

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXIX, NO. 36, Issue 4580 \$ 2.00

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

## Anna Hakobyan to Visit Four US Cities

**By Aram Arkun**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

YEREVAN – Anna Hakobyan, journalist and wife of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, is coming this week to the United States for an extensive 17-day trip with stops in the four cities of Washington DC, Boston, Los Angeles and New York.

Hakobyan said in an interview on March 26 that she will maintain a tight schedule, with a variety of meetings, events and gala dinners. The trip is primarily devoted to fundraising for two foundations whose boards Hakobyan heads, the City of Smile



Anna Hakobyan

Foundation and My Step Foundation. In addition, there will be meetings with the Armenian community and other gatherings in which Hakobyan will represent the Republic of Armenia as the spouse of the prime minister.

In Boston, Hakobyan will be the keynote



Anna Hakobyan on February 7, 2019 at the Yolyan Hematology Center which is merging with the Muratsan Chemotherapy Clinic

speaker at a sold-out banquet on April 5 for the City of Smile, at which Michael Aram and Arpi Krikorian will participate.

During her trip, Hakobyan will meet with representatives of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to sign an agreement between its foundation and the City of Smile Foundation. In New York, she will meet with community members.

In Los Angeles, she will be present at an April 6 fundraiser with the Armenian American Medical Society and at the celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the Armenian consulate on April 7. She will speak at a community meeting the next

evening.

In Washington, besides an April 3 fundraiser, she will give a speech at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace with Representatives Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo, both of Armenian background, and meet with community members.

Hakobyan, giving her interview in English, said, "I have high expectations from this trip. I would like to introduce our country and what happened here, to introduce the current situation, and to answer all questions. I want to make connections

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Nina Hachigian while US ambassador to ASEAN after an introductory speech.

## Ambassador Hachigian Serves as First Deputy Mayor of International Affairs in LA

LOS ANGELES – Nina Lusine Hachigian is not only one of a handful of US ambassadors of Armenian ancestry, but also a trailblazer in Los Angeles municipal history as the first deputy mayor of international affairs.

**By Aram Arkun**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

She was appointed to this new position by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti in August 2017 and began work the next month. Hachigian said, "To me, it is a very logical position for a city like Los Angeles that is very global in nature. We have huge diaspora populations here, the fourth busiest airport [of the world], and the largest port in the Western hemisphere [by cargo], and our citizens are interacting on a daily basis with entities and individuals in other countries." Los Angeles consequently has one of the largest consular corps in the world, with over 100 members if career and honorary consuls are included.

Hachigian was moving back to Los Angeles after a posting in Jakarta, Indonesia, under the Obama administration, and had not decided what she was

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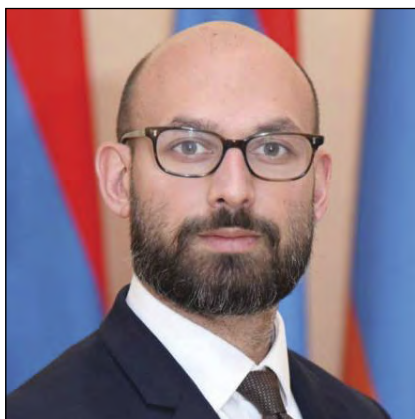
## An Expat Heads Efforts to Improve Diasporan Relations

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

YEREVAN – Babken DerGrigorian's life trajectory is emblematic of Armenian history: continent-hopping family and fluent in several languages, looking for, and ultimately finding, a new home.

DerGrigorian was appointed deputy diaspora minister in May, and in the wake of the absorption of the Diaspora Ministry into the remaining ministries in the government, he has been "tasked with coming up with a model of how to go about transitioning in the face of the high commission for Diaspora affairs," he said in a recent interview from his office in Yerevan.

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Babken DerGrigorian



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Alabama Becomes 49th State to Recognize Armenian Genocide

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – Alabama has become the 49th US state to officially recognize the Ottoman-era killings and deportations of Armenians as genocide.

Kay Ivey, governor of Alabama, proclaimed April 2019 as Genocide Awareness Month.

"We welcome this proclamation by Governor Ivey to officially re-affirm this international crime against humanity," said Armenian National Committee of America-Eastern Region Board Chairman Steve Mesrobian. "This proclamation serves as a powerful reminder that truth about genocides should never be held hostage to the denial of its perpetrators."

All US states except Mississippi have recognized the Armenian Genocide.

### New US Ambassador Says She Is Committed To Assisting Armenia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The newly appointed ambassador of the United States to Armenia has reaffirmed her government's commitment to assisting "sovereign Armenia" as she was received by the Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Friday, March 22.

"Thankful for the warm welcome, [Ambassador] Lynne Tracy said she was honored to meet with Prime Minister Pashinyan and reaffirmed the US Government's strong commitment to assisting sovereign Armenia in implementing its democratic agenda and anti-corruption efforts, dealing with economic and regional bottlenecks, as well as in matters of international security," a statement published on the Armenian premier's official website reads.

"The US Ambassador gave assurances that during her tenure she would make all necessary efforts to promote the development of bilateral economic cooperation," it adds.

According to the same source, welcoming the newly appointed US ambassador, Pashinyan emphasized that the Armenian government is "interested in the continued development of partnership with the United States, including in the political and economic spheres."

The Armenian prime minister said that "Armenia is consistently heading along the path of democratic reforms by fighting against corruption and monopolies, promoting human rights and freedom of speech."

Pashinyan stressed the importance of building closer ties with the US and implementing joint programs, the statement reads.

According to the premier's official website, during their meeting Pashinyan and Tracy discussed a number of issues that are on the agenda of US-Armenian relations and exchanged views on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement process and other regional issues of mutual interest.

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### Shall We Dance?

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Authorities to Introduce \$1,000,000 Penalty for Leopard Poaching

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — The government is seeking harsher penalties for poachers, with the Ministry of Nature Protection introducing a new bill on amending the law regulating the sphere.

Voskehat Grigoryan, the head of the Bio-diversity and Bio-Safety Policy Department of the Nature Protection Ministry said at a news conference on March 25 that the bill aims to raise the fine for leopard poaching from the current 3,000,000 drams (\$6,172) to 100,000,000 drams (\$206,000). However, if the poaching takes in a specially protected area the fine will be 500,000,000 drams (\$1,000,000).

“This is yet a draft option, it is currently in circulation, however the main emphasis of the bill is for the heightened fines to be a suppressive tool, so people avoid poaching,” Grigoryan said.

World Wildlife Fund Armenia Director Karen Manvelyan said he is in favor of the proposed increase of the penalty.

Manvelyan added that today technologies enable carrying out more efficient supervision and detect poaching cases. He said there are currently more than 100 surveillance cameras installed in various locations, and they are planning to increase the number.

## Armenia Can Be Regional Tech Hub

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Avinyan received on March 25 Chairman of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA) Yvonne Chiu.

Avinyan noted that the 23rd global forum of World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT-2019) is one of the key events of the year for Armenia and will organized at the highest level.

Chiu said she is impressed by the technological potential of Armenia and expressed the opinion that Armenia can become a regional technological hub.

Avinyan presented the investment and business environment of Armenia, emphasizing that WCIT-2019 is an excellent opportunity for the businessmen of the 82 member states to better examine Armenia, discover its investment potentials, as well as establish cooperation with Armenian companies.

## Pashinyan Tells Uni. Chiefs to Resign

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on Monday, March 25, publicly demanded the resignation of the rectors of state-run universities who he said are linked to Armenia’s former leadership.

“Those rectors who turned the system of higher education into party cells, those rectors who locked the doors for students have nothing to do in the new Armenia,” Pashinyan said at a cabinet meeting in Yerevan. “This is my very explicit position and we must not be afraid of expressing that position.”

“Let them cling to their doors, desks and armchairs, but they have nothing to do in the new Armenia. Let them find other jobs, other tasks, other missions,” he said.

Pashinyan stressed that he and his government have made a “political decision” to get rid of such rectors. “Let nobody think or hope that we will forget what we rallied for [in April-May 2018,]” he added.

The remarks seemed addressed to Aram Simonyan, the rector of Yerevan State University (YSU) who remains affiliated with former President Serzh Sargsyan’s Republican Party of Armenia (HHK).

Simonyan has been under pressure to step down since last spring’s “Velvet Revolution” which brought Pashinyan to power. In December, a government body implicated the YSU administration in serious financial irregularities. The Armenian police likewise alleged last month that Simonian has embezzled YSU funds and engaged in other corrupt practices over the past decade.

Simonyan, who has still not been formally charged with any crime, denies the allegations as politically motivated. He has said that he will not resign before serving out his current term in office in 2020.



YEREVAN (Armenpress) — The captain of the Armenian national football team and midfielder for London’s Arsenal Henrikh Mkhitaryan, above, left, posted a picture about his meeting on March 25 with Armenian President Armen Sarkissian in Yerevan. “Today, I had the pleasure to meet with the president of the Republic of Armenia, Mr. Armen Sarkissian. With him we discussed overall development of football in Armenia and my ambitions at NT & Club level,” Mkhitaryan wrote on Facebook.

# PACE Monitors Welcome Launch of Reforms in Armenia

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) — The Armenian authorities are acutely aware of the extremely high expectations of the population for change, said the co-rapporteurs of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) for the monitoring of Armenia, Yuliya Lovochkina (Ukraine, SOC) and Andrej Sircelj (Slovenia, EPP/CD), following a visit to Yerevan from March 12 to 14.

They said that it is therefore important that the reforms now being formulated lead to concrete and tangible results.

The co-rapporteurs welcomed the commitment of MPs to give the Armenian National Assembly a central role in the institutional system, and the wish of members of the executive for a better distribution of powers. “The ‘vertical of power’ tradition is old in Armenia, and any declared willingness to put into place a real bal-

ance of powers can only be welcomed,” said the co-rapporteurs, emphasizing that this could help a genuine democratic culture to take root in Armenia, marked by tolerance and the acceptance of a plurality of opinions.

During their meetings, the co-rapporteurs were informed that in some areas, such as gender equality and the fight against corruption, there was a clear change of attitude and tone on the part of the authorities. “We welcome the many major reforms being prepared, concerning the independence of the judiciary, the adoption of a new criminal policy and the creation of institutions specifically dedicated to fighting corruption and discrimination, and equally welcome the stated intention to develop these policies in an inclusive manner,” they said.

They will carefully follow the concrete implementation of these reforms. They called on the authori-

ties to take advantage of the current high level of public support to step up efforts in social reform, including improvements to social services for all Armenians, as well as reforms on subjects sensitive to Armenian society, such as the fight against domestic violence, inequalities between women and men, or the rights of LGBTI persons. They also called on all interlocutors to ensure Armenia ratifies the Istanbul and Lanzarote Conventions, which it has signed.

Following a previous visit in May 2018, the co-rapporteurs praised the maturity with which Armenian political forces and the Armenian people had managed the revolution and the transition that followed.

“This transition has now been completed with the elections of December 2018, considered free and fair by all international observers and the vast majority of Armenian political actors we met,” they said.

## Female Chess Player Alleges Discrimination for Views, Sues Federation

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — International grandmaster Lilit Galoian has filed a lawsuit against the Armenian Chess Federation, claiming she was illegally left out of the national team because of her recent pregnancy.

The 35-year-old, who has won several national titles and medals in international competitions, also believes her political views during last year’s revolution may also have influenced the decision of the Federation, headed by former President Serzh Sargsyan.

Galoian, who for years was a member of Armenia’s national team, claims that the composition of the squad was changed in violation of regulations.

The final composition of the squad was formed on May 2, 2018, when stormy political developments were taking place in Armenia. Galoian said she did not exclude that one of the reasons for the decision not to include



Lilit Galoian

her in the team was her and her family’s political views as during the days of anti-government protests Galoian

did not support Sargsyan.

“I made some posts on Facebook after being inspired by the revolution,” Galoian said.

Secretary-general of the Armenian Chess Federation Mikayel Andreasian described Galoian’s accusations as slander. He said the grandmaster had been offered to take part in an international tournament. However, he said, because Galoian was pregnant at that time, she refused to participate and there was no way to determine whether by the level of her preparedness she was qualified to be included in the national team or not. And the order of forming the team was changed so as to make it more competitive, said the Federation official, ruling out any illegality in the process.

“We had kept all members of the board informed of the decisions and they agreed to vote for them in absentia,” Andreasian explained.





## ARMENIA

# Anna Hakobyan to Visit Four US Cities

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and acquaintances, and, most importantly, to fundraise for the foundations because we have a large number important projects.”

When asked whether there might be some difficulties in trying to raise money for two different foundations concurrently, she replied, “I don’t think we will have a conflict of interest because the two foundations operate in different areas. The cancer issue is very specific and many people want to donate only to address the issue of childhood cancer. On the other hand, many people value development programs as well, so I do not think we will have problems. Originally the trip was initiated for the City of Smile Foundation. However, here in Yerevan I have a tight schedule too, so it is hard for me to leave the country and be away a long time. It would be very hard to come to the US with My Step [separately], and I decided to combine these two goals.”

Hakobyan said that she got involved in these two foundations by force of circumstance. Concerning the City of Smile Foundation, she said, “I was a journalist engaged in political issues and foundations, and health care was not in my scope of interest. Right after the revolution, a foundation named Grant Life (*Nvivir Kyank*), announced about suspending its operations. They were covering the treatment of children with cancer in Armenia. A group of doctors came to me to raise the issue and asked me to find a solution: we could not wait, while children with cancer needed drugs and treatment. It was an obligation. I had no choice and I decided to head this foundation and find money for these children. It was not my idea and I would have never come to this if the previous foundation would not have suspended its work.”

Something similar happened with My Step Foundation. Before the revolution, various cultural and educational initiatives were receiving funding through different formal and informal channels. Hakobyan said, “After the change of government their funding stopped and people

faced a big problem of finding funding to continue their work. ... Again, because the new government could not take care of these issues and provide them with enough funding, as the state budget was already allocated, no other way was found for these groups to continue, regardless of their importance for Armenia...I talked about this with my husband, and it was his idea to establish a foundation.” After finding money to cover the most immediate needs, she said thinking began about their own projects. The work of My Step encompasses a broad range of issues in educational, social and environmental matters, culture and healthcare.

Hakobyan said a further explanation of why both prior foundations halted their activities was beyond the scope of the present interview, but pointed to corruption and incorrect activity in Armenia in the past.

Hakobyan is involved in one other major initiative, the Women for Peace campaign. She said, “With this campaign, my message is to stop killing soldiers on the border of Nagorno Karabakh and to take care of the lives of our children, both Azerbaijani and Armenian soldiers, and keep peace on the borders.” She announced this initiative last summer and took a group of Russian women to Artsakh. However, recently, she said, “I took a break to do brainstorming on how to continue the campaign and not make mistakes. I value this campaign very much. I will talk about this campaign during my visit to the US.”

Hakobyan said, “I have no goals to enter politics. I think one person in the family is enough, and for a mother of a large household with four children I think it will be difficult to enter politics.” She added that she had never been involved in politics and does not imagine herself doing so, stressing, “Personally, I am a journalist and even after the revolution I prefer to stay in my field of work and continue in the newspaper because it is what I like very much.”

Hakobyan said that while political issues might be outside the scope of her responsibilities, she saw her role as public figure as an honor and an obligation to serve her country.



Anna Hakobyan and Dr. Samvel Danielyan, director of the Yolyan Hematology Center

She said, “I think that women can play a big role and unfortunately in Armenia before the revolution I can say that women were oppressed and did not have enough courage to enter the public sphere and be active in social and political issues. With my role, I want to inspire women in Armenia to be more active. I want to show them that we can combine this with household issues and child care. We can help our husbands in caring for the family and contribute a lot to our society and our families.”

Hakobyan was born and raised in Yerevan. Her maternal grandmother’s parents were from Erzeroum and came to Gyumri sometime after the Armenian Genocide. Hakobyan graduated from Yerevan State University in journalism and met her husband there. After graduation in 1997 she had children so she stayed home for two years before starting to work as a journalist in the newspaper her husband was editing. She covered educational issues at first, then the international relations of Armenia and domestic

politics. She took some courses at the American University of Armenia in 2001.

When her husband had to go underground after the March 1, 2008 events in Armenia, and then went to jail, she temporarily became chief editor of *Haykakan Zhamanak* (Armenian Times) newspaper. When Pashinyan returned from prison he briefly took over as editor but then became a member of parliament in 2012 and returned the post to Hakobyan as a permanent one.

She said that she keeps strict boundaries between her work as a journalist and her connection through her husband to the current government. She said, “I have never used information which I obtained through my husband. I have never used that kind of information in the newspaper. It was my belief that I have to be professional in the newspaper and I can only use the information received through professional activity. This is my principle.”

## An Expat Heads Efforts to Improve Diasporan Relations

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While most in Armenia and in the diaspora agree that the Ministry of Diaspora Affairs, created in the government of President Serzh Sargsyan and led since its founding by Hranush Hakobyan, was not able to accomplish much by way of building bridges between the citizens and government of Armenia with the sprawling Armenian diaspora worldwide, the announcement by the post-Velvet Revolution leadership and new Diaspora Minister Mkhitar Hayrapetyan that the ministry would close resulted in much grumbling.

Now, the government, with DerGrigorian as its point person, is reaching out to the diasporan press to let them know about their plans for diasporan relations.

According to DerGrigorian, the high commissioner is going to be the prime minister’s main person in contact with the diaspora. “It is the symbolic and connective aspect of the ministry,” he said.

He stressed that the way the commission is designed to operate is planned to be different from a traditional one. “It will be much more engaged and more than a ministry” he explained. He added that with the position not being a ministry, it would afford the high commissioner to be “freer to be able to be more engaged” with diasporan questions.

DerGrigorian stressed that the high commission will focus on four issues: reparation and integration; pPreservation of Armenian identity (*hayapahpanum*) and community support; creating a pan-Armenian agenda and tapping into the diaspora’s potential to help Armenia.

And, he added, that though the high commission has the purview to operate within the 12 other existing ministries, coordinating their diasporan outreach.

“Any of these 12 ministries will be able to



Babken DerGrigorian and his wife, Karena

actualize programs,” he stressed, such as the Ministry of Education or Ministry of Culture, and work toward maintaining and realizing constructive ties with the diaspora, he added.

“We are going to develop policy and monitor the implementation of that policy and maintain contact,” DerGrigorian said.

By contrast, he said, there was little coordination in the previous approach. “We are taking it to a higher level,” he said.

DerGrigorian, an early supporter of Pashinyan and his former spokesperson, praised the prime minister for “doing a great job communicating” with the diaspora, including recent trips to Iran, Belgium and Germany, where he met with many members of the community.

The plans for the diaspora issues gelled only

in February, DerGrigorian said.

“We are gearing effort to get that message out. The press conferences have been effective, speaking to the diasporan press and meeting with diasporan leaders when they are in the country,” he said. “It is not closing but being transformed.”

### Family History

DerGrigorian’s family history crisscrosses continents. His parents are from Iran and he was born in Paris. His family then moved to Los Angeles, where he grew up. After finishing his undergraduate studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, he moved to the UK, where he received two master’s degrees from the London School of Economics and Politics. He came back to the US to work for the presidential campaign of Barack Obama in Florida for six months.

That experience, plus his time with Birthright Armenia, helped propel him deeper in the realm of activism in support of a government for all in Armenia.

He decided to give Armenia a try and moved there in April 2012.

“It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that it was the best decision of my life,” he said.

In Armenia he worked at several organizations, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office, Open Society, HALO Trust as well as Transparency International.

“One thing led to the next,” he said. “Life has been more interesting.”

There were also ups and downs in his early and eager involvement with activism in Armenia. “I was arrested a number of times but it was all worth it,” he recalled.

Yet even he was surprised by the success of the Velvet Revolution. “I think anyone who says

they predicted the revolution is lying,” he said. The protests were getting bigger and people learned from Electric Yerevan, the previous wave of protests for the rising cost of electricity. In fact, he said proudly that he coined the phrase Electric Yerevan.

DerGrigorian is brimming with optimism. “Armenia is the land of opportunity now,” he said. “Even before [the revolution] it was good place to be. Whatever you set your mind to, you can accomplish,” he said. Now, he added, “people feel they can contribute to society.”

Now, post-revolution, with the demonstrators in office, they have to work within the system and Pashinyan and his band of revolutionaries have to deal with reality in the face of the many promises they have made before getting into office.

“The bar is set very high. I think it should be very high. There are dedicated people who have been looking for change. I think especially once the government structure is changed, there are big changes that will happen quickly,” he said.

The government is not flawless, he said, but added, “what you finally have is a legitimate government that is genuinely interested in making Armenian reach its potential.”

“The important thing is for the diaspora to feel that the new government is very invested in engaging the diaspora,” he said.

So does this child of Los Angeles miss anything from home? “Maybe In and Out Burgers,” but not much else, other than family, of course, he said.

His mother is still in Los Angeles and his sisters in the UK. His wife, Karena, is also an Angelino and happy in Armenia.

“We plan to slowly bring everyone,” he said. “The important thing is for the diaspora to feel that the new government is very invested in engaging the diaspora,” he said.





## INTERNATIONAL

## International News

## New Cuban Ambassador Presents Credentials to President Sarkissian

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — New Ambassador of Cuba to Armenia Emilio Pevida Pupo (based in Nursultan, Kazakhstan) on Friday, March 22 presented his credentials to President Armen Sarkissian.

The Armenian president congratulated the Ambassador on the launch of the diplomatic service, wished him success and expressed hope that the bilateral relations will receive a new content with his active participation.

The President and the Ambassador exchanged views on the opportunities to expand the cooperation in different areas, in particular, highlighting healthcare, pharmaceuticals, biotechnologies and tourism as prospective fields. They also highlighted the great cooperation potential in science, education and cultural areas.

Sarkissian said during the Soviet years many Cubans were studying in Armenia, and expressed a wish to restore this tradition and implement educational, cultural exchange programs.

## Armenia's Investigative Committee Chief Hosts CoE Human Rights Director

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — Chairman of Armenia's Investigative Committee Hayk Grigoryan on Tuesday, March 26, received Council of Europe (CoE) Human Rights Director Christophe Poirel in Yerevan.

During the meeting the Investigative Committee head presented a number of programs worked out by him to enhance the efficiency of preliminary investigation the implementation of which is currently in process, the committee said in a press release.

The CoE human rights director welcomed the programs presented by Grigoryan and expressed readiness to support the process of their implementation.

During the meeting the head of CoE delegation got interested in issues of using detention as a pretrial measure.

Grigoryan presented statistics on applying the measure over the past two years, according to which the number of those detained has dropped year by year in Armenia.

"The announcement of Armenia's prime minister that our goal is not filling up prisons with people, is the best evidence that not only the law enforcement bodies but also Armenia's leaders attach importance to person's dignity and detention is imposed as a pretrial measure only if there are sufficient grounds," he said.

## Artsakh, Canada Parliament Form Friendship Group

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Speaker of Parliament of the Republic of Artsakh Ashot Ghulyan on March 22 sent a letter thanking member of the House of Commons of Canada, Rachael Harder, for the creation of a parliamentary friendship group with the people of Artsakh in Ottawa on March 19 led by her, the Artsakh Parliament told Armenpress.

In the letter Ghulyan wrote, "Dear Mrs. Harder, On behalf of the Artsakh Parliament and personally myself, I express gratitude to you and the members of the group for the desire and determination to develop friendly relations with the people of Artsakh. This initiative is a new institutional level of our cooperation which began two years ago by your visit to Stepanakert. I am sure it will become an effective platform for expanding the mutually beneficial ties between Artsakh and Canada, in particular, in the sphere of humanitarian cooperation."

Ghulyan also sent a gratitude letter to executive director of the Armenian National Committee of Canada Sevak Belyan for assisting the formation of the friendship group.

# Berejiklian Becomes First Female Elected Premier of Largest Australian State

SYDNEY — The Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANCAU) congratulated Armenian-Australian Gladys Berejiklian on becoming the first elected female Premier of Australia's largest state of New South Wales. While it is yet unclear whether she will win with a majority or minority government, the Leader of the Opposition Michael Daley has conceded defeat, and Berejiklian has accepted victory.

A gracious Berejiklian thanked many in her speech, reserving special praise for the people of New South Wales: "No matter your background or where you live, you can be the Premier of New South Wales — a state where someone with a long surname and a woman can be the Premier."

In January 2017, Berejiklian ascended to the position of Premier of New South Wales following the resignation of her predecessor Mike Baird.

Berejiklian's victory has ensured she also makes history as the first leader of the Liberal (LIB) and National (NAT) Coalition to lead her political party to a third consecutive term in office.

"This is a historic day for Armenian-Australians and for the global



Premier Gladys Berejiklian

Armenian community, as Ms. Berejiklian continues to be the most powerful Armenian woman in world politics; this time being elected in her own right to lead the executive branch of a government that runs a state of 7 million people — the largest state of a G20 nation," said ANCAU Executive

Director, Haig Kayserian.

"The Armenian community of New South Wales is filled with joy, as support for Ms. Berejiklian extends beyond party politics — the opportunity for an Armenian-Australian, for 'Our Gladys' to be elected was too big not to get completely behind," Kayserian added.

# Armenian-German Relations Move Forward: Mirzoyan in Berlin

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN — Following Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan's recent state visit to Germany, the process of intensifying contacts between Yerevan and Berlin continues apace. On the invitation of German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the President of the Armenian Parliament Ararat Mirzoyan began a five-day visit to Germany on March 17. In the capital he was received by the President of the Bundestag (Parliament) Wolfgang Schäuble, and was scheduled to meet with parliamentarians, including Petra Pau, Bundestag Vice-President, and Johannes Kars, head of the German-South Caucasus Friendship Group.

His agenda includes discussions with Ralf Wieland, President of the Berlin parliament, Stephan Toscani, President of the Saarland federal state parliament and Parliamentarian Albert Weiler, President of the German-Armenian Forum. The delegation, comprising parliamentarians Ruben Rubinyan, Lilit Makunts, Ednon Marukyan, Naira Zohrabyan and Tsovinar Vardanyan, was invited to visit the German Parliamentary Association (DPG) the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) and the Saarland University.

### Two Peaceful Revolutions

In remarks on March 18 in the Berlin Parliament, Mirzoyan recalled the image still fresh in many Germans' memories of "the Berlin Wall dividing the people, the country and your beloved city from each other." He went on to evoke the events of November 9, 1989 when "the people of Germany united" around the idea of an undivided nation, which led to the collapse of the regime in East Germany, and "resulted in the re-unification of Germany on October 3, 1990, which opened a new page in the world

history. The world is glad to see again a united and dynamic Germany." He referred to a picture in the 'Berlin Wall' Museum, which shows a woman leaning against the wall, with the caption, "The pressure that in 1987 I made with the palm of my hand produced its result after two years."

Turning to his own experience, Mirzoyan said, "The struggle of the citizens of the Republic of Armenia through many years for democracy in our country, protection of human rights and the rule of law resulted in the Velvet, non-violent Revolution in April-May, 2018, which unfolded completely in accordance with the Constitution. Now," he continued, "we should strengthen the democratic model of development and develop its efficiency. In this respect we consider important the deepening of our relations with the EU."

### Working with Europe

"We are resolute to expand and deepen the process of institutional reforms together with our European colleagues. We also highly evaluate the balanced policy being pursued by Germany in the South Caucasus and the support to Armenia in different spheres." The high-level political dialogue established between Germany and Armenia, characterized by "inter-parliamentary cooperation, the expanding cooperation in bilateral and multilateral formats, and the activation of economic and cultural ties serve as evidence of further deepening of cooperation." Mirzoyan said that in the process of enhancing relations, he thought the capital cities in the two countries could play a special role. "I hope that Berlin and our 2800-year old capital Yerevan will be able to carry out joint cooperation programs for learning from each other and exchange of experience. The experi-

ence of Berlin will certainly be useful for the newly elected authorities of Yerevan in the context of urban management and sustainable development of the city economy."

In his meeting with the leadership of the German-Armenian Forum, Mirzoyan reiterated that it is Armenia's intention to seek an even more intensive dialogue with Germany, in which the Forum could play a vital role. Forum President Albert Weiler reported on the aims and activities of the relatively young association. The Forum and its members have followed the political upheavals in Armenia with attention, he said, and welcome the reforms that the new government has announced.

Cooperation with Armenia should be stimulated by the EU-Armenia Partnership Agreement, he said, adding that the Bundestag would vote on the document in April. "With the Partnership Agreement Armenia has a comprehensive and excellent opportunity to develop cooperation with the EU and to carry out reforms in various fields. Our aim," Weiler continued, "is to intensify the political and economic partnership and cooperation with Armenia on the basis of our common values and close ties," and this, he added, includes strengthening participation in European Union policies, programs and agencies.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mirzoyan responded to questions by Forum members. At the event several high-ranking representatives of the city were present, as well as the Primate of the Armenian Church in Germany, Archimandrite Isakhanyan, and the Provost of St. Hedwigs Cathedral, Tobias Przytarski. Forum President Weiler joined Parliament President Mirzoyan in laying a wreath on the memorial stone commemorating the victims of the Armenian genocide.

(Sources: Armenpress, German wires, German-Armenian Forum press release; Mirzoyan speech adapted from "Armedia" Information, Analytical Agency)





# Community News

## Geragos Tangled In Avenatti Extortion Case

By Kyle Swenson

LOS ANGELES (*Washington Post*) – It was November 2003. Mark Geragos was earning a worldwide rep for defending the most reviled man in America inside a courtroom in Modesto, Calif., when his beeper started screaming.

The business at hand was serious enough without digital distractions.

That April, the murdered remains of a missing 27-year-old pregnant woman named Laci Peterson splashed ashore on San Francisco Bay. Police charged the victim’s husband, Scott Peterson, a philandering fertilizer salesman who authorities said killed his wife and unborn son. Most legal experts and TV pundits said the evidence stacked against Peterson made an acquittal a long shot – an opinion echoed by Geragos on cable TV, until the mustachioed and media-savvy Los Angeles attorney decided to represent him.

But as he was in court with Peterson, his pager kept going off. The calls were to alert the attorney that another client, pop star Michael Jackson, had just been served search warrants at his Neverland Ranch. Two days later, Geragos walked Jackson into a police station in Santa Barbara, Calif., where he was charged with child molestation.

Geragos was suddenly thrust front and center in the country’s two most high-profile criminal cases. And his beeper did not shut up. Over a 24-hour period that week, his pager buzzed 700 times, Geragos told the *New York Times*.

“At one point, I thought of throwing it in the ocean,” the attorney explained to the *Times*. “To some degree it is embarrassing. I suppose because I don’t think any of this is about me. It is about the client. Hopefully it passes and passes quickly.”

Geragos, however, never slipped back below the radar.

Over the past two decades, he’s become the go-to attorney for the rich and famous. His client list evokes a tabloid rundown of celebrity mug shots: actor Robert Downey Jr.; actress Winona Ryder; rapper Nate Dogg; presidential sibling Roger Clinton; pop star Chris Brown. Just in the last year, Geragos secured a settlement for Colin Kaepernick in his lawsuit against the NFL and also stepped in to defend “Empire” actor Jussie Smollett against charges he faked a hate crime. The Rolodex of big-name clients, combined with regular cable news appearances, have made Geragos one of the most recognized figures in American law.

“If I’m going to represent somebody, I think at the very least they deserve someone who can find the good in them,” Geragos told the *Los Angeles Times* in 2003. “I don’t think most people are evil. I think sometimes people are demonized unfairly.”

But Geragos is now in his own surprising legal jam.

On Monday, March 25, federal authorities arrested attorney Michael Avenatti, the former lawyer for adult-film actress Stormy Daniels. As the *Washington Post* reported, one indictment see GERAGOS, page 6



Michael Avenatti, Mark Geragos



David Medzorian

## David Medzorian Is Creating ‘Talking Vartan’ Podcast Series

BOSTON – Promoting the Knights and Daughters of Vartan and having fun doing so is just what Asbed David Medzorian of Ararat Tahlij Number One in Boston is doing these days. A member of the Knights since 2017, Medzorian is now producing a podcast series focused on profiling Knights and Daughters of Vartan lodges across the country and the work they are doing on behalf of the Armenian community both here in the states and in Armenia. He is the fifth family member to join the organization. His paternal grandfather joined the Knights nearly a century ago and both of his parents are former commanders of their respective lodges along with a sister who is also a member of Arpie Otyag Number 9.

“Talking Vartan: The Knights and Daughters of Vartan Podcast” made its online debut in February with a profile of his own Boston lodge, Ararat Tahlij Number One as well as Arpie Otyag Number Nine. Featured in the podcast episode were Medzorian’s own father, Nakhkeen Sbarabed Jack Medzorian, Sbarabed Argishti Chaparian, Dirouhie Dr. Knarik Arkun and Tbrabed Nerses Zurabyan. Episode Two, which debuted on March 17th, profiles Gayane Otyag Number Twenty-Two in San Fernando Valley, California with guests being Dirouhie Marie Jamgotchian and Nakgheen Dirouhie Nancy Hammoudian.

Guest interviews for the “Talking Vartan” Podcast are conducted either over the phone or using Skype unless the guests are in the Boston area as they were in Episode One. Medzorian says that face to face conversations are always preferred, but when most of the guests are either hundreds or even thousands of miles away, you let technology do its thing. Once the interviews are recorded, the completed podcast is assembled in Medzorian’s production studio in Arlington, Massachusetts.

Medzorian says the aim of the podcast is to promote the humanitarian work of the Knights and the Daughters and what a positive difference that work is making both in the United States and in Armenia. He says he enjoys hearing about how members band together to make things happen, whether it be to raise money or help build a school in a remote Armenian village. “We are not looking for nor want any accolades”, says Medzorian. “We only want to help our fellow Armenians and to preserve our heritage.” He hopes that the “Talking Vartan” Podcast will help spread the word about what the Knights and Daughters of Vartan are all about and encourage others to join.

The “Talking Vartan” Podcast is for Medzorian, just one more step in a career that began in his early twenties when he began anchoring and reporting the news in Bangor, Maine, followed by anchoring stints in Portland, Maine and Manchester, New Hampshire. In addition to covering multiple presidential campaigns, Medzorian was live on the air from Cape Canaveral in January of 1986 when the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded.

see MEDZORIAN, page 7

## CYSCA to Host Panel Discussion at Tufts University on Artificial Intelligence

MEDFORD, Mass. – Come join us for a panel discussion on artificial intelligence (AI) on April 16 at 7 p.m. at Tufts Alumnae Lounge, 40 Talbot Ave. The event is sponsored by the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA) in conjunction with the annual Cambridge Science Festival. It is being co-sponsored by the Tufts Armenian Club and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

The title of the panel is “Artificial Intelligence: Getting Smarter Every Day” and will be moderated by Aram Adourian. It features Vazgen Hakobjanyan, an AI expert from Armenia, as well as local experts in the field from higher education and industry. The panelists will share examples of how and when AI is being used, as well as what the future holds for this industry. AI is already being used for voice recognition, drones, and Netflix, but the future holds infinite possibilities such as robots thinking like humans, diagnosing and treating medical conditions, solving dark matter, taming climate change, cooking, and job creation (and loss), among many others.

Vazgen Hakobjanyan has been applying AI and mathematical methods throughout his career, and helped to build a number of AI teams in Armenia. He is a partner at SmartGateVC, a seed venture fund that sources startups primarily in Armenia, focusing on AI, Internet of Things (IoT), and emerging Biotech, Quantum Computing, and Blockchain. He is a co-founder at Teamable Software, where he founded and led data science and engineering departments.

He also serves as a board member at YerevaNN, a non-profit computer science and mathematics research lab based in Yerevan, and at Gate42 quantum computing labs which is a scientific research group of physicists, computer scientists, and developers based in Armenia.



Vazgen Hakobjanyan

He has previously worked as a senior R&D engineer in EDA and image processing spaces. Vazgen has a master’s degree with honors in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science at Yerevan State University, and teaches in the AUA MBA program and the Yerevan State University Mathematics faculty.

Aram Adourian, moderator of the panel, earned his PhD at Harvard University in statistical physics, and studied physics and mathematics at Cornell University. He recently joined Flagship Pioneering, an organization that creates breakthroughs in human health and sustainability and builds life sciences companies. He has served as chief scientific officer at BG Medicine, a company created in Flagship Labs that develops diagnostic and computational solutions to aid in the clinical management of chronic diseases. Adourian has also served as a senior researcher at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research at MIT, where he developed novel systems and computational approaches for biomolecular sequencing and modeling. His career in computational sciences spans two decades, with roles in basic and applied research, and product development and commercialization.

The program is free and open to the public, with ample parking available. Refreshments will follow.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Geragos Tangled in Avenatti Extortion Case

GERAGOS, from page 5

against the attorney accuses Avenatti of trying to extort millions of dollars from Nike. Citing sources close to the investigation, the Post reported Geragos is the unnamed “co-conspirator” alleged to have worked the scheme with Avenatti. Following the news, CNN announced it was dropping Geragos as an on-air contributor.

Avenatti has denied the charges. Geragos, who has not been charged, did not respond to an email for comment.

But the link between Avenatti and Geragos goes beyond Monday’s allegations. Both are on-camera naturals fueled by an underdog ethos. And Geragos first landed in the national spotlight in the 1990s by walking into a political firestorm that led right to the White House — circumstances not unlike those that catapulted Avenatti into national recognition over the last year.

Law was in Geragos’s blood. His family were members of Los Angeles’s close Armenian-American community. His father worked as a district attorney before entering private practice.

“My father was sworn in as a D.A. in January 1957, the same month I was conceived,” Geragos told Super Lawyers in 2009. As a kid, Geragos would sit in courtrooms and watch as his father’s cases unfold, an experience that fixed his own trajectory toward the courthouse.

“You could get paid for shooting your mouth off and not much else,” he told Super Lawyers.

Geragos studied anthropology and sociology at Haverford College, then after graduation entered Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. While studying law, he worked up a side business as a rock concert promoter in Pasadena,

booking shows for acts such as the Ramones, the Pretenders, and the Go-Go’s, according to Super Lawyers. In 1983, he began working at his father’s firm.

“He was always a very public kind of person,” Stanley A. Goldman, a friend and former law professor, told the *New York Times* in 2003. “[H]e claims he rarely showed up for class because he was organizing rock concerts. I like Mark Geragos. A lot of people don’t. He can be extremely pushy.”

Geragos’s first splash into mainstream news came more than a decade later, when he began representing a woman at the center of a presidential scandal then dominating national headlines.

Susan McDougal was a former business partner of President Bill Clinton on the failed Whitewater real estate deal. When McDougal refused to testify before a grand jury called by independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr, she was sentenced to 18 months in prison for civil contempt beginning in 1996.

Upon release, McDougal was charged again for criminal contempt and obstruction of justice. At the suggestion of his father, Geragos stepped in to her defense. As he explained to the *New York Times*, Geragos took the case pro bono, explaining to McDougal that because of his Armenian background, he “had a special appreciation for victims of government oppression.”

When McDougal went to trial in Little Rock in 1999, the cornerstone of Geragos’s case was that his client had been railroaded in retaliation for not cooperating in Starr’s “vendetta” against the Clintons. The proceedings started less than a month after Clinton was acquitted

at his impeachment trial in the Senate.

“I fully intend to put Kenneth W. Starr on trial,” Geragos told reporters at the start of the case, the *Post* reported at the time.

The attorney made more headlines by grilling Starr deputy W. Hickman Ewing Jr. on the witness stand. Under Geragos’s questioning, Ewing admitted he had drafted an indictment against Hillary Clinton during the Starr investigation.

“I didn’t like that she was evasive,” Ewing testified, according to Super Lawyers.

“Sort of like you right now?” Geragos snapped back.

The jury acquitted McDougal on the obstruction of justice charge and deadlocked on the criminal contempt charge. Geragos was defiant on the steps of the courthouse. “They don’t have the guts to retry it,” he said, the *Los Angeles Times* reported in 2003. He eventually worked to get McDougal a full pardon in the last hours of Clinton’s presidency.

As Avenatti’s representation of Daniels in her lawsuit against President Trump over an alleged affair punched the attorney’s ticket into cable news green rooms, Geragos’s work for McDougal elevated his career to a new level.

“I always tease him about my case launching him into the limelight,” McDougal told the *New York Times* in 2003. “He was just absolutely perfect.”

Unlike Avenatti, Geragos spun the attention

into a busy practice — too busy, some critics said. In 2003, when he was shuttling up and down California defending both Jackson and Peterson, the pop star eventually replaced him. He continued leading Peterson’s defense, but lost the case; the husband was sentenced to death row.

But those setbacks have not kept his phone from buzzing whenever a high-profile personality is in trouble — including Avenatti. According to the *Hollywood Reporter*, when Avenatti was arrested over an alleged domestic violence situation last November, he consulted with Geragos about the charges. (Prosecutors declined to file any charges related to the incident.)

But if the recent indictment is correct, the two attorneys’ relationship continued last week, when Avenatti and Geragos allegedly approached Nike, threatening to expose employees for funneling payments to top high school basketball players and their families.

The indictment alleges the attorneys demanded the company to hire them both to conduct an internal investigation into the issue for \$15 million to \$25 million. Should the case move forward, both attorneys will likely seek representation cut from the same mold — a vociferous, TV-ready advocate.

“I do take seriously the idea that you’re not supposed to turn down a case just because of its notoriety,” Geragos once told the *Los Angeles Times*.

## OBITUARY

### Donna M. (Pino) Deranian

BELMONT, Mass. — Donna M. (Pino) Deranian, of Belmont, formerly of Medford, died on March 16.



She was the wife of the late Haig K. Deranian. She leaves her children Gregory Deranian and his wife Adrienne of Wayland, Jason

Deranian and his wife Jen of Belmont, and Jennifer Granfield and her husband Mossey of Quincy; grandchildren Nicholas, Christian, Sam, Sophia, and Sebastian; siblings Angela Donahue of Medford, Ursula Gates of Maine and Ann Marie Pino of New Hampshire.

Funeral was from the Dello Russo Funeral Home, 306 Main St., Medford, on Friday, March 22, followed by a Funeral Mass celebrated in St. Luke Church, 132 Lexington St., Belmont. Services concluded with burial at Ridgelawn Cemetery, Watertown.

## Ins and Outs of Real Estate Topic of Trinity Men’s Union Dinner, on April 8

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Trinity Men’s Union of Holy Trinity Armenian Church presents four guest speakers in the field of real estate at its dinner on Monday, April 8, in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St.

The guest speakers are Lauren Carroll, real estate agent; Alex Steinberg, home inspector; David Lazowski, mortgage broker; and Kristina Yee Vitullo, a real estate attorney, who will talk about “What every person should know about buying and selling real estate from your first home to investment properties.”

They will help educate people by speaking to the process of buying and selling real estate, the importance of the home inspection process, the pre-approval/mortgage process, and the importance of having a real estate attorney involved when purchasing or selling real estate and not relying on the “bank’s attorney.” The dinner is open to all.

Carroll is currently employed at Compass Real Estate. She has been working in real estate for more than a decade, focusing on her hometown of Brookline and the surrounding neighborhoods of Newton, Boston, Weston and others. Having taken part in more than \$250 million in residential sales, she is a strong negotiator and will advocate for buyers and sellers every step of the way using her local connections to bring a level of ease to what can be a complex process.

Steinberg has been in the Home Inspection

field for more than 20 years. His company, JBS Home Inspections, Inc., is based in the Greater Boston area. He is proficient in the use of all the latest home inspection tools, including thermal cameras, combustible gas detectors and moisture meters, far surpassing the Commonwealth’s requirement for continuing education. His focus is on residential single family, multi-families and condominiums. He is currently serving as president of ASHI-NE (American Society of Home Inspectors, New England chapter).

Lazowski is the regional senior vice president of Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, a national mortgage company and a Top 10 Correspondent Lender currently doing business in 47 states. Fairway’s team leads the industry in their response times.

Vitullo is a partner at Mason & Martin LLP, having joined the company in 2005. She manages the firm’s real estate department. While her practice is broad, she concentrates on residential and commercial real estate transactions. She represents buyers, sellers, investors, and developers in the acquisition, sale, development, and finance of residential and commercial real estate, including condominium conversions.

The evening will begin with the social hour at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Donation for the Lenten dinner of baked shrimp scampi is \$15 per person. RSVP is requested by April 5 by emailing tmuhtaac@gmail.com.

Read News in Armenian at:



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

**TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION**  
**MHER MEGERDCHIAN THEATRICAL GROUP (MMTG)**

# CALENDAR

**OF EVENTS 2019-2020**

Date	Event Title	Description	Venue
07 APRIL	ALL RISE ...	"All Rise, the Court is in Session" is a play by Perch Zeytuntzyan, based on the trial of the Armenian Hero Soghomon Tehlirian, directed by Gerlad Papasian. This will be the 8th performance of this renowned play.	Kenmore Middle School   WASHINGTON, DC   4:00PM   \$35
03 MAY	RELOADED	Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group's Comedy Club joins Huyser Music Ensemble with a special appearance in their newest show entitled "International Rhythms II - Reloaded".	St. Illuminator's Cathedral   NYC   7:30PM   \$20
18 MAY	COMEDY CLUB	Enjoy a brand new Comedy Show by MMTG's Comedy Club. With Wine & Cheese.	Tekeyan Cultural Center   Englewood Cliffs   8:00PM   \$35
19 MAY	COMEDY CLUB	Enjoy a brand new Comedy Show by MMTG's Comedy Club. With Wine & Cheese.	Tekeyan Cultural Center   Englewood Cliffs   4:00PM   \$35
02 JUNE	LOBSTER NIGHT	Enjoy some delicious lobster with lavish seafood appetizers while enjoying some comedy performed by MMTG's Comedy Club.	Jack's Lobster Shack   Cresskill   7:30PM
12 OCTOBER	A NEW PLAY (COMEDY)	SAVE THE DATE Details to follow...	
13 OCTOBER	A NEW PLAY (COMEDY)	SAVE THE DATE Details to follow...	
07 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS GALA	Save the date for MMTG's 5th Annual Christmas Gala. Details to follow...	ST. THOMAS CHURCH   Tenafly   8:00PM
18 APRIL	Spectacular Extravaganza	SAVE THE DATE Details to follow...	

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE ABOVE EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT**  
**MARIE (201) 745-8850 | TALAR (201) 240-8541**  
[www.facebook.com/TCAMMTG](http://www.facebook.com/TCAMMTG)



David Medzorian shooting footage for a television broadcast in the 1980s

# David Medzorian Is Creating ‘Talking Vartan’ Podcast Series

MEDZORIAN, from page 5

Medzorian left broadcast news on a full-time basis in 1990 and formed his own video production company. In 1994, he served as the official videographer during the Boston visit of the first president of the Republic of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrossian. Two years later, Medzorian was asked to chronicle the Boston visit of the late Catholicos of All Armenians, Karekin I of Blessed Memory. From 1993 to 1998, Medzorian produced, hosted and financed a weekly television program entitled, "Talking Armenian." The program focused on the people and events that comprised the Armenian community of Greater Boston.

In addition to his video production work, Medzorian is also a professional photographer and Voice-Over Artist. He served as official photographer for the Knights and Daughters of Vartan during their 2018 Grand Convocation

in Dearborn, Mich.

Unlike earlier projects which required a television and cable box, the “Talking Vartan” podcast can be heard on-line at any time via the “Talking Vartan” Facebook page, or even downloaded using apps such as iTunes and SoundCloud. Plans are for a new episode every three to four weeks. Upcoming episodes will focus on Knights’ and Daughters’ lodges in California and Pennsylvania as well as a conversation with Avak Dirouhie Diana Tookmanian. Medzorian will also provide extensive coverage from the Times Square Genocide Commemoration on April 28 as well as this summer’s Grand Convocation in Las Vegas.

Taliji and Otyags that wish to be featured on the Talking Vartan Podcast can contact David Medzorian through the “Talking Vartan” Facebook Page or by email at [talkingvartan-podcast@gmail.com](mailto:talkingvartan-podcast@gmail.com).

## To the Editor

BRAVO to Ms. Rebecca Bakalian Hachikian  
for her Letter to the Editor of the *Mirror  
Spectator*.

Time has come for Mr. James Kalustian to resign.

Today, not in May.

**Hirant Gulian,  
Prominent Benefactors,  
Community Parish Members**





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Ambassador Hachigian Serves as First Deputy Mayor of International Affairs in LA

HACHIGIAN, from page 1

going to do next. She said she had known Garcetti for a long time, as he was her representative while he was on the Los Angeles City Council. She had involved him in some of her work while she held positions in think tanks. So when she returned, she wrote a note asking whether he needed anything, and his staff ended up creating this position. She ventured that Garcetti already was thinking about taking such a step and she happened to come around at the right time.

Hachigian immediately hired her team, including people who worked in the White House, State Department, Pentagon, Department of Commerce and the US Trade Representative's office, and others who had worked for the city. She clearly enjoys her work, and exclaimed: "It has been absolutely fantastic. It is a great position and I love it very much." Comparing her new position to that of an ambassador, she said, "in some ways it is not that different from thinking about foreign policy at a national level in the sense that it is still interacting with my foreign counterparts and trying to figure out what we can do together."

## LA in the World

There are three main areas of focus: trade and investment; protocol and policy concerning international relations; and the 2028 Olympics and Paralympics. Hachigian helps businesses in Los Angeles export and tries to attract foreign investment. Her office collaborates closely with the mayor's Office of Economic Development on this.

Her office works on the protocol of foreign visits as well as the policy side of what messages should be conveyed. It operates in an interdepartmental fashion, coordinating with all the different deputy mayors and many departments on international issues.

The City of Los Angeles is a member of a number of international city networks and participates in a variety of conferences and meetings. One big network is called C40 ([www.c40.org](http://www.c40.org)), which is a group of over 90 megacities working to reduce climate emis-

sions, and Garcetti is its vice chair. Cities (<https://www.100resilientcities.org/>), which is concerned with how cities can create infrastructure and processes to bounce back resiliently from disasters. A third one is the Strong Cities Network (<https://strongcitiesnetwork.org>), which is about inclusive security and opposition to violent extremism.

Hachigian accompanies Mayor Garcetti on many of his trips abroad. For example, last year they went to Asia on a trade mission coordinat-

ing it is and how it gives you a perspective on your own life that you really cannot get any other way. You get exposure to the way other people are living and realize that whatever you were born into is not the only way to be, that humans choose to live in all kinds of different ways with all kinds of different cultures and customs, so to give a chance to students who would not otherwise have a chance to have that kind of experience, I think, is really powerful."



U.S. President Barack Obama talks with U.S. ASEAN Ambassador Nina Hachigian on the second of the ASEAN summit on November 13, 2014 in Naypyidaw, Myanmar. The capitol of Naypyidaw hosted the 25th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit as world leaders including Obama, Thai Premier Gen. Prayuth Chan-Ocha, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Indian Premier Narendra Modi will be in attendance. (Source: Paula Bronstein/Getty Images AsiaPac)

ed by Hachigian's office.

The third aspect of Hachigian's job concerns preparing for the 2028 summer Olympic and Paralympic games in Los Angeles. A group called LA28 (<https://la28.org/>) is producing the games but her office is the main liaison to them. Perhaps more importantly, Hachigian pointed out, "The Olympics themselves and the Paralympics are wonderful but we want to think about what we want to leave behind." This time Los Angeles has sufficient facilities, both existing and under construction, to host the games, but, she said, there are other things that the city wants to do anyway, like completely renovate the airport and make sure that it is connected by rail. The goal will be to make sure that these projects will be completed in time for the games.

In addition, Hachigian revealed that for the first time, the International Olympic Committee has given the city money up front to start a youth sports program. Consequently, for the next ten years the city will increase the offerings in its recreation and parks facilities and make sure that those who cannot pay are still able to pay as a sort of "pre-legacy" of the games.

One of her favorite city programs is called the MaYA – the Mayor's Young Ambassador Initiative, in which very low-income students are sent abroad for the first time. The mayor's office has started a program, called the

College Promise program, to have the first year of community college be free. For the students in this program, going on an overseas trip is beyond their means, so Hachigian's office worked with foreign consular officials and governments to provide such an opportunity. American Airlines agreed to offer the flights for free. So far, trips have been arranged to Mexico, Egypt and Japan, and Vietnam will be the fourth destination in the summer of 2019.

Hachigian explained why she likes this program so much: "If you have had the opportunity to travel, you know how incredibly eye-open-

Among the projects that Hachigian wants to carry out in the future is a study of why Los Angeles does not have as many think tanks and nongovernmental organizations dealing with international affairs as other cities with comparable size and global connections. The research will be done pro bono with the Boston Consulting Group.

A second project would be to create an international initiative concerning moving to gender equity. Hachigian pointed out: "Over half of the commissioners the mayor appoints are women, which has never before happened in the city of Los Angeles. We have dramatically increased the number of girls who are playing in parks. Over half of the deputy mayors are women and his chief of staff. We have even increased the number of female firefighters, police officers and computer programmers, so these are women in non-traditional roles. A woman runs our airport and a woman runs our department of transportation. So we have done it and there is a playbook for how to do it." Hachigian would like to be able to share this experience and learn from other cities as well.

## Career in International Relations

Hachigian embarked upon her career in international relations armed with an undergraduate degree from Yale University and a law degree from Stanford University. She said, "Law school definitely gave me the skill to figure out what the real problem is – what is at the crux, at the heart, of the matter. But I think it has been just my years of experience in developing projects with foreign counterparts and of course my work as an ambassador that have been helpful for this role."

When asked to define her approach or school of international relations, Hachigian replied, "Every practitioner is either a liberal realist or a realist liberal. All practitioners realize that yes, power matters, but it is not the only thing that matters. Relationships matter, kinds of government matter, international organizations matter, international norms matter in the outcome, so it is neither one nor the other."

She worked as a special assistant at the National Security Council during the Clinton Administration from 1998 to 1999, went to an

international affairs fellowship at the Council on Foreign Relations, and served as director of the RAND Center for Asia Pacific Policy from 2000 to 2007. Afterwards she worked at the Center for American Progress (CAP), a public policy research and advocacy organization, as a senior vice president and senior fellow until 2014. CAP was founded by John Podesta, former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton and Obama's Presidential Transition director.

Hachigian participated in Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2012 as codirector of Asia policy and, in 2014, was appointed by his administration as ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), based in Jakarta, Indonesia, in which position she continued to serve until January 2017.

Hachigian said that since she was only the second US ambassador to ASEAN, she had to make sure the mission was the right size, hire the right people, and continue to help build the mission. She started the US ASEAN Women's Leadership Academy and launched an economic initiative called US-ASEAN Connect. She also helped increase the size of the Young Southeast Asian Leader Initiative to over 100,000 members. She said she was proud of all these achievements, while getting to work with President Obama at the annual ASEAN summit where the heads of state meet "was an incredibly high honor."

She helped create Women Ambassadors Serving American (WASA) at the start of 2017, has called for greater numbers of women in leadership positions (<http://time.com/4863700/women-leaders-work-equality/>), and has been outspoken against sexual harassment. In November 2017, during the start of the Me Too movement, she coauthored an open letter with former State Department official Jenna Ben-Yehuda that was signed by 223 women in national security for the US, declaring that the signatories either experienced or knew someone who experienced sexual harassment and assault. The letter calls for leadership to make it clear that this behavior is unacceptable, stronger reporting, external independent data collection, mandatory training for all employees and mandatory exit interviews of all women leaving federal service.

Hachigian has been a frequent author, contributor to or editor of reports and articles published in Foreign Affairs, Washington Quarterly, Democracy, and Survival, and by the RAND Corporation, as well as opinion pieces appearing in major newspapers. She has appeared as a guest on various news shows.

She coauthored *The Next American Century: How the U.S. Can Thrive as Other Powers Rise* (Simon & Schuster, 2008). The introduction to this volume singles out the cooperation of China, Russia, Japan, the European Union, India and the United States on the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor in Cadarache, France as a model for the future. It states that these powers want what the US wants: "a stable, peaceful, prosperous world organized around nation-states. No fundamental, intractable dispute divides us. None are ideological adversaries. This book argues that rather than worrying about these powers' relative gains, the United States should focus on renewing itself, and take advantage of this moment to work with them to solve humanity's pressing problems. The pure zero-sum days of great power relations are behind us."

Six years later, Hachigian served as editor of another book, *Debating China: The U.S. – China Relationship in Ten Conversations* (Oxford University Press, 2014), in which she pairs Chinese and American scholars in dialogues. She and Chinese security expert Dr. Yuan Peng contributed their own chapter, titled "Global Roles and Responsibilities." Despite distrust between the two countries, no author believed confrontation between these two major powers was inevitable. In agreement with the approach evinced in Hachigian's prior book, Hachigian writes, "None sees a relationship that is necessarily zero-sum – quite the opposite. The United



Nina Lusine Hachigian (photo: Aram Arkun)

sions, and Garcetti is its vice chair.

Hachigian said that Los Angeles is in general "as a city measuring our progress according to the sustainable development goals, which is a kind of global development effort among nation states to reach certain goals by 2030, like reducing hunger, maternal mortality and carbon emissions." There are 17 such goals and Los Angeles, Hachigian said, does a very in-depth analysis of how to promote those goals and track its progress "to be a good global citizen."

Another international network in which Los Angeles participates is called the 100 Resilient





## COMMUNITY NEWS



Mayor's Young Ambassador Initiative trip to Egypt

States and China can both provide fulfilling lives for their people, at the same time, and can even help one another reach that essential goal" (p. xvi).

Today Hachigian continues to deal with US-China relations in Los Angeles, which has a big trading relationship with China. The Chinese are the second largest group of foreign tourists to LA and invest in real estate in the city. There are many Chinese official delegations visiting to learn about city management and also much cultural exchange. She said that it is a complicated relationship that cannot be easily and concisely summed up.

Hachigian said, "On the one hand, we disagree on a lot of important matters like our values and the importance of the rule of law. I saw that when I was an ambassador in Southeast Asia. On the other hand, we have to cooperate with them, especially on the major issue of climate change, in order to make sure we don't feel the worst aspects of global warming. So I

would say that the Trump Administration is not wrong in some aspects...on the stealing of intellectual property, the forced technology transfer, the restrictions on American investors and a whole bunch of other problems. I don't always know if they have the full strategy figured out about how they are going to change those things and at the same time be able to cooperate on things that we have to cooperate on, like climate change. Of course in their case, they don't believe in climate change, which is convenient, but for the rest of us, we need to worry about those things."

Hachigian has been outspoken and critical of the Trump Administration's approach to foreign policy. Prior to assuming her Los Angeles position, she wrote in Foreign Affairs at the end of April 2017 that the Administration "lacks a sound policy process." She said, "My broad concerns are, first, that because of process deficiencies, the United States will accidentally or purposefully take actions that cause or worsen

a major crisis, and next, that American global leadership is falling off a cliff."

On the other hand, she praised Mayor Garcetti, declaring "He is a voice for what I think of as true American values of integrity and inclusion, and pushing for individual rights, respecting and promoting the rule of law and promoting human rights." With a different approach being followed on the federal level, Hachigian explained what can be done locally, stating, "We maintain our values. We are not going to align with approaches that are hostile and exclusionary and don't treat our allies well. There are limits as to what a city can do but to the degree that we can be the voice of cooperation and welcoming, we want to be that voice." She stressed in a Washington Post article in November 2017 that "We don't have a separate foreign policy. We have initiatives and city-to-city cooperation."

## Armenian Involvement

Hachigian is half German and half Armenian, with her paternal grandparents originally from Musa Dagh. She has relatives that she knows about in Lebanon. Her father grew up in New Jersey and she grew up in New York. She said

wearing her Armenian grandmother's locket and that the latter had fled persecution to come to the United States.

Hachigian went to Armenia in 1988 right before the great earthquake with an ACYOA group. She was in college and documented the protests that were happening. She took a lot of photographs and wrote She can speak just a little Armenian. an article in a Rochester newspaper. She said, "I plan to go again, hopefully this year, and take my children and husband."

Hachigian noted that Mayor Garcetti represented Little Armenia when he was a city council member, so "he has a special place in his heart for the Armenians." He speaks at the Armenian Genocide commemoration ceremonies every year and attends various galas and celebratory events, as does Hachigian.

He also has met with various officials of the Republic of Armenia. In November 2017, Garcetti met with the Armenian minister of defense in Los Angeles while the latter was on his way to a peacekeeping conference and discussed the Artsakh or Nagorno-Karabakh issue ([https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/frustrated-foreign-leaders-bypass-washington-in-search-of-blue-state-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/frustrated-foreign-leaders-bypass-washington-in-search-of-blue-state-allies/2017/11/17/3ad10e80-cbab-11e7-8321-481fd63f174d_story.html?utm_term=.e78e7c25c03a)

# SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

## Armenian American Veterans of Greater Boston

Formerly

The Paul S. Marsoubian Amvets Post 41 of Watertown, MA, announces an academic scholarship program and Selection process for its past, present and deceased members in good standing, of Amvets Post 41.

Applicants must be members in good standing, for at Least three years, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, including those of deceased members Who were in good standing at the time of their demise.

To be eligible for consideration, applications must be Received by April 30 of any given year.

Requests for AAVGB scholarship applications should be directed to and requested of:

**Harold R. Partamian**  
**Scholarship Committee Chairman**  
**6 Apache Trail**  
**Arlington, MA 02474**  
**781-641-0002**  
**Email: apache927@verizon.net**



Nina Hachigian with Mayor Eric Garcetti on a trip to Asia last August

that she and her family would attend St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City, and after she was around 12 years old, St. James Armenian Church in Westchester County, New York. Hachigian still can speak a little Armenian.

She went to church every Sunday and was in the choir. In high school she became cochair of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) chapter. She said, "My dad [Dr. Jack Hachigian] was always very involved in the Armenian Church and community, so I was as well...I grew up visiting my Armenian grandmother and the community where my dad grew up in Paterson, New Jersey." Her relationship to that grandmother was so important to her that decades later she mentioned in her May 2014 nomination hearing for ambassador at the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations that she was

allies/2017/11/17/3ad10e80-cbab-11e7-8321-481fd63f174d\_story.html?utm\_term=.e78e7c25c03a).

Hachigian said that she hopes that the new consul-general of the Republic of Armenia, Ambassador Armen Baibourtian, will help develop some projects that can be done with the city. She said, "Since my shop didn't exist [earlier] and he is new, in terms of the mayor's office there is not a formal project yet, but obviously there are all kinds of cooperation that go on in general between the Armenian community here and Armenia." She said that while she does not know how many Armenians there are in Los Angeles, there is a significant number.

Hachigian added that Los Angeles has a sister city relationship with Yerevan and usually the big anniversaries of a given sister city relationship are celebrated.





COMMUNITY NEWS

# Armenian Heritage Park Plans Year of Activities, Beginning with Reconfiguration

BOSTON — On Sunday morning, April 7, beginning at 7 a.m., the annual reconfiguration of the Abstract Sculpture heralds the start of a new year of programs at Armenian Heritage Park on Boston's The Greenway.

A crane will lift and pull apart the two halves of the split rhomboid dodecahedron to create a new sculptural shape.

Annually in the early spring, the Abstract Sculpture, a split rhomboid dodecahedron made of steel and aluminum, is reconfigured, symbolic of all who pulled away from their countries of origin and came to Massachusetts, establishing themselves in new and different ways, contributing to the richness of American life and culture.

Overseeing the annual configuration will be Aurelian Mardiros, A&A Industries, fabricator of the Abstract Sculpture, their generous gift-in-kind; Jerry Rigging Corporation; Bill Martin who oversees the Park's Care and maintenance on behalf of the Armenian Heritage Foundation, and Don Tellalian, AIA, Park's architect/designer. The Park's Charles G. and Doreen Bilezekian Endowed Fund supports the annual reconfiguration.

The park's Abstract Sculpture is dedicated to lives lost in the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23

Programs showcase the park's two features, the Abstract Sculpture and Labyrinth, a circular winding path to celebrate life's journey. At the Labyrinth's center is a single jet of water, representing hope and rebirth; its waters

coming together on common ground. Morgan Atkins, director, Culture and School Climate, the Eliot K-8 Innovation School with the fourth-grade students and their teachers, will be joined by Jason Behrens and Manneh

Heritage Park and is funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

During the Fall and Winter, annual programs include Sunday Afternoon at the Park on September 22 from 2-4pm, New Citizens



The various configurations of the Abstract Sculpture at the Armenian Heritage Park



The labyrinth

reemerging from the Reflecting Pool upon which the Abstract Sculpture sits. Etched around the Labyrinth's circle - Art, Service, Science, Commerce - in tribute to contributions made to American life and culture.

On Saturday, May 4 at 1 p.m., Celebrate Public Art at the park, the two-part ArtWeek program, begins with participating in World Labyrinth Day: Walk As One at 1 p.m., the international initiative of the Labyrinth Society, joining people in cities and towns in 35 countries worldwide including Gyumri, Armenia, all walking in peace and harmony. A reception to view the new configuration of the Abstract Sculpture follows.

Ted Touloukian, AIA, Chair, Board of Trustees, Boston Society of Architects Foundation; president and founder, Touloukian

Inc., will offer remarks. The brief program will introduce "Geometry as Public Art: Telling A Story," an innovative curriculum inspired by the park's two geometric features. The curriculum's intent is, to spark awareness of geometry as a creative expression of ideas and thoughts and to celebrate what unites and connects us — the immigrant experience while

Ghazarians, also on the Friends of Heritage Park Curriculum Team.

Tea and Desserts will be hosted by Eastern Lamejun Bakers and MEM Tea Imports.

"Tea & Tranquility," the popular late afternoon monthly series from 4:30-6 p.m., begins on Wednesday, June 12, with desserts and ice teas hosted by MEM Tea Imports. An introduction to walking the labyrinth, mindful or meditative walking, is at 4:45 p.m.

June's "Under the Strawberry Moon," hosted by vicki lee's, promises to be a highlight as will "Under the August Moon," hosted by anoush'ella. Both feature the Berklee All-Star Jazz Trio.

"Celebrating What Unites Us," a collaborative program to celebrate the immigrant experience while building community and cross-cultural understanding begins again at the Park in May. Collaborators include City of Boston, Age-Friendly Boston, Boston Strong, the Kitchen at Boston Public Market together with Friends of

Welcome Reception, HUBweek at the Park, Najarian Lecture at Faneuil Hall, Candlelit Labyrinth Walk and, for the first time, an Extraordinary Benefit at the InterContinental Hotel on September 18, 2019. Stay tuned.

Programs at the Park are planned by a team comprising those providing key leadership for programs and initiatives and include: Armine Afeyan, Kristin Asadourian, Jason Behrens, Alexis Demirjan, Susan Deranian, Tom Dow, Manneh Ghazarians, Martha Mensoian, Catherine Minassian, Dr. Armineh Mirzabegian, Tsolen Sarian, Barbara Tellalian, Chiara Megighian Zenati and Zareh Zurabyan with Carol Foley, Arlette Yegumians and Ann Zacarian and many others joining the team planning specific programs.

Programs are listed on ArmenianHeritagePark.org. To volunteer, email hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

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### The Center for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation hosts

## Sato Moughalian, author

### Feast of Ashes: the Life and Art of David Ohannessian

**Thursday, April 11, 2019, 7 p.m. Pitkin Education Bulding, Room A-104**

The story of David Ohannessian, the renowned ceramicist who in 1919 founded the art of Armenian pottery in Jerusalem, where his work and that of his followers is now celebrated as a local treasure. Ohannessian's life encompassed some of the most tumultuous upheavals of the modern Middle East. Born in an isolated Anatolian mountain village, he witnessed the rise of violent nationalism in the waning years of the Ottoman Empire, endured arrest and deportation in the Armenian Genocide, founded a new ceramics tradition in Jerusalem under the British Mandate, and spent his final years, uprooted, in Cairo and Beirut.

*Cohosts: Tekeyan Cultural Association, Armenian International Women's Association- NJ Affiliate, The Daughters of Vartan*

RSVP [nbeylerian@bergen.edu](mailto:nbeylerian@bergen.edu). Books will be available for sale and signing

Sponsored by the Center for Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation and the Office of Multicultural Affairs

[www.bergen.edu/pjr](http://www.bergen.edu/pjr)



# Arts & Living

## ADAA, Antaeus Theatre Present 'Triumph of the Armenian Spirit'

GLENDALÉ — The Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance (ADAA), in partnership with Antaeus Theatre Company, will present a special performance to commemorate the 104th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide on Tuesday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m. at Antaeus Theater's Kiki & David Gindler Performing Arts Center, 110 E. Broadway.

Antaeus is an actor-driven theater company that explores and produces timely and timeless works, grounded in a passion for the classics, illuminating diverse human experiences through performance, training and outreach.

To honor Armenian arts and heritage — and to celebrate a momentous past year in Armenian modern history — ADAA and Antaeus will present "Triumph of the Armenian Spirit," featuring excerpts of new Armenian plays from some of Los Angeles' brightest writers, actors and directors: Directors Michael Arabian, Susan Kelejian, Armina LaManna and Michael Peretzian will present pieces by Michael Arlen, Bianca Bagatourian, Susan Kelejian and Adriana Sevahn Nichols, including a vast cast of actors.

The program will be dedicated to the memory of world-renowned Armenian composer Michel Legrand and will feature his music, performed by Alene Aroustamian, Greg Hosharian and Salpy Kerkorian. The show will be introduced by Antaeus Executive Director Ana Rose O'Halloran and produced by ADAA President Bianca Bagatourian, who stated, "We are very excited about year's program. The aim is to give space to various artists to experiment with new pieces of writing." Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church will be in attendance to present the invocation. A reception with the cast and crew will take place in the library directly following the performance.

Tickets will be available to the public for a small donation on [www.ArmenianCalendar.com](http://www.ArmenianCalendar.com).

## Knights' Lodge Sponsors Worcester Exhibit About Armenian Genocide

WORCESTER — Due to renovations to the Worcester Public Library, the Fifth Annual Exhibit sponsored by Arshavir Lodge No. 2 of the Knights Of Vartan commemorating the 104th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide will take place in the Abrahms Gallery, 1st floor of the Higgins University Center at Clark University, 950 Main St. The title of the exhibit is "The Glory of Ancient Armenia," photographs, documents, and artifacts trace aspects of the history of Armenia from A.D. 301 back to 7500 B.C.



Anna Alexanyan

The official opening will take place at Abrahms Gallery's Grace Hall on Tuesday, April 2 at 6 p.m., and features a lecture by Anna Alexanyan, a PhD Candidate in Clark's Strassler Center For Holocaust and Genocide Studies, who will speak on "The Response Of Different Women To Genocidal Crimes." Other program highlights include a presentation of books and videos on the Armenian Genocide to the Rose Library from the Knights Of Vartan. Also, a City Proclamation will be read by Mayor Joseph Petty and State Representative David Muradian will present State Citations.

The exhibit and opening ceremony are free and open to the public.



Diana Apcar in Japan in 1890

## Armenian Museum Presents Exhibit Dedicated to Diana Apcar And Berjouhi Kailian

WATERTOWN — The Armenian Museum presents a new exhibition in the Adele & Haig Der Manuealian galleries that explores the intertwined lives of diplomat Diana Agabeg Apcar (1859–1937) and artist Berjouhi Kailian (1914–2014). In 1919, history connected these two women in Yokohama, Japan. As refugees from the Armenian Genocide, Kailian and her mother found themselves in the shadow of Apcar's sturdy branches as she helped them find their way to a new home in the United States. Kailian's creative life flourished for 95 more years because of the diplomat's compassion.

This exhibition centers on the notion that individuals who take a stand can impact lives exponentially.

Not many know of Diana Apcar and the impact she had on shaping the discourse about the plight of Armenians during WWI. Born in Rangoon, Burma (Yangon, Myanmar) into a prominent Armenian merchant family, she grew up in Calcutta, and later moved to Yokohama with her husband to start a new company. In Japan, she became aware of the plight of her fellow Armenians in the Ottoman Empire and acted as an unofficial diplomat to write letters, newspaper articles, and books to create a network of support for Armenians throughout the world. She provided food and shelter, helped with visas and travel documents, and fiercely negotiat-



Berj Kailian, "Untitled," mixed media on board, about 1970

ed with the steamship companies to unite Armenian refugees with relatives in the United States. She was named Honorary Consul to Japan by the Armenian Republic, making her one of the first female diplomats in the modern age.

A survivor of the Armenian Genocide, Berj Kailian fled from her home in Ottoman Turkey, strapped to her mother's back, who made her way to Yerevan. They managed to board the Trans-Siberian railroad to a refugee camp in Vladivostok, Russia, where Diana Apcar reached out to bring them to shelter in Yokohama. She arranged their passage on the Mexico Maru to sail to Seattle, Wash., where they made their way to join family in Weymouth, Mass. Kailian

see EXHIBIT, page 13

## Jonathan Conlin to Speak on 'Calouste Gulbenkian and The Pasdurma Problem' at Fresno State

FRESNO — Dr. Jonathan Conlin of Southampton University (United Kingdom), will give a presentation on "Calouste Gulbenkian (1869-1955) and the Pasdurma Problem" at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 on the Fresno State campus. The presentation is part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring 2019 Lecture Series.

Born into the Armenian merchant elite of Istanbul in 1869, the renowned oil magnate Calouste Gulbenkian made his fortune as a "business architect," persuading rival oil companies to collaborate for their mutual enrichment, particularly in the Middle East. The violent collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the Armenian Genocide and the attempt to establish a secure "Armenian National Home" at Versailles barely affected Gulbenkian, who appeared uninterested in being a "good Armenian." His fellow Armenians nonetheless looked to him as benefactor and a leader of their diaspora. He was thus appointed to the presidency of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Paris-based philanthropy which sought to promote the welfare of Armenian refugees.

Although Gulbenkian spent the whole of his life living in hotels, he built the nearest thing he ever had to a "home" in Paris in the 1920s. This talk will consider the biographer's challenges in addressing what Gulbenkian's daughter dubbed "the pasdurma problem": the question of how to situate oneself as a family which showed little interest either in being "good Armenians" or in assimilation. It argues that Gulbenkian's cosmopolitanism reflected the amira class from which he hailed as much as it did that supranational world of multi-national oil companies whose emergence Gulbenkian did so much to foster.

Born in New York, Conlin studied history and modern languages at Oxford before undertaking graduate degrees at the Courtauld Institute and Cambridge, where he was subsequently appointed a Fellow of Sidney Sussex College. Since 2006 he has taught history at the University of Southampton. His books include a history of the National Gallery (London), a comparative history of Paris and London and a biography of Adam Smith. In



Dr. Jonathan Conlin

2019 he published *Mr. Five Per Cent: The Many Lives of Calouste Gulbenkian, World's Richest Man*, the product of five years' research in 10 countries.

Copies of *Mr. Five Per Cent* will be on sale at the lecture.

The lecture is free and open to the public.





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# April Events at Gallery Z

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Gallery Z, celebrating 19 years on historic Federal Hill, in a remodeled and more spacious gallery, will be showcasing selected Armenian artists in April, chosen from its extensive niche collection of exceptional fine artists of Armenian origin, past and current, amongst the gallery's stable of more than 400 established artists of all backgrounds.

There will be two special events at the gallery this month. On Thursday, April 11, 6:30-8 p.m., an author from Armenia, Dr. Melineh Anumyan, will present her book, *Acknowledgement and Condemnation: The Trials of Young Turks in 1919-1921 and 1926*. Refreshments will follow.

The following week, on Thursday, April 18,

an opening reception for the exhibit of "Armenian Artists from Around the World" will take place in conjunction with Gallery Night Providence on 5 to 9 p.m.

April's featured artist is Harut Aghajanian, an Armenian artist born in Iran in 1956. He studied at the Terlemezian College art school in Yerevan from 1984 to 1987. His paintings have been exhibited in Beirut and Boston. Many of his works are in private collections in the US and Europe. His intricate figurative works on paper are in both black and white and soft wash tones.

Anoush Charlene Bargamian, a.k.a. Sweet Angst, born in 1963 and raised in Providence, is an artist/art educator living and working in Chicago. Her abstract paintings and prints employ many mixed media. Her *Horses of Honor* public art installation was installed in 2014 at the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, UBS Tower, Chicago.

Harutune Hovhanesian, born in 1922, taught for 25 years at the Yerevan Teachers' Training Institute, and states: "A bad teacher represents the truth; a good one teaches how to find it."

George V Kaprielian was born in Providence. He is a self-taught local photographer and has commemorated notable Providence landmarks in striking close-up angles.



Harutune Hovhanesian: "Mgherni"



George V. Kaprielian: "Armenian Sisters"

Kevork Mourad, born in 1970 in Syria of Armenian origin, is a world-renowned artist who also combines art with music, dance and theatre. He has had solo exhibitions around the world and has works in museums worldwide. He has produced and directed plays and musical-visual projects, has perfected a technique of spontaneous painting to live music, and is a teaching-artist member of Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble. A new visual-musical piece commissioned by the Metropolitan Museum of Art,

NYC, premiered there on November 2, 2018. He lives and works in New York City, when not traveling internationally.

Marsha Nouritza Odabashian has exhibited in galleries and museums in Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, California and Louisiana and has works in numerous collections.

An additional Gallery Z website for Armenian Art, [armenianartgalleryz@gmail.com](mailto:armenianartgalleryz@gmail.com), showcases the many renowned Armenian artists' works represented, which may also be purchased online.

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## ARTS &amp; LIVING

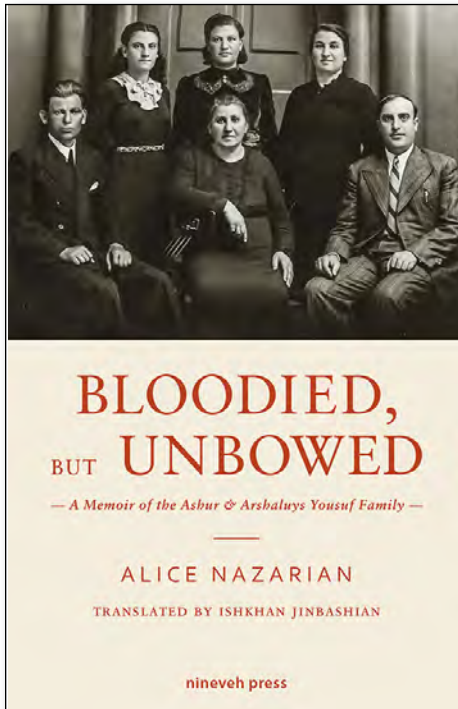
# A Family's Journey through Tortuous Roads of Grim Survival

LOS ANGELES — A special book release event was held on March 5 at Abril Bookstore in Glendale, celebrating the publication of Alice Nazarian's book titled *Bloodied But Unbowed: A Memoir of the Ashur & Arshaluys Yousuf Family*. More than 125 attendees, including descendants of the late author, gathered to hear presentations made by Dr. S. Peter Cowe (UCLA Narekatsi Professor of Armenian Studies) and Dr. Rubina Peromian (UCLA Research Associate). Speaking on behalf of the family were John Nazarian (son of author), Arda Darakjian Clark (granddaughter of the author) and Haig Boyadjian (great-grandson of the author).

Nazarian's memoir tells the story of

her parents and family in the shadow of the Armenian/Assyrian Genocide. Her father, Ashur Yousuf, a prominent Assyrian intellectual and professor at Euphrates College in Kharpert became a victim of the Genocide in

1915. Her mother, Arshaluys Yousuf, heroically struggled on after her husband's death, raising their six children while helping educate countless young children in orphanages and schools in the Middle East. The memoir comprises a narrative of the turbulent life of Arshaluys and a section devoted to writings by and about Ashur Yousuf. This English translation, while faithful to the original Armenian, contains some new material and an updated genealogy of the descendants of Ashur and



Descendants of Ashur and Arshaluys Yousuf's family

Arshaluys Yousuf.

Alice Nazarian was the fifth child of Ashur and Arshaluys Yousuf. In addition to this memoir, she wrote numerous articles, poems, and lectures. She was well-known in Aleppo, Syria, as an educator and director of plays. Having lived most of her life in Aleppo, she immigrated

to the United States in 1967, two years following the original Armenian publication of her memoir in Beirut. She died in Los Angeles in 1976.

The book may be purchased online at [www.ninevehpress.com](http://www.ninevehpress.com) or at Abril Bookstore in Glendale, CA.

## Armenian Museum Presents Exhibit Dedicated to Diana Apar and Berjouhi Kailian

EXHIBIT, from page 11

became an artist and made paintings and prints, many of which recall her early history as a refugee in a visceral way. Layered surfaces with earthbound colors reveal a buried past that revisited her memory throughout her long life. This significant body of work was donated by her family to the Armenian Museum in 2018.

"Brought together for the first time, the objects, ephemera, and paintings on display connect these two women to tell this important story of persistence, survival, and witness," said Jennifer Liston Munson, the museum's executive director.

The exhibition will take place in the newly-renovated third floor galleries. This contemporary space, designed by Ben Thompson in 1969, has polished concrete floors and a cement waffled ceiling, and will contain objects from Diana Apar's life, including her pen that she used to write diplomats, world leaders, and friends around the world. Her personal papers and official documents will help tell the story of her astounding ability to create an extensive global network of supporters a hundred years before the emergence of social media.

The museum's recent acquisition of Kailian's work includes mixed media paintings on wood panels that seem to come from the earth—the thick layers are gouged, chiseled, and marked as part of a physical process "to release the hurt". Suppressed loss emerges through to the surfaces with recurring imagery of lost architecture to convey the frenzy of looking for the siblings she will never find.

The opening reception and gallery talk will take place on April 24, 6 to 8.30 p.m., with a candlelight gallery viewing to observe Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day, on the first floor, starting at 6 p.m., with a reception and gallery talk at 7 p.m. at the Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries.

This exhibition will open on April 24, 2019 in recognition of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. The Armenian Museum wishes to engage in meaningful dialogue around this solemn subject that permeates Armenian experience around the world.

For more information, visit [www.armenian-museum.org](http://www.armenian-museum.org).



TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
MHER MEGERDCHIAN THEATRICAL GROUP OF GREATER NEW YORK

PROUDLY PRESENTS

# ԴԱՏԱՐԱՆԱԻՏ, ՈՏՓՔ...

A PLAY BY BERJ ZEYTOUNTSIAN

## All Rise, The Court is in Session

DIRECTED BY GERALD PAPASIAN

DEDICATED TO THE TRIAL OF  
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UNDER THE AUSPICES OF  
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AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY  
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## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Vanush Babayan: Armenian Dance Teacher from China

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN/SHANGHAI – Vanush Babayan, the art director of Hang Zhou Great Ballet Art Culture and the director of the international line at Allegro Dance Academy is a kind of crossing point of my studies on Armenian-Chinese historical and cultural relations and the Armenians' participation in world choreography. This young man, originally from Yerevan, has worked for China for many years, teaching hundred of Chinese children and adults the ABCs of classical dance.

**Vanush, why did you prefer distant and exotic China, while the majority of Armenian ballet professionals look to the West?**

There is plenty of space for choreography in China. A large number of international dance teachers and ballet masters work there. A Russian dance instructor from Harbin learned from his colleagues that there is a certain young Armenian who possesses good technique in modern ballet and also wants to teach, and invited me to work at the Dalian International School of Dancing. First I went just for a try, two months later they signed a one-year contract with me and then offered me the post of the school's deputy director... and thus for thirteen years, I have lived and worked in China.

**Are you from a ballet family?**

My parents are musicians. I graduated the piano department of a musical school and then started to dance. First I went to the Armenian dance group and then in St. Petersburg I took modern ballet classes with private tutors. During six years, I took part in the paid classes of the Vaganyan College of Choreography and other specialized schools for half a year period. In St. Petersburg, I participated in "The Evil Forces" and "The Detainees" modern ballet shows, as well as ran seminars there, in Volgograd and elsewhere. In 1998, I left for Karvachar for military service on the front line.

**I hope your feet have not been damaged in military boots.**

There was such a problem – a painful issue for ballet dancers in Armenia. But my service went very well. I received the title of senior sergeant and later of petty officer. After completing my military service, I renewed my professional training. For one year I danced at the Barekamutian (Friendship) dance group led by veteran dancer Norayr Mehrabyan and the Tatoul Altunyan Song and Dance Ensembles. At the same time for four years I was studying classical dances with Paylak Sargsyan, an exceptional pedagogue and choreographer, whom I consider my main teacher. Whenever I return to Yerevan, I meet Mr. Sargsyan and always learn something new from him. In Yerevan I also founded Van Dance Studio, as well as taught classical dance in different schools. In 2002, we founded Parmani Dance Studio with Smbat Klekchyan, teaching folk, character and classical dances. As I had a good modern ballet school and the Chamber Music Theater was just founded in Yerevan, I was advised to try myself there. I worked in that theater for two years. I participated in the musicals "Cats," "Notre-Dame de Paris," "Lilith," and "Chicago." Then the government began to make some claims against our theater building, and I accepted the invitation to work in China. At Dalian International Dance School, they wanted to develop classical dance, as previously they taught only Latin American dances.

**With what language did you communicate at the beginning?**

English, but from the earliest years I was good in mastering languages, so in two years by myself I learned and became fluent in Chinese. So far no one believes that I have learned the language on my own. I have not attended any courses. I worked for four and a half years at the Dalian International Dance School. Then I decided to expand the circle, and in other cities I held seminars with dance teachers and students. I wanted to create my own school, but in 2013, I was offered work at the Beijing Huajia Choreography Academy for a year. It is a large-scale professional school, closely cooperating with Korea, England, and other countries, with about

500 pupils, all of them living, sleeping, eating, and studying in that school. In 2013 I obtained a certificate from the International Dance Board of England, which is the highest one for dance teachers. Before that, in 2008, I received the Order of International Referee of the All-China Dancing Federation and became a member of the All-China Teachers Examination Board.

**Tell us about your young students. How do they address you?**

At first, Vanush Laoshi (teacher), but my name was hard to pronounce, so now they call me Babayan Laoshi. In China, one of my greatest achievements is connecting with my student Han Yuying, whom I have been teaching for eleven years. In 2014 she won the first prize at the age of 17 and in 2016 the third prize in a higher age group in the royal ballet competition in Italy. By the way, she came to Yerevan before arriving in Italy, and we practiced in our country, which was brilliant. Han Yuying was awarded also the Royal Dance Grand Prix in 2017 in Beijing. When I was the jury chairman of the Hellas Youth Ballet Competition in Athens in 2017, Han Yuying was a jury member, which was also a matter of pride for me. Of my students in Armenia, Mariam Karapetyan is now a ballet dancer in Egypt, Tamar Miskaryan teaches at a Yerevan dance school and Ani Najaryan studied at Moscow State Dancing Academy. In China, every year a big dance competition is being held, choosing the 12 best couples. I am proud to say my pupils were selected among the best couples for many times. I toured with my pupils in different parts of China, representing folk dance and ballet scenes.

**Chinese people are known for their diligence. Is it easy to work with them?**

Right, they are industrious because they are always in a hurry. If they do something, they do not sleep or eat until they have finished. The reason is the rhythm of their country, the fast pace of development that automatically affects people's character. The Chinese have a very good physical foundation, as they are being trained from child-



Vanush Babayan dancing with Han Yuying

hood. It is excluded that they, for example, will gain weight at once, and the teacher's hard work will be in vain. It remains to have a professional program of classical dance. By the way, China highly appreciates its teachers and art professionals. It is enough to state that the state takes care of about forty percent of their utility costs.

**Finally, please tell me about your own dance shows.**

I performed for years when I worked at the Yerevan Mikael Maluntsyan Musical School. With Mozart's music, I presented a dance performance "The Seagull" by Chekhov, which I then repeated in Dalian. There I also staged a Tom and Jerry children's performance and

"Frozen Emotions" with Chinese folk music. I taught a few Chinese dances to our kids in Yerevan, as well as variations for classical repertoire: "The Sleeping Beauty," "The Nutcracker," "Swan Lake," "Don Quixote," and dances from "Notre-Dame de Paris." I have also staged classical and folk dances - Russian, Ukrainian and Greek. Anticipating your next question, I have introduced my students to Armenian dance movements and I intend to perform an Armenian dance performance in China.

Recently I founded the Global International Dance Competition as its artistic director. It will take place for the first time on August 6 in China.



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Dr. Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh to Speak about Tale of Zeytun Gospels

FRESNO — Dr. Heghnar Zeitlian Watenpaugh will give a presentation titled, “The Missing Pages: The Modern Life of a Medieval Manuscript, from Genocide to Justice,” at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 on the Fresno State campus.

In 2010, the world’s wealthiest art institution, the J. Paul Getty Museum, found itself confronted by a century-old genocide. The Armenian Church was suing for the return of eight pages from the Zeytun Gospels, a manuscript illuminated by the greatest medieval Armenian artist, Toros Roslin. Protected for centuries in a remote church, the holy manuscript had followed the waves of displaced people exterminated during the Armenian genocide. Passed from hand to hand, caught in the confusion and brutality of the First World War, it was cleaved in two. Decades later, the manuscript found its way to the Republic of Armenia, while its missing eight pages came to the Getty.

*The Missing Pages* is the biography of a manuscript that is at once art, sacred object, and cultural heritage. Watenpaugh follows in the manuscript’s footsteps through seven centuries, from medieval Armenia to the killing fields of 1915 Anatolia, the refugee camps of Aleppo, Ellis Island and Soviet Armenia, and ultimately to a Los Angeles courtroom.

Reconstructing the path of the pages, Watenpaugh uncovers the rich tapestry of an extraordinary artwork and the people touched by it. At

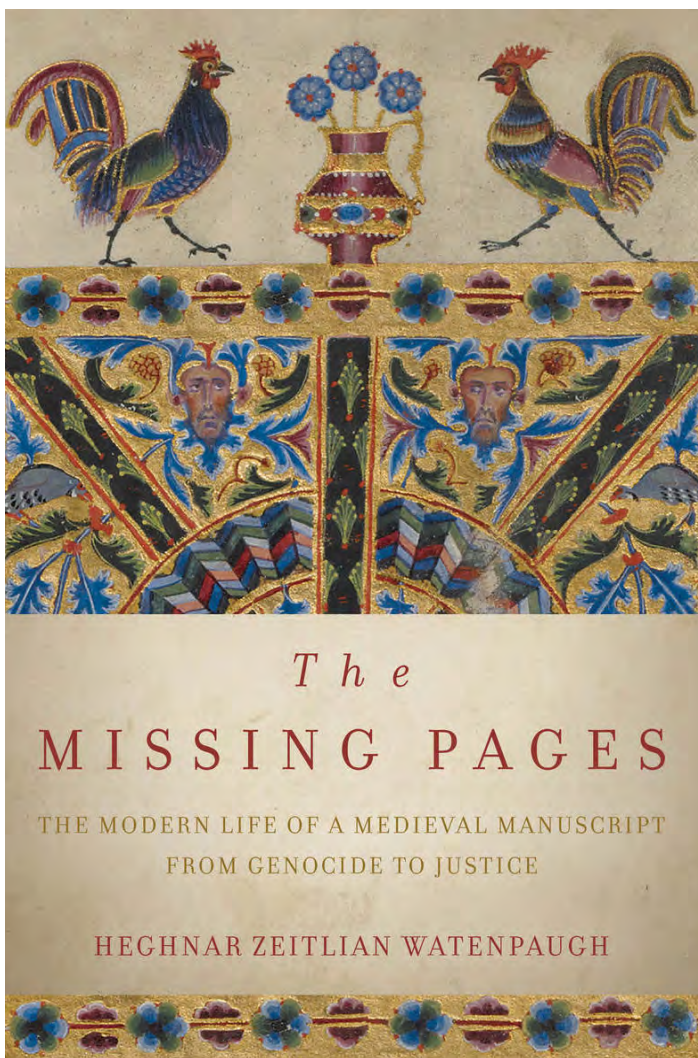


Dr. Heghnar Watenpaugh

once a story of genocide and survival, of unimaginable loss and resilience, *The Missing Pages* captures the human costs of war and persuasively makes the case for a human right to art.

Watenpaugh is professor of art history at the University of California, Davis. She is the award-winning author of *The Image of an Ottoman City: Architecture in Aleppo* (2004). Her writing has also appeared in the *Huffington Post* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Copies of *The Missing Pages* will be on sale at the lecture. The lecture is free and open to the public.



## Matthew Karanian To Present Armenian Highland: Western at Fresno State

FRESNO — Author Matthew Karanian will speak on *The Armenian Highland: Western Armenia and the First Republic of Armenia of 1918* at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191 on the Fresno State campus.

One century ago, and lasting for a period of 30 months, the Armenians formed an independent democratic republic for the first time in their history. This first Armenian Republic was established on lands that comprised just 20 percent of the ancient Armenian homeland, at a time when the genocide of the Armenians still raged.

Karanian celebrates the history of the First Republic and shows, through stunning photography, the hidden Armenia that he has discovered during his research in Ani, Kars, and Western Armenia — all lands that are today outside the borders of the Republic of Armenia.

Karanian is a lawyer and a passionate supporter of Armenia who lives and works in Pasadena. He served for several years as a law professor and as associate dean of the law school at the American University of Armenia. He and his law students founded Armenia’s first English-language law journal, the *Armenian Law Review*.

In 2016 Matthew was awarded the Arshile Gorky Medal by the Republic of Armenia for his service to homeland and for his role in helping to serve as a bridge between the homeland and the worldwide diaspora of Armenians.

Copies of *The Armenian Highland* will be on sale at the lecture.

The lecture is free and open to the public. Parking is available in Fresno State Lots P6 and P5. A free parking code can be obtained by contacting the Armenian Studies Program.

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

# Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

## Carrot Pineapple Cake



### INGREDIENTS

2 1/4 cups flour  
2 cups packed freshly shredded carrots  
1 cup crushed pineapple, drained  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup light brown sugar  
3/4 cup canola oil  
1/4 cup unsalted melted butter or apple sauce  
4 eggs, beaten  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice or orange juice  
2 tablespoons chopped crystallized ginger  
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
1 teaspoon each baking soda and baking powder  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 teaspoon lemon or orange zest  
1/2 teaspoon each ground nutmeg and ginger  
1/4 teaspoon salt (to taste)  
1 cup chopped toasted pecans, hazelnuts, almonds or walnuts  
1/2 cup chopped raisins, golden raisins or dates  
Finely chopped dried apricots, nuts, shredded coconut or carrot zest, as garnish

### PREPARATION

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Spray a 9×13-inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Sift all dry ingredients together in a large bowl, and set aside.

In a separate bowl, mix together the sugar, oil, melted butter or apple sauce, and eggs; add remaining ingredients, and beat after each addition. Add in the sifted ingredients, and stir well.

Pour batter into prepared pan, smooth out surface, and bake for 40-45 minutes until golden brown, or until a toothpick comes out without wet batter clinging to it (moist crumbs are fine.)

Cool cake and frost with a whipped cream or cream cheese frosting, and garnish.

Serves 8-10.

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



## Gulbenkian Biographer To Speak at Columbia, Watertown

WATERTOWN — Author Jonathan Conlin will present his newly published biography of Calouste Gulbenkian, *Mr. Five Per Cent: The Many Lives of Calouste Gulbenkian, the World's Richest Man*, in talks on April 10, at 7 p.m. at Columbia University (venue to be announced) and on April 11 at the AGBU New England Center, 247 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, at 7:30 p.m.

The Columbia program, titled “Calouste Gulbenkian: Nowhere Man,” is co-sponsored by Columbia University Armenian Center, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. The Watertown talk, “Calouste Gulbenkian and the ‘Basturma Problem,’” is presented by NAASR with the co-sponsorship of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Published to mark the 150th anniversary of his birth, *Mr. Five Per Cent* reveals Gulbenkian’s complex and many-sided life. Written with full access to the Gulbenkian Foundation’s archives, as well as many other archives in multiple languages around the world, this is the fascinating story of the man who more than anyone else helped shape the modern oil industry.

Conlin was born in New York and later moved to Britain, where he studied history at Oxford. He went on to do graduate work at the Courtauld Institute and Cambridge. Since his appointment to the University of Southampton in 2006, he has taught courses on a wide range of topics, from the moral philosophy of Adam Smith through the history of cemeteries to the impact of evolution on Victorian society. He regularly comments on museums, heritage and television history for *History Today*, *Museums Journal* and R4’s “Today” program.

Both events are free and open to the public.





ARTS & LIVING

C A L E N D A R

ARIZONA

**APRIL 15 — Genocide Awareness Program featuring presenters Prof. Taner Akçam and Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian.** Dr. Akçam will discuss the Armenian Genocide including his evidence of Turkish denials which he covers in his latest book, Killing Orders. Der Mugrdechian’s topic will be Genocide in the 21st Century: Turkey and Armenia. Monday, 1 p.m. Scottsdale Community College, 9000 E. Chaparral Road, Scottsdale. Admission is free and open to the public. Dr. Akçam will sign copies of Killing Orders following the program. Speakers are sponsored by St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church.

CALIFORNIA

**APRIL 7 — Heghnar Watenpaugh, “The Missing Pages: The Modern Life of a Medieval Manuscript from Genocide to Justice,”** Sunday, 4 p.m., at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum. Co-sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

**APRIL 22 — 7:30 p.m.: Hans-Lukas Kieser, “Talat Pasha: Father of Modern Turkey, Author of Genocide,”** at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, 15105 Mission Hills Road, Mission Hills, CA. Co-sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Nor Serount Cultural Association, Hamazkayin Educational and Cultural Society, and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

**APRIL 27 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada Presents** the 2019 North American tour of the VEM Ensemble of the UCLA Herb Albert School of Music, Danielle Segen, mezzo-soprano, Ji Eun Hwang, violin 1, Aiko Richter, violin 2, Morgan O’Shaughnessey, viola, Jason Pegis, cello. 7:30 p.m. Tekeyan Cultural Association Los Angeles Chapter Cosponsored with Abril Bookstore, 415 E. Broadway, Glendale. For tickets, call Abril 818 243-4112. Introductory remarks by Artistic Director Professor Movses Pogossian. Performing a world premiere of Tekeyan songs by the Los Angeles-based composer Artashes Kartalyan, commissioned by the Tekeyan Cultural Association, and masterworks by Komitas, Khachaturian, Mirzoyan, Hovhannes, and Schubert. For more information, email tcadirector@aol.com.

**APRIL 28 — Christina Maranci, “The Art of Armenia: An introduction,”** at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum. Co-sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). 4 p.m.

**MAY 4 and MAY 5 — 2nd Feminist Armenian Studies Workshop: Gendering Resistance and Revolution,** at the University of California, Irvine. Co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Topics.

**MAY 5 — Mathew Karanian, “The Armenian Highland: Western Armenia and the First Armenian Republic of 1918,”** 4 p.m.at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, 15105 Mission Hills Road, Mission Hills, CA. Co-sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Kharpert Cultural Association, and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

**MAY 19 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada Presents the 2019 North American tour of the VEM Ensemble** of the UCLA Herb Albert School of Music, Danielle Segen, mezzo-soprano, Ji Eun Hwang, violin 1, Aiko Richter, violin 2, Morgan O’Shaughnessey, viola, Jason Pegis, cello. 7:30 p.m. Tekeyan Cultural Association Los Angeles Chapter Cosponsored with Abril Bookstore, 415 E. Broadway, Glendale. Introductory remarks by Artistic Director Professor Movses Pogossian. Performing a world premiere of Tekeyan songs by the Los Angeles-based composer Artashes Kartalyan, commissioned by the Tekeyan Cultural Association, and masterworks by Komitas, Khachaturian, Mirzoyan, Hovhannes, and Schubert. Tekeyan Cultural Association, Pasadena-Glendale Chapter, TCA Beshgeturian Center, 1901 North Allen Ave., Altadena. For more information, email tcadirector@aol.com.

FLORIDA

**APRIL 11 — One of the opera world’s hottest stars, Alessandro Safina, will bring in his pop-opera rhythms** to USA during his upcoming concert tour in April. Safina appeared with Elton John, Cher and Jennifer Lopez for Queen Elizabeth’s 73rd Royal Variety

Performance. He also performed for the Pope, sang duets with Andrea Bocelli, Sarah Brightman, and Rod Stewart. Americans first became familiar with Safina when he performed Elton John’s “Your Song” with actor Ewan McGregor for the Oscar-nominated soundtrack of “Moulin Rouge.” Safina will be accompanied by Victor Espinola and the Forbidden Saints. The tour will feature Armenian Duduk Soloist and Classical Clarinetist Mher Mnatsakanyan and Bassist Hova Burian. The performance will be held at Fillmore Miami Beach in Miami (Times 8:00-9:30pm)

MASSACHUSETTS

**MARCH 31-APRIL 14 — Needlelace Workshops at the Armenian Museum. Join us for this unique opportunity** to continue the tradition of Armenian needlelace! Taught by Textile Curator Susan Lind-Sinanian, these three sessions are a unique opportunity to learn intricate regional techniques that were passed down through generations from mother to daughter. All materials are supplied so just show up ready to learn techniques practiced by Armenian women for centuries. Examples from the Museum’s textile collection will provide inspiration as you find your voice by sewing edgings on linens. Have Armenian needlelace at home? Bring them in to share your family story! Sundays, 3–5 p.m. Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries, 3rd floor. Cost: \$90, Members discount: \$60. 65 Main St, Watertown.

**MARCH 31 — Armenian Themed Painting Event. Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA) New England.** 2 p.m. at Demos Restaurant, 146 Lexington St. Waltham. Tickets include food, glass of wine, canvas, paint, and instruction by artist Katerina Delegas. Make new friends and bring home a masterpiece! Information and tickets <http://aiwainternational.org/paintnight>

**MARCH 31 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association of the United States and Canada Presents** the 2019 North American tour of the VEM Ensemble of the UCLA Herb Albert School of Music, Danielle Segen, mezzo-soprano, Ji Eun Hwang, violin 1, Aiko Richter, violin 2, Morgan O’Shaughnessey, viola, Jason Pegis, cello. BOSTON Sunday, March 31, 1 p.m.cosponsored with Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Free admission. Introductory remarks by Artistic Director Professor Movses Pogossian. Performing a world premiere of Tekeyan songs by the Los Angeles-based composer Artashes Kartalyan, commissioned by the Tekeyan Cultural Association, and masterworks by Komitas, Khachaturian, Mirzoyan, Hovhannes, and Schubert. For more information, email tcadirector@aol.com.

**APRIL 1 — 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, MA. This meeting will be celebrated as a “Father, Daughter, and Son” evening. Speaker Steven Biondolillo is a pioneer in the fields of public health and human services marketing, and special-event fundraising. “Rethinking Teambuilding.” Mezza and a Losh Kebab & Kheyima Dinner \$17/person. Ladies invited. For additional information call the St James Church office at 617-923-8860 or call Hapet Berberian at 781-367-6598.

**APRIL 2 — Fifth Annual Exhibit sponsored by Arshavir Lodge No. 2 of the Knights Of Vartan commemorating** the 104th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Abrahms Gallery, 1st floor of the Higgins University Center at Clark University, 950 Main St., Worcester. The theme of the exhibit is “The Glory of Ancient Armenia.” Photographs, documents, and artifacts trace aspects of the history of Armenia from A.D. 301 back to 7500B.C. Opening Ceremony in the Abrahms Gallery’s Grace Hall 6 PM. Lecture by Anna Alexsanyan, a PhD Candidate at Clark’s Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, who will speak on “The Response Of Different Women To Genocidal Crimes.” City Proclamation will be read by Mayor Joseph Petty and State Rep. David Muradian will present State Citations. Program free and open to the public. With questions call 508-963-2076.

**APRIL 4 — Tufts Armenian Genocide Commemoration, Thursday, 7 p.m., featuring** a lecture by Helen Evans, “Medieval Traditions of Commemoration.” Co-sponsored by the Darakjian Jafarian Chair in Armenian History, the History Department at Tufts University, Tufts University, the Armenian Club at Tufts University, and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

**APRIL 4-JUNE 6 — SAVE THE DATE. First Thursdays:**

**Jazz at the Armenian Museum, Watertown,** Featuring the John Baboian Quartet. April 4 from 8–10 pm, May 2 from 8–10 pm, June 6 from 8–10 pm. Special thanks to the Dadourian Foundation for their generous grant in support of 2019 music events.

**APRIL 7 — “Vaping 101: A Seminar for Parents,” sponsored by the Parent Partnership of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston,** 12:30 pm-2 pm, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. All are invited to an educational session designed to help parents and caregivers learn more about the effects of the dangerous epidemic of teen vaping. Presenters are Carlene Newell, Health Educator/Tobacco Specialist, Karen Koretsky, Community Coalition Director, Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition, and Cindy Sheridan Curran, Arlington High School Truancy Officer. Admission free; light refreshments served. RSVP by April 5 to Director of Youth Ministries at [youth@htaac.org](mailto:youth@htaac.org). For information, log onto <http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/667/>

**APRIL 7 — Annual Reconfiguration of the Abstract Sculpture Armenian Heritage Park** on The Greenway, Boston. Sunday at 7:00 am. Coffee & Conversation from 8:00am -9:00am. A crane lifts and pulls apart the two halves of Abstract Sculpture, made of steel and aluminum, to create a new sculptural shape. The annual reconfiguration is supported by the Park’s Charles and Doreen Bilezikian Endowed Fund. Rain date: April 14. RSVP appreciated – [hello@armenianheritagepark.org](mailto:hello@armenianheritagepark.org)

**APRIL 8 — “What Every Person Should Know About Buying and Selling Real Estate from your First Home to Investment Properties,”** Trinity Men’s Union Dinner and Meeting, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Monday, 6 p.m., Social Hour, 7 p.m. Dinner, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge MA. Guest Speakers: Lauren Carroll, real estate agent; Alex Steinberg, home inspector; David Lazowski, mortgage broker; and Kristina Yee Vitullo, real estate attorney. Everyone Welcome. Donation for Lenten dinner of baked shrimp scampi is \$15 per person. RSVP requested by April 5 to [tmuhtaac@gmail.com](mailto:tmuhtaac@gmail.com), or David Dorian, 617.501.4300. For further information, log onto [www.htaac.org/calendar/event/669/](http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/669/).

**April 11 — Jonathan Conlin, “Mr. Five Percent: The Many Lives of Calouste Gulbenkian,** the World’s Richest Man,” at the AGBU Center, 247 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Presented by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). 7:30 p.m. Details to follow.

**APRIL 12 – Presentation on “Connecting with your Family Through Mindfulness” by Dr. Christopher Willard,** a nationally known clinical psychologist. Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford, MA. 6:30 p.m. Dr. Willard will discuss how to detect the early symptoms of youthful distress, and offer a variety of mindfulness strategies and approaches to help families effectively cope with everyday childhood anxieties. A complimentary light dinner will precede Dr. Willard’s presentation. Contact Sandra Adourian for reservations, (617) 926-7344 or email [sandra.adourian@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.adourian@gmail.com).

**APRIL 12 — Massachusetts State House annual Armenian Genocide Commemoration,** 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Reception to follow. Boston. Bus transportation free from Watertown to State House. Deadline April 8 to register. [Bostonagcc@gmail.com](mailto:Bostonagcc@gmail.com)

**APRIL 20– Annual Procession and Raising of the Armenian Flag at Lowell City Hall in commemoration of the 104th anniversary** of the Armenian Genocide. Procession to be led by the Lowell Armenian-American Veterans Honor Guard. Participants should meet at the corner of Merrimack and John Sts. in Lowell at 9:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Armenian National Committee, Merrimack Valley (ANCMV) with the participation of all area Armenian Churches and Organizations.

**APRIL 24 — Armenian Heritage Park Armenian Genocide Commemoration,** 7 to 9 p.m. Bus transportation available. Reserve by April 22. [Bostonagcc@gmail.com](mailto:Bostonagcc@gmail.com)

**APRIL 24 — Save the Date! “In the Shadow of Branches: Diana Apcar/Berjouhi Kailian.** The Armenian Museum. In recognition of Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day. 6–8.30 pm. The Armenian Museum presents a new exhibition in the Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries that explores the intertwined lives of diplomat Diana Agabeg Apcar (1859–1937) and artist Berjouhi Kailian (1914–2014). The Armenian

*continued on next page*





ARTS & LIVING

from previous page

Museum wishes to engage in meaningful dialogue around this solemn subject that permeates Armenian experience around the world. Candlelight viewing of the galleries followed by a discussion of the traumatic effects of the Genocide to remember the victims, survivors, and individuals who chose to intervene.

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

**APRIL 27 – SAVE THE DATE! Hai Guin Scholarship Association 2019 Spring Benefit Luncheon.** Belmont Country Club. Saturday, 11:30 a.m. Sip, Shop and Support! Featuring Fashions and Pop-Up Shop by St. John. Please contact Christine Berberian 978-500-1116 or Andrea Garabedian 978-618-3030 to reserve your tickets (\$65 each).

**APRIL 30 — Panel, “Bucking the Trend? Why Is Armenia Moving Towards Democracy When Authoritarianism is on the March Worldwide?”** (provisional title), , 7:30 p.m.: featuring Anna Ohanyan (Stonehill College), Dmitri Sotiropoulos (Visiting Scholar, Center for European Studies, Harvard), and Valerie Sperling (Clark University), moderated by Lisa Gulesserian. At Harvard University. Co-sponsored by the NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues, AGBU YP Boston, and the Harvard Armenian Students Association.

**MAY 3 – 117th Diocesan Assembly Gala Banquet – V. Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan**, Primate, presiding. Boston Marriott Burlington. Hosted by St. James Armenian Church in Watertown. Save the Date – Details to Follow.

**MAY 4 — Celebrate Public Art two-part program during ARTWEEK BOSTON. Armenian Heritage Park** on The Greenway, Boston. 1 p.m. World Labyrinth Day: Walk as One. Join people in cities and towns in 35 countries world-wide walking in peace and harmony including Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Russia, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay and USA followed by reception to view the 2019 configuration of the abstract sculpture , hosted by Eastern Lamejun Bakers and MEM Tea Imports. RSVP appreciated [hello@armenianheritagepark.org](mailto:hello@armenianheritagepark.org).

**MAY 6 — Irina Ghaplanyan, “Post-Soviet Armenia: The New National Elite and the New National Narrative,”** at the AGBU Center, 247 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by the NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Issues. Further details to follow.

**MAY 9 — The Armenian Museum of America and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)** present an illustrated talk by author Matthew Karanian, *The Armenian Highland: Western Armenia and the First Republic of 1918*. On Thursday, May 9, 2019, 7:30 pm at the Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown. Copies of *The Armenian Highland* will be available for purchase. Reception following program.

**MAY 10 — Lenny Clarke & Friends. Fundraiser to benefit the Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe Building Fund.** 8 p.m. The Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe, 1280 Boston Road, Bradford. Mezze/Appetizers are Included & Cash Bar. Call Dro Kanayan at 978 828 5755 or Stephanie Naroian at 978 835 1636 for tickets or tables and packages are available. Tickets will only be sold in advance, not at the door.

**MAY 15 — The Tekeyan Cultural Association and the Armenian General Benevolent Union** will present a literary evening with writer Aris Janigian, author of *Waiting for Lipchitz at Chateau Marmont*, *Bloodvine* and *Riverbig*, among others, with discussant author, poet and editor Susan Barba. 7.30 p.m., AGBU Building, 247 Mount Auburn Building. Free, reception to follow. Books will be on sale.

**MAY 19 — SAVE THE DATE! Concert at the Armenian Museum.** Concert to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Komitas Vardapet and poet Hovhanness Tumanyan. Sunday, 2-4 p.m.

**MAY 19 — “International Food Festival – A Taste of the World,” presented by the Women of Holy Trinity.** Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 12:30-2:30 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Join us to sample authentic cuisine from 9 countries: Armenia, Iran/Persia, Lebanon,

Greece, France, Russia, Brazil, China and Italy. Donation: \$15 adults; \$10 children 12 and under. Tickets on sale at the door. For further information, contact the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617.354.0632.

**JUNE 1 — Armenian Food Festival, Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.,** Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, 1280 Boston Road, Haverhill. Chicken, Losh Kebab, Khayma, and Dolma Dinners. Armenian Cuisine featuring Spinach Pie, Lahmajoon, Cheese Beoreg, and more. Pastries Paklava, Kadayif, Cheoreg and morePlus Activities for the Children, White Elephant Table, Gift Basket Raffles.

**JUNE 12 — Tea and Tranquility. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston.** Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. -6 p.m. Meet & Greet. Walk the Labyrinth. Enjoy refreshing Ice Teas, hosted by MEM Tea Imports and dessert. Introduction to walking the labyrinth, mindful and meditative walking at 4:45pm. RSVP appreciated [hello@armenianheritagepark.org](mailto:hello@armenianheritagepark.org)

**JUNE 13 — SAVE THE DATE. Film Screening: “Motherland” At the Armenian Museum in Watertown.** Cosponsored by the Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA). Thursday. More details coming soon!

**JUNE 27 — Under a Strawberry Moon. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston.** Thursday at 8:30 p.m. Meet & Greet. Moonlit Labyrinth Walk. Luscious Chocolate Dipped Strawberries, hosted by vicki lee’s and refreshing Ice Teas, hosted by MEM Tea Imports and the fabulous Berklee Jazz Trio. RSVP appreciated [hello@armenianheritagepark.org](mailto:hello@armenianheritagepark.org)

**JUNE 28 – July 10 – St. James Armenian Church 7th Pilgrimage to Armenia.** Led by Fr. Arakel Aljalian. Join us and Discover the Land of our Ancestors. All are welcome. Registration deposits due March 1; Full Payment due April 1. For full details visit [www.stjameswatertown.org/armenia](http://www.stjameswatertown.org/armenia).

**JULY 17 — Tea and Tranquility. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston.** Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. Meet & Greet. Walk the Labyrinth. Enjoy refreshing ice teas, hosted by MEM Tea Imports and dessert. Introduction to walking the labyrinth, mindful and meditative walking at 4:45pm. RSVP appreciated [hello@armenianheritagepark.org](mailto:hello@armenianheritagepark.org)

**AUGUST 14 — Tea and Tranquility. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston.** Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. Meet & Greet. Walk the Labyrinth. Enjoy refreshing Ice Teas, hosted by MEM Tea Imports and dessert. Introduction to walking the labyrinth, mindful and meditative walking at 4:45pm. RSVP appreciated [hello@armenianheritagepark.org](mailto:hello@armenianheritagepark.org)

**AUGUST 22 — Under the August Moon. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston.** Thursday from 7:30– 9 p.m. Delightful evening for supporters, partners & friends featuring fabulous signature dishes, hosted by anoush’ella and the Berklee Jazz Trio. RSVP appreciated [hello@armenianheritagepark.org](mailto:hello@armenianheritagepark.org)

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

**SEPTEMBER 22 — Sunday Afternoon for Families and Friends.** Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. 2:00pm-4:00pm. Wonderful afternoon with The Hye Guys Ensemble featuring Ron Sahatjian and Joe Kouyoumjian. Hoodsies, Face Painting and more RSVP appreciated [hello@armenianheritagepark.org](mailto:hello@armenianheritagepark.org)

**OCTOBER 19 — The Vosbikians are coming to the Merrimack Valley.** The Armenian Friends of America proudly present their Annual HYE KEF 5 Dance, featuring The Vosbikians. The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Andover, MA. Tickets Purchased before 9/13/19 will include the Great Venue, Outstanding Buffet, The Vosbikian Band and 5 Free Raffle Tickets Adults \$75.00 & Students 21 & under \$65 Specially priced AFA Rooms available through 9/17/19. For Tickets and more information, Contact: Lu Sirmaian 978-683-9121 or Sharke’ Der Apkarian at 978-808-0598 Visit [www.Armenia-FriendsOfAmerica.org](http://www.Armenia-FriendsOfAmerica.org)

**NOVEMBER 1,2 — NAASR Grand Opening and Gala. Friday, Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting,** NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, at NAASR’s new world headquarters, 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA. Saturday, NAASR 65th Anniversary Gala, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge. 6 pm Reception, 7 pm Dinner and Program. Honoree Dr. Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York; Master of Ceremonies David Ignatius, columnist for the Washington Post and novelist; Featuring renowned soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, accompanied by the Borromeo String Quartet, performing a program of songs by Komitas. Further details to follow.

**NOVEMBER 16 — St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School 35th Anniversary Celebration.** 6:30 PM Cocktail Reception, 7:30 PM Dinner and Program. The Westin Waltham - Boston, MA \$150 per person.

NEW JERSEY

**MAY 18 — St. Nersess Armenian Seminary invites you to Hope & Gratitude,** a celebration honoring Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and Bishop-elect Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan. 6:30 p.m. Old Tappan Manor, Old Tappan, NJ. For more info on reservations and booklet sponsorships, please go to [www.stnersess.edu](http://www.stnersess.edu).

**OCTOBER 25 — Honoring Dr. Taner Akçam. Abajian Hall St. Leon Armenian Complex,** Fair Lawn. Sponsored by Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Under the Auspices of Primate Very Rev. Fr. Daniel Findikyan.

NEW YORK

**APRIL 9 — Alessandro Safina, will bring in his pop-opera rhythms** to the US. Safina will be accompanied by Victor Espinola and the Forbidden Saints. The tour will feature Armenian Duduk Soloist Mher Mnatsakanyan and Bassist Hova Burian will take part. Official FaceBook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/AlessandroSafinaUSA/>

**APRIL 10 — Wednesday, 7 p.m., Jonathan Conlin, “Mr. Five Percent: The Many Lives of Calouste Gulbenkian,** the World’s Richest Man,” at Columbia University. Co-sponsored by the Columbia Armenian Center and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

**APRIL 18 — Sato Moughalian, “Feast of Ashes: The Life and Art of David Ohannessian,”** at Columbia University. Co-sponsored by the Columbia Armenian Center, Research Institute on Turkey, and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). 7 p.m.

**APRIL 28- Sunday at 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Armenian Genocide Commemoration** at Times Square, NYC Sponsored by : Knight & Daughters of Vartan, AGBU, ADL-Ramgavars. Armenian Assembly of America, ANCA and Armenian National Council

OHIO

**APRIL 28 — Book presentation by Adrienne G. Alexanian, editor of her father’s memoir, *Forced into Genocide: Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army*,** Sunday 2 p.m. Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage. In co-sponsorship with St. Gregory of Narek Church and Armenian Cultural Group, 2929 Richmond Road Beachwood, Ohio 74122 RSVP info@mmjh.org or (216) 593-0575. Book sale/signing during reception following the presentation – proceeds will be donated

RHODE ISLAND

**MARCH 30 — Sainly Women’s Day dedicated to the Three Women from the Holy Gospels,** hosted by the Women’s Guild of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, 70 Jefferson St. 10:00 a.m. greeting of guests, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service in Sanctuary followed by a Lenten Luncheon in the Egavian Cultural Center.. Guest speaker Dr. Fotini Dionisopoulos, DMD. Proceeds will be divided between CASP and the Vanadzor Old Age Home in Armenia. Donation \$35.00. For reservations please call Ann Ayrassian 401-529-5210.

**APRIL 7 — Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church, Providence, the Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church** will present the first in a series of talks, “Meet with Armenian Doctors,” on Sunday, April 7, at 12:30 p.m., in Hanoian Hall of the church complex. ( 70 Jefferson St., Providence).Pulmonologist Dr. Raffi Calikyan will speak and take questions. Admission is free and open to the public.

TEXAS

**APRIL 4 — Book presentation by Adrienne G. Alexanian, editor of her father’s memoir *Forced into Genocide: Memoirs of an Armenian Soldier in the Ottoman Turkish Army*.** Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Holocaust Museum Houston. Co-sponsored by Armenian Church of St. Kevork, 9220 Kirby Drive (Suite 100), Houston, Texas. RSVP (713) 527-1604. Book sale/signing will follow presentation – proceeds will be donated

**APRIL 26 — The Cultural Committee of the Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church Armenian Martyrs’ Memorial Committee** of Rhode Island Presents a Memorial Concert dedicated to victors and Saints of the Armenian Genocide,7 p.m., 150th Anniversary of Gomidas Vardabed, 150th Anniversary of Hovhannes Toumanyanyan. Performed by the Armenian Chorale of Rhode Island, Junior Choir, Soloists Under the Direction of Maestro Konstantin Petrossian. Program: Patriotic Songs, Songs by Gomidas, and from Anoush Opera, Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church Sanctuary, 70 Jefferson St., Providence. Donations gratefully accepted. Refreshments.





COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

# Does Powerplay Trump Legality?

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Any new development on the world scene is perceived and interpreted by each country from its own perspective which does not necessarily conform to the context and reality of the issue in question.

When the Yugoslav Federation was bombed and dismantled, giving birth to a new nation in the heart of Europe next to Albania, namely Kosovo, hopes were raised in Armenia that Kosovo could serve as a precedent for the recognition of Nagorno Karabakh's independence.

This kind of logic ignores the fact that legality at best is a fig leaf to cover realities created by a powerplay. Major powers to suit their interests, create facts on the ground and later on develop legal parameters to justify a fait accompli.

When Armenians were heartened by the Kosovo precedent, they were told each case is dissimilar, having its own legal premises, even though that justification defied logic.

Today, a new reality has emerged. We live in the Trump world which has become very colorful and shaken daily by new surprises. President Trump has offered a new gift to Israel, by a proclamation where the US recognizes Israel sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

The Golan Heights is a historic Syrian territory, occupied by Israel during the Six Day War in 1967. It has water resources for agriculture but above all, it has a high strategic value for both parties. During that war, the fiercest battles

cerns, it had huge international reverberations, about which Mr. Trump does not give a hoot.

The angry reaction of the beleaguered Syrian government was anticipated. In addition, the United Nations authorities also reacted. UN Secretary General António Guterres said it is "clear that the status of Golan has not changed."

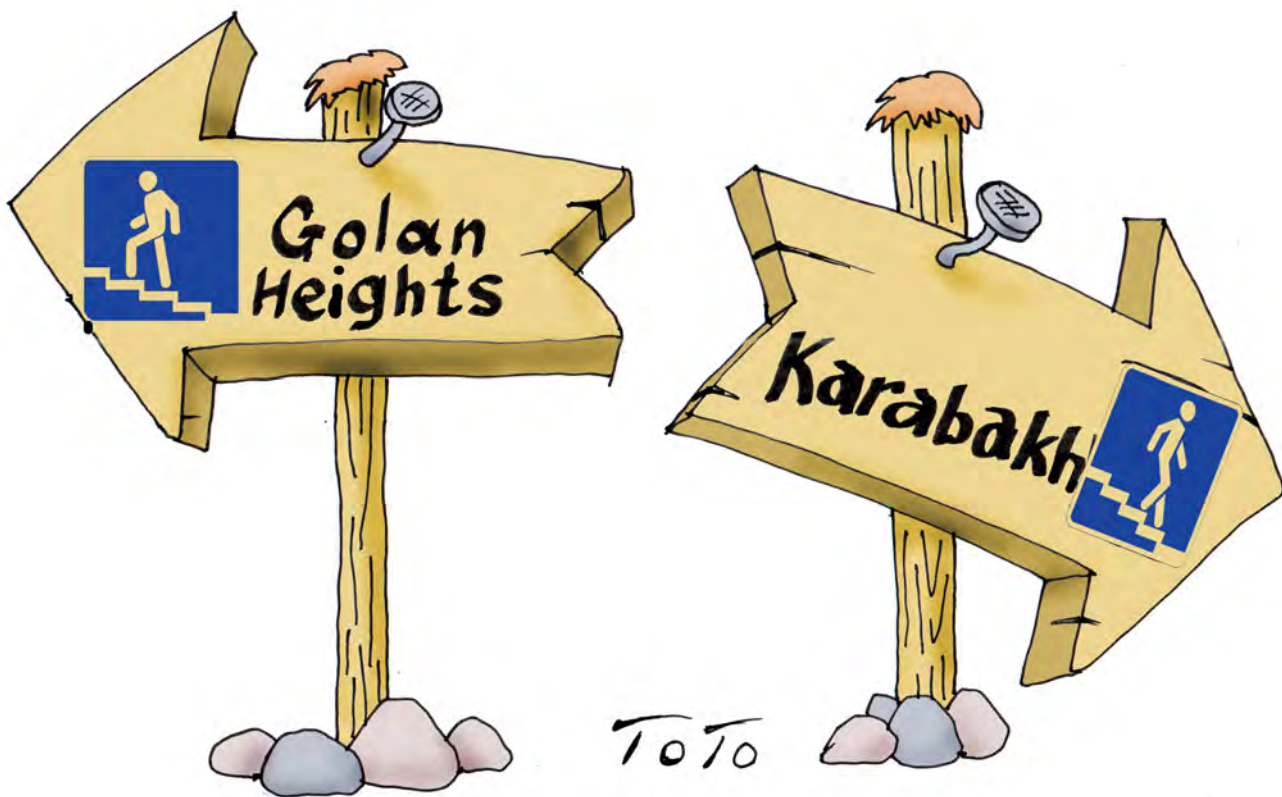
"The UN's policy on Golan reflects the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and that policy has not changed," added Stephane Dujarric, the UN Spokesman.

Golan is the second amputation of Syrian territory. The first one took place in the era of decolonization, when French occupying forces were leaving the Middle East. In 1939, the Sanjak of Alexandretta became the autonomous state of Hatay, carved out of Syrian territory but later that year it was ceded to Turkey.

The Syrian government had never recognized the loss. It always considered Hatay within Syria, in all official maps and school textbooks. But during the initial honeymoon between Syria and Turkey, the Agreement of Adana was signed in 1998, mostly to deter Kurdish incursions from Syrian territory into Turkey, but Damascus tacitly acquiesced to the fact that Hatay's destiny was doomed.

President Trump's proclamation has created also a serious political debate in Armenia. Once again, the Kosovo logic is being resurrected to see whether the Golan precedent and logic can be used to advance Armenia's position or the fate of Karabakh. Not only there is excitement in the news media, but even official quarters have reacted to it.

The chief of staff of the Karabakh president, David



took place on the Golan Heights where Israel suffered the highest casualties. But the Israeli leaders believe the sacrifices were justified by the value of the conquered territory. Israel had already annexed the Golan Heights to its own territory, disregarding the outcry in the Middle East. President Trump's proclamation only offers the US's endorsement of the Israeli action.

This deal is motivated by domestic politics in Israel and the US. Both leaders, Benjamin Netanyahu and President Trump, have been living in the shadow of legal and ethical indictments.

Netanyahu faces legal challenges for corruption charges which could endanger his prospects in the forthcoming elections. Trump, in his turn, was under the long shadow cast by the probe headed by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, which had fueled impeachment prospects in the Democratic ranks.

Although the Mueller report, according to US Attorney General William Barr did not find collusion in Trump's case, it also failed to exonerate him. That was a partial victory for the president who faces tough reelection prospects in his own country. Therefore, the Golan Heights gift to Israel was a political raft for both leaders. The action will further energize Trump's Evangelical base and further improve his relations with conservative Jewish voters.

Although the initiative was taken based on domestic con-

Babayan, stated: "Trump openly stated that Golan Heights should belong to Israel. ... We have also a similar situation here. That is the fate of Karvajar, where our water resources are located. If today we fail in our insistence that Karvajar will remain within the borders of the Armenian state, we will be blamed for a lack of political will in the future."

Other pundits dwell on Armenian-US relations. Indeed, President Trump's decision is the reflection of the close US-Israeli relations which Armenia does not enjoy. A prominent political analyst said he believes that "On a broader scale, whatever Trump is proposing for the Golan Heights Obama was proposing in the case of Karabakh, using the Russian and Azerbaijani political failures in the aftermath of the April war."

Another commentator writing under the pen name of Aram Amaduni (most probably a member of parliament) was using the occasion to promote a pro-US policy for Armenia. Basing his argument again on the US-Israeli relations, he proposes that Armenia become an anti-Russian tool in the Caucasus to enjoy US confidence, and consequently, qualify for its largess.

All this analysis and excitement may serve as a healthy political exercise, but analogies may not and will not help resolve the Karabakh conflict. It takes Armenia's political wisdom to garner international support, backed by Armenian resolve to defend Karabakh by force, if necessary.

# Mirror Spectator

Established 1932  
An ADL Publication

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

Baika Association, Inc.

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

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

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## COMMENTARY



## My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## President Trump Has No Right to Give Syrian Golan Heights to Israel

Ever since Trump became President of the United States, he has ignored both US and international laws.

A few months ago, National Security Adviser John Bolton surprisingly announced that if the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigated any wrongdoing by American soldiers in Afghanistan, the US government would ban ICC Judges from entering the United States and would sanction their assets in US banks.

This represents the height of arrogance and flouting of international law. Instead of serving as a model of a civilized democratic country to the rest of the world, the Trump administration is ignoring and violating several international treaties.

While it is common knowledge that “might is right” in international relations, no previous US President has such flagrantly disregarded the rule of law.

President Trump’s recent foreign policy actions are even more alarming. He has never taken seriously the complexity of the Arab-Israeli conflict. On the contrary, he has ignorantly announced that it is easy to solve the Middle East problem and has irresponsibly appointed his son-in-law Jared Kushner, who has no experience in diplomacy and knows nothing about the Middle East, to be in charge of the Arab-Israeli peace plan.

Last year, in another unwise and dangerous decision, President Trump moved the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to

Jerusalem which is “tantamount to recognizing Israeli sovereignty over land that is captured in the Six-Day War in 1967,” according to Professor of Law Eugene Kontorovich. In other words, the move to Jerusalem is a violation of international law.

Last week, President Trump shocked the world when he tweeted that the Syrian territory of Golan Heights, occupied by Israel since 1967, is Israeli territory. “After 52 years it is time for the United States to fully recognize Israel’s Sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which is of critical strategic and security importance to the State of Israel and Regional Stability.” President Trump signed a proclamation on March 25, 2019 with Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu standing next to him in the White House, recognizing the Syrian Golan Heights as Israeli territory.

Can anyone be so flippant as to make such a grave announcement in a tweet? Just about every nation, except for Israel, condemned President Trump’s unwise announcement. European Union countries, including Germany and France, criticized President Trump’s decision on Jerusalem. Iran, Turkey and Egypt also sharply criticized the US President. As expected, Syria declared that it will recover the Golan Heights with “all available means.”

The Golan Heights is one of the contentious territories that has been subject to serious negotiations between Syria and Israel, as part of the overall peace plan between Israel and Arab states. Announcing that Golan Heights belongs to Israel destroys what little remains of the United States claim that it is an impartial mediator. Rather than help the parties move toward peace, the United States has once again taken an unwise initiative that has aggravated the situation.

A German government spokesperson was quoted in The Independent newspaper saying, Berlin “rejected unilateral steps” to redraw national boundaries, adding: “If national borders should be changed it must be done through peaceful means between all those involved.”

The French foreign ministry stated that it did not recognize the Israeli annexation [in 1981] of the Golan Heights and that Mr. Trump’s statement is “contrary to international law.”

Palestinians quickly blasted President Trump’s decision, saying it undermined the chance for peace in the region. Palestinian spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeineh said any action taken on the decision would be “a violation of the UN resolutions, have no value whatsoever and would remain mere ink on paper.” Hanan Ashrawi, a member of the Palestinian Liberation Executive Committee, called it an “assault on international law.”

President Trump has foolishly undermined Israel’s safety by provoking all Arabs and Muslims against Israel and the United States rather than taking measures to calm the situation and find a peaceful solution.

To complicate matters further, President Trump’s controversial announcement came shortly before the April 9 Israeli elections which will determine whether Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will retain his post. The US action is not only misguided, but also an interference in the elections of a foreign country, boosting the chances of victory for Netanyahu, who faces indictment for corruption. At a time when the US is accusing Russia for interfering in the 2016 American presidential elections, the US itself is blatantly interfering in Israel’s elections.

And for those Armenians who naively expect President Trump to recognize Artsakh as Armenian territory, just like he recognized the Golan Heights as Israeli territory, I hate to disappoint them by stating that Armenia does not have Israel’s political clout in Washington. Secondly, Armenians should not validate the unjust handover of the occupied Syrian territory of Golan Heights to Israel by comparing it to Artsakh – an historical Armenian land given to Azerbaijan by Stalin.

Armenians should also be concerned that President Trump’s flawed argument jeopardizes the recovery of Western Armenian lands occupied by Turkey. Saying that after 52 years of occupation, Golan Heights belongs to Israel, President Trump is undermining the Armenian claim to Western Armenia since it has been occupied by Turkey much longer than that. No matter how long those territories remain occupied, they will always belong to Armenians just as the Golan Heights belongs to Syria.

# Memorializing The Joy of Diana

By Sonia I. Ketchian

IT WAS COUSIN LEO SARKISIAN who invited this neophyte graduate student of the Harvard Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures to the reception by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) at Harvard’s Harkness Commons. Among the initial founders of NAASR, Leo introduced me to several members: Manoog Young, Karen Bedrosian, Thomas Amirian with his daughter Adrienne, and Diana Der Hovanessian.

Sometime later, Leo and Diana’s joint letter published in the *New York Times* deplored the denial of the Genocide. Diana had signed her married name. In fact, Leo told me they had written several letters over the years with Diana alternating between her maiden and married names.

Leo was active in many just causes, as were Diana and her dad, John Senior. In fact, Diana later told me that her dad was very proud of and dearly loved his biological son John, Jr., and appreciated Leo as his “spiritual son.” Our friendship thrived on mutual admiration of Leo and his dedication to truth and justice.

I remember strikingly beautiful Diana and her handsome husband Jim Dalley hosting exciting gatherings of intellectuals at their Cambridge home. Their cute little daughters Maro and Sona, sister Helen, brother John, Jr. enhanced the hospitality. With John Jr. at the helm and Diana participating at times, the younger persons were playing poetry and poet guessing games. There, among many others, I was to meet acclaimed Armenian poets over the years: Maro Markarian and Gevork Emin. The brilliant intellectual Edmond Azadian, an admirer of Maro’s poetry, drove her there. Edmond’s erudition in Armenian and other literatures and poetry enhanced the general discussion. Only later did I learn that Russian poet Anna Akhmatova had translated Maro’s poetry, which was when I was able to invite Maro to participate in the Akhmatova Centennial Conference at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy that I organized and coordinated courtesy of The Rockefeller Foundation and The Harvard Russian Research Center. Another of the fine poets I met at Diana’s home later was Gevork Emin whom Andrei Voznesensky translated.

Learning a few years later of my special interest in the poetry of Anna Akhmatova, Diana urged me to prepare several literal translations of the poems for her to transform into English poems to be read on public radio. The choice of poems was mine. We met at her home with several sheets of my literally translated poems. I read the poems in Russian for Diana to follow my translations, and to meld the visual English pieces into artistic verse, remain-

ing as close as possible to the meaning, rhythm, sounds, melody, and devices as possible. In February, 1972 at the WGBH Radio (Boston) studio on Jean Harper’s program, “The Poet Speaks,” I read my chosen poems by Akhmatova in Russian and Diana recited her superb verse translations of the poems based on my literal translations from the Russian. Diana heard our reading rebroadcast several more times on WGBH.

My interest in Akhmatova, who was vilified in the Soviet Union by the censors and authorities, but loved by discerning people, had been ignited in a survey of 20th-century Russian literature course by Prof. Joseph Manson, who proclaimed her as the “greatest living Russian poet.” I was fortunate to find the two-volume emigre edition that included her banned poem named “Imitation of the Armenian.” Aware that in the Russian tradition an acknowledged “imitation” was based on the work of another without being a strict translation, I asked all the local scholars and persons conversant with Armenian literature to identify the source without results until one day, climbing the stairs of Widener Library, I beheld Prof. Kevork Bardakjian. Before the first line of my English translation of Akhmatova’s first line left my lips, he began reciting the great Hovhannes Tumanian’s quatrain in Armenian. I shared this find with Diana who crafted her own version.

Whenever possible we would attend Diana’s spectacular inspired readings in the Boston area and many of the receptions that followed. Nonetheless mostly we phoned each other, yes, enjoying our most edifying conversations on poetry and poets. After I discussed reading Akhmatova’s own short “Memoirs” of her friendship with painter Amadeo Modigliani in Paris in 1910-1912, Diana wrote her artistic poem “Modigliani” for the *Christian Science Monitor*, where she complained to me, they had left out the dedication to me since it was I who had told her about the friendship, but in republication in the Armenian newspapers she made certain the dedication was not left out, so I proudly have it now.

At the *Boston Globe* Book Fair (October 1976) that Diana organized superbly for many years I read the Armenian original of a few poems (I remember reciting in Eastern Armenian and Russian translation Gevork Emin’s short poem, “Walnut Tree”) and Diana read her beautiful English translation.

In 1989, Diana’s newest book of poetry, *About Time: Poems*, inspired me to write an article on it, “Rereading Diana Der Hovanessian’s About Time: Poems,” which was published in the *Armenian Weekly* (March 4, 1989); the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* (March 11, 1989).

Twice I reviewed Diana’s books, *The Other Voice: Armenian Women’s Poetry Through the Ages* and *The Second Question*.

Diana mentioned the title of her forthcoming book, *The Second Question*, over the phone that she was sending to me, adding, “I thank your mother in my book” (Mother Bertha Nakshian Ketchian had died in 1990), I recalled immediately our phone conversation of a few years ago. I had shared with Diana that whenever mother, a Genocide survivor, met an Armenian, her first question was “Where are you from?” and the second would be “How did you survive?” Diana transformed these words artistically to portray her Genocide survivor grandmother. She further urged me to review that volume because *Louisiana Literature* was interested. It was reprinted in the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, on

March 7, 2009.

When I invited F. D. Reeve, who had met Akhmatova in 1962 during his visit to the Soviet Union as aide and interpreter to poet Robert Frost (F. D. Reeve, *Robert Frost in Russia*, Atlantic Little-Brown, 1964; Zephyr Press, 2001), to speak at the Harvard Russian Research Center, I invited Diana to meet her fellow American poet. Diana graciously suggested gathering a few close friends after his presentation at her Cambridge home nearby. I remember Edie Haber and Katherine O’Connor came to Diana’s. As I was leaving, Diana kept repeating to me, “Thank you, what a favor, what a favor.” As I was escorting Franklin and his wife Ellen across the Yard, Franklin surprised me, “Thank you for bringing me back to Russian.” He asked about my completed manuscript on Akhmatova, I told him Sam Driver had read it and wrote to me it was “the most critically profound work on Akhmatova to date.” Asking about my translation of the quoted verse in my manuscript, Franklin offered to turn my literal translations into verse so that his name could help me.

Having met one of the leading Russian poets, Bella Akhmadulina, during my research in Moscow, we invited Bella and her husband Boris Messerer to dinner at our home in Belmont where we introduced them to fellow poets Diana and F. D. Reeve. Diana and Franklin’s cooperation blossomed in the New England Poetry Club, as did Franklin’s with Bella and Boris. Franklin decided to translate some of Bella’s poems so I sent him the manuscript of my forthcoming book, *The Poetic Craft of Bella Akhmadulina*, to aid his choices. In fact, three of my book’s chapters are graced by epigraphs from Diana’s poetry.

Another time I remember Diana asking me to go with her to the Ritz-Carlton Hotel to translate several short poems for Andrei Voznesensky that she would transpose into poetry for his upcoming reading. In the tiny room of that famous luxurious Boston hotel where Voznesensky faced us cramped in a chair, Diana and I sitting on the bed translated the short pieces so the two poets could present them to their waiting audience.

A few years ago, Diana invited me to her place to meet a friend of hers from Armenia. She didn’t elaborate. It turned out, her guest was a known talented young writer, Artsvi Bakhchinyan, who had interviewed Diana and many others on their life and works. Later I was to read with pleasure his article on Diana. She had recommended that he interview me as well. I am usually reluctant to write about myself. I hesitated so Artsvi graciously gave me a form for me to fill out to send to him. I never did. Diana may have been disappointed, but she never reprimanded me. (He has since become a regular contributor to the *Mirror-Spectator*.)

Ours was thus a friendship about poets and poetry that Diana lived and breathed, discussions of the past, including the tragic past that haunted us, the present, and attending Diana’s stimulating readings in the Boston area. To the very end, when I used to call Diana to chat on matters of mutual interest, poetry remained paramount in our unending conversations. Ours remained a friendship founded on poetry.

And how the great poet Diana Der Hovanessian is missed! Her poetry lives on.

(Sonia I. Ketchian is at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University.)





# Society for Armenian Studies Western Armenian in the 21st Century Published

FRESNO – A co-edited volume by Bedross Der Matossian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian, titled *Western Armenian in the 21st Century: Challenges and New Approaches*, has been recently published by the Press at California State University, Fresno, 2019.

The book is the first in the newly-launched Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) Publication Series, part of the Armenian Series of the Press at California State University, Fresno. Subvention for the publication of the book was provided by the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

Modern Western Armenian is considered an endangered language by UNESCO. Today Western Armenian is essentially a Diaspora language which was dramatically impacted by the Armenian Genocide of 1915. The post-Genocide period has posed a great challenge to the continued vitality of this important language. For the past few years, scholars have discussed how to best

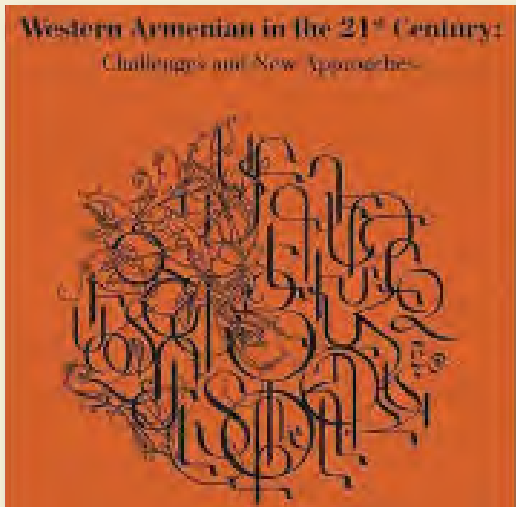
teach Western Armenian and to transmit the language to future generations. This volume brings together experts in the field of Western Armenian who focus on theoretical questions as well as practical suggestions in dealing with outdated pedagogical approaches. The volume presents the latest research in the field of language acquisition, which benefits from theoretical and practical approaches in the field of teaching minority languages in a diasporic situation. The list of contributors in the order of chapters are: Bedross Der Matossian and Barlow Der Mugrdechian, “Introduction”; Hratch Tchilingirian, “Western Armenian in the 21st Century: Issues of ‘thinking’ and ‘creating’ in Armenian”; Ani Garmiryan, “It Takes a Village to Raise a Language”; Jesse Siragan Arlen, “An Innovative Method for Teaching Western Armenian in Diaspora”; Shushan Karapetian, “Eastern Armenian Speakers as Potential Western Armenian Learners: Reflections on Second Dialect Acquisition”; Sylvia Kasparian, “For a Multilingual Approach in Teaching Modern Western Armenian in Diaspora Communities”; Hagop Gulludjian, “Language Vitality through ‘Creative Literacy’”; Elizabeth Mkhitarian, “‘While I make a poem, I am being made by poetry’ Creative Writing in Heritage Language Instruction” and Vartan Matiossian, “In Lieu of a Conclusion.”

Der Matossian is an associate professor of Middle East history at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He is the president of the Society for

Armenian Studies (SAS) and the author of the award-winning book *Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2014) and the co-editor of *Routledge Handbook on Jerusalem* (Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2018).

Der Mugrdechian is the coordinator of the Armenian Studies Program and director of the Center for Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno. He is the general editor of the Armenian Series of the Press at California State University, Fresno. He is the editor of *Between Paris and France: Armenian Studies in Honor of Dickran Kouyumjian* (Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Press, 2008). He is the former president of SAS.

Copies of *Western Armenian* are available for purchase on Amazon.



## LETTERS

### Armenian Organizations Should Hire Pros

Letter to the Editor:

Hurrah for Rebecca Bakalian Hachikian who correctly identifies the mismanagement and hubris that has governed many of our organizations.

These self-appointed guardians and mousheghs that she notes have mismanaged and literally destroyed a half dozen of our organizations, including the Catholic Eparchy in New York City and AFUSA. They hire and fire executive directors at will, cannot raise any money, and are disliked by most but because of connections that go back a long way are able to hold on to power and sometimes inspire fear in people unwilling to speak up.

It is time to get rid of all of them and hire people with the right talent, experience and diplomas. Otherwise there will soon not be a single Armenian organization worth its weight in the NYC Metropolitan area.

The Eastern Diocese is the latest sad example of this – but it is my hope and that of others –that Father Daniel’s recent appointment may change that. Who would even dream of selling a property worth \$500 Million including air rights on a bad day – insanity!

Christopher Atamian  
New York City

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Aiko Richter  
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Morgan O'Shaughnessey  
Viola

Jason Pegis  
Cello

DETROIT • Wed. March 27 8:00 pm  
cosponsored with Music Guild of  
St. John Armenian Church  
Recreation Center  
22001 Northwestern Hwy  
Southfield, MI 48075  
Free admission, Reception to follow

MONTREAL • Fri. March 29 8:30 pm  
Tekeyan Center  
825 Manooagian St.  
Saint-Laurent, Canada  
For tickets call 514 747-6680  
Reception to follow

BOSTON • Sun. March 31 1:00 pm  
cosponsored with Holy Trinity  
Armenian Church  
145 Brattle St.  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Free admission

GLENDALE • April 27 7:30 pm  
Tekeyan Cultural Association  
Los Angeles Chapter  
Cosponsored with Abril  
Bookstore, 415 E. Broadway  
Glendale. For tickets: 818 243-4112  
or itsmyseat.com/abrilbooks

PASADENA • May 19 6:00 pm  
Tekeyan Cultural Association  
Pasadena-Glendale Chapter  
TCA Beshgeturian Center  
1901 N. Allen Avenue  
Altadena, Calif.

For more information, email [tcadirector@aol.com](mailto:tcadirector@aol.com)