Thousands Mark Genocide Anniversary at Times Square Program

By Taleen Babayan

NEW YORK — Thousands gathered for the Armenian Genocide Commemoration in Times Square on Sunday, April 28, as the 104th anniversary of the massacres was memorialized in a monumental event sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

Calls for recognition were made throughout the afternoon as speakers, guests and the general public paid homage to the holy martyrdoms of the Armenian Genocide. Over a century later, the sign of the Armenian people was on full display as the program culminated in a symbolic circle dance and a patriotic song Kedashen amid the backdrop of Times Square, one of the busiest and iconic districts in the world.

While Armenian songs, dances and voices echoed throughout New York and into the busy restaurant reviews, celebrity interviews, fashion spreads, lifestyle tos of well-scrubbed men and women at sparkly affairs and the magazine’s signature every other week just to get a copy, and then I’d dive into it.”

I’d look at it and think, “Oh, this is what young people are doing. They’re looking cute and going out at night,” says Monica Collins, a former Boston Herald TV critic and self-described media junkie. “I really liked it. I’d walk my dog in a certain direction every other week just to get a copy, and then I’d dive into it.”

Now thousands of faithful Improper readers will have to look elsewhere for photos of well-dressed men and women at sparkly affairs and the magazine’s signature mix of buzzy restaurant reviews, celebrity interviews, fashion spreads, lifestyle features, and event listings. To the surprise of its own staff, the magazine announced Thursday, April 25, it is closing.

see CLOSING, page 20

April 24 Gathering At Heritage Park Has Global Flavor

By Alin K. Gregorian

BOSTON — About 150 people gathered on Wednesday, April 24, at the Armenian Heritage Park to commemorate the 104th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, braving an unseasonably cold and blustery evening. Speakers Stephen Kurkjian, Dr. Pamela Steinzer and Ekhlas Ahmed addressed the crowd.

Kurkjian, a retired reporter who won three Pulitzers at the Boston Globe, spoke from the heart, as a descendent of a survivor of the Genocide. He tied history to the present, presenting it in a bright light. He said that from the loss of more than a million people, to the dispersion of many others, and their uprooting from lands “they had occupied since the Bronze Age,” their descendants are alive and well, halfway around the world, in a park named for them.

see BOSTON, page 11

Erdogan Says Deporting Armenians Was ‘Appropriate’

ISTANBUL (Bloomberg) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the deportations of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century was “reasonable” at the time.

Erdogan made the comment on April 24 at a symposium where he slammed France for marking the Armenian campaign against the Armenians as a genocide.

“The relocation of the Armenian gangs and their supporters, who massacred the Muslim people, including women and children, in eastern Anatolia, was the most reasonable action that could be taken in such a period,” Erdogan said in a Twitter post in English.

“The relocation of the Armenian gangs and their supporters, who massacred the Muslim people, including women and children, in eastern Anatolia, was the most reasonable action that could be taken in such a period. The doors of our archives are wide open to all seeking the truth.”

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan labeled Erdogan’s speech “a new high in denialism” of the Armenian Genocide, and a “justification of nation murder.”

“Calling the victims of the Armenian Genocide, Ottoman Empire’s entire Armenian population, which was sent to death marches, as ‘Armenian gangs & their supporters,’ killing 1.5 million [people] & justifying it by ‘most reasonable action’ is not just a new high in denialism, but justification of nation murder,” Pashinyan tweeted.

“Showing solidarity with Hamas is an ultimate insult to the Armenian people,” Pashinyan added.

Paylan Asks Turkey to Open Archives

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) — Turkish-Armenian Member of Parliament Garo Paylan has made an inquiry to vice president of Turkey Fuat Oktay over documents on the Armenian Genocide kept at Turkey’s State Archive.

In his letter he said that in the April 24 speech of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, he said that “The doors of our archives are open before all those who aim to discover the truth. We have no secrets.”

Paylan wrote, “Hence, we inquire about the fate of the records of the Turkish court-martial that operated in 1918-1922 aimed at bringing to justice the perpetrators who committed crimes against the Armenian people. The researchers inform that those records are not available for them. Aren’t the records of the court-martial kept in the state archive? Where and in which archive’s catalog were the data” for the genocide, he wrote.

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**YEREVAN** – The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity’s Selection Committee has named three outstand- ing2019 Aurora Humanitarians, recogni- zed for performing acts of exception- al courage and self-sacrifice for saving human life. The 2019 Aurora Prize Laureate will be announced at a ceremony in Armenia on October 20, 2019. With a $1 million award the Laureate will get an opportunity to con- tinue the cycle of giving and support the organizations that have inspired their work.

The 2019 Aurora Humanitarians are:

* Dr. Mirzâ Dinnâyî, Co-Founder and Director of Luftbrücke Irak (Airbridge Iraq), a humanitarian organization that flies Yazidi victims from Iraq to Germany for medical treatment. Dinnâyî has helped several thousand Yazidi women escape from the territories con- trolled by ISIS, personally taking part in missions to bring them to safety and, delivered food and water to the Yezidis in isolated areas. Driven by his passion to save lives, he has found a way to overcome numerous bureaucratic and logistic obstacles to help the most vulnerable. Luftbrücke Iraq received several awards from different organizations and deserves the world’s gratitude.

* Zannah Bukar Mustapha, lawyer, director and founder of Future Proves Islamic Foundation – a school that pro- vides education to some of the most deprived children in Maiduguri, Nigeria. In October 2016, he secretly traveled to meet with female students from the Sambisa forest hideout during a media blackout and left with 21 children. Thirteen months later, supported by ICRC, the Swiss government and the Nigerian authorities, he negotiated the additional release of 82 girls. Bukar Mustapha has nominated three organi- zations that aim to reduce conflict through strong community efforts and good governance; Future Proves Islamic Foundation, Alhade Community Renewal Foundation and Herwa Community Development Initiative.

* Huda al-Sarari, lawyer and activist, Al-Sarari is a brave and inspiring Yemeni human rights activist, who single- handedly investigates, exposes and challenges a clandestine network of secret prisons run by foreign govern- ments in Yemen, where thousands of men and boys have faced arbitrary detention. She has amassed incontrovertible evidence of the abuse that takes place within the prisons and suc- ceeded in convincing Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch to take up the case. She has nominat- ed an international organization that defends victims of extreme human rights abuses and two organizations that combat discrimination and promote equality. Reprise, Equal Rights Trust and Wethaq Foundation for Civil Orientation.

* These are awe-inspiring humanitari- ans, fighting the good fight for our common humanity. The Aurora Prize acknowledges the immense humanitarian impact that can be made by the per- sistence and commitment of single indi- viduals and deserves the world’s grati- tude for the way in which it highlights their achievement and maximizes their capacity. This Prize, like no other, gives these heroes the recognition they deserve and empowers them to contin- ue their work,” noted Gareth Evans, Aurora Prize Selection Committee member and President Emeritus of the International Rescue Committee.

The Selection Committee had chosen the three Aurora Humanitarians from 719 nominations that were sent by 525 unique candi- dates submitted from 72 countries.

Dr. Tom Catena, Inaugural Chair of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and Laureate, I have first-hand experience that “today, Armenia bears special duty of advancing international order. We should never forget the victims of the Armenian Genocide, the evil of humanity can degrade to in the absence of common humanity. The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity is a stark reminder to what humanity can achieve through the power of multilateralism and diplomacy, using its legal expertise to fight for equality, improvements in education and human rights for his community. Hla Aung has decided to support inter- national organizations that provide medical aid and assistance to refugees in Myanmar.

The 2019 Aurora Prize ceremony will take place during the first Aurora Forum, an ambitious and sweeping week of activities, which will be held on October 14-21, in Yerevan, Armenia, highlighting the best of the world’s social, scientific, educational and humanitarian practices.

Founded on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in grati- tude to their saviors, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative seeks to empower modern-day saviors to offer life and hope to those in urgent need of basic humanitarian aid anywhere in the world and thus continue the cycle of international humanitarian practice.

The 2018 Aurora Prize was awarded to Kyaw Hla Aung, a lawyer and Rohingya Muslim leader who, despite being imprisoned for a collective 12 years for peaceful protests against sys- tematic discrimination and violence, uses his legal expertise to fight for equality, improvements in education and human rights for his community. Hla Aung has decided to support inter- national organizations that provide medical aid and assistance to refugees in Myanmar.

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We Should Never Forget Victims of Armenian Genocide’ Czech Lawmaker Says

**YEREVAN** (Armenpress) – The delegation led by Marek Benda, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic, Head of the Czech Republic-Armenia Friendship Group, on April 30 visited the Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan.

The delegation members were accompanied by head of the Armenia-Czech Republic Friendship Group, Gouray Abrahanyan.

The Czech lawmakers laid a wreath at the Genocide Memorial and flowers at the Eternal Flame by paying a tribute to the memory of the 1915 Armenian Genocide victims with a moment of silence.

The delegation will visit the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute where they got acquainted with the exhibits.

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Kazakh President Visits TUMO Center

**YEREVAN** (Armenpress) – Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin, who was in Armenia on a working visit to participate in the session of Eurasian Economic Commission visited the TUMO center for creative technologies on April 30, accompanied by Minister of Transport, Communication and Information Technologies of Armenia Hakob Arshakyan.

The director of TUMO, Marie Lou Papazian, pre- sented to the Kazakh delegation the 100 Lives Initiative, the Index, the Gratitude Projects and the Dialogues, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative is Gratitude in Action. It is an eighty-year commitment in remembrance of the eight years of the Armenian Genocide which is the year 1915-1923 to support people and pro- mote global projects that tackle the needs of the most helpless and desti- tute and do so at great risk. This is achieved through the Initiative’s vari- ous programs: The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, the Aurora Dialogue, the Aurora Humanitarian Index, the Gratitude Projects and the 100 LIVES Initiative.

UWC Dilijan Students and Staff in Commemoration of Armenian Genocide

**DILIJAN, Armenia** – On April 26 and 27, United World College (UWC) Dilijan students presented a play devoted to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. The director of the play are UWC Dilijan Theatre and Drama teacher Jason Lasky and UWC Dilijan student Boghos Boghossian. The play, based on the book by Dr. Mirza Dinnayi, was performed by UWC Dilijan students and staff from all over the world.

The play, titled ‘We Should Never Forget Victims of Armenian Genocide’ is a powerful statement about how good theatre transcends socio-political and cultural bound- aries, said Jason Lasky, UWC Dilijan Theatre and Drama teacher and director of the play and added working with students on this project is a joy because my hope is that they go home to their countries and work to ensure that past mistakes will not be repeated.

“Directing this theatrical piece has been a highly rewarding experience on many different levels. I believe that the sole act of reuniting the events of such a tragic historical real- ity, does a great service to the attempts of bringing recognition to the Armenian Genocide, and the fact that we are doing it in the most peaceful and artistic of ways makes me really grateful to participate in the act of dismissing denial and fin- ger-pointing from this case,” said UCS student Boghossian

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Armenian Tycoon to Remain Under Arrest

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The owner of Armenia’s largest food exporting company accused of tax evasion warned through his lawyer of “severe consequences” for the domestic economy after the Court of Appeals refused to release him from custody on Tuesday, April 30.

The businessman, Davit Ghazarian, was arrested three weeks ago after the State Revenue Committee (SRC) charged that his Spayka company evaded over 7 billion drams ($14.4 million) in taxes in 2015 and early 2016.

The accusations stem from large quantities of foodstuffs which were imported to Armenia by another company, Greenproduct. The SRC says that Greenproduct is controlled by Spayka and that the latter rigged its customs documents to pay lower taxes from those imports.

Ghazaryan has strongly denied any ownership links to Greenproduct. He said on April 5 that the SRC moved to arrest him after he refused to pay the alleged back taxes.

The Court of Appeals upheld a lower court’s April 8 decision to allow investigators to hold Ghazarian in pre-trial detention. It also rejected a separate petition to free him on bail.

The tycoon’s lawyer, Arsen Sardaryan, denounced the ruling as baseless. He claimed that keeping his client in custody the author- ities want to “extort” large amounts of money by that keeping his client in custody the author-

Echoing Spayka’s statements, Sardaryan insisted that the charges are based on an arbitrary “expert evaluation” cited by the SRC. The lawyer said Ghazaryan will be ready to pay up if the alleged tax evasions is proved by a more thorough audit involving “specialists trusted by him.”

Spayka was already fined about 2.5 billion drams ($4.4 million) in 2017. But the tycoon inaugurated a new cheese factory in Yerevan built by Spayka. Pashinyan dismissed those warnings on April 9. He said he is confident that the food giant will carry on with the wholesale purchases.

The SRC chief, Davit Ananian, said afterwards that the tax collection agency is now scrutinizing Spayka’s operations in 2016-2018 and will likely impose even heavier tax penalties on the company.

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**International News**

**Jerusalem Patriarch Meets Israeli President**

**JERUSALEM** (Panorama.am) – On April 30, Archbishop Garegin II, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, met with the President of Israel Reuven Rivlin, Chancellor of the Armenian Patriarchate. The President’s son and Assistant Administrator of the Republic of Artsakh to the USA Robert Arvayian are in the delegation.

The first meeting was held with members of the Argentine branch of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund. Later, the members of the delegation held subsequent meetings with the leader of the Argentinean and Chilean Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Gisak Muradian, the leadership of the Armenian Organizations of the Argentine Republic(JARA), the senior staff members of the South American Central Committee of the ARD, Dashnaktsutyun, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and the Armenian General Athletic Union (Homcoment).

During the meetings, issues of national significance, in particular, the current stage and the prospects of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict peace process, and the strengthening of the security of the Republic of Artsakh and its people, and further expansion of the Homeland-Diaspora relations were discussed.

A range of meetings of the delegation with the political and academic circles of the Argentine Republic is scheduled for the coming days.

**Runaway Saudi Sisters Seek Asylum in Georgia**

**TIRILISSI (RFE/RL) –** Two Saudi sisters, who say they fled their own country because of “oppression,” have applied for asylum in Georgia but still feared they could be reached by their family and forced back to Saudi Arabia.

The sisters, one 25, the other 29, were offered assistance and protection by the Georgian government on April 18 after they fled to help via Twitter. They are currently being held in a shelter in a secret location, Georgian authorities say.

However, the sisters told the Thomson Reuters Foundation on April 19 that they would rather move to another country where Saudi citizens cannot enter without a visa.

The sisters told RFE/RL on April 18 that they chose to come Georgia only because Saudis don’t need entry visas to go to the country.

“We don’t know anybody in Georgia, we just decided to come here because there is a visa-free regime, and we didn’t have any other option,” the sisters said, adding that they arrived in Georgia from Turkey.

The sisters had made their case for international help on Twitter under the account @GeorgiaSisters, posting video appeals and messages seeking “protection” from the Kingdom.

One of the women said: “We fled oppression from our family.” She claims that her “father and brothers were very violent and they were beating me.”

This is the latest case of Saudi women fleeing the ultraconservative Islamic kingdom, where women need the permission of their male guardian if they want to work, marry, or travel.

In January, a Saudi teen hopped up in a Thai airport hotel to escape her family and won asylum in Canada.

**Artsakh Delegation Meets with Argentina Armenian Organizations**

**BUENOS AIRES (Armenpress) –** The delegation of the Republic of Artsakh headed by Foreign Minister Masim Mayilian met with representatives of a number of Armenian organizations operating in Argentina. Representative of the Artsakh Central Committee of the ARD Dashnaktsutyun, member of the National Assembly of Artsakh Davit Ishakhanyan and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Artsakh to the USA Robert Arvayian are in the delegation.

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**Young Talents Honor the Memory of Genocide Victims in Berlin**

**By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach**

**Special to The Mirror-Spectator**

**BERLIN –** The date was, as always, April 24, and the venue had not changed: the French Cathedral in Gendarmenmarkt, Berlin. But the organizers were many, the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, the Diocese of the Armenian Church in Germany and the Central Council of Armenians in Germany, in cooperation with the Armenian Church and Cultural Community as well as the Armenian Community, both of Berlin, and Kamermont, a music initiative. The program presented one commemorative speech, delivered by Dr. Elke Hartmann, followed by a magnificent concert featuring four very talented young musicians from Armenia. The new Prima of the Armenian Church in Germany Archimandrite Seroheke Ishakhanyan closed with prayers.

Dr. Hartmann, who is teaching as a guest professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin this semester, is an on the faculty of the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, in the department of Russian and Asian studies. Dr. Hartmann addressed Hartmann spoke as a third generation Armenian, whose maternal grandparents transmitted Armenian culture to her, through language, music, cuisine and love. As that generation is taking its final leave, the descendants continue to fight for recognition of the genocide, especially on the part of the authorities today. Hartmann was direct and uncompromising in her demands for full recognition and her principled rejection of political exploitation through pseudo-acknowledgements and rhetorical lip-service to the suffering of the victims.

As a German, she emphasized the role that Germany must play, especially in the wake of the resolution passed in 2016 by the Bundestag (Parliament) officially recognizing the genocide. In that document, specific provisions are defined for implementation, among them that all four have won numerous prizes, both on the national stage and abroad. The two youngest pianists Gur Sargsyan and Aida Avoyan have, in addition to Bach piano concertos together with the State Chamber Orchestra of Armenia. With the exception of Zora Sargsyan, who has been a student at the Berlin University of the Arts since 2014, the musicians from Armenia for the event, and heartfelt thanks were in order to the Embassy for having facilitated their travel and to the KAMERMONT Project for the Promotion of International Musical Young Talents. This Berlin-based initiative supports the education of classical music talents, children and youth, and promotes international exchange. Before offering solemn prayers, Archimandrite Ishakhanyan expressed his deep gratitude to the outstanding performers.

Hartmann had mentioned in her opening remarks that music has served Armenians throughout the ages as a means of affirmation of their continuing existence and development; the thoughtfully crafted program for this year’s commemoration, brilliantly executed by the young musicians, communicated this not only through their skills but also the purity they find in making music. It was a dignified commemoration of those who perished in the genocide and at the same time a celebration of the will to generate cultural excellence into the future.

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**Special to The Mirror-Spectator**

**BERLIN – The date was, as always, April 24, and the venue had not changed: the French Cathedral in Gendarmenmarkt, Berlin. But the organizers were many, the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, the Diocese of the Armenian Church in Germany and the Central Council of Armenians in Germany, in cooperation with the Armenian Church and Cultural Community as well as the Armenian Community, both of Berlin, and Kamermont, a music initiative. The program presented one commemorative speech, delivered by Dr. Elke Hartmann, followed by a magnificent concert featuring four very talented young musicians from Armenia. The new Prima of the Armenian Church in Germany Archimandrite Seroheke Ishakhanyan closed with prayers.**

Dr. Hartmann, who is teaching as a guest professor at the Humboldt University in Berlin this semester, is on the faculty of the Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, in the department of Russian and Asian studies. Dr. Hartmann addressed Hartmann spoke as a third generation Armenian, whose maternal grandparents transmitted Armenian culture to her, through language, music, cuisine and love. As that generation is taking its final leave, the descendants continue to fight for recognition of the genocide, especially on the part of the authorities today. Hartmann was direct and uncompromising in her demands for full recognition and her principled rejection of political exploitation through pseudo-acknowledgements and rhetorical lip-service to the suffering of the victims.

As a German, she emphasized the role that Germany must play, especially in the wake of the resolution passed in 2016 by the Bundestag (Parliament) officially recognizing the genocide. In that document, specific provisions are defined for implementation, among them that all four have won numerous prizes, both on the national stage and abroad. The two youngest pianists Gur Sargsyan and Aida Avoyan have, in addition to Bach piano concertos together with the State Chamber Orchestra of Armenia. With the exception of Zora Sargsyan, who has been a student at the Berlin University of the Arts since 2014, the musicians from Armenia for the event, and heartfelt thanks were in order to the Embassy for having facilitated their travel and to the KAMERMONT Project for the Promotion of International Musical Young Talents. This Berlin-based initiative supports the education of classical music talents, children and youth, and promotes international exchange. Before offering solemn prayers, Archimandrite Ishakhanyan expressed his deep gratitude to the outstanding performers.

Hartmann had mentioned in her opening remarks that music has served Armenians throughout the ages as a means of affirmation of their continuing existence and development; the thoughtfully crafted program for this year’s commemoration, brilliantly executed by the young musicians, communicated this not only through their skills but also the purity they find in making music. It was a dignified commemoration of those who perished in the genocide and at the same time a celebration of the will to generate cultural excellence into the future.
Salpi Ghazarian
Speaks at Genocide
Commemoration in Connecticut

HARTFORD, Conn. – The historic Connecticut House of Representatives Chambers was filled to overflow as the 104th commemoration of the Armenian Genocide took place on Saturday April 27. John Geragosian, Connecticut auditor, served as Master of Ceremonies and Susan Shaheian led the audience in the singing of the American and Armenian national anthems.

Warm welcoming remarks were given by Rep. Edwin Vargas Jr., state representative from the Sixth District who has long served as the Committee’s sponsor and who enjoys wide support from the Armenian community.

Keynote speaker Salpi Ghazarian, director of the University of Southern California Institute of Armenian Studies was introduced by Professor Armen Marsoonian, chairperson of the Philosophy Department of Southern Connecticut State University. Ghazarian gave a firsthand account of the recent changes in the Republic of Armenia which has been hailed worldwide as a “velvet revolution.” She identified challenges facing the three million residents of Armenia and six million throughout the diaspora. She structured a scenario of hope and future continued progress for the Republic by synergistic efforts by those in Armenia and throughout the world.

The solemn commemoration took on colorful and meaningful overtones as young children in traditional Armenian garb distributed program booklets to the attendees and a skilful group of dancers, including Emma Lopez, Angel Zohrabian, Veronica Sardaryan and Hasmik Oshanian from St. George Armenian Church in Hartford presented a thoughtful and stirring memorial Dance to music by Komitas selected from the Komitas Museum, Yerevan.

Addressing this year’s National History Day theme of “triumph and tragedy in history,” the girls looked into the work of American charity Near East Relief, which sent humanitarian aid and raised millions of dollars to help those affected by the Armenian Genocide. The organization set up refuge camps, clinics and hospitals to attend to those displaced by the genocide, and is credited with having cared for 132,000 Armenian orphans from Yerevan, Constantinople, Beirut, Damascus and Jerusalem, among other places in the Near East, a region that includes western Asia, Turkey and Egypt.

“We felt that the triumph of the work of Near East Relief during the horrific tragedy needed to be shared in this year’s contest,” the girls said.

Part of their project, which displays a sample of the typical meal eaten by an orphan in a Near East Relief orphanage, features a clip of testimony from Arpine Terlemezian, who worked as the director of an orphanage in Krikavon (now Vanadzor) shortly after Armenia was established in 1918. Terlemezian’s story is preserved in USC Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive.

“Arpine Terlemezian’s testimony offered a story of personal triumph and tragedy for our project,” the girls said. “While she witnessed the horrors of the genocide in her work at an Near East Relief orphanage, she helped the orphans learn skills that would benefit them for their entire lives.”

They add that she also found love while working at the orphanage. Dajad Terlemezian was a young war hero and fellow employee of Near East Relief. “Dajad came to the orphanage every day,” she said in her testimony, which was recorded by the late documentary filmmaker J. Michael Hagopian in the early 1980s. (Hagopian entrusted all of his 300-plus Armenian Genocide interviews to USC Shoah Foundation in 2013.) “He captivated me. So, we got married.”

The girls first heard of the Visual History Archive during an interview with the Chairman Emeritus of the Near East Foundation, Shant Mardirossian. They immediately started scouring the archive for a story to set their project apart.

New York Students Win State Accolades for History Project That Highlights Armenian Genocide Testimony

NEW YORK – Two students in New York state have risen through the ranks of the National History Day Competition with a project that highlights one testimony from the University of Southern California (USC) Shoah Foundation’s Visual History Archive.

After being selected as finalists from their high school early this year, freshmen Lily Jебешян and Alice Vankia of Bronxville High School north of New York City placed second in the Lower Hudson Regional Competition in March. They’ll go on to compete in the New York State Competition in late April, after fine-tuning their display commemorating one segment of the American response to the Armenian Genocide.

“As we dug deeper into the Armenian Genocide, we found a hidden triumph in the story of Near East Relief and the many unheralded heroes of the genocide,” Jебешян and Vankia said in a statement to USC Shoah Foundation.

Addressing this year’s National History Day theme of “triumph and tragedy in history,” the girls looked into the work of American charity Near East Relief, which sent humanitarian aid and raised millions of dollars to help those affected by the Armenian Genocide. The organization set up refuge camps, clinics and hospitals to attend to those displaced by the genocide, and is credited with having cared for 132,000 Armenian orphans from Yerevan, Constantinople, Beirut, Damascus and Jerusalem, among other places in the Near East, a region that includes western Asia, Turkey and Egypt.

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SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — For two weeks, beginning on April 10, Scottsdale Community College in Arizona hosted a series of lectures, films, and ceremonies as part of its annual Genocide Awareness Week. Armenians were among the groups represented during this program of events, all of which were dedicated to genocides and how to prevent them.

St. Aghaj Armenian Apostolic Church provided funding to obtain the services of internationally renowned speakers Dr. Taner Akçam and Professor Barlow Der Mugrdechian. Dr. Akçam’s presentation focused on the Turkish denial of the Armenian Genocide. His extensive research included Ottoman archival documents clearly showing evidence of the Turkish cover-up. He is often referred to as the Sherlock Holmes of finding evidence to prove the premeditation and planning of the 1915 genocide. Much of this material is discussed in his latest book Killing Orders.

Professor Der Mugrdechian’s lecture title was Genocide in the 21st Century: Turkey and Armenia. Both scholars’ talks were delivered on Monday, April 15 and were very well attended, with many students asking thought-provoking questions.

The following week on Wednesday, April 24, a memorial prayer service was held at the Armenian Genocide Monument, which is located in the courtyard at Scottsdale Community College. Impassioned addresses were given by US Rep. David Schweikert and Scottsdale Mayor Jim Lane. Solo musical selections were performed by flutist Diana Tovmosyan and violist Levon Zarasian. Father Zacharia Saribekyan, pastor of St. Aghaj Armenian Apostolic Church of Arizona, spoke of never forgetting the events of 1915.

The ceremony ended on a somber note as attendees lined up to place red roses on the Genocide Monument.

New York Students Win State Accolades for History Project That Highlights Armenian Genocide Testimony

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USC Shoah Foundation Education and Outreach Specialist Sedda Antekelian says she’s proud that Jebejian and Vranka have chosen to include testimony from the Archive.

“Testimony is a primary source,” Antekelian said. “It provides value to the historical record and humanizes the experience of tragedy and resilience.”

Antekelian also credited the students for sharing the voice of Terlemezian, who is “a great example of an Armenian survivor who actively worked for the survival of thousands of Armenian orphans.”

Both girls say they are excited to present their project in the next stage of the competition. They say their family connection to the genocide has motivated all of their work. In fact, both are currently in Armenia, visiting Near East Relief orphanages like the St. Arsenije Church in the Kazachi Post in Gyumri, Armenia.

“Luckily, our ancestors escaped the persecution of the Ottoman Empire and were able to thrive in America,” they said. “We are so passionate about researching this topic because of our personal connections, and we have discovered so much about our family history through the research process. We hope to share the story of the Armenian Genocide and Near East Relief with as many people as possible, so that our history will not be lost.”

Colorado Senate Recognizes Artsakh, Commemorates Armenian Genocide

COLORADO, from page 5

remember and commemorate the 20th-century genocides perpetrated against Armenians, Jews, Cambodians, Bosnians, and Rwandans, among others, as well as the 21st-century genocide against Darfuris in Sudan, the ongoing brutalities against the Rohingya minority in Myanmar, and the crimes against the indigenous Christians and Yazidis in the Middle East.” Notably, the proclamation issued by Gov. Polis at the request of the Coalition Against Global Genocide condemned genocide denial and other genocidal policies, as well as underlined the importance of teaching Colorado schoolchildren about genocides and crimes against humanity.
Youth Leaders Visit Parish on ACYOA Day

NEW YORK — This past Palm Sunday—April 14, 2019—the Eastern Diocese marked ACYOA Day. The annual observance highlights the Christian youth group of the Armenian Church.

Members of the ACYOA Central Council spread out across the Diocese to speak in local parishes about the importance of ACYOA and its ongoing effort of ministry and outreach. Nora Knadjian visited St. Sarkis Church, in Charlotte, NC; Sona Dagley visited St. Haigp, Pinellas Park, FL; Ronnie Maldanor visited the Church of Our Saviour, Worcester, MA; Malley Maslar visited the Armenian Church of Jacksonville, FL; Melissa Mardian visited St. John the Baptist Church, Greenfield, WI; Arsen Volegeson visited St. Mary Church, Washington, DC; and Nick Tashjian visited St. George Church, Hartford, CT.

ACYOA Central Council chair Nora Knadjian said: “In my visit to Charlotte, I met with local ACYOA members on Saturday to lead a Chapter Connections workshop. It was beautiful to reunite with them on Sunday to celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem. During the Divine Liturgy, Fr. Samuel Rith Najarian called the children of the church to gather at the chancel, to be part of the ‘Opening of the Doors’ ceremony. The local ACYOA members are entering into a new, exciting era. They have great ideas and are looking forward to the rest of the year.”

“I enjoyed visiting the Jacksonville community on Palm Sunday,” said Malley Maslar. “I was welcomed with open arms by the entire community. I was able to share my camp experience and share stories about my ACYOA adventures. I loved seeing the community support this chapter. They are small, but they are mighty. The boys all shared their ACYOA experience over the years. I really enjoyed hearing that one of them is planning to attend the St. Nerses Donian’s Training seminar this summer.”

Nick Tashjian said: “The St. George Parish is a great community with Armenian families from different parts of the diaspora. They were all willing to introduce themselves and welcome the central council to their parish. I spoke to the parish about the ACYOA; it was very informal, to the point where I ditched my written speech and just spoke to the parish. There was great interest in a senior’s chapter and several parents approached me about their kids in college. I spoke to the Juniors and Seniors once the lunch was over. I look forward to being in communication with St. George.”

“I loved being able to visit the Church of Our Saviour in Worcester, MA,” said Ronnie Maldanor. “I saw that there were young adults on the altar as well as in the choir. I was happy to see that most of them also took part in the luncheon after church, showing a real connection to their church community. I want to thank the Church of Our Saviour for having me!”

Arsen Volegeson, visiting the St. Mary in Washington, DC, gave him “the opportunity to serve on the altar, and it was wonderful to see all of the young faces also serving. After the Badarak, the ACYOA Juniors prepared and served a luncheon accompanied by a musical performance by a few of the members of the Juniors. It was heartwarming to see the St. Mary community come together and celebrate the youth of the church.”

Melissa Mardian said: “The pleasure of visiting St. John Church in Greenfield, WI. I was welcomed by many old friends of my parents from their time in the ACYOA. The young adults that were present served on the altar during the service and made a point to engage with their church. They have something special at their church, a familial mindset that makes them a strong community.”

Finally, at the St. Hagop parish in Pinellas Park, FL; Sona Dagley noted that “the Sunday School did a wonderful job hosting the luncheon under the supervision of the ACYOA Seniors. I am excited to watch the youth in this area continue to grow and prosper in celebrating their faith and fellowship.”

Jennifer Morris of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries coordinated the ACYOA Day parish visits and continues to work with the ACYOA Central Council on all of their programming and initiatives.

ASA’s Sixth Annual Journalism Internship Program Set for 2017

At its recent meeting the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Students’ Association of America, Inc. [ASA Inc.] announced it is again sponsoring two internships in journalism in partnership with the Armenian Weekly and the Armenian Mirror-Spectator.

“Interns will work under the supervision of either the editorial staff of the Armenian Weekly or the Armenian Mirror-Spectator.

“The ASA, Inc. Journalism Internships coupled with its Annual Scholarship Grant Program which awarded $102,000 in grants for 2016 continues its mission of providing financial assistance and professional level opportunities to qualified students of Armenian heritage. The ASA, Inc. founded in 1910 is the oldest Armenian student organization in the United States,” said Brian Assaadourian, Chairman of the ASA Inc. Board of Trustees in making the announcement.

Participants in the six-week internship program will receive a weekly stipend of $150. Interns will work under the supervision of either the editorial staff of The Armenian Weekly or The Armenian Mirror-Spectator.

“The Internship provides a valuable opportunity for students of Armenian heritage to have hands-on experience as a member of the editorial staff of the respective publications’ noted Dr. Michael G. Mensoian, a member of the ASA Inc. Board of Trustees who oversees the program.

The Armenian Weekly and the Armenian Mirror-Spectator are two of the leading English-language newspapers in the United States and Canada keeping our community informed of developments locally as well as in Armenia and the Diaspora through their print and online editions. The offices of both papers are located Watertown, Massachusetts.

Applications for the ASA Inc. Journalism Internship are now available and may be downloaded by accessing http://www.asainc.org. Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, May 30, 2019. Candidates must have completed at least their sophomore year of college by May 2017. Currently enrolled graduate students are also eligible.

Since its establishment 106 years ago the Armenian Students’ Association of America, Inc. has encouraged the educational pursuits of Armenians in the United States by providing financial assistance in the form of scholarship grants, professional opportunities through internships, and fellowship through social and professional activities.

Salpi Ghazarian Speaks at Genocide Commemoration in Connecticut

CONNECTICUT, from page 5

Mr. Mazarian read a number of legislative citations introduced by Representatives Richard Lopes and Edwin Vargas Jr. which were presented to the keynote Speaker and honored guests and Committee member Attorney Gregory Norsigian led the audience in a solemn moment of silence with Diana Bagharian Colpitas.

The Commemoration was followed by a reception featuring sumptuous Armenian foods.

The flag of the Republic of Armenia flew over the Connecticut State Capitol from April 21 through April 27.
By Gary D'Amato

SOUTH MILWAUKEE, Wis. (Wisconsin Golf) – In the early 1950s, decades before the 24/7 news cycle, smartphones and social media conspired to ruin the myth-building of our sports heroes. Archie Dadian might as well have been Arnold Palmer to a bunch of teens learning to play golf at Grant Park in South Milwaukee.

We know of Dadian’s exploits only through newspaper stories and word of mouth and imagined him to be a giant who could puff a golf ball out of sight, knock down flagsticks with his irons and dare birdie putts not to fall. We knew he lived nearby and frequented Grant Park.

But over two long summers we never saw him, which only made the very idea of an Archie Dadian seem more romantic.

Then, one day, after getting kicked off the course at dusk by a vigilant maintenance worker who knew from experience that we’d sneaked in, we were headed back to the parking lot when something made us stop dead in our tracks. There, in the setting sun, was a solitary figure hitting balls in the little practice area across the street from the first hole.

His swing was short and quick, like the crack of a whip, and the ball came off the club face with a sound unlike anything we’d ever heard. Every shot traced the same perfect parabola in the sky, the balls landing softly and within feet of each other, 120 yards away.

Nobody had to tell us. We knew who we were watching. Archie Dadian is 85 and hasn’t played competitive golf since 2012. He had left his putter replaced three times in 2002 with arthritis. He hits in his index finger, a remnant of the metacarpal he shattered when he hit a rock in the fairway at the 1963 Aaakas Open Institutional, prevents him from completely closing his hand. He says he hasn’t played more than a dozen rounds over the last five years.

But he’s thinking about entering a tournament or two this summer. What a treat that would be. Not for Dadian, but for Wisconsin golf.

He’s a connection to a glorious past in our state, a connection to names such as Dick Sucker, Steve Caravello, Bobby Bruce, Walter Atwood and Butch Schlicht. He’s a connection to a time when public links players were looked upon as inferior, a time when only a handful could enter the State Amateur.

His father, an Armenian immigrant, owned a tavern in blue-collar South Milwaukee. Like some of the men against whom he competed, Dadian worked in insurance. But they were salesmen, many with their own successful businesses. He was an examiner.

As a Saturday morning dew-sweeper who plunked down his green fees at Milwaukee County courses with the rest of the working stiffs, Dadian, his dark complexion turned mahogany from hours in the sun, heard the locker room at some private clubs, even during tournaments he would win. In the 1950s and ’60s, he often changed into his spikes in the parking lot.

You don’t think that put a chip on his shoulder?

Once, in the Milwaukee District Match Play Championship, Dadian was standing over a bunker shot when he heard a woman in the gallery say, “I sure hope the public links player loses.” He backed off, instructed his caddie to pull the flagstick and defiantly holed the shot. Take that, he thought.

When he briefly played on the PGA Tour in 1964 and 1965, he was paired with the great Jack Nicklaus and twosome major champion Doug Ford at a tournament in Indianapolis.

Ford hits his tee shot on the first hole and Ford hits his tee shot and now I’m getting ready to hit and all of a sudden I hear a voice in the gallery: ‘Who the hell is that guy?’ Dadian says, ‘I said, “I back off and I tell you who. I believed it and it had to be close to 70 yards past Ford’s ball and maybe 20 yards past Nicklaus’ ball.”

By his own count, Dadian won more than 100 tournaments, including seventeen qualifiers. He won the State Amateur twice, in 1963 at match play and in 1974 at stroke play. He won the inaugural Wisconsin State Golf Association Match Play Championship in 1975 and repeated in ’76.

There was some nice symmetry to his career: He won the Wisconsin Public Links Association’s Ray Fischer 72-Hole Amateur Championship, the WPLA 36-hole Championship, the Milwaukee District Championship in the old Suburban Conference and Milwaukee Journal tournaments five times each.

Five seems to be my number, Dadian says.

Unlike most any time he won the WPLA Bucks Sixty-best title (with three different partners). He also was a 10-time WSGA Senior Player of the Year, taking the honor every year from 1989 to 1998 (sharing it with Sucker in 1992).

Dadian was the first public links player to win the State Amateur and the first to win the Milwaukee District title. He was named the national public links player of the decade for the 1970s, after finishing runner-up to Eddie Mudd in the 1976 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship and winning the semifinals on three other occasions.

At South Milwaukee High School, he won the old Suburban Conference title in 1951. Sixty-four years later, at age 79, he tied for 18th in the WSGA Senior Amateur: How’s that for longevity?

He did it all with a homemade swing, short and quick in the takeaway; fast and violent in the downswing. Often, both feet came off the ground at impact.

“I went once to Manuel de la Torre,” Dadian says of the late Milwaukee Country Club professional, a nationally known teacher. “He looked at my swing and said, ‘Archie, you’ve got the worst golf swing I’ve ever seen.’ But he said, ‘I wouldn’t change a thing about it.’ I said, ‘Why?’ He said, ‘Because you’re able to repeat everything you do, all the time.’

He was blessed with great natural strength; his grandfather was the Turkish heavyweight wrestling champion and went by the nickname “No Neck.” I could lift 100 pounds just like this,” Dadian says, raising one arm. “Up until about five years ago, I could still do one-arm push-ups.”

He also had superior hand-eye coordination, another genetic gift. He was a multipurpose South Milwaukee city marbles champ, back when every kid shot marbles, and once ran 121 consecutive balls in straight pool. His brothers excelled at racquet sports and his rise was a U.S. table tennis champ. He’s a charter member of the Wisconsin Dartball Hall of Fame.

Dadian discovered golf in the ninth grade, when a friend dragged him to Grant Park, less than a mile from his boyhood home.

He guessed his first score was around 150. “I thought it was a terrible game,” he says. But a second trip to the course yielded some solid shots and he suddenly became hooked. Within months, he was shooting in the 80s with a set of mismatched, wood-shafted clubs.

Because his home course was Grant Park, a short layout with pa-4s mostly in the 280- to 350-yard range, Dadian learned how to hit long irons. He didn’t need them because he could drive the green on all but a handful of holes. And Grant had no bunkers, so he never developed sound technique in the sand.

“My strength was Sirion and in,” he says. “I was almost automatic. If I would have had someone teach me how to hit a longer iron and a bunker shot, nobody would have beat me. I had those two tools working.”

After high school, Dadian enlisted in the Navy and trained in the Marine Corps, where he befriended Tony Lema, who would go on to win the 1964 British Open. Lema and Dadian were the top players on a talented all-Marine Corps golf team.

“But we could never beat San Diego Naval Air Station,” Dadian says. “They had (Billy) Casper and (Gene) Littler.”

Dadian won the Wisconsin State Amateur in 1960 and the next year shot a course-record 59 at Grant Park.

“On the third hole, I had a three-foot birdie putt and I missed it,” Dadian says. “The ball was on the other side of the cup and I reached over and jabbed it and it bounced over the hole. So, I three-putted and bogeyed the hole. Otherwise, it could have been 57.”

Dadian turned pro in 1964, joined the PGA Tour and won a car for making a hole-in-one at the Bolds Open. In what turned out to be a brief career, he got paired with some of the game’s greats, including Nicklaus. In his first round with the Golden Bear, a nervous Dadian developed a case of the shanks.

“I’m sure I thanked the four times,” he says. “Nicklaus comes over to me and puts his arm around me. He says, ‘Hey, Arch, I know you’re nervous, but you see all those greens? They’re not so bad loving us? Any of them were better than are, they’d be playing and you’d be a spectator.”

Whether Dadian would have had a successful career is a matter of conjecture. It ended when he hit that rock on the fairway in Warwick, New York. The time he got hit on the head by a golf ball that had swelled to twice its normal size and he was forced to withdraw.

If someone had been medically required and Dadian applied for amateur reinstatement. In the first State Amateur he entered after regaining amateur status, he lost to a young Andy North in the final in 1969. The championship switched to stroke play in 1971 and Dadian won his second straight in 1974.

How many more would he have won if he hadn’t turned pro, broken his hand and basically missed five years in his competitive game?

“In my mind,” he says, “there’s no question I would have won it more times.”

Ask Dave Miley how he lost the (Milwaukee) District,” he says. “I was 2-up with three holes to go. I never had more than a 540 putt for birdie and I lost every hole. On the 17th hole, I double-putt a putt. Then I did it again on 18.

“It got so I literally couldn’t take the putter off my hands. It would have been good to make me a million dollars that I couldn’t make a one-foot putt, I would have lost. There was no way I could have made the putt. Absolutely none.”

Tekeyian Cultural Association Boston and Armenian General Benevolent Union New England District Present

Literary Evening with California novelist Aris Janjigian and Susan Barba poet, author and editor

May 15
7:30 pm
AGBU Building
241 Mount Auburn Street Watertown MA
Free admission, reception to follow
Books will be on sale
For more information, email talkdirector@talk.com or call 617 924-4455

Public Links Legend Archie Dadian Isn’t Quite Ready to Call It Quits

see GOLF, page 9
BIOLA RATON, Fla. — Since the arrival of Rev. Gomidas Zohrabian to the St. David Armenian Church in Biola Raton, FL, he has initiated many projects and programs including the great success of the Lenten lectures series which were organized by Sonig Kradjian and Marieta Agopian.

All the lectures were given by physicians emphasizing different aspects of health. The lectures started with Dr. Richard Berjian, author, musician and physician. He spoke about risks in today’s medical system. Obviously in the United States of America, we have an excellent sick care system, but a mediocre health care system.

This was followed by Dr. Thomas Varbedian, well known philanthropist, and ondihalmo, who gave an excellent lecture which made a very complicated subject clearly understood in simple terms, and he certainly got the audience involved in his very amicable presentation.

The next topic “You and your kidneys,” was presented by Dr. Armen Margarian from Armenia, who was eloquent, competent and very up to date with his audio visual presentation.

Dr. Wiyan Zilbo who comes from a great family of Armenian doctors, graduated from Baghdad, Iraq medical school and then had extensive training both at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. He has the American Board of Internal Medicine and the Board of gastroenterology. He has a very successful practice in Ft. Lauderdale in gastroenterology and he explained the careful diet to protect against colon cancer.

Dr. Gregory Boyajian, born in Aleppo, immigrated to West Virginia and trained in dentistry and prosthodontics, excelled in both fields and established a very high class and successful practice in West Palm Beach. In addition to his expertise in all fields of dentistry, he is a man for all seasons with solid expertise in history, ancient and Middle East History, photography, art and on and on. His lecture on “Blood” was a well-calibrated mixture of the histology of blood, with clinical significance of the various blood components spiced with humor that kept the audience attentive and mesmerized.

The last lecture was by Dr. Ernest M. Barsamian on the “Human Heart.” During his almost five score years, Dr. Barsamian has received innumerable honors and awards including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the plaque of Valor from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and the Mehitar Heratsu Medal from the President of Armenia. For the past 30 years, the best surgeons of the year at the VA Medical Center outside Boston receives the Ernest M. Barsamian Award. He built one of the first heart-lung machines at MIT, was a pioneer heart surgeon and Professor Emeritus of Surgery and Faculty Dean at Harvard.

The lectures ended via a telephone call facilitated by Dr. Gregory Boyajian, to introduce the Armenian audience British Armenian surgeon, Professor Alexander Sekulian, of London, who has already built an artificial trachea with Nano stem cell technology and is currently working on an artificial heart, with the same technology.
Thousands Mark Genocide Anniversary
At Times Square Program

COMMEMORATION, from page 1
that now 1.5 million people of Armenian ancestry live in America.

“The Armenian nation has not just endured, but has prevailed,” said Schmier, who is a co-sponsor of Senate Resolution 150 that calls for the US to commemorate the Armenian Genocide through official recognition and remembrance. “The three pashas are gone, the Ottoman Empire is gone, but the Armenian people live on and continue to inspire the world.”

A tireless advocate for the Armenians, Sen. Robert Menendez (D.N.J.), who earlier this month admonished US Ambassador to Turkey nominee David M. Satterfield for failing to refer to the 1915 atrocities as Genocide, stated that everyone has “come together in remembrance, in reflection and in solidarity.”

The Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who along with Sen. Ted Cruz (R-T.X.) recently sponsored Senate Resolution 150, is ensuring that the foreign policy of the US “reflects appropriate understanding and sensitivity concerning the Armenian Genocide.”

Menendez stated that the Turkish authorities began a systematic campaign to exterminate the Armenian population through “killings, starvation, forced deportations and unendurable brutality” and remarked that “such intentional horrific violence targeted towards one people has a name and one name only and that name is genocide.”

He acknowledged the 1.5 million victims who perished and also appreciated their contributions to Armenian history and culture that “lives on today and there can be no denying them.”

Taking a stand “in support of the unshakable truth,” Menendez outlined how the Turkish government has spent “countless millions of dollars on lobbyists willing to trumpet lies and make excuses for the atrocities that their predecessors committed.”

“By denying the extermination of 1.5 million Armenians as nothing more than a consequence of World War I is a distortion of history at best and at worst a continued excuse for an unthinkable crime against humanity,” he continued.

He spoke of the suppressive Turkish government that has “undermined the fundamental right of freedom of speech” and how the country’s leaders have initiated prosecutions, smear campaigns and even resorted to violence against historians and journalists who have studied the Turkish treatment of the Armenian community, remarking that “such actions are reprehensible and speak volumes both about the crime and the cover up.”

Recalling the words of Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during the Armenian Genocide, who described the Turkish authorities of deporting Armenians as a ‘death warrant’ to a whole race, Menendez asserted that today’s diplomats should “not be any less frank when engaging with the Turkish government.”

“We refuse to see the truth suppressed, the facts denied and history revised,” said Menendez. “We will not rest until it becomes the official policy of the US government to recognize the Armenian Genocide here and any place else in the world.”

Congressional Armenian Caucus CoChair Frank Pallone (D.N.J.), pledged that he will continue to push for recognition of the Armenian Genocide and reaffirmed that there has been “tremendous progress” around the world as 30 countries now officially recognize the Armenian Genocide, along with 49 out of 50 US states.

“We will continue our efforts and demand that the Turkish government recognize the Armenian Genocide and pay reparations,” said Pallone, who also called for ongoing support of the Republic of Armenia as well as Artsakh. A long-time supporter, he has made trips to both Armenia and Artsakh, where he has advocated for the people’s right to self-determination. He urged the public to persist in their fight and hold rallies such as the annual commemoration in Times Square in order to achieve official recognition.

“Please understand how important it is for you to be here today and how important it is for all of you to continue to support your Armenian advocates and Armenian organizations like the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, because with their memory and we must come to the day of recognition, from page 2, the Armenian Missionary Association of America and Canada. The Yerevan Dance Ensemble of St. Gregory the Illuminator Mission Parish in Brooklyn sang the Armenian and American anthems and Mary Noz, under the leadership of Maria Sahakyan, as the students of the Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School of Bayside, NY and the Horenian Armenian Day School of New Milford, NJ sang a medley of Armenian patriotic songs, under the guidance of their principals, Tata Tavitian Megherian and Shashik Tushian, respectively. The Yerevan Dance Ensemble of St. Gregory the Illuminator Mission Parish made a special appearance.

The opening remarks and prayer were delivered by Zaven Kajanian, executive director of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). The invocation was made by Archbishop Amashakan Tanielian, Prelate of the Eastern Prelacy of the Diocese of the Church of America, and the closing prayer by Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian, representing Very Rev. Daniel Mathay Khatchatrian, Prelate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. Other clergy in attendance included representatives of the Roman Catholic Armenian Eparchy of America and Canada.

We must teach ourselves and our children the abuse of state power that allows these crimes to go unpunished,” said Maloney. “On this solemn day of remembrance our message remains united and clear: the Turkish government must formally acknowledge the terrible genocide that occurred 104 years ago and I am with you as we keep fighting and pushing for recognition.”

Headlining the event with a special cultural presentation, Beylerian compellingly led the program. McOmber was recognized for his decade of service to the Times Square Armenian Genocide Commemoration and was presented with a special certificate of recognition and a Knights of Vartan medal.

The results of the 2019 Knights and Daughters of Vartan International Armenian Genocide Essay Contest were announced: first-place, Aran Keshishian of Miami, Fla., who is a junior at University of South Florida-Tampa; third-place Lilit Yeldjian of Yerevan, Armenia, who is a fresh- man at Queens University of Princeton, who is a junior at the University of South Florida-Tampa; third-place Lili Arzoumanian of Yerevan, Armenia, who is a fresh-
April 24 Gathering
At Heritage Park Has
Global Flavor

BOSTON, from page 1

He then spoke about visiting his ancestral homeland, Kaygh, with his father, a quarter-century earlier. Once, he said, the Kurkijians were among the 3,000 families living there. His father, Anooshavan, survived the 300-mile trek to safety as a 3-year-old.

Kurkjian wrote about this trauma in a cover story for the Boston Globe Magazine, titled “Roots of Sorrow.” In spite of the many plaudits and awards that he has received for his great body of work exposing wrongdoing, he said that Boston Globe article is his favorite. “That was the most important, inspiring article I wrote,” he said. He added, however, that he has since realized that the headline needs to be expanded to include the positive changes that have happened.

“We need to continue to insist on and demand recognition,” he said, adding, “the arc of the universe bends slowly but it does bend toward justice.” Standing on the spot called the Armenian Heritage Park in Boston was a reason for optimism.

He also touched on the city of Boston and its history of immigrants, from the Italian and Irish to the Haitians, Cambodians and Brazilians who make up so much of the more recent immigrant population.

“It is the immigrant experience that makes our city richer and more diverse,” he said. In addition to speaking about immigration, he stressed the importance of the free press, noting that the administration of President Donald Trump ignored the cables from US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Robert Morgenthau spelling out the government treatment of the Armenians, and it was not until a frustrated Morgenthau shared those cables with the New York Times that the story exploded.

“A free press is a predicate for functioning democracy,” he said, before reciting the motto of the Washington Post, “Democracy dies in the dark.” Next, he praised the Velvet Revolution in Armenia, citing that it was won by a reporter, Nikol Pashinyan, and his wife, Anna Hakobyan, also a reporter.

He urged those present to help Armenia. “Bring your energy and idealism to Armenia,” he stressed the importance of the free press, who make up so much of the more recent immigration. He also touched on the city of Boston and its history of immigrants, from the Italian and Irish to the Haitians, Cambodians and Brazilians who make up so much of the more recent immigrant population.

Dr. Pamela Steiner

1990, during which 13 priceless works were stolen, never to surface again. The next speaker was Dr. Pamela Steiner, a Senior Fellow with the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights at the Harvard School of Public Health, as well as a therapist in private practice in Massachusetts. She is also the great-granddaughter of Ambassador Morgenkau.

She thanked the organizers and the Armenian community for reaching out to her, noting that what the two genocides have in common is that neither is really spoken about in the mainstream media.

“I am bringing the voice of the voiceless to the young children. Our voices are the best weapons we have. We need stories of justice and peace. We must not forget our history and our roots and peaceful ways,” she said.

Steiner praised the efforts of the two journalists for engaging in a dialogue with the other group, helping her on her journey of understanding.

In addition, both were written in anticipation of the centennial of the Armenian Genocide and both knew the assassinated Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, she added.

“Each traveled outside their country to the other,” she said, adding that both writers found a common characteristic among the Armenian community. She wanted to see for herself what left her job and moved to Turkey for two years, fed up with the anti-Turkish sentiments of her community. She wanted to see for herself what left her job and moved to Turkey for two years, fed up with the anti-Turkish sentiments of her community.

In both cases, the writers were journalists trying to present their understandings of history. Neither book received much support in its native group.

Temelkuran, a veteran journalist, wanted to explore why Armenians hated Turks and how the Turks could be so ignorant of their plight and impulsive toward them. Temelkuran, a veteran journalist, wanted to explore why Armenians hated Turks and how the Turks could be so ignorant of their plight and impulsive toward them.

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The crowd, whose members were dazed by her poem and speech, all recited without consulting notes, erupted into a thunderous applause at the conclusion of her talk.

Dr. Marina Kavlakian perfoms.

Also on stage that night were members of the Sooq Nova Dance Company, performing two numbers, “Giliga” and later the high-energy “Nareh-Nareh.”

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“The Armenian Heritage Park makes me feel inexplicable gratitude that we are a nation that survives,” she said. He urged more united programs for the community.
AMAA’s Child and Orphan Care Luncheon And Fashion Show Raises Funds for Children in Armenia, Karabakh

LOS ANGELES – The Crystal Ballroom of the Beverly Hills Hotel was the beautiful setting of the Armenia Missionary Association of America’s Child and Orphan Care Luncheon and Children’s Fashion Show on March 23. The theme of “Wish Upon A Star...” signaled the aim to help dreams come true in Armenia and Karabakh. The Luncheon Co-Chairs, Diane Ceballos, Gina Pelikan and Sandra Kalemkiarian worked tirelessly to make every aspect of the Luncheon enjoyable for over 450 guests and supporters who attended. They warmly welcomed the guests and introduced the dynamic emcee for the day, Jacqueline Sarkissian, who is the morning news reporter for “Good Day Austin” on Fox 7. Before lunch, Sara Kalemkiarian Cipolla delivered an inspiring devotion and prayer about gratitude.

The Ballroom was decorated by floral donators, Zarin David Ghoshianian and David Deeman, who continues to support the event every year. This year’s Silent Auction featured more than 100 items, Nicole Nahanian and Leslie Shahian. Silent Auction co-hosts, prepared many items, including several designer bags, beautiful jewelry, and much more. There were many opportunities to help the children by sponsoring a child, providing meals at the day care centers, or by purchasing a Bible for them to read. This effort was coordinated by Maro Najarjan Yacoubian and Tina Segel who organized the Child Sponsorship table and encouraged everyone to make a difference in the life of a child in Armenia. Many children were-sponsored at the luncheon.

Joyce Stein, national co-chair of the Orphan and Child Care Committee, and her daughter Tina Segel introduced a video which showed the continuing need in Armenia and how AMAA’s important ministry has helped dreams come true for thousands of Armenian children and their families.

This year, the committee was thrilled that the talented Armenian designers of Closh traveled from Istanbul, Turkey to provide the fashions for our first runway show. The designers, Serhi Kerepul and Selin Parnasian Yagul, have deep connections with the Armenian Church and surrounding community in Turkey and has always been dedicated to the Armenian cause. They hand made all of the dresses for the show and donated their time, energy and talent to create a memorable experience for all.

By Aram Arkun

Story of Two Women Through Art and History At Armenian Museum

WATERTOWN — The Armenian Museum of America unveiled a new exhibit on April 24 called “In the Shadow of Branches.”

The exhibit, in the Adele and Haig Der Manuelian galleries, presents the work of two women, a diplomat and an artist. The diplomat, Diana Agabeg Apcar (1859-1937) helped save the life of the artist, Berjouxi Kailian (1914-2014), when the latter was a child refugee from the Armenian Genocide. The aftereffects of genocide continued to reverberate in Kailian’s life and art for decades.

The motto for the Armenian Museum exhibit is “Individuals who take a stand can impact history exponentially.”

Jennifer Listen Munson, executive director of the museum, provided a press briefing during the morning, while the exhibit opened that evening to the public. Michele Kolligian, president of the museum’s board, welcomed guests at the formal event and Munson spoke about the preparatory work for the exhibit. Questions were then taken from the audience.

Visitors to the newly refurbished and bright third floor galleries of the museum first encounter a display on Apcar, including juxtaposed timelines of events in her life, Kailian’s life, and major international turning points. A projection on a pedestal provides a number of her personal effects on loan from the Armenian Cultural Archives for this exhibit.

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The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the AGBU Building at 247 Mount Auburn St. in Watertown. Admission is free, with a reception to follow the formal portion of the evening. Books will be on sale. For more information, email teadirector@aol.com or call 617 924-4555.

Novelist Janigian And Poet/Editor Barba Presented by Tekeyan and AGBU

WATERTOWN — The Tekeyan Cultural Association Boston Chapter and the Armenian General Benevolent Union New England District present a literary evening on May 15 with California novelist Aris Janigian and Susan Barba, poet and editor, as discussants.

For his first novel, Bloodvine, Aris Janigian was hailed by the Los Angeles Times as a “strong and welcome new voice,” and in four subsequent novels he has plumbed the American experience, from the struggle of 1920’s Armenian immigrants to the fields of California to the neuroses and decadence of contemporary culture. His 2012 novel, This Angelic Land, set during the 1992 Los Angeles Riots – and which featured a Lebanese Armenian protagonist – was called “today’s necessary book” by critic D. J. Waldie. Janigian’s Waiting for Lychite at Chateau Marabout, about a screenwriter who goes from riches to ruin in just 42 weeks, was on the Los Angeles Times bestseller list.

Janigian holds a Ph.D in psychology from Claremont Graduate University and was formerly Senior Professor of Humanities at the Southern California Institute of Architecture and a contributing writer to West, the Los Angeles Times Sunday magazine. He was a finalist for Stanford University’s William Saroyan Fiction Prize and the recipient of the Anahit Literary Award from Columbia University. In addition to his five novels, Janigian is co-author, with Mark Sarian, of Something from Nothing. He lives in Fresno, the city of his birth. Susan Barba is the author of Fair Sun, which was awarded the Anahit Literary Prize and the Minas and Kohar Toloyan Prize. Her poems have appeared in Poetry, The Yale Review, the New York Review of Books, Harriquin and elsewhere, and she has received fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and Yaddo. She has a doctorate in comparative literature from Harvard University, specializing in Armenian, Russian, and English poetry, and she works as a senior editor for New York Review Books. Her new book, geode, is forthcoming in 2023.

The discussion with Janigian promises to touch upon the Armenian Diaspora; Armenian-American identity; the format of the novel; the relationship between memory, art, and trauma; nostalgia and post-memory. “What I am struck by as I read Janigian’s work,” Barba says, “is how he gives shape and vitality to these terms, probing and troubling them, and thereby renewing them.”

The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the AGBU Building at 247 Mount Auburn St. in Watertown. Admission is free, with a reception to follow the formal portion of the evening. Books will be on sale. For more information, email teadirector@aol.com or call 617 924-4555.
Story of Two Women through Art and History at Armenian Museum

Margaret Munson, Executive Director of the Armenian Museum of America, held a press event on April 26 to announce a new exhibit of works from the contemporary Armenian women’s artist, Berj Kailian, and her early 20th-century, female Armenian diplomat, Diana Apcar. The exhibit, named “In the Shadow of Branches,” opened at the museum on April 27. It will run until October 27. The exhibition will present works by Kailian, a Los Angeles-based artist whose works have been included in major exhibitions in the United States and Europe. Her paintings and collages explore themes of personal and historical memory, and the Armenian Diaspora.

Diana Apcar was born in 1799 in the Ottoman Empire. With the outbreak of the Armenian Genocide, her father, Hraniel Kailian, and his family escaped to Russia, where Apcar was raised. She later married the diplomat Atena Siroonian and moved to Japan in order to emigrate to the United States. She vouched personally for them and helped Armenian refugees make their way to safety, including many who came via Siberia to Vladivostok, Russia. Apcar helped bring the two Kailian’s to Yokohama and then arranged for them to take a ship, the “Mexico Maru,” to Seattle, Washington.

Ultimately, the Kailian’s traveled to Westbrook, Mass., to join Berj’s mother’s two brothers. Berjouhi graduated from Weymouth High School and then the Vesper George School of Art in Boston in 1936. After marrying, she lived in Paris with her husband Vahan Kalian and attended the Julien School of Fine Arts. When she returned to the US, she ran an art gallery in Hingham, Mass., and after selling her store, went back to school again at the age of 65 to study art at Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts and then Tufts University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1984. She kept on creating art throughout her life.

Munson pointed out that Apcar and Kailian’s lives only briefly intersected in 1919 and they never saw one another again. Kailian’s descendants were not even aware of Apcar and her key role in helping their ancestors. However, Kailian’s paintings and prints, many of which were donated to the Armenian Museum by Kailian and her family, often deal with the events of her early life. Munson suggests that the earth tones Kailian uses might have some connection with her father’s fate. He was forced to dig his own grave and was buried alive.

A painting with many arches may reflect Kailian’s experience as a child of getting lost and being found again in St. Sarkis Church in Yerevan. Kalian only visited Armenia again much later in life, three times.

Munson paired quotes from Kailian’s interviews with her art works to try to give viewers greater insight into Kalian’s world view. In some way, Kalian at one point had implied, her approach of gouging and scratching might be a way for her to get out the pain of her childhood. Most of her works displayed are mixed media on Masonite, and have complex colors, either very bright or earth tones. Munson finds they are similar to other works of Abstract Expressionism of the 1970s. However, many symbols and shapes are connected to meanings for Kalian.

Kalian once said that the starbursts in her mother’s works were associated with the geneses of the creation, like thunderbolts of divine spiritual light. An artist friend of Kalian, on the other hand, said that the starburst was a symbol of never forgetting tragedy.

Kalian, Munson said, does not want to overly describe her work, her history and her past. She wants you to look for yourself. Munson said, “The idea of art work and the creative impulse which works against the destructive impulse is central for her work, the idea that she needs to make these things in order to make sense of her own story, her sense of history, and to deal with the darkness that she has.”

Kalian was an artist-in-residence at the museum in the 1980s and also volunteered there. Jackie Abramian interviewed Kalian in her book, Conversations with Contemporary Armenian Artists (Brattleboro, VT: Amana Books, 1990). She also has been interviewed by her on video as part of the Artists at War multimedia project (see http://www.artistsatwar.net/Berj-Kalian.html)

After her experience as a refugee, Kalian went on to have a family and make many art works, and lived to 100, and yet, Munson said, was only one of the fruits of Apcar’s work. Her great-granddaughter Maloussian documented over 600 people that Apcar helped get passage to the United States.

The title of the Armenian Museum’s show, “In the Shadow of Branches,” refers to a quote from a letter Apcar wrote to US President William H. Taft in 1910, prior to the Armenian Genocide, comparing the United States of America with the sheltering branches of a tree which she hopes will protect the Armenians. Apcar herself, Munson said, extended those branches over many Armenian refugees. The show makes clearer the implications of that shelter for at least one family, the Kailians.

The family was in evidence not only through Berjouhi’s art works; the artist’s cousins came to the opening night event and the Kalian family sponsored the reception afterwards.
Turkey’s Killing Fields

By Bruce Clark

Using the word “genocide” to describe an episode of mass killing has consequences. If the horrors are unfolding now, it invites other countries to intervene and punish the perpetrators. If the unrememberable events are in the past, the world’s use of the term may affect the way they are discussed, by historians or ordinary people. Once the term “genocide” has been established, it can seem tasteless or morally impossible to talk in much detail about the context in which mass murder occurred. Any speculation about precise motives or catalysts can sound like making excuses. But one merit of The Thirty-Year Genocide, about the agonies suffered by Christian subjects of the Ottoman Empire immediately before and after its collapse, is that the authors overcome that problem.

Their narrative offers a subtle diagnosis of why, at particular moments over a span of three decades, Roman rulers and their successors unleashed torrents of suffering. The book examines three episodes: first, the massacre of perhaps 200,000 Ottoman Armenians that took place between 1894 and 1896, then the much larger deportation and slaughter of Armenians that began in 1915 and has been widely recognized as genocide; and third, the destruction or deportation of the remaining Christians (mostly Greeks) during and after the conflict of 1919-22, which Turks call their War of Independence. The fate of Assyrian Christians, of whom 250,000 or more may have perished, is also examined, in less detail. The authors are distinguished Israeli historians Benny Morris and Dror Ze’evi, a fellow professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Benny Morris and Dror Ze’evi carefully discuss possible interpretations of the term “genocide.” Are they implying that a 30-year plan was dreamed up. Regarding the Armenians, they say, there is no doubt that the death marches that began in April 1915 were centrally coordinated. But there have been reasonable arguments over how long in advance they were planned, and whether it was always intended that most victims would die.

The Thirty-Year Genocide: Turkey’s Destruction of Its Christian Minorities, 1894-1924
By Benny Morris and Dror Ze’evi
Illustrated. 656 pp. Harvard University Press. $35.
NOVEMBER 2-3 — ARMENIAFest at St. Apkar Armenian Church. A weekend food and cultural festival featuring traditional Armenian foods, beverages, exhibits, music and dance performances. BB&G E. Chelmsford, MA. Sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lecture Series on Contemporary Armenian Topics.

NOVEMBER 16 — SOAR (Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief) Annual Golf Tournament, Saturday 7 a.m.-2 p.m., North Falmouth. Chicken Kebab & Losh Kebab dinner is $15 per person. RSVP appreciated. For more information, call the St James Church office at 617-923-8860 or call Hapet Berberian at 781-367-6595 or Stephanie Naroian at 978-672-4403.Refreshing Ice Teas, hosted by MEM Tea Imports and dessert. Introduction to walking the labyrinth, mindful and meditative walking at 4:45p.m. RSVP appreciated hello@armenianheritagepark.org

SEPTEMBER 18 – SAVE THE DATE! InterContinental Hotel, Boston. 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 4:45p.m. RSVP appreciated hello@armenianheritagepark.org

SEPTEMBER 16 – Registration is now open for the 2019 weekends of the Abaka Dance Academy. 101 Bigelow Ave., Watertown, MA. Principal/director Apo Achjian. Classes begin September 16 for grades 1-12. Meet & Greet. More details coming soon! For more information, email abakadanceacademy@gmail.com or call 617-283-2010.

SEPTEMBER 17 – AUGUST 16 – Abaka Dance Academy. Summer Program for ages 5-12, with principal/director Apo Achjian at 101 Bigelow Ave., Watertown. Arts and Crafts, Indoor games, Sports, Music, Dance, Free T-shirts, Friday, 6 to 11:30 a.m. and Dinner & Dancing Friday, 6 to 11:30 p.m. at the Cape Club, 125 Falmouth Woods Road, North Falmouth. Chicken Kebab & Losh Kebab dinner. Leon Janahian, chair. Losh Kebab and Kheyma dinner is $15 per person. RSVP requested by May 10 to the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617-354-0632, or email tmh钛hak@gmail.com. Taxi tours to follow. For more information, visit www.abakadanceacademy.org or call 617-501-4300. 

SEPTEMBER 8 – 2019-2020 sessions of the Abaka Dance Academy, 101 Bigelow Ave., Watertown, MA. For more information, contact Dr. Arpine Barba. 7:30 p.m, AGBU Building, 247 Mount Auburn St., Cambridge. Open to all. Donation for each genre of music. Cash bar available all night. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling the Holy Trinity Church Office at 617-354-0632. For more information, log onto www.htaac.org/calendar/event/692/.

SEPTEMBER 5 – Armenian Church of Cape Cod presents Third Annual Kef Time - Pilgrimage to Armenia. Led by Fr. Arakel Alajian. Join us and Discover the Land of our Ancestors. All are wellcome. Registration deposits due March 1; Full Payment due April 1. For more details visit www.300yearsofarmenia.org/ armenia.

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SEPTEMBER 2 – Sunday Afternoon for Families and Friends. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, continued on next page.
Turkey’s Killing Fields

REVIEW, from page 14

Empire from 1919 to 1922. They document many horrifying incidents but these do not add up to a fluent story.

Morris and Ze’evi vigorously challenge the Turkish argument that after World War I Greek separation in the Black Sea region posed a dan-
gering to the emerging Turkish state requiring deportation. The authors maintain that agita-
tion for a state in the Black Sea was never seri-
ous, and that Greeks in that region never offered much resistance to the Turkish regime.

Neither of those statements is completely accu-
rate. Greek Orthodox guerrillas held out in the
Black Sea hinterland with tenacity.

What is more, by challenging the Turkish jus-
tification for the Black Sea deportations, Morris and Ze’evi almost imply that if there had been a military threat in that region, the manh-
ches and deportations might have been morally
right. This leads to a wider point about the
book as a whole.

The reader is left wondering what the authors ultimately feel about the treatment of
Christians in situations of total war. Nothing in the United Nations conventions implies that
military expediency can justify the removal, whether by ethnic cleansing, killing or both, of
populations whose presence is inconvenient. But by weighing up arguments for and against
certain acts of expulsion, Morris and Ze’evi
seem at times to be taking a less purist view.

There is no doubt that during the Ottoman
collapse, millions of Christians died or suffered
because humanitarian principles were grossly
violated. But they were not the only victims. Consider the wars that drove most Muslims out of the Balkans, starting in the early 19th
century and arguably culminating in the genocidal acts suffered by some Bosnian Muslims in 1995.

Hundreds of thousands of Islam’s followers
were killed and millions displaced, often finding refuge in Turkey. If the era that gave birth to
homogeneous post-Ottoman states is to be told
as a singularity, the mass surely look on both
sides of the mirror.

(Bruce Clark writes on religion and society
for The Economist. He is the author of Twice
a Stranger, a study of the Turkish-Greek popu-
lation exchange. This review originally appeared in the New York Times on April 22)

Recipe Corner

by Christine Vartanian Datian

Celery, Avocado and Cucumber Salad

INGREDIENTS

6 cups sliced celery, tender leaves included, sliced on an angle
2 large avocados, cut into pieces or sliced
2 medium cucumbers, peeled, seeded, diced
2 cups fresh tomatoes, diced or 2 cups cherry tomatoes, cut in half
1 cup canned garbanzo beans, drained, washed
1/2 medium red onion, sliced thinly
6-8 radishes, chopped or sliced thinly
1/2 cup each chopped flat-leaf parsley and mint
1/4 cup marinated black olives
Olives and fresh lemon juice (or red or balsamic wine vinegar to taste)
2 cloves garlic, minced
Salt and black pepper
1 teaspoon sumac (or lemon zest)

Garnish

Crumbled feta cheese, ricotta cheese or queso fresco
Toasted pine nuts, pecans or walnuts as garnish

PREPARATION

Combine the celery, avocado and cucumbers with the remaining vegeta-
tables and toss. Add the olives, olive oil and lemon juice, and toss.
Season with salt, pepper and sumac, and toss again. Check seasonings, cover, and marinate for one hour in the refrigerator.

When ready to serve, transfer salad to a serving plate with a slotted spoon (leaving behind any excess liquid), then garnish with cheese and more pepper, if desired. Top with toasted nuts or seeds.

Drizzle with a little olive oil, and serve with fresh lemon or lime wedges.

Note: Choice of orange or grapefruit segments, sliced apple, dates, pomegranate seeds, dried cranberries, golden raisins, pears, marinated artichoke hearts or mushrooms, or fresh grapes may be added to this salad. Toss with a citrus poppy seed dressing or other dressing instead of

Oil and lemon juice, if desired. Serves 6.

*Christine’s recipes have been published in the Fresno Bee newspaper, Sunset magazine, Cooking Light magazine, and at https://www.thearmeniankitchen.com/
In Defense of Illegal Immigrants And Public Servants

By Robert H. Tembeckjian

(Firstly, I feel compelled to apologize for the preceding portion of tonight’s program, which happen to reflect two arcs of my own life: a few-hundred-year-old civilization that was nearly obliterated by Genocide in 1915. It seems fitting to make a few observations on the twin themes of today’s program, which happen to reflect two arcs of my own life: public service and Armenian ancestry. Let me express special appreciation to the Armenian Bar Association for inviting me to participate in Secret Service that the one
son must anxious to see him leave for the past two years is not here. Perhaps he was intimidated by today’s date. It is, after all, the 25th, and the last day he would’ve wanted to hear on the 25th is Rod Rosenstein. Rod and I have different relationships to the Armenian-American community. He chose to join it, having the good sense to marry Lisa Barsoomian. I had no choice in the matter. Marrying into such a tight-knit community can be challenging. Just ask Kanye West. But growing up Armenian has its own confusions and burdens, from trying to knit community can be challenging. Just ask Kanye West. But growing up Armenian has its own confusions and burdens, from trying to ing up Armenian has its own confusions and burdens, from trying to

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Thursday’s Back to Hard Denial
Is It a Deadlock or an Opportunity?

By Philippe Raffi Kalfayan

Facing official commemorations of the Armenian Genocide on April 24, 2019 and news of renewed expression of historical and cultural rivalry between Turkey and third-party countries (France, Italy, and Germany), the Turkish Foreign Minister Çavusoglu has kindled a sense of nervousness and a belligerent tone and a denial with tones that were thought to have disappeared. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has done all his predecessors did in the past. He is known for his unparalleled boldness, especially when he argues with an extraordinary aplomb that the existence of an Armenian diaspora is proof that there has been no genocide. The Armenian Diaspora, of course, exists because of the policy of extermination and forced deportation perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire. The successor state, Turkey, does not ignore it. Hence, this declaration may be interpreted as the expression of the regret that the Young Turks did not execute their sinister plan “properly.”

The street commemoration that is to take place in Istanbul, as in previous years, was banned this year by the police. One of the leaders of the Nor Zorantken movement has even been arrested. Now the attitude is back to harsh denialist discourse. The Turkish human losses during this period of time are real. The Turkish human losses during this period of time are real. The Turkish human losses during this period of time are real. The Turkish government is delaying the establishment of official denial policy, is restricted. For the establishment of official denial policy, are restricted. For example, if the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ottoman period were opened, the government would be required to publish the requested documents to make available. One may add to this list the land and real estate records prior to 1924. They are not open to researchers for the legal status of thousands of Turks committed by the Armenians between 1915 and 1917, and the mutual massacres committed by the two populations. Finally, he quotes the former head of the Institute of Turkish History, Metin Hulagu: “The allegations of Armenian genocide are used as a threat against Turkey. Our government should not allow the Armenian government to remain silent, as it has announced, but on the contrary it offers new opportunities to act. The Turkish Republic must choose between the good Armenians, those who are in total contradiction to the recent statements from the Armenian Prime Minister. It could be said that civilization (Islamic-Ottoman) could have been guilty of such a crime.”

State Denial and International Law

State denial is an integral component of genocide. State responsibility has no statute of limitations; what matters is the existence of acts giving rise to such responsibility, namely internationally wrongful acts. It is established that Turkey has committed internationally wrongful acts against the Armenians and Europeans. We call on the world to come and do research and analysis in order to set up a new genocidal policy.

Turkish Archives Are Open

The archives of the Ottoman period are accessible. This fact made possible, among other things, finding evidence of orders of deportation, extermination, and numerous testimonies of survivors. As of the Republican period, there are very few documents available. The access to other relevant archives, and in particular for the Republic period, is almost impossible. The researchers and historians who worked on the establishment of official denial policy, are restricted. For example, if the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Ottoman period were opened, the government would be required to publish the requested documents to make available. One may add to this list the land and real estate records prior to 1924. They are not open to researchers for the legal status of thousands of Turks committed by the Armenians between 1915 and 1917, and the mutual massacres committed by the two populations. Finally, he quotes the former head of the Institute of Turkish History, Metin Hulagu: “The allegations of Armenian genocide are used as a threat against Turkey. Our government should not allow the Armenian government to remain silent, as it has announced, but on the contrary it offers new opportunities to act. The Turkish Republic must choose between the good Armenians, those who are in total contradiction to the recent statements from the Armenian Prime Minister. It could be said that civilization (Islamic-Ottoman) could have been guilty of such a crime.”

Involving Perinçek Judgment

The nationalistic politician Oguz Perinçek was a doctor of law and a historian, and he could not ignore the contradictory arguments. In an article, Güven Gürkan Öztan and Ömer Turan (“Armenian Genocide: Turkish society and state united in denial”), the authors stress that the Turkish Republic will wipe the slate clean is accompanied by a number of legal measures aimed at covering up the footprints of 1915, especially on the question of “abandoned properties” which is corroborated by the UN Human Rights Council. They conclude that “The ARP has maintained the denialist policy of the Turkish state on many points, whether on the question of archives, historical commissions or the use of their power in international relations. We have simply gone from a criticism of the Young Turkey ideology to one that refuses to consider that civilization (Islamic-Ottoman) could have been guilty of such a crime.”

The Genocide Prevention Resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council notes “with concern that attempts to deny or to justify the crime of genocide, as defined in the Convention and established as such under international law, may lead to conditions favorable to the perpetuation and efforts to prevent genocide” by making the fight against state denial a means of preventing genocide; this provision obliges all States Parties to the Convention to的工作. The National Communiqué notes an academic lawyer criticizing the Turkish state for “failing to make sufficient use of the ECHR’s [European Court of Human Rights] decision in support of Voska Perinçek’s denial of the Armenian genocides.” This judgment is, according to him, strengthening the hand of Turkey.

In summary, the time is globally aggressive, threatening, and the goal is clearly to divide the Armenian nation, especially Armenians from its diaspora, the good Armenians from the bad. The exclusion of the Armenian patriarchate of Istanbul is clearly shaping up to be a stage under threat. The claims are based on historical untruths, especially the alleged civil war and causal equations.

The landmark book Genocides and the Law by Ladisv Hennebel and Thomas Hochman recalls that “the denial assumption is a fair game policy in Turkey, which projects itself as a state and part of the essential duties of its diplomatic missions. Denial occurs in a network of organized political attempts to reverse or subvert the historical achievements of the people (David Frasier). It adds: “the denial of the Armenian genocide is a proof of a state of denial of its own past. Turkey has tried to deny the atrocities, its human rights, and the history of an emerging nation that is trying to build itself a different past. Here the debate is created by the Turkish state itself it revolves around the definition of genocide and its applicability to the crimes committed against the Armenians rather than on the massacres ever actually occurred” (Martin Imbleau). And “the denial of the Armenian genocide is not only tolerated, it is flourishing (Robert Kahn).”

Hochmann argues that state denialism fabricates good faith deniers because of educational programs, but that the higher the artificiality of these denialistic deniers, the better. It is established. It is for this reason that the Lebonant Tribunal found that Perinçek’s remarks about Armenian Genocide were similar to qualified denials: justification of the massacres, excluding the participation of the Turkish state. For another example, French society denies vigorously the war crimes committed by the Armenians between 1915 and 1917, and the mutual massacres committed by the two populations. Finally, he quotes the former head of the Institute of Turkish History, Metin Hulagu: “The allegations of Armenian genocide are used as a threat against Turkey. Our government should not allow the Armenian government to remain silent, as it has announced, but on the contrary it offers new opportunities to act. The Turkish Republic must choose between the good Armenians, those who are in total contradiction to the recent statements from the Armenian Prime Minister. It could be said that civilization (Islamic-Ottoman) could have been guilty of such a crime.”

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Turkey Is Back to Hard Denial

Trump: A Coward on the Armenian Genocide Like Obama, Bush Jr., Clinton, and Bush Sr.

President Donald Trump issued last week his third April 24 statement “on Armenian Remembrance Day.” And for three years in a row he did not muster the courage to use the correct term — genocide — to describe the annihilation of 1.5 million innocent Armenian men, women, and children by the Ottoman Turkish government.

President Trump basically repeated the same words that he used in the past two years, with very minor changes. Again he used the Armenian term “Meds Yeghern” (Great Crime) to avoid calling the mass killings a genocide. Meds Yeghern is simply a description that Armenians used before the word genocide became widely used in the mid-20th century. We record that as genocide is a term of international law and has legal consequences. Besides, if President Trump insists on using an Armenian term, he should have said “Tseghasbanoutyoun” (genocide).

Many Armenians had been hoping ever since his election that President Trump would come to his senses and do what many previous US administrations have done: call the government of the Ottoman Empire that committed the mass massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 and 1916 as a genocide. Unfortunately, President Trump’s statement based on the genocide issue is long-standing. The Government acknowledges the Armenian Genocide, and the US government sent an official document to the International Court of Justice. Such a statement on April 24, on the day of the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, is a deep insult to the Armenian people and further fueled by the Turkish leaders’ denials. Such a statement on April 24, on the day of the anniversary of the Genocide, is a deep insult to the Armenian people and further fueled by the Turkish leaders’ denials.

On April 24, 2019, Armenia’s Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan issued a statement on the 104th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Surprisingly, his statement did not mention Turkey or the Ottoman Empire as the perpetrator of the Armenian Genocide. This must have been an unfortunate oversight on the part of the Prime Minister and his aides. I do not think it was done intentionally, particularly since the statement does include a strong reference to Armenians losing their homeland in addition to the human toll. In the past, Armenia has raised the issue of Armenian territorial demands from Turkey. Meanwhile, President Erdogan issued a particularly disgraceful statement in Ankara: “The relocation of the Armenian gangs and their supporters, who massacred the Muslim people, including women and children, in eastern Anatolia, is the most reasonable action that could be taken in such a period.”

Erdogan is shamefully accusing the Armenian victims of committing a mass crime against the victiming Turks. This is an outrageous lie which is the equivalent of accusing Jews of killing Germans during the Holocaust. Erdogan must be sufficiently ashamed.

In a surprising development, Prime Minister Pashinyan responded forcefully to Erdogan’s pathetic lies. Pashinyan’s statement was an important contribution to the international community to respond: “On the day when Armenians around the world mourned the innocent victims of the Ottoman Genocide, Turkey, this country’s president Recep Tayyip Erdogan reiterated a statement denying the greatest crime of the 20th century, calling it only, the ‘deportation of Armenians and their accessories,’ and the mass murder of 1.5 million innocent people, ‘the most logical behavior’ is not only a new level of denial of the Armenian Genocide, but also an excuse for the destruction of an entire nation. Such a statement on April 24, on the day of the anniversary of the Genocide, is a deep insult to the Armenian people and further fueled by the Turkish leaders’ denials personally by Erdogan. The world should not be silent.

We are heartened that Prime Minister Pashinyan raised the issue of the demand that the government of the Turkish Republic demand that the government of the Republic of Turkey pursue officially at the International Court of Justice.

The Forty Martyrs of Sebastia

By Zaven Arzoumanian, PhD

The Armenian Church observes the martyrdom of the Forty Soldiers every year on the 19th of April, the earliest witness of the Armenian church in the youthfull years as the members of the eastern hateron of the Roman Empire in 320 AD under Emperor Constantine the Great. The Bishop of Sebastia, on the site where the martyrs were killed, is still a center of pilgrimage for Armenians. The date of their martyrdom is as early as 320, only 19 years after the Edict of Milan in 313 AD by the edict of King Terdat III of Armenia, and under the encouragement those soldiers fought against the Romans, who had killed two thousands of Armenians in the battle of Vardavank, to honor and glorify God by the inhabitants of the Valley of churches, to establish the Armenian Church from the subjection to the Armenian Church as the state religion of the Empire until later in the century.

Sebastia is definitely the location, the region of Sebastia in historic Armenia presently Sivas in Turkey, as well as the encouragement those soldiers fought against the Romans, who had killed two thousands of Armenians in the battle of Vardavank, to honor and glorify God by the inhabitants of the Valley of churches, to establish the Armenian Church from the subjection to the Armenian Church as the state religion of the Empire until later in the century.

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“Was A Family Decision”

CLOSING, from page 1

“After nearly 28 years in business, we are closing The Improper Bostonian effective today,” publisher Mark Semonian Eppich wrote in statement posted on the magazine’s website. “While this news might be surprising, the company has had a great run and we’re hopefully leaving this incredible city better and brighter since our inception in 1991.”

In an interview later in the day, Semonian Eppich said it was a difficult decision to stop publishing, and even more difficult to deliver the news to the staff.

“It’s a family business and so it was a family decision,” she said, before adding that some “very big names in Boston” contacted her Thursday expressing interest in resurrecting the magazine in some form.

“We’ll see what happens,” Semonian Eppich said.

Began by her brother, Mark Semonian, in a loft in Brookline Village, the Improper published twice a month, reaching an audience of more than 350,000 readers annually. Often with a celebrity’s cheerful face on the cover — singer Joelle James graces the final issue — the Improper was available in blue news boxes selling for $2.50.

The Improper’s per-issue circulation was 87,500, but that dropped to 60,000 lately. He said the Semonian family had made an attempt to sell it. Four years ago, Martinelli said, the magazine was available in blue news boxes throughout the city, at restaurants, hotels, and colleges, and on the doorsteps of thousands of residences from the Back Bay to the North End.

Editor Matt Martinelli said the magazine had been operating at a loss “for a little while,” and “it’s always a sad day to see a publication close its doors,” said Boston magazine editor Chris Faraone, editor of the alt weekly Dig Boston. “With very few exceptions, I don’t like to see any publications go out of business.”

Among its competitors, The Improper’s sudden demise was met with the opposite of glumness. “While it may be good in some sense for DigBoston, I am not here to gloat,” tweeted Chris parasite, editor of the alt weekly Dig Boston. “With very few exceptions, I don’t like to see any publications go out of business.”

That sentiment was shared even by folks at Boston magazine, despite the fact that the two publications had periodically jousted. (To the editors of Boston magazine, The Improper’s annual “Boston’s Best” issue was just a confusing copycat of Boston magazine’s “Best of Boston” issue.)

“It’s always a sad day to see a publication close its doors,” said Boston magazine editor Chris Vogel, “especially one that has been around for so long.”

Asked what he’ll do now, Soroff sighed. “I don’t know,” he said. “My calendar just became incredibly empty.”

The Forty Martyrs of Sebastia

SEBASTA, from page 19

Historians in the West have discovered many details about the Forty Martyrs as they have written in different reference sources, especially the names of the Forty Martyrs individually and related matters. They had however little knowledge what the tenth century Armenian historian Bishop Ukhtanes, who was the active religious leader of Sebastia, and whose eyewitness accounts are indispensable as I could see. Those evidences now available in English should be added to the general knowledge of those first martyrs of Christianity, the much later (10th century) nature of the findings notwithstanding. On the other hand, the Armenians should not mix the title of those Roman Soldiers with the Armenian designation of “Karrasun Mangouk”, leaving the impression of forty “children” by way of translating the word “manoug” as it sounds in the vernacular. Moreover, it implies “the congregation of believers” when read as “oukhdi manougk” in classical Armenian, applied in the prayer books of the Armenian Church.