

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## Chinese Official Visits Armenia, Meets Sargisian

YEREVAN (Xinhua) — Armenian President Serge Sargisian last week met with Li Changchun, a member of the Standing Committee of the Central Committee's Political (CPC) Bureau, to discuss issues concerning bilateral relations.

Changchun conveyed greetings from Chinese President Hu Jintao and praised the long-standing exchanges and contacts between the two countries and peoples.

"After the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1992, the development of bilateral rela-



Li Changchun, left, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, meets with Armenian President Serge Sargisian in Yerevan.

tions entered a new phase," said Changchun. "High-level exchanges are frequent; political mutual trust has deepened; obvious results have been achieved in such fields as trade and economy, culture and education; the two countries communicate and coordinate in international as well as regional issues."

Changchun recalled that during the World Expo in Shanghai last year, Sargisian met Jintao, and the two presidents exchanged views and reached a consensus on how to cement their friendship and widen the scope of cooperation. The presidents' meeting has pointed out the way for further development of bilateral relations and injected new impetus into such development, he said.

Changchun proposed that the two countries enhance bilateral relations in the fields of politics, economy, cultural exchange, education and scientific development.

Sargisian asked Changchun to convey his greetings to Jintao, and said that he fully agrees with Changchun on further efforts to promote bilateral relations.

Sargisian said that China is a reliable friend of Armenia. The friendship between the two countries is conducive to the economic and social development of Armenia and to the peace and prosperity of the region as well, he said.



Dr. Arshavir Gundjian, recently-retired vice president of AGBU Central Board of Directors, being congratulated by AGBU President Berge Setrakian

## Dr. Arshavir Gundjian Honored by AGBU Central Board for Decades of Service

NEW YORK — Citing his legacy of service to Armenians worldwide and to the AGBU Montreal community in particular, the Armenian General Benevolent Union's (AGBU) Central Board of Directors honored Dr. Arshavir Gundjian with a dinner and well-deserved tribute on April 1, at New York City's University Club.

Gundjian, who most recently served as vice president of AGBU, was a board member for 35 years. A professor and researcher in quantum electronics at McGill University, Gundjian played a pivotal role in establishing the AGBU Alex Manogian School in Montreal, which just recently celebrated its 40th anniversary.

see GUNDJIAN, page 3

## Eastern Diocese Names Gov. Deval Patrick 'Friend of Armenians' for 2011

NEW YORK — For his support of the Armenian-American community, the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America has named Massachusetts Gov. Deval L. Patrick as its "Friend of the Armenians" for 2011. The award will be officially bestowed during the annual Diocesan Assembly, meeting this year in Boston, April 28-May 1.

"We are what we are because of our willingness to face horrors like the Armenian Genocide — and to use them as reminders of the best of what we are. And the best of what we want to be is founded in tolerance and understanding."

The words were those of Patrick at the ceremonial groundbreaking and blessing of "Armenian Heritage Park" along the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, on September 9, 2010.

More than 1,000 people — Armenians from the Greater Boston area, leaders of the Armenian Church and national Armenian organizations, distinguished civic and municipal figures and elected officers — had turned out for the ceremony.

Patrick stood alongside the visiting Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, referring to the gathered crowd as his "brothers and sisters," as he offered his universal vision of human



Gov. Deval Patrick

see PATRICK, page 16

## ADL Members Meet with Archbishop Barsamian in NYC

NEW YORK — A delegation of the Regional Executive of the Eastern United States and Canada of the Armenian Democratic Liberal party (ADL) on Wednesday evening, March 30, met with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the Eastern United States at the Diocesan complex here.

The supreme body of the ADL in the US found it appropriate to have a consultative meeting with the Primate in order to examine new challenges to the Armenian religion and diaspora.

The Primate, having newly returned from his long voyage to Europe, Istanbul and Echmiadzin, provided extensive information about the new Diocesan structures of Europe and various

see ADL, page 16



From left, Vartan Ilandjian, Papken Megerian, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Hagop Vartivarian, Krikor Salbashian and Dr. Vaghenag Tarpinian

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Armenia to Export Electric Power to Iraq

YEREVAN (PanArmenian.Net) — Armenian Ambassador to Iraq Murad Muradian met with Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq this week.

Armenia's participation in Iraq's restoration and exporting energy to that nation were among the topics discussed, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported.

Muradian said that Armenia will submit agreements on economic cooperation and investment protection for Iraq's consideration in the near future.

### State Department Concerned over Nukes In Turkey

ANKARA (PanARMENIAN.Net) — The newspaper *Taraf* continues the publication of Turkey-related WikiLeaks cables. According to the last report, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is concerned over the possibility of Turkey's building nuclear weapons.

"Washington believes that Turkey is not planning creation of nuclear weapon in the near future. The US administration is closely following Ankara's nuclear policy; however, in a secret document dated April 28, 2009, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expressed concern over the possibility of Ankara's nuclear policy development," *Taraf* reported.

### Parliament Ratifies Deal on Keeping Russian Military Base Through 2046

YEREVAN (AP) — Armenia's parliament has approved an agreement to host a Russian military base on Armenian soil through 2046.

Parliament voted 80-1 Tuesday to approve the deal signed during Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's visit to Armenia last August. As part of the deal, Moscow also pledged to protect Armenia's security and provide modern weapons for its military.

Last year's agreement extended the original Russian 25-year lease on the base under a 1995 deal. The old deal limited its operations to the territory of the former Soviet Union, while the new agreement lifted that restriction.

The Russian base is located in Gumri in northern Armenia. It has up to 5,000 troops, S-300 air defense missiles and a squadron of MiG-29 fighter jets.

## INSIDE

### Kim Takes a Stand

page 10

#### INDEX

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Armenia . . . . .         | 2  |
| Arts and Living . . . . . | 10 |
| Calendar . . . . .        | 13 |
| Community News. . . . .   | 4  |
| Editorial . . . . .       | 14 |
| International . . . . .   | 3  |





## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## North-South Corridor Investment Discussed

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Transport and Communication Minister Manuk Vardanyan received this week Vice President of Asian Development Bank Xiaoyu Zhao. Spokeswoman for the minister, Susana Tonoyan, said the interlocutors discussed the road-construction programs implemented by the ADB, including the North-South road corridor investment program.

Vardanyan presented the work carried out within the framework of the program on improvement of rural roads and the current process.

The parties noted that they will do everything possible to move the North-South program forward. They also discussed road management issues, programs on restoration of highways, construction of the logistic center of Zvartnots airport as well as issues on building necessary infrastructures to the airport – a new railway and road.

## French Ambassador Receives Medal

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – As part of the Days of Francophonie in Armenia, Armenian students presented the works of French singers and poets earlier this month at the Armenian State Pedagogical University.

Head of the university's foreign languages, Donara Ghazaryan, said that the university also wishes to contribute to the cultural awareness of the French.

Rector Ruben Mirzakhanyan stressed the importance of learning French and noted efforts by French ambassador to Armenia Henry Renault toward increasing interest in the French language in Armenia; he awarded Renault the University Order.

"This award will make me be more resolute and remember that each step in Armenia is being assessed at its worth," the ambassador said.

## PepsiCo Plant to Open in May

YEREVAN (Mediamax) – PepsiCo will open a plant here in May. Prime Minister Tigran Sargsisian visited the construction platform this week.

Business Consultant of Jermuk International Company Edgar Kazaryan stated that the new plant could become one of the best producers of PepsiCo in the world due to its technical equipment.

"After the launch of Pepsi production, we plan to import new equipment for producing natural juices under the Pepsi brand. The volume of investments has already made 22 million, however the cost of the entire program is hard to forecast," Kazaryan stated.

Two production lines have been installed in the plant.

The company plans to create about 250 new jobs.

## 66 Billion Drams Invested into Natural Gas Infrastructure

YEREVAN (Arka) – Robert Nazarian, head of Armenia's Public Services Regulatory Commission (PSRC), said this week that some 66 billion drams have been invested into Armenia's natural gas infrastructure over the last several years.

Speaking at a parliament question-and-answer session convened to discuss a proposal to set up an ad hoc commission to make an inquiry into gas deliveries, he said in 1999 there were 70,000 households and industries connected to the network. This figure has risen now to over 600,000. He also said the total length of the network has been extended from 5,850 kilometers in 2003 to 10,630 kilometers in 2010.

Last year ArmRosGazprom (ARG) spent 643 million drams to expand its capacity. ARG is the only company dealing with import and distribution of Russian natural gas coming to Armenia from Russia via Georgia.

## A Garbage Dump Spells Big Trouble

By Larisa Paremuzyan

VANADZOR (Hetq) – The garbage dump for the town of Vanadzor lies within the boundaries of the village of Arjut, population 1,500.

It was there that I met up with Souren Margaryan, a disabled village resident picking his way through a mound of rubbish. The man was looking for something to sell.

"I get a 12,000 drams monthly pension, but it's not nearly enough. I come here to the dump looking for something – some glass, bits of metal. The bread is for my chickens. But If I really find the remains of a tasty morsel, then I eat it on the spot," Margaryan said.

Arjut Mayor Vardan Mkrtchyan says that on a daily basis there are five other individuals who visit the dump. A few down-and-out folks have even died at the trash dump.

The dump is about one kilometer from the edge of the village. The site isn't cordoned off, so stray dogs and even cows and chickens ramble along.

The dump has never been properly maintained. Come a strong wind, and bits of garbage are sent airborne, eventually settling on the village fields.

Mkrtchyan said some 20 percent of the tillable land isn't cultivated because of the garbage problem. The polluted parcels are just used for wild grass to grow which is then fed to the livestock.

During the past 20 years, the Vanadzor Municipality has failed to tackle the pollution problem. Garbage trucks aren't washed down and sanitation crews don't have proper gear to wear.

Mkrtchyan said that every day some 50-60 trucks unload their garbage at the site. In addition, the trash is transported in trucks with uncovered beds. Thus, some of the garbage doesn't even make it to the site. Some just falls off the back of the trucks onto the Vanadzor-Arjut road.

"At times, I have personally closed off the road and not allowed the garbage trucks to proceed. I have also informed the Vanadzor Municipality and the Lori Regional Governor about the problem," said Mkrtchyan.

Poor trash management has nega-



President Serge Sargsisian, right, with Brian Fall

## Great Britain Interested in Strengthening Ties with Armenia

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – On April 12, Armenian President Serge Sargsisian met with Brian Fall, UK's special representative for the South Caucasus.

Sargsisian expressed hope that the visit of Fall would play a positive role in boosting the Armenian-British relations, as well as raising awareness of the region's problems.

The Armenian leader attached importance to relations with Great Britain, noting that mutual visits and intensification of political dialogue at the highest level contribute to cooperation.

Fall said for his part that Great Britain tries to strengthen and maintain good relations with Armenia, the Republic of Armenia presidential press service reported.

tively impacted the local village environment.

The mayor of Arjut complained that the stench and the burning garbage fumes are driven by the winds right into the village.

"I have often directed people not to burn the trash. The stench is very unpleasant. The situation gets especially unbearable in the summer heat. People have difficulty breathing."

Mkrtchyan wasn't aware that some of the materials, when burnt, are quite unhealthy and even known carcinogens.

The garbage dump also doesn't allow for development projects in the village.

"There was a plan to investment in the cultivation of berries. They came and tested the soil and water. These checked out fine, but once they saw the garbage dump the investors pulled out," said the mayor.

Arjut Deputy Mayor Norik Sardaryan said that the village was trying to come up with realistic solutions and had gone to various agencies for assistance.

Sardaryan said that two years ago an individual from Vanadzor agreed to transport the trash after removing anything of value. For this service, he was to pay the municipality 3 million drams. He added that the Vanadzor government never even used some of the fee to wall off the dump.

The dump site belongs to the Vanadzor-Sanmakroum LLC; Edmon Edayan is the director of the firm.

Lyova Melikyan, who heads the Vanadzor Municipality's Department of Communal Improvement, told me that they constantly monitor the site and clean it once a year. He denied the mayor's allegations that dead stray dogs were being dumped there as well.

"We call in the excavator and bury the dogs. I can assure you that the dump will be completely cleaned in a matter of days," Melikyan said.

In fact, the law states that sanitary conditions must be monitored on a round-the-clock schedule and steps taken to ensure that violations are corrected.

## TCA Implements Pilot Project in Four Schools in Armenia

YEREVAN – In 2010, the Tekeyan Centre Fund implemented its pilot project Support to Armenian Schools, which involved four Tekeyan schools located in various regions of Armenia. The whole project was initiated by Vartan Ouzounian, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Tekeyan Centre Fund, and was approved through its AGM to become a regular and growing charity activity of the fund to bring effective improvement to educational and social areas of schoolchildren.

The whole project was implemented

within a year through various programs and events, and they all were a great success, both with schoolchildren and the teachers. The total budget spent was about \$17,000.

In connection with this Armen Ashotyan, the minister of education and science of Armenia, in his letter to Tekeyan Centre Fund approved the fund's project Support to Armenian Schools.

According to the minister, the results achieved by the Fund in 2010 point out the importance and the usefulness of the project aimed at the improvement of schools in Armenia as well as the promotion of education.

The minister praised the fund's initiative to provide the underprivileged schoolchildren of Armenia and Artsakh with free textbooks. He also emphasized the importance of the book-collection campaign, which is to enrich school libraries.

School competitions organized by Tekeyan Centre in various fields of knowledge have salutary influence on strengthening ties and cooperation among schoolchildren and staffs.

The minister also offered the Fund

cooperation in implementing various projects as well as in providing experts and consultancy.

Having the successful experience of 2010 as well as receiving positive responses both from the project participants, schools and the governing educational institutions, the Board of Tekeyan Centre Fund made a decision to follow the adopted policy concerning the Fund's activity and Tekeyan schools. Some of the programs are to start a tradition to encourage schoolchildren and to help them love the school and knowledge.

In 2011 again the fund intends to carry out a number of projects in various fields: education, culture, sports, entertainment and holiday celebrations.

Tekeyan Olympiad, a scholastic competition in two subjects, the Armenian Language and literature, and mathematics, will open the new season of Tekeyan Fund's events. The competition was held at Tekeyan Centre in Yerevan on April 13. The participants are the eighth formers from Vahan Tekeyan schools in Yerevan, Gumri, Stepanavan and Karbi.

## Correction

A review of Erol Ozkoray's tract, *Turkey: The Permanent Putsch*, by Daphne Abeel, in last week's edition of the *Mirror-Spectator*, misstated the name of the infamous ancestor of journalist Hasan Cemal. He is the grandson of Cemal Pasha.





## INTERNATIONAL

## Knock at the Door Presented at Museo De Memoria Y Tolerancia in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, Mexico – Attended by more than 150 guests, a presentation of Margaret Ajemian Ahnert's Spanish translation of *The Knock at the Door* was made on January 29, at the Museo de Memoria y Tolerancia. The museum has a special room dedicated to Armenia.

Sonia Arakelian, the granddaughter of the late philanthropist, Kerop Arakelian, and a guide at the museum,

and answered questions about her book, which is the story of her mother's survival during the Armenian Genocide.

Levon Sevuntz, a Canadian journalist and talk show host, said, "For many today, Anne Frank is the face of the Jewish Holocaust. Margaret Ajemian Ahnert has given Armenians their own *Anne Frank's Diary*. Thank you, Margaret Ajemian Ahnert, for your tire-



From left, Dr. Jose Sarukhan, Margaret Ajemian Ahnert and Sonia Arakelian

was instrumental in arranging Ahnert's presentation.

Dr. Jose Sarukhan, former chancellor of UNAM, Mexico's national university and father of Mexico's ambassador to the United States, Arturo Sarukhan, introduced the writer, who commented

less efforts speaking and contributing with your book and educating many people all over the world with your story."

The acclaimed and award-winning book has already been translated into numerous languages, and this was Ahnert's fourth year on her book tour.

## Roman Amoyan – Champion of Europe

DORTMUND, Germany (Panorama) – Armenian Roman Amoyan (55kg) has won the title of champion in the European Greco-Roman Wrestling Championship.

Armenian champion beat Ramanus Dagis (Lithuania), Lasha Gogitadze (Georgia) and Russia's Valery Borgoyakov. In the semifinal Amoyan defeated Azerbaijan's Edanis Azizli and finally he defeated Azerbaijani wrestler Vugar Rahimov, who represented the Ukraine.

Amoyan has won the European Champion's title twice.

## Christian Cleric Dodges Assault In Western Turkey

ISTANBUL (*Daily News* with wires) – A foreign pastor in Izmir escaped possible harm last Friday after a Turkish man shouting ultra-nationalist slogans fired blank shots into the air before being subdued by bystanders when he allegedly reached for a concealed BB gun.

Andrew Craig Brunson, the general-secretary of the Dirilis (Resurrection) Church Association in the Aegean province, was standing in front of the organization's building when the suspect, identified only as MAE, approached and started shouting anti-missionary slogans. Brunson and passersby helped restrain the would-be assailant after he tried to extract an extra gun hidden in a bag.

"I have been living in Turkey for years," said Brunson, whose nationality was not released. "My children were born here and they are growing up [here]. This is the first time I have experienced anything like this. I love Turkey, we have good relations with our neighbors."

The Izmir Police Department's anti-terror branch was continuing its questioning of MAE as the *Hürriyet Daily News & Economic Review* went to print late Sunday.

Turkish media have reported that the individual is an extreme nationalist based on his Facebook status updates and his membership in various online groups.

Writing a Facebook status update a few hours before his alleged attack, MAE said, "The imperialists who carry out missionary acts will remove their bloody hands from my country."

In another update, MAE quoted the outlawed Turkish Revenge Brigades, or T T, and listed several associations whom he accused of conducting missionary activities.

## International News

### Armenians Injured in Minsk Subway Blast

YEREVAN (News.am) – Two ethnic Armenians, Margarita Smbatyan, 70, and Samvel Sahakyan, were injured in a Minsk subway blast on Monday, spokesperson for the Armenian Foreign Ministry Tigran Balayan said.

It is not clear if Smbatyan is a citizen of Armenia.

Armenian citizen Sahakyan was taken to Minsk hospital; information about his age was not verified by press time.

A blast hit the Oktyabrskaya subway station in Minsk during evening rush hour on Monday, killing 12 people and wounding 126.

Oktyabrskaya is the city's busiest metro station, located near the residence of Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko. The explosive device went off as two trains were arriving at the station, where two metro lines intersect.

### New Synagogue Opens In Baku

BAKU (RFE/RL) – Dignitaries, including several foreign ambassadors, attended the opening ceremony for a new synagogue in the Azerbaijani capital.

Last week's opening was attended by US Ambassador Matthew Bryza and envoys from Israel and Turkey, among others.

Hidayet Orujov, head of the State Committee for Work with Religious Groups, told the gathering that the opening of a new synagogue was a major event for Baku.

He said construction of the house of worship – said to be the biggest synagogue in Baku – was funded by the Azerbaijani government.

Semyon Ichiilov, head of Azerbaijan's Mountain Jews' Community, thanked the president of Azerbaijan, adding, "I want all nations to live as one family in Azerbaijan."

Michael Lavon Lotem, Israel's ambassador to Azerbaijan, said the synagogue would be a major source of support for the country's Jewish community.

There are five synagogues in Azerbaijan, three of them in Baku. More than 30,000 Jews live in Azerbaijan.

### Iran Plans to Boost Gas Exports to Armenia

TEHRAN (Armenpress) – The director of Iran National Gas Company, Javad Oji, said intense negotiations have taken place with Armenia on boosting exports of natural gas from the Islamic republic to that country. Oji added that gas exports to that neighboring country may reach 2.3 billion cubic meters annually. Six years ago the two countries signed an agreement to swap gas for electricity, and according to the contract, Iran agreed to send one billion cubic meters of gas annually by 2010. Currently Iran is exporting over one million cubic meters of gas to Armenia per day and a 30-inch pipeline running 113 kilometers has been mounted from Tabriz to the Armenian border for this purpose.

The Iranian gas and Armenian electricity barter contract is for 20 years. It is a four-part contract between Iran's National Gas Exporting Company, Tavanir Company, Armenia's Yerevan TPP and its Electric Company.

### Eurovision Contestants Visit Armenia

YEREVAN (Radiolur) – Eurovision contestants from Malta, San Marino and Ukraine arrived in Armenia as part of their promotional tours. This week they participated in the Armenian National Music Awards and said they were impressed with the show.

The three contestants, Glan, Zenit and Mika Newton, performed the songs they are going to present at Eurovision 2011.

Armenia's representative, Emmy, is also scheduled to visit different countries as part of her Eurovision tour. Her music video, featuring boxer Arthur Abraham, will be ready next week. The scenes have been shot in Germany and Armenia.

## Gundjian Honored by AGBU for Decades of Service

GUNDJIAN, from page 1

"Arshavir's legacy of service to Armenian communities worldwide through his lifelong involvement with the AGBU and other organizations is truly extraordinary," said AGBU President Berge Setrakian. "He has been a friend, a fellow activist and a partner committed to the ideals and goals of the Union and a true believer in the values for which AGBU stands."

Setrakian also paid tribute to Nadia Gundjian, whose tireless support contributed to her husband's lifetime of dedicated service. Most notably, Setrakian announced that Gundjian would be named an emeritus member of the Central Board. He then presented him with a crystal plaque as a token of appreciation on behalf of the organization.

"Arshavir's wisdom and experience will be missed on the board but I am confident his service to our organization and our people will continue," concluded Setrakian.

In his remarks, Gundjian reminisced about the many rewarding initiatives and achievements he had realized during his involvement with AGBU. He recalled how Alex Manoogian, one of AGBU's greatest presidents, had inspired him to become an active community member and had consistently supported him in his various initiatives



Commemorative photograph of the tribute honoring Dr. Arshavir Gundjian (standing in center)

and endeavors. Gundjian also expressed his appreciation for the leadership and forward-looking vision of Setrakian, who has rejuvenated the leadership of the organization through a younger, energized and professionally-talented board.

Also adding their personal comments were Alexis Govciyan, chairman of the AGBU Europe District, and Armen Bechakjian, the current chair of the AGBU Montreal Chapter. Emotional and powerful closing remarks were

made by the most senior member of AGBU's Council of Trustees, Nazar Nazarian, a major philanthropist and benefactor, who stressed that his entire extended family had embraced AGBU and made it a part of their lives.

"How I can serve the Armenian nation and Armenian people throughout the world is and continues to be the source of my happiness," said Nazarian. "We should all do as Arshavir has done and promote AGBU as the best organization to achieve this purpose."





# Community News

## Prof. Hovannisian To Be Honored At UCLA

LOS ANGELES – On Monday, April 18, the UCLA Alumni Association and Alumni Scholars Club will present to Dr. Richard Hovannisian, from the UCLA Department of History, the second annual My Last Lecture Award. The award honors a professor whom students have voted



Prof. Richard Hovannisian

as most inspiring through a campus-wide nomination process. During the ceremony, the honoree reflects on what he might say if this were his last lecture to his students. The award is a revival of the My Last Lecture series held at UCLA in 1955, featuring speeches from the university's greatest and most

inspiring minds, such as Coach John Wooden, Abraham Kaplan (philosophy) and Kenneth Trueblood (chemistry).

Great minds have struggles, triumphs and breakthroughs in their respective studies, and also in their own lives. Sharing those experiences and imparting the knowledge they have gathered throughout their lives does more than give comfort and advice to students. It further enriches the intellectual discourse and adds depth in the relationship between teacher and student.

Hovannisian is professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History and holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF) Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA. A member of the UCLA faculty since 1962, he has organized both the undergraduate and graduate programs in Armenian history at the university and has guided a number of students to graduate degrees in Armenian history. Hovannisian is a Guggenheim Fellow and has received many honors for his scholarship, civic activities and advancement of Armenian studies.

After receiving the award, Hovannisian will reflect on a half-century of teaching at UCLA, discussing issues of identity, acculturation and attainment. He will share what he has learned from his students, and how he has strived for the highest standards of teaching and scholarship.

## Fatma Müge Göçek To Give Lecture on Turkish Denial

LOS ANGELES – Fatma Müge Göçek, a professor at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, will give a lecture, titled "Deciphering Denial: Ottoman Past, Turkish Present and the Collective Violence against the Armenians, 1789-2009," on Tuesday, April 19, from 3:30-5 p.m. in the History Conference Room, 6275 Bunche Hall, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

The event is sponsored by AEF Chair in Modern Armenian History, Department of History, Center for Near Eastern Studies and Center for European and Eurasian Studies.

Göçek is associate professor of sociology and women's studies. Her research focuses on the comparative analysis of gender issues in first and third worlds. She also studies the impact on women of processes such as economic development, nationalism and religious movements. Her published works include *East Encounters West: France and the Ottoman Empire in the 18th Century* (Oxford University Press, 1987), *Reconstructing Gender in the Middle East: Tradition, Identity, Power* (Columbia University Press, 1993) coedited with Shiva Balaghi, *Rise of the Bourgeoisie, Demise of Empire: Ottoman Westernization and Social Change* (Oxford University Press, 1996) and *Social Constructions of Nationalism in the Middle East* (SUNY Press, 2002).

The lecture is free and open to the public.



Nancy Freeman with students, Levon Haroutunian, Nishan Glorikian and Garen Meguerditchian at school recital dedicated to Armenian culture

## Armenian Sisters' Academy Recognized by New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.

LEXINGTON, Mass. – The Armenian Sisters' Academy (ASA) of Lexington announced recently that the Board of Trustees of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Inc. (NEAS&C) has elected the school to institutional membership and granted it accreditation. This accreditation recognizes that the school has met all evaluation standards during the extensive and comprehensive review process.

The Commission on Independent Schools' statement reads, "The commission commends the Armenian Sisters for their presence, support and ministry, the faculty and staff for their care and concern for the students, and the parents for their loyalty to and affection for the school, the entire school community for its determination and success in perpetuating the Armenian culture and language."

In this American-Armenian environment, students benefit by building a strong foundation based on the traditions, history and depth of Armenian culture, while celebrating and growing through the diversity of American society with fellow classmates.

Upon recommendation from the commission, the Armenian Sisters' Academy will further develop and implement ongoing strategic plans for the school.

Sister Cecile Keghiayan, the principal of ASA, noted, "The accreditation solidified the past 30 years of serving the Armenian community by the sisters and highly-qualified teachers, who have dedicated themselves year after year to ensuring the development of the total child spiritually, intellectually, personally, emotionally and socially."

Mayda Melkonian, vice principal of ASA, said, "We are committed to ensuring that the students leave ASA as ethical young men and women who thrive for the best and possess the integrity to become responsible citizens."

The Lexington campus of ASA, located at 20 Pelham Road, is operated by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. It was established in 1982 and serves students ranging from Pre-K through middle school.



Kindergarten Graduation

## Sixth Term the Charm for Mayor Scott Avedisian

By Tom Vartabedian

WARWICK, R.I. – He's not Peter Torigian, at least not yet.

But Scott Avedisian is setting his own example for longevity as a six-term mayor of Warwick – the state's second-largest city with a population of 85,000 residents.

Torigian, if you recall, held office in Peabody, Mass., for 11 terms or 22 years, prior to his death in 2004 at the age of 68 from cancer. During his venerable tenure starting in the 1980s, he ranked as the longest-reigning mayor in Massachusetts history.

Avedisian is setting his own pace in the Ocean State – one day at a time – and letting the years and terms fall where they may.

Under his leadership, Warwick was named one of the top 100 cities in which to reside in America as well as one of the safest. For that, Avedisian bubbles over with pride.

"I stand behind my record as a moderate Republican," says the 46-year-old. "I've been so durable in electoral politics because of my ability to reach across the political aisle."

Just as genuine is the highest bond rating of any city in Rhode Island. Of particular note is the preservation of some 250 acres of farmland, including 41 acres and a mile of coastline at the former Rocky Point Amusement Park.

Aside from environmental growth in his community, there have been budget surpluses every year and a number of other advances. Warwick



Mayor Scott Avedisian

is actually composed of more than 30 villages, each with their own place in history, lending a warm, close-knit feel to the outsider.

The city is burgeoning with business growth, public safety and high educational standards, not to exclude quality youth recreation and senior life. Among the city's annual festivals is Gaspee Days each spring in historic Pawtuxet Village, which celebrates the first armed conflict of the American Revolution before the Boston Tea Party.

The Armenian side of him is often portrayed at Armenian National Committee events, Genocide memorials and youth activities such as the AYP Olympics whenever it hits his state. He's traveled with the ANC to Washington, DC, lobbying Congress to pass a Genocide Resolution and hosted annual flag-raising ceremonies at Warwick City Hall.

His impressions of the Armenian community reach a pinnacle in Rhode Island stature.

"They're hard working and intensely loyal people," he says. "I get a lot of support and there isn't anything I wouldn't do for the Armenian community when asked."

see MAYOR, page 5





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# At National Lenten Retreat, ACYOA Members Focus on Prayer

CLARKSTON, Mich. — Young people from nine parishes across the Eastern Diocese gathered in Michigan last month for a retreat focusing on the importance of prayer in daily life.

Themed “Conversations with God for a New Generation,” the National Lenten Retreat was led by the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. It was sponsored by the Armenian Church Youth Organization of American (ACYOA) Central Council, and held at the Columbiere Conference Center in Clarkston, Mich., from Friday, March 25 to Sunday, March 27.

Findikyan opened the sessions with a talk focusing on personal prayer life. Participants read the preface to *Confessing with Faith*, a prayer book by St. Nersess Shnorhali, and reflected on the simplicity and clarity of St. Nersess’ language. Findikyan stressed that communication with God can follow this example.

Findikyan also spoke about St. Gregory of Narek’s *Lamentations* and asked each of the participants to analyze a prayer from the book.

The Rev. Garabed Kochakian, pastor of St. John’s Church of Detroit, Mich., spoke about the role of the *Book of Psalms* in the liturgical life of the church. He said that the poetic verses are expressions of prayer from the heart. Participants had the opportunity to compose their own prayers in the style of the *Book of Psalms*.

The Very Rev. Aren Jebejian, pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Chicago, Ill., explicated the *Lord’s Prayer*, and compared the way it is presented in the *Gospels* of Matthew and Luke.



(front row, from left) ACYOA Executive Secretary Nancy Basmajian, the Rev. Tadeos Barseghyan, the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan and ACYOA Central Council Chair Lydia Kurkjian with participants in the ACYOA National Lenten Retreat

ACYOA Executive Secretary Nancy Basmajian led a “how-to” prayer guide, encouraging participants to use *Scriptures* and to incorporate everyday life experiences into their prayers.

“I have acquired a greater understanding and knowledge of prayer,” said Paul Derderian of St. Gregory the Enlightener Church of White Plains, NY. “I feel like I have been given the tools to better connect with God.”

During another workshop, participants prepared short dramatizations based on Hovhanness Toumanian’s “The Foolish Man Who Went to See God” — a story in which a man asks God why he hasn’t been rewarded for his hard work.

“All the sessions were interesting and beneficial,” said Melissa Mardoian of Sts. Joachim and Anne Church of Palos Heights, Ill. “Being at college, I’m not studying my faith all the time, and so this retreat really helped me get back on track with God.”

Throughout the weekend, young people worshipped together. They also had the opportunity to engage in sports activities, ask questions about the Armenian Church and share news from their local ACYOA chapters.

The weekend concluded with the Divine Liturgy, celebrated by Findikyan. He was assisted by the Rev. Tadeos Barseghyan, a pastoral intern at St. Gregory the Illuminator Church.

“This was a great opportunity during this Lenten season to take a break from our busy lives to learn more about our relationship with God,” said Danny Dardarian of St. John’s Church of Detroit.

## Sixth Term Is the Charm for Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian

MAYOR, from page 4

Avedisian was greatly influenced by Haiganush Bedrosian, who was recently appointed family court judge in Rhode Island, and Aram Garabedian, a former political leader. A photo of him being administered the oath of office by Bedrosian was published in the *Providence Journal*, on January 5. A second photo of the two leaders chatting also made the edition.

His political record stands on merit. After serving in state government offices, Avedisian ran for City Council in 1990. He was re-elected to that office for the next four terms. In 1999, then-Mayor Lincoln Chafee was appointed to his late father’s seat in the United States Senate.

Avedisian was elected mayor in 2000 and has not yet left the office. In each election, he has

captured every ward and polling district, showing his reach. Also, at this year’s inauguration, the Very Rev. Gomidas Baghsarian, pastor, St. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church, offered prayers.

In his acceptance speech, Avedisian told his constituents, “I know there are some out there who might say this administration is tired. That can’t be further from the truth. I’m approaching this new term with renewed enthusiasm and vigor.”

“Each day my administration and I make decisions that affect the daily lives of our residents,” he points out. “None of us takes this responsibility lightly.”

The youngest child of the late George and Jacqueline Avedisian, the mayor’s grandfather (Arsen Avedisian) was also active in the Armenian community and was the real estate broker that founded an Episcopal church on Broadway in Providence, which later became home to St. Vartanantz Church.

Avedisian was honored with the Haig Sarafian Award by the Armenian Students Association, given for outstanding citizenship, and was named Armenian of the Year by the Armenian Masonic Degree Team.

He is a 1987 graduate of Providence College and secured a master’s degree in public administration from Roger Williams University.

Avedisian was named a Rodel Fellow at the Aspen Institute, a bipartisan group of elected officials charged with reclaiming the middle ground of American politics.

He is currently president of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island — the highest position any layman can have in the church. He’s served on the board of St. Mary’s Home for Children over the past two decades.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Steve Odabashian Runs for Philadelphia City Council as an at-Large Republican

PHILADELPHIA, Penn. — Steve Odabashian, a 41-year-old attorney and entertainer, is in the midst of a competitive election campaign for a Republican at-large seat on Philadelphia's City Council. At-large councilmen represent all of Philadelphia, as opposed to a specific geographic division of the city. Odabashian collected more than 1,000 signatures from registered Republicans living in the city, in order to appear on the primary election ballot, a task made all the more difficult as Republicans make up less than 15 percent of the city.

Now that he is on the ballot, Odabashian's next challenge is advancing past the May 17 primary election. The way Philadelphia City Council at-large elections work, the top five Republican finishers in the primary election, along with the top five Democrat finishers advance to the general election in November. The top seven finishers in November earn at-large seats.

A total of 10 Republicans submitted petitions to be on the primary ballot for at-large elections (one has since dropped out of the race).

His political platform centers on fiscal responsibility and lower taxes. Odabashian also argues that Philadelphia needs to do more to attract new businesses and residents, while not scaring away those currently in Philadelphia. According to Odabashian, "Philadelphia leadership has developed a real sense of complacency and it seems to be content with mediocrity. This city has so much to offer, but the current administration is leading it down a dangerous path towards financial chaos. The city must stop spending beyond its means and must increase its transparency. Philadelphians are fed up with politics as usual and the frequent scandals that are giving Philadelphia a bad name. It's time to clean up the city, both inside and outside of City Hall."

Odabashian lives in the Northern Liberties section of Philadelphia. He is engaged to be

married this summer and is a graduate of the Armenian Sisters Academy in Radnor. He has a bachelor of arts degree in economics from the University of Virginia and a law degree from the Villanova University School of Law. He has worked as an attorney in Philadelphia and in Tokyo, Japan, where he lived for three years. In addition to his legal background, Odabashian has worked in finance. He traded equity options on the American Stock Exchange for two years, followed by a five-year stint trading equities at Susquehanna International Group in Philadelphia. Odabashian is well-known around Philadelphia as a pianist and comedic performer. He has been featured on various national networks including FOX, ESPN and VH1.

He is also an active member of the Armenian community. He has served on the Board of Directors of the Armenian Sisters Academy and was the first president of the Philadelphia AGBU Young Professionals.



Steve Odabashian

## OBITUARY

## Victoria Boghosian Saved by Sister from Armenian Genocide

By Gloria Negri

BELMONT, Mass. (*Boston Globe*) — Victoria (Vaznaian) Boghosian was about 2 when her 7-year-old sister, Maritza, carried her — running, walking, hiding — to escape the 1915 Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey.

Their parents, three brothers, aunts, uncles



Victoria Boghosian

and cousins were killed in the slaughter.

Maritza Soorsoorian told her own children later that her mother's last words before being taken were "Take care of your sister." And she did, carrying her to safety, losing her for a while to a Turkish family, then fleeing with her to the United States in 1923.

Mrs. Boghosian, who was honored by Massachusetts 12 years ago as a Genocide sur-

vivor, died January 29 of congestive heart failure, while under hospice care at her home.

Her age is unclear because of records kept at the time, said her son, Paul T. Boghosian Jr. of Belmont. "Our best guesstimate is 1912 as her birth year, and not 1909 that is her official birth year according to records established here."

"My mother would often feel awkward when people brought attention to two things about her life — her longevity and being a victim of the Armenian Genocide," he said. "She believed that living a long life is out of your hands; it's essentially God's will. And [that] being a genocide victim is almost an accident of history."

In his eulogy, he spoke of the things she loved. "She was never happier than when she was at her own St. James Armenian Church in Watertown and with her family. She loved languages, particularly the Armenian language."

He said she built her English vocabulary from patrons of the variety store she and her late husband had in Belmont, and even late in life picked up new words from television broadcasters.

She was born in the Turkish-Armenian town of Hussenig in the province of Harpoot. "Everyone in the village knew each other," said Martin Deranian, a Shrewsbury dentist and longtime friend with ancestors from the same area. "Victoria is one of the last survivors of the Genocide."

In a 2002 interview with the *Watertown Tab & Press*, Maritza and Victoria recalled their efforts to survive, their separation and their incredible reunion. "The streets were full of families," Soorsoorian said, "when Turkish soldiers ordered the Armenian residents of Hussenig to evacuate the town immediately — leaving behind everything except what they could carry."

She recalled "the frantic crush of people on the street as families struggled to stay together, of being unable to protect themselves — to find

safe lodging for their children."

For a time, the Vaznaian sisters found a haven with an aunt, but the aunt's family was deported and they were on their own. For days, the sisters told the *Tab*, they traveled with others by foot without food, water or shelter, carrying their possessions on their backs.

Eventually, young Maritza was persuaded by elders in the group to give Victoria to a Turkish family who wanted to adopt her.

Maritza made her way overland to the city of Malatia, a two-day journey by ox cart. She always yearned to get her baby sister back. Their separation lasted for almost three years.

"My mother knew she was out there somewhere and was determined to find her," said Helen Marsh, of Lancaster, Va., Maritza's daughter. "Someone told her of 'a little girl' who fit her description. My mother went to the place, saw Victoria playing in the yard, and scooped her up. Victoria had forgotten Armenian and was speaking Turkish."

Two older brothers had earlier come to America and settled in New England. The sisters would join them, but not for a while. What money they needed for their odyssey, Paul Boghosian said, came from the "fire-sale" price Maritza had gotten for her father's bakery in Harpoot.

First, they traveled by wagon from Harpoot to the refugee camps in Aleppo, Syria. At the camp, the sisters lived in a small room with four other cousins, he said. "She said the best thing about Aleppo, where they spent about a year, was the friendships they made and maintained. 'Surviving together is like the devil's candy,' mother would say. 'Even the most horrible experience has its own sweetness.'"

From Aleppo, they traveled by train to Beirut and crossed the Mediterranean to Marseille,

France. They arrived at Ellis Island on August 1, 1923, aboard the French ocean liner Rochambeau.

Their brothers lived in Providence and Revere. Through them, Victoria met Paul Toros Boghosian in Providence. They married in 1930 and moved to Belmont.

"My father opened a variety store, Paul's Spa, in Belmont," Paul Boghosian said. His parents worked side-by-side. "My dad would say that his life would be empty without Mom — that whatever success he had in life could be attributed to her."

Mr. Boghosian died in 1979. Soorsoorian died in 2004. Her last 30 years were lived in Watertown, close enough to Belmont to still look after her baby sister.

"Family was everything to my mother," Paul said.

In 2009, she was honored by the Daughters of Vartan for her 40-year dedicated membership.

"My mother had a great love of this country and was always appreciative of daily life here," her son said. "She didn't take anything for granted and understood the importance of patriotism and love of country."

In 1999, when she was recognized at the State House on Martyrs' Day, she said, "I so wish my mother and father were with me here today to recognize how I am being honored by the greatest country on earth. God bless America."

In addition to her son, she leaves two daughters, Gladys Conlon and Marilyn Papazian, both of Belmont; seven grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held on February 4 from St. James Church.

## Mary Kostikian, 20

WATERTOWN, Mass. — Mary Kostikian died unexpectedly on April 7. She was 20.

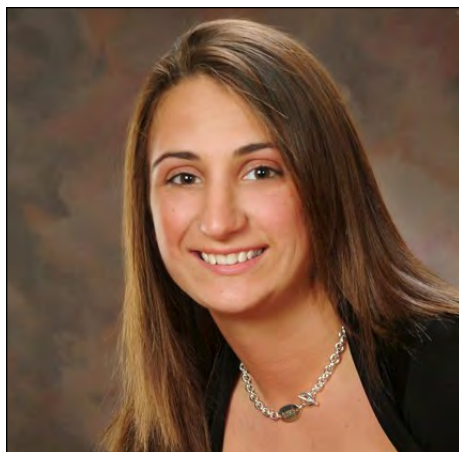
She was a 2009 graduate of Watertown High School.

She leaves her parents, Khachatoor and Tagoui (Santourian) Kostikian; brothers Apkar and David Kostikian; grandparents Apkar and Mariam Kostikian and Hasmik Santourian and many cousins and family members.

Funeral service were held at St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, on Wednesday, April 13. Interment followed at Ridgelawn Cemetery, Watertown.

Arrangements were by the Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to St. James Armenian Church or the Mary Kostikian Scholarship Fund.



Mary Kostikian

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# ATP Leadership Receives Warm Welcome in Southern California

PASADENA, Calif. — Armenia Tree Project (ATP) expanded its presence in Southern California with a visit to the region by Executive Director Jeff Masarjian and Deputy Director Jason Sohigian for a series of meetings and events. The trip was organized by Southern California Development Director Hermine Mahmoudzian with the assistance of Anahit Gharibyan, and highlights included a fundraising dinner in Pasadena and a presentation with students at the AGBU School in Canoga Park.

Sabine Eisaian, Shahen Hairapetian and Arax Mansourian, Mark Howell and Joseph and Joyce Stein.

Founder Carolyn Mugar greeted the 40 guests while they enjoyed a four-course meal, explaining the reasons for starting the organization in 1994. She invited Anahit Gharibyan — ATP's first employee in Armenia who is now an assistant to the development director in Southern California — to recount the early years of the organization.



ATP Executive Director Jeff Masarjian, Deputy Director Jason Sohigian and Development Assistant Anahit Gharibyan with Armenian teachers Takoush Nalbandian, Zepure Demirjian, Sevan Derboghosian, Hratch Sepetdjian and Maral Voskian, and Administrative Assistant Vartuhy Kojayan, at the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School

David and Margaret Mgrublian hosted a dinner reception for ATP at their home in Pasadena on March 13. The event co-chairs were George and Flora Dunaian, Alfred and

Gharibyan recalled being asked on the first day to set a goal to plant 50,000 trees per year and how she thought it could never be done. She announced that since that first week, ATP's



ATP founder Carolyn Mugar (second from right) at a fundraising reception hosted by David and Margaret Mgrublian in Pasadena with event Co-chairs Savey Tufenkian, Flora Dunaian and Elizabeth Agbabian

Community Tree Planting program has planted more than 1,000,000 trees at over 850 sites all around Armenia.

Last year, Alfred and Sabine Eisaian of Glendale contacted ATP about their plans to build a Yoga and Wellness Center in Aghtsk Village near Byurakan. Their goal is to help the local economy and spread the love of yoga and healthy eating.

"We have been supporters of Armenia Tree Project since its inception," noted Sabine Eisaian at the event. "We are excited about ATP's experts initiating environmental education in the local school and planting trees in Aghtsk Village."

In addition to hosting the event, the Mgrublians sponsored the planting of a tree for every guest. "These trees planted in your name will become a living legacy of your support of Armenia and ATP's mission to plant trees for future generations," Gharibyan said.

On March 11, ATP accepted an invitation to visit the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in Canoga Park, where a large group of students donated \$1 per week for four weeks to sponsor the planting of 55 trees in Armenia.

Masarjian and Gharibyan presented ATP's Building Bridges environmental education program to a group of 300 students from kinder-

garten through fifth grade. The visit was coordinated by the school's Armenian teachers, and the donation to ATP was presented by Principal Hagop Hagopian.

"For the school's 35th anniversary, the Elementary Armenian Department wanted to 'Give something to our Homeland.' Since we knew about ATP, we decided to help turn Armenia green," explained Armenian teacher Maral Voskian.

"The students were happy that they were going to plant trees. Meanwhile they also learned something new about their Homeland since we conducted lessons about the importance of saving Armenia's flora and fauna by using ATP's Building Bridges newsletters," she added.

"We are grateful for this tree planting donation and extremely proud of the initiative taken by the young students at the Manoogian-Demirdjian School. We look forward to working together to raise awareness among the youth about environmental issues in Armenia," stated Masarjian. The school visit was part of ATP's Building Bridges program, which was designed to connect diasporan students with Armenia's rich natural heritage.

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

## Lecture on Turkish Foreign Policy In South Caucasus Held at NAASR

BELMONT, Mass. — Dr. Gayane Novikova, founder and director of the Spectrum Center for Strategic Analysis in Yerevan, Armenia, and currently a visiting scholar in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University, will give a lecture on "Turkish Foreign Policy in the South Caucasus: Current Developments," on Thursday, May 6, at 8 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave.

This lecture focuses on aspects of Turkey's foreign policy as they relate to current developments in Armenia and the South Caucasus. It does so through the prism of Turkey's relations with the European Union (EU) and Russia.

Turkey is one of the most dynamically developing states in Eurasia, and the model of its political behavior as a Eurasian power is rapidly moving away from that of a passive respondent. It is firmly defining its priorities in this huge area and, to a certain extent, is revising the main directions of its foreign policy. Under the AKP, which came to power in 2002, Turkey has conducted a pragmatic foreign policy aimed exclusively at defending and satisfying the strategic interests of the Turkish state.

The level of political mobilization of Turkey and its activity in the foreign policy area is

mostly determined by processes related to its EU membership application, developments in the bilateral relations with the United States and Russia, the Cyprus problem, the Kurdish issue and processes in the regions adjacent to its borders. Thus, an increasing interest by Turkey in the South Caucasus is unsurprising; however, and despite the fact that the South Caucasus geographically and strategically constitutes its front yard, currently Turkey's activity in the region is rather constrained.

Turkey's proposals to create stability and security pacts and platforms can be implemented only in the event of a normalization of bilateral relations between three regional states and if Turkey's relations with each develops in a consistent manner. There are different types of tensions and contradiction in Turkey's bilateral relations with Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. As a consequence, all possibilities and variants for regional cooperation forms, acceptable to Turkey, are more and more pushed into the indefinite future.

Admission to the lecture at NAASR is free (donations appreciated). More information about the lecture is available by e-mailing [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org), or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.

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# AGBU's Focus 2011 Set To Take Place in Paris

NEW YORK — Building on the accomplishments of its premier event 10 years ago, AGBU Focus, a biennial affair uniting young Armenians from around the globe, is crossing the Atlantic. Plans and preparations are currently underway for this year's four-day event, scheduled for August 4-7, in Paris.

This year AGBU Focus will give participants an opportunity to explore Paris while they meet like-minded professionals from around the world. Through uniquely tailored networking, cultural and social events, Focus aims to facilitate dialogue among young Armenians in the diaspora by building professional and personal connections on an international level. In addition, Focus provides an occasion to pay tribute to the AGBU programs that have positively impacted generations of young Armenians.

The AGBU Focus Organizing Committee has been working diligently to provide an array of well-rounded activities that showcase Paris in a unique way for local and out-of-town guests and encourage participants to socialize with their peers.

The Focus 2011 weekend will begin with the Thursday-night networking event known as Perspectives. Traditionally, guests take this opportunity to express their views and partake in meaningful discussions on various topics. As a result, conversations that start on the first night lead to engaging discussions throughout the weekend.

On Friday, guests will continue to explore Paris, partaking in smaller group activities and excursions designed to give Focus participants a look at the hidden treasures and off-the-beaten-path locales of the City of Light. Later that evening, guests will be invited to the highly-popular Club Night at a venue in the heart of Paris.

Saturday will be filled with culture and ceremony, starting with the Focus on Art event that will take advantage of unparalleled access to one of the world's most artistic cities. The formal gala celebration honoring this year's beneficiary remains the highlight of the weekend and will take place at an exclusive Parisian venue. As always, Focus will conclude on Sunday with a special brunch, allowing guests to complete their weekend tour.

Throughout the world, people are already gearing up and making plans to visit the French capital. "We are very excited to host Focus in Paris this year, bringing the enthusiasm of past Focus guests to Europe and expanding the dynamic dialogue which has been established over the years," said Aurélie Deyirmendjian, the chair of the Focus 2011 Committee. "It's going to be a spectacular weekend, culturally and socially enriching, rewarding and inspiring as so many young Armenians come together to build bridges for the future. The Focus team is thrilled to secure beautiful and unique venues for the events so that this year's participants can dis-

cover some of the magic and mystery of Paris."

In addition to affording this unique forum for young professionals, AGBU Focus is a venue for Armenians to discover the far-reaching efforts of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, specifically highlighting youth programs which have shaped generations. "It is our pleasure to dedicate Focus 2011 to support the operations of the Armenian Virtual College, an innovative program that aims to spread Armenian history, culture and language," says Deyirmendjian.

The Armenian Virtual College (AVC) is AGBU's newest learning institute and the world's first online Armenian school. AVC ensures that students everywhere have access to formal online studies in Armenian history, language and literature. Courses are provided in six languages, creating a unique virtual learning community that allows students from different countries and backgrounds to take advantage of the curriculum. AGBU Focus is proud to promote the expansion of this unique educational initiative and to provide scholarships to students who would not otherwise be able to benefit from the courses offered by the virtual institute. Having recently launched a worldwide fundraising effort, Focus hopes to establish a scholarship endowment fund, furthering AGBU's dedication to promoting education in the globally-dispersed Armenian communities and beyond.

AGBU Focus has grown since its inception in 2001. What began as a simple weekend of 350 guests has now visited Chicago, New York, Montreal and Miami, and united close to 2,000 young Armenians. Efforts throughout the years have raised over \$150,000 for various AGBU youth programs, including AGBU's Scholarship Program, the Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers and the New York Summer Internship Program.

Accommodations for Focus 2011 have been arranged at the historic Hôtel Lutetia in the heart of one of Paris' most fashionable districts, Saint-Germain-des-Prés. Reservations must be made online at [www.agbufocus.org](http://www.agbufocus.org). Guests will be able to purchase tickets to Focus events online and will have the opportunity to connect with other attendees in the months leading up to Focus, allowing for interactive exchange prior to the weekend.

For further information, visit [www.agbufocus.org](http://www.agbufocus.org) or contact the AGBU Focus Coordinator in New York, Lusiné Kerobyan at [focus@agbu.org](mailto:focus@agbu.org).



Children enjoy cool treats at the Ararat Center.

## Ararat Center Makes Plans for 2011

GREENVILLE, N.Y. — With the start of the 2011 Ararat Center season, the Board of Directors welcomes John Manca, new director of marketing/reservation and food Services. Manca lives in the Albany area and began his new duties in Greenville on April 1. In January, former head chef

By **Andrea G. Karanian**

Jyl DeGiovine, informed the board that she would be resigning her position at the Armenian Youth Conference Center to pursue a full-time office position. The Board

also thanks Talene Kachadourian for her service as the marketing communication manager during its search for a full-time hire for the center.

Within each parish of the Eastern Diocese, there exists a Liaison to the Ararat Youth Conference Center. The ultimate goal of these special volunteers is to be certain that parishioners gain an understanding that the Ararat Center belongs to every member of the Armenian community — young and old alike — and that the concept of family and community is enhanced at the Center.

Several festivities have been planned for the center this summer. The Ararat Center Festival will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Armenia's independence. The date has been set for Saturday, July 23.

Incidentally, the cement pool at the Ararat Center is 72 years old. The pool is an important feature for the participating camp programs as well as a highlight for promotion of the facility to other clientele. Consequently, a new pool will be given high priority. Of course, the biggest challenge with any capital project is its affordability. Preliminary estimates for the pool project range between \$90,000 to \$100,000. The board has decided to officially launch a pool fund.

Visit [www.araratcenter.org](http://www.araratcenter.org) for up-to-date Ararat Conference Center event information and for other donation opportunities.

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# Arts & Living

## The Storyteller And the Artist

A Tale of Artists in Armenia and the US

By Nare Garibyan

YEREVAN (*Yerevan Magazine*) – During a 1969 exhibition in Armenia, at the Artists’ House Gallery, Minas Avetisyan stood in the corner of the gallery space and quietly observed the reactions of the viewers as they encountered his paintings. On this particular day, one of the viewers was an Armenian artist from America, Richard Hratch Tashjian, who was intently looking at one of Avetisyan’s paintings. Upon seeing an unfamiliar face, Minas Avetisyan approached Tashjian and tapped him on the shoulder, engaging him in conversation about the painting, later revealing to him that he was the artist and extending an invitation to his studio. From that moment on, Tashjian became one of the fortunate listeners of Avetisyan’s kind and steady voice. Each breath, each syllable, each phrase became sacred texts for Tashjian and he recorded their conversations.

Avetisyan was from the land of Djajour, a vibrant, hospitable village in Armenia overflowing with fruitbearing trees and the aroma of freshly-made lavash, paper-thin bread. Tashjian met the Avetisyan family and witnessed Avetisyan’s relatives prepare the lavash dough before baking. He conversed with Avetisyan’s father under the apple trees planted near their home to mark Avetisyan’s birth.

In 1973, Avetisyan and Tashjian trekked the 22 miles from Yerevan to the village of Byurakan, the land of a “Thousand Springs,”



“Portrait of Tashjian,” by Minas Avetisyan, flanked by artists Richard Tashjian, left, and Avetisyan

not by car as was the norm, but on foot, clad in blue jeans, button-down shirts and whimsical hats made out of newspaper that served as protection from the sun – a sort of pilgrimage through the rocky terrains of the homeland. As Tashjian and Avetisyan walked, they passed fragrant wildflowers, streams and green valleys, and rested upon the rocks. They talked about life, art forms, abstract art, nature, artists and the conjecture that Cezanne would have loved Armenia’s scenery. “What incredible water,” Avetisyan stated on the cassette tape with the gushing sound of water in the background. Tashjian fondly remembers this trip and states that he “owes everlasting thanks to [his] eternal friend the late Minas Garabed Avetisyan for helping [him] know and love the real Armenia.” After their spontaneous meeting, Tashjian traveled back to Armenia six more times, always keeping his arrival date secret from Avetisyan, surprising him at his studio, up four flights of stairs, swinging the door open, which was always ajar as a welcome sign to visitors.

During his visits, Tashjian conversed with the great Martiros Saryan, Yervand Kochar, Hagop Hagopian and course, Avetisyan. In France, he met Carzou and Jansem. He was inspired by these great visionaries of art and in 1973 became one of the founding members of the Armenian Artists Association of America

see ARTISTS, page 12



Cover of the Turkish Edition of Cosmo with Kim Kardashian

## Kim Kardashian Is Angry As Turkish Cosmo Puts Her On the Cover

LOS ANGELES (*Daily Mail*) – Kim Kardashian has always been vocal about how proud she is of her Armenian heritage.

Now the 30-year-old socialite has expressed her anger after her image appeared on the cover of Turkish *Cosmopolitan* in time for her homeland’s annual Genocide Remembrance Day.

The day marks the systematic extermination of the Armenian population by Turkey during and following World War I, and Kardashian has spoken out about the horror in the past.

The photograph appeared on the cover after she took part in an international photo shoot that went to various magazines published by *Cosmopolitan*.

Kardashian took to her blog to comment about the cover. She said she had no idea that the image would be used as the cover shot.

“I just found out today that I am on the cover of *Cosmopolitan* magazine in Turkey this month,” she wrote.

“*Cosmopolitan* magazine has a number of international editions all around the world that run in various territories, and when I did this shoot for the international covers I had no idea that Turkey was planning to run my story on their cover THIS month, considering Genocide Remembrance Day is this month.

“My Armenian heritage means a lot to me and I’ve been brought up to be incredibly proud of my family’s background and culture so as an Armenian-American woman it is a huge honor for me to be on the first ever Armenian *Cosmopolitan* cover.”

Sources told the website TMZ that *Cosmopolitan* neglected to tell Kardashian’s representation that the Turkish publication would be using the picture, and that there was no way Kardashian would have ever allowed it.

To make matters worse, the edition coincides with April 24, the date in which Armenians commemorate the Genocide.

A source told E! News that Kardashian is upset but realizes that it was just a slip up.

“She’s upset about it obviously, but it was an honest mistake on the behalf of *Cosmo*,” the source said.



Cover of the Armenian Edition of Cosmo with Kim Kardashian

see COSMO, page 11

## Edgarian’s Novel Portrays Married Life among the Stressed and Well-to-Do

By Daphne Abeel

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Carol Edgarian’s first novel, *Rise the Euphrates*, dealt with three generations of Armenian-American women. Her second work of fiction is planted firmly in middle-class, American San Francisco, with side trips to Boston and Cambridge, and there is only the slightest

trace of Armenian influence in this novel.

There’s faint echo here of Tolstoy’s famous opening sentence to his novel, *Anna Karenina*. “Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” Edgarian begins her story with the assertion, “The modern marriage has two states, plateau and precipice....” But here it must be said, the comparison between Tolstoy and Edgarian ends.

Set in the very recent present (references to President Obama and Hillary Clinton abound), this is the story of a couple, Lena (Helena) Rusch, and her husband, Dr. Charles Pepper, a surgeon-turned-entrepreneur who is developing a hot robotic technique that will permit long-distance surgery. The Peppers, both in their 40s, are parents of a son, 4-year-old Theo, and a surviving daughter, Willa, who would have been an identical twin if her sister had not died at birth. Willa is afflicted with breathing problems and requires special care.

The family is under considerable stress as Charlie has abandoned his career as a doctor to work on his robotic invention, which needs serious funding. Lena, formerly a television producer for PBS, has accepted that she must stay home to care for her ailing daughter.

The novel is fluidly plotted and fleshed out with minor characters, Lena’s sister, her best friend and her mother, Beverly.

The counterpart couple to the youngish Peppers are Cal and Ivy Rusch, a couple in their late 70s (Cal is 80), who have more or less seen it all and had it all. Cal is a brusque and over-the-top successful Silicon Valley venture capitalist who has backed many start-ups that panned out. Ivy plays the role of a supportive but not submissive wife to Cal, who runs his business and his partners with an iron hand. They are very rich, the sort of people who can throw a party for their daughter and fiancé that costs \$1 million and offer a menu that includes Scharffen Berger soufflé and Grey Goose crantinis. (Edgarian is nothing but sharp on the details that define the wealthy who know how to shop with an eye to what’s trendy.)

There is a back-story to the relationship between the two couples. Cal was the brother of Lena’s father and once involved him in a financial scheme that left him broke. He died not long after and Lena has never forgiven the betrayal. But, it’s Cal who has the money to back Charlie’s robotic scheme and so when he offers Charlie the seed money to get his project up and running, Lena can do nothing but fume.

In spite of some stated challenges, the compromised daughter, the difficulty paying bills, the fact that they live in a shabby pink bungalow, the Peppers are never in any real danger of going under. They drive a Saab, Theo gets into a good nursery school, they employ a Dominican nanny, whom they treat with political correctness, giving her clothes, helping her to learn English.

And the Rusches are bolstered by an entire retinue of servants.



Carol Edgarian

see EDGARIAN, page 13





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Barsamian's Art Exhibit: 20 Years of Searching for Answers

By Betty Apigian Kessel

DETROIT — The reasons were many and varied for attending the Thursday, March 31, opening of what Dallas-based artist Robert Barsamian called “20 Years- Searching for the Answer,” sponsored by the Holocaust Memorial Center Zekelman Family Campus in Farmington Hills and Armenian benefactors in

launched simultaneously while prayers for Hagopian were being recited.

Hundreds of Armenians were greeted by Holocaust Museum Director Stephen Goldman as they streamed into the magnificent facility to tour the exhibit gallery based on the tragic events of 1915. It was also an opportunity to view the vast exhibits pertaining to the Jewish Holocaust. It posed the question, “Can art help in understanding the history, the memory and the trauma?”

man (endings). Experiences of our grandparents are the same. I hope Edgar is honored by seeing everyone tonight, smiling down and saying ‘good job.’”

Robert Barsamian was born in 1947 in the close-knit Armenian community of Whitinsville, Mass. Both his grandmother and mother were Genocide survivors and the stories they told him reverberated in his mind and developed into art.

As a professionally trained artist Barsamian

the Armenian Genocide in a Holocaust Museum is a necessary and important part of teaching and learning about the Holocaust.” He referred to the Armenian Genocide as “the first genocide of the 20th century.”

Goldman is a man who knows the history of genocide, be it of the Native Americans, Darfur, Rwanda or the Armenians. He is a man one must respect. As a humanist, the museum has picked a winner in him.

Thousands of area students tour the museum yearly as part of the their school curriculum to learn about man’s inhumanity to man and hopefully as a preventive measure for future genocides.

The United Michigan Armenian Committee is dedicated to “making a difference.” One of their projects is to create awareness of the Armenian Genocide through education in collaboration with Facing History and Ourselves. The Detroit Chapter of the Knights of Vartan lends valuable support to accomplish these goals.

Educator workshops are held annually offering an introduction to the Armenian Genocide by providing instructional materials. An essay contest is held each spring designed by Edgar Hagopian offering cash awards to student and teachers alike. It is an incentive to Michigan students to promote interest in the Genocide.

Barsamian’s art is thought-provoking. One shows a pile of Armenian skulls with Hitler’s quote “Who after all remembers the Armenians.” Another shows naked bodies nailed to crosses. Others are a series of faces.

The standout portrait that for many demonstrated the height of evil, depravation and savagery of the Turks was the one called “Slave Girl.” It was a somber faced beautiful Armenian woman cloaked in black with long dark hair and a horizontal line of tattoos on her chin, neck and then more tattoos vertically passing her breast bone depicting the number of times she had been sold into slavery.

There is nothing but sadness in the Jewish Holocaust or the Armenian Genocide. The only identifiable positives were the straggle of pitiful survivors. The lesson to be learned is that one or a handful of maniacs can cause such an epidemic of hate that they can incite others to slaughter millions of innocent men, women and children without a bit of conscience and in the case of the Armenian Genocide, the Turkish government remains adamant in their denial of guilt.

Does the human race have the capability to really mean “Never again?”

Perhaps artists like Robert Barsamian can get the message out through his meaningful art.

We are immensely grateful to museum director Stephen Goldman of the Holocaust Memorial Center, The United Michigan Armenian Committee and all those who made the evening a huge success. Refreshments followed for attending guests.

This exhibit was also made possible through the generosity of the following: Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation, Masco Foundation, Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Darakjian Jewelers, Lisa Karamedjian Meer and Brian Meer, The Ajemian Foundation, Hagopian world of Rugs, and printing of exhibit guide by Katherine Snedeker.

The exhibit continues to July 10. *Shalom* and *Sdesetioun*.



“Road to Aleppo” by Robert Barsamian

a collaboration with the Holocaust Center and United Michigan Armenian Committee.

It had been a longtime dream of recently-deceased community leader and philanthropist businessman, Edgar Hagopian, to establish ties with the Memorial Center and in some way to have their acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide. Barsamian’s art depicting the tragedy of those years is hopefully just the beginning of a new and important alliance.

Hagopian passed away on March 27 and his *Dan Gark* prayer service was being held the evening of March 31. It is ironic that Robert Barsamian’s exhibit of Genocide art was being

Many of those who attended the art exhibit had paid their respect earlier in the day at the Echmiadzin St. John’s Armenian Apostolic Church in Southfield, where Hagopian was lying in state. It was his wish that as a show of appreciation, there should be an impressive attendance at the museum’s art exhibit of Barsamian. Hagopian would have been pleased his dream was realized with such success.

The formal portion of the evening began on a Hye note when Goldman opened with “Welcome to the first completely Kosher Armenian event.” Then he said, “Ian, yan, ouni name endings are here with the stein, berg and

has lived and worked in Boston, New York City and Dallas. His works have been exhibited in a variety of museums and venues including The Bronx Museum of the Arts, the Holocaust Museum in Florida and the Asilah Museum, Morocco.

Another factor in this venture into Armenian Genocide art came as a result of a personal assault on Barsamian getting shot in a mugging. At that point with the avid support of his wife he gave up a lucrative commercial art career to begin to use his talent to develop genocide art.

This is the artist’s statement: “As a survivor of a violent armed robbery, I began to identify with the victimization of my Armenian ancestors. Luco, my grandmother, spoke often of Armenia, the life she had there, and her story of survival. My mother was also a survivor. These two women are the storytellers in my life and their stories have formed my art. I use symbolic images to represent the Turks, the Armenians, the atrocities and the hope and strength of the culture.”

Barsamian played a video for the audience called “I remember,” inviting all to a meditation with his grandmother saying “I want you to join.”

Observing the art amidst extended generations of fellow Armenians born of genocide survivors was both heart wrenching and emotionally stirring.

Somber faces broke out into smiles only upon the encountering of a friend. Photos of Enver, Jemal and Talaat, executors of the genocide prompted one person to say, “Too bad they (Turks) could only be killed one time,” such was the height of emotion.

Goldman extended a warm and cordial greeting to all. He is a gregarious man full of good humor and humanity. He said, “We either learn to survive together or we will die together. Speaking about

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## Kardashian's Angry at Turkish Cosmo Cover

COSMO, from page 10

According to the insider, Kardashian, who has worked with the magazine on more than one occasion, usually gets full copy and picture approval.

“This one just slipped through the cracks,” they said. “I can’t imagine that they would have done this on purpose. Kim has a really great relationship with *Cosmo*.”

But despite Kardashian not being told about her cover shot on the magazine, she has decided to forgive and forget and has already agreed to do a new shoot for *Cosmo*.

A source close to Kardashian told TMZ that she struggled with her decision because although she has an “amazing relationship” with the magazine, she is very passionate about her Armenian heritage.

Kardashian’s representatives apparently

talked to the magazine last Monday and after deciding to put the matter behind her, they all agreed another photo shoot could be scheduled for as early as this week.

Kardashian’s late father Robert Kardashian was a third-generation Armenian-American and her great-grandparents immigrated to Los Angeles from the country.

Although only half-Armenian, Kim Kardashian has said in the past that she was raised with a huge Armenian influence, “always hearing Armenian stories, eating Armenian food and celebrating Armenian holidays.”

The Armenian Genocide is also known as the Armenian Holocaust, and by Armenians, as the Great Crime.

It refers to the obliteration of the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire during and just after World War I.





ARTS & LIVING

# The Storyteller And the Artist

ARTISTS, from page 10

(AAAA) in Boston, which allowed artists to donate their work to be exhibited at Yerevan's Museum of Modern Art. Tashjian was also fortunate to have met the prolific writer William Saroyan in the Armenia Hotel in 1976, as Saroyan welcomed him with his deep and hearty laugh. The day before Tashjian was to be acquainted with Avetisyan, he was in the airplane reading Julien Levy's book about Arshile Gorky, when Vartoosh Moodaian, Gorky's sister, caught a glimpse of the book. What a great coincidence it was. They engaged in conversation and a friendship emerged between them. Tashjian was headed to Yerevan to immerse himself in the art of the homeland, and Moodaian was on her way to meet her cousin,

creation to Avetisyan. When Tashjian heard of Avetisyan's studio fire in 1972, he was in Massachusetts giving a presentation on contemporary Armenian artists. At the end of the evening, a photographer, Arthur Tcholoakian, who had taken photos of Avetisyan's work and had witnessed the fire, approached Tashjian with a message from Avetisyan that his studio had caught on fire, but that he was not harmed. Upon hearing this, Tashjian began to consider how he could help his friend from the shores of America. He immediately prepared a package for Minas that included paint tubes, a fine reproduction of Gorky's painting, "Agony," and a note encouraging him to keep painting.

Tashjian asked Mr. Choukazian, who was the



"Dawn in the Village" Djajour, Armenia, Richard Tashjian

Ado Adoian, for a family reunion.

Tashjian began to sketch when he was 10-years-old and would drive his sister crazy because he drew on her school notebooks. Creative expression run in the family and his grandfather was a famous kanon player from Kharpert and his uncle was an artist who owned an art gallery.

Tashjian loved to paint on location and would venture outside of Yerevan with his portable easel, canvases, notepads, brushes, pencils and watercolor to paint in his large, open-air studio. He has painted on location in Southern France, the Crimea and New Mexico,

director of the museum of ancient books and manuscripts in Yerevan, the Matenadaran and was visiting from Boston to deliver the package to Avetisyan. After the studio blaze many of Avetisyan's paintings were lost and his large circle of artists friends came to his side to help in any possible way. Avetisyan arose out of the ashes and painted with an even more fervent explosion of color.

Avetisyan's and Tashjian's friendship became permanently encapsulated within the portraiture of Tashjian painted by Avetisyan and with-in Tashjian's two tribute paintings to Avetisyan as he heads back home to Djajour.

Avetisyan was born in Djajour, Armenia, in 1928. He attended the Yerevan College of Fine Arts and he made a mark at the Leningrand Art Academy. He painted more than 500 paintings, 500 graphics, 20 murals at 500 square meters, stage designs for opera and ballets, such as the "Gayane" ballet. Avetisyan did not complete his illustrations for the novel, *Verk Hayastan*.

Avetisyan was an exceptional artist who was also a man of the world, conscious of friends, family, nation and the value of life.

Tashjian was born in 1926, in Chelsea, Mass. He served two years in the Navy during World War II as an aerial photographer from 1944 to 1946. He attended the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston from 1946 to 1950 and studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) School of Visual Design Architectural Center under Gyorgy Kepes. Tashjian enjoyed a successful career as an artist and art director at various advertising agencies until 1983. Today, he continues to paint and exhibit his work in New Mexico.



"In memoriam to my good friend and artist Minas G. Avetisyan," by Richard Tashjian

where he currently resides. He awakens to the bright red dawn of the Santa Fe desert landscape and points to a mountain in the distance that is reminiscent of the slopes and high peaks of Aragats Mountain in Armenia. He paints a section of the Rio Grande River on location and remembers the Hrazdan River that flows through Yerevan.

Tashjian continues to paint and is well known in the Santa Fe art scene. Tashjian was inspired by Gorky's dynamic painting, "The Garden of Sochi."

He recreated, by hand, a miniature version of the bright amorphous form in the center of the painting as a gold necklace and gave his



Elaine Mosesian, left, and Charleen Onanian, daughters of the late philanthropist Charles Mosesian, stand with Joyce Kulhawik after the award named for their father was presented to the longtime arts and entertainment reporter for her support of the arts.

## Anniversary Celebration at Arsenal Center Pays Tribute to Arts Supporter Joyce Kulhawik

WATERTOWN, Mass. — On Wednesday, April 6, the Arsenal Center for the Arts paid tribute to the late Charles Mosesian, whose eponymous theater is at the center, while celebrating the center's fifth anniversary and honoring longtime Boston-area arts and culture reporter, Joyce Kulhawik, with an award named for the late philanthropist.

Kulhawik received the first annual Charles Mosesian Award for Support of the Arts from his two daughters, Elaine Mosesian and Charleen Onanian. The award recognizes individuals or organizations who exemplify the late Mosesian's commitment to the arts, the arts community and the Arsenal Center for the Arts.

The evening's program featured a performance by Broadway star Liz Callaway. Callaway is known for her leading roles in "Cats" and "Miss Saigon" among others. She often performs and records with her sister, Ann Hampton Callaway. She sings the theme song to the show, "The Nanny," with (and written by) her sister.



Joyce Kulhawik smiles after Board member John Airasian presents the Arsenal Center's first annual Charles Mosesian Award for Support of the Arts to her.

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# Edgarian’s Novel Portrays Married Life Among the Stressed and Well-to-Do

EDGARIAN, from page 10

While Charlie and Lena have intense conversations about their troubles, the true emotions are difficult to discern, presented as they are in a fraught rhetoric that often seems clichéd and hyperbolic. For example, “Their kind of love wouldn’t just end. It was harder to break than that. They’d acted unpardonably, selfishly, and, in her case, shabbily, and the world didn’t stop and they

didn’t kill each other and as yet, they didn’t quit. Their punishment was worse. They would go on.”

And, yes, Lena does act shabbily, indulging in a one-night stand with Alessandro (“San”), an Italian Casanova, who comes back into her life because he is working on business ventures with Cal.

Although the novel moves forward at a good clip, Edgarian misses some chances to write scenes that might have added to the dramatic impact of the story. When Charlie and Lena decide to separate temporarily, the reader learns of this important decision only in a throwaway line. More might have been revealed of the couple’s inner lives if such a scene had been shown rather than told.

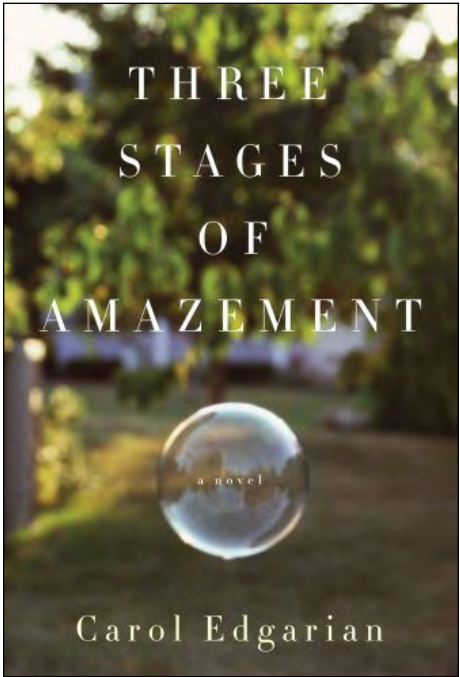
The events that move the story to its conclusion are the financial crash of 2008 and the illnesses of Cal and Ivy. Both develop cancer, and while there are some surprises and bumpy ground to cover before the novel comes to its conclusion, all’s well that ends

well.

An early reviewer compared this novel to the work of Jonathan Franzen, who has chronicled the lives of upper-middle-class dysfunctionals. Edgarian’s work is closer to that of Judith Krantz, a highly-successful writer of popular, commercial fiction, (*Scruples*, *Princess Daisy*, *Mistral’s Daughter*) who also sets her stories in California and who has a command of the lifestyle of the rich if not the famous.

Great literature this is not. It’s a good airport read and may appeal particularly to readers in their 30sand 40s who relate easily to the Peppers’ trials and tribulations. The novel does not escape a certain self-congratulatory tone, which may grate on some readers’ ears. However, Edgarian is writing in a vein that could very well gain her a wide audience.

*Three Stages of Amazement*  
By Carol Edgarian. Scribner. 2011. 295 pp. \$25. ISBN: 978-1-4391-9830-8



## The Axor

BY RUTH AROIAN

Ma Ma I’ve seen you weep  
Ever since I knew you  
For some reason I can assure you

Visitors from your country visited you  
To bring news of the axor (the death march)  
That every Armenian strived to endure

There was no end to it all  
Over a cup of coffee  
They bid goodnight  
To tell more the next time

Other visitors  
Had more horrific stories to tell  
Of the hell they went thru  
Before they came here

So Ma I know why you weep  
Because the worst happened  
To your loved ma and pa  
And your family of four  
That never made it here

(1961)

## May

BY RUTH AROIAN

I walk on this lonely road  
To see nature’s beauty as it unfolds  
The trees showing their leaves  
Berry bushes flowering  
Ready to form its fruit  
Birds have flown back from the south  
And picking up twigs  
To build their nests on the trees  
Squirrels too scurrying about  
Looking for acorns  
That they missed last fall  
Everything is on time  
On this day in May  
As I wait for strawberries  
To ripen in June

CALENDAR

- MASSACHUSETTS
- APRIL 16 — Annual Bazaar, Armenian Sisters’ Academy,** Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., featuring kebabs and baked goods, children’s activities, fun for the whole family. 20 Pelham Road, Lexington. For more information, call (781) 861-8303 or visit [www.ArmenianSistersAcademy.org](http://www.ArmenianSistersAcademy.org).
- APRIL 28 – May 1 — 109th Annual Diocesan Assembly** hosted by Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Boston Park Plaza Hotel; log onto [www.htaac.org/assembly](http://www.htaac.org/assembly) for Assembly events, including those open to the community, and registration. For further info, contact Holy Trinity at (617) 354-0632 or [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).
- MAY 1 — St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School Mother’s Day Afternoon Tea and Fashion Show,** Sunday, 2 p.m., at Oakley Country Club, 410 Belmont St., Watertown. Donation, \$60. For tickets, contact Roupina (617) 543-9951 or Salpi (617) 750-2498.
- MAY 1 — Martyr’s Day 96th anniversary observance,** sponsored by the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley, 3 p.m. Wood Hill Middle School, 11 Cross St., Andover, featuring Yeraz Dance Ensemble of New York. Adult admission, \$10; students free. Refreshments to follow.
- MAY 7 — Spring Dance sponsored by the AWWA to benefit the Armenian Nursing Home.** Featuring the Jason Naroian ensemble at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown, from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Tickets are \$25. For tickets, call Melanie Khederian at (617) 694-1057 or e-mail [mkhederian@gmail.com](mailto:mkhederian@gmail.com)
- MAY 17 — 12th Annual St. James Armenian Church Golf Tournament,** Marlborough Country Club. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, ladies are invited. For details and reservations, call Ron Tashjian (508) 209-0118 or Dick Janjigian (781) 329-4398.
- MAY 21 — “Hiking in Armenia’s Mountains, Valleys and Villages,”** an illustrated talk covering the Siunik area of Southern Armenia, given by Joe Dadgigian and Dik Dagavarian of Merrimack Valley, 6 p.m., ARS Community Center, 142 Liberty St., Lowell. Presented by the Lowell ARF Committee; dinner and program, \$20 adults, \$10 students.



**Prof. Rita Kuyumjian, pictured above, will give a presentation on her book, *Trilogy-April 24, 1915, Before and After-The lives of Survivors*, on Sunday, April 17, at 7 p.m., at Tekeyan Center, 825 Rue Manoogian, St. Laurent, Quebec, sponsored by the Tekeyan Cultural Association.**

- NEW JERSEY
- APRIL 13 — Presentation of Dr. Rita Kuyumjian’s Trilogy-April 24, 1915, Before and After-The lives of the Survivors.** Sponsored by the Tekeyan Cultural Association, Wednesday, 8 p.m. Speaker, Dr. Anie Kalaydjian. St. Leon Armenian Church Hall, 12-61 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn. For info, call (201) 406-9771.
- MAY 21 — Tekeyan Cultural Association’s Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group presents comedy master, Krikor Satamian,** from Los Angeles, in a one-man stand-up comedy show, at 8 p.m. at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. John the Theologian, 353 E. Clinton Ave., Tenafly. Donation: \$65. For reservations and more info, call: Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850 or Noushig Atamian at (718) 344-5582.

- NEW YORK
- MAY 1 — Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Times Square.** Be There. Turkey is Guilty of Genocide, Denying the undeniable is a Crime. Sunday, 2 p.m., 43rd and Broadway, New York City.

Sponsored by Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Inc. Co-sponsored by AGBU, Armenian Assembly of America, Armenian National Committee of America, ADL-Ramgavars, Armenian Council of America with the participation of: Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Catholic Eparchy for US and Canada, AYF, Armenian Youth Organizations, Armenian University and College Clubs. For free bus transportation to and from Times Square, call Diocese (212) 686-0710; Prelacy (212) 689-7810; NJ, Sona (201) 746-0409, (551) 427-8763; Holy Martyrs, John (781) 631-2247; St. Sarkis, Ruben, (917) 992-8501; Vartanantz, Kostan, (201) 741-9789; Paramus, Andy, (201) 368-2791; Holy Cross NJ, Very Rev. Vazken Karayan (201) 865-2790; Queens Armenian Center, Raffi, (646) 288-6769 and Brooklyn, Tigran, (978) 945-9548 or visit [www.knightsofvartan.org](http://www.knightsofvartan.org), click April 24, <http://april24nyc.com>, [www.armenianradionj.com](http://www.armenianradionj.com) or [www.theforgotten.org](http://www.theforgotten.org).

- CANADA
- APRIL 17 — Presentation of Dr. Rita Kuyumjian’s Trilogy-April 24, 1915, Before and After-The lives of the Survivors.** Sponsored by the Tekeyan Cultural Association. Sunday, 7 p.m., Tekeyan Center, 825 Rue Manoogian St., Laurent, Quebec.

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## COMMENTARY

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror- Spectator

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## COMMENTARY

## Turkey Prepares for Genocide Centennial

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The year 2015 is around the corner, and Turkey is watching that date and preparing itself with visible apprehension. It is a challenge for Turkish leaders as it is a challenge for the Armenians. It is an open question which party will reach the finish line first.

The Genocide centennial will be a watershed in history, but which party's case will win most points remains to be seen.

As the Turks prepare to face the challenges of that landmark anniversary, Armenians have yet to come up with a master plan — either in Armenia or the diaspora — though hopefully it will be done collectively.

Contrary to Hitler's cynical remark in the 1939 about who remembered then the annihilation of the Armenians two decades earlier, today the world is more aware than ever about the Armenian Genocide. Some 20 countries have adopted resolutions or laws about acknowledging the Armenian Genocide, but most importantly, Turkish scholars and the media have cracked the wall of silence and have been educating their public about the undeniable historic facts. But, mind you, with all the rhetoric of those scholars and journalists who have spearheaded the apology movement, none of them has advocated giving out any compensation. Although their position is diametrically opposed to that of the government, both positions coincide when it comes to the issue of compensation.

In preparation for the centennial, the Turkish government has been putting out feelers. We cannot rule out that even journalist Hasan Cemal's appearance in a recent panel in California making some pleasing remarks to the Armenians, even using the term "genocide" was of that nature.

Another feeler appeared in the Turkish newspaper, *Sabah*, which was reporting a government announcement that some representatives may take part in April 24 commemorations in an effort to overcome psychological barriers between Armenia and Turkey and engage in a dialogue with the Armenian Diaspora.

But most revealing of all are the pronouncements of the foreign minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, who first announced that the year 2015 will be a year to deal with Armenian issues. That announcement may be interpreted in many ways. It may mean that we will bury the Armenian Genocide issue under some cosmetic gestures, or we will deal with it head on.

The foreign minister gave an interview to CNN-Turk, on March 26, which mostly consisted of artfully spinning a web of diplomatic duplicities, many of them open to interpretation. While Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has already "resolved" the Genocide issue with outright denial, the foreign minister instead speaks of understanding the Armenian pain, reciprocally expecting Armenians to understand their pain, as if the World War I Turkish casualties had been caused by the Armenians. He already begins the dialogue on the wrong foot. His argument begins with false premises, when he says what is "deportation" for Armenians it is "Dardanelles" and "Sarkamish" for us, comparing apples and oranges.

The Ottoman Turkish Empire was crushed in a collision with European and Russian Empires and it suffered war casualties, which had nothing to do with the Armenians. In fact, many Armenians drafted in the Ottoman Army were killed at the Gallipoli campaign.

Mr. Erdogan is carried away with supreme demagoguery, when he claims that no Genocide was committed by his ancestors, challenging Armenians to produce one single piece of proof, knowing full well that any challenge to his claim will land the challenger in jail by virtue of Turkey's penal code (Article 310), even if that challenger is Turkey's only Nobel Prize winner.

But the foreign minister is a more suave scholar who knows that Turkey's outright denial has brought nothing but embarrassment in the past, therefore, he has put a smile on Turkey's foreign policy, although a foxy one. Therefore, he delves into a lengthy explanation, presenting some falsehoods as historic facts.

"We would like to settle our relations with Armenia and the diaspora. For that we should not place all Armenians in one category, and assume that they all have one-sided views, that way perhaps a new radical era of reconciliation opens up in front of us," says the minister, getting into more dangerous waters when he makes his historic references about Turkish-Armenian relations, that "they have co-existed for 10 centuries, extending to the Battle of Manzikert [1071]. Until the beginning of the 20th century the relations have been extremely peaceful and harmonious. No matter how much we may resort to legal and political means, the important thing is to overcome the psychological barrier."

Only a cynical diplomat can make those statements with a straight face, overlooking the historic facts, where Armenians had the status of *raya* (slave) and the Turks were the slave masters.

Beginning with the insurrection of Zaitoun in 1862, all the way extending to the uprising of Mush and the Hamiddian Massacres of 1894-96, there was anything but "peaceful and harmonious" coexistence between these two peoples.

Despite all these seemingly soothing remarks, Turkey reacted angrily when the Argentinean Judge Norberto Oyarbide ruled on April 1 that the Turkish state "committed the crime of genocide against the Armenian people" based on his 12 years of research.

In light of that reaction, one can conclude with certainty that the Turkish government has not moved an inch towards the goal of reconciliation and all the rhetoric is intended towards two purposes: a) to derail, once more the use of the term "genocide" in President Barack Obama's 2011 statement on Martyr's Day commemoration; b) to prepare for the challenges of all Armenians in making 2015 a significant year for the recognition of the Genocide.

The Turks are already armed for 2015. They have certainly prepared their diplomatic, scholarly and political arsenal to defeat any Armenian onslaught.

Then, where is our master plan? Even the fate of the Genocide Museum in Washington is in limbo and it may not open in 2015.

Granted, many individual and group activities have been undertaken to produce scholarly books, to erect monuments and to launch political campaigns but an overall plan has yet to shape up. The Turks are ready for the challenge. Are we?

## Obama's Confidante Shows Staying Power

DUBLIN (*Irish Sunday Independent*) — A 40-year-old Dubliner looks set to become the most influential Irish person in the world, writes Donal Lynch.

When she appeared at Columbia University in New York last week, Samantha Power looked pale and drawn. Wrapping her red mane around her like a protective shawl, she did all she could to avoid the phalanx of reporters who had turned out to listen to her speak. The reason for her reticence was simple: she knew that a couple of hours later President Obama would address the nation and the world on the subject of the air strikes against Col. Gaddafi in Libya, and she has learned from bitter experience — she had to leave his primary campaign after calling Hillary Clinton a "monster" — that she cannot allow herself to become the story.

Better to leave them with a good quote — that failure to defend the no-fly zone would have been "extremely chilling, deadly and indeed a stain on our collective conscience" — and get out of there.

Still, when Obama later used almost exactly the same language in his speech and Hillary Clinton followed up by repeating that she would not seek another term as secretary of state, the talk around Washington inevitably

turned to Power possibly taking over the role should Obama fend off his Republican challenger next year.

The 40-year-old Dublin woman has long had the president's ear, and several leading conservative commentators — including Glenn Beck of Fox News — have already called her a shoo-in for the job when it arises.

A laudatory profile in the *New York Times* also talked up her credentials last week and pointed out that her husband, constitutional law scholar Cass Sunstein, already runs the White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs. Should his wife be appointed to the secretary of state post, she would become the most powerful Irish person in the world.

Not everyone would be pleased if this happens, and assuredly Power has her critics: US media reports have depicted her as the author of the attacks on Libya — an unpopular conflict for Americans, who see their country already mired in two unwinnable wars. An article on the generally liberal Salon.com phrased it somewhat uncouthly, suggesting Obama had been goaded into war by a coalition of women, including Power and Clinton.

The Irish academic (she is also a professor at Harvard) and presidential adviser has recon-

ciled herself with the current secretary of state, but the truce hangs on Power not stepping on Clinton's toes. And that involves staying as much as possible out of the limelight.

Still, it would be unfortunate if such a high-profile appointment caused Power to suppress her natural extroversion. There has always been a touch of glamour and celebrity to go with the Pulitzer Prize and Ivy League degrees (she has two).

Even as she grew closer to Obama she posed in an evening gown for Men's Vogue, and her writing on genocide brought her into contact with George Clooney, who has campaigned for Darfur. She still calls him a friend.

In person she is an imposing presence; the phrase "genocide chic" has been used to describe her. You can see why they once got Julianne Moore to play her on Broadway, even if Power herself wasn't thrilled with the performance.

She's been in America for three decades now. Before that her parents lived in Ballsbridge in Dublin. Her father, from Athlone, was a dentist and her Cork-born mother was training to be a doctor. The marriage was on the rocks and her mother went for further study to America, taking Samantha

*continued on next page*





## COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Armenians Should Confront President Obama During his California Visit Next Week

It is a shame that the largest Armenian community in the diaspora has failed to take advantage of President Barack Obama's visits to California to protest his refusal to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide. Last October, when he traveled to Los Angeles and Glendale, not a single Armenian confronted him at his public appearances.

To make up for their negligence, Armenians in California have a golden opportunity to show that they are deeply troubled when the highest official of the land does not keep his pledge on the Armenian Genocide.

President Obama will be in San Francisco on April 20 and in Los Angeles on April 21 – three days before the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide – to launch his reelection campaign with major fundraisers publicized as “Obama Victory Fund 2012.”

During the next 18 months, Armenian-Americans should hold demonstrations at every one of the president's campaign stops throughout the country until the November 2012 presidential election. This is an opportune moment to highlight the president's lack of credibility, at a time when

he is most vulnerable due to his low ratings, as he launches his re-election campaign.

Armenians do not need to beg the president to utter the words Armenian Genocide. A more popular head of state – President Ronald Reagan – used those words on April 22, 1981, almost 30 years to the day of President Obama's visit to Los Angeles. The only reason to protest Obama's visit would be to let him know that Armenians will no longer be duped when politicians make false campaign promises to gain their support, and ignore them after the election! The Armenian slogan for the 2012 presidential election should be: “Not one vote and not one penny for Obama!”

Here is the list of President Obama's multiple sins on Armenian issues:

1. He repeatedly pledged to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide during the 2008 presidential campaign and did not keep his word after the election.

2. To make matters worse, his administration actively opposed the adoption of the 2010 congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide.

3. He significantly cut the amount of foreign aid given to Armenia and Artsakh (Karabagh), contrary to his campaign promise. Moreover, his administration did not spend the full amount of aid Congress allocated to Artsakh.

4. He pressured Armenia in 2009 to sign the infamous “Protocols” with Turkey.

5. He made no attempts to press Turkey into lifting its blockade of Armenia.

6. He remained silent in the face of repeated saber-rattling by Azerbaijan's president against Armenia and Artsakh, ignoring his campaign pledge to support Artsakh's self-determination.

7. He and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton did not respond to repeated requests to meet with Armenian-American community leaders to hear their concerns.

8. Last Christmas, while the Senate was in recess, he circumvented the “hold” placed by US senators, and appointed Matt Bryza as ambassador to Azerbaijan.

It is crucial that a large number of Armenian-Americans show up on April 20 and 21, not only to protest against the president, but also to publicize their demands through the media covering President Obama's visit. Should Armenians remain silent, they would be sending the wrong message to politicians that making empty promises to Armenians to get their money and votes, and ignoring them after the election would have no negative consequences to their political careers!

Armenians need to wake up from their lethargy. If they want elected officials to take them seriously, they must reward those who support their issues by helping to reelect them, and punish those who make false promises by working to defeat them.

A few days after his visit to California, President Obama will issue his annual April 24 statement, which will probably exclude once again the term Armenian Genocide. Armenian protesters must make it clear to the president that playing word games with genocide is offensive and that he will pay a political price for his unwillingness to tell the truth!

President Obama will be in San Francisco on April 20, at 5 p.m., at the Nob Hill Masonic Center, 1111 California St., and in Culver City on April 21, at 4:30 p.m., at the Sony Studios, 10202 W. Washington Blvd. Thousands of Armenians should show up at these two locations to protest President Obama's record of broken promises!

As a former Obama supporter, I will be standing outside the Sony Studios on April 21 to express my profound disappointment in his handling of Armenian issues and to let him know that Armenian-Americans will not support his reelection.

## Obama's Confidante Shows Staying Power

from previous page

and her 5-year-old brother with her.

The brogue was one of the first things to go – carefully removed through practice in front of a mirror in Pittsburgh – but she would regret trying to fit in.

Her father died in 1983 and a peripatetic childhood took Samantha to Kuwait City (for further training for her by-then highly qualified mother), and then from Pittsburgh on to Atlanta where she spent her teenage years.

“I can clearly remember my first day of American public school in Pittsburgh. I had to wear my Mount Anville School uniform in front of all those kids because my mom didn't have any money for new clothes,” she told the Sunday Independent in an interview two years ago. “It was totally humiliating for life. The shirt, black leather shoes and pleated skirt. Years of therapy later, I'm still not over it.

“If you really want to know how I got interested in war zones, you'd have to go back to that first day of school in the Mount Anville uniform.”

As a teenager she won a place at Yale University, but rather than diving straight into academia she decided to work as a journalist in the Balkans. She covered the Yugoslav wars for the *Boston Globe*, the *Economist* and the *New Republic*.

“I saw those images of the emaciated men standing behind the barbed wire and it was a siren and a summons,” she said. “It was naive to think that there could be any benefit in one more voice to the chorus calling for action, but that's how I thought. I didn't feel like I was taking a mortal risk, but as soon as I got there I wanted to be in Sarajevo, where the action was. Before I became a journalist I had no idea I had this ailment.”

Her way of getting this out of her system was to write *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*. The book discussed America's responses to genocides in the 20th century, from the Armenian Genocide to the ethnic cleansing of the Kosovo war, and it won Power the Pulitzer Prize for Non-Fiction in 2003.

Barack Obama read it over Christmas 2004 and contacted her with words of praise. He recruited her to his 2008 Democratic primary campaign, but she was forced out after a Scottish newspaper shafted her by printing an off-the-record remark about Hillary Clinton. She remained an influence on the president, however, and after the bad blood of the bitterly fought primary was dealt with by appointing Clinton secretary of state, the way was open for Power's return.

And now, with curious symmetry, the Irishwoman might be about to take Hillary Clinton's job. After the president gave his speech last week, the White House press office was careful to say that Power's remarks had echoed Obama and not the other way around. If the rumors in Washington are true, there may soon be no need for such pretence.

## LETTERS

## Prehistoric Armenia Is a Mystery

To the Editor:

Edmond Azadian, my good friend and associate for 35 years, has perhaps overstated himself (M-S April 2, page 14) when he says the Treaty of Moscow and Kars in 1931 “gave away historic Armenian territory to Turkey.” Kars was part of the Ottoman Empire from the 13th century until 1830, when the Russian army under General Alexei Ermolov, and assuredly with the support of Armenian troops, took over the territory, attaching it to the Russian Gubernia of Yerevan, but called the new acquisition the “District of Kars.” Armenians were doubtfully in the majority then. Nor is it likely they were a majority even in the Gubernia of Yerevan, in what might be called Russian Armenia, secured by the Russians in 1828 from the Persians under the treaty of Turkmanchay. The centers of Armenian culture were then probably in Baku, and even more Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. At this time Yerevan was little more than a remote outpost. The Armenians, however, maintained commercial control in Tbilisi, and built dozens of Armenian churches, both in the Tbilisi area and elsewhere in central and eastern Georgia. If there were a focus to Armenian culture, it was in commerce. Even the Russians in the 19th century recognized the Armenian commercial superiority over the Georgians, who resented it greatly.

When the modern Armenian state was formed in the south Caucasus in 1918, the Armenians in Russian Armenia were possibly out-numbered by Muslims who lived in numerous small khanates ruled by Persians, as was the Khanate of Nakhichevan (though there the Armenians were likely the majority, and certainly the earliest significant inhabitants). With the establishment of the Armenian Soviet Republic, Armenians from all over Russia and the Caucasus, as well as from Europe, the

Middle East and even America, poured in jubilantly to establish the first significant Armenian entity since the collapse of Ani in 1375. Thus it might not be appropriate to make a big deal about the 19th anniversary of the Russian turnover of the District of Kars to Turkey, which the Russians had held only a century.

I first came into the embrace of Armenian culture almost 50 years ago when, in the mid-1960s, I began my study of the Classical Armenian language under Prof. Avedis Sanjian at UCLA. My focus was the linguistic reconstruction of proto-Armenian, though over time my interests expanded. I first went to Armenia in 1971, then for 13 months (1974-75) I lived in Yerevan with my family, working on an academic project, and I have returned well over a dozen times for periods up to three months or only a single week. And then, like many scholars, I developed a critical affection for the culture I studied.

One of my disappointments was the lack of interest the Armenians had for their dynamic past; what they seemed to care most about in their heritage was their tragic near-destruction in Anatolia by the Turks beginning in the 1890s and continuing through 1918. Their preceding 2,500 years seemed of little interest to them. Yet what happened earlier is so fascinating. It took, for example, the ancient Persians, a huge and mighty people, four great campaigns following 525 BC to overcome the Armenians.

But it appears that the leader of the Persian campaign was an Armenian named Dadarshi, as identified by Darius, the Persian king. This is known from his monumental cuneiform inscription still standing outside Hamadan, in Besitun, Iran. There is great complexity here. Did the Persians overwhelm the Armenians for Darius, or did some Armenians overcome other

Armenians for Darius? Another problem concerns Armenian archaeology. We can identify nothing about the prehistoric Armenians through archaeological means. Our earliest artifacts known to be Armenian come in the early fifth century AD when the Armenians identified themselves in writing. Yet archaeologists have found plenty of earlier evidence for advanced civilizations in the sub-Caucasus and eastern Anatolia. However, none of this excavated detritus can assuredly be called Armenian. A continuum of, say, pottery cannot be traced back from early historic times on into the archaeological past. And though Greek travelers since the fifth century BC have written of the Armenians, we can identify exactly no geographical place they wrote about. The enormous amount of material that has been found in the sub-Caucasus cannot be claimed as Armenian. It instead might be Urartian, or Persian or Hittite or whatever. Prehistoric Armenia remains a mystery. Part of the Middle Ages remains a dark age for the Armenians as well. For several hundred years culture and learning largely collapsed. The surviving poetry is poor, the political history is vague and the Armenian Church had fallen into despair, not to be reborn till the Armenian cultural renaissance in the 18th century. The details of what was happening in those hundreds of largely lost years have yet to be reconstructed.

There is so much to think about. Surely it is possible that more intellectual energy can be turned from re-studying the tragedy of the genocide, indeed one of the lowest periods of Armenian history since the Mongol invasion of 1350, and be given over to thinking about the other 2,500 years of impressive history. Surely that would reinforce Armenian pride rather than this continuous and intense examination of disaster.

– John C. Greppin  
Ohio





## Eastern Diocese Names Gov. Deval Patrick 'Friend of Armenians' for 2011

PATRICK, from page 1  
excellence grounded in tolerance and understanding.

"Let this park be a permanent tribute to that," Patrick concluded.

The applause thundering from the crowd was more than a response to noble sentiments: it was an indication of the depth of respect and friendship that had blossomed between the Armenian community and the dynamic Massachusetts governor.

Patrick was re-elected to a second term as governor in November 2010. Prior to that, his life had charted a path from the South Side of Chicago to the US Justice Department, Fortune 500 boardrooms and the Massachusetts State House.

In each of these capacities, Patrick has been guided by advice his grandmother once gave him: Hope for the best – and work for it.

He came to Massachusetts at the age of 14: a motivated student who had overcome difficult circumstances in Chicago to earn a scholarship to the prestigious Milton Academy. The young Deval Patrick saw the scholarship as an opportunity to excel, and he has viewed his subsequent public service as repayment for the opportunities he received.

He became the first in his family to attend college – Harvard – and went on to its Law School. A clerkship for a federal judge led to his career as an attorney and business executive, rising to senior positions at Texaco and Coca-Cola. In 1994, President Bill Clinton appointed Patrick as assistant attorney general for civil rights, the nation's top civil rights post.

He and his wife, Diane, have been married for more than 25 years, and have two grown daughters.

In 2006 came his election as Massachusetts governor, and Patrick again

overcame obstacles – political and economic – to make his strong positive mark on the Commonwealth's educational and scientific establishments, while accomplishing major reforms that had eluded elected leaders for decades.

For the local Armenian community, Patrick emerged as an insightful and courageous supporter and as an outspoken advocate for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

When plans for Armenian Heritage Park were met with political opposition, Patrick's support was instrumental in moving the project forward. Often working behind the scenes and at some political risk, the governor helped the park project overcome negative voices – and realize a vision of the park as refuge for all people.

In his interactions with the community, Patrick frequently draws on his own background of hardship, opportunity and achievement to convey his solidarity with Armenians.

"I stand with you as family," he told a large gathering at Watertown's St. James Church last spring. Having toured the church, which was built in the hard times of the Depression, he reflected that it stood as a symbol of "the tenacity of the Armenian community;...proof of what the human spirit is capable of, under the most difficult circumstances."

The same chords of personal solidarity and universal value provided the key signature in his remarks at the Armenian Heritage Park groundbreaking.

"I am so proud to stand with you today," he said, "to pay tribute to human perseverance. Because that is what this park represents. Yes, it is an acknowledgment of an historic fact: that the Armenian Genocide is real. It happened. It must be acknowledged. It cannot be denied."

"But," he continued, "it has value and

## ADL Members Meet with Archbishop Barsamian in New York

ADL, from page 1

developments concerning the latter. Similarly, he presented the attitude of the Istanbul-Armenian community and the Turkish state towards the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul. He praised the widespread construction endeavors of the Mother See, whether in Holy Echmiadzin or various regions of the homeland. Barsamian compared the plan of Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, in connection with the expansion of the Mother See, to the example of the Vatican.

In referring to the spiritual awakening of the homeland, he said that the Armenian Apostolic faith has already begun to enter communities and families with a quicker momentum, thus becoming an obstacle to the sects which had begun some 20 years ago. He also highly praised the dedication of youth to clerical and spiritual service, which enriches the church with new strength, as well as the publishing activity of the Mother See.

The Primate gave information about some initiatives and events in connection with the commemoration of the 60th birthday of the catholicos.

Barsamian also addressed the topic of church unity. He declared that an open-hearted dialogue is continuing between the two sees. While in the first instance he considered the future of an organizational union within the structure of the East Coast of America to be bright and realistic, he assured that the traditional structure would be maintained within this diocese under the patronage of the Mother See.

The ADL delegation was headed by the ADL District Committee's Co-Chairman Papken Megerian, who is a member of the Diocesan Council, and included party members Vartan Ilandjian, Krikor Salbashian, Dr. Vaghenag Tarpinian and Hagop Vartivarian, who is chairman of the ADL Press Bureau.

The Primate praised the ADL and its close relationship with the Diocese and various responsible clerical and lay individuals in the latter's parishes. He particularly praised the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* for its quality and ideological service. He also stressed the irreplaceable role the Tekeyan Cultural Association plays within American-Armenian national life.

importance well beyond even that tragedy in human history. Because as long as there has been human history, there has also been human tragedy. And it is absolutely essential that we take occasion to pay tribute to the perseverance of the human spirit – wherever

it shows itself."

The 109th Diocesan Assembly will be hosted by the Holy Trinity parish of Cambridge. For information on the banquet and this year's Diocesan Assembly, visit [www.htaac.org](http://www.htaac.org).



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