of the bazaar.



From left, Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, Karen Hovsepian, Gregory A. Kolligian, Jr.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Studies Leaders Meet at University of California-Irvine to Discuss Future of Field

IRVINE, Calif. – On September 29, the majority of current Armenian Studies chairs and directors in the United States, along with representatives of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS), National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation met for an “Armenian Studies Chairs and Directors Workshop: Current Challenges and Future Prospects” at the University of California - Irvine (UCI). The meeting, which was the first of its kind on the West Coast, was organized by UCI’s Armenian Studies Program, the UCI Meghrouni Family Presidential Chair in Armenian Studies (Professor Houri Berberian), the UCLA Richard Hovannissian Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History (Professor Sebouh Aslanian), and the Society for Armenian Studies (Prof. Bedross Der Matossian, SAS President).

The goal of the workshop was to begin serious discussions about the challenges facing Armenian Studies in the present and the future. In addition, the participants concentrated on the prospects moving forward. This meeting took on even more importance given that the last such meeting took place 10 years ago at the University of Michigan.



Holding a discussion



Left to right: (back row) Razmik Panossian, Kevork Bardakjian, Christina Maranci, Barlow Der Murgdechian, Bedross Der Matossian, Sebouh Aslanian, Vahe Sahakyan, Ara Sanjian, Marc Mamigonian, (front row) Salpi Ghazarian, Kathryn Babayan, Taner Akcam, Houri Berberian, and Vahram Shemmasian

The day began with welcoming remarks by Berberian, who stressed the importance of meeting regularly and keeping lines of communication open among chairs and directors. These remarks were followed by brief “state of the program” reports by the attendees. The focus of discussions centered on the following key items: the past, present, and future of graduate student training, specifically currently available sources for funding, the importance of interdisciplinary research and training as well as language training; contributions to the Armenian Studies field in the context of other fields and disciplines, in particular ways in which Armenian Studies may benefit from greater engagement with other fields, making interventions not only within Armenian Studies but in other fields as well; job market challenges for graduate students, especially ways in which graduate students can be trained and equipped with the skills and experience for employment more broadly for academic and non-academic job markets beyond Armenian Studies; the importance of cooperation, collaboration, and collegiality among chairs and directors as well as the SAS, including increased par-

icipation in the SAS and creation of an email forum for chairs and directors to facilitate discussions about the future of Armenian Studies programs and for exchanges of ideas and material as well as an avenue through which to take collective action if/when necessary; resources – both financial and library/archival; fundraising possibilities and challenges and the future of chairs, specifically those at Harvard and Columbia.

Those in attendance agreed to continue to converse, consult, and collaborate for the greater good of the Armenian Studies field, current and future students, and the future of the programs.

The next two meetings of current chairs and directors are scheduled to take place in Boston, hosted by NAASR (2020), and the University of Southern California, hosted by the Institute of Armenian Studies (2022). The fruitful and productive workshop was followed by a reception open to the public where – after welcome remarks by School of Humanities Dean, Dr. Tyrus Miller, and Berberian and Der Matossian – community members, faculty, graduate students, and workshop attendees had the opportunity to meet and converse.

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Scholarship Committee
333 Atlantic Avenue • Warwick, RI 02888
Tel. 401 461-6114 • Fax 401 461-6112

e-mail: headasa@aol.com

Deadline for returning completed Applications: March 15, 2019

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA has two employment opportunities available.

Executive Director

The Executive Director oversees Church administration, personnel, external affairs and management of the Church complex. This is a part-time position consisting of 15 hours/week spread over at least 3 days in the Church Office.

Executive Assistant to the Pastor

The Executive Assistant to the Pastor provides support to our priest in his duties leading a parish of more than 600 embers. This is a part-time position consisting of 20 hours/week spread over at least 3 days in the Church Office.

Go to <http://www.htaac.org/careers/> for the responsibilities and requirements of both positions. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to Nancy Kasarjian, nancy@htaac.org, by November 23.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

USC Shoah Foundation Staff Share Institute Resources On Armenian Genocide with LA Educators

LOS ANGELES – Educators attending a professional development conference at Ferrahian High School. Two University of Southern California (USC) Shoah Foundation staff members recently shared the Institute's work related to the Armenian Genocide with Armenian school educators in the Los Angeles area.

Education and Outreach Specialist Sedda Antekelian and Program Officer Manuk Avedikyan shared information about the educational use of testimony in the Institute's Visual History Archive and on the Institute's educational website, IWitness.

On September 22, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Yervant Babayan Institute of Pedagogy for Research and Development hosted "Best and Promising Practices and Resources Conference" for teachers of Armenian language, history, religion and culture. The conference took place at the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Center in Pasadena.

The founder of the AGBU Babayan Institute, Armenian Film Foundation board member, Professor Emeritus Dr. Silva Karayan organized the conference with the goal of revealing innovative resources and best practices among experts and other educators to enhance Armenian-American education within the community's various schools.

Both Avedikyan and Antekelian presented in the last panel of the conference, along with Lilit Keshishian from the USC Institute of Armenian Studies, among other notable experts in the Armenian community. Avedikyan demonstrated various ways of searching the Visual History Archive (VHA) to research testimony. Antekelian highlighted testimony-based resources available through the IWitness Armenian Genocide Education program and effective strategies for how to integrate testimony into the classroom.

Educators and presenters from Sept. 22 AGBU Babayan



Educators and presenters at the September 22 AGBU Babayan conference.

conference. On October 6, Antekelian led two introductory workshop sessions at the 18th Annual Professional Development Day Conference for all K-12 Armenian school educators from California at Holy Martyrs Ferrahian High School in Encino. Up to 400 educators were provided with the opportunity to access up-to-date research-based teaching methods and strategies for the 21st century learner from multiple experts.

During both sessions, Antekelian worked with interested

educators to support their navigation through the various testimony access points on IWitness site. She presented the most updated resources available to complement Armenian Genocide education in the classroom and highlighted the importance of testimony-based education as a tool for strengthening student empathy and moral responsibility. Educators of both events left with inspiration and motivation to find creative ways to incorporate IWitness and the VHA into their classrooms.

Church-Loving Women through 9 Decades: 90th Anniversary of St. Leon Women's Guild

WOMEN, from page 6

timeline of both St. Leon Church and Women's Guild histories, augmented with colorful photos. A touching section highlighted memories contributed by individual members of the guild.

bookmark and keepsake since the window was actually donated to St. Leon by the Ladies Aid Society in 1965 when the present edifice was constructed and consecrated following its relocation from a modest church that was purchased in the depths of the Depression in Paterson, NJ.

The celebration epitomized the valuable legacy left by the pioneering women who blazed the trail to insure the continuity of Armenian faith and culture in America. Nine decades later, a vibrant and dedicated group of women continue on that journey.

Beginning with the longest-serving member, the honorees are listed by name followed by their years of membership; those who transferred to St. Leon from another parish have a "T" after their years of service: Lucy Dabagian (69) also served as church organist for 25 years

and was the first Women's Guild Central Council Chairman, Yeretzgin Violet Kasparian (67-T), Emerald Noorigian (66), Edna Tungrian

(66), Margaret Jerrahian (64), Grace Pinajian (64), Shakae Shahinian (62-T), Sonia Tashjian (62-T), Lillian Kasparian Chapien (56), Anne Kachigian (53), Arline Dadekian (51), Margaret Minassian (51-T), Anne Bchakjian (50), Rose Kirian (50), Berjuhi Varjabedian (50), Marian

Kahaumjian (49-T), Ruth Bedevian (48), Seta Jessourian (48), Gloria Tomasian (48), Satenig Loughead (48), and Dikris Malool (45-T). The twenty-second member, Violet Voskian (61), died shortly before the luncheon and was honored posthumously.



Hand-carved Khatchkar made in Armenia and engraved plaque added with name - All honorees received

A colorful laminated reproduction of the St. Sahag stained glass window in the sanctuary made a fitting and memorable addition as a



Pledge to the Flag

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COMMUNITY NEWS

New Britain Church Marks 77th Anniversary

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — The Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection celebrated its 77th anniversary on November 11, with a banquet at the Backline Tavern at the Stanley Golf Course.

The occasion was an historic one as it was the first time the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America visited the New Britain Parish as Primate. The Primate served as celebrant and homilist at church services earlier in the day and also served as the main speaker at the consecration banquet.

During the Church Services, a solemn requiem was observed for all Veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

At the banquet, Father Kapriel Mouradjian, pastor of the church, warmly welcomed the Primate to New Britain and commented on the active congregation's involvement in all aspects of church activities and a number of noteworthy successes at the local church.

The Primate's talk discussed a number of chal-

lenges facing many churches and identified actions for local parishioners to maintain the vibrancy of their church.

Both clergymen highlighted a positive vision for continued growth and success at the New Britain Church.

Harry Mazadoorian served as master of ceremonies and Parish Council Chairman Gary Hovhanessian recognized the hard work of so many church leaders.

Three candles were lit on the anniversary cake, one each representing the past, present and future of the Church,

Deacon Eric Vozzy of the Diocese accompanied Findikyan on his visit to New Britain

A highlight of the afternoon was a surprise recognition and presentation to parishioner Roxie Maljanian, by Jeanne Abrahamian of the planning committee. Roxie Maljanian has been a lifelong member of the church and has continued to serve the Church faithfully over many decades. She retired as Sunday School Superintendent after many years of service.

Mouradjian, Gary and Ellen Hovhanessian, Jeanne Abrahamian and Jane Derasadourian served as the committee which planned and conducted the banquet.



From left, Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, Gary Hovhanessian and Father Kapriel Mouradjian

Majority of Armenian Caucus Members Re-Elected in Midterms

WASHINGTON — In the House of Representatives, the Members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian issues had a strong showing with the overwhelming majority (over 92 percent) of those seeking re-election winning in the 2018 midterm elections, including Co-Chairs Representatives Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Jackie Speier (D-CA), David Valadao (R-CA) and Vice Co-Chairs Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Gus Biliraks (R-FL).

"We congratulate all of our friends in Congress on their victories, and look forward to meeting with the new Members when the 116th Congress begins," stated Armenian Assembly of America Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. "The Armenian Assembly also appreciates the strong support of our friends who will not be returning to Congress and wish them every success, especially outgoing House Foreign Affairs Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA) and Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Dave Trott (R-MI)," he added.

Founded in 1995, the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues is an informal, bipartisan group of legislators dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the U.S.-Armenia relationship. The coordinated efforts of this diverse coalition of Congressional friends of Armenia and the Armenian American community help to raise awareness of Armenian American issues on Capitol Hill, with the White House, and with the American people.

In addition to Speier and Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Armenian-American newcomer Anthony Brindisi (D-NY) has just been elected as a member of the House in Central New York's 22nd District representing Utica, Rome, Cortland and Binghamton.

While Armenian Caucus Members were unquestionably successful at the ballot box this cycle, 12 members will not return for the 116th Congress due to retirement or because they sought other office, including Speaker of the House Paul Ryan (R-WI), House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Dave Trott (R-MI), and Representatives Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA), Ruben Kihuen (D-NV), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Sander Levin (D-MI), Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ), Jared Polis (D-CO), Niki Tsongas (D-MA), and Tim Walz (D-MN), with Representatives Michael Capuano (D-MA) and Joseph Crowley (D-NY) losing in primary upsets.

DNC Tech Chief Says no Successful Hacking Attempts Were Seen in the midterms

By Hadas Gold

LISBON (CNN) — Two years after a campaign marred by hacking, the Democratic National Committee's chief technology officer thinks they may have avoided a similar situation in the 2018 midterm elections.

On November 8, in his first interview after the midterm elections at the Web Summit conference, Raffi Krikorian told CNN Business they "didn't hear much" on Election Day — but said the DNC remains on alert for trouble.

"Remember, any sophisticated attack is not something we're going to detect today, it's something we're going to detect a few days or a few weeks or a few months from now," he said.

A sophisticated hacker would figure out a way around the alerts and monitors the DNC has set up, he said. So now the DNC is in the middle of a post-mortem study.

"We'll do a bunch of checking against what the elected counts look like, if the voter file looks different than from a week ago, scouring of all our network traffic logs," Krikorian said.

Cybersecurity has changed drastically at the DNC since the 2016 election, when hackers managed to obtain internal emails for top party officials, in part through phishing schemes.

Krikorian, a veteran of Twitter and Uber, joined in 2017 and said his goal was not only to

upgrade the technical security of the organization but also alter its culture.

"People are the weakest links," Krikorian said.

Recently a high level executive in the DNC C-suite logged into their account from a hotel lobby computer, which sent up alarms, Krikorian revealed. Logging into a public computer can increase risk of hacking since software could be installed on the computer that could record key strokes or the information on the screen.

That executive, as well as any other DNC staffer who may recklessly log into a public computer "will be hearing from us very fast, and we will potentially lock your account until we figure out what was going on," he said.

When it comes to the spread of misinformation online, Krikorian was adamant that social media companies, including his former employer, need to be doing more.

"We have to be on the phone all the time with the social media platforms being like 'we need you to take down this account down, we need you to investigate this account right now,'" Krikorian said.

Just days before the midterm elections, Twitter deleted more than 10,000 automated accounts seeking to discourage voting in the midterms after they were flagged by the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC).

"I don't believe they're doing enough now," Krikorian said. "We're only 10 percent down a very long road in order to make these platforms secure."

Though the Republican National Committee also has their own chief technology officer, Krikorian said they barely interact, relying on the government agencies to act as a bridge — though the two teams did send each other election night goodies, including cupcakes and liquor.

"Sadly we don't work with them as closely as we would like," Krikorian said. "I think that's super complicated. There's a lot of obviously suspicions, a lot of questions of what that outreach would look like."

Krikorian now has a 35-person team at the DNC that works not only on cybersecurity but also misinformation. But he said the DNC is "vastly outgunned" and wants the government and the private sector to step up.

"I absolutely want the federal government to be doing this. This is not a partisan issue, election security should be a nonpartisan issue this is the basis of the American democracy," Krikorian said, though he noted the DNC and the Republican National Committee have good relationships with the government agencies.

He added: "This political climate we live in is obviously a very tenuous one so there is some question and trust over how the federal government could approach this, but this should be a non partisan issue."

ARMENIAN
WOMEN'S WELFARE
ASSOCIATION



Position Available: Full-time Executive Director

The Armenian Women's Welfare Association, Inc. (AWWA) is a Boston area non-profit women's service organization, founded in 1905, with the mission to improve the quality of life for members of the Armenian community whether it be through aid, relief or education. The AWWA currently supports the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (ANRC) - an 83-bed non-profit skilled nursing facility and the Hanganak Elderly Clinic - providing medical and social support to 200 elders, mostly women, in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabagh, Armenia. These initiatives are well-managed by professional staff, provide excellent service, and are financially stable.

AWWA now plans to launch significant new programming and seeks to hire a dynamic, skilled and dedicated person to lead this new era. S/he will fulfill all the responsibilities of a non-profit Executive Director with emphasis on Program Development, Supporting Human Capital, PR/Communications/Marketing, and Fundraising.

Interested candidates will find full job posting at www.AWWA.us and should submit a resume with cover letter by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, November 27, 2018 to: AWWA.ExecDir@gmail.com

Michigan Progressive Mari Manoogian Wins House Race

MANOOGIAN, from page 1

"We flipped this seat from red to blue by working our hearts out and campaigning on the issues that matter to people across our district: clean water, quality public schools, and safe roads —and that's what I'll fight for every day I serve in the Legislature."

The 40th District seat is currently held by Republican Michael McCready. The district covers Birmingham, Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills and a portion of West Bloomfield Township.

The towns in her district include Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Bloomfield Township, and parts of West Bloomfield Township.

Manoogian is a foreign policy professional who is proposing transitioning for-profit charter schools to nonprofits. She supports creating a "living wage," narrowing the racial and gender pay gap, paid sick leave, and paid family leave. She says, "I also support prioritizing Michigan small businesses over large multinational corporations for tax credits."

She is among the wave of women, Muslims and progressives that did very well in Michigan.

In the 13th state Senate district, which overlaps with part of the 40th, Democrat Mallory McMorrow of Royal Oak beat incumbent Republican Marty Knollenberg of Troy. With 100 percent of the precincts in, McMorrow received 51.9 percent of the votes compared to Knollenberg's 48.1 percent.

(Detroit News contributed to this report.)



COMMUNITY NEWS

Reflections on Celebrating The AMAA's Centennial in Armenia

By Elise Kalfayan

YEREVAN and LOS ANGELES — Celebrating its centennial, the Armenian Missionary Association of America concluded a global series of events — six of them in Armenia during the last week of September — with a church/community center dedication in Gyumri, then a sold-out banquet in Los Angeles.

The AMAA leadership honored its founders at all its events, and presented a vision for the next 100 years: evangelism, education, humanitarian relief, and youth programs in the homeland. We saw the needs during a two-week Armenia tour organized by the AMAA.

Coming from around the world on Sunday, September 30, for the dedication of the AMAA Community Center and Armenian Evangelical Church in Gyumri were more than 60 AMAA



Theatrical presentation of "The Angel of Salvation" Play

(1988), the 27th anniversary of the new Republic of Armenia on September 21, and just missed October's 2800th anniversary of the establishment of Erebouni/Yerevan as one of the oldest cities in the world!

The new AMAA building in Gyumri stood out as a colorful, large and well-built complex. It

houses a day center which is one of several the AMAA has modeled on its successful Shogh Day Center in Yerevan. Dignitaries, church members and local residents were present for the dedication. Gyumri Mayor Samvel Balasanyan congratulated the AMAA and praised the Center as a spiritual, educational, and cultural center that will enrich the lives of residents. AMAA President Dr. Nazareth Darakjian said, "We hope that this will be a community center where people from all walks of life, from all persuasions and affiliations, young and old, will

come to meet each other, build friendships, understand each others' problems, and extend a helping hand whenever someone needs it."

After a church service of praise and dedication, community leaders, staff and volunteers joined the large AMAA delegation for a lun-

cheon celebration that included heartfelt speeches, dancing, and rousing patriotic and traditional songs. The Evangelical Church of Armenia and Artsakh had commemorated the AMAA's Centennial one week earlier during a worship service in Yerevan with AMAA Executive Director / CEO Zaven Khanjian present. On that occasion, he said, "Our founders wanted to rebuild churches on Armenian soil. We came to Armenia and built churches just as our founders imagined. We have an independent Armenia, a dream of the generations who survived the genocide. God has given us a mission to be a light of illumination and faith in this dark region. Together with the mother church we will continue!"

The Gyumri celebration was just one of six special events during the tour. The others were: a concert at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Yerevan; an original play about Rev. Hovhannes Eskijian's work saving hundreds of Armenian children during the Genocide; an Armenian Evangelical artists' original art exhibit in Yerevan; a multimedia cultural evening at the Yerevan Opera House; and a banquet, held

at the Yerevan Marriott in Republic Square, which drew more than 260 people from around the world.

The concert featured soloists Mareta Antonyan and Armen Avetisyan, violin, duduk and zurna instrumentation, and dramatic recitations in both Armenian and English. At its conclusion, AMAA Executive Director noted that this program set a very high bar for the week of celebrations, and that Armenia can



Avedisian School Students singing during the Cultural Evening at the Opera House

supporters. Many had joined our tour group in Armenia as this day approached.

The AMAA Centennial celebrations (and our tour) overlapped with the centennial of the First Republic of Armenia (1918), the 30-year anniversary of the earthquake in Gyumri



Dedication of the newly constructed Armenian Evangelical Community Center and Church in Gyumri

rightly celebrate its greatest natural resource, the talent and creativity of its people.

Playwright / Director Nune Abrahamyan and the Hayasa Theatrical Group produced "The Angel of Salvation" based on genocide scholar Hilmar Kaiser's book, *At the Crossroads of Der Zor*. Kaiser was present and told the audience, "This play, and your presence, show that the Turks failed!" Martin Eskijian, grandson of Rev. Eskijian and a member of our tour, remarked that he was humbled by his grandfather's story: "I am deeply grateful to the AMAA and to all the actors and participants that put it together."

The art exhibit, held at the Yerevan Artists' Union of Armenia, was well-attended and covered by local media. AMAA Armenia Representative Harout Nercessian noted, "Armenian Evangelicals, wherever they are, focus on art education and upbringing, and contribute to the discovery and development of the new generation's aesthetic capacities by creating favorable conditions for them." He cited the Shogh Day Center and the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School as examples. We saw both on our tour and spoke with their professional staff who lovingly work with disadvantaged children, educating, mentoring, and feeding them, and offering creative as well as academic opportunities.

The cultural evening concluded with composer Eduard Zorikyan singing *Let There Be Good in the World* with a choir of Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School students on stage waving their phone flashlights. The audience responded by lighting phones and waving them back. The whole Opera house lit up with warmth, inspiration and reflected love, a bright and fitting response.

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TOP: SENATOR ED MARKEY (D-MA)
BOTTOM: ARMENIAN PRESIDENT ARMEN SARKISSIAN

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THE MET

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culture stands revealed”
—The Magazine Antiques



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Through January 13

The exhibition is made possible by The Hagop Kevorkian Fund.

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

Altar frontal (detail), New Julfa, 1741.
Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, Armenia.
Photo by Hrair Hawk Khatcherian.

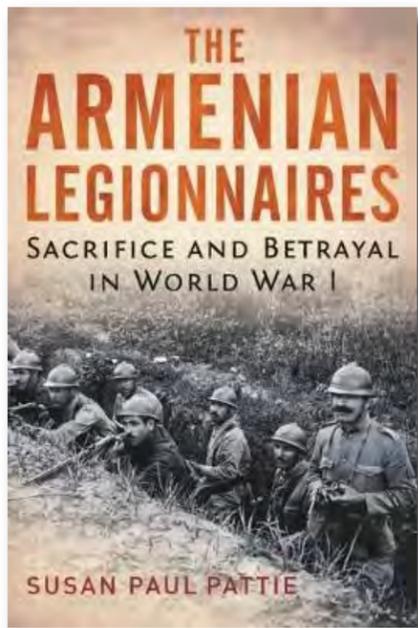
Arts & Living

Susan Pattie To Discuss Armenian Legionnaires at NAASR Lecture

WATERTOWN – Dr. Susan Pattie will present her newly published book, *The Armenian Legionnaires: Sacrifice and Betrayal in World War I*, at the AGBU New England Center, 247 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, on Thursday, November 29, at 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

Pattie will be joined for this lecture by Varak Ketsemanian (PhD student, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Princeton University), author of a chapter in the book.

Following the devastation resulting from the Armenian Genocide in 1915, survivors of the massacres were dispersed across the Middle East, North and South America and Europe. Not content with watching World War I silently from the sidelines, a large number of Armenian volunteers joined the specially formed Légion d'Orient. Trained in Cyprus, the Legion fought courageously in Palestine alongside General Allenby, playing a crucial role in defeating the German and Ottoman forces in Palestine at the Battle of Arara in September 1918.



The Armenian Legionnaires signed up on the understanding that they would be fighting in Syria and Turkey and, should the Allies be successful, would be part of an occupying army in their old homelands, laying the foundation for a self-governing Armenian state.

Pattie describes the motivations and dreams of the Armenian Legionnaires and their ultimate betrayal as the French and the British shifted their priorities, leaving the Armenian homelands to the emerging Republic of Turkey. Complete with eyewitness accounts, letters and photographs, *The Armenian Legionnaires* provides an insight into relations between the Great Powers through the lens of a small, powerless people caught in a war that was not their own, but which had already destroyed their known world.

Pattie is an honorary senior research associate at University College London and former director of the Armenian Institute in London. She holds a PhD in anthropology from the University of Michigan and is also the author of *Faith In History: Armenians Rebuilding Community*.

This event is free and open to the public. A reception and refreshments will take place before and after the program.



Poster for American Mirror

'American Mirror' Wins Top Documentary Award at LA Festival

LOS ANGELES – “American Mirror – Intimations of Immortality,” directed by Arthur Balder and produced by David Shara, received the top prize at the Documentary Film Festival of Los Angeles (DOCLA), presented by the Parajanov-Vartanov Film Institute, recently.

The film garnered four awards: Best Innovative Film, Best Cinematography, Best Composer (Mark Petrie) and the top prize, Parajanov-Vartanov Institute Award for Susan Sarandon. Previous recipients of the award are Emma Thompson and Martin Scorsese, and Jean Vigo.

Other cast members are Florence Faivre, Tigran Tsitoghdzian, Ashley Hinshaw and Hillary Rhoda.

“American Mirror” features Oscar-winner Sarandon and Armenian painter Tigran Tsitoghdzian as he limns her portrait during a sitting session, while actress Florence Faivre plays the intriguing role of the ever-present though unattainable artist’s muse.

With this film director Balder sets in motion his theory on poetics of cinematic art, by re-creating sense memories of an artist in a non-linear, challenging storytelling scheme. “Intimations of Immortality” is a reference taken from the famous ode by British Romantic poet William Wordsworth, “Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood.” For Wordsworth, poetry was all about the memories we have. The reconstruction of deep thought-processes, which we can call memories but also omens and other sort of ‘visions’, imagery occurring in the mind’s eye of the subject, entirely subjective since their inception, are the intriguing matter of the picture.

The film, straddling the frontier between documentary and fiction, reveals how Tigran, a highly dedicated craftsman, tries to bring the ancient spirit of the old masters into a unique post-modern hyperrealism deeply interwoven



Susan Sarandon and Director Arthur Balder

with New York’s culture and social landscape. Shot over the period of three years, the film takes us on a rare, thought-provoking, reality-and-fiction setting to reveal how one of the most striking artists in recent art history climbs up the art-world ranks on the winding journey to success and recognition. The presence of legendary art critic Donald Kuspit resonates as the voice of a *deus ex machina* speaking from a remote, virtual museum in the 19th Century.

The film has an original soundtrack by composer Mark Petrie. For more information on the film visit <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt7980762/>

Teaching Armenian Dance in Japan

An Interview with Azat Gharibyan

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

Special to the Armenian Mirror-Spectator

FUKUOKA, JAPAN – In the Japanese town of Fukuoka, a ballet school and a dancing company function, bearing the Armenian name Gharibyan Ballet Academy and Gharibyan Krunk (Crane). They were founded by the young dancer and dance teacher Azat Gharibyan from Yerevan. He also manages the organization Ballet Aplomb, which promotes getting a ballet education abroad.

The grandson of the award-receiving representatives of the art of Armenian ballet, Azat Gharibyan and Tereza Grigoryan, Azat Gharibyan Jr. (born in 1981 in Yerevan), received a professional education in Yerevan and Saint Petersburg. In 1997 in Yerevan, he was awarded a silver medal in the Amadeus dance competition in the category of Folk Dance. In 2004, in Castiglione, Italy, he was awarded a golden medal in the international ballet competition and the award for the best technique.

During 1999-2001, he served in the Sardarapat ensemble of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia at the Officers’ House of Yerevan and in 1999-2002 danced in the Spendaryan Opera and Ballet Theater. In 2002, he started his activities abroad, first in Czech Republic and in Slovenia, then six years



Azat Gharibyan at St. Mary’s Armenian Apostolic Church, Melbourne, Australia

in the German theater of the Flensburg region. Here he has appeared with main roles in the classic and modern repertoire.

Retiring from dancing and settling in Japan in 2011, Azat Gharibyan is busy now teaching dance. During the 10th “Ballte-Kone” competition, he was declared the best dance teacher of Fukuoka. He was also considered the best ballet teacher at the Namue classic ballet competition thrice.

Azat, you have the name of the eminent representative of the Armenian art of dancing Azat Gharibyan.

I was seven years old when he died. My grandmother Tereza Grigoryan once told me: “You do not deserve that name” (by the way, at that time, everyone called me Macho). But when I returned from Petersburg with a Vaganova Academy diploma, my grandmother told me: “Now you deserve to be called Azat Gharibyan.” I took my first steps of choosing a profession with my grandfather. It was predetermined that

see DANCE, page 13



ARTS & LIVING

A Dictionary of Unique Armenian Names and Their Meanings

TEANECK, N.J. — *The Dictionary of Armenian Surnames*, researched and compiled by *Armenian Weekly* columnist CK Garabed, will be available online later this fall.

The occasion will be marked with a slide lecture called “What’s in a Name? The Etymology of Armenian Surnames” to be delivered by Garabed at St. Illuminator’s Pashalian Hall (221 E. 27th Street, New York) on Sunday, December 9, following Holy Badarak.

At this event, Garabed will discuss the origins of Armenian surnames and the detective work involved in researching name derivations with examples of some highly unusual surnames. The program will start at 1 p.m. and is sponsored by the Regional Executive of the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society and St. Illuminator’s Armenian Apostolic Cathedral.

CK Garabed is the pen name of Charles Garabed Kasbarian, the columnist behind “Uncle Garabed’s Notebook,” which is in its 30th year in the *Armenian Weekly*.

This project first came about when, in the late 1970s, Garabed started collecting names from church directories and donor lists as a hobby. To date, more than 10,000 names have been compiled, but not all of them defined. While curiosity was his first motivation for exploring the subject of Armenian family names, he then came to

appreciate the diverse nature of Armenian surnames, which appear to cover the gamut of our ancestors’ life activities in the Old Country.

To make the dictionary widely accessible, Garabed has decided to post the work on Armeniapedia so that it will be available to all at no charge. Since updating a dictionary is a never-ending endeavor, using an online format will also allow him to continue adding names. “Even so, as a nonagenarian, I thought it better to begin publishing it now,” Garabed adds.

In due course, the dictionary will be available here:

[http://www.armeniapedia.org/wiki/Dictionary_of_Armenian_Surnames_\(In_Process\)](http://www.armeniapedia.org/wiki/Dictionary_of_Armenian_Surnames_(In_Process))

To carry out his work, Garabed consulted Hrachia Adjarian’s *Root Dictionary and Etymological Dictionary of the Armenian Language*; Tigran Avetisyan’s *Dictionary of Armenian Surnames*; Stepan Malkhasian’s *Explanatory Dictionary*; dictionaries in Arabic, Armenian, Assyrian, Azerbaijani, Georgian, Greek, Kurdish, Persian, Turkish; other volumes; and many knowledgeable people to whom he is grateful.

“I was struck by how many Armenians didn’t know the meaning of their names,” said Garabed. “While I am not a linguist nor philologist, it still gives me great pleasure to conduct research in my modest

amateur capacity and then pass on the results. I feel gratified in helping people learn more about their names.”

Whenever Garabed came across a particularly unusual name and he knew a person carrying that name, he would ask them what they knew about its provenance. Those who were familiar with the origins of their name would oblige Garabed by telling him what they knew. In 2004 he began to include in each week’s column an Armenian surname, its definition and background. This resulted in many readers contacting him who wanted to know if he could tell them what their own family names meant, as they didn’t know. In recent years, people of part-Armenian ancestry have begun to discover their ancestral roots via genealogy tests. As such, Garabed hopes that they, too, may find this Dictionary helpful in deciphering their Armenian surnames.

With names like Bajaksouzian (which means legless; assigned to a short man), Soghanyemezian (which means one who does not eat onions), and Srmakeshkanlian (which means owner/worker of a factory where gold/silver thread is drawn), I sometimes think we Armenians, more than any other ethnic group, possess the most fascinating surnames,” Garabed said. One can observe that an Armenian name can denote a number of things about the carrier of that

name: aristocracy, patronymic, occupation; geographic origin; physical traits; other special circumstances; and those assigned in derision by Turkish officials.

Why would people perpetuate strange, unusual or uncomplimentary names when it would be easy to just change them? Garabed explained, “People often are attached to their names because it gives them a sense of continuity and tradition. There’s also the desire to honor their martyrs by perpetuating the memory of their identity as Armenian Christians. We should be grateful to our fellow Armenians for retaining their names as eloquent historical testimony to the oppressions their ancestors suffered at the hands of the Turks. Had the Armenians not clung to their names, I might not be working on such a project today.”

Prior to publishing this Dictionary online, Garabed produced, in 2013, *The Dikranagerdtsi Vernacular Handbook*, freely available here:

http://www.armeniapedia.org/wiki/Dikranagerdtsi_Vernacular_Handbook_In_English_Transliteration

Other books by Garabed in the process of being published include *An Unusual Look at Biblical Subjects*; *The Tales of Nasreddin Khodja*; *The Tale of Shah Ismail*; and *The Dikranagerd Mystique Armenian Cookbook*.

Armenian Dance Teacher From Japan

DANCE, from page 12

I become a dancer. I was 3½ years old, when I played the role of the rooster in the big performance “Wedding” staged by my grandfather and I got on the professional stage with the Krunk Dance Company.

Our male ballet dancers have generally left for Europe or America and now you are in the Land of the Rising Sun.

The reason is that during the years of living in Germany I got acquainted with my future wife - ballet dancer Naho Jo, whose surname is Gharibyan now. Getting married, we decided to settle down in Japan and open a ballet school here. We chose the town of Fukuoka. Now we have two children, Max, who is six years old and Melania, who is three years old.

And in Japan, where few Armenians live, you founded an Armenian dancing ensemble and called it after the Krunk company founded by your grandfather back in 1986.

We perform Armenian folk and new classical performances. We also perform from the repertoire of Krunk: for example, “Memoirs,” excerpts from “The Spindles” dancing performance. On March 11, 2013, our group had a charity performance in Fukuoka in memory of the victims of the tsunami in Japan of March 11, 2011. Twelve dancers have performed dances staged by my grandfather to the sounds of Armenian music. The money received from the concert was given to the foundation for children who had become orphans as a result of the disaster.

Do our folk dances speak to the hearts of the Japanese?

They were totally unknown to them, but they loved them very much and demand us to perform them again.

How often do you have performances? How many students and how many dancers do you have?

Once every two years there is the performance of the school, and in-between them, there is the performance of the group. Our dancing group is combined and the number of participants depends on the performance. Competition is very great in Japan. There are

more than 100 ballet schools only in our town, but people already know us. We are very active; we participate in different competitions and have certain achievements. We have won second place in the Japanese dance competitions seven times. We have 60 students. There are no age restrictions. I have also a separate “Miss Class,” where there are 11 people – women over 40.

But do you prepare professional dancers?

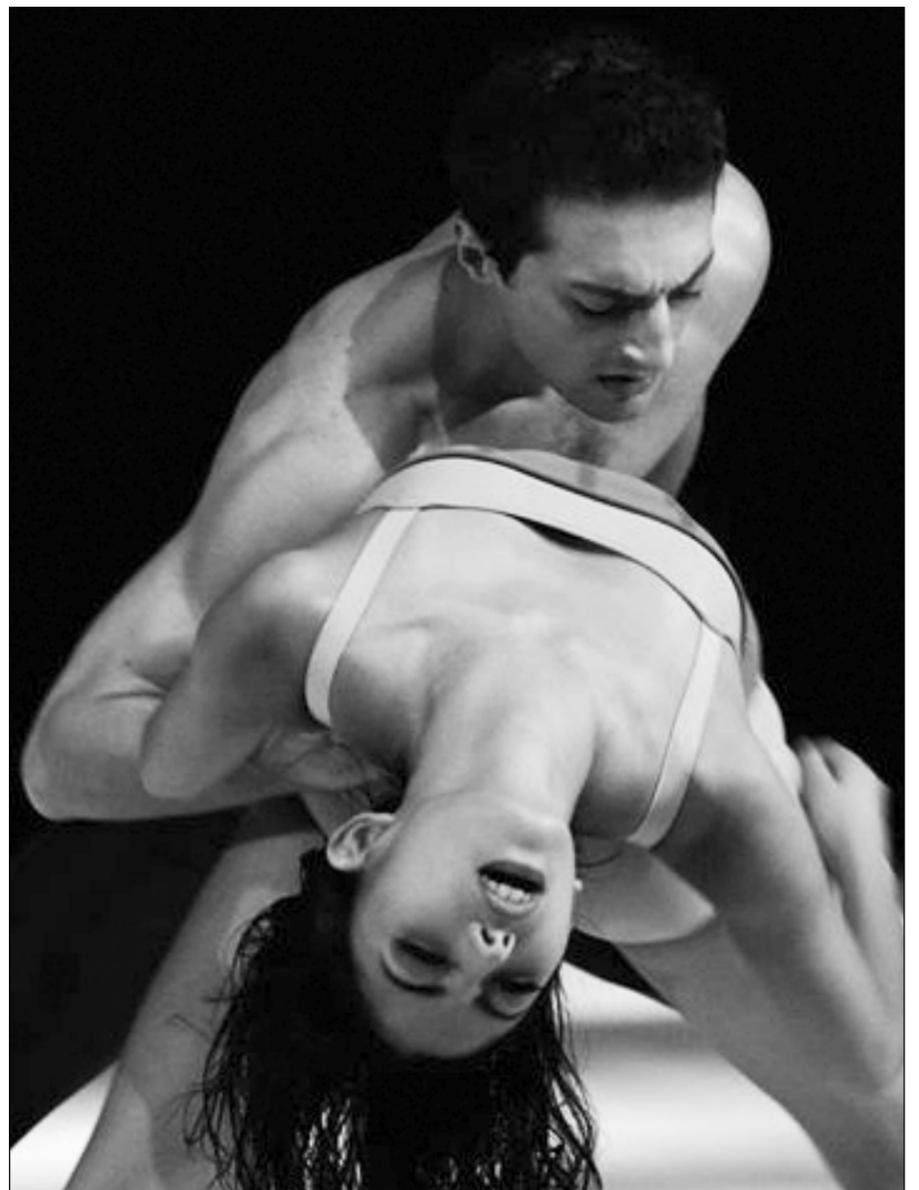
Today, one of our students continues his education in Germany, the other in the Czech Republic. A 12-year-old student has entered the Hamburg ballet school; the other has entered a Novosibirsk school. We try not to keep them with ourselves, in order for them to be able to perform on the world stage.

This time you have come together with a beautiful Japanese girl.

Utako Hanada is from Fukuoka. She participated in the Kyushu international competition, where I coordinate the education and work abroad. She had the opportunity to come to Armenia and to appear with our ballet group in the corps de ballet of the performances of “Spartacus” and “Gayane.” This is a symbolic participation. It would be wonderful for our ballet education especially if we organize master classes with the participation of international guest lecturers and students studying ballet in the Far East (as they are many there and they need international experience and the students studying in Europe already study in good terms).

Do you follow our ballet and ballet education? What problems do you see?

First of all, I think that the bridge between the school and the theater is very important. Starting from just the first year, they should go to work with our artists and do performances. There is no such thing now; that way is closed. We have a lack of good teachers, strong pedagogical staff and professionals. We have specialists of both folk dances and characteristic dances, who do not teach at the college now; meanwhile we need them very much. The list of the classes taught should be expanded: variations, Pilates, yoga, anatomy. I do not even



Azat Gharibyan and Naho Jo Gharibyan

speak about modern dances (we have not studied modern ballet, neither in Yerevan nor in Saint Petersburg). Unfortunately, our curriculum is very outdated. Today we cannot educate an international ballet dancer according to the system of the 1970s. Now the 12-13-year-old international ballet dancers know much more than our 16-17-year-old students. That is why at the age of 20 our students enter the theater unprepared. Ballet has become something sec-

ondary among us. One dancing generation should be better than the other one; meanwhile, today 90 percent is folk dance and only 10 percent ballet is taught there. Although there are many specialists of dance, however it seems that ballet is disappearing. There is no change of generation. We should use our resources abroad and to bring students as well. In short, Armenian ballet education needs revision.



Armenian Artists Come to Austria

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

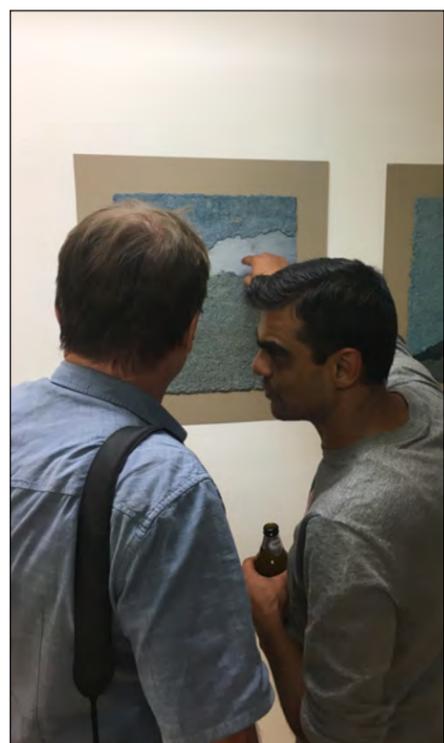
SCHRUNS, Austria – Thirty years ago, Gyumri was almost totally obliterated by an earthquake that devastated nearby Spitak and other cities of the Shirak region. Slowly the city, known as the cultural capital of Armenia, has been rebuilt and its artistic community again flourishes. Not only are the new music schools filled with eager students, but painters and sculptors are continuing to generate works of beauty.

Thanks to the efforts of Alexan Ter-Minasyan, eight artists from Gyumri have been able to present their work in a highly-successful exhibition in Schruns, a city in Montafon Valley, on the westernmost part of Austria. The exhibition, which ran from October 5 to 28, was organized as a joint effort by the MAP Kellergalerie, Caritas and the Schruns Savings Bank, together with Gallery 25 of Gyumri, an artists' group which organizes activities in Armenia as well as exchange programs abroad. In 2017, Gallery 25 cooperated on a show in Bursa, Turkey.

Ter-Minasyan, the founder of Gallery 25, has been a protagonist of the process of rebuilding Gyumri, both physically and culturally. He worked with the Red Cross to set up the "Berlin" polyclinic there, and established the Berlin Art Hotel, which financially supported it. He has supported local efforts to provide art instruction for pupils, for example in the small village of Gusanagyugh. (<http://www.m-w-stiftung.org/English/News/Suns-of-Gusana/Suns-of-Gusana.html>) In January of this year, Ter-Minasyan was named Honorary Consul of Germany, largely



Alexan Ter-Minasyan (r.) with Mayor Jürgen Kuster



Alexan Ter-Minasyan (r.) with Mayor Jürgen Kuster

in recognition of his years-long efforts to promote personal and cultural exchange between the two countries and peoples. (<https://mirrorspectator.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/February-3-2018.pdf>)

The project in Austria, titled "Armenia as a Guest in Montafon," opened the exhibition, "Gyumri and Its Artists," with a vernissage attended by five of the artists and Ter-Minasyan. Schruns Mayor Jürgen Kuster welcomed them with an official reception. The earthquake is a theme of the artworks, and is also documented in images by photographer Yuri Pavlov on display. The program included lectures, eye-witness accounts of the catastrophe, and conversations with the visiting artists. Sculptor Karen Barseghyan, who had been in Schruns for several weeks as artist-in-residence, invited guests to visit his studio, where he has been holding workshops for youngsters and adults.



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ARTS & LIVING

Paying Tribute to Diana Der Hovanessian with Poetry, Recollections

TRIBUTE, from page 1

She helped started the longest poetry reading series in the country and in the meantime invited three Nobel Laureates and Pulitzer winners to the series.

Buchinger also praised the “renowned hospitality” of Der Hovanessian, always creating “an elegant table she generously set with aromatic Armenian dishes.”

“Her stamp on this institution is everlasting,” she concluded.

Poet Regie Gibson recited “Brat” and “Lot’s Wife.” “She was one of the first poets I had the chance to meet her when I came here from Chicago,” he said, noting that she was welcoming and encouraging.

The role of poetry, he explained, is to ask about feelings, understanding, “human to human, human to self and human to culture.”

Gibson later recited “Summer Street, Worcester” and “This Is for Zarif.” In the former, she captures her feelings as a child who could



Dr. Barbara Merguerian (Aram Arkun photo)

Hovanessian was “just mommy to my sister and me.” She joked she thought as a child that banging on a typewriter and later on a computer keyboard at all hours of the night “was something all mommies do.”

She recited her poems “Daughter” and “At Twilight,” the latter about Der Hovanessian calling her daughters, Maro and Sona, home at twilight.

“Through them, we can still see with her eyes,” she said.

Historian, co-founder of the Armenian International Women’s Association and former editor of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, Dr. Barbara Merguerian took to the stage to share memories of Der Hovanessian and also invited others to share memories of the poet.

She recalled that she first came across Der Hovanessian on the pages of the *Christian Science Monitor* and she invited her often to write for the *Mirror-Spectator*.

She recalled Der Hovanessian’s generosity when the late poet invited her to have lunch with her and William Saroyan when the late novelist was visiting her home in Cambridge.

“She was so open and so gracious,” Merguerian noted.

Later AIWA published her poetry collection *The Other Voice: Armenian Women’s Poetry Through the Ages*, in 2005.

“You couldn’t help respect who she was. Her loss is a tremendous one for so many of us,” she concluded.

Several people got up and spoke about her and how she had touched their loves, including her nephew, Anthony Pahigian.

In addition, a video clip was shown of a choral performance of her poem “Shifting the Sun,” set to music composed by Lee Kesselman.

In addition to the speakers, there were several tributes printed in the expanded program book, including from Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia and the board of the Writers’ Union of Armenia. All the poems recited were included in the booklet, as were biographical information about her, the extensive list of her publications as well as her awards.

The program was organized by the ACF, the New England Poetry Club, and co-sponsored by the Amaras Art Alliance, the New England chapter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenian International Women’s Association, Armenian Museum of America, the Friends of the Longfellow House, Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society, NAASR and the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the US and Canada.

A reception followed.

always insisted on cooking and made very elaborate meals. Diana understood that food was not just food but love,” she noted.

She also said that the late poet wanted to “raise her voice for all the people suffering who are persecuted.” She added, “We all walk in Diana’s light.”

Then, changing the narrative, she added that both she and Der Hovanessian were tremendous fans of Porsches. “We shared a love for speed and fast cars,” she said. “She had an impish sense of humor.”

Ani Arakelians, an Iranian-born Armenian computer programmer and business analyst who is in demand for her eloquent, soulful recitations of poetry in Armenian, recited four of Der Hovanessian’s poems that had been translated from English in Armenia.

Award winning writer and poet Askold Melnyczuk, founding editor of the Boston-based literary publication *Agni* and director of the Masters in Fine Arts Program at the University of Massachusetts Boston, spoke about the late poet’s championing of the works of long-dead Armenian poets, whose names and sentiments were familiar to generations hundreds of years later and a continent away, “thanks to the genius of a Cantabrigian named Diana Der Hovanessian. ... Diana was utterly of her time

and [yet] carried lives from the past,” he said.

He stressed the importance of her particular skill, translating, suggesting that “good translators go unrecognized” but that “thanks to her,



Diana Der Hovanessian’s nephew Anthony Pahigian (Aram Arkun photo)

the New England Poetry Club become the most cosmopolitan” of its kind in the country.

“There are so many ways in which she was singular in the literary world,” he added.

The honoree’s daughter, Maro Dalley, looking striking like the late poet whose large photo was placed behind the dais, spoke of how Der



Maro Dalley (Aram Arkun photo)

not speak English mixing with the neighborhood children in Worcester. In the latter, she paid homage to a mother who refused to give up information about her son during the Armenian Genocide even when tortured brutally.

Vivian Shipley, editor of the award-winning *Connecticut Review*, and Connecticut State University Distinguished Professor at Southern Connecticut State University, added yet another facet to Der Hovanessian.

“We had known each other for 40 years. She

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM
TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION
AGBU ALEX & MARIE MANOOGIAN SCHOOL

present
Arman Grigoryan
Guest Speaker

**From Nationhood to Statehood:
Reflections on Ter-Petrosian's Writings**

Armenia has experienced a set of transformational political events since the late 1980s – the Karabagh movement; independence; war; political and economic transition. These events have attracted considerable scholarly and journalistic attention. The country has also undergone important ideological shifts in this period, which have attracted less attention. What is worse, that attention has produced more heat than light. More specifically, shortly after the birth of the Karabagh Movement, some of the cherished assumptions of Armenian nationalism and politics came under assault. The ideology of the Armenian Cause in particular, which, despite slogans about class politics and socialist internationalism, had been embraced even by Armenian Communists since at least the end of WWII, was subjected to a hitherto unprecedented intellectual scrutiny. In a parallel conversation, Armenia’s political class debated the competing visions of a liberal vs. a “national” state in the early years of independence. With some modification and with varying intensity these debates have continued to this day. The recent publication of Levon Ter-Petrosian’s speeches, articles, and interviews on these matters for the English-speaking audience is a good opportunity to revisit these debates and look at them through the eyes of one of its most important contributors.

Open to the public - join us on..
Thursday, November 29 at 7 pm
AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School
22001 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield
Reception will follow lecture



Arman Grigoryan is an Assistant Professor of Int'l Relations at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. His research focuses on ethnonationalist conflicts, interventions, and the politics of the post-Soviet space. His publications have appeared in *International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *the International Political Science Review*, *Ethnopolitics*, and *the Nationalities Papers*.

Professor Grigoryan holds a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University, a Master's in international relations from the University of Chicago, and a BA in Middle Eastern Studies from Yerevan State University. He has been a recipient of research fellowships at Harvard University, the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, and the University of Michigan.

Professor Grigoryan served in the Armenian government in 1991-1993.



Poet Regie Gibson (Aram Arkun photo)

Read News in Armenian at:

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ARTS & LIVING

Review: Middle Eastern Flavors Shine at Lyra in East Nashville

By Nancy Vienneau

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (*Nashville Tennessean*) – Lyra is small constellation known for its most brilliant star, Vega. While we don't know what prompted chef Hrant Arakelian and his wife Elizabeth Endicott to choose this name for their modern Middle Eastern restaurant in East Nashville, we do find it fitting. Among the constellations of restaurants throughout our city, Lyra beams brightly.

This stellar place recently opened in the former Holland House Bar and Refuge, where Arakelian had served as executive chef since 2014. He's cooked in a few Nashville restau-

rants over the past decade, such as Rumours East and Etch. Here, though, he is able to give the fullest expression to the foods that are part of his heritage.

Arakelian's father was born in Lebanon and his mother in east Tennessee. As a young child, Arakelian lived in Beirut and Muscat, Oman. Even after the family returned to Tennessee, his parents continued to embrace the cooking traditions of the Middle East. At Lyra, we suspect, Arakelian has taken those recipes as inspiration, and made them his own.

In re-imagining the restaurant, a harmony of blues, greens and grays, Arakelian also installed a wood-fired oven, visible from the dining room. It plays an intrinsic role in his menu. Beautiful

bread – puffed and lightly charred pitas, Kurdish loaves known as *samoons*, Lebanese flatbreads painted with za'atar-infused oil, and *fatayers*, savory stuffed pastry triangles – emerge fragrant and yeasty from the glowing oven.

Impressive, too, is Arakelian's use of fresh herbs, freshly ground spices and dried peppers in vibrant combinations, which inform much of the cuisine. It makes dining at Lyra both an adventure and a pleasure.

Where to start? If it's happy hour, get an order of fried chickpeas dusted in *berbere* spices (delightful pops of crunchy-salty-spice) and a cocktail while you study the menu. Having been Lockeland Table's beverage director for six years, Endicott brings a wealth of

expertise and creativity to the libations, both alcoholic and non. There are stunning concoctions made with hibiscus, like the gin-and-aperol imbued Hans Gruber, cinnamon fig bitters in the cava-based Bellatrix, and rosemary-date syrup in the Dark Phoenix, a potent meld of citrus-reposado tequila-Campari on the rocks.

Spooned with roasted turnips and onions and pooled with Aleppo-pepper spiked olive oil, the hummus is a revelation, its enjoyment further heightened by the soft, warm pitas that accompany it. Arakelian also brings new dimension to baba ganoush. Served "in its skin," the whole roasted eggplant is split, crowned with tahini, fresh herbs and pickled red onion. Stir the mixture into the warm eggplant flesh and spread over pieces of the Kurdish samoon bread.

Ask, too, about the daily *fatayer*, a Middle Eastern version of a calzone. Ours, stuffed with broccolini (also wood-oven baked), soft feta and roasted red bell pepper puree, was finished with a scatter of parsley and chives – fresh, and flavorful.

While tomatoes are in season during the summer, Arakelian will offer his salt-baked heirloom tomato salad, the orbs strewn with puffed bulgur, Turkish cheese, pepper oil and oregano. It is delicious by itself or savored over one of the breads. Another summer offering, watermelon salad, is adorned with mint, shaved halloumi cheese, hot banana peppers, nigella and sesame seeds. It makes a refreshing palate cleanser when dining on small plates of fried beef kibbeh (remarkable beef meatballs filled with date butter, coated in shatta sauce and crushed urfa biber pepper) or seared za'atar spiced scallops (plated over skordalia, a potato puree that Arakelian folds with pencil asparagus cuts and finishes with pickled shallot).

Plates are listed in a progression of size. Larger entrée-sized dishes include the date-glazed half-rack of lamb, rosy frenched chops served over sour rice (a dish from Oman), stirred with carrot-top gremolata and pickled currants. Lamb lovers will relish this preparation. The market fish is a unique preparation, the fillet (in our case, wreckfish) dipped in chickpea batter, fried to a puff and planked over an herbed tahini sauce. A salad of shaved fennel and grapefruit, lime and orange segments in nigella seed vinaigrette makes a tangy counterpoint to the rich fish.

You'll want to order dessert. Endicott is also pastry chef. She makes a wonderful pistachio ice cream sandwich, the housemade churn tucked between sesame-tahini cookies. On the weekends look for her chocolate cake. It's actually a multi-layered (as in 10 thin-thin layers!) cream-filled cocoa-cardamom cake that is light, luscious and perfect with a cup of Turkish coffee.

Service is warm and informed. Both Arakelian and Endicott are attuned to the neighborhood and have created an ambiance that is sophisticated yet unpretentious, and welcoming to families. With the components of food, drink, service and vibe in place, Lyra should shine for a long time.

To find out more about the restaurant, visit lyranashville.com

Recipe Corner

Guest Recipe

by Christine Vartanian Datian

Halibut with Jicama and Citrus Salad

Contributed by David Vartanian, the Vintage Press Restaurant in Visalia, California, named one of America's Best Chefs*



This salad with crunchy walnuts is for real blue cheese lovers. Pair with a grilled steak or lamb chops and boiled baby red skin potatoes for a classic steak house meal.

INGREDIENTS

1 pound jicama, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
 1 red onion, diced
 1 grapefruit, peeled
 1 large orange, peeled
 1 jalapeno chile, seeded and finely diced
 1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
 1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lime juice
 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 6 6-ounce halibut fillets*
 Salt and pepper to taste
 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) butter, melted
 Cilantro, for garnish

PREPARATION

To prepare the salad, combine jicama and onion in a bowl. Cut grapefruit and orange into 1/2 inch pieces; add to the jicama mixture. Stir in jalapeno, cilantro, lime juice and olive oil. Sprinkle with chili powder and salt. Stir well and refrigerate.

Season halibut with salt and pepper to taste. Brush with melted butter. Grill or broil the fish, being careful not to overcook it.

To serve, divide salad among 6 plates. Place halibut fillets on top of salad. Garnish with fresh cilantro.

Makes 6 servings.

*Tip: Substitute sea bass for halibut.



Chef David Vartanian is the award winning manager and chef at the Vintage Press Restaurant*

The Vintage Press Restaurant in Visalia, CA is renowned for its outstanding food and service. Owned and operated by the Vartanian family since 1966, critics believe this is the best restaurant in the Sequoia region and a true fine-dining experience, with white tablecloths, plush red leather banquettes and exceptional service. The Vintage Press Restaurant serves classic beef, lamb, seafood and specialty dishes. The menu encompasses a wide range of influences, meaning you could order the excellent lamb kebobs while your companion feasts on chile relleno. Classic American dishes are quite well done, especially the restaurant's famed filet mignon. The wine list is similarly superlative.

Wine Spectator magazine said the restaurant has "one of the best restaurant wine lists in the world," while the Los Angeles Times called the restaurant "...a bastion of culinary merit."

If you are in Visalia, visit the Vintage Press Restaurant, 216 N. Willis St. Visalia, CA 93291, <http://www.thevintagepress.com/>

Recipe and photos courtesy of Chef David Vartanian, The Vintage Press, Visalia, California. <http://www.thevintagepress.com/>



Hrant Arakelian



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

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

NOVEMBER 18 — “**Captain Jim Chankalian: Leader of the Armenian-American Volunteer Soldiers**” sponsored by the Tekeyan Cultural Association Metro Los Angeles Chapter. Keynote speaker: Aram Arkun. Dedicated to the 100th Anniversary of the Victory at the Battle of Arara by the Armenian Legion. Bilingual program, 5 p.m. Tekeyan Center, 1901 N. Allen Ave., Altadena. For more information: info@TekeyanLA.org

FLORIDA

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

MASSACHUSETTS

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 — **Friday and Saturday, Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday**, 12-9 pm, Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Featuring delicious Armenian dinners, a la carte menu and take-out meals; booths and vendors – perfect for Christmas shopping; Armenian gourmet foods, delicacies and pastries; raffles, and more. Activities for Children, Peter Adamian Hall: Friday, 7-9 p.m., All Aboard “The Polar Express” Pajama Party, for children ages 5 and older; Saturday, 11 a.m., Children’s Entertainment, and 3-5 p.m., “The Star” movie, for all ages. Saturday, Visit with Santa, 1-2 pm, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall. For further information, contact the Church office at 617.354.0632, or log onto www.htaac.org/calendar/event/580/.

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/acappella

DECEMBER 3 — **Monday, St James Armenian Church Men’s Club Dinner Meeting**. Speaker: Gregory Vartanian, Esq., a Boston-based immigration attorney. He will provide an overview of US immigration laws and regulations. He will also discuss cases of Armenians and non-Armenians in various parts of the world seeking asylum and those just wanting to immigrate to the US. He will also present his opinions on issues with the US immigration system, the Presidential proclamation affecting Muslim countries, and how to interpret what you hear and read in the news. Social hour and mezza at 6:15 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Mezza and Losh Kebab & Kheyma Dinner \$16/person. Ladies invited. St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center - Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown.

DECEMBER 9 — **Christmas Holiday Concert – Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra**, Sunday, 7 p.m., Church Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Remembering the



Aram Arkun, executive director of the Tekeyan Cultural Association and the assistant editor at the Armenian Mirror-Spectator,



will give a talk in Altadena, Calif., on November 18, titled “Captain Jim Chankalian: Leader of the Armenian-American Volunteer Soldiers.” The talk is sponsored by the Tekeyan Cultural Association metro Los Angeles Chapter. It is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Victory at the Battle of Arara by the Armenian Legion. The bilingual program will start at 5 p.m. at the Tekeyan Center, 1901 N. Allen Ave., Altadena.

Very Rev. Oshagan Minassian on the 10th Anniversary of his passing, and Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the earthquake in Armenia and the 2,800th Anniversary of Yerevan. Under the direction of Composer Konstantin Petrossian, Music Director and Conductor, with Guest Soloists Anahit Zakaryan, soprano, and Michael Calmés, tenor, the program will consist of a variety of traditional Armenian and Western sacred and holiday music. The public is warmly invited to attend this complimentary concert. Reception to follow featuring an Exhibit, “To Armenia” by Winslow Martin, an Arlington-based documentary photographer. For further information, call the Church office, 617.354.0632 or log onto www.htaac.org/calendar/event/582/.

DECEMBER 16 — **St. James Annual Name Day Banquet** - Celebrating the 87th Anniversary of the Parish and Honoring Rev. Fr. Arakel Aljalian on the 25th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan, Primate, Presiding. St James Armenian Church, Watertown, MA. Details to follow.

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

APRIL 25, 2019 — **Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston Presents The Dr. Michael and Joyce Kolligian Distinguished Speaker Series: Anthony Ray Hinton, Author of The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row, “Surviving Criminal Justice in America.”** Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA 02138. Reception and book signing to follow talk. Open and free to the public. For further information, contact the Holy Trinity Church office, 617.354.0632, email office@htaac.org, or log onto www.htaac.org/calendar/event/622/.

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

MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER 29 — **“From Nationhood to Statehood: Reflections on Ter-Petrossian’s Writings,”** lecture by Prof. Arman Grigoryan at 7 p.m. at the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School, co-sponsored by the University of Michigan Armenian Studies Program, the Tekeyan

Cultural Association and the AGBU Alex and Maria Manoogian School. Grigoryan is an assistant professor of international relations at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania and focuses on ethno-nationalist conflicts. He holds a PhD in political science from Columbia University and a master’s in international relations from the University of Chicago. Open to the public and free. A reception will follow the lecture.

NEW JERSEY

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

DECEMBER 1 — **St. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church ACYOA Annual Holiday Kef**. Evagian Hall, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI. Featuring Mal Barsamian, Jason Naroian, Brian Ansbikian, David Ansbikian. 8:30 p.m.– 1 a.m. Mezza Available, coffee/dessert. For reservations, contact church office 401-272-7712. All are welcome!!

RHODE ISLAND

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>

Calendar items are free. Entries should not be longer than 5 lines. Listings should include contact information. Items will be edited to fit the space, if need be. A photo may be sent with the listing no later than Mondays at noon.

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COMMENTARY

The War that Did Not End All Wars

By Edmond Y. Azadian

In the aftermath of World War I, US President Woodrow Wilson was wearing the mantle of peacemaker. It was in that role that he proclaimed World War I was the war to end all wars. Unfortunately, subsequent events came to disprove him and made his prediction one mocked by history.

As one of the speakers during the recent commemoration ceremonies mentioned on November 11, that 222 conflicts are raging around the world currently, affecting the lives of one billion human beings.

As 84 heads of state gathered in Paris to mark the centennial of the armistice that officially ended World War I in 1918, on the eleventh's month's eleventh day at eleven a.m., certainly, the atrocities of the above-mentioned conflicts weighed heavily on their minds.

However, right there and then, the uneasy political currents were very visible, pulling apart the world powers aligned on one side with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel who are advocating patriotism versus nationalism, and on the other, nationalism advocated by US President Donald Trump, Russian's President Vladimir Putin and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan with a host of right-wing regimes currently taking office in Eastern Europe.

The speeches were stirring and the ceremonies were moving. Messages for a peaceful world were proclaimed from all quarters.

Many speakers cited different figures about the loss of human life during World War I. Figures mentioned ranged between 17 million to 20 million. We are not sure if these figures included the 1.5 Armenian martyrs. The war resulted in the demise of the Ottoman, Russian, German and Austro-Hungarian empires. Ironically, Armenians living in the warring Ottoman and Russian empires were drafted into opposing armies and as a consequence, suffered doubly.

er territory, covering most of the historic perimeters of the Lausanne Treaty of 1923 wrested by the Kemalists ended up delineating today's Turkish border.

The centennial ceremonies only served as a veneer of unity while undercurrents were very visible, as President Macron blamed nationalism as the root cause of conflicts. Thus chastised, President Trump skipped most of the activities to attend a ceremony in Suresnes, where US war victims were buried and paid tribute only to them and he publicly rebuked President Macron's statement that nationalism ran counter to patriotism.

Macron and Merkel were hopelessly promoting multilateralism in their speeches, while Trump and right-wing leaders of the former Soviet bloc were pulling apart the world with their populism and unbridled nationalism.

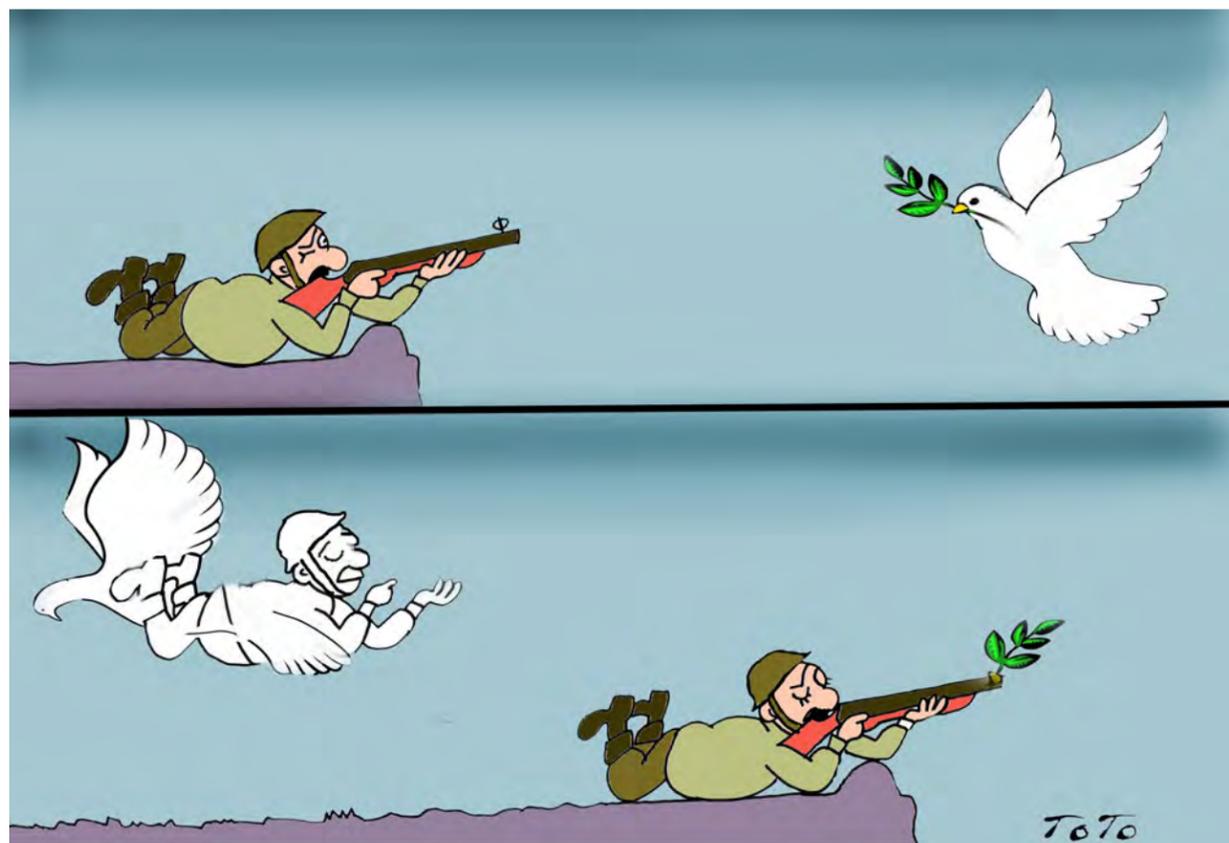
German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier was making amends for German atrocities against the Jews by mentioning the Shoah and Kristallnacht pogrom of 1938 and stating, "In our actions, we must prove that we Germans have truly learned from the past and truly become more vigilant because of our history."

In her turn, Chancellor Merkel blamed "German arrogance" for causing both wars. While these two leaders were bending over backwards to apologize for their nation's dark history, President Macron chose an opposite path when he stated that it is "legitimate to pay tribute to Gen. Philippe Petain, the victor of Verdun of 1916," who later became a Nazi collaborator and sent many Jews to concentration camps.

Armenia also rightly participated in those centennial ceremonies, where Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan stated, "Indeed, we are unable to change that history, and we do not need to. But history is able to change us to make our future better."

Armenians had made tremendous sacrifices during World War I, to the point of near extinction. Pashinyan outlined the Armenian Genocide and the Karabakh conflict.

The year 1914 was one of the most fortunate periods of Armenian history, as the Ottoman Commitments of 1878 ("Berlin Treaty") were about to come to fruition, as the promised reforms in the Armenians provinces had begun. But the Ittihadist leaders



The reason the Wilson's predictions were erroneous was that the peace treaty resulted in the humiliation of the German government and people, as it imposed crippling sanctions and heavy taxes on the country, weakening it tremendously. Adolf Hitler later capitalized on simmering anger and humiliation among the population to propel his evil campaign and eventually pushed the country into an even bigger global conflagration which sacrificed an even greater number of civilians. He launched the Holocaust which led to the extermination of eight million, including six million Jews, and hundreds of thousands of Gypsies, homosexuals, mentally or physically handicapped people as well as those who espoused other political viewpoints. In the Soviet Union alone, the casualties rose to 25 million, among them 300,000 Armenians.

Until today, Turkey, Germany's ally during World War I, is visited by the Sevres Syndrome every time the end of World War I is mentioned. Although President Erdogan attended the Paris commemorations, the occasion was a somber day for his country because the Sevres Treaty of 1920, which followed the Armistice, dismembered the Ottoman Empire and were it not for the treachery of the Great Powers, Armenia would have a large

foresaw the dangers of an Armenia being created and they decided to deal a mortal blow. One can only imagine the potential of the dismemberment of present-day Turkey with the Kurds and Armenians vying for their independence.

But despite the Genocide with its awful human toll, Armenians mustered enough forces to wage two wars: on the east, in the Battle of Sardarabad, which gave birth to independent Armenia, in May 1918, and the other at the Battle of Arara, in Palestine, by the Armenian Legion fighting under the Allied flag. Five thousand Armenian combatants who were promised home rule in Cilicia, fought gloriously to break the Ottoman-German fortifications in Arara, which was the beginning of the end of the Ottoman and German empires.

Unfortunately, the centennial of the Battle of Arara (September 19, 2018) was hardly mentioned in the press and in public discourse for a variety of reasons, but had the Allies made good on their promises, today we would have a more viable Armenia with a seaport on the Mediterranean.

The Armistice of 1918 was a telling lesson for mankind and a historic missed opportunity for Armenians.



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Newly-Elected House Democratic Majority Will Paralyze Trump's Presidential Powers

The midterm elections held on November 6, 2018, will significantly restrain President Trump's rule of the United States as a dictatorship.

In the first two years of his presidency, Trump often abused his powers by signing Executive Orders and by controlling both the Executive and Legislative branches of the US government through the Republican majorities in both the House and Senate. During this period, President Trump made many outrageous statements and acted as he pleased disregarding any politically, legally and morally correct behavior.

However, the President's free ride has come to an end! With the new Democratic majority in the House of Representatives, President Trump will no longer be able to do as he pleases. He will be unable to propose any bills without the consent of the House Democrats who will investigate the illegal actions of the President and his cabinet members, as well as protecting the Special Prosecutor's Russia collusion probe in the 2016 US presidential elections. The new Democratic majority in the House will be able to subpoena President Trump's campaign associates which the previous Republican majority had blocked, and will also demand the release of the President's tax returns which he has adamantly refused to disclose, hiding his business dealings in foreign countries.

This new state of affairs will have two concrete consequences. The US government will be in gridlock for the next two years. Hardly any new bills initiated by President Trump will be approved by the House. Secondly, frustrated by the House blocking his actions, President Trump will lash out at

the Democrats even more harshly than before. The President has already declared that if the Democrats investigate him, he will investigate them in return! This means that President Trump's anger and hostility will rise to new heights, leading him to send more insulting tweets and deliver more outrageous speeches at his political rallies.

During the next two years, President Trump will be so busy attacking his political rivals that he will be unable to pay full attention to domestic and foreign policies which will hopefully limit his mischief in the United States and around the world.

Armenian-American Candidates in Midterms

On the positive side, at least eight Armenian-Americans won local, state and federal political seats during the Nov. 6, 2018 midterm elections.

Armenian-American Anna Eshoo (Dem.-CA) won reelection to the House along with Jackie Kanchelian Speier, another Democrat from California. Armenian-American Anthony Brindisi (D-N.Y.) is 1,293 votes ahead of the incumbent Republican Congresswoman Claudia Tenney as of election night, pending thousands of votes yet to be counted. If Brindisi wins, he will be the third Armenian-American serving in the US House of Representatives.

In the history of the United States, there have been only seven Armenian-Americans elected to the US House of Representatives. They are:

- Thomas Corwin (1831-1840; 1859-1861), Republican from Ohio.
- Steven Derounian (1953-1965), Republican from New York.
- Adam Benjamin (1977-1982), Democrat from Indiana.
- Charles Pashayan (1979-1991), Republican from California.
- Anna Eshoo (1993-now), Democrat from California.
- John Sweeney (1999-2007), Republican from New York.
- Jackie Speier (2008-now), Democrat from California.

Incredibly, Thomas Corwin, of Armenian and Hungarian descent, was a highly-accomplished politician and diplomat. He is the only Armenian-American who became a US Senator (1845-1850), a Republican from Ohio. Besides his service in the House and the Senate, Corwin was the Governor of Ohio (1840-1842), and US Secretary of the Treasury (1850-1853). In addition, he served as US Ambassador to Mexico (1861-1864).

Danny Tarkanian, Republican congressional candidate from Nevada, lost his election bid on November 6, running

against Democrat Susie Lee. Tarkanian trailed with 43.4 percent of the vote to Lee's 51.4 percent.

Johnny Nalbandian, Republican congressional candidate from the Glendale area, lost his election bid to incumbent Democrat Rep. Adam Schiff. Nalbandian had 23.5 percent of the vote to Schiff's 76 percent.

Democrat Adrin Nazarian from the San Fernando Valley region of Los Angeles won reelection against Republican challenger Roxanne Hoge for the California State Assembly. Nazarian won 77.9 percent of the vote to Hoge's 22.1 percent.

Elizabeth Warren (not to be confused with US Senator Elizabeth Warren), granddaughter of Armenian Genocide survivors, lost her election for the California State Assembly to fellow Democrat Tasha Boerner Horvath.

Republican Rita Topalian lost her race for the State Senate against Democrat Bob Archeleta, who won by 65 percent of the vote.

Outside of California, Mari Manoogian, 26, Democratic candidate for Michigan State House, defeated her opponent former Michigan GOP chair David Wolkinson, with 57 percent of the vote vs. Wolkinson's 43 percent. Manoogian was endorsed by President Barack Obama, Sen. Gary Peters, and Governor-Elect Gretchen Whitmer.

Another Armenian-American candidate, Sara Gideon, a Democratic member of the Maine House of Representatives, was reelected.

Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte was re-elected to Ward Three on Westbrook, Maine's City Council. Turcotte, a refugee from Baku, Azerbaijan, is a strong advocate for Artsakh's independence.

Finally, Lorig Charkhoudian, a Democratic candidate for Maryland's House of Delegates, was elected to become the first Armenian-American to serve in the Maryland State legislature.

Most Armenian-Americans, who ran for political office on Nov. 6, won. The same is true for many non-Armenian supporters of the Armenian-American community. The Armenian National Committee of America reported that 92 percent of the congressional candidates it endorsed won their seats. This is great news!

On the other hand, Armenian-Americans are pleased that Rep. Pete Sessions (Rep.-Texas), co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Turkey, lost his reelection bid, despite contributions to him by pro-Turkey donors.

Armenia's Democratic Dreams

By Anna Ohanyan

AT A TIME when authoritarianism seems resurgent, Armenia's 2018 Velvet Revolution has set the country on a path toward sustained democracy. And the movement did so not by following the courses charted by closer neighbors in the post-Soviet world but by following a trail blazed somewhat farther away in Latin America nearly 40 years ago.

Before this year, Armenia was ruled by Serzh Sargsyan, who assumed power through a highly controversial – and much protested – presidential election in 2008. Sargsyan was re-elected in 2013, and then, as the end of his second term drew near, he announced that he would step in as the country's first prime minister within a newly configured parliamentary system. Anger about his power grab quickly boiled over, and soon calls for Sargsyan's resignation echoed in Armenia's streets. The protests spread when Nikol Pashinyan, an opposition leader in parliament, was detained for his role in organizing and leading the initial marches. He was soon released, and Sargsyan announced his resignation on April 23. Only 11 days of peaceful protests and civil disobedience had passed. After a few rounds of votes in parliament, Pashinyan was elected as prime minister.

In power, Pashinyan and his administration had to work with a parliament still dominated by members of Sargsyan's Republican Party. That party's standing is largely viewed as illegitimate because of the systemic electoral fraud that plagued the last parliamentary and presidential elections. And so, on Oct. 16, Pashinyan resigned as a way to push for snap parliamentary elections by mid-December. His Yelk (Way Out) Alliance is widely expected to dominate that vote, which would return Pashinyan to power as prime minister—this time with a friendlier (and hopefully more trusted) legislature.

In all its twists and turns, Armenia's Velvet Revolution shared relatively little with the post-Soviet color revolutions. Rather,

similar to many Latin American shifts from military to civilian rule in 1970s and 1980s, the Armenian transition was slow in coming, driven by nonelites, and unfolded through the country's institutions rather than against them.

First, Armenia's Velvet Revolution represented the climax of a decade of peaceful protest centered on human rights, women's rights, environmentalism, and labor and employment issues—all explicitly non- or minimally political causes.

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Such activism created a model for advocating and securing tangible compromises from government figures. Small-scale protests also established nonviolence as a credible strategy. By the time Sargsyan announced his intention to become prime minister, there was already a well-known template in place for responding.

That progression mirrors the evolution of Latin America's democratic transitions in the 1970s and 1980s, which stand out for their grassroots support and for being grounded in broader social issues such as the elimination of literacy requirements for voting, reductions in the voting age, and the removal of other barriers to political participation. Such advocacy saw the electorates of Brazil, Honduras, El Salvador, and Peru expand massively, which helped to consolidate democracy. In Argentina, meanwhile, slow-building protest against the deeply repressive military junta eventually weakened it until it was finally done in by the war with the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands.

These cases stand in stark contrast to the post-Soviet color revolutions, which were often sudden and driven by reformist elites, who were themselves usually backed by outside players, most notably the European Union and the United States. Georgia's 2003 Rose Revolution, for example, included mass protests but really resulted from the loss of faith at the top rather than a push from below. The revolution's top-down nature allowed one of its leaders, Mikheil Saakashvili, who was quickly elected as president after the protests died down, to strengthen the executive branch of the government with little pushback from largely compliant parliamentary forces. Interelite competitions in the aftermath of the other color revolutions in Serbia and Ukraine produced paralysis within their governments, paving the way for illiberal forces to retake power later on.

The Velvet Revolution's emphasis on consensus building also had more in common with Latin American revolutions than the color ones. Pashinyan spent his time bargaining both within parliament and the executive branch and among the mass mobilizers in the street. For example, he negotiated with various factions in parliament to hold a vote for the prime ministership as a way to reconcile the preferences of the protesters with parlia-

mentary processes. He has likewise worked with both civil society movements and unaligned parliamentary groups to gain support for holding snap elections.

Such push and pull between the incumbent regime and the democratic opposition was central to many Latin American transitions as well. Government changes in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Peru all entailed some form of dialogue and, ultimately, a pact between the incoming and outgoing forces. The most notable example here is the 1985 Bolivia Pact for Democracy, which brought the authoritarian government and the leading opposition party together around a series of drastic reforms meant to address mounting economic crises. Another example is Uruguay, when opposition forces were simply incorporated into a coalition government after the 1989 election.

By contrast, during the color revolutions, the power transfer between the incumbent and the reformers tended to be total and often one-sided.

Whether in Georgia's Rose Revolution, Kyrgyzstan's Tulip Revolution, or Ukraine's Orange and Euromaidan revolutions, there has been very little in the way of consensus building, with reformers generally pushing their opponents out of government entirely.

The country's new government wants to root out corruption—but the ancien régime isn't giving up without a fight.

The United States will pay for improved Armenian elections. That doesn't mean Armenia will rotate away from Russia.

There is also something to be said about a revolution unfolding within an existing constitutional order rather than in opposition to it. The Velvet Revolution explicitly and consistently adhered to Armenian constitutional prescriptions for government change. The most dramatic example is that Pashinyan was elected only after hours of questioning by parliament, mostly by the Republican Party, whose leader, Sargsyan, had just been unseated.

Similarly, in Latin America, most of the democratic movements restored previous constitutional orders that were interrupted by military governments. Since the transitions in the 1970s and 1980s, few leaders have sought to change their countries' constitutions to cement their newfound power. In contrast, after being elected president of Georgia, Saakashvili promptly introduced constitutional amendments that tilted power in favor of the executive branch. Such actions have undermined the revolution and weakened Georgia's nascent democracy.

In Latin America, democratic revolutions developed slowly, involved outgoing regimes in the transition, and operated within a flawed but formal institutional and constitutional order. Democracy has become relatively more consolidated despite ongoing challenges from the far-right, as in Brazil. In the former Soviet world, where protest was sudden, involved less



Armenia's Democratic Dreams

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consensus building, and entirely dismantled the old system, democracy has not been as durable. Indeed, in Georgia, Ukraine, and Serbia, it remains compromised and exceedingly fragile.

It is good for Armenia that the country looks to be following Latin America's pattern more than that of the former Soviet states.

Like in Latin America, the leaders of Armenia's Velvet Revolution have already sought to translate successful mass mobilization into sustained civic engagement on less glamorous policy issues, such as tax evasion, legal reform, and business development. The experience of blocking streets with music and dancing, holding boycotts, and negotiating with security forces helped turn participants into stakeholders, and those stakeholders are rallying to take on other unpopular figures, such as the former mayor of Yerevan, Taron Margaryan, who has long been seen as corrupt and incompetent.

Something similar happened in Latin America: Human rights groups in Argentina evolved after the transition and expanded their goals to include transitional justice, human rights education, new legal protections for various minorities, and an end to discrimination. This stands in sharp contrast to revolutions in the post-Soviet world, where a lack of post-revolutionary civil society has precluded sustained engagement, undermined political pluralism, enabled re-emergent authoritarianism, and, in some cases, fostered the rise of right-wing populism. In Georgia, for example, many people who had been in the nonprofit sector joined Saakashvili's government and became unwilling to criticize the administration. They fell for a classic trap: In their research, Juan J. Linz and Alfred Stepan, the editors of *The Breakdown of Democratic Regimes*, showed that civic demobilization is one of the most potent threats to democratic consolidation.

Armenia may be on a good path, of course, but it still faces problems. The country's economy has recovered from a slump during the 2008 global financial crisis, registering a GDP growth rate of 7.5 percent in 2017, the largest increase in the past decade. But the country's poverty rate remains high – 30 percent, by some accounts. Armenia's private sector also needs reform. As a first step, the current government launched a corruption investigation into government-linked oligarchs.

Another challenge is that the West has been slow to give its support to the new government, appearing to want to

wait and see instead. In turn, the government has had to look inward for money, which puts it under pressure to continue working with the same old economic elite. It will be difficult for Pashinyan to continue to pressure local oligarchs to conduct business more transparently even as he relies on them for funding through taxes.

Also complicating things for Armenia is its region, where Russia is resurgent. From the onset of popular demonstrations, Pashinyan proactively engaged regional powers, affirming that the movement was neither pro-West nor pro-Russian but was foremost motivated by domestic political, social, and economic concerns. During the revolution, sustained engagement headed off direct Russian intervention, even as the beleaguered authoritarian elite seemed to be trying to get Russia involved. And on a recent visit to the Caucasus, U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton pushed for Armenia to revisit its historic and strategic alliance with Russia and to join the United States in its efforts to isolate Iran, one of the only two countries with which Armenia has an open border.

But Armenia will still have to be cautious. Its democratic transition has altered the regional fabric, at least by creating a small democratic block with neighboring Georgia. Both countries will need to work together, something the experience of Latin America underscores. It was only by coming together that Latin American countries were able to contain the imperialistic impulses of the United States.

Armenia's Velvet Revolution offers a range of lessons for democratizers stuck in so-called hybrid regimes, where authoritarian states are cloaked in shallow democratic institutions. Peaceful and slow-building protest created sustained pressure for change, while pushes for democracy through formal institutions within the existing constitutional order loaned the revolution legitimacy. The movement has also shown that a healthy civil society is indispensable, both for confronting authoritarian regimes and consolidating democracy. Without it, it will be hard for transitioning countries everywhere to stay on the right side of history.

(Anna Ohanyan is the Richard B. Finnegan distinguished professor of political science and international relations at Stonehill College. She is the author of *Networked Regionalism as Conflict Management and editor of Russia Abroad: Driving Regional Fracture in Post-Communist Eurasia and Beyond*. This analysis originally appeared in *Foreign Policy* magazine.)

Yerevan to Host European Film Festival

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – The European Union is an example of how diversity can lead to solidarity, cohesion, and unity, EU Ambassador to Armenia Piotr Switalski told a press conference here on November 13.

"Cultural heritage is a living testimony. It is the expression of our roots. The more we are aware of our roots and we preserve them, the more we are able to face diversity and change. When we are solid in our identity, we are not scared by difference but we find enrichment in it," Switalski said at a press conference dedicated to the upcoming European Film Festival to be held in Yerevan as part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage to encourage a better recognition of the European cultural heritage and strengthening the feeling of belonging to the common European space.

The festival will kick off on November 17 with the screening of the British film "Colette."

Arevik Saribekyan, president of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) Armenia Cluster said at the press conference: "The European Film Festival is an excellent example of intercultural dialogue which gives the Armenian audience a chance to communicate with the diverse cultures of European countries. Young Armenian specialists will be enabled to work with leading European professionals and acquaint themselves with the developments in European film-making."

The main festival program will be accompanied by competitions and cultural side events, such as film screenings, round table discussions, and master classes.

Varduhi Sargsyan of the cultural focus segment of the Delegation of the European Union to Armenia noted: "We bring up the best of European cinema culture right now. Yet, our EU Film Festival goes beyond pure culture of showcasing and screenings. The main program is complemented with side events such as competitions, workshops and roundtable discussions for all interested in scriptwriting, documentary storytelling and the role of women in modern film industry."



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