

Erdogan Demands Apology From Armenia

ISTANBUL (RFE/RL) – Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan demanded late last Wednesday that President Serge Sargisian withdraw and apologize for remarks which he claimed amount to Armenian territorial claims to Turkey.

The president's office quickly denied that claim and accused the Turkish government

of distorting the statements made by Sargisian at a July 23 meeting with students from Armenia and the diaspora. Sargisian also released the text of the comments.

"Sargisian committed a serious blunder,"

Erdogan said during a visit to Azerbaijan. "He himself confirmed his historical blunder."

"He must apologize and correct his blunder," he said at a joint news conference with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev.

Erdogan referred to Sargisian's answer to a question asked by one of the Armenian students in the resort town of Tsaghkadzor. The latter wondered whether Armenians will ever be able to reclaim lands in what is now eastern Turkey, which many of them call "Western Armenia."

The area for centuries formed a part of Armenian kingdoms before being conquered by the Ottoman Empire. Its indigenous Armenian population was massacred or deported en masse during the Genocide.

"It depends on you and your generation," Sargisian replied to the student. "I believe that my generation has fulfilled its task: when it was necessary in the beginning of the 1990s to defend a part of our father-

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Recep Tayyip Erdogan

Tekeyan Centre Fund Creates Summer Magic for Students



Tekeyan students learn traditional dances at the camp.

VAHAGNADZOR, Armenia – How beautiful the nature of Lori is – mountains covered with forests, gorgeous sunsets and picturesque scenery. In this lovely spot, on the bank of the River Debed, in Vahagnadzor village, is where the children's camp, Gugarq, is located. From July 15 to 25, Gugarq hosted 85 Tekeyan schoolchildren and their teachers.

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Menendez Holds up Appointment of New US Ambassador to Armenia

WASHINGTON (RFE/RL) – Sen. Robert Menendez, (D-NJ), has delayed congressional confirmation of a diplomat nominated by President Barack Obama to serve as the next US ambassador to Armenia.

The nominee, John Heffern, had his first confirmation hearing at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee two weeks ago. The committee was scheduled to continue the consideration of his candidacy late last Tuesday.

The discussion was postponed until the next committee meeting, expected in September, at the request of Menendez.

The Armenian Assembly of America (AAA) quoted Menendez as telling its leaders that he needs more time to review Heffern's answers to his questions regarding the World War I-era slaughter of some 1.5 millions Armenians in Ottoman Empire. The AAA said the lawmaker "remains troubled by the administration's wordsmithing regarding US affirmation and recognition of the Armenian Genocide."

Heffern refused to describe the massacres as genocide during the July 13 committee hearing. He said "the characterization of those events is a policy decision that is made by the president of the United States and that policy is enunciated in his April 24 Remembrance Day statement."

Obama declined to use the word genocide in that statement, contrary to his promises given to the influential Armenian-American community during the last US presidential race.

Menendez openly expressed his dissatisfaction with Heffern's remarks on the sensitive subject. "This is an inartful dance that we do ... We have a historical knowledge of the facts which we accept that would amount to genocide, but we are unwilling to reference it as genocide," he complained on July 13.

In separate statements, the AAA and the Armenian National Committee of America

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Pallone Bemoans Lack Of NKR Assistance

WASHINGTON – Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) on Monday wrote House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers to express his concerns regarding reports that the subcommittee has broken precedent by failing to provide funding for humanitarian and development assistance in Nagorno Karabagh. In past years, funding for Nagorno Karabagh had broad bi-partisan support. Pallone expressed concerns about the repercussions this lack of funding would have in the region.

"Since 1998 USAID and other agencies have been providing funds for humanitarian and other assistance programs in Nagorno Karabagh as a result of the Appropriations Committee's work. The decision to provide no funds to Nagorno Karabagh in Fiscal Year 2012 is a break with the practice of the Appropriations Committee, under both Democratic and Republican control," Pallone wrote in the letter.

Aykazian Speaks on Capitol Hill Regarding Debt Ceiling

WASHINGTON – Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, the Eastern Diocese's director of Ecumenical Relations, joined religious leaders this week in urging lawmakers on Capitol Hill to resolve the question of the debt ceiling before the August 2 deadline and to arrive at a solution that takes into account the needs of struggling people.

The daylong meeting on Wednesday, July 26, included sessions with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Assistant Leader James Clyburn, and staff members of House Speaker John Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

"To ensure a fair budget, it is very important that we remember the most vulnerable: the elderly and children, as well as those who are poor, sick, hungry or disabled," Aykazian said. "It is our moral responsibility to take care of these people."

Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders took part in the day's program.

Aykazian delivered a prayer during an afternoon press conference organized by the group.

Ambassador Holds Meetings in Lebanon

BEIRUT (armradio.am) – On July 23, Armenian Ambassador to Lebanon Ashot Kocharian met with Chairman of the Lebanese Parliament Nabih Beri.

During the meeting, the two discussed the domestic situation in Lebanon and the current state of Armenian-Lebanese relations.

On July 25, Kocharian met with Foreign Minister Adnan Mansur. The ambassador conveyed Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian's good wishes. Mansur hailed the role of the Armenian community in the political life of Lebanon.



The Karabagh political leadership looks on as the torch is lit inside Gandzasar Cathedral, ready to be taken to Armenia for the games.

Torch for Pan-Armenian Games Is Lit in Gandzasar

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) – The ceremony of lighting the torch during the fifth Pan-Armenian Games took place in Gandzasar's Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist. The games will be held August 13-24 in Yerevan.

Before the torch-lighting ceremony, Nagorno Karabagh President Bako Sahakian addressed the participants, emphasizing, "Today we are partaking in a very important and symbolic event. In a few minutes at the Gandzasar's Cathedral of St. John the Baptist the torch of the fifth Pan-Armenian games will be lit. During the last 20 years Artsakh has become the symbol of consolidation of the world-spread Armenians."

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Nora Armani to Make a Film in Armenia

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Armenian-American actress Nora Armani is presently working on two films, one of which she plans to make in Armenia next summer.

Armani withheld details as the film is still a work in progress, however she said that she is starring in the film and, possibly, will produce it as well. Gnel Nalbandyan will be the screenwriter. The film will be about a foreigner who arrives at an Armenian village where he does not like anything, but at the end of the film, he becomes attached to it and its habitants.

Armani said she is also working on a book about her family, particularly, her grandmother and three sisters.

Armani played one of the leads in the feature film “Snowed in LA.” She said that Armenia has a huge potential in the area of film production.

Opposition Leader ‘Confident’ about Fresh Elections

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Nikol Pashinian, a leading member of the opposition Armenian National Congress (HAK), claimed last Thursday that the authorities will agree to hold fresh presidential and parliamentary elections before the end of this year.

“Either pre-term elections will take place as a result of the [government-HAK] dialogue ... or pre-term elections will take place under popular pressure,” Pashinian said.

Pashinian, who is also the editor of the pro-opposition daily *Haykakan Zhamanak*, reiterated HAK leaders’ warnings that the opposition bloc will pull out of its ongoing talks with President Serge Sargisian’s ruling coalition if they yield no agreement on the issue by early September.

“If the possibility of achieving pre-term elections through dialogue is deemed exhausted, the HAK will have nothing to do in those negotiations. It will have something to do in Liberty Square instead,” he said.

Some senior HAK figures have threatened the authorities with a campaign of “civil disobedience.” Still, the bloc’s top leader, Levon Ter-Petrosian, spoke out against another standoff with the government in his speeches delivered earlier this year.

Coalition leaders have repeatedly rejected HAK demands for fresh elections. A senior member of Sargisian’s Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) called them “nonsense” on Wednesday.

“Right now the authorities can’t cope with popular pressure,” insisted Pashinian. He said that is the main reason why they have made a series of concessions to the opposition in recent months.

Judge Fired Despite Lawyers’ Protests

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — President Serge Sargisian has sacked a district court judge in Yerevan, a move which Armenia’s national bar association considers a serious bloc to judicial independence.

The judge, Samvel Mnatsakanian, was relieved of his duties this week upon the recommendation of the Justice Council, a state body overseeing the courts.

The council, headed by Arman Mkrtumian, chairman of the Court of Cassation, sent a corresponding petition to Sargisian late last month. The court has refused to publicize the document or comment on the drastic measure since then.

Nor has the presidential administration given any reasons for Sargisian’s decree. Mnatsakanian has also declined a comment.

The Armenian Chamber of Advocates believes that the judge was fired because of granting bail to a criminal suspect contrary to prosecutors’ wishes. Its chairman, Ruben Sahakian, and dozens of other lawyers staged an unprecedented demonstration outside the Court of Cassation last week to protest against Mnatsakanian’s impending sacking. Sahakian denounced the Justice Council’s decision as unfounded.

Armenia Tree Project Creates New Green Spaces in 112 Communities Throughout Armenia This Spring

YEREVAN — Armenia Tree Project (ATP) has partnered with 112 communities throughout Armenia to plant 30,047 decorative trees, shrubs and fruit trees this spring. The work was led by the flagship Community Tree Planting Program, which has been operating since ATP’s founding in 1994.

“Each season, we try to involve as many new communities as possible, and this past spring 25 out of the 112 communities were new ATP partners,” Arthur Harutyunyan, head monitor of ATP’s Community Tree Planting Program, said.

ATP has planted trees in more than 800 sites throughout Armenia, and every year more communities apply to ATP for trees.

Tree planting was implemented this year in the regions of Aragatsotn, Ararat, Armavir, Gegharkunik, Kotayk, Lori, Shirak, Syunik, Tavush and Vayots Dzor, as well as in Yerevan and Artsakh.

ATP participated in a number of ceremonial plantings this spring, including a tree planting with United Nations Department of Public Information, Armenia’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Avan administrative district of Yerevan. The event was dedicated to Earth Day and it was organized in the framework of the UN’s International Year of Forests. After a brief lesson on how to plant a tree, government officials, ambassadors and representatives of the international community planted 420 trees and established Park of Friendship in the Avan community.

ATP also collaborated with local and international organizations operating in Armenia. “Our partnership with HSBC Bank Armenia has become a long-standing tradition to create new urban green spaces,” noted Harutyunyan. “This spring, HSBC Bank joined ATP in organizing tree planting events in the center of Yerevan and in the Nor Nork community. HSBC staff and their families joined local residents to plant nearly 300 new trees.”

Within the framework of ATP’s



Students from the Hovnanian School in New Jersey planted trees this spring with their peers from Yerevan School No. 168 as part of ATP’s Building Bridges environmental education program.

Building Bridges environmental education program, students from the Hovnanian School in New Jersey met their peers from Yerevan School No. 168 to plant trees around the school. Before getting to work, the students made friends by introducing themselves, playing name games and learning more about each other. This was followed by a short training by Harutyunyan about how to plant a tree. After the planting, the local students showed the guests around their school and spent some time together.

Tree plantings were organized at several other schools, churches and orphanages around Armenia this spring. Sites that were beautified by ATP include Yerablur Military Cemetery, boarding schools in Yerevan and Artik, a scout camp in Yerevan, the Armenian United Cross NGO in Echmiadzin, a senior center in Lori and the SOS orphanage in Ijevan. ATP also provided fruit trees to families in Berdzor and Tsitsernavank in Artsakh.

Greening Armenian churches has always been a major program area for

ATP. In the past 17 years, ATP has planted trees around hundreds of church yards and surrounding areas.

Armenian PM Unsure Of Political Future

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian has declined to dismiss speculation that the unfolding dialogue between Armenia’s government and leading opposition force could put his continued tenure at risk.

Sargisian was the main target of verbal attacks from representatives of the Armenian National Congress (HAK) during the last rally held by the opposition alliance on June 30. This fact prompted suggestions that the HAK might ease pressure on President Serge Sargisian if the latter sacks his reformist prime minister.

Asked whether he thinks his job may indeed be on the line now, Tigran Sargisian said, “God knows.” He would not comment further.

Sargisian has been dogged by rumors of his impending sacking throughout his three-year tenure. Parliament Speaker Hovik Abrahamian, widely regarded as the 51-year-old premier’s main government rival, fanned those rumors when he questioned the Armenian government’s socioeconomic record in April. Sargisian laughed off the resignation talk at the time.

Sargisian acknowledged that he is challenged not only by opposition leaders but also some government figures and factions. But he insisted that this is a “normal” phenomenon characteristic of democratic countries.

Torch-lighting Ceremony Of 5th Pan-Armenian Games In Gandzasar

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According to Sahakian, such events are proof of the connection between Armenia, Artsakh and the diaspora. “We highlight the role of the Pan-Armenian games from the very viewpoint of continuous strengthening of this trinity. These games are not just competitions, but also another expression of our national solidarity and unity. The victorious spirit must always be strong in every Armenian and accompany us on our unbroken way,” he said.

More than 100 athletes from Artsakh are expected to participate in the games.

Cousteau’s Followers: Armenian Divers Set World Record

By Siranuysh Gevorgyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) — Armenian divers have managed to set a world record in the Northern Hemisphere. They were able to explore the bottom of a lake at Aragats mountain, located 3,207 meters above sea level.

Although the three Armenian divers went only 12 meters deep in Stone Lake, it does not diminish their victory. Member of the Armenian Extreme NGO Chairmanship Board, Armine Harutyunyan, who participated in the organization of the expedition, said at a meeting with media that at that kind of altitude, diving that deep in a lake can be considered to be “extreme” for any diver, as the human body is not accustomed to such high pressures.

(The world record in scuba diving is 127 meters).

According to Armenian divers, before that, in similar conditions, an attempt at diving was made by famous French ocean explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau’s team at

Lake Titicaca in the Southern Hemisphere (South America) in 1959.

The expedition was organized by the Ayas Nautical Research Club and the Armenian Extreme NGO. The divers were international-category instructor Rafael Mkrtchyan, Ayas club chairman, Kilikia Ship captain Karen Balayan and Emergency Situations Ministry special diving group commander Artak Elmasakyan.

The event took place on July 21. During the dive, the temperature of the lake water on the surface was plus-five degrees Celsius, and only plus three on the bottom. The divers stayed underwater for 80 minutes, although they had originally planned to stay there for 40 minutes.

According to Armenian Extreme organization doctor Gevorg Shahsuvaryan, the divers were subjected to a medical examination before and after the dive, adding that their bodies returned to normal within an hour.

Armenian divers highlight the importance of the expedition in the sense that it opens the way for all researches to be made in difficult conditions in the future.



INTERNATIONAL

Medvedev Praises Russian-Armenian Defense Pact

MOSCOW (RFE/RL) — President Dmitry Medvedev has again defended a Russian-Armenian agreement extending Russia's military presence in Armenia, saying that it contributes to peace and stability in the volatile South Caucasus.

The agreement signed during Medvedev's official visit to Yerevan in August 2010 extended Russia's lease on a military base headquartered in Gumri by 24 years, until 2045, and upgraded its security mission.

The deal took the form of amendments to a 1995 Russian-Armenian defense treaty. The Armenian and Russian parliaments ratified it earlier this year.

"The decision to prolong the presence of the Russian military base in Armenia was made because Russia is interested in maintaining peace and stability in the region," Medvedev told an Azerbaijani business magazine in an interview published over the weekend.

"The military base is tasked with ensuring peace and order, maintaining peace and reducing difficulties that we have today," he said.

Medvedev gave similar assurances to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev when he visited Baku last September. He insisted that the Russian-Armenian defense pact poses no security threat to Azerbaijan.

The pact commits Moscow to defending Armenia's entire territory against possible aggression and supplying the



Signing documents on August 20, 2010

Armenian military with modern weaponry.

Armenian officials say this will discourage Azerbaijan from acting on its growing threats to resolve the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict by force. Some of them have gone as far as to claim that the Russian military will openly support its Armenian ally in case of renewed war in Karabagh. Russian officials have not confirmed this, though.

In his interview, Medvedev also touched upon his personal involvement in the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict,

expressing hope that the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan will continue to meet on a regular basis.

"Those have been important discussions during which the parties noted the existence of a number of difficulties in that process," he said of about a dozen Armenian-Azerbaijani summits hosted by him since 2008.

"But in any case, these efforts are producing results and negotiations are continuing," added Medvedev. "In my opinion, the intensity of these contacts should not decrease."

Israel-Turkey Reconciliation Mutually Beneficial: Analysts

By Adam Gonn

JERUSALEM (Xinhua) — The publication of the *United Nations Palmer Report* on the Israeli raid on last year's Gaza-bound flotilla has been delayed a third time, reportedly so that Israel and Turkey may continue reconciliation talks.

Headed by former New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer, the report was originally set to publish its findings on August 20, covering the events of May 31, 2010, when Israeli naval commandos boarded the Turkish ferry Mavi Marmara, the flagship of a six-ship convoy that planned to break Israel's maritime blockade on Gaza. Nine Turkish activists aboard the ship died in confrontation with the commandos.

The deaths lead to a sharp decline in Israeli-Turkish relations, and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has demanded that Israel apologize for the killings. According to a report by the Turkish paper *Hurriyet Daily News* this week, ties may be further downgraded should Israel refuse the demand.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday convened his eight top ministers to discuss the possibility of Israel issuing a formal apology. However, several ministers publicly opposed such a move, among them Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who heads Yisrael Beiteinu — the second largest party in the coalition government.

The opponents to an apology argue that it would mean that Israel is taking responsibility for the deaths, and, instead, prefer saying that Israel "regrets the loss of life."

Meanwhile, Israeli Attorney-General Yehuda Weinstein believes the UN investigation might yet prompt lawsuits against Israeli soldiers who took part in the operation. He recommended that Netanyahu try to reach an understanding with Turkey, even if it meant issuing an apology, according to the Ynet news

site.

Analysts speaking to Xinhua on Monday said that a return to past levels of relations would be good for both sides. However, normalization doesn't solely depend on the political leaders, but also on the will of the two peoples, they averred.

Hugh Pope, director of the Turkey/Cyprus Project with the International Crisis Group, believes that both Israel and Ankara would benefit greatly from reconciliation.

"For Turkey, restoration of relations will do much to bring back the sense of the country as a neutral regional power, able to talk to all sides, which did so much to improve its image until 2008," Pope said. He added that the primary reason for the deterioration of the relations prior to the flotilla incident was "Israel's aggressive actions against Gaza in 2008-2009."

"A secondary effect will be to clear away much of the problems Turkey currently faces with the US Congress, which is very sensitive to the highly critical tone of some Turkish leaders towards Israel," Pope told Xinhua.

He argued that for Israel, restoration of relations would break some of its cur-

rent regional isolation, which he said has increased as the Arab revolts have made governments more responsive to their peoples.

"However, it will not have fully smooth and normal relations with Turkey until Turkish public opinion is satisfied that Palestinians are getting a fair deal," Pope concluded.

Over the years, Israel and Turkey have established good economic relations, and, despite the fact that Israeli vacationers in Turkey have declined over the last couple of years, trade in 2010 grew by 30 percent, according to the Israeli-Turkish Business Council.

In 2010, Turkey climbed from eighth to third place as Israel's largest export market, Ynet recently reported.

Defense equipment has in the past been a significant part of the trade. Following the signing of a cooperation agreement in 1996, Israeli defense firms have won several multimillion-dollar contracts for the Turkish military including the upgrading of fighter jets and tanks. The two countries closed a deal for 10 Israeli Heron drones worth \$180 million in 2010, despite Turkey's pullout from annual joint military exercises with Israel.

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land — Karabagh — from the enemy, we did it."

"If you, boys and girls of your generation, spare no effort, if those older and younger than you act the same way, we will have one of the best countries in the world," he said.

Sargisian stressed at the same time that a country's international standing is often "not conditioned by its territory. A country should be modern, it should be secure and prosperous, and these are conditions which allow any nation to sit next to the respectable, powerful and reputed nations of the world," he said.

In Erdogan's words, Sargisian thereby

told young Armenians to be ready for a future war with Turkey. "What Serge Sargisian did is a provocation, an attempt to instill spite and hatred in his country's youth," charged the Turkish premier.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry condemned Sargisian's remarks in similarly strong terms earlier this week.

Armenia's Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharian rebutted Ankara's attacks, saying that the Turks did not read the Armenian leader's answer in full or are "simply saying what they want to say."

"In any case, this hysteria is not only artificial but should also make many people draw conclusions," Kocharian said in a statement.

International News

Armenian Juniors Win at Math Olympiad

AMSTERDAM (Armenpress) — Armenian juniors returned from the 52nd International Mathematical Olympiad for high school students in Amsterdam, where they won medals and certificates.

Karine Alexanyan, head of the preliminary and secondary education department of the Republic of Armenia Education and Science Ministry, said that Armen Vardanyan received a silver medal, and Mher Mnatsakanyan, Artyom Kosyan and Arshak Minasyan were awarded certificates.

23 Wounded in Church Attack in Northern Iraq

SULAIMANIYAH (*Today's Zaman* and AP) — A car bomb outside a Christian church wounded 23 people on Tuesday morning, police said, as security forces found and disabled vehicles packed with explosives outside two other parishes in northern Iraq.

The bombing and the two averted attacks in the northern city of Kirkuk signal continued violence against Iraqi Christians, nearly 1 million of whom have fled since the war began in 2003.

"The terrorists want to make us flee Iraq, but they will fail," said the Rev. Haithem Akram, a priest of one of the churches that was targeted. "We are staying in our country. The Iraqi Christians are easy targets because they do not have militias to protect them. The terrorists want to terrorize us, but they will fail."

The parish's leader, the Rev. Imad Yalda, was the only person inside at the time of the blast and was wounded.

Sargisian Hits back at 'Anti-Armenian Slur'

BAKU (RFE/RL) — President Serge Sargisian took a swipe at his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev last Thursday after the latter said that "something is missing" in the brains of Armenia's leaders.

Aliyev made the remark at a joint news conference with Turkey's prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, in Baku last Wednesday. He backed Turkish allegations that Sargisian voiced Armenian territorial claims to Turkey last week.

"I am well informed about [Sargisian's] way of thinking. In effect, this demonstrates the aggressive essence of Armenia," Aliyev said. "But to have territorial claims to Turkey? This simply means that something is missing in the heads of these people."

Sargisian hit back by questioning Aliyev's sanity. "Was that a statement by a normal person, let alone, the head of a state?" he said at a joint news conference with Poland's visiting President Bronislaw Komorowski.

NATO to Turkey: Don't Buy Chinese, Russian Missile Systems

ANKARA (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Ankara would have to operate without NATO's intelligence information on incoming ballistic missiles if it chooses to buy Chinese or Russian systems for its national air and missile defense program, officials of the Western alliance have warned Turkey, according to *Hurriyet Daily News*.

Participating in the ongoing competition to win Turkey's national air and missile contract are the US partnership between Raytheon and Lockheed Martin, with their Patriot air defense systems; Russia's Rosoboronexport, China's China Precision Machinery Export-Import Corp. and the Italian-French Eurosam. Turkey is planning to make its selection late this year or early next year.

Many Western experts say that since the Russian and the Chinese systems are not compatible with NATO systems, their selection might provide them with access to classified NATO information and, as a result, may compromise NATO's procedures.

But despite this criticism, Turkey so far has ruled against expelling the Chinese and Russian options, saying there is no need to exclude them from the Turkish competition.



Community News

Diocesan Legate Addresses Reformed Church in America at Its Annual Gathering

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Archbishop Vicken Aykazyian, legate of the Eastern Diocese and director of Ecumenical Relations, addressed the annual meeting of the Reformed Church in America on June 14.

During the gathering, the Reformed Church in America welcomed its newly-installed general secretary, Tom De Vries, and honored its outgoing leader, Wes Granberg-Michaelson. Some 500 people were present for the proceedings.

Aykazyian conveyed the blessings and congratulations of the Eastern Diocese and Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and went on to speak on the mission of the ecumenical movement.

While the modern ecumenical movement was born in the mid-20th century, Aykazyian explained, the Armenian Church has played a significant role in inter-church gatherings and communications throughout its history.

He noted by way of example the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, which resulted in the Nicene Creed, “one of the deepest points of contact between our two churches.”

Aykazyian went on to describe the “spirit of ecumenism” encapsulated in the words of the 12th-century Armenian Catholicos St. Nersess the Graceful: “Unity in essential matters. Diversity in secondary matters. Love over all.”

He expanded on each element by citing examples from the Bible. On the theme of unity, he stressed the importance of cohesiveness among Christians.

Regarding diversity, he spoke about the uniqueness of national churches, such as the Armenian Church, a “church whose mission is framed for a particular people. In the deepest sense, a national church is an expression of humility: it sets a natural limit on the church’s aspiration — and therefore does not promote an appetite to dominate, centralize or cause disorder on a universal scale.”

He continued, “The flip side of this is that a certain diversity and difference among other Christian churches is expected, tolerated and even welcomed.”

As an example, Aykazyian spoke about the work of Armenian Christians in China. Having arrived there in the fifth century, Armenians preached the gospel and established a broad Christian Church, welcoming all to embrace Christ’s message.

On love, Aykazyian discussed the importance of the consciousness of God’s love for his children and the intensity of love for God, the “most precious things we hold in common.”

“By the very nature of that love, we are drawn together into something greater than our individual communities.”

The Reformed Church in America has about 250,000 members in the US and Canada, which originated in 1628 as the North American branch of the Dutch Reformed Church. It is a founding member of several ecumenical groups including the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches and Christian Churches Together.



Pictured at top, from left, Antranig Kasbarian and Ani Aivazian; bottom, from left, Joan Agajanian Quinn, Diana Hekimian and Diane Cabraloff

Tufenkian Foundation and AIWA Plan Event Supporting Women’s Shelter in Armenia

LOS ANGELES — The Tufenkian Foundation and the Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA), Los Angeles Affiliate, have joined together to host a cocktail reception and presentation supporting shelters for abused women in Yerevan, Armenia. This event will be held on Thursday, September 15, 6-9 p.m. at the residence of Ara Tavitian, MD.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Tufenkian Foundation and AIWA sponsored the Zangakatur (Belltower) Women’s Support Center in Yerevan and have worked closely together in developing support and raising awareness of the program. This project was created in 2001 by the Tufenkian Foundation in response to Armenia’s social and economic problems, which left more and more families dislocated, vulnerable or facing looming poverty. During the past 10 years, Zangakatur Social Services NGO has worked with over 900 Armenian families, helping them overcome extreme poverty and return to functional and productive lives.

Presently, and with partnership support from USAID and AIWA, the Tufenkian Foundation has expanded the program to assist victims of domestic violence and is developing a program to create women’s shelters in Armenia — to house, support and protect victims and their children from their attackers.

The purpose of the September 15 event is to raise funds to launch the women’s shelter program in 2011-12. The Tufenkian Foundation has received an offer of matching funds from USAID to further this project. Along with AIWA, the foundation is working closely with other organizations in the Los Angeles area, including the Armenian Bar Association, Armenian Relief Society and Armenian Youth Federation, among others, to generate awareness and increase support for the event by attracting their circles of supporters to donate and attend. The evening’s program will include a summary of the project and its issues, as well as an opportunity for questions and answers. For more information, visit www.TufenkianFoundation.org or <http://www.facebook.com/WomensSupportCenter>.

To get involved or RSVP to the event, contact Zori Marc Eurdekian: zeurdekian@tufenkian.com.

Applications Submitted For New Church Campus in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — The Trust Fund Committee of St. John Garabed Armenian Church announced that it has submitted the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application to create a new church campus on its site. San Diego City staff is currently reviewing the application, and initial comments are expected by the end of July. The Carmel Valley Community Planning Board and its Regional Issues Subcommittee are also conducting a review of the project. It is anticipated that the application process will take approximately two years. The purpose of this ambitious project is to create a new center for the Armenian community in San Diego for its spiritual, social, educational and cultural enrichment.

Harry Krikorian, Trust Committee Entitlement chair, explained, “We expect to build the campus in stages over a period of many years with the church and banquet facilities being our first priority. Our entire community needs to be involved by showing its support during this critical approval period. This can be accomplished in many ways, such as speaking positively to city officials and the leaders of various stakeholders in the Carmel Valley Planning Board, as well as attending key meeting and always putting forth a positive image of the Armenian Church and community.”

The proposed church campus consists of a church sanctuary, state-of-the-art social hall, cultural center and library, youth center, classrooms for Sunday and Armenian School, gymnasium, Armenian heritage park, picnic and meditation space and abundant parking. The centerpiece of the heritage park will be a monument named the “Dr. Same Markarian Plaza,” to honor the trust fund’s major benefactor and his family. It will feature stunning, original representations of Armenian faith, culture and language, including three majestic *khachkars*. One of the *khachkars* will be named for descendants of Musa Dagb for the generous donations from Musa Dagb compatriots.

On October 1, the Trust Fund Committee will host the unforgettable “Bridge to the Future” Gala Dinner and Dance at the Grand Del Mar Hotel. The gala will be the first major fundraiser for the new church project. Headlined by famed attorney Mark Geragos as master of ceremonies, with guest of honor, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, the gala promises to be extraordinary, complete with VIP attendees, popular entertainer Koko Hayitian and his band, silent and live auctions and fine dining. For information about the gala or sponsorship levels, contact Ani Lanuza or e-mail sigs-dtrust@gmail.com.

see SAN DIEGO, page 5

US House Acts to Protect of Christian Heritage in Turkey

WASHINGTON — Last week, the House Foreign Affairs Committee approved the Berman-Cicilline Amendment, which expresses the sentiment of Congress that Turkey should end all forms of religious discrimination and return confiscated church properties, as part of H.R.2583, the State Department-Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

The Berman-Cicilline Amendment was offered by House Foreign Affairs Committee ranking member Howard Berman (D-CA) and David Cicilline (D-RI), both members of the Armenian Caucus. The measure was adopted by a vote of 43-1.

Voting in favor of the amendment were all six Florida representatives who serve on the committee, namely, Chairwoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Representatives Connie Mack (R-FL), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), David Rivera (R-FL), Ted Deutch (D-FL) and Frederica Wilson (D-FL). The bipartisan amendment is modeled after H. Res. 306, introduced by Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) and Berman (D-CA). Earlier it was reported that Florida Representatives Bilirakis and Ros-

Lehtinen were the original cosponsors of H. Res. 306. However, in a stunning retreat, chairwoman Ros-Lehtinen withdrew her co-sponsorship on July 13, a week before the Committee vote. Sources close to the committee indicated intensive lobbying efforts on the part of the Turkish Embassy in Washington, DC.

“The South Florida Armenian-American community thanks Chairwoman Ros-Lehtinen for her vote in support of the Berman-Cicilline Amendment,” stated 18th Congressional district resident Raffy Yaghdjian. “At the same time, our community remains concerned when our elected officials flip-flop on human rights and freedom of religion issues,” Yaghdjian told FLArmenians.

Bilirakis is the only member of the Florida delegation that is currently a cosponsor to H. Res. 304 or H. Res. 306, the Armenian Genocide resolution and the churches bill, respectively. Recently, Bilirakis delivered remarks on stopping religious persecution at a conference sponsored by the International Coalition for Religious Freedom, titled “Stop

Religious Persecution Now.”

Armenian-American and Greek-American organizations supported passage of the Berman-Cicilline Amendment. In a letter sent to all Committee members prior to the vote, the Armenian Assembly of America, along with the Eastern and Western Diocese of the Armenian Church underscored the plight facing the Christian community in Turkey and the urgent need for Congress to act.

“Florida Armenians were pleased to see this issue raised and we thank Chairwoman Ros-Lehtinen, Congressman Deutch and all of our Florida representatives for supporting this important measure,” stated Very Rev. Nareg Berberian, pastor of St. David Armenian Church (Eastern Diocese) in Boca Raton, Fla. “We live in an era where nations are in search of expressing their unique and distinctive social, cultural and spiritual freedom. In every nation, religious minorities, particularly Christians in Turkey who have shaped its history and culture, must be granted the right to worship and pray in their own churches,” concluded Berberian.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Banquet Honors Fr. Arshag Khatchadourian of LA's St. James Church

LOS ANGELES – The Parish Council of St. James Armenian Apostolic Church will honor Fr. Arshag Khatchadourian and celebrate his 50 years of ordination and 33 years of pastoral service on August 21. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese, will celebrate the Divine Liturgy that morning and officiate at the gala banquet following at 1 p.m. in the John Gogian Hall.

George Mardikian, chair of the Banquet Committee, states that a capacity crowd is anticipated. "This is a well deserved tribute to our parish priest," stated Mardikian, "and we are

the program to celebrate and honor Khatchadourian.

A highlight of the banquet will be the first performance of a special musical program, prepared and arranged by Khatchadourian. He has organized a quartet, which will be joined by four singers and one flautist. They will perform a musical rendition of *Matins or Nocturnal of the Armenian Church* in four parts with four movements; the St. James Church Choir will join on the third and fourth movements, with Prof. Levon Aprahamian as conductor.

Lily Balian, chair of the Parish Council, reports that a commemorative booklet is being prepared. Along with serving his parishioners, Khatchadourian has accomplished and assumed many duties at St. James Armenian Church. Within the past 33 years he has conducted more than 3,000 baptisms, weddings, funerals, *hokejashes* and cemetery blessings. This does not include attending countless meetings with church affiliated organizations.

In Khatchadourian's own words: "The God-given fulfillment of a priest is the love shown to those who are sick, needed help, and above all, instill in them faith in God and His Holy Church, showing compassion and understanding, inviting the faithful to approach the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion every Sunday to our wonderful community."

In 1992, Khatchadourian established a website for St. James, <http://www.armenianchurchla.com>; email: stjameacla@earthlink.net, which gave impetus to record available sacramental archives starting from 1942. Beside the Oshagan monthly publication, Khatchadourian has been writing bilingual articles for publication in Armenian newspapers. One of his favorite projects for the past eight years has been to create the colorful Sunday Bulletins containing information and activities regarding the Armenian church calendar, saints and major feast days

Khatchadourian has served on the Diocesan Council, serving two years as secretary and participated in joint Eastern and Western Diocese Council meetings; he has attended the Diocesan Summer Camp, organized the Western Diocese Choir Association and assisted in establishing parishes, i.e., Santa Barbara. Within the past year, he has visited different parishes numerous times, including Vancouver, British Columbia; Albuquerque, NM; San Diego, Calif. and Washington to celebrate Divine Liturgy and conduct Bible Studies.

He presently serves on the Board of the SCEC. Through the SCEC he became an active member of the Interfaith Peace Sunday, Los Angeles Earthquake and Disaster Board, The

Catholic Charities, The Armenian Refugee Resettlement and LA Armenian at the Dodgers Stadium, singing for the Roman Catholic pontiff, John Paul II during his visit to Los Angeles on September 16, 1987. During the pontifical visit of the late Catholicos of All Armenians Vazken I, to California, on November 10, 1987, Khatchadourian was granted another pectoral cross from Bishop Anthony, Greek Primate, by the hand of Vazken I. The presentation was made at the ecumenical gathering at St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church in recognition of Khatchadourian's planning of the first Greek and Armenian church vesper service.

Khatchadourian worked closely with Kenneth Hahn, former member of the city's Board of Supervisors, and continued his relationship with present Board of Supervisors member Michael Antonovich, attending and participating in events at the Baldwin Heights

State Park, the neighboring fire station opening across from St. James Church, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drew Hospital, among others.

Khatchadourian received pontifical blessings from Karekin II, catholicos of All Armenians, on September 10, 2003, elevating him to the rank of archpriest, upon the request of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church.

Khatchadourian will continue to devote his service in the Western Diocese. Derderian has presently appointed Khatchadourian as a visiting priest every other week to the Armenian Church of Las Vegas. Khatchadourian will also serve as the visiting priest to Idaho, Utah, Alaska and Hawaii.

For information regarding sponsorships and/or banquet reservations, call the church office, George Mardikian, Lily Balian or Bob Melcon.



Fr. Arshag Khatchadourian

proud to have the opportunity to express our gratitude for his spiritual guidance and leadership throughout the years to our parishioners and the Armenian faithful in the community."

Special guests attending the event will include: George Deukmejian, former governor of California; Michael Antonovich, member, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors; Very Rev. Alexei Smith, president of Southern California Ecumenical Council (SCEC) and the representative of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese; Abba Tsigidengel Degefaw, parish priest, St. Mary's Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church; Rev. Albert Cohen, executive director of SCEC; Rev. Virgil Jones, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church; Rev. Elizabeth Steela, interim pastor, Knox Presbyterian Church; Nazar Ashjian, chairman, Board of Trustees, Ararat Home of Los Angeles and Armen Hampar, chair of the Diocese Council of the Western Diocese. Many members of the clergy in the Western Diocese will also be attending to

Southern California Restaurant Writers Choose Ara Kalfayan Entrepreneur of the Year

LOS ANGELES – Ara Kalfayan, owner of the Phoenicia Restaurant in Glendale, was recognized by the Southern California Restaurant Writers Association as owner/entrepreneur of the year for 2011 on March 20, at the annual award banquet where he received his certificate and medal for the "Distinction" Award.

Phoenicia Restaurant is a restaurant celebrating one of the world's most beautiful cultures with refined cuisine, spirited music and sensual dance. Situated between the East and the West, Lebanon is and always has been a culinary and cultural crossroads and the cuisine of modern day Phoenicians is the epitome of the Mediterranean diet; fresh, diverse, flavorful, simple and delicious.

Phoenicia is the latest venture of Kalfayan who is known for his expertise in a variety of international cuisines and fine wines. Phoenicia's spacious dining room is elegantly appointed. There's a stage at one side for the weekend entertainment which includes belly dancing. The main attraction, however, is the food that is offered in quantity and amazing assortment. The menu provides a variety of choices for a true Lebanese feast.

Phoenicia Restaurant is located on 343 N. Central Ave. (corner of Lexington), Glendale.

Southern California Restaurant Writers, Inc., was formed in 1975 to improve the quality of the restaurant industry in this region. To



Ara Kalfayan

further this objective, the organization bestows awards upon restaurants and individuals whose standards of quality and service deserve special recognition. These awards are presented at an annual ceremony and published for the general public. The members of the Southern California Restaurant Writers meet monthly over dinner to share information about new restaurants and industry activities. One member is then appointed to write a brief review of the evening.

The annual awards winners were chosen from among restaurants stretching from Santa Barbara to the Mexican border, that were evaluated by members during the year. All were judged on food, service, ambiance and appropriate beverages, according to the organization's standardized score sheets, which have a scoring range of 1 to 100 points.

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Applications Submitted for New Church in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, from page 4

In 2008, the Trust Fund Committee of St. John Garabed Armenian Church of San Diego purchased almost 14 acres of premium property near Del Mar, Calif. In less than one year, a total of \$360,000 has been donated to the fundraising campaign, Bridge to the Future. The objective of the first phase is to raise \$2 million to secure permit approval and finalize land acquisition. The new property is located at 13860 El Camino Real, San Diego. It is east of the 5 freeway on El Camino Real between Del Mar Heights Road and Via de la Valle.

For more than 30 years, St. John Garabed Armenian Church has been at the heart of Armenian community life in San Diego. Under the leadership of Rev. Dave A.K. Tatoulisan, St. John Garabed is a vibrant parish.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Government of Armenia Honors Archbishop Barsamian

YEREVAN — Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), was recognized earlier this month by the government of the Republic

noted Barsamian's "work to strengthen state and church relations" and "his contributions to the education of Armenian youth."

Under the leadership of Barsamian, the

In addition, the Fund for Armenian Relief — which was established by Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Kevork Hovnanian and Dr. Edgar Housepian in the aftermath of the 1988 earthquake in Spitak and Gumri — has grown under Barsamian's guidance to become the homeland's leading humanitarian organization, offering programs in education, health care, child

protection and economic development.

Barsamian also has been a great supporter of Holy Echmiadzin, and with the blessings of the Mother See, has represented the Armenian Church on various ecumenical and interreligious boards worldwide, helping to raise the profile of the Armenian Church on the national and international levels.



Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian presented Archbishop Khajag Barsamian with an award earlier this month.

of Armenia on the occasion of his 40th anniversary of ordination into the holy priesthood and his 60th birthday.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian personally presented the award and proclamation to Barsamian on July 13, during the Primate's visit to Armenia.

Sargsian expressed his gratitude to Barsamian for his efforts to help the Armenian people. The prime minister's proclamation

Eastern Diocese and its parishes have extended spiritual and material outreach to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. In the past two decades, the Diocese has spearheaded a number of service and exchange programs, pilgrimages, publications and other initiatives to build connections between the Armenians in the United States and their brothers and sisters in the homeland.

Holy Ascension Sponsors Golf Tournament

TRUMBULL, Conn. — The Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension announces that its Annual Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, August 22, at the Harry B. Brownson Country Club in Huntington. Armenians from the tristate region are invited to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the church's foundation.

All levels of golfers, from low handicap to novice golfer, are welcome to participate in a low-key and fun day of fellowship. This year's

event features contests, food and good golf.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. with lunch following. The shotgun start is scheduled for noon. A reception will precede a five-course dinner at the Awards Banquet. An all inclusive tournament fee of \$160 includes: lunch, a round of golf with cart, reception and banquet. There will be numerous prizes, including a chance to win a brand new Audi A4 sedan.

To register, contact Mardy Azarian or e-mail mazarian1@optonline.net.

OBITUARY

Robert H. 'Bob' Janigian Sr.

CRANSTON, R.I. — Robert H. "Bob" Janigian Sr., 76, of Whitewood Drive, died on Saturday, July 2, at home.

He was the husband for 53 years of Louise (Boloyan) Janigian.

Born in Providence, he was the son of the late Movses and Azniv (Nahigian) Janigian.



Robert H. "Bob" Janigian Sr.

After graduating Central High School, Janigian entered Bryant University and received a bachelor's degree in business administration. He served in Korea with the US Army for two years, and later accepted a position with Equifax Services, an international business information services firm

where he held a management position for 35 years until retiring in 1991.

He was an active member at Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church where he served on the Parish Council for 20 years and served as a Diocesan delegate for eight years.

He was a member of the Knights of Vartan and was named Knight of the Year in 2005;

chairman of the Husenig Foundation, Inc., a charitable organization founded by his father and several relatives more than 50 years ago. He assisted many young people from Armenian immigrant families in preparing applications for college and obtaining scholarships.

Family was foremost in Janigian's life, as activity with his children and grandchildren brought him immense enjoyment. Another of his great loves was traveling around the world with his wife.

In addition to his wife, he leaves his children, Dr. Robert H. Janigian Jr. and his wife, Marianne, and Marc S. Janigian and his wife, Krista, all of Cranston; grandchildren Christopher, Nicholas, Matthew, Michael, Greta, Lily and Leo; and sister Dorothy Masoian and her husband, Steve, of Cranston.

The funeral service took place on Thursday, August 4, at Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, Providence. Interment with military honors followed in Swan Point Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI 02908 or The Husenig Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 72626, Elmwood Station, Providence, RI 02907. Online condolences may be left at www.nardolillo.com.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Human Rights Review Praises Zoryan's Genocide & Human Rights University Program as Model for Educating New Generations

TORONTO – “Educating a New Generation: The Model of the ‘Genocide & Human Rights University Program,’” an article by Dr. Joyce Apsel, will be featured in the forthcoming issue of the *Human Rights Review*, describing and analyzing this innovative, higher-education course. The journal is known for providing a forum where human-rights issues and their underlying theoretical and philosophical foundations can be developed and debated. It publishes articles and essays from all academic areas and addresses the many human rights issues that concern, or ought to concern, the world today.

Apsel is a historian and attorney. She is also the founder and director of the non-profit Rights Works International, a former president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars, the current president of the Institute for the Study of Genocide and a faculty member of the Genocide and Human Rights University Program (GHRUP) for the past nine years. Her 2010 article, “Darfur: Historic Processes and Regional Dynamics,” received the Outstanding Article Award from the Peace, War and Conflict section of the American Sociological Association.

Apsel draws on her experience as a master teacher in the Liberal Studies Program at New York University, where she received the 2008-2009 NYU Distinguished Teaching Award, to analyze the unique design of the GHRUP, a course conceptualized and organized by the

International Institute for Genocide & Human Rights Studies (IIGHRS) (A Division of the Zoryan Institute), as a model for educating a new generation of scholars in genocide and human rights studies. She supplemented her personal experience with the program by conducting a formal, written survey of all students who have attended the program.



Dr. Joyce Apsel

As the GHRUP prepares to launch its 10th year under the directorship of Prof. Roger W. Smith, Apsel comments, “Ten years is a long time and quite an accomplishment for the Zoryan Institute...It actually is quite remarkable to see the development and the added layers and richness of the course as it has evolved over the past decade.”

Commenting on the significance of the article, Prof. Herbert Hirsch, professor of political science at Virginia Commonwealth University, a specialist on genocide prevention, an editor of *Genocide Studies & Prevention* and one of the faculty members of the GHRUP stated, “It is so rewarding to see that the GHRUP continues to gain recognition as it develops a critical network of students and scholars worldwide who are informed, aware and active when it comes to genocide research, publication, education, and prevention. This growing network fostered by the GHRUP creates a ripple effect of mobilized disciples, worldwide, all working towards a common goal –

genocide prevention.”

As Apsel explains, it all started with the Zoryan Board of Directors’ vision to implement a comparative educational program for students in higher education. The goal was to study the Armenian Genocide, the prototype of modern genocides, in a comparative and interdisciplinary analysis with other cases of genocide, in keeping with the spirit of Rafael Lemkin. This approach stresses the current relevance of the study of the Armenian Genocide as a point of reference.

A distinctive feature of the GHRUP which enhances the profile and quality of the course is that each summer some 10 scholars and specialists from different disciplines and areas of concentration are invited from around the world to Canada to teach and share their research with students, scholars and activists in a seminar setting.

Now in its 10th year, with more than 250 graduates from at least 20 different countries, the GHRUP strives to achieve multiple goals: to encourage the development of a new generation of young scholars to take up the study of genocide professionally at an advanced level; to illuminate the causes of genocide, the way it takes place and its devastating impact; to bring a measure of healing and relief to various communities through the sharing of great trauma of many peoples; to study and teach in an interdisciplinary manner and to use this comparative approach to identify the characteristics of genocide so that it becomes predictable and in turn hopefully preventable.

Yair, noted genocide scholar and professor in the Department of Sociology, Political Science and Communication at the Open University of

Israel, remarked, “As an educator, a genocide scholar, a Zoryan board member and someone who has taught at the GHRUP, I am very pleased to see this program touch the lives of so many young people and help set them on a path on which they may contribute to helping prevent genocide. This is the responsibility of all of us as human beings, and my colleagues at the Zoryan Institute are to be congratulated for their contribution to this important mission.”

As Apsel states, the GHRUP is a training ground for a new generation of students and scholars about the comparative study of the Armenian and other genocides and a range of human rights issues. She notes, however, that even after a decade of running the program, the challenges are ongoing, from funding, to organization, to how the GHRUP will continue innovative and critical educational approaches. The program is expensive to run and tuition covers only a fraction of the actual cost.

The Zoryan Institute is the parent organization of the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, which runs an annual, accredited university program on the subject and is co-publisher of *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal*, in partnership with the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the University of Toronto Press. It is the first non-profit, international center devoted to the research and documentation of contemporary issues with a focus on genocide, diaspora and Armenia.

For more information, contact the Zoryan Institute at 55 Duncan Mill Road, Suite 310 Toronto, ON, Canada M3B 3H9, zoryan@zoryaninstitute.org or www.zoryaninstitute.org.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AGBU Young Professionals of Los Angeles Award Scholarships To Mentees of the Generation Next Mentorship Program

By Aleen L. Khanjian

SHERMAN OAKS — On June 26, the AGBU Young Professionals of Los Angeles (YPLA) continued their philanthropic efforts and maintained their commitment to fostering the next generation of Armenian-American leaders, by awarding scholarships to eight worthy participants of the AGBU Generation Next Mentorship Program (GenNext). These scholarship awards were based on academic excellence, extracurricular involvement, essays, recommendation letters and financial need. YPLA presented the awards at the Mentorship Program's ninth annual GenNext Showcase. The showcase highlighted the various talents of mentors, as well as mentees. Two hundred attendees enjoyed presentations by the mentees, involving culinary arts, jewelry making and the visual and performing arts.

Former YPLA Chair Sevana Melikian introduced the individual recipients, stating in her speech, "This is the first year YPLA awarded scholarships to youth in our community. We were overwhelmed with the quality of applicants and were so proud of what they had achieved at such a young age. We're looking forward to hearing about their future successes throughout their college years and beyond."

YPLA raised funds for these scholarships at a social networking event on June 23, at Coda Bar & Lounge in Sherman Oaks.

YPLA Chair Yeghig Keshishian said, "The advancement of the Armenian Diaspora starts with a proper education. All of us on the AGBU YPLA Steering Committee are committed in our resolve to advance the interests of our diaspora. The scholarships we have allocated this year for GenNext mentees is just one example of how AGBU has continuously promoted the social advancement and general welfare of its community."



Generation Next Mentorship Program scholarship recipients during the June 26 event with members of AGBU's Young Professionals of Los Angeles and administrators of GenNext

AGBU Interns Visit Diocese, Meet with Primate

NEW YORK — Thirty-two AGBU interns, hailing from all over the world, visited the headquarters of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) and dined with Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian on Wednesday, July 27.

The evening continued a welcome annual tradition for AGBU interns to acquaint themselves with the Primate and the Diocesan complex.

Following a tour of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, led by the Very Rev. Simeon

Barsamian and have dinner together in a relaxed atmosphere.

Addressing the group, Barsamian quoted Vahan Tekeyan's poem "The Armenian Church" to affirm that the mother church is "the birthplace of the Armenian soul."

"The Armenian Church is home for all of us, because it is the birthplace of our soul and spirituality," said the Primate. "You are at your home here at the Diocese."

Barsamian spoke about the founders of St.

invited the group to ask him questions and engaged them in a candid dialogue about the Armenian Church, its history and people.

The interns, who are in their seventh week of the eight-week Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) program, come from Armenian communities around the world, including Russia, France, Lebanon, Syria, Argentina and

Brazil, as well as from parts of the United States.

They have been placed in internships in diverse fields, including finance, law, public relations, marketing and medicine. Directing the program for the fourth year is Michael Hovsepian, with Mariana Mekbekian and Stephen Terjimanian serving as the activities coordinators.



AGBU interns with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian on the steps of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral

Odabashian, diocesan vicar, the AGBU group gathered in the "tahlji" (or formal reception room) of the Diocesan Center, to meet with

Vartan Cathedral, themselves survivors of the Armenian Genocide, who turned their vision of building an Armenian cathedral in New York into a reality. "The founders of this cathedral wanted future generations to remain Armenian Christians," the Primate said. "And they were successful in their vision."

He called on the interns to continue the mission of these visionaries and to support the church.

Barsamian also spoke about a recent pilgrimage he led to Jerusalem, with the participation of 35 young leaders from parishes across the Eastern Diocese.

"It was a very inspiring pilgrimage for me as well as for the participants," Barsamian said. "The youth saw the strong Armenian presence in the Holy Land."

The Primate asked each intern to introduce him or herself and to tell where they are interning for the summer. He



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presented interns with copies of the Divine Liturgy pew book and wooden crosses from Bethlehem.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Zartonk Legacy Celebrated, Vartivarian Award Given Out

BEIRUT – Members of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) and the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA), along with friends of the ADL Beirut newspaper *Zartonk*, gathered on June 16 in the Kersam Aharonian Hall of the Tekeyan Center in Beirut to celebrate *Zartonk's* legacy.

ADL member Baydzig Kalaydjian, the editor-in-chief of *Zartonk*, told the audience, which included member of the Lebanese Cabinet Jean Oghasapian, the TCA Founders' Body, the ADL Regional Executive, First Secretary Vartan Atamian of the Embassy of the

Republic of Armenia in Lebanon, and Archbishop Nareg Alemejian, about the announcement on December 1, 1995 of the establishment of the Haigazoun and Anahid Vartivarian *Zartonk* Press Annual Prize. It was created by Hagop and Arpi Vartivarian in memory of the former's parents. Kalaydjian pointed out that *Zartonk* was proud of the success of this award and owed much as a newspaper to the TCA Founders' Body and its administration.



Vartan Atamian

Hovig Eordekian won the award for 2010 thanks to his activities beginning in the 1980s in the Lebanese-Armenian and diasporan Armenian press. Young TCA intellectual Dr. Antranig Dakessian presented Eordekian's work as a newspaper reporter, philologist, editor and public figure. He noted that in 1980 Eordekian began working as an assistant editor at *Zartonk* and from 1985 to 1987, he served as editor of the ADL's organ in South America, the weekly *Sardarabad*, and years later participated in the work of Yerevan's *Azg* daily newspaper.

ADL members Eordekian, Hagop Vartivarian and Hagop Kassardjian, chairman of the TCA Founders' Body and former Lebanese parliamentary deputy, took to the stage next for the actual presentation of the award, which was followed by Eordekian's comments. The latter said emotionally that memories of more than



Archbishop Nareg Alemejian

three decades were awakened within him. He said, "Our great ones again are walking about in front of my eyes. Not only did they build this building, but they provided leadership throughout the diaspora to people of the same ideology and the sympathetic masses. While still young, we became followers of their words, actions and national and political itinerary."



From left, Hagop Kassardjian, Hagop Vartivarian and Hovig Eordekian



Baydzig Kalaydjian

Eordekian said that *Zartonk* served as a unique school for him, with Kersam Aharonian as a teacher. Prof. Parounag Tovmassian sent him to Armenia to learn Armenology 30 years ago. Several years afterwards, the lawyer Hracheay Setragian informed Eordekian that he had decided to send him to Argentina to edit *Sardarabad*. These three great men played decisive roles in Eordekian's life. His schoolteachers from Aleppo's Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Lazar Najarian-Caloust Gulbenkian School, Garabed Jouharian and Haig Barigian, had earlier played an important role in awakening his interest in Armenian literature and the press, while he also learned much from the AGBU and its Armenian Youth Association in Aleppo and Beirut, as well as from the ADL Mgrdich Portoukalian Chapter.

Eordekian pointed out that Vartivarian served as the sponsor of the publication of his Armenian-language books *Hamarod badmutiun HRAG-i* (A Concise History of the ADL), and *RAG-i mamuli khmpakimere* (Editors of the ADL Press). Eordekian concluded



From left, Aram Sepejian, Zaven Messrlan, Archbishop Nareg Alemejian, Hagop Vartivarian, Baydzig Kalaydjian and Prof. Hrair Hovivian

with his profound thanks to Vartivarian, the award's patron, the award committee, the TCA Founders' Body, *Zartonk's* editorial body, Lebanon's ADL Regional Executive, and all those who organized the event that night.

Vartivarian took the stage to express his great respect and love for *Zartonk*, and officially expressed the congratulations of the TCA of the US and Canada for ADL member Hagop Kassardjian's election as chairman of the TCA Founders' Body, as well as to the other newly elected members. Vartivarian declared that *Zartonk's* website allowed it to exert its influence outside of Lebanon, in the rest of the diaspora and in Armenia, and that he had personally witnessed how great numbers of clerical and political leaders followed its news. In addition to disseminating news about the ADL, it also reported on the activities of the AGBU and its Armenian Youth Association throughout the world. Vartivarian concluded that *Zartonk*, as the ADL's sole daily newspaper, must be cherished, along with its editor, Kalaydjian, and its other staff members. Kalaydjian's dedicated work keeps the newspaper at the highest quality.

Atamian spoke next, quoting Armenag Yegarian on the important role of the Armenian press in Armenian national demands. He wished continual success to *Zartonk* and to its award winners, greatly praising the newspaper's patriotic and traditional direction.

Archbishop Nareg Alemejian concluded the evening with his appreciation of the sacrifices made for *Zartonk* in the past, and added his praise of Eordekian and Vartivarian, whose work he got to know in Yerevan and New Jersey. He also added the name of his own mother's uncle, Setrag Gebenlian, who served the Armenian press in Döryol, Alexandretta, Cyprus, Syria and Lebanon. After a final prayer, a reception was offered to those present.



Hovig Eordekian



YEREVAN 1991 – 2011

20th ANNIVERSARY of decision made by TEKEYAN TRUST LONDON to Establish TEKEYAN CENTRE in ARMENIA

Dear TCA Members, Devotees & Friends

We are pleased to inform you that in 2011 Tekeyan Centre celebrates the 20th anniversary of the decision made by Tekeyan Trust London to establish a hospitable and beloved place in the Motherland that would also become the symbol of unity of our people, the Motherland and the Armenians that are spread all over the world.

Within two decades Tekeyan Centre faced many difficulties but it has also been fortunate to have many devoted supporters from US, Canada and the world who contributed greatly to the success and prosperity of Tekeyan Centre.

Thus, on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, Tekeyan Centre organizes a great event to bring together its appreciative and meritorious supporters from all over the world.

We would like to invite you to join us in celebrating the milestone anniversary of Tekeyan Centre and in honouring its devotees.

The event will take place at Tekeyan Centre on September 10, 2011.
(50 Khanjian Street, Yerevan, Armenia)

Among the people invited to the event are prominent government officials, TCA Central Board members, benefactors, local representatives of various establishments, Tekeyan Schools and many others.

PROGRAM

September 10, 2011

18:00 – 20:00 Anniversary celebration & awarding key people contributed to the establishment of Tekeyan Centre (Armenia), followed by a concert

September 11, 2011

19:00 – 22:00 Banquet at Tekeyan Centre (Armenia)

(Translated from Armenian, this article was previously published in *Zartonk* daily.)



New York METRO

Young Church Leaders Strengthen Faith in the Holy Land

By Karine Abalyan

JERUSALEM and NEW YORK — Hours before daybreak, a group of young people made their way through the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem. In the hushed stillness of the cool summer night — a rare moment of quietude in an otherwise bustling city — they followed narrow cobblestone alleys, passed under ancient arches and arrived before a grand structure that lies at the very heart of the Christian narrative.

It was here at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre — the site of Christ's crucifixion,

singing *Der Voghormya* — it's just complete humility."

Titled "Leadership in the Light of Our Lord," the 10-day journey gave college students and recent graduates from parishes across the Eastern Diocese a unique opportunity to experience the great sites of biblical history, learn about the Armenian presence in the Holy Land and explore ways to strengthen their leadership roles at the parish and Diocesan levels.

Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian led the trip, which was made possible through a donation by Aso Tavitian, who joined the group for part of the program. Also accompanying the pilgrims were the Rev.



Pilgrims pose for a group photo outside the Armenian monastery in Bethlehem.

burial and glorious resurrection — that these pilgrims, like millions of worshippers before them, encountered the power of a sacrifice that changed the course of history.

"We as Christians tend to fall away from Christ," said Maral Demirjian, one of 34 young adults taking part in a Diocesan pilgrimage to the Holy Land from June 1 to 10. "And yet, when you're standing there at his tomb,

Mardiros Chevia, dean of New York's St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral; Oscar Tatossian, chair of the Diocesan Council and Dr. Nicole Vartanian, an educator and senior administrator at Hunter College.

"As we learn more about our Lord, we will also learn more about ourselves," Barsamian told the youth leaders. "We will recognize the great potential that lives within each of us — which Christ wants to draw out of our hearts."

"This pilgrimage," he went on, "is also an opportunity to better understand our identity as Armenian Christians. Here in this place where Armenians have lived and worshipped for centuries, where our church still serves to protect and preserve the holy sites of Christ's life, here we can recognize the true value and the deep meaning of our distinctive Christian identity."

The Armenian influence was palpable from the very beginning of the trip, as the group visited the Church of the Tomb of the Blessed Virgin to partake in their first Divine Liturgy. Barsamian celebrated *badarak*, with the participation of young sub-deacons and choir members.

"I'd never directed the choir before, but I was ready to take on the challenge," said Ari Terjanian of St. Stepanos Church of Elberon, NJ. "I won't forget this experience."

The church, where Armenians hold services daily, marks the site where Mary was buried by the apostles before her assumption into heaven. It is adjacent to the Armenian-held section of the Garden of Gethsemane — one of the original plots remaining of the garden where Christ spent the final night before his arrest.

"It's truly amazing how such a small country as Armenia commands so much respect and power in the Holy Land," said Arthur Sabounjian of the Holy Translators Church of Framingham, Mass.

Throughout their time in the Holy Land, the group had a number of occasions to wor-



The Rev. Mardiros Chevia distributes Holy Communion during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.

ship, study and pray together.

"Every day we had Bible studies that related to the region we were visiting and made this experience spiritual and meaningful," said Karen Dardarian of St. John Church of Southfield, Mich. "We reflected on the verses and how they related to our lives in today's world."

Among the sites the group visited were the Mount of Olives, Mount of Ascension, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Mount Tabor, Jericho, Qumran and the Dead Sea.

In Jerusalem they also traced the footsteps of Christ through the Way of the Cross — the path he walked carrying the cross to his crucifixion. Arriving at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Chevia celebrated the Divine Liturgy.

They also toured the Armenian sections of the church, including the cave where St. Helena is said to have found the True Cross of Christ, some 300 hundred years after the crucifixion, and the Chapel of St. Gregory the Illuminator, where Armenia's patron saint spent several years in prayer and meditation.

"We got to see that the Armenian identity has a very strong presence in this place that is so important to people all over the world," said Christine Santourian of St. John Church of Southfield, Mich.

Further, the group experienced the other religions alive in Jerusalem by visiting the Jewish and Muslim quarters of the city.

In Bethlehem, the pilgrims attended a vespers service in the Armenian chapel of the Church of the Nativity of Christ and descended into the Holy Grotto, where a silver star marks the place where Christ was born.

"To say that I've been there, to say that I've bowed down and kissed the star...is one of those experiences I will take back and never forget for the rest of my life," said Allison Mamishian of the Church of Our Saviour of Worcester, Mass.

At the neighboring Armenian Monastery, the young people climbed to the building's famous bell tower to take in panoramic views of the city.

New Joy, New Energy

But perhaps what left the strongest imprint of the centuries-old Armenian perseverance in a region long beset by political turmoil was the Cathedral of Sts. James and the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem in the city's Armenian Quarter.

Led by the Very Rev. Samuel Aghoyan, the group toured the Patriarchate's 13th-century Church of the Holy Archangels, Sts. Tarkmanchants School and the Calouste Gulbenkian Library, which holds close to 100,000 volumes.

In the peaceful interior of Sts. James Cathedral — where the only illumination comes from candles and lanterns hanging overhead — the pilgrims joined the seminarians in a moving vespers service.

The cathedral is named for two of Christ's disciples — St. James, the son of Zebedee, and the brother of St. John the Evangelist, and St. James, the brother of the Lord and the first bishop of Jerusalem. Its walls are lined with distinctive hand-painted tiles and large icons, and at the center stands a rich, wooden altar decorated with gilded ornamental work.

Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem and past Primate of the Eastern Diocese, welcomed the young people.

"You are adding a new joy by visiting the Holy Land and praying in the holy places," Manoogian told the pilgrims. "I am happy that your generation is active, and I hope you are enjoying your involvement in the church in the name of Jesus Christ."

Karen Dardarian and Alex Ouzounian, both members of the ACYOA Central Council, presented Manoogian with a check for \$2,000 as part of the organization's annual contribution to the Patriarchate.

The young leaders also met their counterparts in Jerusalem, and spent several evenings together in fellowship. "It was really inspiring to see that they're so well connected with each other," said Maral Arslan of Holy Cross Church of Union City, NJ. "They were so open to us and treated us like we were at home."

Tatossian noted that the exchange was a "first step at building bridges between young Armenians in the Holy Land and in our Diocese." He added, "I hope these connections will continue to grow and bring new energy to both Armenian communities."

A similar theme was struck by Dr. Anoush Nakashian, an author and lecturer, who spoke to the pilgrims on the importance of preserving the Armenian identity in the face of globalization. "We have to be educated about the past so that we know who we are today," she reminded them.

At the conclusion of the trip, participants brainstormed ways they could raise awareness about Jerusalem in their parishes and apply the leadership lessons they learned during the weeklong program.

"For this group to come to the Holy Land, and to see the sites that they had learned about in their Sunday School classrooms and at St. Nersess Seminary, has made these lessons come to life," Vartanian said. "Having experienced these sites first-hand, they have so much they can bring back to their parishes."

Tavitian shared his own professional journey and emphasized how he had been helped by the Armenian community during his formative years as a student in Lebanon. He went on to co-found the successful technology company, Syncsort, and today supports a number of philanthropic causes including a program to train young diplomats from Armenia at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

The participants expressed their gratitude to Tavitian for underwriting the cost of the pilgrimage.

Women's Guild Central Council to Host Fall Symposium

NEW YORK — The Women's Guild Central Council (WGCC) will host a fall symposium, titled "God's Call, Your Response: Lay Leadership Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," which will meet at the Diocesan Center here, on the week-end of October 28-30.

Building on this year's Diocesan exploration of lay ministry, under the theme "Ministry of the Faithful," the WGCC symposium will look at the ways women are advancing the Armenian Church's mission today and brainstorm new trails to be blazed in the 21st century.

Aside from a roster of speakers discussing lay ministry, the program will include a tour of the United Nations and the Armenian Mission to the UN. Participants will have the opportunity to meet with Garen Nazarian, Armenia's ambassador to the UN.

The weekend will conclude with worship at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in Manhattan.

For more information, contact Rita Oscherician at margherita@optonline.net.



Arts & Living

Celebrating Jerusalem, in Stunning 3D

By Arthur Hagopian

JERUSALEM – Jerusalem of gold, Jerusalem of light. The very name scorches the lips, “like the kiss of a seraph,” its stones golden in the sun, the “flower of the cities of the world.”

Ofra Haza sang of it as a solitary city with the scent of pines, and Feyrouz thrilled millions with her lament, but for all of us, Jerusalem has always, and will always be, the center of the world.

It has been said of this extraordinary city that of the 10 portions of beauty God gave the world, He reserved nine for Jerusalem. And of the 10 portions of sorrow He bestowed upon this planet, Jerusalem’s gift again numbered nine.

Throughout the millennia, people of all faiths have celebrated Jerusalem in song and dance, prose and poetry.

Tens of thousands of books have been written about this troubled patch, which has metamorphosed into the spiritual fount of the world’s three great monotheistic religions, Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

Its story has been documented in countless films and theatrical productions, but while the books and films have probed almost every tangible aspect of the city’s undying allure, none has so far ventured to portray it in the one untried visually-astounding medium of IMAX 3D.

Until now.

For the first time in its illustrious history, Jerusalem will come alive once more in an ambitious 3D visual reproduction.

But the high-tech production envisaged is no mere commercial enterprise aimed primarily at boosting bank balances. The 3D IMAX project, tailored for giant 22x16-meter screens, breaks new ground with its determination to present a new form of celebrating the world’s most famous and most loved city.

The film is a co-production of Cosmic Picture (New York) and Arcane Pictures (London), with Jerusalem-based Highlight Films providing local backup and expertise and managing the stage.

The producers, Taran Davies, George Duffield and Daniel Ferguson, see the project as a “multi-year, multi-component project with a compendium of educational materials and an outreach campaign designed to strengthen the impact and message of the IMAX film.”

They believe it will encourage “greater public understanding of Jerusalem’s extraordinary uniqueness: its universal cultural and religious significance, the richness of its artistic and archaeological treasures, and the surprising diversity of its inhabitants.”

And, hopefully, it will help bridge the gap between Jews, Christians and Muslims, promoting “engagement” between these three great Abrahamic faiths on a historic scale, building trust and respect among them by “showcasing their common heritage” and inspiring them, and the public, to better understand each other’s beliefs and practices.

The producers are confident the project will support scientific and historical literacy by “exploring the various means through which we study and learn about Jerusalem: important eyewitness accounts, ancient maps and mosaics, manuscripts, early photographs and the latest archaeological research will help expose the multiple layers of Jerusalem’s past and the ongoing process of discovery.”

“The film will promote collaboration between leaders of the Semitic religions in Jerusalem, and use the immersive nature of IMAX 3D to allow people of all faiths to experience other people’s rituals, Holy Days and sacred sites,” they say.

see JERUSALEM, page 12



Armen Donelian

Armen Donelian Has New CD, ‘Leapfrog’

NEW YORK (Jazz-Quad) – Pianist, composer, bandleader and educator Armen Donelian has carved out an enviable career spanning four decades, including seminal stints with Sonny Rollins, Billy Harper, Chet Baker and Mongo Santamaria.

His new album, “Leapfrog,” his ninth release for Sunnyside, due for release September 13, should go a long way in rectifying his relatively unsung status as an improvising artist of the highest order.

Working with an exceptional band composed of Dutch tenor saxophonist Marc Mommaas, guitarist Mike Moreno, veteran bassist Dean Johnson and drummer Tyshawn Sorey, Donelian focuses on his spacious, lyrically-charged compositions.

“The inspiration for this music came from my reflections on where the world is going these days,” Donelian says. “There’s so much regurgitation of older styles in jazz today, I feel the need to carry the ball a little further. As Diz once said, it’s about keeping one foot in the tradition, and one in the future.”

Determined to distill each composition to its essentials, Donelian has honed a group concept that flows from his belief that less is indeed more. “I like stating an idea and leaving space for listeners to absorb it,” Donelian says. “It’s especially important for band members to be mind-

ful of space, so they can really hear each other. When there’s too much happening there’s not much listening going on.”

One explanation for the band’s profound affinity for Donelian’s music is that he shares significant history with these players and often helped shape them during their formative years. His collaboration with Johnson stretches back to the 1980s, when Johnson was establishing himself as an in-demand accompanist through his work with Gerry Mulligan.

Donelian met Mommaas



Cover of “Leapfrog”

while teaching at the Manhattan School of Music shortly after the saxophonist arrived in New York City from the Netherlands; they have developed potent bandstand chemistry over the past decade.

Donelian first met Moreno while teaching in the New School’s jazz program about 10 years ago, just as Moreno was starting his ascent to his current status as one of the most esteemed young guitarists in New York. And he encountered Sorey as a standout high school student in the mid-1990s, a relationship that continued when the drummer enrolled in William Paterson University, where Donelian is also on faculty.

Born in Queens, NY in 1950 to Armenian parents, Donelian grew up in a multi-cultural household, surrounded by classical and Armenian music. His first exposure to jazz came at age 12, and as a Columbia University undergrad he studied music history, theory and composition; but his jazz studies commenced in earnest after his graduation, when he fell under the sway of pianist Richie Beirach.

During that time Donelian apprenticed with a series of jazz giants, starting in
see DONELIAN, page 13

Two Nights of Armenian Specials Planned for Fresno PBS Station

FRESNO – ValleyPBS presents two nights of Armenian-focused programming on August 9 and 12. On Tuesday, August 9, two back-to-back documentaries by filmmaker Hagop Goudsouzian will air. Then, on Friday, August 12, the documentary “Screamers” by director Carla Garapedian will air, featuring the band System Of A Down, all to highlight the rich culture, music and history of the local Armenian community during this special time of year – the holy celebration of the Assumption of St. Mary and the Blessing of the Grapes.

ValleyPBS is broadcast on 18.1 over the air, Cable channel 8, Comcast HD 708, Dish, U-verse and Direct TV channel 18.

On August 9, local news anchor and television personality Stefani Booroojian, along with Prof. Barlow Der Mugardechian, director of the Armenian Studies

Program at Fresno State, will host the evening. “Armenian Exile” begins at 7 p.m., followed by “Armenian Minstrels” at 8:30 p.m.

In “Armenian Exile” (2009), his second film, Goudsouzian paints a self-portrait in which he pursues a greater understanding of his Armenian roots. In 1988, Nagorno-Karabagh’s war for independence was in the headlines worldwide. Halfway across the world in Canada, Goudsouzian’s peaceful world was suddenly shaken: “I had forgotten I was Armenian, until I saw the courage of these people who had never forgotten who they were and knew what they had to do.” Seeking clarity of both history and self, Goudsouzian reflects on Armenian identity, which is at the heart of all his films.



Carla Garapedian



Hagop Goudsouzian

“Armenian Minstrels,” the newest film in Goudsouzian’s trilogy of documentaries showcasing the vibrant culture and rich history of Armenia, traces the long tradition of folk music through performances and interviews with musicians and fans.

Filmed in Armenia, “Armenian Minstrels” features Prof. Tovmas Poghosyan, the Sayat-Nova Minstrel Song Ensemble and impromptu interviews with well-known minstrels Andranik Ujanci, Astghanush, Kochar and Makhmour, who sing and recount the critical role their songs and music play in keeping alive a once-dying art form.

Born in Egypt, Goudsouzian is of Armenian descent and currently lives in Toronto. In partnership with TVOntario TFO, he has produced and directed a number of television and documentary series.

“Screamers” will air on August 12, at 8:30 p.m. and features the multi-platinum, Grammy Award-winning band System Of A Down as they lend their music – and voices – to raise awareness about the Armenian Genocide, as well as other genocides that have followed, including Darfur. Garapedian will be in the studio with Leslie Davis and Prof. Sergio La Porta of the Armenian Studies Program, as the hosts for the evening.

Hats off to Project SAVE for 2012 Calendar

By Tom Vartabedian

WATERTOWN, Mass. — My grandfather wore a fedora.

I can see him now strolling down the lane, cane in hand, tipping that hat to all the fine ladies who crossed his path. Good thing he wore a head covering. I remember him as bald as a cue ball but quite distinguished all the same.

My dad wore a similar fedora. Where he inherited the hat remains to be seen. Unlike me, my father had a good head of hair. As for my mother, many pictures of her shown as a comely young lady exposed a wide-brimmed Gainsborough, much like Audrey Hepburn or Sophia Loren might have worn in their day.

Over the past 26 years, Project SAVE founder Ruth Thomasian has concocted a number of themes for her calendars, be they rugs, dancing, flags and weddings. Now, she's added a new twist. "Hye Hats, hair and hands." And she appears to have been working on all cylinders.

Some might think it a bit premature to be plugging calendars in August but the deluge has already started from different agencies. Already I've been sent four calendars from different agencies and several more will be arriving before year's end.

"It's that time of year again and we hope you'll lend a hand, let down your hair and throw your hat into the ring," says Thomasian, who is actively seeking sponsors.

Depicted will be Armenians in the homeland and throughout the diaspora. Included will be images showing people of all ages sporting hats and hairstyles of the times and places in which they made their homes.

"From the fez to the fedora, page boys to pig-tails, pudgy baby hands to hard-working hands, this promises to be a kaleidoscope of Armenian

life," Thomasian continued. "It'll spark memories and conversations with others."

Sponsorships are divided into different hat categories, including a pompadour, *lichaki* and *yasma*.

Thomasian is a "calendar girl" of her own these days, after being chosen to receive a

nobody has brought greater focus to historic photography than Project SAVE and Thomasian. As historian, preservationist and executive director, she, too, has worn many hats in her society — all of them snug.

Her historic calendars are just one iota. Although they are a major source of income, it

features we have come to accept as ordinary qualities of life. Combining the three elements into a chronicle of Armenian art is pure ingenuity.

The hats and hairstyles of yesteryear were provocative to say the least and defined the very soul and character of our heritage.

Nobody portrayed hands better than photographer Yousuf Karsh. He was a genius at it.

I remember the story of when a haggard woman entered his studio in Canada and wanted a portrait taken for her family. As Karsh was about to click the shutter, the woman timidly placed her hands behind her back with obvious chagrin.

Karsh stopped in his tracks, went to reposition the woman's hands, and noticed they were severely chapped. She did not want her hands shown in the photograph and Karsh wasn't about to accept "no" for an answer.

"These hands represent a working woman's hands," he said to her. "They've cooked meals, did housework, changed diapers and were the tools of life. To take a portrait without showing them would be unacceptable."

The subject relented and what followed was a provocative sitting with the hands neatly exposed, giving the Armenian woman a perfect image. Her hands were more striking in the photo than the woman's eyes.

To amass such a collection at Project SAVE (more than 35,000 images), Thomasian spends hours interviewing

photo donors with stories about their lives, ancestors and cultural data. Emphasis is also put on the lives and works of Armenian photographers.

A loved one in a certain hairstyle? Wearing a special hat? The touch of their hands? It is the stuff of which memories are cherished and preserved.

For information on the calendars, e-mail:



Formal portrait of the Deradoorian family, Morenig, Kharpert, historic Armenia, Ottoman Empire - 1890 (From the collection of Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, Courtesy of Grace Deradoorian, Waltham, Mass.)

Vahan Cardashian Award from the Armenian National Committee of America (ANC) for her efforts toward the ANC and Armenian community at large since 1975.

She will share that tribute with Merrimack Valley activist Stephen Dulgarian at a dinner taking place in Boston on October 15. It is an honor richly deserved on both accounts.

Over the past three-and-a-half decades,

is also a way of sharing a photographic treasure trove. If pictures could talk, they could fill a library with stories and anecdotes.

And to come up with 26 different calendar themes is surprisingly another coup de grace for her organization. It isn't a job that gets done in a fortnight. And one that will not make Thomasian rich, except in spirit.

All three idioms — hats, hair and hands — are

Celebrating Jerusalem, in Stunning 3D

JERUSALEM, from page 11

Production costs are reported to top \$10 million, with investment in the film coming from a variety of international sources eager to promote appreciation and understanding of Jerusalem, as well as science and education.

Over the past two years, the production team has been busy laying plans, writing the script, visiting Jerusalem to establish contacts and touching base with researchers and key players in the story, and setting up the apparatus necessary to streamline the production process.

They have interviewed some of the world's greatest minds in archaeology, theology, jurisprudence, law, politics and history and signed up a score of consultants. They have also met visited all the key sites of archaeological interest in and around Jerusalem.

Shooting is scheduled for 2012, and the film is expected to be released sometime in the fall of 2013.

With the talents of this vast panoply of chroniclers, archivists and researchers, from both local and overseas institutions, the producers are confident "Jerusalem IMAX 3D" will more than meet their expectations.

Already, Davies and Ferguson's collaboration on the IMAX film "Journey to Mecca" (which catalogued Ibn Battuta's first epic pilgrimage to Islam's holy site) has won international acclaim and made cinematographic history, while Duffield's recently released "The End of The Line," an educational film about over-fishing, was hailed by Greenpeace to have accomplished more on the subject of over-fishing in three weeks than they achieved in 10 years through traditional outreach.

Unlike television and feature-length films,

IMAX films have a long shelf life, playing at theatres for five to 10 years and often longer. Some of the most successful titles in the IMAX library made 20 to even 30 years ago are still playing in theatres today.

The film team plans to employ approximately 200-500 Israelis and Palestinians on the film over two years of filming as researchers, advisors, technicians, costumers, construction workers, drivers, security personnel, translators, artists, musicians, extras, caterers, pilots and designers.

What is it that makes Jerusalem "tick?"

This is where history is said to have begun. Indeed, every tile in its Old City's cobble-stoned streets has a tale to tell — to regale you with stories of glory and grandeur and a litany of devastation and despair and, ultimately, triumph. For Jerusalem has earned the dubious distinction of being the perennial battleground of the nations, an Armageddon designation that has eclipsed the more sublime mantle of spirituality it has been clothed with.

You pass through its half-dozen portals, and walk in the footsteps of the prophets, the conquerors, the poets and the dreamers, the builders and the destroyers, and you wonder, what is it that makes Jerusalem so unique and evokes such a plethora of feelings in one's consciousness?

It would be impossible to pinpoint a single aspect of Jerusalem's ambience, except to remember that there is a universal conviction that Jerusalem does not belong only to Arabs, Jews or Christians: it belongs to the world.

It is, beyond doubt, the city's special mark of distinction as a fount of spirituality that is the lodestone for the millions of people from around the world who come here, seeking solace in the

misty embrace of incense and warm glow of candles, leaving their prayers in cracks in a wall, or keeping midnight vigil in expectation of the opening of the gates of heaven.

It is not possible to talk of Jerusalem except in superlatives.

Jerusalem is not a city. It is an experience.

"Although its back alleys are filthy, the crowds noisy and pushy, the merchants importunate and sometimes downright mendacious, all is forgotten and forgiven when you stand before the majestic Western Wall, climb up to the golden Dome of the Rock, or wonder at the mysterious ladder at foot of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher," one researcher and long-time resident muses.

"And when you sit down to a plate of *musab-*

baha (hummus with chickpea and parsley) or munch on a hot, crunchy *falafel* or partake of the mouth-watering sweet *kenafeh* (a filo dough pastry with sweetened cheese in rose water with a garnish of pistachios), you get a sense of the tendrils of affection the world feels for what could have been a demi-paradise."

"And then, despite the intifadas, the house-demolitions and the relentless wrangle of politicians and generals, you meet its amiable and friendly people in the street, and get a taste of the gaucho camaraderie of Christian, Jew and Muslim alike, and you realize this is a people who know the meaning of real and lasting friendship."

This is the story of Jerusalem. It has been told over and over again, through various genres and media, but never as breathtakingly stunning as three-dimensional IMAX.

(For a preview of what the finished film will look like, watch the trailer at <http://vimeo.com/15034110>.)



ARTS & LIVING

Armenia Fest 2011 Exceeds Expectations

By Betty Apigian Kessel

DETROIT — It was a runaway success from the first year, and the fourth annual Armenia Fest 2011 held Saturday, July 16, proved to have the same magic formula of bringing thousands from all over the beautiful state of Michigan to celebrate our glorious Armenian heritage. For the second year, the location was the spacious pavilion and outdoor spaces of the Royal Oak Farmer's Market in suburban Detroit.

This year's festival committee was under the leadership of Corinne Khederian and David Terzibashian, with the participation and leadership of the Knights of Vartan. Emcee duties were performed by Vaughn Masropian, host and director of the weekly Armenian Radio Program.

Welcoming words were spoken by Irina Lazarian, director of Armenia Fund USA, a non-profit organization to which proceeds from this event will go for humanitarian projects abroad. Others were Edmond Hagopian, Royal Oak Mayor Jim Ellis, Oakland County Clerk Bill Bullard, state Rep. Chuck Moss and US House of Representative members Gary Peters and Sander Levin.

The absence of visionary Edgar Hagopian, who passed away in April, was strongly felt. It was the brainstorm of this highly-successful businessman that Armenia Fest first came to fruition. Together with the Armenia Fest Committee, Edgar and the Hagopian Family Foundation founded, developed and sponsored the largest independent Armenian festival in the state of Michigan.

Rubik Malian sang the American and Armenian national anthems.

Detroit's got rhythm aplenty. Outdoor musical entertainment was under the leadership of Masropian on vocals and percussions, who along with the 2011 Armenia Fest Big Band All Stars had folks stomping to village and homeland music until 10 p.m., the conclusion of the festival.

Other musicians were Sean Blackman, guitar; Harry Hovakimian, violin; Kirk Kuchukian, oud; John Harotian, clarinet; Johnny Tosoian, saxophone; Tom Zakarian, vocals, guitar; Mike Mossoian, classic *dumbeg*; George Nigosian, classic *dumbeg* and DJ Ronn.

Local Armenian vendors offered crafts, artwork, books, baked goods and music. Food lines of popular caterer Gary Reizian of Uptown Catering proved to move rapidly for guests wanting to enjoy *kebabs*, *pilaf*, stuffed grape leaves and *lamehjun*.

Each year you can count on an outstanding performance by the talented Hamazkayin Dance Troupe now under the direction of Lara Zanazanian to perform traditional Armenian folk dances dressed in authentic costumes.

It takes imagination and dedication for a group of Armenians representing the metro area to give the community the very special gift of honoring our past and the promise of the future in being Armenian. No matter what amount of that blood runs in your veins, you can proudly declare, "Yes Hye em. I am Armenian."

Attorney Kathy Ossian said, "Armenia Fest allowed me the opportunity to connect with longtime friends, make new acquaintances within the community and enjoy great Armenian music, culture, dancing and food."

At last year's festival, Hagopian chatted with friends and told us how he wanted Festival 2011 to be bigger and better with additional attractions. That same group, Mitch Kehetian, Edward Haroutunian, Robert Kessel and myself again sat at the same table reminiscing the words spoken by our departed friend. He would have been utterly proud of the event.

Armenian Relief Society member Sona Mishigian has this to say. "The festival was wonderful, not only to see so many Armenians from Metro Detroit but to also appreciate the undertaking and the preparations of such a large festival. It was the first time for my husband Avedis



Metro Detroit Armenia Fest Committee, from left, standing, Paul Kulhanjian; Corinne Khederian, co-chair; Irina Lazarian, Armenia Fund USA; Madeline Thomasian; Edward Bedikian; Shirley Sarkisian; Ara Belian and Pam Coultis; front row, Ray Boujoulian, Agop Alexanian, Ken Khezarjian and David Terzibashian

and I to attend the event even if it was a 140 miles round trip."

An impressive, ever-growing ad book is given to attendees. It sends the message to support those who place ads in it, thereby investing in the community and supporting each other.

In Detroit we are famous for building great automobiles and for the proud tradition of keeping Armenian heritage very alive and very healthy. You can count on Detroit to always be in a leadership role in continuing the legacy of our ancestors.

Other dedicated committee members to whom we all are grateful include: Hagop Alexanian,

Edward Bedikian, Ara Belian, Raymond Boujoulian, Pam Coultis, Ken Khezarjian, Paul Kulhanjian, Masropian, Shirley Sarkisian and Madeline Thomasian.

It is to the credit of the committee that its members circulated among the huge throng to assure guest satisfaction. It does not hurt to press the flesh of those who make the event a huge success. They were perfect hosts and hostesses.

I told Hagopian last year in all sincerity that I didn't care if the festival was held in a garage, that I would be there to support and enjoy. Let's hope next year we can again experience the same community togetherness to the satisfaction of all.

Donelian Has New Sunnyside CD, 'Leapfrog'

DONELIAN, from page 11

1975 with Santamaria, where he presided over the piano chair once filled by Herbie Hancock and Chick Corea. "I learned so much about time, professionalism and stamina," he says of his time with Santamaria. "It was one of the greatest experiences of my life, to investigate Latin music from the inside."

In the midst of his four-year tenure with Harper's band, he made his recording debut with 1981's "Stargazer" (Atlas), a trio date with Billy Hart and Eddie Gomez, featuring his original compositions.

Through the 1980s, Donelian led a series of outstanding bands, culminating in his quintet with Dick Oatts at the end of the decade, when he feels that his music really came into its own.

Donelian has consistently explored his Armenian roots in his music, and recorded for several labels with the Middle Eastern jazz ensemble Night Ark; he also co-produced (with legendary jazz producer George Avakian) "Listen to My Heart," a collection of jazz interpretations of Armenian folk songs. Donelian has frequently traveled to Armenia to perform, and taught at the Yerevan State Conservatory

as a 2002 Fulbright Senior Scholar.

An invaluable educator and international clinician, Donelian has written several authoritative texts, including two volumes of *Training the Ear* and the forthcoming *Whole Notes*, a new book about piano playing. "Over the years I discovered I had a knack for teaching and later a talent," he says, "and beyond that a responsibility."

Donelian's quintet will be performing the music from "Leapfrog" at two CD release shows in September: September 23, Firehouse 12, New Haven, Conn., 8:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. and September 24, Cornelia Street Cafe, 9 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

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CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

AUGUST 21 — Armenian Church at Hye Pointe Picnic will be held at American Legion Farm, 1314 Main St., Haverhill, 12-5 p.m. Music by Jason Naroian Ensemble. Menu includes shish, losh and chicken kebab dinners, kheyima, pastries and beverages. Air-conditioned hall. Bring your lawn chairs. Adults entrance donation, \$1 pp. For more info, visit www.hyepointchurch.org.

SEPTEMBER 16 and 17 — A weekend of Art and Renewal with The Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), featuring the works of Yousuf Karsh.

- September 16 — ALMA will host a gala celebration at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, Boston, honoring the life and works of world-renowned Armenian-Canadian photographer, Yousuf Karsh, and the permanent collection of his portraits gifted by his wife, Estrella Karsh. Reservations can be made online by visiting ALMA website at www.almainc.org or call (617) 926-2562, ext. 31.

- September 17 — Opening reception of the exhibition Karsh: Celebrating Humanity in ALMA's newly-designed Bedoukian Gallery, 6:30-8:30 p.m., 65 Main St., Watertown. Celebrate the new face of ALMA and the many faces of Karsh. For info, contact ALMA.



On September 17, an opening reception of the exhibition "Karsh: Celebrating Humanity," featuring the works of Yousuf Karsh, will take place in the Armenian Library and Museum's (ALMA) Bedoukian Gallery, 6:30-8:30 p.m., at 65 Main St., Watertown, Mass. For info, contact ALMA at (617) 926-2562 or almainc.org.



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Erdogan's Apology Syndrome

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is angry again. He is rather furious this time around at Armenia's president, Serge Sargisian. Many people believe that Erdogan is a master politician. But when his actions are analyzed, we find that, in fact, he is simply a juggler who can dramatize political situations to attain his goals.

Mr. Erdogan is angry because of a statement made by Armenia's president during the youth Olympics in Armenia, answering a young man's question regarding when can we liberate Western Armenia, including Ararat.

President Sargisian's answer was extremely diplomatic, perhaps that further infuriated Mr. Erdogan that he could not catch Armenia's president red-handed. In answering the youth, he said (translated verbatim): "That depends on you and your generation. Our generation defended Karabagh against its enemies."

That statement has been distorted by Erdogan himself, the Turkish leadership and the sensationalist Turkish press, and it has been reduced into a more interesting sound bite that "we liberated Karabagh and your generation has to liberate Western Armenia and Ararat." President Sargisian's words may indeed have meant that, but diplomacy required a more tactful approach, which Armenia's president exercised.

The way the Turkish side dramatized and orchestrated the issue, driving it to the brink of a crisis, is indicative that Mr. Erdogan's manufactured "anger" was long in waiting, to trigger a diplomatic showdown to embarrass Armenia. But the Turkish prime minister's bluff doesn't always work and it didn't this time around.

Prime Minister Erdogan was on his way to Baku, to mend fences with the Azeris, since it was rumored that his relations were getting tense with President Ilham Aliyev. Therefore, it was a most appropriate prelude to that trip to assuage the Azeri leader, make a macho announcement to an Azeri paper, and further repeat and elaborate on his statement in Baku, during a joint press conference with Azerbaijan's president. He also added to his comment that "Karabagh is occupied by Armenia and we will pursue that issue to the very end."

But the brunt of his "anger" was directed personally at Armenia's president. Indeed, in a condescending demeanor Erdogan pontificated: "It is not becoming of a statesman to mobilize the coming generations with sentiments of animosity and hatred... Does this mean that tomorrow Turkish and Armenian youths will wage war against each other? We don't accept all that. It is impossible to have that kind of presidential behavior, nor policy. Sargisian has committed a grave mistake. Now he has to apologize and take back his words."

Erdogan's salvo reverberated throughout the Turkish political hierarchy and the press, with a smooth orchestration, which reveals it was part and parcel of a foreign policy agenda to score points against Armenia.

Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc echoed his master's voice, adding some more sound and fury as he stated: "Turkey is a powerful country. No one can set an eye on Turkey, nor to our mountains, nor to our fields or waters. We own these territories with the will of God. I warn Armenia's President not to play into the hands of domestic politics. Look at Armenia – it is in economic trouble. One time they were starving and we gave them wheat; let them sober up. Let them stop from talking about Agri." (The Turks call Mount Ararat, Agri, which means pain, because Mount Ararat is indeed a pain in their necks.)

The Turkish Foreign Ministry issued an official statement warning Armenia against making provocative statements and "educated" Armenia's leadership in statesmanship through the following communiqué: "When peace efforts are in progress in the region, President Sargisian's words indicate that he has nothing to do with peace. Any peaceful individual wishing reconciliation can learn a lesson from Sargisian's words which were

met with indignation."

Of course lower-echelon functionaries allowed themselves harsher words. Göksel Gülbey, head of an organization engaged in falsifying Genocide history called "Committee to Fight against Armenian Allegations," said, "We challenge Sargisian. Let him come and take Agri. We are here."

The specter of the Treaty of Sevres will haunt the Turks to the end of history because deep down, they know the mountain does not belong to them. It will only continue to be an "agri" to them.

The political fight also degenerated into street slogans, where Turks demonstrated near Mount Ararat, hoisting banners, which read "Sargisian! Criminal!"

This charade was staged by Erdogan and his government to divert attention from mounting domestic and foreign pressures.

Indeed, right after the June parliamentary elections, the Kurds declared autonomy in Diarbekir. Just a few days ago, the entire Turkish military brass resigned in protest. These two events represented the two bookends of a tug-of-war raging in Turkey – and Erdogan's government is caught in between.

On the foreign front, the European Union elected the legitimate government of Cyprus to preside during 2012, angering Erdogan, who threatened retaliation. What particularly pertains to Armenians is the pressure exerted by the US State Department and the European Union to revive the stalled Protocols. In recent months, the West was very vocal that the ball is in Turkey's court. To stave that criticism, Turkey ignited this diplomatic fireball, intending to corner Armenia diplomatically.

When the Genocide bill was adopted in France, Turkey threatened to cancel its military contracts, but a few months later it was business as usual.

Some cyber surfers have discovered that in the English section of Google alone, Erdogan's name has been cited 17 million times and out of those, 1.7 million refer to "Erdogan asking for apology."

Armenia is in good company when it comes to Erdogan's demand for an apology. Of course, the crisis triggered by the Mavi Marmara incident is still simmering. Erdogan has been asking Israel to apologize for intercepting the Turkish boat and killing nine Turks on board. The demand for an apology was for the Mavi Marmara incident, which was coupled with a demand by the Turkish government to lift the blockade around Gaza. After winning some brownie points in the Arab world, Turkey has been soft-pedaling the Gaza blockade and is asking only an apology for the Mavi Marmara incident, which is nowhere to come. Israeli Foreign Minister Lieberman is dead-set against that demand.

Last January, Erdogan clashed with Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel when the latter visited Cyprus and criticized Turkey for occupying the northern third of the island. Erdogan began spewing fire and demanded an apology. Chancellor Merkel not only ignored the apology demands, but she later visited Ankara and in person proposed reforms and criticized Turkey for being slow in implementing the EU agreements. Erdogan bit the bullet and forgot about his previous demand for an apology from her, because he realized that beggars can't be choosers; he needed Germany's support in Turkey's candidacy to the European Union.

Recently, an article in the *Jerusalem Post* ridiculed Turkey by saying: "Today Israel is not alone. There is another country which owes an apology to Turkey – that is, Armenia."

Concluding that article, the *Post* asked this succinct question: "Very well, who will now ask Erdogan to apologize for occupying Northern Cyprus?"

We see that neither statesmen nor the press outside Turkey take seriously Erdogan's apology syndrome. Armenia can safely dump that demand in the dustbin of history, like Israel and Germany have done.

And for Mr. Erdogan's information, it is the duty of future generations of Armenians to fight for the liberation of historic Armenia and Ararat, without apology!

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

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

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

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

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

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

— Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art direc-

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

— The *M-S* 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.



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Erdogan Inadvertently Publicizes Armenian Territorial Claims From Turkey

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan's hysterical outburst at Armenia's President last week had the salutary effect of publicizing to a worldwide audience Armenian territorial demands from Turkey!

By distorting and exaggerating President Serge Sargisian's remarks to a group of schoolchildren in Dsaghgatsor, Armenia, on July 23, Erdogan created a gigantic mountain out of a molehill! Anyone who reads the Armenian president's actual words would find it hard to believe that they could be the cause of Erdogan's foaming at the mouth!

Krikor Hampartsumian, a Shahumian Middle School student from the Ararat Region, asked President Sargisian: "...I would be interested in knowing whether our future would be reminiscent of a German diplomat's description of the Batum Agreement — they gave us enough room to swim in Lake Sevan, but not enough room to dry up — or a future that would see the return of Western Armenia along with Ararat?"

President Sargisian calmly responded: "It all depends on you and your generation. I believe my generation fulfilled its task when it was necessary in the early 1990's to defend a part of our homeland — Karabagh — from enemies. We were able to do that.... My point is that each generation has its own task, and it must be able to carry it out, and carry it out well. If you and your peers spare no effort, and if those older and younger than you act the same way, we will have one of the best countries in the world. Trust me, a country's clout is not always measured by its land mass. The country should be modern, secure, and prosperous. These are prerequisites that allow a nation to sit along with prominent, strong, and reputed nations of the world. We should all fulfill our duties, be active, industrious, and engage in good deeds. And we can accomplish that very easily. It would not be the first time in our history that we achieve it. I have no doubts about it, and I don't want you to have any doubts either. We are a nation like a Phoenix that always rises from the ashes."

This simple exchange between the president and the young student was blown out of all proportion by Azeri and Turkish officials. Journalists in both countries tried to outdo each other in their hysterical attacks on Armenia, accusing President Sargisian of "urging Armenian youth to occupy Mt. Ararat and Eastern Turkey." Insulting adjectives were hurled at Armenia's president by Turkey's Prime Minister Erdogan, Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinç, Minister Egemen Bagis, President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan and the foreign ministries of both countries. To incite the masses, protests were organized in Turkish cities where photographs of President Sargisian were burned.

Incredibly, Erdogan had the audacity of demanding an apology from President Sargisian. The Turkish prime minister's score on failed demands for apology from the lead-

ers of Israel, Germany and Armenia now stands at three to 0. Erdogan should not hold his breath waiting for Armenia to apologize! Before making such an outrageous demand, Turkish leaders must first apologize for the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide and return all confiscated Armenian properties, including Western Armenia and Mt. Ararat, as suggested by this erudite student who deserves to be honored by Armenian organizations as a role model for the young generation.

What was the real cause of the Turkish and Azeri hysteria? Did Erdogan have a bad translator or simply bad intentions? It is probably the latter. He delivered his outrageous remarks while standing next to President Aliyev during a press conference in Baku last week. Erdogan may have wanted to impress his "junior brother" with his anti-Armenian zeal and provide a false justification to the international community for not keeping his word on the Armenia-Turkey Protocols and refusing to open the border with Armenia. He may have also intended to be excessively harsh so that no Armenian official would ever again hint at territorial claims from Turkey.

This episode demonstrates that papering over historical injustices by pressuring Armenia to sign the defeatist Protocols will not eliminate the deeply-held grievances of a victimized people. The Armenian-Turkish confrontation will not be resolved until justice is done to the Armenian nation. Pursuing justice is the task of all Armenians, this generation and the next. There will be no peace for Turkey without justice for Armenians.

In addition to their gratitude to the impressive youngster and President Sargisian, Armenians should be thankful to Prime Minister Erdogan for his hysterical overreaction, which helped bring Armenian territorial demands to the attention of the international media and the world community.

The Perpetual Youth: A Tribute to Puzant Markarian

By Hagop Vartivarian

He was one of the dominant figures in Beirut's *Hay Yeridasartats Engeragtsutian* [HYE, or in English, Armenian Youth Association]. I knew him while I was still an adolescent, inside the worn rooms of the Zareh Noubar club of Beirut, where he was a permanent fixture. During that era of the 1960s, he had focused his Armenian national service within the sphere of HYE's "Asbedneru Hamakhmpum [Assembly of the Knights]." This organization was born at the end of January 1957. It was for that generation of youth and those reaching middle age who wished to continue to support the 30-year-old HYE. The Assembly gathered together a knowledgeable and dynamic element which had passed through the ranks of HYE and had attained success career-wise.

At the beginning of the 1950s, Noubar Nazarian came to New York as the representative of his family's commercial firm, and became acquainted with the Knights of Vartan, which was founded at the beginning of the 20th century. Upon his return to Beirut, he wanted to create a movement with the same spirit in Lebanon. He assembled a group of idealistic Armenians and became their leader. He also invited his brother-in-law, Puzant Markarian, and the latter's wife, Mari, who in those days was the chairwoman of the HYE Women's Committee, to participate.

The dream of these idealistic Armenians in this association was to have their own center, a place for games where the association's adolescent, athletic, cultural and scout movements could convene under one roof. Puzant Markarian's contribution to this newly created association was immense. The members primarily organized social events in order to work towards the goal of a center for HYE. The initial idea of building a center on land in the Beirut neighborhood of Sin el-Fil failed. Instead, the Armenian General Benevolent Union's Levon G. Nazarian School came to stand on that spot. However, later the Alex Manoogian Cultural Center was created on land in central Beirut thanks to the generosity of AGBU's president, Alex Manoogian, and the fund established by the Asbeds. Thus, in 1973, the dream of those years was finally realized, and we HYE members moved from the humble rooms of the

Zareh Noubar club to our new center, with its venerable newly-built, seven-story building, open air and enclosed fields and its separate garage.

My acquaintance with the Markarians dates back further than this, however. My uncle's wife, Lousin, while still a student at the nursing school of the American University of Beirut, was friends with Mari, and his mother-in-law, Satenig Nazarian. Lousin welcomed the arrival of Puzant and Mari's first son, Alex, to this world, and thereafter they remained friends. They were also connected to my father. My father would often visit the Nazarian brothers, especially Garbis. Puzant, the sole son-in-law of the noted Nazarian family, had his special place in the company. In the future, he would establish, as owner and director, his own business in the port, at which primarily Armenian workers and officials would work.

I met Puzant Markarian for the first time in the summer of 1956, when the HYE had organized its bazaar in the public gardens of Beirut. The president of the Republic of Lebanon, Camille Chamoun, was present. Puzant was a handsome, charming presence who had become a measuring stick in those days for a presentable and successful Armenian. He came to our table to say hello to my father, uncle and Lousin.

The AGBU Yervant Demirjian Elementary School had newly been shut down, and already as a result of the first Lebanese civil war, the internal church crisis had begun and polarized the Lebanese Armenians. The chairman of the Asbeds, Noubar Nazarian, was stabbed in front of his home by different Armenians, while Nazarian's father, Levon Efendi, was expelled from St. Nshan Church, which he loved so much. Although the two secondary schools Hovagimian-Manoogian and Tarouhi Hagopian existed for his pro-Echmiadzin front, there was no elementary school. But in 1957 the AGBU's Yervant Demirjian School opened and turned into a gift of providence for us youths who belonged to this front.

My parents enrolled me in 1958 in this newly-opened beautiful school and model kindergarten. A year later a respected figure in education, Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) member Onnig Sarkisian, came to be its principal. And there I became classmates with Alex, and my brother Zareh with Alex's younger brother, Diran, who was as strikingly handsome as his father. From that day on, I remained

friends with Alex, and this has continued now for half a century. We entered the ranks of the scouts together. Alex's cousin, Levon, was also my classmate, while Noubar Nazarian's daughter, Vera, was my brother's classmate. This also became a cause for our social meetings with Puzant Markarian or the Nazarian family to be frequent. During Lebanon's good days, I and my wife, Arpi, joined the rally. They knew I had become an ADL member, and they considered having an ADL couple in the executive to be useful. I remember while in a circle of fellow members at the new center of the Asbeds when Puzant would say proudly that not only was the new generation of HYE members joining the Asbeds' movement, but also the ADLers, who no doubt would be useful for the HYE.

Then came the Lebanese Civil War. The Lebanese Armenians already began to scatter in 1977. Each one of us lived in a different place during those days of uncertain fate and disaster. The wheel of fate brought me to New Jersey. And I became surrounded by my kind old friends of the past, Alex, Berge (Setrakian, who already had become a son-in-law of the Nazarians) and Levon. And from that day on, I lived my life amidst the Armenian community life of New Jersey and New York.

Puzant Markarian lost his large and unique factory and finally came to New Jersey to join us. An enterprising and practical businessman, he began to set up his new establishment here. In those days, I was working as the director of Nazar Nazarian's textile firm. Mr. Nazarian early one morning called me to his office and said, "My son, Puzant has finally settled in New Jersey together with my sister Mari and my mother. They took an apartment in Alex's building. Look — do whatever he wants, give him whatever merchandise he asks for...eh, he is our Puzant." These were Nazar's sincere words. In a short period of time, Puzant established his own company. In those days, I was in communication with him nearly on a daily basis. I saw in him a person who began a business from scratch, an enterprising and ingenious manufacturer.

In this fashion we became very close in New Jersey. He was a perpetual youth and resisted when I called him *Baron* (Mister) Puzant. It was difficult for me, but he turned into our beloved Puzant.

After the AGBU's Saddle Brook center was closed, he grew closer to us Democratic Liberals. He felt comfortable/hokeharazad with

us, so much so that he henceforth participated in our meetings. During our weekly party meetings on Wednesdays, he always was with us. He planned our programs with us, the work we had to do, bringing to bear his decades of experience. And he was so happy about this, very happy.

In those days, a wave of revulsion arose among us against those straying from Armenian national principles. The closing of the Saddle Brook center and the fate of Cyprus' Melkonian Educational Institute began to worry us. These matters made us rebellious. Puzant was even more upset than us, as since his own youth, he had had the dream of erecting a youth center and meeting place. It was contrary to his internal world to close down clubs and schools.

Puzant internally possessed a revolutionary temperament, perhaps inherited from his parents, who had raised him with progressive principles. He was able to join his voice of protest to ours and to be with us. Alex also joined us in the steps that we took, contrary to Nazar Nazarian's cautious position. Levon Nazarian shared our indignation in those days, but remained a sympathizer of our sorrow, while Alex supported us practically.

It must be said that Puzant was a reader of and believer in *Zartnık*; he had a decade of profound respect for ADL members Kersam Aharonian and Prof. Parounag Tovmassian. Later, he became a reader of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* and *Nor Or*.

They had sold the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Youssoufian Center in New York, but the TCA's leaders of that time promised to allocate the resulting sum of money towards the purchase of a new center. We are talking about a good-sized sum of money. The youth of New Jersey did not have a place in which to assemble. We decided at our Saturday meetings to look toward the Saddle Brook center, which had been placed for sale. Its doors had already remained shut for several years.

The TCA Central Executive had a sum of approximately \$500,000 willed to it from the late ADL member Nvart Youssoufian. The Saddle Brook center was for sale for \$1.5 million. In order to originally purchase this center for the AGBU, Nazar Nazarian had made a large donation, in recognition of which its main hall was named the Nazar and Ardemis Nazarian

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Tekeyan Centre Fund Creates Summer Magic for Students

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The 10-day retreat for Tekeyan members was possible thanks to the Summer Camp project implemented and funded by Tekeyan Centre Fund (Armenia). Compared to 2010, the project has doubled the number of participants as well as expanded the geography of schools involved. In 2011, the Tekeyan School



Volleyball competition between Tekeyan schools

of Berdzor (Karabagh) joined the fund's permanent beneficiaries, i.e. the Tekeyan Schools of Yerevan, Gumri, Stepanavan and Karbi. The project participants were the excellent students in grades 9-12 from the five schools.

Tekeyan students spent 10 days in the majestic Lori region. Mornings started with the sounds of the trumpet and exercises. Students also took part in everyday sporting activities and competitions; they were especially excited about swimming in the pool and sunbathing.

For 10 days, the Tekeyan students not only enjoyed a carefree life in the camp, but also enriched their knowledge in history and geography, the Armenian language and literature,

culture and art. The seminars were conducted by the Tekeyan teachers who accompanied the students during their summer holidays. They also gave various quizzes that were educational and informative. The student took part in discussions on various topics, such as learning about first aid, healthy lifestyles and the historic monuments of Lori, etc.

They also took part in cultural events devoted to great Armenian literary figures Vahan Tekeyan and Hovhannes Toumanian. Tekeyan Centre Fund enabled the students to visit Toumanian's house-museum in Dsegh where



Tekeyan students visit Hovhannes Toumanian's house museum in Dsegh



Tekeyan students at the camp Gugarq

they felt the spirit of the poet; they also recited some of his lyrics. It was wonderful to see how deep our younger generation is interested in classical authors.

Tekeyan students were excited with hiking to the mountains, to the abandoned camp, to the forest and the bank of the Debed. They also learned why the river flowed in the opposite direction. The students also had an excursion to Haghpap Monastery where in the 18th century the famous Armenian bard Sayat-Nova used to live and create his masterpieces.

The Tekeyan members got to know the geographical position of the camp and its 50-year history.

On the last day of the program, the camp organized an event devoted to the 20th

anniversary of the Third Armenian Republic. The Tekeyan students also took part in the ceremony performing beautiful dances and patriotic songs. The Director of the camp Mrs. Danielyan awarded certificates to all the five Tekeyan schools for their diligence, deep knowledge and excellent behavior. After the event they were interviewed by young journalists presenting various TV channels.

The ceremony was followed by the traditional farewell campfire and speeches. It was difficult for the students to be parted from their friends from Gugarq, which was called the "magic planet of childhood," where only love and kindness, peace and happiness songs and dances reigned.

The Perpetual Youth: A Tribute to Puzant Markarian

TRIBUTE, from page 15

Hall. In addition, Alice and Garbis Kirikian, the well-known Armenians of New Jersey, donated the cost of the kitchen.

During one of our meetings, we decided to appeal to these two honorable Armenians and ask that this center remain in our circles in order to be used by the youth. Puzant Markarian agreed to speak with the two of them and persuade them that the center should not be sold. They agreed, and Nazar Nazarian even offered to make renovations in the hall. Unfortunately, the leaders of the AGBU at the time did not want to sell to TCA but preferred instead to sell it to a non-Armenian charitable organization. This was a great loss for our community at large.

The New Jersey Armenian community in general, and our circle in particular, lost a golden opportunity to secure an Armenian national house for our youth. However, from that time on, our TCA group won the true friendship of a wholehearted Armenian in the person of Puzant Markarian.

It is worth writing a few lines about Puzant Markarian's biography in order to give a more complete picture of his life's vicissitudes. He was born in Aleppo on June 22, 1918 to Avedis and Lousendzak Markarian. His family was from Aintab, and he had two brothers and two sisters. His brother Garbis was himself a noted Armenian public figure in Lebanon's AGBU and HYE circles. Puzant went to Aleppo College and at a young age enrolled in the ranks of the AGBU and HYE. As we noted, the foundation for HYE's Assembly of the Knights was established on the initiative of Puzant, and Nour Nazarian and Sisak Varjabedian. It became a blessing for our organization. He held various posts in the above-mentioned organizations, as well as in the Veterans' Committee of the AGBU.

Unlike some other respected Armenians of the AGBU, he always had an interest in politics, at the center of which was always Soviet Armenia and the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin and the close relationship and

cooperation of the masses of the diasporan Armenians with the former two.

While still very young, at the age of 20, during World War II, the ingenious manufacturer had his factory producing tools and various household objects. These were sold to the English army, and then by expanding his business further with household and industrial tools, it became a unique establishment in the Middle East.

In 1995 his life partner of 40 years, Mari, passed away. He donated in her everlasting memory a dormitory in AGBU's Camp Nubar in upstate New York.

The 1988 earthquake in Armenia led Puzant and Alex to dedicate themselves to aiding Armenia. Puzant wished to completely renovate and modernize a school in Armenia, both its structure and its educational level, as part of this work.

He invited me one day to his home in Fort Lee, NJ, and asked that I participate in this work actively. There was letter writing, communications, and talking to be done. I could not refuse. Aside from the correspondence, Puzant needed an advisor who was familiar with the realities of Armenia of that time. He always believed in me, and wished that I remain close by him.

On September 8, 2000 the inauguration of the 780-student Puzant and Mari Education Center took place in Nor Aynteb in Armenia. What happy moments he lived each time he received a letter from the ministry of education or the school administration. I too experienced that happiness of being useful to an Armenian school.

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During a summer vacation, I hosted Stepan Demirjian, president of Armenia's People's Party, with his family and his brother Samvel, in New Jersey. They remained for more than two weeks as guests in my home. Stepan's father was assassinated in the Armenian parliament together with Prime Minister Vazken Sargsian. The late lamented Garen Demirjian was one of the most accomplished state figures

from the Soviet order. He had accepted the post of president of the parliament. Those were sad times... My Englewood home turned into a meeting place for intellectuals, our party members and ideological comrades.

One day prior to the departure of Stepan Demirjian, we organized a social farewell gathering in our garden. About 100 friends and party members were present that evening. Puzant Markarian spontaneously asked to speak. Usually he remained in the role of the listener at such public gatherings. This was unexpected for all of us. He spoke in a stormy and moving fashion, urging all of us present to gather around our new republic and the Mother See of Echmiadzin in order to reestablish our people's direct support for them, as he believed that they would become the substructure necessary to reach our great dream of historical Armenia and Cilicia. My two late lamented party comrades, Antranig Poladian and Eddie Boghosian, quickly approached and said, "Hagop, where is a recording machine?" But it was already too late. Puzant was inspired, and inspired us all with his fatherly words. He also had quietly participated in our general efforts in New York during the Karabagh movement.

In this way, we remained together for years on the same front. Puzant encouraged all our TCA events. He was present at our social affairs and theatrical events. He often was the presenter of memorial placards to our talented actors or industrious executive members. Aside from this, he gave his financial donation to the TCA because he believed in our mission. He knew that in the metropolitan New York area, only Tekeyan was carrying on the exceptional work of national preservation, in accordance with our traditions. Beyond that, he loved the poet Vahan Tekeyan.

We remained friends outside of Armenian national life, in our family relations. Those relations were warm and sincere, those of true family. I was happy when he received medals from Ellis Island and Catholicos Karekin II. And Alex frequently repeated to us that "my wife Sisya and I are so happy to see that your Tekeyan

members do not leave our father alone." He added that when he was with them, he remained perpetually young. We loved him like a second father.

On April 6, 2011 our beloved Puzant left this world silently, leaving behind a pure name and reputation. On April 9, Tenafly's St. Thomas Armenian Church (NJ) was full of mourners. The Beirut that I knew was there, with all of our circle. No one was absent...and we entrusted his body to the cold earth, in his wife Mari and his mother-in-law Satenig's grave.

Again they were united...how distant from Aintab, Aleppo and Beirut.

Your memory will always be with me, beloved "enger" Puzant.

(Translated from Armenian, this tribute appeared originally in the *Zartonk* daily.)

Menendez Holds up Appointment of New US Ambassador to Armenia

MENENDEZ, from page 1

(ANCA) praised the senator. "The administration should heed Menendez's call and take the next logical step to its stated position — unequivocally reaffirming this crime against humanity as genocide," said Ardouny, the AAA executive director.

"The painful spectacle of watching a senior US diplomat forced to dance and dodge around the plain truth ... undermines US interests and compromises American values," said Aram Hamparian, ANCA's executive director.

Menendez already blocked in 2007 congressional confirmation of Richard Hoagland, another career diplomat nominated for the top US diplomatic post in Yerevan, for the same reason. The administration of then-President George W. Bush was forced to make another ambassadorial appointment.