

## French Leader Praises Friendship With Armenia on Sargisian's Visit

PARIS (RFE/RL) — French President Nicolas Sarkozy accentuated his country's "exclusive friendship" with Armenia as he hosted his visiting Armenian counterpart, Serge Sargisian, on Wednesday, September 28.

"President Sargisian's official visit to France will become an occasion for emphasizing the exclusive friendship that exists between the two peoples and will give a fresh impetus to our cooperation," Sarkozy said, as reported by his press office.

The two presidents reportedly had a dinner and discussed a number of issues, including conflicts in the South Caucasus and particularly the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

The two are also believed to have discussed Sarkozy's upcoming visit to Armenia as part of his South Caucasus tour to take place in October.

Sargisian arrived in Paris after complet-



French President Nicolas Sarkozy meets his Armenian counterpart Serge Sargisian.

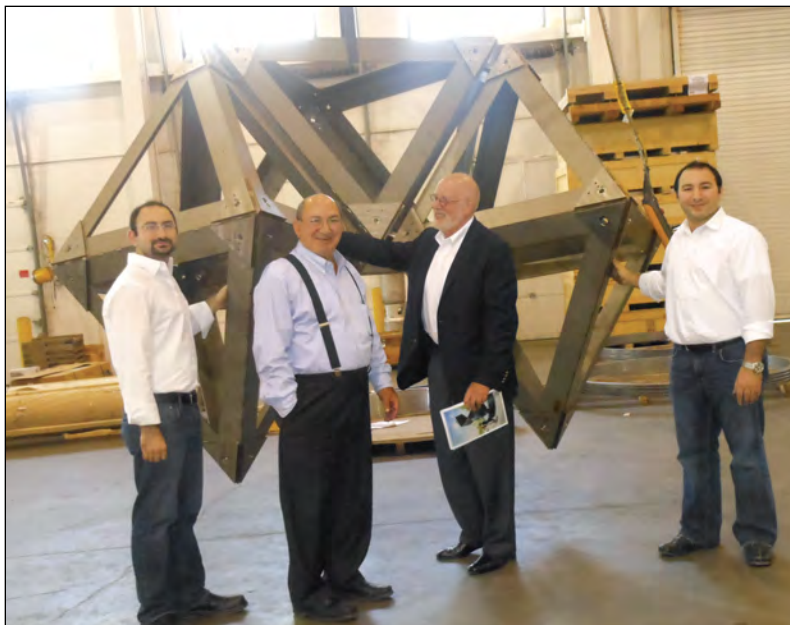
ing a working visit to the United States where he addressed the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Friday and met with representatives of the local Armenian community.

Besides meetings with French officials, including Speaker of the French National Assembly Bernard Accoyer, Prime Minister Francois Fillon, Mayor of Paris Bertrand Delanoë, Sargisian also met with local prominent Armenians.

On Wednesday evening, Sargisian attended a concert by French-Armenian singer

## Armenian Heritage Cornerstone of Boston Neighborhood

*Unique Collaboration between Private and Public Sectors*



From left, Vartan Mardiros, Aurelian Mardiros, Donald Tellalian and Antranig Mardiros with the skeleton of the monument at A&A Industries in Peabody

BOSTON — Come springtime, the Armenian community of the greater Boston area can see the handiwork of acting as one, namely, the completion of the Armenian Heritage Park, a unique privately-funded public project.

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

The ceremonial groundbreaking was held on September 9, 2010, with the participation of Gov. Deval Patrick, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

The park, located between Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Christopher Columbus Park, at the tip of the North End, will have a labyrinth, a circular winding path in grass and inlaid stone, celebrating life's journey, with a single jet of water, representing hope and rebirth.

The focal point of the park will be an abstract sculpture, a split dodecahedron monument. The statute and the base are being constructed by A&A Industries of Peabody, which has been founded and run by the Mardiros family of Wakefield. The Mardiroses are donating the sculpture, both the top and the base, which including material and labor, is estimated to cost about \$500,000.

see HERITAGE PARK, page 16

Charles Aznavour dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence. All the proceeds from the concert sponsored by Sargisian and Sarkozy will go to the Aznavour Pour l'Armenie charity.

On Thursday, a reception for Sargisian was organized at the Paris mayor's office during which the Armenian president also met with representatives of the local Armenian community.

## Tekeyan Centre Fund Armenia Celebrates 20th Anniversary

YEREVAN — On September 10, Tekeyan Centre solemnly celebrated the 20th anniversary of its foundation. The Centre welcomed more than 200 guests, amongst

who prominent officials, art and science workers, benefactors, friends and supporters from Armenia, Karabagh and the diaspora.

Tekeyan Centre was the dream of Armenians all over the world, and today it is a reality. But the path to success was thorny. In 1991, Armenia was struggling for its independence and it was forced to be at war. Most of the country was an area of a disastrous earthquake. Art and literature, education and science were striving to survive. Just at this very moment London

see TCA, page 20

## Karabagh Negotiators Meet with Sargisian, Aliyev in Warsaw

WARSAW (RFE/RL) — Armenian President Serge Sargisian on Thursday met with the mediating troika brokering a solution to the Karabagh conflict, fresh off his trip to France. He came to Warsaw to attend the Eastern Partnership Summit.

According to a statement released by the president's press office, at the meeting Sargisian and the three co-chairmen of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group, Ambassadors Bernard Fassier of France, Robert Bradtke of the United States and Igor Popov of Russia, discussed "issues relating to the current stage of the negotiating process" and "details regarding the OSCE Minsk Group's upcoming visit to the region."

The three international mediators, too, issued a statement from Warsaw, also

see TALKS, page 4



The dignitaries at the Tekeyan Centre, from left, Nar Khachadourian, Vazgen Manukyan, Edmond Azadian, Vartan Ouzounian, Gegham Gharibjanyan, Papken Megerian and A. Krikorian

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### German and Italian Specialists to Study Sanahin Monastery Complex

SANAHIN, Armenia — German and Italian specialists will study the crumbling Sanahin monastery complex, which has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Deputy Minister of Culture Arev Samuelyan said in a press conference, last Friday, that architects from Venice would arrive this week to study the state of the monastery complex and conduct laser scanning. Specialists from Germany have visited the monastery twice to study the cracks in the monastery complex. The next visit of German experts is scheduled for October. Samuelyan said an international tender for reconstruction of Sanahin will be announced till late November.

The Medieval monastery in the village of Sanahin (X-XIII centuries) is one of the medieval landmarks of Northern Armenia.

Last April, Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian visited Sanahin and drafting a program for its restoration. The government has approved 90 million drams for that purpose.

### Major Landslide in Tavush Province Buries Cars, Five People Missing

VANADZOR (Armenian Radio) — On October 2, at 7:03 p.m. a number of cars were caught in a landslide at the 86th kilometer of Vanadzor-Bagratashen highway near the Ayrum railway bridge, the Ministry of Emergency Situations reported.

A probe into the details of the accident is under way.

The Ministry of Emergency Situation reports that seven persons are missing. Search efforts at the site continue.

The government asked drivers to refrain from driving along Vanadzor-Bagratashen highway until it can be shored up.

### Andranik Hakobyan to Box in 2012 London Olympics

LONDON (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Armenian boxer Andranik Hakobyan (75 kilograms) scored a crucial win in the International World Boxing Championships in Baku, Azerbaijan, to secure entry to 2012 London Olympics.

In the one-eighth finals, Hakobyan beat Mexico's Juan Mercado.

The remaining boxers from Armenia, who dropped out of championship, have already returned to Armenia.

## INSIDE

### Salute to Armenia

page 14

#### INDEX

Arts and Living .....	13
Armenia .....	2, 3
Community News. ....	5
Editorial .....	18
International .....	4



## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Armenia to Step up Fighting Drugs

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Fighting against drug addiction and illegal drug trade are the priorities of the government national security, Secretary for Republic of Armenia National Security Council Arthur Baghdasaryan said this week.

According to him, a national program of fighting drug addiction and illegal drug trade has been worked out collaboratively with the National Council's staff and confirmed by the Armenian president's decree, as a result of which a commission dealing with these issues has been set up.

Baghdasaryan noted that according to official data, in the first quarter of 2011, as compared with the last year, there is a 7.4-percent growth of law violations, and the number of the revelations has added by 10 percent. "But the issue remains troubling," he said.

Baghdasaryan also said that the European Union (EU) has called on the Republic of Armenia and other member states of the Eastern Partnership to enhance cooperation in this sphere. He said that the EU has dispatched a special expert to Armenia.

## Yerevan to Host Fifth 'Return' Music Festival

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – Mariam Shahinyan, the promoter of the "Return" music festival, said at a press conference this week that told media on Monday that a total of six concerts will be given during the festival. Among the participants are Hrachya Avanesyan, violin (Belgium); Mariana Shirinyan (Denmark), Vazgen Vardanyan (Slovenia) and Ashot Khachatryan (Germany) piano; soprano Beth Williams (US) and Valery Tolstov, flute (Switzerland).

Shahinyan said that some of the musicians will be performing in Armenia for the first time. "We do not seek famous names, but at the same time we want to introduce brilliant musicians successfully performing in abroad," she said. Shahinyan said that the musicians will give master-classes on sidelines of the festival. "The festival is held in Armenia for the fifth time, which, I think, is a big victory," Shahinyan added.

The opening of the festival was held at the Aleksandr Spendiaryov Theatre under the auspices of First Lady Rita Sargsian.

## Government Rejects Opposition Pressure

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia's political leadership indicated late on Monday that it is undaunted by round-the-clock rallies staged by the Armenian National Congress (HAK) and will not even negotiate with the opposition alliance until they are over.

Representatives of President Serge Sargsian's governing coalition scoffed at the HAK's stated readiness to resume a dialogue with the government, which it suspended in late August in protest against the arrest of an opposition activist.

The HAK linked the resumption of that dialogue with the activist's release until this month. Its top leader, Levon Ter-Petrosian, signaled his readiness to drop this precondition as his bloc set up a tent camp in Liberty Square on Friday in a bid to heighten pressure on the Sargsian administration.

Members of a government team that negotiated with HAK representatives in July and August rejected this offer in a written statement issued after a meeting held in the Armenian parliament.

"We do not think that the illegal gathering held by the HAK will make a renewed dialogue productive," they said. "We will wait until the end of that illegal process before discussing details of our meetings with HAK representatives."

The statement was circulated as Ter-Petrosian answered written questions in front of several thousand supporters rallying in Liberty Square. Most questions related to government decisions made during his 1991-1998 presidency, Armenia's relations with Georgia and Russia as well as the role of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

# Armenia's Ex-President Confirms Possible Return to Big Politics

By Ruzanna Stepanian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia's former president Robert Kocharian has not ruled out the possibility of his return to big politics, but has markedly refused to link any such move with outside developments.

The Yerevan-based Mediamax news agency on Friday published an exclusive interview with the ex-leader, in which he comments on the more frequent talk about his plans to make a political comeback in time for the country's next parliamentary or presidential elections.

Speculation about Kocharian's return to active politics intensified last weekend in the wake of the announcement made in Russia that Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and President Dmitry Medvedev would exchange their offices after next year's presidential election in which Putin's victory appears to be almost a foregone conclusion for many.

In Armenia where Russia's influence remains particularly strong due to the South Caucasus nation's deep political, economic and military ties with Moscow, the kind of development in the Kremlin could not but trigger a storm in the form of predictions of similar scenarios, with ex-president Kocharian said to be contemplating a bid to supplant incumbent President Serge Sargsian in the next presidential vote slated for 2013 or become Armenia's next prime minister after regaining his political foothold through next May's parliamentary polls.

"I am amazed that my possible return is linked to political processes in Russia... I am sure political processes should ripen here in Armenia, and not be directly projected from outside," commented Kocharian, who served as Armenia's president for two successive terms in 1998-2008

before being replaced by then Prime Minister Sargsian, widely believed to be his handpicked successor.

The ex-president listed only three major factors that he said might force him to return to active politics: "the absence of a tangible and stable improvement of the situation in country's economy and people's welfare, and, consequently, the growth of hopeless moods and migration; the demand for my return to big politics by various layers of the society; and my inner belief that I can radically improve the situation."

"The ways of return to active politics may vary given these three factors. Other circumstances only add a political resource but are not fundamental," said Kocharian.

Analysts have also speculated that the possible pressure from Kocharian as a political rival may force Sargsian and his current political opponent Levon Ter-Petrosian, who currently seem to be on the opposite sides of the political fence, to start moving closer towards each other in the run-up to the polls.

Negotiating teams representing the governing coalition led by Sargsian's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) and the Ter-Petrosian-led opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) held several rounds of formal talks in July and August around the political future of the country before the opposition alliance suspended its participation over the arrest of a group of its young activists.

At the latest HAK rally in Yerevan on Friday, Ter-Petrosian offered a "reasonable" compromise to Armenia's current political leadership, signaling his readiness to reconsider his demands for holding snap presidential and parliamentary elections by the end of the year. At the same time, the opposition leader urged his supporters to turn out in much larger numbers at the next rally that was scheduled for this Friday to

exert stronger pressure on the government and possible get broader concessions.

Meanwhile, HHK spokesman Eduard Sharmazanov took Kocharian's desire to return to active politics in stride, but said the current ruling party was determined to support Sargsian's policies and reelection bid.

"It is up to him [Kocharian] and his political team to decide [whether he returns to politics or not]. It does not change any plans of the HHK, which, like before, has and will have a clear reform plan and is determined to carry out reforms under the leadership of its president, Serge Sargsian," Sharmazanov said.

Meanwhile, David Shahnazarian, a senior representative of the HAK, which holds Kocharian responsible for deadly post-election clashes in March 2008, made more poignant comments regarding the ex-president's statements.

"Broad sections of the Armenian public want to see Kocharian as a defendant in court. These are only attempts by him to avoid a defendant's status in the future, nothing more," Shahnazarian said.

## Government Determined to Try To Continue MCA-Armenia Program

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian has organized this week a reception on the occasion of the successful implementation of Millennium Challenge Account-Armenia (MCA-Armenia). Welcoming the guests, Sargsian said that the government supports executive director of Millennium Challenge corporation, Daniel Yohannes.

According to Sargsian, at the meeting with Patrick Fine, vice president for Compact Operations of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the results of the program were summed up.

"New standards and a methodology have been elaborated within Millennium Challenge Corporation, which will become the object of study of our government, and we will try to meet those standards. On behalf of the Armenian government, I express gratitude to the US government for its extended support," Sargsian said.

Stressing that the most important standards of the program concern not only the targets defined by law, but also strengthening democracy in Armenia and creation of economic basis, Sargsian said that the Armenian government is determined to exert efforts to continue this program in Armenia. The prime minister noted that MCA-Armenia is one of the most successful manifestations if Armenian-American cooperation.

Fine said that by making considerable investments in irrigation infrastructures and agribusiness sphere of Armenia, they have taken a step to reduce poverty. "We have had big achievements during the program, and we are very happy for that. This example shows that Armenia undertakes works for providing the welfare of its citizens."

## Government Increases Payment To Families of Soldiers

By Siranuysh Gevorgyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – The government has agreed to increase benefits to survivors of servicemen killed in the line of duty.

Artem Asatryan, deputy minister of Labor and Social Affairs, said on Monday that the monetary allowance to 5,300 families has been defined as 30,000 drams (\$81) starting September 1, instead of the 10,000 drams (\$27) they were getting before; in addition, 20,000 drams (\$54) is paid for each child in a family.

The deputy minister also informed that the payment procedure of the monetary allowances to the families of deceased servicemen has also changed; the families will now get the money separately, not as part of their family benefit.

"Our citizens who until now have been receiving their money from three different structures, within different timelines, in different formats, will now receive all at once from the same structure, by a single payment list, as provided for by the improved procedural order," said Asatryan.

Some 5,000 families of deceased servicemen that are considered to be poor receive state allowance. Besides that, these families receive the so-called "second pension", for example, the second benefit given to a child is 30,000 drams

(\$81) and to a child of age – 23,000 drams (\$62). If they wish, they can receive all the allowances together at once from the same body. By the new order, in order to receive state aid, the families have to take a document from either the ministry of social affairs or any other authorized inspectorate confirming their status as a deceased serviceman's family and submit it to regional departments of the state social insurance service. By Asatryan's data, some 1,500 families have applied to be included in the new lists.

Various public figures have every now and then turned the insufficient state care and attention towards the families of soldiers who died during the Karabagh war or the war veterans in general into a target of criticism against the authorities. They keep stressing that by neglecting and ignoring them the state is disappointing those people and their families who gave their lives for the sake of the country, and this fact causes public discontent and triggers migration.

Manvel Yeghiazaryan, commander of the legendary Arabo brigade during the Karabagh war, asked: "If a person has devoted his/her life, nerves, health, patriotism to the motherland, doesn't s/he have a right to live a decent life?"

He expressed his frustration over the fact that many of his comrades-in-arms got disappointed in the authorities because of the years of neglect and define them as those "who bring down the nation's spirit."





## ARMENIA

# Armenia Tree Project Begins Propagation Of Rare and Endangered Species

By Armine Tokhmakhyan and Jason Sohigian

YEREVAN — The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has been publishing its Red List of Threatened Species since 1963. The IUCN is the world's main authority on the conservation status of plant and animal species, and the Red List is published periodically as the most comprehensive inventory available. A series of regional Red Lists are produced by countries and organizations to assess the risk of extinction to species within a smaller geographic area.

The Ministry of Nature Protection released its own two-volume *Red Book of Plants and Animals of the Republic of Armenia* in 2010. "The country's attractiveness and public welfare are directly linked with the splendor and richness of its natural heritage," writes Aram Harutyunyan, Armenia's Minister of Nature Protection, in the preface. The production of the *Red Book* is another step forward in the preservation and recovery of the region's biodiversity.

There are approximately 3,600 plant species in Armenia, and 123 are endemic or found nowhere else on the planet. According to the authors, these plants may become endangered because of a number of influences including deforestation, the overuse of resources like water and development of land, which provides habitats for plants and animals. The new *Red Book* includes information about 452 plant and 40 fungus species that are rare, along with information on 223 plant species that are in danger of extinction.

"In response to the concern over the loss of native plants, Armenia Tree Project has a policy of growing only indigenous trees in its three nurseries," explains Samvel Ghandilyan, ATP's Nursery Program manager. The only exception to this is "naturalized" trees, which were introduced long ago, have not been observed to have a negative impact on the local ecosystem, and provide an added benefit of food security (fruit and nut trees).

"An ecosystem is a community of plants, animals and smaller organisms that live, feed and interact within the same physical components of an area or environment, including the soil, water and sunlight. When you introduce plant species that are not native to the area, there is a risk that the local ecosystem will be negatively affected, creating a less suitable environment for local species," adds Ghandilyan. "In recent years we've noticed that many native species that comprise our local ecosystem have either vanished or drastically reduced in numbers. Native and naturalized species possess certain traits that make them more likely to thrive under local con-



ATP is growing heritage fruit trees and endangered trees and shrubs listed in the Red Book at its Karin Nursery, including Alpine Maple (*Acer Thrautvetteri*) pictured here and Halfsphere Rose (*Rosa Gaenuspherica*)



Elderberry Tigrani (*Sambucus Tigrani*) is one of the 452 rare plants listed in the *Red Book of the Republic of Armenia*; it is propagated by Nursery Manager Samvel Ghandilyan at ATP's tree nursery in Karin Village.

ditions without negative impacts, which is why ATP has made this a priority in our nursery and tree planting programs."

"ATP started to pay special attention to the propagation of endangered species of plants at our nursery in Karin. These include nine trees and shrubs that are registered as rare in the *Red Book* and two that are in danger of extinction," Ghandilyan says. "These are Alpine Maple or *Acer Thrautvetteri* and Halfsphere Rose or *Rosa Gaenuspherica*."

"Our nurseries serve the communities of Armenia by providing fruit and decorative trees to more than 900 planting sites," explains Areg Maghakian, ATP deputy director of operations. "As a result of this work, we will soon be able to observe some of the species included in the *Red Book* in the parks, churches, and schools throughout Armenia."

ATP's next initiative is the restoration of Armenian heritage fruit trees. In the past, Armenia had numerous varieties of apple, peach and apricot trees. These fruit trees are now rare and measures are being taken to preserve the heritage trees from disappearance.

"Last year we started to produce Heritage Fruit Trees at ATP's Karin and Khachpar nurseries," adds Maghakian. "In 2010, we successfully grafted Parvana and Shaqareni apple, Malacha and Dzmernuk pear and Yerevani and Sateni apricot trees, which will be delivered to community planting sites in coming years. As part of our mission to re-green Armenia, ATP has a commitment to preserve our precious biodiversity by planting native and endangered trees all over the country."

For more information about ATP, visit [www.armeniatree.org](http://www.armeniatree.org).

## State Sen. Simitian Visits NKR, US Embassy in Baku Remains Neutral

STEPANAKERT (PanARMENIAN.Net) — California state Sen. Joseph Simitian paid a visit last week to Nagorno Karabagh, to meet with the leadership there.

The US Embassy in Baku released a statement saying that they are aware of press reports of a visit to Nagorno Karabagh by Simitian. As a state senator, Simitian does not represent the United States government, spokesman for the US embassy in Azerbaijan, Keith Bean, stated.

He noted that under the doctrine of separation

of powers between federal and state governments in the US Constitution, state officials act independently of the United States government. "The United States government had no control over his schedule, nor did Simitian consult with the Embassy about his travel plans," APA quoted him as saying.

On October 3, Azerbaijani Ministry of Foreign Affairs blacklisted Simitian for his visit to "occupied territories" of Azerbaijan "without prior coordination with Azeri authorities."



California state Sen. Joe Simitian, second from left, meets with NKR President Bako Sahakian, second from left. Advisor David Babayan, right, translates.





## INTERNATIONAL

## International News

## Georges Kazazian to Perform in Cairo

CAIRO (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Author Jacinta Candinas's Cairo — Lucerna — Coira, which has been published this year, is about a series of postcard exchanges between Jacinta Candinas (Cairo) and Manuel Vázquez (Lucerna) and includes short stories and poems by Andri Perl (Coira).

Egypt's official book launch will take place on October 8 in the presence of Candinas. The event will also showcase a concert by Cairo-born Georges Kazazian, *Ahram Online* reported.

Kazazian has performed at some of the most prestigious festivals around the world and has composed soundtracks for several films as well as released several albums.

## Armenian Boxers Attacked in Baku

BAKU (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Armenian boxers, participating in the International Boxing Association (AIBA) World Championships, were attacked this week.

According to Azerbaijani police, a group representing the Karabagh Liberation Organization (KLO) infiltrated the championship venue. As the Armenian boxer was entering the ring, their shouts "Armenians, get out" and "Karabagh or death" were followed by launching stones.

The match was suspended. The Armenian boxer, judges and referee left the venue.

## Turkey Holds Military Exercises near Border

HATAY, Turkey (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Turkey's military will conduct an exercise in this southern province, where more than 7,000 Syrians have taken refuge from Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's security forces.

The October 5-13 "mobilization" exercise, announced on the military's website on Tuesday, October 4, may have coincided with a visit that Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan was expected to have made to refugee camps in Hatay after he returned from South Africa this week.

The army said the exercise involved the 39th mechanized infantry brigade and 730 reserve soldiers, Reuters reported.

Turkey's once-close relations with Syria have soured as Erdogan has fiercely criticized Assad's crackdown on protesters, urging him to end the bloodshed and enact reforms.

Syria has a longstanding territorial claim to Hatay province but had put this on the back burner in recent years, when Erdogan and Assad cultivated close ties.

Erdogan said last month that Assad would be ousted by his people "sooner or later" and warned that Syria could slide into a sectarian civil war between Alawites and Sunnis.

Ankara, which has already imposed an arms embargo, has said it is preparing further sanctions against the Syrian government.

## Charents Home Allowed To Go to Ruin in Kars

ISTANBUL (Panorama) — A group of Armenian pilgrims who traveled to Western Armenia visited the birthplace of Armenian writer Yeghishe Charents and the house where the writer was born in 1897.

According to Ermenihaber.am news site, the pilgrims were upset to see that his house has been abandoned and was in ruins. They attempted to buy the house in order to rehabilitate it, but the owner of the land demanded \$2 million for it, which made them unable to buy the house.

Amid the upheavals of the Armenian Genocide, Charents volunteered to fight in a detachment in 1915 in the Caucasian front. Sent to Van in 1915, Charents was witness to the destruction that the Turkish garrison had laid upon the Armenian population. A victim of Stalin, he died in prison during the 1937 Great Purge. He was rehabilitated in 1954 after Stalin's death.

## AGBU's 2011 Moscow Summer Intern Program Concludes, Attracting More Participants Than Ever Before

MOSCOW — From June 26 to August 5, 13 Armenian university students participated in the Moscow Summer Intern Program (MSIP). Following the success of similar programs in New York and Yerevan, MSIP was launched last year and it has quickly grown, almost doubling the number of its participants this year, while establishing its place among AGBU's summer youth program offerings. Arriving from four countries — Armenia, Canada, France and the United States — this year's Armenian college students spent six weeks in the Russian capital, home to the world's largest Armenian-diasporan community. Program participants were immersed in Moscow's entrepreneurial culture and were exposed to the hustle and bustle of this global hub of trade, commerce, diplomacy and innovation.

Before the AGBU interns arrived, students were interviewed by MSIP staff about their educational interests and future ambitions and then matched up with full-time, unpaid internships in English-language work environments that would help them reach their career goals. Secured through AGBU's network of Moscow-based institutions, host companies and organizations, this year the following organizations welcomed MSIP participants: the Association of Russian Banks, Central Partnership Digital, Cigar Clan Magazine, Henderson and Hayas, Russian Research Center of Surgery, SKOLKOVO School of Management, Star Expo Exhibition Company/Gostiny Dvor, the Moscow Times newspaper and Troika Dialogue Investment Bank. A few of the interns, seeking to gain greater exposure to various fields of interest, chose to participate in internships at two different companies simultaneously.

### Exploring All That Moscow Has To Offer

MSIP participants were housed in the dormitories of the Higher School of Economics, which is one of Russia's leading universities. SIVAM, an Armenian young professionals' group in Moscow, worked with AGBU to organize the MSIP program, while acting as mentors to the interns. The AGBU program was staffed by coordinator Angela Sarkysian and activities coordinator Anahit Khadjabekian.

Evenings and weekends were filled with several cultural and educational seminars, including introductory Russian language courses, Armenian dance classes, meetings with leaders of the local Russian-Armenian community and sightseeing tours. Students had the opportunity to meet with Bishop Yezras Nersissian, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Diocese of New Nakhichevan and Russia.

Participants also attended a joint event with the Higher School of Economics and AGBU Academics. AGBU Academics is an international network of Armenian students and was founded by Camilio Azzouz-Kiwanian of France, who was also among this year's MSIP participants. During an educa-



AGBU Interns during their visit to Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Saviour

tional meeting with Karen Mikayelian, executive director of the International Organizing Committee for the Preparation of the Western Armenian National Congress, interns participated in a discussion about the Armenian Genocide and Armenia's foreign policy.

During the course of the summer, students also visited St. Petersburg, where they spent a few days exploring the monuments of czarist Russia, including the Hermitage Museum, the Peter and Paul Fortress and the historic St.

Catherine's Armenian Apostolic Church, which dates to the 18th century. They also attended live performances of "Spartacus" and "Swan Lake" at the Mariinsky and Alexandrovsky theaters, and had a meeting with local Armenian youth at the St. Petersburg Armenian Sunday School.

Before the 2011 season came to an end, participants attended a reception to honor the gracious professional hosts who made the summer intern experience unforgettable.

## Sargisian 'Satisfied' with Progress in EU-Armenia Association Agreement Talks

WARSAW, Poland (RFE/RL) — Armenian President Serge Sargisian voiced his nation's determination to keep momentum in its relations with the European Union by moving closer to concluding an association agreement as he spoke at the Eastern Partnership Summit here on Friday.

The two-day summit in the Polish capital that began on September 29 brings together the leaders or officials of six former Soviet states, including Armenia, that are working on their association agreements with the EU. Such agreements would essentially raise the level of the relationship between Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine on one side and the 27-nation bloc on the other, with an opportunity of a permanent free trade agreement and a simplified visa regime with EU countries being among the benefits. Meanwhile, the EU requires that the six ex-Soviet states implement reforms before rising to that level of relationship.

The EU and Armenia announced major progress in their negotiations on their association agreement meant to deepen their political, economic and other links. Armenian and EU officials formally opened negotiations on the accord stemming from the EU's Eastern Partnership program last July. They have held several rounds of negotiations since then.

"In Armenia we have been genuinely

satisfied with the progress made in the Association Agreement negotiations. We feel determined to maintain and continue to make progress at this pace and now are taking steps to carry out the necessary measures towards creating a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Zone with the EU," said Sargisian, addressing the Warsaw summit.

"We view this process as an additional incentive to promote fundamental institutional and structural reforms in Armenia," Sargisian added.

In his speech, Sargisian also reaffirmed Armenia's intention to launch "simultaneous and large-scale reforms in several directions at a time" with the assistance of EU partners.

"We are committed to pressing ahead with our large-scale reforms in accordance with EU standards in efficient governance, democracy, human rights, rule of law and various fields of public life," stressed Sargisian.

In his remarks the Armenian leader also expressed his conviction that the EU's experience of "establishing lasting peace and welfare" and its example of "political and economic integration" can also be applicable in the South Caucasus.

"Unresolved conflicts must receive their fair and sustainable solutions," said Sargisian, emphasizing that Armenia remains committed to finding a negotiated peace to the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

## Karabagh Negotiators Meet with Sargisian, Aliyev in Warsaw

TALKS, from page 1

reporting about their meeting with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev earlier that day. They said during both meetings they discussed "next steps aimed at reaching a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict."

In the statement published on the OSCE's official website the co-chairs reaffirmed the commitment made by the presidents of the United States, France and Russia, the three countries

jointly heading the Minsk Group, in their May 26 Deauville, France, statement "to assist the sides to achieve such a settlement."

The co-chairs presented their work plan for the coming months, leading up to the December OSCE Ministerial Council in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius and said they will "continue to work with the sides to delineate their current differences on the basic principles as a framework for a comprehen-

sive peace settlement."

According to the statement, the co-chairs also will propose to all the parties additional measures aimed at "strengthening implementation of the ceasefire, improving the atmosphere on the ground and promoting understanding among peoples of the region."

Bradtke, Fassier and Popov plan to visit the region again in the near future to carry out this work plan, the statement added.



# Community News

## Repatriate Survivor Calls for Unity to Save Armenia

By Mitch Kehetian

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Journalist-author Tom Mooradian warned recently that the dwindling population in present day Armenia could lead to a self-inflicted mortal wound in the small former Soviet republic.

"I fear for the ancestral homeland's future," Mooradian expressed in his chilling lecture at this affluent community's public library.

Mooradian spent 13 years behind the Iron Curtain before the Soviets granted him an exit visa to return to America in 1960. As for his concerns over Armenia's declining population, he said the chilling thought that the bloodless-equivalent of "genocide is taking place in Armenia threatens our nation's very existence."

Mooradian was an 18-year-old idealist in 1947 when he boarded a Soviet Union-bound ship out of New York with 150 other Armenian repatriates. Thousands also took the same mission from Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Greece.



Tom Mooradian

"We thought we were helping Soviet Armenia repopulate after the loss of lives in World War II, but we learned quickly the Communist Central Committee in Moscow had

other plans. Some of the repatriates were whisked off our ship when we reached Batumi, Georgia, on the suspicion of being Dashnak spies. We never saw them again. You were afraid to ask."

On reports of Armenia's declining population since declaring its freedom from Soviet rule in 1991, Mooradian was blunt: "The brain-drain of Armenia's young, educated population must stop before the country faces a new threat to its survival."

In citing published reports of the country's population data taken from 1991 to 2005, Mooradian said nearly one million Armenians reportedly have left the country for jobs and life in foreign countries.

He said, "Armenia and the diasporan communities must unite to stem the exodus of young educated Armenians. A united Armenian front, politically and spiritually, must take on the challenge of helping Yerevan execute the difficult decision in elevating Armenia's economic future to the priority level. If we fail Armenia will be left open to hostile aggression from its neighboring enemies."

In a hushed tone he repeated that "the Turkish genocide of the Armenians started with its intellectuals in Istanbul then swept across the western Armenian villages by massacring the young men."

Mooradian was quick to acknowledge that freedom has its negatives, and does not resent that young, educated Armenians are being lured to jobs in Russia and America — most notably in California — where he spoke recently.

"Many come to the US, get their higher degrees then seek American citizenship because there is no work or economic future in Armenia. Sure they have freedom now, but they also have a need to seek a better life for their families," he added.

But he cautioned that if the "brain drain of leadership continues who will protect Armenia? We can't let that happen as it did in 1915 — this time by our own lack of bold leadership for the future of the people."

As one who survived 13 years of self-exile behind the Iron Curtain, Mooradian, now 81, said the three major Diaspora-Armenian political parties, the Hunchaks, the Ramgavars and Dashnaks must help Armenia "stem the tide of

see UNITY, page 7



Sen. Carol Liu (center) with Hera Grigorian, Antranig Kasbarian and Carla Garapedian

## LA Coalition Holds Benefit Event for Women's Shelters In Armenia

LOS ANGELES — It was an evening both festive and somber on Thursday, September 15, as a diverse group of area Armenians came together on behalf of the Yerevan-based Women's Support Center (WSC), which seeks to establish shelters that protect women suffering from domestic violence.

Co-sponsored by the Tufenkian Foundation, Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) and USAID, the WSC reached out recently to various groups and individuals in Los Angeles, who came together to offer resounding support through a fundraising reception, held in Atwater Village at the residence of Dr. Avo Tavitian. The reception was co-organized by the Armenian Bar Association, Armenian-American Medical Organization, Armenian Dentists' Association, Armenian Youth Federation, AGBU Hye Geen, Organization of Istanbul Armenians and GALAS. The result was a diverse mix of more than 150 activists, professionals, supporters and journalists who learned about Armenia's problems with domestic violence and what can be done about it.

The evening's program featured remarks by Tufenkian Foundation Director Antranig Kasbarian and independent filmmaker/activist Carla Garapedian.

Kasbarian noted that domestic violence today is one of Armenia's most widespread-yet-unheralded problems, as it is largely treated as a private, family affair rather than a legitimate social concern. He also commented that it is a result not simply of patriarchal custom or backward mentalities, but also of the severe social tensions and dislocations created by Armenia's continuing underdevelopment. All of these lead to problems that impact the family and none is more destructive than domestic violence, he noted.

To address domestic violence effectively, he said, myriad efforts are required — ranging from humanitarian care to political activism. For its part, the Tufenkian

Foundation has promoted the establishment of a Women's Support Center which encourages women to come out of their isolation and seek help for themselves and, when possible, their spouses as well. The result thus far has been modestly successful, Kasbarian noted, as women often find themselves subject to intensified abuse once their partners discover they have come out and sought treatment openly. The logical next step, therefore, is to establish shelters that afford women full protection and anonymity as they seek to regain their mental and physical health following abuse.

Garapedian is the director of "Screamers" and "Lifting the Veil" (the latter concerning the plight of women in Afghanistan). In her remarks, she focused on the broader social and cultural ramifications of domestic violence: "Talking about

see BENEFIT, page 12



From left, Glendale Mayor Laura Friedman with Lena Bozoyan

## Westport's Oztemel Helps Team to Pan-Armenian Hoop Gold

WESTPORT, Conn. (*The Hour*) — Former Staples basketball standout Andrei Oztemel has taken his game to new heights.

The 6-foot-6 forward, who will be going into his junior season on the Ithaca College team, was a member of the Los Angeles-based squad that won the gold medal late last month at the fifth Pan-Armenian Games.

The games, conducted in Yerevan, Armenia, include play in nine sports and are open to Armenian citizens as well as men and women of Armenian descent.

Teams represent cities, not countries, and the Los Angeles squad that Oztemel played for was one of 24 that competed in the men's basketball tournament.

"A lot of people don't understand the significance of these games simply because a lot of people don't know Armenia exists," said Oztemel, a business administration major at Ithaca. "But being of Armenian descent and going back to Armenia is comparable to people of Jewish descent going on birthright to Israel."

The All-Area co-MVP as a senior at Staples and a two-time All-FCIAC pick, Oztemel and the Los Angeles squad played seven games in eight days, culminating with an overtime win in the championship game against a squad from Sochi, Russia, that had defeated LA for the 2009 title.

Oztemel called the sense of cultural pride he felt while in Armenia "amazing."

An independent republic since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Armenia is one of the world's oldest civilizations but had been invaded and ruled by a succession of empires.

Oztemel was selected for the team by Carl Bardakian, coach of the Los Angeles team, after a recommendation from his Ithaca teammate, Eric Halejian, who was the point guard on the Pan-Armenian tournament team.

After winning its first six games, Los Angeles squared off against Sochi in a packed Miga Arena in Yerevan. The crowd of more than 2,000 included Armenian President Serge Sargsian.

With team captain Mike Danielian pouring in 49 points, Los Angeles defeated Sochi, 93-86, in a hard-fought overtime encounter.

Los Angeles had beaten Aleppo (Syria), Stepanakert (Artsakh) and Tehran (Iran) in the preliminary rounds, earning a spot in the play-off round. Los Angeles downed Aleppo again in the round of 16, and conquered Cairo (Egypt) in the quarterfinals. The Los Angeles squad then defeated Tehran in a rematch in the semifinals to earn its shot at Sochi.

The teams from both Cairo and Tehran included professional players.

"The style of play was quite different... it was definitely solid competition," said Oztemel.

"I've never won anything of that magnitude in the sport that I love, so it was definitely special for me," said the 2009 Staples grad, son of Glenn and Laurel Oztemel of Westport.

As a freshman at Ithaca, Oztemel played in all 28 of the Division III Bombers' games, starting two. He was named Empire eight rookie of the week three times in a season in which he averaged 10.4 points and 4.4 rebounds.

As a sophomore last winter Oztemel played in 27 games with 18 starts. He averaged 12.9 points and 5.3 rebounds in just over 26 minutes per game. He also connected on 40 percent of his shots from outside the three-point line.



Andrei Oztemel





## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Sherman Holds Student Town Hall Meeting at AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School

CANOGA PARK, Calif. — On Monday, September 26, following Armenian Independence Day, Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks) addressed more than 100 high school students inside the auditorium at Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Manoogian-Demirdjian School. Sherman has regularly hosted town hall meetings for high school students during his time in Congress including other Armenian high schools in the West San Fernando Valley.

Sherman spoke about federal issues, the conflict in the Middle East, the economy and military academies and internship opportunities in the Sherman Oaks and Washington, DC offices. Sherman also responded to questions on a wide range of issues including the Armenian Genocide, US and Turkish foreign policy, health care and college loans.

After speaking with the students, Sherman presented Vice Principal Anahid Nalbandian with a flag flown over the United States Capitol.

Sherman highlighted his work on the

House Foreign Affairs Committee to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Sherman is an original cosponsor of the legislation to recognize the Genocide of 1915-1923. Since coming to Congress in 1997, he has co-sponsored every resolution dealing with the issue of the Armenian Genocide.

“Meetings like this are critical to the public policy process. They provide an opportunity for me to hear about the most pressing concerns of the Armenian community and to elaborate on the work for Armenians and students that my colleagues and I are tackling in Congress,” said Sherman. “These students are the future leaders of the Armenian community. They contributed to substantive conversations on a variety of issues that are important to the community and the lives of students alike. I thank the students for their participation in the meeting.”

He encouraged students and their families to visit his website ([www.BradSherman.house.gov](http://www.BradSherman.house.gov)) for more information.



Rep. Brad Sherman Speaks at the Student Town Hall.

### OBITUARY

## Charles S. Klanian

SINGER ISLAND, Fla. — Charles S. “Chuck” Klanian, 87, of Singer Island, died on Wednesday, September 7.

He was buried in Providence, RI.

He was the son of Armenian immigrants, Sarkis and Santoukd “Mary” Klanian, who owned a small grocery store on Canal Street in New York City, where he was born. Eventually they moved to the corner of Vermont Avenue and Naraganset Boulevard in Providence.

In 1942, after graduating from Hope High School, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corp. He was assigned to the European Theater, 8th AF, 303rd Bomb Group H, 360th Bomb Squadron as a navigator on a B-17G, named “Aloha.” He flew 33 missions out of Molesworth, England with his last tour ending in March 1945.

After WWII, Klanian was accepted to Brown University, from which he graduated in 1949 with a degree in mechanical engineering. Prior to graduating from college, he married the love of his life, Alice. Together, over the years, and as they moved to various communities, they raised four children: Paul, Chazz, Harry and Loree.

Most of his adult life Klanian lived in Pittsburgh, Penn., where for 36 years he worked for Westinghouse Electric Corporation. At Westinghouse he managed various projects in the area, of aeronautics, nuclear propulsion for the US Navy, power generation systems and nuclear waste management. In 1986, he was awarded the corporation’s highest employee award, the Order of Merit for excellence in the field of engineering. Approximately, 100 employees have received the Order of Merit during the company’s history.

While in Pittsburgh, and as testament to his Armenian heritage, Klanian played a leadership role, responsible for raising money and conceptual design and construction of the Armenian Nationality Classroom at the University of

Pittsburgh. The classroom was designed by architect Torkom Khrimian after the 10th century library of the Monastery at Sanahin and was dedicated on August 28, 1988. The Nationality Room Program began in 1926 to create actual working classrooms at the university to represent the various ethnic communities that have settled and lived in the greater Pittsburgh area. Members of churches, schools and fraternal, labor and social organizations worked to finance the rooms and presented them as gifts to the university. Today, the Armenian Classroom, made of Indiana limestone, proudly stands with 27 other Nationality Rooms at the University’s Cathedral of Learning.

Upon retirement, Chuck and Alice Klanian moved to Singer Island, where they spent many years enjoying the company of friends and family until Alice’s death in November 2002. After her passing, he remained an active member of St. David’s Armenian Church in Boca Raton and enjoyed surf fishing as well as playing bridge. Later in life, he enjoyed watching his favorite baseball team, the New York Yankees, and football team, the Pittsburgh Steelers.

In addition to his four children, he is survived by three sisters, Alice Arakelian, Margaret Koshgarian and Annette Topakian, as well as five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

In his memory, donations may be made payable to the University of Pittsburgh and mailed to: Nationality Rooms Program, 1209 Cathedral of Learning, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA 15260. Add “The Charles Klanian Memorial-Armenian Scholarship Fund” to the memo part of the check. The donations will help to defray the costs for US students who major in international studies at the University of Pittsburgh to travel and study in Armenia.

## Michael Krikorian

KEY LARGO, Fla. — Michael Krikorian, a long time resident of both Watertown and Key Largo, passed away on August 16. He was 88.

He emigrated as a young boy from Larnaca, Cyprus, settling in the Cambridge and Watertown area.

He served in the US military during WWII as a pilot and was awarded the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism and distinguished service in the CBI theater.

After his military service, he served for 25 years as a captain for Northeast Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

He is survived by his children: Joyce Drennan, John Krikorian, Erik Krikorian and Zakia Fiacchino (James Krikorian, deceased); sister, Bertha Hoyen, brother, Harry Krikorian, and several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.



Michael Krikorian

## ST. JAMES ARMENIAN CHURCH 2011 ANNUAL BAZAAR!

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



### ARMENIAN FOOD, DELICACIES & PASTRIES!

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

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

### BOOTHS AND VENDORS!

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

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

### \$100 RAFFLE!

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

### Featuring our new

### KidZone!

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

St. James Armenian Church  
465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472 (617) 923-8860 [info@sthagop.com](mailto:info@sthagop.com)

## Giragosian

F U N E R A L H O M E

James “Jack” Giragosian, CPC  
Funeral Counselor

576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606  
[www.giragosianfuneralhome.com](http://www.giragosianfuneralhome.com)

Telephone (617) 924-7400

## Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET  
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN  
PAUL BEDROSIAN  
LARRY BEDROSIAN





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Greater-Boston Community Commemorates Armenia's Independence

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — On Sunday, September 25, the Cambridge Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA) hosted a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Armenian Independence, in collaboration with the Armenian Cultural Foundation (ACF), Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA), Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). The event was held at the Holy Trinity Armenian

Apostolic Church.

CYSCA Chairwoman Cheryl Shushan opened the program welcoming the guests and introducing the evening's mistress of ceremonies, past Massachusetts state representative and Massachusetts Registrar of Motor Vehicles, Rachel Kaprielian. Fr. Vasken Kouzouian of Holy Trinity church followed with a prayer, in both English and Armenian, blessing the event's participants, Armenia and its people. The Lord's Prayer (*Hayr Mer*) was sung by the Arlington-Belmont Chorale led by director Barry Singer

and accompanied on the piano by Michael Becker. In her opening comments Kaprielian observed that what was a dream 20 years ago is today a reality — an independent Republic of Armenia. Also present was Rev. Avedis Boynerian, pastor of the Armenian Memorial Church.

Cambridge Mayor David Maher congratulated both CYSCA for its work and Armenia for its achievements during a difficult 20 years. He stressed that he takes seriously Cambridge's relation with Yerevan.

Also giving brief remarks were three state representatives, all of whom represent portions of Cambridge — Alice Wolf, Jonathan Hecht and Will Brownsberger. Wolf recalled the official CYSCA delegation she led in 1988 when she was then vice mayor of Cambridge, and Armenia was still under Soviet rule. Hecht, who now holds Kaprielian's old seat in the Massachusetts House

as Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister from 1999 to 2005.

Shougarian recounted his first visit to greater Boston as Armenia's ambassador. He met the Armenian community in the very hall he was speaking now. He cited the many difficulties Armenia faced: the 1988 earthquake, unfriendly neighbors to the east and west, the war in Nagorno Karabagh (Artsakh) and blockades by Turkey and Azerbaijan. As in previous centuries, he stated, nothing is new. We have never had the luxury of having Canada and Mexico as neighbors. Armenian independence from the Soviets necessitated a sudden change of mindset regarding national security, geopolitics and Armenia's mission. Should Armenia, for example, look towards Russia or the United States? Armenians were never anti-Russian, he stated, but were anti-Soviet. But now, he asserted, Armenia's future is with Europe. We should look towards Brussels rather than towards Washington or Moscow. Armenia needs a pragmatic mind set. Citing Armenia's many problems he indicated Armenia's need to eliminate corruption and improve democracy. But the most severe problem, he stressed, was the mass migration out of Armenia. Shougarian, together with the other speakers, reflected on the problems Armenia confronted during its past and expressed with certainty that working together we can overcome our present difficulties as well.

The program was interspersed with two performances of Armenian music by the Arlington-Belmont Chorale, including music by Alan Hovhanness, Komitas, Alexander Haroutunian, Edgar Hovhannissian and Aram Khachaturian. Following the formal part of the program a reception was held with delicacies donated by many CYSCA supporters and collaborating organizations.

CYSCA expressed its thanks to supporting organizations including the ACF, the AGBU, AIWA, ALMA and NAASR. Individuals and businesses who supported this event include the Atinization Family Foundation, Jonathan Hecht, Harry and Hripsime Parsekian, Jack Achmakjian, Avedis and Houry Boyamian, Vartkes and Elissa Karaian, Jack and Eva Medzorian, Neil and Elinor Olken, Jacob Pilibosian, Peter and Helen Smith, Carolyn Atinization, Mary Goudsouzian, Lynne Kanaian, Ruth Medzorian-Falletti, Barbara Merguerian, Suzanne Moranian, Olga Proudian, Rose Zartarian, Arax Market, Eastern Lamejun, Masis Bakery, Sevan Bakery and David Medzorian Video. Special thanks were offered to Arax Badalian and her committee for their work in making this event a success.



Keynote Speaker Ambassador Rouben Shougarian addresses the Boston-area celebration of Armenia's independence anniversary.

of Representatives, congratulated the Armenian community. While acknowledging the difficulties Armenia has and continues to face, Hecht expressed confidence that the Armenian people, including the diaspora, will continue building a democratic, equitable and prosperous society in Armenia.

The keynote speaker was Armenia's first ambassador to the United States (1993-1999) since Armenia's first republic (1918-1921), Ambassador Rouben Shougarian. Shougarian is currently a professor at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. His previous posts have included senior staff membership in the Armenian National Assembly's Standing Committee on Foreign Relations, diplomatic posts to Italy, Spain and Portugal, as well

## Metropol-Residence 2 Mashtots Ave. Yerevan. Armenia

Ideal for Family vacations

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

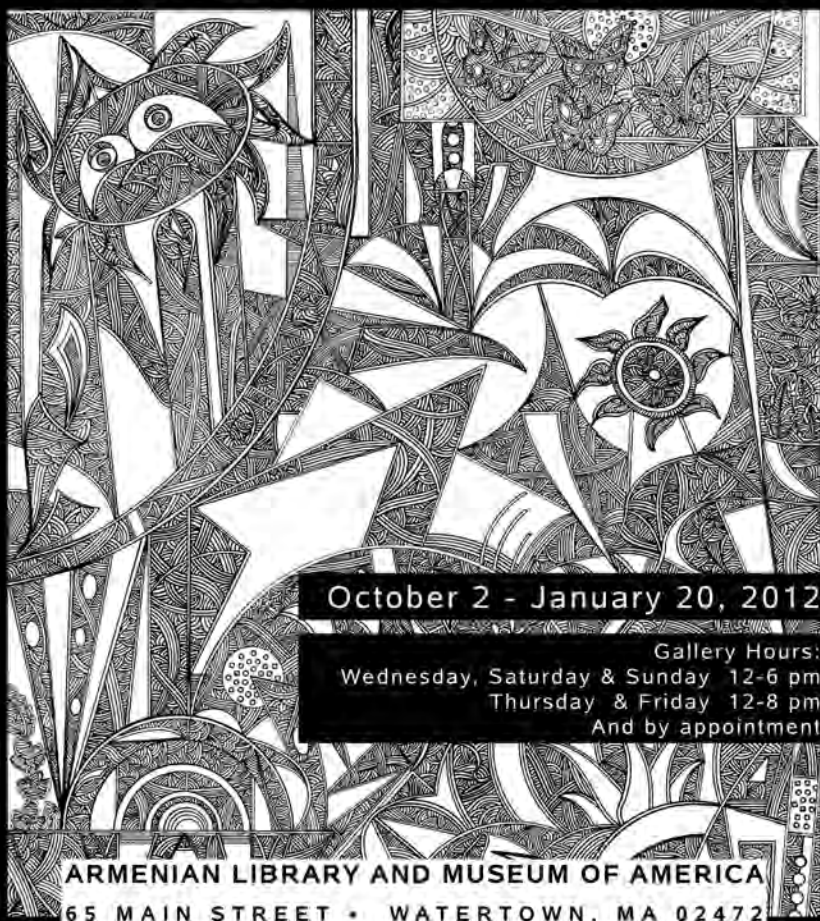
The four star residences at the heart of Yerevan with a kitchen and private bathroom is an ideal place to stay for families and couples. This luxurious residence is convenient for whatever purpose your visit is.



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



## MARTIN BAROOSHIAN POINTILLISM to SURREALISM RECENT PAINTINGS, 2001-2011



October 2 - January 20, 2012

Gallery Hours:  
Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday 12-6 pm  
Thursday & Friday 12-8 pm  
And by appointment

ARMENIAN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM OF AMERICA

65 MAIN STREET • WATERTOWN, MA 02472  
www.almainc.org • 617-926-2562

## AMAA's 'Children Helping Children' Luncheon To Take Place at Wellesley Country Club

WELLESLEY HILLS, Mass. — The Boston-area Orphan and Child Care Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) announces its 16th Annual Children Helping Children Luncheon, to take place on Thursday, October 27, at the Wellesley Country Club.

The luncheon will feature a raffle and both live and silent auctions, and will be hosted by celebrity guest host Mike Wankum of Channel 5 News. Auction items this year will include tickets and memorabilia from all major Boston sports teams, amazing diamond jewelry, framed

art prints, oriental rugs, dinner for eight and more. All proceeds are donated to the AMAA's Orphan and Child Care Fund to benefit needy children in Armenia. Individuals or businesses wishing to donate goods or services, or those wishing to purchase a ticket for the event may do so by contacting Michele Simourian.

Founded in 1918, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) is a nonprofit, charitable organization that provides services to underprivileged youth through education, relief and mission ministries. For additional information, visit amaa.org.

## Repatriate Survivor Calls for Unity to Save Armenia

UNITY, from page 5  
a white collar cultural genocide of our country."

He said, "they must place the issue of Armenia's declining population at the same level of getting Turkey to recognize the Genocide. If we fail now, historians will blame this generation for our self-inflicted white collar genocide."

Mooradian, a retired suburban Detroit newspaper editor, is author of *The Repatriate*, a personal memoir that focuses on his near death at the hands of the KGB — and how his talent as a star basketball player in the Soviet Union made it possible to survive. He was captain of his Detroit high school basketball champi-

onship team in 1946.

When asked about his political posture as a student scholar, Mooradian said, "I was not a communist. I was just an obedient son whose communist card-bearing father convinced me I could help Soviet Armenia. Instead, I learned how to survive — thanks to basketball. When Armenia proclaimed its freedom from the corrupt Soviet Union 20 years ago, I cried with tears of happiness for my friends in Armenia."

He added, "with God's blessing," he plans to visit Yerevan next year. "I want to take a walk in our ancestral homeland — as a free Armenian."

(Mitch Kehetian is the retired editor of *The Macomb Daily*.)





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Tribute to Prof. Parounag Tovmassian, PART 2

By Hagop Vartivarian

Lebanon had already turned into the center of Armenian life in the Middle East. The Eighth General Representative Assembly in Cairo, from October 23, 1946 to November 2, with a concluding session from October 11 to 22, 1947, became fateful for the ADL for various reasons. First of all, the slogan “With the homeland, and for the homeland” was adopted.

The party headquarters was transferred from Cairo to Beirut and Parounag Tovmassian was elected chairman of the Central Executive. Kersam Aharonian was elected secretary. Tovmassian remained in this post until 1982, for a full 35 years.

The repatriation movement began, emigration from the diaspora to Armenia. Approximately 100,000 Armenians repatriated from Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Greece and France to Soviet Armenia. The ADL played a central role in this large-scale undertaking.

Immediately afterwards, the Cold War between the West and the Soviet Union began. As a result of this, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed, and included Turkey, which did not participate in World War II. As a result of the Cold War, the ARF officially took the side of the West and the sad consequence of this was the division in Diasporan-Armenian life and the Cilician See.

Tovmassian remained as the always-alert watchman of Armenian-Diasporan relations. Nearly every year he visited Yerevan, where he examined all the important issues affecting Armenian national life together with men of state. Sometimes he acted severely towards those led by the anti-nationalist counsel instructed by world communism who sometimes forgot our Armenian values. Through his very delicate, innate diplomatic talent, Tovmassian had a beneficial influence on these relations.

Beginning in the 1950s, the opportunity was given to the graduates of Lebanese secondary schools to study in the establishments of higher education in Soviet Armenia. These individuals then returned to their communities and took on important Armenian national or political party positions. They became editors of our official newspapers, and the talented among them wrote important books on the political party and ideology.

Tovmassian was able to assemble around him healthy-thinking university graduates who were successful in their fields and were party members. He formed his central executive from them, and it was able to give direction with a single will to the ADL practically until the Lebanese Civil War.

I can quickly note some constructive accomplishments which took place during the period of his chairmanship.

Land was bought in Bourj Hammoud and the Vahan Tekeyan School was erected, in particular with the unwavering support of comrades of the Baikar chapter. The Tekeyan chapter's land became property in the heart of Beirut, and then the beautiful seven-story Tekeyan Center rose up, this time generally through the Zartouk chapter comrades.

Similarly, our chapter arose on the land allotted by Patriarch Yeghishe Derderian of Jerusalem. In Athens, the *Nor Ashkharh* weekly began to appear. Moving from Boston to Watertown, a place full of Armenians, the chapter obtained the Baikar building. *Nor Or*, a newspaper published every three days, moved from Fresno to its new building in Los Angeles. All this took place despite the Cold War, the civil wars and the persecutions directed at our leadership.

He cooperated extensively with the elder generation of political party members living in Beirut, including Hmayag Kranian, Hovhannes Seksenian, Mikayel Natanian, Nerses Shirinian, Mgrdich Mserlian, Dr. D. Bezirian, Hagop Torosian and Garabed Abajian. Enthused by them, Tovmassian planned his future work.

The number of political party chapters quadrupled throughout the world. We achieved great successes in Canada. Hundreds of youth came and joined our ranks. In Lebanon alone, the Mgrdich Portoukalian university youth chapter, the Shoushanik women's chapter and, during the days of Lebanon's civil war, the Armenag Yegarian defense detachment – which played a life-saving role in securing the physical safety of leaders and the people of the Armenian-populated quarters – were formed. The Arshag Chobanian chapter was founded in Yerevan for the diasporan university students in Armenia, and later Armenia's Democratic Liberal Party was formed. The publication of political party literature was given new impetus.

Despite the unfriendly policies of the Lebanese state authorities of the time, the ADL always participated in the parliamentary elections as a political force, presenting its candidates – Hratchia Shamlian and Megrdoch Messerlian. It was able to politically gain the favor of Lebanon's other faction, and the friendship of Muslim leaders in general, assuring Armenians' security.

His frequent visits to various districts, and in particular in the United States, became useful in order to maintain ties between the center and the districts. Armenian-American political party members, trusting in his person, participated through large-scale donations in the plan for the Vahan Tekeyan School's land and then the building's construction. It was the same in the case of the Tekeyan Center.

From the Eight to the Sixteenth General Representative Assembly, the ADL had the good fortune of remaining distant



Prof. Parounag Tovmassian

from serious internal political party crises. The party turned into a trustworthy and respected political organization thanks to Tovmassian's prudence, state of organization, and consistency.

The 50th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide was commemorated in a pan-Armenian fashion, and after this, the frosty relations between the two political parties ended. Relations proceeded in a warmer atmosphere, which in general benefited Armenian communities everywhere. Tovmassian provided serious and lasting works for publication on the Armenian Case, among which the monumental work *Houshamadean Medz Egherni* [Memorial to the Great Catastrophe], edited by Kersam Aharonian, will remain unparalleled.

He participated as one of

and public activity was commemorated under the honorary chairmanship of Patriarch Yeghishe Derderian and the presidency of Alex Manoogian. Other participants included Dr. Haroutiun Yozghatian, chairman of Lebanon's Regional Executive, and Antranig Antreassian, who had come specially from Los Angeles; Vartkes Bedrosian, president of the Writers Union of Armenia; Garbis Nazarian, chairman of the AGBU Regional Committee of Lebanon; Hovhannes Tabakian, chairman of the TCA executive of Lebanon. Tovmassian himself spoke.

Parounag and Angel Tovmassian donated \$250,000 towards the construction of a TCA center in Yerevan.

## Some Personal Memories

Tovmassian maintained an ongoing correspondence with everyone, big and small. I have a folder full of correspondence from him. I was appointed in Boston to the position of executive secretary of the TCA Central Executive, and he, frequently with his wife, would come during the summers to visit his sister, who also happened to be the treasurer of the TCA Central Executive. He would encourage me; he would embolden me to remain in office. No matter how thorny the path was, new forces would always come to take the place of the old. He visited the *Baikar* offices nearly every day. He turned it into a habit, just as in Beirut he would visit *Zartouk*.

After I moved to New Jersey, he would still come and visit me. Taking advantage of his presence, I organized a reception in our house in Kearney. The editor of *Azg*, Hagop Avedikian, was also present. Most of the ADL members from New York and New Jersey attended. There were around 100 faithful and friends. We took oaths of membership from five new people, including my wife, Arpie. Tovmassian spoke paternally, and occasionally flavored his words with humor. In his presence, we would ascend one level and see the Armenian national horizon differently.

It had been one year since I had accepted the Boston position. He wrote me in a letter dated August 12, 1977, “In general I am stingy in my praise. Stingy towards the truly faithful, dedicated and unselfish workers of the Democratic Liberal Party because I believe that praise can be encouragement for them, but I fear that true political figures, leaders who are guided by a non-personal spirit, one of sacrifice, would consider that praise as reward. In that circumstance, something would be missing from that unbreakable true happiness which comes from the depth of the soul and mind, from the inner world, from the feeling, the thought, of having served our magnificent Armenian people.”

He was happy about my move to New York, and my pursuing my personal business: “New York is not



Dr. Parounag Tovmassian and other ADL activists and leaders celebrate.

the representatives of the three Armenian political parties who met with Turkish political officials in Zurich in connection with the Armenian Case.

The policy of “positive neutrality” adopted by the three political parties during the Lebanese Civil War turned out to be a blessing. Unfortunately, two-thirds of the Lebanese Armenians, more than 200,000 Armenians, emigrated. Tovmassian became dispirited by witnessing this panicked exodus. His advanced age, together with a series of illnesses, forced him also to leave Lebanon and settle in Watertown with his sister, Flora Gopoyan.

Tovmassian, beginning in the 1960s, had together with his brother-in-law a trading company, Tateossian-Tovmassian Company, which was involved in importing from European countries.

On April 18, 1982, in Irwin Hall of American University of Beirut, the 50th anniversary of Tovmassian's national, education

only the pulsing heart of America's [Armenian] national life, but of the world. There, you will be able to serve both the nation and our political party more seriously.

## Thoughts about Tovmassian

• The ADL 16th General Representative Assembly: “You became the flag bearer of the fortification of homeland-diasporan relations for the sake of the vitality of the Armenian diaspora, aiding in the indivisibility and unity of our people.”

• Archbishop Torkom Manougian: “He demonstrated indestructible loyalty towards the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, and unswerving conviction about the unity of the Armenian Church, the preservation of centuries-old traditions, and the supremacy of Holy Echmiadzin.”





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Manoogian Sunday School Gets Underway at St. David Armenian Church

BOCA RATON, Fla. — On Sunday, September 11, more than 50 students were registered to attend the Alex and Marie Manoogian Armenian and Sunday School at St. David Armenian Church. For the next nine months on Sundays, they will receive four hours of training not only in religious education but also Armenian language, history and culture. During class, the students are required to speak Armenian only. All of the graduates read and write Armenian fluently.

The school is for children in Kindergarten through Grade 7 and has nine teachers. Their

emphasis is on communication, reading, writing and literature, with a special consideration on Christian education, Bible study and Armenian culture.

With the efforts of Nadia Isguzar, school principal, and Armen Melkonian, executive school board chairman, and all the teachers, namely, Karine Markaryan, Kindergarten; Lilit Mnatsakanyan, Grade 1; Ani Vartanian, Grade 2; Shake Potoukian, Grade 3; Tamar Merjian, Grade 4; Garo Vartanian, Grade 5; Talin Kalender and Nadia Isguzar, Grade 7; Marine Smbatyan and Marieta Mnatsakanyan, Music

Department, the curriculum is executed seamlessly.

The staff regularly meets with Fr. Nareg Berberian to discuss the progress of the students. Berberian will conduct a parent/teacher meeting to stress the years ahead for these children are extremely important in the formation of their character and for maintaining a positive identity. He will encourage the students to stay engaged in their Armenian community by actively participating in the ACYOA events and activities throughout the year. He believes they are the future of St. David Armenian Church and the responsibility will be passed on to them to carry the torch of our forefathers to uphold our rich ancestral heritage and ensure its place with impending generations.

Under the guidance of Berberian, they prepare programs for the Feasts of Holy Translators, New Year and Great Carnival. Once a month they come to the church and instead of a sermon, Berberian entertains their questions about Christianity. Most of the children know the

songs of the Badarak, and occasionally they are asked to serve on the altar and to sing in the choir.

The school does fundraising during the year to offset the cost of the school expenses. They



The staff and board members of the Manoogian Sunday School

## St Leon Armenian Church & Tekeyan Cultural Association Present

Ինչպես անհաս փառքի ճամբա  
ես իմ Մասիս սարն եմ սիրում



### A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH WESTERN ARMENIA AND THE ARARAT 11 CLIMB

Experience the adventure, perils and exhilaration as The Ararat 11 travel from Armenia to Turkey to climb the summit of **Mt. Ararat**.

Witness the beauty of Western Armenia as captured by Hrair Hawk Khatcherian during prior and subsequent visits including the historic Badarak performed at the Church of Holy Cross on Lake Van's Akhtamar Island.

Climbers Saro Hartounian and Seth Setrakian will also be available to share their personal experience.

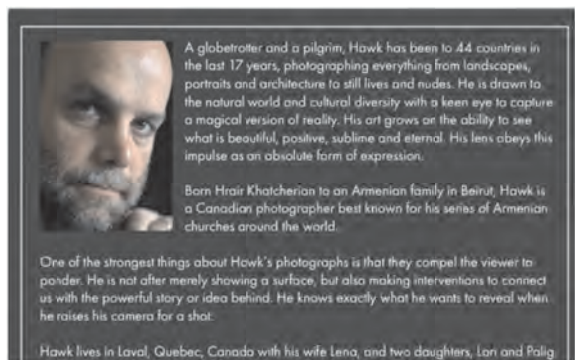
Hawks most recently published book, **Yergir 2**, will be available for sale.

**Date: Friday, Oct. 21st**

**Time: 8:00 pm**

**Place: ST LEON  
ARMENIAN CHURCH  
Charles & Grace  
Pinajian Youth Center**

**12-61 Saddle River Rd  
Fair Lawn, NJ  
Call Shoghig Chalian for more  
Information\*\*\*201-803-0240**



A globetrotter and a pilgrim, Hawk has been to 44 countries in the last 17 years, photographing everything from landscapes, portraits and architecture to still lives and nudes. He is drawn to the natural world and cultural diversity with a keen eye to capture a magical version of reality. His art grows on the ability to see what is beautiful, positive, sublime and eternal. His lens obeys this impulse as an absolute form of expression.

Born Hrair Khatcherian to an Armenian family in Beirut, Hawk is a Canadian photographer best known for his series of Armenian churches around the world.

One of the strongest things about Hawk's photographs is that they compel the viewer to ponder. He is not after merely showing a surface, but also making interventions to connect us with the powerful story or idea behind. He knows exactly what he wants to reveal when he raises his camera for a shot.

Hawk lives in Laval, Quebec, Canada with his wife Lena, and two daughters, Lori and Polig.

## Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2011



Since its inception in 2001, TCA's 'Sponsor a Teacher' program has raised over \$477,750 and reached out to 3,700 teachers and school workers in Armenia and Karabagh.



☐ Yes, I want to sponsor teachers in Armenia and Karabagh to continue helping them to educate the children, our future leaders. I would like to have the teacher's name and address.

☐ \$160 ☐ \$320 ☐ \$480 ☐ other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Tekeyan Cultural Association - Memo: Sponsor a Teacher 2010  
Mail your check with this form to:

**TCA Sponsor a Teacher  
5326 Valverde, Houston, TX 77056**

Your donation is Tax Deductible.

essary and irreplaceable impulses of a true leader."

•Dr. Robert Jebejian: "The circumstances favorable to Armenians that have been created by your and your fellow travelers' efforts have become a delight for all of us and a model inspiration."

•Nazar Nazarian: "I recall those old days with great pride when hundreds of us as students would await your classes."

•Antranik L. Poladian: "Those youth who received a university education through Professor Tovmassian's advice and arrangements are large in number. Many of them, again on the advice of their mentor, entered into national service, and at present hold responsible positions throughout the Armenian diaspora."

•Edmond Y. Azadian: "And how many have traveled that journey with you and after you, and today with profound admiration remember your wisdom, your patriotism, your faith in and love for the future of the Armenians."

•Missak Haigentz: "Your person and work are identified with the last half-century of the wonderful work of the ADL making the nation prosperous, and Armenian-nourishing enchanted thought."

### Death and Funeral

Tovmassian died on December 25, 1991 in Watertown. The funeral was conducted with suitable solemnity at St. James Armenian Church, presided over by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, the Primate, who in an impressive eulogy reflected on Tovmassian's national and church service. Tovmassian's body was buried in Ridgeland Cemetery, Watertown.

The Nazarian brothers, Garbis, Noubar and Nazar, were present on behalf of the AGBU, along with Dr. Pergrouhi Svajian.

After the memorial meal, the editor of *Baikar* weekly, Krikor Keusseyan, conducted a short program. Dr. Haroutiun Arzoumanian, Hampartoum Berberian, Dr. Nubar Berberian, Dr. Vatche Ghazarian and Fr. Papken Maksoudian spoke. The brother-in-law of the deceased, Haig Tateossian, spoke words of thanks on behalf of Tovmassian's family.

That very evening, we participants in the funeral ceremony, Sarkis Paskalian, Bedros Piandarian, Vatche Ghazarian, Sonig Vayejian and I, returned in the same car to New York. There was emotion. It was a giant oak of Armenian national life that had fallen. Not one word was exchanged during those four hours. There was nothing left to say at that time.

Tovmassian has been set in the pages of the history of the ADL alongside such names as Vahan Tekeyan, Arshag Chobanian, Mihran Damadian, Ardag Tarpinian and Hrach Yervant as an enlightened individual and as a great and true national, political leader.

(This article was translated into English for the *Mirror-Spectator* from Armenian.)





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# The Internet Paves Way For Doctor to Help out in Homeland

By Armond Kotikian, DDS, MD

STEPANAKERT, Karabagh — I got in very late Sunday night into the capital of Karabagh. After the eighth-hour bus ride, my body wanted to lie down, but my heart and mind were pumping with adrenaline.

Question after question raced through my brain: are the parents going to trust me, given that I am from another country? Are the anesthesiologists going to be able to intubate (place the tube in the windpipe) some of the more challenging patients that I have met via the web for the past four months? What kinds of instruments are going to be available to me? This was uncharted territory and I was anxiously awaiting sunrise.

Earlier this year, the Armenian Medical International Committee connected me with Dr. Sasun Vahanyan, the only oral and maxillofacial surgeon in all of Karabagh, which has a population of close to 200,000. After looking me up online and watching one of my interviews on Youtube, Vahanyan invited me to come to Karabagh to perform surgeries together.

I arrived at the Children's hospital in Stepanakert on a Monday morning, excited and apprehensive. I was soon greeted by the smiling 29-year-old Vahanyan, whom I had met only over skype. As I approached the entrance to the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery clinic, there were about



Dr. Armond Kotikian, a Los Angeles-based oral and maxillofacial surgeon, in the operating room in Stepanakert, Karabagh. Kotikian traveled to Karabagh in July 2011 to join Dr. Sasun Vahanyan, the only oral and maxillofacial surgeon in Karabagh, for a week of surgeries. The two doctors were introduced to each other through the International Medical Congress of Armenia and YouTube. (Photograph by Sara Anjargolian)

room for an incision and drainage of the mass on her neck. Within moments of draining the mass, the child began to breathe easily and was obviously going to make a full recovery. I thought to myself, this was the most rewarding "lunch break" I ever had.

Shortly afterward, we headed to the adult hospital. There we saw a 60-year-old patient with a painful swelling on the floor of his mouth, which he had been tolerating for the past three months. It looked to me like oral cancer. He, also, was going to need surgery.



A reluctant patient (Photograph by Sara Anjargolian)

50 parents and children hovering around the only entrance. They stared at me, their first impressions settling in, while I focused only on trying to get to the door. I apologized about 15 times before I was able to make it to the white door.

The clinic measured about 200 square feet but had everything I needed to get started: a brown desk and one examination chair. I hadn't had a chance to digest my surroundings when the patients and their parents began flooding in, with or without an appointment. This was nothing like an average day in my usual clinic. By 1 p.m. we had seen 31 patients and promised most of them we would do their surgery. The cases ranged from cleft lip and palate, to trauma patients, to patients with oral tumors to simple wisdom teeth extractions. My years of training kicked in and I was excited to do as much as I could in the short time I had.

As we were getting ready to walk out of the clinic for lunch, a scene like one from a movie unfolded. A helpless mother from a neighboring village came in carrying her 27-month-old daughter who was minimally responsive. The child had a critical neck swelling, which was keeping her from breathing normally. After a one-minute evaluation, we immediately took her to the operating

room. Over dinner that evening, we reviewed all the patients we had seen that day and mapped out our approach for the rest of the week. Over the next four days, Vahanyan and I operated on 20 patients and averaged 12-14-hour days. We performed multiple cleft palate cases, cleft lip cases, removed several oral and neck tumors from adult and pediatric patients, performed cleft lip revisions, removed one set of wisdom teeth and even did a bone graft from the hip to the oral cavity for a patient with a defect in the upper jaw. There was no air conditioning in the hospital and the temperature would reach the low 90s at noon. The nurses had special sterile instruments to dab our foreheads so we wouldn't contaminate the field with our sweat. The hospital water occasionally ran out and the operating nurses had to rinse our arms and hands with small buckets of water after we scrubbed. I was operating with instruments I thought didn't exist anymore. Despite all this, things went as smoothly as they do in our pampered operating rooms in the United States. I learned quickly that as long as you have the skill set and will, everything else falls into place.

My only regret is that I could not stay longer.



Twenty-nine year old Dr. Sasun Vahanyan is the only maxillofacial surgeon in Karabagh. After seeing a YouTube video interview of Dr. Armond Kotikian in Los Angeles, he invited Kotikian to travel to Karabagh and join him for a week of maxillofacial surgeries. The two doctors communicated via skype for months about patient cases and made plans for the surgeries before Kotikian arrived to Stepanakert. In the background are Kotikian and Dr. Alexi Eyvazi, a dentist from Los Angeles who accompanied and assisted Kotikian in Karabagh. (Photograph by Sara Anjargolian)

On my last day, I was proud of our work, but wished we were able to treat more people. There were close to a dozen patients who still needed surgery — a reason to return in the near future. I hope that the surgeries we performed will make life for our patients a bit easier and I hope some of the skills I passed on to the staff will help them treat patients for years to come.

Perhaps most importantly, half way across the

globe, I found a good friend and excellent colleague in Stepanakert. The exchange of knowledge and experience between us taught me lessons that no modern day dental or medical school can teach. The only major disagreement between myself and Vahanyan that week was the endless debate over the check after every meal.

(Dr. Armond Kotikian is a Los Angeles-based oral and maxillofacial surgeon.)



Baby boy with his mother, father and grandmother after cleft lip surgery (Photograph by Sara Anjargolian)





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Lowell Veterans Award \$150,000 in Scholarships

By Tom Vartabedian

LOWELL, Mass. — Since 1990, members of the Sam Manoian Post, Armenian-American Veterans, have done more than march in parades, conduct graveside services and donate

\$7,000 was divided among seven students, including one in Armenia and another in Providence, RI.

More than 200 guests turned out on September 24 to applaud the recipients during a dinner-dance at Sts. Vartanantz Church in Chelmsford.

Over these 21 years, a total of 136 Armenian

“The future of our younger generation is something we take seriously. Anything we can do to enhance that goal will be encouraged. Many of these recipients have graduated college, started careers and showed their gratitude by contributing to the fund. The moral responsibilities they’ve exercised are exemplary.”

Honored were: Aghavny Bebirian, Pelham, NH; Nicole Gaspari, Chelmsford; Katie Berberian, Merrimack, NH; Sam Boghigian, Nashua, NH; Jason Keshian, North Andover; John Kalajian, Providence, and Lilit Solomonyan, Armenia.

The student from Armenia has a dad who operates a car import and makes repeated trips to the Merrimack Valley for business. He signed on as an associate member of the Post and lends his support wherever possible. An older sibling, Astghik, was given a scholarship previously.

The group’s history dates back to 1947 when Armenian-American Veterans of World War II gathered at the Pine Street Potato Chip Company on Gorham Street and elected Menas

Boghosian as its first commander.

The numbers grew enough to be officially chartered and in 1961, they joined the Veterans’ Council of Lowell.

Over the decades, they have served the Armenian-American community with diligence and pride, volunteering at veterans’ hospitals, assisting the indigent, sponsoring Christmas parties for children and donating Easter baskets to children. Roses are distributed after church services on Mother’s Day.

Members conduct special graveside services for veterans and have never missed a Memorial Day Parade or Armenian Genocide commemoration.

In 1975, the organization purchased a building and named it the Sam Manoian Post, in honor of a devoted past commander. Ten years later, they erected a monument dedicated to Armenian settlers who became a vital part of the Greater Lowell fabric.

Members have served this country in World War I, World War II, the Korean Conflict, Vietnam War and Iraq.



Sam Manoian Post, Armenian-American Veterans of Lowell, presented scholarships to seven high school graduates September 24. From left, George Manuelian, Scholarship Committee chairman; Aghavny Bebirian, Pelham, NH; Nicole Gaspari, Chelmsford; Katie Berberian, Merrimack, NH; Sam Boghigian, Nashua, NH; Jason Keshian, North Andover and Aram Jeknavorian, commander. Also honored were John Kalajian, Providence, RI, and Lilit Solomonyan, Armenia.

Easter baskets to children.

They have contributed to the educational welfare of Merrimack Valley and beyond — to the tune of \$150,000. This year’s distribution of

high school graduates have been endowed with scholarships — and the buck doesn’t stop here.

“It’s a tradition we hope to continue for a lifetime,” said Commander Aram Jeknavorian.

## SOAR to Celebrate Anniversary On October 22

PHILADELPHIA — The Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) will celebrate its sixth anniversary on Saturday, October 22, starting at 6 p.m., at The Woman’s Club of Bala Cynwyd. The event will include an open bar, mezza, buffet dinner, silent auction and entertainment provided by vocalist Marina V and pianist Kariné Poghosyan.

SOAR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, registered in the US and Armenia, whose mission is to distribute food, clothing, medicine, educational supplies and other essential resources to orphanages throughout Armenia, Nagorno-Karabagh and Javakhk. The organization is composed of a National Board of Directors, chapter boards in 14 cities throughout the US and Armenia, a Board of Trustees headquartered in Philadelphia and partners in Armenia who all volunteer their time.

Founded by George and Erica Yacoubian in May 2006, shortly after they adopted their older daughter, Liliana, from Armenia, SOAR is the only non-profit organization that focuses exclusively on providing humanitarian relief to orphaned children living in Armenia, Nagorno-Karabagh and Javakhk.

SOAR also supports an annual summer camp in Tsaghkadzor which accommodates 800-1,000 orphaned and otherwise disadvantaged children between the ages of 8 and 15, aiming to lessen the immediate and long-term impact of poverty in children’s lives through a wide range of athletic, cultural, spiritual and social activities.

In its short existence, SOAR has experienced significant growth from year to year in not only its distributions to the orphanages, but also its geographic presence. As SOAR views Armenia’s children as the most vulnerable in Armenian society, it is committed to expanding its efforts in the years to come. This past year, SOAR launched six new chapters, bringing the total number of chapters to 14: Chicago, Delaware, Detroit, Florida, Fresno, Idaho, Los Angeles, New England, New York/New Jersey, North Carolina, Northern California, Seattle, Washington, DC and Yerevan.

In 2010, SOAR’s assistance to the orphanages totaled approximately \$118,000, and included the renovation of a medical suite at the Kharberd Orphanage; physical therapy and gym equipment for the Children’s Home of Gumri; kitchen equipment for the Gavar orphanage; a new washer and dryer and the renovation of the ventilation system for Vanadzor; new beds for Vardashen; new chairs for Nubarashen; coats and shoes, clothes, school supplies and hundreds of toys for all of the children who look forward to early Christmas presents. In 2011, their distributions have already exceeded \$300,000.

In 2012, they hope to increase their founda-

tional and grant support, install three new chapters and expand their Child Sponsorship Program. Each sponsor is matched with a child, with the entire donation designated for the child, not the orphanage. SOAR assumes the cost of wiring the expenses so no funds go towards operational use. The sponsor receives a photo, profile and health updates from the child. The minimum sponsorship is \$50/month, which goes towards tuition (or a savings account for future tuition), educational supplies, musical tutoring, medical care and other items or services necessary for a child’s personal growth.

The organization has a loyal donor base throughout the United States and most purchases are made in Armenia to help stimulate the local economy. A strict quality control protocol is in place, and the organization also has a zero-tolerance policy for fraud, theft and/or



Liliana Yacoubian

deception.

There are several ways to help SOAR. In addition to the Child Sponsorship Program, there is the Balik-Jan project, which provides knitted clothes to the children. Donations of goods are always needed, particularly baby supplies, bath towels, bedding, new clothing, shoes, diapers, musical items and personal hygiene products. Financial donations can be made online on SOAR’s website (<http://www.soar-us.org>). Bequests, endowments, in lieu of gifts and funds, are always available.

The cost of attending the program is \$35 for adults and \$15 for children.

For more information on SOAR, visit [www.soar-us.org](http://www.soar-us.org) or contact National SOAR president, George S. Yacoubian Jr., at [gyacoubian@soar-us.org](mailto:gyacoubian@soar-us.org).

### ARMENIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF AMERICA EASTERN REGION



### 5th Annual Banquet October 15, 2011

Seaport Hotel and Convention Center

Cocktail Reception and Silent Auction 6:00 p.m.  
Dinner and Awards 7:00 p.m.

### 2011 ANCA Freedom Award Recipients

Senators BOB and ELIZABETH DOLE



for tickets and info, visit:

[www.anca.org/erbanquet](http://www.anca.org/erbanquet)





## COMMUNITY NEWS

## University of Michigan Sponsors a Special Project on Armenian Studies

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, will host the second workshop on “The State of Armenian Studies” October 14-16. The project aims to create a quantitative and qualitative analysis of existing programs, organizations and institutions relevant to Armenian studies.

The primary aim of this session will be the consideration of the first draft report prepared by the team at the University of Michigan. The dates of the workshop will coincide with a series of events marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History and of the formalization of the Armenian Studies Program of the university. For a detailed schedule, visit

<http://www.ii.umich.edu/asp>.

This project has been conducted on two levels: workshops that strategize the project and a research team at the University of Michigan that processes the data and produces initial analysis. The first workshop in 2008, also held on the Ann Arbor campus, defined the parameters of the project and included the participation of leading scholars from Europe, Armenia and the US. The final report, completed by May 2012, will also consider recommendations to all parties interested in the various dimensions represented by the field.

The project is managed by Vahe Sahakyan, a PhD student in the Near Eastern Studies Department of the University, with volunteer support from Naira Tumanyan, a graduate stu-

dent in the master's degree program at the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies of the university. Prof. Jirair Libaridian directs the project with support from the Executive Committee of the Armenian Studies Program at the University.

Support for the project has been provided by the Harry Ardashes Paul Memorial Fund, established by Dr. Ara Paul in memory of his brother, Harry Ardashes. Paul, a founding dean of the School of Pharmacology, now retired, has been a valuable member of the Armenian Studies Program and university communities.

The project has had the sponsorship and support of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research.

## Major Initiative At AUA

BERKELEY, Calif. — The American University of Armenia (AUA) has announced a major initiative to enhance awareness of the graduate university located in Yerevan, Armenia. President Bruce Boghosian, PhD, is recruiting for a leading professional as vice president of University Advancement who will be responsible for bringing awareness of the university and its many programs to American residents; to improve the alumni relations programs in ways that are different from normal American university chapters and to improve fundraising.

Boghosian is looking to this position to lead the capacity for the many priorities that the faculty and administration recognize as essential for the campus to continue its planned growth. Boghosian has hired the firm Paschal Murray, Inc., a specialist in university advancement positions, to assist with the search.

Details of the position and contact information are available at [www.paschalmurray.com](http://www.paschalmurray.com).

AUA has many essential connections to the US. Borne out of a relationship with the University of California, and specifically the engineering faculty at UC Berkeley, the campus in Yerevan has many faculty members who have been trained in American universities.

## Milwaukee Community Celebrates Anniversary

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — On Sunday, September 25, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Diocesan Primate, presided over the 25th anniversary celebration of the construction and consecration of Milwaukee's St. John the Baptist Armenian Church's present sanctuary.

The day began with celebration of Divine Liturgy by the Rev. Tateos Abdalian, the former pastor of St. John Church who was instrumental in encouraging and organizing the community in their effort to construct the sanctuary in 1985. Until then, the church services were being held in the cultural hall.

Rev. Nareg Keutelian, the pastor of St. John's, served as the deacon during the Liturgy. “It was a moving experience serving as a deacon during today's celebration” said Keutelian as he served the same parish as a deacon 25 years ago when Abdalian was the pastor. “It brought back treasured memories.”

At the conclusion of the service, Barsamian ordained two altar servers — Michael Kashian and Thomas Hammer — to the rank of acolyte. Both have been working with Keutelian to prepare for the ordination. Both newly-ordained parishioners received Certificate of Ordination from the Primate, who congratulated them on their accomplishment and encouraged them to



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian ordains Michael Kashian and Thomas Hammer to the rank of acolyte, with Fr. Tateos Abdalian (left) and Fr. Nareg Keutelian assisting.

spoke on the Diocesan theme of “Ministry of the Faithful.” He reminded the faithful of Christ's call to follow Him, saying that “over and over again, our Lord uttered this call to people from every stage in life.”

In his keynote address, Abdalian spoke about the importance of community and working together to achieve goals as a parish. Abdalian said he was emotionally overcome during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at St. John the Baptist Armenian Church. “I felt the presence of my parents, in-laws and family members — those who had served at the Holy Altar during my pastorate, as well as past parishioners of St. John, all who had entered their eternal rest,” he said. He expressed a feeling of “being together as one through the Holy Sacrament. As celebrant, I could not have asked for more.”

Other highlights of Sunday's banquet included remarks by William Seabrook, on behalf of the Altar servers. Seabrook, who was ordained an acolyte two years ago, reflected on the continued altar server training classes conducted by Keutelian. “With our participations in these training sessions, attending St. Nersess Summer Conferences and Midwest Hye Camp, our under-

standing of the Divine Liturgy is enriched and our faith deepened,” he concluded.

Donnie Rask, a multi-talented young musician, performed Rachmaninoff pieces on the piano. He, along with Seabrook and Arek Kashian, was ordained acolyte two years ago. Rask also plays the church organ during Divine Liturgy frequently.

Keutelian acknowledged the parents for their selfless sacrifices in bringing these young men and women to church for training and ensuring their participation in the various Diocesan programs.

The program concluded with the singing of *Der Getso* by Keutelian and benediction by the Diocesan Primate.

St. John the Baptist Church began as a mission parish in West Allis, in 1940 and saw the consecration of its first house of worship in 1942.

The cornerstones for the new church were blessed in 1986 by then-Primate Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, with the assistance of Abdalian, who served the parish from 1984 to 1989. The completed building was consecrated by Manoogian in November of that year.



Rev. Tateos Abdalian delivers the keynote address during a banquet at St. John the Baptist Church.

continue their service to the Armenian Church.

The Primate also conducted a Thanksgiving Service for the Republic of Armenia on the occasion of its 20th anniversary of independence.

During the banquet and program attended by some 100 parishioners and friends, Barsamian

## Metro Detroit Group Works to Promote Awareness of the Armenian Genocide Through Education

BIRMINGHAM, Mich. — Committed to their mission to promote awareness of, and gain formal US recognition for the first genocide of the 20th century, the Metro Detroit Armenian Genocide Committee in collaboration with Facing History and Ourselves, announces the fifth educator's workshop, in Michigan, on the Armenian Genocide. The Knights of Vartan, Detroit Lodge, sponsors the project initially conceived and sponsored by Edgar Hagopian and his Hagopian Family Foundation.

Richard Norsigian, a member of the committee as well as a retired principal from the South Lake School District, coordinated the event with Wayne County RESA. Michigan educators are invited to attend the workshop to be facilitated by Dr. Mary Johnson, senior historian for Facing History and Ourselves, who will use text and video to present a background on the “universe of obligation” and segue into the history of the Armenian Genocide. Educators will be provided with resource and teaching materials.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 9, at Wayne County RESA and is open to all Michigan high school educators. Workshop costs are underwritten by the committee and is free to participants. Breakfast and lunch is included with the workshop.

Participants will also be advised of the of the Fourth Annual Armenian Genocide Essay Competition open to all Michigan High School Students, sponsored by the Hagopian Family Foundation, with cash awards for both the winning student and the instructor. Details for the competition can be found on line at [www.armeniangenocideessay.com](http://www.armeniangenocideessay.com).

The Metro Detroit Armenian Genocide Committee members are Edward Bedikian, Ray Boujoulian, Corinne Khederian, Ani Kasparian, Paul Kulhanjian, Richard Norsigian, Shirley Sarkisian, David Terzibashian and Madeline Thomasian.

## LA Coalition Holds Benefit Event for Women's Shelters in Armenia

BENEFIT, from page 5

domestic violence in Armenia has been one of the big taboos. The fact we are talking about it now, could not have happened without a shift in thinking in Armenia. It's a glimmer, it's new. Sometimes, if you are in a small village, you might wonder if it's there at all,” she stated.

“It's a new idea — what I would call ‘Enough.’ Enough — domestic violence does not have to be tolerated. In any household. In any family. Enough — it is no longer acceptable to perpetrate violence against women. It is no longer acceptable for men to take their frustrations out by beating their wives. This is part of old Armenia, not new Armenia. However difficult

life is, however tough, you don't beat women and children.”

Also greeting the audience were California Sen. Carol Liu and Glendale Mayor Laura Friedman, both of whom expressed support and confidence that the shelter initiative would succeed.

The program was emceed by Nareg Keshishian, who acknowledged various guests in the audience, including actor John Heard. Armenian jazz pianist Sergey Kyosayan provided music.

One of the evening's highlights came when singer/songwriter Gor Mkhitarian announced that he had composed a song dedicated to the occasion, expressing the combination of pain

and frustration, hope and aspiration, that mark the problem of domestic violence and efforts to solve it. Mkhitarian proceeded to offer a premiere performance, with his signature guitar accompaniment, which drew accolades from those in attendance. The new song will soon be released publicly.

By evening's end, Keshishian announced that more than \$40,000 had been raised toward the effort, with another fundraiser of similar scope now being planned on the East Coast. He also announced that USAID has pledged partnership support, which will hopefully build upon the amounts raised in order to develop a robust shelter program including all needed staff and facilities.



# Arts & Living

## Young Musician Finds Inspiration in The Divine Liturgy Of the Armenian Church

HOLLISTON, Mass. — When Michael Sabounjian decided to work on his senior project at Holliston High School, he was inspired by the hymns he grew up with at the Church of the Holy Translators in nearby Framingham. In a unique undertaking, he would spend the next year arranging and adapting the music of the Armenian Church for English speakers.

Working from translations of choir songs completed by Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan and revised by the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, Sabounjian rearranged the placement of lyrics and the breakup of individual notes while preserving the melody of each piece.

“I felt that having this as a tool for the church would be beneficial,” he said, adding that it might help young non-Armenian speakers become better acquainted with the hymns of the *badarak*.

Sabounjian focused specifically on the Yegmalian Divine Liturgy, which is commonly used in parishes in the Eastern Diocese. Among the hymns he adapted are *Khorhoort Khoreen* (Deep Mystery), *Sourp Sourp* (Holy Holy), *Krisdos Ee Mech* (Christ in our Midst) and *Der Voghormya* (Lord Have Mercy).

“It was a very complicated process,” said Stuart Britton, choral director at Holliston High School, who supervised Sabounjian’s project. “He really stretched himself as a student.”

Elise Durgarian, the choir director at Holy Translators Church, was also supportive of the project. She helped assemble four singers to record some of Sabounjian’s adaptations and offer feedback.

Britton was so impressed with Sabounjian’s work that he invited him to conduct Holliston’s choral group. Sabounjian’s classmates learned and sang *Sourp Sourp* in Armenian and in the English language adaptation during a concert last December.

“I was amazed at how quickly a non-Armenian choir learned the Armenian lyrics

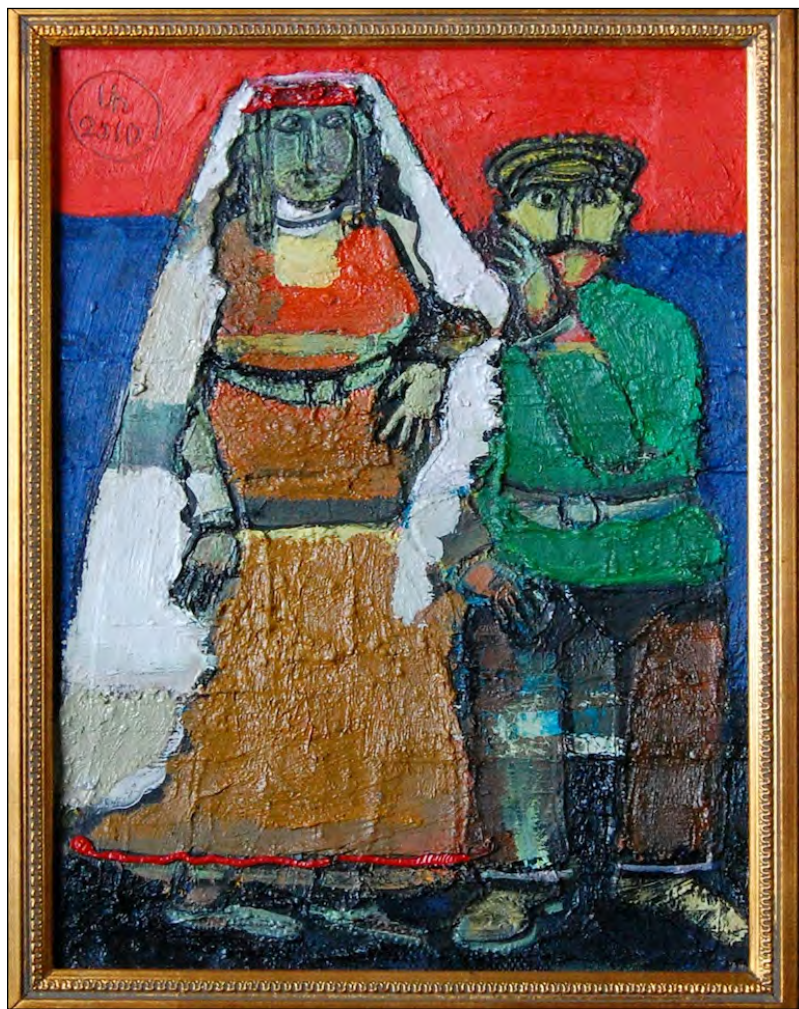


Michael Sabounjian with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

and truly grasped the authentic Armenian feel of the hymn,” Sabounjian said. “It was a pleasure to work with such a cooperative and versatile choral group.”

Following their performance at the school, Michael Sabounjian’s father, the Rev. Krikor Sabounjian, who serves as the pastor of Holy Translators Church, invited the group to give a performance for the parish. They sang in Armenian during the Christmas Eve liturgy in January and at the Christmas dinner that followed, with Michael Sabounjian conducting all performances.

“He had enough conducting chops that he was able to learn how to lead the choir,” said Britton, adding that Michael Sabounjian’s classmates were enthusiastic about learning the new pieces. see INSPIRATION, page 17



Some of the many cookbooks written by Arto Der Haroutunian

## ‘Crosses + Icons’ Exhibit Celebrates Form And Christianity

NEW YORK — Crosses and icons as powerful metaphors of our transient, material bodies connect us to our immaterial, spiritual selves. Presented by the Women’s Guild Central Council of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), “Crosses + Icons: Celebrating Spirituality,” is a group art exhibition that will be held on October 29 and 30 at the Gulbenkian Hall of the St. Vartan Cathedral complex.

As the title of the exhibition indicates, works by the above four artists based in Yerevan address an extensive and rich range of representations of the concept of spirituality through religious, collective and individual symbols, icons and approaches. The exhibition will present paintings and several newly-invented mediums that reveal original, cutting-edge art, all of which skillfully resist technological reproduction.

History is a powerful presence in the paintings and other artworks of Ararat Sarkissian. Sarkissian’s vast output includes depictions of the Armenian alphabetical characters produced in a cycle of unique prints made of embossed handmade paper in conjunction with the medium of oil. In his Yerevan studio, Sarkissian painstakingly simulates two-dimensional *khachkars* as historical memories of recently eradicated tombstones of our ancestors, such as those insensitively abolished in the ancient Armenian cemetery of Jugha in 2005. As Sona Hamalian indicates, “much of Ararat Sarkissian’s art reflects a lifelong fascination with signs, *khachkars*, crosses and icons. It’s a fascination that goes to the heart of symbol-making and recording history — its mechanics, cultural underpinnings and evolution across the ages.” The numerous mediums that Sarkissian ingeniously re-invents reveal a relentless urge and rare commitment to the field of visual representation that is at once Armenian and universal.

A series of paintings by Sarkis Hamalbashyan reach back to the icons of medieval manuscripts. These images are replete with references to a broad range of Western art-historical masterpieces as well, evoking the figures of Velasquez with the intense, bold, highly-colorful and expressionistic signature of German Expressionism of the 20th century. In a suite of paintings, Hamalbashyan tackles the Armenian pair of a man and a woman enveloped in their traditional garbs, creating fascinating images as paradigms of an Armenian fauvism. In another painting, Hamalbashyan transforms an ordinary, everyday genre scene of a person having a meal into a chromatically-powerful picture that absorbs the spectator into an undefinable time and place. Through his “primitivistic” style, both his domestic scenes and religious icons reveal the boundless power of painting. These highly-engaging figures are replete with references to such Armenian masters as Martiros Saryan and Minas Avetisyan. Hence, Hamalbashyan constructs a postmodern language where histories richly pile up and traditions are continually renewed.

With strong graphic lines and layers of paint, Mariam Khachatryan (Moko)

see EXHIBIT, page 15

## Art Exhibition and Concert at AUA’s Akian Art Gallery

*A Focus on Art on the Third Day of AUA’s Celebration of Education Week*

YEREVAN — During a week-long Celebration of Education, the American University of Armenia (AUA) opened an exhibition of artwork by Karen Alekyan and Hrach Vardanyan, both of Gumri, followed by a quartet musical concert by renowned singer-composer Lilit Pipoyan and her group. The exhibition was open through Friday, October 7.

This exhibition was the third such major event after the opening of the Akian Art Gallery on June 1, last year. AUA’s Akian Art Gallery was made possible by the donation of the Akian Family Foundation and helps realize the university’s objective of promoting art as part of its overall mission. AUA President Bruce Boghosian said, “AUA is proud to be able to exhibit premiere artwork from contemporary artists and private collections. The Akian Gallery allows us to host world-class exhibitions that are open and accessible to all Yerevan residents. Especially because we do not offer degree programs in the arts at this time, we feel that it is particularly important for AUA to host these kinds of exhibitions. Fine art is, after all, an essential part of the human intellectual endeavor and ought to have a place at every institute of higher learning. We are particularly happy to be able to promote the works of young, talented Armenian artists.”

The display of fences by Alekyan illustrated unexpected facets of the extraordinary within the ordinary through artworks that compel the viewer to examine their surroundings with fresh eyes. The artworks play with the traditional notion that art must express everyday life, but it also must be elevated beyond that, both in its content and its medium. The artist explained that his works “can be compared to contemporary art designed to transfer the viewer into the past, both mentally and emotionally.” Vardanyan’s works are frank expressions of feeling, which add to his description of each work, but do not overwhelm the viewer with interpretation. He simply said that he expresses in his works the emotions felt in himself and others.

Following the opening of the art exhibition, there was a display of pastries, created by AUA chefs, both artistic and tasty. In addition, a concert took place, including: Pipoyan, piano and voice, Manan Garukyan, violin, Guerondi Antonyan, cello, and Nelly Manoukian, flute. The Akian Art Gallery was converted to an intimate concert hall that mesmerized the capacity audience to Pipoyan’s own compositions and other Armenian folk music. “This evening was a perfect mixture of excellent talent,” said one of the attendees. “Both the art exhibition and concert will stay with me for a long time to come. This evening was a perfect expression of art in different forms.”

Alekyan was born in 1975 in Gumri. From 1998 to 2004, he attended the Academy of Fine Arts in Yerevan. Since 2009, Alekyan is lecturer of graphic art and design at the Gumri branch of the Academy of Fine Arts. Alekyan’s solo exhibitions include the 1989 After the earthquake exhibit in Venice, Italy; his exhibit at the Art College of Gumri, in 2002; the Future that has passed in Yerevan, in 2007 and in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in 2011. Alekyan also has participated in several group exhibitions, including the following five exhibitions in 2008: Pop-Art at the Aslamazyan Sisters’ House Museum in Gumri; Installation at Gallery 25 in Gumri; the International Biennial exhibition in Gumri; Feminism at One Gallery in Yerevan; 20th Anniversary of the Gumri Earthquake, in Yerevan; Social Mutation and The Way It Is exhibitions in Yerevan, in 2009; the International Biennial in Gumri in 2010; the Rusty Pumpkin and the Body, New Figurative see AUA, page 17





# Salute to Armenia

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – September 10 was the occasion of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence. The performance was presented by The Armenian Music Festival of Rhode Island, Inc., and it was supported by Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, Saints Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church and Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church. The program, titled "Salute to Armenia," was held at the Catholic Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul in Providence. Approximately 1,000 people were in attendance for this program under the auspices of The Embassy of Armenia to the United States and the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations.

Co-chairs were Aram Garabedian, Ara Bohigian and conductor Konstantin Petrossian. Many members of the clergy as well as local politicians were in attendance lending their support to this event. Garen Nazarian, Armenia's ambassador to the United Nations was the guest speaker. Guest composers, Martin



The Rev. Monsignor Anthony Mancini

Vardazarian and Levon Chausyan, from Armenia, whose works were performed, attended. Many soloists and the Armenian Chorales of Rhode Island and Greater Worcester along with the Philharmonic Community Symphony Orchestra of Rhode Island comprised the talent for the evening.

The daunting task of coordinating all of the talent for this evening fell to Petrossian. He has great vision concerning the assemblage of such musical talent. Due to the number of standing ovations, it was apparent that the audience agreed.



Ambassador Garen Nazarian

With such a huge number of soloists, space dictates that the comments be as succinct as possible.

The concert opened with the soulful *Dzon Hayrenikeen* for Chorale and Orchestra by Chausyan. Joanne Mouradjian, soprano, along with Alexan Tokatlyan, violinist, performed Gomidas' *Groong* with incredible expression. Kate Norigian, soprano, accompanied by David Griego, flautist, performed the folk tune *Dzidzernag, Gakavig*, seemingly creating the beautiful effect of the delicate birds. Garo Nichanian, bass-baritone, seems to evoke verve. Gohar Manjeliikian, mezzo-soprano performed *Siro Khosk Hayastaneen* by Varazaryan with her mellifluous tones. David Ayriyan, performed the traditional folk tune *Dele Yaman* on the *kemancha*, the Armenian string instrument. Soprano Debra Pjojian delivered a skillful performance of Khachatourian's *Karoon Yerevan*. David Gevorkian and Mher Saribekyan each played the Armenian wooden wind instrument, the *duduk*. Victoria Avetisyan, mezzo-soprano,



Ambassador and Mrs. Garen Nazarian with committee member George Chakoian



Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian

provided a superb rendition of Petrossian's *Diramayr*. Tenor, Yeghishe Manucharyan, performed a demanding aria from the opera "Anoush" with incredible clarity. The youngest of the evening's performers, just 9-years-old, David Alexander, sang beautifully *America the Beautiful*, in honor of 9/11 victims.

A special reception was co-hosted and sponsored by Sylvia Long and Sondra Pitts. A reception for the public was sponsored by Aram Garabedian. A reception for the performers was sponsored by the Urartu Society.

The evening was pitch perfect – a night to be proud to be Armenian.

– Shirley Ventrone



Aram G. Garabedian, co-chair





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# — Grand Tribute



Konstantin Petrossian, David Alexander and Ara Boghigian, co-chair



Gohar Manjelian



The soloists of the chorale



Joanne Mouradjian and Alexan Tokatlian



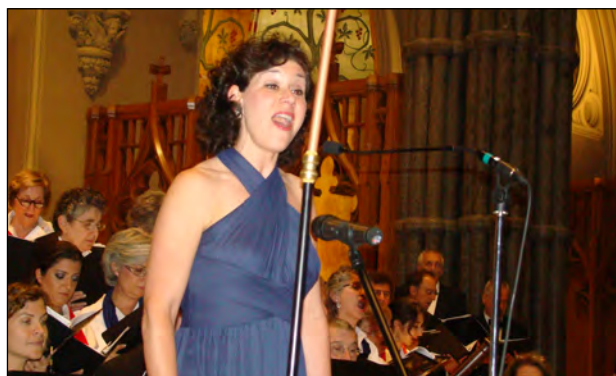
Levon Chaushian and Kon. Petrossian



David Gevorkian and Mher Saribekian



David Ayriyan



Debra Pjojian



Garo Nicheanian



Martin Vardazarian



Yeghishe Manucharian



Kate Norigian and David Griego

## ‘Crosses + Icons’ Exhibit Celebrates Form and Christianity

EXHIBIT, from page 13

creates paintings that echo opulent Gothic stained-glass windows. A close look at Moko's paintings reveals intense gestural engagements, whereby surfaces at once contain controlled, angular and geometric lines in the company of loose, painterly brushstrokes. As this duality connects her work to aspects of Cubism, Constructivism and Abstract Expressionism, it gives rise to a distinct direction of postmodern abstraction. In Moko's compositions, line functions not as mere support; it is design with its own values. This labor of love of Moko compellingly bridges the gaps between the artist,

paint and beholder.

The viscous physicality present in the gestures of the oil paintings of Hamlet Hovsepian translates as allegory of the pictorial narratives of Genesis — the Creation of the Universe, Earth and Life... In these pictures space and matter are given rise through ongoing coloristic dialogues. Brushstrokes — broad, narrow, curvular, diagonal, vertical and horizontal — culminate in dramatic spaces that at times suggest landscapes while at other times reveal pure forms in vacant, spiritual spaces. From what seems to be eruptive graffiti marks that indicate a form of obsessive tracing of the artist's

hand emerges an aesthetic sensibility that can be summed up as surreal elegance. This paradox is not only an aesthetic one but embodies the body-spirit duality. In this sense Hamlet Hovsepian's paintings reveal themselves as allegories of matter, space, body, spirit and transcendence.

By conflating archeology and contemporary creativity, “Crosses + Icons: Celebrating Spirituality” showcases works by some of the greatest contemporary artists to an Armenian-American audience. The exhibition unwraps a riveting experience, as if it were a part of a journey to a virtual old and new Armenia — an affec-

tionate, undying place, a beguiling motherland, a timeless fatherland, an exotic homeland, our marvelous soil.

The exhibition is curated by Vicki Hovanessian, collector and director of VH Contemporary Art, with the collaboration of Raphy Sarkissian, Faculty at the School of the Visual Arts, New York.

The exhibition is open to the public, free of charge. Viewing hours on Saturday, October 29, are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Sunday, October 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Opening reception will take place on Saturday, October 29, from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Armenian Heritage Park Marks Unique Private and Public Collaboration

HERITAGE PARK, from page 1

The base was transported to Boston this week from the firm's headquarters in Peabody.

Speaking recently from their sprawling, 120,000-square-foot headquarters, the members of the Mardiros family, including Aurelian Mardiros, who founded the firm along with his wife, Anahit, and their sons, Antranig and Vartan, discussed their work, the evolution of A&A Industries and their decision to gift the monument and the base to the Armenian Heritage Park.

(A third son, Gary, also works for the family firm but was away the day of the visit.)

The monument, designed by architect Donald Tellalian and engineered by Gregorian Engineers, is 14 feet long, 10 feet wide and one foot deep and was lifted by crane to be put into the hole dug for it.

The base had "steel rods and templates of what the sculpture would look like facing down," said Antranig Mardiros. In fact, much thought and effort has gone into the base so that the reconfiguring of the statue would always go smoothly.

Tellalian said that the reconfigurations for the next 30 years have already been planned.

## From Romania to Boston

The Mardiroses got the idea to donate the sculpture after they were approached by the Knights of Vartan.

"Three years ago, the Knights of Vartan held a convocation and they brought up that the most important thing is that whatever we do, the Armenian Genocide should be recognized at the Armenian Heritage Park. It is important that we acknowledge what happened 100 years ago. There is not a price that you can put on that," said Aurelian Mardiros.

Aurelian Mardiros arrived from Romania in 1975 and married Anahit, a fellow Romanian-Armenian, in 1980.

He started his firm in 1978. The company does specialized machining and manufacturing jobs, where precision to the minutest degree is called for, in fields such as defense, high tech, medicine and aerospace, including working on a part of a Rolls Royce aircraft engine. They do not do any architectural work and the Armenian Heritage Park project is the first of its kind for them.

The next area they are expanding into is



Work is being done on the reflecting pool at the Armenian Heritage Park

His brother, Vartan, concurred, adding that the size of their plant also helps them in getting some large contracts as well as contracts for large items, which smaller companies with smaller plants would not be able to accommodate.

The company has about 40 employees.

Anahit Mardiros, the chief financial officer of the company, said, "We want to see the company grow and see the children follow in our footsteps and stay tied to the community."

## Road to the Park

The Armenian community's road to the Armenian Heritage Park has been a long and arduous one yet the project was able to unite

got as many involved as possible and worked on a mission statement and guidelines. This cause is one everyone shares. The community deserves a lot of credit. We all worked hard to keep people focused. We were finally speaking with one voice."

Kalustian said the mission of the park is twofold: remember the Armenian Genocide and celebrate the immigrant heritage. Thus, he said, "it is very, very inclusive."

"It is the moral satisfaction of doing something for the community," Aurelian Mardiros added. "The value of this project is that when a tourist comes to Boston, we are going to get a level of recognition for our identity and our culture."

Tellalian also praised the North End community for their support.

Kalustian explained the road to the opening of the park. "It's progressing well. There was a delay in July when we uncovered the remnant of a slurry wall from an earlier construction but it is no trouble."

The heavy construction, he noted, would be completed in the fall, with the rest of the work

Kalustian said they would need to raise at least \$200,000 more to get to a grand total of \$6 million to ensure that the project will be maintained in perpetuity.

To reach its goal, the Armenian Heritage Foundation will host a fundraiser on November 7, titled Party at the Other Park, at the Ted Williams Pavilion Club of Fenway Park. Minimum donation is \$150 per person. For donations of \$1,000 or more, visitors can have a tour of the park. There will be food, drinks, as well as sports and television celebrities.

"It is going to be a fun event," Kalustian said.

Kalustian praised the efforts of all involved in designing and constructing the monument, as well as several others for keeping everyone on the same page.

Kalustian praised not only the Armenians involved with the project, but several well-placed friends of the community. "[Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation] Jeff Mullan and Gov. Deval Patrick were incredibly cooperative."

In addition, the K. George and Carolann S.



The base of the monument at A&A Industries, before being delivered to the site at the Armenian Heritage Park

robotics, Antranig Mardiros said.

Aurelian Mardiros had learned the trade of precision cutting in Romania and when he arrived in the US, he studied business for three years. He combined his two areas of knowledge by opening a precision cutting plant in South Boston in 1978. The company moved several times, each time to a bigger plant, until they finally settled into their massive digs in Peabody in 1994.

One of the reasons for their success has been that the firm took jobs only in the high tech and semi-conductor industries, rather than automotive. "This is a fast-paced, high-growth sector," said Antranig Mardiros.

the Greater-Boston Armenian community as few have in recent decades.

"It was definitely worth it," said Tellalian, adding that it was "the generosity and skills of such families as the Mardiros family, and the unity of the Armenian community and resolve of fundraising" that has made the project possible.

Concurred Antranig Mardiros, "It shows that unity among Armenians actually exists."

"We sowed the seeds for that early on," said James Kalustian, the president of the Armenian Heritage Foundation and a tireless proponent of the project. "The Knights spearheaded a group of organizations and churches. We wanted to make sure that everyone was involved. We



The abstract monument at the A&A Industries' plant, before the triangular plates are installed on the skeleton

finished by spring.

## Fundraiser, Lecture Planned

So far, the project has raised close to \$5.8 million. Kalustian said that \$3 to \$3.5 million is needed to build the structure and the reflecting

Najarian, MD Lecture on Human Rights, a program of the Armenian Heritage Foundation, will be held on Thursday, October 20, at 7 p.m. at Faneuil Hall, with keynote speaker Paul Rusesabagina, a Rwandan human rights activist. The program is free and open to the public.



# Young Musician Finds Inspiration In the Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church

INSPIRATION, from page 13

A dedicated member of the Armenian Church, Sabounjian is a graduate of his parish Sunday School, who has served as a sub-deacon and helped train young acolytes to serve on the altar at Holy Translators Church. He has also participated in various Diocesan programs, including St. Vartan Camp and the summer conferences at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

This fall, Sabounjian began coursework at Boston College, where he will continue studying music. In the meantime, he is working on adapting the priest and deacon's chants of the Divine Liturgy.

# Art Exhibition and Concert at AUA's Akian Art Gallery

AUA, from page 17

Art in Armenia exhibitions in Yerevan, in 2010; A Book About Death exhibit at the Firehouse Gallery in New York; the Black and White exhibit at the historic museum of Florida in Uruguay and Me Among My Friends Open Personalities exhibit at the MA Vrubel Museum in Omsk, Russia.

Vardanyan was born in 1987 in Gumri, Armenia. From 2005 to 2010 he attended the Gumri branch of Yerevan Institute of Fine Arts. During his years at the institute, he founded the 15/3 Studio-Art Group. Vardanyan has exhibited at the Gumri International Contemporary Art Biennial in 2007 and 2010. His other exhibitions include participation in the international exhibit dedicated to Mozart's 250th anniversary in Vienna, Austria, in 2006; Art Irrespective of Methods exhibition in Gumri, in 2007; City Exhibition in Gumri, in 2007; Undercurrent Shifts in Yerevan, in 2008; City 2, also in 2008; Football Diplomacy, an interactive project with 15/3 in 2009 and a solo exhibition in Fresno, Calif., in 2008.

Pipoyan graduated from the Romanos Melikyan musical college. She writes both the lyrics and music of the songs she performs. Her repertory includes folk music, developed for classical and national musical instruments, which she accompanies with piano or guitar. Pipoyan has had performances in several countries. Her three solo and two group albums have received several awards by the Republic of Armenia and have won pan-Armenian awards.

Antonyan was born in Yerevan. Upon graduating the Tchaikovsky Secondary School, he studied cello at the Yerevan State under the renowned Medea Abrahamayan. Shortly after, he was selected as laureate of the 1999 “Virtuosi of the 21st century” international contest in Moscow. He continued his studies at the Ino Mirkovitch Academy of Music in Croatia, under Kiril Rodin. Upon his return, he was employed by the Armenian State Chamber orchestra while doing post-graduate studies at the Yerevan State Conservatory. He has earned accolades at several international contests.

Garukyan was born in Vanadzor. She studied violin at the Yerevan College of Music after Romanos Melikyan, 1986-1991 and at the Yerevan State Conservatory, 1991-1996. Manan has performed with the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, 1991-2002 and subsequently with the Youth Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, Renaissance (Veradznund)

# 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](http://www.ArmenianHeritageCruise.com).

## MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

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

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

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

**NOVEMBER 17 — Party at the Other Park! Benefit for the Armenian Heritage Park Endowment.** Fenway Park, Boston. Advance reservations only. For details and reply form, visit [www.ArmenianHeritagePark.net](http://www.ArmenianHeritagePark.net).

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

## NEW JERSEY

**OCTOBER 15 — Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA)** New Jersey affiliate is hosting Health and Wellness Luncheon honoring Mary Toumanjian (AIWA NGO representative in



**On October 13, Mark Mustian, author of the award-winning novel, *The Gendarme*, will give a book reading/singing at the Armenian Library and Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown, at 8 p.m. For more info, visit [www.markmustian.com](http://www.markmustian.com).**

the UN), 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Nisi Estiatorio, 90 Grand Ave., Englewood. RSVP by October 1. Donation, \$40. Mail checks to AIWA NJ affiliate, 1 Manatauk Ave., Fort Lee, NJ 07024. For info, e-mail [aiwanjadfilliate@gmail.com](mailto:aiwanjadfilliate@gmail.com) or call Rose at (201) 941-9890.

**OCTOBER 15 – The Armenian American Health Professional Organization (AAHPO)’s 2011 Gala Banquet and Fundraiser “Help Save Lives! Support the Continuing Medical Education of Doctors in Armenia”** will take place on Saturday, October 15 at the Marriott Glenpointe, 100 Frank W. Burr Boulevard in Teaneck. Cocktails, 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. Donations are \$150. To RSVP by mail, include a list of names of the attendees along with a check made out to “AAHPO” and mail to AAHPO, PO Box 645, Far Hills, NJ 07931. RSVPs can also be submitted online at [www.aahpo.org](http://www.aahpo.org).

## NEW YORK

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

**OCTOBER 28-30 — The annual symposium weekend of the Women's Guild Central Council.** At the St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral Complex and Diocesan Center, New York City. For information, contact Rita Oscherician at (201) 398-0153 or [margherita@optonline.net](mailto: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](http://www.shushidance.org).

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

Orchestra, Armenakob Studio and Opera-Studio of the State Conservatory, 2000-2004. In 2005, Manan founded the New Quartet group, where she also performs. She has given benefit concerts in Montreal and Toronto, Canada and has performed in Artsakh, France, US and Armenia, including a solo performance at the Embassy of France in Armenia in 2009. As the violinist of her New Quartet Group, she

has performed at the National Museum of Armenia during the Museum Nights, and at the Vardges Surenyanc-150 event. She has first performed with Pipoyan in December 2010 at the Cafesjian Art Center and continues to do so on special occasions.

Manoukian studied flute and piano at the Yerevan State Conservatory and earned her baccalaureate degree 2004 and doctorate in

2007. She has worked in the jazz orchestra of the State Radio and Television of Armenia as flutist, and at Yerevan State Conservatory as an accompanist. She has performed in several jazz festivals in Armenia and abroad. Manoukian is the winner of the Amadeus contest and actively performs in various jazz ensembles and has been featured in several recordings of leading musicians of Armenia.





## COMMENTARY

## COMMENTARY

# Turkey – The Regional Bully

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu took his office with a self-styled peace offensive to give a human face to his country's battered foreign policy. His goal was double-pronged: zero problems with neighbors and spreading new Ottomanism to increase Ankara's hegemony over nations formerly enslaved by the Ottoman Sultans. The two goals were inherently incongruous because peaceful relations with neighbors required respect towards their sovereignty, which Ankara's policymakers did not seem to care about.

For those analysts studying Turkish foreign policy, Davutoglu's policy was a force to reckon with. But it enjoyed the acquiescence and the encouragement of the major powers, because as Turkey began to implement its newfound policy, it was mindful to pay its dues to those powers. It did not take too long to divulge the farcical nature of that policy, as Turkey adopted a hostile posture against its neighbors.

Ankara's arrogance is nurtured by its economic boom, just as the rest of the world – including its neighbor, Greece – is in alarming crisis. Russia and the Arab world are tributaries feeding Turkey's economic recovery.

The irony of Turkish history is that countries which have armed Turkey and boosted its economy eventually become dependent on Turkey, which, in turn, becomes the necessary evil in formulating their policy and projecting their power in the region. Turkey boasts the second largest standing army in NATO, after the US. Therefore, the Turkish leaders believe they are entitled to a policing role in the region.

Ankara ruined its relations with almost all neighboring countries, while paying lip service to the idea of reducing its problems with them to zero. Let's take a look at some of those "neighborly" relations.

To begin with, it shelved the much-heralded protocols with Armenia. However, recently it placed the issue again on the back burner of the parliamentary agenda to signal a gleam of hope to US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, the architect of the protocol policy.

Relations with the legitimate government of Cyprus were already at a freezing point and Turkey not only refused to move in a positive direction, but it also threatened to send its warship to Cyprus to block the exploration of oil and gas on the continental shelf off that country. The matter was further complicated by the involvement of the American oil company, Noble, and Israeli participation in the exploration. But the bluff did not last long, since Ankara blinked first.

Ankara had already strained relations with Tel Aviv, over the Mavi Marmara incident, for which Turks demanded a public apology and which it did not get.

Not too long ago, Syria had become one of the major trading partners of Turkey, with whom the visa regime was eliminated with great fanfare. Ankara reversed its policy and hosted a Syrian government in exile, which angered Damascus to such a degree that it placed a ban on Turkish imports. At one point, Turkey announced that it was prepared to send its troops to Northern Syria (Der Zor included) to "protect" minorities, among them Armenians.

Today, Turkey is meddling in Syria's internal affairs to destabilize that country.

Angry rhetoric was also exchanged across the border with Greece, which was asked to provide a military base to Israel after tensions escalated with Turkey. Ankara also frowned upon Azerbaijan over the warming of its relations with Israel, which is providing unmanned drones and military hardware to Azerbaijan. One of those drones was only recently shot down in Karabagh.

Israel makes a point with the world community that its security is compromised by rockets launched from the Gaza Strip. One must place the carcass of the Azeri drone next to those rockets, reminding the world that Armenia is equally entitled to secure its borders against drone attacks.

The Turkish onslaught on its neighbors is mostly derived by its domestic policy. It is in the interest of the government to keep its borders under tension, to silence internal dissent.

Ergenekon arrests have made the Turkish military restive. On the other hand, the Kurdish self-determination struggle is continuing relentlessly to warrant vigilance.

Turkey is getting away with murder, because, despite its vitriolic exchanges with Israel, basically it is serving that country's long-term interests, by helping to dismantle all the hostile Arab regimes. Ankara has also agreed to install NATO rocket defense system in Malatia, supposedly to protect Europe from potential Iranian rockets, but actually the move is directed at Russia, by resurrected Cold Warriors, because Russia has a military base next door in Armenia. Even if the installation is limited to Iran, that still compounds Ankara's hostility towards the Damascus-Tehran axis.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan's diatribes against Israel are at best lip service designed to appease the credulous Arab street, so as to gain more lucrative contracts in Muslim countries.

A few words about the Arab spring or Arab awakening, which is nothing more but an Arab nightmare. Egypt for one, supposedly overthrew the dictatorship to bring anarchy, instability and a rise of Muslim fundamentalism. The same is prescribed to the other countries. Regimes which have been hostile to Israel at any given time are targets of this "awakening." Iraq was the first one on the list and now Israel has set up shop in Northern Iraq. Although Muammar Qaddafi gave up all his nuclear and biological warfare ambitions, he was not forgiven because at one time he demonstrated hostility toward Israel. Now the overthrow of another sovereign nation, Syria, is on the agenda, through US muscle, and this time with Turkish cooperation, while Yemen is looming in the background, another hotbed for Arab nationalism!

Ankara's bullying policy towards its neighbors was wrapped up in Erdgoan's speech at the UN. He again paid lip service to the Palestinian cause, but the centerpiece of his discussions with President Barack Obama, while also supposed to be the Palestinian statehood, was switched by him that of fighting PKK "terrorism." The US president agreed, after telling him bluntly that US was to veto Mr. Abbas's bid for Palestinian statehood at the UN Security Council and the only way to attain that statehood was through negotiations with Israel. That way Erdogan did not compromise Turkey's bid to be elected to the Security Council membership in the future.

Armenians have been patting each others on the back that the football diplomacy drove Ankara into a corner and that the ball is Ankara's court. That ball might wait at that court for a long time, since Turkey has still a lot of bullying to do with its neighbors, with the open encouragement, duplicity and hypocrisy of the major world powers.

## THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Established 1932

An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

PRODUCTION

Dilani Yegaratanam

### CONTRIBUTORS:

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

### CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian

Boston - Nancy Kalajian

Philadelphia - Lisa Manookian

### Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair Hovsepian

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

### Baika Association, Inc.

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

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

Other than the editorial, views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the policies of the publisher.

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

### Baika Association, Inc.

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

Check us out at  
mirrorspectator.com

## Analysis: Putin's Election as President Will Change Armenia's Foreign-Policy Trends

By Naira Hayrumyan

The domestic political intrigue in Russia has ended as it became known that the candidate of the ruling Yedinaya Rossia (United Russia) party for the presidency in 2012 will be current Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, and current President Dmitry Medvedev is ready to work in the government.

This announcement made on Saturday has become an occasion for expert opinions that Russia will strengthen its policy in the South Caucasus, including in its relations with Armenia.

"The Russians have started to blackmail Armenia over the apparent rapprochement of the Armenian leadership with the Americans

and the French, even despite more than patent assurances that Armenia remains a member of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and within the former military and political relations with Russia. It is alleged that recently the Russian leadership received information from their intelligence services that Armenia has entered into more binding relationship with the United States and NATO," says Armenian political scientist Igor Muradyan.

Under the presidency of Putin, Russia will toughen its policy in the South Caucasus. Such an opinion in an interview with REGNUM news agency was expressed by another Armenian political analyst, deputy director of the Caucasus Institute in Yerevan, Sergey Minasyan. "Under Putin, Russia will maintain a more assertive policy in the South Caucasus, and it will meet the interests of Armenia. As we

know, President Putin has had a more pragmatic approach to the problems of the region than Medvedev," said Minasyan.

The analyst stressed that in this case the pressure on the parties to the Karabagh conflict in terms of preventing a new war will continue to grow, and generally, Russia will try to freeze the process.

In his turn, member of the Russian Academy of Sciences Alexander Skakov believes that "in reality it does not matter whether Medvedev or anyone else be president, to make progress in resolving the Karabagh conflict was impossible per se."

"The return of the 'helm' of Russia into the hands of Vladimir Putin is taking place against the background of a massive and very dangerous asymmetry in international processes and see ANALYSIS, page 19





## COMMENTARY



## My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Dr. Charny Deserves Much Credit Should Israel Recognize The Armenian Genocide

Armenians have good reason to be offended by the Israeli government's failure to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide. It is unconscionable that some victims of the Holocaust can be so insensitive about those who have suffered a similar fate. Israel's callous denial has been motivated by its unethical desire to appease Turkey – its "strategic ally."

Dr. Israel Charny, like so many Israeli citizens, vehemently opposes his government's shameful stand on the Armenian Genocide. He is the longtime director of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem and former president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. On numerous occasions, Dr. Charny has taken a strong stand against Israeli officials, rebuking them for their deplorable position on the Armenian Genocide.

Earlier this year, the president of Armenia awarded Dr. Charny a presidential medal and a \$10,000 prize for his lifelong efforts to champion recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Since Charny did not have the opportunity to make a speech during the award ceremony in Yerevan, I wish to

present key excerpts from his prepared remarks:

"Denials of genocide are very unfair, unjust and ugly. They are also extremely dangerous not only to the victim people, but to our human civilization. Denials of genocide are disgusting attempts to humiliate the victim people once more, and hurtful reopening of wounds of stigmatizing and persecuting the victim people once again.

"Moreover, denials of genocide are also loud and clear affirmations of the legitimacy of violence; they are retroactive justifications of the specific violent killing that was done in the genocide; and they are warnings and calls for renewal of violence – whether towards the same victim people or to other peoples. In fact, it has become clear that denials of genocide often are messages from the deniers that they are already engaged in or preparing to be violent once again.

"It is not at all by chance that [Turkish prime minister] Erdogan in the last year twice has threatened to expel 100,000 Armenians from Turkey; and it is not at all by chance that Erdogan's Turkey – a regime that is bizarrely devoted to denials of the Armenian Genocide – continues to be violent towards the Kurdish people who have suffered thousands of destroyed villages, tens of thousands of dead, and who are frequently not allowed by the Turkish government to use their language or celebrate their culture.

"Israel has been attempting to have a good relationship with Turkey very much at the expense of the truth of the Armenian Genocide. I am convinced this policy has been deeply wrong. Of course, I do not believe that nations – especially small ones – can afford not to evaluate political realities and security risks, but I think that in the long run there must be limits to the extent of realpolitik and that denials of the history of a genocide are beyond the limit that should be acceptable.

"I cannot take leave without a further reference to the State of Israel's recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Israel has been entirely wrong in not recognizing the

Armenian Genocide. At the same time, thank heaven I have been able to say now for many years that we have won the battle for recognition of the Armenian Genocide in Israeli culture, our media, and in our public. When a few years ago a delegation of four of us – Prof. Yair Auron, Prof. Yehuda Bauer, former Minister Yossi Sarid and myself – came to lay wreaths at the Armenian Genocide Memorial [in Yerevan], we indeed represented our larger Israeli society.

"At this very writing we have been informed that the Knesset will hold a major hearing on recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The overall Knesset has already voted – now for the third time in Israeli history – to hold hearings on possible recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Each of these votes has represented some progress towards our goal. In the Israeli system a proposal then has to be reviewed and decided by a major committee of the Knesset. Politics are not simple, as you know, and our opponents have succeeded in the past in defeating the recognition at this level.

"This time the proposal will go to the Committee on Education where, unlike proceedings in the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Security where a proposal even can be buried without any discussion at all and no one knows what happened, discussion and voting in the Education Committee will be publicly known to us. My closest colleagues and I have not been too hopeful of success, but now there is more possibility of success than we previously estimated. In truth, the possibility of recognition is greater now that Turkey has shown its vicious side to Israel, and there are many of us who will be ashamed if we now achieve recognition for this reason rather than on the basis of a real correction of Israel's error all these years."

As Israeli journalist Raphael Ahren accurately pointed out in a recent *Ha'aretz* article: "If Israel recognizes the Turkish genocide of over 1 million Armenians in the near future, it may be largely due to the decades long efforts of American-born scholar Israel Charny."

## Putin's Election as President Will Change Armenia's Foreign-Policy Trends

ANALYSIS, from page 18  
the crisis of a global economic system. And the task for today is to ensure a new 'Putin dynamics' in the Russian foreign policy, to clearly designate its accents," says REGNUM news agency deputy chief editor in charge of international information Vigen Hakobyan.

Earlier, Armenian experts, discussing the parallels between the internal politics of Armenia and Russia, put forward the hypothesis that the presidential nomination of Putin in Russia will not only change the influence of Russia on foreign policy trends in Armenia, but will also increase the chances of ex-president Robert Kocharian. The minister of foreign affairs of the Kocharian presidency era Vartan Oskanian recently hinted that the ex-president can take part in the parliamentary elections slated for spring 2012. To this testify also the more frequent interviews of Kocharian, in which he criticizes the current economic policies, arguing that during his time as president an unprecedented growth and prosperity for the country were ensured.

In this connection interesting is the current tour of President Serge Sargsisian over the Western countries – the United States, France and Poland. Experts already hint that Sargsisian is apparently looking to the West for support in the future elections. And the fact that in the United States he was awarded a prestigious medal, of the Ellis Island, for his contribution to the development of US-Armenian relations, was regarded by Armenian newspapers as a sign of such support.

(Naira Hayrumyan is a correspondent for ArmeniaNow.)

## THE ALL ARMENIAN CARTHOLICOS OF BLESSED MEMORY

By Ashot Vavyan

The prophets are persons sent by God, transmitting His words, called to certain mission by the Almighty. They are the men of future, whose words and actions are not accessible for the surrounding, and for understanding them certain period of time is needed. This is the reason for which they are not perceived in their own surrounding, and even are subjected to persecutions. "A Prophet is without honor only in his hometown, among his relatives, and in his own home," says Jesus in the *Gospel*.

In the opinion of the Italian writer, historian and scholar Giovanni Guaita, His Holiness Karekin I is a person playing a prophetic role in the contemporary history and in the history of the Armenian Church. The words of praise about Vehapar were not so abundant in his homeland, while his merit was greatly appreciated abroad. The greatness of the Catholicos of all Armenians was noticed by the "poetess of all Armenians," Silva Kaputikian, who mourned thus when he left us. "It's a great pity that the 131st Catholicos left us so early, and so tragically was interrupted his speech, that sounded so beautifully upon his lips demonstrating the most valuable abilities of the Armenian mind and language. Fortunately, his deeds remained beneficial for the nation – numerous and various works which are written testimonies of his extraordinary talent and his Armenian soul. They have much to do in this money-worshipping and demoralizing times."

Son of Hagop and Ovsanna Sarkissian, the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I, of Blessed Memory, was born in the Syrian town of Kessab, populated by Armenians. He studied theology in Oxford, where he defended in English his famous graduation thesis, "The Council of Chalcedon and the Armenian Church." As the dean of Antelias Seminary, as the Prelate of Iranian-Indian or Eastern Prelacy of the North America, everywhere under his leadership was recorded success in the national-ecclesiastical life. Thanks to his efforts, the Catholicosate became a member of the World Council of Churches, where he took leading positions.

His time coincided with some of the most difficult times for the Great House of Cilicia, namely the Lebanese civil war, but *Vehapar*, with its wisdom, managed to safeguard the Armenian

community. During those years, under bombing attacks, many implementations were made in the religious, national, educational, cultural and constructional spheres of the community. In the communities everywhere he found warm reception. He was enjoying a great reputation, sympathy and respect also among the religious and political figures of other nations, which was very beneficial for the church and the nation. As a famous figure of the ecumenical and interreligious movement, his exhortation to his people was to "keep pace with the world without going astray from our road."

His Holiness was a man of faith, idea and action, he never sought to obtain an office or a special position. Eventually he was nominated for the Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia and then as Karekin II as Catholicos of All Armenians. But there was much to be done, and unfinished works were left, too. Vehapar was assured that the people of Armenia needed him and were waiting for him. But Vehapar's coming to Armenia was the Lord's project, which was testified in the Mother Cathedral in the sermon devoted to the 10th anniversary of his passing, when His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, as if under the Heaven's influence, said: "In historically hard times His Holiness answered to the God's call, came to shepherd his flock, he came to serve his people as a Patriarch of All Armenians. The yoke was heavy, but remembering Moses's commandment to J shua, telling him, "be courageous, because the Spirit of God is with you," he came to be a Brave Shepherd. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he continued to guide his flock and lead to the Source of the Light."

It was not easy for *Vehapar* to act among the people who were Christian only outwardly, where still the Soviet atheism dominated, where almost the whole society took into account the unwritten norms of the "goghakan (stealth) ideology." He had to feel, that only a few of the people meeting him were frank and that everybody sought only personal interests. And with pain he would confess, that "it is much easier to build where nothing exists, rather than to restore an atrophied heritage, such as Armenia."

But despite these unfavorable conditions Vehapar managed to carry the cross which, in his own words, had become heavier and did much work in the short period of his being a Catholicos: he undertook the formation of

national Christian consciousness of the population, established promotional and educational institutions, prepared young clerics, formed the organizational structure of the Holy See, opened Church Dioceses, reconstructed and built dozens of churches, published numerous books, presented the ambitious program for the 1700th anniversary of Christianity, shepherded entrusted worldwide flock ... Thanks to the years lasting efforts of the well known ecumenical figure and his theological, scientific valuable works in the whole family of the world Christian Churches was recognized the apostolic origin and nature of the Armenian Church. The isolating disagreements were resolved, the authority of our Church and its people increased significantly. Many undertakings of *Vehapar* directed towards those goals faced the resistance of local clergy with limited burial-ritual outlook, though such will later enjoy the already built bridges.

The abilities of the great intellectual were God-given, the speech pronounced by the great orator in different languages was inspiring even for the leading figures of churches and countries. The Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church would consider fortunate the nation who has a son like him. It was a luck to be his interlocutor, who was the author of these words: "Think for a while, that your uttered words will be like a thing, that will return to you with the joy of happiness caused to another."

The mind was so mighty, that his mother tongue was not enough to verbalize them and new words were born on spot. It's noteworthy to mention the existence of the dictionary comprising nearly 1,700 words which enriched the Armenian language. To the incredible intellectual potential of *Vehapar* was added the surprising industriousness, power of faith, love toward nation and humanity, his sacred mode of life and inimitable kindness.

It's obvious the involvement of Armenians in spreading Christianity, i.e. the key to the happiness of humanity: the first Christian state, lasting presence in Jerusalem, the Armenian Kingdom of Cilicia, centuries of participation in the reign of Byzantium... God has chosen our nation just for the mission of spreading and conservation of this Abrahamic religion and *Vehapar* was exhorting to continue that mission. "The church is called apostolic not only for the works done by Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew: the spirit of see TRIBUTE, page 20





# Tekeyan Centre Fund Armenia Celebrates 20 Years

TCA, from page 1  
Tekeyan Trust (LTT) made a decision to establish a cultural centre in the Motherland and to contribute to the preservation of the national identity. To overcome the obstacles and to succeed, LTT initiated an unprecedented fundraising campaign involving Tekeyan Cultural Association of United States and Canada, Tekeyan devotees, Garo Krikorian, Haigashen Ouzounian, Vartan Ouzounian, Angele Tovmassian, Edmond Azadian and many others significantly contributed to this patriotic initiative both morally and financially. In 1997 the official opening of Tekeyan Centre took place. In 2001 Tekeyan Centre LLC was renamed the Tekeyan Centre Fund.

On the occasion of its 20th anniversary Tekeyan Centre hosted Armenians from various corners of the world. It was heartening to see the assemblage of Tekeyan devotees gathered at Tekeyan Centre in the Motherland to share the common happiness and to pay tribute to the individuals whose great efforts, today, in the heart of Yerevan, made it possible for Tekeyan members to enjoy the hospitality of the cultural centre.

The guests were greeted at Tekeyan Centre with classical music of Arno Babajanian performed by the Estrada-Symphony Orchestra of the Public Radio of Armenia conducted by composer Yervand Yerznkatsyan. The event was opened by Bishop Nathan Hovhannisyan, the head of Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin Publishing Centre who offered the invocation and congratulatory message.

Vartan Ouzounian, the chair of Tekeyan Centre Fund and the Honorary Secretary of London Tekeyan Trust, continued the official

ceremony. In his speech, Ouzounian warmly congratulated all those present on the great occasion and expressed his deepest gratitude to all the benefactors and supporters both from Armenia and the diaspora who had contributed to the establishment of the fund. The chair described the history of the fund and its great achievements along with the difficulties. Now the fund successfully accomplishes purposes set forth in its statute. For two years it has been patronizing five Vahan Tekeyan Schools in Armenia and Artsakh making strong Tekeyan family ties. Due to its educational, cultural, sports and various other projects, the Fund turns the dull routine of students into inspiration and excitement and provokes them to achieve better results at school. Ouzounian also spoke about the further projects of the Fund amongst which are “The Diaspora Archives Library” in cooperation with the Ministry of Diaspora of and “Tekeyan Park,” with the help of Yerevan Municipality.

Then Edmond Azadian, vice president of Central Board of USA/Canada, was invited to the podium to present his congratulatory remarks. Azadian characterized Tekeyan Centre as the symbol of unity and preservation of national heritage. Azadian retraced the early actions of TCA USA/Canada for the benefits of Tekeyan Centre and praised Vartan Ouzounian’s services to the Fund.

Among the people who spoke at the official ceremony of the 20th anniversary were also government officials, Gegham Gharibjanyan and Vazgen Manukyan, as well as Papken Megerian, member of Tekeyan USA and Canada, the Director of Tekeyan Centre Fund Armen Tsulikyan and Sylva Krikorian, the chairperson of London Tekeyan Trust, member of Board of Trustees of TCF and the daughter of Sevan and Garo Krikorian. Sylva Krikorian detailed the idea of Tekeyan Centre, which was too hard to realize. And it became possible due to the efforts of one person – Vartan Ouzounian, who took the responsibility for the construction of Tekeyan Centre. He sacrificed his health, his time and family to complete the project successfully. For many years acting as the fund’s chairman, Ouzounian has been keeping the activity of the fund under his everyday control and serving for its prosperity. On behalf of LTT and TCA, Sylva Krikorian thanked the fund’s chairman and other supporters for their kind deeds.

In appreciation for their long services and commitments to the Armenian Community and for strengthening ties between the Motherland and the diaspora, Gegham Gharibjanyan, the head of staff of Republic of Armenia National Assembly, Vazgen Manukyan, the head of the Public Committee of Republic of Armenia, Vartan Ouzounian, the Chairman of Tekeyan Centre Fund and Azadian received letters of commendation and medals of Tekeyan Centre Fund.

The official part of the event was followed by a cultural program. The entertainment portion of the program was provided by Leyla Saribekian and Arsen Grigorian. The Karin folk



The chorus from the Vahan Tekeyan School in Garpi

group and Arevner youth ensemble as well as talented Tekeyan schoolchildren from Karbi, Yerevan, Stepanavan and Berdзор made a great impression on the audience. Sargis Najaryan recited some poetry by Vahan Tekeyan, Avetik Isahakian, Hamo Sahian and Panos Terlemezyin.

The celebration of the 20th anniversary of Tekeyan Centre continued on the following day, September 11. A group of Diaspora Armenians including the Trustees of Tekeyan Centre Fund left for Yeghegnadzor to take part in the consecration of the Holy Cross Church. Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All

Armenians and Bishop Nathan Hovhannisyan, the head of Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin Publishing Center, received the Tekeyan delegation. At the meeting they underlined the importance of Tekeyan Centre and Tekeyan members in preserving and promoting the Armenian culture, education and science. They also highly appreciated the efforts of Tekeyan devotees aimed at strengthening the Armenia-Diaspora bridge. On the same evening an official banquet was held at Tekeyan Centre; it completed the series of events taking place on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Tekeyan Centre.

## THE ALL ARMENIAN CARTHOLICOS OF BLESSED MEMORY

TRIBUTE, from page 19  
Apostles must live inside ourselves and we must demonstrate it today,” he taught. The man name Nishan Sarkissian at birth, entered Armenia at such a difficult time, that the scars of it are still there. By coincidence, this period marks the turning point: the country discerns business and liveliness, emerges hope, and were moments when some thought that the ground has appeared for sowing God’s justice and law. But alas, the health of *Vehapar* became worse. Incomprehensible are the Lord’s deeds: why He took away His Holiness from us so soon. Maybe *Vehapar* had already carried out God’s project, leaving his influence, his thoughts of great potential, his lines, though clearly written, but time is required for decoding them. And still the followers must come to build the Armenian House on the unshakeable foundation laid by *Vehapar*.

His Holiness’s farewell to this world was also characteristic of those of prophets: the torments were hard, but he bore them with the steadfastness of Christ: “The deceased *Vehapar* was a personality of an extraordinary will. While others suffering with his disease are in bad mood and are often subject to psychic collapse, during his stay in New York Catholics Karekin was never depressed and never lost his mental peace, even when he was in terrible pains. Before his second surgery every day he was coming to the Prelacy where he stayed for hours and with the pain inside he was having appointments with Armenian or foreign important figures, was writing *kondaks* (orders) and letters or was busy with literary activity. The same was doing in his apartment trying to overcome his pains, relying on his pen,” says the archbishop who was with *Vehapar* in those last days.

August 27 was the birthday of His Holiness. And next year will mark the 80th anniversary of the birth of this Great Armenian.

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



KAROUN  
Restaurant

Entertainment Fridays  
and Saturdays

SMOKING AREA AVAILABLE  
Eurdolian Family

# The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

YES, I would like a 1-year subscription to The Armenian Mirror-Spectator.

USA/Second Class Mail \$75.00 CANADA /Air Mail \$125.00  
USA/First Class Mail \$120.00

☐ THE SUBSCRIPTION IS FOR ME

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....  
CITY ..... STATE ..... ZIP .....

☐ THE SUBSCRIPTION IS A GIFT FOR:

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....  
CITY ..... STATE ..... ZIP .....

Please make check payable to: The Armenian Mirror-Spectator and mail to:  
755 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472-1509

All payments must be drawn on US banks

# SUBSCRIBE TODAY!