

## Bolton Vows to ‘Squeeze Iran,’ Explore Weapons Sales to Armenia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – US national-security adviser John Bolton has vowed that President Donald Trump’s administration will “squeeze Iran” with maximum economic pressure in response to Tehran’s “malign” behavior in the Middle East and around the world.

Bolton made the remarks in an interview with RFE/RL on October 25 after he met in Yerevan with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan.

“As I explained to the prime minister, we want to put maximum pressure on Iran because it has not given up the pursuit of nuclear weapons,” Bolton told RFE/RL’s Armenian Service. “It remains the world’s central banker of international terrorism. And we’re concerned about its ballistic-mis-

sile programs and its active conventional military operations in Syria and Iraq and elsewhere.”

Bolton said Washington doesn’t want to “cause damage to our friends in the

er met in Baku with Azerbaijan’s President Ilham Aliyev and Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov vowing that Washington will continue to support a peaceful resolution to the conflict



Armenia’s acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan (right) meets US national-security adviser John Bolton in Yerevan on October 25.

## ARF Archives Open to the Public For First Time

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN – For the first time in their history, a substantial portion of the archives of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) and the first Republic of Armenia, held in the Hairenik Building in Watertown, have been opened to the public. On the evening of October 25, leaders of Boston-area Armenian organizations were invited to the Papken Suni Armenian-American Social Club for a wine-and-cheese reception and a first look at the archives next door. The event was intended as an educational part of the celebration of the centennial of the first Republic of Armenia.

Joshua Tevekelian, chairman of the ARF Boston Sardarabad Committee, welcomed the organizational representatives. He said that a group of members of the ARF and sister organizations already have been given this tour and that now the wider community is being invited. Tevekelian declared that, “The archives do not belong just to our organization, but to the see ARCHIVES, page 10



## Egyptian-Armenian Artist Chant Avedissian Dies

See full story on Page 8.

process” of expanding sanctions against Iran, which shares a border with Armenia.

He said that’s why he “stressed” to Pashinyan, in advance, that the Trump administration is “going to enforce these sanctions very vigorously” and that the Armenian-Iranian border is “going to be a significant issue.”

“We are going to squeeze Iran because we think their behavior in the Middle East and, really globally, is malign and needs to be changed,” Bolton said.

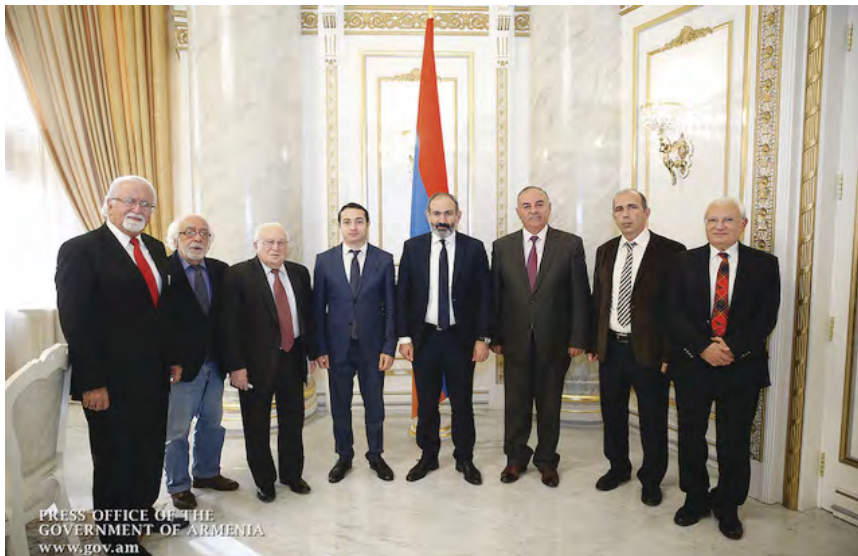
Bolton’s talks with Pashinyan came a day after the US national-security advis-

between Baku and Yerevan over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Bolton said he and Pashinyan “talked a lot, obviously, about Nagorno-Karabakh,” and that he is aware of the economic difficulties Armenia faces as a result of the “geographical situation and historical antecedents” related to the conflict.

Armenia’s borders with Azerbaijan remain closed as a result of their ongoing conflict. Turkey, in solidarity with Azerbaijan, also has closed its border with Armenia.

see BOLTON, page 2



From left, Vartkes Kourouyan, Hagop Avedikian, Edmond Azadian, Diaspora Minister Mkhitar Hayrapetyan, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Suren Sargysan, Armen Manuelian and Dr. Hratch Kouyoumdjian

## ADL Central Committee Members Meet with Pashinyan

YEREVAN – Acting Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan received members of the Central Committee of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party on October 30. The meeting focused on the strengthening of Armenia-Diaspora ties and issues related to political events in Armenia.

Pashinyan expressed the hope that the process will have a positive effect on the ADL’s activities in the country and will advance the party’s involvement in the development and enhancement of the political process.

see ADL, page 2



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Russia Accuses US of Driving Wedge in Relations with Armenia

MOSCOW (RFE/RL) – Russia has chided the United States, alleging Washington is trying to drive a wedge between Moscow and Armenia.

Russia’s Foreign Ministry announced on October 29 that it took issue with US National Security Adviser John Bolton’s comments during a visit to Yerevan on October 25 that the Kremlin says were a thinly veiled call for Armenia to break with its traditional ally, Russia.

Bolton “demanded openly that Armenia renounce historical patterns [sic] in its international relations and hardly bothered to conceal the fact that this implied Armenia’s traditional friendship with Russia,” the ministry said in a statement.

“Naturally, he did not forget to advertise US weapons that Armenia should buy instead of Russian weapons,” it added.

Armenia has long had close ties with Russia, but questions about relations between the two have risen since Nikol Pashinyan led a bloodless revolution to oust Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan, seen as close to Moscow.

### Parliament Terror Anniversary Marked

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Acting Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan paid tribute to the memory of the victims of the October 27, 1999, terror attack in the Armenian parliament.

Speaker of Parliament Ara Babloyan accompanied Pashinyan in the homage ceremony.

Pashinyan, Babloyan, acting First Deputy Prime Minister Ararat Mirzoyan, lawmakers, family members of the victims and parliament staff laid flowers at the memorial to the October 27 shooting victims outside the National Assembly (parliament) building.

On that day in 1999, a group of gunmen assassinated Prime Minister Vazgen Sargsyan, Speaker of Parliament Karen Demirchyan, two deputy speakers, a cabinet member and three lawmakers.

### Major Charity Concert In Paris Planned in Honor of Aznavour

PARIS – The Presidents of Armenia and France, Armen Sarkissian and Emmanuel Macron, announced this week that they have agreed to organize a charity concert in Paris in memory of Charles Aznavour in October 2019.

While in Armenia for the 17th Francophonie Summit, Macron and his wife attended the inauguration of the Aznavour Centre in Yerevan.

## INSIDE

### Kashkashian Bach at You

Page 14

#### INDEX

Arts and Living . . . . .	12
Armenia . . . . .	2,3
Community News. . . . .	5
Editorial . . . . .	18
International . . . . .	4





## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Yerevan among Global Top 10 Tech Cities

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Enterprise Times, a British online platform covering business technology news, has included Yerevan among its 10 Best Cities for having a tech career.

Yerevan is ranked 4th in the top 10 list, titled “Yerevan – Silicon Mountains.”

“Research shows that by 2025, the need for programmers in Armenia will have tripled to 30,000. This is largely due to the ever-increasing innovation in their tech sector. A sector that is growing at an annual rate of 20 percent and shows no signs of slowing down. If you haven’t considered a move to the country previously, it’s worth considering,” Enterprise Times noted in the recent article.

The top 10 cities for a tech career, according to the publication are San Francisco, New York, Austin, Yerevan, Singapore, Melbourne, London, Stockholm, Bangalore and Toronto.

## Man Armed with Grenade Tries to Enter Government Offices

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — A man armed with a hand grenade attempted to breach the government headquarters in Republic Square on October 27, acting First Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Avinyan told RFE/RL’s Armenian service Azatutyun.

Avinyan was inside the building when the incident took place.

Police officers cordoned off the entrance to the building after the incident.

According to preliminary information the man was detained by national security agents. No injuries were reported in the incident.

## History Museum to Participate in British Museum Exhibition

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — The “I Am Ashurbanipal, King Of The World, King Of Assyria” exhibition will open at London’s British Museum November 8 and will run through February 24, 2019.

The Culture Ministry of Armenia announced that the exhibition will feature 200 exhibits: 120 from the British Museum collection and 80 from the history museums of Armenia, France, Germany, St. Petersburg, Vatican and Italy.

The History Museum of Armenia will be represented at the exhibition with 10 unique Urartu-era artifacts.

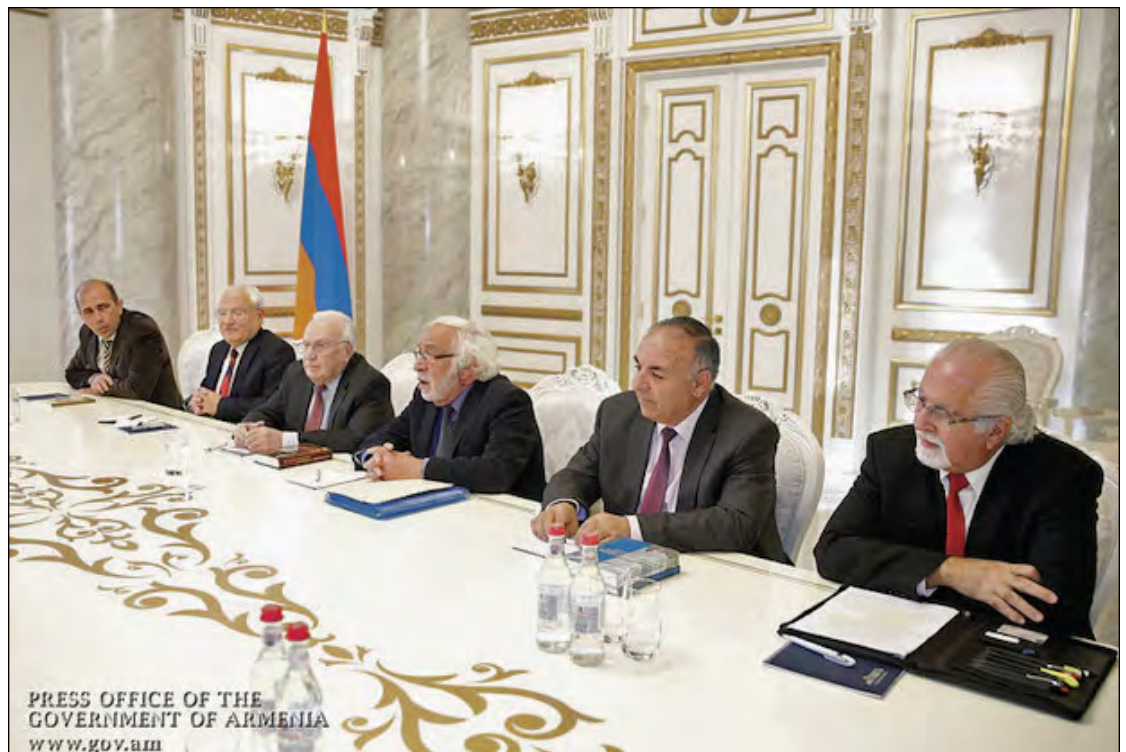
## OSCE Co-Chairs Visit Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Acting Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan received on October 29 the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Stephane Visconti of France, and Andrew Schofer of the United States and Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Andrzej Kasprzyk.

Pashinyan welcomed the visit of the co-chairs to Armenia and highlighted their activities as the only internationally authorized negotiation format for Nagorno Karabakh conflict settlement. He emphasized the necessity of the commitment of all sides to a peaceful settlement.

The assembled referred to the Nagorno Karabakh peace process following the recent political developments in Armenia. They exchanged views over the agreements between Pashinyan and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Dushanbe this year. Pashinyan highlighted the implementation of the agreements that will foster the creation of an atmosphere aimed at raising mutual confidence and progressing the peace process. The sides outlined the future possible steps.

The Minsk Group co-chairs also met with Armenia’s Acting Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan.



From left, Armen Manuelian, Dr. Hratch Kouyoumdjian, Edmond Azadian, Hagop Vartivarian, SurenSargysan, and Vartkes Kourouyan

## ADL Central Committee Members Meet with Pashinyan

ADL, from page 1

The members of the ADL Central Committee expressed their willingness use the party’s structures outside Armenia to promote the realization of the potential of the Diaspora to help Armenia. The members said that they intend to organize a business conference soon in Yerevan with the participation of diasporan Armenian businessmen, in which the latter will be familiarized with the existing investment environment in Armenia and outline new programs.

Nikol Pashinyan welcomed the initiative and proposed that they cooperate with the relevant agencies of the government on such work.

## Bolton Vows to ‘Squeeze Iran,’ Explore Weapons Sales to Armenia

BOLTON, from page 1

Thus, if Yerevan adheres to US sanctions against Iran, Armenia would have only Georgia as a neighboring trading partner — raising concerns in Yerevan about how Russian pressure against Tbilisi would impact Armenia.

Bolton said those “current circumstances highlight” the importance of Armenia and Azerbaijan “finding a mutually satisfactory agreement to the Nagorno-Karabakh issue.”

“Once that happened, then the Armenian-Azerbaijani border would open,” Bolton said. “The Turkish border, I believe, would almost certainly open. And I think the border with Georgia might be less subject to concern about what pressure the Russians may be putting them under.”

Bolton told RFE/RL that Washington has wanted to be “of whatever assistance we could be behind the scenes, as well as one of the co-chairs of the [Organization for Security and Cooperation] Minsk Group, to see if we could help facilitate a solution between Armenia and Azerbaijan that would be mutually agreeable to both.”

“We recognized the obvious difficulties there, but we just felt that [Pashinyan] was in an excellent position here in Armenia, and would be after the elections [in early December], to show leadership on that,” Bolton said.

Bolton also said the Trump administration wants to “look at” possibilities of weapons sales to Armenia that would not violate restrictions the US Congress has imposed.

“We have restrictions Congress has imposed on the United States in terms of [weapons] sales to Azerbaijan and Armenia because of the [Nagorno-Karabakh] conflict, but there are exceptions to that,” Bolton explained.

“As I said to the prime minister, if it’s a question of buying Russian military equipment versus buying US military equipment, we’d prefer the latter,” he said. “We think our equipment is better than the Russians’ anyway. So we want to look at that. And I think it increases Armenia’s options when it’s not entirely dependent on one major power.”

Asked by reporters on October 27 whether Yerevan is actually going to purchase military equipment from the United States, Pashinyan said: “The [Armenian] government is not constrained by anything. If there is an offer from the United States that is good for us, we will discuss it.”

He also said Armenia’s “excellent” prospects for becoming a “stable

democracy” are “really fundamental to Armenia exercising its full sovereignty and not being dependent on — or subject to — excessive foreign influence.”

Bolton also noted that a large community of Armenian-American citizens in the United States makes the “prospects for closer economic cooperation” with the US private sector “very real” and “much better for the long term than government-to-government assistance.”

“I think this is a time to be optimistic that Armenia can emerge more on the world stage,” Bolton said, stressing that the Trump administration “considers the South Caucasus a very important area strategically” and that improving relations with Armenia is “a very high priority.”

## Jailed General ‘Willing’ to Donate \$12 million In Land and Property to State

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Member of Parliament Manvel Grigoryan, the lawmaker currently in pre-trial detention suspected of massive embezzlement and fraud, has expressed willingness to donate nearly 330 hectares of land to the state.

The land is part of a company owned by Grigoryan in Aknalich, a village in the province of Armavir.

“The representative of Manvel Grigoryan has sent a document to our committee stating that he [Grigoryan] is willing to donate territory without any obligations. I don’t possess other details, since the agreement is under the authority of the other deputy chairman of the department,” Sergo Atanesyan, deputy chairman of the State Property Management Department said.

The other deputy, Gevorg Loretsyan, confirmed the report.

“We will organize the process of receiving the property as defined by procedures,” he said.

Loretsyan said the land includes 5500 square meters of buildings and is worth roughly 6 billion drams (around \$12 million).

Grigoryan, a retired army general, has been in custody since July 19. At the time of his arrest he also served as president of the Yerkrpah Union of Volunteers, but was later ousted by the board of the organization amid highly scandalous accusations.

Law enforcement agencies found a private zoo, a car collection, huge amounts of weapons and ammunition, as well as embezzled military supplies and donations in his compound.





## ARMENIA

# Unseen Armenia

## Peering Up Through the Depths – The Avan Salt Mine

By Hovsep Daghdigian

YEREVAN – The Avan district of Yerevan was once a separate village, dating back to the pre-Christian era. As Yerevan expanded during the soviet times, Avan was incorporated into the city of Yerevan. Within Avan there are a number of old churches; the most interesting perhaps being the partially ruined 5-6th century cathedral. This was the seat of a rival Catholicos espousing the Byzantine creed, in opposition to Armenian Apostolic creed. Also within Avan is the privately owned Avan Salt Company, producing both table salt and rock salt from its mine. The salt deposit dates to ancient geologic times when the region was covered with water, or perhaps a sea. As the water evaporated it left salt deposits that are now extracted from deep underground.

Over three decades ago the Yerevan Physics Institute (YerPhI) Experimental Division established a low-background radiation laboratory in the Avan salt mine where they conducted sensitive measurements investigating rare processes in both fundamental and applied physics. The laboratory was carved out of walls of pure salt creating a living room size chamber in the mine. Both YerPhI's Experimental Division and the Cosmic Ray Division (CRD) operate sensitive cosmic ray particle detectors for which a low background radiation environment is essential. The scientists are interested in only the most energetic particles that can penetrate to the depth of the mine. Surrounding the laboratory are walls and a ceiling of high puri-

ty salt, with very low background radioactivity that would otherwise interfere with the sensitive measurements. If the laboratory were on the surface of the earth, abundant low energy cosmic ray particles, and minute sources of radioactivity on the surface, would interfere with the sensitive measurements and mask out the data that the scientists are actually interested in.

The head of CRD, Prof. Ashot Chilingarian, arranged for me to accompany a team of physicists during one of their periodic visits to the mine. After signing in at the mine and donning a hardhat I was cautioned not to touch the electric wires strung along the mine's tunnels, and beware of the rail tracks on the tunnel floor and the carts that hauled salt out of the mine. Our descent into the mine via an elevator took about four minutes. A five-minute walk along a maze of tunnels took us to the laboratory. The mine operator requested I not publicize photos of the mining operations, though photos of the laboratory were allowed. The laboratory is built into a living room-sized cavern, carved into a wall of pure salt 240 meters (723 feet) underground. Within it are scientific instruments, 3-4 computers, with electricity supplied from wires strung throughout the mine, and a fiber optic connection for Internet and phone service. I imagined that one could simply rub a slice of cucumber on the wall and eat it (if you were not on a low salt diet)!

Muon Detectors: Scintillation detectors monitor muons (a heavy version of electrons that decay into other particles), which are generated in the upper atmosphere by cosmic radiation. YerPhI's Cosmic Ray Division uses this data in space weather research and atmospheric physics. Only data on the most energetic muons is desired. Muons with sufficient energy to penetrate the earth and reach the detector indicate their presence by emitting a brief flash of light. Data from these events is recorded and sent to CRD's center in Yerevan where it is analyzed and posted on the Internet. Muons with insufficient energy to penetrate to the depth of the laboratory are filtered out and thus ignored. Strange as it may seem, from deep underground these measurements may shed light on processes within the earth's upper atmosphere and stratosphere,

far above the underground facility. A process called Sudden Stratospheric Warming (SSW) disrupts airflow in the stratosphere, starting at an altitude of about 12 miles, which, through complex processes, can affect weather on the earth's surface. Studying these processes can result in longer range and more



Monitoring subatomic particles in underground lab



YerPhI Experimental Physics laboratory in Avan Salt Mine, walls, ceiling are salt

## Focusing on Armenia's Future at Global Innovation Forum by FAST

YEREVAN – President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian on October 29 had a working breakfast with the members of Board of Trustees and Advisory Board of the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST), which includes leading Armenian scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs from all over the world.

During the meeting the participants exchanged views on issues relating to effectively organizing the activities of the foundation, discussed the conditions, mechanisms and opportunities necessary for the implementation of outlined goals.

The he participated in the opening ceremony of the Global Innovation Forum: Engineering the Evolution organized by the foundation. Sarkissian, who is also an honorary member of the FAST Foundation's Advisory Board, welcomed the Forum participants in the country of 21st century and attached importance to holding such forums in Armenia. In particular, the President stated that Armenia is not only the birthplace of civilizations, but

has been in the crossroads of East and West from the very start.

"As this is a gateway, a crossroad, I think it's time for the humanity to turn back to its origins, to the birthplace of human race, to Armenia. Recently in Geneva I was talking about the 4th industrial revolution, where I said that there are no revolutions, there is an evolution. The humanity, we should be a part of the evolution or development. This is not only a scientific and technological evolution, but a drastic evolution of our societies and our behavior in the world", he said.

The president addressed the following message: "Armenia is the gateway of future. We promote making investments in our country: country that is young, ambitious, the people of which are talented, which has a young government, and a country which feels itself in the 21st century, is young and mature. Being young first of all means how young you feel yourself by soul, whether you are ready for new discoveries, to learn, to ask questions and find answers. Whether you are ready for

research, evolution acceleration.

I think the evolution is infinite. We don't understand how multi-layered actually we are, we have discovered only one part of us. People are more interested in what is happening outside of us. But we have a whole universe inside us which is as complicated as the universe itself.

I believe the future discoveries of the world will again return to this gateway – the gateway of the 21st century.

Therefore, welcome to Armenia."

Among the speakers was Impact investor, co-founder of IDeA and FAST Foundations Ruben Vardanyan who said that people could fuel Armenia's future.

"We realized that future of Armenia can be built only around one thing - human person. A human person, who can be smart, educated, a long-time visionary, happy and looking at the world as global citizen, at the same time being proud of his own identity. Building an ecosystem around the human person is the key element of the future of Armenia," said Vardanyan.



President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian





## INTERNATIONAL

## International News

## President Sarkissian Visits Belarus

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — President of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko stressed the friendly nature of the Armenian-Belarusian relations during a meeting with Armenian President Armen Sarkissian in Minsk on October 30, BelTA news agency reported.

“Despite all kinds of views in the democratic Armenia, Belarus has always been and will be your good and reliable friend. We both work in the common economic space — our Eurasian Economic Union and the CSTO military and political bloc. No matter what some people say or write, we strictly abide by our agreements, by everything that is envisaged by these organizations,” Lukashenko said.

Sarkissian arrived in Belarus on October 29 on a working visit.

The previous day he met with the Armenian community representatives in Minsk.

“It’s important and pleasant for me to start my foreign trips with the meetings with the Armenian community as they give feeling of being in your own home. I would like a dialogue and to hear your issues of concern and your expectations from Armenia’s leadership,” Sarkissian said.

During the meeting issues relating to the Armenian-Belarusian relations, the role of the Armenian community on deepening the bilateral economic and cultural ties, the opportunities to implement joint programs, as well as issues relating to the community life were discussed. The meeting also touched upon the Armenia-Diaspora ties, the opportunities to use the Diaspora’s potential, as well as Armenia’s development prospects.

The president answered to the questions relating to Armenia’s domestic and foreign policy, as well as provided information on the meetings scheduled on the sidelines of the visit.

## Armenian Genocide Exhibit in Sydney

SYDNEY, Australia (Public Radio of Armenia) — A travelling exhibit on loan from the Montreal Holocaust Museum will be displayed at Victoria Park in Sydney, Cape Breton Post reports.

“United Against Genocide: Understand, Question, Prevent,” opens Friday, November 2 to mark the beginning of Holocaust Education Week and runs until November 14. The exhibit uses testimony and rare archives to ask visitors to identify similarities and differences between four genocides: the Armenian genocide, the Cambodian genocide, the genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda and the Holocaust.

Area students will visit the exhibit during its time in Sydney.

The Montreal Holocaust Museum loaned the exhibit to the local Holocaust Education Week Committee at no cost. A partnership between the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional Centre for Education and Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission covered expenses associated with transporting, hosting and displaying it.

## Ex-PM Karapetyan May Get Position in Russian State-Owned Oil Giant

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Former Prime Minister of Armenia Karen Karapetyan might soon become a member of the board of directors of Zarubezhneft, the Russian state-owned oil and gas company, Kommersant newspaper reported citing unnamed sources.

According to the source, Karapetyan will possibly become an independent director, a position currently held by Hrayr Simonyan, a financier who is also Inter RAO energy company executive Boris Kovalchuk’s advisor.

A Russian government speaking to Kommersant neither confirmed nor denied the story.

Zarubezhneft is a Russian state-controlled oil company based in Moscow that specializes in exploration, development and operation of oil and gas fields outside Russian territory.

Karapetyan served as prime minister from 2016 to 2018. He was the mayor of Yerevan from 2010 to 2011.

# Armenians and Kurds Share ‘Deep Interconnection’: Minister

DUHOK, Kurdistan Region (Rudaw) — Armenians and Kurds both know what it means to suffer. There is a “deep interconnection” in their history and culture, said Nazeni Gharibyan, Armenia’s deputy minister of culture and special guest at the Duhok International Film Festival (DIFF) this week.

“Culturally, Armenians and Kurds share a lot of things,” Gharibyan told Rudaw on Friday, October 26. “Kurdish people and Armenian people lived on this land for more than 3,000 years and are neighbors. There is a deep interconnection in both cultures.”

She said that there are also language similarities between the two groups.

“There are Kurdish words we continue to use and also Kurds use some Armenian words in their language,” she explained, adding that there are also similar physical characteristics and traditional clothing.

Kurds have lived in Armenia for 100 years, since the Armenian Genocide of 1915. They share a good relationship despite past hardships. Some Kurdish groups have recognized their ancestors’ participation in the genocide.

“We have a good relationship between Kurdish and Yezidi Kurdish communities and Armenians. Even though they study and work in Armenian, the Kurdish people continue to keep their traditions and language,” she added, which she believes is very important to keep their identity.

Gharibyan also mentioned that her grandfather was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide through his close relationship to Kurds.

“When the soldiers came to take him, he said ‘I am Kurdish.’”

When asked to prove it, her grandfather sang a traditional Kurdish folk song and was freed.

The Kurdish community in Armenia is an oral-based one, she explained, and language is imperative in keeping cul-

ture alive for both groups.

“They didn’t develop scripture or literature in the Kurdish language. But they know they are Kurdish and very proud to be Kurdish,” she added, saying that the Ministry of Culture sometimes funds Kurdish cultural activities.

This was Gharibyan’s first visit to Kurdistan and she said it wasn’t what she expected.

tional and modern construction in Duhok and Erbil.

“I wish the Kurdish nation continues with this but to also go ahead and look in the future and to take all of the opportunities to modernize the society, the civil society and women’s conditions,” she said. “It’s very important. If you want to develop, you have to work together with the world.”



Armenian Deputy Minister of Culture Nazeni Gharibyan speaks during a panel discussion at the Duhok International Film Festival on Thursday. Photo: DIFF

“For me this is a real discovery,” she explained, “I had never even heard of the city called Duhok or the festival.

“When I was coming, I was wondering what kind of place I would discover,” she continued. “I discovered a wonderful place, a wonderful city. The architecture is very special. I recognized Hellenistic elements in the houses in the villas. It’s very different from Armenian houses.”

Gharibyan also spoke on the continuing growth of Kurdistan.

“I’m really warmly surprised to observe that there is a movement here,” she said, noting the mix of both tradi-

Having taught Armenian fine arts, art history and research methods in Armenia, France, Belgium and Italy, she was just recently assigned to the post of Deputy Minister of Culture in spring of this year.

“It’s a new Armenia and I’m proud to participate in that.”

She said she wants to continue to see growth in both Kurdistan and Armenia, noting cultural diversity and freedom in both nations.

The country of Armenia was a focus of the DIFF this year. The festival runs through Saturday, ending with a red carpet event and awards ceremony.

# Armenian Forces Participate in CSTO Exercises in Kazakhstan

ALMATY (Armenpress) — An Armenian military delegation led by Lt. General A. Davtyan — the Chief of the General Staff of the Armenian Armed Forces, participated in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) military committee sitting in Almaty chaired by Kazakhstan’s first deputy defense minister — chief of the general staff on October 30.

The “Unbreakable Brotherhood 2018” exercises kicked off in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg.

“The aim is to check the readiness of the CSTO peacekeeping contingent to accomplish missions, improve the skills of the personnel and master the professionalism of officers of command and control bodies,” Chief of the CSTO Joint Staff Colonel-General Anatoly Sidorov said at the opening ceremony.



Armenian soldiers in the CSTO military exercises

The Unbreakable Brotherhood-2018 drills involve about 1,300 troops, 300 pieces of military hardware and 20 various aircraft, including unmanned

aerial vehicles.

About 300 servicemen have arrived in Yekaterinburg from Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. Russia is represented by a peacekeeping battalion, reconnaissance, military police and logistics units, field mobile command posts and aircraft.

Issues of further development of CSTO’s military component were discussed, the defense ministry said.

On the sidelines of the session, Davtyan and his Kazakh counterpart, Lt. General M. Maykeev held a one-on-one meeting to discuss bilateral cooperation issues.

## New Ambassadors Appointed

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — On October 25, several ambassadorial assignments were announced.

Mher Mkrtumyan has been appointed ambassador of Armenia to the United Arab Emirates by a presidential decree.

In addition, Tigran Gevorgyan was appointed ambassador of Armenia to Syria, replacing Arshak Poladian, ARMENPRESS was informed from the press service of the President’s Office.



# Community News

## Armenian Assembly National Advocacy Yields Results with More than 100 Meetings in DC

WASHINGTON – As part of the Armenian Assembly of America's 2018 National Advocacy Conference, more than 100 meetings took place on Capitol Hill took place discussing key issues of concern from the watershed democratic developments in Armenia and affirmation of the Armenian Genocide to Azerbaijan's incessant and deadly cease-fire violations and Turkey and Azerbaijan's dual blockades, among other issues.

Activists hailed from 15 states – Arizona, California, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia. Notably, over 30 delegates participated from the western regions of the United States, coming from California and Arizona. As a result of these meetings, more Members joined the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, including Representatives Seth Moulton (D-MA), Scott Peters (D-CA) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), and some co-sponsored H.Res.220, a resolution affirming the Armenian Genocide.

"As a new Member of the Armenian Caucus, I am joining a strong bipartisan group of my colleagues to better understand the relationship between the United States and Armenia. This caucus is an important opportunity to advance our shared economic and cultural ties, both in San Diego and across the country," Peters told the Assembly.

In addition, several members withdrew from the Turkish and Azerbaijani Caucuses after meeting with constituents.

"Being up on Capitol Hill was invigorating. It was wonderful to see the support from various Members of Congress," said the Assembly's Southern California Regional Council member, James Melikian. "We had great meetings and I believe we made a positive impact for US-Armenia relations," he continued.

"As a student at Georgetown University, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet with esteemed members of Congress and delve into the political process. It was an extremely productive experience, and I learned a lot about what it takes to bring about real change and solutions in our political framework," stated Peter Vosbikian III.

"I'm fired up," stated the Assembly's Ohio State Chair, Ara Bagdasarian. "This was a truly remarkable conference and gala. I am so glad that I was able to participate and see members of Congress and their staff face-to-face. My commitment to the issues is even stronger. With our continued collective effort and momentum, we will see the Armenian Caucus grow to over 200 Members."

"The Assembly's National Advocacy Conference was simultaneously educational and motivational. Our meetings on the Hill were fast-paced and comprehensive. On behalf of my friends representing the Assembly's Arizona delegation, I was happy to see that Rep. Kyrsten Sinema joined the Congressional Armenian Caucus as a result of our meeting. I am eager to help further the Assembly's advocacy initiatives on the ground in Arizona," stated the Assembly's Arizona State Co-Chair Dede Krikorian.

In addition to the Armenian Caucus and affirmation of the Armenian Genocide, the Assembly also continued to advocate for robust assistance to Armenia, especially in the wake of the recent democratic advances. The US provided an additional \$14 million in assistance in support of Armenia's political transition, and, shortly after the Assembly's National Advocacy Conference, announced plans to provide an additional \$20 million beyond what had been requested for Armenia.

see ADVOCACY, page 6



Charlie Takesian

## Ocala Widower, 82, Thrives on Mission Trips

OCALA, Fla. (*Ocala Star-Banner*) – "People ask me why I go back every year. How can you not go back?"

While Habitat for Humanity houses keep popping up all over Marion County, some volunteers prefer to take their building skills to foreign soil. Such is the case with Charlie Takesian.

Once a year, Takesian, a widower, packs a suitcase and travels overseas to help needy people get a roof over their heads through short-term mission trips with the Americus, Georgia-based Fuller Housing Center.

For Takesian, who is of Armenian descent, it had to be Armenia, where, in Dec. 7, 1988, a major earthquake killed 25,000 people and left thousands homeless. Many families ended up living in the metal shipping containers that brought supplies in after the earthquake, he said.

"They were living in a tin box. That's all they had," he said. "The earthquake crushed their houses and apartments."

More tragedy came to the Armenian villagers in 1991, with the fall of the Soviet Union.

"While the Soviets were there, these people were working," Takesian said. "They bought this little piece of land and built a house. But when the Soviets pulled out, there was no work."

At 82, Takesian recently completed his twelfth mission trip. Despite having had six heart bypasses a couple of years ago, he hasn't strayed from his annual commitment. So far he has helped build 26 homes and a 24-unit condominium.

As he poured over color photos from his past trips, Takesian reminisced about the villagers he met and the team of workers that labored alongside him, digging ditches, moving rocks and laying heavy stone two stories high. For some homes, they used hollow Styrofoam blocks and poured concrete inside. At the end of the project, the village priest shows up with salt, water, bread and, sometimes, a bottle of wine, and he blesses the home, Takesian said.

"It's very rewarding," he said. "When we go back the following year, we usually go back to the homes we worked on and you should see the people. They're so happy, because they've been living in these metal containers and it gets so hot in the summer and so cold in the winter. They were using a community bathroom. Some had running water. Some did not. Then they get a house and it's like moving into the Taj Mahal. It's really amazing to see the difference in their faces."

Takesian spoke fondly about helping a woman who had lost one of her children when an explosive device blew up in the little boy's hand. Her husband, an alcoholic, also had died, leaving her with three children to raise. Takesian's team helped build their house.

"I went back the following year," he said. "When we pulled up in the van, she was outside looking for me. She ran up and hugged me and invited me inside her home. I could see the transformation. Last year she was shriveled up with grief."

see MISSION, page 7

## AUA Pillar Recognition Event Held in Beverly Hills

By Taleen Babayan

BEVERLY HILLS – Bridging the educational endeavors of the American University of Armenia with the altruistic support of key community members in the Diaspora, AUA's devoted Pillars gathered at the home of Yervant Demirjian on Sunday, October 7, in Beverly Hills, with a special musical presentation by the acclaimed Element Band.

A philanthropist who carries on his family's legacy of upholding the Armenian community both in Armenia and across the globe, Demirjian, an AUA Pillar, stressed the significance of education for Armenia's advancement during his opening remarks to guests.

"Acquiring knowledge is the only way to change one's destiny," said Demirjian. He noted that the 100 Pillars of AUA, an innovative group of donors who have pledged \$50,000 over the course of five years, are the "intrinsic" foundation of the University.

"Armenia's only viable strategy to join other advanced economies is to help our best and brightest," said Demirjian, who is a director and vice chairman of Interaudi Bank. "We should concentrate on exporting our knowledge and know-how."

In his opening remarks, President Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, co-founder of AUA, recognized



AUA President Armen Der Kiureghian and AUA Pillar Yervant Demirjian

the presence of Dr. Mihran Agbabian, who established the University with him and the late Stepan Karamardian after Armenia's tragic earthquake in 1988 and served as its founding president. The university, which opened its doors on Armenia's independence day on September 21, 1991, has remained a steadfast beacon of progressive change in the country for the past three decades.

"AUA prepares future leaders of Armenia," said Der Kiureghian, and noted that many alumni are now involved in high level roles in the government of the Republic of Armenia. He spoke of the developments on campus thanks to the 100 Pillars of AUA program, which provides unrestricted funds to attract the most intelligent students and esteemed faculty, promote a technologically advanced campus, and maintain a need-blind admissions policy that allows over 50 percent of students to receive financial assistance.

Pillars have also given AUA the opportunity to bolster its endowment, which is managed by the University of California, and has increased threefold over the last four years.

Above all, the 100 Pillars of AUA campaign, which is targeted to conclude by next June after securing 100 donors, is helping usher in a visionary chapter as it sets itself as a leader in

see PILLARS, page 9





## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Dr. Ümit Kurt to Speak on Case Of Ahmed Necmeddin Bey

FRESNO — Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies Dr. Ümit Kurt will give his third public lecture on “The Curious Case of Ahmed Necmeddin Bey: A Look into the Sociopolitical Climate in Aintab on the Eve of 1915” at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 on the Fresno State campus.

Turks, Kurds, Arabs, Armenians, Greeks, and Jews of Aintab greeted the Committee of Union and Progress’ (CUP) declaration of the Second Constitutional Era and the restoration of the Constitution and the Parliament on 24 July 1908 with excitement and much hope. Ahmed Necmeddin Bey, however, was among the few who did not share the mood and fervor of the crowds. That is why he was beaten and expelled from Aintab in less than a year. Ahmed Necmeddin Bey was the kaimakam (district governor) of Aintab in late July 1908. One day, however, he was beaten by a group of Turks and Armenians in Aintab; his clothes torn, he was dismissed from his post and finally expelled from the city. But what was the reason for this incident? Dr. Kurt will discuss this enigmatic figure, who played a key role in the massacre of Aintab’s Armenians.

Kurt received his PhD from the Department of History at Clark University in 2016 and is currently a Polonsky Fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

Kurt is the author of several monographs and numerous scholarly articles.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

# UConn Professor Is Excavating Site of Earlier Occupation in Armenia

By Elaina Hancock

HARTFORD, Conn. (*UConn Today*) — In July 2018, UConn associate professor of anthropology Daniel Adler and Keith Wilkinson, University of Winchester, UK, co-directed excavations at an Early Pleistocene archaeological site in northern Armenia known as Haghtanak-3. The site documents the earliest human occupation of Armenia, and may be more than 1 million years old.

During the excavations, participants from five countries unearthed stone tools from deep layers at the site, and sediment samples were collected for dating and environmental

reconstructions.

The goals of this research are to excavate highly contextualized archaeological, chronometric, and paleoenvironmental data with which to test hypotheses about the timing and nature of early human expansion into the region, the technological abilities of these groups, and how changing climates and environments may have affected this process.

Stone tools are some of the earliest and most easily identifiable artifacts made by humans, Adler says, and are made by flaking off smaller pieces of stone with a hammerstone. It is thought early humans used these tools for various purposes, such as cutting meat and plants.

By studying these tools, the researchers hope to learn about the early humans who made and

used them, and understand more about their technological evolution. Dating of the sediments in which the tools were found is done by colleagues at the University of Glasgow, UK.

In July 2019, Adler’s graduate students and an international team of specialists will be joined at Haghtanak-3 by a group of UConn undergraduates enrolled in the Archaeological Field School in Armenian Prehistory, an Education Abroad program that trains students in archaeological excavation and recording methods.

Funding for the 2018 field season was provided by the Leverhulme Trust Leverhulme Trust, UConn’s Norian Armenian Programs Committee, and UConn’s Office of the Vice President for Research.



Prof. Dan Adler and his team in Armenia

## Armenian Assembly National Advocacy Yields Results with More than 100 Meetings in DC

ADVOCACY, from page 5

“This was a wonderful experience. The speakers were insightful, the reception at La Vie was fun and relaxing, and the Gala was star-studded, but most importantly for me was the camaraderie we all felt spending the day on Capitol Hill. Meeting in person to discuss the recent democratic changes in Armenia and urging more U.S. support to help Armenia was very rewarding. Our group from Arizona met with the staff of ten House Members, and with the Armenian Assembly’s help, hopefully made a small dent towards the passing of H.Res.220,” stated Terjenian-Thomas Assembly Internship Program alumna Ramona Lee Melikian.

“The Armenian Assembly’s integral and comprehensive approach to voicing Armenian issues and furthering Armenian relationships is inspiring,” stated Narek Sevacheryan, a young professional from New York City.

“The training session was informative, as was the role playing. The next day we had non-stop meetings with Members of Congress and raised key issues, which was a real highlight. I’m already looking forward to the next conference, and will encourage my peers to join me,” stated the Assembly’s Northern California Regional Council member David Ojakian.

Activists were also armed with breaking news. That day, the US Department of Justice issued an indictment for a scheme to cover up the fact that Azerbaijan’s state-owned oil company, SOCAR, footed the bill for a 2013 Congressional delegation to Azerbaijan in violation of House Ethics rules. The Assembly had previously highlighted this, as well as “The Azerbaijani Laundromat” scheme, as part of its efforts to expose Azerbaijan and Turkey’s surreptitious influence in Washington.

“All three days were impressive, impactful, and fun – from the reception at the Kreeger Museum to the informative Conference panels

to the Hill meetings and the Gala dinner honoring Mrs. Annie Totah, an exemplary champion and advocate for the Armenian community,” stated Bryan and Valina Agbabian of San Francisco. Valina serves as the Assembly’s California state chair. She also represents the

Assembly on the San Francisco Bay Area’s Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee, as well as on the Council of Armenian American Organizations of Northern California, which was formed in 1997 to purchase, protect, and preserve the Mount

Davidson Cross.

Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill was the culminating activity of a busy week organized by the Armenian Assembly to encourage the Armenian American community and activists to become engaged in Washington.

## NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER 2019

Learn more about the Armenian Assembly of America's Summer Internship Programs in Washington, D.C. & Yerevan, Armenia



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

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COMMUNITY NEWS

# A Traditional Meal Honors the Heroes of Hadjin

BATON ROUGE, La. — Parishioners of the St. Garabed Parish of Baton Rouge gathered over the weekend of October 13-14 to remember the heroic defenders of the city of Hadjin. Visiting pastor Fr. Tateos Abdalian traveled to share in the occasion.

As they do every year, the parishioners made an offering of the *madagh* of *jidaboor*. The preparation of the traditional meal began on Friday evening, with Abdalian conducting the Rite of the Blessing of Salt. The salt — a symbol of cleansing — would be added to the large pots of meat and barley in which the *jibadoor* meal would be cooked.

Members of the community, old and young alike, gathered at around 9 p.m. on Saturday night to begin the vigil of cooking. Women of the parish had already prepared the meat by cutting it into tiny pieces; this was put into several large pots along with barley and spices. The process of cooking would involve continually stirring the mixture in the pots.

A little after 2 a.m., the process was completed. The pots were taken to the church hall to await a proper blessing, which would be conferred at the close of *badarak* on Sunday.

It was during the *badarak* that Abdalian spoke the prayer of intercession for the Holy Martyrs of the Armenian Genocide, invoking with special emphasis the martyrs who died



Members of the St. Garabed Parish of Baton Rouge come together to cook a feast.

defending the city of Hadjin.

Requiem prayers were offered for the departed souls of families descended from the survivors of Hadjin; and for the repose of

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the late Patriarch of Jerusalem and Diocesan Primate; for Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, a greatly-missed friend to the Baton Rouge parishioners,

whose Name Day was marked on Saturday; and for Bishop Hovsep Garabedian, pastor of the St. James Church in Watertown, during the late 1940s, who had baptized Abdalian.

Afterwards, the faithful gathered in the church hall for the Blessing of the *Madagh*. As they consumed the *jibadoor* meal, parishioners broke into songs about the heroic Armenians of Hadjin.

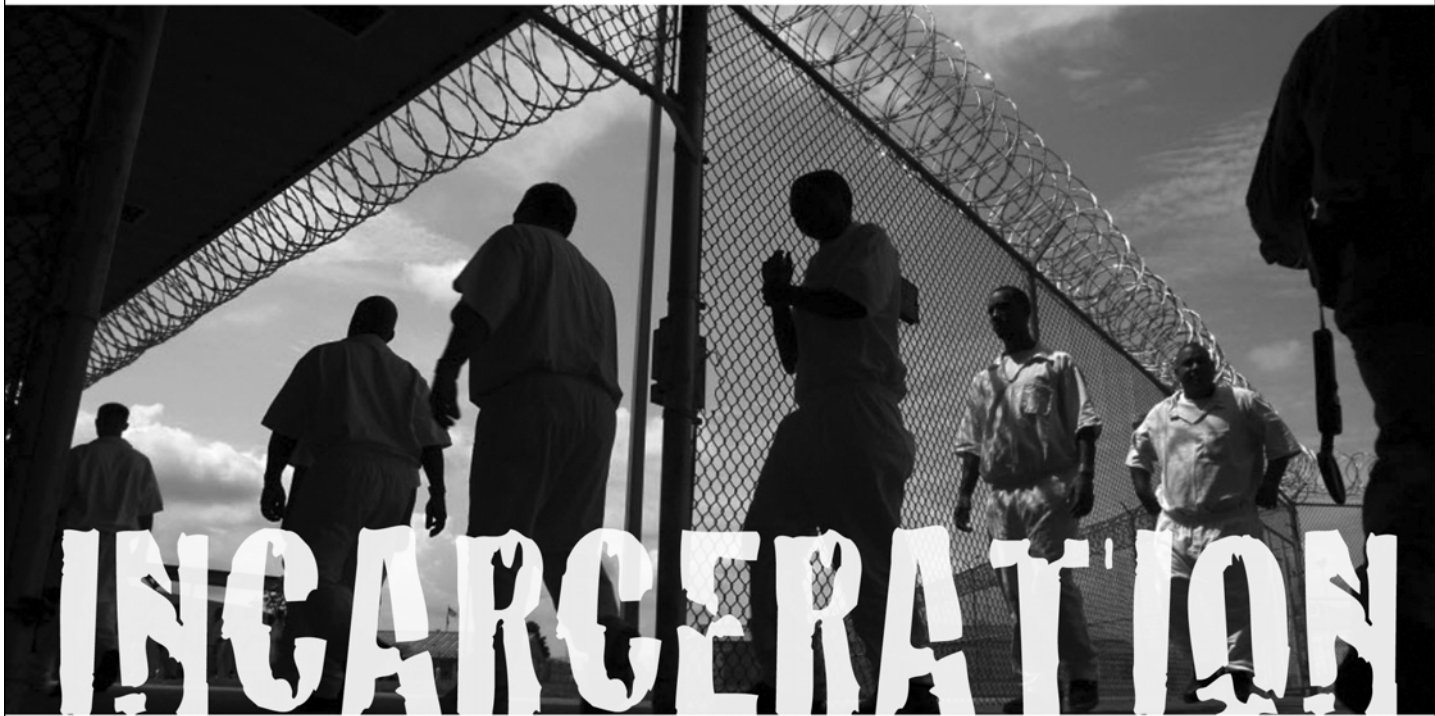
Present for the occasion were two visiting scholars: the Rev. Dr. Abel Manoogian of Geneva, Switzerland — a son of Hadjin — who has recently published a book on Swiss humanitarian contributions during the Armenian Genocide, and Anahid Khosroeva, a well-known historian from Armenia who is presently teaching in Chicago.

The historic defense of Hadjin began in earnest on March 31, 1920. In the prior cataclysm of the Genocide, a population of some 20,000 had been reduced to 8,000. For seven months the Hadjin Armenians defended their town against savage attacks from an overwhelming Turkish force.

But by mid-October, with only 480 men remaining, the defenders could no longer hold their position and chose to abandon the city, fleeing in small groups south towards Feke and on to Adana. Those who could not escape were massacred without mercy.

The dramatic episode of history has been marked annually for some three decades by the Baton Rouge parishioners — many of whom trace their family roots to Hadjin.

## NAJARIAN LECTURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT FANEUIL HALL



### Untangling the web of injustice

Wednesday, November 14, 2018 at 7:30pm

(Doors open at 6:45pm)

Historic Faneuil Hall, Boston

Free and open to the public. Reception follows at The Bostonian Hotel

#### Performance:

Karen Yamaguchi and Brett Fairchild, Berklee College of Music sophomores, will perform their original piece, WAKE UP, an acoustic performance with vocals.

Introduced by Gretchen Shae Moore who has created a course on mass incarceration that she teaches at Berklee.

#### Speakers:



**Cherise Fanno Burdeen**

Chief Executive Officer, Pretrial Justice Institute



**Marc A. Levin**

Vice President of Criminal Justice, Texas Public Policy Foundation



#### Moderator:

**Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian**

President, Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association  
Founding Member, Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce

## Ocala Widower, 82, Thrives on Mission Trips

MISSIONS, from page 5

Now she's smiling. She's got a house and a toilet and a kitchen. She was so excited and she wanted to show me."

Founded in 2005 by the late Millard Fuller and his wife, Linda, who also founded Habitat for Humanity in 1976, the Fuller Housing Center works in 80 locations in North America and in 16 countries throughout the world.

Fuller Housing operates much the same as Habitat for Humanity, which requires the homeowner to pay a mortgage and to give several hours of sweat equity. The organization also provides a 30-year, interest-free mortgage.

Takesian travels with a group from Racine, Wisconsin. In a phone interview, Nick Akgulian, a volunteer from Racine, spoke of Takesian's dogged dedication.

"He's pretty incredible," said Akgulian. "The man wants to work. He's not happy unless he's got a shovel in his hand. He's a really upbeat, positive, cool guy."

Their team leader, Yeprem Kelegian, a retired priest in the Armenian Church, said his group is usually restricted to local parishioners, but he invited Takesian to join them.

"What Charlie gets off on is seeing these beautiful families finally living in a real house," said Kelegian. "Anywhere we go, people are just delighted to see him. They gush over him and embrace him. Charlie's just a simple person who loves people. He works hard and, on top of it all, he has this gentle tone."

The needs go beyond four walls and a roof. Like many of his teammates, Takesian often donates money for supplies, and he stays alert to other needs that come up. He helped a deaf girl get hearing aids that restored her hearing. And every year he takes two laptop computers with him so the youth can learn to use a computer, he said.

"It's a trip that, as long as I'm physically able to do it, I'll do it," Takesian said. "I pay my own way — air fare, hotels, meals — and I always take extra money with me and give to some of the poor people. You give them \$10 and it's like giving you a thousand dollars, they're so grateful."

Takesian is planning to return to Armenia in July 2019.

"People ask me why I go back every year," he said. "How can you not go back? We all have a reason to go over there. When we're all finished and go back home, everybody says the same thing. 'I'm so glad I went to give these people a place to live.' It's a great feeling."

THE NAJARIAN LECTURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, A PUBLIC PROGRAM OF ARMENIAN HERITAGE PARK ON THE GREENWAY, IS ENDOWED BY K. GEORGE AND CAROLANN S. NAJARIAN, M.D. IN HONOR OF DR. NAJARIAN'S FATHER, MR. AVEDIS ALBERT ABRAHAMIAN AS "HE TAUGHT SO MANY ABOUT THE NEED TO PAY ATTENTION, SPOT INJUSTICE AND SPEAK OUT WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT OCCURS".





## OBITUARIES

# Egyptian-Armenian Artist Chant Avedissian Dies

CAIRO — On October 24, Egypt lost one of its best known and talented contemporary artists of Armenian origin, Chant Avedissian. He had been battling lung cancer for three years.

Avedissian was born in 1951 in Cairo, the son of Armenian refugees who had fled the

mer chair of the Detroit Tekeyan Chapter.

Avedissian's works engage the viewer with a body of work that integrates images of iconic figures in Egyptian history, traditional Pharaonic iconography and art of the 1950s and 1960s. Avedissian's interests in folk art, Sufi poetry, Zen principles and aestheticism are evident in his creations, which also strike a balance with Western work processes.

Avedissian's art celebrates popular culture and politics in Egypt using images printed over stenciled backgrounds that are hand-painted and colored using local pigments. His work features stars from the heyday of Egyptian music and cinema — notably Umm Kalthoum, Farid Al Atrash, Abdel Halim Hafez, Faten Hamama and Asmahan. As well, political figures from between the early days of King

Farouk's rule and President Gamal Abd El Nasser's death are portrayed. The influence of these cultural and political icons still resonates in Egypt today.

Avedissian also used Islamic geometric pat-



Armenian Genocide. After studying fine art at the School of Art and Design in Montreal and applied arts at the National Higher School of Decorative Arts in Paris during the 1970s, Avedissian returned to Egypt.

He fused the techniques, concepts and cosmopolitan experiences acquired abroad with the heritage of his Armenian-Egyptian background to produce striking commentaries on the world around him. His artistry ranges from photography to costume and textile design to the painted stencils seen here.

His relationship with Hassan Fathy, a well-known Egyptian architect who advocated the use of local materials and craftsmanship, challenged Avedissian to reconsider local traditions of artistry and to appreciate the properties of common materials.

Exhibited widely, Avedissian's artwork is held by the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution; the British Museum, London; the Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam; the National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh; and the National Gallery of Jordan.

He was a student of Nora Azadian, the for-



terns, Ottoman design, hieroglyphics from magazines, advertisements and stock photos to create his bold works of art. His pieces



Chant Avedissian during his exhibition in 2006 in Beirut at the Janine Rubeiz Gallery. Photo by Michel Sayegh

have been exhibited around the world.

It was especially important for Avedissian to use Egyptian material, including locally made or recycled paper.

He celebrated all aspects of Egyptian life, from the arts to political and social leaders and even thieves. According to one catalog, he was intent on denouncing decadence and stressing the strength of the culture.

His art was also informed by his being regarded as a khawaga or foreigner in the country of his birth.

He was also highly regarded photographer and indexed and documented the works of Hassan Fathy, the Arab world's most famous architect. He also became fascinated with textiles based on authentic Egyptian designs as well.

Exhibited widely, Avedissian's artwork is held by the National Museum of African Art, Smithsonian Institution; the British Museum, London; the Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam; the National Museums of Scotland, Edinburgh;



A self-portrait featuring the Great Wall

and the National Gallery of Jordan.

He had described his art in one interview as the following: "... with age, I came to the point, where anything that is not traditional Japanese, or close to its spirit, is pure barbarism. The simplicity and minimalism of the 'way' suits my sense of beauty perfectly, ... through this I came to appreciate more the Arab values of desert life and the nonpermanent manners of the tent dwellers, whose custom and manners in furniture (or non-furniture) are so close to the Japanese."

## Diramayr Ursula Findikyan Mother of New Primate

VESTAL, N.Y. — Ursula Findikyan died on Monday, October 15, surrounded by her children.

She was predeceased by her parents, Theodor and Anna Bozem, her brother Norbert Bozem, and her beloved companion of 17 years, Dr. Garabed Fattal.

She leaves her children, Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, Primate, Diocese of Armenian Church of America, Eastern, of Bronxville, NY, Stephan and Kristina Findikyan of Pelham, NY, and Tamara and Thomas Findikyan of Vestal, NY. She is also survived by her grandchildren, James, Kira, Julia and Nina Findikyan.

Born and raised in Hanau, Germany, she survived the bombings and poverty of WWII, traumas which left a lasting imprint on her life. She later came to the US and attended Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. Soon after, she married, started a family, and moved to New York, settling in Vestal in 1975.

Though she was a proud German, she threw herself into, and was fully embraced by the local Armenian Church, where she went on to be chrismated and to serve as a member of the Parish Council and the Women's Guild, which she chaired for many years.

While raising three children, she had a continuous career, most notably at Binghamton University, where she worked as an office manager in the Biology Department, and for the Student Association.

She was a talented cook, seamstress, and crossword puzzle expert, but will be remembered most of all for the warmth with which she opened her home to all. Her house was a second home to her children's friends, as well as the many students she worked with over the years.

Funeral services were held at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church, 12 Corbett



Avenue, Binghamton on Friday, October 19. Burial was in Vestal Hills Memorial Park.

In an announcement to Diocesan leaders, Diocesan Vicar Fr. Simeon Odabashian recalled: "Ursula Findikyan was a woman truly devoted to our Lord. Her kindness, grace, and religious conviction were apparent to everyone who met her. The Armenian Christian heritage was not the home of her birth; but years upon years of faithful, humble service made it the spiritual home of her life — and of her heart.

"She wore the title of diramayr with a sense of responsibility. That one of her sons served the Armenian Church as a clergyman was a point of deep and abiding satisfaction for her; and a tender relationship existed between mother and son throughout her days. *Diramayr* Ursula was equally proud of her son Stephan and daughter Tamara and their families. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all."

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# AUA Pillar Recognition Event Held in Beverly Hills

PILLARS, from page 5

Armenia's fastest developing sector — science and technology. Recognizing the rapid development of the IT industry in Armenia, which has grown by a rate of over 20 percent according to the World Bank, AUA recently established sci-

last month and were funded by the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad Program (ASHA) of the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The number of students studying at AUA from abroad has also multiplied, enrolling a historic high of 233 from the US and 28 other countries.

Der Kiureghian recognized the pillars in attendance, including Yervant Demirjian, Zaven and Sonia Akian, Mihran and Elizabeth Agbabian, Vigen and Houry Ghazarian, Sinan and Angele Sinanian, Karekin and Zhanet Kaprielian, Nareg Aghajyan along with his parents Adour and Arsho, David Esayan and Susan Jerian, Nourbar and Tracy Ouzounian,

Kris and Pamela Ascher Mirzayan and the Munushian Trust represented by Gary and Arsine Phillips. Dr. Der Kiureghian and his wife, Nelly, were also one of the first pillars to join

Baibourtian, who both reflected on the impact of AUA in Armenia.

Ambassador Hovhannisyan remarked that AUA has been the "flagship of education" in Armenia for the last 27 years but needs to be "taken to the next level." He remarked on the generous contributions from Diasporans which have helped "fuel a positive relationship between Armenia and the United States."

"The higher education standards in Armenia came through the investment of the U.S. government and Armenian-Americans and it is important to appreciate that tie," said Hovhannisyan. "AUA is a key motor to bringing in new dynamics."

Recalling the year AUA was founded in 1991, Baibourtian remarked that the University "helped move the devastated country forward" and that the newly independent government "considered AUA a priority" during its establishment as it brought a new culture to Armenia through educational knowledge, thus uniting the society.

"This kind of educational institution is vital for human and economic development that brings stability and prosperity to the country," said Baibourtian. "We need to support this cultural and education system in Armenia that is innovation-oriented."

On display throughout the afternoon were two paintings on transparent organic glass by contemporary Yerevan-based artist Arev Petrosyan. They were available for silent auction to raise funds for AUA's "Yes! Armenian Women Can" campaign, which provides scholarships for female students studying computer science and engineering.

Connecting the worlds of Armenia and California, AUA alum Stepan Khzrtian, Esq., who graduated with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) in 2010, spoke from personal experience as a student on campus, thanking the donors in the room.

"I have directly benefited from your generosity and I express my great appreciation for your support," said Khzrtian.

Los Angeles-based Element Band, whose artistic mission is to present traditional Armenian music on the world stage through its trademark modern fusion twist, performed for the guests.

Ara Dabandjian, who played the guitar and accordion, was joined by Armen Manavazyan on contrabass, Aragas Abramian on guitar and Mahsa Ghassemi on cello as they played a multitude of songs evoking enjoyment, nostalgia and the Armenian spirit. Element Band, which



AUA Pillars Sonia Akian, Vigen Ghazarian and Houry Ghazarian



Dr. Mihran Agbabian and Dr. Kris Mirzayan

ence and tech-related degree programs and courses to the benefit of the country's students and young citizens, including new Bachelor of Science degree programs in engineering sciences and data science, as well as a Master of Science degree in strategic management.

Support from outside the Armenian community was highlighted as well, including the new Student Union, Faculty Center and Amphitheater that were unveiled on campus



Vahe and Armine Meghrouni

the program.

In the spirit of the inspiring environment, Dr. Der Kiureghian announced newly joined Pillars Razmik Grigorian, Caro and Rebecca Minas as well as Golden State Bank (represented by Phil Elghanian, Tom Byington and Gerard Kassabian). He also introduced several individuals who intend to join, including Hratch and Helga Sarkis, Vahe and Armine Meghrouni and Diane Barsam, whose father, Vartkes, was one of the university's founding trustees and a major donor to the institution.

Representing the government of the Republic of Armenia, remarks were made by the former Armenian Ambassador to the US, Grigor Hovhannisyan, and the Consul-General of Armenia to Los Angeles, Dr. Armen



Armenia's Consul-General in Los Angeles, Dr. Armen Baibourtian

formed 14 years ago, recently performed a sold-out concert for over 1,000 at the Ford Amphitheatre in Hollywood and has long been known for its distinct and alluring music that is accessible to the world at large, while preserving the roots of traditional Armenian music, artfully complementing the mission of AUA.

"AUA is an educational institution of high integrity," said Dabandjian. "Element Band shares the same values of advocating democracy, ethics and service to society."

## Steven Sim and Ani Hovannisian to speak on 'Hidden Map of Historic Armenia'

FRESNO — Explorer Steven Sim and producer Ani Hovannisian will give a presentation on "The Hidden Map of Historic Armenia" on Tuesday, November 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 on the Fresno State campus. The documentary film "The Hidden Map" will be screened during the presentation.

Scotland-native Sim may be the most-traveled modern explorer of the historical Armenian lands in present-day eastern Turkey. As an architecture student in Glasgow in the early 1980s, Sim decided to spend a summer among the little-known medieval Armenian monuments of eastern Turkey rather than the oft-studied landmarks of Europe. During that first trip, he came across a landscape of abandoned architectural masterpieces. What began as a student project turned into a lifelong obsession and mission: "It was a land empty of anybody having interest in it, and I just happened to stumble upon this empty land, and decided to make it my own."

Sim has spent nearly 35 years documenting the remaining sites and relics of "Turkish Armenia," traveling alone every year from Scotland to uncover, experience, and commit to memory the vanishing traces of the Armenian past. He has, to date, taken more than 100,000 photographs.

Five years ago, Armenian-American producer and documentarian Ani Hovannisian met Sim as she was traveling through Turkey to discover the ancestral homeland she had heard about all her life from her Genocide-survivor grandparents and historian father Dr. Richard Hovannisian, among others. Trekking through cities, towns, and villages across the country, including her grandparents' hometowns, by chance, she ran into Sim in an old Armenian house in Kayseri.

The unexpected intersection of their journeys merged into a friendship, and ultimately into a joint return expedition and answer to the call of the land, with Sim continuing to uncover what lies beneath the modern map of Turkey, and Hovannisian documenting his story and that of the people who live there now. As the testimony of the structures and the people emerge, so does evidence revealing the hidden map of Historic Armenia and now, the documentary, "The Hidden Map."

The lecture is free and open to the public.

For more information about the lecture visit [www.fresnostate.edu/](http://www.fresnostate.edu/).

## 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](http://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](mailto:AWWA.ExecDir@gmail.com)





COMMUNITY NEWS

# ARF Archives Open to the Public for First Time

ARCHIVES, from page 1  
independent Republic of Armenia and therefore to all of us.” A repeating slide show of some of the photographs and documents in the archives was on display throughout the evening.  
George Aghjayan, chairman of the ARF Central Committee of the Eastern Region of the United States and director of the archives, gave a brief background of the archives, which were moved from Europe to the United States eventually after World War I. In 1986, when the



George Aghjayan (photo: Aram Arkun)

Hairenik Building was built, a vault was placed in the basement specifically for the archives. A few years ago, when Aghjayan was appointed as director of the archives, he took the pragmatic approach of starting with doing the possible,



Sample documents and photos from the archives on display, including at the bottom right, the photos of women digging trenches in Aintab while other women protect them with rifles, the ARF military academy in Bulgaria, and Murad of Sepasdia with his wife and child (photo: Aram Arkun)



Sample documents and photos from the archives on display, including at bottom far right, original declaration of independence of the Republic of Armenia (photo: Aram Arkun)

not the ideal maximum, which would be prohibitively expensive. He had the space improved with equipment that people could use and updated the humidity control system. Recently scholars have come to use the archives.  
Afterwards, guests went to the Hairenik building in groups of ten and were given a brief tour by Aghjayan. A series of interesting documents and photographs were placed on display there, including the original declaration of independence of the Republic of Armenia of May 30, 1918 and an original manuscript of Simon Vratsian’s book, *Hayasdani hanrabedutiwn*. A report by Haroutiun Khachadoorian, a graduate of the University of Vermont and native of Aintab who accompanied the Harbord Mission from the United States as translator and engineer, on a proposed railway system for Armenia after World War I, was shown along with a list of the population of regions of Russian



Joshua Tevekelian (photo: Aram Arkun)

Armenia found in his papers. A stamp that was used by the first republic’s consulate in Sofia, Bulgaria, a copy of an ARF membership card, and pictures of various ARF fighters were on a table along with a newsletter published in the early 1960s in the US for ARF membership only on the arrest of Syrian ARF members.  
Aghjayan defined the archives as having four sections. First is the ARF party archives from 1890 onward. Of these, the entire ARF collection from 1890 to 1926 has been fully catalogued and microfilmed. Only this part is accessible for use. The remaining materials have been placed in archival boxes but not catalogued. This is a project to be done in the future.  
Up until the 1980s, Aghjayan explained, all regions of the party continued to send archival materials to Watertown, but after that it became untenable. Furthermore, the electronic age has now changed the nature of correspondence.  
The second part is composed of the archives of the first Republic of Armenia, from 1918 to 1920. Only a small portion of this has been catalogued – roughly 10-15 percent, according to Aghjayan. The uncatalogued part is not available for the general public, but historians would be allowed to use the

uncatalogued section. Some, like Richard Hovannisian, had done so a long time ago.  
The third major section contains over 30 boxes of photographs, which need to be digitized and catalogued. Project Save has provided advice on their preservation and digitalization, said Aghjayan. The fourth section is still being assembled. It is composed of private papers, including those belonging to members of the party like Abraham Gulkhandanian, who served in various posts in the government of the first republic and later actually was the first to start cataloguing the archives.  
There are even some film materials that have been found in the archives.  
After a long period of time during which scholars, or at least those not affiliated with the ARF, were unable to access this rich storehouse of material, the opening of the ARF archives no doubt will give new impetus to the study of many topics in modern Armenian history. It can even be useful to individuals seeking information on relatives and ancestors. Those who are interested in seeing the archives should contact George Aghjayan via email at sakratpalu@gmail.com.



Archival boxes containing documents are stored in the vault of the archives. (photo: Aram Arkun)





## COMMUNITY NEWS



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## DISCOVER THE ARMENIAN MUSEUM!

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# Arts & Living

## Program on Armenian-American Volunteer Captain Jim Chankalian To Be Hosted by New Tekeyan Metro Los Angeles Chapter

ALTADENA, Calif. — The Tekeyan Cultural Association Metro Los Angeles Chapter will host a program titled “Captain Jim Chankalian: Leader of the Armenian-American Volunteer Soldiers” on Sunday, November 18, at 5 p.m. at the Tekeyan Center in Altadena.

Boston-based scholar Aram Arkun, executive director of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada and assistant editor of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, will serve as the keynote speaker and present the fascinating life of Chankalian, who was a part of the Armenian Legion that successfully defeated the Turkish and German forces at the Battle of Arara in Palestine in September 1918 as well as a volunteer fighter under the Russians in Van during World War I.

This bilingual program will be dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the heroic victory that was achieved by the 4,000 members of the Armenian Legion (including 1,200 valiant American-Armenian soldiers led by Chankalian).

Born in Dikranagerd in 1879, Chankalian, along with three other Armenians from Paterson, NJ, served in the United States Army during the Spanish-American War.



Captain Jim Chankalian

Almost twenty years later, under Chankalian's leadership, New Jersey became the initial military training ground for the Armenian Legion in the United States, before they headed overseas.

Chankalian is recognized as one of the most prominent leaders of the Armenian Democratic Liberal party (ADL) as well as the first president of the Central Committee of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) in the United States. He also served the Armenian Church in numerous leadership positions, among them as a member of the original committee which led to the building of the Diocesan Center and St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City. He died in New Jersey in 1947.

Keynote speaker Arkun, a respected scholar, is a graduate of Princeton University with a master's degree in international relations from the University of Pennsylvania and a C. Phil. degree in Armenian history from the University of California Los Angeles. He has been editor-in-chief of the AGBU Ararat quarterly, director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern) and adjunct assistant professor at New York University, among other posts. He has written a number of articles on Cilician Armenians in the modern period.

Also participating in the program is Dr. Zaven Arslanian, the maternal grandson of Sergeant Caspar Menag of Chunkoosh and Lawrence, Massachusetts of the Armenian Legion. Sergeant Caspar Menag, who fought at the Battle of Arara and in Cilicia, considered Captain Jim Chankalian to be one of the great influences on his life.

see CHANKALIAN, page 16



Kutahya Vessel, 18th century

## ‘Armenia: Art, Culture, Eternity’ Armenian Museum of America Presents New Permanent Gallery

WATERTOWN — The Armenian Museum of America is unveiling its vision for the future. Founded in 1971, the museum serves as the largest repository of Armenian artifacts in the diaspora, as well as the largest ethnic museum in Massachusetts. As the Museum builds towards the future, it strives to create a stronger, more connected community through shared exploration of Armenian art and history, both for Armenians and those who are new to Armenian culture.

The museum's new gallery, “Armenia: Art, Culture, Eternity,” provides an overview of Armenian culture from antiquity to present-day Armenian experience here in the United States. More than 50 objects are on display, illustrating Armenia's origins in the Asian continent, the invention of a unique Indo-European language and alphabet, the early adoption of Christianity, Armenian medieval illuminated manuscripts, interconnected trade routes, and the tragedy of the Genocide.

“Armenia: Art, Culture, Eternity” is the culmination of 12 months of intense research and design and represents a new level of scholarship and interpretation at the museum. The project was made possible by the support of the Board of Trustees and was spearheaded by Executive Director Jennifer Liston Munson and architect Virginia Durruty, who worked side-by-side with Michele Kolligian, president of the Board of Trustees, on the inspired design.

The gallery is the start of a holistic consideration of the entire museum, which will examine everything from the building's distinctive Brutalist architecture — including how the hard space is a meaningful metaphor for Armenia's difficult history — to the museum's role in telling the modern Armenian-American cultural narrative.

As a major moment in the process of awakening the building and developing a vibrant cultural space, the Museum is proud to welcome the public to its new gallery and invites the community to share in its future.

The opening reception will be held on Thursday, November 15, 6 to 7.30 p.m. A gallery viewing and talk will take place with speakers Michele Kolligian, Jennifer Liston Munson and Virginia Durruty. There will be live music from 7.30 to 9 p.m., with an Armenian-inspired reception in the Adele & Haig Der Manuelian Galleries, 3rd floor.

For more information visit [www.armenianmuseum.org](http://www.armenianmuseum.org)

## Reverent Beauty

The Met's Armenia Show  
Is One for the Ages

By Jason Farago

NEW YORK (*New York Times*) — They were mostly young people who came out in the streets of Armenia this past spring, waving balloons of red, orange and blue. They were fed up with their ineffectual government, and on their smartphones they watched the progress of an opposition leader, the former journalist Nikol Pashinyan, as he walked in protest across central Armenia. When he arrived in Yerevan, the capital of this former Soviet republic, the crowds sang, shouted and swore to go on strike. Less than six weeks later, Pashinyan was named interim prime minister of Armenia, ushered into office on the shoulders of the extraordinary, nonviolent “velvet revolution.”

Armenia is a country with so much history it can overwhelm you. This spring we learned its future might be as eventful as its past, which makes it a timely moment for “Armenia!,” the Metropolitan Museum of Art's eye-opening appraisal of the art, manuscripts, textiles and religious artifacts of a nation that is still adding surprising chapters to its dramatic history.

Pashinyan attended the opening last month. There was no sign, alas, of Kim Kardashian, our most famous Armenian-American, but Karekin II, the catholicos (or supreme patriarch) of the Armenian church, was also spotted in the galleries; the country was the first to make Christianity its official religion, and this exhibition, packed with weighty stone crosses and richly illuminated gospels, is a testament to the cen-

THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART GIVES THE BLOCKBUSTER TREATMENT TO ARMENIA, THE OLDEST CHRISTIAN COUNTRY IN THE WORLD.

trality of the church to Armenian cultural identity. No museum has ever mounted such a large exhibition of Armenian art, and most of the 140 objects here come from museum collections and churches in Armenia and rarely travel.

“Armenia!” has been organized by Helen C. Evans, the Met's curator of Byzantine art, and



Helen C. Evans

focuses specifically on the art and history of the country's medieval period. It is not, despite the exclamation point in its title, an exhibition that favors razzle-dazzle. In fact, “Armenia!” is a rather bookish sort of blockbuster, concentrating heavily on illuminated manuscripts, and presented in low lighting to protect the gospels and romances on view. There is some ecclesiastical flash, in the form of bejeweled crucifixes and gold-plated censers, but this is primarily an exhibition of book illustration, unlike any other

see MET, page 16





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# New CD by Kim Kashkashian Puts Spotlight on Bach Suites

NEW YORK — Viola great Kim Kashkashian's new recording, "Johann Sebastian Bach, Six Suites for Viola Solo," was released by ECM on October 12. The suites were once described by Pablo Casals as "the very essence of Bach...a whole radiance of space and poetry pours forth from them." These qualities are in abundance in the present version, recorded at the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York in November and December 2016, and February 2017.

Bach composed the suites around 1720 when he was in the employ of Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Köthen. The autograph manuscript is no longer extant, and the earliest known copies date from 1726 and 1730, the latter made by Anna Magdalena Bach.

Bach himself made a transcription of an arrangement of *Suite V for lute*, however, which has survived. Differences in articulation between the versions invite a certain expressive liberty. There has also, in recent years, been speculation about the instrument for which Bach wrote the music: was it the violoncello as we know it today, or was it the violoncello da spalla, the small cello played braced against the shoulder? Were the suites played on the viola in Bach's lifetime? Perhaps. Bach's fondness for the viola is documented; he liked to play it in chamber music and also directed cantatas from the viola.

Hearing the *Suites* on the viola, with its range an octave above the cello, Paul Griffiths remarks in the liner notes, the music takes on "a different kind of sombreness, a different kind of dazzlement, a different kind of self-examination." His essay details the characteristics of the suites and the dance forms — the *allemandes*, *courantes*, *sarabandes*, *minuets*, *bourrés*, *gavottes* and *gígues* — and emphasises Kashkashian's sense of pulse, which "comes from the music, not from the clock. Bach's dances are not for jaunting feet but made rather of shapes and images moving in the mind."

Kashkashian approaches the suites as a player whose sensibilities have been shaped by engagement with new music as well as classical tradition. For these performances she uses contemporary instruments, including a 5-string viola (as called for in the Anna Magdalena Bach manuscript) for the challenging *D major suite*, and brings to the whole set a feeling of freedom, grace and power. The cello suites have long been part of her performance repertoire, approached from multiple perspectives. (In concert, for instance, inspired by György Kurtág's insertion of Bach arrangements amid his *Játékok* pieces, she has sometimes threaded sections of Kurtág's *Signs, Games and Messages* in between movements). In her hands, the music is very much alive, and speaks to the present.

For Kashkashian, Bach's music is both a "true and faithful companion" and a reference point against which all creative endeavor may be measured. "Music is a parable and a guide for all the challenges and triumphs of life," she writes in an artist's note here, adding that Bach "leads us to new insights and joys as we approach the mysterious and miraculous point of intersection where craft and art become one."

This recording is Kashkashian's second ECM New Series album dedicated to Johann Sebastian Bach. In 1991 she recorded the viola da gamba sonatas with Keith Jarrett on harpsichord.

"Her technique is masterful — and her tone is instantly arresting for its warmth, austere purity, and concentrated intensity. Glowing like dark amber and radiant like golden sunshine, it has infinite variety of color, nuance, and inflec-

tion. Her phrasing, rhythmically supple yet steady, flows and breathes as naturally as human speech; her expressiveness communicates deep personal involvement."

Strings Magazine on Kim Kashkashian

Recognized internationally as a unique voice on the viola, Kashkashian studied with Karen Tuttle and Walter Trampler at the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore.

The recipient of numerous prizes she received a 2013 Grammy Award in the Best Classical Instrumental Solo category for Kurtág and Ligeti: Music for Viola on ECM New Series.

Kashkashian's recording, with Robert Levin, of the Brahms Sonatas, won the Edison Prize in 1999. Her 2000 recording of concertos by Bartók, Eötvös and Kurtág won the 2001 Cannes Classical Award for a premiere

recording by a soloist with orchestra. Kim was awarded the George Peabody Medal for outstanding contributions to music in America, as well as the prestigious Golden Bow award of Switzerland. In 2016 she was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

As an advocate of contemporary music, she has worked to broaden scope of the viola's voice and repertoire in collaboration with many composers including Tigran Mansurian, Péter Eötvös, Ken Ueno, Betty Olivero, Lera Auerbach and Toshio Hosokawa.

Marlboro and the Viennese School, represented by her mentor, Felix Galimir, were major influences in developing her love of chamber music. She is a regular participant at the Verbier, Salzburg, Lockenhaus, Marlboro, and Ravinia festivals. As soloist, she has appeared with the major orchestras of Berlin, London, Vienna, Paris, Milan, New York, and Cleveland and presented duo recitals in New York, Boston, Baltimore San Francisco, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Frankfurt, Berlin, Vienna, Munich, Paris, Athens and Tokyo. Kashkashian resides in Boston and teaches viola and coaching chamber music at the New England Conservatory. She is the founder and president of the project Music for Food.

CD booklet includes liner notes by Paul Griffiths, and a performer's note by Kashkashian, in English and German.



Cover of "JS Bach, Six Suites for Viola Solo" by Kim Kashkashian



Kim Kashkashian

## Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian



### Potato Cheese Patties

#### INGREDIENTS

4-5 cups chilled leftover mashed potatoes\*  
1/2 medium onion, grated  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 large eggs, lightly beaten  
1/2 cup crumbled Feta, shredded Monterey Jack, Swiss or cheddar cheese or grated Parmesan cheese  
1/4 cup flour (or plain bread crumbs, or a little more)  
2 tablespoons chopped parsley  
2 tablespoons canned green chilies or minced green or red bell pepper  
Salt, pepper, paprika to taste  
Flour, plain bread crumbs or cornmeal for rolling  
Butter or cooking oil for frying  
Sour cream, yogurt or hummus  
Chopped parsley, mint, paprika, green onions

#### PREPARATION

Place mashed potatoes in a large bowl; combine with the onions, garlic, eggs, cheese, flour, parsley, chilies, and spices, and mix thoroughly. Flatten patties and form mixture into patties; roll in flour, bread crumbs or cornmeal, and chill for 30 minutes until firm.

Flatten patties slightly and fry in butter or oil until golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels and serve immediately.

Garnish with sour cream, yogurt, hummus or chopped parsley, mint, and green onions.

Suggestion: Serve patties in pita pockets, topped with yogurt or hummus and thinly sliced red onions, radishes, and cucumbers or as a side dish or appetizer.

Serves 4-6.



\*Note: 1/2 cup chopped raisins, dates or dried apricots may be added if using leftover mashed sweet potatoes instead of potatoes in this recipe. Omit garlic, green chilies and parsley, and add 1/4 cup flaked coconut, 2 tablespoons maple syrup or honey, 1 tablespoon finely grated ginger, and 1/2 cup chopped walnuts, pecans or almonds to sweet potato version; garnish with chunky applesauce, cranberry sauce or sour cream, and roll patties in cinnamon and sugar. Patties may be made with unpeeled, well drained, shredded zucchini or squash. To bake instead of fry patties, roll in flour, bread crumbs or corn meal. Place patties on a baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Bake at 425° for 12 minutes. Carefully turn patties over, and bake for an additional 12 minutes or until golden.

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





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Musicians Celebrate Ancient City, Young Organization

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK — It was both a celebration of the 10th anniversary of Direct Help for Armenian People (DHAP), and the 2800th anniversary of Erebuni-Yerevan.

DHAP President and founder Dr. Svetlana Amirkhanian welcomed the audience to this celebratory concert which took place at Carnegie Hall on Saturday, October 20, that presented the year's talented Armenian youth finalists.

Opening the sold-out event was a prayer by Armenian Diocesan Vicar General, the Very Rev. Simeon Odabashian, followed by the presentation and awarding of this year's talented



Pianist Michael Khoury

youth finalists by Master of Ceremonies Eugenia Sarian.

As 17 youngsters of the Hamazkayin Arekag Choir, led by their musical director and conductor Vagharshak Ohanyan, filed onto the stage, the audience erupted into thunderous applause. In perfect unison they offered a number of moving Armenian numbers.

For many of the young performers, Aram Khachaturian was the dominant composer, especially for talented pianists Davit Avetisyan, Yana Prakhina, Maxim Tesovic. Alex Vartanian's interpretation of the composer's *Waltz* displayed a deep understanding of the music, and Cami Hall played an impressive first movement of Khachaturian's *Sonatina*.

Other gifted pianists were Michael Khoury sharing Beethoven's *Sonata in F minor*, and Andrew Boldi interpreting Ed Baghdasaryan's *Prelude in B minor*.

Lovely voices by Anahit Indzhigulyan, Alice Mashensky and Christina Kerestedjian soared musically throughout the hall. And a beloved *Olor* by Barsegh Kanachyan, sung with great feeling by sisters Sareen and Arya Balian brought many in the audience to tears.

Baghdasaryan's beautiful *Nocturne* was given a soft and lyrical interpretation by violin-

ist Aren Arakelyan, and Robert Ward's first movement modern and difficult *Concerto for Saxophone* was played with great nuance by David Hovanisyan.

Cellist Laura Navasardian's masterful rendition of Kabalevsky's *Concerto No.1 in G minor*, accompanied on the piano by her equally talented mother, Lilit Navasardian, nearly brought the house down. Accented by lush tones, great technique, and deep emotion, this youngster is ready for professional stage performances.

The concert concluded with the Hamazkayin Arekag Choir offering a special tribute to Charles Aznavour with his moving *Hayastan*, after which they appropriately sang Edgar Hovhannisyan's *Erebuni-Yerevan* to a standing ovation.

During the closing ceremony, bouquets and commendation plaques were presented to the planners and organizers Amirkhanian, Marina Baghdasarova, and Eugenia Sarian by Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Mher Margaryan. Ohanyan also received a commendation for his many years of service.

Honorary Chairman of the Tekeyan Cultural Association Hagop Vartivarian animatedly speaking in Armenian, thanked the organizers for "bringing Armenian breath and culture to the new generation."

Dr. Irina Kakossian who with her husband, Dr. Ken Kirakossian, were the major benefactors of the concert, expressed special gratitude to all involved.



Sisters Sareen and Anya Balian singing a duet



Armenia's U.N. Ambassador Mher Margaryan gives a special diploma to Dr. Svetlana Amirkhanian.

Հովանավորություն

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*Celebrating  
the Life &  
Work of*

**Diana Der Hovannessian**

Organized by  
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and co-sponsored by  
Amaras Art Alliance, Armenian General Benevolent Union-New England,  
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The event is free and open to the public





## Met's Armenia Show Is One for the Ages

MET, from page 13

medieval manuscript show you're likely to see.

Armenia had a long middle age, extending from the early fourth century, when St. Gregory the Illuminator converted the king, Tiridates III, to Christianity — an event commemorated at the opening of this show by a stela of porous stone, carved with portraits of the two men — until the late 16th century, when printed books made their first appearance. This mountainous region was a crossroads of influences from east and west, but Armenian art scrambles simple understandings of “Europe” and “Asia,” exhibiting a stylistic cosmopolitanism even as it used Christian identity to define itself within the world of Islam.

Armenian book artists were not anonymous; they signed their names, had their own styles and took risks. One volume here, flamboyantly illuminated by Sargis Pidzak in 1331, is open to a picture of a priest praying before St. Matthew in a field of gold leaf, while initial letters of the Gospels dance with the angels. (Note the pointy black hood worn by the kneeling priest: this distinctly Armenian clerical garb is still worn today.) A Bible from the later medieval period, illuminated by an artist named Hakob, depicts God as a ruddy-faced, goggle-eyed young man, as if in awe at his own creation. In a 16th-century manuscript relating the life of Alexander the Great, done in Rome by an Armenian bishop called Zak'ariay of Gnumik', the Macedonian king's ship is swallowed by an enormous brown crab, hooking the sails with its pincers as its mouth gapes open.

The Bibles and ritual books here are testament to a relatively literate medieval society, one with its own Christian identity, and one that used (and still uses) its own involute alphabet, developed in 405 by the cleric and scholar now known as St. Mesrop Mashtots'. This new alphabet, with its arcing capital letters, was the key to the conversion of Armenian society into a Christian society, since religious services could now be conducted in the vernacular. A densely lettered, unspaced sheet of parchment here, whose translation of the Book of Corinthians could date from as early as the fifth century, is one of more than a dozen objects on loan to the Met from the Matenadaran Mesrop Mashtots Institute.

There's more than manuscripts. Beautifully woven vestments and altar frontals affirm that Armenian believers saw as much beauty in services as in the scriptoria. Reliquaries in the form of St. Gregory's right arm were popular, and one silver, gem-studded specimen here is said to contain the remains of his last known male descendant. Gold earrings with dangling pendants shaped like crescent moons and birds, dating to the 11th century, are a rare example of secular material here, and their filigreed panels reflect the influence of neighboring Iran.

Perhaps the most distinctive artworks of the Armenian Middle Ages are the *khachkars*, or cross-stones, found across the Southern Caucasus. These slabs of tuff, basalt or dolomite are carved with highly decorative crosses, and their elaborate patterns suggest the influence of Islamic culture even as they attest to an unshakable Christian faith.

Medieval Armenia was not a centralized polity, and frequent foreign incursions — from

the seventh century, when overlords practicing the new religion of Islam invaded greater Armenia; to the 13th century, when Mongol warriors raided the east of Anatolia; to the invasions of the Ottomans and Safavids in the later medieval era — were a constant threat. What kept it all together was their own autocephalous church, not answerable to Rome or Constantinople. Rival kings and rich merchant families competed to deck out the most lavish cathedrals, and in the later medieval period scriptoria popped up in monasteries across greater Armenia, down into Crimea, and even as far as Italy, the source of several manuscripts here.

By the end of the 17th century, when Armenian power had flourished along new trade routes, an Italian aristocrat living in Constantinople received a gift: a panoramic map of the world of Armenian influence. Known as the *Tabula Chorographica Armenica*, this 12-foot painted map includes nearly 800 sites of Armenian Christian worship, stretching past the Caucasus to Jerusalem and Iran. In one corner the bearded St. Gregory destroys idols in an Ottoman town, while laymen and clergy, painted in a style more Persian than European (softer features, finer lines), chat amiably outside Echmiadzin Cathedral, the Armenian equivalent of the Vatican. The peaks of Mount Ararat, the landing place, according to the Bible, of Noah's ark, are breasts of solid green.

This boggling showstopper of a map was not meant for navigation, and the elite merchants



Stela at the entrance to the Armenia! exhibit

who gazed on it would have appreciated its expression of the depth of Armenian trade routes in the new early modern age. To modern eyes at the Met, it has other overtones: its breadth recalls the extent of the contemporary Armenian diaspora, and its numerous churches in Ottoman territory portend the genocide to come during World War I.

Armenians, as this great show attests, have

long been at the mercy of outside forces, and the beauty of this show is tinged with conquest and subjection. But the young revolutionaries who marched and sang in Yerevan this spring — such a rare gleam of hope in this global age of authoritarianism — knew that the manuscript of Armenian history is still being written.

“Armenia!” will run through January 13 at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Manhattan.

## Program on Armenian-American Volunteer Chankalian to Be Hosted by Tekeyan Metro LA Chapter

CHANKALIAN, from page 13

The dancers of the Patille Dance Studio of Pasadena, under the direction of Patille and Cynthia Albarian, will perform a number of dances in honor of the Armenian Legion.

Captain Jim Chankalian made many personal sacrifices to serve the Armenian people, by means of the Armenian Legion, A.D.L., Armenian Church, AGBU, as well as the United States Army, with great distinction and honor, becoming a great patriot and national hero.



# Sponsor A Teacher

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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](mailto:leslie@eyecareproject.com) or visit [eyecareproject.com/gala](http://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](mailto:info@TekeyanLA.org)

MASSACHUSETTS

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

**NOVEMBER 2-3 — The 62nd Annual St. Stephen’s Armenian Apostolic Church Bazaar.** Church volunteers will serve homemade chicken, beef and losh kebab, kufteh and kheyma dinners all day along with pastries and specialty gourmet items prepared by members of the Ladies Guild. Booths and vendors. Silent Auction. Armenian Cultural and Educational Center. Watertown, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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

**NOVEMBER 4 — Celebrating the Life and Work of Diana Der Hovanessian,** Organized by the Armenian Cultural Foundation and co-sponsored by Amaras Art Alliance, Armenian General Benevolent Union - New England affiliate, Armenian International Women’s Association, Armenian Museum of America, The Friends of the Longfellow House, Hamazkaine Armenian Educational and Cultural Society - Boston, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, New England Poetry Club, and Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada. Sunday, 3 p.m. Armenian Cultural Foundation (441 Mystic Street, Arlington). Admission free and open to the public.

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

**NOVEMBER 14 — Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Historic Faneuil Hall, Boston.** Wednesday, Doors open at 6:45pm. Program at 7:30pm. INCARCERATION: Untangling the Web of Injustice. Performance: Karen Yamaguchi and Brett Fairchild, Berklee College of Music sophomores will perform their original piece, WAKE UP. They will be introduced by Gretchen Shae Moore who has created a course on mass incarceration that she teaches at Berklee. Speakers: Cherise Fanno Burdeen, Chief Executive Officer, Pretrial Justice Institute and Marc A. Levin, Vice President of Criminal Justice, Texas Public



**On Sunday, November 4, several groups, including the Tekeyan Cultural Center, will collaborate to celebrate the life and work of Diana Der Hovanessian. Sunday, 3 p.m., at the Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441 Mystic St., Arlington. Admission is free.**

Policy and Right on Crime; Moderator: Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian, Sheriff of Middlesex County; President, Massachusetts Sheriffs’ Association. Reception follows at The Bostonian Hotel. Free and open to the public. An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway.

**NOVEMBER 14 — Preventative Health. Know Your Health. First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Avenue, Belmont.** Open to all in the community. 6 p.m. Registration and refreshments. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Panel discussions. Free Access to Panel of Experts including Dr. Armen Arslanian, Internist at Winchester Physician Associates, Dr. George Vosgerichian, DMD, General and Esthetic Dentistry in Arlington, and Pierre Panoyan, R.Ph Walgreens Pharmacy Manager in Arlington. Event will be moderated by Tanya Iliadis, Pharm.D., associate director, Clinical Pharmacy Program at Atrius Health. This event sponsored by: Armenian American Pharmacists’ Association, Armenian American Medical Association, Armenian American Dental Society, New Paths - Bridging Armenian Women. For further information contact: [arademirjian@hotmail.com](mailto:arademirjian@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

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

**DECEMBER 16 — 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](mailto:hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org)

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

NEW JERSEY

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

NEW YORK

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

RHODE ISLAND

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

**NOVEMBER 10 & 11 — Armenian Fest 2018, Sts. Vartanatz Armenian Church of Providence** presents its ARMENIAN FOOD FESTIVAL AT RHODES ON THE PAWTUXET, 60 Rhodes Place, Cranston. - Featuring chicken, losh and shish kebabs and kufta dinners. Armenian delicacies, dancing to live music, arts and crafts, flea market, gift baskets, children’s corner, country store, jewelry, hourly raffles. Armenian Dance Group will perform on Saturday and Sunday at 5 p.m. Armenian food and pastry are available all day. Saturday from noon – 9 p.m. and Sunday, noon – 7 p.m. Free admission and parking. Valet parking available. Please call the Church Office at 401-831-6399 or [www.armenianfestri.com/food](http://www.armenianfestri.com/food) for further information.

WISCONSIN

**NOVEMBER 3 — Saturday, Armenian Genealogy Conference, hosted by St. John Armenian Church** of Metro Milwaukee. Join us for a day of workshops, presentations, community and discovering your Armenian roots. This conference grew out of the Armenian Genealogy group on Facebook. For more information, visit <http://armeniangenealogyconference.com>

CANADA

**NOVEMBER 14 — Book presentation by Adrienne G. Alexanian** on her father’s memoir. Forced into Genocide: Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army. Wednesday, November 14, 2018 7:30 p.m. AGBU Montreal Center – Demirdjian Hall 805 Manoogian Street Saint Laurent , QCH4N1Z5. Reception and book signing to follow. (All proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated to the AGBU). RSVP – [info@agbumontreal.org](mailto:info@agbumontreal.org) (514) 748-2428.

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





COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

# John Bolton Thunders Through Caucasus

By Edmond Y. Azadian

(Writing from Yerevan)

US President Donald Trump's National Security Advisor John Bolton this week paid a visit to Moscow and the Caucasus. While meeting with the Russian officialdom and in particular with President Vladimir Putin, he was uncharacteristically coy and subdued, so much so that MSNBC's Rachel Maddow ridiculed him in one episode.

But once he arrived in the Caucasus, he was back to his old brash, bellicose and blunt self.

His objective was no secret although it was couched in a palatable package: he was in the region in pursuit of peace and stability. His words and actions, however, left no doubt that he was there to make political mischief.

His mission was two-fold: further isolating Russia and "squeezing Iran," as he termed it.

All that turbulent region needs is more American meddling to raise the temperature further.

During his tour, Mr. Bolton visited Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and in each country, he tried to further delineate the fault lines.

In Tbilisi, he reiterated that Georgia's admission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) structure was still under consideration, the issue being one of the components of a major policy of containing Russia. Incidentally, this policy is in violation of the agreement between President Ronald Reagan and USSR General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev which stated that NATO would not escalate any further threats to Russian's border.

In fact, it was thought that with the demise of the Cold War, the NATO structure would become obsolete, as had the

to both parties. In the light of departing US Ambassador to Armenia Richard Mills' parting inflammatory remarks about unilateral territorial concessions, the US is dealing suspiciously in promoting a deal. Although the specifics were not spelled out by Mr. Bolton, here in Yerevan there are speculations that the Karabakh settlement could come at the price of territorial concessions.

Ordinary people and political pundits believe that at least a recommendation of that nature was discussed during private meetings between the US envoy and Nikol Pashinyan. Mr. Bolton had hardly left Yerevan before the former Minister of Defense of Armenia Vigen Sargsyan characterized Pashinyan's foreign policy as a debacle.

Mr. Bolton dropped a bomb when he referred to a coming decision by the Trump administration to reverse the long-standing Article 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which the US Congress had adopted to ban arms sales to Azerbaijan for its aggressive posture against Armenia. But, as usual, Congress had allowed a loophole to bypass its decision. The president was given the power to waive the ban and every successive president used his power to render the congressional action as a legal fig leaf.

The US envoy further aggravated the matter when he offered to sell Armenia arms. That offer was two-pronged: to balance and justify American arms sales to Azerbaijan and to undercut one of Russia's main sources of influence on Armenia.

He knew full well that Armenia was not in a position to buy those arms from the US for a number of reasons, the least of which was the exorbitant cost of those weapons; Armenia buys Russian arms at a domestic price because of its membership in the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Besides, the Russian base in Armenia provides the servicing center for the Russian arms. To top it all off, switching its

arms procurement policy from Russia to the US would mean a political shift replete with tremendous consequences.

Mr. Bolton also touched upon the Iran issue, which has become a cornerstone of Washington's regional policy. He repeated the usual mantra that Iran has become "the central bank of terrorism," that it is meddling in Syria and all that rhetoric which has become so common. Iran is blamed for terrorism while US arms shipped to Saudi Arabia in

turn end up in the hands of terrorists who have rendered Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen bloodbaths.

Mr. Bolton praised Pashinyan and his Velvet Revolution, adding that the prime minister will have a stronger hand in implementing his policies. There was a subtle message in that praise, meaning that Armenia must participate in implementing US sanctions against Iran, as the border between Armenia and Iran will come under severe pressure by the US. He also suggested that Armenian deal with the outside world through Georgia, knowing full well that Georgia time and again has demonstrated to be an unreliable trading partner, hampering Armenia's relations with the outside world.

Armenia's only two partners in the region are in the crosshairs of Washington. The Cold War agenda against Russia is intensifying and the hot war with Iran is on the radar.

President Trump raised the ante with North Korea, even threatening to wipe it off the face of the map and he was successful in bringing that country's leader to the negotiation table. If he is using the same tactic against Iran, let's hope it is successful. Otherwise, a catastrophe will face the US as well as the region.



Warsaw Pact. But once the Soviet Union collapsed and Moscow was rendered powerless, the understanding between the two former superpowers fell apart and once again NATO was weaponized to wage the emerging new Cold War.

Besides encircling Russia's borders, the structure is also maintained to trap European countries under Washington's control. Although Russia has devolved into a second-rate country, the Russian threat is being used to justify the NATO buildup and expansion.

Mr. Bolton was very calculating in his statements. He ranked Georgia and Azerbaijan as strategic allies while Armenia was deemed to be a country of prime interest. Georgia was being rewarded for supporting the US's policy of Russian containment and Azerbaijan for supporting American war efforts in Afghanistan and partnering with Israel. Armenia was not praised for any advantageous action, but was given the option to help with the US policy toward Iran.

Mr. Bolton addressed the issue of the settlement of the Karabakh conflict in a peaceful way. The US, as a co-chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, would push for a settlement agreeable

# Mirror Spectator



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## COMMENTARY



## My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Saudi Journalist's Murder Exploited For Selfish Interests by World Powers

The heinous murder of prominent Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi has been exploited by leaders of several countries for their selfish political and economic gains, ignoring the vile nature of the crime. The main participants in this ugly game are Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United States.

On October 2, Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi citizen, visited Saudi Arabia's Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey, to finalize his divorce documents so he could marry his Turkish fiancée, Hatice Cengiz. Khashoggi never left the Consulate. He was murdered and reportedly dismembered by a special team of Saudi investigators who were sent to Istanbul the day before, and after the killing immediately returned to Saudi Arabia on two separate private jets.

Khashoggi, who had worked for years for the Saudi government in important positions, left Saudi Arabia and settled in the United States in 2017 after becoming disillusioned with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's limitless powers. Khashoggi began writing critical opinion columns in the Washington Post, while Saudi leaders made several unsuccessful attempts to lure him back to his native land.

Initially, Saudi Arabia announced that Khashoggi had left its Consulate in Istanbul within an hour or so of his arrival. However, after leaks from the Turkish government that there was no video of Khashoggi exiting the Consulate, the Saudi

authorities changed their story, claiming that the dissident journalist was killed during a fistfight at the Consulate. A week later, the Saudi leaders changed their story once again, stating that Khashoggi's murder was premeditated and not accidental. Saudi Arabia proceeded to fire five security officials and arrested a dozen others, claiming that neither King Salman nor the Crown Prince had any advance knowledge of the murder plan. Given the fact that the Crown Prince is in total control of the country, no one believes that he was unaware of Khashoggi's killing by the Kingdom's top security and intelligence officials.

In the meantime, the Turkish government, which has been in constant rivalry with Saudi Arabia for the dominance of the Sunni Islamic world, has been leaking to the Turkish media drip by drip the evidence of Khashoggi's murder. Initially, the Turks claimed that the information came from Khashoggi's apple watch which had recorded his torture and murder. When experts advised that the apple watch did not have such a capacity, it became clear that the Turkish government used the watch as a cover up for its secret recording devices installed inside the Saudi Consulate.

In my opinion, the Turkish government's continuous leaks to the media were meant to send a message to Saudi authorities that it would make public potentially embarrassing evidence about Khashoggi's killing, unless the Saudis would pay a large ransom for President Erdogan's silence. It is well-known that the Turkish economy is in shambles and desperately needs tens of billions of dollars to cover its foreign debts. Not hearing a positive response, Erdogan warned the Saudis that he would personally go on national TV and reveal the "naked truth," unless the Saudis accommodated the Turkish demands. During his speech last week, for the first time, Erdogan made public the timeline of Khashoggi's murder and raised serious doubts that it was accidental. However, the Turkish President seemed to keep the hope alive that the Saudis will eventually meet his shakedown demands by not making public all of his secretly collected evidence. In his speech, Erdogan neither mentioned the name of the Saudi Crown Prince nor the Turkish possession of audio/visual

materials which had recorded Khashoggi's painful death. Instead, Erdogan asked several questions that he probably knew the answers, such as: where is Khashoggi's body and who is the Turkish collaborator who whisked it away at Saudis' request? Meanwhile, to squeeze the Saudis further, the Turkish press published last week gruesome images of Khashoggi's dismembered body!

The third culprit is the United States, more specifically, President Trump. When he first got the news that Khashoggi was murdered at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, President Trump kept emphasizing his own "great achievement" of selling \$110 billion of advanced US weapons to Saudi Arabia during his last year's visit, ostensibly creating "450,000 jobs for American workers." As usual, President Trump exaggerated the financial benefits as he had not signed a contract for the sale of \$110 billion of US weapons. There was actually an agreement to sell only \$10-\$20 billion of weapons in the next five years. Furthermore, a year ago President Trump had said that the same weapon sale would create 40,000 American jobs, not 450,000. However, a few days after Khashoggi's murder, President Trump exaggerated his numbers, this time to 500,000 jobs. A week later, he increased it again to "one million jobs," and then to "over one million jobs."

Regardless of how many jobs would be created and how many billions would the sale of the weapons bring, President Trump never expressed his condolences to the Khashoggi family. Even though President Trump kept warning Saudi Arabia of "severe consequences," he valued the price of the weapons more than a human being's life. The only American "punishment" was the suspension of US visas to the 18 Saudis who were sent to Istanbul to murder Khashoggi.

Regrettably, most heads of states do not care about human beings. What's in it for me or my nation is the common practice. In the process, leaders are willing to lie, cheat, and even murder.

Khashoggi's Turkish fiancée did the right thing by refusing President Trump's invitation to the White House. She did not want her grief to be exploited by a politician who only cares about his own selfish gains rather than the pain and suffering of the family members of a mutilated murder victim.

# The Story of the Armenian Legion

By Robert Fisk

Governments at war make dangerous promises. And the First World War was a time of promises and lies. The promises came first: in 1916, the British told the Arabs they could have independence; in 1917, they told the Jews they could have a homeland; and the French told the survivors of the 1915 Armenian genocide that they could return to liberate their homelands in eastern Turkey.

Then came the betrayals.

Superpowers like legions, the Roman variety, preferably when they are composed of foreigners. So the British created an Arab Legion to fight against the Ottoman Turks for independence and a Jewish Legion to fight against the Ottoman Turks for Palestine. And the French created an Armenian Legion – an offshoot of the French Foreign Legion, needless to say – to fight against the Ottoman Turks for Cilicia.

The Arabs lost Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, the Jews did not get all of Palestine, and the soldiers of the Armenian Legion – having helped to liberate Palestine – were abandoned amid the ashes of their own burnt cities.

Among the indigenous peoples of the Middle East, they were the most traduced of all, since they recovered not a square inch of their land. To be a loser doesn't get you much purchase in the history books. To be a loser twice over turns you into a curio. Thus the story of the Armenian Legion has until now been largely untold and unremembered.

And *Armenian Legionnaires: Sacrifice and Betrayal in World War I*, Susan Paul Pattie's first and original account of the fury, heartbreak and suffering of its soldiers – women as well as men in that most misogynistic of 20th century wars – is not for the faint-hearted. There are Armenian troops, armed and in uniform, desperately searching the Constantinople-bound Turkish refugee trains for Armenian girls who had been raped and kidnapped by the Ottomans who had butchered their families. "Too late," young women told their would-be rescuers. They preferred to stay with their new Turkish husbands, or at least refused to be separated from their half-Armenian and half-Turkish children.

One Armenian woman, travelling by rail with a Turkish family, was discovered by soldiers of the Armenian Legion, her chest "adorned with gold," and refused to be separated from her companions. She was taken from the carriage at the next station and

"married to the legionnaire who had rescued her." Sarkis Najarian "saw a rich Turkish family travelling [on the train between Adana and Mersin] with a pretty girl whom he thought must be Armenian." He managed to separate her from the family and sent her to an orphanage. There had been many forced conversions of Armenian women although we rarely hear the women's account of these "rescues."

Najarian's own sister, Yeghsabet, when he discovered her, was already engaged and refused to leave her fiancé, fearing for her life and offering Najarian money to go away. When he found her later, "she was married to a rich [Arab] Bedouin, tattooed – and happy." There is a photograph of a young and beautiful Yeghsabet in a veil. "I have Armenian blood," she would later tell her brother, "but I was raised a Muslim. When I hear the call to prayer, I have to do my prayers until the end of my life."

Many of the men in the original legion had been signed up by the French in Egypt where they had settled with their families after a French warship rescued them in 1915 from the famous 40-day siege by the Turks at Musa Dagh. Others came from Europe, even from America, men who spoke French and American English as well as Armenian, anxious to fight for their still nonexistent nation after the horror and humiliation of the Turkish genocide of a million-and-a-half of their own Armenian people. By July 1918, the French had registered 58 Armenian officers, 4,360 soldiers – including 288 French Armenians – and two artillery gun crews with 37mm artillery. But while Susan Pattie, a scholar of Armenian history at University College, clearly sympathises with her heroes, there is an ugly undertow of revenge in their desire to fight for the Allies.

Fighting in Palestine at the 1918 Battle of Megiddo – the original Armageddon, which the Armenians call Arara – they received an official commendation for gallantry from General Edmund Allenby. But Hovannes Garabedian was to recall how he and his Armenian comrades found the Turkish trenches filled with their dead and dying enemies. "The ones who were not totally dead proved to be the most unfortunate," he said. "The memory of yesterday's genocide ... was so fresh in our minds, the thirst for revenge was so profound in the hearts of the Armenian legionnaires, the wounded Turks found no mercy. They were finished in their trenches."

Again and again, in Pattie's story, there are references to this most pitiful, comprehensible and terrible of emotions among a persecuted people: the need for vengeance and reprisals.

As the Armenian soldiers advanced with French and British troops back into the Cilician/Armenian fields and mountains from which they and their families had been driven by the Turkish genociders three years earlier, there was violence and murder. And with the rise of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's nationalist uprising against the Allies, the French found their Armenian Legion an embarrassment rather than a trusted auxiliary. Surviving Armenian families who had trekked back in hope to their cremated homes in Marash found themselves dispossessed of their lands again, massacred once more in their thousands, joining retreating Armenian soldiers in the French withdrawal, many dying, frozen and starving, in their second exodus from Turkish Armenia in five years.

Hovannes Garabedian wrote of how, in hospital, he heard with joy the news of the Allied powers' recognition of an "Independent Republic of Armenia" and then, three days later, learned that the Turks were again slaughtering and deporting the Armenians of Marash. "Suddenly, the days of excitement and happiness were replaced by long days and years of sorrow and mourning." The victorious western powers wanted no more of their colonising war in Cilicia – not far away, the British were at the same time facing an Arab uprising in Iraq – and, in some cases, French officers virtually abandoned their Armenian legionnaires who were officially still part of the French army. They were to do the same to their faithful "Harkis" in Algeria just over four decades later.

The Armenians, in their pride and revenge, could not, perhaps, be expected to understand how soon their road to Golgotha would have to be retrodden. Did they not recognise their grim future when the Armenians were refused participation at the Versailles peace conference in 1919? Should they not have been included as joint Allied victors over the German-Austro-Hungarian-Ottoman alliance in the First World War? Attacked by bandits, demobilised Turkish soldiers, hunger and thirst, the retreating soldiers of "liberation" found themselves asking another question of all those who suffer refugeeedom. How come some Armenian families had remained in their villages during the genocide? What deals had they struck with their Turkish oppressors? Why were Armenian girl refugees found with Bedouin tattoos on their faces, marks which were surgically removed by their "rescuers?"

Shame, like defeat, was a feeling rarely uttered but much felt. There are, remarkably, documentary photographs of the Adana battle, of men digging trenches and Armenian soldiers slogging across the hill-sides of Marash. With the subtlety of all great powers, the Allies spoke not of betrayal. They called it "the Marash Affair."

The rump nation Armenia which emerged to the east – quickly engorged by the Soviets and today a brave but often corrupt state – was of little interest to the men of the disbanded Armenian legion. The survivors returned to refugee families in Lebanon – at least one became a Beirut policeman – or to homes in France or in America where they often flourished and sometimes met for picnics, holding old flags and remembering false promises from powerful nations and creating little Armenias in their countries of exile. Lieutenant John Shishmanian even received a personal post-war letter from General Allenby.

"I am sorry, if the gallant conduct of the Armenians was not sufficiently recognised," the great man – now high commissioner in Egypt – wrote from Cairo just after Christmas in 1919. "I know they fought nobly, and I am proud to have had them under my command." The Battle of Arara – Megiddo or Armageddon to us – left its 23 Armenian dead in the desert, their bones later gathered and transhipped to the Armenian St. James church in Jerusalem. The ashes of Viscount Allenby of Megiddo and Felixstowe were buried in Westminster Abbey.

(Robert Fisk is the Middle East correspondent for The Independent newspaper. This column originally appeared in the





# Farewell to Ambassador Hovhannissian

WASHINGTON – On Sunday October 28, the Parish Council of St. Mary Armenian Church and Knights and Daughters of Vartan organized a joint farewell reception in honor of outgoing Ambassador of Armenia Grigor Hovhannissian, who left the United States with his family on Monday October 29.

Sarnie Zenian, chairman of Parish council welcomed the ambassador, diplomatic corps and community members and wished the ambassador, his wife Victoria and daughters



Ambassador Grigor Hovhannissian



The ambassador and his wife Victoria flanked by members of the Armenian Community

Mariam and Michelle the best in their life in new Armenia.

Kevoork Marshlian, commander of the Knights of Vartan, thanked the ambassador for his service to the Armenian nation, reminded the audience that the ambassador was selected in 2016 as Man of the Year by the Grand Council of Knights of Vartan in 2016 and assured the present that the ambassador does not have orders from the government of Armenia to make contradictory remarks, as US Ambassador Richard Mills did

after completing his tenure in Yerevan, and chose to leave Armenia while making incendiary remarks rather than parting with fond memories.

Prior to his Washington appointment, Hovhannissian had served as Armenia's ambassador to Mexico, Costa Rica and as Armenia's consul general in Los Angeles. And before his career in the diplomatic service, he held a number of positions in United Nations programs and specialized agencies, working in Africa and the Middle East. He

was a UNESCO Team Leader and emergency Planner for the Middle East Peace Process in Jerusalem and United Nation Field Coordinator in Palestinian territories.

Rev. Hovsep Karabedian, pastor of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church spoke about the dedication of Hovhannissian, his positive efforts towards the Armenian communities throughout United States and wished him success in his new career as Deputy Foreign Minister, and like to welcome him again in Washington DC.

## Livingston Parish Honors Past And Present Superintendents

LIVINGSTON, N.J. – October 14 was a special Sunday at the St. Mary Church of Livingston as the parish honored Sunday School and Armenian School superintendents of the past and present.

Fr. Arakel Vardazaryan celebrated the badarak and led a hokehankisd service in remembrance of departed superintendents Dickie Boyajian, Alice Alldian, Andrina Shamanian, Kora Jannarone, Jean Berberian,

Sunday School student Samantha Maldjian and graduate Daniella Badishkanian offered beautiful musical performances.

Current superintendents Anahid Benlian and Yn. Anush Vardazaryan (who arranged the tribute with Sandie Burke, Jennifer Kapoian, Grace Jae, and Andrea Badishkanian) thanked their past colleagues – most of whom were present for the occasion – as well as parents and parishioners for their support of the church's



St. Mary Armenian Church of Livingston, NJ, honored its past Sunday and Armenian school superintendents on Oct. 14. Among those present for the occasion were (pictured l-r): Barbara Hovsepian, Silva Dechoyan, Hovhannes Mardirosian, Roxanne Panosian, Barbara Chamberjian, pastor Fr. Arakel Vardazaryan, Gail Pelaez, Sally Barmakian, and Rafi Krikorian.

Lillian Badishkanian, and Richard Kopp.

At a luncheon in Haroutune and Siranoush Toufayan Hall, parishioners offered tributes to the honorees and reminiscences of their Sunday and Armenian school experiences. Speakers included Martin Dalakian, Roy Stepanian, Grace Tekirian, Suzanne Toufayan, Levon Ariyan and several former superintendents.

educational aspirations.

Past superintendents honored were: Gail Pelaez, Barbara Chamberjian, Carol Nemetz, Alice Hallajian, Rafi Krikorian, Silva Dechoyan, Sally Barmakian, Yn. Sirarpi Aivazian, Esther Zaybekian, Victor Arabagian, Roxanne Panosian, Hovhannes Mardirosian, Levon Barmakian, Barbara Hovsepian, Zaven Ariyan, Vartan and Adi Abdo, and Berc Araz.



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