

Community Leaders Discuss 'The Road Ahead' for Genocide Recognition

WATERTOWN, Mass. — A symposium dedicated to exploring the next steps for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide saw both unity and disagreement last Thursday, with four panelists sharing four differing opinions on how the movement should proceed.

By Thomas C. Nash

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

The panel discussion, held at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center on May 12, was jointly sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union Young Professionals (AGBU-YP) Boston and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) Sardarabad Gomideh, in a first collaboration of its kind locally.

The panel featured participants from fields ranging from academia to political advocacy, including Aram Hamparian, executive director of the Armenian National Committee of America; Marc Mamigonian, director of programs at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research; Michael G. Mensoian, professor emeritus of political geography at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and Khatchig Mouradian, *Armenian Weekly* editor and PhD student at Clark University.

see PANEL, page 10



From left, Michael Mensoian, Khatchig Mouradian and Aram Hamparian

For Jerusalem's Armenians, 1,600 Years Of History and an Uncertain Future

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JERUSALEM — Fr. Samuel Aghoyan, above, prays after lighting a candle in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, inside Jerusalem's Old City. One of the four quarters of old Jerusalem belongs to the Armenians, keepers of an ancient monastery and library, heirs to a tragic history and to a stubborn 1,600-year presence that some fear is now in doubt. Buffeted by Mideast forces more powerful than themselves, this historic Jerusalem community has seen its numbers quietly drop below 1,000 people. (See full story on page 20.)

Stephen Kurkjian Headlines June 4 *Mirror-Spectator* Banquet in NJ

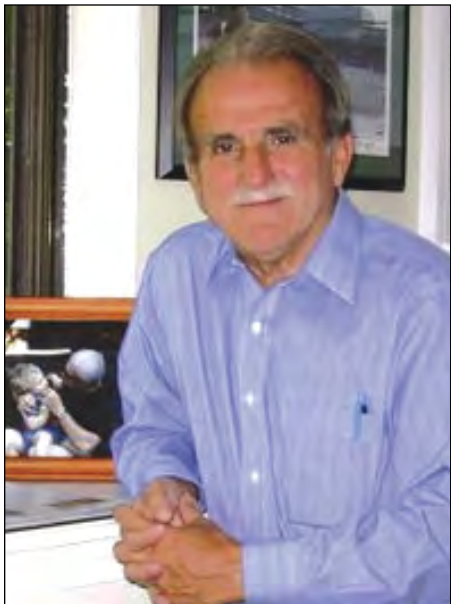
Musicians Datevik, Kalfayan, Wells to Perform

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

TEANECK, N.J. — Last week, information about three speakers, Peter Sourian, Florence Avakian and Nerses Babayan, each of whom will speak of an intellectual from the New York area supportive of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* in the past, respectively, Jack Antreassian, Dr. Movses Housepian and Armine Dikjian, was given. This week's article on the June 4 New Jersey *Mirror-Spectator* banquet focuses on the keynote speaker, Stephen Kurkjian, and provides additional information on the musicians performing as part of the program.

see BANQUET, page 11



Keynote speaker Stephen Kurkjian

Armenia Warns Renewed Hostilities Will Prompt NKR Recognition

YEREVAN (Armenia now) — Armenia has again warned Azerbaijan against unleashing a new war in Nagorno-Karabakh, stressing that renewed military hostilities will prompt Yerevan to consider a formal recognition of the independence.

In an interview with the Russian Moskovskie Novosti newspaper (www.mn.ru) published on Monday, President Serge Sargsian reiterated Yerevan's position in yet another clear message to an increasingly-belligerent Azerbaijan amid more reports of the loss of life along the line of contact of Azeri and ethnic Armenian armed forces in Karabagh.

Still, the Armenian leader acknowledged what many in Armenia view as a risk of thwarting the current internationally-mediated peace talks. "We don't do that [don't recognize Karabagh] because we are holding negotiations, whereas the recognition of Nagorno-Karabagh would mean scuttling these talks. In any way, it is better to be negotiating," Sargsian stressed.

In assessing the risk of renewed hostilities in Karabagh, Sargsian said such a threat persisted "because Azerbaijan is dragging out the process."

He warned, "There are, perhaps, some plans regarding the accumulation of power and strength in order to try to launch a new military adventure at a convenient moment. It is a wrong approach, because the events may develop by two scenarios. The first one is a total warfare and further occupation of Nagorno-Karabagh, which is possible only if the people of Nagorno-Karabagh are totally annihilated. And the second one is Azerbaijan's defeat and subsequent loss of new territories. And then Azerbaijan will again complain about losing five, six or more districts. And what then? Again truce, agreements, ceasefire violations, a new war... All these scenarios have no future."

Sargsian stressed that "the problem can be resolved only on the principle of compromises.

"But there is a red line: the people of Nagorno-Karabagh should themselves decide their destiny," Sargsian added.

Tensions around Nagorno-Karabagh have been high during the past year amid faltering negotiations over the region's status and more frequent violations of the 1994 ceasefire resulting in casualties on both sides.

Azerbaijani Military Fired 1,700 Times in One Week, Killing One Armenian

BAKU (news.am) — Azerbaijan violated ceasefire regime around 450 times in the contact line between the armed forces of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh from May 8 to 14.

According to information of the Nagorno Karabagh Defense Army, Azerbaijanis fired 1,700 times in the direction of the Armenian positions.

The Armenian side incurred losses as a result of intensive firing on May 11-12.

Arayik Balasanyan, 33, resident of Kyuratagh village, Hadrut region of Nagorno-Karabagh, received a gunshot wound in the head, while operating a tractor. He died on the way to Hadrut hospital.

Nagorno Karabagh Defense forced retaliated.

Gor Minasyan Becomes World Youth Weightlifting Champion

LIMA, Peru (Panorama) — The World Youth Weightlifting Championship ended with a victory for Armenian Gor Minasyan, who lifted a total of 379 kilograms and became world champion.

Minasyan, 16, also won gold medals in the snatch (174 kilogram) and clean and jerk (205 kilogram).

The Armenian national team has occupied the third place having only been bested by teams from Russia and China.

Hamshen Families to Resettle in Karabagh

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan (Radiolur) — Around 200 Hamshen-Armenian families living in Kyrgyzstan are opting to resettle in the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic.

Armenians of Hamshen in Western Armenia were conquered by the Ottomans in the 15th century. The majority of them were forced to convert to Islam. A resurgence of Hamshen-Armenians has begun in recent years, with a group in Armenia forming community organizations and publishing a newspaper.

The Hamshen-Armenians settled in Adjaria, from where they were driven out and a large majority settled in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

Nagorno Karabagh is willing to organize the process of resettlement, said David Babayan, spokesman for Nagorno Karabagh president. "The authorities are doing their best to give new momentum to the process."

About 150,000 Hamsehn-Armenians reside in Turkey today. Forty thousand of them have preserved their national identify, their unique Armenian dialect and a number of Christian traditions.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Armenia to Raise Military Draft Age

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — The Armenian parliament approved on Monday government plans to raise the military draft age to 19 because of changes in the national education system.

Male citizens of the country have until now been drafted to the Armenian Armed Forces at age 18. Young men enrolled in state-run universities are called up after graduation, while those deemed unfit for two-year compulsory military service, on medical and other grounds, are exempt from it altogether.

The Soviet-era system of 10-year schooling has enabled virtually all boys to finish school before reaching draft age.

Over the past decade Armenia has gradually switched to a 12-year education cycle that will produce its first graduates next year. This means that thousands of male students will turn 18 and be subject to the draft before passing graduation exams. Under existing legislation, they would also be unable to pursue higher education and qualify for service deferments.

The Armenian government believes that they should be able to finish high school before being drafted. Hence, its proposal to raise draft age by one year.

The National Assembly unanimously approved, in the first reading, a corresponding amendment to an Armenian law on military service. Its passage in the second and final reading appears a mere formality.

Overflow from Kapan Tailings Dam Threatens Village

YEREVAN (Hetq) — On May 8, waste water from the Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum Combine in Kapan was reported to have overflowed the perimeter of the dam, which is supposed to contain it.

The toxic pond has sprung up about 40 meters from the community's main spring for drinking water. A noxious odor has also permeated throughout the settlement.

Hungary's Parliament Speaker Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (news.am) — The Hungarian delegation headed by Parliament Speaker Laszlo Kover arrived for a two-day official visit to Armenia on Tuesday.

He met with President Serge Sargsian, Parliament Speaker Hovik Abrahamian and Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian.

The delegation also met with the members of Armenia-Hungary friendship group.

Hungarian members of parliament finally visited the memorial to the Armenian Genocide victims.

Genocide Museum Director Demoyan Sued For Slander

YEREVAN (hetq) — Armen Ayvazyan, director of the Ararat Center for Strategic Research, has sued Hayk Demoyan, director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, and is demanding a total of 3 million drams in compensation.

This is the latest in a series of charges and counter-charges that the two have recently traded.

Ayvazyan claims that Demoyan slandered him in an interview with Veradardz TV program producer Harout Bronozyan on March 30, in the US, and in an article Demoyan wrote, which appeared in Hetq Online, on April 12.

Ayvazyan notes that Demoyan called him a “provocateur,” “a man afflicted with the frenzy of vanity,” “a gang leader” and “a state criminal,” etc.

In addition, Ayvazyan, in his legal suit claims that Demoyan said that “Armen Ayvazyan had swallowed the Turkish bait” and had committed a state crime by turning down the lights at the Tzitzernakaberd Genocide Memorial on September 6, 2008 when President Abdullah Gul of Turkey was in Yerevan for a football match between the two countries’ national teams.

UN Commissioner Urges More Donor Funding for Armenian Refugees

By Hovannes Shoghikian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres backed on Tuesday Armenia's efforts to attract donor funding for the provision of adequate housing to thousands of Armenians who fled Azerbaijan over two decades ago.

Guterres appealed to international donor agencies and governments as he attended an international conference on the issue held in Yerevan.

The Armenian government hopes that the conference will help it attract \$45 million in assistance, which it says is necessary for building or buying new homes for about 1,200 refugee families that still live in miserable conditions.



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres and Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian

Nagorno-Karabagh Flights on Hold Despite Airport Reconstruction

STEPANAKERT (RFE/RL) — The launch of the first commercial flights to Nagorno-Karabagh in two decades has been postponed indefinitely.

Armenian-Karabagh authorities in Stepanakert are now refusing to announce any dates for the official reopening of the airport, located eight kilometers east of the region's capital.

With its \$3-million reconstruction nearly completed early this year, Nagorno-Karabagh officials announced that the airport would reopen its doors on May 9 for an inaugural flight from Yerevan.

Azerbaijan condemned the plans as illegal and threatened to shoot down aircraft entering Karabagh without its permission.

Leaders of the self-proclaimed Nagorno-Karabagh Republic and Armenian officials dismissed the threats, saying the airport would be inaugurated as planned. President Serge Sargsian said in late March that he would board the first Yerevan-Stepanakert flight since 1991.

The Azerbaijani threats were also denounced by the United States and other foreign powers trying to broker a peaceful solution to the Karabagh dispute.

Baku appeared to back away from them in early April, with an Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry spokesman saying that it “did not and will not use force against civil facilities.”

Still, the US, Russian and French mediators co-chairing the OSCE Minsk Group warned later in April that the airport reopening “could lead to further increased tensions” in the conflict zone.

Karabagh leaders have since claimed that a flight between Nagorno-Karabagh and Armenia was never scheduled to take place on May 9. They have also pointedly declined to clarify when flights at the airport would be launched.

“I find it difficult to answer that question,” airport director Artur Karapetian said on May 13. “We don’t set dates, we just work.”

Karapetian confirmed that the small airport’s new terminal has already been fully constructed, furnished and equipped with navigation devices. But he said “some construction work” still needs to be done on the runway.

More than 350,000 Armenians from Azerbaijan took refuge in Armenia following outbreak of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabagh in 1988.

According to the State Migration Service, 1,175 families still live in single rooms lacking basic amenities.

Speaking at the conference, Guterres recalled a 2006 visit to some of these families. “I was moved by the extreme difficulty of their conditions, which inevitably affect the physical and mental conditions of those people,” he said.

“There is a solution to this situation, there just need to be funds,” added the UN official, who held separate meetings with President Serge Sargsian and Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian.

More than 80 families living in a run-down hotel in Yerevan’s Nork-Marash district, all of them former residents of Baku, have been waiting for such solution for more than 20 years. Gayane Zakharian has shared a room there with her mother and daughter since 1989.

“We very much hope that something will be decided at that conference,” she said. “We were told that donors are coming and they may provide some of the money needed for building new homes for us.”

“Every year they promise that this will be the last year of hardship but nothing is being done in practice,” Zakharian added skeptically.

“We don’t believe anymore,” said Anya, a single, elderly woman. “We have lived here for 22 years.”

The Armenian government pledged in 2004 to provide all needy refugees with new homes in the next few years. It stopped allocating funds for that purpose with the onset of the global financial crisis in 2009.

“Of late, political tension, military conflicts and natural disasters in various regions have displaced more people,” Tigran Sargsian said. “The international community’s attention to the needs of people in those new crisis-hit areas is natural.”

“But we expect that the international community will not disregard older problems, including the problem of Armenian refugees,” he said.

“We want to solve this problem as soon as possible,” the prime minister said in an interview.

The only immediate pledge of assistance at the conference came from the government of Brazil. The Brazilian Embassy in Yerevan said it will contribute \$50,000 to the housing program.

Whether the government can raise larger sums remains to be seen. “At this stage we have no funds allocated for addressing housing problems directly,” the head of the EU Delegation in Yerevan, Raul de Luzenberger, said.

Armenian Assembly Hosts Events In Armenia Dedicated to Genocide

YEREVAN — During the week leading up to the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian Assembly of America’s Yerevan Office hosted a series of events dedicated to the memory of Armenian Genocide victims.

Armenian government and US Embassy officials were among the Assembly’s special guests at last week’s concert of sacred Armenian music performed by the Speghani Choir held at the Assembly’s Yerevan Center. In recognition of her contributions to the contemporary art of choir music for the last 15 years, Choir Director and Conductor, Sarina Avtandilyan, was awarded the Vazgen Sargsian Medal of Honor by Armenia’s Ministry of Defense.

Noting that the dangers of genocide and its denial continue in the 21st century, the Assembly’s Country Director Armina Darbinian stated, “We join with Armenians across the globe and all people of good will in remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Together, we will help end the scourge of genocide and build a brighter future for

all of humanity,” Darbinian continued.

In conjunction with the Assembly’s Yerevan Youth Club (AYYC), the Assembly also hosted a two-day art exhibition featuring works by local artists reflecting upon the legacy of 1915. During the exhibit opening, Assembly Chairman Hirair Hovnanian commended the initiative, and along with his wife Anna, shared family memories of the Armenian Genocide.

Speaking on the occasion, Darbinian also emphasized the importance of the role of the youth in the country’s future. “Through the Assembly’s Yerevan Youth Club, the Assembly is able to support a cadre of talented young individuals by involving them in various events and educational activities,” said Darbinian. The AYYC was formed in 2010 as part of the Assembly’s new initiatives in its recently dedicated Yerevan Center near Republic Square.

On April 24, the Assembly’s Yerevan Office staff joined thousands of compatriots in paying tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.



ARMENIA

AVC Volunteers Spring into Community Service in Armenia

YEREVAN – Armenian Volunteer Corps (AVC) volunteers have turned spring into a season full of community service, complementing the service they already bring as part of volunteering in Armenia.

Early this spring, AVC volunteers helped paint a classroom and hallways at the middle school in Nor Kyugh, a village just outside of Yerevan where students from the SOS-

plement my main volunteer service.”

In early April, volunteers helped clean the gardens at Our Lady of Armenia Boghossian Education Center in Gumri (www.armeniansisters.org), an AVC volunteer placement site.

“I enjoyed helping the Center with some spring cleaning and preparation,” said Dawn Huckelbridge (US), who is volunteering in Armenia for two months, splitting her time between the Women’s Resource Center (www.womenofarmenia.org) and the International Center for Human Development (www.ichd.org). “It was especially meaningful because we had an opportunity to learn about the Center and the work it does in Gumri.”

On April 27, volunteers joined the Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets (www.fpwc.org) (also known as SunChild) for the second year in a row to help recycle the flowers laid at the Tsitsenakaberd Armenian Genocide memorial on April 24. The flower petals are used to make recycled paper, which the Genocide Museum uses for invitations and cards.

“Recycling flowers was a meaningful experience for me,” stated Meredith Derian-Toth (US), an AVC volunteer sponsored by Birthright Armenia. “I was happy to help an organization that is forward thinking in their approach

towards recycling. I hope this is a small step in the direction of a country-wide program.” Derian-Toth is spending three months volunteering with Bars Media (www.barsmedia.am) and the Seda Ghazaryan Memorial Foundation (www.sgmf.am).

But that isn’t all.

On May 10, during an excursion to Artsakh organized by Birthright Armenia (www.birtherightarmenia.org), a total of 16 AVC volunteers, alumni and Birthright Armenia participants spent the day painting classrooms at the Daniel Ghazaryan Music School in Shushi. Volunteers painted three classrooms after which they challenged some of the students to a game of football, basketball and other games.



Nathalie Demirjian, Ani Grigorian and Marie Hagopian painting at the Nor Kyugh Middle School

Children’s village attend school. Volunteers and students from the school also helped clean the school grounds. This community service project helped revamp the areas where the children spend their time, both indoors and outdoors and provided an opportunity for volunteers to give back and learn about the SOS-Children’s Village and their involvement in the community.

“I enjoyed learning about the SOS-Children’s village by painting with fellow volunteers, students from the school and staff from the SOS-Children’s village,” said Vicken Muradian (France), who took a three-month break in between jobs in China and France to volunteer at the National Competitiveness Foundation. “This was a great way to com-



Nicholas Avedisian-Cohen, Achod Papasian and Oksana Mirzoyan recycling flowers from the Armenian Genocide Memorial

“Painting classrooms a warm orange color at the school in Shushi was very rewarding. It really meant a lot to me because I was able to do something tangible for the Artsakh community in a small way,” stated volunteer Nathalie Demirjian (US), who is volunteering in Armenia at Knyazyan & Partners (www.knyazyanlaw.com), a law firm specializing in intellectual property. “The children at this school are the future of Artsakh and

Shushi, so making sure they have a warm learning environment is really important!”

Serving Armenia through volunteerism and enhancing a culture of service in Armenia is AVC’s mission. Volunteers do this not only through their specific volunteer placement but also through organizing and participating in community service projects.

For more information about AVC visit www.armenianvolunteer.org.



AVC volunteers painting the floor at the Daniel Ghazaryan Music School in Shushi

International Inspection of Armenian Nuclear Plant Kicks Off

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) began a two-week inspection of the nuclear power station at Metsamor on Monday, May 16, amid renewed domestic and international concerns about its safety fueled by the recent nuclear disaster in Japan.

Armenia’s Ministry of Energy and Natural Resource said a team of IAEA experts from nine countries will closely examine Metsamor’s reactor and other facilities and assess their operational safety in a special report.

It said the inspection will be conducted under the Vienna-based nuclear watchdog’s Operational Safety Review Team (OSART) program, which is designed to help countries guard against nuclear emergencies.

The Armenian government solicited the OSART mission at Metsamor about two months ago, citing the need to learn lessons from the grave accidents at Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian said last week that the government expects the IAEA team to identify “the strong and weak sides of our atomic plant.” “We are ready for that inspection,” he told reporters.

The Soviet-built Metsamor plant, which meets about 40 percent of Armenia’s energy needs, has long prompted concerns from local environment protection groups and Western governments. The Fukushima disaster has cast a fresh spotlight on its safety, with senior European Union officials discussing the matter with Armenian leaders during recent visits to Yerevan.

Armenian environmentalists argue that like Japan, Armenia is situated in a seismically active region prone to powerful earth-

quakes. They say that alone makes its closure imperative.

Armenian government officials and nuclear experts dismiss such concerns. They say that Metsamor’s reactor cooling system is different from Fukushima’s and that the facility is reliable enough to withstand a powerful earthquake. Another argument advanced by them is that the plant has undergone numerous safety upgrades since one of its two reactors was reactivated in 1995.

“The safety of the plant’s exploitation is at a high level today,” the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources said in a May 6 statement. “The results of safety monitoring periodically conducted by other international teams also testify to that.”

The Armenian government has no Metsamor-related concerns despite initiating the IAEA inspection, it said.

The government also made clear recently that it will press ahead with an ambitious project to build a new and more powerful nuclear plant in place of the aging facility located over 30 kilometers west of Yerevan. Armenian officials have said in the past that its construction will start by 2012 and probably end in 2017, in time for the planned decommissioning of the Metsamor reactor.

However, the head of Armenia’s State Committee on Nuclear Safety, Ashot Martirosian, said in an interview last August that



Inside the Metsamor nuclear power station

the construction could be delayed by several years, suggesting that the reactor, which went into service in 1980, will function longer than planned.

Whether the government is ready to delay the decommissioning even after the Fukushima accident remains to be seen. The outcome of the OSART evaluation may well have a significant impact on its intentions.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

\$20 Million Worth of Weapons Sold by Turkey To Azerbaijan

ANKARA (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Turkey sold weapons and munitions worth \$20 million to Azerbaijan from January to April this year, according to a report issued by the Central Anatolian Exporters Union.

Turkish companies exported weapons and munitions worth \$20 million to Saudi Arabia and munitions worth \$10 million to the US in the first quarter of this year. Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia and the US are in the top three, in the list of export of weapons and munitions; they are followed by Lebanon, Russia, Belgium, Pakistan, Italy, United Arab Emirates and Portugal.

Turkish University to Offer Armenian Language Course

ISTANBUL (*International Herald Tribune*) — Using a \$23,500 grant from the German Marshall Fund's Black Sea Trust, Kadir Has University plans to begin offering Armenian language lessons this month.

Serdar Dinler, director of the university's Center for Lifelong Learning, said by telephone that the course would be taught by a doctoral candidate from Armenia as part of a cultural exchange between countries whose ties have been fraught for a century.

"Turkey is becoming an energy-transit corridor and a center for diplomacy in the region," Dinler said. "Also the Turkish government has a new zero problem's policy with its neighbors, so we believe that the new generation in Turkey needs to have more dialogue with neighboring countries, including Armenia, Russia, Iran, Greece, etc. Knowing the language can only help." Kadir Has is a private university established along the Golden Horn in 1997 and named after its founder, a Turkish automotive magnate.

Students Taking Exams Forced to Deny Armenian Genocide

ISTANBUL (Panorama) — According to the website Ermenihaber.am, an exam at the Faculty of History at Dicle University of Turkey includes a question on the Armenian Genocide, with the right answer denying the Genocide.

The question is: "No Armenian Genocide occurred in the Ottoman Empire. Some of Armenians cooperating with Russians and hitting the Ottoman army from behind died due to betrayal, some emigrated from the country at the suggestion of Germans and died of hunger, diseases and cold, so the Armenian population in Turkey decreased."

The possible answer was either: a) correct or b) incorrect.

Students who selected answer b lost a point.

The lecturer who compiled the questionnaire said he sees nothing extraordinary about this question.

Festival to Screen Film On Kars Monument's Dismantlement

ISTANBUL (Tert.am) — A documentary on the dismantlement of a Kars-based monument symbolizing Turkish-Armenian friendship, "First and Last" will be screened at the Golden Orange annual film festival in Turkey.

Director Mujdat Gezen said his film ends with a scene that shows the decapitation of the monument of Humanity and Peace.

Gezen also spoke critically of the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan who had called the monument "monstrosity" and ordered to pull it down.

"What does it mean 'I don't like the monument?' That's a display of fascism ... And I don't like the prime minister, but do I call him a 'monster?'" asked Gezen.

The dismantlement of the statue started last month and is still underway.

Armenian Church of Singapore Celebrates Major Anniversary

SINGAPORE — One sometimes wonders about the lost communities of the Armenian diaspora. Singapore, whose 175-year-old church, The Armenian Church of St. Gregory the Illuminator, comes to mind as an example.

Singapore's Armenian heritage has not disappeared. The community, which had leaders that established notable Singapore institutions such as the *Strait Times* (national newspaper) and Raffles hotel, dissolved when Japanese forces occupied Singapore during WWII. Today, the community is very much alive and growing. Approximately 60 members gathered to commemorate the Armenian Genocide and celebrate Easter.

In true Armenian style, the event started with a generous picnic. With no Clergy available, an Armenian opera singer, Gayane Vardanyan sang three Sharagans with an emotional *Soorp Soorp* and *Hyre Mer*. She also recited two eloquent poems in Easter Armenian.

Community leader and organizer, Pierre Hennes (US) explained the community is made up of one-third original families, one-third Hyeastayns and one-third expatriate professional people totaling about 80 people with five newborns this year. Young Armenian born professional musicians include concert conductor, cellist Gevorg Sargsyan, Naira Mkhitarian

and Ani Umedyan. Professionals include leaders from Turkey, France, United States and Georgia.

The church celebrated the 175-year of consecration March 27, with Archbishop Aga Baliozian of Australia who is mentoring the Singapore church. The community received generous donations including one from Rhode Island to restore the church repairing termite, water and paint damage. The large rectory needs similar restoration work and new electrical wiring. The church's beauty makes is a major tourist attraction. The church sits like a gem in the modern city-state.

In 1973, the building was designated a national monument by the National Preservation Board. While often used for weddings, the small Syrian and Coptic (Egyptian) Church community



The Singapore Armenian Church will lease the church for services.

The interior has a marble altar with a picture of the Last Supper. The picture of the Last Supper is common in Asian-Armenian churches, while in the US, churches usually have the Virgin Mary and Christ Child.

However, churches are about serving religious needs. Critical to the community's future is creating a trust to fund a monthly Badarak with a Priest from Australia and preserve the church well into the future. With many young children and immigrants from areas without a church heritage, religious education is essential.

The Kazarian Foundation and Paul Kazarian have been instrumental in supporting the Church. Parish leaders Pierre Hennes, Greg Basmadjian and Greg Soghomonian have three goals: to fund a regular monthly church service, preserve the two buildings and continue to grow the population by seeking Armenians who are moving to this vibrant financial and trade center.

To learn more about Saint Gregory the Illuminator Church, contact Hennes at pierrehennes@upstreamventures.com.



Celebrating the anniversary of the church

Marios Garoyian Calls Turkey 'International Terrorist'

NICOSICA, Cyprus (*Hellenic News of America*) — President of the House of Representatives Marios Garoyian has stressed the responsibilities of the international community in regards to Turkey's crime, the Armenian Genocide, saying that if Turkey had been punished for that crime, the Turkish invasion against Cyprus may not have taken place.

Describing Turkey as an international terrorist, he called upon Ankara to admit its crime and apologize for it.

Last Tuesday, at a school event, titled "Armenian Genocide from the past to the present," Garoyian underlined the responsibilities of the international community, saying that the Armenian Genocide must be condemned and recognized by all and called upon Turkey to admit its crime and apologize to the Armenian people and all of humanity.

Unfortunately, the non-punishment of Turkey by the international community increases Ankara's intransigence, he said and described Turkey as an international

terrorist, who, through military power, attempts to impose its rules on its neighbors and non-neighbors. As long as Turkey remains unpunished, the international community has no right to be proud of today's world order, he stressed, adding the international community should feel like an accomplice as long as the Armenian Genocide and other ethnic cleansing crimes of Turkey remain unpunished. He recalled that Cyprus was the first country to raise the issue in the 1960s before the UN General Assembly, asking for an interna-



Marios Garoyian

tional condemnation of the crime and said that the Cypriot House of Representatives as well as the Greek Parliament were among the first parliaments to have condemned it.



INTERNATIONAL

AGBU Egypt District President Berdj Terzian Honored in Cairo

CAIRO, Egypt — The chairman of AGBU Egypt's District Committee and honorary chairman of AGBU's Cairo Chapter, Berdj Terzian, was recently honored for his long-term commitment and contribution to the Armenian community around the world. On April 24, following Easter Mass at the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Cairo, Terzian received the Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Medal of Honor according to the encyclical issued by Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, on



Berdj Terzian, president of AGBU Egypt's District Committee and honorary chairman of AGBU's Cairo Chapter, receives the Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Medal of Honor on April 24 at the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Cairo.

October 27, 2010 at the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin. The Sts. Sahag and Mesrob medal is one of the highest honors of the Armenian Church and is awarded for significant achieve-

ments in communal, academic, educational and literary activities dedicated to the Armenian cause and to the Motherland.

Two weeks later, on May 8, around 90 people gathered at the Belekdanian Hall in Cairo to once again honor Terzian, this time at an award ceremony and cocktail reception. AGBU's Central Board bestowed on Terzian the title of "AGBU Honor Member," which is given to individuals who have rendered extraordinary services to AGBU.

The event, which was organized by AGBU Cairo, was attended by Bishop Ashot Mnatsaganian, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Egypt; Bishop Monsignor Krikor Augustinos Coussan, Primate of the Armenian Catholic Community in Egypt; Armen Melkonian, the ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to Egypt, and his wife; numerous members of the Cairo Diocesan Council and many board members of local Armenian institutions, clubs and organizations, as well as the honoree's close friends and relatives.

An introductory address was given by AGBU Cairo Chairman Viken Djizmedjian, who also presented the AGBU Honor Member certificate to the distinguished guest. There was a reading of the Pontifical Encyclical by Rev. Hagop Hagopian, pastor of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Cairo, and a reading by AGBU's President Berge Setrakian, who shared congratulatory letters addressed to Terzian. Onnig Belekdanian, vice chairman of AGBU Cairo and member of the AGBU Egypt District

Committee, presented Terzian with a commemorative plate on behalf of AGBU Cairo.

Others also spoke and shared their thoughts of Terzian's decades of service, including longtime friend Norayr Deuvelitian, Melkonian, Coussan and Mnatsaganian. They each praised the work and deeds of Terzian, giving accounts of personal and professional experiences that they had shared with him and stressing his important work for Armenians everywhere.

Subsequently, the evening's honoree took to the floor to express his gratitude to Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, Setrakian and all members of the AGBU Central Board of Directors. He conveyed his personal appreciation for the bestowment of his distinguished awards and he thanked everyone in attendance for supporting these distinct honors and coming out to celebrate.

Terzian has been serving the Armenian Church in Egypt as a member of its Diocesan



On May 8, Berdj Terzian, right, received the "AGBU Honor Member" certificate from AGBU Cairo Chairman Viken Djizmedjian.

Council for several decades, as a member of the Diocesan Board of Education, a member of Nubarian School's Board of Trustees and eventually as the chairman of the Armenian Apostolic Church's Executive Committee from 2003 to 2006. Terzian is known for his contribution to AGBU's Egypt district and Cairo chapter for nearly five decades as a member and a chairman. He is also revered for his vigorous involvement in various Armenian-related editorial activities in both the Armenian and Arabic languages.

State: Council Did Not Get Permit to Build Kars Statue

By Ali Aslan Kilic

ANKARA (*Today's Zaman*) — While a statue popularly known as the "Monument to Humanity" continues to be demolished, it is now argued that the monument was erected without getting the necessary permission and therefore it would have to be demolished anyway.

The controversy surrounding the statue began after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan called it a "monstrosity." It was erected to commemorate the Ottoman soldiers who froze to death 96 years ago during a military operation against Russia. The "Monument to Humanity" is also meant to symbolize the friendship between Turkey and Armenia.

The Kars Municipality's lawyer, Agca Bastimar, states that most sites of historical interest in Kars belong to the Treasury, adding: "Though the issue has been discussed from many different aspects, a fact is being overlooked. The then-municipality that allowed the erection of the statue wrote to the relevant authorities [for permission]; however, they started construction before receiving a reply."

The municipal council in Kars earlier decided to demolish the statue and the demolition began in mid-April. The demolition is expected to be completed in a month. The municipality plans to open a park for the province's residents in lieu of the statue after getting the necessary permission.

Speaking to Sunday's Zaman, lawyer Bastimar said anything erected on Treasury land without the necessary permission would definitely be demolished even if the structure belonged to a municipality. Recalling that the Treasury is a legal entity like a municipality, Bastimar argued that it is wrong to attribute the demolition to the prime minister and discussions on its "monstrosity."

While noting that the legal process to demolish the statue started in 2010, Bastimar continued: "The structure defined as the 'Monument to Humanity' is an unlicensed construction in terms of administrative law. The procedure applied to unlicensed constructions is being implemented for this statue as well. Since it was erected without permission from administrative bodies, the legal process has been put into operation; the decision made by the municipal coun-

cil is valid. The last decision taken by an administrative court in line with the municipal decision is to the point as well. Decisions taken by administrative courts are valid from the moment of the decision and they are to be enforced quickly."

The story of the statue goes back as far as 2006. The municipal council at the time wanted to have a monument symbolizing peace and kinship and it went out to tender in 2006. A piece of Treasury land was found for the statue. As part of an urban transformation project, the Treasury was asked for the land to make a park. However, construction started before receiving a response from the Treasury. Upon objections, the Supreme Council of Monuments stopped the construction of the statue in 2008 and questions over the land's being a historic and protected area also arose. In addition, the Treasury rejected the erection of the statue and informed the Supreme Council of Monuments that the giant statue would change the profile of the city.

In other words, a statue that Kars has been discussing for years came to the public's attention nationally and internationally after Erdogan made the "monstrosity" comment about it. The media reports created the impression that the monument was being demolished because of Erdogan's words, as the final decision to demolish the monument came three days after the prime minister's comment.

In addition to questions regarding the land and artistic merits of the statue, the "Monument to Humanity" also raises political questions due to its connection to Armenia. Former Kars Mayor Naif Alibeyoglu, who approved the construction of the statue, says they built the monument as a response to genocide claims. Alibeyoglu was a member of the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) at the time of the decision, but was later dismissed from the party. Some opposition circles led by the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) interpreted the construction of the monument as an AK Party Armenian initiative.

Once the Supreme Council of Monuments decided to stop the construction, Culture and Tourism Minister Ertugrul Gunay supported reversal of the decision to stop construction but abided by the council's ruling.

In the meantime, sculptor Mehmet Aksoy and his lawyers went to court to challenge the decision to stop the erection of the statue. The

administrative court asked for the defense from the current Kars municipality regarding the reason for their demand to stop construction. Bastimar said they submitted their defense to the court 10 days later. "Our defense reached them on the 11th day and the Erzurum Administrative Court ruled for a stay of execution [of the decision to stop the construction]. We objected to the court ruling. A regional

administrative court gave a decision in favor of our demand in two days. Some circles criticize the regional court for deciding in two days but they don't say anything about the one-day decision of the [Erzurum] administrative court," he said.

The company that won the tender to pull the statue down aims to complete the demolition by May 20.



AGBU's Nork Children's Center troupe from Yerevan on stage after a performance at the Hovhannes Boghosian Auditorium in Beirut, Lebanon

AGBU's Nork Children's Center Troupe Performs in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon — During the week of April 2-8, 30 youth from AGBU's Nork Children's Center in Yerevan performed here in connection with the 80th anniversary of the founding of AGBU Armenian Youth Association (AYA). Five performances, directed by Aida Antreassian, were held at the Hovhannes Boghosian Auditorium, drawing in a total of 3,000 guests, which included 1,300 Armenian school students.

The AGBU Children's Centers performers ranged in age from 5 to 14. Their performances, which consisted of song, dance and gymnastics, followed introductory remarks by their group leader, Rev. Komitas Hovnanian, a member of the brotherhood of Holy Echmiadzin and head of the AGBU Nork Children's Center. During their time in Lebanon, the youth from Armenia spent the good part of four days sightseeing and exploring the countryside. They made visits to Catholicos Aram I of Cilicia, the museum of the Cilician Catholicosate in Antelia, Lebanon, the Armenian Genocide Monument in Antelias, the village of Harissa, the Armenian Catholic monastery of Bzommar, the Jeita grotto, the Armenian Birds' Nest orphanage and the historic Byblos Fort in Jibeil. Travel expenses were underwritten by the Armenian company VivaCell.



Community News

Feds Make Arrests in Belmont, Watertown In Alleged Drug Ring

By Franklin Tucker

BELMONT, Mass. (Belmont Patch) — A Belmont man was charged Friday afternoon with seven others on conspiracy to sell marijuana and oxycodone as part of a drug ring centered in Watertown, according to an affidavit filed in Federal District Court of Massachusetts in Boston.

Vartan A. “V” Soukiasian of Belmont was arrested last month for being a major figure in distributing “wholesale quantities of marijuana ... received from an organization based in Quebec,” according to the affidavit filed on April 20 by Special Agent Phillip Lavoie of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

A Watertown man, Safwan “Sammy” Madarati, was the focus of the federal drug investigation after he was caught on June 14, 2010 with \$70,040 in what authorities believe is drug money, according to the affidavit.

Other defendants in the case are Hagop N. “Jack” Sarkissian, of Weston; Antranik “Anto” Idanjian, of Waltham; Robert “Bobby” Johnson, of Stoneham; Sanusie Mo Kabba, of Stoughton; Jeffrey Spinks, of Boylston; Abraham Bellini of Somerville and Karapet “Garo” Dzhanikeyan, of Watertown.

Madarati, Sarkissian and Kabba also face charges of conspiracy to collect debt by extortionate means.

The investigation began in February 2010 in Vermont when federal authorities were looking into a drug trafficking organization based in Canada that used warehouses in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the affidavit said. The investigation led authorities to a warehouse at 33 Flagship Drive in North Andover.

Surveillance led authorities to Madarati. On March 23, 2010, a rented U-Haul truck left the warehouse and stopped at 185 Warren St. in Watertown, Madarati’s home, Lavoie wrote.

On June 14, 2010, Federal agents set up surveillance of the Dunkin Donuts at 49 Mt. Auburn St. in Watertown. They allegedly spotted a man give two duffle bags to Madarati in the parking lot.

Watertown Police stopped Madarati’s car at Summer and Waverley streets. When ICE agents looked in the bag, they found \$70,040 in cash, which they believe to be drug proceeds, according to the affidavit.

In August 2010, ICE and Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) agents received permission to monitor and record Madarati’s cell phone calls.

“These wiretaps have revealed that Madarati is involved in the distribution of marijuana, oxycodone, cocaine and Ecstasy in and around the area of Watertown, Massachusetts,” Lavoie wrote in the affidavit.

Federal agents learned that Madarati worked with Soukiasian, Sarkissian and Johnson to distribute large quantities of marijuana and other drugs.

Soukiasian and Idanjian’s cell phones were also tapped by the agents.

The conversations and communications were in English, Arabic and Armenian, and federal authorities had to bring in contractors to translate.

On October 27, 2010, agents seized \$1.77 million in cash after observing Madarati and Soukiasian deliver two pieces of luggage to two unnamed men who had entered the US from Canada earlier that day. The bags were exchanged at the Marriott Hotel in Newton and agents made the stop as the two unnamed men tried to enter Hanscom Airport.

On January 10, 2011, agents stopped Belmont-resident Soukiasian after he picked up a package at 328 Mt. Auburn St. in Watertown and found two pounds of marijuana in his car.

Agents tracked Madarati on March 15, on what they suspected was a drug deal. Bags, which he exchanged with unidentified suspects, were found in a car stopped by state police in Winchendon. They contained approximately 150 pounds of marijuana, the affidavit said.



Members of Cambridge’s Ararat Lodge, Knights of Vartan, dispatch another shipment of medical supplies to Armenia worth \$359,200, earmarked for Chambarak. (Tom Vartabedian photo)

Knights Send \$359,200 In Medical Supplies To Armenia

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. — The town of Chambarak, located in rural Armenia, needed medical help desperately.

The town has 7,000 residents with another 10,000 in the surrounding villages that access the hospital. They rely on one ill-equipped hospital with insufficient supplies, which often sends patients on a three-hour-drive to Yerevan for their emergency needs.

By Tom Vartabedian

With 80 percent unemployed, most residents survive day-to-day by farming and raising cattle. Accessibility is difficult, due to poor roads.

Assistance is on the way, thanks to a shipment of medical supplies worth \$359,200, sponsored by the Ararat Lodge of Cambridge, Knights of Vartan, through the International Medical Equipment Collaborative (IMEC), a humanitarian group designed to upgrade impoverished hospitals and medical centers throughout the world based inside the former Lucent Technologies building in North Andover.

“Economically, the town of Chambarak is a disaster,” said Jack Medzorian, project director on the Armenia Medical Aid Team. “Being on the border with Azerbaijan, they are subject to routine harassment by the Azeris who make frequent incursions, crossing the border to steal cattle, kidnapping and torturing border residents, and employing snipers to kill innocent civilians. During the war, civilian targets were bombed, including homes, a kindergarten and the hospital.”

Joining Medzorian on the team were: Aurelian Mardiros, Sarkis Gennetian, Varujan Masrof, Albert S. Movsesian, Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian, Haig Deranian, Nishan Mootafian, Richard Cherkerzian, Krikor Shaboyan, Armen Bogossian, Charles Guleserian and Michael Boudakian.

Members gathered at the IMEC plant for their eighth shipment in 10 years. They locked hands and recited prayers as the van left the loading dock bound for Armenia. The shipment is slated to arrive in six to eight weeks.

Included in the 20 pallets were a complete operating room with anesthesiology, radiology suite, surgical, maternity and special care suites, 12 beds and mattresses, an incubator, along with vital sign monitors and other essential equipment.

The IMEC staff and volunteer teams collected, assembled and packed the supplies. A check totaling \$21,000 was presented to the group by the Knights to cover equipment and supply costs, donated by 75 individuals.

Also collaborating on the project was the United Armenian Fund (UAF), based in California, which financed the transportation costs of the container from Boston to Yerevan, along with SHEN, a non-government charitable organization based in Yerevan, which cleared the way in Chambarak.

Medzorian visited SHEN last September with his wife, Eva, and obtained their assistance to coordinate the shipment of a 40-foot container of medical supplies to Chambarak. A follow-up visit for a needs assessment resulted in the latest dispatch.

The shipment follows another valued at \$425,000 last spring to the Miasnikyan Regional Health Care Center in Armavir as well as the Yerevan Central Oncology Hospital. Over the past decade, the Ararat Lodge has delivered some \$3 million in medical supplies to Armenia.

“All this means improved access to health care, better care for mothers, children and infants, and decreased mortality rates in that country,” added Medzorian. “Doctors and nurses desperately need upgraded medical equipment and supplies to provide better care for their patients. We have a moral and ethical responsibility there.”

see SUPPLIES, page 8

GenEd Delivers Armenian Genocide Presentation to Global Leadership Students

LOS ANGELES — Five hundred middle and high school students at the Ambassador School of Global Leadership learned about the Armenian Genocide last week at a special assembly program and discussion presented by The Genocide Education Project (GenEd), in partnership with the AGBU Young Professionals of Los Angeles (YPLA).

Suzanne Douzmanian, GenEd’s Southern California regional coordinator, led the discussion, which examined the political and historical context of the Armenian Genocide, as part of the continuum of genocides of the 20th century. She also incorporated an examination of the historical journey of her own grandparents, survivors of the Armenian Genocide, into the presentation.

For many of the students, this was the first they had heard of the Armenian Genocide. Although state law requires that the Armenian Genocide be taught in California schools, many schools still do not include this history in their curriculum.

“This was an eye-opening assembly for my students. Since we are part of the International Studies Schools Network, the presentation was especially relevant to our global leadership theme. I would definitely ask them to come back every year.” The



Suzanne Douzmanian

International Studies Schools Association (ISSA) is a national network of schools dedicated to improving students’ understanding of the world.

School counselor Nicole Nigossian spearheaded the event to coincide with the 96th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. “My grandparents were Armenian Genocide survivors, so organizing this presentation really meant a lot to me. I was happy to be able to share a part of my cultural and family history with my students. In fact, I feel that this is one of best things I could have done as a personal contribution toward awareness and remembrance,” said Nigossian.

“The role of GenEd, as the conduit for educating teachers and students on the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide is an important one,” said AGBU YPLA Chair Yeghig Keshishian. “We value the incredible work of this organization and its behind-the-scenes approach to bridging the educational gap on a topic that has long gone untaught in our school curriculum.”

The Genocide Education Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing instructional resources and teacher training about human rights and genocide, with a particular focus on the Armenian Genocide. For more information visit <http://www.genocideeducation.org/>.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Dr. Ani Kalayjian Discusses Her Efforts on Dealing with Trauma at TCA Book Event

By Shoghig Chalian

TENAFLY, N.J. — The Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) of NY/NJ sponsored a book talk with Dr. Ani Kalayjian — psychologist, board-certified expert on traumatic stress, board member of the United Nations non-governmental organization Human Rights Committee, chair of monitoring committee and disaster prevention committees of the American Psychological Association's International division — and presented the two-volume book of *Mass Trauma and Emotional Healing* around the world that she coauthored. She was the chief editor for her book, *Forgiveness and Reconciliation Psychological Pathways to Conflict Transformation and Peace Building*.

Dr. Vagheenag Tarpinian, a member of the TCA NY/NJ Committee, welcomed the attendees and presented Kalayjian as an ADL and TCA member and a founding member of the TCA Mher Megerdichian theatrical group, and gave a synopsis of the books and invited her for the slide show presentation.

The presentation addressed post-trauma growth, making meaning of it and the challenges of practicing forgiveness. The challenges included: how to integrate past traumas into our psyche, how not to react to old hurt and pain, as well as, building peace in one's self which would affect the family, and in turn the community, and ultimately, our universe. Kalayjian presented her case of being threatened while in Istanbul, as she was attempting to present her research findings on the Armenian Genocide survivors' Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and how she went back there when they had an earthquake, and further explained how that act

helped her in her own healing process.

Currently, Kalayjian has collaborative research on trauma forgiveness and healing in Sierra Leone, Armenia and the US and has organized and delivered 25 post-disaster humanitarian outreach projects.

Kalayjian presented research findings on demonstrating how practicing forgiveness is essential for individual health, collective community health and transformation of horizontal violence. (Horizontal violence can be towards our family members, brother and sisters, community members and organizations.) She said that forgiveness releases people from a paralyzing past by helping them to enjoy the present, and envision a future without judgment, resentment, anger or sadness. According to Kalayjian's research, conducted 80 years after the Ottoman Turkish Genocide of Armenians, resentment and anger continues in the hearts of many survivors due to the ongoing Turkish government's denial of the Genocide. It is true that the expression of remorse by the perpetrator to a victim would have an enormous healing value, however in this case, the anger towards the perpetrators' denial has made it difficult to forgive.

Kalayjian further enlightened us of how psychotherapy practices have revealed that holding a grudge is detrimental to one's physical, mental, emotional, ecological and spiritual health. When individuals have anger against themselves and/or perpetrators, this anger forces them to feel helpless, as they are expecting something that has not happened for over 94 years. This power of transformation is important to embrace; and she went on to state that if this shift does not occur, then we are doomed to pass it on to seven next generations.

Kalayjian went further in sharing the seven-step bio (psychological) and eco (spiritual)

model that she developed. Through these seven steps, various aspects of dispute, conflict, betrayal, humiliation or disagreements are assessed, identified, explored and processed. Some of the points that stood out were the lessons, meaning or positive associations that one discovers as a result of the disaster, based on Victor Frankl's logotherapeutic principles. Also the seventh step includes releasing fear, uncertainty and resentment, using breathing techniques, towards self-empowerment as well as to engender gratitude, compassion, faith, strength and forgiveness in response to disasters.

She also shared some of the myths regarding forgiveness compiled from her lectures around the world, such as "If I forgive, I will forget" or the enemy will be sent free, there will be no justice, and the need for anger to survive or waiting for the enemy to acknowledge and ask for forgiveness first. These were the points brought up as well from some of the attendees of this presentation, as they were addressed at the question-and-answer session, which needs to be explored further. Kalayjian further clarified that forgiveness does not mean forgetting or stopping our reparation requests. Since we are waiting for the acceptance of the act which in this writer's opinion is an essential turning point, we can choose to stay victims or continue on strengthening our self by acknowledging that "for they do not know what they were doing," as Jesus proclaimed when they crucified him, and go on with faith that has helped us survive and strengthen our nation, on an individual

level, impacting our families, communities and organizations.

The famous quote of William Saroyan comes to mind, "Go ahead, destroy us, destroy Armenia, but when two Armenians come together, anywhere in the world, we build a new Armenia!" These are the Armenian communities that he was talking about — the rich culture and heritage that we preserve. This is the message that emerged for me, after the talk discussions, that challenged the issue of forgetting vs. forgiveness: we also need to pay attention to our inner psychological well-being; our emotional well-being that in turn affects our physical well-being, in order to survive, strengthen the self, elevating oneself from a victimized state to a state and a degree of "forgiveness" that preserves the self and our communities, and in unison, have the strength and courage to confront those who deny and try to make the world forget.

Kalayjian concluded that practicing forgiveness is essential for creation of peace on the interpersonal and intrapersonal levels as ultimately for creating peace and reconciliation worldwide. As the Dalai Lama once said, "Peace for example starts within each one of us. When we have inner peace, we can be at peace with those around us."

Kalayjian stated that this is an introduction to the subject; we can go deeper by conducting workshops in the future; the discussion amongst the attendees continued around the refreshment table, and was televised by K. Kocharian of the Voice of Armenia television.

Seepan Parseghian to Serve as Intern with UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

LOS ANGELES — When University of Southern California (USC) Law student Seepan Parseghian graduates this week, he won't immediately take a job at a law firm or a position with the US Attorney's office. Instead, Parseghian will be preparing to travel this summer to work with judges and legal staff at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha, Tanzania.

Parseghian is one of six USC Law students selected to take part in the school's new International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC), which for the past several months, has been working remotely from Los Angeles with the judges on trials involving charges of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. All of the defendants were high-level government ministers and politicians allegedly responsible for planning and ordering the 1994 Rwandan genocide, which resulted in approximately 800,000 deaths within a period of two months.

"It will be an incredible experience to meet face-to-face with the judges and legal staff on these historic trials. This is the kind of legal education I dreamt of entering law school," said Parseghian, 24, who earned his undergraduate degree in political science in 2007 from Stanford University.

Fighting genocide is important to Parseghian because his grandparents were survivors of the Armenian Genocide almost a century ago. Parseghian has been an active member of several Armenian-American organizations, having served as president of the Stanford Armenian Students' Association, executive director of Fast for Armenia, a student-led charity and as an intern with the Armenian National Committee of America in Washington, DC.

"As a descendant of survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1915, I have throughout my life advocated for recognition of the Armenian Genocide and prevention of future crimes against humanity," he said. "When I came to USC Law, I was yearning for an opportunity to use my legal skills to solve real world problems on the international stage."

Now Parseghian looks forward to working on cases addressing genocide perpetrated against victims a world away.

"When I learned about the clinic, I realized that it not only fulfilled that desire, but also represented the most effective way to honor

the memory of my grandparents — by applying my legal education to work on cases that seek justice for crimes against humanity that occur through to the present day," he said.

Under the supervision of Prof. Hannah Garry, director of the IHRC, this USC Law clinic has partnered with judges and legal staff on cases before the ICTR. These partnerships are the first of their kind with an American law school.

"This has been an incredible and unique opportunity for USC Law," Garry said. "Students such as Seepan with a passion for enforcing the most fundamental human rights norms are gaining the knowledge and skills required for addressing mass atrocities under international law. They are also providing critical support to tribunals established to bring justice to the millions of victims and their families who have suffered unspeakable horrors in these parts of the world."

For the past several months, Parseghian and fellow third-year law students Jamie Hoffman and Shannon Raj worked remotely with the ICTR Karemera et al. and Bizimungu et al. Trial Chambers under the close supervision of Garry, assisting the Chambers with wrapping up the trials and rendering the final judgments.

In addition to providing research and specialized advice on diverse substantive and procedural legal issues arising under international law, Parseghian reviewed and analyzed evidence submitted at trial in order to assist with the drafting of judicial documents and co-authored reports updating the Trial Chambers on relevant jurisprudence.

After taking the California Bar Exam in July, Parseghian will travel to Arusha, Tanzania, where he will continue to assist with the rendering of the Karemera et al. and Bizimungu et al. judgments as well as work on other pending cases before the Tribunal. He will also travel to genocide memorial sites and speak with survivors in neighboring Rwanda.

"Working with the Clinic and the ICTR has been an immensely gratifying and educational experience, both on a personal and professional level," Parseghian added. "I look forward to working on-site in Arusha with the ICTR to witness firsthand how the law advances international human rights norms and brings justice to those who have had to endure the most evil forms of violence."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Andre Ward Dominates Arthur Abraham in Super 6 Semifinals

CARSON, Calif. (AP) — Andre Ward felt like the road team in his home state when he walked to the open-air ring amid a chorus of boos while hundreds of Armenians waved red-blue-and-orange flags.

Ward took the abuse and smiled. Arthur Abraham would have needed a white flag to stop Ward from steamrolling him on the way to the Super Six tournament final.

Ward overwhelmed Abraham with power and speed in nearly every round of an unanimous decision victory Saturday night, defending his WBA super middleweight title in the Super Six semifinals.

Ward (24-0, 13 KOs), the Olympic gold medalist from Oakland, put on another clinic in patient, tactical boxing while dismantling Abraham (32-3), the Armenian-born German who had a perfect record until losing three straight in the Super Six.

The Los Angeles area's sizable Armenian population turned out in force for Abraham, but Ward had answers for all of them.

"We're going to the final, baby," Ward said. "Arthur is strong, and he's a hard hitter, (but) we showed that we can win in a way other than our original game plan."

Ward is one fight away from the tournament title that should establish him as the 168-pound division's top fighter. England's Carl Froch is favored to beat Glen Johnson in the other Super Six semifinal bout in Atlantic City, NJ, on June 4, and the final is expected this fall.

Ward felt even less at home when the referee wouldn't allow him to fight Abraham on the inside, repeatedly breaking up the fighters when the action got close. After Abraham managed a few lively exchanges during the early rounds, Ward took control with an excess of speed and precision, peppering Abraham with jabs and combinations.

Abraham largely stopped throwing good punches when he realized he was hopelessly overmatched at Home Depot Center, just south of Los Angeles.

"I wish the ref had let me fight on the inside, because that's what I had planned for," Ward said. "But we made adjustments and got the win... I'm going to stay humble. I'm going to keep working hard. I want to be a champion for a long time and take the least amount of punishment possible."

Judge Stanley Christodoulou scored it a 120-108 shutout for Ward, while German judge Ingo Barrabas and The Associated Press favored Ward 118-110. Dr. James Jen Kin gave it to Ward 118-111.

Ward still hasn't lost since he was a 12-year-old amateur. The Bay Area fighter starred in Athens, winning the only US boxing gold in the past three Olympics.

Abraham had the fans' backing in just his third US appearance. Hundreds of rowdy fans jeered Ward and chanted "Ar-Tur! Ar-Tur!", but Ward quickly quieted the crowd with another clin-



Arthur Abraham

ical display of his superior technical skill.

"I started well, and I thought I did good the first three rounds," Abraham said through a translator. "He didn't hit me, and I was blocking a lot of his shots. But then I tried for the knockout and I couldn't do it. I cramped up and I got too tense."

Ward used his jab aggressively in the opening rounds, but Abraham showed more aggression than in his previous two bouts, even rattling Ward with a right hand behind his ear in the third round.

Ward weathered those attacks and took charge. He never came close to stopping Abraham, but he battered Abraham into the ropes with an overhand right in the final minute of the 12th round.

Ward threw 289 jabs over 12 rounds, landing 178 of his 444 total punches. Abraham got credit for more power punches and landed a similar percentage of total punches, but Ward landed all the blows that counted.

Ward emerged as an elite pound-for-pound fighter while dominating the group stage of this now-ramshackle tournament matching the world's top 168-pounders outside of Canada's

Lucian Bute, the likely challenger for the Super Six winner.

Although injuries led to the withdrawal of half the original field, Ward earned one-sided victories over Mikkel Kessler and Allan Green to reach the semifinals against Abraham, who advanced despite losing twice.

The Super Six hasn't worked out well for Abraham, an unbeaten middleweight champion and presumptive tourney co-favorite when it began.

After knocking out Jermain Taylor in his first bout, he received his first career defeat when he was disqualified late in a fight he was losing to Andre Dirrell. Abraham then was trounced by Froch in his last bout, thoroughly unable to keep up with the English star.

Earlier at the Home Depot Center, slimmed-down heavyweight contender Chris Arreola stopped Nagy Aguilera in the third round in an impressive performance. Arreola, who lost his title shot against Vitali Klitschko in September 2009, dedicated himself to conditioning before beating Aguilera, who lost when he couldn't defend himself on the ropes.

Knights of Vartan Send \$359,200 In Medical Supplies to Armenia

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Transportation of the medical goods to Armenia alone runs about \$10,000. As for the equipment, nearly all of it is donated by businesses throughout the country.

Twenty years ago when Medzorian visited Berd just before the Azeri war, it was a vibrant community with 12,000 residents. Since then, the population has been halved because of the lack of economic opportunities.

"These people are virtually deprived of proper basic medical care because of poor facilities and supplies," he says. "Most of my contacts aren't with patients but with service providers and they're so grateful at any assistance received. What we send is safe, updated equipment. They consider it a treasure."

An oncology hospital in Yerevan with 650 beds was enhanced with an updated mammography unit. The Medzorians make a couple visits annually to Armenia, checking the progress of their state and assessing other needs. The Yerevan project raises eyebrows.

"I see 20 women a day lined up to have a mammogram," he said. "Before that, there were none. Also sent there were some ultrasound units. Through early detection, women's lives get saved."

Other health centers which have benefitted tremendously with such acts of kindness include: Berdzor (formerly Lachin), population 8,000; Kovsakan, population 4,000; Ishkanadzor, population 2,000 and Moshatagh, population 1,000.

The clinic in Moshatagh is located inside a dilapidated school building where three rooms are allocated for medical needs. Three nurses are working here to assist the surrounding villages. The only furnishings were two beds and no medical equipment until help arrived.

Berdzor is better equipped with eight doctors, five nurse practitioners, a midwife and 10 nurses. The regional hospital there serves the entire area and has the region's only pharmacy over 1,314 square miles. An ultrasound machine is brought from another region once a month. Often, though, patients cannot honor their appointments due to a lack of transportation.

In Kovsakan, the situation is just as bleak. Although it is called a hospital, this facility should not be allowed to function as a health center, according to reports. It can only offer consultations, distribute limited medicine, perform vaccinations, deliver babies and transport serious cases to a regional hospital. The government plans to build a large clinic to replace the present facility.

"Based on the feedback, we feel comfortable at all the good this does," said Deranian, who just completed his term as national commander. "Things we take for granted, like crutches and an incubator, are a godsend to those who have without. Jack has done an unbelievable job in perpetuating this mission. To have IMEC as a conduit to Armenia offers a perfect relationship."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Kim Boroyan Gets Her Kicks From Football

By Tom Vartabedian

MELROSE, Mass. — Kim Boroyan is not your typical Armenian woman.

Not unless you consider someone who spends her time dodging hits and eating more dirt than a gopher on the gridiron.

The self-employed accountant, whose business is called Hye Expectations, balances her career as a star running back and quarterback in the Independent Women's Football League.

She calls signals for a team named the Manchester (NH) Freedom. At age 38, she is one of the oldest players in the league — if not one of the best. Her peers have the perfect name for her. They call her “the female Brett Favre.”

“They mean it in a nice way,” she said. “I guess it comes with the territory when you're almost 40 years old and trying to play quarterback in a tackle football league.”

A year ago, she took time off to recover from knee surgery and considered leaving. A call from her coach was all it took to convince Boroyan otherwise. The itch to return was overpowering after being introduced to the sport in 2002.

The hiatus from football was hardly a rest. During that time, Boroyan competed in triathlons.

In quick order, Boroyan has donned pads for



Kim Boroyan as she appears in a quarterback's uniform for the Independent Woman's Football League

the Bay State Warriors, then the Boston Militia when auto dealer Ernie Boch Jr. bought the franchise, and now the Freedom. It is fair to say she's a glutton for punishment.

Over time, she has also recovered from a broken tailbone and cracked ribs. A strength and conditioning gym is her second home. At 5-foot-3 inches, 135 pounds, her diminutive size is hardly a detriment. She compensates with desire and dexterity.

“I've always been involved with sports and loved everything competitive,” she pointed out. “I took an interest in basketball, boxing, golf and football after college. I've coached soccer and softball at both the high school and college ranks. Sports are a positive influence on children as well as adults. It's a healthy way to relieve stress and have fun doing it.”

Boroyan graduated from Chelmsford High in

1990 and got an accounting degree from Bentley College. Her job as a controller serves a marketing company in Newton and eight radio stations in upstate New York. She is also an accounting manager for a housing project in Lawrence.

Her family is active Sts. Vartanantz Church in Chelmsford, which she also attends. Her heritage and faith continue to remain vital on all fronts — even when she dons a uniform. One helmet she wore bore the Armenian Tricolor.

“I always pray before each game and ask that my grandmother (Theresa Amboian) watch over me,” she admits. “My feelings about the Genocide are too intense to be put into words. More than anything, I'd like to walk the soil of Armenia and breathe the same air as my ancestors.”

Though she remains a diehard New England Patriots fan, her NFL role model is Pittsburgh Steelers safety Troy Polamalu.

“He's one player whose intensity and heart can't be matched,” Boroyan notes.

The league has given her many high points, as well as lows. During an All-Star game in 2009, she scored a touchdown to help the East beat the West. A low point? It happened to be a play-off game against DC when her team drove 60 yards for a TD to go ahead by five points, only to lose in the waning seconds. That would have gotten her team into the championship game in Texas.

She has a game-day routine, from what she wears to what she eats and where she sits in the locker room.

“I listen to music and focus on the task at hand,” she explains. “Once the game starts, all the stress of everyday life is left behind. I tend to be totally focused on the game.”

Though it's a women's league, don't think of it as “powder puff” football. They hit like the pros.

They nurse their wounds like the pros. They win and lose with the same intensity as those who get paid millions of dollars for their actions. It's an eight-game season packed with a wallop.

Games aside, there are the three-hour practices twice a week.

“You build relationships on a team,” she says. “I look at it as an opportunity to build new friendships.”

Mom Sandy Boroyan remains her biggest fan, often joined by friend Kevork Tevekelian. Make no mistake about it. Kim Boroyan has established herself as quite the spectator favorite.

As for retirement, it's still not in the picture.

“As long as the desire is there and the feet continue to move, my heart will be there,” she said proudly. “There are players in their 40s still competing. I'm taking it one season at a time. I keep coming back because I love it.”

Speaker at Detroit Program Addresses Pros and Cons of Nuclear Power

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — Nuclear engineering is an obscure subject to many and rarely commands the attention of the average citizen. However, the recent nuclear disaster in Japan has awakened everyone's interest on nuclear issues, including most Armenians who are concerned about safety at the Nuclear Power Plant in Armenia (Metsamor).

A presentation was organized with the joint sponsorship of Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America-Michigan Section (AESAMI), Cultural Society of Armenians from Istanbul (CSAI) and Tekeyan Cultural Association-Detroit Chapter (TCA) to address questions/issues concerning nuclear energy.

The speaker, Don Bramlett, made the presentation on April 28 at Alex and Marie Manoogian School, titled “Nuclear Power Plants: Friends or Foes?”

Bramlett is not a stranger to the Armenian community. Some years ago, he made an excellent presentation on the safety profile of Metsamor. He has spent his entire 38-year engineering career in the energy industry. Initially, he worked in the natural gas industry with Michigan Consolidated Gas and Michigan Wisconsin Pipeline Companies. Later he worked in the nuclear power and fossil power generation segments of the electric utility industry with Detroit Edison Company. He is currently a senior project engineer in fossil power generation with Detroit Edison Company, a major, regulated subsidiary of DTE Energy.

Bramlett has spent the greater part of his professional life close to nuclear power plants and has developed a keen knowledge of the complexities of these installations. True to his promise, he did not intimidate his audience with the complexities of nuclear physics, but he painted a mosaic by which the listener could draw his/her conclusions. In view of the recent disaster in Japan there were numerous safety-related questions. He did an excellent job answering questions to the satisfaction of his audience.

Some interesting facts about nuclear power plants:

- There are more than 100 nuclear power plants in the US, and every one of them has its own unique characteristics.
- Although the US has the largest number of nuclear power plants in the world, these plants supply only about 20 percent the country's energy needs.
- The US is planning to build far fewer nuclear power plants than some of the developing countries in the world.
- Metsamor supplies about 40 percent of Armenia's energy needs.

• A major issue with nuclear power plants is the waste produced after uranium rods are depleted by the energy production. This waste can remain dangerous for hundreds of years and no one has a perfect solution for their disposal at this time.

During the afterglow, Bramlett continued to be peppered with additional questions.

— Edmond Megerian, PE
AESAMI-Michigan Section

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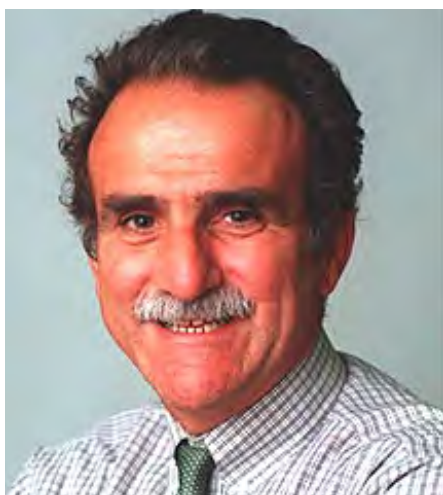
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Community Leaders Discuss ‘The Road Ahead’ for Genocide Recognition

PANEL, from page 1

A fifth panelist, Bryan Ardouny, executive director of the Armenian Assembly of America, was unable to attend.

Moderator Alin K. Gregorian, editor of the *Mirror-Spectator*, began the discussion by asking, “If there is a road ahead, that must mean there is a road behind us. What steps brought us here?”

Hamparian began by stressing that efforts to get the Armenian Genocide recognized by

Native Americans? No. Am I benefiting from the consequences and the results? Yes, I am. Every single Turkish person, one way or the other, is benefiting from the consequences of the Armenian Genocide.”

“There is violence in the status quo,” Mouradian added. “When people say ‘Be realistic,’ they are essentially saying, ‘Do what we want you to do.’”

Mamigonian concluded by examining the talk of a “politically-powerful” Armenian-American



The panelists with members of the AGBUYP of Boston



From left, moderator Alin K. Gregorian, with panelists Marc Mamigonian, Michael Mensoian, Khatchig Mouradian and Aram Hamparian

Gomideh served as event chairs.

AYF Great Boston Nejdeh chapter chairman, Stepanos Keshishian, said: “Personally, I thought it was a great initiative to bring together Armenians of different sub-communities for a discussion. Although we may have differing political beliefs or ideologies, the important thing is that we all work for the health of our

tice. Dialogue aimed at achieving these successes is, in itself, a step in the right direction. That’s not to say that we should all give up our individual beliefs and adapt to a centralized ideology. The point is that we each, as individuals or as groups, have the ability to make accomplishments, and dialogue will certainly not hurt.”



From left, Marc Mamigonian, Michael Mensoian, Khatchig Mouradian and Aram Hamparian

Congress was not the endgame, but rather seeking reparations, an issue that became one of the most debated items during the discussion.

“We are asking [the Turkish government] to acknowledge a truth and stop obstructing justice,” Hamparian said. “What exactly is it that Turkey fears? Are they so afraid of a word, or what that word will lead to?”

He stressed great strides have been made in the field. He likened the uphill battle for recognition to that of the fight against the tobacco lobby, which only a couple of decades ago, had seemed insurmountable.

Mensoian, a contributor to the *Armenian Weekly*, stressed the need for Armenian-Americans to focus on old Armenian lands that are under duress, such as Karabagh, which though it is liberated, remains under threat, and the Javakhk region of Georgia, old Armenian lands, where Armenians face government persecution for keeping their language or schools.

“We have elevated [Genocide recognition] to a cause célèbre that is the most important thing as far as the Armenian-American community is concerned,” he said. “My view is that it’s a political dead end. What we need to focus on are the immediate problems.”

That remark set off a back-and-forth that saw Hamparian call Mensoian’s assertion a “false choice” between pushing for recognition and focusing on other issues. Mouradian and Mamigonian both worked to highlight the need for justice both in academia and in the reparations movement.

To exit the Genocide recognition movement, Mamigonian noted, would mean “a void that will readily and eagerly be filled” by the Turkish government’s version of history.

When it came to the geopolitical issues that surrounded the Armenian Genocide, the panel shared mostly the same views. The group was in agreement that opening of the border between Armenia and Turkey would likely have adverse effects for Armenia, and that discussion of reparations to Armenia was not an issue that should be pushed aside – despite the fact that the issue may be driving Turkey to avoid recognizing the Genocide.

Mouradian stressed that the notion of whether such aims are “realistic” gets in the way of justice, saying that the arguments that modern day Turks aren’t to blame for the Genocide is similar to that of the United States’ history of slavery.

“I came to this country a few years ago. Am I responsible for slavery or the destruction of

community and a weak Turkish equivalent he says is put forward often in Turkish American groups.

“I think recognition for Armenia will be a source of tremendous moral satisfaction, I don’t know that it’s going to make Armenia any stronger or any safer,” Mamigonian said. “It will probably lead to better relations between the two countries. But overnight is it going to transform Armenia into having a less corrupt government or an abundance of natural resources and greater strategic importance? I don’t know about that.”

At the beginning of the evening, YP Boston Chairwoman Nicole Merejian gave opening remarks. She also noted state Rep. Jonathan Hecht (D-Watertown) was in attendance.

Chris Mensoian of AGBU YP Boston and Jirayr Beugekian of the ARF Sardarabad

nation and for the well-being and comfort of all our brothers and sisters around the world. As Aram [Hamparian] mentioned, it will come in small accomplishments aimed at ensuring jus

An audio recording of the symposium will be available at www.mirrorspectator.com. (Some material from the AGBU was used in this story.)

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New York METRO

Musicians Datevik, Kalfayan, Wells to Perform at Mirror-Spectator Banquet

BANQUET, from page 1

Kurkjian is one of the most prominent journalists the Armenian-American community has produced. As an investigative reporter and editor for the *Boston Globe* for more than 39 years, he has won three Pulitzer Prizes as well as more than 25 regional and national awards. Exposure to government corruption while growing up in the Boston area motivated him to uncover any number of scandals, including abuse by Catholic clergy in the Boston Archdiocese, problems with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority and misdeeds in the city of Somerville near Boston. Kurkjian was one of the founders of the *Globe's* Spotlight Team, and served from 1979 to 1986 as its chief. The team today continues to work in his tradition of investigative reporting.

Kurkjian went on to become the head of the *Globe's* 10-man Washington bureau from 1986 to 1991. He reported on the White House, the Justice Department, the Iran-Contra affair and the Gulf War. He then returned to Boston to continue covering local news.

Kurkjian, a graduate of Boston Latin School, Boston University and Suffolk University Law School, took a buyout from the *Globe* in 2007. Afterwards, he began writing for the *Dorchester Reporter*, taught a course at Suffolk University and began work on several new local investigative projects. He is also writing a book about the 1990 art heist at the Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum, which to this day remains the largest art theft in the world. It is an unsolved puzzle, with all 13 works of art, pieces by major artists like Rembrandt, Degas and Manet, still missing.

Kurkjian has always maintained an interest in Armenian affairs. Despite all his prizes, he feels his most successful article was "Roots of Sorrow," published in the *Globe* in 1993 about his traveling with his father to their ancestral village of Kghi. Kurkjian felt the trip "had a haunting effect on me. It awakened a need to learn more about the massacres, how they happened, and why the world community, the Turks and even the Armenians allowed them to go unpunished and unaddressed for so many years."

Kurkjian was able to cover the funeral of assassinated Turkish-Armenian newspaper editor Hrant Dink in 2007, before retiring from the

Globe. He returned one more time to interview the Dink family and write about the ongoing abortive Turkish state investigation and judicial proceedings in the Armenian General Benevolent Union magazine in April of the same year.

For the last six years, Kurkjian has been doggedly working on an even more complicated Armenian project: he is authenticating and explicating a photograph taken in 1915, before the hanging of a group of Armenian men in Kayseri.

Kurkjian is a strong supporter of the *Mirror-Spectator* who has spoken at previous events for the newspaper. He occasionally gives lectures in the Armenian community and is a member of the board of directors of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

Musical Program

Elizabeth Kalfayan, violoncellist and director of the New Horizon Symphony Orchestra, was born in Romania. She has performed with the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea, the Baroque Music Ensemble, the Metropolitan Lyric Opera, the New Jersey Pops Orchestra, the Opera at Florham, the State Repertory Opera Company and as a soloist with the Hawthorne Chamber Orchestra. She has also appeared with k.d. lang, Ray Charles, Anne Murray, Smokey Robinson, Cindy Lauper and Bernadette Peters, The Doors and the Neo-Bass Ensemble with jazz artist Lisle Atkinson. Kalfayan is co-founder of the Encore String Quartet, Melody Arts Trio and the Harmonia Chamber Players. As an educator, she was director of strings for the River Dell School District, in New Jersey, and created and taught an educational music program for children with special needs. See www.elizabethkalfayan.com for more information.

Performing with Kalfayan will be Orlando Wells. He attended the State University of New York at Purchase as a double major on violin and viola. Among the many ensembles he has played with are the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, St. Lukes Chamber Orchestra and Radio City Christmas Spectacular orchestra. Wells has performed and recorded with major artists such as Mariah Carey, John Legend, Rihanna, Harry Connick Jr., Dionne



Datevik

Warwick and Elvis Costello, and has performed with some of the greatest shows on Broadway. Currently, he is the violist of the critically-acclaimed Sweet Plantain String Quartet and the principal violinist of the New Horizon Orchestra.

Datevik, whose biography has already been given in a prior article in this series, has appeared at Lincoln Center, Town Hall, Carnegie Recital Hall, Knitting Factory and in most major New York clubs, as well as the Charles Hotel and Night Stage (Boston), Sands Hotel (Atlantic City), Tacoma Station Tavern (Washington-DC), Shrine Auditorium as well as the Alex Theatre and Stars Theatre (Los Angeles), among other venues.

She has given special performances or interviews, among others, on the "MacNeil Lehrer News Hour" (PBS), "Jazz Central" BET Cable TV, Public Radio International on World's Global Hit, Voice of America, the worldwide live TV tribute to Willis Conover and live TV broadcast of the Russia-Japan Jazz Summit.

Datevik is also a choral director and voice teacher, teaching students of all ages and levels, and has given workshops and master classes at the Manhattan School of Music and the New School of Music in New York.

Performing with Datevik will be jazz pianist Bob Albanese, bass player Phil Palombi and drummer David Meade. Equally at home in jazz, Latin, pop and theatrical musical settings, Albanese has worked with a wide variety of artists, including Anita O'Day, Buddy Rich, Warne Marsh, Rita Moreno, Herb Ohta, Leslie Uggums, Daphne Rubin Vega, Bill Watrous, Cab Calloway, Freddie Hubbard and Branford Marsalis.

The Grammy-Award-winning Palombi is, according to Steely Dan tenor saxophonist and jazz musician Walt Weiskopf, "one of the most sought-after young bass players," and has performed or recorded with Michael Brecker, Billy Hart, Joe Lovano, Dave Liebman, Etta Jones,



Elizabeth Kalfayan

Maynard Ferguson, Chris Potter, Rich Perry, Curtis Stigers, Toshiko Akiyoshi, Lew Tabackin, Chucho Valdes, Mark Turner, Eliot Zigmund and The Village Vanguard Orchestra. He teaches at the Eastman School of Music and elsewhere.

Meade has performed with Aretha Franklin, the Mamas and the Papas (1994) Australian tour, the 2000 Bobby McFerrin Emergency Exit USA tour, at Rockefeller Center's Rainbow Room with Maricio Smith and Robert Albanese, Lincoln Cneter, Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, Aspen Jazz Festival and the Monterey Jazz Festival. In 2003 he traveled for the US State Department as a "Jazz Ambassador" performing in eight different European countries. He has been warmly received in Armenia together with Datevik, and praised for his understanding and feel for Armenian music. Currently, he teaches master classes at New York University.

The June 4 banquet, hosted by the Tekeyan Cultural Association and the Friends of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, will take place at the Teaneck Marriott at Glenpoint (100 Frank W. Burr Boulevard). Donations, at \$125 per person, are welcomed. For tickets, call Shoghig at (201) 803-0240, Sirvart at (201) 739-7775, or Shemavon at (718) 344-7489.

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New York METRO

AGBU Camp Nubar to Welcome Dance and Craft Instructors from Armenia

NEW YORK — AGBU Camp Nubar will welcome two new instructors from Armenia to its summer camp for approximately three weeks of classes in traditional Armenian dance, arts, crafts and pottery.

From July 16 to August 6, ballet master

of Nubar campers.

“We have always worked to provide a rich summer experience filled with Armenian heritage. This year, we will be offering something new by bringing teachers directly from Armenia. They regularly work with young people and know how to make learning fun,” says Sarah Partin Setrakian, chairwoman of the AGBU Camp Nubar committee. “Arman and Ella have a proven track record from their time at St. John’s Armenian Church summer camp in Detroit last year, and we’re proud to have them join Camp Nubar.”

In addition to their work in Michigan, the visiting instructors have established reputations at the AGBU Children’s Centers in Yerevan, which provide after-school and summer instruction in art, computer, crafts, dance, gymnastics, history, language and music programs to 4,000 children, ages 5 to 21. Over the years, the students of the AGBU Children’s Centers have shared their performing arts and artistic talents

with people around the world through tours and exhibitions. Their talents have delighted audiences in Brazil, Canada, Georgia, Poland, Russia, Uruguay and the United States. In 2007, 13-year-old Mariam Marukyan from the Nork AGBU Children’s Center was awarded



Ballet master Arman Julhakyan works with young Armenian dancers.



Art instructor Ella Pepanyan instructs some young artists in the art of traditional Armenian pottery.

Arman Julhakyan and art instructor Ella Pepanyan, both of the AGBU Children’s Centers in Armenia, will conduct classes for the hundreds of youth that attend the camp each summer. Julhakyan and Pepanyan will be adding a new dimension to the experience

the top prize in the United Nations’ International Children’s Art Competition.

One of the special treats for camp attendees will be firsthand experience in Armenian crafts, such as batik textile design and pottery.

Last year, Camp Nubar welcomed 235 campers from six countries, who took part in classic Camp Nubar activities, such as horseback riding, arts and crafts, tubing,

tennis, archery as well as newer additions such as creative writing, digital media and technology and vocal class. This year’s addition of Armenian dance and crafts from first-rate Armenian instructors is sure to make the experience even more unforgettable.

For more information on the 48th season of Camp Nubar or to register, visit www.campnubar.org.

New York Fed Asks Judge to Dismiss Armenian Group’s ‘Turkish Gold’ Lawsuit

NEW YORK (Bloomberg) — The Federal Reserve Bank of New York asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed by an Armenian group seeking to force the disclosure of information on gold and other assets allegedly seized by the Turkish government in 1915.

The nonprofit Center for Armenian Remembrance, based in Glendale, Calif., sued the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in March, saying Armenian assets called “Turkish gold” were seized during the “Armenian Holocaust.”

The center’s claims are “moot” because the nonprofit group has “already conducted a thorough examination of defendant’s relevant records” and “has already received and reviewed documents it has deemed relevant to its requests,” the Federal Reserve Bank of New York said in its response to the complaint filed today in federal court in Manhattan.

The bank asked US District Judge Deborah A. Batts to throw out the center’s lawsuit and order the group to pay the bank’s legal costs.

The assets, according to the center’s lawsuit, totaled about 5 million pounds at the time and were deposited by the Turkish government in Germany’s Reichsbank. They were taken by the US and other Allied powers at the end of World War I under the Treaty of Versailles, the center said.

The group said it filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the Federal Reserve in June. The agency said it couldn’t locate any information and forwarded the request to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which also said it couldn’t find any records.

The case is Center for Armenian Remembrance v. Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, 1:11-cv-01483, US District Court, Southern District of New York (Manhattan).

Pro Career, Concussions Fail to Derail Alecko Eskandarian from Degree

By Tara Sullivan

MONTVALE, N.J. (*New Jersey Record*) — As he listened to his college dean tell him how proud she was of him, Alecko Eskandarian felt about ready to burst. But before the wave of good feeling ever had a chance to wash itself over him, he was flattened by the undertow.

Eskandarian served as an assistant coach at the University of Virginia this year.

It was a crash he never forgot.

But finally, it is one he can erase.

When Eskandarian takes his part in University of Virginia’s graduation ceremony May 22, his degree in anthropology in his hand, he will do more than fulfill a promise to himself and his parents that a professional soccer career would not stop him from finishing college. He will erase the sting left by a professor who didn’t think he had it in him. And he will defeat a medical opponent far scarier than any on-field defender, succeeding as a full-time student with a brain repeatedly rattled by concussions.

For a man long defined by how many times he could put the ball in the net, this is the goal that overshadows them all.

“It was my last semester before I went pro and I was so focused on soccer that I was struggling in the classroom. I know I was being an idiot — I had my head in the clouds,” said Eskandarian, 28.

One of his classes was taught by a dean, and with his hat in hand, the struggling student approached the teacher to apologize. He admitted he hadn’t done his best and professed a willingness to do whatever necessary to make it right. Like the dynamic, creative player he was on the field, Eskandarian was certain he could score this last-second goal in the classroom.

The professor stopped him cold.

“She pulled me aside and said, ‘Alecko, I’m so proud of you,’” he recalled, his detailed recollection years later serving as strong evidence of the impact of that short conversation. “You’re still going to get a bad grade, but you’re going to do what you love as your job. School is not for everybody. Not everybody goes to college and graduates.”

“I left that meeting fuming, thinking, ‘Wow, she thinks I’m an idiot,’” the Montvale native said. “She thinks I’m a college reject.’ That lit a fire under me.”

Eskandarian has always found motivation in proving doubters wrong, from silencing the ones who thought his body was too small to excel at soccer to answering those who thought his ultimately prolific athletic career would preclude any academic accomplishments. Yet the personal road that seemed so smooth — the one that led from an All-American high school career at Bergen Catholic to his Hermann Trophy-winning tenure at Virginia to an MVP trophy for leading DC United to a Major League soccer title — has had more than its share of detours.

Eskandarian hasn’t been on a soccer field since July 2009, when a fourth concussion shut him down for good. Playing for the LA Galaxy in an exhibition game against AC Milan, Eskandarian took a ball to the face. It broke his nose and shook his already fragile brain. Doctors prescribed complete rest. He has not been cleared to play. He might never be.

There was an understandable wave of grief.

“It’s torture. It’s absolute torture,” he said. “For any athlete, let alone a professional athlete, not being able to do what you love, it’s just awful. If you tear an ACL, you have a rehab timetable. With concussions, there is such an element of the unknown.”

He deals daily with an aggregate of symptoms doctors call post-concussion syndrome, which can include headaches that range from strong, sharp bursts of pain to long, lingering aches, vertigo, nausea or lethargy.

“It’s taxing. It’s taken its toll, mentally, physically, emotionally,” Eskandarian said. “Every aspect of my life has been affected by my injury and my friends and family have been affected too. It’s like a piece of you dies. You can’t be the same person you were before. If I have a conversation that’s too intense or laugh too hard, it can trig-



Alecko Eskandarian

ger headaches.”

Yet he refused to let that be the defining chapter of his life. Boosted by the mantra that guides him — “If you’re not living, you’re dying” — he gathered up the credits he’d compiled during his professional days at UVA, American and El Camino College, and headed back to Virginia to earn the 80-plus hours he still needed. He joined his former team as a volunteer assistant coach, delighting in being the bridge between coaches whose wisdom he respects and players his success inspires.

And in that courageous ability to move forward, the goal that once seemed so far away is here. The days he once wondered, “Is this ever going to happen,” are replaced by the day he’ll don a cap and gown and walk by his mom, Ava, dad, Andranik (the former Cosmo) and brother, Ara, degree in hand.

“He’s been a great student,” said Rachel Most, the new dean Eskandarian found when he returned to school, an anthropology professor who didn’t merely guide his course selection but believed in him, too. “He’s incredibly smart, highly motivated, was a frequent participant in class with good questions and great comments. I’m really looking forward to watching him walk at graduation.”

Eskandarian hasn’t committed to anything beyond graduation, but a future in coaching would come as no surprise. He was a remarkable player, one whose Bergen County record 154 goals, 50 college goals and numerous appearances with the U-17, U-20 and U-23 national teams seemed destined to get him on last summer’s World Cup roster. Now? Who knows.

“I appreciate and understand why people want to know if I’m going to play again. I want to know too, every day,” he said. “But with the more we understand this injury, I understand why doctors won’t clear me. There are no answers and it’s scary.”

Whether Eskandarian plays again or not, he already has scored the biggest goal of his life.


New York
METRO


Lena Simonian, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian and Dr. Simon Simonian after the ceremony

Dr. Simon Simonian Receives St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal of Honor

LA CANADA, Calif. — Dr. Simon Simonian, former member of Tekeyan Cultural Association's Central Board of Directors, received the St. Nerses Shnorhali (Graceful) medal of honor from Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II for his long-time dedication to the Armenian Church and to the Armenian nation, on Sunday, May 1, at St. Leon Armenian Cathedral.

Simonian has been an active member of the California-Armenian community and has held important positions within the AGBU, Armenian American International College, Tekeyan Cultural Association and the Armenian Church.

Simonian practices otolaryngology in Los Angeles and Pasadena. He graduated with honors from the American University of Beirut Faculty of Medicine 36 years ago.

Prior to the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy service, the Primate, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, invited Simonian and his wife, Lena, to the nave of the cathedral and for his years of dedicated service to the Western Diocese, bestowed upon Simonian the St. Nerses the Graceful medal.

"Dear Dr. Simonian, for years you have passionately and selflessly served the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America. Your compassionate desire to serve the Armenian community dates back to your years in Lebanon. We commend your active involvement in the communities of La Canada and Crescenta Valley. As an exemplary member of the Parish Council, you have contributed to the prosperity of the parish. We were pleased to learn of your invaluable contributions to the Armenian General Benevolent Union and the Tekeyan Cultural Association in helping them carry out their respective missions," wrote the pontiff in the letter read by Rev. Khajag Shahbazyan.

The medal was presented to Simonian by the Primate who reflected on his years of dedicated service. He commended also Lena Simonian for her role as vice chair of the Ladies Society Central Council.

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Armenian Cultural Awareness Weekend Held in Queens, NY

By **Aram Arkun**
 Mirror-Spectator Staff

BAYSIDE, N.Y. — The Anthropology Museum of the People of New York City and the Armenian Cultural Educational Resource Center Gallery at Queens College presented Armenian Cultural Awareness Weekend at Queensborough Community College, from May 13 to 15. The Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College hosted the weekend events, which were spearheaded by the efforts of Margaret C. Tellalian-Kyrkostas.

Marge, as she is known to many, is the hard-working and gregarious executive director of both the Anthropology Museum and the Armenian Cultural Educational Resource

Mardirossian pointed out that the work of the Near East Relief organization became a model for the Marshall Plan, Peace Corp, USAID and the United Nations Development program, and the lessons of the Armenian Genocide and its aftermath should be taken to heart in today's world.

The final part of the May 15 program was a rousing performance by the Antranig Dance Ensemble, sponsored by the AGBU. Established in 1969, the ensemble has performed in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and the State Opera Theater in Armenia. Members train under the artistic directorship of Joyce Tamesian-Shenloogian, director since 1986, and for three months each year with Gagik Karapetian, recently the artistic director of the State Dance Ensemble of Armenia. The lively Armenian dances performed by the 16 members of the ensemble were received with great applause.



The Armenian exhibit at the Harriet & Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives

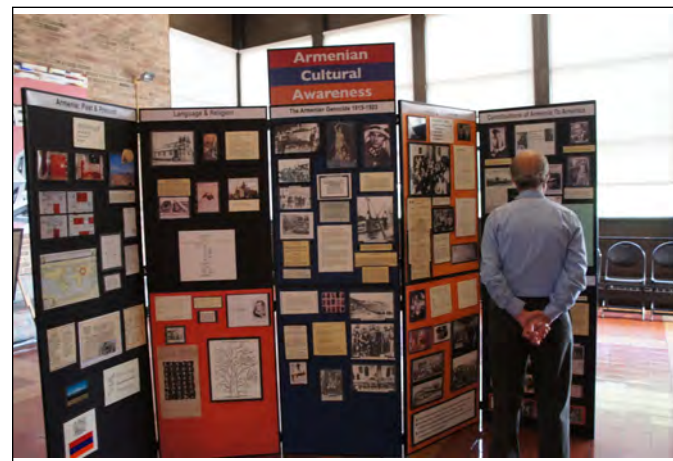
Center. The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and New York Community Bank provided financial support for the programs.

On May 15, after words of welcome from Tellalian-Kyrkostas, and an introduction by Master of Ceremonies Theo Kyrkostas, Ellen Golann, Sid Fidelman and Ida Fidelman, three veteran members of the Shalom Israeli Dancers, presented eight Israeli folk dances with different regional accents and styles, along with some explanations. The audience clapped along to many of the dances.

The main speaker for the evening was Shant Mardirossian, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Near East Foundation (NEF) since 2007. A certified public accountant, Mardirossian was born in Lebanon and has a bachelor's and master's degree (in business administration) from Pace University's Lubin School of Business. Professionally, he is a partner and the chief financial officer of Kohlberg & Company, a middle-market private equity firm.

Mardirossian gave a PowerPoint presentation about the history and work of Near East Relief, the predecessor organization of the NEF, with Armenians. He spoke about the efforts of NEF to preserve the archives of the Near East Relief, which are now held by the Rockefeller Foundation in Sleepy Hollow, NY. He also pointed out that NEF still does projects for Armenians. At present, it is attempting to encourage local economic development in the Republic of Armenia through a community-based participatory approach, and focuses on rural Armenian villages.

Earlier events during the weekend included a lecture by Dr. Dennis Papazian; readings of poetry taken from the experiences of Armenian Genocide and Holocaust survivors by Dr. Mary Filou and Raymond Tellalian; music performed by the Serenity Quartet (Ivy Zohra Adrian, Arnold Lee, Cosmo Mallardi and Lamy Istrefi Jr.), including *Armenian Suite*, a piece specially composed by Marcos Varela for the evening, and Mark Kyrkostas' *If I Were a River* and performances by the Hychem Armenian Hip Hop Dancers and Michael Hovsepian's PT Grimm Avant Guard Rock Band. A film based on Franz Werfel's *Forty Days of Musa Dagh*, and the film version of William Saroyan's stage play, "Hello



A portion of the Armenian Cultural Awareness exhibit at Queensborough Community College

Out There," were screened on May 14.

During the entire weekend, a traveling exhibit of mounted photos of the Armenian Genocide and another exhibit with basic information about the Armenian people were displayed at Queensborough Community College. A great deal of information on Armenians is still accessible to visitors at the Anthropology Museum of the People of New York at Queens college and admission is free.



Arts & Living

Art of Painter Sumbat to Be Presented in Talk at ALMA

WATERTOWN, Mass. — Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian, professor of civil engineering and holder of the Taisei Chair at the University of California, Berkeley, will give an illustrated lecture on “The Life and Work of Sumbat,” on Wednesday, May 25, at 7:30 p.m., at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), 65 Main St.

Der Kiureghian, the son of the artist, is the author of a book on his father’s work. The lecture is co-sponsored by ALMA and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

Sumbat Der Kiureghian (1913-1999) is the most celebrated Iranian watercolorist of the 20th century. A descendant of 17th-century Armenian settlers in the New Julfa district of Isfahan, he embodied the artistic traditions of his people and of his hometown. He is admired for



Dr. Armen Der Kiureghian

his watercolor and gouache renditions of Iranian and Armenian village scenes and of landscapes. Through his art, he played the role of a mediator between East and West: he brought a European artistic style (lucid watercolor applied in loose brushwork) to Iran and he introduced Iranian lifestyle, folk traditions and landscapes to Western audiences. His works capture the energy and diversity of Iranian society while also straddling the line between figurative and abstract painting. Sumbat lived and created in Glendale, Calif., during the last 19 years of his life.

Der Kiureghian’s book, *The Life and Art of Sumbat*, presents the artist’s biography through a series of intimate stories, letters, pictures and quotations from other writers. The book includes more than 180 color reproductions of Sumbat’s paintings, drawings and sketches. The book will be available for purchase the night of the talk.

Armen Der Kiureghian is one of the founders of the American University of Armenia. He served as founding dean of the school of engineering from 1991 to 2007, concurrently with his Berkeley position. Among other awards, he is the recipient of the Movses Khorenatsi medal from the government of Armenia for his efforts in advancing higher education in Armenia, and the Alfred M. Freudenthal Medal from the American Society of Civil Engineers for his research.



Antoine Agoudjian

Istanbul Photographic Exhibition Tackles the Taboo Subject of Armenian Genocide

ISTANBUL — Ninety-six black-and-white photographs hang on the spotless walls of Depo, an Istanbul cultural center, one for each year since the start of the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, on April 24, 1915.

By Guillaume Perrier

“The Burning Eyes” exhibition is divided into five parts, corresponding to the five *vilayets* (provinces) formerly decreed as Armenian by the empire — Van, Erzurum, Bitlis, Diyarbakir and Harput — and are now part of eastern Turkey. These provinces bear the imprint of a crime that the French-Armenian photographer Antoine Agoudjian, the grandson of Genocide survivors, has been investigated for the last 15 years.

His travels have taken him to all the Armenian communities scattered across the Middle East, but also along the trail leading to deportation and massacre, from the west of Turkey to the Syrian desert of Deir ez-Zor, in search of memories that have been denied and repressed but never wholly effaced. These memories of the Genocide, coded into the DNA of survivors, are etched into Agoudjian’s photographs. “Denial is what keeps the Genocide topical and photographic truth helps bring things to the surface,” he says.

His work, which plays on light and contrasts, draws us into the torments of the Armenian soul and its culture. Under a heavy sky the ghosts of genocide victims haunt the villages, ruined churches and petrified communities of Anatolia. Agoudjian tells the story of his people’s deportation, exodus and martyrdom, including the funeral of the journalist Hrant Dink, who was murdered in 2007. Death inhabits each survivor, but a glimmer of hope still remains.

Above all, by bringing “Burning Eyes” to a Turkish audience, Agoudjian has achieved much more than a mere exhibition. He has contributed to a bridge-building process, which started some years ago. For the Turkish state the Genocide is still a taboo, but civil society has started its work of reappraisal.

see EXHIBIT, page 16



A monastery in Van, one of Antoine Agoudjian’s pictures

Writer/Epicurean Nancy Mehagian’s *Supernatural Kids Cookbook* Inspires Junior Chefs

LOS ANGELES — Jamie Oliver launched a “food revolution.” Oprah Winfrey has adopted what she calls a “veganish” diet. Alice Waters pioneered a new way of eating and thinking with her call for sustainable and local harvesting. And Michelle Obama planted an enviable garden on the White House grounds, firmly establishing the First Lady as part of the deep bench of high profile and influential heavy hitters that admonish what has become a fast food nation.

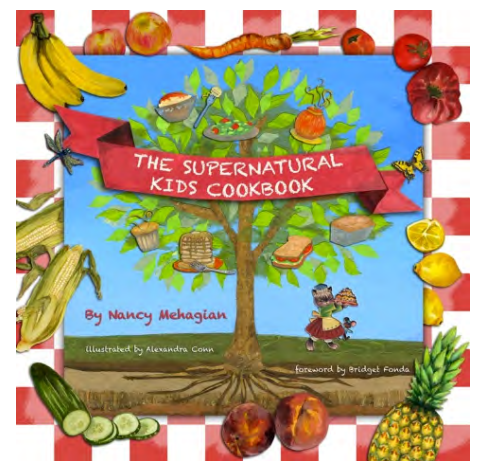
Yet long before these notables espoused the virtues of healthy and mindful eating, Los Angeles epicurean Nancy Mehagian in 1977 created an impressive collection of vegetarian recipes for the junior set, in an effort to inspire her then 5-year-old daughter to eat healthy.

“I wanted to pass on the tradition of cooking healthy food,” said Mehagian. “I’ve always felt that if children get a taste of natural foods early enough, they will know the difference between junk food and real food. Back in the ’70s, there were studies being done connecting food additives and hyperactivity. I would love all children to get a healthy start in life.”

Nearly 25 years after she wrote her first children’s cookbook, Mehagian (author of the award winning culinary memoir, *Siren’s Feast*) got busy in the kitchen, updating culinary creations from the days when she owned the first vegetarian restaurant on the island of Ibiza and borrowing from extensive travels and a lifetime of entertaining to create *The Supernatural Kids Cookbook*, a collection of 70 recipes for junior chefs (and kids of all ages.) Recipes titled Sweet Potato Chips, Mexiquinoa Salad, Vegetable Pudding, Yankee Noodle Casserole, Curried Sweet Carrots and even a healthy biscuit for dogs are included in the contemporary collection, illustrated by New York artist Alexandra Conn. “The cookbook tempts eyes just as the recipe tempts palates,” said top



Nancy Mehagian



Cover of Supernatural Kids Cookbook

Amazon reviewer, Gail Cooke.

The book, published by former *LA Weekly* publisher Judith Proffer and her Huqua Press, embraces what Winfry dubbed a “veganish” philosophy. Some recipes call for cheese and eggs and there is even a broiled fish and healthy chicken tender offering. Fruits, nuts, whole grains, vegetables, beans, raw sugar, whole wheat flour and other farmer’s market fare are mainstays in the book that introduces children to *gomasio* (sea salt), blue corn, ginger root and jicama while recipes for beet soup, baked acorn squash and sautéed brussels sprouts attempt to expand and tempt the junior palate. “The greatest challenge in getting

see COOKBOOK, page 15



ARTS & LIVING



Honor, Dignity, Courage

By Rosario Teixeira

FOXBORO, Mass. — “Honor Dignity Courage” is the message sponsored by Peace of Art, Inc., on the digital billboard in Foxboro one-fourth of a mile south of the main entrance to Gillette Stadium and Patriot Place, which went up on display the week of May 9. The image is a composite of President Barack Obama carrying a red, white and blue wreath he placed on Ground Zero last week.

The advertising space has been donated by Carroll Advertising.

Almost a decade has passed since the nation watched the televised terrorist attack on our land. Along with the destruction of the Twin Towers, 3,000 lives were taken and many more lives were forever changed. The nation changed, and it shook our belief that our democracy would keep us safe.

“Our president demonstrated enormous courage by delivering justice to the architect of September 11th terrorist attack, and showed

great dignity by not publishing the pictures because, as he said, “that is not who we are,” Daniel Varoujan Hejinian, the founder of Peace of Art, Inc., said.

In reference to the presidential campaign promise to recognize the Armenian Genocide, he said “I’m confident that the president who brought justice to the 3,000 Americans who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, will also bring justice to 1.5 million Armenians who lost their lives on April 24, 1915, by recognizing the Armenian Genocide.”

Peace of Art is a non-profit educational organization, not associated with political or religious institutions, which uses the universal language of art to raise awareness to the human condition, and to promote peaceful solutions to conflict. (www.PeaceofArt.org)

Included in the Peace of Art projects, are the recognition of the Armenian Genocide annual campaign carried by Peace of Art since 2003, and “Colors of Liberty” (www.ColorsofLiberty.com), which was created by Hejinian in 2009.

“Colors of Liberty” is a collection of paintings, which celebrate America and promote unity.

Supernatural Kids Cookbook Inspires Junior Chefs

COOKBOOK, from page 14

children to eat healthier food is to make that food delicious and available and have healthy alternatives to the foods they love,” says Mehagian. Her Sultan’s Pizza, whole wheat spaghetti, vegetarian chili and grilled cheese are all kid pleasing without the fats or additives found in their packaged counterparts. The book also includes her mother’s recipe for Swedish pancakes. “She was my first food hero,” said Mehagian.

Bridget Fonda, a fan of Mehagian’s oatmeal cookie recipe and mother to a young son, wrote the foreword. “Her cookbook is inspired,” said Fonda. “Giving kids simple tools to feel comfortable in the kitchen and create food that enriches them can’t help but spread into other areas of their lives.”

A portion of the proceeds from the sales of the book benefits Jeff Bridges’ End Hunger Network (www.endhunger.com).



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ARTS & LIVING

ARMENIANS IN THE NEWS

The *Improper Bostonian* published an interview by Kyle Wright with actor Gavin Creel who discussed what audience members should expect in “Prometheus Bound,” a recent play which was staged at the Oberon, in Cambridge, Mass., featuring music by former System of the Down frontman **Serj Tankian**. Creel says that the feel of the play, while honoring the Aeschylus’ original material, is like being in an underground rock club, and that the music is unapologetically loud.

That point is also emphasized by *Stuff* scribe Scott Kearnan who anticipated “Prometheus Bound” to be similar to a rock concert. He credited artistic director of the play, Diane Paulus, as being



Raffy Mardirossian, right

inventive and rebellious, but he says that the rebels behind this play have a cause, as certain shows will be dedicated to people considered wrongly imprisoned. The American Repertory Theater collaborated with Amnesty International in staging the play.

More Prometheus: A February 20 *Boston Globe* article talks about “Prometheus Bound,” specifically about playwright’s Steven Sater’s personal experiences and inspiration for the contemporary look at Aeschylus’ Greek tragedy about the god Prometheus, who dared to steal fire and give it to humans. As penance Prometheus is chained to a cliff, while in this new version, the god is also a prisoner in his mind. **Tankian** said Prometheus stood up for humanity and referred to him as the “original Jesus.” Tankian’s political activist leaning made him a natural fit for this production, according to the article.

In another *Boston Globe* article in the same issue, writer Geoff Edgers examines the rise and fall of the original rock band Boston (1976-79), particularly frontman Brad Delp and the creator of Boston, Tom Scholz. Boston recorded hits such as *More Than A Feeling* and *Don’t Look Back*. Since the band’s demise, numerous lawsuits among the members have ensued, particularly surrounding Delp, who committed suicide in 2007. **Richard Kilbashian**, a soundman in Delp’s Beatles cover band, was close to Delp and said that in 2006 Delp was deeply upset about finding out that his girlfriend, Pam Sullivan, was having an affair and employed Kilbashian’s help to track down the man with whom his girlfriend was involved. However, months later he was making plans to marry Sullivan.

An obituary in the *Boston Globe* for Joseph Selame described Selame’s work as designer of brand logos for many companies, including Stop & Shop, CVS, Fenway Franks and VeryFine. **Greg Kolligian**, managing director for Selame’s company, said that Selame

changed the way juice bottles were designed from cans to wide-mouthed bottles.

Long wavy locks were the staple for celebrities up until recently, when a new trend emerged – short, cropped hair. Taking on this new look have been stars such as Katie Holmes, Michele Williams and Ginnifer Goodwin, to name a few. According to **Naz Kupelian**, a hair stylist who owns an eponymous salon in Lexington, Mass., this new look signifies asserting one’s individuality and breaking away from the mold. Kupelian adds that short hair best suits women with high cheekbones and strong jawlines, according to the February 8 issue of *Stuff*.

Edward Barsamian hand picks each Oriental, handmade rug for his third-generation family-owned Oriental Rug Importers company, in Lexington, Mass., according to a May issue of the *Boston Globe*. The article describes his dismay at quasi-hand made rugs, which devalue quality handmade rugs. “The weave is someone’s interpretation of beauty and often reflects a philosophy of life.” Typically his rugs are sold for people’s living or dining rooms, but he said expensive sports car owners purchase the rugs as car mats because it adds flair.

In another issue of the *Improper Bostonian*, which featured a photo spread of those who attended Boston



Edward Barsamian

Ballet’s Midsummer Night’s Dream Ball, **Raffy Mardirossian**, event host, is pictured. On the *Improper Sightings* page are: **Aban Makarechian**, shown walking along the Great Wall of China; and **Souren and Lisa Maserejian**, at Iguaza Falls, on the border of Brazil and Argentina.

A brief review on an upcoming restaurant **Nubar** appears in the April 19-May 2 issue of *Stuff*. Nubar is the latest restaurant in the Sheraton Commander Hotel, which is owned by the Guleserian family. The restaurant’s name is an homage to Edward Nubar Guleserian, a member of the family. Over the years, various types of restaurants have occupied that spot in the hotel, from the high-end Colonial Room to The Golden Steer steakhouse. Nubar is decidedly modern and sleek, according to the article.

On Tuesday, May 17, Garrison Keillor read a poem by **David Kheridian** on his radio program, “The Writer’s Almanac” on NPR; on May 21 he will read another of Kheridian’s poem. To tune in, visit writersalmanac.publicradio.org/stations/list.php.

ALMA Will Present New Genocide Exhibition Followed by Commemorative Concert

WATERTOWN – On Sunday, May 22, the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), will present a special concert memorializing the Armenian Genocide and featuring performances by several accomplished musicians.

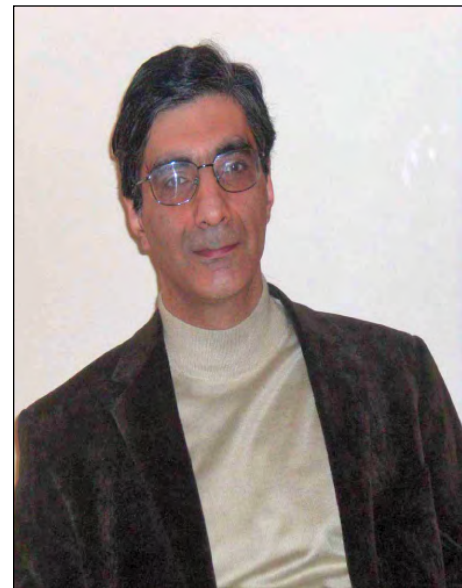
The concert will follow the official opening of the new Genocide exhibition on ALMA’s mezzanine at 2 p.m. Guests are welcome to stay for refreshments served after the concert.

The new exhibit, “The Armenian Genocide: Hayots Tseghaspanutun,” is a stunning visual narrative of the events of 1915-1923 and the continuing aftermath and denial by the Turkish government. The exhibit’s text and overall design were created by ALMA’s Haig Der Manuelian (chairman), Dr. Barbara Merguerian, Gina Hablanian, Gary Lind-Sinianian and Arakel Almasian, assisted by a number of outside consultants.

The striking wall graphics were designed by Ed Malouf of Content Design Collaborative. Visitors to the museum will find a chronological narrative of the events leading up to World War I, the Genocide and the continued denial.

The official opening of the exhibit will be marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, performed by the first Armenian ambassador to the United States (1993-1999), Rouben Shougarian.

Shougarian was the deputy foreign minister of the Republic of Armenia (1999-2005) and ambassador to Italy, Spain and Portugal (2005-2008). He currently teaches at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts



Rouben Shougarian, the first Armenian Ambassador to the United States, will cut the ribbon for the opening of the new Genocide exhibit and will give a short talk on the subject.

University in Medford. Shougarian’s book, *West of Eden, East of the Chessboard: Four Philosophical Looks Upon the Unknown*, was presented at ALMA last year.

The exhibit’s design committee will be in attendance at the opening and welcomes questions and comments from the public.

Admittance is free to all events of the day and visitors are welcome.

Istanbul Photographic Exhibition Tackles The Taboo Subject of Armenian Genocide

EXHIBIT, from page 14

“The process has been gathering speed since the death of Hrant Dink,” says the writer Ahmet Insel. “The exhibition fits into this context. We have already had several cultural events in Turkey devoted to the Armenian question,” he adds. “Osman Köker organized a very important exhibition drawing on a collection of period postcards, which showed quite clearly that the Armenians were here before 1915, then disappeared.”

Some time ago the Armenian community’s *Agos* newspaper, founded by Dink, published a series of pictures by Agoudjian. A few months later he traveled to Istanbul to meet Osman Kavala, a business man and one of the driving forces in cultural exchanges between Turkey and Armenia. Together they decided to mount an exhibition at the Depo, an arts center in Istanbul.

A collection of Agoudjian’s photographs, originally published in France (*Les Yeux Brûlants, Actes Sud*, 2006), has also come out in a bilingual (Turkish and Armenian) version in

Turkey, as part of a collection of history books launched by Köker. Exhibiting in Turkey is also the culmination of a personal quest for the photographer. “Many people think it’s daft, maybe even thoughtless, but I’m increasingly aware that this story is not just an Armenian concern. It is of interest to anyone who longs for truth,” he says.

The events in Istanbul to commemorate the Genocide on April 24, organized by writers and human rights campaigners, confirmed Agoudjian’s convictions. “I hope this will open the way for other exiled Armenians who want to work here,” he adds. But the topic is still very sensitive in Turkey. Some ultra-nationalist militants tried to barge into the exhibition opening, but were quietly kept at a safe distance by the police.

“Burning Eyes” is at Depo, Istanbul, Turkey until early June.

(This article originally appeared in *Le Monde*. It was subsequently translated for and published in *Guardian Weekly*.)

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Amaras Arts Alliance Presents Three Sopranos in Concert

LEXINGTON, Mass. — Amaras Art Alliance of Watertown will host “Escape The Ordinary” a concert of three sopranos on Sunday, June 12 at 3 p.m. at the National Heritage Museum here. The three sopranos, Nuneh Badalyan, Noune Karapetian and Jane Shivick will perform popular songs and duets from musical theater, arias from beloved operas, popular Latin-American songs as well as Armenian pieces.

Amaras Art Alliance founder Arax Badalian says, “the three women will introduce interesting harmonies in all the music that has been arranged by Artur Veranian. We all are familiar with the famous Three Tenors who each sing one line. Our three sopranos, Nuneh, Noune and Jane, are introducing beautiful harmonies in many of the pieces in just the right places to keep the concert exciting and sounding new. I know audiences will be thrilled to hear these beautiful voices, singing music that will help us all escape the ordinary — if only for the afternoon. The three sopranos will be together for only this one performance — you don’t want to miss them.”

Pianist Levon Hovsepien will accompany the

three singers. Additionally, there will be three special guests, including Roberto Cassan, accordion; violinist Sarkis Karapetyan and Zori Babroudi playing the duduk.

The three sopranos, all international performers with vast experience in the performing arena, come from varied musical backgrounds.

Badalyan is an active soloist and chamber musician who tours extensively with the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia. Badalyan, a native of Armenia, performs worldwide, and has sung with the Armenian Philharmonic, Canterbury (United Kingdom) Festival Orchestra and at Cagne-Sur-Mer in France. She has recorded a number of CDs, most notably Puccini’s “Il Tabarro” in the role of Giorgietta. Her solo recital debut at Rachmaninoff Hall in Moscow, in 1996, coincided with the receipt of her diploma of distinction at the Rimsky-Korsakov International Competition in St. Petersburg.

Karapetian has been praised by critics and audiences alike. The *Boston Phoenix* commented on her distinctive timbre and lovely

stage presence. Most recently she created the role of Violetta in “La Traviata” with the Granite State Opera. International critics called her singing “breathtaking.” Last year, Karapetian was the soloist in the New England tour of the Kinodance Company, a company and performance that was described by the Boston Globe as a “breathtaking synthesis of live and filmed dance. Kinodance’s production of Denizen, inspired by the land and music of Armenia,” continued the *Boston Globe*, “got new meaning with Ms. Karapetian’s interpretation of songs by Komitas.” Karapetian developed the vocal score as well as the role of the Goddess Anahit for Kinodance. Karapetian tours throughout the United States singing in recitals and with numerous opera companies such as Opera Boston, Pacific Repertory Opera, Opera Providence, Granite State Opera and others. She is also the creative force behind the children’s CD “Tsapik,” released in 2007. The CD was nominated as the Best Children’s Album at the Armenian Music Awards of 2007.

Shivick, praised by the *New York Times* for

her “character and vocal richness” is a New England-based performer. The *Boston Globe* affirms that “Shivick has a voice evenly glamorous throughout its compass and an engaging stage presence.” Shivick is a national winner of the renowned Metropolitan Opera National Council Audition, and was awarded a debut performance and NPR broadcast with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra under the direction of Sir Charles Mackerras. She has also been a winner at the Metropolitan Opera New England Regional National Council Audition and the Annamaria Saritelli-DiPanni Bel Canto Vocal Scholarship Competition. She has performed extensively with orchestras throughout New England and the United States including the Boston Pops, Boston Civic Symphony, Indian Hill Symphony, New Philharmonia Orchestra as well as with Opera Providence and the Aspen Opera Theater Center in Colorado.

Tickets are available for “Escape the Ordinary” online at amarasonline.com or call Amaras. The National Heritage Museum is located at 33 Marrett Road.

Court-Martial Proceedings Sheds Light on Past Judgement of Genocide

Nearly a century ago and through 61 criminal court proceedings the Istanbul Courts-Martial had already prosecuted some 300 Young Turk Ittihadist chieftains accused of complicity in the massacres of 1915. Even though they did not produce any practically-significant results, they nevertheless led to the revelation of a large mass of documentary evidence.

The volume under discussion is titled *The Court-Martial Proceedings of the Military Tribunal 1919-1922* (Tehcir ve Taktil. Divani Harb-irfi Zabıtları 1919-1922), compiled jointly by Vahakn Dadrian and Taner Akçam (Istanbul, Bilgi University Press, 2010, second edition, 733 pages).

Despite the fact that almost 100 years have passed since the tragedy, the withholding and concealment of the court records relative to the judicial proceedings is a paramount fact indicative of the importance of their contents. The silence and fear associated with the disclosure of these proceedings is clearly illustrated in the prefatory statement of the book. This state of mind bespeaks of a design to foil any attempt to unravel the concealed aspects of 1915.

The present attempt to illuminate readers, involves a book comprising the record of the proceedings of the criminal trials regarding the World War I genocide. Launched in November 1918, the Courts-Martial set forth to prosecute the Ittihadist leaders under the charges of a) entering World War I, b) massacre against the Christian minorities: primarily the Armenians and c) illegitimate and unlawful state transactions. Following 62 court proceedings in the period between 1919 and 1922, 20 death verdicts were issued but only three of them could be actually executed. There is the following conclusive observation in the work of Dadrian, the world-renowned expert on genocidology.

Even though belated in their initiation and thus futile in essence, some Armenian political leaders attempted to emulate the independence-oriented revolutionary drives and tactics of the European nations in the Balkans. Notwithstanding the role of some other ancillary factors, the Armenians having been deprived of external help, ended up suffering a most horrible failure.

In general the Armenians continue to circumvent and overlook this aspect of the problem deliberately. At issue here is the inability of the Armenian leadership cadres to apply standards of statesmanship in their thinking as they failed to grasp the importance of the principle of *raison d’état*, i.e, the justification of the existence and function of the state as an institution. The fact to consider is that a state, i.e., a government, can only pursue a “modern” system of governance through which strictly self-interest

policies can be adopted. These leadership shortcomings led to the rise of opportunities through which the Ittihadists set out to carry out their policy of annihilation.

Dadrian stated: “Aware of the vulnerability of the Armenians and of the resulting opportunities to profit from it, the Turkish leaders pounced upon the Armenians and crushed them with boundless fury and vindictiveness. ...

“The Armenian revolutionary movement and the ensuing period of Armenian Reforms proved as catalysts in this respect.”

As it happened in the period of Abdul Hamid era massacres, the consequences of the February 1914 Armenian Reform Agreement, through which the Ittihadist regime was compelled to embrace a historically-renewed scheme of Armenian Reforms, proved cataclysmic as these reforms helped precipitate the great catastrophe. To refer to Dadrian again:

“Without exaggeration one may assert that the onset of this delicate phase of evolving political developments proved to be the death warrant of the Armenian people, comparable to the issuance of a ferman. Demands for ‘equality of rights,’ then ‘semi-autonomy,’ to be followed by ‘complete autonomy’ were signposts heralding the onset of a replica of the Balkan model of emancipation from Ottoman rule. Intent on avoiding a duplication of this Balkan syndrome, the Ittihadist leaders resolved to seek and apply a radical solution to the problem. This meant the adoption of the Hamidian precept, namely to eliminate the Armenians themselves.

With the onset of World War I the requisite conditions for the implementation of these precepts were at hand. Two existing conditions served to facilitate that task: the administrative astuteness of the perpetrators and the battle-tested martial aptitudes of the Ottoman army.”

According to Dadrian, this bold Turkish undertaking was held to be realized and affordable on account of a paramount factor characterizing the aftermath of the late 19th-century series of Abdul Hamid era massacres, i.e. impunity.

Commenting on the courts-martial that were held in the period between 1919 and 1922, Dadrian offers the following comment: “The criminal prosecution of high-ranking state functionaries and government officials identified with the Ittihad political party, was a highly noteworthy event. It was likewise remarkable that prominent Turkish witnesses testified for the benefit of Armenian victims as they demanded punitive justice for the criminally incriminated perpetrators. ...

“There is much semblance between these courts-martial, on the one hand, and the contemporary Ergenekon trial series in the modern Republic of Turkey, on the other.”

BOOKS

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 4 — Armenian Memorial Church Annual Fair and Silent Auction, (rain or shine), meals served all day, delicacies table, 32 Bigelow Ave., Watertown.


NEW JERSEY

MAY 21 — “We Are Like This,” one-man show with Krikor Satamian, 8 p.m., at Greek Orthodox Cathedral, St. John the Theologian, 353 East Clinton Ave., Tenafly. Tickets, \$65, including dinner and wine. For tickets, call Mary (201) 745-8850 or Noushig (718) 344-5582. Organized by Tekeyan Cultural Association Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group.

JUNE 4 — Anniversary-Banquet in anticipation of the 80th anniversary of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator newspaper, the first English language Armenian newspaper in the world, organized by the Friends of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of New Jersey. Saturday, 7 p.m., at Teaneck Marriott at Glenpoint, 100 Franklin W. Burr Blvd., Teaneck. For tickets, call Shoghig (201) 803-0240 or Sirvart (201) 739-7775.

NEW JERSEY

JUNE 19 — St. Nersess Armenian Seminary’s annual Father’s Day Picnic, from noon to 5 p.m., at Stratton Road, New Rochelle. Delicious kebab meals and desserts, live Armenian music, children’s activities, vendors. Free parking and admission. Visit www.stnersess.edu or call (914) 636-2003.



Joe Dadgigian, pictured above, and Dik Dagavarian will give an illustrated talk, titled “Hiking in Armenia’s Mountains, Valleys and Villages,” covering the Siunik area of Southern Armenia, on Saturday, May 21, at 6 p.m., at the ARS Community Center, 142 Liberty St., Lowell. Dinner and program are \$20, adults; \$10, students.



COMMENTARY

OPINION

It's About Time to Recognize the Armenian Genocide

By Rabbi Albert Gabbai

What would you say if the world denied that the Holocaust ever happened? Or that something like it may have occurred, but on a very small scale, and as an understandable byproduct of a war that was raging simultaneously? Or that it's being exaggerated and exploited today to create an undeserved sense of sympathy?

That is what people of Armenian descent feel in regard to their genocide, what they call the tseghasbanootyoun. The term is used to describe the events of 1915, when, during World War I, members of the Turkish majority, abetted by minority Kurds, murdered up to 1.5 million Armenian Christians, all fellow citizens of the Ottoman Empire.

Turkey has not only refused to admit that the Armenian Genocide even occurred, but it has pressured other countries, educational institutions, movie studios – even Jewish organizations – not to broach the subject.

Many people, Jews included, are ignorant about this topic, one of which Armenian Americans are all too starkly aware, often because their ancestors were killed or were survivors. The Armenian Genocide is generally not taught in schools and rarely touched upon by major media sources.

Until recently, I had never raised the subject of the Armenian Genocide during Shabbat remarks at Congregation Mikveh Israel, despite the fact that, having grown up in Cairo, I had numerous Armenian friends in the high school I attended.

We Jews are very sensitive about the use of the term “Holocaust,” and have reason to deplore its trivialization. Still, Armenian-Americans are justified when they compare their genocide to our Shoah.

By the end of 1915, Armenians had been ethnically cleansed from the western half, the ancestral heart, of their homeland of several thousand years. Long loyal citizens of the Ottoman Empire, they were caught by surprise, when 250 of the most prominent Armenian male citizens were arrested and massacred in Constantinople on April 24, 1915.

Unlike German officials, who have admitted and apologized for their country's actions against the Jews, representatives of

the Turkish government claim that there was no will by the Ottoman government to exterminate the Armenian population, and that the 1915 massacres were simply the consequences of war.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu condemned President Barack Obama's recent statement marking the 96th anniversary of the April 24 massacre (a statement that stopped short of calling it genocide). Davutoglu said he wished that the president could share the Turks' pain from the World War I era, adding that a “one-sided statement is not sufficient” considering the historical events.

Unfortunately, the State of Israel, as well as some major Jewish organizations, have a regrettable record on officially recognizing the Armenian genocide. In contrast to 22 nations (and 43 individual states, including Pennsylvania), Israel and the United States have to date not recognized the events of 1915 as a genocide.

Israel's position on this issue has been complicated by the fact that Turkey was, in 1949, the first Muslim state to recognize Israel. Israel has had a much more cooperative relationship with Turkey than with other Muslim countries, although this relationship has lately deteriorated.

This deterioration became obvious in late May 2010, when Israeli forces raided a Turkish aid flotilla aiming to violate Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, claiming nine lives. Turkish officials described the event as an act of “state terror” on Israel's part. Prior to that, some Jewish and pro-Israel organizations had failed to recognize the 1915 massacres as genocide, due to concern for Israel-Turkey relations and the Jews still in Turkey.

But it is important for people to become more informed about the Armenian genocide. We Jews know what persecution and living in a Diaspora mean. We aim to be a “light to the nations.” Therefore, we have a duty to reach out to Armenian-Americans and offer our solidarity in their struggle to receive the kind of recognition for their genocide that we receive (and have every right to expect) for our own Holocaust.

(Rabbi Albert Gabbai leads Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia. This commentary was originally from the May 11 issue of the *Jewish Exponent*)

LETTERS

ADL's 'Immoral' Genocide Stand

To the Editor:

I am disappointed that Clear Channel in Stoneham is providing the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) with 100 free billboards across the commonwealth to advance the group's so-called anti-bullying program.

The ADL's immoral position on the Armenian Genocide and selective approach to fighting genocide have undermined its ability to be a voice for humanity and justice for all. That is why the Massachusetts Municipal Association and a dozen cities statewide severed ties with the ADL's “No Place for Hate” program.

With the centennial commemoration of the Armenian Genocide approaching in 2015, the

national ADL must prove its commitment to human rights and tikkun olam (Hebrew for “repairing the world”). The ADL must stop lobbying on bullying Turkey's behalf and instead unambiguously recognize the Armenian Genocide and openly support a congressional resolution on this crime.

Clear Channel should heed its own Code of Conduct about not supporting political organizations and not, in effect, allocate funds to the highly politicized ADL. The ADL's name, logo and website on its billboards should be replaced with those of credible anti-bullying organizations.

Clear Channel should also end its double standards and give Peace of Art several free

billboards in years to come to commemorate the Armenian Genocide.

After all, Raphael Lemkin, the prominent Polish-Jewish jurist who coined the word “genocide” based on the Armenian Genocide and the Jewish Holocaust and drafted the 1948 UN Genocide Convention, gave the world a moral compass by poignantly saying: “Humanity is our client. Every day of delay is concession to crime.”

– Luder Tavit Sahagian
Needham, Mass.

(This editorial letter originally appeared in the May 5 issue of the *MetroWest Daily News*.)

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 12 noon on 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.

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

There is a Time to Sue and a Time to Settle

It is unfortunate that the noble and sacred concept of establishing an Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial (AGM&M) in Washington DC, had to end up in court.

But contrary to popular belief, the issue was not simply a feud between two wealthy individuals – Gerard Cafesjian and Hirair Hovnanian – or a mere disagreement over the size and scope of the project. The actual dispute resulted from an attempt by Armenian Assembly leaders to take control of the multi-million dollar museum buildings donated by the Cafesjian Family Foundation (CFF) and exclude Cafesjian from any decision-making powers as a Board member of the AGM&M charitable organization.

After a lengthy litigation, Federal Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled on January 26, that the museum buildings had to be returned to CFF. She upheld the validity of the “reversionary clause” included in the grant agreement signed by the Armenian Assembly of America on November 1, 2003, which stipulated that the properties donated by CFF to the Assembly for the purpose of establishing an Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial would be

returned to CFF, if the Assembly failed to develop the museum by December 1, 2010. That obligation was subsequently conveyed to the AGM&M organization.

In response to a new filing by the Assembly objecting to the January 26, verdict, Judge Kollar-Kotelly made a final ruling on May 9, ordering the Assembly to transfer ownership of the museum property to CFF no later than May 23. She rejected the Assembly’s demand for a new trial. She also asked a magistrate judge to recommend to her the exact amount of Cafesjian’s legal fees to be reimbursed by AGM&M.

While CFF must be satisfied with the verdict, the Assembly is probably considering its legal options. However, given the judge’s two recent verdicts in favor of CFF, filing more lawsuits or appeals is neither in the Assembly’s interest nor that of the Armenian-American community. The time has come to put a stop to the legal wrangling and start concentrating on the important task of building a genocide museum.

CFF’s chairman, Gerard Cafesjian, made the right decision when he announced that “the court’s concluding verdict frees us all to build this long-awaited museum and memorial about the fact and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide.”

CFF’s Board member Ross Vartian pledged that CFF would re-launch the museum project “with the participation of ALL interested organizations and individuals.” During a subsequent Voice of America interview, Vartian made it clear that CFF welcomed the participation of the Armenian Assembly in such a community-wide effort.

This is a very sensible approach. As the Bible states, “to everything there is a season. ...A time to break down and a time to build up...a time for war and a time for peace.” In

this instance, one could appropriately add: There is a time to sue and a time to settle!

Over a decade ago when the idea of an Armenian Genocide museum was first discussed at an Armenian Assembly board meeting, long before any internal disputes had surfaced, the organizers asked for my view on their initiative. I suggested that they invite major Armenian-American organizations to participate in a community-wide effort to oversee the fundraising and implementation of this pan-Armenian project. Regrettably, back then, my advice was unanimously rejected.

CFF is moving in the right direction by inviting major Armenian-American organizations, including the Armenian Assembly, and prominent Armenian and non-Armenian individuals to come together to realize the laudable, yet long-delayed plan to establish an Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial by April 24, 2015 – the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. In order to accomplish such a lofty goal in four years, everyone must put aside all other considerations and concentrate on the monumental task at hand. Internal Armenian squabbles only serve to provide Turks with further ammunition to ridicule Armenians and their sacred cause. Rather than wasting more time and money on further lawsuits and appeals, the funds and energies of the Armenian-American community should be channeled towards establishing this important edifice, which is expected to cost well over \$100 million.

An Armenian Genocide museum located in the heart of the nation’s capital, just two blocks away from the White House, will be a lasting memorial to the 1.5 million innocent victims and a tribute to the indomitable spirit of the survivors.

Why no Outcry over These Torturing Tyrants?

By Robert Fisk

Christopher Hill, a former US secretary of state for east Asia who was ambassador to Iraq – and usually a very obedient and un-eloquent American diplomat – wrote the other day that “the notion that a dictator can claim the sovereign right to abuse his people has become unacceptable”.

Unless, of course – and Mr Hill did not mention this – you happen to live in Bahrain. On this tiny island, a Sunni monarchy, the al-Khalifas, rule a majority Shia population and have responded to democratic protests with death sentences, mass arrests, the imprisonment of doctors for letting patients die after protests and an “invitation” to Saudi forces to enter the country. They have also destroyed dozens of Shia mosques with all the thoroughness of a 9/11 pilot. But then, let’s remember that most of the 9/11 killers were indeed Saudis.

And what do we get for it? Silence. Silence in the US media, largely silence in the European press, silence from our own beloved CamerClegg and of course from the White House. And – shame of shame – silence from the Arabs who know where their bread is buttered. That means, of course, also silence from al-Jazeera. I often appear on their otherwise excellent Arabic and English editions, but their failure to mention Bahrain is shameful, a dollop of dirt in the dignity that they have brought to reporting in the Middle East. The Emir of Qatar – I know him and like him very much – does not need to belittle his television empire in this way.

CamerClegg is silent, of course, because Bahrain is one of our “friends” in the Gulf, an eager arms buyer, home to thousands of Brit expatriates who – during the mini-revolution by Bahrain’s Shia – spent their time writing vicious letters to the local pro-Khalifa press denouncing Western journalists. And as for the demonstrators, I recall a young Shia woman telling me that if only the Crown Prince would come to the Pearl Roundabout and talk with the protesters, they would carry him on their shoulders around the square. I believed her. But he didn’t come. Instead, he destroyed their mosques and claimed the protests were an Iranian plot – which was never the case – and destroyed the statue of the pearl at the roundabout, thus deforming the very history of his own country.

Obama, needless to say, has his own reasons for silence. Bahrain hosts the US Fifth Fleet and the Americans don’t want to be shoved out of their happy little port (albeit that they could up-sticks and move to the UAE or Qatar anytime they wish) and want to defend Bahrain from mythical Iranian aggression. So you won’t find La Clinton, so keen to abuse the Assad family, saying anything bad about the al-Khalifas. Why on earth not? Are we all in debt to the Gulf Arabs? They

are honorable people and understand when criticism is said with good faith. But no, we are silent. Even when Bahraini students in Britain are deprived of their grants because they protested outside their London embassy, we are silent. (Cameron and Clegg, shame on you.)

Bahrain has never had a reputation as a “friend” of the West, albeit that is how it likes to be portrayed. More than 20 years ago, anyone protesting the royal family’s dominance risked being tortured in the security police headquarters. The head of it was a former British police Special Branch officer whose senior torturer was a pernicious major in the Jordanian army. When I published their names, I was rewarded with a cartoon in the government newspaper *Al-Khaleej* which pictured me as a rabid dog. Rabid dogs, of course, have to be exterminated. It was a threat.

The al-Khalifas have no problems with the opposition newspaper, *Al-Wasaf*, however. They arrested one of its founders, Karim Fakhrawi, on April 5. He died in police custody a week later. Ten days later, they arrested the paper’s columnist, Haidar Mohamed al-Naimi. He has not been seen since. Again, silence from CamerClegg, Obama, La Clinton and the rest. The arrest and charging of Shia Muslim doctors for letting their patients die – the patients having been shot by the “security forces,” of course – is even more vile. I was in the hospital when these patients were brought in. The doctors’ reaction was horror mixed with fear – they had simply never seen such close-range gunshot wounds before. Now they have been arrested, doctors and patients taken from their hospital beds. If this was happening in Damascus, Homs or Hama or Aleppo, the voices of CamerClegg, and Obama and La Clinton would be ringing in our ears. But no. Silence. Four men have been sentenced to death for killing two Bahraini policemen. It was a closed military court. Their “confessions” were aired on television, Soviet-style. No word from CamerClegg or Obama or La Clinton.

What is this nonsense? Well, I will tell you. It has nothing to do with the Bahrainis or the al-Khalifas. It is all about our fear of Saudi Arabia. Which also means it is about oil. It is about our absolute refusal to remember that 9/11 was committed largely by Saudis. It is about our refusal to remember that Saudi Arabia supported the Taliban, that Bin Laden was a Saudi, that the most cruel version of Islam comes from Saudi Arabia, the land of head-choppers and hand-cutters. It is about a conversation I had with a Bahraini official – a good and decent and honest man – in which I asked him why the Bahraini prime minister could not be elected by a majority Shia population. “The Saudis would never permit it,” he said. Yes, our other friends. The Saudis.

(This column by Robert Fisk originally appeared in the May 14 edition of *The Independent*)

Read *Family of Shadows* for Insight Into Politics, Respect

By George S. Yacoubian

Recommended reading for the passionate Armenian is *Family of Shadows* by Garin K. Hovannisian.

To those of us who are ideologically unimpaired, however, a word of caution. The book, a loving three-generation tribute to the Hovannisian clan is replete with innuendos and rhetoric that distinguish the author as emphatically polemic. View for example, his statement which appears on Page 33, “On May 28, 1918, with support from no one, the Armenian National Council declared the independent Republic of Armenia.” To whom?

By his own grandfather’s admission, there was no – I repeat no – public declaration of independence. Only in an internal policy document did the expression “independent Republic of Armenia” appear. In the interest of historic accuracy: once military successes near Yerevan and the conclusion of peace at Batum, had been verified, sometime in early June, did the National Council venture to use the term publicly. A nuanced interpretation, perhaps, but factual nevertheless.

Even more egregious, employed repeatedly throughout the book were the words ARF and anti-ARF or, alternately ARF and non-ARF, echoing the familiar cliché that “those who are not with us, are against us.” Nothing could be further from the truth. The vast majority of Armenians from both Apostolic camps were and continue to be non-political and view that arena as divisive, embarrassing and moot. Telling was the repeated usage of ARF and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. Common knowledge is that their primary opposition in the United States is the ADL, (which coalesced after the loss of independence or the Armenian Democratic League. But nowhere do these words appear. Instead we read of the Ramgavars. The formal acronym and name of one but only a generalization for the other. Consistency is the hallmark of objectivity. And I could go on and on. On Page 46, we read that Stalin “commanded” the church while on Page 76, “the Catholicos of Etchmiadzin, man under the supervision of the Communist Party in Moscow,” (in Yerevan, arguably, but certainly not Moscow, but of course the latter capital comes with connotations.)

All this aside, the depth of emotion that permeates the book’s 257 pages reveals the author’s filial devotion – and rightfully so – to three generations of Hovannisians, his great-grandfather Kaspar; his grandfather Richard and his father Raffi: Kaspar for his triumph over Genocide; Professor Hovannisian for his iconic scholarship in his four-volume history of Armenia, not overlooking his *The Armenian Genocide in Perspective*, [I own four of these five tomes] ranking him as the foremost authority on the First Republic; and the incredible path of patriotism and sacrifice chosen by his father Raffi, a journey perhaps not yet concluded.

The book is published by HarperCollins and may be purchased from HarperCollins e-books. This I recommend so everyone may judge for themselves.



For Jerusalem's Armenians, 1,600 Years of History and an Uncertain Future

JERUSALEM (AP) — One of the four quarters of old Jerusalem belongs to the Armenians, keepers of an ancient monastery and library, heirs to a tragic history and to a stubborn 1,600-year presence that some fear is now in doubt.

Buffeted by Mideast forces more powerful than themselves and drawn by better lives elsewhere, this historic Jerusalem community has seen its numbers quietly drop below 1,000 people. The Armenians, led by an ailing 94-year-old patriarch, find themselves caught between Jews and Muslims in a Middle East emptying of Christians, and between a deep sense of belonging in Jerusalem and a realization that their future might lie elsewhere.

"Very few will remain here if it goes on like this," said Kevork Kahvedjian, a Jerusalem storeowner.

Kahvedjian sells vintage black-and-white photos of the Holy Land from a store founded in 1949 by his father, who arrived in Jerusalem as a child after the Genocide of Armenians under Ottoman rule during World War I claimed his own parents. Today, Kahvedjian said, he has siblings in Canada and the US, a son in Washington, DC and a daughter who plans to move away soon.

The insular world of the Jerusalem Armenians is reached through a modest iron door set in a stone wall.

The door, locked every night at 10:30 p.m., leads into a monastery compound that is home to a contingent of cloaked clergymen and also to several hundred Armenian laypeople: grand-

parents, parents and children, living in a warrens of small apartments alongside their priests in a self-contained outpost that has existed here, in some form, at least as far back as the fifth century AD.

Also inside is a library, a health center, two social clubs and a school where each grade now has an average of only six or seven pupils.

"We worry about this, of course. But we haven't found a solution," said Samuel Aghoyan, 71, one of the community's senior priests.

On a recent afternoon in the Armenian monastery's nerve center, the medieval cathedral of St. James, clerics in black cowls chanted under dozens of oil lamps suspended from the vaulted ceiling. Next to a priest waving a censer was an inlaid panel concealing the entrance to a staircase ascending inside the wall to the church's second floor.

The monastery, led by the patriarch Torkom Manoogian, 94, guards other secrets. It holds the world's second-largest collection of ancient Armenian manuscripts, 4,000 texts guarded in a chapel opened only once a year. It also owns the Bible of Keran, a gold-covered manuscript named for an Armenian queen and kept in a treasury whose location the priests will not divulge, and the staff of King Hetum, made from a single piece of amber and revealed to the public for a few minutes every January.

The several dozen priests, most of whom are sent to Jerusalem by the church from elsewhere, will remain, as will their edifices and relics. But the community itself, made up of

laypeople subject to the pressures and pulls of this world, may not.

Aghoyan arrived at the monastery as a 16-year-old seminarian in 1956 from Syria, where his parents had fled from Turkey. He found the Jerusalem monastery crowded with families, most of them refugees or descendants of refugees who escaped the killings.

The resulting refugees swelled the small existing community of Armenian priests and laymen, and by the time Jerusalem was split between Jordan and Israel in 1948 the Armenians numbered more than 25,000, by some counts. They were traders and craftsmen whose distinctive mosaics of painted tiles remain one of the city's signature design features.

After 1948, with the city divided, the Old City under Jordanian control and economic prospects bleak, most Armenians left, joining thriving exile communities in places like Fresno, Calif., and Toronto.

Perhaps 3,000 remained by the time Israel captured the Old City in 1967.

The Armenians, along with Arab residents of east Jerusalem, were given residency rights in Israel, and some have since applied for full citizenship. But the community has tried to plot a neutral course in a place where that is difficult. Ties with both Israelis and Palestinians have been tense at times.

Israel's Interior Ministry does not have statistics on the number of Armenians. Community leaders like Aghoyan and Tsolag Momjian, the honorary consul of Armenia, agree there are now fewer than 1,000 in the city.

The slow decline of the Jerusalem Armenians reflects a broader shrinking of the Middle East's ancient Christian population. For much of the past century, Christians in Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, the Palestinian territories and elsewhere have been moving to the West, fleeing poverty, religious intolerance and violence such as the anti-Christian riot that erupted this week in Cairo, leaving 12 dead and a church burned.

Young Armenians, expected to marry Armenians, are faced with a shortage of potential spouses. Because they are typically well-educated, fluent in English and have family connections abroad, they are equipped to leave. Those who do join a diaspora that numbers an estimated 11 million people worldwide and supports churches, community centers and at least a dozen international online dating sites with names like Armenians Connect and armenianpassion.com.

"Whoever leaves still dreams about Jerusalem and says they'll come back. But they won't," Aghoyan said.

Others are more optimistic. Ruppen Nalbandian, 29, a community youth leader with a master's degree in neurobiology from an Israeli university, said the outflow has slowed. Of 11 students in his class at school, he said, only two have left. Ten men he knows have found brides in Armenia and brought them back to Jerusalem, he said.

Some in the community point to an unexpected boon in the form of Armenian Christians — possibly more than 10,000 of them, though estimates vary — who arrived in Israel as part of a mass immigration of Soviet Jews in the 1990s and were eligible for citizenship because they had a Jewish parent or spouse. Some have mixed with the established Armenian community.

Not long after the Armenians adopted Christianity in 301 AD in their homeland around the biblical Mt. Ararat, on the eastern border of modern-day Turkey in Turkish-occupied Western Armenia, they dispatched priests to Jerusalem.

They have remained ever since, through often devastating conquests by Arab dynasties, Persian armies, mounted Turkish archers, Crusaders, the Ottoman Empire, Englishmen, Jordanians and Jews.

"As we have lived here for 1,600 years, we will continue to live here," Nalbandian said.

Youth Parliament Set to Start Work in Armenia This Month

By Gohar Abrahamyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) — The Youth Parliament of the Armenian National Assembly will start work in late May with a one-year term; this consulting public body will consist of 131 members, between the ages of 18 and 30.

The Youth Parliament established by the March 28 decree of Parliament Speaker Hovik Abrahamian will mirror the National Assembly in its structure, format and contents. The sessions will be held at the same hall, and the body will have 12 standing committees. However it

nated for students from state-run and private higher educational institutions, 30 seats are for younger members of political parties that hold mandates in the National Assembly, 42 seats are for individual citizens from provinces of Armenia (through self-nomination) and the minimum of four seats are reserved for ethnic minorities.

Prosperous Armenia parliamentary faction member Vahe Enfiayjan believes that this way the voice of the youth will have better chances of reaching their seniors in the National Assembly.

"This ensures young people's involvement in the law-making process, which is of great significance. It will be an open field where they



Artak Davtyan (left), Vahe Enfiayjan

will not have its own chairman and vice chairmen; these posts will be held by chairmen of the standing committees on a rotation basis.

"We have not invented a bicycle, this practice exists in different countries," says Artak Davtyan, member of the ruling Republican Party's parliamentary faction and coordinator of the youth parliament, adding that special care is taken to ensure female activists' involvement in the parliament — the anticipated ratio is around 30 percent.

Fifty seats in the youth parliament are desig-

can freely express their opinions without restrictions," says Enfiayjan.

The registration deadline was April 30 and the current batch of 350 candidates who have made it to the second stage will be interviewed, and 131 finalists will be selected as deputies for the youth parliament.

It will be a non-profit entity where the deputies will hold mandates but will not receive salaries, and their decrees will not hold legal force; details, however, will be further discussed by Armenia's lawmakers.

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