

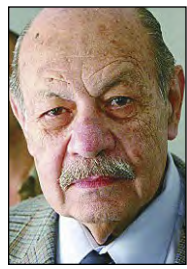
## Argentine Judge Rules Turkey Committed 'Armenian Genocide'

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — An Argentine judge ruled on Friday, April 1, that “the Turkish state committed the crime of genocide against the Armenian people” between 1915 and 1923.

The ruling Friday also says Turkey should help an Argentinean man of Armenian descent, Gregorio Hairabedian, to learn the fate of more than 50 of his relatives who disappeared nearly a century ago.

Judge Norberto Oyarbide ruled Friday that “the Turkish state committed the crime of genocide against the Armenian people” between 1915 and 1923. He added that his ruling is “declarative” only, with no value other than the truth.

Turkey slammed the ruling. The Foreign Ministry said Monday the ruling was an example of how legal systems are abused by extreme nationalists belonging to the Armenian Diaspora.



Gregorio Hairabedian



Judge Norberto Oyarbide

## Mass. State House Genocide Commemoration on April 15

BOSTON — The annual commemoration at the State House of the Armenian Genocide will take place on Friday, April 15, beginning at 11 a.m.

This year, the featured speaker will be Tom Samuelian, the dean of the American University of Armenia's Law School, who lived in Boston before immigrating to Armenia in the 1990s.

Leading the effort at the State House for the diverse committee tasked with putting together the day's program are state Rep. Jonathan Hecht (D-Watertown) and state Sen. Steven Tolman (D-Second Suffolk and Middlesex Districts). Chairing and coordinating the organizing committee is Tsolen Sarian. The group represents a wide cross-section of the Armenian community in Massachusetts.

Sarian, who works for the campaign of the new Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, said this was her 11th year of participating in the program. She recalled that she would regularly attend as a member of the Homenetmen Scouts.

The program this year, titled “Honoring the Truth by Educating the Next Generation,” will focus on schools that are leading the efforts in enriching



State Sen. Steven Tolman (left) and state Rep. Jon Hecht



the young members of the community. The principals of the two Armenian day schools here, the Armenian Sisters' Academy and St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School, will receive joint House and Senate Resolutions paying tribute to their efforts.

The Erevan Choral Society, led by con-



Tom Samuelian

ductor Konstantin Petrossian, will perform. A light reception will follow the program.

The annual commemorations at the State House were launched in 1985 by the late Speaker George Keverian.

Buses to the State House will leave at 9 a.m. from St. James and St. Stephen's Churches, as well as the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center. The bus service is donated by the Knights of Vartan, Ararat Lodge No. 1, and is free.

Buses will leave the State House at 1:30 p.m.

All meetings for coordinating the program were held at the offices of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

— Alin K. Gregorian



From left, Krikor Salbashian, Papken Megerian, Ambassador to the UN Garen Nazarian, Hagop Vartivarian and Dr. Vaghenag Tarpinian

## ADL Meets with UN Amb. Nazarian

NEW YORK — On Wednesday, March 30, the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) District Committee members met with Armenia's permanent representative to the United Nations (UN), Ambassador Garen Nazarian, at his office.

see ADL, page 2

## Court Dismisses Turkish Group's Lawsuit Against U. of Minnesota over Website

By Peter Schmidt

ST. PAUL, Minn. (*Chronicle of Higher Education*) — An academic center at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities was within its rights when it discouraged students from using a website that challenges claims Armenians were victims of a geno-

cide by Ottoman Turks, a federal judge ruled on Wednesday in dismissing a lawsuit brought against the university by a student and a Turkish advocacy group.

The judge, Donovan W. Frank of the US District Court in St. Paul, said in his ruling that academic freedom protected the right of the university's Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies to tell students a website maintained by the Turkish Coalition of

America (TCA) should be avoided as unreliable.

He rejected the coalition's assertion that the center's characterization of the website amounted to defamation, holding that the center's assessment of the site was a constitutionally-protected academic opinion and not a purported statement of fact that could conceivably be proved false in court.

see LAWSUIT, page 16



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Belmont Selectmen to Issue Genocide Proclamation

BELMONT, Mass. — On April 25, the Belmont Board of Selectmen, during its weekly meeting, will issue a proclamation to commemorate the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, at Belmont High School. The meeting will start at 6 p.m.

Several residents of Belmont, led by Jirair Hovsepian, persevered and received from the board the commitment to issue the proclamation.

The meeting will be aired on the local access channel.

Everyone is urged to attend the meeting to show support for the measure.

### Film on Genocide to Be Shown in Iran

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Armenian film director Tigran Khzmalyan announced at a press conference in Yerevan this week that his film, “Armin Wegner: Genocide Photographer,” will be screened April 24 in Tehran, Iran. He said that the film has already been translated into Persian and that a number of Iranian deputies are expected to attend the presentation of the film in Tehran. Armenpress reports that the Turkish *Milliyet* daily described the permission by the Iranian authorities to screen a film on the Armenian Genocide as “shocking and striking.”

### Secret Turkish Police Combat Armenians

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) — A clandestine intelligence organization operating within the police force here reportedly was assigned to combat “Armenian separatism,” according to cables released by Wikileaks, reported the whistleblower website's Turkish partner, *Taraf* on April 4.

The cable was dispatched on December 21, 2004, by Robert Deutsch, then-defense attache at the US Embassy in Ankara.

Deutsch spoke to a Turkish source described as someone “who has experience on intelligence and security analysis.” The source offered a report based on talks with 40 operatives of the secret organization, known as JITEM, as well as fieldwork in southeastern Anatolia.

The state reportedly assigned JITEM to combat “Armenian separatism” in Southeast Anatolia, according to the cable. The order surprised many JITEM officers, according to the unnamed source speaking to Deutsch, given that only “a handful of Armenians [were known] to remain in southeastern Anatolia.”

It was explained, however, that many had changed their names and hidden their identities, thus maintaining a presence in the region.

## INSIDE

**All Work & A Play**  
page 9

### INDEX

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





## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Pirated Products Still Sold in Armenia Despite New, Stringent Law

YEREVAN (Mediamax) — Pirated products are still sold in Armenia despite the fact that the new law on compulsory labeling of magnetic audio and video carriers with check symbols (holograms) came into effect on March 1.

General Director of Armauthor Copyright Protection Public Organization Susanna Nersisyan stated this week that 90 percent of CD and DVD products supplied in Armenia are pirated.

“There is the law, however there are no necessary mechanisms for its application,” Nersisyan stated. According to her, the main functions on applying the new law are on the tax service of Armenia, however the necessary check symbols for the goods are not ready yet.

Nersisyan said that for legal sale of audio and video products, the owners of stores should acquire the corresponding permission.

## Serge Sargisian: ‘I’ll be First Passenger on Stepanakert Flight’

YEREVAN (Radiolur) — “I’ll be the first passenger of the Yerevan-Stepanakert,” President Serge Sargisian declared at a joint press conference with Federal President of Switzerland Micheline Calmy-Rey last week.

Commenting on Azerbaijan’s statement that it will shoot down the planes flying from Stepanakert, Sargisian said: “Such statements have always been made by terrorist organizations. Threats to shoot down civilian planes are nothing but nonsense.”

## Yervand Kochar’s Masterpiece in National Gallery of Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — A noted painting by Yervand Kochar has come to the National Gallery of Armenia on loan for a month, starting on April 5.

The loan, from the Minotaur Museum of Paris, was conducted at the initiative of the High Art Painting Center of Armenia. The founder of the center, Armine Kocharyan, said that the painting was done in 1927. It had had been found in the personal collection of the director of the Minotaur museum, Benua Sapiro, and before that, it had belonged to a French collector for about 30 years.

The Armenian Culture Ministry and National Gallery of Armenia has supported the exhibition.

## Armenian Oppositionist Set to Be Freed

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Yet another opposition member imprisoned after Armenia’s 2008 presidential election could be set free next week, officials in Yerevan indicated last Friday.

The administration of a prison located near the central Armenian town of Sevan decided late last Thursday to recommend the early release of its most well-known inmate, Aram Bareghamian.

Bareghamian headed a regional chapter of a major political party aligned with the main opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK) before being arrested in the wake of the disputed presidential ballot. He

was sentenced to six years in prison for allegedly assaulting a police officer during the March 2008 unrest in Yerevan.

The prison sentence was based on the policeman’s incriminating testimony. Both Bareghamian and the HAK leadership consider it politically motivated.

Arsen Babayan, a spokesman for the Justice Ministry department managing Armenia’s prisons, said that the prison administration’s recommendation was considered by April 5 by a government commission dealing with parole applications. A positive decision by the commission would have to be endorsed by a court.

# Another Newspaper Sued for Libel

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — A court in Yerevan opened earlier this month to hold hearings on a libel suit filed against yet another Armenian newspaper by a wealthy businessman and parliament deputy close to the government.

Tigran Arzakantsian, the owner of one of Armenia’s largest brandy companies, took the *Yerkir* daily to court over a January 13 article in which it accused him of leading a playboy lifestyle, frequently visiting casinos and making “a habit of being beaten up.”

The article also pointed to Arzakantsian’s rare appearances in the Armenian parliament and contained offensive remarks by Hrant Bagratian, an opposition politician and former brandy industry executive. Bagratian was quoted as saying that the businessman “puts Armenia to shame in Russia with his cognac.”

Arzakantsian’s lawyer, Vache Hovsepian, told the court that the “unfounded” claims constitute defamation of character. Hovsepian said his client is seeking 3 million drams (\$8,150) in damages for the alleged damage to his reputation.

“I’m sorry, but if someone wrote that you are in the habit of taking a beating, would you like that?” the lawyer asked *Yerkir* representatives.

The paper’s editor, Bagrat Yesayan, rejected the lawsuit as “baseless.” “The words that we used are either quotes from other persons or conclusions stemming from other media reports or his biography,” he said. “Every media outlet has the right to do that.”

During the opening hearing, the judge in the case, Ruben Apinian, wondered whether there is any “public interest” in publishing such articles. Yesayan replied that voters have the legitimate right to possess “full information” about their elected representatives.

“If a parliament deputy thinks that visiting a casino is slander, he had better not visit casinos in the first place,” the editor told the judge. “The online media is flooded with such information. He had better think about his behavior and his reputation among voters.”

Arzakantsian, who was elected to the parliament on

the ruling Republican Party’s ticket, has a history of getting in trouble in Moscow’s luxury hotels and casinos. He was shot and seriously wounded in one such hotel in 2007. Some news reports at the time claimed the shooting resulted from a gambling dispute at the hotel casino.

Arzakantsian, 44, was also beaten up and hospitalized at another Moscow casino in 2006. Reports in the Armenian press said he was attacked after losing as much as \$800,000 on a single night and failing to pay up. The businessman denied those reports.

His legal action against *Yerkir* is the latest in a series of libel suits filed against newspapers critical of the Armenian government. One of them, Haykakan Zhamanak, was fined 6 million drams (\$16,500) last month for a report that implicated several other, more powerful “oligarchs” in criminal activity in Russia.

Another pro-opposition daily, *Zhamanak*, is currently locked in a court battle with former President Robert Kocharian and members of his family. They are seeking 6 million drams in compensatory damages for *Zhamanak* claims that Kocharian owns lucrative businesses in and outside Armenia through his wife and older son.

Both papers have denounced the libel cases as being part of government attempts to financially strangle media outlets not controlled by them.

Armenia’s leading press freedom groups recently expressed serious concern about those suits, linking them with legal amendments enacted by the Armenian authorities last year. Those decriminalized libel but introduced much heavier financial penalties for media outlets found guilty by courts.

“Those changes have mainly benefited political or economic oligarchs, who have started attacking media for publicizing unpalatable facts about their lives,” agreed Yesayan.

“I believe in our justness but I am not confident about our victory. These are different things in our country at the moment,” said the *Yerkir* editor.

# Ter-Petrosian Hits Back At Rival Oppositionist

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — A war of words between Armenia’s two leading opposition forces intensified earlier this month when former President Levon Ter-Petrosian personally defended his controversial decision to shun Zharangutyun (Heritage) party leader Raffi Hovannisian during a landmark rally.

Ter-Petrosian portrayed his opposition rival as a showoff who has no specific demands addressed to the Armenian authorities and is trying to mislead the public with his ongoing hunger strike.

Ter-Petrosian came under Zharangutyun fire after he and other prominent members of his Armenian National Congress (HAK) pointedly declined to approach or greet

Hovannisian as they led thousands of supporters into Yerevan’s Liberty Square last Thursday.

Hovannisian began his hunger strike in the square two days before the protest, demanding that the government “give the Armenian people back their votes and their voice.” He denounced Ter-Petrosian’s perceived arrogance and accused the HAK leader of seeking to cut secret deals with President Serge Sargisian.

HAK representatives have laughed off these claims, saying that “regime change” remains the key aim of their opposition alliance and Hovannisian avoids clearly formulating his objectives. Some of them also say that Hovannisian deliberately timed his action to coincide with the massive

HAK rally in order to bask in the public spotlight created by Ter-Petrosian’s renewed campaign of antigovernment street protests.

“Had Raffi Hovannisian gone on a hunger strike with concrete political demands instead of public fasting, I would have not only welcomed but also expressed my full solidarity with him,” Ter-Petrosian said in comments published by the Haykakan Zhamanak daily.

Ter-Petrosian also derided Hovannisian’s description of the hunger strike as “freedom fast.” “The code of [Christian] morality categorically rejects palpable demonstration of Christian virtues, including fasting,” he said. “When a virtue is put on display it ceases to be a virtue.”

Ter-Petrosian, whose bloc is more radical and influential than Zharangutyun, went on to cite a fifth-century Armenian cleric who believed that the devil destroys a fasting person who “places himself above others and wants his asceticism to be trumpeted by others.”

Hovannisian responded to the verbal attacks at an improvised news conference held in Liberty Square. “All I can say is that I wish, sincerely and with love, God’s blessing and a long life to everyone, including the first president [Ter-Petrosian],” he said. “If someone wishes I was destroyed by the devil, it’s their right.”

The US-born politician also pledged to continue his sit-in without food. “I will continue the hunger strike as long as God gives me strength of will and health,” he said.

## ADL District Committee Meets With UN Ambassador Nazarian

ADL, from page 1

The District Committee was headed by Co-Chairman Papken Megerian, members Krikor Salbashian and Dr. Vaghenag Tarpinian, and Chairman of the Press Committee Hagop Vartivarian.

The ambassador conveyed his appreciation of the cultural and national activities of the local chapters of Tekeyan and the ADL during the past two years, especially the celebration of the 19th anniversary of the Armenian Army and the independence of Armenia.

The participants discussed also the

coming celebration of the 20th anniversary of the independence of Armenia and the official visit to New York of President Serge Sargisian, scheduled for September 23.

Megerian spoke to Nazarian about ADL activities in the diaspora and in Armenia and the internal situation of the party, its strong support for the governments of Armenia and Karabagh as well as the Armenian Church, and its activities in the communities. The ambassador praised the coverage of the ADL’s *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

Megerian also presented the agenda of ADL programs for the next two years.





## INTERNATIONAL

# Swiss-Armenian Community Reacts To Echmiadzin Mandate

BERNE, Switzerland — Viken Vartazbed, on behalf of the members of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Switzerland, sent an open letter last week to the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, in response to a recent announcement made by Echmiadzin regarding the creation of a Diocese in Switzerland.

In the letter, the group expressed its disagreement with the decision by the Supreme Spiritual Council to withdraw the current pastor and send a new one. A portion of the letter appears below:

“We have received a letter sent to us by Archbishop Arshak Khatchatrian (dated March 2011) communicating the decision from the Supreme Spiritual Council meeting held in Echmiadzin on March 17-19. We are obliged to reply on the deeply disturbing news of proclaiming Switzerland as a Diocese.

“We have made several attempts to respectfully convey the final wishes of the members of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Switzerland rejecting the formation of a Diocese in Switzerland. However, it appears these wishes have

been entirely ignored. Therefore, we wish to make the following statements:

“We conclude that the discussion and ‘the decision’ made to ‘announce Switzerland as a Diocese’ to be invalid, unacceptable and unlawful. We further regard this decision unauthorized as the only entity that can make such a decision is the General Assembly of the members of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Switzerland. We consider the Armenian Apostolic Church of Switzerland as a people’s church, based on the democratic principles and traditions that our forefathers set forth and later documented with the Armenian National Constitution, and according to the laws of Switzerland. We continue to remain a democratic church by choice.

“We continue to regard Echmiadzin as the Armenian Apostolic church’s birthplace and spiritual center. However, we do not recognize Echmiadzin having any direct or indirect authority over the legal, administrative, financial or structural matters of all Armenian Apostolic churches, including the final decision to choose our own

clergy. We do not recall anytime in history where the people granted authority to a “supreme spiritual council” or any one entity or person to make such decisions, especially against the explicit and specific wishes of the Armenian people and communities.

“Irrespective of our deep respect towards HH Vasken I of blessed memory, we reiterate that the validity of the 1992 Gontak is controversial. ... Furthermore, the Armenian Apostolic Church of Switzerland has never in its history made a formal request to establish a Diocese in Switzerland. ... The members continued to reject forming a Diocese in March 2010: by 86 percent of all Switzerland Armenian community and 90 percent of the General Assembly of the members of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Switzerland voting “No” (as communicated to you on May 27, 2010). “Finally, again on March 6, 98 percent of the General Assembly voted against forming a diocese (as communicated to you on March 10). Acting according to our people’s choice, this is our final decision.”

## AGBU Europe Board Meets in Bucharest

BUCHAREST, Romania — From January 27-30, AGBU Europe’s Board members, led by chair Alexis Govciyan, gathered for their first board meeting of the year here, where they met members of the Union of Armenians of Romania (UAR) and key members of the Romanian government. After establishing partnerships with ACAB in Spain (Barcelona), HAYK I Germany (Frankfurt) and its representation in Belgium (Brussels), AGBU

tional, scientific, and cultural areas. The prime minister welcomed the idea of organizing joint events in 2011-2012 concerning the common cultural heritage of Armenians and Romanians alike. Both agreed that the Romanian government had succeeded in preserving the identity of the national minorities. Boc emphasized the importance of the third session of the upcoming Intergovernmental Mixed Commission (Armenian-Romanian)

Genocide recognition adopted by France in 2001 were also discussed.

The European Board re-convened on January 29 to discuss current and upcoming projects of AGBU Europe. The board paid tribute to the French people and parliament, which adopted a law just 10 years ago on the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. While in Bucharest, AGBU Europe leaders met with various individuals and organizations, including



Meeting with the members of the Union of Armenians of Romania. From left, Deputy Varujan Pambuccian, Father Agopian, Alexis Govciyan, Varujan Vosganian and Hamlet Gasparian

Europe is continuing its European expansion policy in Romania, which includes the oldest Armenian community in Europe.

On January 28, the AGBU European delegation, accompanied by Hamlet Gasparian, Armenian ambassador to Romania, Sen. Varujan Vosganian (former economy minister and current chairman of the Senate Committee on the Economy) and Member of Parliament Varujan Pambuccian (chairman of the parliamentary group of national minorities in Parliament), met with Attila Marco, secretary of state and head of Department of Interethnic Relations in the Romanian government.

The delegation also met with Prime Minister Emil Boc, who was accompanied by Karoly Borbely, commerce minister. A one-on-one talk took place between Boc and Gasparian.

During the private exchange, the two exchanged views on Armenian-Romanian relations, particularly in promoting and strengthening ties in economic, educa-

on Trade, Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, which was held on March 10, as well as the business forum organized in conjunction with the conference, during which there was discussion of frameworks of mutual interests and ways to achieve concrete agreements.

The main topics during the joint group discussions were the role of the Armenian community in Romanian history, economic development, and the experience and strategy of the Romanian government in preserving the identity of national minorities. (More than 20 ethnic minorities live, develop, and express their religion, language, culture and traditions freely throughout Romania.)

Govciyan presented the objectives and primary purpose of AGBU, and then focused on youth issues, preservation of Armenian heritage, the teaching of future leaders of the Armenian community in Europe, and working with European institutions on various issues related to Armenia and Karabagh. The memory of the genocide and the law on Armenian

the president and vice president of the UAR and the Rev. Tatev Hagopian.

The Union of Armenians of Romania in Bucharest has become a strong link among Armenians and has helped to organize and maintain traditional community life. The main purpose of the January meetings was to present the goals and the mission of AGBU Europe, exchange views on important issues, and explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

A visit to the Armenian Cultural Center in Bucharest was also organized. The center brings together the Armenian Apostolic Church, the museum, Saturday and Sunday Schools, *Ararat* and *Nor Ghiank* publications and the Dudian library. Following the meetings, Hagopian received the AGBU Europe delegation at the Episcopia Armenia church of Bucharest and presented the history of the church and the Armenian community in Romania, as well as the continuing cooperation between the Armenian Apostolic Church and AGBU.

## International News

### Baku Retreats from Karabagh Flight Threats

BAKU (RFE/RL) — Azerbaijan appeared to have backed away last Friday from its threats shoot down planes using a new airport in Nagorno-Karabagh, which have been condemned by Armenia and mediating powers.

“Azerbaijan did not and will not use force against civil facilities, unlike Armenia, which has earned notoriety for terror and war against the civilian population,” Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman Elkhann Polukhov told local news agencies.

### Iran’s Embassy Reminds Yovanovitch of Tehran’s Readiness for Dialogue With West

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Iran has always expressed readiness for a dialogue on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and its right for the development of a peaceful nuclear program. Iran’s negotiations with the 5 + 1 Group were held with that purpose in mind, according to a statement from the Iranian Embassy in Armenia.

“In the course of the last 23 years, the people and the government of Iran proved that they won’t be pressured into giving up their undisputable rights,” the statement says. According to the Iranian Embassy, the UN Security Council resolutions on Iranian nuclear issue were adopted under the political pressure of western states, thus having no legal force.

At a March 23 news conference, US Ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch stated that the international community, the US and the 5+1 group hope for Iran to resume negotiations and fulfill its international obligations.

“It would be appropriate for the US ambassador to assume responsibility for the use of double standards in Gaza Strip, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iraq and Libya, instead of trying to change public opinion,” the statement concluded.

### Christian Cleric Narrowly Dodges Assault in Izmir

ISTANBUL (*Daily News* with wires) — A foreign pastor in Izmir escaped possible harm last Friday after a Turkish man shouting ultranationalist 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.





# Community News

## Regional Expert Fiona Hill Asks Whether Obama 'Reset' the US-Russia Agenda

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — On Monday March 21, The University of Michigan's Armenian Studies Program and Center for Russian, East European and Eurasia Studies hosted Dr. Fiona Hill of the Brookings Institution delivered the 2011 Dr. Berj. H. Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lecture, "Looking Beyond the 'Reset': US-Russian Relations and Their Implications for the Caucasus."

Hill's lecture was on the Obama administration's effort to reframe or "reset" relations with Russia. Hill's analysis granted a global perspective by laying out several current issues: trends within Russia's domestic policies, China's increasing strength and the unraveling regimes in the Middle East, among others. Further analysis included the Russian perception that the US has a more amicable foreign policy because of the turbulence and instability in various regions but that once these issues are resolved the US tendency would



Fiona Hill

be to return to a more antagonistic approach.

With regard to the South Caucasus region and Armenia, Hill argued that it is no longer possible to argue that the US had a policy in the region; there is no imminent issue, such as the oil pipeline was in the 1990s, that compels Washington to focus on the region, she argued, and experts on the region within the government have been moved to work on other issues and more imminent crises.

The Dr. Berj Haidostian Annual Distinguished lectureship was established by the family of the late Dr. Berj Haidostian, a prominent and devoted physician in Michigan; the annual lecturer is selected jointly by the Armenian studies faculty and the Haidostian family from among internationally-recognized experts on Armenia and Armenians. The Haidostian family has a long and continuing relationship with the University and the Armenian Studies Program.

The lecture was recorded and will be shown on the Michigan Channel, <http://www.michiganchannel.umich.edu>. A recording will also be available at [www.umich.edu/~iinet/asp](http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/asp)

Hill, a frequent commentator on Russian and Eurasian affairs, has published extensively on issues related to Russia, relations among the states of the former Soviet Union, the Caucasus region, Central Asia, ethno-political conflicts in Eurasia and energy and strategic issues. Her book with Brookings Senior Fellow Clifford Gaddy, *The Siberian Curse: How Communist Planners Left Russia Out in the Cold*, was published by Brookings Press in December 2003; and her monograph, *Energy Empire: Oil, Gas and Russia's Revival*, was published in London by the Foreign Policy Centre in 2004. Before returning to the Brookings Institution, for three years she served in the National Intelligence Council in Washington, DC.



Taleen Knudson and Serbuih Kzelian showcase their singing talent in honor of Grandparents Day.

## ASA Fifth Graders Hosts 'Grandparents Day'

RADNOR, Penn. — The Armenian Sisters' Academy family not only comprises students, but also the parents and grandparents that support these children in their endeavors. In appreciation of this greater family, each fifth-grade class hosts a "Grandparents Day" honoring these second set of parents. Each of the 15 students in this year's fifth-grade class expressed their gratitude for the role these special individuals played in their lives.

Principal Sister Emma Moussayan opened the program welcoming guests, stating: "We welcome you, dear grandparents, to the Armenian Sisters Academy. You are a part of our larger family and are pillars of our school community. We are honored to have you today and wish you pleasant moments with your grandchildren." She then asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the tragic earthquake in Japan.

The fifth-grade class then sang *Mer Hairenik* and began their program. In Armenian and English speeches, students expounded on the many values of their cherished elders. Guests learned grandparents' occupations, favorite foods, hobbies and their backgrounds. Audience members sometimes chuckled, sometimes teared up, but always enjoyed hearing the students' presentations.

Many students mentioned that what they loved best about their grandparents was the fact that they spent time with them. What wonderful role models they are for these youngsters! Although some grandparents are no longer with their families, the children recalled fond memories or what they knew of these special people.

Interspersed among the presentations, students read poems, sang, danced or played an instrument. The polish and poise of each student — in their presentations and recitals — is a credit to their teachers and years at the academy. Special thanks go to Armenian teachers Tamar Panosian and Danielle Jehanian for preparing the students so thoroughly. Each grandparent received a scrapbook, specially designed and created by their grandchild. After the presentations, all present enjoyed a luncheon prepared and served by the students' parents.



Sister Emma welcomes the extended Academy family to the fifth grade's Grandparents Day celebration.

## Haidostian to Discuss American Missionaries During Genocide in Lecture at Clark University

WORCESTER, Mass. — The Clark University Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies will host a lecture by Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian, titled "The American Missionaries and the American Genocide: How to Assess their Ministry?" at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 14, in Tilton Hall, Higgins University Center, 950 Main St.

Haidostian is the president of Haigazian University, which was established in 1955 in Beirut, Lebanon by the joint endeavors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAEC-NE). Haigazian University is an Armenian liberal arts university, using English as the language of instruction. Haigazian is home to students from 20 countries.

Haidostian is currently the chair of the Central Committee of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East.

Haidostian holds a master of divinity degree from the Near East School of Theology and a master of theology degree and PhD in pastoral theology from Princeton Theological Seminary.

The Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies is privileged to stand at the forefront in establishing the Armenian Genocide as a distinct focus of doctoral study.

In 2002, Carolyn Mugar and her late husband, John O'Connor, a Clark University trustee, donated the first-ever endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History and Armenian Genocide Studies. They challenged others to join them in supporting this innovative professorship named in honor of Carolyn Mugar's parents, Stephen and Marian Mugar, as well as Robert Aram ('52) and Marianne Kaloosdian. Robert Kaloosdian, a lawyer in Watertown, Mass. and former president of the Washington, DC-based Armenian National Institute, is a leader in Armenian affairs.

The mission of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies is to educate undergraduate and graduate students about genocide and the Holocaust; to host a lecture series, free of charge and open to the public, to use scholarship to address current problems stemming from the murderous past and to participate in public discussion about a host of issues ranging from the significance of state-sponsored denial of the Armenian Genocide and well-funded denial of the Holocaust to intervention in and prevention of genocidal situations today.

This event is presented by the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. It is hosted by the Kaloosdian Mugar Chair and supported by the Asher Fund.

## ArmenBar Announces '20 Best Armenian Lawyers Under 40' Award

LOS ANGELES — The Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar) announces its inaugural "20 Best Armenian Lawyers Under 40." These professionals will include practicing lawyers, law professors, corporate counsel, members of the judiciary, politicians, etc. The legal professionals selected for this award will be recognized at a dinner event at the Pandora on Green restaurant in Pasadena, on Thursday, June 23.

Nominees must be self-identified Armenian attorneys admitted to practice in any US jurisdiction, born on January 1, 1971 or later. These legal professional have already begun to establish themselves in their respective legal practice, whether in the private, non-profit or government sector, or in the judiciary, politics or academics. They have a proven track record of career success, are involved in mentoring and promoting their profession and find time to give back to their communities.

The submission deadline is May 20. For more information, visit [www.armenianbar.org](http://www.armenianbar.org).

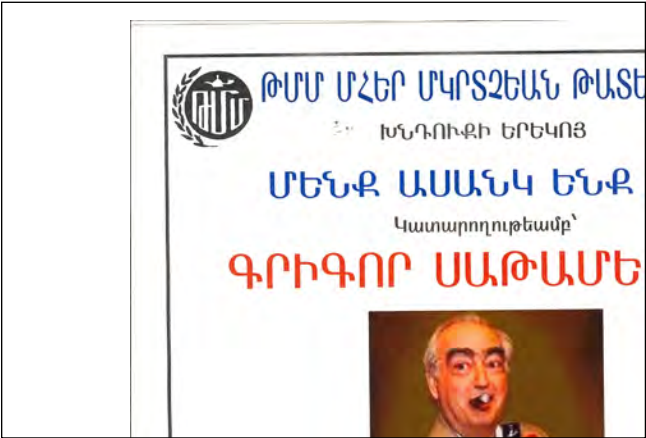


# Armenians Participate In Greek March in NYC

NEW YORK – The Mid-Atlantic chapter of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan and Akh'tamar Dance Ensemble joined the Greek Independence Day Parade on New York's Fifth Avenue on Sunday afternoon, March 27.

The parade featured floats bearing signs of the upcoming Armenian Genocide commemoration in Times Square. Akh'tamar Dance Ensemble members, dressed in traditional Armenian costumes, waved to onlookers from the floats. United in solidarity, Armenians also walked alongside Greeks in the parade carrying Armenian, Greek and American flags.

The annual Greek Independence Day Parade, which is in its 73rd year, is the largest Greek parade in the country.



An Armenian Genocide sign on one of the Greek floats



Akh'tamar Dance Ensemble members on a float during the Greek Independence Day Parade

# Night to Remember at Holy Martyrs' Day School; Science Fair Gets Students Thinking

By Janet Marcarian

OAKLAND GARDENS, N.Y. – Holy Martyrs' Armenian Day School (HMADS) celebrated Vartanantz Day on March 2, with singing, reciting and instrumental performances. Vartan Mamigonian is always portrayed by many wearing the color red. To many, red symbolizes valor and life with its sacrifices and ultimate goal to survive. Haven't we done this till this day? When I look at the spark in the eyes of many of our students, I can feel this magnetic force that binds us together. I am sure that our forefathers "sense" this phenomenon too, only they are rejoicing it silently within the depth of their immortality.

The first graders entertained with Armenian riddles, followed by the second graders' presentation of Vartan's story. Ani Manuelian, the Armenian teacher, should be proud of their performance.

What a beautiful adaptation of Yeghishe's moving narration of the Armenian Princesses "Dignayk Pappasoonk" imprisoned after the

tiful music of Gomidas and an impressionable young girl, who sang with a voice that can be compared only to angels. The fluidity of the violin was represented by a duet and the lovely tune of *Hoy Nazan*, performed by two girls and a boy with an effortless bow movement.

Many thanks to the guiding forces behind all this colorful and uplifting celebration dedicated to St. Vartan's legacy. The spark that was lit about 1,600 years ago continues in the spirit of our youngsters and it manifested itself in the form of four HMADS graduates, Nicole El Zokm, Lucik Minassian, Beata Terzian and Amanda Gomez-Shnerhokian (Members of HYE-BAR) dancing triumphantly.

The audience shared their enthusiasm and saw a glimpse of our future generation in action. Principal Zarmine Boghossian's vision and determination have been embedded in many of the graduates.

## HMADS 23rd Annual Science Fair

In addition, during the week of March 14, HMADS students celebrated the 23rd Annual Science Fair. Just like every year, students also had an Invention Convention. Everyone's projects and inventions were wonderful. It was so nice to have the whole school contribute things that they learned in their classrooms to the Science Fair.

In addition, students had an opportunity to present their work on Armenian TV.

Nursery students created "Polar Animals," Kindergarten studied "Insects," first grade explored "Planets," second grade experimented with "Matter," third grade made dioramas of "Natural Disasters," fourth grade made replicas of "Natural Land Forms," fifth grade created "Biomes of the World" and the sixth grade studied the "Elusive Atom." The week went quite fast, but it was packed with fun and learning.

On the last day before everything was taken down, the winners of the invention convention center were announced. Danielle Ashbahian



HMADS Students

and Nicolas Arakelian won honorable mention. Third place was given to Vartkes Arakelian and Talar Hovsepian. Second place was received by Melissa Ashbahian and Ani Rakoubian. Arpie Bakhshian won first place.

The Science Fair week was concluded with the Science Fair Trivia Contest. The two teams that competed were the green and purple. All the teachers asked several questions about their team's class' topic. At the end, team purple was triumphant.

The students thank Barbara Peters for continuing the legacy of her husband, Edward Peters, as he started to sponsor the HMADS Annual Science Fair and established the Edward Peters Science Award in 1994.

You can read and see more about our school by visiting our website: [www.hmads.org](http://www.hmads.org) and Visit the "Latest Events" and "Newsletter" section. The registrations for the academic year is 2011-2012 is on May. All are welcome!

– By fifth-grade student Nicole Mark



Second-graders dressed like Vartanantz Heroes

battle of Avarayr! Houri Ghougassian and the fourth grade girls truly did justice to these splendid women, who were stripped of their riches, comforts and at the end were left only with their faith only.

Megerditch Beshigtashlian, Baruyr Sevag and Charents were the dominant choices when it came to poetry. I heard the hauntingly beau-



Future scientists from the Kindergarten class at HMADS





# Holy Week at St. Vartan Cathedral

NEW YORK – St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral will observe Holy Week, April 17-24 with a series of special services, culminating in the Easter Sunday celebration on April 24.

Holy Week is the sacred commemoration of the dramatic events leading to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, His victory over death and the redemption of humanity and the fallen world. The Armenian Church re-enacts these episodes in the days leading up to Easter.

An unusual conjunction of the calendar this year places Easter Sunday on the date designated for the observance of Armenian Martyrs Day, in commemoration of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

At St. Vartan Cathedral, and at parishes throughout the Eastern Diocese, April 24 will be reserved for the full Easter celebration; Martyrs Day, with its traditional requiem service, will be observed on Monday, April 25.

Palm Sunday – the commemoration of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem – falls on April 17. Fr. Mardiros Chevian (dean of St. Vartan Cathedral) will be the celebrant for the services, which will begin with a Morning Service at 9:30 a.m., and will continue with the Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m. The xor “Door-Opening” Service will be held after the Divine Liturgy.

The cathedral is also holding a special Children’s Day on Palm Sunday, which begins at 10 a.m. in Guild Hall of the Diocesan Center. Children will learn about Armenian faith and culture, do seasonal crafts and participate in the *badarak*. The Children’s Day will end with lunch for the participants. (To register for the Palm Sunday Children’s Day at St. Vartan Cathedral, call ahead.)

April 21 is Great and Holy Thursday, and the day’s services memorialize the Last Supper, Jesus’ vigil in the Garden of Gethsemane, His arrest and trial. Two separate services will be celebrated on this day. In the morning, the Divine Liturgy will begin at

11 a.m. This will be followed by a luncheon.

In the evening, the “Washing of the Feet” ceremony will start at 7 p.m., with the *Khavaroom* or Vigil Service following at 8:30 p.m. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese, will officiate. During the Washing of Feet ceremony, 12 individuals will serve as surrogates for the apostles. This year, in recognition of the Diocese’s upcoming year-long focus on lay ministry in the Armenian Church, the 12 will be selected from people active in lay ministry at the parish and Diocesan levels.

The crucifixion and death of Christ will be observed on April 22 – Great and Holy Friday – and again two services will occur. The Order of the Crucifixion of Christ will begin at noon. This will be a short service, enabling working people in Manhattan to attend, and it will be followed by a luncheon in the Diocesan Complex’s Yerevan Room.

That same evening, at 7:30 p.m., the Order of the Entombment of the Lord, or *Taghoom* Service, will take place.

On Great and Holy Saturday, April 23, the Divine Liturgy will be preceded by a scripture-reading ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Easter Eve Liturgy will begin at 7 p.m., celebrated by Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian. The St. Vartan Cathedral Adult and Youth Choir, under the direction of Khoren Mekanejian, will sing the liturgy. (The St. Vartan Cathedral Youth Choir is made up of students from the Diocesan Khrimian Lyceum and Diocesan Armenian Saturday schools of New York and New Jersey.) Students of the Diocesan Khrimian Lyceum will also provide the Scripture readings. A reception will follow the services.

The drama of Holy Week will culminate on Easter Sunday, April 24. Easter is the central holy day of the Christian calendar, and commemorates the discovery of Christ’s empty tomb and the news of His glorious Resurrection. Matins will begin at 9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:30 a.m. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of

the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, will celebrate the liturgy and deliver the homily. The St. Vartan Cathedral Choirs will sing the Divine Liturgy under the direction of Khoren Mekanejian. Florence Avakian will accompany on the organ.

Immediately following the service, the traditional Antasdan ceremony, or “Blessing of the Fields,” will be conducted on the cathe-

dral plaza. This will be followed by the releasing-of-doves ceremony on Cathedral Plaza.

An Easter reception and program will follow the services, in Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium. The reception will include a home-blessing service and the recognition of the various names associated with the holiday. The reception is free and open to the public.

## ‘The Armenian Genocide’ Documentary to Be Screened at Florida Atlantic University

BOCA RATON, Fla. – As part of the ongoing Armenian Genocide exhibition at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Wimberly Library here, two high-profile South Florida community activists will lead a discussion following the screening of a 30-minute excerpt from the PBS documentary, “The Armenian Genocide.”

The film and panel discussion will take place on April 12 from 7-9 p.m. on the fifth floor of the FAU Wimberly Library and is free and open to the public.

Marta Batmasian, a member of the Florida Department of Education Commissioner’s Task Force on Holocaust Education, will share her family’s experience in Turkey and the effects of the Armenian Genocide on her family. Armenian Assembly of America Grassroots Director Taniel Koushakjian, an FAU alumnus, will discuss the Armenian-American identity and the post-genocidal effects on the Armenian community in the United States.

“We live in a community in which there are thousands of survivors of modern genocides and their descendants. Our community has played an active role in attempts to intervene against genocide in Darfur. St. David’s Armenian Church, Congregation B’Nai Israel and the FAU Center

for Holocaust and Human Rights Education have been at the forefront of these community efforts. It is important for our community to learn about and memorialize the Armenian victims just as we memorialize and educate about the *Shoah*. Remembering both strengthens our commitment to prevent and intervene against genocide,” said Dr. Rose Gatens, director of the FAU Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education (CHHRE).

“The Armenian Genocide” film and panel discussion is being sponsored by the Center for Holocaust and Human Rights Education at Florida Atlantic University in conjunction with “The Greatest Crime of the War: Armenian Genocide During World War I,” an exhibition on display through Wednesday, April 27, at the Wimberly Library.

The exhibit will close with a special guest lecture by Dr. Mary Johnson, senior historian with Facing History and Ourselves and curator of the Armenian Genocide exhibit, on April 25, 7-8 p.m. Following the lecture will be the Armenian Genocide Commemoration and Memorial service to the victims conducted by clergy from St. David’s Armenian Church of Boca Raton and St. Mary’s Armenian Church in Cooper City.

### OBITUARY

## Armen Halburian Jazz Great, Played with Legends

RINGWOOD, N.J. (The Record and Herald News) – Armen Halburian, 77, died on March 16. He waged a miraculous battle against cancer and astounded all those who knew him.

Halburian was an extraordinary drummer, percussionist and inventor. He was a member of Herbie Mann’s “Family of Mann,” with whom he recorded and toured alongside heavyweights Steve Gadd, Tony Levin, David “Fathead” Newman, Cissy Houston, Sam Brown and many more. Halburian performed on more than 50 albums, including Larry Young’s “Lawrence of Newark,” Dave Liebman’s “Lookout Farm” and many others.

He began the study of drums at the age of 12. By 17 he was playing professionally and traveling throughout the United States. At age 20 he did his stint in the Army for two years, where he played and taught in the band. After his discharge he joined the Marian McPartland Trio for six months.

Starting with gongs, bells and the *dumbeg*, reflecting his Armenian heritage, he expanded into Middle Eastern, African, Asian and South American instruments. As Halburian grew versatile in their use he became aware of the vast range of possibilities in their combined assemblage and developed an original panorama of instruments.

He earned a reputation as an imaginative and tasteful musician. He attained prominence and recognition among musicians as one whose high energy level and personal style inspires

and nurtures creative spirit. He also invented the famous four-in-one drum tool and the Armen Solid Bar Chimes, which he designed and patented. His chimes sold successfully throughout the world.

Starting in 2009, Halburian played at the Chapala Grill in Bergenfield with a nine-piece Latin jazz band, “Cactus Salad,” led by traps master Russ DiBona. This gig became Halburian’s musical and spiritual refueling.

He became a devout Roman Catholic in 1999 and dedicated his life to the teachings of Jesus Christ. He attended Saint Joan of Arc Church in Sloatsburg, NY.

He was predeceased by his father, Michael, his mother Corrine, his sister Zapeur Bagdasarian and brother-in-law Aram. Halburian is survived by his companion of more than 27 years, Joan Sergi; nieces Dawn Booth and Lorna Bagdasarian and nephew, Jeff Bagdasarian. Halburian was great-uncle to Joshua, Justin, Courtney, Shannon, Caroline, Kimberly, Jennifer and Amanda.

Dr. John Rundback of Holy Name Medical Center in Teaneck is credited with giving Halburian five extra years of quality life through his interventional technology procedures.

The funeral was on Friday, March 18, at St. Joan of Arc RC Church in Sloatsburg, NY. Interment was at Cedar Grove Cemetery Queens, NY. Arrangements were made by the D’Agostino Funeral Home.

Telephone (617) 924-7400

## Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET  
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN  
PAUL BEDROSIAN  
LARRY BEDROSIAN

## Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

**John K. Najarian, Jr.**

Rhode Island’s Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

1278 Park Ave. Cranston, RI 02910 **(401) 942-1220**  
1111 Boston Neck Rd. Narragansett, RI 02882 (401) 789-6300

**www.nardolillo.com**

## Giragosian

F U N E R A L H O M E

**James “Jack” Giragosian, CPC**  
*Funeral Counselor*

**576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606**  
**www.giragosianfuneralhome.com**

Check us out at  
**mirrorspectator.com**





# ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ՑԵՂԱՍՊՊԱՆՈՒԹԻՒՆ

## TURKEY IS GUILTY OF GENOCIDE

### DENYING THE UNDENIABLE IS A CRIME

Sponsored by the Knights & Daughters of Vartan, Co-sponsored by AGBU, Armenian Assembly of America, Armenian National Committee of America, ADL-Ramgavars and Armenian Council of America, with the participation of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Catholic Eparchy for US and Canada, Mid-Atlantic ACYOA, AYF, Armenian Youth Organizations, and University Armenian Clubs

**THE TIME IS  
NOW,  
BE THERE!**

**SUNDAY,  
MAY 1,  
2011, AT  
2:00 PM**

#### FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM TIMES SQUARE

All New York & New Jersey Armenian Churches

##### New Jersey Churches

Andy (201) 368-2791

Sona (201) 746-0409, (551) 427-8763

Kostan (201) 741-9789

##### New York Churches

John (718) 631-2247

Rouben (917) 992-8501

Queens Armenian Center, NY, 69-23 47<sup>th</sup> Ave., Woodside, NY

Raffi (646) 288-6979

Brooklyn, Front of Chase Bank 1002 Brighton Beach Ave  
and Corner of Coney Island Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11235

Tigran (718) 891-8486, (917) 945-9548

**TIMES SQUARE  
43rd St. & Broadway**

For more information, please visit [www.knightsofvartan.org](http://www.knightsofvartan.org), click April 24,  
[www.armenianradionj.com](http://www.armenianradionj.com), <http://April24nyc.com>  
[www.theforgotten.org](http://www.theforgotten.org), [www.armenian-genocide.org](http://www.armenian-genocide.org), [www.twentyvoices.com](http://www.twentyvoices.com)





## New York METRO

# Carmel Grocery: An Oasis of Armenian and Middle Eastern Food in Queens

**By Aram Arkun**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

QUEENS, N.Y. — Sooner or later every Armenian gets a yearning for Armenian foods that can more easily be found at a specialty grocery. In the borough of Queens in New York City, there are only a handful of such stores. One of these is Carmel Grocery on 108th Street in Forest Hills. It is a small store that always is full of customers seeking Middle Eastern, Armenian, Russian and Balkan foods and good coffee.

Carmel is owned by Steve Dumanian, who was born near Bucharest, Romania. His grandparents emigrated from Western Turkey and both parents were born in Romania. His mother's family was in the coffee business for three



Steve Dumanian with his coffee grinder



Carmel Grocery

of the Armenian National Committee for Homeless Armenians (ANCHA), in 1971. They came straight to New York. Steve Dumanian was 15 or so. His mother really wanted to own a store, and eventually the family was in a position to buy a business. In 1983, the Dumanians found Carmel (named after a mountain in Israel), owned by two Jewish men. First, they thought of transforming it into a purely Armenian store with a new name, but they tried running it for six months with Jewish products and it worked. It took about two years for it to become successful. Steve said, "I started with my mother and father, the three of us. We were picking up merchandise with a private car. Then my sister and my wife started helping. As business got better both left their jobs. My sister was a biologist and my wife a computer analyst."

The whole family worked long hours together for 11 years, until first his sister passed away, and then, six months later, his father.

time employees. All sorts of languages are spoken by the staff — Armenian, Hebrew, Romanian, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Russian, Spanish and Turkish — along with English, of course.

While there are a good number of Armenian customers, and even some Turkish ones, the majority, at least 50 to 60 percent, are Israeli Jews. Few American Jews come because they don't eat the same food. Carmel advertises in Jewish papers, in local synagogues and in the local Armenian churches. Dumanian said they help the Armenian churches and some organizations, giving them a discount for their events, and in turn, they also benefit from publicity. The same is true for helping various Jewish

organizations. The Dumanians donated directly to Armenia after the 1988 earthquake, and also raised money from their customers for the victims.

*Muraba* is imported from Armenia via Los Angeles, as well as some jarred vegetables. Carmel carries a large variety of cheeses, including Armenian string cheese and feta. *Pastirma*, *lahmajun*, *sujuk* and *paklava* are sold. The *börek* is fresh — an Armenian man brings them cooked in the morning, along with some frozen, which they bake throughout the day.

Dumanian stressed that freshness and quality are extremely important for the grocery. They make three types of *babaghanush* as well as *hummus* from scratch. Every week 20 to 25 cases of eggplants are used for cooking. *Tahini* and *tabouleh* are made in-house, along with *jajik* (cucumber salad with yogurt) and various hot sauces. Various types of smoked fish, like mackerel or lox, are made especially for Carmel, and pickled fish is also available. Various types of breads like *pita*, *zaatar* and *lavash*, different kinds of olives and an array of spices are available.

Shipments of dried nuts and fruits are received every three to four days, and roasting is done every three days. Only higher grades of coffee are bought, compared to larger houses that buy lesser grades. For only seven to eight cents on the pound, the difference in the taste is worth it. It is a better grade than Starbucks, says Dumanian. Furthermore, Carmel has an impressive-looking coffee grinder that costs nearly \$4,000. The blades, \$500 a set, have to be changed every few months. The special machine can make a finer quality "Armenian" or "Turkish" coffee.

Business is still growing, largely through word of mouth. In addition to local customers, people come from Connecticut, New Jersey and Massachusetts. Carmel also ships non-perishable items like coffee or canned goods all over the US.

generations. Relatives roasted their own coffee back in the Ottoman Empire and were forced to escape to Romania as a result of the Armenian Genocide. When the Communists came into power there, they continued but eventually lost the business and had to become employees in their own stores, which were by then taken over by the government.

Dumanian recalled that when he was growing up, his parents would give him an incentive to work in the store instead of playing in the street. He said, "That's where I learned to roast coffee. I enjoyed being there with my family."

The Dumanians left Romania in 1970, and came to the US via Lebanon, with the assistance



Nuts and dried fruit

Dumanian began to hire other people, and his mother retired from working. Today, 13 people work in Carmel, of whom all but two are full-

## 96th Anniversary Commemoration of the ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Friday, April 15, 2011

11:00 AM

House of Representatives Chamber  
Massachusetts State House, Boston

Followed by a reception in the Great Hall



Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Tom Samuelian**  
Dean of Law School, American  
University of Armenia

Buses will be leaving at 9:00 AM  
from St. James and St. Stephen's Churches

For more information contact:

Senator Steven Tolman (617) 722-1280

Representative Jonathan Hecht (617) 722-2140

Tsoleen Sarian (508) 561-3697

(Buses generously provided by the Knights of Vartan, Ararat Lodge No. 1)

## Knights of Vartan Offers \$1,000 Scholarship

WOODSIDE, N.Y. — The Echmiadzin Lodge of the Knights of Vartan will offer a \$1,000 scholarship as well as other smaller grants to Armenian students who are currently enrolled at an accredited college or university in pursuit of an undergraduate or graduate degree. The applicants must have completed at least one semester of college work and be no older than 26 years.

The competition is open to residents of Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties of New York State. Residents of the above-mentioned counties, who are attending schools outside of the area, may also apply.

Applicants are additionally eligible for a second \$1,000 scholarship award if they are sons or daughters of a member of the Knights of Vartan in good standing.

Information and application forms may be obtained by contacting Edward Barsamian at [erugs@att.net](mailto:erugs@att.net) or by writing to: Edward Barsamian, 36 East 31 St., ninth floor, New York, NY 10016.

Deadline for completed applications and supporting transcripts is May 15.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# TCA Mher Megerdchian Theater Group Embraces the Inner Silly

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

WATERTOWN, Mass. — The Tekeyan Cultural Association's Mher Megerdchian Theater Group of New York and New Jersey has a reputation as a top-notch troupe, therefore any performance must meet high expectations. Lucky for them, they did so during a performance on March 27 at Watertown High School. In fact, the close to 400 persons attending the performance were thrilled with the inspired lunacy of "The Flatterer," a play by Hagop Baronian, laughing aloud — and often.

The play's central character is the "Flatterer," Babig, played with customary abandon and physical agility by Harout Chatmajian. The flatterer in essence repeats each character's statements, so that each hears what they want to hear, rather than reality, and in turn, wade in deeper and deeper into misunderstandings. Many of those misunderstandings concern romantic entanglements. In particular, three men (Tateh, Arshag and Dikran, played by Shemavon Atamian, Harout Barsoumian and Michael Khekoian, respectively) are vying for the affections and hand of Sofi, played with flirtation and emotion by Talar Zokian.

At the same time, Tateh's sister, Theresa, played by Meline Khekoian, is in love with Arshag and assumes that he is coming to her house propose to her. Poor Theresa wants to believe that the very young (and immature) Arshag is interested in marrying her, despite being 20 years younger. She was played with appropriate delusional grandeur by Meline Khekoian, who incidentally is the mother, in real life, of Michael Khekoian.

Arshag, who loves Sofi but is loved by Theresa, is a proper fop who spits out nonsensical poems that are supposedly inspired by his love for the ever-popular Sofi. Of course, the poem he keeps reciting with much emotion, gets laughs from the audience.



The star-crossed lovers and the father of the popular Sofi are all atwitter because of the Flatterer's words. From left, Harout Chatmajian, the flatterer in question, Khachig Sareminassian (behind Chatmajian), Meline Khekoian, Shemavon Atamian, Missak Boghossian, Harout Barsoumian, Harout Takvorian (behind Barsoumian), Michael Khekoian and Talar Zokian, try to sort out who loves whom.

In the meantime, the servants Partem, played with charm and wit by Harout Takvorian, and the exasperated Kevork, played by Khachig Sareminassian, attend to the needs of this nutty bunch.

Finally, Hovsep, Sofi's father, played by Missak Boghossian, is trying to sort out his daughter's many suitors while trying to avoid a phantom lawsuit from a creditor.

The play was a musical with several songs by the main characters.

Needless to say, all is sorted out and Sofi is able to be with the man she loves, Dikran.

The play was directed by Gagik Karapetian, with several songs by



Missak Boghossian, as Hovsep, the father of Sofi, soaks his feet to feel better, as the Flatterer (Harout Chatmajian) kneels by him, and the servant Kevork (Khachig Sareminassian) attends to him.



Front row, Harout Chatmajian; second row, from left, Khachig Sareminassian, Michael Khekoian, Talar Zokian, Missak Boghossian, AGBU New England District Committee Chairman Souren Masserejian and Vazken Jansezian, design setup; third row, from left, Harout Barsoumian, Shemavon Atamian, Meline Khekoian, Mari Zokian (costumes), Noushig Atamian (stage decoration), Talin Sesetyan and Harout Takvorian

Stepan Loussigian.

The night before the production, the members of the troupe were presented at a dinner by the local chapter of the AGBU.

Also present at the program, as well as the dinner, was the chairman of the

troupe, Hagop Vartivarian, who has overseen the mounting of several plays by the group, including this one.

The program was organized by the AGBU New England District Committee and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.





# Arts & Living

## Actor/Director Gerald Papasian Brings New Adaptations of Armenian Music and Theater to Montreal

MONTREAL — After a Canadian tour last fall in Irina Brook's "Waiting for the Dream," actor and director Gerald Papasian is back in Montreal for two special events bringing new interpretations of Armenian favorites. A multi-disciplinary artist, Papasian's passion is to adapt, restage and translate the great treasures of the Armenian repertoire.

On Friday, April 15, at 8 p.m., at the Eglise Anglicane Saint-Georges, located at 1101 rue Stanley, he will present the French vocal group Quator Arevadzaghig ("sunflower") specializing in Armenian music under the musical direction of Vincent Bonzom. There will be a cappella sacred music, as well as folkloric songs and excerpts from famous operettas such as "Gariné," which Papasian adapted last year to great critical acclaim in Paris and Marseille. The Quator (a baritone, tenor and two sopranos) discovered Armenian music thanks to Papasian and were so taken by its beauty that they decided to make it their specialty. The evening is supported by the conductor Raffi Armenian and Minister of Culture Christine St. Pierre.

Papasian has helped revive several works by Armenian composer Dikran Tchouhadjian. He restored the original "Arshak II," which premiered at the San Francisco Opera, and staged "Anoush" at the Detroit Opera House in 1981 and in 2001.

Later in May, he will be playing the lead role in the "Eastern Dentist," a satirical comedy by Hagop Baronian, an Armenian burlesque favorite that has been produced countless times for the stage, cinema and television. Papasian's French adaptation was played in major Parisian theaters, but this time it will be in Armenian with French subtitles. Joining him will be actress Nora Armani, who was his partner on stage in Montreal at the Centaur Theatre in 1988 for their hit show, "Sojourn at Ararat," that the pair reprised in 2010 at the Public Theater in New York.

A founding member of the Irina Brook Company, Papasian recently performed in "Waiting for the Dream" in Montreal at Usine C, as well as in New York's La Mama Theater. The president of Armenia recently awarded him the Movses Khorenatsi medal, the country's highest cultural and artistic honor.

For information about Quator Arevadzaghig, including musical excerpts visit [www.wix.com/quatuorevatzarik/quatuorevadzaghig](http://www.wix.com/quatuorevatzarik/quatuorevadzaghig).



Gerald Papasian



The Hekimian family of Dikranagert representing writer's family

## Orphaned Photos Find a Home with Project SAVE

WATERTOWN, Mass. — You don't have to comb the Caribbean to find buried treasure. Nor the end of a rainbow. Sometimes, it's right there under your nose, in places you wouldn't think to look like an attic or basement.

While it may not be gold bullion coins or a cache of diamond-studded jewels, it could be something else holding its value — a box full of old family photographs.

Such was the case when I moved from an old home I occupied for 40 years to a condo. Suddenly, I stumbled across pictures that have outgrown the annals of time. Or so I thought.

**By Tom Vartabedian**

Many were falling from the albums to which they were attached. Others were strewn about carelessly and with little regard.

They showed my mother and grandmother as young girls, their wedding photos and their children at various stages of growth.

Pictures of my parents in their coffee shop back during the 1940s with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland on the theater marquee next door. An Army photo of myself struck a nostalgic chord, not to mention my late brother shown in uniform.

A while back, I polled a class of students on the Armenian Genocide and asked this question, "If you were living in Historic Armenia during 1915 and knew the Turks were about to invade your village, what prized possession would you take while fleeing?"

While others pointed to a cross, a Bible, a sentimental object, even a pet, one 16-year-old gave an unexpected answer.

"I would take the photographs I have of my family," she answered. "That way, if they are killed, I would have pictures to remember them by."

It was such an eloquent response that I couldn't help but agree. Pictures that tell stories and preserve a slice of history forever. What could be more intrinsic than that?

It didn't solve my dilemma, however. Boxes of remnant photographs depicting a family's history that were left abandoned. I needed some direction.

The answer became obvious. Why not Project SAVE? Let Ruth Thomasian share the bounty. For 30 years, she has sought out lost and neglected photographs.

Sitting across the table from her at the Armenian Library and Museum of America, where her office is housed, she studied the photos.

You can talk about the 35 years of activity or the 25 calendars Project SAVE has introduced. You might appreciate the collection it has harbored over that time with 35,000 photographs dating from 1860. Unique in its mission, the center preserves the fragmented heritage of dispersed Armenians through photographs and memories of life in Historic Armenia.

Every image is painstakingly documented and catalogued by Thomasian and a staff of dedicated workers, many of them volunteers with a passion toward preservation.

My family pictures were in good hands. Maybe I was one of the fortunate ones to see some results.

see PHOTOGRAPHS, page 11

## Boyadjian's *Mi Tango* to Be Performed at Classical Guitar Festival

BOSTON — Lexington Composer Hayg Boyadjian's composition, *Mi Tango*, for solo guitar, will be performed by guitarist Aaron Larget-Caplan, as part of the Boston Classical Guitar Society's (BCGS) Festival. The festival, which will include lectures, demonstrations and concerts, will take place on Saturday, April 16, starting at 10 a.m. and concluding with the last concert at 8 p.m.

Caplan will perform at 4 p.m. at the Gordon Chapel, Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Copley Square. Tickets for this single concert can be obtained by visiting [www.bostonguitar.org](http://www.bostonguitar.org).

Caplan will also perform solo works by Kevin Siegfried and Francine Trester.

*Mi Tango* was recorded by Caplan for a solo Boyadjian CD recording that includes also five chamber works of his. The CD was released last October by Albany Records and received a very positive review in *Fanfare Magazine*. Critic Barnaby Rayfield wrote about *Mi Tango*: "Stunningly played by Aaron Larget-Caplan ...an energetic homage to Piazzolla's modern tango ...there are many innovations of rhythm and sound effects from Boyadjian."

An excerpt from Boyadjian's solo CD, titled "Vientos," can be heard on YouTube, and the CD is available on [www.amazonmusic.com](http://www.amazonmusic.com).

Within the last month, Caplan has performed *Mi Tango* in California, Las Vegas and, three weeks ago, in Waltham.

*Mi Tango* was written in 2003 in memory of Astor Piazzolla, the creator and master of the modern tango. The work was written for Robert Sullivan, then-chairman of the Guitar Department at the New England Conservatory. Sullivan premiered the piece in Jordan Hall shortly after its completion in 2003. Since then the piece has been revised twice with its final, 2010 version just before the recording by Caplan. *Mi Tango* is also composer Boyadjian's homage to the home city of the tango, Buenos Aires, where Boyadjian spent his youth after his family moved there from Paris, France, where he was born.

The score of *Mi Tango* with other scores of Boyadjian are available for perusal, or purchase for printing at [www.sibeliusmusic.com](http://www.sibeliusmusic.com).

More information about Boyadjian is available at [www.haygboyadjian.com](http://www.haygboyadjian.com).

## Sotheby's to Hold Special Exhibition of Aivazovsky

NEW YORK — From April 7-11, Sotheby's will hold a unique exhibition in its York Avenue galleries dedicated to a group of spectacular paintings by 19th-century Russian-Armenian artist Ivan Aivazovsky. The works will be on view alongside the exhibition for Sotheby's Russian Art auction on April 12. "Ivan Konstantinovich Aivazovsky: Masterworks from a Private Collection" will feature canvases from a distinguished private collection, including some of the best-known paintings by the 19th century seascape artist. Additionally, Sotheby's will host a conversation on Aivazovsky's life and work at 6 p.m., on April 11, led by Sonya Bekkerman, head of Sotheby's Russian Paintings department in New York, and Andreas Roubian, renowned art collector and connoisseur. Attendance is limited, therefore RSVP.

Highlights from the works on view include "Crimean Coast," (1853), a testament to Aivazovsky's deep attachment to the region. The collection also includes rare masterpieces from his varied artistic periods, including: "Caravan Before the Pyramids," (1871), inspired by his travels to Egypt; "Alexander II Crossing the Danube" (1878), painted for the Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich to commemorate the Russo-Turkish war and "Winter Palace of the Czar, St. Petersburg," (1877).





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Ardavazt Theater Company Dazzles with Benfield's 'Wednesday...My Darling'



Actors performing a scene from the most recent AGBU Ardavazt Theater Company production, Derek Benfield's play "Wednesday...My Darling," which was translated by director Krikor Satamian as "Chorekshapti...Sirelis"

PASADENA, Calif. — From January 15 to February 27, AGBU Ardavazt Theater Company presented Derek Benfield's two-act farce, titled, "Wednesday...My Darling," translated by director Krikor Satamian as "Chorekshapti...Sirelis." The play, which is the latest in a chain of comedies presented over the past 30 years by the theater company, was performed twice every weekend at the AGBU Pasadena Center. In addition to a preview consisting of two dress rehearsals attended by an invited audience, there was a total of 12 performances with approximately 2,000 people in attendance. The gala performance took place on January 23, followed by a dinner in Boyajian Hall, during which theatergoers had the chance to meet with cast members and enjoy their comedic skits.

The play, written in 1982, is one of more than 30 comedies penned by Benfield (1926-2009), a veteran of British radio and television widely known in connection with various BBC series. In it, the author pokes fun at the European bourgeoisie life, focusing particularly on the theme of marital infidelity, as played out by two sets of married — but philandering — couples, along with a mistress: Sossy Varjabedian and Alex Khorchidian, Maro Ajemian and Roupen Harmandayan, and Narine Avakian.

The production received half a dozen favorable reviews from various publications.

In a review published in the February 1 issue of *Nor Hayastan/New Armenia Daily*, Sarkis Majarian writes, "In undertaking this production, Satamian once again confirmed his undeniable love for — and leaning toward — comedic theater, as well as his unfading will and effort to keep our dramatic art and culture alive and thriving with young, gifted and talented Armenian newcomers. Besides serving to perpetuate our theatrical life, this effort, viewed from a utilitarian standpoint, also strengthens our mission to wage the struggle on behalf of the Armenian language and, therefore, the preservation of the Armenian identity."

## Armenians of Jerusalem Event Draws Capacity Crowd at Fresno State University

FRESNO, Calif. — A capacity crowd of 120 people attended a lecture and slide show about the Armenians of Jerusalem at California State University, Fresno, on March 30.

Matthew Karanian, a lawyer in Pasadena, and the author of several books about Armenia, said that the Armenians of Jerusalem form one of the oldest diaspora communities of the world.

"But this community is more than just old

and Armenian," he said. "The [Armenian] community also controls, through the Armenian Apostolic Church, at least a part of every major Christian Holy Site in the region, including the birthplace and crucifixion of Jesus, and the Tomb of the Virgin Mary."

This "prominent control by the Armenians, an ancient but small national group with an equally small national church, is extraordinary," said Karanian.



Guests gather for the lecture at Alice Peters Auditorium, Fresno State University.

Karanian's lecture included a photography exhibit on Jerusalem's Armenian Quarter and was held at the Alice Peters Auditorium on the campus of Fresno State.

Armenians have been present in Jerusalem for 2,000 years, and historical records reveal a significant Armenian community dating back at least 1,700 years.

The Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State sponsored the event. Karanian is the author of the best-selling guide to Armenia, *Armenia and Karabagh: The Stone Garden Guide*.



Speaker Matthew Karanian during the lecture at Fresno State University

FRIENDS OF ARMENIAN CULTURE SOCIETY  
SATURDAY, JUNE 25, 2011 AT 8:00PM  
SYMPHONY HALL, BOSTON

**BOSTON POPS**

*Featuring*  
WORLD-RENOWNED SOPRANO  
**HASMİK PAPIAN**  
*and*  
BOSTON POPS ORCHESTRA  
**KEITH LOCKHART,**  
CONDUCTOR

60TH ANNUAL  
ARMENIAN NIGHT  
AT THE POPS

*For more information,*  
Please visit [www.FACSBoston.org](http://www.FACSBoston.org) or write to [info@FACSBoston.org](mailto:info@FACSBoston.org)

## Orphaned Photos Find a Home with Project SAVE

PHOTOGRAPHS, from page 10

With a pad of paper and pencil in hand, she recorded information on each and every image before her. The routine never slid into tedium, always fresh and reverberating.

Thomasian was a glutton for detail to the point of passion. Proper names? Villages? Family history? In one case, she researched a movie on the marquee just to ascertain a logical date and give it added credence.

"If these pictures could talk, they would speak volumes," she told me.

I was quickly informed that aside from preservation, the pictures would be used to develop a curriculum for teaching history through the study of photographs. I found out something else, too. There were 1,500 other donors like myself who approached Project SAVE in an attempt to keep their photographs and memories alive.

As we approach April 24 and the 96th

anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Project SAVE will be working in overdrive. You'll see photo displays at the State House in Boston and other places where commemorations take place. My family's images from Dikranagert and Guerin may get some exposure.

Then there are the summer camps, theatrical productions and cultural exchanges where they might also be exposed.

"Our purpose is to make our resources available and increase our outreach to the academic communities, general public and greater Armenian community," Thomasian pointed out. "Most of my knowledge of the Armenian heritage comes directly from the hundreds of photo donors I've visited over all these years. They have shared incredible stories that not only document their history but often go beyond what the eye can see."

For further information on Project SAVE, e-mail: [archives@projectsave.com](mailto:archives@projectsave.com).





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Erol Ozkoray Takes on Turkish Military Regime

By Daphne Abeel

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

This small pamphlet packs a powerful punch. In his introduction, Nikos Lygeros compares Erol Ozkoray's *Turkey: The Permanent Putsch* to an earlier salvo by the French writer, Emile Zola, who in 1898, accused the highest levels of the French army of corruption and anti-Semitism, regarding the prosecution of the French officer, Alfred Dreyfus for alleged espionage.

The author, Ozkoray, a journalist-writer-activist, was arrested by the army general staff in Turkey in 2000 for criticizing the Turkish military. He was cleared of all 15 cases against him, and now resides in Paris, where in 2010, he published this short work in French, recently translated into English, under the auspices of the Chobanian Institute (a sister organization of Baikar), and with the financial support of the Armenian Rights Council of America. Major contributors are Hagop Vartivarian of New York and Arsen Demerjian of Chicago.

The pamphlet presents a broad-brush attack on the Turkish military, often known as "the Deep State" or Ergenekon. Ozkoray argues that the question of membership in the European Union has aroused an especially virulent and — to some extent hidden — form of fascism and totalitarianism practiced by the military.

Ozkoray traces the roots of this totalitarianism to the military coup of 1980, which resulted in a constitution, written in 1982, that placed excessive power in the hands of the military.

He is savage in his criticism of the government. "...true power always remains in the hands of the military. Those elected by the people and the government can only run the current affairs of the country. However, the 'duality of the executive' (!) does not prevent the civil government sometimes from politically colluding with the army. This hypocritical situation is profoundly schizophrenic because in contrast to elected officials, it is the appointed ones who possess power."

He points to the National Security Council (NSC) as the true seat of power, which includes the head of the general staff, and the four heads of the armies (land, marine, air and gendarmerie)."

He quotes a survey conducted in 2008 by Reporters sans Frontieres (Reporters without Borders) which lists Turkey as 103rd in the world ranking of freedom of the press.

And the press comes in for a brisk shellacking by Ozkoray. He singles out in particular, the media conglomerate, Dogan, which is an umbrella organization for several newspapers, including *Milliyet*, and television stations. According to Ozkoray, "The press disseminates very nationalist and fascist ideas, follows an active policy of support for the army and completely defeats public opinion concerning policy vis-a-vis the European Union."

Ozkoray sees two factors that will poison the political future of Turkey.

They are, "...the obstinacy of the military in defending 'for eternity,' in their words, the principle of the nation-state, and on the part of the Islamists, persistence in turning Sunnism into a state religion despite the secularism which will remain vigorous." Ozkoray points out, that in a country of 72 million, several millions of people who comprise minorities, the Kurds, Alevis, Armenians, Greeks and Jews, are victims of discrimination.

**Turkey: The Permanent Putsch** by Erol Ozkoray, with a preface by Nikos Lygeros. Translated from the French by Aram Arkun. Institute Chobanian. Paris. 2011. 55 pp. \$9.95. ISBN: 978-2-917329-22-1

Ozkoray ends his argument by saying only the European Union and Turkey's acceptance into the European Union can turn Turkey into a "genuine, civilian democracy."

There is no question where Ozkoray stands, but he may stand a little too stiffly. Especially in his criticism of the press, he overlooks journalists such as Senim Neder, a reporter for *Milliyet*, who has been charged under Article 301 for questioning the government's handling into the investigation of the murder of Agos editor, Hrant Dink. He also takes no account of *Milliyet* columnist Hassan Cemal, the grandson of Cemal Pasha, who has openly recognized the Armenian Genocide.

The pamphlet is available in the United States through the Baikar Association, 755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472. Baikar may also be reached by e-mail, ADLeastDistrict@aol.com.

## Hagopian and the College for Creative Studies Announces The 22nd Student Rug Design Competition Winners

BIRMINGHAM, Mich. — At the Hagopian Birmingham showroom on February 22, judges Steve Teich, The Teich Group; Michelle Mio, Rariden Schumacher Mio, along with Suzanne Hagopian, reviewed 40-plus entries from the College for Creative Studies (CCS) for the 22nd Annual Student Rug Design Competition. The 2011 criteria asked students to use the essence of Michigan for inspiration.

Joining Hagopian and the judges for the evening were Shannon McPartlan, CCS Institutional Advancement; Don Kilpatrick; CCS chair of Illustration and Sandra Olave, CCS chair of Interior Design. After much deliberation, choices were made and four talented students learned of their success at a special school assembly on March 15. First place went to Lauren Magda, senior, for her design based on "Natural Wonders;" second place went to Emily Crowley, senior, for her design based on "Michigan Waterways;" third place was awarded to Jacqueline Somerville, senior, for her design based on "Petoskey Stones" and honorable mention went to Erin Greener, senior, for her design "Raisin River."

The competition, a collaboration between the College for Creative Studies and Hagopian World of Rugs, gives students the chance to submit their designs based on specific criteria and compete for scholarship moneys funded by

Hagopian. In addition, the first-place design is made into a rug and displayed at the annual CCS Student Exhibition in May. The competition was originally conceived by Edgar Hagopian to mentor students and encourage interest in the textile arts and support the school.

Judges from the metro-Detroit design community, Michelle Mio and Teich, attended the March 15 assembly at the school with Suzanne Hagopian and held a discussion with the students on the designs before announcing the winners. The experience was great for all; students, instructors and judges. These experienced local interior designers donated their time and lent their knowledge to the project designed to encourage students in their career paths.

The Hagopian Family of Companies are long-time supporters of the cultural arts in metro Detroit. In addition to this competition they sponsor a statewide room design competition in conjunction with the American Society of Interior Design for students enrolled in a design curriculum and they host (18 years in 2011) the Detroit Chamber Winds "Night Notes" series in their Birmingham showroom bringing fine music to local venues at an affordable cost. Hagopian World of Rugs/Hagopian Cleaning Services is a major benefactor of the Detroit Institute of Arts.

ԹՄՄ ՄՀԵՐ ՄԿՐՏԶԵԱՆ ԹԱՏԵՐԱԽՈՒՄԻ  
ԽՆԴՈՒՔԻ ԵՐԵԿՈՑ

ՄԵՆՔ ԱՍԱՆԿ ԵՆՔ ...

Կատարողութեամբ՝

ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ՍԱԹԱՄԵԱՆԻ



Շաբաթ, Մայիս 21, 2011  
Երեկոցեան ժամը 8ին

Greek Orthodox Cathedral, St. John The Theologian  
353 East Clinton Avenue, Tenafly, NJ 07670

Տոմսեր ապահովել  
Մարի Զօքեան 201 745-8850  
Նուշիկ Աղամեան 718 344-5582

Մուտքի նուէր 65 տողար (Երաւոեալ ճաշ եւ գինի)

## Armenian Heritage Park

On the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, Boston



© Tellalian Associates Architects & Planners, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

Coming in 2011

You can make the difference!

For Sponsorship/Naming Opportunities, please call  
James Kalustian 781-777-2407 Charles Guleserian 617-484-6100  
Haig Deranian 617-484-2215 Walter Nahabedian 781-891-7249  
Dr. Jack Kasarjian 617-232-6350

Visit [www.ArmenianHeritagePark.net](http://www.ArmenianHeritagePark.net)



# Documentary Focuses on Town Brought to Life by Soviet Art

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

YEREVAN AND THESSALONIKI – Although “The Desert of Forbidden Art” by Amanda Pope and Tchavdar Georgiev did not win any award at the recent Thessaloniki Film Festival, it was undoubtedly one of the most vivid documentaries presented in the festival. Vivid not only in terms of its depiction of the environment and characters, the perfect cinematography and editing, but also in the way of presenting a unique cultural and political phenomenon in a broad historical context.

The film reveals several realities and aspects that remain quite unknown to the Western world, such as, Soviet history of several decades, the official and so-called decadence art of Soviet Union in particular and the correlation between the totalitarian regime and arts in general.

The former Soviet republic Uzbekistan, rather its autonomous republic of Karakalpakstan with its pitiful deserts and scanty life is the backdrop, yet Soviet artists, their heirs and specialists of Soviet art are the “protagonists” of the film. And in spite of such “dry” stuff, the film does not bore for a minute. In the tiny, sandy town of Nukus, there is a fantastic museum of Russian and Soviet non-official, avant-garde art, founded by artist Igor Savitsky (1915-1984) and presently directed by Marinika Babanazarova, who has devoted all her life to the gallery.

The film discloses the brave and charming phenomenon of Savitsky, who escaped from Moscow to a distant corner in Karakalpakstan as part of an archeological expedition. Central Asia became the same source of fascination for him like Polynesia for Gauguin or Hawaii for Armenian-American artist Armand Manoukian. There Savitsky started to collect ancient artifacts and pieces of folk art of the region along with thousands of works of Russian contemporary art (often smuggled out of Moscow), whose creators either were arrested, murdered or officially banned by the Stalinist government. Later, in 1966 Savitsky managed to convince the local officials to fund the establishment of a museum with all his collections.

The visual staff is thoroughly selected and composed by directors; the narration is as interesting and entertaining as possible. Although mainly using the common documentary format of archival footage to depict the past and “talking heads” for modern times, the directors successfully manage to avoid formula by using colorful images of landscapes and paintings, virtuously juxtaposing archival footage with those of socialistic realism paintings and examples of Soviet non-official fine art. The usage in the documentary of a scene from a film (the popular Soviet tale “The White Sun of the Desert” by Vladimir Motyl on the establishment of Soviet rules in Central Asia) is quite justified.

The contiguity of fine arts and politics results a fine documentary. There is a quotation from Savitsky in the film: “The art surrounds us like air.” While watching this picturesque, expressive documentary, the art starts to surround the audience, raising its awareness on various aspects of the art world and Soviet history in the 20th century. Voices of eminent American actors like Ben Kingsley, Sally Field and Ed Asner give additional charm to this documentary.

A logical question arises after watching the film: what will be the destiny of this outstand-

ing collection after the retirement of such an enthusiastic protector as Babanazarova? There is a hint on the treatment from the side of Islamic extremists in the film, for whom such a collection in the desert might cost nothing. Although the museum survived in Soviet times, cherishing some 40,000 paintings of forbidden art far from the vigilant eyes of KGB, it is not difficult to observe the new challenges that this gallery will face in the near future. With the new conditions of developing capitalism in the ex-Soviet Union, in the total collapse and changes of the system of

values, the unique collection in this remote town might be perceived as nothing else but a big source of profit. The director of the art gallery in Nukus says that Karakalpakstan is a poor country and its only treasure is this collection. Paintings of Savitsky are already starting to be sold in auctions for a quarter million dollars, and an unknown gallery in Nukus has begun to charm a wide selection of art collectors. Will this documentary help to maintain this beautiful oasis of fine art in the dusty desert as a national treasure or would it naturally disseminate around the world?

## CALENDAR

### ILLINOIS

**APRIL 10 — Presentation of Dr. Rita Kuyumjian’s Trilogy-April 24, 1915, Before and After-The lives of the Survivors.** Sponsored by Tekeyan Cultural Association. Sunday, 2 p.m. at St. James Armenian Church Nishan Hall, 816 Clark St., Evanston.

### MASSACHUSETTS

**APRIL 10 — Hoy Lari Children’s Concert presented by the Armenian Children’s Milk Fund,** 2:30 p.m. at The Regent Theater, 7 Medford St., Arlington. Adults, \$20, children, \$10. For tickets, call (781) 646-4849 or visit [www.regenttheatre.com](http://www.regenttheatre.com). For additional info, call (617) 484-6233.

**APRIL 13 — AIWA New England presents: “Challenges in Women’s Health in Resource Poor Countries: The Case of Armenia,”** 7 p.m., Boston College – Chestnut Hill Campus, Fulton Hall, Room 311. Free and open to public. For additional info, contact [aiwanewengland@aol.com](mailto:aiwanewengland@aol.com) or (617) 501-1215.

**APRIL 16 — Traditional flag-raising ceremony and Genocide commemoration,** sponsored by the Armenian National Committee of Merrimack Valley. Gathering at 9:30 a.m., corner, Merrimack and John Street, downtown Lowell. Program, 10 a.m., City Hall. Main speaker, ANC activist Stephen Mesrobian. Luncheon to follow.

**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.

### MICHIGAN

**APRIL 9 — Presentation of Dr. Rita Kuyumjian’s Trilogy-April 24, 1915, Before and After-The lives of the Survivors.** Sponsored by the Tekeyan Cultural Association. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at Hagopian Rigs Gallery, 850 S. Old Woodward, Birmingham. For info, call (248) 646-7847 or (248) 505-6159



**On April 13, the Armenian International Women’s Association of New England, whose members are pictured above, will present a forum on “Challenges in Women’s Health in Resource Poor Countries: The Case of Armenia,” at Boston College, Chestnut Hill Campus, Fulton Hall, Room 311, at 7 p.m. For info, call (617) 501-1215.**

### 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.

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



**KAROUN**  
Restaurant  
*Armenian Mid-Eastern Cuisine*

*Entertainment Fridays  
and Saturdays*

*Eurdolian Family*





## COMMENTARY

## COMMENTARY

## An Educational Mission

### TCA Dickranian School on its 30th Anniversary

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Last week, the Tekeyan Cultural Association's Arshag Dickranian School celebrated its 30 years of existence in Hollywood, Calif. — 30 years of sweat and tears and 30 years of educating successive generations.

The Dickranian School is the leading educational institution in Tekeyan's network of schools, which includes one institution in Beirut, Lebanon, and five in Armenia and Karabagh.

The Tekeyan Cultural Association is not an organization relying on sizeable endowment funds to run its schools; instead, each school is endowed with an army of volunteers to raise funds year round to keep the school doors open. In the case of the Dickranian School, benefactor Arshag Dickranian and members of his family have generously supported the construction and the development of the school, with the family continuing his mission after his death, by making annual, sizeable contributions. However, a school of that size, with a high school, requires huge infusions of cash to survive and to keep pace with the development of other schools.

Since the inception of the school, George Mandossian has been a mover and shaker of the project, heading a group of dedicated members on the School Board.

There are 270 students enrolled at the school, who along with a quality mainstream education, learn the Armenian language and history. As if the challenges of running an Armenian school were not enough, the school has an added problem of trying to academically reconcile the speakers of Eastern and Western Armenian into the student body, as the majority of the parents are from Armenia.

With all the financial, educational, administrative and psychological problems, it is almost a miracle that the Dickranian School has survived and even thrived.

Local public schools have a large enrollment of Armenian students, necessitating the instruction of the Armenian language. And yet, many parents still prefer Armenian schools, despite high tuition rates.

Of course, part of that decision is derived from a commitment of the parents to cherishing our heritage and part of it comes from more practical needs. Private schools, overall, provide a safer environment than public schools, in general.

The 1970s and 1980s witnessed an expansion of Armenian schools through the US and Canada, spearheaded by the AGBU and the Western Prelacy. The Eastern and Western Dioceses of the Armenian Church have shirked the traditional role of sponsoring Armenian schools. The Hovsepien School in Pasadena is the only school sponsored by the Western Diocese, almost thrust upon it by benefactors Alfred and Margaret Hovsepien, while the Diocese is engaged in building a cathedral at a cost of \$16-17 million.

It looks like the communities in North America have reached a saturation point in the day school drive. Over several years, only one high school was opened in Pasadena by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian School, as it is called now after a recent large donation by that family.

Running a school is not everyone's cup of tea. Education is a science today and it is not within the competence of amateur forces to administer a successful school.

Unlike many other Armenian institutions, the school is a daily operation, needing visionary leaders. In addition, it needs to be led by someone who appreciates the real value of Armenian education and demonstrates commensurate faith and dedication to it.

Granted, many Armenian schools have not attained the level of success that would quiet all of the nay-sayers. But the nay-sayers are the first responsible party to cause the school movement in America to lose some steam. Instead of just harping on the negative they should give constructive advice and admire many of the positive goals they achieve.

Every institution has its place and role in building and defining our Armenian identity. However no institution can replace the school in preserving our heritage. To believe that any other institution can play the role of the Armenian day school is tantamount to putting a band aid on our Armenian identity.

Yes, education — and Armenian education in particular — is an expensive yet necessary commodity and it needs immense funding to be successful. Any half-hearted support is bound to doom Armenian education to failure.

As our identity is diluted, it gets easier to finding copouts and looking for substitutes for the Armenian school.

With all these problems and challenges, the Dickranian School has accomplished its mission with flying colors, thanks to the extraordinary dedication and foresight of its leadership.

Whereas its mission continues, the insurmountable challenges pile up. The school has an annual deficit of more than \$200,000 and a huge mortgage to pay.

Thus far the school has been very fortunate to enjoy the support of the Dickranian family. Many other benefactors have also come forward with their generous contributions.

Any one concerned with the preservation of our heritage, language and history has no other place to go but to support the school.

The Dickranian School may be poor in its assets but it is rich in its output, with generations of young Armenian graduates becoming productive citizens.

The failure of Armenian education down the road is the failure of our identity no matter how magnificent our cathedrals may be and no matter how many fancy projects we may pursue.

There is no alternative to the Armenian school.

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror- Spectator

Established 1932

An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

PRODUCTION

Dilani Yogaratnam

#### CONTRIBUTORS:

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

#### CORRESPONDENTS:

**Armenia** - Hagop Avedikian

**Boston** - Nancy Kalajian

**Philadelphia** - Lisa Manookian

#### Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair Hovsepien

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

#### Baikar Association, Inc.

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

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

[www.mirrorspectator.com](http://www.mirrorspectator.com)

E-Mail: [editor@mirrorspectator.com](mailto:editor@mirrorspectator.com)

For advertising: [mirrorads@aol.com](mailto:mirrorads@aol.com)

#### New York/New Jersey Office

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

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

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

#### Baikar Association, Inc.

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

Check us out at  
[mirrorspectator.com](http://mirrorspectator.com)

## Ancient Ani, *Elle* Magazine and the Rabbi

By Betty Apigian Kessel

Hell hath no fury like an Armenian tread upon and *Elle* magazine's choice for a location shoot certainly proved that. Using our former capital city of Ani as an architectural backdrop featuring models posing among its crumbling ancient churches awakened the not so sleepy Armenian spirit.

Passion and emotion fired me up upon receiving the inflammatory e-mail from a distraught friend who wrote, "I am so angry about this. Can you believe it?" I told her I would give the matter immediate attention and quickly fired it off to my e-list asking people to let their feelings be known to *Elle* magazine as well as asking them to send me their opinion.

Reporter Tom Vartabedian quickly responded with a scathing letter to the magazine asking for an apology. He then put together an article, which appeared in various Armenian publications that has since stirred a flurry of public opinion. Comments were heavily against the magazine layout with a few saying it was "art and good publicity, beautiful."

To my knowledge, in the layout Ani was not identified as being formerly inhabited by the Armenians, the first people to accept Christianity as their state religion, nor was any history or importance given about the site. Would they have not identified the Acropolis?

One person commented, "Would you have commissioned a similar shoot at an ancient synagogue in Eastern Europe?" Or as another asked, "Why wasn't a mosque used?"

It brought to mind someone we miss very much our now deceased local intellectual, lecturer/TV personality, Rabbi Sherwin Wine, founder of the Society for Humanistic Judaism. Rabbi Wine, in addressing an audience at an Armenian-sponsored lecture in 2005, said this: "Every Armenian should go to Ani. Every Armenian should see Ani."

Rabbi Wine had attended high school in Detroit with Jews and Armenians saying, "We are brothers in history." He had traveled to Ani when the 1,700th year of Christianity celebration took place. He said, "Eastern Turkey is really Western Armenia. Yerevan is not enough. You must also travel to Historic Armenia. Make the pilgrimage. Go to Van, Ani and Ararat."

He had a deep appreciation of the amazing architecture of Ani. We know the ruins lay in Turkey but only because their heavy footprint made it so.

The good rabbi continued. "People ask me if I am Armenian and I respond yes. I would rather say I am from Van than from Vladivostok!" When I talk about Armenians, there is a glorious past, as in Ani. The ruins of Ani were more important to me than Echmiadzin. They go on and on. I arrived at twilight. The sun was setting. It was beautiful. It was meaningful. I was back in the 10th century

in a great kingdom before the Seljuk Turks arrived. I left when it was dark although I was warned for my safety to do otherwise."

He continued, "They call it Turkey — it is not. It is Turkestan. They are Mongols converted to Islam by the Arabs. When the Greeks and Armenians were fighting each other, the Seljuk Horde, led by Alp Aslan, took Ani, fell in love with it because it reminded them of Turkestan. They displaced the Armenians and Greeks and settled in Anatolia."

The point, dear readers, is that Ani was and should be thought of as ours to lay claim to just like Mt. Ararat. Only the boundary has changed for now, don't allow the mindset to also change. The past is just as important as the future. The Turks are 70 million strong and think of themselves as a democracy arrogant enough to think they can rebuild the Ottoman Empire on the backs of the Armenians.

As for the subsequent earthquakes that destroyed Ani, The Muslims said, "The Armenian curse came true." Just as the departing Armenians said in Erzincan, "These lands will bring you no bounty. You will never see peace."

I am concluding by taking excerpts from the great many comments this fashion layout incurred: Thanks to Rose Kehetian, Tom Vartabedian and to the many who responded to the call for action. The Armenian *hoki* is alive, well and still fighting. That is what sticks in the craw of the Turks.





## COMMENTARY



By Harut Sassounian

## Cemal Pasha's Grandson Says Genocide, Morgenthau's Great-Granddaughter Doesn't

Hundreds of Armenians turned out at UCLA last Thursday night to hear with great apprehension Hasan Cemal, the grandson of Cemal Pasha — one of the top three Turkish butchers of the Armenian nation. This unique and controversial event, titled “From Der Zor to Dzidzernagapert: A Conversation with Hasan Cemal,” was organized by AGBU Asbeds.

Understandably, there was great tension in the air. The large hall was filled to capacity and many were turned away due to lack of room. The presence of armed policemen and security guards inside the hall was both reassuring and disturbing. Cemal confirmed that he was cautioned against coming to Los Angeles, but fortunately everything proceeded calmly. The most shocking thing that evening was not what Cemal said, but what another speaker, Dr. Pamela Steiner, the great-granddaughter of Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, did not say.

Kurken Berksanlar, chairman of the ABGU Asbeds, welcomed everyone to “an open-minded conversation.” While admitting that some Armenians view with great suspicion Turks who acknowledge the Genocide, he believed that “progressive” Turks, who are speaking openly about the evens of 1915..., appear to be above and beyond the reach and control of today's Turkish government.” Berksanlar then introduced the keynote speaker Hasan Cemal and the two discussants, Dr. Pamela Steiner, and Prof. Richard Hovannisian.

A columnist at *Milliyet* newspaper, Cemal immediately won over his skeptical audience by greeting them in Armenian — “parev harkeli paregamner” — and telling them: “I came here to open my heart and open my mind to you.... I know your pain, your grief of Genocide, your grief of Meds Yeghern.” Ignoring Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code which bans the use of the term Armenian Genocide, he courageously repeated those words several more times during his talk. He also condemned the Turkish government's denial of the Armenian Genocide, calling it “colluding in the crime.”

Cemal described his deeply moving 2008 visit to the

Armenian Genocide Monument in Yerevan, where he laid three carnations in memory of his close friend, Hrant Dink, the Armenian journalist who was assassinated in Istanbul by Turkish extremists. While visiting Yerevan, he had a startling encounter with Armen Gevorkyan, grandson of the man who in 1922 assassinated his grandfather, Cemal Pasha.

Cemal described the progress made in Turkey during the past three decades on the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, going from total denialism to an apology campaign, restoration of Armenian churches, and holding academic conferences on this topic. He asked Armenians to come to Turkey to participate in the “recovery of memory.” He urged them never to forget the past, without becoming its captives.

While Cemal's candid remarks left a good impression on the audience, Dr. Steiner turned off the attendees with her adamant and intentional refusal to use the word genocide. Instead, she used such typical Turkish denialist terminology as “tragedy,” “suffering,” and “events of 1915.” As director of the Inter-Communal Trust-Building Project, she spoke about “possible steps towards building trust between Armenians and Turks.” She stunned the audience by asking Armenians to acknowledge that “the Turkish people [who] suffered horrendously during World War I ... need and deserve acknowledgment for that.” As if that request was not outrageous enough, she went on to urge Armenians to “consider acknowledging Turkish suffering before they receive an acknowledgment for theirs.”

During the question and answer period, when I pointed out the irony of Cemal Pasha's grandson freely using the term Armenian Genocide, while the great-granddaughter of Ambassador Morgenthau would not, Dr. Steiner's response was inadequate. Her justification was that she was playing the role of a “facilitator,” seeking “conciliation” between Armenians and Turks.

The final discussant, Professor Hovannisian, in a stern voice, gave a polite, yet powerful response to the previous speakers. He told Hasan Cemal that the large Armenian audience had come not to listen to him as a Turkish journalist, but as the grandson of Cemal Pasha. He explained that understanding the Turkish perpetrators' mindset cannot in any way justify their actions. He cautioned everyone not to equate Armenian suffering resulting from intentional destruction with the suffering of Turks as a result of war. He emphasized that Armenians were seeking not only recognition, but, more importantly, restitution of their confiscated properties. He urged the Turkish government to return the hundreds of Armenian churches in Turkey to the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul. Finally, in a direct allusion to Dr. Steiner, Prof. Hovannisian emphasized that “conciliation” required “acts of contrition.” His remarks were greeted with a standing ovation.

I found Cemal to be both candid and brave. He could have easily avoided the use of the term Armenian

Genocide, maintaining that doing so could land him in jail. However, he made no excuses and used the genocide term several times. Calling his own grandfather “a beast” who was responsible for “the Great Catastrophe,” he described today's Turkey as “a manic-depressive country.”

Although it is not easy to forget that Hasan Cemal is the grandson of one of the three masterminds of the Armenian Genocide, it would be wrong to hold children responsible for the sins of their parents. His position has dramatically evolved since his Boston appearance two years ago, when he avoided the term Armenian Genocide. I asked him privately at the end of his UCLA talk if he was not concerned that he could be taken to court for using the word genocide. Even though he said he did not think so, he found it important enough to mention my concern in a column he wrote in *Milliyet* upon his return to Istanbul.

The only sour note in Cemal's words that evening was his rejection of demands for the return of Armenian territories from Turkey. Nevertheless, it is not surprising to hear a Turk, no matter how tolerant, defend his country's territorial integrity. He did state, however, that the Turkish government should apologize to Armenians and pay compensation to them.

On the other hand, Dr. Steiner, as a Jewish-American and direct descendant of Ambassador Morgenthau, cannot be excused for her persistent refusal to use the term genocide, despite her self-avowed good intentions. Anyone who does not acknowledge the truth of the Armenian Genocide loses the moral authority to play a constructive role in Armenian-Turkish relations. One cannot remain neutral between a victim and victimizer. She should heed the wise words of Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel who stated: “Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim.”

As facilitator between the two communities, Dr. Steiner probably believes that she should not take sides. But telling the truth is not taking sides between Armenians and Turks, anymore than acknowledging the Holocaust is siding with Jews. Furthermore, it is not clear what exactly her role is as facilitator. Genocide is not a dispute that requires the services of a mediator. How can she reconcile two nations without the victimizer first making amends for what her own great-grandfather called “The Murder of a Nation.”

Two days after her talk at UCLA, Dr. Steiner sent me a lengthy e-mail explaining further her role as facilitator and insisting that Ambassador Morgenthau would have supported her work. I cannot pretend to know her great grandfather better than her, but being familiar with the ambassador's humanitarian efforts during and after the Genocide, I have no doubt that he would have done everything possible to bring justice to Armenians, rather than remaining neutral between the perpetrators and their victims.

# A Blessing Realized and A Fond Goodbye to a Good Armenian

By Pamela D. Coultis

**L**ittle did I know 22 years ago that the job I was embarking on would teach me the basic tenets of how to live a good life and help me grow as a human being. In 1989, after taking the job offered as administrative assistant to the owner of a large family-owned company in metro Detroit, I soon found out that Edgar Hagopian, my employer, was a man so filled with joy and goodwill that just working for him would give me a deep sense of purpose.

His role as an employer went far beyond the usual employer/employee relationship. He took a personal interest in all of us. He celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, births and gave comfort to those who suffered a loss. Was he easy to work for? No, he could be a taskmaster and he was a brilliant businessman so anything less than perfection just wouldn't do. But the rewards were so great just from knowing him that you wanted to please him and that made us all better people.

Over the years he generously sponsored numerous individuals to come to this country, guaranteeing their ability to work with a job at Hagopian and making sure that they had the means to enrich their lives. Many of these people still work at Hagopian and have become close personal friends with “Mr. H.” He taught

me that we are our brother's keeper.

His family was his treasure; his beautiful wife Sarah, son Edmond, daughters Suzanne and Angela. In 20-plus years of being with him on almost a daily basis, never a cross word was uttered about his family. His actions taught me that giving love begets love. Thank you Mr. H.

Working for Mr. H, I learned quickly that Armenians love a party! Oh, and how I enjoyed being a part of this culture. But the party had to have a purpose. Each and every event had a purpose and a beneficiary. He taught me that giving enriches our lives.

Through my job at Hagopian, I learned what the term soldier really means. With soldiers like these, wars could be won with love! I could mention hundreds but people like

David Terzibashian, Hagop Alexanian and Paul Kulhanjian, who worked to help us put together numerous events like Armenia Fest, the Facing History project, the Armenian Genocide Essay Competition, etc., etc., taught me the meaning of community.

I learned from him that sharing is a common denominator among Armenians. I have many people to thank for their kindness and their knowledge; like Jeanette Keramedjian who taught me how to write a press release and Corinne Khederian who taught me the art of diplomacy.

I learned that with Armenians friendships are everlasting. Through my job at Hagopian and my employer and friend, Edgar Hagopian, I met so many interesting people that have become lifetime friends. Through

my job I met two presidential candidates, numerous senators and legislators, intellectuals from all walks of life, authors, screenwriters and clergy. I will long remember conversations held at the Birmingham showroom on a multitude of subjects, lively and interesting. I learned that listening to other opinions can open our minds to new ideas.

No, I am not Armenian but today I wish I was and I want to thank the entire metro Detroit Armenian community for their kindnesses. And, if Mr. H were here today I would say to him “you call this a job? This is a blessing from God.”

Edgar Hagopian passed away on Sunday, March 27, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

(Pamela D. Coultis, from Redford, Mich., was Edgar Hagopian's administrative assistant.)

## APPRECIATION

## Notice to Contributors

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

— All articles submitted should be typed, double (or triple) spaced and printed in a type size large enough to be clearly legible (10

point or larger). Submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be assigned lowest priority.

— Articles sent by fax are acceptable, and e-mail submissions are encouraged.

— All submissions should include the name of a contact person and a daytime telephone number.

— Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is noon on the Monday of the week of publication.

— Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director.

Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.

— The *MS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.

— Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases, but should be reserved for calendar listings and advertisements.





## Court Dismisses Turkish Group's Lawsuit Against University of Minnesota Over Website

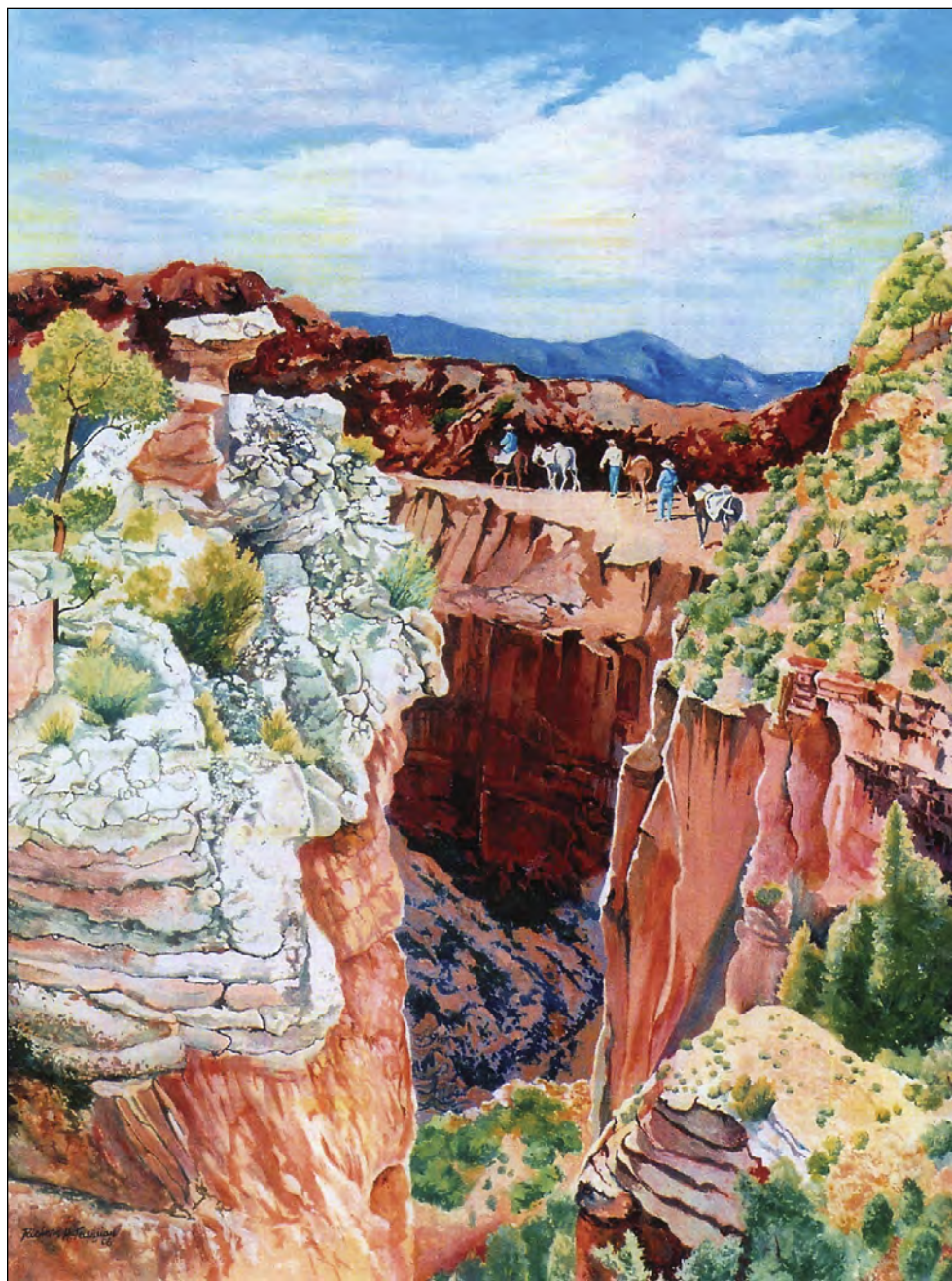
LAWSUIT, from page 1

"The ability of the university and its faculty to determine the reliability of sources available to students to use in their research falls squarely within the university's freedom to determine how particular course work shall be taught," the ruling says. The center's conclusion that the killing of Armenians during World War I was an act of genocide similarly is a viewpoint "within the purview of the university's academic freedom to comment on and critique academic views held and expressed by others," Frank wrote.

The lawsuit brought against the university by the Turkish Coalition and a freshman who had sought to use its Web site in class had been closely watched by several scholarly groups. The Middle East Studies Association had issued an open letter urging the center to withdraw its lawsuit, arguing that it posed a threat to academic freedom. The International Association of Genocide Scholars and the Society for Armenian Studies had similarly defended the university's decision to discourage students from using the Turkish Coalition site.

Bruce E. Fein, a lawyer for the Turkish American Legal Defense Fund who helped represent the plaintiffs in the case, said he was "disappointed" with the judge's decision but did not know whether the plaintiffs planned to appeal. "We certainly agree that academic freedom needs be defended," he said, but the judge failed to see whose side the principle was on, by missing how the university center was citing academic freedom as a pretext for "suppressing an idea."

Fein said the Turkish Coalition nonetheless was grateful that the center had chosen, in the midst of the controversy, to remove from its own website a list of "unreliable websites" that had included the coalition's site. Although the center has denied the list was removed in response to the coalition's complaints, Fein alleged that the deletion of the list represented "a tacit concession" that the posting of such a list had not been in accordance with mainstream pedagogy.



"A Trail Along The Grand Canyon," by Richard Tashjian

## Landscape Paintings of The West to Feature Richard Tashjian

SANTA FE, N.M. — Marigold Arts is presenting a group exhibition of landscape paintings of the Southwest by gallery artists, including Richard Tashjian, Don Mundt and Robert Highsmith. Tashjian is an American-born Armenian; Mundt hails from Montana, and Highsmith was born in Alaska but has spent most of his life in Las Cruces. All three are at the peak of mature painting careers and have fallen in love with the big sky and open spaces of the Western landscape, which each interprets in his own way.

Tashjian is an accomplished plein air painter and intrepid world traveler for decades. He served in WWII as an aerial photographer for the US Navy. That perspective is sometimes still evident in his landscape paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolor. Tashjian is a master colorist whose work shows the influence of Cubism and Gorky.



The Fund for Armenian Relief is pleased to announce a Gala Tribute celebrating 20 years of Armenia's Independence honoring

**MR. CHARLES AZNAVOUR**  
SONGWRITER AND COMPOSER,  
PHILANTHROPIST, DIPLOMAT & VISIONARY

# aznavour

**TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED  
AT [WWW.FARUSA.ORG](http://WWW.FARUSA.ORG) OR BY  
CALLING 212.889.5150**

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH, 2011

RECEPTION AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

DINNER AND PROGRAM AT  
8 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

CIPRIANI WALL STREET  
55 WALL STREET | NEW YORK CITY

**20 YEARS  
OF INDEPENDENCE**

FUND FOR ARMENIAN RELIEF | 630 SECOND AVENUE | NEW YORK, NY 10016 | 212.889.5150 | [EVENTS@FARUSA.ORG](mailto:EVENTS@FARUSA.ORG)