

THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXII, NO. 12, Issue 4206

\$ 2.00

The First English Language Armenian Weekly in the United States

Lawsuit Seeks Return of Seized Lands

Incirlik Airbase Sits on Disputed Territory

By **Aram Arkun**
Mirror-Spectator Staff

LOS ANGELES – The struggle for justice concerning the Armenian Genocide has taken many forms. Armenians have tried to use academia, the media, legislation and diplomacy, protests and even, briefly, violence in this struggle. Until recently international political and scholarly recognition of the Armenian Genocide’s very existence was the primary goal, but with this seemingly largely accomplished, despite some important exceptions, Armenian efforts have turned to the issue of compensation and land. American and international courts have furnished new arenas to pursue these efforts. The California-based lawyer Vartkes Yeghiayan has been the most active single individual in initiating lawsuits for compensation to Genocide vic-

President Sargisian Celebrates 20th Anniversary Of Independence with NYC Gala and UN Address

Coverage on pages 8-11



tims and their descendants. Most recently, after a series of suits against insurance companies withholding payments to the heirs of Armenian victims, he filed suit directly against the Republic of Turkey and two Turkish banks concerning Armenian-owned land now either near or part of an airbase used by the United States in Incirlik, Turkey.

This airbase, seven miles east of the city of Adana in southeastern Turkey, has played an important role in supporting the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Its construction began in 1951 and was completed in 1954 as part of US Cold War efforts. Its strategic location turned it into a primary host for U2 spy missions into the Soviet Union and for the 1958 US intervention in Lebanon. It also has served as a hub for US humanitarian aid to Turkey. The US operates there as part of NATO. Nuclear bombs are stored at the base. More mundanely, but pertinent for the lawsuit, large American corporations like Baskin-Robbins, Taco Bell and Pizza Hut operate on the territory of the base. The properties on which the base lies were entrusted to Ziraat Bank see LAWSUIT, page 16

Arpa International Film Festival in LA Announces Winners

HOLLYWOOD – The 14th Arpa International Film Festival (AFFMA.org), concluded this year’s festival on Saturday, September 24, with a screening of “Five Minarets in New York,” followed by a gala reception at the Egyptian Theatre. This year’s festival drew record attendance during its three days of screenings, question-and-answer sessions, receptions and awards.

Taking top honors were “Three Veils,” “My Uncle Raphael,” “The Last Tightrope Dancer in Armenia” and “Bolis.”

Arpa International Film Fest director Alex Kalognomos added, “We are proud to be among one of Los Angeles’s longest-running film festivals. This year’s festival broke previous year’s attendance records with more Angelenos discovering our unique and diverse program of worldwide films that both impact and entertain. We look forward to celebrating our momentous 15th year in 2012 and have already begun preparations.”

The Best Picture honor this year went to Rolla Selbak’s drama, “Three Veils.”

“We had an amazing LA premier of ‘Three Veils.’ We thank the sold-out audience and Arpa International Film Fest organizers Alex Kalognomos and Armen Toumajan and jury for awarding us Best Feature Film,” said Selbak.

Best Director and Best Screenplay kudos went to director Marc Fusco and writers Scott Yagemann, Vahik Pirhamzei for their comedy, “My Uncle Raphael.” Pirhamzei also received the festival’s 2011 Breakthrough Performance Award for his starring role in the film. Arman Yeritsyan and Inna Sahakyan’s “The Last Tightrope Dancer in Armenia” was given the award for Best Documentary with Eric Nazarian’s “Bolis” winning Best Short Film.

For the first time in its history, the festival handed out a cash award for Best Screenplay to “My Uncle Raphael” scribes Yagemann and Pirhamzei. The festival hopes to usher in cash awards incentives to other winners beginning with its 15th year celebration next year.

Previously announced, the festival’s AT&T Award for Environmental ARPA, page 16



Overview of Incirlik Airbase

Ararat Lodge Ceremony to Honor Armenian Community Leaders

By **Daphne Abeel**
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BOSTON – On Friday, November 11, the Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge Number 1 will hold its annual awards ceremony at the Renaissance Waterfront Hotel on Long Wharf in Boston. The evening will begin with a reception at 7 p.m., followed by dinner at 8.

“This is a big and important event for us,” said Awards Committee Chairman Nigoghos Atinizian. “Every year, we honor individuals who have made important con-

tributions to the Armenian community, people who have demonstrated leadership. We are giving three awards this year.”

The Man of the Year Award will be given to Aurelian Mardiros, who has been very active within the Knights of Vartan and who has also made a major charitable contribution to the creation of Armenian Heritage Park. His firm, A&A Industries, has fabricated and donated the sculpture, which will be the centerpiece of the park.

Registrar of Motor Vehicles Rachel Kaprielian will receive the Community Leader Award. “Rachel has been a leader in various ways in the Armenian community see HONORS, page 16

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian President to Visit Azerbaijan

BAKU (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is planning a visit here in October, according to the Azerbaijani ambassador to Russia.

“Mr. Medvedev is expected to take part in the Russia-Azerbaijan Humanitarian Forum to be held on October 10 and 11,” Anspress quoted Polad Bulbuloglu as saying.

Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev is also expected to attend the event.

Exhibition Dedicated to AUA 20th Anniversary

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – An exhibition of paintings called “Fences” opened September 28 at the Paramaz Avetisyan sub-building. Gumri artists Hrach Vardanyan and Karen Alekyan dedicated the exhibition to the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the American University of Armenia (AUA). The exhibit included 15 paintings, which were arranged to look like a fence.

Alekyan presented the series of “Fences” as a documentation of the post-Soviet situation.

Number of Female Soldiers in Army Grows

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The number of female soldiers in the Armenian army is on the rise, according to military expert Artsrun Hovhannissyan.

“The role of women in professional armies across the globe has increased,” Hovhannissyan said in Yerevan, adding that joint military service can actually help create an ideal and more efficient armed forces.

For his part, head of Sociometr sociological center Aharon Adibekyan said women have served in the Armenian army for a long time. “Female soldiers are evidence of equality in the army. Moreover, there are tasks women can perform better than men,” he said.

Psychologist Samvel Khudoyan added “the mess in the army will finish once women come to serve, putting an end to abusive language and clashes.”

Azeri POW Refuses to Return to Baku

STEPANAKERT, Karabagh (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Azerbaijani POW Junior Sgt. Roman Guseynov was transferred to a “safe third country” with the assistance of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and representatives of International Organization for Migration (IOM) Armenia.

According to Armenian Defense Ministry, the soldier refused to return to Baku, instead asking for asylum in a “safe third country.”

Guseynov was taken captive on August 27, 2010. He served as contract soldier and yielded himself as prisoner due to being humiliated by his commanders.

INSIDE

Tovmassian Remembered

page 6

INDEX

Arts and Living	12
Armenia	2
Community News	4
Editorial	14
International	3



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Police Confirm Arrest of Members of Alleged Gang of Robbers

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia's police announced the arrest of more than a dozen members of an alleged gang suspected of committing high-profile robberies here earlier this year.

At least four of the 16 detained people are said to have been taken into custody after being charged with banditry. Three are reported to have criminal records.

Yerevan Police Chief Nerses Nazarian said on Monday that they possess enough evidence that the suspects at hand were involved in a series of robberies targeting former and current officials.

The armed attacks reported by the police targeted the homes of five wealthy government-linked individuals, including a former parliament deputy and a former mayor of Yerevan's Malatia-Sebastia district. They reportedly followed the same pattern, with masked men breaking into the mansions early in the morning, beating up their owners and stealing cash and other valuables.

The chief of the Armenian police, Lt-Gen. Alik Sargsian pledged last month "to do everything to quickly solve those crimes."

One man died and several others were detained in Yerevan on Friday as police conducted an operation to apprehend several members of the alleged gang.

Armenian Enterprises to Display Products at International Exhibition

YEREVAN (Arka) – About 200 Armenian enterprises will showcase more than 500 products at the Armenia-Business Partner 2011 International Exhibition in the Complex for Sports and Concerts in Yerevan, the Prom Expo company, which organized the exhibition, reported on Tuesday.

The exhibition, which began September 30 and will run through October 2, is dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence.

Armenian companies at the event include: Proshyan Brandy Factory, Arpimed, Natali Pharm, Ingo Armenia, Nairi Insurance, Talgrig and Valan Prof, while the foreign companies are: German Faber-Castell, Italian Renco, the United States' Hard Lights, Iran's Zar-Sab and ParsShahab and Georgia's Rakia Georgia and Bolnis Agro.

"An international exhibition is a convenient place for seeing past years' achievements, establish new business ties and reopen Armenia's economy," the exhibition organizers said.

Entrepreneurs from Russia, Iran, Bulgaria and Great Britain are expected to be among the guests.

The event is supported by the Armenian government, the Yerevan municipality, the Armenian Commerce and Industry Chamber and the Armenian Development Agency.

US-Armenia Joint Economic Taskforce Focuses on Trade

WASHINGTON (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The 19th sitting of the US-Armenia Joint Economic Taskforce (USATF) took place on September 26. The US Department of State welcomed the Minister of Finance of Armenia, Vache Gabrielian, and his delegation.

Several US Government agencies, including the Department of State, Department of Treasury, Department of Commerce, Office of the US Trade Representative and the US Agency for International Development, participated in the meeting, according to a State Department press release.

Established in 1999, the USATF meets annually to discuss ways to deepen economic ties, further trade and investment between Armenia and the United States and advance market reforms in Armenia, as well as to discuss opportunities for US assistance to contribute to Armenia's long-term economic development. The task force is an open forum to discuss issues of concern and interest to both countries.

Air Armenia: New Terminal at Zvartnots

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – As part of events marking the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence, an opening ceremony was held for the new terminal at an international airport near Yerevan. The new facility will double the passenger service capacity, both arrivals and departures.

Modernization of Zvartnots Airport that was launched in 2002 is nearing completion. Besides new construction it has also included the development of infrastructure, efforts to raise the level of services to international standards, etc.

The official opening of the new Zvartnots terminal on September 16 was attended by President Sargsian Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Territorial Administration Armen Gevorkian, other officials.

According to Armenia's vice-premier, the newly opened terminal is Armenia's new air gate.

"The main goal of the project is to double the airport's existing capacity and complete the new complex. Thus, Zvartnots Airport that has operated since 1961 is being brought into conformity with international class B, which is the highest class in the South Caucasus," said Gevorkian at the opening ceremony, stressing that the new complex offers all modern conditions for citizens and guests of Armenia.

The deputy prime minister added that the complex's arrival and departure halls will be the best in the region in terms of their technical equipment.

"There is no doubt that the project will be a major boost to tourism devel-

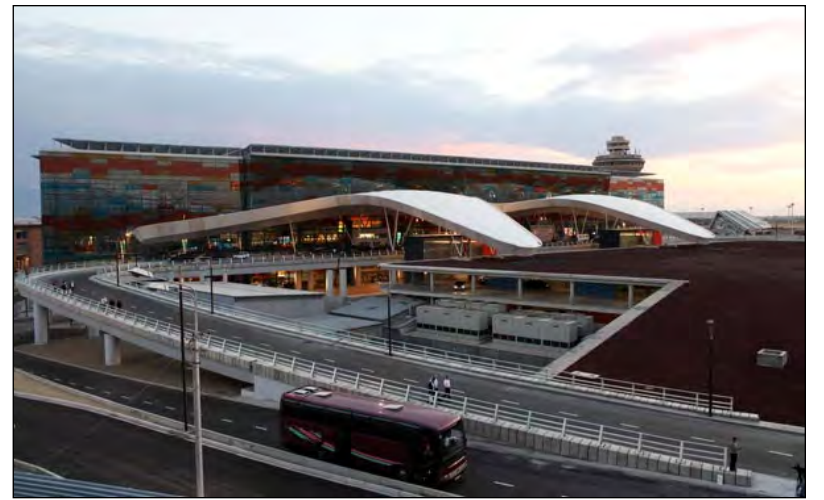
opment, as well as for turning Armenia into a major center for transit passengers in the region. Besides, the new complex and an emerging new economic environment around it will have a significant impact on Armenia's economic progress," Gevorkian emphasized.

According to Argentinean-Armenian businessman Eduardo Eurnekian, who heads the Corporacion America SA group that manages Zvartnots, a well-equipped

Karabagh.

The construction of the new terminal's arrival and departure halls and a car park took place in 2008-2011. The complex occupies a space of 34,000 square meters, while the new parking area meant for 600 cars is situated on 20,000 square meters.

The Armenia International Airports company that took up the management of Zvartnots in 2002 has already invested \$480 million in the building of the new complex and moderniza-



The new terminal at Zvartnots

airport is a necessity for Armenia's survival. "In 1991, I could not even imagine my involvement in this program, which has a unique national importance," said the affluent Diaspora representative.

"My investments have been made all over the world, but I've never felt the delight like I do in Armenia," added Eurnekian, promising to continue investments in Armenia and Nagorno-

tion of airport infrastructure. Due to this investment the airport is capable of serving 3.5 million passengers a year, more than double the number of passengers it could serve in the past (1.6 million). Now it also can handle 2,800 baggage pieces per hour.

The complex built according to the design of the international airport in Vancouver, Canada, will be fully put into operation in October.

Dr. Hagop Panossian Speaks at American University of Armenia

Lecture Starts AUA's Celebration of 20 Years Of Advancement

YEREVAN – The American University of Armenia (AUA) began its weeklong Celebration of Education with an invited talk by Dr. Hagop Panossian titled "ARPA Institute for a Strong Armenia in the 21st Century." AUA has organized daily events ¾ September 26 through October 1 ¾ including an academic conference, titled "Frontiers of Higher Education" and a 20th Anniversary celebration on Friday this week.

More than 60 attendees gathered in AUA's VivaCell Room to hear Panossian. AUA President Bruce Boghosian introduced the speaker, presenting his rich background and highlighting his tremendous contributions to Armenia since the creation of the Republic. "As founder and president of ARPA, Panossian has worked extensively with the Government of Armenia as a member of the Economic & Industrial Advisory

Board, as well as with various Ministries of the Republic of Armenia. Through ARPA, he has made significant contributions towards the modernization of the blood services system of Armenia and the education of youth on various health issues and the prevention of diseases."

In his speech, Panossian stressed the importance of knowledge and technology for planning the future and ensuring productivity and economic growth for any developing country. In his words, "investments in research and development, education and training are key factors for proper knowledge distribution through formal and informal networks for high level economic performance." Panossian also spoke of innovation as another important factor, driven by the interaction of producers and users, which is contingent upon the configuration of a national innovation system, consisting of the flows and relationships among industry, government and academia to develop science and technology and foster entrepreneurship and new products. Strategies should be worked for university-industry-government collaboration and universities should serve as centers of incubation for entrepreneurs. Indeed, this triangle may be extended to a quadrilateral, where, in the case of Armenia, individuals and organizations of the diaspora comprise the fourth edge of the strategy. A knowledge-based economy enriches the level of human capital and improves its competitiveness.

Knowledge, as it is applied in innovation and entrepreneurship, in research and development, and in how people use their education and skills, is considered to be one of the key sources of sustained growth in the global economy. Panossian also spoke about how the ARPA Institute is promoting education and science, innovation and technology transfer and public health in Armenia.

Panossian was a Technical Fellow at Boeing and then at Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, (now retired) and specializes in control systems, structures and vibration suppression, as well as health management and diagnostics of engine systems. He has more than 30 years of experience in control and modeling of rocket engines, large space structures and actuation systems, failure detection, stochastic systems, vibration damping and optimal and adaptive control and has two patents. He is the inventor of Non-Obstructive Particle Damping, a novel passive vibration damping technique, as well as several failure detection techniques. He has designed the control system for the SRS 2200, the Aerospike engine, the most advanced rocket engine ever built and tested, and has worked on the Space Shuttle Main Engine, the National Aerospace Plane, the International Space Station and in other NASA and Air Force programs. He is the founder of the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America in 1983 and the founder of the ARPA Institute in 1992, and the current president.

Omission

The tribute to the late Nishan Parlakian which ran last month did not include the name of his brother, John, who had died in 1994. We regret the omission.



INTERNATIONAL

Allegations of Deal to Fix 2012 Olympic Boxing Medals Made against Azerbaijan

By Anna Adams and Meirion Jones

LONDON (BBC) – BBC “Newsnight” has uncovered evidence of secret payments of millions of dollars from Azerbaijan to international boxing organization World Series Boxing (WSB).

Whistleblowers say that WSB’s chief claimed the money was in return for a guarantee that Azerbaijani fighters would win two boxing gold medals at the London 2012 Olympics.

The boxing organizer at the Olympics,

AIBA, admits an Azeri national paid \$9 million (£5.9 million) to one of their competitions.

But they deny any deal to fix medals.

Lawyers for the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) said that any such allegation was “preposterous and utterly untrue.”

That view was backed by AIBA President Dr. Ching-Kuo Wu, who said that the claims were “totally untrue and ludicrous,” adding that “WSB is conducted in a totally transparent way.”

However, he said that AIBA had a zero-tolerance policy on corruption and that he would conduct an immediate investigation into the allegations.

Whistleblowers say a senior WSB member said gold medals had been promised

The AIBA is the international governing body for the sport of boxing recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). World Series Boxing, a franchised league of professional boxing, is one of its initiatives.

Whistleblowers from inside boxing approached Newsnight with allegations about the chief operating officer of the AIBA’s World Series Boxing (WSB), Ivan Khodabakhsh.

WSB had run into financial difficulties in America and was in need of funding.

The insiders said Khodabakhsh told them that a secret deal had been done to secure funding from Azerbaijan in return for manipulation of the Olympic boxing tournament to guarantee gold medals for Azerbaijani fighters.

One insider told Newsnight: “Ivan boasted to a few of us that there was no need to worry about World Series Boxing having the coin to pay its bills. As long as the Azeris got their medals, WSB would have the cash.”

Another said that Khodabakhsh came in and said: “We are safe now – Azerbaijan came in – we have to give them medals for that.”

“He was talking about gold medals in London in return for millions of dollars of secret payments,” the insider added. “Medals are being sold so blatantly it’s amazing.”

But Khodabakhsh said that claims that there was any deal with Azerbaijan were “an absolute lie.”

“I deny that I have offered anyone two gold medals or have any understanding

that anybody else has offered two gold medals to Azerbaijan,” he added.

AIBA has previously claimed that the money for WSB America came from a private Swiss company, but documents obtained by Newsnight show communications between Khodabakhsh, AIBA executive director Ho Kim and Azerbaijan’s Minister for Emergency Situations Kamaladdin Heydarov about an investment agreement for a \$10-million loan.

These include an e-mail from Khodabakhsh to the ministry in Azerbaijan with the following request: “Please transfer the investment money soonest possible to the WSB America account.”

Newsnight interviewed Khodabakhsh earlier this month in Switzerland, where WSB have offices, and asked him about the source of the money.

“The money for WSB America came from an investment company here based in Switzerland,” he said.

However, lawyers for AIBA and WSB, have now confirmed that although the money was paid through a Swiss company it actually came from Azerbaijan. But they deny that it was from the government there.

They say that the government minister, Heydarov, introduced a private Azerbaijani investor to WSB and that the minister and his assistant acted as the interface between the two since the investor did not speak good English. He did not reply to repeated requests for comment.

To date the anonymous investor has contributed \$9 million to WSB America. Sporting events promoter Barry Hearn was asked to look at the economics of WSB when it was first mooted in 2009 and came to the conclusion that it could not make money.

He said he was surprised that any investor would think that it offered the opportunity for high returns:

“If an investor comes into this scheme with \$10 million I can only think he’s arrived from another planet.”

There have been repeated allegations of corruption in Olympic boxing competitions.

The legendary boxing commentator Jim Neilly said, “There have been enough incidences down the years to suggest there has been collusion.”

Wu said his organization had spent the last four years “cleaning the house of boxing” and that any corruption or manipulation within the sport was not tolerated.

International News

Ambassador Thanks Canada for Stance on Genocide Recognition

OTTAWA, Canada (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenian Ambassador to Canada Armen Yeghanyan submitted his credentials to the Governor General of Canada David Lloyd Johnston.

Having congratulated the Ambassador on his appointment, the Governor General expressed confidence for Yeghanyan’s contributing to further strengthening of Armenia-Canada ties.

The parties went on to discuss development of relations in political, cultural and economy sectors.

Yeghanyan thanked Canadian government for its firm stance on Genocide recognition.

Programs in Alexandria Honor Publishing Anniversary

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (Armenpress) – The fourth international symposium dedicated to the book printing history of the Middle East was held September 27-29 at the Library of Alexandria.

A special session was held within the symposium on the occasion of proclaiming Yerevan a Book Capital 2012 by the UNESCO. Armenian Deputy Culture Minister Arthur Poghosyan said that during the year Armenia will take an active part in major events concerning publishing.

Matenadaran Director Hrachya Tamrazyan, Director of the Yeghishe Charents Museum of Literature and Art Karapet Vardanyan and Edik Dabuzyan, head of the Font Development and Maintenance Department at National Book Chamber, took part in the symposium from Armenia.

Armenian Catholic Church Left to its Fate

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (news.am) – Restoration at the Armenian Catholic church here, which had commenced three years ago, is not completed and the church is left to its fate.

Aziz Tohumcu, the owner of a booth nearby the church and the person who assumed the care of the 16th-century church, said a year has passed since any construction was carried out in the church.

“This scene disturbs my conscience, and that’s why I voluntarily supervise the church during the day, so that no one would damage it. If I don’t supervise, the drug addicts and prostitutes would gather here while the robbers would clean up, in one day, the construction tools in the church and its planks,” Tohumcu said, noting that it is the construction tools in the church yard that actually welcome the church’s visitors, Diyarbakirhaber news agency informs.

The manager of the company that was restoring the church noted that the project was not completed between 2008 and 2009, as scheduled, and therefore the restoration was similarly postponed.

German Historian Book On Genocide Presents It As European Tragedy

BERLIN (Tert.am) – The book, *Battlefield Europe, Transnational Memory and European Identity*, by German historians Claus Leggewie and Anne Lange, deals with the tragedies forgotten in the West, reports *Deutsche welle*.

The book is an attempt to remind Europeans of the historical events of countries that are either newly-joined or not yet European Union member-states. Among the tragedies are the Armenian Genocide, Soviet occupation of the Baltic states, the Bosnian conflict and the Holodomor in Ukraine.

“There can be no trust between the peoples of Europe so long as a child doesn’t know where his parents are buried, or a man cannot openly grieve for his raped wife, as long as perpetrators are not brought to justice and there is no compensation for the victims,” Leggewie said.

Armenian Fest To Feature Rising Jazz Star

MONCTON, Canada (*Times and Transcript*) – Twenty years after the country regained independence following the fall of the Soviet Union, Armenian culture will once again be celebrated in Metro Moncton next month.

Events for the fourth Moncton Armenian Festival were unveiled at Moncton City Hall yesterday, including an array of music, film, art exhibitions and other events running from October 27 to November 6.

Although she says Moncton’s Armenian community is limited to a handful of established families, organizer Sylvia Kasparian says the wider metro population has become increasingly a part of the festival.

“Every year more people are attending and now they know it’s a very high level,” she says.

“Multicultural festivals are growing, because I think people like that, they want something different, but they never have been exposed to this.”

The festival is held every two years, with the inaugural edition coming in 2005 to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Ottoman massacre of about 1.5 million Armenians – an act Canada has recognized as a genocide.

This year’s event begins with a keynote concert from Armenian pianist Tigran Hamasyan. At just 24, he has already captured several high-profile awards and a recording contract with Verve Records, arguably the genre’s premier label.

His music is based on Armenian traditions and folklore, but with modern influences like rock, jazz and even heavy metal.

“He has been described as being in a class all his own,” Kasparian says of the young virtuoso.

Hamasyan will play at Dieppe’s Arts and Culture Centre the evening of October 27, after hosting a free discussion of his work, technique and personal journey at the Faculty of Arts at l’Universite de Moncton that morning.

The festival will also include an exhibition by visual artist and filmmaker Sergei Paradjanov, as well as medieval and sacred music from the Oshakan Vocal Quartet and other musicians. Liturgical and sacred songs are important in Armenian culture, Kasparian says, as the country was the first to officially adopt Christianity in 301 AD.

“It’s such an old civilization and culture and it’s important that people know about history and old cultures. Here, everything is new and people don’t know what the roots are,” she says.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit festivalarmenien.com.

Sofia’s AGBU Youth Organizations Host Benefit Dinner for Local Camp

SOFIA, Bulgaria – On July 9, a Spanish-themed dinner event called “Ibiza Night” was held here at the Armenian Cultural House. Jointly organized by AGBU’s Armenian Youth Association Sofia (AYA Sofia) and Young Professionals of Sofia (YP Sofia), the event raised awareness and funds for the local AGBU summer camp known as Camp Unger. Over 80 guests attended the evening, and many Camp Unger alumni, along with members of AYA Sofia and YP Sofia, volunteered to ensure the success of the benefit.

Prior to the dinner, AGBU Sofia Chairwoman Sonia Avakian-Bedrossian welcomed the Very Rev. Abgar Ovakimian, who was recently appointed to serve as the Locum Tenens of the Armenian Diocese of Bulgaria. Ovakimian shared how impressed he was by the efforts of all the volunteers and applauded their deep-rooted respect for the Armenian Church and their local community. Other notable guests included Sofia’s Deputy Cultural Commissioner Hristo Angelichin and the councilor for the city’s Lozenetz district, Proshko Proshkov.

Members of AYA Sofia and YP Sofia organized a presentation about Camp Unger for all those in attendance. During the course of the evening, guests donated approximately \$1,500 for the local AGBU camp.

Community News

Dr. George Bournoutian to Speak on 'Continuing Academic War Over Karabagh'

MISSION HILLS, Calif. – Dr. George Bournoutian will give a lecture titled "The Continuing Academic War Over Karabagh: Documentation from the 1823 Russian Survey of the Karabagh Province," on Saturday, October 8, at 5 p.m., at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum. The lecture will be cosponsored by the Museum and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

In 1823, in order to enumerate the population of Karabagh and ascertain revenues to be collected, Russian Gen. Alexei Ermolov ordered a detailed survey of the Karabagh Province, which had been incorporated into the Russian Empire in 1822. The results of the survey, titled "The Description of the Karabagh Province," were presented in April-May 1823 and eventually published in 1866. The number of copies printed must have been very small. With the exception of I. P. Petrushevskii, no serious scholar of 19th-century Transcaucasia or Iran has mined the valuable information contained in these surveys.

In 2003, a new limited edition appeared in Baku. However, instead of printing a facsimile of the original, the production team reformatted the entire text. In doing so, they not only made numerous spelling and typographic errors but also omitted important data, including information about the Armenian presence in the region.

Bournoutian's new work, *The 1823 Russian Survey of the Karabagh Province: A Primary Source on the Demography and Economy of Karabagh in the First Half of the 19th Century* (Mazda), is a full and accurate translation of the original survey. The publication was supported in part by a grant from NAASR. The book will be available for purchase the day of the lecture.

Bournoutian analyzes the data and provides an accurate picture of the demography and economic conditions of Karabagh prior to its incorporation into the Russian Empire. The study will finally put to rest the claims that Armenians arrived in Karabagh only after 1828.

Bournoutian is the author or translator of numerous other books, including *The Khanate of Erevan Under Qajar Rule*, *A Concise History of the Armenian People*, *Two Chronicles on the history of Karabagh*, *The Travel Accounts of Simeon of Poland*, *Tigran II and Rome*, *Jambir* and *A Brief History of the Aghuank Region*. He is senior professor of History at Iona College and has taught Armenian history at Columbia University, Tufts University, New York University, Rutgers University, the University of Connecticut, Ramapo College and Glendale Community College.

More information about Bournoutian's lecture may be had by contacting NAASR at hq@naasr.org or the Ararat-Eskijian Museum at aem@ararat-eskijian-museum.com.



The *Khachkar* dedicated to Khachadour Paul Garabedian

The Civil War's Only Armenian Soldier to Be Honored

VIENNA, Va. (*Washington Times*) – The only known Armenian to have served in the Civil War, Khachadour Paul Garabedian, is being recognized with a new grave marker in a Philadelphia cemetery on Saturday, October 1, thanks to an anonymous \$10,000 donation and the dedication of fellow Armenian-Americans.

Garabedian was born in the small town of Rodosto near Constantinople (now Istanbul) in Turkey, on August 25, 1836, and immigrated to Lowell, Mass. in the late 1850s. There he worked as a machinist and became an American citizen.

In 1864, at the age of 28, he enlisted in the Union Navy. Engineers were in demand at the time, and his years of working in the mills in Massachusetts made him a desirable recruit. He enlisted as a third assistant engineer, holding officer rank, and served upon two ships, the USS Geranium and the USS Grand Gulf, both blockade ships, deployed to cover Southern ports along the Atlantic Coast and later on in the Gulf of Mexico.

Garabedian's letter of appointment was reported in the *Lowell Daily Citizen & News* of August 11, 1864, part of which said:

"We record this appointment with pleasure. The young gentleman is an Armenian by birth, but has become not only naturalized, but is thoroughly indoctrinated in liberal and loyal principles. We have no doubt at all that he will acquit himself honorably and usefully in the position assigned him."

The USS Grand Gulf, on which Garabedian primarily served, had a steam engine and was screw propelled. With a top speed of 11.5 knots, armed with one 100-pounder, two 30-pounders, and three eight-inch guns, it was highly effective as a blockader. She was credited with sinking a number of blockade-runners along the coast.

First Armenian in Philadelphia

There are no other details available regarding his service, and Garabedian was finally discharged in August 1865 in Philadelphia, remaining there for the rest of his life and becoming the first Armenian in the City of Brotherly Love.

His engineering abilities were obvious in 1868 when he filed for a patent with the US Commissioner of Patents for a Pipe Coupling.

Garabedian married Hannah Matilda "Tillie" Wynkoop in Philadelphia on June 18, 1871, at the Church of the Messiah. Daughter of a prominent Philadelphia family, Tillie's brother had died at Andersonville Prison during the Civil War. The Garabedians had no children, and Garabedian died at only 45 years old on August 25, 1881, apparently of tuberculosis, which he may have contracted years before during the war. He is buried in Fernwood Cemetery in southwest Philadelphia.

An Armenian, Paul Sookiasian, of West Chester, Penn., researching Garabedian's early life learned that the original grave marker had basically disintegrated sometime in the 1950s, leaving the brave Armenian with his singular contribution to the Civil War in an unmarked grave. Initially, Gary Koltokian of Chelmsford, Mass. had brought the story to his attention, doing the early research in governmental archives and other sources in Lowell, Mass. and learning that the Armenian sailor's grave no longer had a marker. Koltokian's efforts began the idea of a new

see CIVIL WAR, page 7

Armenian Heritage Foundation's Najarian Human Rights Lecture to Take Place on October 20

BOSTON – The Armenian Heritage Foundation's second annual K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, M.D. Endowed Lecture on Human Rights will be held on Thursday, October 20, at 7 p.m. at Faneuil Hall.

The speaker will be Paul Rusesabagina, a human rights advocate, founder and president of the Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation and the 2007 US Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient. Rusesabagina is the real life hero of the acclaimed film, "Hotel Rwanda," in which he was portrayed by Don Cheadle.

Charlie Clements, executive director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, will introduce Rusesabagina.

Free and open to the public, the lecture is an endowed public program of the Armenian Heritage Foundation, sponsor of the Armenian Heritage Park under construction along the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, Boston.

The lecture has been inspired by the New England women and men – intellectuals, politicians, diplomats, religious leaders and ordinary citizens – who, beginning in the 1890s at Faneuil Hall, heard the eyewitness accounts of the atrocities taking place against the Armenian minority of the Ottoman Empire during World War I and were called to action. Distinguished Bostonians, among them Julia Ward Howe, Clara Barton, Charlotte Perkins



Human rights advocate and founder and president of The Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation, Paul Rusesabagina

Gilman and Alice Stone Blackwell, heard these accounts and were moved to assist the Armenians. As a result, the American Red Cross launched its first international mission with Barton bringing aid to the Armenians. Philanthropists nationwide raised more than \$100 million in aid. This was America's first internationally-focused human rights movement. Peter Balakian's *The Burning Tigris*, HarperCollins, 2003, made many aware of this New England history.

The lecture is being offered in partnership with historical and academic institutions, as well as human rights organizations. The purpose of the endowed series is to advance understanding of human rights issues and the societal abuses faced by millions today and to increase awareness of the work of individuals and organizations dedicated to eliminating these injustices so that we are all more actively engaged.

Gov. Deval L. Patrick and Mayor Thomas M. Menino are honorary chairs.

Co-chairs representing their participating organization are Clements, executive director, see HERITAGE, page 7



COMMUNITY NEWS



The victorious Detroit St. John's Chapter

Detroit St. John's Chapter Win ACYOA Babayan Cup

PHILADELPHIA – The 2011 ACYOA General Assembly and National Sports Weekend was held Memorial Day Weekend here, and the St. John's Chapter was awarded the Babayan Cup after a successful weekend on the basketball court.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams finished in first place in their respective tournaments. For the men, it was St. John's first ACYOA basketball championship since 1987. St. John's team defeated a dual chapter team from St. Vartan Cathedral (New York City) and St. Leon's (Fairlawn), 40-36, in the Sunday championship. For the women, their victory continues a streak of four-straight first place finishes. St. James of Watertown, last year's winners of the Babayan Cup, captured the volleyball championship.

This is the first time since 1993 that Detroit has been awarded the cup. The Babayan Cup was initiated in 1974 and is given to the chapter that accumulates the highest number of total points in all of the athletic competitions combined. It was donated by Peroz Babayan of Toronto, Canada, in an effort to foster competitive Christian fellowship amongst the ACYOA chapters in the Diocese.

It was also announced at the General Assembly that the 2012 event will take place in Chicago.

Armenian-Americans Support NYC's John S. Liu

By Hagop Vartivarian

NEW YORK – Lobbying is not easy work for Armenian-Americans. It requires as much financially as it does in the time spent forming relationships.

If we are happy today that economic assistance continues to flow to Armenia and Karabagh, then we must acknowledge that this is simply the result of the stubborn work by those American-Armenian political circles engaged in lobbying. And when we obstinately insist on the American Congress accepting the truth of the Armenian Genocide, we realize that this also will be the result of decades of labor.

One example of work in this realm took place on the evening of Sunday, September 18, in Andreas Roubian's Saddle River, NJ home, where a fundraiser was organized to honor and benefit New York City Controller John S. Liu.

More than 100 Armenians came to thank the Taiwanese-born, American-raised and Armenophile New Yorker, who for the past five years has been present and has spoken at the Times Square commemorative events dedicated to the Armenian Genocide. Hrant Gulian presented to those assembled the work that Liu has conducted in support of the Armenian



New York City Controller John S. Liu

Cause and the Armenians. Gulian assured the audience that Liu soon would become New York City's next mayor.

Liu's colleague, neighbor and family friend Garabed "Chuck" Apelian concisely introduced Liu's beliefs concerning Armenians.

The guest of honor then spoke, thanking those present and declaring that indeed he was preparing to run for mayor.

(Translated from the Armenian original.)

Bruin Bob Sweeney to Speak at Holy Trinity Men's Union

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – "If you would like to hear first-hand what it was like to be a part of the Boston Bruins' organization as they won the Stanley Cup Championship this year, then join us on Monday, October 10," stated Aram Hintlian of Holy Trinity Armenian Church, organizer of this event. Guest speaker at the Trinity Men's Union October 10 dinner will be Bob Sweeney, a former player and current development director for the Boston Bruins Foundation.

Born in Boxborough, Mass., Sweeney was drafted out of high school by the Boston Bruins in the 1982 NHL Entry Draft and went on to play four years at Boston College. The 1987-1988 season was his first full year with the

Bruins. Following six seasons with Boston, he went on to play with the Buffalo Sabres, the New York Islanders and the Calgary Flames before retiring from the NHL in 1996. In 2007, he was named director of development for the Boston Bruins Foundation, a non-profit foundation whose mission is to assist charitable organizations that demonstrate a strong commitment to enhancing the quality of life for children throughout New England.

Social hour will begin at 6 p.m., and an Armenian dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. RSVP by Friday, October 7, to Armen Skenderian at askenderian@totalcomsolutions.com, or to Bill Martin at martinw@rcn.com.

ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH 2011 ANNUAL BAZAAR!

Friday, October 14, 2011 (10 a.m.- 9 p.m.)
Saturday, October 15, 2011 (10 a.m.- 9 p.m.)

St. James Fabulous
Friends Watertown Food
Family Bazaar 2011
SAVE THE DATE
Oct. 14-15 Fun

ARMENIAN FOOD, DELICACIES & PASTRIES!

(Served from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.)

Shish Kebab, Chicken Kebab, Losh Kebab, Kheyma and Eetch!
Boereg, Manti, Yalanchi, Porov Kufteh, Tourshi, Choereg,
Cream & Nut Khadaif, Bourma, Baklava & more!

BOOTHS AND VENDORS!

Including the Farmer's Market, Silent Auction,
Armenian Items, the popular Attic Treasures,
and vendor booths, including the fun photo booth!

Featuring great prizes
in the popular
\$ 2 Raffle!
(\$2 per ticket)
Super Raffle!
(1 for \$10, 3 for \$20, 10 for \$50)

\$100 RAFFLE!
Grand Prize - \$5,000
Three \$1,000 and four \$500 prizes!
Purchase your ticket by
October 1, 2011 to be entered into an
extra \$500 early bird drawing at the
ACYOA Reunion Dance!

Featuring our new **KidZone!**

Pumpkin patch! Photo Booth! Crafts and carnival games! Play Space!
Clown and balloon animals! Karaoke! & More!!!

St. James Armenian Church
465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472 (617) 923-8860 info@stthagop.com

Metropol-Residence 2 Mashtots Ave. Yerevan. Armenia

Ideal for Family vacations

Daily, weekly and monthly low rates, starting \$65.00 per day/ residence

The four star residences at the heart of Yerevan with a kitchen and private bathroom is an ideal place to stay for families and couples. This luxurious residence is convenient for whatever purpose your visit is.



Reservations in English please call Sevag at 011-374-93211217
Reservations in Armenian please call Onnig at 011-374-94435445





COMMUNITY NEWS

On the 90th Anniversary of ADL:

Prof. Parounag Tovmassian, a True Leader, Still Inspires, 20 Years after His Death

By Hagop Vartivarian

BEIRUT — While still a 27-year-old youth, Armenian Democratic Liberal (ADL) Party member Parounag Tovmassian intended to found an organ for the ADL in Beirut. It was not possible to provide national leadership in Armenian Diasporan communities without a press, especially in a community like that of Lebanon, where the heart of the Armenian Diaspora still beat.

The plan to have a newspaper was developed by ADL leader Mihran Damadian. However, the hero of Sasoun's shank, broken during his years of revolutionary activity, became inflamed again, and the decay of the bone advanced, leaving him an invalid. The plan failed.

This time Tovmassian took on the initiative for its publication. He unceasingly applied to Cairo, to ADLer Vahan Tekeyan, to come and set the foundation of the new paper. More than simply asking, he actually pleaded that Tekeyan should give the newspaper the correct ideological orientation.

Finally Tovmassian received the following letter from Tekeyan:

"As the situation has become a little more certain, I am able to declare that my presence there for two months is not impossible, on condition that *Zartok* will be published by me. Although I desire it, I am afraid that it will not be of any use to once more advise you to weigh well the consequences of your decision. To start and stop quickly is a death blow for the future — under the best of circumstances, it would be possible to succeed."

Bringing Zartok to Life in Beirut

Vahan Tekeyan came to Beirut in the summer of 1937. They began the publication of *Zartok*, renting two dark and damp rooms as its editorial headquarters.

Parounag Tovmassian thus revealed his value as a true leader, and today behold — it has been 75 years that the daily newspaper *Zartok*, the official mouthpiece of the ADL, has been published.

The Armenian national public life he led was not an easy one. At each retreat, he took on new energy. Providence became his guide on the national path. There was every reason to abandon the difficult unfinished work that he himself had chosen and remained comfortable with in his life at the university as a respected lecturer. He truly had no need to enter the prickly and dangerous Armenian national arena, where one's very life remained uncertain and might end by a fratricidal bullet.

However, as a true leader, he did not give way and continued to work until his advanced years. After World War II, he turned into a symbol of the ADL.

He did not have any offspring, but the daily newspaper *Zartok*, which he himself brought to life, remained his adopted child. Not one day was it stopped — our newspaper entered our homes every day together with the rays of the morning's dawn. Vahan Tekeyan had erred at least once, when he wrote "To start and stop quickly is a death blow for the future..."

Tovmassian, a teacher of mathematics, had done his calculation correctly.

Orphanage Life on the Sands of Antelias

He was born in 1910 in the village of Göldagh in the province of Bursa. After the Armenian Genocide, he ended up exiled to Saint Garabed Monastery of Gesarea (Kayseri). As a result of the continual fighting due to the Kemalist or Turkish Nationalist movement, he was transferred to the American orphanage in Antelias (today in Lebanon). He received his secondary education there, after which he was accepted by Beirut's American University, like some other of his orphan friends who had shared the same fate. In 1932 he had graduated with a bachelor of science degree.

From 1932 to 1934, he worked as a teacher at the Melkonian Educational Institute of Cyprus, from which he went to the Brummana English school. Then from 1937 to 1957 he taught mathematics and physics at the American University of Beirut (AUB) and for several years he ran the second division of the university. During his years at Melkonian and AUB he had a large number of prepared and knowledgeable students. He got a majority of them to become members in the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and Hay Yeridasartats Engeragsutian (Armenian Youth Association, or AYA). Those who had broad Armenian national and political interests were encouraged by him to join the ranks of the ADL. The ADL's ranks, to this day, are replete with university graduates and people who are intelligent through broad international horizons. This tradition arose through Parounag Tovmassian's continued efforts and consistent plan to attract educated youth to the party.

Tovmassian played an important role in the arrangement of



Prof. Parounag Tovmassian

the will for the construction of the building of the Hovagimian-Manoogian School, together with Kevork Chatalbashian. He played a similar role in the construction of other AGBU schools, especially the Vahan Tekeyan one.

One year (1947), together with his position in the university, he taught in Beirut's AGBU Hovagimian-Manoogian Secondary School for Boys in order to place the school on a solid foundation. This zeal by the school's founders was rewarded in later years by its Armenian national activities outside of the school and the educational level it achieved.

For a time, he served as secretary of AUB's Nerses Gulbenkian Scholarship Committee.

He met the needs of Armenian university students for scholarships by recommending many of the outstanding students to Armenian and non-Armenian organizations. He became the most trusted educational individual in the university. It was not possible to apply to him and be turned away empty-handed. He did what was possible, knowing well that in the future the healthy leadership of our organizations would come from those educational institutions. He was not wrong — the evidence is the more than 1,000 university graduates who today have taken on leadership roles from the homeland to the distant corners of the diaspora. They all pronounce in gratitude the name of their — and my — professor. He remained the sole professor, and in this fashion each of us greeted him, whether in public life, among the state leadership of the homeland, in the Armenian-populated quarters of Beirut, or in the meeting halls of our clubs.

While he may not have been a lecturer or teacher to many others, he remained our respected professor.

In recognition of his 25 years of educational, pedagogic labor and social service in Lebanon, the Lebanese government bestowed upon him in 1957 the gold medal of merit in the first degree.

Public Life in the AGBU

He very early on became a member of the greatest Armenian philanthropic organization, the AGBU, while he taught in Cyprus. Lebanon began to grow in importance in the Middle East gradually, especially because of the country's enterprising people and its economic and political opportunities. The Lebanese Armenians had greater opportunities to set roots in that country, with conditions being more favorable than in neighboring countries.

Gradually, the focus of Armenian national life began to fix upon Beirut, and in 1945 Tovmassian, foreseeing the importance of the growing Lebanese-Armenian community, persuaded the AGBU Center in Cairo to bestow upon Lebanon a separate AGBU Regional Committee. From 1948 to 1972, that is, for a full 24 years, he held the position of secretary of that committee.

With his typical refinement and communicability, he found a common language with the Lebanese-Armenian upper class, and succeeded in assembling large numbers of individuals to meet urgent AGBU and Armenian national and church responsibilities.

He even impelled them through his advice to become donors.

He became one of the founders of the AYA, for whose central executive he served as secretary from 1940 to 1953. Though he had become the chief moving force of the AGBU, Tovmassian strove to work silently, often behind the scenes, with that political understanding that the AGBU could better attain popularity and wider circles with a non-political party figure. His diplomacy was to be found right there, and it was his constant companion throughout his national and political service.

He knew that the contributions of the respected ADL members, Vahan M. Kiurkjian, Mikayel Natanian, Dr. Nazaret Daghavarian and Mgrdich Antranigian, in the foundation of the AGBU were exceptional and irreplaceable. Assembled around Noubar Pasha, these intellectuals were establishing a new beginning in the firmament of Armenian national life through the birth of the AGBU. And with this knowledge, Tovmassian showed the same enterprise for the AGBU and AYA of Lebanon.

He maintained this principled approach at every stage and period. In particular his relationship with Alex Manoogian, president for life of the AGBU, remained warm, and the entire AGBU and the ADL benefited from it. This close collaboration of our pair of organizations — organizations sharing the same fate which filled each other's deficiencies and completed one another, with the weakness of one becoming that of the other — through triumphant implementation turned into a providential blessing for our people. Without a doubt, Tovmassian's role in that ideological worldview was a blessing.

In one letter, Manoogian characterized Tovmassian as follows: "Armenian life in the Middle East bears the beneficial imprint of Prof. Parounag Tovmassian's person and his thoughts dedicated to the nation. After the Armenian Genocide, when Armenians in that part of the world began the extensive work of restoration, they needed a prudent but courageous leadership, immense sacrifice and unlimited energy. Tovmassian became one of those Armenians who in an unbending fashion presented all this to their people."

A National Figure in Life of Church

He was a member of the National General Assemblies of the Cilician See's dioceses, as well as, from 1944 to 1954, the National Central Executive. He enjoyed a warm relationship with the late Catholicos Karekin I Hovsepian. In 1945, when he married Anzhel from the well-known Tateossian family of Palestine, through the mediation of one of the members of the Jerusalem brotherhood, Archbishop Yeghishe (later Patriarch Yeghishe Derderian), the catholicos himself was present, an exceptional gift for a newlywed couple — and a rare circumstance for a catholicos.

His service to the church was not limited to Antelias. After the church crisis, in 1957, he became one of the chief figures fighting in defense of the Mother See. No matter how much the See of Sis historically is worthy of all respect for us Cilicians, Holy Echmiadzin remains the "holiest of the holies." Sad fratricidal interpolitical party murders followed the church incidents and like many others, Tovmassian was wounded by one of the other side's street fighters. Those men vainly boasting of carrying out an act of bravery were defended by their chiefs.

Despite the betrayals, threats and persecution directed against him, he unwaveringly and without retreating preserved his belief in patriotic principles, bravely always standing on the side of the motherland and Holy Echmiadzin, convinced that they remain the sole guarantee of the continued existence of the Diasporan Armenians.

He had many, many occasions to be together with Catholicos Vazgen I. In the agitated diaspora, the Patriarch of All Armenians had Tovmassian as a faithful and close advisor. Vazken I was not wrong in his choice. And a tradition of amiable relations continues until today between the Mother See and the ADL. Surely those good relations will continue henceforth, as long as the issue of our church union is not resolved, as long as the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) wishes to keep Antelias under its influence.

Catholicos Vazgen I, appreciating Tovmassian's fruitful national, ecclesiastical and public activity and the dedication that he evidenced with respect to the Mother See, awarded him the St. Krikor the Illuminator Medal with a special patriarchal encyclical in 1982. We read in the encyclical, among other things, these words of appreciation: "We wholeheartedly greet in particular your constantly alert spirit dedicated to the homeland, which characterizes your personality, and is the ideological motivating force for your zeal and unrelenting labor."

One of Founders of Tekeyan Cultural Association

In the 1930s, proposals were made at the ADL General Representative Assemblies to form a cultural organization at the side of the ADL independent in structure but sharing the same democratic liberal principles. The birth of the Tekeyan Cultural



COMMUNITY NEWS

Prof. Parounag Tovmassian, A True Leader On the 20th Anniversary of His Death

Association (TCA) became one of the most important achievements of the post-war period of the ADL. The Hnchagians had the "Nor Serount [New Generation]" founded in the 1920s, the ARFers had "Hamazkayin Hay Grtagan yev Mshagoutayin [Pan-national Armenian Educational and Cultural]" founded in the 1930s, but the ADLers did not have a similar organization. In 1946 permission was received from Lebanon's Interior Affairs Ministry to form the TCA with its own program and bylaws.

The founders' committee in January of that year included lawyer Hratchia Setrakian (chairman), Hagop Tavitian (secretary), Hampartzoum Berberian (treasurer) and members Tovmassian, Barkev Barsoumian, Dr. Hovsep Yozgatian and Kersam Aharonian. After a short time, Tovmassian became chairman and for a long period the founder's committee also included ADL members Kasbar Menag, Haigashen Ouzounian and Zaven Gosdanian.

This association, which had its branches in nearly every organized Armenian community, turned into a blessing. Thanks to its extensive

social, literary and cultural work, hundreds of youths joined the ranks of the ADL.

Tekeyan turned into a bridge connecting Armenia to the diaspora. Writers, artists and scholars of the homeland came to the diaspora and familiarized themselves with the Armenian communities abroad. Kohar Kasbarian, Sylva Gaboudigian, the State Academic Song and Dance Ensemble under the leadership of Tatoul Altounian, the Sundukian Academic Theater led by Vartan Ajemian and many other groups and artists came and filled our halls. Our teary-eyed homesick people became more Armenian, and loving Armenia more, swore to remain Armenian and live like Armenians.

A decade after its founding, he established in 1956, *Shirag*, TCA's monthly publication of art and culture, under the editorship of ADL member Zareh Melkonian. Tovmassian also became one of the founders of the literary periodical, Ani, whose editor was Vahe Vahian.

Tovmassian's idealist initiative played a role in the strengthening and expansion of the TCA. (Specially translated into English for the *Mirror-Spectator*.)



With Prof. Parounag Tovmassian, Boston, 1978, from left, Dr. Nubar Berberian, Edmond Y. Azadian, Dr. Arshavir Gundjian, Avedis Alabilikian, Antranik L. Poladian, Flora Gopoyan (sister of Tovmassian), Prof. Parounag Tovmassian, Tereza Krikorian (sister), her husband, Angel Tovmassian (his wife), Dickran Simsarian, Bedros Piandarian, Hampartzoum Berberian, Silva Devletian, Dr. Krikor Maksoudian; seated George Kaloustian, Antoine Bazarbashian and Avedis Asdourian (photo taken by Hagop Vartivarian)

Armenian Heritage Foundation's Human Rights Lecture to Take Place on October 20

HERITAGE, from page 4

Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government; Martha F. Davis, PhD, faculty director, Northeastern School of Law, Human Rights and the Global Economy; A. Frank Donaghue, CEO and deputy director, Physicians for Human Rights USA; Michael A. Grodin, MD, and George J. Annas, JD and MPH co-directors, Global Lawyers and Physicians Working Together for Human Rights, Boston University School of Public Health; Shant Mardirossian, chairman of the Board, Near East Foundation; Margot Stern Strom, founder/executive director, Facing History and Ourselves; Adam Strom, director of research and development, Facing History and Ourselves; Deborah W. Nutter, PhD, senior associate dean, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; Balakrishnan Rajagopal, PhD, acting director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Human Rights and Justice and Joshua Rubenstein, Northeast regional director of Amnesty International USA.

The Armenian Heritage Foundation's annual lecture on human rights has been endowed by K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, MD, in honor of Dr. Najarian's late father, Avedis Abrahamian. "This endowed lecture on human rights is in my father's honor as he taught so many about the need to pay attention, to spot injustice and to speak out where ever and when

ever it occurs," said Dr. Carolann Najarian.

The inaugural speaker was Kerry Kennedy, founder of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights based in Washington.

Rusesabagina saved the lives of more than 1,200 people during the 1994 Rwandan genocide. He was manager of the Hotel des Mille Collines in Kigali and risked his life to shelter Hutus and Tutsis who were seeking refuge from the genocide that killed more than 800,000 people.

Rusesabagina served as special consultant to United Artists and Lion's Gate Films' production of "Hotel Rwanda."

His autobiography, *An Ordinary Man*, was published by Penguin Group (USA) Inc. in April 2006.

In order to further the mission of his foundation, Rusesabagina now tours the world speaking about social justice, human rights activism and the lessons learned from the Rwandan genocide. In 2000, he received the Immortal Chaplains Prize for Humanity. In 2005, he received the highest civilian award in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from President George W. Bush. That same year, Rusesabagina was also honored with the National Civil Rights Museum Freedom Award and the Humanitarian Award from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

After receiving these honors, Rusesabagina

formed the Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation to help provide voice to victims of genocide and support peace efforts in Rwanda and throughout the world. What started as a personal mission to teach the lessons of Rwanda has become an international movement to fight genocide throughout the world.

The foundation raises public awareness about the need for an internationally-administered Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region of Africa. The foundation also works on issues related to the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where more than 5 million have died. The Foundation is campaigning for an end to Rwandan military intervention in the Congo and against the deadly exploitation of conflict minerals in the region.

From 1975 to 1978, Rusesabagina attended the Faculty of Theology in Cameroon. In January 1979, he was employed by Sabena as a

front office manager in their newly-opened Hotel Akagera in the Akagera National Park. Here he learned to excel in the tourism, hotel and catering industry.

Through The Suisse Tourist Consult, Rusesabagina's application was accepted for entrance into the Kenya Utalii College in Nairobi in the hotel management course, which he started in early 1980 and finished in September 1984 in Switzerland.

Back from Switzerland, Rusesabagina joined Sabena Hotels again and was employed as assistant general manager in the Mille Collines Hotel from October 1984 until November 1992, at which time he was promoted to general manager of the Diplomat Hotel (also in Kigali).

As portrayed in the film "Hotel Rwanda," Rusesabagina moved back to the Hotel des Mille Collines during the horrific Rwandan genocide, where he worked tirelessly to protect and shelter those fleeing the violence that had gripped his country.

To learn more about the lecture or the park, visit www.ArmenianHeritagePark.net.

The Civil War's Only Armenian Soldier to Be Honored

CIVIL WAR, from page 4

marker, which will achieve success on October 1.

That was "the reason we needed a gravestone for Garabedian," said Sookiasian, who then brought the story to the Philadelphia Armenian-American Veterans Association (PAAVA).

Sookiasian explained the group "felt that a traditional 'Khachkar' or Armenian cross-stone would be an ideal replacement," but fundraising continued slowly until an anonymous donor heard of the project and sent the PAAVA a check for \$10,000.

Continuing the Armenian participation, the artist who designed the *Khachkar* was Leo Hanian, an ethnic Armenian who fled from massacres against Armenians in Baku, Azerbaijan. He later settled in Philadelphia where he made stone crosses for churches as well.

Marker Tells Garabedian's Life Story

And what a marker it is! Made of Indian black granite, showing the ornate Cross, it carries Garabedian's name and dates of birth and death. The two spire images at the top flanking the cross reflect his two countries: that of Independence Hall for Philadelphia, Penn. on

the right, and the spire of the Cathedral of Holy Echniadzin in Armenia, on the left.

The lower panel or base reveals his life story. The USS Grand Gulf on which he served is portrayed with a Civil War era American flag above it.

Haik Giragosian, an Armenian friend who lives in the Richmond, Va. area, said that he "felt very proud that this fellow Armenian served in the Union Navy." Giragosian, who served in World War II as a submariner, then continued, "He did not come here seeking benefits; instead, in return for a good life, he chose to lay down his life for his adopted country, if needed, because he had become an American."

Current plans are for the rededication ceremony to be held at noon on Saturday, October 1 at the Fernwood Cemetery, and will include a traditional Armenian grave blessing service performed jointly by priests from the five Philadelphia-area Armenian churches. At some point in the ceremony, Khachadour Paul Garabedian's uniquely Armenian-American story will be told.

The ceremony is open to the public.

For additional information, Sookiasian may be reached at vartan84@gmail.com.

Giragosian

F U N E R A L H O M E

James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC
Funeral Counselor

576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606

www.giragosianfuneralhome.com

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN

Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

John K. Najarian, Jr.

Rhode Island's Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

1278 Park Ave. Cranston, RI 02910 (401) 942-1220

1111 Boston Neck Rd. Narragansett, RI 02882 (401) 789-6300

www.nardolillo.com



New York METRO

President Sargisian Celebrates 20th Anniversary Of Independence with Gala in New York

Delivers Address at UN Seeking Justice for Karabagh

By Florence Avakian
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

NEW YORK – Last week the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly opened with more than 100 heads of state coming to UN headquarters here to present their 15-minute speeches. Streets and avenues near the world body and the hotels where the diplomats were staying were closed to traffic and pedestrians, creating a traffic nightmare. The UN was a virtual armed fortress.

There were police cars, ambulances, sand trucks and bulldozers surrounding the UN on the East River, police cruisers with flashing lights, and above, helicopters flying back and forth. Security was extremely tight. Heads of state with their coterie of handlers were everywhere, and hundreds of reporters from all over the world rushed about, desperately hoping for any exclusive bit of information.

In the morning session of Friday, September 23,



Archbishop Khajag Barsmian, left, received a medal from President Serge Sargisian.

Armenian President Serge Sargisian delivered a strong address to the UN General Assembly. He covered several important topics, including Azerbaijan's Armenophobia, its threatening war stance and constant fabrications of truth; the necessity for the negotiating parties to reach a solution to the Karabagh conflict; the Armenian Genocide, and the refusal of Turkey to acknowledge it; and Turkey's abandonment of the Armenia-Turkey normalization process. He concluded by pointing out the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence and listed its many achievements. "Much still remains to be done," he stated. "Above all, we



President Sargisian spoke at the New York gala.

are convinced that we are on the right path, a path that is irreversible."

(See the full text of his speech at the UN on page 9.)

Sargisian, on this trip to the United States, became the first president of a foreign country to receive the Ellis Island Award "for his contribution to reinforcing Armenian-American relations, and peace establishment in the South Caucasus."

20th Anniversary Marked

On Friday, September 23, the 20th anniversary of Armenia's 20th independence was celebrated with a lavish reception and dinner at the elegant Cipriani downtown with 700 in attendance. In addition to Sargisian, the guests included Armenia's Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian,

Diasporan Minister Hranoush Hagopian, UN Ambassador Garen Nazarian, Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Dr. Vartan Gregorian. The event was underwritten by Hirair see ANNIVERSARY, page 10



Carnegie Foundation's Dr. Vartan Gregorian



President Serge Sargisian and Armenia's Ambassador to the UN Garen Nazarian listen to students from Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School in Bayside, Queens, greet the dignitaries.



From left, Edmond Azadian, Hagop Vartvarian, Harry Koundakjian and Dr. Hrant Markarian


New York
METRO

President Honors Community and Political Leaders



Official site of
 President of Armenia
www.president.am

Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian, left, received a medal from President Serge Sargisian.



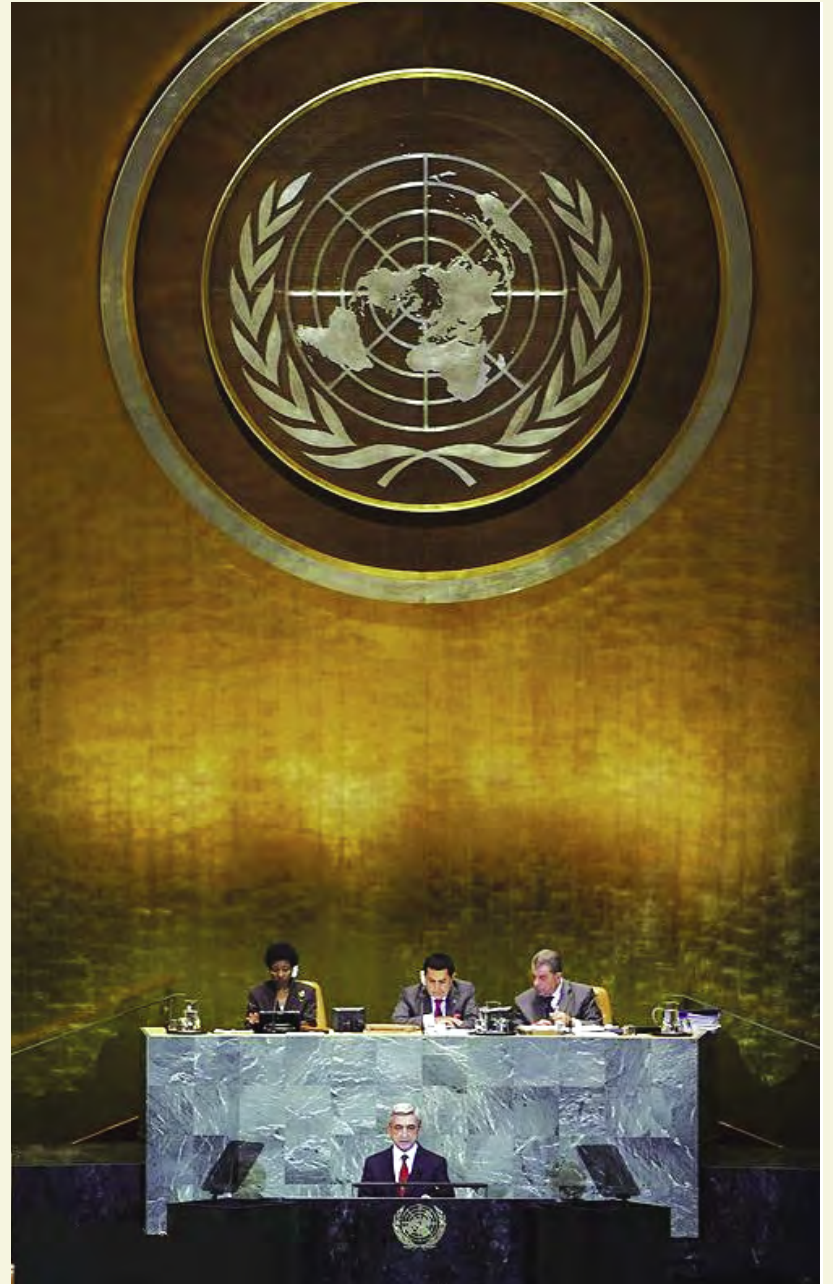
Official site of
 the President of Armenia
www.president.am

AGBU President Berge Setrakian received a medal from President Serge Sargisian.



The official site of
 the President of Armenia
<http://www.president.am>

Rita Balian was also the recipient of a medal from President Serge Sargisian.



President Sargisian Addresses the UN

NEW YORK – During his visit to New York, President Serge Sargisian spoke at the United Nations General Assembly, where he stressed the importance of relations with the diaspora, as well as the determination to see through the independence of Karabagh. His speech is below:

I am proud. I am proud to have such compatriots; I am proud because there are hardly many presidents in the world – probably, two or three – that can be offered such reception in New York. I am proud of you.

I salute you and congratulate you on the 20th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Armenia – Motherland of all Armenians.

We have been celebrating this great jubilee with the same sincere fervor in Armenia and in the diaspora. It is quite natural because we are united not only by our genes, our past, our history, but also because we are united by today and most importantly by tomorrow, by our future. The future which we will create together, all of us. The prosperous and thriving Armenia of our common dream should become a reality through our common efforts.

I am aware that in Armenia and especially in Diaspora there are skeptics and even disheartened people. They think that multiple obstacles, challenges and threats on our way are insurmountable. They are our brothers and sisters who probably have a more acute perception of the problems and view the possibilities of their resolution as unattainable. We will revive our hope and faith in our wonderful country and in our own abilities. We will renew our pledge which through the ages was abandoned by just a few and which many more have remained faithful to. They preserved it and fight, created and taught, cured and built, wrote manuscripts and interpreted, went to prison and exile, brought up strong and educated children and bestowed them with the formula of staying faithful to a centuries-long pledge. Foreign yoke is passing, war is passing, crises are passing, governments of our liking or disliking are passing, but our homeland is eternal and undying. It is our homeland as long as we didn't underestimate ourselves and didn't lose hope.

These days all the results of our 20-year-long journey have been recapped again and again. Quite naturally, some were complaining that the glass is half-empty yet, the others were asserting vigorously that the glass is already half-full. It is true that on the road toward the Armenia of our dreams we have overcome just a part of it. We will overcome the other one too, together, confident and steadfast.

At the same time, the diaspora has brought its share to every accomplishment Armenia has had. And today I express my profound gratitude to all our brothers and sisters, to you all for the multifaceted assistance which you have brought and

see UN SPEECH, page 11


New York
 METRO

President Sargisian Celebrates 20th Anniversary Of Independence with Gala in New York

ANNIVERSARY, from page 8

Hovnanian, Hratch Kaprielian, Nazar Nazarian, George Pagoumian, Karabagh Representative to the US Robert Avetissian and Berge Setrakian.

A video celebrating the 20th independence of Armenia in Republic Square was shown, demonstrating the strong military might of the country. With exploding fireworks, it displayed well-trained troops, missiles, tanks, as well as planes and helicopters flying overhead in formation. The various crafts and arts of the country were also shown.

Carnegie Foundation President Vartan Gregorian, in his congratulatory remarks for Armenia and Karabagh, noted that the celebration is an "opportunity to look into the past and chart our future." Recounting the losses and tragedies of the past, he said, "it's a miracle that Armenia exists today and is free. What is most worrying is the exodus from Armenia. We need a strong militarily, economically and unified Armenia. We must invest in Armenia, create jobs and opportunities. We can't blame the exodus if there are no opportunities. With our excellence in science and technology, we should make Armenia the Switzerland of the Caucasus. Armenia is not a charitable case, but an investment case," he concluded with emphasis.

Sargisian opened his keynote address by stating, "We are united not only in our genes, but also for the present and future of Armenia and Artsakh." However, he pointed



President Serge Sargisian and many dignitaries sat at a long head table.



Among those at the head table were Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, AGBU President Berge Setrakian, President Serge Sargisian and Hirair Hovnanian.

out, "there are skeptics who find a solution impossible. War and crises are temporary. What remains is our homeland."

He expressed his appreciation to the diaspora for its great support, and emphasized that "Armenia and the diaspora must work together. Our goals have to be identical. Our foreign policy must be presented to the diaspora in an understandable way. Also critical is the peaceful resolution of Artsakh, which has been free and cannot have a lesser status. Its right to self-determination cannot be compromised," he stated noting the "atmosphere of armenophobia" by Azerbaijan.

"Any adventure by Azerbaijan outside the OSCE will result in our recognition of Artsakh's independence," he declared to sustained applause.

Referring to the Genocide, he stated that "while only Armenians knew of Turkey's past, now the whole world knows. The face of Turkey has been exposed. We will pursue recognition of the Genocide," he declared.

Concerning the Armenian-Turkish protocols, which he called "timely," he noted that for the first time, a president of Armenia had toured Armenian communities all over the world and listened to their views. He thanked the US for supporting Armenia in their quest to normalize relations with Turkey, and for their help to Armenians in America.

Concluding his address, he presented 20th Anniversary State awards "for their service to Armenia and years of fruitful work" to Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Nazarian, Setrakian and Rita Balian.

The invocation was given by the Eastern Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, and the closing prayer by the Eastern Prelacy Prelate Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan. Entertainment was provided by singer Datevik Hovanesian and her trio, and by Anoush Barclay and Vagharshak Ohanyan, who sang the national anthems as well as a medley of Armenian songs, accompanied on piano by Karen Hakobyan.



From left, ADL representatives Hagop Vartivarian, Edmond Azadian, Papken Megerian and Krikor Salbasian



From left, Roset Atinizian, Nigoghos Atinizian, Kevork Atinizian, Jaklin Atinizian, Hirant Gulian and Ruby Gulian


New York
METRO

President Sargisyan Visits Ellis Island, Receives Award

NEW YORK – President Serge Sargisyan visited Ellis Island as part of his visit to the US and was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor of the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO).

The island has been the first stop for millions of immigrants, including Armenians, to the US since the end of the 19th century.

The Immigration Station was closed in 1954, and the Immigration Museum was opened in 1976. There is a special exhibition at the Museum dedicated to the Armenian Genocide and Armenian immigrants.

Sargisyan visited the Immigration Museum and wrote in the Honorary Guest Book.

The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was founded by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) and pays homage to the immigrant experience. Among the recipients of the medal there are six US Presidents, tens of Secretaries of State, Senators, Congressmen, Nobel Prize Laureates, culture figures, sportsmen and entrepreneurs.

Sargisyan became the first foreign leader to receive the Medal. NECO President Nasser Kazeminy noted that the decision was connected with the Armenian President's contribution to the development of Armenian-American relations, and his devotion to the establishment of peace in the South Caucasus.

Sargisyan expressed gratitude for the award, noting that he was proud of Armenians living in the US.



President Serge Sargisyan receives the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from NECO President Nasser Kazeminy. In the center is Helen Irma Der Stepanian, the only Armenian member on the board of NECO, next to whom stands Oscar Tatosian of Chicago.

President Sargisyan Addresses the UN

UN SPEECH, from page 9

continue to bring to Armenia from day one of its independence. Thank you very much.

I have already noted that day-by-day Armenia and the diaspora are more and more becoming each other's extensions. We will not have the Armenia of our dreams without engaging efforts and input of our compatriots from the diaspora. On the other hand, we will not have an efficient, Armenian thinking, Armenian identity preserving and developing, proud diaspora without a persistently developing Armenia, which has its place and role in the modern world.

To make our relations – our complementarity – full grown, we should do everything to be mutually comprehensible and understandable. I am aware that there were times that there could have been disappointments. It is possible that the citizens of Armenia, too, sometimes were disappointed in their expectations. Nevertheless, we should realize that we need to rise above the disappointments of the failures and put our common ardor in passing on to the next generation the Armenian and diasporan bonds that will give no reason for disappointment.

All areas of the Armenian politics, particularly the area of foreign policy, must be comprehensibly presented to the diaspora. We will never shy away from consulting with the diaspora, from its criticism, its observations, listening to its viewpoint and considering its experience. There may be situations when our positions on some issues may differ, however we have to do everything to be mostly acceptable and comprehensible for each other.

Regarding the preservation of the Armenian identity, issues of essential national interests our goals and agenda must be synchronized, while different means and ways of reaching them must become our asset and guarantee of success.

Peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh issue remains a priority for the Armenian state and its people as, I am sure, it is for the entire Armenian nation. Here we have what we have of which you're well aware. Unfortunately, at the moment we don't have any news worth mentioning. I don't think my position differs from yours. Artsakh has been enjoying its independence for the last twenty years and after the settlement it cannot have a status inferior to the one it has now and which has been won by its sons' blood.

Independence of Karabagh or the right of its people for self-determination is not to be questioned. We continue negotiations with Azerbaijan mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-chairs. I wouldn't say the negotiations are entirely inefficient, however on the other side, Kazan is the best example that Azerbaijan is not shining with constructiveness. Our goal has been and remains to achieve international recognition of Karabagh, including recognition by Azerbaijan. There will be no unwarranted or one-sided concessions, and we have talked about it on many occasions. We continue to believe that in order to register tangible results in the nego-



President Serge Sargisyan and United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

tiations, it is necessary to undertake measures and steps which will enhance atmosphere of confidence among the parties.

As long as Azerbaijan carries on with the threat to use force, as long as Azerbaijan nourishes the anti-Armenian sentiments, which are present today, it will be extremely difficult to achieve real progress. And one more thing should be made very clear: the only reason that Armenia has not yet recognized the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh is because Armenia has been trying to ensure results through the negotiations. At the same time, it must be understood that any adventurism on behalf of Azerbaijan, any action beyond the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group will result in our recog-

inition of the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh.

We together have yet much to do to bring this process to a successful conclusion. I am confident that with the strengthening of NKR-diasporan relations, the issue of the international recognition of Artsakh will become a key point on our common agenda.

I know all too well how difficult it is, particularly for our compatriots in the diaspora to understand and accept our initiative aimed at the establishment of normal relations with Turkey. It is no accident that in the framework of the mentioned initiative, for the first time in the history of independent Armenia, the presi-

actions against Armenia continue, and yet if before the true nature of Turkey was known only to Armenians, regardless of where in the world they live, now, as a result of that process, Turkey's true nature has become clear for the world also.

We will continue our joint actions aimed at the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The 100th anniversary of the Genocide is approaching and through our combined efforts it must become groundbreaking in sense of its international recognition and condemnation.

Bowing to the memory of our innocent victims, we as a nation which survived genocide, will continue to voice our message and ring alarm addressed to all in the name of humankind and civilization – we have to keep our planet free of all-human catastrophes.

You know first-hand value of democracy and great opportunities provided by it for a comprehensive development. Today in Armenia we have adopted standards of European democracy and are moving in that direction. And it is not imposed from outside: it is our people's choice. Armenians, as any normal nation, love freedom. For centuries – and even today – we have been pursuing freedom. Some would whimper that the path is thorny; some would grumble that we move slowly but all realize that it is our path and we will overcome it. We will overcome it armed with the experience of our unbelievable history, enriched with our and world nations' cultures. We will overcome it arguing and hugging each other.

Being here, in the United States of America, I would like also to convey words of gratitude to the people and government of the United States for their compassionate and warm attitude toward the newly-independent Armenia, multifaceted assistance provided through the years of independence, efforts put in the resolution of the NK conflict, assistance in the process of normalization with Turkey and finally for constant attention and care for our compatriots – citizens and residents of the United States.

I once again congratulate us all on the occasion of this great holiday. I am certain that the Armenian nation is a huge power and if that power is used properly, we will have numerous new and glorious victories.

Long live the independent and free Armenia – Motherland of all Armenians!
 Long live the Armenian nation!

dent conducted a pan-Armenian tour. I tried to listen and to present personally our approaches to the Armenians living in different corners of the world.

Concerns and criticism expressed by our compatriots in the diaspora were comprehended and shared by us. However, I remain confident that regardless of the results, the Armenia-Turkey initiative was timely and because of that initiative from the viewpoint of international standing we have a different Armenia, from the viewpoint of our national agenda – a more powerful Armenia, a stronger diaspora and stronger diasporan-Armenia relations.

The Protocols are not ratified yet, Armenia-Turkey border remains closed, Turkey's hostile

Arts & Living

Author to Discuss Book at HMADS

BAYSIDE, N.Y. – In observance of Armenian Literary Month, the Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS) PTA and students invite the community to hear author Lucine Kasbarian on Wednesday, October 12, at 1:30 p.m. She will discuss how Armenian cultural immersion was the catalyst for her new book, *The Greedy Sparrow: An Armenian Tale*.

The Greedy Sparrow (Marshall Cavendish Publishers) is an illustrated Armenian folk tale that has been handed down orally in the author's family for many generations. The tale has also been in the greater Armenian oral tradition for centuries. The story begins in old Armenia with a sparrow who catches a thorn in his foot. As he asks for help, he sets off a cycle of actions that transports him through the Armenian countryside, encountering people engaged in traditional folkways.

The book – illustrated with authentic renderings of Armenian facial features, costumes, rituals and historic landscapes – ends with a surprising twist and conveys moral messages about greed and selfishness.

Kasbarian is a regular contributor to the Armenian press and is also the author of *Armenia: A Rugged Land, an Enduring People* (Simon & Schuster). Kasbarian's presentation will take place at the HMADS, 209-15 Horace Harding Expressway. For more information, visit www.hmads.org.

Admission is free. A book sale and signing will follow refreshments will be served.

French Translation Of *Black Dog of Fate* to Be Published

NEW YORK – Peter Balakian's prize winning memoir, *Black Dog of Fate*, has been published in French by the Metispresses and translated by M. Georges Festa. About Balakian's memoir, the publisher wrote: "*Black Dog of Fate* by Peter Balakian brings together the powerful dimensions of a novel with a witness narration to create a new hybrid form of the memoir. At the time of its publication in the United States in 1997, *Black Dog of Fate* received unanimous critical acclaim. It was cited by the New York Times and by the *Los Angeles Times* as one of the Notable Books of the Year and in 2009 it was re-issued in a 10th anniversary edition with two new chapters of which segments were published in *The New York Times Magazine*."

Balakian will be part of the Festival Armenie-Armenies sponsored by France's National Center for the book. On October 16-21, Balakian and about two dozen other Armenian writers, artists and musicians from Armenia, Europe, the Middle East, South America and the United States will tour France on the Orient Express and hold events in various venues in Marseilles, Avignon, Valence, Lyon and Paris. The tour will begin in Marseilles on Sunday, October 16.

Balakian will do a reading and lecture about his great-uncle's memoir of the Armenian Genocide, *Armenian Golgotha*, on Sunday, October 16, in Marseilles at 339 avenue du Prado at 6 p.m.

The English edition of *Armenian Golgotha* was translated by Peter Balakian and Aris Sevag and published to international acclaim in 2009 by Alfred A. Knopf. Bishop Grigoris Balakian was bishop of the Armenian church of Southern France from the mid 1920s until his death in 1934, and was responsible the construction of the Armenian churches and schools there. Le Chien Noir Du Destin can be ordered at www.metispresses.com.



Some of the many cookbooks written by Arto Der Haroutunian

Reissue of Classic Cookbook by Multi-Talented Manchester Armenian

LONDON (Hetq) – Question: Aram Khatchaturian, the famous Armenian composer, stood in as godfather for the son of what Armenian painter, author, chief and restaurateur in England?

By Hrant Gadarigian

Stumped? Don't feel so bad. I hadn't heard about Arto Der Haroutunian (1940-1987) until recently when I came across a news brief about the reissue of his seminal, *Classic Vegetarian Cookery*, first published in the mid-1980s.

Der Haroutunian was born in Aleppo, the son of a priest of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

His father saw the entire family massacred, except for a sister, during the 1915 Genocide.

In 1952, Der Haroutunian's family moved to Manchester in northern England, when his father was sent as a priest to the Armenian Church there.

To make a long story short, the family opened a successful Armenian restaurant in Manchester, followed by another in London back in the 1970s.

It was also a meeting place for a large number of Armenians, both local and visiting, all looking for good food, company and conversation. For example, patrons included the singer Charles Aznavour, writer William Saroyan, actor Kevork Malikyan and conductors and composers Loris Tjeknavorian and Aram Khatchaturian, the latter acting as godfather to Der Haroutunian's son, Raffi.

Der Haroutunian then began to write a series of Middle Eastern cookbooks – combining his love of food with his great interest in the history and culture of the region to critical acclaim.

He was also a talented painter. His works are in several private collections in Britain and abroad as well as in galleries in Armenia, Syria, Lebanon and Nigeria.

Der Haroutunian was devoted to Armenia, its people and its heritage and he visited the country for the first time in 1978 when he was invited to attend the second International Symposium on Armenian Art where he was a guest speaker and presented a lecture on the Armenian Castle of Azqit. On his return he wrote a book of poems, *From the Future to the Past*, in response to that highly-emotional visit. The poems tell of his thoughts and experiences before, during and after his visit.

On October 6, 1987, Der Haroutunian died of a heart attack at age 47.

A website devoted to Der Haroutunian (www.artoderharoutunian.com) provides a wealth of information regarding the artist and master cook.



Arto Der Haroutunian

New Issue of *Journal of Society For Armenian Studies* Is out

FRESNO – The latest issue of the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, Volume 19, Number 2, December 2010, has been published and includes five original articles.

This issue includes a leading essay from Marc Nichanian on philology, titled "Orientalism and Neo-Archeology," and is followed by Taner Akçam's "The Relationship between Historians and Archival Records: A Critique of Single Source Scholarship on the Armenian Genocide," which comments on the methodology of historians who declare that the archive of the General Staff Presidential Office of Military History and Strategic Study in Turkey (ATASE) and its records are the most trustworthy. Akçam's work is followed by a revision of what we know of Said Halim by Ahmet eyhun in a paper, titled "Said Halim and the Armenian Reform Project of 1914." Two contributions on Armenian literature by Barlow Der Mugrdchian, on "The Role of the Family in Armenian-American Literature," and Nanor Kebranian, titled "Beyond 'the Armenian': Literature, Revolution, Ideology and Hagop Oshagan's Haji Murat," complete the essays section.

The issue also includes Garabet K. Moundjian's review essay, "From 'Hidden Armenians' to 'Hidden Jews' to Primary Sources On Ottoman Reforms, and from Armenian Ethnographies to 'Genocide Studies' and Beyond: A Review Essay On Contemporary Turkish Publications."

Eugene L. Taylor and Abraham D. Krikorian provide an updated research note on the Ravished Armenia Marquee Poster, which Amber Karlins first discussed in June 2010. Finally, the issue contains several book reviews, including Jonathan Conant Page, *Ringing the Gotchnag: Two American Missionary Families in Turkey, 1855-1922* (Barbara J. Merguerian); Hratch K. Martirosyan, *Etymological Dictionary of the Armenian Inherited Lexicon* (John A. C. Greppin); Ece Temelkuran, *Deep Mountain: Across the Turkish-Armenian Divide* (Artin Aslanian); Valentina Calzolari and Jonathan Barnes (eds.), *L'oeuvre de David l'Invincible et la transmission de la pensée grecque dans la tradition arménienne et syriaque* (Robert W. Thomson) and Richard G. Hovannisian and Simon Payaslian (eds.), *Armenian Constantinople* (Joseph A. Kéchichian).

After five issues published over the span of three years, the journal's editorship passes from Joseph A. Kéchichian to Sergio LaPorta. The JSAS is a multi-disciplinary publication that appears on an annual calendar to serve the scholarly community and inform our growing list of lay supporters with the latest contributions. It follows a straightforward policy with respect to submitted essays, as each is read anonymously by three referees: two outside experts, as well as the editor.

Interested readers who wish to join the SAS and receive its refereed Journal can contact Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Society for Armenian Studies, c/o Armenian Studies Program, barlowd@csufresno.edu.



ARTS & LIVING

Study of Armenian Trade Routes Portrays Enterprising, Cosmopolitan Community

By Daphne Abeel

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa. By Sebouh David Aslanian. University of California Press. 2011. 364 pp. Illustrated. \$49.95. ISBN 978-0-520-26687-2

Between the late 16th century and the last half of the 18th century, a group of enterprising and cosmopolitan Armenian merchants, based first in Old Julfa, Nakhijevan, and then in New Julfa, Persia, became internationally-renowned sellers of Iranian silk. Their highly-organized networks reached from Mughal India eventually to London, with important centers in the Mediterranean, the Philippines and Europe.

Sebouh David Aslanian, who holds the Richard Hovannisian Chair at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), has produced an extensively-researched study of these entrepreneurs that is both scholarly and interesting to read.

During the Safavid period, these merchants were first located in Old Julfa on the banks of the Aras River, Nakhijevan, which is currently under Azeri rule. There, they had good access to the silk-producing region of northern Iran. In 1604, when his empire was being attacked by the Ottomans, the Safavid ruler, Shah Abbas I, moved this population to New Julfa on the outskirts of Isfahan. There he granted them land and certain privileges, in exchange for their loyalty to him.

During the 17th and 18th centuries, the Julfan Armenians created one of the greatest trade networks of the early modern period. Their routes connected the economies of Islamic Eurasia to their counterparts in the Christian Mediterranean and northwestern Europe.

The Julfa merchants created a business model that rested on two pillars – that of the *agha*, the sedentary capitalist who invested the money, and the *commenda* agent, who did the traveling and the work of actually selling the merchandise. The *commenda* agents traveled for months, sometimes years, eventually returning to the nodal center of New Julfa, where the profits of the enterprise were split between the two parties.

The nodal center kept network's far-flung settlements connected to each other and monitored the practices of the trade through a kind of court called the Assembly of Merchants. These merchants left an extensive paper trail that has enabled Aslanian to closely study the particulars of their activities. They had their own dialect, and were known to their European trading partners by a plethora of names – “Chelfalynes” hailing from Djulfa, Guilfa, Julfa, Zulfa, Sulfa, Dijulfa, Tulfa, Iula, Chiulfa, Zugha, Usulfa, Soulpha, Chinla and Gilgat.

In addition to correspondence sent along these routes, New Julfa also provided priests and women to the communities that became settled along the way. Ever pragmatic, there were often conversions to the religion of the host community. Thus, a number of merchants converted to Catholicism and some even to Islam. As their network spread, these businessmen also became comfortable in a number of different languages that enabled them to communicate in a variety of settings.

One fascinating section of the book is a chart that details the correspondence between members of one of the leading families, the Shahmirians, based in Isfahan, and their agents in Venice, Izmir and Livorno. The chart lists the senders, the recipients, the origin of the correspondence, its destination, date sent, date

received, travel time and travel mode.

The entire system was relentlessly patriarchal with the eldest male member of any family directing the trading operations and that position being passed on to the next eldest brother or son. Women are barely mentioned in this study and were apparently shipped off to various outlying communities to serve as wives and breeding partners.

Julfa's fortunes began to decline in the early 18th century due to heavy taxation and a climate of religious intolerance. The Safavid dynasty col-

lapsed in the wake of the Afghan invasion and conquest of Isfahan in 1722. However, the community took a decisive blow in the year 1747 when the new ruler, Nadir Shah, imposed excessively-heavy levies on the community and even plundered and killed many Julfans. What families that remained fled to the Mediterranean, Russian and South Asia. Simultaneous to this destruction and dispersion of New Julfa's merchants from their nodal center, the English East India Company began to monopolize trade and the merchants of Julfa were never able to recon-

stitute their dominance.

Aslanian refutes the theories of many other historians regarding the workings of these unusually successful merchants. In that sense, the book is an historian's book for historians. However, lay readers without extensive background in the field can learn from and enjoy this well written and well-documented account. Perhaps a third of the book consists of footnotes, bibliography and index. It pays to read the footnotes and the bibliography is a testament to Aslanian's industry and scholarship.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 6-10 – Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA), Sixth International Conference, San Francisco. For info, call Anita Tashjian (323) 394-3586. Visit www.aiwala.org.

NOVEMBER 19 – The Armenian EyeCare Project will hold its ninth Annual Newport Gala, honoring Gov. George Deukmejian, on November 19, 6:30 p.m., at the Balboa Bay Club, Newport Beach. For info and reservations, call (949) 675-5611.

FLORIDA

The Armenian Cultural Association of America, Inc. presents: Armenian Heritage Cruise XV. Leaving January 21, 2012. 15th Anniversary Celebration. For more info, visit www.ArmenianHeritageCruise.com.

MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 13 – Book reading/signing with Mark Mustian, author of the award-winning novel *The Gendarme*, at the Armenian Library and Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown on Thursday, at 8 p.m. The *Gendarme* has been published in eight languages. Additional information is available at www.markmustian.com.

OCTOBER 14-15 – St. James 2011 Annual Bazaar. Armenian food, delicacies and pastries, shish, chicken and losh kebab, kheyima and eetch, boereg, manti, yalanchi, porov kufteh, tourshi, choereg, khadaif, bourma, baklava and more. Booths and vendors: Farmer's Market, Armenian items, Attic Treasures and more, \$2 Raffle and Super Raffle, \$100 Raffle, featuring the new Kidzone. St. James Armenian Church 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. For more info or raffle tickets, e-mail info@stthagop.com or call (617) 923-8860.

NOVEMBER 11 – The Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge Number 1 annual ceremony at the Renaissance Waterfront Hotel on Long Wharf, Boston, Friday. Guest speaker, Primate of Artsakh, Archbishop Pargev Martirosian. Reception, 7 p.m.; dinner, 8 p.m. Man of the Year is Aurelian Mardiros, Community Leader Award to Registrar Rachel Kaprielian and the Faithful Knight Award to John Peterson.

OCTOBER 20 – The K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, MD Lecture on Human Rights. Endowed Public Program of Armenian Heritage Park. Faneuil Hall, Boston. 7 p.m. Keynote speaker, Paul Rusesabagina, human rights activist; US Presidential Medal of Freedom (2005); president and founder, The Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation; author, *An Ordinary Man*, Penguin 2006. The Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation was founded in 2006 by Rusesabagina, the real life hero of the acclaimed film “Hotel Rwanda.” Portrayed by Don Cheadle in the film, Rusesabagina saved the lives of more than 1,200 people during the Rwandan genocide and has been honored internationally for his heroism. Charlie Clements, executive director, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government will introduce Rusesabagina.

OCTOBER 22 – Fall Harvest Bazaar, noon-8 p.m., First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont. Great food, fun and the marketplace. Lamb, beef, chicken and losh kebab dinners grilled fresh all day with pilaf and salad, enjoy in our Fellowship Hall or packed for home. Yalanchi, cheese boreg and falafel. Home made manti, kufte, choreg, string cheese packaged for the freezer. Handmade pastries, dried fruits, nuts. Marketplace includes books, children's items, “attic treasures” and more. Handicamp ramp and MBTA train and bus line. For info, visit www.FACBelmont.org or (617) 484-4779. All welcome.

NOVEMBER 17 – Party at the Other Park! Benefit for the Armenian Heritage Park Endowment. Fenway Park, Boston. Advance reservations only. For details and reply form, visit www.ArmenianHeritagePark.net.

FEBRUARY 11, 2012 – The Armenian Sisters' Academy 30th Anniversary Gala, Saturday, at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston. Additional details to follow.



St. James 2011 Annual Bazaar will take place Friday and Saturday, October 14-15, at St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, Mass., featuring Armenian delicacies and pastries, along with many booths and vendors, including the Farmer's Market, Armenian items, Attic Treasures, raffles, and featuring the new Kidzone.

NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 15 – Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) New Jersey affiliate is hosting Health and Wellness Luncheon honoring Mary Toumanjian (AIWA NGO representative in the UN), 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Nisi Estiatorio, 90 Grand Ave., Englewood. RSVP by October 1. Donation, \$40. Mail checks to AIWA NJ affiliate, 1 Manatauk Ave., Fort Lee, NJ 07024. For info, e-mail aiwanjadfilliate@gmail.com or call Rose at (201) 941-9890.

OCTOBER 15 – The Armenian American Health Professional Organization (AAHPO) Gala Benefit event. Cocktails, 6:30 p.m. Dinner program and dancing, 7:30 p.m. Teaneck Marriot at Glen Pointe, 100 Frank W. Burr Blvd., Teaneck. For info, call (201) 546-6166, info@aaapo.org.

NEW YORK

OCTOBER 12 – The Armenian Network of America – Greater NY Region, NY Armenian Students Association and The Zohrab Center present an exclusive book reading and signing event. Mark Mustian, *The Gendarme*, at the Zohrab Center, 630 Second Ave., New York City, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., cocktails; 7 p.m. book reading/signing. RSVP Taleen Babayan (212) 686-0710 or e-mail zohrabecenter@gmail.com. Books will be available for purchase (cash and checks only). Free and open to the public.

OCTOBER 28-30 – The annual symposium weekend of the Women's Guild Central Council. At the St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral Complex and Diocesan Center, New York City. For information, contact Rita Oscherician at (201) 398-0153 or margherita@optonline.net.

OCTOBER 30 – Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble of St. Vartan Cathedral, New York City, presents Independence celebrating the 20th anniversary of Armenia's “Independence.” Twentieth anniversary of Karabagh and 20th anniversary of the Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble. 150 Performers. 5 p.m., Felician College, 262 Main St., Lodi. Donation: \$100, \$50, \$40, \$30 and \$25. For tickets, call Marie (201) 745-8850, Sossy (201) 779-9007, Diocese (212) 686-0710. Purchase tickets online at www.shushidance.org.

MAY 19, 2012 – HMADS Gala Dinner Dance. Details to follow, June 25. HMADS 30th Commencement Exercise at 8 p.m., Kalustyan Hall.

Advertise in the Mirror-Spectator

The First English language Armenian weekly newspaper in the United States



COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN Mirror- Spectator

Established 1932

An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

PRODUCTION

Dilani Yegaratanam

CONTRIBUTORS:

Elizabeth Aprahamian, Daphne Abeel, Dr. Haroutiune Arzoumanian, Edmond Azadian, Prof. Vahakn N. Dadrian, Diana Der Hovanessian, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Sonia Kaillian-Placido, Harut Sassounian, Mary Terzian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian, Taleen Babayan

CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian
Boston - Nancy Kalajian
Philadelphia - Lisa Manookian

Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair Hovsepian

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is published weekly, except two weeks in July, by:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509
Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

New York/New Jersey Office

560 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632
(201) 800-1164

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U.S.A.	2nd Class	\$75 a year
	1st Class	\$120 a year
Canada	Air Mail	\$125 a year
All Other Countries	Air Mail	\$190 a year
	Display advertising rate:	\$7 per column inch

© 2010 The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Boston, MA
and additional mailing offices.

ISSN 0004-234X

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, P.O. Box 302, Watertown, MA 02471-0302

Copying for other than personal use or internal reference is prohibited without express permission of the copyright owner. Address requests for reprints or back issues to:

Baikar Association, Inc.

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

Check us out at
mirrorspectator.com

COMMENTARY

An Anniversary to Remember

By Edmond Y. Azadian

September 21 of the current year marked the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence – a miracle in itself that the republic has survived against all odds. Despite all the problems, there is cause to celebrate the anniversary.

A long and arduous history is behind that survival and celebration, as many leaders and organizations have contributed to making that history. One of those organizations is the Armenian Democratic Liberal organization (ADL), whose anniversary falls on October 1. Indeed, the representatives of the constituent organizations which eventually became the ADL convened on October 1, 1921 in Istanbul to shape a new organization, endowed with the roots and experiences of all the participants.

A new world had emerged at that period in the wake of World War I. A new world order had set in with its defining impact on Armenia's future and the worldwide Armenian population.

The Genocide had scattered the survivors around the world, the dream of Wilsonian Armenia was shattered, Cilicia was being depopulated and the tiny independent republic of Armenia was absorbed into the emerging Soviet Empire.

The Armenian leadership had to navigate through the pitfalls of international politics, organize the surviving remnants of the nation and find relevance for the newly-formed Soviet Armenian republic.

The political parties had to overhaul their platforms, ideologies and plans of action to guide the fragmented, disillusioned and confused masses who were clinging for dear life.

Thus, the ADL was formed in these most confusing historical times, putting together the brains and experiences of its new leadership.

One of the constituent parties, the Armenagans, who believed in armed resistance and who had successfully defended the Vaspouragan Armenians (1896 and 1915), had to readjust to the new reality and convert their ideology to a political rather than a revolutionary course.

Another faction, constitutional Ramgavars, who had put too much stake in the 1908 Ottoman Constitution, had to revise their ideology, because the homeland territory, where constitutional democracy could be practiced, was lost.

The Reformed Hunchak party (Veragazmial) was to merge its nationalistic ideology into the realistic platform of the newly-formed party, whose course of action could only be determined and defined by the new political realities.

Although the new ADL adhered to a conservative philosophy and free-market economy, it had to accommodate in its political platform a modus vivendi vis-à-vis Soviet Armenia, where a compact population was sheltered and a system of statehood had sur-

vived, although with limited sovereignty.

Also, the Mother See of the Armenian Apostolic Church came under the new regime. Therefore, it was incumbent upon the leaders to design a razor-sharp policy to maintain cultural and spiritual ties with the Soviet Armenian Republic, while repudiating the Marxist ideology, a perilous road, which the ADL navigated for 70 years, before happily welcoming an independent Homeland.

The leaders of the newly-formed party had a tremendous amount of experience under their belt. Armenak Yegharian was the leader of the military wing of the Van self-defense in 1915. Arshag Chobanian, a cultural icon, had mobilized the public opinion in Europe in support of the Armenian Cause. Vahan Tekeyan, a prominent poet, enjoyed the trust of Boghos Nubar Pasha, head of the National Delegation, on whose behalf he was dispatched to Yerevan (1919) to negotiate with the leaders of independent republic of Armenia.

Mihran Damadian had a crucial role in the formation of the Armenian Legion, which fought under the Allied Command and recaptured Cilicia, where Damadian served as prime minister for one day in the short-lived home-rule government of the enclave.

Vahan Malezian was instrumental in purchasing 20 military aircraft for independent Armenia from the British government, which later on reneged on the deal.

Earlier, Ramgavar leaders Dr. Nazareth Daghararian and Mugurditch Antranikian had helped Boghos Nubar in founding the AGBU (1906), while on these shores Dr. Hovhannes Dzovikian became one of the founders of Knights of Vartan brotherhood (1916).

Thus the ADL became a major player in organizing and leading the Diaspora-Armenian communities, in trying times.

It was through the steadfast policies of the ADL that the majority of Diaspora Armenians preserved their loyalty to the Holy See of Echmiadzin and maintained cultural and spiritual ties with the Armenians in the Soviet republic.

At times the party's position was in sharp contrast with the ARF, whose anti-Soviet fever overwhelmed its commitment to Armenia's survival.

The ADL also promoted democratic ideals in running the affairs of diasporan organizations, balancing the hegemonic instincts of the ARF who could have controlled the entire Armenian Church in the diaspora to oppose it to Echmiadzin.

Unfortunately, during the last few years, some destructive elements have infiltrated the organization's fabric, with great appetite to grab its assets.

But the ideals which steered the organization in most turbulent times will help it overcome the current crisis and celebrate its 90th anniversary, extending due recognition and respect to its founding fathers who endowed the ADL with an indestructible ideology.

Rhode Island Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Armenia's Independence

To the Editor:

On Saturday, September 10, nearly 1,000 people packed the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in celebration of Armenia's 20th Anniversary of Independence. The event was titled "Salute to Armenia" in cooperation and with the support of the entire Armenian community of Rhode Island. The event was also made possible through the generosity of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rhode Island and Bishop Tobin.

The event was an outstanding tribute and a glorious program of musical selections comprising a talented array of performers from our Armenian community and guests of international acclaim. The accompaniment of the Armenian Chorales of Rhode Island, comprised of members of the three area churches, and Greater Worcester shone more brilliantly than the stars on the clear Saturday evening! The hard work of the organizing committee, the co-chairs Maestro Konstantin Petrossian, Ara Boghigian and Aram G. Garabedian, the many sponsors of the event, Armenian community members and organizations of Rhode Island as well as the hosts and sponsors of the receptions, made this evening truly a proud and unforgettable Salute to Armenia.

The words of the Senator Whitehouse who strongly supports the acknowledgments of the Genocide of 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of Turkey, the inspiring words of the Permanent Representative to the United Nations of the Republic of Armenia, His Excellency Garen Nazarian and the mayors of

the towns of Cranston and Warwick served a reminder that we not only survive, but that we will thrive not only here in Rhode Island but throughout the world. This event only makes us stronger and more determined as a community and as a people.

The enemies of Armenia and the Armenians have tried over and over to conquer us, eliminate us, destroy our soul, deny our destiny but our determination and faith has not only kept us but empowered us to strive to not only preserve our identity but thrive as a people and nation in Armenia and in diaspora.

What a great privilege that the event included the presence of so many important and distinguished dignitaries, artists, composers and clergy. I am so proud of this community that I

have been called to serve. Please accept my thanks for your support, beneficence, presence and appreciation of such a magnificent event. It was truly a Ministry of the Faithful.

My final words of thanks and blessings are reserved for the one and only Maestro Konstantin Petrossian without whose vision, outstanding work, organization, tireless efforts, professionalism and incomparable standards of quality and excellence this evening would in no way have been possible. Maestro, Bravo! Tserkerut talar. God grant you many years of tireless service to our community and church.

– The Rev. Shnork Souin, pastor
Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church, Providence

Notice to Contributors

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* welcomes articles, commentaries and community news from our readers. In order to assure the accurate and timely publication of articles submitted, please note the following policies:

- All articles submitted should be typed, double (or triple) spaced and printed in a type size large enough to be clearly legible (10 point or larger). Submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be assigned lowest priority.
- Articles sent by fax are acceptable, and e-mail submissions are encouraged.
- All submissions should include the name of a con-

tact person and a daytime telephone number.

- Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is 12 noon on Monday of the week of publication.
- Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director. Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.
- The *MS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.
- Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases, but should be reserved for calendar listings and advertisements.



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Armenia's 20th Anniversary: A Young Republic, an Ancient Nation

Armenians worldwide had many reasons to celebrate the month of September, as they observed the 20th anniversary of the twin Republics of Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno Karabagh).

Two decades ago, Armenians did not have a single independent Republic. Now they have two and look forward to the day when the two republics are joined by a third – Western Armenia – to form the Republic of United Armenia!

On September 19-20, the Diaspora Ministry organized a Pan-Armenian conference in Yerevan that drew over 500 participants from 50 countries, along with political and religious leaders from Armenia and Artsakh. It was a reunion of who's who of the Armenian world.

The conference had four main themes: language and education, youth issues, commemorating the centennial of the Genocide and strengthening Armenia-Diaspora relations. Some speakers took this opportunity to point out the serious shortcomings that continue to plague Armenia, 20 years after independence.

His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of Cilicia, singled out emigration from Armenia as the greatest national crisis. "Our enemies wished to see an Armenia devoid of

Armenians," he stated. "Today, we are emptying Armenia with our own hands!" His Holiness also condemned the prevalent "corruption" in the country that protects "a prosperous minority."

Tashnag Party leader, Hrant Markarian, chided government officials for the persistence of poverty, joblessness, stagnant economy, social insecurity, injustice, criminal behavior, corruption and emigration. He also criticized them for not withdrawing their signature from the "infamous Armenia-Turkey Protocols."

During the panel on the Armenian Genocide – I was one of the moderators – the participants suggested training a new generation of Genocide scholars, Ottoman language specialists, Turkologists and international law experts. They emphasized that the time had come to demand reparations from Turkey rather than mere Genocide recognition and urged filing lawsuits against Turkey in international and national courts.

While in Armenia, I experienced many exhilarating moments as well as a few disappointing ones. The military parade on Independence Day was the highlight for all Armenians worldwide – watching it at Yerevan's Republic Square or on television! The goose-step march of highly-disciplined soldiers and display of sophisticated tanks, missiles, warplanes and helicopter gunships filled every Armenian with pride and a sense of security from menacing neighbors. Later that evening, hundreds of thousands of spectators were captivated by a special high-tech laser show that projected scenes from Armenian history on the facade of buildings overlooking Republic Square.

The four locally-manufactured Armenian drones (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), displayed for the first time during this year's military parade, drew the most attention, especially since the Artsakh forces had just downed a drone Azerbaijan had purchased from Israel. The parade held yet another surprise – a contingent of women soldiers with machine guns who had volunteered to join the exclusively

male Armenian armed forces. Also marching was a contingent of military chaplains in clerical garb.

Two other developments added a special luster to the celebrations of independence. The Mesrob Mashdorts Madenataran in Yerevan, the depository of ancient manuscripts, unveiled a massive new wing, funded mostly by Russian-Armenian entrepreneur Sergei Hampartsoumian. On this occasion, Mihran Minassian, a humble man of limited means from Aleppo, Syria, donated to the Madenataran more than 10,000 priceless manuscripts and fragments he had collected through his life-long efforts.

A second momentous event in September was the opening of a state-of-the-art terminal at Yerevan's Zvartnots Airport. The new complex can serve up to 3.5 million passengers annually, doubling the airport's capacity. This important project was brought to fruition by industrialist Eduardo Eurnekian of Argentina who controls Armenia International Airports, the concessional management firm overseeing the airport.

Two sour notes: Some of the Independence Day t-shirts handed out to participants of the Pan-Armenian Conference carried a surprising "Made in Turkey" label! The t-shirts were embossed with the following slogan in Armenian: "2011: Armenia is You!" Embarrassed officials explained that the t-shirts were donated by a local businessman.

More embarrassing was the no-show of the two former presidents of Armenia at any of the Independence Day celebrations. Regardless of the reasons for their absence, this was a serious mistake by the two heads of state who had led the Republic of Armenia for 17 of its 20 years of independence!

Despite all of its shortcomings, all Armenians fervently embrace their homeland with a solemn pledge to defend and protect it and do their utmost to secure the well-being and prosperity of their compatriots in Armenia and Artsakh!

Obama's UN speech Insists Israelis and Palestinians Are Equal Parties to Conflict

By Robert Fisk

Today should be Mahmoud Abbas's finest hour. Even The New York Times has discovered that "a grey man of grey suits and sensible shoes, may be slowly emerging from his shadow." Barack Obama made the "preposterous" suggestion that Palestinians and Israelis were "equal" parties to the conflict. (Reuters)

But this is nonsense. The colorless leader of the Palestinian Authority, who wrote a 600-page book on his people's conflict with Israel without once mentioning the word "occupation," should have no trouble this evening in besting Barack Hussein Obama's pathetic, humiliating UN speech on Wednesday in which he handed US policy in the Middle East over to Israel's gimmick government.

For the American president who called for an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab lands, an end to the theft of Arab land in the West Bank – Israeli "settlements" is what he used to call it – and a Palestinian state by 2011, Obama's performance was pathetic.

As usual, Hanan Ashrawi, the only eloquent Palestinian voice in New York this week, got it right. "I couldn't believe what I heard," she told Ha'aretz, that finest of Israeli newspapers. "It sounded as though the Palestinians were the ones occupying Israel. There wasn't one word of empathy for the Palestinians. He spoke only of the Israelis' troubles..." Too true. And as usual, the sanest Israeli journalists, in their outspoken condemnation of Obama, proved that the princes of American journalists were cowards. "The limp, unimaginative speech that US President Barack Obama delivered at the United Nations... reflects how helpless the American President is in the face of Middle East realities," Yael Sternhell wrote.

And as the days go by, and we discover whether the Palestinians respond to Obama's groveling performance with a third intifada or with a shrug of weary recognition that this is how things always were, the facts will continue to prove that the US administration remains a tool of Israel when it comes to Israel's refusal to give the Palestinians a state.

How come, let's ask, that the US ambassador to Israel, Dan Shapiro, flew from Tel Aviv to New York for the statehood debate on Israeli Prime Minister

Netanyahu's own aircraft? How come Netanyahu was too busy chatting to the Colombian President to listen to Obama's speech? He only glanced through the Palestinian bit of the text when he was live-time, face to face with the American President. This wasn't "chutzpah". This was insult, pure and simple.

And Obama deserved it. After praising the Arab Spring/Summer/Autumn, whatever – yet again running through the individual acts of courage of Arab Tunisians and Egyptians as if he had been behind the Arab Awakening all along, the man dared to give the Palestinians 10 minutes of his time, slapping them in the face for daring to demand statehood from the UN. Obama even – and this was the funniest part of his preposterous address to the UN – suggested that the Palestinians and Israelis were two equal "parties" to the conflict.

A Martian listening to this speech would think, as Ms. Ashrawi suggested, that the Palestinians were occupying Israel rather than the other way round. No mention of Israeli occupation, no mention of refugees, or the right of return or of the theft of Arab Palestinian land by the Israeli government against all international law. But plenty of laments for the besieged people of Israel, rockets fired at their houses, suicide bombs – Palestinian sins, of course, but no reference to the carnage of Gaza, the massive death toll of Palestinians – and even the historical persecution of the Jewish people and the Holocaust.

That persecution is a fact of history. So is the evil of the Holocaust. But the Palestinians did not commit these acts. It was the Europeans – whose help in denying Palestinian statehood Obama is now seeking – who committed this crime of crimes. So we were then back to the "equal parties," as if the Israeli occupiers and the occupied Palestinians were on a level playing ground.

Madeleine Albright used to adopt this awful lie. "It's up to the parties themselves," she would say, washing her hands, Pilate-like, of the whole business the moment Israel threatened to call out its supporters in America. Heaven knows if Mahmoud Abbas can produce a 1940 speech at the UN today. But at least we all know who the appeaser is.

(Robert Fisk is a Middle East correspondent for *The Independent* newspaper. This commentary originally appeared in the September 23 issue of the paper.)

Writing My Own Chapter

As I sit here on the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence, which happens to be the same day as my birthday, I finally am able to take a break from my on-the-go life since being back and reminisce on my time in Armenia and how my six months there truly changed who I am today.

By Ani Grigorian

I still look back on it so vividly, as if it were yesterday, and I just arrived at Zvartnots, luggage-less, language-less and just confused. Even though I had been to Armenia two times before, this time I was on my own, without that support group beside me.

I always knew I would be back, so when I applied to Birthright Armenia, I was completely content on staying for three months, serving my motherland and returning home. One thing I should have learned by now is how a mother's intuition is usually right. When I told my family, "see you in May," my mother was quick to respond, "yeah right, we'll see about that" – and she was absolutely right. I was only there a month when I made my decision to extend for an additional three months.

Being a Birthright Armenia participant has opened my eyes to so much and given me so many reasons on why every individual should be able to travel back to their motherland/fatherland/home – however you want to put it.

There is that connection one feels to their Armenian identity and you understand the hardships and daily tasks that must be achieved, in some cases in order to survive. I think a lot of people forget that the country is still so young because our culture has so much history and that the riches of Armenia surpass the struggles, at least from my point of view. The country is simply captivating, and you can't help but walk around with a smile on your face all the time (which could be a personal thing for me as well).

I'm a firm believer that everything truly happens for a reason, and this trip was God given proof of that. Less than two months before I embarked on my journey, my mother's father, Carl Zeytoonian, passed away. It was the hardest loss I ever had to endure, since he was the rock of our "clan" and my inspiration in having the desire to embrace my Armenian identity more than I already did. His humanitarian work in Armenia for nearly 15 years had a major impact on my decision; and I can honestly say that he inspired me to want to follow in his footsteps. It was very difficult to leave when I did, but little did I know Armenia was the perfect place for me to be at that point and time in my life. I was able to bring my grandfather home, just as he had wished, and be a part of something that was truly all my own.

If I had not extended my stay, I also would have never met my family...my dad's first cousins, and all of their family. My father's father was from Yerevan, Kond, to be exact, and left when he was 21 years old. He had to leave behind his family and went to Germany to serve in the Russian Army, and then to Wisconsin, where he has resided ever since. Now at the age of 93, he has not had the opportunity to go back to Armenia. He has never met his family, his sisters' children, and I was able to be the first one in my family to do so while I was there. It was strange to think I had family in Armenia, because I had never had that connection before, but as soon as I met them, I never felt more comfortable. It was surreal to find my grandfathers' family that he has never met since he fled Armenia and felt so lucky to do this for everyone in my family who was not given that chance yet.

The language, the culture, the people, are all full of a wealth of knowledge, and I am so thankful for being able to have had this chance to experience it all. I honestly don't know how one can say they don't want to visit Armenia, because for me, I wasn't ready to leave. It was not until I came to Armenia to volunteer that I felt a commonality in the culture, lifestyle and identity.

I cannot tell someone what to do or make them feel the connection I felt, and that's normal, because I would never want to. Every person's experience is their own, unique to them and that is what makes it so special and of such importance. I can simply tell my chapter and share the opportunity I was given and hope that they will want to write their own too.

(Ani Grigorian is a resident of Racine, Wis.)



Lawsuit Seeks Return of Seized Lands

LAWSUIT, from page 1

from 1915 to 1923, and to the Central Bank of Turkey thereafter.

The three Armenian-American plaintiffs – Rita Mahdessian, Alex Bakalian and Anais Haroutunian – are represented by the Yeghiayan Law Firm, together with Los Angeles attorneys Kathryn Lee Boyd and David Schwarcz of Todd, Ferentz, Schwarcz & Rimberg. Michael Bazylar from the Chapman University School of Law, a specialist on genocide law and restitution, is serving as a consultant. The three plaintiffs, acting on behalf of their respective relatives and families, have deeds and documents proving that their grandparents owned part of the land of the base. The lawsuit, filed on December 15, 2010, asks for “fair market rents and other relief” for roughly 122.5 acres of property estimated to be worth \$63.9 million based on data from the US Department of Defense. Roughly \$100 million is sought as compensation.

One of the plaintiffs in particular, Mahdessian, is Yeghiayan’s wife, adding no doubt an additional personal element to the suit, though Yeghiayan did not initiate it for this reason. Yeghiayan said in a recent interview, “Many survivors from Incirlik found me. We had about 14 property deeds and we have another 16 deeds of other people who want to join the lawsuit but are still negotiating conditions. In almost every property deed they mention the names of neighbors, three out of four of which are Armenians. So there are a lot more Armenians for whom we are looking. I put ads in papers to find them but am still awaiting further contacts.”

Yeghiayan provided additional information about the background of the plaintiffs. In his words, “plaintiff Alex Bakalian is a resident of Washington, DC, and lawful heir of three relatives, each of whom owned property in Turkey. Bakalian’s first relative is his paternal grandfather, Dikran Bakalian, who was born in 1868 in Adana and died June 1950 in Beirut, Lebanon. Dikran Bakalian and his family were forced to flee in 1921, leaving behind all their possessions and properties. Bakalian’s second relative is his paternal grandmother, Kalina Hatun (Gulenia) Shamassian. Born in 1892 in Adana, she married Dikran Bakalian in 1903. She died in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1978. Kalina Hatun (Gulenia) Shamassian’s only surviving son, Guiragos Bakalian, currently lives in Beirut, Lebanon, and Bakalian is his nephew. Bakalian’s third relative is Ahsapet Shamassian (born Bouldoukian), the sister-in-law of his paternal grandmother. She was born in Adana,

married Hovsep Shamassian (the brother of Kalina Hatun (Gulenia) Shamassian), and eventually settled in Damascus, Syria.”

The second plaintiff, Anais Haroutunian, “is a United States citizen and resident of Pasadena, Calif. Anais Haroutunian is the granddaughter and lawful heir of Araham Geovderelian. Araham Geovderelian owned four pieces of property in Incirlik. In 1915, when the Armenian Genocide began, he was murdered together with his wife and three of his children. The four remaining children all relocated to Beirut, Lebanon, and are now deceased.”

The third plaintiff, Mahdessian, representing the Boyadjian family, including maternal cousin Mihran Boyadjian, is “related to Mihran Boyadjian Sr., who owned two properties in Adana. Mihran Boyadjian Sr., fled Adana in 1915 at the outset of the Armenian Genocide. When the province of Adana was given to France as a mandate at the end of World War I, Mihran Boyadjian Sr., returned to Adana to reclaim his properties. However, when the French mandate was removed in 1922 and the region returned to Turkey, Mihran Boyadjian Sr., had to escape from the province of Adana/Incirlik again, with his family, and relocate to Hama-Homs, Syria. The family then moved to Cyprus.”

In a May 17, 2011 article in the Turkish newspaper *Hürriyet* by Vercihan Ziflioglu, Yeghiayan stated the rationale behind his lawsuit, “In this case our clients are able to sue the government of the Republic of Turkey, the Central Bank of Turkey and the Ziraat Bankasi because of the following reasons: Turkey committed a violation of international laws and proceeded to illegally confiscate properties from their rightful owners; in the process, Turkey also proceeded to violate its own constitution and the Lausanne Treaty. But more importantly, they have used these ill-obtained properties to run commercial operations.”

Turkey refused to accept service of the lawsuit, so the plaintiffs had recourse to US diplomatic channels. Turkey was given sixty days (by August 19, 2011) to answer but did not, while the two banks, the Central Bank of Turkey and T. C. Ziraat Bank, received an extension allowing them to respond by September 19. They proceeded to hire several US attorneys, including David Saltzman from the firm of Saltzman and Evinch. Saltzman has served as counsel for the Turkish embassy in Washington in the past, and counsel for the Turkish Coalition of America. He has been involved in a number of other lawsuits on behalf of Turks or Turkey against various Armenian parties, and has promoted denial of the Armenian Genocide. The bank’s newly hired attorneys filed replies on September 19 asking for dismissal of the case on a number of grounds. They argued that though banks, the two institutions qualify as “foreign states” with sovereign immunity from the jurisdiction of the California court; furthermore, they claimed that the Act of State doctrine, according to which the courts of one country may not judge the domestic acts of another government, bars the suit, while the 1934 claims agreement between Turkey and the US, and the 1980 agreement for cooperation on defense and economy between the same two countries also conflict with this suit. The court and the state of California would be impermissibly interfering with US foreign affairs. The convenience of the parties involved and the interests of justice require a different forum for this action.

The defendant banks argued that all applicable statutes of limitations bar the suit, and finally, they asserted that there is no relevant claim given for which relief can be granted. Now it is the turn of the plaintiffs represented by Yeghiayan to give their counterarguments to the court against the banks.

The Republic of Turkey, unlike the banks, has continued to take a different approach. Consequently, on August 29, the plaintiffs asked the US District Court for the Central District of California to declare the Republic of Turkey to be in default, which could eventually result in a variety of penalties and a decision in favor of the plaintiffs. As Yeghiayan said in the May 17 *Hürriyet* article, “Choosing to ignore

the lawsuit won’t make it go away.” The court agreed that Turkey was in default on September 1.

In addition to the newspaper *Hürriyet*, the lawsuit has received further coverage in other Turkish media outlets like *Vatan* (September 2, 2011), *Today’s Zaman* (September 9) and *haber7.com*. In the latter’s September 7 issue, an article entitled “Incirlik Ermeni degil, vakif malı çıktı!” argues that the Incirlik property actually belonged to the Ramazanoglu Foundation. Journalist and researcher Fatih Bayhan claims that his evidence concerning the Incirlik properties goes back to the 1500s, and wonders how the Armenians would have obtained these properties. The Ramazanoglu Foundation has opened thousands of lawsuits, according to Bayhan, to get back its properties in the Adana area and elsewhere, and has already won some of them. A writer in *Today’s Zaman* Mobile Edition (September 15) summarizes an interview of Yeghiayan in the Turkish-Armenian weekly *Agos*, wonders about the statute of limitations, and promises to follow the case as it develops.

In the Republic of Armenia, Naira Hayrumian in a December 23, 2010 *iragir.am* article speculated that the United States was somehow behind this lawsuit, and other actions against Turkey concerning the Genocide, as a way to threaten and pressure Turkey to carry out various US policies. In this particular case, she wrote that it was connected to talks Turkey was holding with Iran concerning a new NATO anti-rocket defense system. However, Hayrumian has not presented any evidence to back up this theory, while Yeghiayan’s dedication to the issue of compensation and justice for the Genocide seems enough to ensure that similar lawsuits will continue to be filed. Yeghiayan commented on the claim of US manipulation behind the scenes: “Absolutely not true. We represent the clients who have justifiable claims as will be proven in court and we have no connection to the US Government nor are we trying to put pressure on the US Government.”

Yeghiayan continues his work on other Armenian Genocide-related legal issues while pursuing the Incirlik case. In 2007, a US district court judge ruled that Armenian Genocide survivors’ heirs could use a law passed by the California legislature in 2000 extending the statute of limitations to sue German insurance companies, but this was reversed in a 2009 ruling by a three-judge panel of the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. This reversal was overruled in December 2010. This case, *Movsesian v. Victoria Versicherung*, still is unresolved as the defendants now have requested a panel of judges to rehear the case. There are a number of other Armenian Genocide-related lawsuits that Yeghiayan is involved in at the present.

There is also an outstanding dispute between Yeghiayan and his former partners, Mark Geragos and Brian Kabateck, concerning the disposition of money jointly won from the French insurance company AXA for Armenian Genocide victims’ heirs, which hopefully will be settled quickly, justly and openly, thus restoring confidence in the judicial route for compensation for Armenian Genocide victims. According to Roman M. Silberfeld, the lawyer representing Yeghiayan on this particular matter, Yeghiayan has already provided through a voluntary and cooperative process documents which Silberfeld expects will satisfy Geragos and Kabateck that in fact nothing improper has taken place. As far as AXA is concerned, there will be a hearing before Judge Christina A. Snyder in Los Angeles on September 26. The three parties (Yeghiayan as represented by Silberfeld, Geragos and Kabateck) and their law firms are intensively conducting an investigation. They intend to file a joint report for the court outlining what they discover about the settlement administration, which was not conducted directly by any of the three lawyers. There are some half a dozen problems to be sorted out involving a significant sum of money. Some 75 people who were issued multiple checks say that they did not receive all the checks to which they were entitled.

Arpa International Film Festival in LA Announces Winners

ARPA, from page 1

Conservation and Stewardship award went to the compelling documentary “Marion Stoddart: The Work of 1000” by Susan Edwards. The film chronicles the advocate Marion Stoddart who lived next to one of America’s most polluted rivers and transformed herself from a 1960s housewife to a citizen leader and environmental hero honored by the United Nations.

Accepting the Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award was documentary filmmaker and producer Bryan Single on behalf of his acclaimed “Children of War.” The documentary, set in Uganda, had its world premiere last fall at the United Nations in New York.

The winners were chosen by a jury which included Ara Keshishian, Jeff Speich and Owen Ward.

List of Winners:

Best Picture: “Three Veils” (LA premiere) US, director, Rolla Selbak, producer, Ahmad Zahra, writer: Rolla Selbak; “Three Veils” is a film about three young Middle-Eastern women living in the US, each with her own personal story.

Best Screenplay/Best Director: “My Uncle Rafael” (North American premiere), USA, director, Marc Fusco, producers, Michael Garrity, Vahik Pirhamzei, writers, Scott Yagemann, Vahik Pirhamzei, it stars Vahik Pirhamzei, John Michael Higgins, Missi Pyle, Anthony Clark, Rachel Blanchard, Joe Lo Truglio, Anahid Avanesian, Carly Chaikin, Sage Ryan, Ursula Taherian, and Lupe Ontiveros.

Best Documentary: “The Last Tightrope Dancer in Armenia,” Armenia, directors, Arman Yeritsyan, Inna Sahakyan, producer, Vardan Hovhannisyian, writers, Arman Yeritsyan, Inna Sahakyan.

Best Short Film: “Bolis” (world premiere) US, Turkey, director: Eric Nazarian, writer, Eric Nazarian, producers, Huseyin Karabey, Sevil Demirci

Special Awards: 2011 Breakthrough Performance Award, Vahik Pirhamzei, for “My Uncle Rafael” (US); AT&T Award for Environmental Conservation and Stewardship, Marion Stoddart, “The Work of 1000” (West Coast Premiere), director, Susan Edwards; 2011 AT&T Award for Environmental Conservation and Stewardship Recipient, producer, Dorie Clark, writer, Susan Edwards; Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award, “Children of War” (US, Uganda), director, Bryan Single, and 2011 Armin T. Wegner Award Recipient, producers, Single, Farzad Karimi, Timothy Beckett and associate producers, Anahid Aramouni Keshishian, Shannon McBrien and Grant Inglett.

Ararat Lodge Ceremony to Honor Armenian Community Leaders

AWARDS, from page 1

and beyond,” said Atinizian, “She is a real role model.”

John Peterson, an active Knight, will receive the Faithful Knight Award. Peterson spearheaded the creation of the Ararat Lodge scholarships and has worked with other organizations such as the Rotary Club on various community projects.

The guest speaker for the evening will be Archbishop Pargév Martirosian, Primate of the Diocese of Artsakh.

Musical performances will be provided by Victoria Avetisyan, mezzo-soprano, Yeghishe Manucharian, tenor, and DJ Chris Habibian.

Proceeds from the evening will go to the Knights of Vartan World Bank Project and Armenia Fund USA. “We welcome all contributions,” said Atinizian.

Past award recipients include former state representative and current Sheriff of Middlesex County Peter Koutoujian, Arthur Maranian and Heather Krafian.

The Knights of Vartan, a fraternal organization, has been in existence since 1916. It was founded to assist Armenian organizations and various charities.

For more information and tickets, call the KoV office at (617) 610-9399.

839 Washington Street
Newtonville, MA 02160
(617) 964-3400



KAROUN
Restaurant

Entertainment Fridays
and Saturdays

SMOKING AREA AVAILABLE
Eurdolian Family