

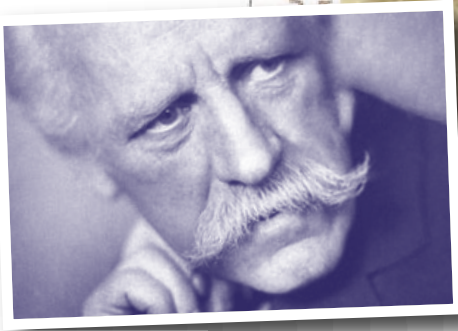
Armenia Marks 150th Anniversary of Nansen's Birth with Monument, Stamp

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The unveiling of a bust of Norwegian humanitarian Fridtjof Nansen, one of the greatest friends of the Armenian people, took place on November 9.

"This statue adds to the several schools, streets, orphanages and hospitals bearing the name of Nansen, scattered across Armenia – in Yerevan, Spitak, Gumri, Vanadzor and elsewhere – signifying the warmth and reverence of the Armenian people towards the fond memory and name of Nansen," Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian said in his remarks.

"The human memory is a special repository of history, which preserves with particular gratitude the illuminating names of those who have devoted their lives to sowing seeds of kindness for the sake of the highest universal values," he said.

"Rendering assistance during the most difficult period for the Armenian people, Nansen saved not only hundreds of thousands of Armenians, see NANSEN, page 2



Left, Fridtjof Nansen. above, a stamp honoring Fridtjof Nansen. (See editorial on Nansen on Page 18.)

Knights Pay Tribute to Aurelian Mardiros as Man of the Year

Rachel Kaprielian, John Peterson also Honored

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

BOSTON – Hundreds of Knights and Daughters of Vartan as well as friends and family gathered at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel on Friday, November 11, to pay tribute to Aurelian Mardiros as the Knights' Man of the Year.

Mardiros' family had prepared a brief documentary on their patriarch, charting his life from his birth in the centuries-old Armenian community in Moldova,

The movie showed a clip from the groundbreaking of the Peabody plant, with the late Peabody Mayor Peter Torigian and Massachusetts House Speaker George Keeverian.

Mardiros spoke briefly and humbly upon receiving the award. He thanked his wife, Anahid, and sons, Gary, Antranig and Vartan, as well as the Knights. "I am impressed with what I've seen [of your work] in Karabagh and said he was "honored to be able to do that," referring to the Armenian Heritage Park. "Thank you. I am very touched."

Heather Krafian, last year's Community Leader Award winner, introduced this year's recipient, Registrar of Motor Vehicles Rachel Kaprielian. "She is a very special lady. She is a role model for

Apple Co-Founder Wozniak Visits Armenia to Receive Presidential Award

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) – Steve Wozniak, one of the legendary founders of Apple, received a state award from President Serge Sargsisian on Friday, November 11, at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Armenia initiated by the South Caucasus country's government and information technology (IT) industry.



Steve Wozniak receives a medal from President Serge Sargsisian.

Wozniak, a 61-year-old American computer engineer and programmer who was at the heart of Apple, together with the late Steve Jobs and Ronald Wayne, was honored by the Armenian leadership for his "outstanding contribution to humanity."

In his remarks at the ceremony, Sargsisian called Wozniak "a person who has revolutionized the world."

"I hope that this special award and the example of Steve Wozniak will inspire families in Armenia to encourage their children to study, so that these children will also achieve heights and render similar great services to their homeland and the whole humanity," Sargsisian said, as quoted by his press service.

Wozniak is credited with inventing the Apple 1 and Apple 2 computers in the mid-1970s, which kicked off the personal computer revolution. He left Apple in 1987, after 12 years with the company. In the years since, besides becoming a prominent philanthropist, Wozniak has also invented the first see WOZNIAC, page 3



Anahid and Aurelian Mardiros with the Man of the Year award (Jirair Hovsepian photo)

Romania, to his arrival in the US in 1975 and to his ever-expanding business venture, A&A Industries, now based in Peabody. In fact, from a humble start in the US, armed only with the knowledge of machining, he has climbed the ladder of success one rung at a time, finally able to fabricate and donate the central monument and its base for the Armenian Heritage Park in Boston.

Armenians and especially Armenian women."

Kaprielian thanked the assembled, saying, "we are truly one family." She said that having attended the AGBU school in Watertown and being from that city, it was only natural for her that whenever she was campaigning and hitting a particular roadblock in the community at see BANQUET, page 9

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Congress Approves Sale of Attack Helicopters to Turkey To Battle Kurds

WASHINGTON (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The US Congress completed the approval process for the sale of three AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters to Turkey, *Today's Zaman* reported.

The Obama administration formally notified the US Congress on October 28 of an unusual proposal to take three AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopters from the US Marine Corps inventory and sell them to Turkey.

According to US laws, the administration needs to notify Congress over the sale of arms to other countries and seek its authorization. If an arms sale is to a NATO member country, the Congress has 15 days to reject or the sale will be automatically authorized.

Turkey has a long-standing request for Super Cobra helicopters. It has a shortage of these helicopters, required in its ongoing fight against the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

The Congressional approval process for the sale of the \$111-million helicopters to Turkey went through as there was no opposition.

Armenian Church in Istanbul to Host Choir Contest

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The fourth International Istanbul Choir Days Festival will open with a reception at the Macka campus of Istanbul Technical University (ITU).

The event, initiated by the Fortuna Organization, first took place in 2008. This year's lineup, which promises to be the best yet, will present 24 choirs from seven countries: Switzerland, Slovenia, Italy, Greece, Poland, Sweden and Turkey. Running through November 21, admission to the concerts is free of charge, in an effort by festival organizers to spread choir culture in Turkey in a way that will be accessible to all.

The festival is a non-competitive event that focuses on intercultural musical dialogue and introducing choirs from different countries to a variety of musical styles and repertoires. A range of parallel activities including seminars, workshops and sight-seeing tours will be hosted along with the concert series.

A total of 10 concerts and four seminars will be held at a range of historically and culturally important Istanbul venues, including the Armenian Church of the Three Altars in Beyoglu, the Holy Spirit Church and the Mustafa Kemal Amphitheater, across the four-day period of the festival, *Today's Zaman* reported.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

UK Ambassador Completes Mission

YEREVAN (Radiolur) – Ambassador of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Armenia Charles Lonsdale is completing his mission in Armenia. He is leaving with his Armenian wife, promising to continue to encourage tourism to the country.

The forthcoming parliamentary and presidential elections are important steps for Armenia and Lonsdale said he wants them to be the most transparent ones yet. “This is an opportunity for Armenia to demonstrate a step forward in its democratic development,” he said.

Although Great Britain is not directly involved in the process of the settlement of the Karabagh conflict, it is interested in the maintenance of peace and stability in the region, Lonsdale said at a press conference this week. Great Britain has commercial interests in the region and stability is important also from the economic point of view, he added.

“We continue to support the [Organization for Security and Cooperation’s] Minsk process, hoping that the process will lead to a peaceful settlement,” he said. “We would like to see a peace agreement signed, and it primarily depends on two governments,” the ambassador stated.

Serge Sargisian Receives Visiting American Marketing Expert

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President Serge Sargisian received this week professor of international marketing at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University, Philip Kotler.

The president’s press office reported that the president welcomed Kotler and expressed confidence that his visit would be useful for the youth and business circles of Armenia, which strive to improve the marketing and business organization skills.

Stressing that marketing as a science is important for any country with market economy, Sargisian welcomed Kotler’s initiative on establishing a Center for Marketing Excellence in Armenia, which could play an important role in the preparation of high-quality specialists.

Kotler said he is ready to share his experience and knowledge with Armenian youth and business people.

Exhibition of Dogs to Be Held November 20

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – About 150 dogs of 30 breeds will participate November 20 in the international exhibition of dogs that will take place at the Shengavit sport school, Violetta Gabrielyan, chairperson of the Republic of Armenia Dog Association said this week.

According to her, the goal of the exhibition is to present to the public how many breeds exist in the country.

“We have been active since 1994, but during these 10 years the attention toward animals has grown,” Gabrielyan said.

Bulgaria, Georgia and Russia will participate in the exhibition, the third time it is taking place in Armenia.

Marriages in Yerevan Spike on November 11

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – To mark the special date, 11/11/11, the number of marriages registered in the Civil Registry Offices of the Armenian Justice Ministry on November 11 increased by at least one-third comparatively. The employees of the Civil Registry Offices said that at least 10 marriages were registered on that day compared to three to five on other days.

According to the Chinese calendar, November 11 is the most favorable and successful day of the millennium, as this date reflects the mirror-like unity and optimal balance between the sky and the earth.

Armenia Marks 150th Anniversary of Nansen’s Birth with Monument, Stamp

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but also our nation’s shaken belief that the human being was created in God’s likeness, that inside a human being the goodness can not be overtaken by evil. Is there any greater mission than saving a belief, a belief towards the human nature, a belief not only towards one’s own future, but also towards the future of humankind, a belief that April 24 will be followed by April 25?”

Nalbandian spoke of how Nansen, the League of Nations’ High Commissioner for Refugees, was also among the first who unequivocally condemned the first genocide of the 20th century and disclosed the true nature of the policies of the Ottoman Empire by his reports and lectures at high international instances and political forums. He promoted the protection of people’s rights to the agenda of the League of Nations, the forerunner to the United Nations.

“That is why Armenia could not stay idle in celebrating the 150th anniversary of Fridtjof Nansen and that is why 2011 is declared in Armenia a year of homage to this eminent and great humanist,” he said. “We are delighted and thankful that Mrs. Marit Greve, the granddaughter of Fridtjof Nansen, has made the long journey all the way from Norway to participate at this remarkable event.”

“This is also an opportunity to thank Mr. Støre, minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, who is on an official visit to

Yerevan and who has kindly joined us for this event. Dear colleague, through you I would like to convey Armenia’s gratitude to the Norwegian people for endowing



Bust of Fridtjof Nansen in Yerevan

humanity with such a son, and our people with such a friend,” the minister added.

“Today, I would also like to recall Bodil Catharina Bjorn, another great Norwegian whose name is very dear to the Armenians as well. For thousands of Armenian orphans who escaped the Genocide, this Norwegian became a compassionate mother inspiring love and

warmth. As a tribute to the memory of the two great Norwegians, Fridtjof Nansen and Bodil Catharina Bjorn, a soil from their graves is interred in the

Tsitsernakaberd Memorial. For the Armenian people Nansen and Bjorn forever symbolize Norway, the kindness and goodwill of Norwegians, as well as commitment to the protection of human and people’s rights. Their legacy underpins the Armenian-Norwegian friendship and serves a source of inspiration for our two friendly peoples,” he concluded.

On the same day, a stamp, dedicated to Nansen was put into circulation. Nalbandian and Støre attended the ceremony, organized by Haypost Trust Management B.V. and Haypost CJSC.

The stamp, with a nominal cost of 350 drams, was designed by Ani Gevorgyan and issued at Lowe Martin Group Canadian printing house in 40,000 copies.

Top Sargisian Aide Given New Role

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Mikael Minasian, President Serge Sargisian’s influential son-in-law and reputedly closest confidante, said he will take a leading role in the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) after being unexpectedly dismissed as deputy chief of the presidential staff late on Thursday.

Sargisian’s office said Minasian was relieved of his duties at his own request but gave no further details.

The move came on the heels of a series of high-level personnel changes within Armenia’s political leadership, including the resignation of Parliament Speaker Hovik Abrahamian. They are widely seen as being part of Sargisian’s efforts to strengthen his hold on power ahead of parliamentary elections due in May 2012.

Abrahamian is expected to formally take over as the HHK’s election campaign manager later this month.

“I am going to help Hovik Abrahamian properly prepare the forthcoming elections and think that is a priority today,” Minasian told News.am immediately after the announcement of the presidential decree.

Abrahamian announced his decision to step down as speaker on Wednesday amid mounting speculation that Sargisian is keen to ward off a potential challenge to his rule from his predecessor Robert Kocharian. The outgoing speaker is thought to have close ties with Gagik Tsarukian, a Kocharian-linked businessman leading Armenia’s second most important governing party.

Both Abrahamian and other senior HHK figures have denied any connection between the resignation and Kocharian’s possible return to the political arena.

Armenian Assembly of America Hosts Yerevan Lecture Series

YEREVAN – Earlier last month, the Armenian Assembly’s Yerevan office, as part of its ongoing Youth Club lecture series, hosted a special lecture on “Armenia and the global financial crisis.”

Prof. Harutyun Mesropyan, a management expert and doctoral candidate in economic studies, discussed Armenia’s financial situation, including the impact of the global financial crisis, as well as ideas and solutions for overcoming the current challenges.

Mesropyan highlighted the fact that even in a non G-20 country like Armenia, the crisis progresses in the same pattern as in any other country. He gave specific examples of places like Korea, Singapore and others that have overcome economic hardships and turned into financially stable countries with leading economies.

In addition, Mesropyan emphasized that the financial crisis is a widespread phenomenon, and methods for addressing such a crisis have been developed over the years. He pointed out that Armenia still has an opportunity to draw

the right lessons and take the appropriate steps to not only prevail over the financial crisis, but to also have an exceptionally strong economic system.

“Taking into account the importance of the topic at hand I find that it is vital that the youth be given the aforementioned knowledge on the subject,” stated the Assembly’s Country Director Armina Darbinian. “It is the current youth that is going to be the coming generation that will pull our nation out of the crisis and build a prosperous Armenia. It is for this reason that the Assembly Yerevan office has initiated the Youth Club for our young professionals. It provides them with the knowledge that is necessary for building a better country, a country we can truly be proud of,” she added.

Mesropyan’s presentation was followed by an informative question-and-answer session during which the young audience was given an opportunity to express their point of view and learn more about the strategies of overcoming the economic challenges Armenia faces.



Prof. Harutyun Mesropyan



ARMENIA

Green is Good: Echmiadzin Added to Sites of 'Green Pilgrimage'

By Gayane Mkrtchyan

ECHMIADZIN (ArmeniaNow) – Echmiadzin has joined the network of 10 Green Pilgrimage sites of the world. The title was awarded to the town of Echmiadzin and Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, during the Sacred Land Celebration in Assisi, Italy October 31-November 2 and was organized by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) in association with World Wildlife Federation.

"The Green Movement is not new, however, the Green Pilgrimage Network is just now being established, so this was the first founding assembly," said Samvel Madoyan, heading the foreign relations department of Echmiadzin municipality, who returned from Assisi late last week.

The sites included in the network have to meet the criteria of a Green Pilgrimage site – they have to make their pilgrim and sacred sites as environmentally sustainable as possible, according to their own theologies and understanding of the natural world. The sites have to be clean and green; in addition, visitors should be able to taste locally-grown organic food.

Among the countries included in the network are Israel, Egypt, the UK, Norway, Nigeria, India, China, Scotland, Japan and Italy.

World Council of Churches Armenia Roundtable representatives visiting Assisi presented their plan for Echmiadzin to the ARC, according to which the Nersisyan forest will be restored and the seminary will have solar panels installed to provide energy.

Madoyan said that the municipality and Holy Echmiadzin will try to do joint projects within the Green Pilgrimage framework.

"Keep the town clean and green, assist economic and business development. We might even apply to and receive assistance from the network in case of certain projects," he noted.

Echmiadzin Mayor Karen Grigoryan said that due to this effort, the town will acquire a new cleaner, greener and more attractive look.

"Being part of the Green Pilgrimage Network will spur tourism to Echmiadzin, which is an important precondition for the future development of our town. Even now we already have newly-built parks and green zones in different parts of the town," he said.

Karine Baghdasaryan, World Council of Churches Armenia



Raising the flag of the Cross of Armenian Unity at Echmiadzin

Roundtable representative, says organic food has to be locally grown and affordable. Up to 80 percent of it has to be of domestic production and 40 percent served fresh.

The Cross of Armenian Unity (CAU) organization hosting tourists to Echmiadzin not only treats its guests to Armenian cuisine, but also has them participate in the cooking and preparation process.

Last week in its courtyard CAU organized an event called Green Hospitality. Apricot tree branches in the yard were decorated with red and green peppers and yellow corn. Traditional Armenian atmosphere was completed with home-made preserves, clay vessels filled with rosehip, haw and peshat, as well as home-made vodka and wine.

During the event students of Armenian cuisine prepared *dolma* – wrapping ground beans and wheat in vine leaves, as

well as *kebab* and eggs with tarragon.

At the wine-press, in a corner of the courtyard, young women were stomping bunches of red grapes. CAU leader Grigor Babakhanyan says that tourists usually take part in this annual procedure, as well as representatives of international organizations working in Armenia.

"To watch and participate in this process is more interesting and exciting to them than to get a bottle of wine as a present," he says.

Baghdasaryan says that the Green Hospitality event confirmed once again that Echmiadzin has earned the right to be among the 10 sites "standing beside such cities as Jerusalem, Trondheim, Edinburg..."

For information on the celebration in Assisi and in general, visit www.arcworld.org.

Apple Co-Founder Wozniak Visits Armenia to Receive Presidential Award

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programmable universal remote control, helped create the first wireless Global Positioning

Armenia in 2009 and its first recipient the following year was Craig Barrett, a former chairman and chief executive of Intel Corporation.

One of the goals of the award is to encourage contact between some of the leading IT personalities of the world and the industry in Armenia.

Before receiving his prize at the Presidential Palace in Yerevan, Wozniak met with Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian, other senior Armenian government officials, as well as IT company executives and university students.

At a press conference prior to the official ceremony, Wozniak again made a case for nurturing creativity among young people in Armenia as a way to bring success to the country's IT sector.

He said even his recognition in Armenia could also become a source of inspiration for local aspiring engineers.

"When I was young I was inspired by the stories I heard about other people doing things... This great IT award is bringing some of those stories and inspiration to young Armenian engi-

neers," he said. "I want to go back home, and I want to take the stories about the resources here, the intelligence, the technology community and tell them to consider expanding, setting up development facilities and training facilities [in Armenia]."

The Armenian government has declared development of the domestic IT sector a top economic priority. The sector employing more than 5,000 people is dominated by Armenian

subsidiaries of California-based software development companies. According to government data, IT products accounted for 8.5 percent of Armenian exports last year, up from 3.6 percent in 2009.

During his visit, Wozniak lunched with US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern.

(Armenia Liberty, Armenpress and Armenian Radio contributed to this report.)



Steve Wozniak tours the streets of Yerevan.

System and nurtured the development of several technology start-ups. He is now the chief scientist for Fusion-io, a data storage and server company.

The annual IT Award was instituted in

Armenia, Norway Launch Sustainable Hydropower Development of Energy Security Project

YEREVAN (Radiolur) – This week, the Norsk Energi, in cooperation with Hydroenergetica, launched a three-year joint program on Sustainable Small Hydropower Development of Energy Security. The program, funded by a grant from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will support the development of an environmentally-sustainable hydropower sector in Armenia.

The event was attended by the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Norway, Eduard Nalbandian and Jonas Gahr Støre.

Most of energy consumption in Norway is covered by renewable energy sources, and the experience of Norway could be very useful to us, Nalbandian said.

Støre stressed the importance of the project, saying it will boost bilateral economic cooperation. "My country knows very well what it means to develop on the basis of energy, hydropower is the foundations of Norway's industrial development. Hydropower also plays an important role in our energy supply. Sixty percent of Norway's energy consumption is cov-

ered by renewable energy, our ambition is to increase the number to 68 percent, which is part of common Endeavour of the European Union to further develop new renewable sources of energy," he stated.

According to Støre, Armenia has created a favorable framework for the development of small-scale hydropower.

The Collaboration Program on Sustainable Small Hydropower Development of Energy Security is structured in three pillars: framework assessment related to environmental and social impact of small hydropower plants, facilitation of training opportunities and development of a case project. The latter will demonstrate important aspects in the first two pillars.

A working group has been set up to create a forum, where decision makers and stakeholders can meet to discuss openly the ways to implement new standards for the small hydropower sector in Armenia.

The work group will consider ways to increase the environmental sustainability and the security of energy supply in Armenia.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Dink Friends Insist Assassins within State

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) — About 200 members of the Friends of Hrant group gathered in front of a court where the trial of the assassin of the founder of Agos, Hrant Dink, took place and stated that the assassins are deep inside the state and there are many facts proving this assertion.

Citing the Turkish Sondakika news site, former co-chairman of the Turkey-EU parliamentary committee Joost Lagendijk, former parliamentarian Ufuk Uras and attorneys from the Paris Bar Association took part in the event.

On behalf of the group Umit Kivanç stated that Dink's assassination was "not a crime committed by young people who were wild with nationalistic feelings. It is the deed of the Trabzon cell of the Ergenekon organization. Hrant's assassins are people controlled by the state. They were used and directed by authorities," he said.

Illegal Armenians in Turkey Not Allowed to Attend Armenian School

ANKARA (Armenpress) — Turkish Minister of Family and Social Politics Fatma Sahin stated that it is not possible to allow children of the Armenians who live in Turkey illegally to receive passports and education, according to the Turkish Habergech news agency.

Children of families living in Turkey illegally are not permitted to attend the Armenian schools under the Education Ministry.

"Though the Turkish Education Ministry has permitted Armenian children to attend Armenian schools as guests, it is not a solution to the issue, as nearly 1,000 children face such issues," according to the Turkish website.

Migration Cooperation To Continue between Armenia and Sweden

WARSAW, Poland (news.am) — Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration Armen Gevorgyan met with the Swedish Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billstrom within the framework of the second Ministerial conference on Building Migration Partnerships.

The sides effectively cooperated within the agreement signed between Armenia and Swedish governments on accepting back illegal emigrants, the ministry's press service said.

Armenia's participation in the Soderkoping process was stressed. The sides touched upon the declaration signed between Armenia and EU on October 27 this year. They also discussed the EU Twinning project to be realized next year. The project aims to support Armenia to improve migration management systems in order to meet EU criteria.

Leading Psychiatrist in Lebanon Wins Award

BEIRUT (Lebanon.com) — President Michel Sleiman awarded Prof. Hagop Akiskal, one of the leading psychiatrists worldwide, the Medal of Health Merit of the first (gold) degree last month. Health Minister Ali Hassan Khalil presented Akiskal with the medal during the opening ceremony of the meeting on "Burning Issues in Psychiatry," which was held over two days at Beirut's Phoenicia Hotel. During this event, world experts, including Lebanese figures of international fame, addressed the issue of bipolar disorders and temperament.

Khalil declared: "President Michel Sleiman wanted, on the occasion of this congress, to honor a great physician, namely Prof. Hagop Akiskal, in recognition of his contribution to supporting the health sector over the course of his long career, which was rich in science, knowledge, experience and ethical practice."

Magnitude 5.2 Quake Hits Eastern Turkey; Virtual Ghost Town after Earlier Tremors

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — A magnitude-5.2 quake early Tuesday, November 15, shook eastern Turkey — already devastated by two powerful tremors, the Kandilli observatory said.

The latest quake hit Van province but there was no immediate report of damage or injuries, state-run Anatolia news agency said. Its epicenter was in the village of Mollakasim, the observatory said in a statement.

Previous quakes have turned Van, the provincial capital of half a million, into a virtual ghost town, Gov. Munir Karaloglu said Monday. He called for urgent relief aid for survivors.

Last month's magnitude-7.2 quake and a magnitude-5.7 quake last week flattened some 2,000 buildings, killed 644 people and left thousands homeless in the eastern province, where an unusually cold November is forcing survivors to endure even more suffering.

Very few state-owned buildings in the capital survived the quake, Karaloglu told the state-run Anatolia news agency. Many residents have fled because they

fear going back into their homes even if they are not damaged.

"It is a ghost city," said Karaloglu. "Almost none of the buildings are in

tures dipped as low as 5 degrees Fahrenheit overnight in Ercis, which was the worst hit by the first quake.

The *HaberTurk* newspaper reported

REUTERS/STRINGER



Rescue workers carry Gokhan Yuce, a 27-year old earthquake survivor, to an ambulance after he was found in a collapsed building in Van, eastern Turkey, November 10.

use."

Karaloglu called on the country to show "even more mercy" in the face of mounting needs, ranging from housing to food and warm clothing.

The remaining homeless were suffering through unseasonably frosty weather. The Anatolia agency cited weather officials as saying Monday that tempera-

that a 7-year-old handicapped girl who had been living in makeshift tent died of pneumonia in Ercis on Sunday. Her father claimed that he could not obtain a proper tent from authorities, the newspaper report.

Several countries, including the United States and Israel, have sent in tents and prefabricated homes.

Finance Minister Warns of Fallout from Euro Zone Crisis

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Renewed recession in Europe could slow Armenia's ongoing economic recovery and complicate a sizable increase in tax revenues planned by the Armenian government, Finance Minister Vache Gabrielian said on Monday.

After sluggish growth in 2010, the Armenian economy is on course to expand by 4.6 percent this year. The government has forecast a growth rate of 4.2 percent for next year.

Continued growth is essential for the success of its plans to raise tax revenues by 13 percent in 2012. This, coupled with a more modest rise in public spending, is meant to cut the state budget deficit to around 3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"If there are cataclysms coming from European countries, if agriculture suffers catastrophic changes as a consequence of weather conditions, naturally there could be some problems [with meeting these targets]," Gabrielian said. He said "big problems" resulting from the sovereign debt crisis in the European Union would affect the entire world.

The EU's executive European Commission said last week that aggregate economic growth in the 17 countries using the euro as the national currency will make up 0.5 percent in 2012, down from its earlier projection of 1.8 percent.

"The recovery has now come to a standstill and there's the risk of a new recession unless determined action is taken," Olli Rehn, the EU's economic and monetary affairs commissioner, warned.

Armenia was already hit hard when Western economies slid into recession in late 2008. Its GDP shrunk by as much as 14 percent in 2009 amid plummeting international prices of base met-

als and remittances from Armenians working abroad.

Gabrielian insisted at the same time that as things stand now the government's draft budget for 2012 submitted to parliament last week is "realistic." He downplayed concerns about its revenue target publicly expressed by Gagik Khachatryan, head of the State Revenue Committee.

"In your day-to-day life you always have concerns," Gabrielian said. "But that doesn't mean you don't take one or

another action."

The government and the Ministry of Finance in particular say that a large part of the extra revenues will be generated by fresh amendments to Armenian tax legislation that are also likely to be approved by the National Assembly before the end of this year. The government-drafted amendments would, among other things, raise income tax for wealthy Armenians and impose higher duties on expensive cars and alcohol.

Turkey Has Lost Faith in Syria: Erdogan

ANKARA (Agence France-Presse) — Turkey has abandoned hope that Syria will respond to international demands to halt violence and initiate democratic reforms, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said this week.

"We no longer expect the Assad government to show honest, persuasive, brave and determined leadership," Erdogan told his party's lawmakers. "No one expects him to respond to the demands of the international community anymore." Erdogan, once a close political ally and a personal friend of Syrian leader Bashar al-Assad, has for months expressed frustration at Assad's failure to listen to his people.

"The Syrian government is on a very dangerous and narrow path, like the edge of a knife," he told the weekly meeting of ministers. "It is our common desire for him to turn back from this path, which has a cliff at the end." Erdogan slammed Assad over weekend attacks on Turkey's diplomatic missions in three Syrian cities.

"It is the honor of every country to protect foreign citizens and diplomats.

Syria should understand that trying to send a message through those attacks shows weakness and ignorance," he said.

Thousands of pro-regime protestors armed with knives and batons attacked Turkish diplomatic missions in the Syrian capital Damascus as well as Aleppo and Latakia on Saturday over Turkey's support for an Arab League decision to suspend Syria.

Around 5,000 demonstrators smashed the windows of Turkey's honorary consulate building in Latakia and burned a Turkish flag.

Turkey hailed the Arab League decision as "timely and one of common sense." On Sunday, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu met with representatives of the Syrian opposition movement, the Syrian National Council, which was founded in Turkey in August.

The council, the country's largest and most representative opposition grouping, sought permission to set up an office in Turkey. A Turkish diplomat who declined to be named said Ankara was considering the request.

Community News

Wine and Cheese Garden Party Supports AMAA's Work with Children In Lebanon and Syria

SAN FRANCISCO – On Saturday October 22, the Friends of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Peninsula Chapter held a Wine and Cheese Garden Party to raise funds for the AMAA's ongoing work supporting the educational needs of Armenian children in Lebanon and Syria. Co-chaired by Kris Gulesserian of Los Altos and Nina Tashjian of Saratoga, this inaugural event was held at the home of Ike and Kris Gulesserian. The Indian summer evening enabled guests to gather outdoors as they enjoyed an array of domestic and imported gourmet cheeses, specialty hors d'oeuvres and a selection of California wines. Complementing the food and wine was the beautiful décor, reminiscent of a California vineyard.

"We are thrilled to have the support of so many members of the Bay Area-Armenian community for the important work of the AMAA," said Peninsula Chapter Co-chairs Gulesserian and Tashjian. "Our chapter has successfully supported the educational needs of a number of Armenian youth in Beirut and Syria for many years. Education is so critical for these young Armenians – and we are pleased and humbled to be able to help make a difference in their lives."

Levon Filian, the executive director of the AMAA, was able to attend the event and show his support for the work of the



Committee members of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter

Peninsula Chapter. In his remarks at the party, Filian, a beneficiary of the AMAA himself, spoke about the worldwide mission of the AMAA and the dual purpose that the AMAA served in his life – both educational and spiritual. No stranger to the Bay Area, Filian spent many years as an active member of the community in Northern California, serving as a deacon, elder and moderator at Calvary Armenian Church in San Francisco.

Filian's son, Ari Jon, attended the fundraiser as well. He recently spent some time interning with the AMAA in Armenia. During the event, the younger Filian shared his experiences from Armenia with the guests, speaking about the resilience of the Armenian people and the inspiration he drew from his time in the country.

The event was successful in educating new audiences about the work of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter and in attracting new supporters to the cause.

The Friends of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter will also hold its annual Christmas Luncheon in December in Hillsborough, Calif. Members of the AMAA Peninsula Chapter's Committee include: Alina Balabanian, Nora Balabanian, Anahid Gulesserian, Kris Gulesserian, Margo Gulesserian, Arpi Haleblian, Lara Khoury, Aline Richards and Nina Tashjian.

To learn more about the AMAA, visit www.amaa.org.



From left, Richard Norsigian, David Hales, Dr. Mary Johnson and Edward Bedikian

Detroit Groups Promote Genocide Awareness through Education

DETROIT – Committed to their mission to promote awareness of and gain US recognition for the first genocide of the 20th century, the Detroit Chapter of the Knights of Vartan with the Metro Detroit Armenian Genocide Committee hosted the fifth annual (Michigan) educator's workshop on the Armenian Genocide at Wayne County RESA, on November 9. The group's ultimate goal is to incorporate the history of the Armenian Genocide into the Michigan secondary school curriculum. California and Massachusetts have been successful in their efforts to accomplish this and the Michigan effort is currently in the planning process.

Richard Norsigian, a member of the committee and an educator, coordinated the workshop with David Hales from Wayne RESA. Wayne RESA is a regional educational service agency that provides a broad spectrum of services and support to Wayne County's 34 school districts. Educators from several school districts attended the workshop and will receive Continuing Education Credits for their participation.

Held in collaboration with the educational organization, Facing History and Ourselves based in Boston, Mass., the workshop presents an introduction on the Armenian Genocide as well as a basis for more in-depth study of the Genocide by providing instructional materials for course work and access to teaching resources.

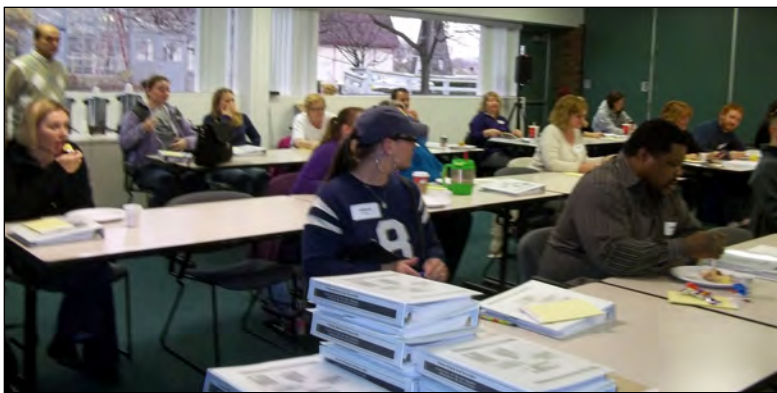
Opening the workshop, Dr. Mary Johnson, the facilitator from Facing History, used text and video to present a background on the "universe of obligation" and insight into the history of genocides and events that have precipitated them. Using resource materials provided, educators in attendance were asked to actively participate by posing scenarios and voicing ideas and opinions on the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks (1915-1923) and the prevailing response at that time from the international community and how their current day students reacted when informed of these types of atrocities. Ensuing discussions were interesting and insightful.

Concluding the workshop, the participants were informed of the Fifth Annual Armenian Genocide Essay Competition open to all Michigan high school students. The details for the competition could be found on the essay website, www.annualessaycompetition.com.

The Knights of Vartan, Detroit Chapter spearheads this project which was initially conceived and sponsored by the late Edgar Hagopian.

The Metro Detroit Armenian Genocide Committee includes Knights of Vartan members: Ed Bedikian, Ray Boujoulian, Paul Kulhanjian, educator, and David Terzibashian. Members also include Corinne Khederian, political advisor, Ani Kasparian, educator, Richard Norsigian, educator, as well as Shirley Sarkisian and Madeline Thomasian.

The Armenian Genocide – a genocide that is not reflected in American history books, 95 years later, even though 40 states and numerous foreign governments have recognized it – remains unacknowledged by the US government and Turkey, the successors of the Ottoman Empire.



Workshop two

UAF Delivers \$19 Million of Aid to Armenia In First Nine Months of 2011

GLENDAL, Calif. – The United Armenian Fund delivered \$19 million of humanitarian aid to Armenia from January to September of this year.

The UAF itself collected \$10.5 of medicines and other materials donated by several charities, including AmeriCares (\$5.1 million), Catholic Medical Mission Board (\$3.3 million), Direct Relief International (\$1 million), Hope for the City (\$533,000), Health Partners International of Canada (\$243,000), Jezreel International (\$176,000) and Feed the Children Fund (\$121,000).

Other organizations which contributed goods during this period were: Consulate General of Armenia in Los Angeles (\$1.4 million), World Vision-US (\$1 million), Armenian Christian Mission of Australia (\$531,000), Harut Chantikian of New Jersey (\$470,000), Armenian EyeCare Project (\$410,000), Juliette Serabian of France (\$368,000), Knights of Vartan (\$358,000), Action Sante Armenie France (\$308,000), Paros Lighthouse Charitable Foundation (\$203,000), Garni Foundation (\$197,000), International Relief & Development (\$192,000), Armenian Gospel Mission (\$192,000), Armenian Ministries (\$187,000), Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (\$185,000), Armenian Relief Society-Western Region (\$175,000), St. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church (\$163,000), Dr. Stephen Kashian (\$161,000), Focus on Children Now (\$160,000), Dr. Ara Nahabedian of the UK (\$156,000), Armenian Missionary Association of America (\$152,000), World Vision-Canada (\$151,000), Birthlink (\$145,000), Dr. Jirair Konalian (\$123,000), Hologic Inc. (\$120,000) and Project Agape (\$104,000).

Also contributing major supplies were: Lucine Harvey (\$89,000), Kapriel Ghamberji (\$89,000), YMCA-Zurich (\$82,000), Friends of Armenia (\$79,000), Achot Schemavonian of France (\$74,000), New York/New Jersey Armenian Students Association (\$72,000), Fund for Armenian Relief (\$60,000), Dr. Samuel Malayan (\$60,000), Institution for Recycling Network (\$56,000), Barlow Der Mugerchian/Bill Rice (\$49,000), Foundation Semra (\$47,000), Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corp. (\$36,000), American University of Armenia (\$28,000), Dr. Hagop Hovaguimian (\$24,000), Amaras Art Alliance (\$22,000) and Armenian International Ophthalmic Association (\$21,000).

Since its inception in 1989, the UAF has sent \$632 million of humanitarian assistance to Armenia on board 158 air-lifts and 1,942 sea containers.

The UAF is the collective effort of the Armenian Catholic Eparchy, Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Relief Society, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America.

For more information, contact the UAF office at 1101 North Pacific Ave., Suite 204, Glendale, CA 91202.



COMMUNITY NEWS

AIWA Holds Sixth International Conference in San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO — The Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) brought together approximately 200 women from throughout the world to attend its sixth International Conference held October 6 to 10, at the Palace Hotel. The three-day program featured 35 speakers and panelists, and was filled with inspiration both on and off the stage.

Diane Cabraloff, conference chair and Los Angeles affiliate president, reported that the theme of the conference, "Armenian Women: Advancing, Inspiring, Innovating, Strengthening" accurately reflected the presen-

tations of the speakers. "We heard from women who had vision, the courage to take risks and confidence to brave the unknown. They are truly entrepreneurs and explorers of the modern era."

At the opening session guests were greeted by Cabraloff and Hermine Janoyan, one of the founders of the Los Angeles affiliate. Attendees viewed welcoming video messages from Hranoush Hakopyan, Armenia's minister of diaspora affairs, and Melanne Vermeer, appointed by President Barack Obama as ambassador-at-large for Global Women's Issues.

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese, spoke, extolling the accomplishments of women in literature, the arts, education and government service. The keynote speaker, Rep. Jackie Kanchelian Speier, held the audience's attention as she spoke of the adversities and tragedies she endured which led to her decision and commitment to dedicate her life to public service.

The first presentation was "A Perspective from AIWA Armenia," with remarks by Narine Aghasaryan on Women's Rights; Haigoush Gevorgyan, who introduced the challenges of the Armenian educational system in terms of adaptation with international standard requirements and Karine Davtyan and Suzanna Mkrtchyan who discussed the importance of preserving and identifying culture through the performing arts.

The conference was structured and organized to cover four general topics: Advancing Women's Rights and Issues; Inspiring Leaders and Entrepreneurs; Innovating Developments in Media and Technology and Strengthening our Cultural Identity. Suzy Antounian, of the

Global Philanthropy Forum, presented the conference framework and encouraged participants to network and learn from each other.

As an introduction to the first panel discussion, Advancing Women's Rights and Issues, Dr. Dafina Gercheva, United Nations (UN) resident coordinator/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative in Armenia, discussed the challenges confronting Armenian women; the opportunities available to them, and the role of the UN in helping women seize these opportunities and reap the benefits of development. The panel was moderated by Judy Norsigian and presentations were made by Dr. Maral Babyan, clinical psycholo-

gist; Dr. Molly Freeman, educator; Nora Kayserian, Zangakatun NGO adviser and Dr. Meri Khachikyan, executive director, Family and Health, Pan Armenian Association Yerevan, and Anahit Ordyan, AUA director of administrative affairs. The panelists discussed the issues of Women's Rights in both Armenia and the diaspora, the challenges women still face and the strides and improvements made improving the status of women around the world.

On Saturday, October 8, the morning began with a presentation by Anahit Ghazarian, AIWA Women's Entrepreneurship Program chief

continued on next page



Diane Cabraloff



From left, Diane Cabraloff, Madlen Charchian from Buenos Aires and Lily Ring Balian

OBITUARY

Mary Hamparian, 84

RIDGEFIELD, N.J. — Mary "Manooshag" Aljian Hamparian died on October 30.

Hamparian was born on March 28, 1927. Her parents were Armenian Genocide survivors, Nishan and Zevarte Aljian.

She was married to Ardashes Hamparian and their children include: Lorig, Aram and Raffi; grandchildren Mher, Aram, Areni, Zabelle, Sune, Meghri and Ardashes, and she was the sister of Thomas, Janet, Doris and Diane.

Wake and viewing services were held on November 2 at Sts. Vartanantz Armenian

Apostolic Church, with funeral services at the same church on November 3, immediately followed by burial service at George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus, NJ. It was presided by Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, the prelate of Armenian Apostolic Church, Eastern.

Upon the request of the family, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA), 1711 N. St. NW, Washington, DC 20036 or the Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church, 461 Bergen Blvd., Ridgefield, NJ.



ON
DECEMBER 13
Vote For
Jon Hecht

Representative Hecht Launches Campaign for Senate Seat

Rep. Jonathan Hecht, a friend of the Armenian community of Massachusetts and a sponsor of the Armenian Genocide Commemorations in the State House, has announced his candidacy for the Senate seat of Sen. Steven Tolman, who has resigned.



The 2nd Suffolk and Middlesex Senate district in Massachusetts includes **Watertown, Belmont and parts of Cambridge, Allston-Brighton, the Fenway and the Back Bay.**

For more information contact State Representative Jon Hecht at

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COMMUNITY NEWS

from previous page

manager, reporting on the cooperation between AIWA and the University of Armenia Extension Program. The mission of AIWA WEP is to foster in Armenian women an entrepreneurial approach to everything they do in their lives. An alumna of the program, Hasmik Grigoryan, reported on her successful business operation and expressed her thanks and appreciation to the WEP program.

The featured speaker, Mary Ellen Iskenderian, president and CEO of Women's World Banking, New York, the world's largest network of microfinance institutions and banks, discussed their objectives in financing and assisting low-income women in their endeavors. Her remarks were followed by the Panel "Inspiring Leaders and Entrepreneurs," moder-

ated by Keri Tombazian, with panelists: Shakeh Havan Garapetian, owner, Artbridge Café, Yerevan; Zara Ingilizian, senior VP of marketing, Diageo; Ana Christina Schirinian, CEO, Fruitful Armenia, president of Tierras de Armenia, Argentina and Sylvia Tirakian, Harvest Song Ventures, New York. Panelists discussed their initiative in establishing their businesses and/or careers and the difficulties they overcame to achieve success in their chosen field.

The luncheon speaker Maria Armoudian, author of Kill the Messenger, activist and radio host, offered insight into today's most pressing issues and focused attention on the global awareness of justice toward children and women. She discussed the challenges in the changing media environment and set the tone

for the afternoon panel, "Innovating Media and Technology." The panel was moderated by Stephanie Adrouny, assistant news director, KGO TV San Francisco, and presentations were made by Anna Magzanyan, vice president of advertising marketing and events, *LA Times*; Gasia Mikaelian, newscaster, KTVU-Ch.2, San Francisco; MarieLou Papazian, Tumo Center for Creative Technologies, Yerevan; Eliz Gazarian-Semerjian, director of sales,

began the presentation by reading remarks from Arda Ekmekji, dean, Arts & Sciences, Haigazian University, Beirut. Presentations were then made by the following panelists: Jacqueline Karaaslanian, executive director, Luys Foundation, Yerevan; Dr. Rita Kuyumjian, professor of psychiatry, McGill University, Canada; Nora Sassounian, USC senior, past president AGA Armenian Sorority and Lianna Zakharian, senior editor, *Yerevan Magazine*.



The organizers and several speakers pose with Archbishop Hovnan Derderian

Telemundo and Lara Setrakian, Bloomberg TV, Dubai (via Skype). Panelists discussed their role as objective journalists and their commitment to aspire to the traditional standards of impartiality.

On Sunday, October 9, the featured speaker was Mary Catherine Bateson, renowned author and educator, as an introduction to the panel "Strengthening our Cultural Identity." Bateson was no stranger to AIWA, having been a speaker at its first International Conference in

Panelists discussed their pride in their Armenian culture and heritage; how to instill passion, confidence and determination in today's youth and the challenges faced in retaining our culture as we assimilate in different countries.

During the conference, presentations spotlighting some of AIWA's projects were made by representatives of the AIWA Board of Directors. Joy Renjilian-Burgy reported on the AIWA Scholarship Programs available to full-time students of Armenian descent, both graduate and undergraduates, enrolled in accredited colleges in the United States and abroad. She reviewed the scholarships offered by both the Boston and Los Angeles chapters. Barbara Merguerian discussed the AIWA Archives and Information Center established for the following reasons: to increase awareness of the lives and contributions of Armenian women; to enable and encourage the acquisition and dissemination of knowledge about their history; and to collect, preserve, exhibit and make available for research information about them. She reviewed a number of programs held in an effort to learn more about Armenian women and to recognize the accomplishments of AIWA members.

Guests enjoyed a variety of activities and events during the conference. On Thursday evening, a reception was held at the Palace Hotel. On Friday evening, guests viewed a new play by Adriana Sevahn Nichols, "Night Over Erzinga," at the South Side Theater, Fort Mason Center and enjoyed an after party with the artists. On Saturday evening an informal library expo was held with 10 Armenian women authors presenting their books. On Sunday evening, the conference concluded with a gala closing dinner cruise on San Francisco Bay.



Mary Catherine Bateson, author and educator

London in 1994. Bateson charmed the audience with her warmth and humor as she told stories of marrying into an Armenian family and embracing its culture.

Laurel Karabian, moderator of the panel,

AEWC Executive Committee Holds Meeting in LA

LOS ANGELES – The Executive Committee of the Armenian Evangelical World Council (AEWC) held its annual meeting on Friday, October 14, at the United Armenian Congregational Church.

The following representatives of the member organizations of AEWC were in attendance: Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, president; Rev. Vahan H. Tootikian, executive director; Rev. Dr. René Leonian, vice president; Rev. Megrdoch Karagozian, secretary; Joyce Philibosian Stein; Levon Filian; Dr. H. Steven Aharonian; Rev. Joseph Matossian and Rev. Haroutune Selimian.

The Executive Committee received the reports of the seven constituent member organizations of the AEWC, as well as those of its president, executive director and the treasurer.

The Executive Committee acknowledged, reviewed and evaluated the reports of those AEWC members who participated in the following activities in Armenia: The Pastors' Seminar for the ministers and religious workers in Armenia September 11-15; Genocide Centennial Pan-Armenian Committee on September 16; 20th-anniversary cel-

ebrations of AMAA ministries in Armenia, September 16 and 20 and the Armenia-Diaspora Conference, September 19 and 20.

The Executive Committee registered its appreciation for the 165th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Armenian Evangelical Church by the AEWC churches worldwide.

It also registered its appreciation on the compilation of the archival materials of AEWC for the past 32 years (1978-2011), which are professionally bound in book form and are presently housed in the AEWC archives at the AMAA headquarters in New Jersey.

Furthermore, the Executive Committee voted that at the conclusion of Leonian's tenure as representative of AEWC and AMAA in Armenia, to extend AEWC's appreciation and gratitude to him and his wife, Sylvie, for their 17 years of service.

The next AEWC biennial meeting will take place on October 12, 2012 at the headquarters of the AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ.

– Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)



COMMUNITY NEWS

Holiday Bazaar at St. Peter Armenian Church

WATERVLIET, N.Y. — St. Peter Armenian Church is holding a weekend Holiday Bazaar, at the Gdanian Auditorium, December 3 and 4.

This two-day event will feature a wide variety of gourmet foods, family and musical entertain-

ment, holiday crafts, vendors selling an array of items, and gift options.

The Women's Guild of the parish have been working hard for weeks organizing and preparing Armenian traditional delicacies which will

be sold in the Pantry Store along with other gift items such as custom baskets filled with dried fruits and nuts, preserves, aprons and beverage napkins. In addition, a lahmajoun lunch and dolma dinner will be held Saturday while madzoonov kufte will be served after church on Sunday.

"Mr. Twisty," a local balloon artist and comedian, will entertain throughout lunch on Saturday. During the mid-afternoon, Eastern Mountain Sports of Niskayuna, NY, will

offer a demonstration followed by newly-published author, Will Martin, speaking on his book, *Benedict Arnold: Legacy Lost*. That evening, the Greg Nazarian Trio will perform traditional dance music.

Sunday will feature St. Peter's own Armenian School children performing poems, songs and traditional Armenian dance routines.

Another highlight of the weekend involves a

silent auction of themed gift baskets featuring one-of-a-kind items donated by corporations and local businesses.

"We are all very excited about this Holiday Bazaar," shared pastor, Fr. Stepanos Doudoukjian. "The women of this parish are well-known throughout the Armenian community as being amazing cooks. This event will showcase their talent while providing the perfect opportunity to shop for Christmas and fill your freezers," he concluded.

The event is open to the public.



It's a family affair of preparations for the St. Peter Armenian Church Bazaar. Seen here are generations making madzoonov kufte (small meatballs) for a traditional Armenian soup to be served for lunch on Sunday, December 4 during the two-day Holiday Bazaar.

NAASR Christmas Open House to Feature Talk and Book Launch with Paul Ignatius

BELMONT, Mass. — Former Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius will speak in conjunction with the publication of his memoir, *Now I Know in Part*, by the Armenian Heritage Press of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), highlighting NAASR's 2011 Christmas Open House on Thursday, December 8. The open house will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude at 11 p.m., with Ignatius' talk set for 8 p.m. The evening's

Know in Part will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

Ignatius served for eight years in the presidential administrations of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, first as an assistant secretary of the army, then as undersecretary of the army and assistant secretary of defense and finally in 1967 as secretary of the navy. Following his government service, he was president of the *Washington Post* for two years and president of the Air Transport Association for 15 years.

Ignatius is the recipient of the Army Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award and the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award.

A descendant of Armenian parents from Harpert, Ignatius is a native of Glendale, Calif., and a graduate of the University of Southern California. He earned an MBA from Harvard University after serving as a naval officer in World War II. He is also the author of *On Board: My Life in the Navy, Government, and Business* (Naval Institute Press, 2006).

In *Now I Know in Part*, Ignatius looks back on family history, childhood in Glendale (long before it had a "Little Armenia"), colorful characters (both famous and obscure) and Hollywood brushes with greatness, military service during World War II and more.

The limited first edition of *Now I Know in Part* was published privately in 2000. Chapters added for this second edition include reminiscences of Ignatius' former boss, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and two homecomings of a sort: one to Hoover High School in Glendale and the other a visit to ancestral lands in Historic Armenia.

Admission to the event is free (donations appreciated).



Paul R. Ignatius

events will take place at the NAASR Center, 395 Concord Ave.

Both before and after the lecture, NAASR's bookstore will be open and feature a 20-percent-off sale, with additional discounts of 40 percent or more on selected titles. There will also be refreshments, music and gift-wrapping. *Now I*



Trinity Christmas Bazaar

Friday, December 2
3 pm to 9 pm

Saturday, December 3
10 am to 7 pm

featuring delicious
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Chicken & Combo
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Friday, December 2
from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm
and
Saturday, December 3
from 11:30 am to 6:00 pm

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Knights Pay Tribute to Aurelian Mardiros as Man of the Year at Banquet

Rachel Kaprielian, John Peterson Also Honored

PHOTOS BY JIRAIR HOVSEPIAN



Grand Commander Dr. Dennis Papazian greets Nigoghos Atinikian, the chair of the event committee



Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian, right, and Dr. Charlie Nargozian



Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian



Guest enjoyed conversation and drinks before the program started.

KNIGHTS, from page 1

large, she would come back to the community "as a safe harbor" and get rejuvenated.

She said she was particularly proud of the annual State House commemorations, as well as the Armenian Heritage Park. In keeping with the theme of giving, she said, "Greatness is service to others."

Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian presented Mardiros with the award. Before the presentation, he relayed several humorous stories on his visit to Nagorno Karabagh, where Armenia Fund conducts much work. He recalled the "white-knuckle" drive to Karabagh from Yerevan, during intense fog, "dodging sheep and shepherds."

"Nigoghos [Atinikian] was very excited for me to meet *Srpazan* [Karabagh Primate Pargév Martirosian]. He has such intense eyes and presence and power." Once they started conversing with the archbishop in English, Koutoujian said he asked the Primate how come he spoke English



Heather Krafian, left, with Rachel Kaprielian

so well. To the delight of the audience, he recalled the archbishop's answer: "I listen to the Beatles."

Koutoujian praised the Knights, saying they are the group that should be credited with breathing oxygen into the once-moribund Armenian Heritage Park project, by making the first big donation to that cause. "The Knights created the energy and momentum," he said.

Martirosian, visiting the US ahead of the Armenia Fund Telethon, opened the program. He spoke about the long and heroic history of Karabagh. He then asked "the beautiful Rachel" to give him a driver's license while he was in town, causing the audience to roar with laughter.

On a serious note, he thanked the Knights, as well as Armenia Fund, for their efforts in Karabagh, especially the past two years during which time they have tried to bring water to homes. At this time, access to water is woefully insufficient in the republic, rendering even the most basic aspects of life difficult.

"In Stepanakert we have water twice a week for two hours," whereas in the villages, residents have to walk a kilometer or two every day to get water for basic needs. "It is not normal for these people who have had a victory," he said. "The Karabagh victory was like a miracle. Justice was on our side."

continued on next page



From left, Armen Meguerditchian, Sylvie Zakarian Meguerditchian with Nancy and Anthony Barsamian



COMMUNITY NEWS

Knights' Tribute to Aurelian Mardiros,

from previous page

Armen Mahserejian, commander of the Ararat Lodge, said that the organization is working hard to help the Armenian nation and that some of the greatest contributions to local organizations have been made by the Knights. He noted that the group has helped for years with the annual State House commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, as well as both elementary schools in the Greater Boston area and the Armenian Heritage Park. In Armenia, he said, the group has facilitated the shipment of more than \$3 million worth of goods and sponsored several schools there. He said through "Asbed brother" Jean-Jacques Hajjar, who is a member of the board of Armenia Fund USA, the group is donating a part of the proceeds of the evening to Armenia Fund.

He presented the Faithful Knight Award to John Peterson. Peterson has been a member of the Knights for many years and that of the



MC Paul Boghosian

Rotary even longer. While at the Billerica Club of Rotary International, he came up with the idea of the Aruba Scholarship Raffle for the Rotary, the success of which convinced him to implement it for the Knights too. He was also instrumental in providing \$500,000 worth of supplies for the Yerevan Oncology Hospital through the Armenia Medical Project, which he initiated in partnership with Rotary International, International Medical Equipment Corp (IMEC) and the Knights. "It has become a role model for the Rotary," he said.

Peterson, when picking up the award, said he was "humbled by this recognition." He praised Nigoghos Atinizian for reviving the Ararat Lodge Chapter with young members and passing the torch to Nelson Stepanian.

He concluded by urging everyone to unite and stand by the Knights' credo of community: "Nobody stands as tall as when they bend down to help someone."

Knights Commander Dennis Papazian closed the program. He urged unity and cooperation in all segments of the Armenian community. "Together we are stronger; separately we are weak. If we don't



The organizing committee members with several of the honorees



From left, Antranig Mardiros, Ani Zakarian, Alina Zakarian, Simon Zakarian, Aurelian Mardiros, Vartan Mardiros and Anahid Mardiros



Aurelian Mardiros with his Man of the Year Award

take care of ourselves, no one will."

Proceeds from the evening's program, in addition to helping Armenia Fund USA, went to the World Bank 9 to 1 Program. The World Bank program is helping the Adopt a School Project of the Knights, this year for School 26 in Gumri. Under this program, if the Knights raise 10 percent of the cost, the World Bank will pay for the rest.

More photos on page 12



From left, Lena Kouyoumjian, Dulce Leos Diarbekirly, Carmen Barmakian and Seta Ourfalian



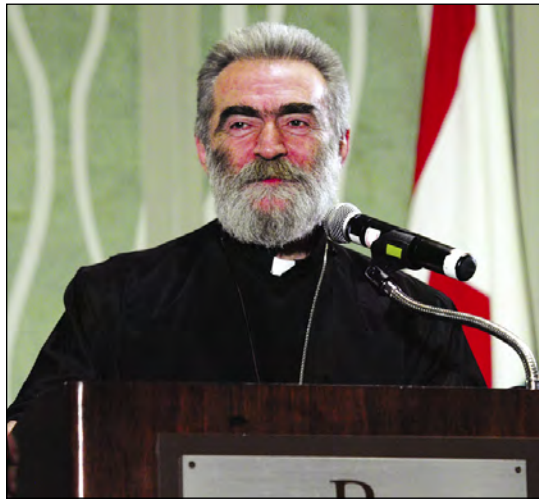


COMMUNITY NEWS

Rachel Kaprielian and John Peterson



Heather Krafian, left, presents the Community Leader Award to Registrar of Motor Vehicles Rachel Kaprielian



Archbishop Pargev Martirosian



Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian and his wife, Elizabeth



Yeghishe Manucharyan and Victoria Avetisyan perform during the program.



Ida Boodakian



Faithful Knight Award recipient John Peterson, left, with Armen Mahserejian



Yeghishe Manucharyan accompanied by Nouna Karapetian



From left, Paul Boghosian, Nigoghos Atinizian, Peter Koutoujian, Aurelian Mardiros, Armen Mahserejian, Karnig Ostayan and Nelson Stepanian



From left, Rita Bejakian, Lisa Aboyan, Susan Kupelian and Lena Antounian



From left, Sarkis Ourfalian, Marcel Karian and Avedis Barmakian



Knights' Tribute to Aurelian Mardiros, Rachel Kaprielian and John Peterson



Nancy Kalajian, left, with Robert Proodian



From left, Karnig Ostayan and Nigoghos Atinizian



Grand Commander Dr. Dennis Papazian



Knights members receive guests Dr. Armen Arslanian and Dr. Viken Babikian



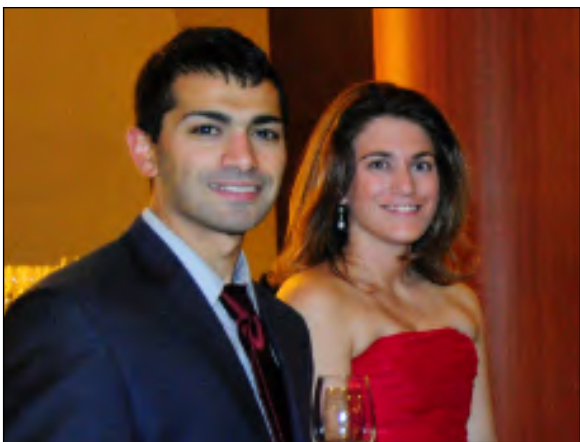
Guests listen to the Armenian National Anthem.



Jack and Eva Medzorian



Mary Goudsouzian, left, and Hermine Artinian



Armen and Nicole Varadian



From left, Don Tellalian, with Edward and Nancy Guleserian



From left, Kiky Bizdikian, Christine Mahserejian and Taline Balikian



From left, Dulce Diarbekirly, Jirair Demirdjian and Dr. Gregory Kazanjian

Arts & Living

Jeff Kalousdian And Kraig Kuzirian Receive ADAA's Paul Screenwriting Award

PASADENA, Calif. — Screenwriters Jeff Kalousdian and Kraig Kuzirian shared the 2011 Lillian and Varnum Paul Screenwriting Award, which was announced Sunday, October 30, at the annual awards event of the Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance (ADAA), held this year at the VIP Library Room of the Pasadena Playhouse.

The \$10,000 award was presented by ADAA Board of Directors member and actress Karen Kondazian, who established the prize in honor of her parents, Lillian and Varnum Paul, via the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, under the auspices of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian.

The intimate, invitation-only event included high-profile professionals from the entertainment industry. Entertainment broadcaster Jill Simonian served as mistress of ceremonies. She announced a proclamation from state Sen. Kevin DeLeon honoring ADAA. Founder and president, writer/producer Bianca Bagatourian, gave the audience an update on the many activities of ADAA, now in its seventh year of operation.

This year's Paul Screenwriting Award finalists were Missak Artinian of Virginia for



Armenian Star Award winner Arthur Sarkissian with ADAA President Bianca Bagatourian



Paul Awards emcee, broadcaster Jill Sarkissian, with ADAA board member, actress/producer Anahid Shahrik

"Fading in and Out of Love," Jeff Kalousdian of San Francisco for "The Florist" and Kraig Kuzirian of Pasadena for "Bluebeard."

The prize was decided by an honorary jury, including actor David Alpay ("Ararat"), filmmaker Stephane Kazandjian ("The Monster of Paris"), screenwriter Steven Bagatourian ("American Gun") and screenwriter Nat Mauldin ("The In-Laws"). Screenplays on Armenian themes were submitted from around the world and evaluated by a professional first-round jury, which decided the three finalists. The contest was administered by ADAA Board of Trustees member and writer Kristen Lazarian.

see AWARDS, page 14



Doug and Robyn Kalajian of Boynton Beach, Fla., offer their home to you as collaborators and connoisseurs of The Armenian Kitchen.

Kalajians Cook up a Storm inside their Armenian Kitchen

BOYNTON BEACH, Fla. — Do you want to know the perfect recipe for *vosbov kufteh*? How about the ideal *bourma*? Looking for a new and different *pilaf* recipe? Take it from Doug and Robyn Kalajian; it all starts with the best ingredients, plenty of time, a sprinkle of patience and a measure of love.

"A well-stocked pantry doesn't hurt, either," they agree.

By Tom Vartabedian

The Kalajians don't consider themselves epicureans by any stretch, just a fun-loving couple who enjoy sampling

good Armenian food and sharing recipes with others.

Log on to their website, thearmeniankitchen.com, and you will find a heritage of Armenian recipes with a personal touch, whether it's French toast, chicken soup or Christmas pudding.

It is where readers will be inspired by an ancient cuisine, experiment with exotic ingredients, master cooking techniques that may seem intimidating from afar and much more.

"Armenian recipes are as varied as their regions and dialects," said Robyn Kalajian. "No two chorag recipes are alike. Food connects us across all boundaries — generational, national, physical, social, nutritional and cultural."

They each have their roles. Robyn Kalajian, a retired culinary arts teacher, is the chief cook. Doug Kalajian remains the sous chef. He is an author and retired journalist who spent 16 years at the *Palm Beach Post* before retiring in 2008 from what he called "our sadly shrinking industry."

Over the years, Doug Kalajian hunkered down to cover a few hurricanes, chronicled the annual outbreak of spring break madness, snuck into a mob funeral and came nose-to-nose with an alligator or two while crisscrossing the state.

Along the way, he wrote a non-fiction book called *Snow Blind*, about a crusading public defender caught up in Florida's cocaine insanity of the 1980s. His favorite assignment?

"Going to France and walking Normandy's Utah Beach with a veteran who landed there on D-Day in 1944," he recalls.

He adds, "When I'm not cooking, or more likely eating, I do freelance editing and writing."

He and his future wife discovered a common interest in Armenian cooking the night they met back in 1976. He was working at the *New York Daily News* while she was teaching at a high school by the New Jersey shore.

"We were immediately struck by our similarities and backgrounds," said Doug Kalajian. "Not only were we both Armenian, our fathers' families both came from Dikranagert. We had many friends in common and had experienced similarly Armenian-intensive childhoods. Talk about destiny!"

They wed the following year and moved to Florida when Doug Kalajian took an editing job at the *Miami Herald*. They expected to stay in Florida only a short time, but 31 years later, the Sunshine State is still home. Their daughter, Mandy, lives in New York where she is a marketing executive.

Robyn Kalajian studied home economics at Montclair State College. She taught in New Jersey and Florida public schools for more than 30 years. During that time,

see KITCHEN, page 14

Detroit's Adrina Garbooshian Is Editing Benjamin Franklin's Papers

By Betty Apigian Kessel

DETROIT — If the recently-deceased Steve Jobs' mother was behind the making of the genius, then accolades also should go to Sharon Parnagian and Jack Garbooshian for encouraging and nurturing their daughter, Adrina Garbooshian, to reach for the stars in her educational and professional careers.

A graduate of Detroit's Wayne State University, Garbooshian, 36, started her illustrious career at Dearborn's Armenian Relief Society (ARS) Day School while also attending Sunday School classes at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church.

Her parents and older brother, Levon, always urged her to do her best but admit Adrina was a dream child, never having to be prodded to do her homework. Her mother, Sharon, says, "She always was reading and studying, getting A's. Her teachers loved her and she carried her work ethic through college and work career. She was a Phi Beta Kappa but most importantly Adrina is a person of integrity. She would never compromise herself to benefit herself."

While a high school student at Redford Union High School, Garbooshian was inspired by teacher Thea Cohen who possessed a passion for French language and literature. Garbooshian again garnered all A's in French, winning herself a French award. Because she



Adrina Garbooshian

was noticeably talented in languages, having capability in both Spanish and German, her courses at Wayne State were concentrated on French language and literature. Soon she began to have a strong interest in 18th-century literature.

She earned a bachelor's degree at Wayne State and graduated magna cum laude. She went on to get a master's in French with distinction and a PhD in modern languages. She spent two years at the University of Toronto.

Garbooshian says, "The writings of the 18th century focus on the rights of man, natural law, ideas about the ideal form of government and religion. I truly was passionate about learning more about each of these areas. When I took a course in history, I knew I wanted to write my dissertation on both the French and American Enlightenments, the title being 'The Concept of Human Dignity in the French and American Enlightenments: Religion, Virtue, Liberty.'"

An extremely exhaustive (and exhausting) reading list was required for her master's and PhD covering the 17th- through 20th-centuries, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, sermons and correspondences.

Along the way Garbooshian taught French at Both Wayne State and Rochester's Oakland University.

From 2007 to the present Garbooshian has been working as an editor on the Papers of Benjamin Franklin, page 17



Jeff Kalousdian and Kraig Kuzirian Receive ADAA's Paul Screenwriting Award

AWARDS, from page 13

Also awarded the same evening was ADAA's Armenian Star Award, which went to veteran film producer Arthur Sarkissian, whose credits include the "Rush Hour" films, starring Chris Tucker and Jackie Chan, and "While You Were Sleeping," with Sandra Bullock.

ADAA's next writing contest is the 2012 Saroyan Prize for Playwriting, for stage plays on Armenian themes. Established via a grant from the

William Saroyan Foundation, the contest is administered by ADAA Board of Directors member and writer Lisa Kirazian. Submission deadline is February 15, 2012 and scripts can be sent to adaa@armeniandrama.org. See



Paul Awards winners, Jeff Kalousdian, left, and Kraig Kuzirian, flank actress and award founder Karen Kondazian

www.armeniandrama.org for guidelines.

ADAA's last major event was the fourth Annual ADAA Boston Armenian Film Festival, at the Fresh Space Pond Cinemas in Cambridge, Mass., on November 12-13.

Kalajians Cook up a Storm

KITCHEN, from page 13

she honed her cooking skills in a variety of classes at such noted institutions as Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island.

Before retiring nearly three years ago, she taught in the culinary academy at Olympic Heights High School in Boca Raton.

The idea for www.thearmeniankitchen.com evolved while discussing retirement plans.

"We have always wanted to work on something together," said Doug Kalajian. "Robyn's knowledge of food and cooking with my writing skill was an obvious conclusion."

They discussed a number of potential projects, including a cookbook and a theme calendar. Every idea they hatched involved Armenian food. Using the Internet was something that would have intimidated both of them not long ago. But friends who were avid bloggers suggested they give it a try.

"It was daunting at times," Doug Kalajian admitted. "But we were both delighted and amazed at how quickly we reached a large and enthusiastic audience. So many people are interested in Armenian cuisine and willing to help by contributing recipes, photos, even videos."

They started their project with the assumption that many folks share an urge to preserve the recipes and cooking techniques of their parents and ancestors. The reaction they get each day proves them to be right.

Many requests come from around the world and start with the phrase "I remember ..." and go on to describe some wonderful dish they haven't consumed since Grandma died.

"A non-Armenian gentleman from Queensland, Australia, who was so desperate for the taste of *basterma*, asked for a recipe to make it at home since there were no stores near him to purchase it," said Robyn Kalajian. "A woman from Canada sent us an easy method of making *madzoon* in a microwave. Others write us hoping to find lost family recipes."

The most unusual request had nothing to do with food. A reader asked the Kalajians if they could translate an English saying into Armenian (including the lettering) for a family member who wanted to have it tattooed on her arm before her upcoming wedding. The request was fulfilled.

Since the first item appeared in March 2009, the Kalajians have reached more than 70,000 readers in 160 countries.

Posting videos on YouTube has carried them to an even broader audience, including many non-Armenians.

"I'm amazed that more than 20,000 people around the world have watched me make Armenian coffee," Doug Kalajian said. "Judging by the comments, it is clear people take their

coffee seriously. Even more rewarding is the fact we hear from readers every day."

It is not for the money because there isn't any. The website is a labor of love. Advertising on the site is provided by Google through an arrangement available to all bloggers.

"Our income from this is what I would call modest, but only if I were bragging," he added. "It doesn't actually cover the cost of ingredients. Our goal from the beginning was to preserve and share the recipes Armenians have carried around the world and the stories behind them. The reaction we've received is incredibly positive and far-reaching."

Growing up, Armenian food was on the default menu. Doug Kalajian's parents worked long hours in the dry cleaning store but that never stopped his mom from making fresh madzoon to spoon over her kufteh.

"I can't match her energy, much less her cooking style," he admits, "but making her kind of food is a way of remembering and honoring her. Sharing our food with family and friends is a gesture of love and respect that's missing from today's microwave society."

Baking the distinctive cheese bread recipe that Robyn Kalajian learned from her grandmother not only brings back memories, it gives the Kalajians a small taste of the little village in the shadow of Musa Dagh her ancestors left nearly a century ago.

Their ultimate Armenian dinner would start with cheese *borags* and a hefty plate of *mezza*, including *basterma* and *yalanchi*. The main course would include bulgur *pilaf* with *gou-vedge*, any type of *kebab*, *kufteh*, vegetable *geragoor* and chopped salad. Finally, dessert would be *baklava* with Armenian coffee.

"None of that is particularly fancy or exotic," Doug Kalajian notes. "But it's the food we know and love – and that makes us happy."

One thing that may surprise people about him is that he can't taste much of what he eats now. Last fall, while on a freelance writing assignment, he took a tumble and cracked his skull. As a result, he completely lost his sense of smell. Doctors say it is unlikely to return.

"I've since discovered just how closely smell and taste are related," he said. "I can still sense sweet, sour, hot and a few other basic tastes. But most herbs and subtle flavorings are just a memory. Just as bad, I can't smell what's cooking. Think about how much pleasure any Armenian meal comes from the aroma of simmering onions."

"All this would be annoying under any circumstances, but it makes food blogging even more of a challenge," he points out. "Luckily, Robyn has always had the more refined palate. She's more than capable of maintaining the lead role in the kitchen as well as on the web."



AGBU Detroit Chapter
Knights of Vartan, Detroit Chapter
U of M Dearborn, Armenian Research Center
Tekeyan Cultural Association

present

Renowned Historian & Professor

Dr. George A. Bournoutian

To discuss his recent book

The 1823 Russian Survey of the Karabagh Province: A Primary Source on the Demography and Economy of Karabagh

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Open to the Public / Presented in English

The author will be available to sign copies of his book

For more information you may call

David Terzibashian at 248-229-0903



In 1823, following the flight of the last Muslim Khan to Iran, the Russians conducted a thorough survey of the Karabagh Province (which included the region of Zangezur as well). The survey listed every village and nomad camp, enumerated the number of its inhabitants in 1822, lists the various taxes paid to the treasury in 1822, and most importantly, listed every village according to the ethnicity of its inhabitants: Armenian or Tatar (the term Azerbaijani) did not exist until the 20th century. For the last 20 years the Azerbaijani government and its historians have claimed that Armenians arrived in Karabagh only after 1828. They have even deleted material on the Armenians from the new editions of their own primary sources written in the 19th century. The Russian survey proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that in 1822 (six years before 1828) the Armenians formed the overwhelming (95%) of the population of the villages in Zangezur, as well as in the districts which form the territory of Nagorno-Karabagh today.

The survey is a very rare document of some 350 pages. No copies exist in the US and only a handful of copies exist in the former USSR. Dr. Bournoutian has managed to locate a copy from the Moscow Central Library and has translated the entire survey, with extensive notes and commentary, into English.

Note:

Note: The University of Michigan Dearborn does not necessarily endorse the speaker's views.

ԹԷՔԵԱՆ Մշակութային Միութիւն
Միեր Մկրտչեան Թատրախումբ
Tekeyan Cultural Association - Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group

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Tickets: \$35, \$25
For Information/Tickets Call Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850, or Maro Hajakian (201) 934-3427



ARTS & LIVING



Senior members mesmerize the audience with their dance to *Nazani* by Sayat Nova.

Shushi Dance Ensemble Delivers Patriotism and Passion

By Talin Kupelian

LODI, N.J. — Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble delivered what it promised, a magnificent celebration of a trio of 20th anniversaries: that of Armenia's independence, Karabagh's independence and the founding of the Shushi Dance Ensemble.

It was a day of flags — Armenian tri-color flags were sprinkled throughout the packed auditorium of Felician College. The ingredients were in place — a packed house, organized volunteers, coordination and cooperation, energetic young dancers, talented musicians, the professional St. Vartan Cathedral Choir with conductor Khoren Mekanejian and a professional staff of sound engineers and stage managers, the likes of which had not been assembled before. There was a power failure in New Jersey as a result of the Halloween snow. Felician College was also experiencing a power outage. It was a miracle that the show went ahead as planned. The last two days were a roller coaster for the organizers, but everyone came through with flying colors. With rumors of a cancellation spreading on the Internet, members and parents alike took to Facebook, Twitter, email and any social media network they knew to reassure the public that the show was going to go on as scheduled. Backstage the scene was just as touching. In one corner there was a group of boys teaching a fellow Shushi member the words to a song to make sure he could get on stage to perform confidently. In another room there was a group of young girls holding hands in a circle and praying right before the



The ensemble sings *Mer Hayrenik*, as the audience joins in.

performance. In the next room, there were a few girls helping each other with their hair and costumes.

Every detail was accounted for. As guests walked into the main entrance, each was led to the red carpet area where they took pictures in front of a large banner and Shushi logos. Once

the guests walked into the auditorium they were greeted by the senior members of the ensemble who ushered the guests to their seats. Walking into the auditorium, the room was filled with 800 flags placed on every other chair. There was music playing in the background as a slideshow was being presented on

both sides of the room with pictures reminiscing the 20-year history of the Shushi Dance Ensemble. Once the program began, audience members waved the flags to the patriotic opening number of *Verakangnir Guiligia*, as 150 performers presented a powerful beginning that set the stage for the next two hours of an exhilarating program.

The mood was positive, the dancers were ready, the costumes were colorful, most of which were designed and sewn in Armenia, including the choir and the musicians' costumes. The talented musicians, along with the singers Hovig Krikorian, Armen Hovanesian, Salbi Mailyan and Lillian, added just the right balance. Musical director, Andranik Mouradian, who has been a permanent fixture at Shushi performances for

more than 10 years, delivered the music and directed his band of five musicians. He said, "I have worked with many musicians and high profile directors and choreographers from all over the world. I have never encountered anyone who has been involved in every aspect of a program of this magnitude with so much attention to detail as Seta Paskalian-Kantardjian." As usual Laurie Dabaghian was impressive with her passionate voice; she recited the poems dedicated to Armenian heroes.

It was a professionally-staged, seamless production. With a strong advertising campaign on Cablevision, television and radio interviews, social media networks and mass mailing, the organizers were determined to ensure a packed auditorium, and the mission was accomplished.

In the audience were Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, Armenia's United Nations Ambassador Garek Nazarian and his wife; Fr. Mardiros Chevian, dean of St. Vartan Cathedral; the benefactors of this program, Hagop and Ica Kouyoumdjian, along with other prominent figures in the community.

Paskalian-Kantardjian's dedication and commitment to the dance ensemble is commendable. She has earned the love and respect of all.

Shushi's 20th anniversary celebrations will continue throughout this season as the ensemble travels to California and will conclude in July 2012 with a tour of Argentina and Uruguay.

For information, visit www.shushidance.org.



The ensemble receives a standing ovation from the packed Felician College audience during the finale of their 20th anniversary of Armenia's independence performance.



ARTS & LIVING

‘Intelligent Assemblage of Fact and Fiction’

By Norm Goldman

The Grand Mirage. By Darrell Delamaide. Publisher: Barnaby Woods Books. ISBN: 978-0-9839958-0-7

Recreating history in the form of fiction has always piqued my curiosity as it forces me to do a little background research to fully understand what the story is all about. And such was the case with Darrell Delamaide’s *The Grand Mirage* where I vividly and graphically traveled back to the Ottoman Empire in the early 1900s and the building of the Bagdad Railway – a grand project and the effort of two empires, the German and Ottoman.

The importance of the railway to Germany cannot be over exaggerated as it would enable transportation through modern day Turkey, Syria and Iraq to Baghdad and then onto Basra. Basra had direct access to the Persian Gulf presenting an immense threat to England, as the Gulf gave directly to the Arabian Sea, the waterway to the coast of India and the jewel of Britain’s imperial crown. In fact, the railway did become a source of international disputes prior to World War I and some have even argued it

was one of the leading causes of the war. In addition, during this era there was a great deal of upheaval in this neck of the woods where we had a coalition of various groups favoring reformation of the administration of the Ottoman Empire. The group was called the Young Turks and their movement was against the Ottoman Sultan, favoring a re-installation of the absolute monarchy and resurrecting the Ottoman Empire. In 1908 they established the second constitutional era, which become the Young Turk Revolution and they kept the Sultan as a figurehead. The Young Turks exercised control over the government through the Committee on Union and Progress. Also, there was animosity concerning ethnic minorities such as the Armenians, who were Christian and the Kurds, who were Muslims, the latter having slaughtered 300,000 Armenians in 1894.

Cleverly using all of the aforementioned background material, Delamaide spins his tale around the actions of his principal protagonist, Richard Leighton, Ninth Baron Leighton, an Orientalist scholar. Edward Grey, the British foreign secretary, recruits Leighton to act as a spy to keep watch on the building of the Baghdad Railway.

Leighton doesn’t exactly cherish this role, as it seemed to him deceitful and in some respects cowardly. Nonetheless, his loyalty to Britain overrules whatever unwillingness he may have initially shown, particularly when he considers the danger if the Kaiser succeeds in getting his Berlin to Baghdad railway. The result could be disastrous to Britain as Germany would become extremely aggressive in Europe and perhaps lead to war. Not to rock the boat, however, the Germans are selling the project on the advantage of rail for trade rather than the possibility of using it as a means of transporting troops to the battlefield.

Leighton agrees to fall in with a caravan to Baghdad and to act as a British scout under the guise of working on some Koran translations. All of this sounds innocent enough and devoid of any great danger, however, as the yarn unfolds, Leighton discovers that the Germans are not very thrilled with his snooping activities and will do anything, including assassinating him, to stop him from finding out their plans. Joining Leighton on the caravan is his loyal valet as well as an American engineer on assignment from the US who at one time was a member of Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders.

Delamaide delivers into the saga all the hair pin turns involving espionage, double dealing, cunning diplomacy, foxy maneuvering on the part of The Deutsche Bank, which is the primary financial backer to the Germans, an unexplained slaughter of railway workmen and international intrigue. Not to be omitted is a love story involving Leighton’s ex-Armenian girlfriend Elena – someone we do not learn too much about until the final chapters where she plays an important role.

Although at times I felt the novel’s pacing was a trifle slow, particularly in the early chapters, nonetheless I must commend Delamaide’s awesome achievement in that he has succeeded in intelligently assembling facts and fiction to attain realism that makes the historical setting as chaotic, as well as dangerous, as anything that may exist today in the Middle East. This is a novel that could have easily spun out of control, however, thanks to expertly-voiced narration and a skilled evocation of time and place, the tale will linger in your imagination long after you lay it to rest.

(Darrell Delamaide is a veteran journalist who has reported from five continents. He is also the author of *The New Superregions of Europe, Gold and Debt Shock*. This review first appeared in Examiner.com)

Book Review

Haunting Voices of the Great War

By Christopher Silvester

Of the many books about the First World War, this is among the most strikingly original. Swedish historian Peter Englund has taken a cast of 20 individuals from various countries “all of them low in the hierarchies” and followed the course of their experiences.

Most are in their early 20s though one is a 12-year-old German girl at the outbreak of war. A handful are middle-aged. Structured like a diary yet flitting from one character to another it is written in the present tense, which immerses readers further into their lives.

Englund quotes from their diaries, letters and memoirs but also paraphrases material from these sources which allows him to introduce his own thoughts.

When one of his characters is stationed in

the Armenian city of Van in a north-eastern province of the Ottoman Empire, Englund observes: “The war is providing pretexts, creating rumors, cutting off the spread of news, simplifying thought processes and normalizing violence.” The “most tortuous” story is that of Rafael de Nogales, a Venezuelan exile who sails from America to Europe in search of adventure. He volunteers for the Belgian army out of sympathy for the Belgian cause but is turned down.

He subsequently volunteers in turn for the French, Montenegrin, Serbian and Russian armies, all of which rebuff him so he joins the Turkish army and ends up fighting against the Russians and Armenians on the Caucasus front, against the British in Mesopotamia and the British again in Gaza and Jerusalem.

We experience life in Paris through the eyes of Michel Corday, a French civil servant beyond military age who witnesses soldiers in off-duty debauchery at Maxim.

Englund notes that Parisian prostitutes

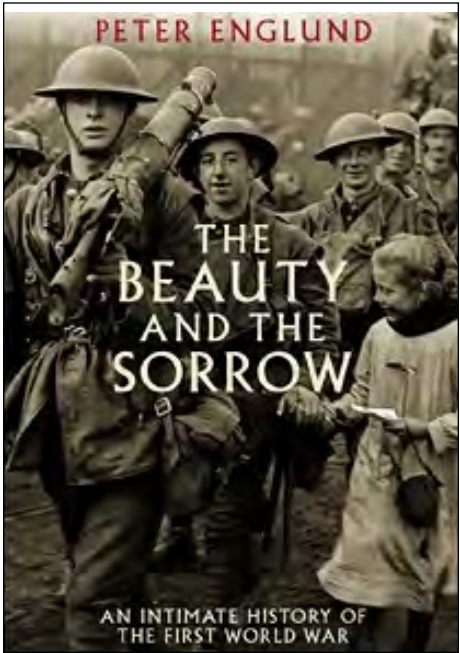
with venereal disease sometimes earn higher fees than healthy ones from clients hoping to catch an infection so as to avoid being sent to the front. Englund also takes us to some far-flung theatres such as German East Africa where an encirclement operation against a swift-moving German force by the British, Belgians and Portuguese fails because 5,000 out of their 7,000 pack mules fall prey to the tsetse fly.

Almost every page of Englund’s book is fresh and revelatory. A British plane is shot down over Gaza. When de Nogales finds the pilot’s body it has been stripped naked and the feet cut off by looters who did not bother unlacing his boots.

Englund’s choice of witnesses is quirky and intriguing such as a Hungarian cavalryman, a British nurse serving with the Russian army, an Australian woman driver in the Serbian army and a Belgian airman.

The overall effect of their often-peculiar narratives is powerful and compelling.

In his position up a mountain Italian soldier Paolo Monelli watches an Austrian medical officer’s body in a nearby crevice decompose over



several days and addresses him thus in his journal: “You will still exist for a little while as a number on the sergeant’s muster-roll, a pathetic subject for memorial speeches; but you, man, you do not exist and it’s as if you never existed. “We call them dead men but what’s lying there is actually no more than carbon and hydrogen sulfide, covered in ragged shreds of uniform.”

(*The Beauty and the Sorrow: An Intimate History of the First World.* By Peter Englund. Profile Books. £25. This review originally appeared in the *Daily Express*.)

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Eurdolian Family

Easy Meatballs with Eggplant

By Christine Datian

LAS VEGAS (*Sunset*) – Eggplant always seems to have a love-it-or-hate-it audience. But “even people who claim they don’t like eggplant love these easy meatballs,” says Christine Datian. You can use a small ice cream scoop to shape them quickly. Preparation and cook time is about one hour, and it serves six.

INGREDIENTS

- One large egg, lightly beaten
- One-and-one-half pounds ground lean lamb or beef
- One-and-one-half cups finely chopped eggplant (about four ounces)
- One-third cup chopped onion

- One-third cup minced parsley
- One-fourth cup pine nuts
- One-fourth cup Italian-style dried bread crumbs
- One-fourth cup grated Parmesan cheese
- One tablespoon minced garlic
- Three-fourths teaspoon salt
- Three-fourths teaspoon fresh-ground pepper
- Three-fourths teaspoon dried basil
- Three-fourths teaspoon dried oregano
- Two cups purchased marinara sauce
- One teaspoon Worcestershire
- Six pocket breads (five inches wide), cut in half
- Bell pepper rings (optional)

PREPARATION

- 1. In a large bowl, mix the egg, lamb, egg-

- plant, onion, parsley, pine nuts, bread crumbs, parmesan cheese, garlic, salt, pepper, basil and oregano. Shape the mixture into one-and-one-half-inch balls and place them one inch apart in an oiled 12- by 17-inch baking pan.
- 2. Bake meatballs in a 425 degrees oven until they are well browned, 20 to 25 minutes.
- 3. Spoon out and discard any fat from pan. Stir in the marinara sauce and Worcestershire, scraping up browned bits from bottom of pan and turning meatballs to coat. Bake until sauce is steaming, three to five minutes longer.
- 4. Spoon meatballs into a bowl and scrape sauce over them. Spoon meatballs and sauce into pocket breads and tuck in bell pepper rings if desired.

Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group to Stage New Comedy

ORADELL, N.J. – Tekeyan Cultural Association’s Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group of NY/NJ will present a new comedy called “Sbannel Siro Hamar” (To Kill for Love) written by Aldo Nigolski and adapted and directed by Gagik Karapetian. The performances will take place at the Oradell Elementary School on December 10 and 11. The play is a new endeavor for the group, deviating from its musical format showcased in “Shogokort” in fall 2010, but bringing just as many laughs. This production is a comedy performed by



Gagik Karapetian

an exceptional cast who bring the characters of the play to life with their playful antics, adventures and word plays. The production will be in Armenian and is the third production directed by Karapetian. Karapetian is one the preeminent talents in the artistry of Armenian dance and in recent years, has extended his cultural involvement to the training of various theater groups both in Armenia and the US, including the Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group. This new production will be presented twice: Saturday, December 10, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 11, at 4 p.m., at Oradell Elementary School, 350 Prospect Ave. Donation: \$35 and \$25. For more information call Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850 or Maro Hajakian (201) 934-3427.

Yale’s Adrina Garbooshian Edits Papers of Benjamin Franklin

FRANKLIN, from page 13
Benjamin Franklin, Yale University, transcribing documents, comparing typescripts, conducting research and writing annotations for Franklin’s correspondences and writings, detail work that she loves. She says, “I have very much enjoyed this work. Franklin was a brilliant scientist and statesman. I feel privileged to have worked on his correspondence. I may return to teaching for a while but in the future I would like to return to the field of documentary editing. If there is an opening at another similar project, I will apply.” She may one day again call Detroit “home.”

A recent article about Garbooshian in Wayne State’s *World Talk* said, in part, “that in her position she has taken trips to the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia and to the Library of Congress where she has viewed the original manuscripts to verify the accuracy of

the Benjamin Franklin typescripts in connection with the period when Franklin was serving as a diplomat in France.” Her locally-known father, Jack Garbooshian, says this about his daughter: “I should give credit to my mother’s side of the family (Boghikian) for Adrina’s writing ability.” Her proud grandmother is Nani, Arpine Garbooshian. “All of us in the family are proud of her perseverance and dedication. She is a person of virtue. When she approached getting burned out, we kept encouraging her to attain her goals.” Garbooshian’s parents are quick to state they are equally proud of their son to whom his sister is especially close. Levon is the father of little Sarah. Both her parents speak of her prowess as a tennis player, which she started playing at 8. Now a vegetarian, she works out, plays tennis

and lifts weights. Dad says, “She still plays a mean game of tennis. All we want is for her is to have a happy, healthy, fulfilling life.” When asked if the young PhD liked being called “doctor” she proved she has a level head on her intelligent shoulders replying, “No! I studied for my benefit and because of my interests. However, I do not think that makes me superior to anyone else. Therefore, I do not want a title to separate me from others. I think that all work has dignity. What is important is that one supports oneself and one’s family. Rank and degrees should not matter. I value character and morality above all else.” Possessing a humble, refreshing attitude encompassing all her accomplishments, coupled with an impressive resume, Adrina Garbooshian will for certain be a valuable asset to anyone who is fortunate enough to have her in their employment.

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.

MASSACHUSETTS

DECEMBER 2-3 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge, Friday, 3-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Lunch and dinners offered. Booths include: farmer’s market, country store, candy, gourmet, pastries, wreaths and poinsettias, jewelry, second-time around, sports silent auction and more. Santa’s Playland, Saturday 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 11 — Christmas Holiday Concert: Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, 3 p.m., church sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Conductor Konstantin Petrossian. For further info, contact the church office at office@htaac.org or (617) 354-0632.

NEW YORK

NOVEMBER 23 — Seventh annual Thanksgiving Eve celebration and fundraiser. Doors open, 10 p.m. 21+ with valid ID to enter. Le poisson rouge, 158 Bleecker St., New York City. \$20 with RSVP. \$25 at door. To sign up for guest list, www.tinyurl.com/tdayeve11.

DECEMBER 3 — The AGBU/NYSEC presents the fourth annual AGBU Performing Artists in Concert, at 8 p.m.



On December 2-3, Holy Trinity Armenian Church will presents its Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 3-9 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., featuring Armenian cuisine, a farmer’s market, a gourmet store, jewelry, a sports silent auction, etc., at 145 Brattle St., Cambridge, Mass. For more information, call the church.

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. 154 W 57th St., New York City. Tickets, \$65. For info, call AGBU at (212) 319-6383, ext. 124. To purchase tickets directly through the Carnegie Hall Box Office: carnegiehall.org. Carnegie charge: (212) 247-7800. Box Office: 57th Street and Seventh Avenue.

DECEMBER 3-4 — St. Peter Armenian Church Women Guild present their Holiday Bazaar. Gourmet Pantry and Bakery. St. Peter Armenian Church, 100 Troy Schenectady Road, Watervliet. For info, (518) 274-3673.

DECEMBER 11 — Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs presents Shnorhali Choir. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Armenia’s independence at 4 p.m., Madison Theater of Molloy College, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. For info, (516) 678-5000, ext. 7715.

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



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Our Debt of Gratitude to Fridtjof Nansen

"Is there any people on this earth who has suffered so much and yet has survived? But to what end? To be abandoned and betrayed by those very same people who have given them promises in the name of sacred Justice?"

—Fridtjof Nansen

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The destiny of the Armenian people has been so tragic through-out history that no room has been left in their psyche to be grateful to anyone.

Such a bitter outlook on the world has eroded any feeling of thankfulness to the world around us, because we have come to believe that all forces in the world have conspired to destroy Armenia and the Armenian people.

If that sentiment can be dismissed as a national phobia, facts of history remain to convince us that the Great Powers idly watched the destruction of the Armenian people only to emerge later with an outpouring of charity to help the survivors.

For example, Ambassador Henry Morgenthau had a great empathy towards the Armenians. Although he corrected the record on the Genocide, he was not able to convince the US government at the time to intervene on behalf of the Armenians to contain the slaughter. Serving the same administration in the US was Admiral Bristol stationed in Istanbul to undo whatever sympathy was generated in Washington towards the plight of the Armenians by Morgenthau.

Powerful individuals have stood by the Armenians motivated by humanitarian concerns. Maria Jacobson, Jakob "Papa" Kunzler and Stanley Kerr come to mind immediately. But the deeds of the great Norwegian scientist, Nobel Prize winner and monumental humanitarian Fridtjof Nansen stand out among all other selfless helpers, because of the historic ramifications of his efforts.

Nansen's deeds and memory were already in the process of fading when Armenia's government decided to mark the 150th anniversary of his birth by creating an imposing monument in his memory in one of the parks in Yerevan.

Attending the ceremony were Norway's foreign minister, Jonas Gahr Store, and Nansen's granddaughter, who received, as a memento, a red Armenian passport, which allows her to visit Armenia without a visa and reside there as long as she desires. The symbolism of the memento was not lost on the audience, since her grandfather had issued Nansen Passports to 320,000 stateless survivors of the Genocide who were then able to travel and settle in host countries, to try to piece their lives together.

Nansen (1861-1930) was a scientist and adventurer who explored the North Pole and the icy hinterland of Greenland, and published his findings in books for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1922.

Later on, he gradually turned to politics and helped his country to shed their Swedish overlords. He became Norway's first ambassador to Great Britain. In 1919, he became the president of the Norwegian Union for the League of Nations and at the Peace Conference in Versailles, he was an influential lobbyist for the adoption of the League Covenant and for the recognition of the

rights of small nations. That is where he came into contact with the desperate Armenian delegation and was exposed to the plight of the Armenians.

As President Wilson's 14 Points were not adopted and the Sevres Treaty was not ratified, many stateless persons were left to fend for themselves to survive and to resettle in other countries. At that point, Nansen's presence on the world political scene gave a glimmer of hope to the war refugees, among them, of course, the Armenians. In 1921, the Council of the League instituted a High Commission for Refugees and asked Nansen to head it. Nansen devised a way to help those refugees by inventing his eponymous passport, which was recognized by 52 governments.

In his capacity as high commissioner, he negotiated the population exchange between Greece and Turkey, after Kemalist forces dumped Armenians and Greeks into the sea, following the razing of Smyrna.

Later on, Nansen took a direct interest in the lives of the Armenians as the League of Nations invited him to save the remnants of the Armenians people from extinction. He drew up a political, industrial and financial plan for creating a national home for the Armenians. In 1925, Armenia was already under Soviet rule and any help within its borders was suspect for Western countries. Equally suspicious were the Soviet rulers who scrutinized every foreign humanitarian endeavor to detect some political motives behind the deeds. Nansen was able to convince Georgy Chicherin, the Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs, to allow the commission of experts to travel to Armenia to develop the arid territory into a livable national homeland. The plan was to implement an irrigation plan in the Sardarabad region to resettle 50,000 refugees. The result of the survey was published in 1927 by the League of Nations in a document titled, "Scheme for the settlement of Armenian refugees."

The plan was not allowed to be implemented by the League of Nations, as the Soviets had been developing their own irrigation programs for Armenia. However, in the meantime, Nansen was able to resettle 10,000 Armenian refugees in Yerevan and 40,000 in Syria and Lebanon.

Nansen published a book in 1927 outlining his mission to Armenia, titled *Armenia and the Near East*. The book covers the entire trip to the delegation traveling through Greece, Turkey, Georgia and eventually Armenia. Reading the book one is convinced that Nansen's interest goes beyond the goal of the mission, as he delves into the detailed history of every country and city visited on the way. Arriving in Armenia, Nansen surveys the terrain for the irrigation plans, but he also relives the history of the land with some lyrical passages on the landscape. The last part of the book is a condensed history of Armenia, revealing a deep knowledge of the land and an unfettered empathy toward its people.

However, he makes a very poignant remark, defining an almost fatal flaw in the character of the Armenian people: "It has been the tragic destiny of the Armenian people to always distinguish themselves in the service of foreigners, whereas they have failed to govern their own country in any length of time."

As Armenia honors Nansen's memory, hopefully, it will benefit also from his message to come to grips with the challenge of modern times for self-government.

A Tribute to Hirair Hovnanian

By Nubar Dorian

Imagination, dreams, wishes, success, wealth and power are cheap commodities that clutter the human mind and separate us from birds, insects, plants and trees and all creatures of God who do not know Sunday from Monday. In this confusing world we live, very few among us add passion, mission and action to the mix and become leaders to be admired, respected and loved.

One such leader is Hirair Hovnanian. He is involved in all phases of our community, with exemplary caring, attention, devotion and largesse. Hirair is extraordinary and unique in the sense that all worthy causes are embraced by him. Partisanship is alien to him. His name appears as donor, supporter or participant in just about all Armenian causes, without regard to party or group affiliation. This is, indeed,

the hallmark of true leadership.

Obviously, Hirair is best known throughout the Armenian world as the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Assembly of America, which he, along with long-remembered Mr. Mugar, a wonderful memory, established in Washington, DC, decades ago. Without doubt, question or hesitation, this organization presently is the best loved, most admired and most envied in terms of furthering the Armenian Cause. The White House, the Senate and the House in Washington, as well as Armenia and Europe, consider the Armenian Assembly the best source and the most powerful advocate in pursuit of justice for the Armenian Cause.

It is a little ironic, though, that the Armenian Assembly is not fully appreciated in some quarters. It is worth reminding us that from the very inception of the Assembly, it insisted that the organization shall be an advocate for us all by having representation from the Armenian Diocese, the Armenian Prelacy, the Armenian Protestant community, along with two major Armenian political parties. It started with 21 members on its board of directors, with three co-chairpersons, and Hirair Hovnanian as the president of the Board of Trustees.

There is unanimous agreement that the Armenian Assembly has had, and continues to have, remarkable success, and for those who

may not be too familiar, below is a short list of accomplishments to make every Armenian's heart rejoice:

- Established a well-staffed and prestigious office in the heart of Washington, DC, with professionals at the helm;
- Helped lift up the indifference of our community towards US politics from fewer than a dozen congressmen who supported the Armenian Cause. We are grateful to the Assembly for raising this number to more than 170 congressmen throughout the states. There is no question that this number will grow and our Genocide will be recognized officially by the US government;
- Acquired funds from the National Endowment Fund for Humanities and succeeded in preparing the best Oral History Project to record, for posterity, eyewitness stories of the Armenian Genocide;
- For the first time ever, established Summer Internship Program for young, deserving college students to come to Washington during summer and intern with various government and private organizations to prepare them for their future success. This program has been such a great success that the Diocese, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and other organizations have started their own internship programs;
- Presented expert witnesses to congressional

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EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

PRODUCTION

Dilani Yogaratnam

CONTRIBUTORS:

Elizabeth Aprahamian, Daphne Abeel, Dr. Haroutiune Arzoumanian, Edmond Azadian, Prof. Vahagn N. Dadrian, Diana Der Hovanesian, 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

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E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Federal Appeals Court Issues Futile Order on Insurance Lawsuit

Before the Genocide, thousands of Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire bought life insurance from American and European companies, so that after their death, their heirs would receive a lump-sum payment.

Regrettably, many of these companies refused to keep their end of the bargain when Armenian policyholders perished along with their entire families during the course of the Genocide. In most cases, no next of kin was left behind to file an insurance claim on behalf of the victims. A few families who did file a claim were turned down due to the lack of proper paperwork. Clearly, these companies broke their contractual obligations and enriched themselves by keeping the funds owed to the heirs of insured Genocide victims.

Almost a century later, the State of California stepped in to restore justice to the wronged policyholders. Considering the tragic and unnatural circumstance of these deaths, the State approved two successive extensions to the statute of limitations in 2000 and 2011, to allow the

heirs of Genocide victims additional time to file claims against delinquent insurance companies.

Recognizing the negative publicity that such a lawsuit would generate, the New York Life and AXA Insurance companies quickly reached out of court settlements and paid a total of \$37.5 million to the heirs of Armenian policyholders and charitable organizations. In contrast, German insurance companies, Victoria and ERGO, backed by the Turkish government, decided to continue ducking their legal and moral responsibilities towards their ill-fated Armenian policyholders and refused to settle their long-overdue claims. The German firms demanded that the lawsuit filed against them in 2003 be dismissed because the California statute included a reference to the Armenian Genocide, which allegedly conflicts with the foreign policy of the federal government on this issue.

A highly-unusual series of court decisions ensued after Federal Judge Christina Snyder's rejection in 2007 of the German insurance companies' motion to dismiss. In 2009, a three-judge panel of the Federal Appeals Court initially sided with the German companies, but then reversed itself in 2010, finding no legal problems with the California statute. Earlier this year, the German companies appealed once again, this time to a larger panel of 11 federal judges. That hearing, granted on November 7, is to be held in San Francisco during the week of December 12.

Rehearing this case for the third time is unnecessary because the California statute does not violate the federal government's stand on the Armenian Genocide. Indeed, there is no federal policy that bans states from recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Not a single complaint was lodged by any federal official, while more than 40 states adopted resolutions acknowledging the Genocide. In fact the California statute is in line with

the federal government's clear record on this issue. One should not forget that the US House of Representatives adopted two resolutions in 1975 and 1984 recognizing the Armenian Genocide, and President Ronald Reagan issued a Presidential Proclamation on this subject in 1981. In addition, the US Justice Department recognized the Armenian Genocide in a document filed with the World Court in 1951, citing the Armenian mass killings as one of the "outstanding examples of the crime of genocide."

Even though this latest appeal has absolutely no legal merit, the consequences of a negative court decision would not only harm the interests of life insurance claimants, but more importantly, the collective interests of the Armenian people, should the federal appeals court find California's recognition of the Armenian Genocide to be in conflict with the federal government's foreign policy. Such a ruling would negate several decades of Armenian-American political activism by reversing all the resolutions on the Armenian Genocide adopted by more than 40 American states.

The federal appeals court should rule in favor of the Armenian plaintiffs. The court could also uphold the California statute by separating the insurance aspect of the case, which is a prerogative of the states, from the unrelated issue of State vs. Federal powers on Genocide recognition. Should the judges rule against the California statute, however, the Armenian-American community would have no choice but to appeal that verdict to the US Supreme Court.

There is one issue here that is crystal clear: the federal court should force the German insurance companies to make good on their contractual obligations to all policyholders, particularly those who are Genocide victims.

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committees to secure grants for various Armenian causes, including funds for independent Armenia and Karabagh;

- Established an office in California to better coordinate all efforts regarding Armenian needs and requests;
- Conceived and carried on a huge project to establish an Armenian Genocide Museum in Washington, DC. As most of us know, the land has been purchased only three short blocks from the White House and the project is on the way to fruition and
- Recently opened an office in Yerevan, Armenia, to better coordinate all efforts with independent Armenia and Karabagh.

One of Hirair's remarkable accomplishments is his ability to instill love, caring and involvement towards all Armenian affairs here in America, as well as in the homeland. Armenian language, history, music and song are all found in the Hovnanian home. It is a joy to note that every member of Hirair's family is engaged in some Armenian project. Needless to say, every member of his family is loved and admired here in the homeland.

It is fair to state that in the diasporan history, we never had a forum to examine, debate and arrive at consensus. Consequently, we could not achieve our full potential. Hirair Hovnanian changed that and was able, at least in terms of Armenian politics, to eliminate entrenched power, disunity and discord. In fact, he succeeded in wiping off the cobwebs of the past and establishing the dignity of dialogue, the effectiveness of collective analysis and the blessings of united actions.

It is unfortunate that we have a number of leaders who deserve public acclaim and honor. Not at a pricy, formal banquet with black tie, cocktails and foreign-sounding entrees, in a prestigious hotel. Instead, let's celebrate Hovnanian Day in a large banquet hall with entrance fee to cover the rental and with the participation of the best artists and performers who would be delighted to be part of the program. The Board of Directors of the Armenian Assembly could easily organize such an event in New York City, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles. Armenian Americans of all walks of life would be delighted to show their respect and admiration to the Hovnanian family. Furthermore, the hope is that similar events will follow to honor other deserving leaders before God takes them to their Heaven.

(Nubar Dorian was a former co-chair of the Armenian Assembly.)

Anti-Defamation League Has Strayed from its Charter

By William A. Levinson

The Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) original charter is simple, straightforward and honorable: the immediate object of the League is to stop, by appeals to reason and conscience and, if necessary, by appeals to law, the defamation of the Jewish people. Its ultimate purpose is to secure justice and fair treatment to all citizens alike and to put an end forever to unjust and unfair discrimination against and ridicule of any sect or body of citizens.

Nowhere does this call for the ADL to shield Barack Obama from the consequences of his policies toward Israel and other allies of the United States. The "National Pledge for Unity on Israel," which the ADL cosponsored with the American Jewish Committee, is but the most recent example of how this organization has lost touch with the very reason for its existence.

US-Israel friendship should never be used as a political wedge issue. At a time when Israel is confronting new dangers and challenges in a fast-changing Middle East, the United States must continue to project to the world the solid support of the American people and their elected representatives for Israel's rights and quest for peace and security. US leadership in the efforts to achieve an agreement resolving the conflict that results in two states — the Jewish state of Israel and a Palestinian state, living side by side in peaceful coexistence — is more critical than ever.

The fact that "President Obama today [May 19] backed pre-1967 borders as the basis for negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians on the contours of an eventual peace deal" encourages terroristic violence ranging from the slaughter of the Fogel family to acts of war including the launch of Grad rockets against Israel. The statement that the pre-1967 borders are the basis for negotiations tells the Palestinians openly that they can kill as many civilians as they want, fire as many rockets and mortar shells as they want and break as many truces as they want without the prospect of having land concessions taken off the table forever.

The Arabs' provocation or initiation of three wars while Israel was inside its 1967 borders proves meanwhile that Israel's "occupation" of Gaza, Samaria and Judea is not and never was the root cause of the region's violence. This Palestinian video that declares Tel Aviv part of "Palestine" reinforces this obvious conclusion. The deluded idea that Israel's surrender of any

of this territory will bring peace therefore underscores the disconnection from reality of those that promote it, including the ADL, as shown above. This should indeed be a 2012 campaign issue that, especially in combination with similar behavior toward the United Kingdom, underscores Mr. Obama's lack of fitness for his job.

The infamous Zimmerman Telegram of the First World War encouraged Mexico to attack the United States only if the US attacked Germany first. The UK was in contrast not threatening to attack the United States when Mr. Obama said that it and Argentina should negotiate the future of the Falkland Islands. This could conceivably encourage Argentina's next Leopoldo Galtieri to start another war with the United Kingdom. Mr. Obama's encouragement of totalitarian aggression is therefore in no way limited to Palestinian terrorists.

The ADL, meanwhile, demolished its credibility years before its cynical "National Pledge for Unity on Israel," aka "Give Barack Obama a pass for stripping terroristic violence of meaningful consequences." Abraham Foxman had this to say in 2007 about Turkey's genocide of about 1.5 million Armenians during World War I: "The Turks and Armenians need to revisit their past. The Jewish community shouldn't be the arbiter of that history, nor should the US Congress."

Foxman did not go so far as to deny that Armenians had been murdered, but he has nonetheless turned the ADL into an organization where the words "Never Again" are a meaningless slogan. This was so repulsive that ADL Director Andrew Tarsy refused to support Foxman and was fired as a result. Two ADL board members then resigned in disgust.

The ADL has also become a facilitator and enabler of the very hate-mongers it claims to oppose. Mr. Foxman issued this joint statement on hate symbols with Al Sharpton, thus legitimizing this prominent racist and anti-Semite. The actions of Mr. Sharpton and his National Action Network at Freddy's Fashion Mart speak for themselves, as do Mr. Sharpton's statements about the Crown Heights riots and his role in the Tawana Brawley scandal. ADL then went even farther by attacking as "Islamophobic" people and organizations that expose anti-Semitism and similar hate-related activities against Christians under color of Islam.

The organization [Stop Islamization of America, SIOA], led by Robert Spencer and Pamela Geller, warns of the encroachment of Shari'a, or Islamic law, and encourages Muslims

to leave what it describes as the "falsity of Islam."

Adherents of this ideological Islamophobia view Islam as an existential threat to the world, and especially to the "West."

A phobia is an irrational fear of an imaginary danger. Does the ADL contend that this video, which calls for the annihilation of Jews and proclaims that Islam will rule the world was produced by people who do not call themselves Muslims? Is the woman who calls for Jews to "go back to the ovens" in this video (3:20) an actress instead of a person who calls herself a Muslim? Are these people who call for the bombing of Denmark and the taking of Danish women as war booty movie extras and not militant Muslims? Is this Islamic cleric who called women who do not wear hijabs "uncovered meat" whom any man is free to rape a figment of Spencer's, Geller's, and our imaginations and therefore a phobia? Will the ADL treat this massacre of Coptic Christians as an issue like the Armenian genocide, in which "Egyptians and Copts will have to revisit their past"? Does the ADL deny that a self-appointed sharia court (aka lynch mob) in Spain sentenced a woman to death for "adultery," or that Islamic supremacists are trying to carve out sharia-compliant zones in Europe? From where we sit, the ADL's condemnation of Stop the Islamization of America (SIOA) makes it a moral accomplice and accessory to all these outrages.

The ADL has also strayed from its charter by joining the American Jewish Committee and other groups in an attack on the Second Amendment, with the explicit statement that there is no individual right to possess firearms. This puts the ADL and the others squarely on the side of dictators and racists whose first priority is to disarm those they might wish to exterminate or lynch later. This underscores the ADL's appalling judgment even in the absence of the other issues, because taking either side in a controversy unrelated to its basic charter simply alienates people who might otherwise support it.

The ADL was once a fine organization, and it can become one again — but until it changes its current orientation and behavior drastically, it does not deserve the support of any American.

(William A. Levinson, PE, is the author of several books on business management including content on organizational psychology, as well as manufacturing productivity and quality.

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Armenia Fund USA



Thursday, Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2011

U.S. EASTERN REGION :: CHANNEL GUIDE

State / Station	Cable Channels	Satellite Channels	Time
MICHIGAN WMYD TV 20	Charter Communications Ch. 10, 20 Comcast Cable Ch. 3, 20, 235 Brighthouse Networks Ch. 6, 206 Wide Open West — Detroit Ch. 20, 206	DirectTV Ch. 887/20 Echo Star Ch. 8034/20	12PM–6PM
MASSACHUSETTS WBIN-TV	Comcast Cable Ch. 18, 25, 79 Charter Communications Ch. 26 Verizon FiOS Ch. 6 RCN Ch. 18	DirectTV Ch. 50 DISH Ch. 50	12PM–4PM
NEW YORK WMBC 63	Verizon FiOS Ch. 18 RCN Ch. 19 Cablevision Ch. 20 Time Warner Cable Ch. 10, 18, 21 or 63	DirectTV Ch. 63/895 EchoStar Ch. 63/8115	12PM–6PM
NEW JERSEY WMBC 63	Verizon FiOS Ch. 18 Cablevision Ch. 20 Comcast Cable Ch. 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 32, 63 Time Warner Cable Ch. 21 or 63 US Cable of Paramus Ch. 10 Service Electric Ch. 18	DirectTV Ch. 63/895 EchoStar Ch. 63/8115	12PM–6PM
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WMBC 63	Blue Ridge Cable TV Ch. 18		12PM–6PM

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Armenia Fund USA
80 Maiden Lane, Suite 301
New York, NY 10038

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Fax: 212-689-5317
Web: www.ArmeniaFundUSA.org
Email: info@armeniafundusa.org

OR CALL TOLL-FREE:
1-800-888-8897