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NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia, Ex-Soviet States Create Free-Trade Zone

ST PETERSBURG (Dow Jones) – Russia and seven other post-Soviet states, including Ukraine, signed an agreement on creating a free-trade zone Tuesday, in another step in Moscow’s drive to rebuild economic ties among former Soviet republics.

“The creation of this zone doesn’t contradict the norms of the World Trade Organization,” Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin told reporters after the signing late Tuesday.

The countries whose prime ministers signed the agreement on Tuesday, besides Russia and Ukraine, were Moldova, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Three of them – Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan – have already formed a trade group called the Customs Union.

On January 1, 2012, the Customs Union members are planning to create the so-called Common Economic Space, which will coordinate its members’ macroeconomic policies, competition rules and agriculture subsidies, among other issues. Putin called for the creation of a Eurasian economic union to be built on the base of the Customs Union in an article published in a Russian newspaper on October 4.



PM Vladimir Putin with PM Tigran Sargsian

Kay Armen, 95, Dies

NEW YORK – Kay Armen died on October 3, after a short illness, at the age of 95. Born on November 2, 1915 in Chicago, Armen (née Armenuhi Manoogian) was the first of four chil-



Kay Armen with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian in 2009

dren born to Armenian parents.

In 2008, Armen was honored with a pontifical encyclical and the St. Sahag-St. Mesrob Medal from the Catholicos of All Armenians, the highest honor bestowed by the worldwide Armenian Church to artists for their lifetime advancements in the arts and culture.

see KAY ARMEN, page 6

US Wants ‘Best Elections Ever’ in Armenia

By Tigran Avetisian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The United States expects Armenia to hold parliamentary and presidential elections that will be widely regarded as democratic, according to John Heffern, the new US ambassador in Yerevan.

“We are working together so that Armenia’s important national elections in 2012 and 2013 are the best elections ever and fully consistent with international standards,”

Heffern said late on Monday, just hours after handing his credentials to President Serge Sargsian.

He said the issue was on the agenda of his “very good” meetings with Sargsian and Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian.

Washington has been critical of the Armenian authorities’ handling of just about every major election held in the country since 1995. In particular, it considers the last presidential ballot held in 2008 “significantly flawed.”

Heffern’s predecessor, Marie Yovanovitch, stressed the importance of ending see ELECTIONS, page 20



Ambassador John Heffern

President Names New Chief of Staff

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A US-educated senior aide to President Serge Sargsian was formally appointed as the new chief of his staff on Monday.

Vigen Sargsian, 36, took over the presidential administration more than one month after the resignation of his predecessor Karen Karapetian.

Sargsian’s office said on September 9 that Karapetian was relieved of his duties “at his own request.” The reason for that move remains unknown.

Karapetian, whose brother Samvel is one of Russia’s wealthiest Armenians, was the parliamentary leader of Sargsian’s Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) before being appointed chief of the staff in September 2008. Analysts believe that he was never as influential as his deputy Mikael Minasian, Sargsian’s son-in-law and reputedly closest confidante.

In a statement, the presidential press service said Vigen Sargsian was introduced to

the staff by the president immediately after his appointment. The latter was cited as expressing confidence that he will do his new job “with success.”

Vigen Sargsian, who was serving as acting chief of the staff for the president before the appointment, was a foreign policy adviser to former Parliament Speaker Babken Ararktsian before studying at and graduating from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, Mass., in 2000.

From 2000-2003 he worked as an assistant to then-Defense Minister Serge Sargsian. He then worked for President Robert Kocharian in the same capacity and stayed on in the presidential administration after the latter handed over power to Sargsian in April 2008. Foreign policy and national security has since been Vigen Sargsian’s key area of responsibility.

Vigen Sargsian has also taught international relations and public administration at the American University of Armenia since

Academy Award-Winning Designer Ray Aghayan Dies at Age 83

LOS ANGELES (Hollywood Reporter) – Ray Aghayan, a two-time Oscar nominee who won the first Emmy Award for costume design, dressed the glamorous Judy Garland, Barbra Streisand and Diana Ross and did the costumes for the opening and closing ceremonies of the 1984 Summer Olympics, died Tuesday, October 11. He was 83.

Aghayan, the longtime partner of Bob Mackie, who started as his assistant, died of “unknown causes,” the Archive of American Television said Wednesday.

Aghayan was instrumental in persuading the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences to officially recognize the contribution of

costume designers. With Mackie, he won the first-ever Emmy for costume design in 1967 for NBC’s “Alice Through the Looking Glass.” He went on to earn two more Emmys (amid nine total nominations) and received a career achievement award from the Costume Designers Guild in 2008.



Ray Aghayan

see AGHAYAN, page 6

Iran Offers to Help Settle Karabagh Issue

TEHRAN (FNA) – Senior Iranian Foreign Ministry officials renewed their readiness to help resolve the Nagorno-Karabagh dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

“If Armenia and Azerbaijan approve the initiative, Iran is ready to offer a solution for the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict,” Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast said in a press conference in Kazan, Tatarstan.

“Border conflicts always occur between the neighboring states. And trans-regional countries try to use the conflict to interfere in regional issues,” he said, and added that Iran supports continuation of negotiations and is ready to assist in settling the territorial conflict between Yerevan and Baku.

Yerevan Erects Bust of Leonardo da Vinci

YEREVAN (Tert.am) – Yerevan State University of Architecture and Engineering erected a bust of the Italian Renaissance painter, sculptor and architect Leonardo da Vinci.

Standing in the yard of the university, the bust is a present by the Italian Romualdo del Bianco Foundation on the 90th anniversary of the founding of the university.

Yerevan State University of Architecture and Engineering and the Italian foundation have been in cooperation for 20 years.

Designed by Italian sculptor Dino de Ranieri, the bust is made of marble and is standing on a pedestal made of Armenian basalt.

France to Invest More In Armenia

YEREVAN (Arka) – France, the second largest foreign investor in Armenia, will seek to strengthen its positions here, said Henri Renaud, that nation’s ambassador to Armenia.

“Economic relations between Armenia and France are at quite a high level, with many French companies operating here, small and large, like France Telecom subsidiary Orange Armenia, representing different areas, from manufacturing to services,” he said.

According to Renaud, Paris is particularly interested in increasing its presence in trade, since Armenia has great potential. He also stressed that the strengthening of ties between Armenia and France is closely linked with the development of an Armenia-EU partnership.

According to the National Statistical Service of Armenia, foreign investments into Armenia’s real economy sector in January-June 2011 increased by 28.8 percent. The largest foreign investor was the Russian Federation with \$206.6 million, France was second with \$68.1 million and the US was third with \$35.2 million.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Echmiadzin Celebrates Its 2,696th Anniversary

ECHMIADZIN (Aysor.am) – Saturday, October 8, marked the 2,696th anniversary of Echmiadzin. Celebrations were held on Tuesday, October 10.

The opening ceremony for the reconstructed state college of Echmiadzin was also held.

The mayor of Echmiadzin, Karen Grigoryan, greeted everyone and said he was happy to start the festivity with a housewarming party.

“It became a reality today due to the direct support of Armenian President Serge Sargsian, for which we express our gratitude,” he said.

Husband Who Murdered His Wife Gets 10 Years

YEREVAN (epress.am) – The husband of Zaruhi Petrosyan, Yanis Sarkisov, received the maximum sentence of 10 years on Friday by the Court of General Jurisdiction of Ararat and Vayots Dzor provinces, after being found guilty of killing his wife.

Petrosyan, 20, was beaten to death in October 2010 by Sarkisov.

Relatives of the late Petrosyan, 20, are not preparing to protest Friday's Court of General Jurisdiction of Ararat and Vayots Dzor Marzes' ruling which sentenced Petrosyan's husband, Sarkisov, to 10 years' imprisonment for the murder of his wife (who died on October 1, 2010). Currently, 10 years is the maximum penalty for such crimes in Armenia, according to Coalition to Stop Violence Against Women in Armenia coordinator Gayane Harutyunyan.

The custody of their 2-year-old daughter was transferred to Sarkisov's mother, who, incidentally, was named as one of the parties involved in Petrosyan's beating.

Anti-Trust Agency Slaps Penalty on Company

YEREVAN (Arka) – Armenia's State Commission for Protection of Economic Competition (SCPEC) ruled this week to penalize GavarTrans transportation company in the amount of 10 million drams for abuse of its dominance in the market.

The company is engaged in transportation of passengers between Yerevan and Gavar, the administrative center of Gegharkunik province, between Yerevan and Sarukhan, a village near Gavar and from Gavar to Yerevan.

Gavartrans had won the license in a tender announced for transportation of passengers from Yerevan to Gavar promising to charge a 500-dram fare, but later it breached this term raising the fare to 1,000 drams, according to SCPEC expert Hayk Vardanyan. It turned out also that the company operated only two of three routes.

Weightlifter Eyes Return To Competing

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Weightlifting World Champion Nazik Avdalyan announced on Monday that she will return to the sport in two years. Avdalyan, who became world champion in 2009 and has since been a popular figure, was involved in a car accident on April 26 that left her with a fractured vertebrae and two cracked ribs.

“I still can't lift even a bucket full of water. But I hope in two years I will return to sport by all means,” said Avdalyan, 25, who is now studying law at Mkhitar Gosh University.

The champion is also helping to build a sports school for women, the construction of which is currently underway.

“I believe that it is very important, because there are many girls who want to become weightlifters, however, they need special, separate conditions for training, and the school will give that opportunity,” she said.

Avdalyan is also preparing for her wedding in January, adding that she does not expect matrimony to interfere with sport.

Shushi Grand Hotel Opens

SHUSHI, Karabagh – On September 1, the Shushi Grand Hotel had its grand opening. The celebration, blessing and reception that took place were festive and historic and were attended by the highest ranking leadership of Karabagh. President of Artsakh Republic Bako Sahakyan along with the Primate of the Artsakh Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church Archbishop Parkev Martirosian were in attendance. Many other government officials and dignitaries from Karabagh along with numerous guests from overseas attended the grand opening.

The project was the brainchild of four Armenians from the diaspora—three from Lebanon and one from the United States: Alex Sarafian from Paramus, NJ, Garo Kebabjian, Krikor Terzian and Jean Malak from Beirut, Lebanon.

Kebabjian, president of the newly formed corporation, spearheaded the project, which began in 2008.

Martirosian performed the blessing ceremony before the ribbon cutting was done by the wives of the four.



Getting ready for the ribbon cutting

UN Office, Oxfam Push Efforts to Promote Poverty Eradication Work

YEREVAN (Noyan Tapan) – A photo exhibition “Eradication of Poverty after 20 years of independence” dedicated to the International Day of Poverty Eradication, which was organized by the Oxfam and the UNDP, UN Department of Public Information and the Food and Agriculture Organization, was opened this week at the UN House.

Exhibited photos illustrated the challenges on the way of poverty eradication, focusing on the achievements of the residents of distant rural areas, who were supported by various charitable and development programs.

The event was attended by representatives of government and international organizations, and the beneficiaries of programs held by Oxfam and the UNDP, UNDPPI and FAO, as well as the general public.

The UN Resident Coordinator Dafina Gercheva said: “October 17 presents an opportunity to acknowledge the efforts and struggle of people living in poverty; it's a chance for them to make their concerns heard. UN Institutions in Armenia will con-

tinue to support the country's efforts aimed to eradicate poverty.”

Margarita Hakobyan, the director of Oxfam office in Armenia, said: “All people in the world have the right to be fairly well-off. There are sufficient resources in the world, which are able to provide it.

Poverty is the consequence of inequality, and by overcoming it, we will be able to eradicate poverty.”

The United Nations believes that for present and future generations

sustainable development must truly safeguard ecosystems at the same time enabling economic and social progress. Sustainable development will also build countries' resilience to external shocks and protect development gains.

The photo exhibition is organized in the framework of the series of other joint events dedicated to poverty eradication, which were held on October 12-17 in Yerevan as well as Shirak and Vayots Dzor.

Tekeyan Centre Implements Sports Event, Spartakiad

VAHAGNADZOR, Armenia – Tekeyan Centre Fund continues to support schools both financially and morally and, through its humanitarian activities, to be a unique bridge between Tekeyan educational establishments.

On September 16-18, the fund implemented its next scholastic project, which was a sports event called Spartakiad. This time Spartakiad took place at Camp Gugarq in Vahagnadzor village of the Lori region in Armenia. Gugarq welcomed the eighth-ninth-grade students and teachers from Yerevan, Karbi, Gumri, Stepanavan, Berdzor and Karabagh.

This year the Fund has expanded the sports project Spartakiad, which has already established a good tradition, and invited the Vahagnadzor village school to take part in the event, too. Thus, the total number of the project participants was 110 people. Competitions were held in football, basketball, volleyball, sprint, press, table tennis and chess.

All the participants were in good

form and had fighting spirit and great desire to win. For two days there was a strong competition in Gugarq; the teams contended for the championship. On the last day of the event the referees finalized the results of Spartakiad as follows: Karbi, first prize; Berdzor, second prize; Gumri, third prize; Yerevan, fourth prize; Vahagnadzor, fifth prize and Stepanavan, sixth prize.

Tekeyan Centre Fund awarded letters of commendation and valuable prizes to all the teams; all the referees and Gugarq camp received letters of thanks. At the end of the ceremony, school representatives expressed gratitude to the Fund for caring for Armenian schoolchildren. They praised its activities aimed at educating and bringing up healthy younger generation by means of sports.

In his speech, the fund's director, Armen Tsulikyan, wished all the schools great success and new achievements. He also thanked the school and camp staffs for supporting the Fund to implement its project.

Correction

One word was missing from the column of Harut Sassounian in last week's issue of the *Mirror-Spectator*, which changed the meaning of a sentence to the opposite of the one intended. The sentence should have read: “While the French government banned denial of the Holocaust in 1990, it did not take a similar action on the Armenian Genocide, even though France had recognized it in 2001.”



INTERNATIONAL

Former Yukos Executive Vasily Aleksanyan Dies in Moscow

MOSCOW (Reuters) – The former vice president of oil group Yukos, Vasily Aleksanyan, died on Monday, October 2, of complications from AIDS, according to reports, a condition that Russian rights activists said was worsened by poor treatment during a two-year jail term.

Yukos was split up between 2004 and 2007 after its then-owner, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, got involved in opposition politics and fell out with the Kremlin.

Khodorkovsky was convicted of fraud and tax evasion in 2005. Aleksanyan was found guilty of acting as an accomplice and served two years in prison from 2006 to 2008.

The European Court of Human Rights criticized Russia at the time,



Vasily Aleksanyan

saying it had failed to give Aleksanyan proper medical treatment in prison.

“He would still be alive if he hadn’t spent a long time in solitary confinement and had received medical treatment in time,” veteran Russian rights activist Lev Ponomaryov told radio station Ekho Moskvy on Tuesday.

“The correctional system, law enforcement agencies are responsible for Aleksanyan’s death,” he said.

Aleksanyan’s death adds another dimension to the prolonged legal process surrounding the break up and auctioning of Yukos assets since Khodorkovsky’s arrest on a Siberian airfield in 2003.

Khodorkovsky and business partner Platon Lebedev were found guilty of additional charges late last year in a trial that drew Western criticism. They are due for release in 2016.

A Harvard-trained lawyer, Aleksanyan started out as a legal adviser to Yukos, which once pumped more oil than OPEC-member Qatar. In 2006, shortly before his arrest, he was promoted to vice president of the company.

He was diagnosed with AIDS while in jail, where the European Court of Human Rights said he was deprived of potentially life-prolonging, anti-retroviral therapy and went blind.

He was also suffering from advanced cancer, Russian media reported, citing his family.

Aleksanyan’s brother, Grigoriy, said, “I confirm (his death) I’m not saying more,” online portal Gazeta.ru reported.

A Moscow court last year withdrew the case against Aleksanyan.

Azeris Get Israeli Drones Built under License

BAKU, Azerbaijan (UPI) – Azerbaijan is expected to acquire 60 small Israeli-designed unmanned aerial vehicles built under license in the oil-rich former Soviet republic that’s moving closer to the Jewish state as the Baku government modernizes its military.

The burgeoning military and intelligence alliance between the countries is causing growing concern in Iran, Azerbaijan’s southern neighbor, and in nearby longtime rival Armenia.

The Israeli Aerostar and Orbiter 2M UAVs are being manufactured by Baku’s Azad Systems Co., a joint venture between Azerbaijan’s Defense Ministry and Aeronautics Defense Systems of Israel.

That’s the country’s third largest UAV

manufacturer after Israel Aerospace Industries and Elbit Systems.

Around 70 percent of the components are produced in Israel, the rest in Azerbaijan.

Sixty of the drones are to be delivered to Azerbaijan’s armed forces by the end of the year, primarily for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

Azerbaijan’s military already operates Elbit Systems’ Hermes 450 and IAI’s Searcher reconnaissance drones, as well as some of Aeronautics Defense Systems’ Aerostar and Orbiter craft.

The UAV deal with Azerbaijan allows Israeli manufacturers to pick up some of the slack that appeared when Israel’s strategic military alliance with Turkey collapsed in 2010.

YP Montreal Launches New Mentorship Initiative

MONTREAL – On September 15, the AGBU Young Professionals (YP) of Montreal launched their first-ever Mentorship Program. The program was initiated by YP Montreal Vice-Chairwoman Maral Kessemjian, a human resources specialist, and YP member Garo Sahinyan, an information technology project manager.

During the launch, YP Montreal Chairwoman Sarine Chitilian introduced the two, explaining, “Both Garo and Maral have proven to the YP

Montreal executive team that ‘when there is a will, there is a way.’ Sometimes, as university students or new graduates enter the work force, they have the will yet are looking for a mentor to show them the way, and this is where YP Montreal will be helping them with the launch of its Mentorship Program.”

YP Montreal presented the short- and long-term benefits the program is expected to have on both mentors and mentees. Interested members com-

pleted a questionnaire that will help program coordinators with the mentorship matching process. The Mentorship Program will be aligned with the university calendar year, and coordinators will perform monthly follow-ups with involved parties, as well as hold mixers and information sessions to facilitate interaction and strengthen team spirit and collaboration amongst all participants.

Interested participants may contact yp.montreal@gmail.com.



YP Montreal Mentorship Program initiators Garo Sahinyan and Maral Kessemjian present an overview of the new initiative to their fellow young professionals.

International News

Delegation of Yerevan Mayor’s Office Visits Montreal

MONTREAL (Armenpress) – At the invitation of Montreal mayor’s office and Montreal Public Consultation Office (OCPM), a delegation from the Yerevan mayor’s office visited Canada, headed by Staff Secretary Vahe Stepanyan.

The press service of the Yerevan mayor’s office said they met with Montreal Mayor Gerald Tremblay; leader of the Armenian Diocese of Canada Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan was present at the meeting. Welcoming the guests, Tremblay stressed the need for the expansion of partner relations between the two cities, in that context pointing out the role of the local Armenian community and regional diocese in both economic and cultural life of Montreal.

Stepanyan conveyed Mayor Karen Karapetyan’s greetings and expressed his gratitude for the warm reception. During the meeting issues on bilateral cooperation were discussed.

Deputy Minister of Defense Receives Polish Delegation

YEREVAN (Tert.am) – Armenian Deputy Minister of Defense Ara Nazaryan held a meeting October 17 with a delegation led by Stanislaw Koziej, the head of the National Security Bureau of Poland.

The sides discussed the defense reforms in Armenia, Poland’s assistance to the process and the possibility of deeper cooperation both at the bilateral level and within NATO.

Nazaryan pointed out military education and military industry as priorities of Armenian-Polish cooperation in the defense area.

The two also discussed the Nagorno-Karabagh peace process, stressing the necessity for settling the conflict by means of peaceful negotiations, on the basis of international legal norms and intolerance toward use of force.

Armenia ‘Rapidly’ Moving Closer to EU

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia’s ties with the European Union (EU) are developing rapidly thanks to its active involvement in the bloc’s Eastern Partnership program, France’s ambassador in Yerevan said on Monday.

Henri Renaud pointed to what Armenian and EU officials say is major progress in their negotiations on an “association agreement,” which is envisaged by the program covering six ex-Soviet states.

“I don’t now if Armenia is the country that has closed the largest number of [negotiation] chapters or just one of such countries because things are changing very, very rapidly,” Renaud said.

“In any case, it is part of the club of countries that are advancing most rapidly,” he said.

The talks in question began in July 2010. It is still not clear when they are likely to be concluded.

The Armenian government and the EU’s executive body, the European Commission, have yet to open official negotiations on two key components of the association agreement: the creation of a “deep and comprehensive free trade area” and simplification of EU visa procedures for Armenian nationals.

Armenian Ambassador Presents Credentials to Queen of Denmark

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (Tert.am) – On October 14, at the Fredensborg Palace, Armenian Ambassador to Denmark Hrachya Aghajanyan presented his credentials to Queen Margrethe II.

Queen Margrethe congratulated Aghajanyan on his appointment. She expressed hope that the Armenian Embassy in Denmark would facilitate the development of bilateral relations. Queen Margrethe II asked Aghajanyan to convey her greetings to President Serge Sargsian.

Community News

Academic Conference To Discuss Restitution And Reparation

WORCESTER, Mass. – The Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University is sponsoring an interdisciplinary conference, “Beyond The Armenian Genocide: The Question of Restitution and Reparation in Comparative Review,” organized by Taner Akçam, the Robert Aram '52 and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marianne Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies. The conference is presented in partnership with the Belmont-based National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and Eric Weitz, the Arsham and Charlotte Ohanesian Professor at the University of Minnesota. NAASR's participation is supported by the Ethel Jafarian Duffett Fund.

The conference opens on Thursday, October 27 at 7:30 p.m. with a public keynote address in Tilton Hall on the Clark University campus. John Torpey, professor of sociology at the Graduate Center, CUNY, will give the opening address, “A Comparative Perspective on Reparations for Historical Injustices.” Torpey is the author of *Making Whole What Has Been Smashed: On Reparations Politics* (Harvard University Press, 2006). “Reparations,” says Torpey, “can be symbolic, such as apologies or the creation of memorials and museums. They can also be economic, such as financial compensation to individuals or collectivities, or material redress, such as settlement of the land claims of indigenous peoples. These measures can reflect cultural or legal claims to reparations or both.”

The conference continues throughout the day on Friday, October 28, with a series of panels for participants and invited guests. Leading scholars will examine questions of post-conflict justice in a comparative review of the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust and the Native American Genocide. The participants will consider different aspects of compensation including the return of stolen art and artifacts; the restitution of personal and communal property and how post-war agreements and treaties shape discussions about compensation. The Holocaust case offers a model for restitution and reparation that has achieved significant success but also frustrating disappointments and delays. The Native American case provides a valuable example of the importance of pursuing justice at home and for all peoples. Discussions about the Armenian case will consider why efforts to secure compensation emerged so late and the influence of developments in securing justice for victims of the Holocaust.

Turkish recognition of the Armenian Genocide has been an enduring goal of Armenian communities at home and internationally. Yet, the political, financial and legal consequences that might emerge in the wake of recognition have not been fully articulated. Recently, scholars and lawyers have pursued concrete efforts to secure reparation, restitution and compensation; they are proceeding independent of groups lobbying governments to acknowledge the Genocide. These initiatives demonstrate that the pursuit of justice through financial means can progress without necessarily resolving the complicated politics of Genocide recognition.

Recent court cases against American and French insurance companies have resulted in reparations and they have given encouragement to newly-filed lawsuits in the US. These developments demonstrate that financial redress for the Armenian community may be possible on a broader scale. New lawsuits addressing theft of artifacts, properties and bank accounts have been filed against the Turkish government and private Turkish companies. They seek compensation for both individual and collective losses suffered during the Genocide.

For more information, contact the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies (chgs@clarku.edu) or NAASR (hq@naasr.org).



Members of the AGBU Hye Geen Committee meet with members of AGBU Young Professionals of Los Angeles.

AGBU's Young Professionals of Los Angeles Donate to Prenatal Daycare Center in Armenia

LOS ANGELES – The Young Professionals of Los Angeles (YPLA) – under the auspices of AGBU – recently donated \$1,500 to the AGBU Hye Geen Prenatal Daycare Center in Vanadzor, Armenia, to fully cover the center's operating costs for the remainder of 2011.

By Aleen Khanjian

“This donation to our sister organization honors the incredible advances of AGBU Hye Geen and the vital role the organization has played for the future of Armenia by addressing such important issues such as infant mortality,” said outgoing YPLA Chairman Yeghig Keshishian. “Its work is a testament to the visionary leadership of AGBU in serving as a bastion of positive change for the Armenian nation.”

The AGBU Hye Geen Prenatal Daycare Center in Vanadzor opened in 2006 and was the second center established by AGBU Hye Geen, which also has facilities in the cities of Gumri, Talin, and most recently, Yeghvard. Sona Yacoubian is the founder and current chairperson of AGBU Hye Geen, an organization based in Southern California at the AGBU Pasadena Center.

YPLA's contribution to the center brings YPLA's total donations this year to more than \$5,000, all of which originated from fundraisers. In June, AGBU YPLA awarded \$2,500 in scholarships to eight participants in the AGBU Generation Next Mentorship program. In September, the group donated smaller amounts to the local AGBU Scouts and the students at AGBU Manoukian High School in Pasadena.

“These contributions highlight AGBU YPLA's deep commitment to supporting and strengthening the general welfare of our community – both in the diaspora and the homeland,” said Keshishian, whose officer term and tenure on the steering committee ends this month. “In the past year, AGBU YPLA has made strong gains by heightening its overall presence across Los Angeles through several new initiatives and by fostering partnerships in Armenian and non-Armenian circles. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as YPLA chair and as a general member of its steering committee.”

AGBU Hye Geen was established nearly 20 years ago to provide pregnant Armenian women in need of medical care with basic prenatal services, as well as necessary medical exams and personalized counseling. To date, more than 740 women have benefited from their services.



From left, AGBU YPLA leaders (far left) Yeghig Keshishian and (far right) Taline Guevrekian, meeting with AGBU Hye Geen Chair Sona Yacoubian on the occasion of the AGBU Young Professional group's donation to the Hye Geen prenatal center in Vanadzor, Armenia

Armenian EyeCare Project Announces Ninth Newport Gala Honoree

Former Gov. Deukmejian To Receive Honors

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. – The Armenian EyeCare Project (AECPP), an organization dedicated to restoring the eyesight of premature infants, children and adults throughout Armenia, will be holding its Ninth Annual Newport Gala on Saturday, November 19, 6:30 p.m. at the Balboa Bay Club. Gov. George Deukmejian will be honored at the event.

“We are recognizing the governor for his extraordinary contributions to the EyeCare Project over the past 20 years,” says Roger Ohanesian, MD, founder and chairman of the EyeCare Project. “His wisdom, guidance and support throughout the years have been invaluable. He has always been one of the first advisors I have turned to for expert legal guidance. Though a very busy person, he has always been generous with his time and given sage advice.”

Deukmejian is an original AECPP board member and has been a supporter ever since.

“I was and still am impressed with the extraordinary way which Dr. Ohanesian and other doctors have been willing to provide their skills and talents to provide good eye care for people living in Armenia,” said Deukmejian. “I admire them for their tireless efforts and making the many trips to Armenia. While there, they provide care, treatment and good medical advice to countless numbers of patients. Then they have carried it forward by helping train ophthalmologists in Armenia to undertake the most up-to-date diagnostic methods and surgical techniques. Finally, the effort to put together the mobile eye hospital and providing this high level of care for everybody in the countryside has been extraordinary.”

Deukmejian, the gala's honorary chairperson, will attend with his wife, Gloria. Aram Bassenian and Kenneth Khachigian – past recipients of the Lifetime Humanitarian of the Year Award and former board members – will serve as masters of ceremonies. Khachigian, accomplished speechwriter is best remembered for his tenure in the Nixon and Reagan administrations. Bassenian, chairman and CEO of Bassenian/Lagoni Architects, founded the architectural firm 35 years ago and throughout his long career has designed thousands of homes in California and abroad.

Each year, the AECPP hosts a gala dinner to raise awareness and funds for ongoing medical missions to Armenia. At no cost to patients, Ohanesian with a team of renowned ophthalmologists travels to Armenia to treat needy infants, children and adults. Donations are used to purchase medical equipment and train doctors in Yerevan. Additionally, money raised at the gala supports AECPP's Mobile Eye Hospital that travels across the country and treats Armenians who cannot afford medical treatment.

Entertainment will be provided by Robert Duquesnel and his three-piece orchestra. A silent and live auction will include items such as a trip to Armenia, an opportunity for a student to attend the trip with the doctors and be at their side during the 10-14 day mission and see patients examined and treated. Other items include: a weekend getaway to New York City, Las Vegas and a luxury Paris vacation package, sports memorabilia and more.

For more information about the Armenian EyeCare Project, visit www.eyecareproject.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Stricken Belmont Resident Seeks Bone Marrow Match

BELMONT, Mass. – Deborah Margosian Chapman found herself unusually tired a few months ago. The normally energetic full-time physical therapist and mother of two grown children played tennis a couple of times a week and walked several miles a day. She was shocked to discover that she had Acute Myeloid Leukemia, an aggressive blood cancer. The oncologist who spoke to her the evening of her diagnosis told her to pack a suitcase, because she was being admitted the following morning for up to six weeks of treatment. She now needs a marrow donor to save her life. Because Chapman is Armenian – her parents were Alfred and Mary Margosian – she is much more likely to match with someone of Armenian heritage. There are many people of all heritage types looking for a marrow donor. Participating is easy; all it takes is a cheek swab. Chapman is offering a \$10,000 reward for a perfect match.

In the meantime, Chapman is receiving chemotherapy, which will hopefully drive the leukemia into remission, but a bone marrow transplant offers the best chance for a cure. Her oncologists have not been very encouraging about finding a match, because of the unique genetic make-up of Armenians.

Be The Match, the National Bone Marrow Transplant organization, is holding a drive on Saturday, October 29, from noon to 4 p.m., at 66 Leonard St., in the office of Light Touch Chiropractic. Anyone between the ages of 18-60 can be tested. This



Deborah Margosian Chapman

national group allows for an additional 10 years of testing. Armenians between the ages of 50-60 can be tested through this organization. This is not just an Armenian

registry; Be The Match is looking for potential donors from all backgrounds for thousands of patients in need.

Donating bone marrow is a non-surgical

procedure. For more information about donor criteria and the procedure itself, visit <http://www.abmdr.am/donors/>.

Other dates include, Saturday, October 22: Flavia Leal Institut, 600 West Cummings Park, Suite 1000 Woburn, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursday, November 3, TJ / Boston College Drive, Alumni Field, 2599 Beacon St., Chestnut Hill, 3:30-7:30 p.m.

Everyone involved with this bone marrow drive wants to grow the pool of potential donors by having testing done in her grandparents' home villages in Armenia, and in Armenian communities in America. They are working with two organizations: The Armenian Bone Marrow Registry and Be The Match. The Armenian Bone Marrow Registry states that \$50 will cover the initial costs of testing for one person. Be The Match said that it costs them \$100 per test.

To help, visit the Armenian Bone Marrow donation page www.abmdr.am/donate-now/ Or see the Team Debbi page at Be The Match (<http://www.bethematchfoundation.org/site/TR/TeamBeTheMatch/TeamBeTheMatch> - FY10TeamRaiser?px=1652472&pg=personal&fr_id=1450).

The friends of Chapman are looking for volunteers to help pass out flyers and other tasks for the Be The Match drive on October 29 in Belmont Center. For information or to help, contact Linda Levin-Scherz (llevinscherz@gmail.com), Sue Kelleher (sue.kelleher@yahoo.com) or Lora

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Sheriff Koutoujian to Be Guest Speaker at St. James Men's Club

WATERTOWN – On Monday November 7, Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian of Middlesex County, will be the speaker at the dinner meeting of the St. James Armenian Church Men's Club. The topic will be "Criminal Justice in Era of Political Reform."

After 14 years on Beacon Hill representing the 10th Middlesex District, Koutoujian was appointed Middlesex Sheriff on January 14, by Gov. Deval Patrick.

Upon becoming sheriff, Koutoujian hit the ground running, utilizing his experience in the law and public sector to implement multiple new programs and policies affecting both employees and inmates alike. He created inmate vocational courses in janitorial services and print shop design, adding more possibilities for the men in his custody to gain essential job skills and become productive citizens upon release. Koutoujian also instituted progressive new policies designed to increase camaraderie among the hardworking men and women of the Middlesex Sheriff's Office and increase public confidence in this historic department. Some changes include: a policy that prevents employees from donating to the Sheriff's political campaign and mandates campaign political finance education classes for all employees; an in-house newsletter; Employee of the Month program and many others.

A state representative elected first in 1996, Koutoujian held several leadership positions, including chairman of the Joint Committee on Financial Services, chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Health and chairman of the Commission to End Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities. He was instrumental in crafting the historic universal health insurance reform law, the statewide workplace smoking ban and legislation about new school nutrition guidelines. A staunch public safety advocate, Koutoujian led efforts for victim's rights and suicide prevention.

A lawyer by trade, Koutoujian served as a Middlesex County prosecutor before being elected to the Massachusetts Legislature. He has worked as an adjunct professor at the Massachusetts School of Law in Andover and taught a course on American Government at Bentley University in Waltham. He is a frequent



Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian

guest lecturer at Harvard School of Public Health, Boston University School of Public Health and Northeastern University.

Koutoujian is a graduate of Bridgewater State University and the New England School of Law. He also earned a masters degree in public affairs from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

He is a lifelong resident of Waltham, where he is very active in the community. He serves on the boards of several local organizations, including the West Suburban Samaritans, the Waltham and Newton Boys & Girls Clubs, REACH Beyond Domestic Violence and the Newton Community Service Center.

In the spring, Koutoujian's community service work and devotion to heritage earned him the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. This national award is given annually to outstanding American citizens from all walks of life who have distinguished themselves through significant contributions to this country and embody the patriotic values of our nation.

The social hour starts at 6:15 p.m., followed by a complete Armenian dinner at 7 p.m. The dinner meeting will be at the St. James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural & Youth Center Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Ladies are welcome.



COMMUNITY NEWS

AMAA Gala Banquet Celebrates Nine Decades of Service



Judge Marvin Baxter

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. — The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) celebrated its 92 years of outreach with a gala featuring Judge Marvin Baxter, associate justice, Supreme Court of California, as keynote speaker, on Saturday, October 15, at the Sheraton Universal Hotel.

Born in Fowler to Armenian parents, Baxter is a product of California schools and a graduate of the University of California Hastings College of Law. Following a successful career as a Fresno County deputy district attorney, Baxter entered private practice specializing in civil law. In 1983, he became appointments secretary for Gov.

George Deukmejian, advising him on judicial and executive appointments. In 1988, Deukmejian appointed Baxter associate justice to the California Court of Appeals. In 1991, he was appointed associate justice of the Supreme Court of California. He has a reputation among court observers as cautious, conservative and competent.

With the founding Biblical commission: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation," the AMAA's nine decades of Christian service have expanded to mission and service ministries supporting, among others, 145 Armenian Evangelical churches and fellowships around the world; 25

Armenian Evangelical schools around the world; Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon with 800 students — the only Armenian university outside Armenia; the AMAA Armenian Children's Milk Fund; various children's summer camps; AMAA Orphan and Child Care and medical and dental clinics serving many communities.

AMAA was founded in 1918 "to serve the spiritual and physical needs of Armenian people everywhere, both at home and overseas."

AMAA outreach is funded through the donations and endowments that have grown over the years. This gala banquet will be a celebration of these many accomplishments.

OBITUARY

Kay Armen Dies

KAY ARMEN, from page 1

In the 1980s, New York's St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral honored her with its "St. Vartan Award" for her longstanding support of the cathedral construction project and for her continuing contributions to its cultural life.

Affectionately known as "Charmin' Kay Armen," she had an illustrious show business career, which spanned almost 60 years in the

radio, television, stage, screen and recording industries. A singer, actress and composer, she made many records and performed on stage, in nightclubs, films and on television.

Her many radio hits include the successful "Stop the Music" program with Bert Parks, on both radio and later on TV. At one time Armen was heard on all three national radio networks, CBS, NBC and ABC, with various programs. Playwright William Saroyan and his cousin, Ross Bagdasarian (creator of the "Chipmunks"), wrote *Come on-a My House* for Armen and it was later recorded by many artists, including Rosemary Clooney.

On television, she starred in the hit sitcom "Love and Marriage," and Ray Bolger's "Washington Square," in which she was his singing star and was a regular guest on many talk/variety shows, including "The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson," "The Ed

Sullivan Show," "The Merv Griffin Show" and "The Mike Douglas Show."

She made her screen debut in the 1955 MGM musical smash, "Hit the Deck," appearing with co-stars Vic Damone, Debbie Reynolds, Tony Martin, Jane Powell and Ann Miller. The production finale from "Hit the Deck" in which Armen sings *Hallelujah* is featured in the MGM musical retrospective "That's Entertainment!" (1974).

In 1995, President Bill Clinton presented her with the National Medal of Honor for the Arts, and in 2000, she received the Handel Medallion from New York City.

In October 2005, Armen was honored by the Licia Albanese-Puccini Foundation with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The prestigious *Opera News Magazine* called Armen "one of the great pop contraltos of all time."



Kay Armen recording

Larry Zarian

Former Glendale Mayor

GLENDAL, Calif. (*LA Times*) — Larry Zarian, 73, a former mayor of Glendale and the first Armenian American to be elected to the City Council, died of blood cancer Thursday at Glendale Adventist Medical Center.

Zarian also served as a board member for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and as a state transportation commissioner. He had his own local cable television show, "The Larry Zarian Forum," and also had hosted a talk-radio program on KIEV that focused on political issues.

In 1983, Zarian became the first Armenian American elected to the Glendale City Council and served for 16

years. He had four one-year terms in the ceremonial post of mayor of Glendale, whose statistics show at least 27 percent of the city's population is of Armenian descent.



Larry Zarian

Ray Aghayan, 83 Academy Award-Winning Hollywood Designer

AGHAYAN, from page 1

A native of Tehran, Iran, Aghayan was nominated for Oscars for Norman Jewison's "Gaily, Gaily" (1969); with Mackie and Norma Koch for "Lady Sings the Blues" (1972) starring Ross as Billie Holiday and, again with Mackie, for "Funny Lady" (1975) starring Streisand.

For "Funny Lady," Aghayan and Mackie created 40 complete 1930s-style outfits — not only dresses and suits, but also the hats, gloves, scarves and shoes — for Streisand's Fanny Brice.

The son of a society couturier in Tehran, Aghayan at age 14 designed the mourning clothes for the wife of the Shah of Iran, Queen Fawzia. Three years later, he convinced his mother to allow him to move on his own to Los Angeles.

After several years producing, directing and designing costumes for his own productions, Aghayan got a job on the mid-1950s anthology series "Matinee Theater" (the live show required a talent for quick costume changes). That led to a stint as costume designer on the short-lived 1963-64 variety series, "The Judy Garland Show."

Aghayan's film resume also includes "The Art of Love" (1965), "Our Man Flint" (1966), "Dr. Doolittle" (1967), "Hannie Caulder" (1971) with Raquel Welch and three Doris Day films: "Do Not Disturb" (1965), "The Glass Bottom Boat" (1966) and "Caprice" (1967).

Aghayan designed costumes for such stars as Julie Andrews, Fred Astaire, Pearl Bailey, Lucille Ball, Diahann Carroll, Carol Channing, Cyd Charisse, Bing Crosby, Sammy Davis, Dick Van Dyke, Barbara Eden, Lola Falana, Mitzi Gaynor, Betty Hutton, The Jackson Five, Danny Kaye, Peggy Lee, Shirley MacLaine, Dinah Shore and Leslie Uggams.

He was nominated for a Tony Award in 1970 for "Applause" and he also designed on Broadway for "Vintage 60" (which opened in 1960), "The Egg" (1962), "On the Town" (1971) and Channing's "Lorelei" (1974).

In a 1997 interview with the Archive of American Television, Aghayan was asked what makes an excellent costume design.

One that "gives the actor the character, helps the actor grow into that human being," he said.

"And to be able to help the audience to look at that and know what the hell it is they're looking at." In addition to his work on the Los Angeles Olympics, Aghayan produced "Consenting Adult," a landmark 1985 telefilm about a gay son coming out to his family that was adapted from the novel by Laura Z.

Hobson. He also did more than a dozen Academy Award telecasts from 1968 to 2001.

For the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas in 1974, Aghayan and Mackie designed the opening for "Hallelujah Hollywood," a \$3-million tribute to classic MGM musicals that encompassed an astounding 940 costumes.

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Garo Vosgerichian

BELMONT, Mass. — Garo Vosgerichian, of Belmont, died on October 9.

He was an active member of the Knights of Vartan, Ararat Lodge No. 1, since 1993.

He is survived by his wife Alice (Ekmekjian) Vosgerichian; one son, Dr. George Vosgerichian;

siblings, Rosaly Chamlian and her husband, Antoun, Mary Vosgerichian and Mr. and Mrs. John Vosgerichian; in-laws, Ardemis Ekmekjian and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were at St. Stephen's Armenian Church, 38 Elton Ave., Watertown, on October 14.

Interment was at Highland Meadow Cemetery, in Belmont.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to St. Stephen's Armenian Church.



Garo Vosgerichian

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School Announces Online Auction

WATERTOWN, Mass. – The St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School (SSAES) Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is holding its third annual online Christmas auction to raise funds to benefit the school.

Starting on November 10 and through November 20, bidders will have the opportunity to win unique products, services and memorabilia through Bidding for Good (www.biddingforgood.com/ststephensschool).

Last year, this auction event drew bidders from both the St. Stephen's school community as well as an online community of more than 230,000 active bidders through Bidding for Good (www.biddingforgood.com). More than 1,700 visitors navigated the school's auction website last year, a number that is expected to significantly increase this November.

Julia Elvin of Watertown is one of last year's online bidders who bid on and won several items for prices that were far lower than the market value. "It was kind of neat. Not only was I doing something good and charitable, I had the opportunity to bid on and win items I would not have normally thought to purchase or bid on. The auction had some great items and it was so much fun."

This event will allow bidders to shop at their own convenience, refer others to the auction, easily monitor the bidding and come away with holiday gifts, all to benefit the school. There are a variety of gifts being auc-



A weekend stay at the Fairmont Princess Hotel in Hamilton, Bermuda (above) is one of the hundreds of items to be auctioned at www.biddingforgood.com/ststephensschool to raise money for St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School in Watertown.

tioned off, from Walt Disney World Park Hopper passes for four, an overnight stay at Boston's hip Liberty Hotel, a weekend stay at Bermuda's Fairmont Princess Hotel in Hamilton, to lunch at the renowned Blue Ginger Restaurant, in Wellesley and a karaoke party at the Limelight. There is something for everyone to enjoy with an

items catalogue comprising toys and games, salons and spas, camps, restaurants, art, jewelry, parties and much more.

"As the excitement builds towards our third annual auction we are thrilled that this event has become one of our school's signature fundraisers," said PTO Co-chair Christine Kahvejian.

"We are using the incredible power of the Internet to reach well beyond our school community, drawing support from across the country and around the world."

"Local and national businesses have come forward to generously support this event. We are proud to be able to create a unique value proposition by generating broader exposure for our donors," added Kahvejian.

SSAES is a private bilingual school currently serving approximately 200 children from the Greater Boston area. It is the only Armenian school in New England to be accredited by the Association of Independent Schools in New England, and its students have achieved top scores in the Comprehensive Tests of Basic Skills.

For more information about the auction, to preview the growing auction catalog or to make a donation, visit <http://www.biddingforgood.com/ststephensschool> or auction@ssaes.org. For more information about the school, visit www.ssaes.org.

LSU Welcomes Armenian Student as Part Of State Department Fellowship

BATON ROUGE, La. – Louisiana State University (LSU) will host a new international scholar on campus as part of the US Department of State's Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program, as Viktorya Mirzoyan, from Armenia, will be pursuing her master's degree in mass communication in the Manship School of Mass Communication.

Established by the US Congress in 1992 to encourage economic and democratic growth in Eurasia, the Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, or ECA, of the US Department of State and administered by IREX. By selecting emerging leaders from 12

countries of the former Soviet Union, the Muskie program aims to promote mutual understanding, build democracy and foster the transition to market economies in Eurasia through intensive academic study and professional training. In addition to their academic programs, Muskie fellows gain exposure to American values through a community service experience and develop professional skills through a full-time internship in their field of study.

The Muskie program averages nearly 4,000 applications per year with a 4-percent rate of acceptance. For more information, visit www.irex.org/programs/muskie.

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Colorado-Armenian Group Fetes Senator Aide

BOULDER, Co. – Pamela Barsam Brown, joined by Vi Bashian Cooper, hosted a garden buffet luncheon at her home for a meet-and-greet with Rosemary Rodriguez, state director for Sen. Michael Bennet (D/CO).

Barsam Brown explained, "Rosemary first met with a small group of Colorado Armenians at my home in July 2009, just months after assuming charge of Bennet's Colorado offices. Our group's collective interest was to secure a firm Armenian Genocide position statement from our newly-appointed senator. From that point forward Rosemary actively assisted us in promoting our position with Senator Bennet."

Bashian Cooper added, "Pamela and I both felt this gathering was a perfect way to express our appreciation to Rosemary who is a very special person and truly dedicated to representing Colorado citizens."

Luncheon guests represented a host of Colorado interests and included activist leaders from political, genocide, human rights and environmental organizations; state-elected officials; retired former educators now public school volunteers; a University of Colorado Boulder professor; local artists, writers and musicians; a Boulder Community Hospital oncology support group psychologist; a Boulder YWCA Board member; a Boulder Chamber of Commerce member; a Colorado Chautauqua Association Board member; a Colorado Parole Board member; a Boulder Library Board member and several independent small business owners.

"I was delighted to have been able to assemble such an extraordinarily diverse group of engaged Colorado women. We had a Boulder-perfect afternoon and guests had the opportunity to discuss a broad range of topics with Rosemary," concluded Barsam Brown.

Rocky Mountain High Advocates (RMHA) is a volunteer organization, focusing its attention on Colorado-elected members of Congress. It has assumed three distinct roles since its founding in 2005: it actively engages candidates to offer Armenian Genocide pledge statements; it advocates in support of the Armenian Genocide with members of Congress and it offers a free community service e-newsletter addressing Armenian issues from a Colorado perspective.

In this current 112th session, RMHA is proud of its accomplishments. In April the organization solicited commemoration statements from the Colorado Delegation. Both senators and five House members released testimonials exclusively to RMHA. In 2005, Colorado had one House member on the Armenian Genocide Resolution and no Armenian Caucus members. Today, Colorado boasts five House members on the Armenian Genocide Resolution; one House member on the Return of Churches resolution and five Armenian Caucus members.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Fridtjof Nansen And the Armenians

In the hot weeks of June 1925, Fridtjof Nansen – the great Arctic explorer, scientist and Nobel laureate who had lately become the League of Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees – found himself motoring across Soviet Armenia in a sincere, if ill-fated, attempt to secure a home for the hundreds of thousands of Armenians unmoored in the aftermath of the Genocide of 1915.

On the table lay a proposal submitted by the Armenians to the League of Nations to irrigate and cultivate the Sardarabad desert, and to settle some 50,000 refugees in this sparsely-populated region west of Yerevan. Nansen, who had been tasked with evaluating the feasibility of the project, assembled a five-member international commission of experts to travel to Armenia for a two-week investigation.

By Karine Abalyan

Their reports were published in Geneva in 1927. That same year, Nansen published *Armenia and the Near East*, an account of his travels in the Armenian countryside and the launching point of a project that would occupy the final years of his life.

From the beginning it appeared that for Nansen, what was at stake was far greater than the prospect of fertilizing a swath of land in the arid plain of Sardarabad. In a post-war Europe, this enterprise of development and repatriation held the promise of a kind of redemption for a West that had done little to reverse the grisly episodes to which the Armenians had been repeatedly subjected in the previous decades. And on the eve of a changing and uncertain time, it held the possibility of advancing the new diplomacy of openness and cooperation set forth by the League of Nations.

"It seemed highly desirable to find some such solution," Nansen wrote in the foreword to *Armenia and the Near East*. "For by doing so one might hope to do something, at least, to procure for the Armenians that 'national home' which the Western Powers of Europe and the United States of America had pledged themselves to give to the Armenian nation, and of which the League of Nations had repeatedly held out a prospect."

And so Nansen, at age 64, set out with his team of specialists to take up this challenge, dedicating himself wholeheartedly to a cause that would become no more than a footnote in a lifetime marked by prolific accomplishment. History has rendered the effort misguided. But on the 150th anniversary of Nansen's birth – which rolled around this month – it is perhaps worth revisiting the conviction with which one man hoped to stir "the conscience of Europe and America." More interesting still, *Armenia and the Near East* provides a rare glimpse into that transformative period of Armenian history – when a broken nation teetered between the unfulfilled promises of the West and the steely assurance of Communist Russia.

Nansen was born on October 10, 1861, in Christiania (later Oslo), Norway, the second child of Baldur Nansen, a lawyer, and Adelaide Johanne Thekla Isidore, the daughter of an aristocratic family. Growing up in a bustling household – both Baldur and Adelaide had children from previous marriages – Nansen found comfort in the outdoors, where he mastered skiing and skating and learned how to swim, fish and hunt.

In 1881, Nansen enrolled at the University of Christiania and began studies in zoology. A promising student, he was soon offered the opportunity to journey to the coast of Greenland where he studied Arctic zoology and ice formations. Upon his return, Nansen was appointed the curator of zoology at the Bergen Museum, where he continued his research and in 1887, completed a dissertation on the central nervous system of marine animals.

In the meantime, Nansen had been planning another expedition to Greenland, and the following year he and his small party became the first to cross its interior – a feat that brought Nansen considerable fame in Norway and abroad. Returning home, Nansen accepted a position at the University of Christiania, married and started a family.

Still, a restlessness surged inside him, and in 1893, Nansen set out on yet another adventure with the goal of reaching the North Pole. Things were less providential this time. Fram, the famous vessel constructed for the journey, drifted off course and the crew did not make it to the North Pole. But never one to give up, Nansen continued on skis and traveled farther north than any-

one before him, setting a new record and again earning a hero's welcome in Norway.

Scientific work continued to occupy Nansen's time in the ensuing decades though his rising international reputation also made him an attractive candidate for diplomacy. At the turn of the century, he helped engineer Norway's break from Sweden and became the country's first ambassador to Britain.

During World War I, Nansen traveled to the US where he persuaded Washington to provide food and supplies to neutral Norway, whose trade networks had been devastated in the war. The trip to the States also drew Nansen's attention to Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points – the foundation of the League of Nations. Convinced of its promise, he lobbied for Norway's entry into the newly-established organization at the close of the war.

In 1920, Nansen became the League's commissioner for the exchange and repatriation of prisoners of war and the resettlement of refugees displaced by the Russian Revolution. He also realized the 1924 population exchange between Greece and Turkey, and less successfully, tried to curb the Russian famine of 1921. In 1922, Nansen was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He spent the prize money on agricultural development projects in Ukraine and Russia.

By the time Nansen arrived in Armenia in 1925, he was well aware of the limits of the League of Nations and the rising tensions between the new Soviet government and the West. Armenia at the time was part of the Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic, along with Georgia and Azerbaijan (not to be confused with the short-lived Transcaucasian Democratic Federative Republic of 1918), and it was stipulated by Soviet authorities that Nansen's work be conducted outside the framework of the League of Nations and with the cooperation of Soviet Armenian representatives.

The country was largely rural, its basic infrastructure already sagging under the pressures of a rising population of refugees and orphans. Yerevan, Nansen wrote, suffered from "a serious shortage of houses, and inhabitants have to live in very crowded conditions." In the villages, there were outbreaks of tuberculosis and malaria and occasional "marauding expeditions" by Kurds from the Turkish side of the border.

Local officials had their hands full, and informed Nansen that they would accept additional refugees "if these could be brought to Armenia without cost to the country, and if outside help could be obtained to make possible the irrigation and cultivation of new land" – namely the Sardarabad desert, for which the Armenians hoped to obtain foreign capital.

The Sardarabad desert, Nansen wrote, was "a true wilderness, an endless scorched, dry, brown plain, with nothing but here and there a few thistle-like tufts of camel-thorn, a rough plant with sharp spikes that you approach at your peril." Even so, the landscape was dotted with evidence of former habitation – crumbling houses, old churches and other signs of civilization. What had made this once-fertile land so desolate? "Can the climate have become drier since those days?" Nansen wondered.

Leafing through records of rainfall and temperature patterns, lake water levels and other indicators, he concluded that "war, not fluctuations of climate, has brought about these great changes and turned the land into a desert." It would be possible then to revive Sardarabad, but to begin the commission wanted to survey the plain firsthand.

Packing into four government-provided automobiles, they set off on their second day in Yerevan. What is most striking about Nansen's account of these excursions is his eye for local customs and the everyday details of social relations.

"Outside the village of Markara, close to the road, a crowd gathered at once – as usual only men – staring curiously at ourselves and our cars, and of course, bent upon knowing our business... Their clothing was varied in the extreme, and sometimes ragged; not particularly Oriental, except for a sheepskin cap here and there, which looked anything but Occidental in such burning sunshine; otherwise they had on the dull, 'wholesale' Bolshevik caps of soft, drab cloth, with here and there a white cotton blouse, but chiefly European coats and long trousers and dilapidated foot-gear.

A little farther on there were some women weeding a cotton-field. I wanted to see how the work was done, so we stopped and I walked across to them. Then a curious thing happened: a handsome young woman got up, came to me and gravely handed me a small cotton-plant. This done, without looking about her, she quietly returned to her place and bending down, resumed her weeding without looking up again. It was a gesture of welcome in accordance with the custom of the country, very touching in its artless simplicity. I kept those modest leaves as a memento of Armenian womanhood."

Armenian hospitality continued to make an impression throughout the trip. Everywhere, it seemed, the commission was

welcomed with fruit and wine. At the new university in Yerevan, Nansen was awarded an honorary doctorate. At Holy Echmiadzin, the commission was received by the catholicos. The Armenians were a hard-working lot and Nansen held out hope that the country would prosper.

But his optimism notwithstanding, Nansen also took note of the incongruities of the Soviet system. "Here were Armenians, Russians, Georgians and Azerbaijanis – gathered up in the name of collectivism, their grievances swept under a rug. In a village close to the Turkish border, the commission was welcomed by a group of Armenian men offering water, milk and fruit.

"They were friendly folk, but grave and unsmiling. We inquired how many people there were in town. Only one-and-a-half thousand now, they replied, but there had once been three-and-a-half two thousand having been massacred or carried off by the Turks in the last war. They said it as if they had been talking of the previous year's harvest; it was all in the day's work. That their animals, great and small, had been taken, that the major part of the town lay in ruins, they did not even mention. Such is the history of the Armenian people."

And later, at the opening of a new irrigation canal near Gumri, when the president of Azerbaijan gives a speech in Russian and Turkish, Nansen remembers that "the Tatars in Azerbaijan were among the bitterest enemies of the Armenians, and it was not very long since they had perpetrated their bloody massacres of the Armenians in Baku. But it is all unity, peace, and concord now."

In the end, Nansen's enthusiasm about cultivating stretches of the Sardarabad desert – "once it is given water and seed, the most splendid crops will spring up everywhere" – came up against considerations of cost and time. He concluded that the plan would be a hard sell back home and redirected the commission's efforts to exploring other options.

These included cultivating land on the outskirts of the capital and draining a marshy patch near the Arax River. All in all, he estimated that the new plan would yield 81,000 acres of fertile land and sustain 25,000 people – at least 15,000 of whom "should be Armenian refugees brought by us from Europe." The funding, he hoped, could be secured through a loan, with the aid of the League of Nations. The loan would be guaranteed by the local Armenian government, as well as by the Soviet state and the State Bank of Russia, and repaid by the Armenians once the new farms became profitable.

"By developing this fertile land it might be possible at long last to make life fairly safe and prosperous for an incredibly maltreated people," Nansen wrote. "Accordingly, we considered that we had every reason to believe that the governments of the Great Powers would gladly give their adhesion to this plan, and thus honor, without incurring any great sacrifice, some, at least, of their pledges to the Armenians."

Nansen appealed to Vidkun Quisling – one of the commission members who subsequently settled in Moscow where he represented various foreign interests – to win the Soviets' approval. In the meantime, Nansen returned to Europe to present the new scheme to the League of Nations. In 1926, when a powerful earthquake struck near Gumri, Nansen became even more determined to obtain financing for the project. But from everywhere reverberated a loud "no."

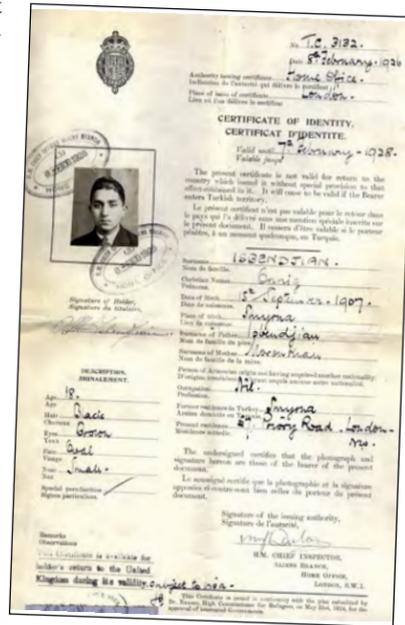
"Does the League consider that it has now done its duty, and does it imagine that it can let the matter drop without undermining the prestige of the League, especially in the East?... Woe to the Armenians that they ever were drawn into European politics! It would have been better for them if the name Armenia had never been uttered by any European diplomatist."

Exasperated, Nansen briefly resigned from his post as high commissioner of refugees. Ultimately, he resolved to take matters into his own hands. Through his personal efforts, he was able to settle 7,000 refugees in Armenia in 1928. (Many of these refugees now traveled on Nansen passports – international identification certificates issued by the League of Nations). Nansen was still pursuing the cause when he died in May 1930, of a heart attack.

Armenia was now part of the Soviet enterprise. In 1936, the Transcaucasian Republic was divided along ethnic lines, resulting in the Armenian SSR. Many of the refugees who had settled there were suddenly subject to Stalin's forced programs of collectivization and industrialization. By the time a second wave of newcomers, more than 100,000 Armenians from abroad, arrived after World War II, repatriation had been given a bad name. Deceived by promises of a better life, the repatriates were denied exit visas and swallowed up by the Soviet machine.

Although it was the darker undertones in Nansen's travelogue that prevailed, the Scandinavian diplomat remained for the Armenians a celebrated figure, admired for his commitment to their cause and the earnestness with which he sought to affect change. For his part, Nansen applauded the doggedness of the Armenian spirit, consoled perhaps by some idea that the Armenians would make something of their new homeland.

"The Armenian people have never abandoned hope," he wrote at the close of Armenians and the Near East. "They have gone on bravely working, and waiting... waiting year after year. They are waiting still."



A Nansen passport issued in London to Onnig Isbenjdjan, an Armenian refugee from Smyrna. The passport is from the collection of the Diocese's Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center.


New York
METRO

Service Dedicated to Kevork Hovnanian at St. Vartan Cathedral

NEW YORK – On Sunday, October 9, a service at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral provided an opportunity to honor the late Kevork Hovnanian. Family, colleagues and friends gathered to mark two years since Hovnanian's passing.

Presiding over the occasion was Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, who had arrived in New York two days earlier.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), celebrated the Divine Liturgy and delivered a homily reflecting on the significance of Hovnanian's life.

"All of us can testify that Kevork Hovnanian was a man great in accomplishment; great in stature; a man of consequence in his profession and in the society around him," he said. "And yet we can testify, too, that there was a tenderness about him; a spir-

it of kindness and human outreach; a down-to-earth quality that was every bit as unforgettable as the character traits that made him so extraordinary in his achievements."

The Primate recalled Hovnanian's spirit of outreach to fellow human beings, which "inspired his greatest acts of philanthropy and service: his heroic contributions to hospitals in New Jersey and New York; his immediate drive to reach out to people in the wake of the 9/11 attacks and of course his incredible, indispensable leadership in the recovery and development of our homeland of Armenia, over a period of more than 20 years."

As founding chairman of the Fund for Armenian Relief, Hovnanian led the Eastern Diocese's outreach and development effort to the Republic of Armenia since the time of the 1988 earthquake.

Following the liturgy and requiem service,

family members and close friends gathered at the University Club in Manhattan for a memorial meal.

Karekin II presided over the gathering, where he spoke about Hovnanian's efforts on behalf of Armenia and the Armenian Church and fondly recalled Hovnanian's virtues and piety.

Ara Hovnanian, Kevork Hovnanian's son and longtime partner in business, offered a poignant reminiscence of his father and the warm relationship they shared.

Brief remarks were also made by Barsamian; Hovnanian's son-in-law, Dr. Taviv Najarian, and Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, who had forged a friendship with Hovnanian through the latter's humanitarian efforts.

All the speakers paid special tribute to Sirvart Hovnanian for the strength and support she gave her husband and family throughout their life together.

A brief video presentation brought the late Hovnanian's voice and image into the presence of the assembled crowd, and related the story of his life through the personal remembrances of those who knew him.



The late Kevork Hovnanian

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New York Dinner Honors 60th Birthday of Catholicos Karekin II

NEW YORK – On Wednesday, October 12, a group of friends and benefactors of Holy Echmiadzin gathered at a dinner hosted by Nazar and Artemis Nazarian in honor of Karekin II's 60th birthday.

The event was held at Manhattan's Metropolitan Club.

Berge Setrakian, president of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), acting as the master of ceremonies, welcomed the guests and congratulated Karekin II on his birthday.

"You are surrounded tonight by great friends of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin and the Catholicos of All Armenians" he said, and further noted that the AGBU has been a longstanding supporter of Karekin II's initiatives to further strengthen the Armenian Church.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), after thanking the hosts and congratulating the catholicos, spoke on the need to develop strong spiritual leadership in the Armenian Church – a mission Karekin II has advanced throughout his pontificate. He then announced on that occasion the establishment of the Pontifical Endowment for Pastoral Development, which will be chaired by Setrakian.

"From my experience, I can testify that having a dedicated, well-prepared pastor is key to a flourishing parish life. ... Our parishes flourish,

family spiritual life flourishes and our church as a whole will flourish," said Barsamian.

Following the announcement of the establishment of the fund, Setrakian stated that AGBU had decided to earmark \$1 million of its



Nazar Nazarian, left, with Catholicos Karekin II

scholarship programs for this purpose.

The Nazarians then took the initiative of donating in lieu of the catholicos' birthday gift \$1 million to this fund and they were followed with similar amounts by Sarkis and Ruth Bedevian and Hratch and Suzanne Toufayan.

The Setrakians then announced their contribution of \$250,000 and they were followed by Yervant and Melissa Demirjian, Haig and Elsa Didizian and Nishan and Margaret Atinjian with \$100,000 each. Harry and Edna Keleshian, Oscar Tatosian and Jerry Demirjian pledged \$50,000 each. George and Alice Kevorkian, Zaven and Arlene Dadekian, Papken and Anahid Megerian and Haroutune and Shakeh Mekhjian pledged \$25,000 each. Further donations continued to follow.

Setrakian then announced that Archbishop Hovnanian Derderian, the Primate of the Diocese of Armenian Church of America (Western), had informed him that a pledge drive getting underway in that region had raised \$1 million so far for the same purpose.

Donation

In memory of Vartkess Balian, former president of the Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc. of USA and Canada, Sirop and Maro Bedrosian of Houston, Texas, donate \$500 to TCA's Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2011 Project.

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New York
METRO

HMADS Students Start New School Year with Celebrations

By Janet Marcarian

BAYSIDE, N.Y. — Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS), like any other schools, awaits and prepares to embrace its new and current students every September.

On opening day, Fr. Bedros Kadehjian and School Board members joined the principal, Zarmine Boghosian, as she welcomed all the

students, faculty, parents and guests for another academic year. What is so special about this particular year (2011-2012) is that the school is celebrating its 45th anniversary.

The members of the Class of 2012 had the privilege of blowing out the candle representing the anniversary and making wishes for another 45 years.

Within two weeks of instructions, HMADS students were ready to celebrate the anniversary of Armenia's independence. On that day, September 21, students, faculty and parents gathered around with one purpose in mind, rejoicing and expressing their pride of being able to announce to the world this event. Some were wearing the colors of the Armenian flag and the sun, blue sky and soft wind, joined them in celebratory mood. Gathered on the church plaza, everyone sang the American and Armenian national anthems, following by a prayer led by Kadehjian.

Eventually, 45 colorful balloons were released with wishes for the continuous success of the school.

A short program fol-



HMADS students plant 20 plants in honor of Armenia's anniversary.



HMADS students with President Serge Sargisian

lowed packed with recitations, songs and a skit about government elections, told through a fable. All of the presented material was new, which in turn reiterates the following: HMADS consists of a devoted principal, teachers that can deliver students that learn at a moment's notice and the beneficial impact of it all.

The festivities continued by planting 20 plants in honor of Armenia's Independence.

On Thursday, September 22, the fourth- and fifth-grade students were invited to Battery Park, Manhattan, to meet President Serge

Sargisian of Armenia. Led by Boghosian and a few parents, the students carried the US and Armenian flags and a large sign welcoming the president. The children sang and chanted phrases that expressed their joy and honor of being present at this auspicious event.

On behalf of the HMADS Family a special appreciation is extended to NECO for including HMADS students to this historical event. The school is planning to celebrate the anniversary in May and the 30th graduation in June 2012. For more information, visit www.hmads.org.

Ordination, *Khachkar* Blessing at St. Leon Church in NJ

FAIRLAWN, N.J. — On Sunday, September 18, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Diocesan Primate, visited St. Leon Church, where he celebrated the Divine Liturgy and ordained Benjamin Rith-Najarian to the diaconate. Later in the afternoon, the Primate also consecrated a new *Khachkar* on church grounds, dedicated to all Armenian Christian martyrs.

In his sermon, Barsamian spoke about the Diocese's theme, "Ministry of the Faithful," which parishes across the Diocese introduced last Sunday. He reminded the faithful of Christ's call to follow him, and touched upon

Holy Spirit, the people to whom we minister can themselves become part of the Ministry of the Faithful."

He cited Benjamin Rith-Najarian's service as an example of a young man following Christ's call.

"From his earliest examples within his family, to his experiences on the altar, in the seminary, and serving our parishes, Benjamin has been guided, step by step, along a pathway laid out by our Lord," Barsamian said.

A native of Philadelphia, Rith-Najarian grew up at the St. Sahag Church of St. Paul, Minn. He graduated from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn., and pursued graduate studies at St. John's School of Theology and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, receiving a Master of Divinity degree in 2010.

Following his graduation, he spent nine months with his wife, Danielle DerAsadourian, studying the Armenian language and the Divine Liturgy at the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. For the next year, he will intern with the Rev. Diran Bohajian, pastor of St. Leon Church, to strengthen his understanding of parish life in the Eastern Diocese.

"For me, being ordained to the diaconate was a moving experience," Deacon Rith-Najarian said. "Being deacon is not simply a title, but a new step in my spiritual journey that comes with responsibility and greater opportunity to serve God and the Armenian Church. I am excited to serve in my new role at such an active parish as St. Leon and to learn from a priest as experienced as Father Diran."

Bohajian said that the entire community was pleased to witness the ordination. Also joining the St. Leon parish last Sunday was the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

"The mission of our church continues with a young man coming forward to receive the rank of deacon," he said. "As a parish priest, it was an honor and a blessing for me to be part of this celebration."

Referring to the words of Jesus — "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2) —



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian ordains Benjamin Rith-Najarian to the diaconate, with Fr. Diran Bohajian (at left) and Fr. Daniel Findikyan assisting.



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian consecrates a khachkar dedicated to all Armenian Christian martyrs.

ways that lay people can answer this call, which include joining the choir, teaching Sunday School, serving on the altar or reaching out to community members who are in need.

"As ministers of our Lord, you are the lamp through which the light of Christ shines on others," Barsamian said. "You can be the illumination, which shows the presence of Christ in their own lives. And through the power of the

Bohajian said that the ordination of a new deacon is also a sign that God has heard and answered the prayers of the community.

"In the brief time I have known Benjamin, I can attest that he is a warm, humble and faithful son of the Armenian Church," Bohajian added. "I will do everything in my power as a priest of this community to make sure that his time here will be fruitful and God-pleasing."

Also during Sunday's service, Barsamian presented the Diocesan Girl Scout awards to four young girls — Talia Boyajian, Anais Boyajian, Lauren Dadekian and Mary Tartaglione — who recently completed the program, which is

administered by the Diocese's Department of Youth and Education.

Following the Divine Liturgy, Barsamian led a procession to the parish's Charles and Grace Pinajian Youth Center, where he consecrated a new *Khachkar* dedicated to all Armenian martyrs. The *Khachkar* was donated to the parish by the Leitner family. In brief remarks, Sandra Shahinian Leitner spoke about the importance of erecting such a monument.

Bohajian said the monument serves as a reminder of "those who came before us and the enormous sacrifice they made in order to perpetuate our Christian faith."



New York
METRO

St. Peter Church of Watervliet Marks Anniversary

By Paulette Doudoukjian

WATERVLIET, N.Y. – It was Psalm 100 that started off the 112th anniversary celebration for St. Peter Church here, on Sunday, October 2. Deacon Garo Derian, Parish Council chair, welcomed everyone to the banquet and read the entire Psalm in his opening remarks of this day that began with the Divine Liturgy celebrated by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese.

Following the Divine Liturgy, seven young people were ordained to the rank of acolyte, including first-year seminarian, Eric Vozzy. He returned



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian ordains acolytes at St. Peter Church. (photo by Joseph O'Keefe)

to his home parish to receive the blessings of Barsamian in a very moving liturgical ceremony.

The banquet was held at Michael's Banquet House in Cohoes, with more than 150 people in attendance. The day's festivities were organized as a cultural celebration with the Antranig Dance Ensemble performing several routines.

Additionally, four young adults in the community – Rita Guleserian, Raffi Moroukian III, Thomas Nevins and Nora Derian – made remarks of what this milestone in the St. Peter Church means to them.

As Guleserian noted, "Each year our church celebrates an anniversary is a blessing. It shows the devotion and perseverance of our faith and culture. Each year, more leaders are born. I am just one – but there have been many before me and many more to follow in the footsteps of our forefathers. Every one of us can lead by example and show the new generations what dedication it takes to ensure the future of our faith, culture, community – and even more specifically of our St. Peter Church."

But the real highlight of the afternoon came with a surprise presentation by Barsamian when he presented Diocesan khachkar plaques of recognition to two of St. Peter's own: Harry Tutunjian, mayor of the City of Troy, whose two-year consecutive terms will end with the next election; and Richard Hartunian, who was appointed in 2010 as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York by President Barack Obama and became the first Armenian-American to receive such an appointment.

Barsamian spoke of their leadership as examples of pride for the Armenian community. Both Tutunjian and Hartunian have been long time members of the St. Peter Church, serving on the Parish Council, being involved with ACYOA and



From left, The Rev. Stepanos Doudoukjian, pastor of St. Peter Church, with Richard Hartunian and Harry Tutunjian

supporting the needs of the community.

Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian, parish pastor, addressed the crowd and reminded all that a milestone such as this is a time for a community to rejoice, reminisce and renew. In the spirit of reminiscing, Doudoukjian acknowledged that on this day of the church's anniversary, Charlie and Alice Chorbajian, faithful parishioners of St. Peter, are also celebrating their 51st wedding anniversary.

"Charlie and Alice, you, as well others of your generation, have been great role models of love and devotion to God and St. Peter Church throughout your life. May the parishioners of St. Peter follow your lead in service and participation in the life of our very special St. Peter Armenian Church," he said.

Barsamian concluded the event by congratulating the St. Peter community on 112 years of proud service by generations of faithful. The Primate stated that "St. Peter Armenian Church is one of the oldest communities in our diocese. And it is a strong church family because of its determination and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."

He continued, "I was especially moved to see so many young people in church during the celebration of the Badarak. Seven young people today were ordained to the rank of acolyte and 20 more youth were blessed as candle holders and readers. This is a sign of great life in this community, especially as we celebrate the year of the 'Ministry of the Faithful.'"

With that, more dancing ensued by attendees to the sounds of DJ Sayat of Northern New Jersey.

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Arts & Living

Aslanian to Speak on New Julfa Armenians At Ararat-Eskjjan Museum

MISSION HILLS, Calif. — Dr. Sebouh D. Aslanian, the newly-appointed Richard Hovannisian Term Chair of Modern Armenian History, established by the Armenian Educational Foundation at UCLA, will speak on Sunday, October 30, at 4 p.m., at the Ararat-Eskjjan Museum.

The lecture, which is free and open to the public, will be cosponsored by the museum and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

Aslanian's lecture, "From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa," will draw on his recently-published book of the same name, issued by the University of California Press.

Drawing on a rich trove of documents, including correspondence not seen for 300 years, Aslanian's study explores the emergence and growth of a remarkable global trade network operated by Armenian silk merchants from a small outpost in the Persian Empire. Based in New Julfa, Isfahan, in what is now Iran, these merchants operated a network of commercial settlements that stretched from London and Amsterdam to Manila and Acapulco.

Aslanian brings to light the trans-imperial cosmopolitan world of the New Julfians, the effects of long distance trade on the organization of community life, the ethos of trust and cooperation that existed among merchants and the importance of information networks and communication in the operation of early modern mercantile communities.

Prof. George Bournoutian of Iona College has praised *From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean* as "the most researched and original work" on the subject that "exceeds, by far, all previous scholarship on the Armenian merchants of New Julfa." The book has been selected by the Committee of the California World History Library as the first book to appear in their new series, Author's Imprint, which celebrates and recognizes "exceptional scholarship by first-time authors."

Aslanian has previously taught in the Department of History at California State University (CSU)-Long Beach as an assistant professor in fall 2010 after serving a year at Cornell University as a Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral fellow in world history. He received his PhD (with distinction) from Columbia University in 2007.

From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean will be on sale at the talk and available for signing by the author.

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



Sebouh D. Aslanian



Krikor Satamian in "Perezagner"

AGBU Celebrates Renowned Actor, Director and Entertainer Krikor Satamian's Golden Jubilee

PASADENA, Calif. — On Sunday, October 30, at 6:30 p.m., the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of renowned actor, entertainer, comedian and director Krikor Satamian. The program, featuring speakers Assadour Guzelian from London, England, and Sarkis Minassian, as well as lifelong friends, co-stars and admirers of Satamian, will commemorate and honor his 50 years as an entertainer.

By Aleen L. Khanjian

While Satamian is well known for his current role as director of the AGBU Ardavazt Theatre Group in Los Angeles, where he has served for a large part of his career, in addition to his role as the AGBU Western District's artistic director, there is no denying that his history, diverse training and contribution to the international theatrical community is enduring.

Following his graduation from the American University of Beirut (AUB), Satamian attended the London School of Film Technique as well as the Bristol Old Vic Theater School. Following a season of theatrical performances at the Belgrade Theater in Coventry City, England, he returned to Lebanon to serve as the artistic



Krikor Satamian with Mher Mkrтчian

director of the AGBU Vahram Papazian Theatre Group. While in Lebanon, Satamian also served as a lecturer of drama at AUB.

Satamian joined the AGBU Vahram Papazian Theatre Group as a young actor in 1960. Twelve years later, as its artistic director, he led the same theatre group on a well-received tour of Armenia. In 1975, Satamian led the group to France, England and Cyprus. Following his work with the Vahram Papazian Theatre Group, he went on to teach at the Bristol Old Vic Theater School before becoming resident director at New York's famous, Off-Broadway company, "Colonnades Theater Lab," in 1976. After his success at Colonnades, Satamian was invited to the "Hope Summer Repertory Company" to direct on three subsequent occasions.

Satamian has been an avid, active member of the AGBU since his early childhood. In 1978, here rejoined his beloved organization, in New York City, as its national

see SATAMIAN, page 14

James Russell to Unravel 'Armeno-Hebrew Mystery' In Talk at NAASR

BELMONT, Mass. — Prof. James R. Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University, will give a lecture titled "An Armeno-Hebrew Mystery: Or, a 1,000-Year-Old Armenian Text in a Cairo Synagogue and the Stories It Tells," on Thursday, November 3, at 8 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave.

Russell has been the Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University since 1992. His books include *Bosphorus Nights: The Complete Lyric Poems of Bedros Tourian*, *Armenian and Iranian Studies*, *The Book of Flowers*, *An Armenian Epic: The Heroes of Kasht*, *Zoroastrianism in Armenia* and *Hovhannes Tlkurantsi and the Medieval Armenian Lyric Tradition*.

In the waning years of the 19th century, a traveling scholar happened by chance on a store-room at the back of a Cairo synagogue filled to the ceiling with medieval manuscripts: letters, poems, sacred books, economic documents, etc., that could not simply be thrown away, because they employed the sacred Hebrew script. Like a fly trapped in amber, the documents of the Geniza (which literally means "treasure house") provide a vivid and detailed primary record of the life and letters of the Middle East in the centuries just after the beginning of the second millennium.

Among the items preserved in the Cairo Geniza is a short Armenian word list, with translation into Judeo-Arabic. Since the Armenian words are written out in Hebrew characters we know exactly how they were pronounced; and the curious selection of vocabulary invites one to speculate upon the occasion for which they might have been compiled. Both the Geniza record and Armenian sources enable us to recreate that context and to enter, very briefly, a long-lost world.

Admission to the event is free.

Presentation at Glendale Public Library on Armenian Kars and Ani

GLENDALE, Calif. — The Armenian Educational Foundation, the Ararat-Eskjjan Museum and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will sponsor a book presentation and illustrated talk on *Armenian Kars and Ani* on Friday, November 4, at 7 p.m. at the Glendale Central Library, 222 East Harvard St.

In the first part of the evening, Hagop Gulludjian, lecturer in Armenian language and literature at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), will provide an introduction to the recently-published *Armenian Kars and Ani*, edited by Richard G. Hovannisian, recently-retired UCLA professor of Armenian and Near Eastern history. *Armenian Kars and Ani* is the 10th volume of proceedings from the UCLA conference series, "Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces." This volume represents a departure from its predecessors that have focused on historic Western Armenian areas, whereas Kars and Ani were very much a part of Eastern or Russian Armenia. *Armenian Kars and Ani* will be available for purchase and signing the night of the event.

Hovannisian will conduct a photo presentation of his travel through Historic Armenia in spring 2011 as the historian-guide for a NAASR Armenian Heritage Tour led by Armen Aroyan, providing him with the opportunity to visit and reflect on these cities and regions that he has so often written about as a scholar.

For more information about this free event, contact hq@naasr.org or aem@ararat-eskjjan-museum.com.



AGBU Celebrates Actor, Director and Entertainer Krikor Satamian's Golden Jubilee

SATAMIAN, from page 13

artistic director. Since the 1970s, he has founded several AGBU theater companies in Boston, Detroit, New York, Philadelphia and Los Angeles. He was the artistic director of the AGBU Ardashad Theatre Group, as well as the producer and anchor of the AGBU-Spotlight Armenians TV program in New York City. In 1988, Satamian was appointed as artistic director of the AGBU Western District, and permanently relocated to Los Angeles. He then

Some of Satamian's most memorable characters include: Off-Broadway, with the Classic Theater, in Shirvanzadeh's "Evil Spirit" in the demanding role of Kij-Taniel and later, in Nishan Parlakian's "Grandma Pray For Me," in the lead role of Deacon. Satamian acted in two successful AGBU professional productions in English: "Three Acts of Love" at the Fireside Theater, in North Hollywood, and Raffi Arzoomanian's "The Moths" at the Hudson Backstage Theater, in Hollywood. Satamian



Krikor Satamian with Buck Kartalian

became the director of the AGBU Ardavast Theater Group, which he had helped establish in 1979 together with Haig Messerlian and Parsegh Kartalian. To date, Satamian has directed and staged 75 plays, three operettas and acted in 85 productions.

ADAA Boston Armenian Film Festival to Open November 12-13

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The fourth Annual ADAA Boston Armenian Film Festival will take place at the Fresh Pond Cinemas on November 12-13. The event is dedicated to providing a forum for the works of new Armenian filmmakers.

The 2011 festival is sponsored by Roy Shahan and John Vigen Der Manuelian, in memory of Manuel, Armenouhy, Armane (Aghababian), Takouhi (Chorbajian) and Kenneth Shant Der Manuelian.

This year's line-up includes more than 10 films from around the world beginning with an interesting new film by French Armenian filmmaker, Serge Avedikian, called "Dogs of Istanbul," a follow up to his short film last year, "Barking Island."

Also by French-Armenian filmmaker, Levon Minasian, comes the award-winning short film, "The Piano," a charming look at a 13-year-old in Leninakan who longs to play a piano that doesn't fit in her tiny home.

From Belgium, filmmaker Comes Chabazian presents "Ici Bas" (Down Here), an abstract realist look at life in Armenia.

From South Africa comes Shareen Anderson's "Charents: In Search of My Armenian Poet." This full-length film explores the life and works of one of Armenia's best-loved poets, Eghishe Charents, through a literary travelogue from Armenia to the poet's birthplace in Kars, Turkey.

"Son of the Olive Merchant" is a film by Mathieu Zeitindjioglou, who travels to Turkey on his honeymoon with his Polish wife to confront Genocide denial.

All films will start at midday and go through the evening on both days.

The Film Festival Committee this year includes Roset Atinjian, Samuel Vartan and Alfred Demirjian. The films were curated by Janice Keuhnelian and Bianca Bagatourian.

For more information on the festival, visit www.armeniandrama.org.

also partakes in professional American productions. Some of his TV credits include: "Suddenly Susan," "The Naked Truth," "Team Knight Rider," "Mad TV" and "Alias." Satamian's film credits include: "Assignment Berlin," "Chickpeas," "One False Step," "Subterfuge," "Enemies of Laughter," "After Freedom," "Pomegranate," as well as "Must Love Dogs," which stars, Diane Lane, John Cusack and Christopher Plummer.

Satamian is credited as the first actor to introduce the art of stand-up comedy in the Armenian performing art, in 1984. Since then, he has given more than 150 performances in all the major cities of the United States and Canada. Bristol Old Vic Theatre School Principal Nat Brenner wrote about him, "Mr. Satamian has proved one of the most gifted and brilliant students of the theatre it has ever been my experience and pleasure to direct." It is no wonder that Satamian has maintained his legendary appeal, more than 50 years later.

All are invited to partake in Krikor Satamian's Golden Jubilee celebration on October 30, at 6:30 p.m., at the Pasadena AGBU Center located at 2495 E. Mountain St. For more information, call the AGBU Western District Office.



Krikor Satamian with Kevork Soghomonian



At the Old Vic in "Le Misanthrope"

Researcher on Gender Roles, Sexuality in Ancient Egypt Receives Fellowship

MEMPHIS, Tenn. – Chrystal Goudsouzian, a doctoral candidate at the University of Memphis History Department, with a focus in Egyptology, is the recipient of the American Association of University Women's (AAUW) 2011-12 American Dissertation Fellowship.

Goudsouzian's work focuses on gender, sexuality and the body in Egypt's ancient past. Her dissertation investigates the culture of ancient Egyptian reproductive lives through textual, iconographic and archaeological evidence. Her research seeks to identify gendered roles and experiences, reproductive notions and attitudes, and actions and rituals through the cycle of conception, pregnancy, childbirth and the postpartum period.

The oldest and largest of AAUW's fellowship and grant programs, the American Fellowships program began in 1888, at a time when women were discouraged from pursuing an education. American Fellowships are awarded to highly-qualified female scholars who are completing doctoral dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research or finishing research for publication.

One of the largest sources of funding for graduate education for women, AAUW has provided more than \$90 million to more than 11,000 fellows and grantees since awarding its first fellowship to Vassar graduate Ida Street, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history. "The funding we provide to the AAUW American

Fellows affords them the ability to become leading thinkers in their fields and sets them apart in an important way because they are receiving support from one of the nation's most respected women's organizations," said Gloria Blackwell, AAUW director of fellowships, grants and international programs.

The AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research. Since 1881, AAUW has been one of the nation's leading voices promoting education and equity for women and girls.



Chrystal Goudsouzian



BOOKS

Garegin Nzhdeh: Selected Works in English

Book, Published in Canada, Aims to Introduce Him to New Readers

By Antranig Bedrossian

Several works by orks of Garegin Nzhdeh have been chosen for an English translation for the first time. The texts represent his thoughts as well as his political and philosophical approaches. They cover the period from the early 1920s until his prison writings, in a Soviet prison camp, in the mid '50s. They also include an interview (1943) with Nzhdeh by *Razmi* newspaper of Sofia and a testimony by Nzhdeh. A chronological survey of his life and work, bibliographical sources and a glossary of place names complete this volume.

The selected writings reflect the evolution of his thoughts shaped by the turbulent political events and the intense ideological battles that characterized most of the 20th century in the Armenian and international political scene. The Armenian national liberation struggle of late 19th- and early 20th-centuries, the worldview of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutium), the struggle for survival of the First Republic of Armenia and, subsequently, its forced partition and Sovietization had their impact upon the development of his political thinking and philosophy. Nzhdeh witnessed the collapse of the Ottoman Turkish and Tsarist Russian Empires and faced the destruction and the dispossession of Western Armenians during World War I. He participated in the struggle for the independence and territorial unity of the first Republic of Armenia and saw its forced partition, Sovietization and its incorporation into the Soviet Union. Finally, as part of the diaspora, he joined the struggle for national survival, experienced World War II and always focused on Armenia's preservation and territorial unity. His fame was kept alive in the popular memory of Armenia, despite the prohibition of his name during the Soviet era (1921-1990).

Nzhdeh possessed a strong personality and embodied three prominent talents: that of an orator, military strategist and philosopher. These attributes made him one of the outstanding Armenian political and military leaders of the first half of the 20th century. His political and intellectual achievements acquired significance, his legacy spreading during his lifetime and after.

As a political and military leader, Nzhdeh played an important role in shaping the outcome of some of these events of modern Armenian history. He played a major role in organizing and leading the Armenian forces into reversing the trend in the battle of Gharakilisa in 1918, which became pivotal along with the decisive battles of Sardarabad and Bash-Abaran fought against the Ottoman Turkish army (Hambardzumian, 2005). The victorious struggle for Zangezur (1920 to 1921) under his leadership against the combined forces of the Red Army and Turco-Tatar

reinforcements, secured for Armenia her southern territories in Siunik (Zangezur), bordering Iran thus creating a wedge between Turco-Tatars of eastern South Caucasus (subsequently identified as Azerbaijanis) and Turks of Turkey (Lernahayastani goyamarte, "Mountainous Armenia: the Battle for Survival," 1923). His organization of the National Covenant ("Tseghakron") movement, which constituted later the basis of the founding of the Armenian Youth Federation of the United States and Canada, affiliated with the ARF, prevented the assimilation of thousands of Armenian youth.

According to R. Hambardzumian (2007), the texts point to his ideology: Christian Armenianism whose self-defense system focuses on David Bek's, St. Vartan's and the Mamikonian Covenant, revived by him in the '20s and the '30s.

In this volume Nzhdeh raises many political, strategic, historical and social issues pertaining to the Armenian people in particular and to international developments in general. His prison writings and self-testimony reflect the culmination of his thoughts, reinforced by his experience. The selected texts also indicate Nzhdeh's acquaintance with his contemporary European political, military and philosophical currents of thought. Certainly, Nzhdeh approaches many of these issues with clear perspective of his own and formulation.

The debate between spiritualism and materialism; the role of the state in politics; the relationship between the individual, the nation and the state; the role of history, culture and ancestral territory in nation-building; the value of social justice in human societies; the inter-relationship between national and universal values; the role of intellectual, spiritual and military elites in shaping the national life of peoples are issues discussed by Nzhdeh. They are all relevant today. Indeed, today the debate around these issues is conducted within the interwoven and multifaceted relations of the world and within the parameters of new theoretical approaches and empirical results.

The strengths and weaknesses of the Armenian people; education, self-knowledge and the spiritual renewal of Armenian generations; unity among various Armenian currents of thought and the emancipation of the Armenian homeland forcefully incorporated into the Republic of Turkey (Western Armenia) are also issues addressed by Nzhdeh. These also are presently part of the discussion agenda among Armenians, albeit, under more complex

objective and subjective conditions. Moreover, his thoughtful and realistic analysis of Armenia's strategic priorities and security threats has a contemporary significance in light of recent geopolitical transformations in the South Caucasus.

His philosophical inclination is best reflected in his aphorisms, characterized by its fragmented, but deeply-reasoned style.

Nzhdeh's style is fragmentary, but his reasoning is powerful and complete. Few, very few people speak, write or act with "blood and vein." His writings are the psychological features of a distinctively temperamental and powerful individuality, which are remarkable for their unique style and pious qualities of expressed ideas and truths (Hayk Asatrian, philosopher and one of his closest companions-in-arm).

The texts reveal a talented writer, who with newly-coined words and with new styles of representing them, enriched the Armenian language. "His colorful thinking reminds us of Yeghisheh, the fifth-century Armenian historian; the mystic Grigor Naregatsi among ancient writers; Hakob Oshakan and Avetis Aharonian, among modern writers" (Hambardzumian, 2007).

Aphorisms of Nzhdeh preserve a value of reflection for the new generations of Armenians and inspire them with patriotism, self-knowledge, self-confidence and self-reliance. By singling out a few of them, their contemporary relevance can be seen outright:

"History, it is not an unfinished novel but an

unfinished battle." What an eloquent way to prepare the Armenian long-term struggle for the recovery of the lost homeland.

"The more socially just, the more powerful is the fatherland." Here isa guiding idea upon which to anchor the state-building processes of post-soviet Republic of Armenia and Artsakh!

"Sword or pen? As one as well as the other – both I liked and used. But I appeared before an alternative and I had to choose the first because there are times when to advance, pen, word, truth need a sword. I like the pen, which at the same time is a sword that knows how to raise thousand arms with swords to defend justice." This resumes Nzhdeh's life, but it also describes the hard and complementary choices facing the Armenian people in their historical journey to their homeland.

Finally, this publication of *Selected Works of Garegin Nzhdeh* make available to scholars, researchers, students and general readers the political, military and philosophical reflections of a great 20th-century Armenian patriot, while paving the way for further studies into his worldview and his relevance to posterity. Comparative links between European political, military and philosophical currents of thought and his approaches can be explored further.

To obtain a copy of *Selected Works of Garegin Nzhdeh*, contact Antranig Bedrossian at antranig1@videotron.ca.

For more information, visit <http://www.keghart.com/Bedrossian-Nzhdeh>.

(Antranig Bedrossian is president of Nakhijevan Institute of Canada, Montreal.)

Lucille Apcar Memoir Available

MARIPOSA, Calif. – Lucille Apcar has published a memoir of her 20 years in Japan, as part of the diaspora, describing events leading up to and including World War II, culminating in the American Occupation.

The book, titled *Shibaraku, Memories of Japan, 1926-1946*, describes her early years in the home of her paternal grandmother, Diana Agabe Apcar, well known author, diplomat and humanitarian and continues through descriptions of early 20th-century Japanese life, interaction with the people of Japan, the devastation suffered by her family with the onset of hostilities with the Allied Powers and the hunger and deprivation suffered through the years of war.

The memoir ends on an upbeat note, describing first the chaos encountered upon return to the city of her birth, Yokohama, the indoctrination of herself and siblings to American ways and unfamiliar language, ending with immigration to California to begin a new life.

Shibaraku, Memories of Japan, 1926-1946 is available for \$17 (plus \$3 postage) from the author, Lucille Apcar, PO Box 2058, Mariposa, Ca. 95338, or by e-mail: Lucille@sti.net or contact website: www.outskirtspress.com/lucilleapcar.

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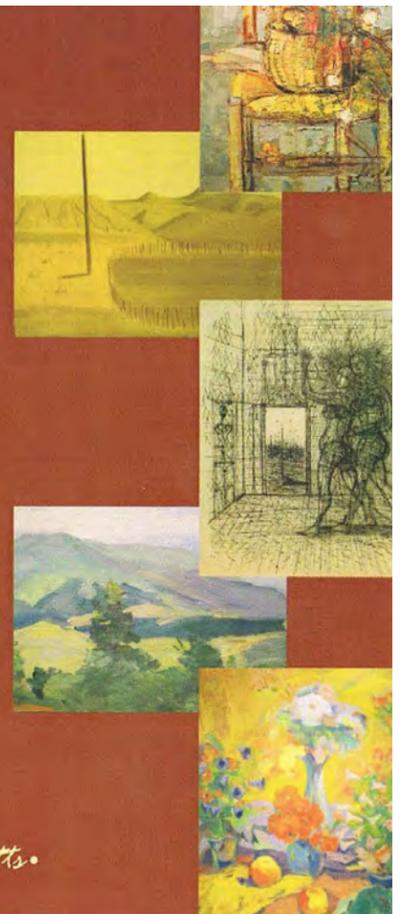
Armenian Art Masters of the Twentieth Century

The event will be held at Bell Tower Place, 444 Mt. Auburn Street, Suite #4, Watertown, MA on Friday, October 28th, 2011 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

Private viewing available by calling Jack Kouyoumjian at 617-968-0453

A portion of the proceeds will benefit The Knights of Vartan AASP/ASIF, World bank 90/10 program for rebuilding schools in Armenia.

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BOOKS

New Issue of *Genocide Studies and Prevention* Released

TORONTO – Now in its sixth year of publication, *Genocide Studies and Prevention* (GSP) Volume 6.2 features in its latest issue a diverse mix of original articles that cover a wide range of topics related directly to the field of genocide studies. This issue features articles by the Zoryan Institute's chairman, Roger W. Smith, its associated scholar, Bedross Der Matossian, and a graduate of the Genocide and Human Rights University Program (GHRUP), Regine King, from Rwanda. The journal speaks to the opportunities and platform provided for both established and upcoming scholars that GSP provides.

"The African Standby Force, Genocide and International Relations Theory," by Stephen Burgess, professor at the US Air Wave College, examines the proposal to create an African Standby Force (ASF) to intervene when genocide threatens on the continent. In launching the ASF, African leaders over-promised to stop genocide, given their lack of political will, the weak capacity of their states and the weak military capability of the Force's subregional brigades. Burgess notes that the leaders of various countries have failed to come close to meeting the 2010 deadline and questions an "African solution for African Problems" – reinforcing the international importance of genocide and the international responsibility of its prevention.

King, PhD, candidate at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto and a graduate of the Genocide and Human Rights University Program, writes

about "Healing Psychosocial Trauma in the Midst of Truth Commissions: The Case of Gacaca in Post-Genocide Rwanda." Writing as a Rwandan community-based mental health researcher and practitioner concerned with the mental well-being of individuals and communities that survive mass violence and genocide, she critiques the exclusive use of community-based truth commissions, regardless of their emphatic endorsement by post-conflict governments and multilateral organizations since the end of the Cold War. She concludes by suggesting that other models should be adopted to supplement gacaca.

In "From Bloodless Revolution to Bloody Counterrevolution: The Adana Massacres of 1909," Der Matossian describes that the historiography of the Adana Massacres of 1909 are represented by two diverging views. While some Turkish scholars deny the involvement of local government officials in the massacres by putting all of the blame on the Armenians who revolted as part of a conspiracy to establish a kingdom in Cilicia, some Armenian scholars, whose work is overshadowed by the Armenian Genocide, accuse the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP) of acting behind the scene to destroy the Armenian economic development in the area. By breaking free from the existing historiography, the present article contends that the Adana Massacres should be viewed as part of the revolutionary process which led to the erosion of social and political stability in the region, the

creation of weak public institutions and intensification of existing economic anxieties, all of which led to the enactment of violence against the vulnerable Armenian population of Adana.

The fourth contribution to this volume, "Did Newsnight Miss the Story? A Survey of How the BBC's 'Flagship Political Current Affairs Program' Reported Genocide and War in Rwanda between April and July 1994," examines the role of the news media in exposing or ignoring an ongoing genocide. It is authored by Georgina Holmes, a scholar of international relations theory and media, currently writing a book on the gendered politics of mediated conflict in Rwanda. She writes that at the time of the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, the BBC's late-night political discussion program, "Newsnight," was one of the few media political spheres within which representatives of the British government, opposition parties, the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations could comment on British foreign policy. Since 1994, the British media have been charged with failing to report genocide; yet a focus on print media has created a void in understanding how BBC's "Newsnight" covered events. The present article analyzes how the BBC framed the genocide in a specific way until July 31, 1994. Holmes concludes that "Newsnight" missed the story and "failed to hold British politicians to account."

The final selection in this issue is authored by Smith, professor emeritus of government at the

College of William and Mary and chairman of the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute). In his article, "George Steiner and the War Against the Jews: A Study in Misrepresentation," Smith critiques the work of Steiner, finding it to be misleading in its interpretations, explanations and implications. He contests Steiner's claims that the Jews brought their near destruction upon themselves, that they had invented the practice of genocide, had created such moral demands upon ordinary human beings that the tension became unbearable and resulted in a revolt against the tyranny of conscience and perfection. In his own writing, Smith works to correct these assertions and directs the reader to the shortcomings in Steiner's work as it relates to the Holocaust.

Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal was co-founded by the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute). The journal's mission is to understand the phenomenon of genocide, create an awareness of it as an ongoing scourge and promote the necessity of preventing it, for both pragmatic and moral reasons. It is the official journal of the International Association of Genocide Scholars and is published three times a year by the University of Toronto Press. For more information, contact the IIGHS at admin@genocidestudies.org.

Cal State, Fresno Press and Armenian Studies Program Release New Book by Der-Hovanessian

FRESNO – The Armenian Studies Program and the Press at California State University, announce the release of the new book, *Armenian Poetry of Our Time*, translated by Diana Der-Hovanessian. The American-born poet has won national and international awards for her translations and poetry in Armenia and the diaspora. *Armenian Poetry of Our Time* is the third book published in the recently-established Armenian Series at the Press, under the supervision of series editor, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State.

Armenian Poetry of Our Time is a collection of Armenian poems that spans a broad period of modern Armenian literature. It will be a valuable addition not only to Armenian studies but also to western poetry. Der-Hovanessian is a well-known poet and author of 25 books of poetry and translations, whose earlier work, the groundbreaking *Anthology of Armenian Poetry*, appeared more than 30 years ago.

The works of 117 poets, all originally composed in Armenian, are presented in this anthol-

ogy. The poets are themselves from either Armenia or live in the Armenian Diaspora.

There are excerpts of poems translated from the literary giants of the late 19th and early 20th centuries: Daniel Varoujan, Siamanto, Vahan Tekeyan, Avedik Issahakian, Indra and Bedros Tourian.

The works of noted diasporan writers such as Vasken Shushanian, Zahrad, Nigoghos Sarafian, Antranig Dzarougian, Vahe Oshagan and Zareh Melkonian are also included among the translated poems. Their works explore themes that are different from the earlier writers, as they were composed post-Genocide, but they reflect the pain of exile.

Some works, by poets from Armenia or Karabagh, have been translated into English for the first time.

Armenian Poetry of Our Time is a comprehensive volume that will introduce Armenian poetry to the non-Armenian speaking literary world. It is a valuable addition to the corpus of recent books that have begun to present the works of Armenian poets in translation.

Der-Hovanessian was Fulbright professor of American poetry at Yerevan State University in 1994 and 1999. She is, according to former book editor of the Boston Globe Herbert Kenney, not only the foremost translator of

Armenian poetry into English but also a striking and original poet herself. According to the *Times Literary Supplement*, she is a brilliant poet who has opened up the book of her people to the English-speaking world.

Celebration of Leonardo Alishan's Literary Work

GLENDALE, Calif. – Leonardo Alishan's literary work will be featured at the Glendale Public Library Auditorium, 222 East Harvard St., on Sunday, November 20, at 4 p.m. Admission is free and seating is limited.

Alishan was a former University of Utah professor, writer and poet who passed away in 2005.

He was born in Iran, to Armenian parents. During his life he published two collections of poetry, *Dancing Barefoot on Broken Glass* and *Through a Dewdrop*. His poems and short stories have been published in a variety of anthologies and journals and he was the recipient of a number of literary awards.

The program will include an in-depth discussion of Alishan's literary work through lectures given by Gourgen Arzoumanian, Dr. Rubina Peromian and Ara Oshagan.

A multimedia presentation will highlight his life Alishan through photos, a radio interview and more.

Arzoumanian is the editor of Alishan's short story collection, *Free Fall*, published after his death, by Mazda Publishers, and the translator of his short stories to Armenian, *Azad Angum*. He is the author of two Armenian books of poetry, *Apricot Shine* and *In the Intersections*.

He is the editor of *Bats Namak*, a Glendale-based Armenian literary journal. He is also editor of *Birthmark*, a bilingual anthology of *Armenian-American Poetry*. Arzoumanian's poetry, short stories, book critiques and translations have appeared in numerous Armenian literary magazines.

Peromian, the author of the article "The Restless World of Leonardo Alishan," published in *Genocide Studies and Prevention* (2006), is a research associate at UCLA, where she earned her PhD in Near Eastern languages and cultures. Her publications include, *And Those who Continued Living in Turkey after 1915* and *Literary Responses to Catastrophe: A Comparison of the Armenian and the Jewish Experience*.

Oshagan is a photographer whose work revolves around the intersecting themes of identity, community and memory. His work is in the permanent collection of the Southeast Museum of Photography, Florida; the Downey Museum of Art, California and the Museum of Modern Art in Armenia.

Library visitors receive three hours of free parking across the street at The Market Place parking structure with validation at the loan desk.

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

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ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

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 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. Handicap ramp and MBTA train and bus line. For info, visit www.FACBelmont.org or (617) 484-4779. All welcome.

OCTOBER 27 — "A Journey to Historic Armenia," by Ed and Mary Ann Kazanjian. Andover Library Memorial Hall, 2 North Main St., Andover, 6:30 p.m. Admission free. Presented by the Merrimack Valley Lodge of the Knights of Vartan (www.knightssofvartan.org). Contact Vahan at kovlodge35@gmail.com.

NOVEMBER 4-5 — Annual Bazaar sponsored by Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe, 110 Main St., Haverhill, Friday, 12-8 p.m.; Saturday, 12-7 p.m. Armenian cuisine served all day. Pastry table, Country Store, Gift Basket Raffles and Raffles for cash and prizes. For more info, visit www.hyepointechurch.org or call (978) 372-9227.

NOVEMBER 4-5 — "Alleluia," It's St. Stephen's Bazaar Time. 55th Annual St. Stephen's Church Bazaar, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Armenian gourmet food, pastries, arts and crafts, silent and live auctions. Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown.

NOVEMBER 6 — Preview of "Deported/ A Dream Play," a new play about the Armenian Genocide, with award-winning playwright Joyce Van Dyke, director Judy Braha and actors reading scenes from the play that premieres next March in Boston. Armenian Library and Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown, 3-5 p.m. Free and open to the public.

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



On November 11, the Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge Number 1 will hold their annual ceremony at the Renaissance Waterfront Hotel on Long Wharf, Boston, with the reception at 7 p.m. and the dinner at 8 p.m., featuring guest speaker Archbishop Pargev Martirosian, and Man of the Year, Aurelian Mardiros, pictured above, on the left, with Jack Medzorian.

Year is Aurelian Mardiros, Community Leader Award to Registrar Rachel Kaprielian and the Faithful Knight Award to John Peterson.

NOVEMBER 12-13 — Save the date. ADAA Fourth Annual Boston Armenian Film Festival. Fresh Pond Cinemas, Cambridge. See www.armeniandrama.org.

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.

NOVEMBER 19 — Holiday Kef, featuring Richard Hagopian and his Kef Time Ensemble. Saturday, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Adults, \$45, students, \$25. UMass Lowell Conference Center, 50 Warren St., Lowell, (978) 934-6920. Cash bar only. Mezza, coffee, dessert. Sponsored by Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe. For info call Mike (978) 682-3946 or Richard (978) 374-0687.

NOVEMBER 19 — Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston

presents its 25th anniversary premiere performance, "Journey Through Time," with all new choreography, costumes and music. Robinson Theater, Waltham High School. For tickets, www.itsmyseat.com/sayatnova or call Apo: (339) 222-0142, Garen (617) 930-2921 or 24-hour voicemail (617) 923-4455. See flyer for details: www.sayatnova.com. Flyer/video-four minutes, Facebook or Twitter.

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

NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 22-23 — St. Thomas Armenian Church Bazaar and Food Festival, Saturday, noon; Sunday, noon-6 p.m. Armenian gourmet foods, take out available. Dance performance by the Akh'tamar Dance Ensemble. Saturday, 4 p.m., Corner of E. Clinton Avenue and Route 9W, Tenafly. Tel: (201) 567-5445.

OCTOBER 29 — Holy Cross Armenian Church, Union City. Food Festival, Saturday evening only. Children's Halloween Party, 5-6 p.m. 6 p.m., Khavourma dinner. 50/50 raffle, in-house raffles. Music by DJ Berg. Holy Cross Church Center, corner of 27th Street and Bergenline Avenue, Union City.

NOVEMBER 13 — St. Stepanos Armenian Church Women's club invites you for an Armenian concert by the AREKAG Children's Choir, conducted by Vago John Ohanyan. Following church services, 1184 Ocean Ave., Elberon. Thanksgiving Lunch will be served. Tickets: \$30, adults; \$10, children, 10 and under. Call Linda Patrino (732) 449-5249, Norig Buchakjian (732) 929-0776.

NEW YORK

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.

DECEMBER 3 — The AGBU/NYSEC presents the fourth annual AGBU Performing Artists in Concert, at 8 p.m. Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. 154 W 57th St., New York City. Tickets, \$65. For info, call AGBU at (212) 319-6383, ext. 124. To purchase tickets directly through the Carnegie Hall Box Office: carnegiehall.org. Carnegie charge: (212) 247-7800. Box Office: 57th Street and Seventh Avenue.

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

Zobian Marks 10th Anniversary with Art on Wheels

By Tom Vartabedian

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — When it comes to promoting fine art and photography, Berge Ara Zobian finds himself in the driver's seat — literally.

He stumbled across an old, discarded Fed-EX truck, dumped \$9,000 into the project and turned the 18-foot box car into a traveling art gallery. Upon renovation, the interior features a hardwood floor, hanging system, surround stereo sound, digital monitors and track lighting to create a warm, inviting atmosphere.

Now, he is set to hit the road with other people's consignment art. His own photography will take a back seat. The 45-linear-foot vehicle is expected to house about 25 medium pieces of art.

Zobian calls his latest mission, "Art on Wheels," and he will make his stops at schools, private homes, corporations, art fairs and festi-

vals. The Armenian side stands out vividly. A Tricolor will be displayed on its side. The unique venture will serve as a mobile calling card for the Rhode Island art community.

He has financed the project with a sponsorship campaign called kickstarter.com where viewers can log on to a link ArtMobile. Over the past decade, Zobian has operated Gallery Z on the west side of Providence in the historic Federal Hill district.

"I want to bring original art to many destinations and communities where it is not available or accessible," says the 54-year-old photographer. "The Gallery Z ArtMobile is the latest concept for bringing fine art to the streets of Providence and beyond."

Zobian's life has turned into a juggling act of sorts. He opened a photo studio in 1983 before venturing toward an art studio in 2001, all while helping raise five children with wife Jayne.

Born in Haleb, Syria, he moved to Lebanon before immigrating to New York City in 1971 and finally Rhode Island in 1983. He has

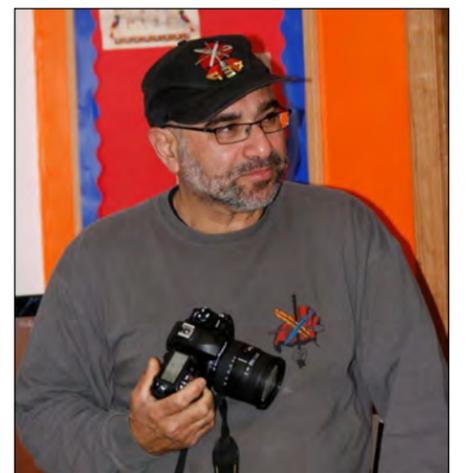
worked as a photographer and taught at Rhode Island College where he secured a masters degree in photography.

Over the years, he has photographed everyone from Palestinian Yasser Arafat and anthropologist Margaret Mead to William Saroyan, actress Vanessa Redgrave, Genocide survivors and models.

He has been to Armenia six times, including four trips following the earthquake. His itinerary is also bolstered by a half dozen visits to Lebanon. Not pleasure shooting per se. His time was spent in the war zone during tumultuous times, bent on getting the shots of a lifetime.

His vast collection is estimated around 500,000 images over what can be described as a prolific 38-year career. Hardly an Armenian community event passes in which Zobian does not capture with his lens. More than anything, what's shot is shared by the masses.

"Art fills the soul," he maintains. "In this day and age, there's so much uncertainty and tur-



Photographer Berge Zobian stands ready to take his art show on the road.

moil in our economy. Art comforts people and arouses their creativity."

"Photographing people has been a lifelong passion for me," he notes. "From the time I held my first camera, I felt an infinity for it."



COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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COMMENTARY

Turkey's Internal Debate on Genocide

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Early in October news services reported that a Turkish cab driver had beaten an Armenian woman in Istanbul and had thrown her out of his taxi upon learning that she is an ethnic Armenian. An Azerbaijani soldier, Safar Abiev, had axed to death an Armenian soldier in Hungary who was being trained in a military program. In 1955, Turkish mobs ransacked Armenian and Greek homes and businesses, killing many, in what is called the September 6 Incident. The riots were triggered by a false news report that Ataturk's birthplace in Salonika had been bombed. Later on it was discovered that the bombing was the work of the Turkish government precisely to incite the mob.

Indeed, these incidents do not take place spontaneously. There is an anti-Armenian propaganda in both countries, fueled by official and unofficial forces to keep the hatred burning, to be used for political ends at any given moment.

The late Turkish President Turgut Ozal had once threatened Armenians "in case they had not learned their lesson in 1915." Turkey's former Minister of Defense Vecdi Gonul had also bragged in a Brussels conference that Turkey would not enjoy presently a unified vast territory had it not expelled Armenians and Greeks during and after World War I.

Still, on the official side, former and current Prime Ministers Tansu Ciller and Tayyip Erdogan have threatened Armenian guest workers with expulsion.

One would question why this continued campaign of hatred exists after slaughtering 1.5 million Armenians and taking over their historic homeland? The answer is clear and unequivocal: Turks live in constant fear, because they are sitting on the bones of 1.5 million victims. They are fearful also that the Sevres Treaty of 1920 may be revived and thus the land can shift under their feet. The irony is in the fact that very few Armenians believe that an unratified treaty may be brought to force one day, but for the Turks, the threat and the fear are real.

We are sometimes relieved that the issue of Genocide recognition has moved into Turkey after being verboten for more than 90 years. Yet, there are powerful currents against the advocates of Genocide recognition and against those who circulate petitions to make amends to the Armenians. One expression of those powerful forces surfaced recently in the Turkish newspaper, *Taraf*, quoted by a courageous journalist Murat Belge. After criticizing the Turkish Foreign Ministry for its lame response to President Nicolas Sarkozy's statement in Yerevan about the recognition of the Genocide, he continues his attack on knee-jerk deniers, who he claims, are controlled by the leading political parties. Those who justify themselves by stating "We Turks are

good people, we have not committed any slaughters or genocide," let them read a book by the conservative writer Nihal Atsez, who deals with that subject beginning with the Kurdish issue. Belge makes extensive quotes from the said book, which are very revealing about the Turkish psyche: "The Kurds will be uprooted and wiped out from the face of the globe if they continue to be used by foreigners and continue to pursue their dream of establishing a Kurdish homeland. By destroying Armenians in 1915 and the Greeks in 1922, the Turkish race has demonstrated what it can do to those who have claims on these lands, which we have won by shedding rivers of blood."

Belge further continues quoting from the same book: "...Even if they become a 100-percent majority in any region of Turkey, their dream of establishing their own government will only remain a dream, like the dream of Greeks to revive Byzantium and the dream of Armenians to have Greater Armenia. For this reason they have to leave this country, before causing trouble for Turkey. Where can they go? Let them go wherever they like. They can go to Iran, India, Pakistan or to Barzani [in Iraqi Kurdistan]. Or they can ask the UN to provide them a territory in Africa. If they wish to learn anything [about our temper] let them ask their Armenian friends, and learn from them how patient is the Turk until it gets angry and becomes a lion."

"For people like Atsez these deeds are actions of Turkey's greatness and power," Belge writes.

In concluding his article, Belge cautions the Turkish government to demonstrate some flexibility on the issue.

Turkish arrogance is still a factor to be reckoned with. Denialism is still state policy, because Turkish leaders are not naive as to what comes after recognition. As the debate about the Genocide rages in Turkish society, the consequences are also part of the debate. Armenians and the international community will certainly go beyond recognition, raising the issue of restitution. The use of the term "genocide" has legal consequences, which have scared the Turkish leaders thus far.

Any presidential candidate can make generous pledges, only to forget them after the election. President Sarkozy can prove his sincerity while holding office. Otherwise, his opponent, the Socialist candidate Francois Holland, has already made the same pledge, while the Senate majority has already slipped through Mr. Sarkozy's fingers to the leftist parties.

France is only one step closer in recognizing the Genocide and criminalizing its denial. It is not the finale in this long and arduous process. The finale is in Turkey where the Grey Wolves and ultra-nationalists like Mr. Atsez hold sway on Turkish public opinion. And it is no small consolation that the debate has now moved to another level; it is no longer only between Armenians and Turks, it is among the Turks themselves, as people like Murat Belge emerge and stand up in the process.

LETTERS

ARA Story Mistakenly Run as Letter

To the Editor:

We were puzzled when reading the headline "Thanks from ARA to Donors" (September 17) and even more bewildered when reading what followed. The item we submitted for publication began with the following explanatory paragraph:

"Last Christmas, the Central Committee of the Armenian Renaissance Association (ARA) distributed some funds to four charitable organizations: Project Save, Mer Doon, Heifer Project and Fuller Center for Housing in Armenia. We received letters of appreciation from all the organization. The Fuller Center's appreciation letter was especially interesting and very detailed. We are enclosing their letter and just a few of those details telling us where and specifically to who our donation was applied. (Many photographs of the families and the homes were sent to us so that we could share them with our members.) We hope that others in the Armenian Community will become familiar with their work and will try to help more families move from their metal shipping containers to permanent, livable dwellings.

What followed was a letter addressed to the Armenian Renaissance Association from the Fuller Center for Housing, Armenia

thanking the ARA for its contribution to the Fuller Center. Following that letter, we had added some information about the Fuller Center for Housing."

The *Mirror-Spectator* dropped the opening paragraph. You then printed the letter from the Fuller Center for Housing to the ARA as if it were a letter from the ARA to

the *Mirror-Spectator*.

It would seem necessary for the *Mirror-Spectator* to correct the errors that resulted in such a confusing and inaccurate account.

— Lorig Hamasdegh

(Editor's Note: We regret the error and hope this explanation clears up the confusion.)

Thanks for 80 Years!

To the Editor:

Just a word to congratulate Edmond Azadian on the 80th anniversary of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*. I am certain if this weekly paper survived too many hurdles it is due and thanks to your outstanding dedication, perseverance, loyalty and long-lasting far-sighted vision, rare ingredients to find now a day.

Beyond doubt, personally, I enjoy reading the *Mirror* enormously, not as it is in English, but because of the feature of the articles on one hand, covering a wide range of topics, including the diaspora, especially, and the homeland; and on the other hand, because after four decades, I learn particularly a lot about my roots.

Most of all (as repeatedly said), in spite of my whole and content European integration and assimilation, if I still have some knowledge, I "lean" towards my identity, carry faintly the spirit and mission of our ancestors, it is mostly and only because you did cross the language barrier successfully.

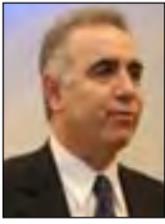
May I return you the question now...is it a pity to cross the language barrier? Insist with speaking, reading and wring Armenian? Is it the only way to be an Armenian and feel Armenian? By speaking Armenian? And what about our culture? I truly love your editorials.

Again, congratulations, and may the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* survive many decades (encore and encore) led by wise visionaries.

— Karine Véhouini



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

96 Years Later, Turkey Still Pays A Price for Genocide Denial

Almost a century after the fact, the Republic of Turkey continues to be disgraced for its persistent denial of the Armenian Genocide.

During his visit to Armenia earlier this month, French President Nicolas Sarkozy condemned Turkey by declaring that 96 years is long enough for Ankara to come to terms with its genocidal crimes. He also threatened to pass a law punishing denial of the Armenian Genocide, unless Turkey recognized it in the near future.

Rather than heeding President Sarkozy's sound advice, Turkish leaders retaliated by attacking him and insulting his country. Here are some of their rejectionist statements:

- Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan: "He should first listen to his own advice. He is different in France, different in Armenia, and more different in Turkey. There cannot be a political leader with so many faces. Politics requires honesty.... You should know that Turkey is not an easy bite to swallow."

- Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu: "France should confront its own history. I consider such remarks as political opportunism."

- Turkey's European Union Minister Egemen Bagis: "If Sarkozy worked on how his country could come out of economic turbulence instead of assuming the role of a historian, it would be more meaningful for France and Europe."

- Devlet Bahçeli, leader of the opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP): The French president is a "rude and ill-mannered" man. "Our advice to Sarkozy is that if he wants to see an example of genocide, he should look back at his history. He will clearly see the atrocities committed in Algeria and will notice explicit or implicit massacres in North Africa."

The Turkish attacks on France included demonstrations in front of the French Consulate in Istanbul last week, where protesters carried portraits of President Sarkozy with Adolph Hitler's mustache and denounced alleged crimes committed by France in the Algerian war.

Uncharacteristically, Turkish officials did not go beyond mere words to denounce President Sarkozy's statements on the Armenian Genocide. Missing were the customary recall of the Turkish Ambassador and threats to boycott French goods. There was no bite in their bark!

The French president was unfazed by the Turkish outbursts. Upon returning to Paris, he sent a letter to President Serge Sargisian reconfirming his earlier statements in Armenia: "Rest assured that France will not cease its commitment, as long as the massacres have not been properly recognized by the descendants of the perpetrators." President Sarkozy went on to state that he was "most of all deeply moved at the Genocide Memorial Monument while paying tribute to the memory of the victims of the death sentence carried out against your people on April 24, 1915." When the French president learned of the angry Turkish reaction to his statements in Yerevan, he told his aides that he had no regrets: "The Turks have always hated

me, so it's no problem."

Some French parliamentarians were incensed, however, upon hearing that Prime Minister Erdogan had accused President Sarkozy of being two-faced. They greeted the Turkish leader's insulting words with loud and derisive exclamations in the French parliament.

Former Ambassador Omer Engin Lutem expressed his concern that if France were to ban denial of the Armenian Genocide, it would trigger other European countries to follow suit. He cautioned the Turkish public that such a development on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide would constitute a significant victory for Armenians.

Murat Belge, an outspoken Turkish human rights activist, took issue with the negative reaction of his country's leaders. He boldly condemned all those who claimed that "Turks are good people; we do not kill or commit genocide." Such statements are "slanderous," Belge stated.

Another prominent scholar and columnist, Ahmet Insel, rebuked Prime Minister Erdogan for telling President Sarkozy to look at France's own colonial past. Insel wondered if Erdogan would indeed recognize the Armenian Genocide if France faced its own history? And what would Turkey do if the same suggestion came from a country that did not have dark pages in its history? Insel observed that this is the same Prime Minister who was claiming that all Ottoman archives are open, as his government was blocking the posting of these documents on the Internet.

As an Iranian diplomat recently noted: "The Armenian Genocide is a Damoclean Sword hanging over Turkey's head." Sooner or later, a wise Turkish leader would come to realize that acknowledging the Armenian Genocide is more beneficial to Turkey than its continued denial.

Is Vladimir Putin's Eurasian Dream Worth the Effort?

The Russian Prime Minister's Union Plan Is Not Meant as a Return to the Soviet Past, but He Would Do Well to Check Precedent

By Mark Mazower

Vladimir Putin is "supporting the idea of a Eurasian union of former Soviet-bloc nations." In Eric Ambler's masterly interwar thriller, *The Mask of Dimitrios*, the puppet master pulling the strings as a seedy Europe slides hopelessly into war is the shadowy Eurasian Credit Trust. The name was deliberately chosen. For most of the last century, Eurasia was scarcely a neutral term: it evoked the whiff of racial degeneration, the prospect of civilization overrun by eastern hordes.

But now comes the Russian prime minister, Putin, perhaps looking to lift the attention of a restive public at home to something more elevated than a peremptorily staged presidential succession, supporting the idea of creating a Eurasian union of former Soviet-bloc nations that could become "one of the poles of the modern world, serving as an efficient link between Europe and the dynamic Asia-Pacific region."

Putin explicitly denies that this is about rebuilding the USSR. Nevertheless, there has been a lot of talk of Eurasia since the collapse of the USSR and there is a close connection between the Eurasia concept and Soviet history. Belarus and Kazakhstan have already embarked on commercial integration and the new union will hope to take that further, perhaps attracting other former Soviet republics into its orbit: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are mentioned. And in a world where EU membership is effectively barred to Russia, and where the EU is promoting its own eastern partnership, led by Poland and Sweden to intensify European links with other former Soviet republics — including both Belarus and the Ukraine — one can see the logic in Russian efforts to extend internal markets, remove barriers to labor mobility and at the same time win the fight for the hearts and minds of the inhabitants of its western gateways, above all in Ukraine.

Politicians like the occasional grand vision, especially one with historical resonance. Yet will all this be worth the effort? The precedents are not reassuring. If the EU's eastern partnership smacks of an effort to reshape the region in the

image of the early modern Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth — a time of Polish and Swedish regional power when merchants and ideas traveled easily between the Baltic and the Black Sea — Putin's Eurasian union seems stuck in

the Soviet era. Of course, Soviet ambitions went far beyond Eurasia; they wanted influence in the Middle East, Africa and South East Asia. And this became clear after 1945, when Stalin's

SEE PUTIN, PAGE 20

Great War Secrets of the Ottoman Arabs

By Robert Fisk

Forgotten soldiers. We all know about Gallipoli; hopelessly conceived mess, dreamed up by Churchill to move the Great War from the glued trenches of France to a fast-moving invasion of Germany's Ottoman allies in 1915.

Embark a vast army of Australians, New Zealanders, Brits, French and others east of Istanbul in order to smash "Johnny Turk." Problem: the Turks fought back ferociously as Mustafa Kemal (later Atatürk, titan of the 20th century, etc.) used his Turkish 19th Army Division to confront the invaders' first wave. Problem two: most of the division were not Turks at all.

They were Arabs. Indeed, two-thirds of the first men to push back the Anzac forces were Syrian Arabs from what is today Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and "Palestine." And of the 87,000 "Turkish" troops who died defending the Dardanelles, many were Arabs. As Palestinian Prof. Salim Tamari now points out, the same applies to the Ottoman battles of Suez, Gaza and Kut al-Amara. In the hitherto unknown diary of Private Ihsan Turjman of the Ottoman Fourth Army — he would today be called a Palestinian Arab — there was nothing but scorn for those Arab delegations from Palestine and Syria who sent delegations "to salute the memory of our martyrs in this war and to visit the wounded."

What, he asked in his secretly-kept diary, were these Arabs playing at? "Do they mean to strengthen the relationship between the Arab and Turkish nations... truth be told, the Palestinian and Syrian people are a cowardly and submissive lot. For if they were not so servile, they would have revolted against these Turkish barbarians," he wrote. This is

stunning stuff.

Far more Arabs fought against the Allies on behalf of the Ottomans than ever joined Lawrence's Arab revolt, but here is Private Turjman expressing fury at his masters.

Year of the Locust is an odd little book, terribly short but darkly fascinating, concentrating on the Great War diaries of three Ottoman soldiers, one of them an actual Turk, the others Palestinian Arabs. We are used to British and German soldiers' accounts of the Great War; scarcely ever do we read of the personal lives of our Ottoman opponents. The Turjman family home, by extraordinary chance, is the very same Jerusalem building, in ruins since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war but now transformed into an art gallery, which I visited in Jerusalem just three weeks ago today.

In 1917, when Turjman was shot dead by an Ottoman officer, Palestinian Arabs were less concerned about the Balfour Declaration than whether the British would give them independence, annex them to Egypt or allow them a Syrian homeland. How wrong could they have been? Britain had no intention of adding to its Egyptian interests when it had already given its support to a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Later, as Tamari recounts, the lives of the other two diarists, one Turkish, the other Arab, would revolve around Palestinians who came to believe that it was Jewish immigration that would threaten their future. But it is the Great War that dominates their memoirs.

In the anti-Ottoman literature that permeated the Arab world (and the West) after the war, it is important to remember these Ottomans, Turkish or Arab. There is a touch of Robert Graves here. Turjman's diary records the plague of locusts that settled upon Jerusalem, the cholera and typhus and

the 50 Jerusalem prostitutes sent to entertain Turkish officers, the Ottoman troops hanged outside the Jaffa Gate for desertion, the Turkish aircraft that crashes ("badly trained pilots or badly maintained engines"). Turjman even has a crush on a married woman.

Long forgotten now are the Arab-Turkish Ottoman inmates of the Tsarist prison camp at Krasnoyarsk, in Russia, where Lt. Aref Shehadeh, born in Jerusalem in 1892, ended up. Islam united them; class divided them. But there were concerts, sports clubs, football teams, a camp library, a Great War version of all the stalags and oflags made famous in World War II. Come the Bolshevik revolution, Shehadeh high-tailed it back to the Middle East — via Manchuria, Japan, China, India and Egypt via the Red Sea.

But the most impressive text in this tiny book is not a diary but a letter from Shehadeh's wife, Saema, in Jerusalem when, 30 years later, he had set off for Gaza as a British mandate officer. "I woke up early this morning," she writes. "I walked around in the garden for a while. I picked up some flowers and leaves. I picked up some beans to cook for myself. While I was milling around, you were always on my mind. It is your presence that makes this garden beautiful."

"Nothing has a taste without you. May God not deprive me of your presence, for it is you who makes my (our) life beautiful. When you left us last time I noticed that you had a little cold. I am thinking about it. Let me know about your health. Your life's partner, who loves you with all her heart. Saema." Now that's quite a love letter to get from your wife.

(Robert Fisk is the Middle East correspondent for the *Independent*. This column originally appeared in that publication on October 15.)



Is Vladimir Putin's Eurasian Dream Worth the Effort?

PUTIN, from page 19

Russia really did become a world power thanks to its defeat of Nazis and the Kremlin got its chance to build a second world of socialism around the globe that united eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Soviet republics with other socialist partners further afield. Ideas and technology – above all, ideas about technology and the modernization of peasant societies – circulated across the borders of the countries in this second world, as far away as Cuba, Angola, Ethiopia and North Korea. Today some historians remind us that the “third world” was so called precisely because of the sustained tussle for its allegiances in the 1950s and 1960s between the first and second worlds. Yet all of this can be exaggerated. The second world was concentrated on eastern Europe, and other member states came and went. The rise of China weakened the ideolog-

ical prestige of Moscow. And none of it was ever a match in purely economic terms for the astonishingly powerful global alliance system put together by Washington, linking the powerhouse economies of western Europe and east Asia with the oil-producing states of the Middle East.

The first world definitely won that particular struggle and globalization – by which I mean the extraordinary combination of industrial productivity growth in American partners such as Japan and South Korea with the financial flows that reshaped finance after the 1970s – ultimately brought the Soviet second world to its knees, both because it simply could not compete internationally and because much of eastern Europe had become addicted to western debt. Overall, the effort of sustaining this vast sphere of influence probably cost the USSR far more in purely econom-

ic terms than it got back. It had one great achievement to its credit – the industrialization along late 19th-century lines of its own backward periphery, but by the late 20th century, that was not enough.

There is a lesson here to be learned, surely, from an earlier foray into a kind of Eurasianism by Turkey. In the early 1990s, then-president Turgut Özal imagined a coming “Turkish century” based on a new union among the Turkic-speaking states of the Eurasian heartlands. After his death, it became abundantly clear that the choice between orienting the Turkish economy east or west was no kind of choice at all. Having learned that lesson, the Erdogan government is pursuing a sort of post-imperial foreign policy of its own. But what makes it much more powerful than the earlier Özal model is not only that it is oriented to the former Ottoman

lands in the Balkans and the Middle East rather than to the post-Soviet Black Sea and Caspian republics, but more importantly that it is intended as a complement rather than an alternative to the increasingly European and global orientation of the Turkish economy.

In short, it is no wonder Putin stresses his new vision of deeper integration is not meant as a return to the Soviet past. The question is whether there is any alternative model that makes sense for his proposed union. If the coupling of the Russian economy to the southern Stans brings with it a decoupling from the more powerful regional dynamos to its west and east, it will end up as a drag, not a spur, to growth and Russia will pay a heavy price for an old-fashioned dream of imperial glory.

(This commentary originally appeared in the October 7 online issue of the *Guardian*.)

US Wants ‘Best Elections Ever’ in Armenia

ELECTIONS, from page 1

Armenian’s post-Soviet culture of electoral fraud and effecting other “deep and difficult changes” in a speech last February.

Heffern, who was confirmed as ambassador by the US Senate late last month, cited Yovanovitch as reporting “some important progress here in Armenia in the last six months.”

“So we hope and expect that Armenia will build on those favorable decisions that were made earlier this year to create a climate of fairness for the upcoming elections in 2012 and 2013,” he said. “And the United States will do all that it can to help make these the best elections ever.”

The diplomat appeared to refer to a series of concessions made by Sargsian to the main opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) last spring. Those included the release of the last opposition members remaining in jail.

The concessions led to several rounds of negotiations between the HAK and Armenian’s ruling coalition. The dialogue collapsed in late August following the controversial arrest of an opposition activist.

Addressing the Council of Europe’s Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) in June, Sargsian said his administration “will spare no effort” to ensure the proper conduct of next year’s parliamentary elections and the 2013 presidential vote. The HAK and other major opposition groups dismissed those assurances.

Kurdish Rebels Say Turkey Is Shelling Northern Iraq

ARBIL, Iraq (AFP) – Turkey was shelling northern Iraq’s autonomous Kurdistan region on Tuesday, a Kurdish rebel spokesman said, in the first report of Turkish bombardment in the area in more than two weeks.

The shelling began Monday night “against Khowakirk and Zab in northeast Dohuk” province, said Dozdar Hammo, a spokesman for the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK), which operates out of bases in Kurdistan.

It was still ongoing early Tuesday afternoon, he said, adding that there were no reports of casualties.

The shelling was the first report of Turkish bombardment in Kurdistan since September 29, when the PKK said Turkish warplanes carried out strikes in the region.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari, himself a Kurd, said during a visit to Ankara this month that the presence of Kurdish rebels in the north was “unacceptable,” but stopped short of offering a solution.

Turkey’s parliament overwhelmingly voted on October 5 to extend the government’s mandate to order military strikes against Kurdish rebels in neighboring Iraq for one more year.

Since 2007, Turkey has renewed the motion giving a green light for the Turkish military to conduct cross-border raids to hit PKK hideouts in northern Iraq. The current authorization was to expire on October 17.

The Turkish military has repeatedly attacked suspected PKK targets since August 17.



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