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Thousands Attend Second Mass at Akhtamar's Surp Kach Church in Van

VAN (RFE/RL) – Thousands of Armenians attended on Sunday a mass held in a medieval Armenian cathedral in southeastern Turkey for the second time since its government-funded renovation in 2007.

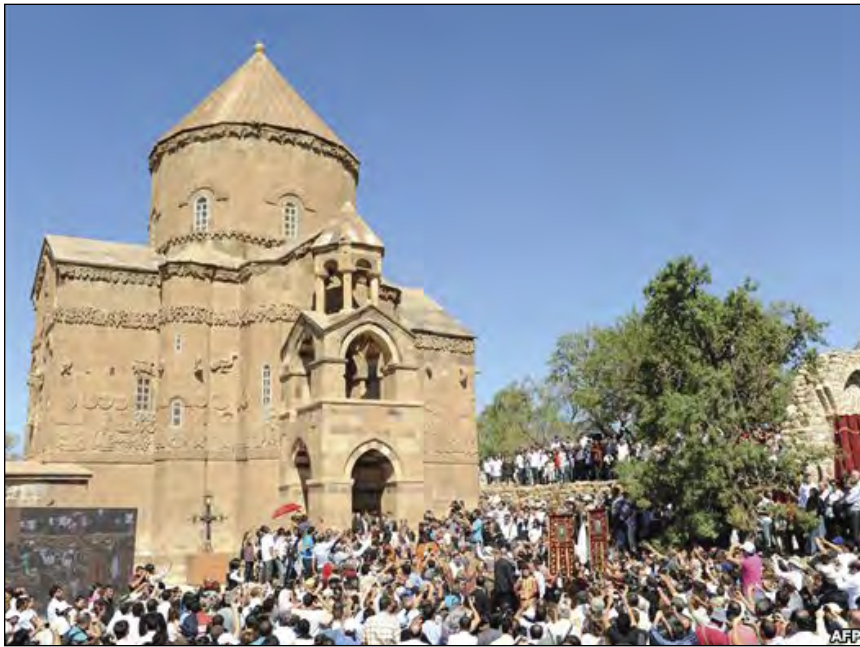
News reports citing Turkish television said boat shuttles ferried the pilgrims, most of them from Turkey but some from Armenia and Europe, to the Akhtamar Island on Lake Van, which is home to the church of Surp Khach (Holy Cross). They said a new lakeside pier was built this year to accommodate the faithful.

The Turkish government allowed the first mass in nearly a century there in September 2010 after spending \$1.5 million on the renovation and turning the church into a museum.

The AFP news agency reported that Archbishop Aram Ateshian, the interim spiritual leader of Turkey's Armenian community, chaired the ceremony this year.

The Anatolia news agency quoted Ateshian as saying that only 60 percent of around 3,000 people who arrived on the island were able to enter the church. The others heard the mass outside through loudspeakers.

According to the Turkish Tourism Ministry, nearly 30,000 tourists flocked to the Akhtamar church last year.



Armenian Christians gather for mass at the Church of the Holy Cross on Akhtamar Island in Van.

The Mother See of the Armenian Apostolic Church boycotted the 2010 ceremony, saying that the Turkish authorities broke their pledge to restore a cross on the Surp Khach dome in time for the mass. The

cross was placed there later in 2010.

Built between 915 and 921, the Akhtamar church is one of the few surviving examples of the ancient Armenian civilization in modern Turkey.

WikiLeaks on Armenian Genocide: Turkey 'Purged' Archives to Destroy Evidence

By Gayane Abrahamyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – The whistle-blowing site WikiLeaks has de-classified documents that demonstrate once again that Turkey has edited its archives relating to 1915-23, however Turkish studies specialist Anush Hovhannisyan is convinced that “even ‘purged’ archives still have

papers documenting the Armenian Genocide and are not in favor of Turkey.”

In a WikiLeaks-released cable originating from the US Consulate in Istanbul in July 2004, Consul General David Arnett quoted Turkish Sabancı University Prof. Halil Berktaş, according to whom, the archives related to the Ottoman Empire had undergone “purges” destroying all the evidence on the Armenian Genocide.

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ADL Co-Chair Papken Megerian Visits Tekeyan School in Yerevan

YEREVAN – On the occasion of the first day of academic school year of 2011-2012, Papken Megerian, co-chair of the ADL District Committee of USA and Canada and a member of the Central Board of Tekeyan Cultural Association, visited the Vahan Tekeyan School and participated in the opening ceremonies of the school.

The first day of school in Armenia is a day of celebration, with the participation of the community. Rev. Diran Aroushanian, pastor of the nearby Holy Mary Church, blessed the school year. Two representatives of the Armenian air force as well as Lt. Maj. Nver Tavtlian participated in the ceremony, along with the mayor of Sebastia and two local members of the Armenian Parliament, Samvel Alexanian and Goriun Nahabedian.

Megerian told those assembled: “I congratulate you all on this happy see VISIT, page 2



During the opening ceremony



Tekeyan Centre Celebrates 20th Anniversary

YEREVAN – On Saturday, September 10, the Tekeyan Centre here celebrated its 20th anniversary. Among the guests were the first prime minister of Armenia, Vazgen Manougian, and director of the staff of the Parliament, Gegham Gharibjanian. In the photo, from left are, Nar Khachadourian of Lebanon, Manougian, TCA Central Committee Vice President Edmond Azadian, Tekeyan Centre President Vartan Ouzounian of England, Gharibjanian, TCA Central Committee member Papken Megerian and A. Krikorian.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Uruguay Foreign Minister: NK Is Historic Part of Armenia

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (Armenpress) – Foreign Minister of Uruguay Luis Almagro has said the Nagorno Karabagh is Armenian. The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) press service announced that Almagro, referring to the Karabagh issue, stated, “Today we study the issue for expressing a viewpoint on a state level, but I am personally sure that Karabagh is a historical part of Armenia and must be independent and joined with Armenia soon. This is the only solution to the Artsakh issue.”

The minister made this statement during a conference dedicated to Armenian-Uruguayan relations and undertaken by Armenian National Committee of South America and Uruguay-Armenia parliamentary group.

Uruguay was the first state to recognize the Armenian Genocide in 1965.

Nishan Parlakian Dies

NEW YORK – Dr. Nishan Parlakian, 86, died on September 12. An outgoing and beloved figure in the Armenian community as well as in the broader worlds of drama and academia, Parlakian was emeritus professor of theater at John Jay College, CUNY, and a playwright and a director who staged many plays in Armenian and in English.

He wrote extensively on Armenian theater and translated numerous plays from the Armenian. Editor of three anthologies on various types of Armenian drama, he had served as president of the Pirandello Society of America.

He leaves behind his wife of many years, Florence, and his children. A full obituary will be forthcoming next week.

National Soccer Coach Hopeful for Victories

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Head coach of Armenia's national soccer team Vardan Minasyan does not exclude luck as a factor in Armenia's latest major victories against their opponents from Andorra and Slovakia. Still, he adds that, as they say, “the ball comes to the player.”

“The luck factor is very important, but it also has to be a quality game. We earned our victory that day,” he says, referring to the signal 4-0 victory in an away Euro-2012 qualifier against Slovakia on September 6.

Armenia has two upcoming games. On October 7, Armenia will play against Macedonia in Yerevan and then against Ireland in Dublin on October 11.

Armenia is currently third in the six-nation group, a point behind Ireland and three points shy of Russia. The remaining two matches will decide whether Armenia can win a promotion spot by finishing at least second.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Exhibitions Honors 20th Anniversary of Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President Serge Sargsian was the first visitor this week to “Soviet Armenia” and “Independent Republic of Armenia” standing exhibitions dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Republic of Armenia.

Documents concerning the Soviet years, photos and personal items of renowned figures are presented in the “Soviet Armenia” exhibition. The “Independent Republic of Armenia” exhibition sums up the path of independence since 1988.

Director of the History Museum, Anelka Grigorian, said that it is the first time in the history of events dedicated to 20th anniversary of independence that Soviet Armenia and the past path of the Republic of Armenia is presented in the History Museum in a new way. “The main stress is put on the symbols of the statehood,” she stressed.

Grigorian said that many items have been taken from the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin and the National Archives. Those materials include the Moscow, Kars and Alexandropol treaties. There are personal items of officials from Soviet Armenia. One of the interesting documents is Alexander Myasnikyan’s statement in 1921, according to which Nagorno Karabagh (NK) must be recognized an inseparable part of Armenia.

New Monuments to Be Placed in Yerevan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The reconstruction works of the Yerevan State Circus will soon launch. Chief architect of Yerevan, Narek Sargsian, said reconstruction of the square of the Sassuntsi Davit station is also in the works. The chief architect told reporters that an open tender for the Garegin Nzhdeh’s monument has been announced.

Mantashov’s monument will be placed near the former Children’s World on Abovian Street. The monument to Fridtjof Nansen was entrusted to sculptor Garegin Davtyan. The monument will be placed on Moskovyan-Abovyan crossroad in early November.

A jury will decide who will make a monument dedicated to Karen Demirchian.

Sargsian said in early October the opening ceremony of Charles Aznavour House-Museum will take place. Hrant Matevosyan’s museum is also expected to be built in Yerevan.

Tire Factory Burns

YEREVAN (Tert.am) – A tire factory here caught fire last week, according to the Ministry of Emergency Situations. The fire spread into a nearby 5,000-square-meter area that housed mostly worn-out tires.

The dry grass in a nearby vacant factory helped spread the fire.

Four brigades of firefighters arrived at the scene of the incident and succeeded in preventing the fire from spreading further.

There were no casualties.

Opposition to Hold its Next Rally on Sept. 23

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – The next rally of the Armenian National Congress (ANC) will take place on September 23, ANC Leader Levon Ter-Petrosian said when completing its rally on September 9.

“Initially we were going to hold it on September 21, the day of Armenia’s independence, however, later we gave up this idea, because dozens of events will take place on that day, and people having nothing to do with independence will take part in these events. This is why we decided to hold the rally on September 23. This date is also symbolic, because though the declaration on Armenian independence was adopted on September 21, the independence was declared on September 23,” he said.

Protesters made their way to Mashtots Avenue to hold a procession along the central streets of Yerevan and ended their actions at Liberty Square.

US Airmen Honored at Armenia Crash Site

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A US Air Force general thanked residents of a village in Armenia earlier this month for honoring the 17-member crew of a US reconnaissance plane that was shot down near Sasnashen by Soviet fighter jets 53 years ago.

Maj. Gen. Mark Zamzow, deputy commander of an Air Force base stationed in Germany, marked the crash anniversary together with Armenia’s First Deputy Defense Minister Davit Tonoyan and dozens of Sasnashen villagers.

The C-130 Hercules aircraft was downed while flying a reconnaissance mission near Soviet Armenia’s border on September 2, 1958. According to the US military, it was attacked by MiG jets after straying into Soviet airspace. All 17 crewmen on board the plane were killed.

According to the US Embassy in Yerevan, Sasnashen residents have for decades commemorated this date as they believe the crew maneuvered the aircraft to avoid the village and thus saved locals’ lives. They erected a memorial at the nearby crash site in September 1993, less than two years after the break-up of the Soviet Union.

“I was deeply touched when I heard that the citizens of Sasnashen still remember this event, and have conducted a memorial remembrance every year since 1958 to commemorate the aircrew that died that day,” an embassy statement quoted Zamzow as saying at the commemoration ceremony.

“The manner in which you conduct this ceremony, and the way in which you maintain this memorial, speaks volumes for your strength as a community,” Zamzow told the villagers.

He also paid tribute to the US airmen’s final act of bravery, saying that they spared civilian lives as the C-130 crashed to the ground.

The Soviet Union returned the partial remains of six of the crewmembers later in 1958. It was not until 1993 that a US Army team went to the site of the crash and recovered the rest of the remains, including more than 2,000 bone and tooth fragments, life support equipment, personal effects and aircraft wreckage.

The remains were interred in a single grave in the Arlington National Cemetery in 1998.

More personal effects of the late servicemen were returned to US officials during Friday’s commemoration. Some of their relatives also attended it.



The gravestone in Arlington National Cemetery of the 17-member crew of a US reconnaissance plane that was shot down over Soviet Armenia on September 2, 1958

In what appears to be a gesture of gratitude, the US Department of Defense has financed infrastructure upgrades in and around Sasnashen in

recent years. Zamzow inaugurated on Friday a newly-renovated kindergarten in the village and a polyclinic in the nearby town of Talin.

Artsakh Bio-Fuel Company Sets Sights on Replacing ‘Conventional’ Energy Sources

STEPANAKERT (Hetq) – BioTechnology Ltd. is a start-up enterprise making waves in Artsakh. In fact, it is now ranked as one of the largest taxpayers in the country.

Company Director Gevorg Hayriyan says that the company started to produce bio-stoves in January of 2011.

The young entrepreneur says that the company not only wants to take advantage of Artsakh’s cheap raw materials but wants to see the wages paid to employees ploughed back into the local economy.

The bio-fuel used by the burners comes from natural sources – wood, sawdust and other dried stalks of other plants. These materials are then processed without the use of additives into cylinder-shaped logs.

“We have imported five different cutting machines from Armenia to fashion the cylinders. We have contracted the work out to other firms but we oversee all aspects of the process, including quality control,” says Hayriyan.

The director says the market potential for the bio-fuel is unlimited given the ease of transport.

“We do not foresee any problems in terms of selling what we produce. There is a huge demand in Armenia alone,” says Hayriyan.

The company now employs 50 workers who make an average of 180,000 drams per month.

The burners themselves, produced in Stepanakert, have different capacities ranging from 18 kilowatts to 1,000. Prices start at 442,000 drams for the units.

The burners are made from materials mostly imported from Ukraine and Russia.

Hayriyan says the company entered into a licensing arrangement with the Retra company to make the burners. Workers were sent to the Ukraine city of Rovna for training at the Retra company headquarters.

BioTechnology receives most of its orders from the Artsakh government.

The burners have been installed in 10 locations and tests show they are twice as cheap to operate as conventional gas burners.

To date, the company has sold 20 burners that are now in operation.

ADL Co-Chair Papken Megerian Visits Tekeyan School in Yerevan

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occasion. I thank Principal Anahid Khalatian for inviting me. I am very much moved, because this is the first time that I am participating in such a wonderful ceremony. I am very impressed by it. In the United States there are no such celebrations, and they don’t start the school year like this. On behalf of the Central Board of Tekeyan Cultural Association, I congratulate you all. By bringing you best wishes from your brothers and sisters I wish you to live up to the stature of the poet Vahan Tekeyan, by educating yourself under this roof and one day be a poet, scientist, doctor, educator or soldier.”

After the ceremony, Megerian toured the classrooms, making a stop in the classroom named for Hagop Boghosian, the former editor of the ADL newspaper *Nor Or* of California. After Boghosian died, his wife, Ani, and the TCA worked together to name a classroom after him.

Megerian then met with the mayor and others involved with the school, to discuss the infrastructure of the building.

On the same day, all Tekeyan schools



Papken Megerian with the principal, vice principal, representatives of the air force and Marieta Magarian

whose staff receive annual stipends from the TCA, started their classes by remembering the words of Vahan

Tekeyan “I love you, Armenian language, like my....”

– Marieta Magarian



ARMENIA

AGBU Armenian Virtual College Celebrates Second Anniversary

YEREVAN — This week, the Armenian General Benevolent Union's Armenian Virtual College (AVC) celebrated the second anniversary of its online institute by holding a Global Online Forum to reflect on the range of achievements, announce its future plans and prepare for the new expansion that will allow it to reach more Armenians than ever before.

Launched in June 2009, AVC is the first Armenian online college, with a goal to make Armenian education available to everyone everywhere through modern technologies. During its two years of operation, AVC has had nine academic terms with more than 1,300 students from 50 countries, from the United States to Russia, from Venezuela to South Africa, and from Argentina to Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean.

The Global Online Forum was led by AGBU Central Board Member Yervant Zorian, who is also the chairman of AVC. During the event, Armenia's Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan and other speakers delivered welcoming speeches that celebrated AVC's continuing success.

"Among thousands of online universities in the world, AVC is the first one that provides and is dedicated to Armenian education. Today, when only five percent of Armenian youth in the diaspora has access to face-to-face Armenian educational programs, the importance of such an institution is becoming more and more vivid," said Zorian.

"While our virtual students around the world enthusiastically participate in our existing courses, AVC continues to expand its offerings in multiple directions. I am very pleased to announce today the expansion of our Armenian culture program to cover Armenian visual art courses, the adoption of new advanced learning technologies to enable interactive animation in teaching Armenian history, the augmentation of our instruction languages to include Turkish as the seventh language, which is beneficiary for our compatriots residing in Turkey and Western Europe, and finally the extension of

our hybrid education program to the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] countries by initiating AVC Labs in Tbilisi and Rostov."

Poghosyan was enthusiastic about AVC's achievements. "Two years ago when the project was launched, it was unclear how this brilliant idea would be realized. The results you achieved today are very impressive. I will continue to invest my efforts for presenting this project among all possible circles," she said.

The Primate of the Georgian Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church expressed his happiness in seeing how AVC has brought a renewed energy to Armenian education in the centuries-old Armenian community of Tbilisi. "Throughout the years, the number of Armenian schools in Tbilisi has decreased to only one as of the 2011 academic year for a city with an Armenian population of more than 80,000. As a result, 90 percent of Russian school pupils in Tbilisi are Armenians," said Bishop Vazgen Mirzakhanyan. "While it would be good to have traditional Armenian educational institutions on-site, AVC is an excellent solution to preserve the Armenian identity in communities with no Armenian schools."

AVC was first initiated in 2004 under Zorian and AGBU's Central Board of Directors as an educational program that better addresses the needs of Armenians and appeals to contemporary students. Since then, the multimedia content has been developed largely in Armenia in collaboration with scientists and engineers at Yerevan State University's Center of IT Education and Research.

AVC also introduced a hybrid education method, which targets schools and educational institutes by offering a blend of conventional and online pedagogies. AVC implemented this method for the first time with the Ohanessian Friday School of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. Since that initial experiment, nearly 10 schools and communities have joined the hybrid educational model and use AVC as part of their curriculum.



Armenia's Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosyan addresses the AGBU Armenian Virtual College's Global Online Forum on September 6. AGBU Central Board Member Yervant Zorian (right) chaired the event.

The AVC local committee of Tbilisi was present for the Global Online Forum and they discussed their plans to establish an AVC Lab in the local church center. Similarly, the head of the Armenian community of Rostov, Russia, spoke about the opening of the first operational AVC lab in his city, starting in October.

Many AVC students from different countries of the world, as well as AVC online instructors and online education specialists, participated in the Global Online Forum through online tools. Live video connections were established with students from the United States, Russia, Spain

and Uruguay. Students and instructors shared their AVC experiences and answered audience questions about the online college. Some students, who happened to be visiting Armenia at the time, attended the event and shared their views in person.

AVC continues to build its three departments: Armenian Language, History and Culture, each of which offers courses of different levels. Currently, AVC offers instruction in seven languages: Eastern Armenian, Western Armenian, English, Russian, French, Spanish and Turkish.

Cosmic Ray Division Students Receive Degrees and Acclaim

YEREVAN — Bagrat Mailyan, the newest young scientist to immerse from the Cosmic Ray Division (CRD) of the Artem Alikhanyan National Laboratory (AANL) in Armenia, has been engaged in researching cosmic ray physics

Two students were conducting their senior undergraduate research projects at the Cosmic Ray Division of AANL. Both students, Hasmik Rostomyan and Hripsime Mkrtchyan from Yerevan State University, conducted their senior research at CRD's high altitude research stations on Mt. Aragats and graduated with a bachelor's degree.

With the head of CRD Prof. Ashot Chilingarian as senior advisor, both young women researched topics related to the ongoing work at CRD.

In accordance with a new AANL policy of supporting bright, young Armenian scientists, both graduates were given employment at the Cosmic Ray Division while pursuing advanced degrees. In addition, Rostomyan was accepted

by the United States Space Agency (NASA) to attend its upcoming space weather school in Slovakia in July.

Anahid Yeremian, a physicist and chairwoman of the Support Committee for Armenia's Cosmic Ray Division (SCACRD), commented that support of the diaspora greatly facilitated these achievements. "We are proud of our diaspora," she cited, "and immensely proud of CRD's leadership, staff and especially our talented young Armenian students, scientists and engineers."



PhD recipient Bagrat Mailyan at CRD Nor Ambert research station, Mt. Aragats

models, particle detectors, methods of the data analysis and simulation of detector response. Mailyan defended his PhD thesis, "The Energy Spectra of Thunderstorm Correlated Electrons and Gamma-rays," at the June 7 session of the AANL council meeting.

Mailyan will present the results of his work at the International Cosmic Ray Conference in Beijing, China this August and will participate in the competition for the post-doctoral position at the CRD to be organized by the AANL this autumn.



PhD recipient Bagrat Mailyan, center, with student (left) and staff member (right) in front of joint Japanese-Armenian Cosmic Ray project - CRD Aragats research station, Mt. Aragats



PhD recipient Bagrat Mailyan, seated, Prof. Ashot Chilingarian standing to left, at Nor Ambert research station, Mt. Aragats



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Actor Invited to Seventh Muslim Film Festival

KAZAN, Tatarstan (Tert.am) – Armenian theater and film actor Armen Dzhigarkhanyan was invited to the seventh Muslim Film Festival, which took place on September 9.

Among the invited guests were Ornella Muti, a longtime fixture at the Cannes Festival, as well as actors Dmitry Dyuzhev, Kiril Safonov and others.

The festival screened films from various countries, representing universal moral values and national cultural traditions and delivered a message of pacifism, humanity and tolerance.

A total of 41 films and 19 animations from 29 countries were selected for screening. Another 25 films that were not included in the competition were also screened.

Carl Bildt: Eastern Partnership Countries at Top of EU Agenda

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The Eastern Partnership (EP) aims to strengthen and deepen contacts and cooperation with the six Eastern European countries, according to Sweden's foreign minister, Carl Bildt.

"The EP – with EU integration at the core – is a clear expression of solidarity and long-term engagement from the EU's side. Moreover, the EP has helped mobilize attention to the Eastern neighborhood amongst EU's 27 member states. With the EP, the EU as a whole has renewed its focus on Eastern Europe and has rallied around an ambitious agenda for the countries in question. The EP has firmly placed the Eastern partners at the top of the EU agenda," APA quoted Bildt.

The minister also stressed that with the EP, the countries in question are offered greater political and economic integration with the EU.

WGM Maria Kursova to Present Armenia

MOSCOW (Armenpress) – FIDE, the International Chess Federation, approved Russian Woman Grandmaster (WGM) Maria Kursova's leaving the Russian Chess Federation and joining its Armenian counterpart.

Kursova recently got married to Armenian Grandmaster Arman Pashikian and lives with him in Yerevan. In future chess tournaments, Kursova will now represent Armenia.

Baku Drinks Karabagh Vodka with French Name

YEREVAN (News.am) – Alcoholic beverages made by the Artsakh Brandy Company are being imported in Baku through Moscow, commercial director of the company Tigran Harutyunyan said.

The flavored vodkas, which are produced by the company, have both Armenian and English labeling. Eighty percent of the production is exported to Russia and Western Europe. Its demand increases all the time. The plant is in Askeran, Karabagh.

The Artsakh Brandy Company became one of the participants of 11th regional trade-industrial exhibition Armenia EXPO, which is held in Yerevan.

Armenian Film Critic Member of Venice Jury

VENICE, Italy (Panorma.am) – Susanna Harutyunyan, a prominent Armenian film critic and the artistic director of Golden Apricot International Film Festival in Armenia, was invited to be a member of The International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) Jury at the 68th Venice Film Festival, from August 31 to September 10.

She has previously been on juries at film festivals in Berlin, Locarno, Karlovy Vary, Rotterdam, Antalya and Tallinn, among others.

The FIPRESCI Prize is given to the films, which are considered to be groundbreaking and enriching.

Turkey Plays High-stakes Game, Positioning Itself at Heart of Arab World

By Ian Black

CAIRO, Egypt (*Guardian*) – Recep Tayyip Erdogan's speeches in Cairo were excellent platforms for Turkey's campaign to become a bigger player in the Middle East – against a backdrop of the momentous changes of the Arab spring and a rare sense of movement in the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

Rousing cheers in Egypt reflect Ankara's strong stand against Israel, rupturing decades of close alliance in favor of an openly critical position since last year's bitter row over the Gaza aid flotilla killings.

Turkey's quest for a robust regional role has emerged in recent years, along with a sense of disappointment – if not surprise – that its long-standing ambitions to join the EU have in effect been blocked by France and Germany, despite remaining formally on the table.

Much has been made of a "neo-Ottoman policy," under which modern Turkey seeks to regain the influence it wielded in the glory days of the vast but rickety empire it ran for four centuries, until it collapsed after the first world war. But that's ancient history. Few young Arabs remember the Turks hanging nationalist leaders in Damascus or fighting British-backed tribesmen along the Hejaz railway.

Unlike Iran, accused of playing the sectarian card in its alliances with armed Shia groups in Iraq and Lebanon, Turkey looks like a sympathetic Sunni Muslim power with an instinctive feel for the region. Bluntly, Turkey is admired largely because it has been far bolder and more confrontational towards Israel than most Arab states, starting with its outspoken response to the 2008 Israeli offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Beyond that, its political system looks like a useful model for Arab countries emerging from decades of authoritarian rule. Erdogan's call for Egypt to emulate Turkey's secular constitution was sensibly bracketed with a reminder that secularism is not automatically against Islam.

From Egypt, Erdogan goes on to

"[Erdogan] is playing a high-stakes game at a time when the stakes could not be higher."

–Daniel Wagner
Foreign Policy Journal

Tunisia and Libya – thus far the three most successful but unfinished examples of this year's uprisings – hoping to bolster their transition processes and to promote trade and investment. The official entourage includes six ministers and 200 business leaders, a reminder of Turkey's dynamic economy: trade with the Middle East and North Africa was worth \$30 billion last year and comprises 27 percent of exports.

For all the excitement about a new departure, there may be limits to how far Turkey will go. It has been very active over the Syrian crisis but has conspicu-

ously not joined western countries in calling for Bashar al-Assad to go.

Erdogan's decision not to visit the Gaza Strip, despite earlier hints that he would, suggests restraint in the face of likely anger from the US, Israel and the Palestinian authority, whose relations with the Islamists of Hamas remain strained. Officials in Ankara have also been playing down a headline-grabbing warning that Turkish warships would be prepared to escort the next Gaza-bound aid flotillas, raising the alarming prospect of an armed clash with Israel on the high seas.

For some analysts the risk for Erdogan is that it will all prove too much for the US and Turkey's other NATO partners. "Erdogan is a brilliant tactician and has proven himself to be quite adept both at responding to events in the region and seeking to influence their outcome," wrote Daniel Wagner in *Foreign Policy Journal*. "He is playing a high-stakes game at a time when the stakes could not be higher. One has to wonder whether his quest to become a hero to the average man in the Arab street may ultimately backfire, and at what cost? If the US has to choose between Turkey and Israel, it will naturally choose Israel."

Armenian Pastor Released in Iran After One Year in Prison

TEHRAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – After approximately one year of imprisonment, Pastor Vahik Abrahamian, an Armenian, was released on August 29, reported the Farsi Christian News Network.

Abrahamian was arrested by security agents, together with his wife, Sonia Keshish Avanesian, on September 4, 2010, in his home in Hamedan and was accused of various offences, including propagating Christianity, opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran and having contact with exiled opposition figures.

The couple, along with family friends, Arash and Arezou, were held

for 44 days in solitary confinement in the ministry of information's detention center, during which time, all were subjected to intensive interrogation and severe mental and psychological torture.

They were then moved to the Hamedan prison's general ward and after eight months, they were found not guilty in a court hearing and subsequently Sonia, Arash and Arezou were released on April 30, 2010 but Vahik Abrahamian was detained.

He was released after family and friends posted cash bail of 10 million toomans pending his trial.

165th Anniversary of Chater's Birth Marked

HONG KONG – On September 8, on the occasion of the 165th anniversary of the birth of Sir Catchik Paul Chater (Khatchik Poghos Astvatsaturian), with the blessings of Karekin II Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Very Rev. Khoren Hovhannisyan, pastor of Armenians in India and manager of the Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy and the Armenian Church Committee of India, visited Hong Kong to pay homage to Chater at his gravesite.

Chater was born in Calcutta, India in 1846 and was baptized at the Armenian Church of Holy Nazareth. At the age of 18, he settled in Hong Kong where by virtue of hard work, he gained immense wealth. From 1876 to 1926, Chater was the Consul of the Senior Justice of Peace in Hong Kong and for more than 40 years, served as adviser to the governor-general of the island and was also a member of the Legislative and Executive Council of Hong Kong.

In 1902, Chater was knighted by King Edward VII of the UK. He was a frequent visitor to Buckingham Palace.

Chater was the most significant benefactor of the Armenian community of India. He contributed immensely to the Armenian churches of India and built the Armenian Old Age Home of Kolkata. In addition, Chater made a generous contribution for the survivors of the Armenian Genocide in Great Britain through his Armenian Immigrants Benevolent Fund.

Chater died in 1926. His death affected the global stock market.

Today, his name still resonates in Hong Kong, with Chater Park, Chater Road and Chater Street.



Sir Catchik Paul Chater

Community News

Avakian Stands Liberal Ground on War, Health Care

By Jonathan J. Cooper

ORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — When Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian decided to run for Congress, he planned to take on a seven-term incumbent weakened by scandal in the 2012 election.

A lot changed in four months.

The incumbent, former Rep. David Wu, has resigned amid allegations that he made an unwanted sexual advance toward a young woman in California. So Avakian is now sprinting toward a special primary election that's little more than two months away. His main opponent isn't a battered Wu, but rather the state senator who replaced him in the Legislature three years ago.

As he courts Democratic primary voters to help win the Nov. 8 special election, Avakian is trumpeting solidly liberal positions on a number of issues — ideas that could play well in the Democrat-dominated Northwest Oregon district, even if they are less popular in a Republican-controlled US House of



Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian

Representatives. Avakian wants, for instance, to immediately end the war in Afghanistan and use the money to hire many of the 14 million out-of-work Americans to build new bridges and upgrade airports and railways.

"I would take every available aircraft carrier we have. I would send them to the Middle East, I would load up our troops immediately and bring them home," Avakian said in a recent interview.

His tough talk is a repudiation of President Barack Obama's strategy, which calls for bringing home the troops by the end of 2014 and a nod to liberals who are highly skeptical of US involvement in Afghanistan. His Democratic opponents — state Sen. Suzanne Bonamici of Portland and state Rep. Brad Witt of Clatskanie — have also said the Obama should bring the troops home sooner, though not necessarily immediately.

Avakian said he hasn't seen enough progress in Afghanistan to justify endangering troops any longer, and he said he'd be willing to vote against funding for the conflict.

With Wu out of office, his shadow has all but disappeared from the race to replace him. The candidates, for the most part, are focused on each other. Avakian points out he was the first to take on Wu months before the congressman resigned on August 3.

"I think you would find them pretty close ideologically," said Len Bergstein, a Democratic lobbyist and former political consultant not affiliated with any of the candidates. "So in a lot of ways they are going to be talking about personality styles."

Now that he has two new opponents, though, Avakian has a unique challenge to differentiate
see AVAKIAN, page 6



Lorig Charkoudian with her husband, Matt, and children Aline and Raffi

Lorig Charkoudian Runs for Local Office In Maryland

TAKOMA PARK, Md. — Lorig Charkoudian, a Massachusetts native, announced her candidacy for City Council here. She has a progressive agenda, including environmental initiatives and economic development policies that support small and micro-enterprises. She underscores the importance of harnessing the potential of participatory democracy and making the city more accountable to its residents.

Charkoudian holds a PhD in economics from Johns Hopkins University. She has developed and worked with community-based programs throughout Maryland and has worked professionally in dispute resolution for 16 years, including work with a variety of public agencies and law enforcement. She has raised revenue and managed budgets as a non-profit executive director and increased revenue and programming during the economic downturn. She is currently active with the Takoma Junction Task Force and the South of Sligo Citizens Association.

Charkoudian has been working with several local non-profits to start a commercial kitchen to be used for micro-enterprise development.

Local food is one of the many policy initiatives Charkoudian is promoting. "Supporting the development of a local food system can address several important areas — economic development, job creation, environmental stewardship and health. And food gives us a chance to celebrate different cultures and build community," said Charkoudian.

She credits her appreciation for the power of food as an economic engine and community builder to her Armenian upbringing. "I grew up eating *churtmah*, *merjume*, *dolma*, *tabouli* and *babaganoush* that my grandmothers and mother made from food grown in their gardens. It fed the community and our souls and it was good for our bodies and the environment."

Charkoudian was raised in a political family, with both father and mother involved in local politics. Her mother, Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, was active in the Civil Rights Movement in the early 1960s, and currently serves on the Newton Parks and Recreation Commission. Her father, Levon Charkoudian, was commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Community Affairs under Gov. Francis W. Sargent.

Charkoudian's family has always had a strong presence and active involvement in the Armenian community. Three of her Marashtsi grandparents were survivors of the Armenian Genocide. Her aunt, Arppie Charkoudian, was the international president of the Armenian Relief Society. Charkoudian herself attended the AGBU Armenian Elementary School in Watertown, Mass.

Charkoudian lives in Takoma Park with her husband, Matt, and their children, Aline and Raffi.

For more information on her campaign, visit lorigcharkoudian.com.

Yerevan and Karabagh on Milwaukee Movie Screens

MILWAUKEE, Wis. — Moviegoers don't often hear Armenian spoken in a film shown at Milwaukee theaters, or see the crowded streets of Yerevan or the Caucasus Mountains looming over the grassy uplands of Karabagh. But Armenia is the unusual setting for "Here," a thoughtful film by US director Braden King, starring Ben Foster as Will, a young American sent to Artsakh to make a detailed map of the countryside, and Lubna Azabal as Gadarine, the local photographer who becomes his guide and love interest.

A quiet film, introducing its characters and situations slowly, "Here" shows the enduring hospitality of the Armenian people along with the divisions between rich and poor and the disapproval sometimes faced by independent-minded women such as Gadarine. To her father and brother (but not her mother!), she is the prodigal daughter. The rocky landscape is studded with the *kumpets* of the holy sites and the soundtrack includes the lively rhythms of contemporary Armenian pop music as well as the timeless melodies of the *Badarak*.

Co-sponsored by Armenian Fest, "Here" will be shown three times at the Milwaukee Film Festival: 9:30 p.m., September 23 at the Oriental Theatre; 4:15 p.m., September 24 at the Northshore Theatre and 7:15 p.m., September 26 at the Ridge Cinema.

— David Lührssen

Celebrating 20th Anniversary of Armenian Independence

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — On Sunday, September 25, at 6 p.m., the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA), in collaboration with five Greater Boston Armenian organizations, is sponsoring a program to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Armenia.

The event will be held at Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St.

Keynote speaker will be Rouben Shougarian, the first ambassador of Armenia to the United States, who is currently professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

A musical performance of Armenian choral works will be offered by the Arlington-Belmont Chamber Chorus, conducted by Artistic Director Barry Singer.

Mistress of ceremonies will be Rachel Kaprielian, commissioner of the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Co-sponsoring groups are: the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA), the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), the Armenian Cultural Foundation and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU).

Admission is free, and a reception will follow the program.



COMMUNITY NEWS

John Minas Adds Armenian Flair to Florida Fare As Executive Chef at the Governor's Mansion

By Doug Kalajian

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (*FLArmenians*) – Ask anyone with a glimmer of culinary consciousness about Florida cuisine and you will most likely hear a tale of Caribbean-Latin fusion that sizzles like the sands of South Beach.

Then ask Chef John Minas.

For one of his first dinners as executive chef at the Florida governor's mansion, Minas served notice that there's a new culinary accent in the Sunshine State: Armenian.

"I made grape leaves," he said proudly.

Minas, who grew up in the deep-rooted Armenian community of Watertown, Mass., inherited a love of food from his Armenian and Assyrian family. He credits his paternal grandfather, Bashir Minas, with inspiring him.

"Every Sunday, we'd go to my grandfather's house," he said. "He cooked the best Armenian and Middle Eastern food I ever tasted. *Dolmas*, *sarmas*. And his *fasoulia* – oh my gosh! He made it all and he made it amazing. He wasn't a trained chef, but he was a great cook."

On weekdays, young Minas rushed home from high school to watch the back-to-back shows of Food Network pioneers Emeril Lagasse and Mario Batali. "Those guys were all about the food and the technique," he said.

The idea took hold that he could meld the elegance and discipline of Western fine dining with the flavors and ingredients he grew up with.

After training at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY, Minas worked at several restaurants in the Northeast and was planning to open his own when he heard about the unique opportunity in far-off Tallahassee, Fla.

He sent a resume and got a quick invitation for an interview on April 11, his 26th birthday.

The interview turned out to be an audition.

"All of a sudden I was cooking breakfast at the mansion," he said. "That was followed by lunch and then dinner." While he was at it, Minas volunteered an afternoon snack, "a real *mezze* platter" including feta cheese and pita bread.

Nearly every dish in his day-long cooking marathon reflected Minas' cultural connection.

"My dinner entree was a watercress tabbouleh with Chilean sea bass and grilled asparagus," he said. "It was a French take on Middle Eastern. I'm very big on that."

The fourth of six candidates to try out, Minas was barely back in Boston when he received news that he'd been hired. He started his new job in May and launched straight into an exciting yet demanding routine. Minas supervises all planning and preparation for a whirlwind of state dinners and charity events as well as daily meals for Gov. Rick Scott and First Lady Ann Scott.

Minas said he's excited about Florida's rich variety of fresh seafood and produce, but the job has kept him so busy that he's had limited opportunity to travel around the state. "I'm really looking forward not only to getting to know the

state, but to meet the Armenians here," he said. "I want to get to Boca Raton and all the other Armenian communities."

So far, Minas has brought not only Armenian touches to the mansion menu but other Middle Eastern favorites.

"I take our cuisine and try to make it relevant for a new generation," he said. "I make a very refined *hummus*, with several variations on a plate. For example, a kalamata *hummus* served with traditional pita chips and a basil-pesto hummus with tomato pita chips. It's no better than my mother's *hummus*, but it's my version."

Scott has become such a fan that he appointed Minas and his sous chef, Carin Butler, to represent the state in the 2011 Great American Seafood Cook-Off in New Orleans. "John is a talented chef and cooks up some of the best food I've ever tasted," the governor announced. "He's going to give those other chefs a run for their money."

Minas presented a Florida black grouper with avocado crème fraiche and spicy shrimp toast that he said, "tastes like the state of Florida on a plate." He didn't win, but he wasn't discouraged.

"I'm just getting started," he said. "The job and the people here are wonderful. I plan to be in Tallahassee for a long time. Then, who knows?"

(Doug Kalajian is a retired journalist in Palm Beach County and sous chef at www.TheArmenianKitchen.com.)



John Minas

Armenian Professional Society Will Honor Bone Marrow Registry Co-Founder at Banquet

LOS ANGELES – Dr. Frieda Jordan, president and co-founder of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR), has been named 2011 Professional of the Year by the Armenian Professional Society (APS) for her efforts in presiding over the ABMDR.

With headquarters in Los Angeles and laboratory facilities in Yerevan, Armenia, the ABMDR is a non-profit organization whose mission is to ensure that every ethnic Armenian, as well as non-Armenian, afflicted with a life-threatening blood-related illness is able to find hope for long-term survival through the identification of suitable bone marrow donor.

Under Jordan's leadership to date, the registry has recruited more than 20,000 donors across three continents, identified 2,023 patients, found 1,700 potential matches and facilitated 13 transplants.



Dr. Frieda Jordan

Due to the unique genetic make-up of Armenians, it is nearly impossible to find suitable matches among the existing international registries – thus, the ABMDR, a registry that facilitates recruiting and identifying bone marrow donors for ethnic Armenians.

Shahan Minassian, president of the APS, commented on the decision to elect Jordan. "We are very proud to have in our midst, an Armenian visionary and leader who is leading the battle to defeat the cancer afflicting our own brothers and sisters."

Jordan will accept the honor at this year's annual APS banquet on Saturday, November 5, at the Armenian Society Center in Los Angeles.

Mark Geragos, chairman of the ABMDR and past APS awardee, will be the master of ceremonies.

For additional information about the event, write to apsla@apsla.org, www.apsla.org or APS, P. O. Box 10306, Glendale, CA 91209.

Avakian Stands Liberal Ground on War, Health Care

AVAKIAN, from page 5

himself from Witt – another Democrat named Brad courting support and money from unions. Bonamici calls her opponents "The Brads," and she stands to benefit if they appeal to the same constituency and split the vote.

Avakian, 50, is a lawyer who represented workers in employment discrimination cases. He said the experience showed him the importance of a job – for money, to be sure, but also for a person's psyche and sense of self-worth.

Avakian said he wants to help people find jobs by focusing on workforce training, reviving shop classes in middle and high schools and finding a way to get banks to lend more money so businesses have confidence in their cash flow. He also wants to reduce regulations on credit unions in hopes that they'd lend more to small businesses and compete with larger banks.

He isn't much of a fan of the federal health care overhaul. Not that he agrees with the law's conservative critics who say it's socialist or unconstitutional. He thinks it didn't go far enough and he would prefer an option for government-run health care for people who choose it. Eventually, he said, he'd like to see a single-payer health care system.

Still, he said he would have voted for the federal health overhaul because it gave health coverage to people who were uninsured.

Avakian got his start in politics in 1998 with an unsuccessful bid to unseat Republican Sen. Tom Hartung, a Washington County stalwart who had represented the region for decades. Avakian lost, but not by much, and he got some attention from insiders for his fundraising prowess and a commitment to consistently pounding the pavement in his district. He tried again four years later, this time for a House

seat, and he won.

In his last year in the Legislature, Avakian worked on an expansion of the bottle bill and was credited with muscling through a measure that requires Oregon's largest utilities to draw 25 percent of their electricity from renewable resources by 2025.

In 2008, Avakian was one of four Democrats running for secretary of state. When Labor Commissioner Dan Gardner resigned to take a job in the nation's capital, then-Gov. Ted Kulongoski appointed Avakian to the post. He was elected statewide later that year and his term expires next year.

As commissioner at the Bureau of Labor and Industries, which is responsible for enforcing antidiscrimination and employment laws, Avakian says he has focused on improving relations with businesses and simplifying bureaucratic processes.

Avakian opposes restrictions on abortion and supports the legalization of gay marriage. He says illegal immigrants now in the United States should be allowed to legalize their status, with a penalty of some sort, and the country needs to acknowledge that significant industries rely on illegal-immigrant labor.

"I wish that more people in America valued citizenship like I think we used to, and I wish that more immigrants that were coming here saw a pathway to citizenship and wanted it, because I think it's a valuable thing," Avakian said.

He lives in Beaverton with his wife, Debbie, a human resources administrator. They have two children in college, ages 20 and 18.

The winner of the Democratic primary will most likely face Republican Rob Cornilles in a January 31 general election to determine who will finish out Wu's term. The regular general election will be held November 6, 2012.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. John Garabed Church Gala Fundraiser Planned for October

SAN DIEGO – The Bridge to the Future gala dinner and dance, to be held on October 1, 6:30 p.m. at the Grand Del Mar Hotel, has experienced brisk ticket sales and sponsorships from both the Armenian and non-Armenian communities.

Tickets for the event can be reserved online at www.stjohngarabedtrust.org/donate_online or by mailing the reply card enclosed in the invitation. Tickets will be held at the door.

The St. John Garabed Armenian Church Trust Fund Committee is hosting the gala to

support the building of its new church campus near Del Mar. St. John Garabed's parish is led by Archpriest Der Datev A.K. Tatoulian.

Kathy Kassardjian is chairing the Bridge to the Future Gala, and Ani Lanuza is co-chair.

"We are making history, and we want the entire Southern California Armenian community to be a part of it," says Kassardjian. "This church campus will truly be the center of activity for all Armenians in the area."

Attorney Mark Geragos will serve as master of ceremonies at the gala. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, Diocese of the

Armenian Church of America (Western), will be the guest of honor, and many other public figures will be in attendance. Koko Hayitian and his band are the evening's entertainers.

The live and silent auctions feature more than 30 items, including a \$27,000 diamond-encrusted ring by designer Zorab; getaways to Puerto Vallarta, San Francisco and Palm Desert, among other items.

For information about the gala, donations or ticket sales, contact Ani Lanuza or email sjgsdtrust@gmail.com. For new campus and legacy giving opportunities, contact Gary Takessian at Takessiang@yahoo.com.



St. John Garabed Armenian Church Bridge to the Future Gala Committee are, front row, from left, Janet Desmond, Nora Balikian, Viviane Hagopian, Ani Lanuza, Rev. Datev A.K. Tatoulian, Kathy Kassardjian, Maida Markarian, Lisa Istamboulou-Partow and Beth Broussalian; back row, from left, Armen Derderian, Ryan Belmer, Sonia Serpekian, Gary Takessian, Rose Babayan, Henrietta Movsessian and Alan Yaghdjian (missing from photo: Lisa Kradjian)

The Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe Hosts Annual Picnic

By Robert Serabian

HAVERHILL, Mass. – On Sunday August 21, the Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe held its annual picnic on the grounds of the American Legion Farm. The picnic started with church services performed by Fr. Vart Gyozaian. Although the weather was cloudy, that did not stop the crowds from three different states from attending and sampling the excellent Hye Pointe cuisine. The attendees enjoyed Armenian cuisine prepared by the kitchen crew. The Women's Guild bakery and pastry table featured traditional Armenian sweets, which were snapped up.

Music for the event was provided by Hye Pointe's own Jason Naroian Ensemble, which featured guest vocalist Haz Essegian. The

church raffle had prizes totaling \$1,000, as well as gift certificates to area restaurants and boutiques. Representatives from the city government were in attendance to meet the crowd and sample the cuisine.

The Hye Pointe picnic drew more than 500 attendees from the Merrimack Valley, the North Shore, Metro-Boston, New Hampshire and Maine. Whereas most picnics today are on church grounds, the Hye Pointe church picnic venue reflects a tradition when picnics were held in wooded areas or parks outside of the cities.

During the past year the church has held a number of dinners which have been well attended. These dinners will be held periodically throughout the year.

For further information on the Armenian Apostolic Church at Hye Pointe, visit www.hyepointechurch.org.



Celebrants dance at the Hye Pointe Church picnic.

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Armenia Fest Committee Already Mulling Next Year

ROYAL OAK, Mich. – On Saturday, September 3, coming off their fourth successful Armenia Fest, some members of the Metro Detroit Armenia Fest Committee got together to scout ideas for next year's fest at the "Art, Beats and Eats" event. This event, one of the largest in Oakland County, draws almost a million people over three days. The members, Co-Chair David Terzibashian, Agop Alexanian, Shirley Sarkisian and Madeline Thomasian, checked out vendors, staging, etc. and got some good ideas they felt would help Armenia Fest to grow.

In addition to gathering ideas, they were there to see member Madeline Thomasian's daughter, Eliza Thomasian Neals, perform on the Ford Alternative Stage.

Neals gave a knockout performance right before a severe thunderstorm struck around 9 p.m., sending attendees running for shelter.

Armenia Fest 2012 is scheduled to take place on July 15, 2012 in Royal Oak at the Michigan Royal Oak Farmer's Market.



New York METRO

AGBU New York Summer Intern Program Retrospective

NEW YORK — On Sunday, June 12, 33 Armenian university students arrived in New York City to take part in the 24th season of AGBU's New York Summer Intern Program (NYSIP). Arriving from nearly a dozen countries — Argentina, Armenia, France, Greece, Lebanon, Qatar, Russia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States — the eager students found a common thread in their Armenian heritage and shared desires to gain a substantial edge towards achieving their future career goals and building lasting friendships.

AGBU New York interns spent eight weeks exploring the hands-on realities of their chosen fields with full-time, unpaid internships secured through AGBU, which this year included institutions such as Amber Capital, AXA Advisors, Columbia University Medical Center, First Solar, Interaudi Bank, Massey Knakal and Rothschild. NYSIP participants were housed at the dormitories of New York University in Greenwich Village, while exploring the city's landmarks and sites with NYSIP staff. Associate program director Michael Hovsepian led the group, along with activities coordinators Mariana Mekbekian and Stephan Terjimanian. Both Mekbekian and Terjimanian participated in NYSIP in 2008.

"This internship has been such a great experience for me, and the best part has been becoming so close with people I didn't know eight weeks ago," said 2011 intern Gassia Guiragossian of California. A psychology major at the University of California, Irvine, Guiragossian interned at NYU Medical Center's Epidemiology Department.

Work Experience and Expanding Horizons

Each year, NYSIP is geared towards providing distinguished students with a rewarding professional experience and opportunities for enhancing career development and contacts, which are invaluable tools in today's intensely and increasingly competitive global marketplace. Following

rent job market, as well as how to make the most of their time in New York. He also stressed the importance of giving back in general — and to AGBU in particular — after each student begins to make a mark in his or her respective profession.

As part of NYSIP and its mission to give the interns a full experience of New York, the local Armenian community and what it means to be a member of the global Armenian community, the interns volunteered at the New York Armenian Home in Queens during an annual event organized by the AGBU Young Professionals of Greater New York (YPGNY), called "Sunshine for Seniors." During the Sunday event, the students perform and entertain the residents of the senior living facility, while taking time to get to know the seniors.

NYSIP participants also attended an array of professional events, which included lectures and presentations on resume writing, interviewing, business ethics and entrepreneurship by some of the city's top industry leaders. As part of AGBU's University Outreach program, NYSIP alumnus Serge Kassardjian spoke to the college students regarding the importance of online networking and social media platforms as invaluable tools in their job search both now and throughout their careers. An executive at the tech giant Google, Kassardjian, who has extensive experience in the online sphere, addressed the interns' questions about professionalism and the Internet.

AGBU Central Board member and career expert Arda Haratunian also spoke to the NYSIP participants, giving them instruction on the characteristics of a successful job search. She spoke about maximizing contacts in order



NYSIP interns with program staff and NYSIP alumnus and committee member Serge Kassardjian, who spoke to the interns about online networking and social media

Night organized by YPGNY. During a six-week mentorship program, each intern was paired up with a mentor working in the intern's field of interest, and they met several times throughout the program to discuss career-related issues and seek general guidance during their time in New York. As has been the case over the past few years, many of the interns continue to keep in touch with their mentors once NYSIP concludes.

On July 21, a "Mentoring Night" was held, which invited a large community of young Armenian professionals. The Mentoring Program, along with the Mentoring Night, has been increasingly successful in helping to put the interns on the right career track and make the right contacts in order to facilitate career direction during their educational pursuits.

On July 28, more than 70 people came together to show their appreciation and honor the supervisors who hosted NYSIP interns at their respective workplaces throughout the summer. The evening, which is known as the "Supervisor's Reception" and takes place at the AGBU Central Office, began with a dinner reception, followed by a tribute program with several speakers.

Interns Alex Baghdjian of Doha, Qatar, and Jasmine Schembri of Banstead, United Kingdom, shared the experiences they had over the summer and thanked everyone responsible for their time in New York. Michael Amirkhanian, first vice president at Massey Knakal, also spoke to the group and touched on his collaboration with AGBU and the internship program. Other speakers included AGBU Central Board member Carol Aslanian and NYSIP's Kassardjian.

There have been more than 700 alumni throughout the past 24 years of NYSIP.

"During my NYSIP experience, I learned the value of camaraderie combined with professionalism — it will move you forward in life to places that you may never have expected to go," said



AGBU Central Board member and career expert Arda Haratunian speaking to NYSIP participants on July 18

intern Nieri Avanesian of Michigan, who interned at the Harboring Hearts nonprofit organization and is currently a linguistics and political science student at the University of Michigan. Fellow 2011 intern Hovan Agopian of Syria added, "The AGBU Intern Program gave me an unforgettable experience of life in New York City and the skills required to develop my career in my future endeavors."



NYSIP interns with internship supervisors, program staff and other members of AGBU — including AGBU Central Board member Carol Aslanian — at the Supervisor's Reception, which was held at the AGBU Central Office on July 28

the busy work days, the evenings and weekends were filled with several exciting events, including a citywide scavenger hunt, a private lesson in Armenian dance by AGBU's Antranig Dance Ensemble, a book reading by author Michael Bobelian, a presentation on Armenian art by art historian and curator Neery Melkonian, a lecture by writer and film director Andrew Goldberg about his documentary, "The Armenian Genocide," and a visit to St. Vartan's Armenian Cathedral, where participants had a private tour followed by dinner with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern).

Interns also met with Raffi Balian, who, along with Sarkis Jebejian, is the co-chair of the New York Summer Intern Program. Balian, who is a foreign service officer at the US State Department, spoke to the students about the value placed on quality internships in the cur-

to forge a larger network, and using both those personal and professional networks to access opportunities.

Interns also met with Shant Petrossian, senior editorial producer for the "Piers Morgan Tonight" television program on CNN. Petrossian, who has also worked for numerous other television programs, including shows by Rachael Ray, spoke to the students about his career path and how he broke into a very difficult field through hard work and perseverance. A key message Petrossian gave to the interns was to know when to walk away. He illustrated his point by explaining why he left a stable position at the "Rachael Ray Show" for a new and unknown show on CNN.

Local Mentors

NYSIP's 2011 interns benefited from an interactive Mentoring Program & Mentoring



Filmmaker Andrew Goldberg speaks to the interns about his documentary, "The Armenian Genocide," on July 12.



New York METRO

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St. Nersess Offers Auction Items Online until September 24

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. — Nine items are up for auction through St. Nersess Armenian Seminary's annual benefit reception, "Evening Under the Stars."

Bidders can choose from a variety of items that include a Michael Aram-designed vase; an exquisite four-by-six Kazak rug donated by Tufenkian Artisan Carpets of New York; New York Giant tickets for New Year's Day against the Dallas Cowboys; a Blu-ray disc player; a 14-karat-gold star-shaped necklace from Mirijohn Givlekian of Royal Jewels in Rye; a vacation time share to anywhere in the world through Interval International; a year's worth of Wisconsin Kringle and New York Ranger tickets for a game of the bidders' choice in Madison Square Garden. Also available is a repeat of last year's most popular auction item, a full-course gourmet dinner for four, prepared by and served in the home of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary dean, the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan.

"This year's selection of auction items are impressive in their variety and value," said event chair and Seminary Board member, Suzanne Akian, a senior vice president of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, adding, "I am most grateful for the generous contributions to this year's auction, which will ultimately benefit the important mission and good works of the Seminary, especially for the youth of our church."

All these items are being offered at a starting price below half their original value.

Bids may be placed right now online at www.stnersess.edu and monitored up until the evening of Saturday, September 24, when the auction closes and the highest bidder for each item will be announced during the benefit reception.

To RSVP for the event, call the Seminary office or place reservations online at www.stnersess.edu. The reception will begin at 7 p.m. Auction items will be displayed throughout the evening with bids placed via computers located near each item. So both onsite guests and people from home may track the current

highest bid and continue outbidding until the auction closes promptly at 9:30 p.m.

Last year's event drew 150 people who gath-



A Michael Aram-designed large Wisteria vase is one of the nine items offered for auction at half its original value. Visit www.stnersess.edu to view all the items and place bids.

ered under an elegant candlelit tent off the back patio of the seminary building on the scenic campus. Proceeds will benefit the seminary's youth and vocations programs.

Rev. Dikran Youmshakian To Be Installed Pastor of Armenian Bible Church

HACKENSACK, N.J. — The Board of Elders of the Armenian Bible Church of Hackensack announced the appointment of Rev. Dikran Youmshakian as pastor of the church as of August 1. An installation service will be held on Sunday, September 18, at 12:30 p.m. followed by a reception at the church hall. The installation service will be officiated by the Rev. Thomas W. Keinath, the senior pastor of Calvary Temple of Wayne, who will also give the sermon that day.

Youmshakian is a graduate of New Brunswick Theological Seminary with a master's degree in Theological Studies. For 26 years he has served the Armenian Missionary Association of America, as administrator and field director. He has traveled extensively and preached in various churches in the US and abroad. As of January, he has served Dorcas Aid America (DorAid) as its executive director. DorAid is a partner of Dorcas Aid International, a Christian relief and development organization.

For the last two years Youmshakian was serving the Armenian Bible Church as a visiting pastor. As its minister, he will be responsible to lead the church and its activities.

The Armenian Bible Church is an independent Christian fellowship and has been in existence as a church since 2008.

The Armenian Bible Church is located on 67 S. Prospect Ave. Sunday worship services are held at 12:30 p.m. in Armenian with English translation for those who do not speak Armenian. The services are also broadcast on Cable TV on Fridays. The church has an active Sunday school and a youth group. Sunday school is held during worship at 12:30. The youth meet on Sundays in the afternoon. All are welcome to join the church.



Rev. Dikran Youmshakian

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Arts & Living

Armenians Should Sing And Dance Vigorously

By Betty Apigian Kessel

DETROIT – What is the solution to what could be sadness and unbelievable sorrow?

What do you do about a situation foisted upon a group of people, the Armenians, who through really no fault of their own became victims of the first genocide of the 20th century?

What do you do when you grow up hearing the words “massacre, genocide, torture, rape and pillage” knowing the victims were your own family?

What do you do when you heard your parents frequently talk about how they never again saw their father, mother, sisters, brothers, and extended members of their family because the turmoil of the 1915 Genocide of the Armenians by the Ottoman Turks either saw all of them slaughtered or they became lost in the dust created by the havoc of the Turks and Kurds on horseback swinging their swords and other instruments of death hitting their targets with a thud, snuffing the life out of them?

What do you do when from childhood and on you are taught to cling to your ethnic roots, to fight for an “*Azad, angagh Hayastan*,” to honor the Armenian tri-color of red, blue and orange but to also honor, respect and love the flag and country of the United States of America, the land that welcomed the survivors of that same first genocide to a life of all the freedoms promised in the US Constitution?

What do you do when you spend the decades of your life waiting for acknowledgement by the most powerful nation on earth, your beloved United States, to finally point the finger of guilt to the country of Turkey in acknowledgement of the Ottoman Turks part in the genocide of your countrymen to the tune of at least 1.5 million individuals?

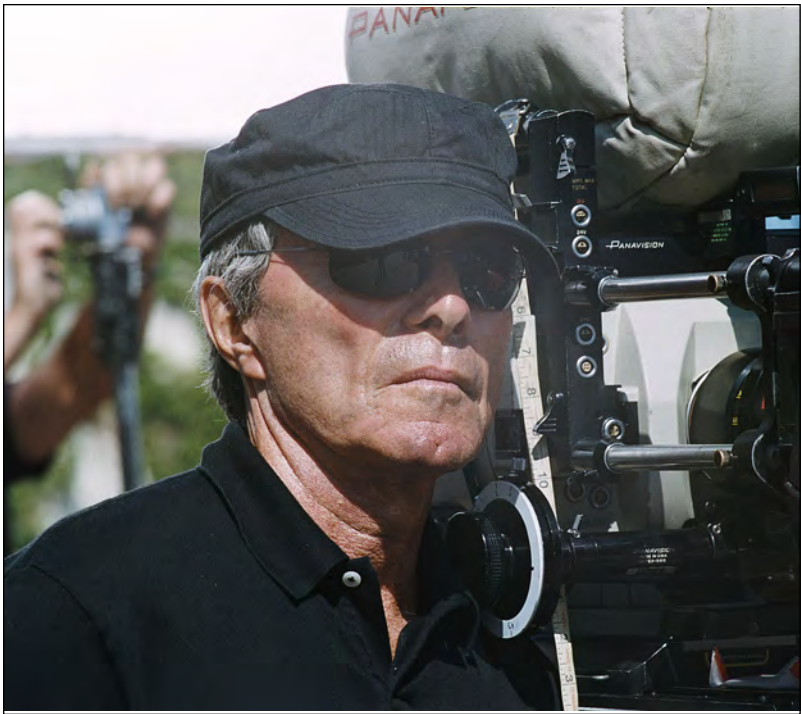
Where are your grandparents, your aunts and uncles? Are they in a mountain-chasm gravesite, drowned in the Black Sea, taken off to a remote site and shot to death, burned to death while they huddled hopelessly in an Armenian church praying with their priest nailed to the door, or in the case of young boys, converted and conscripted into the Turkish army; girls and women placed in harems or again converted to Islam and forced into marriages with Turks and Kurds, forever outwardly losing their Christian identity or possibly were they part of the death march to Der Zor where their scorched bones are strewn beneath the hot sandy surface along with those of thousands of other unfortunates?

Sinking into self-pity and depression are not an option. Armenians rose up in the freedom movement of the late 1890s to finally fight back against the oppressive Turks and thus the Armenian Cause, *Hye Tahd* was born and continues to this day.

Finally, Armenians must sing and dance and do so frequently to overcome the sadness and feeling of loss. We must continue to hold our heads up high, never giving up for the cause for Armenian justice. Giving up and failure is not an option. We are responsible to our past and to our future. The Turks have found us to be formidable opponents.

Support your churches be it Armenian Catholic, Congregational, Diocese or Prelacy. Be there to sing and dance at your picnics, *khn-jouyks* and bazaars. So what if now you are a physician, lawyer, teacher, industrialist, judge, landscaper, pharmacist, architect, fruit grower or factory worker?

see DANCE, page 13



Writer and director Francis Veber

Humor with a Trademark French Twist

SYDNEY (*Australian Jewish Times*) – Few contemporary writers and directors of comedies for the screen can outrank Francis Veber, the grand master of French comedy, in his ability to make audiences roar with laughter yet empathize with buffoons and brutes as he exemplifies the human condition.

Early in his comedy writing, Veber invented a clownish “fall guy” character, whom he gave the moniker Francois Pignon. Pierre Richard played Pignon in the three early films, which launched Veber’s success globally: “*Le Chevre*” (1981), “*Les Comperes*” (1983) and “*Les Fugitifs*” (1986).

Daniel Auteuil played Pignon in “*The Closet*” and Moroccan-born Jewish actor Gad Elmaleh in “*The Valet*.” But no matter who plays the bungling Pignon, the purpose of the character is clear: to play the Chaplin-like “little man” in stark contrast to a macho bully (played by Gerard Depardieu in the early films with Pierre Richard).

Thrown together by forces beyond their control, the two must find a way to coexist, and in the process grow protective and even fond of each other.

Veber believes this coupling of opposites, cruelty with humor, is the “foundation of comedy” and sees German-born director Ernst Lubitsch’s “*To Be or Not To Be*,” made in 1942 and set during the Nazi occupation of Poland, as a powerful example of how these opposites work.

“The more tragic it is, the better for laughs,” explains Veber, who was in Australia this month giving master classes at the Melbourne International Film Festival.

Veber was born in the western suburbs of Paris in 1937 to a Jewish father (Pierre-Gilles Veber, who scripted the eight-episode serial adaptation of *Fanfan La Tulipe* in 1925) and an Armenian-Russian mother (also a writer). Only the fact of his being baptized at birth saved his family from the fate that awaited many Parisian Jews during the war, as shown so chillingly in the recent French film, “*The Round Up*.”

“I have two lamentations in my blood,” Veber explains as we meet over coffee. “The Armenian Genocide [by the Turks in 1915] and the Jewish genocide. What else could I do but turn to comedy? I remember my father hiding in the back of our Paris apartment throughout the war. If he was picked up, my mother could have been sent to a concentration camp. It was a nightmare; it’s impossible not to be affected by it.”

His great-uncle, Tristan Bernard, the brother of his maternal grandmother, was a French-Jewish humorist who had a Paris Theatre and a street named after him.

In World War II, Bernard was rounded up at the Velodrome with thousands of other Jews and sent to Drancy (the primary internment camp in the Paris region) where he would have been deported if not for the intervention of powerful literary friends, among them Jean Cocteau.

“He survived, but many of my relatives were lost this way [through deportation]. Even for my family it was a disaster, although we were personally safe,” says Veber.

For Veber, humor is a defense against despair. He tells a the joke about two Jews who are brought into a square to be executed by a firing squad. As they are blindfolded, one of the Jews says to the other that he would love a cigarette, and his friend says: “Don’t look for trouble!”

see VEBER, page 13

Life in Cosmo’s Strange World

By Andy Coleman

BIRMINGHAM, U.K. (*Birmingham Evening Mail*) – He celebrated his 22nd birthday last week but despite being so young, Cosmo Jarvis has already written 300 songs and made more than 65 short films.

He will be showcasing his new album, “*Is The World Strange Or Am I Strange?*,” at a gig at Birmingham’s Rainbow in Digbeth next week.

Son of an Armenian-American mother and a British father, Jarvis was born in Ridgewood, NJ, but moved to Devon, UK, as a young child and quickly developed a passion for both music and film.

He started writing songs at age 12, having been inspired to compose something as good as The Beatles’ *Blackbird*. He began making short movies soon after.

From simply filming whatever he saw outside his window, he progressed to filming “Jackass”-style dare pieces that saw him and his skater friends convert bunk beds into quarter pipes.



Cosmo Jarvis

Having dropped out of school at 16 he released his debut album three years later.

“I quit school because I hated it so much,” he reveals. “I was the fool – I would do anything for a laugh and that’s what got me suspended so many times. Basically, I love learning things on my own.”

Follow-up “*Is The World Strange Or Am I Strange?*” is an eclectic experience, featuring bluegrass, Street-style hip-hop, pop, rap and funk.

While making the record Jarvis also wrote, produced and shot his first full-length feature film. He plans to edit it in his tour bus as he travels the country for shows. Provisionally titled “*Naughty Room*,” Jarvis says it “is mainly about parenting, as well as taking responsibility to better yourself.” He adds: “The hardest part of making this film was not being older. People just don’t want to deal with you in a professional manner if you’re young.”



ARTS & LIVING

Hacopian Brings Social Justice to Boston Housing Market

By Tom Vartabedian

BOSTON — If Boston's tenuous housing development has spiraled upward the past 42 years, it's only because of an industrious Armenian working behind the scenes.

His name is Mossik Hacopian and his company is Urban Edge, one of the most respected community development corporations in the region, if not the country.

Over these decades, Hacopian has backboned an enterprise that has developed or preserved about 1,400 affordable homes and apartments, along with related services such as multi-family property management, first-time homebuyer training and credit counseling.

The job doesn't end there. His role has been further enhanced with foreclosure prevention, home rehab and de-leading, asset building, youth programs, safety initiatives, food pantries and advocacy with public and private institutions for equitable investment.

In short, he has made the capital city a better place to live and given low-income tenants a new lease on life, bolstered their self-esteem and created a haven for youth who might otherwise have gone astray.

He has been lauded and applauded for his efforts by corporate executives, mayors, legislators and everybody in between. For Hacopian, however, it was just another day in the office.

"One of our major accomplishments was bridging race and class divisions while helping to mobilize the power of people in Boston's neighborhoods," said Hacopian. "Overcoming divisions is not just an issue within the Armenian community. It is ever present in any social or political context. We've created a common ground for the population and I take pride working for a company that's made Boston one of the most livable and successful cities in America."

Hacopian's association with Mayor Tom Menino dates back to the mid-1980s when the latter was a freshman city councilor. And they've stayed in touch ever since, given the mayor's passion for safe and affordable housing.

"I've supported him every election and will support him again should he decide upon another term," said Hacopian. "He's

supported Urban Edge, even during times of opposition from his constituents who were embroiled in a controversy about race and class. Mayor Menino stood up for access and equity, regardless of race, class or ethnicity."

Hacopian began his community development career under Mayor Kevin White, who was then followed by Ray Flynn. He has served three mayors and eight governors.

"Boston's come a long way," he notes. "When I first moved here in 1969, East



Mossik Hacopian

Boston where I still live was nearly all white and about 90 percent Italian. Boston neighborhoods were segregated by race, class and ethnic background. Now, East Boston is more than 50 percent people of color; South Boston is no longer all Irish and Roxbury is no longer all Afro-American. Boston's neighborhoods are very diverse and much more welcoming to people of all races and ethnic backgrounds."

Together with his wife of 39 years, the former Joan Ohanian, they occupy the same home in East Boston — a formerly-abandoned home they rehabbed with friends back in the early 1970s.

Modest self-help renovations on that home led to other similar projects which were subsequently rented out at affordable rates.

The Armenian in Hacopian has always burned fervently, ever since emigrating here from Tehran in 1958. As an AYFer growing up in New York, he was a member of the Hyortiks and joined the choir at St. Illuminator's Church.

Hacopian worked as a counselor at Camp Haiastan for four years during the early 1960s and served as director in 1974. He taught Saturday School at St. Stephen's

Church and on an Armenian Heritage Project sponsored by the ARS, collaborating with the likes of Seta Kaligian, Robert Mirak and Viken Der Manuelian.

A graduate of Columbia University, which he attended on full scholarship, Hacopian celebrated his Armenian heritage at a time when assimilation was more the norm. He played intercollegiate soccer and the violin as well. His dad died of a heart attack at age 47, four years after arriving here. Both he and his sister, Berjouhi, were raised by a single mom.

"I was fortunate to be at Columbia Architecture School in 1968 during a big demonstration protesting the Vietnam War," he recalled. "The school became one of the buildings occupied by protestors for one week."

Out of this came an urban design studio in East Harlem after the university was shut down for a month. Hacopian began working on various design projects to benefit the community. He soon learned that being different and speaking two other languages (Armenian and Persian), playing soccer and having come from another part of the world could be a positive thing.

"The Columbia demonstrations and nine months I spent in East Harlem were the real beginning of my community development career," he said, looking back.

Hacopian left Urban Edge in December but is anything but retired. He works part-time on projects for Urban Edge and continues to support efforts to serve Boston and its neighborhoods. A celebration honoring him took place last spring with accolades raining down on him.

He also serves as an interim executive director for a new non-profit organization called Boston's Higher Ground, which focuses on the Warren Gardens section of Roxbury. An "Innovation and Equity Fund" carries his name with a goal of \$330,000 geared toward neighborhood enhancement. The figure is based upon \$10,000 for each of the 33 years Hacopian has worked for Urban Edge.

Looking at his career and life in general, Hacopian offers this advice to the immigrant population, based upon his own wisdom.

"Be yourself. Value what you bring to American culture, and experience life to the fullest."

Atom Egoyan Takes Post at Ryerson Univ. in Toronto

TORONTO (CBC News) — Canadian director Atom Egoyan will be working with students at Ryerson's faculty of communication and design after being appointed as a distinguished scholar in residence at the Toronto university.

The director of "The Sweet Hereafter" and "Adoration" will mentor film students after accepting the role for the 2011-12 academic year.

Egoyan also will participate in a discussion series and a public retrospective of his work at Ryerson.

Selected students will work with Egoyan as he prepares for the North American premiere production of Martin Crimp's "Cruel and Tender" for the Canadian Stage theatre company. Egoyan has directed productions in both opera and theatre, including Salome for the Canadian Opera Company.

Ryerson Provost Alan Shepard said students would benefit from the opportunity to learn from a master of film and performance arts. Egoyan is notable for continuing to make films in Canada, despite achieving international recognition.

Egoyan was nominated for writing and directing Oscars for "The Sweet Hereafter" and earned Genie Awards for "Where the Truth Lies," "Ararat," "Exotica" and "Felicia's Journey."

A University of Toronto alumnus, he praised Ryerson in a statement for encouraging "expression and creativity" in its students.

'Aznavour's Square' Documentary Wins At Buenos Aires Film Festival

BUENOS AIRES, Argentinian (news.am) — The film "Aznavour's Square" won at the 10th International Youth Film Festival in the newcomer category for documentary films. The film was shot in 2010.

The filmmakers are the students at the Gumri Ecoclub Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets. The film is about their investigation of their city's garbage problems.

According to them, scavenging is a big problem nowadays, not only in Gumri but also in Yerevan's central streets. In the film they present not only the polluted image of the city, but also try to understand how the responsible figures deal with that problem. To watch the film visit: [http://tv.sunchild.org/index.php?id=31&L=2&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=114&chash=cfd93a66ddac5c6c53d9fb4ab51b959e](http://tv.sunchild.org/index.php?id=31&L=2&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=114&chash=cfd93a66ddac5c6c53d9fb4ab51b959e).

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Ara J. Khachaturian, clarinet
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ARTS & LIVING

University of St. Thomas Law School Publishes New Study by Dadrian

MINNEAPOLIS – The latest issue of the *Journal of Law and Public Policy* (vol.5, no.1) contains a new study, in which Prof. Vahakn Dadrian, the Zoryan Institute’s Director of Genocide Research, analyzes the Armenian Genocide in a new context. Titled, “The Armenian Genocide: A Review of its Historical, Political, and Legal Aspects,” the article deals with the historical and political underpinnings of the criminality of the Armenian Genocide.

This extensive article, some 60-pages long, including 118 footnotes, is based on official Ottoman-Turkish sources, including several issues of *Takvim-i Vekayi*, the legal organ of the Ottoman Parliament, which documented the post-World War I Military Tribunals prosecuting the perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide. Thus, Dadrian anchors his documentary analysis on *prima facie* evidentiary material. That material is reinforced by a wealth of corroborative material from the official archives of Imperial Germany and Imperial Austria-Hungary, Turkey’s political and military wartime allies. Dadrian also draws on the work of several contemporary Turkish authors.

“Dadrian’s extraordinary command of the languages and the sources make him unsurpassed in his ability to reconstruct and analyze the fundamental historical, political and legal issues related to the study of the Armenian Genocide,” remarked K.M. Greg Sarkissian, president of the Zoryan Institute.

A brief review of the pre-Genocidal era explores the historical pattern of impunity with which the whole gamut of decision-makers, organizers and actual perpetrators of the series of massacres were rewarded. These were inflicted upon the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire in the periods of 1894-96, 1903-1904 and in 1909 in Adana. Impunity served to underscore the vulnerability of the victims as a major determinant in genocidal decision making. In fact, as Dadrian points out, it served to embolden the decision makers and implementers of the ensuing World War I Genocide.

Another crucial factor in the unfolding of the wartime scheme of the Genocide was the devastating set of circumstances attending the crushing military defeats the Ottomans suffered in the 1912 First Balkan War. The anguish, misery and, most particularly, the brutality of the victorious Christian armies of the Balkan peninsula inflicted upon the destitute Muslim masses trying to escape proved to be a major detriment in targeting later the vulnerable Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire through spasms of delayed revenge. Indeed, a large part of the perpetrator groups involved in the World War I

Armenian cataclysm were dispossessed, bitter and hateful Muslim refugees of the previous Balkan war.

The Armenian Genocide is depicted in this study as a direct consequence of the adoption of a radical ideology, the main architects and implementers of which were the leadership cadres of these massive clusters of Balkan refugees.

Among the range of factors facilitating the actual enactment of the Genocide is the factor of opportunity. Given the complex nature of the crime of genocide, the author maintains that optimal success in the organization of the crime requires optimal opportunism. Not only the lee-ways and resources of the perpetrator are to be the least restrained, but, equally important, the vulnerability of the targeted victim is to be at a fairly high level. Wars, especially global wars, tend in this respect to afford almost maximal opportunities. Wartime exigencies tend, as a rule, to not only maximize the vulnerability of the victim group that is constrained through its minority status, but at the same time complicate and often constrain the problem of outside intervention in favor of the targeted victim.

Wars are especially suitable avenues of opportunism on account of the rise to instrumental prominence of the military cadres of a potential perpetrator camp. Through them, violence is not only concentrated among experts, but even more important, such violence has per tradition, the sanction of quasi-legitimacy, if not full legitimacy, in the application of lethal violence against targets defined by legitimate authority as “internal foes.” It is a notable fact that the two major genocides of the last century, the Armenian and the Jewish, were consummated during two global wars.

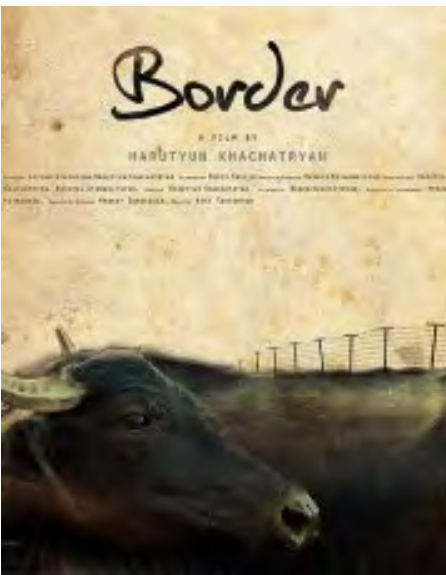
One of the most outstanding features of the Armenian Genocide involves its economic dimensions, through which a massive transfer of wealth, from the victim to the perpetrator, took place. In this sense, the genocide emerges here doubly functional. The physical elimination of the victim population ends up yielding the emergence of a new source of wealth and with it new cadres of wealthy classes in the perpetrator camp. In the section on Expropriation & Confiscation of Goods and Assets, the author documents and analyzes with ample source-material the specifics of this lethal operation of transfer of wealth from the victim to the perpetrator.

The essay ends with an evocation of the need for laws to regulate human conduct and help civil life. It invokes Aristotle’s dictum that: “When separated from law and justice, man is the worst of all animals.”

Armenian Movie Receives Special Prize in Moscow

MOSCOW (News.am) – Armenian director Harutyun Khachatryan’s movie, “The Border,” received two prizes and a diploma at the 15th forum of national cinematographers here. The annual forum was organized by the Federation of the Union of Cinematographers.

The jury was headed by director Vadim Abdrashitov. Moscow House of Nations awarded the film with diploma for the “Contribution to cultural dialogue and mutual understanding between people,” the press service of Golden Apricot said. The forum ran August 27-September 4.



Khatchig Mouradian to Speak at NAASR About Lemkin and the Genocide

BELMONT, Mass. – The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will present a lecture by scholar and newspaper editor Khatchig Mouradian titled “Raphael Lemkin and the Armenian Genocide in Light of New Research,” on Thursday, October 6, at 8 p.m., at the NAASR Center, 395 Concord Ave.

By coining the word genocide, formulating its meaning and through his lifelong struggle to render genocide a crime punishable by law, Lemkin exercised a profound influence on the discourse on the Armenian Genocide worldwide. In turn, from the mid-1940s, Armenian newspapers embraced the term coined by Lemkin and engaged in discussions of the Genocide Convention and its implications, contributing to Lemkin’s efforts for the adoption and ratification of the Convention.

Mouradian draws from a wealth of archival material – including Lemkin’s papers and newspaper articles published on three continents – to examine the impact on Lemkin of the destruction of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, Lemkin’s influence on the public discourse on the Armenian Genocide globally and the role played by Armenian journalists and activists in advancing Lemkin’s cause. Within this broader context, Mouradian zooms in on the cooperation between Armenian intellectuals and Lemkin during the struggle for the ratification of the Genocide Convention by the US.

Mouradian’s lecture will trace the path from the sands of Der Zor to the conference halls of the UN drafting committees and offices in

Washington where a joint struggle by Lemkin and his supporters was being waged against genocide and in pursuit of justice for its victims. As Lemkin himself said, “One million



Khatchig Mouradian

Armenians died, but a law against the murder of peoples was written with the ink of their blood and the spirit of their sufferings.”

Mouradian is a PhD student at the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University and the editor of the *Armenian Weekly* in Watertown. His doctoral dissertation focuses on the destruction of the Armenians in the Syrian desert during the Armenian Genocide. He has lectured extensively and participated in academic conferences in the US and overseas, presenting papers on Lemkin, media, human rights and the Armenian Genocide. He has also written for a number of national and international publications.

ARMENIANS IN THE NEWS

Samuel Aghoyan, a senior priest who has been in Jerusalem since 1956, has noticed a steady drop in Armenians and fears a continued decrease, according to an article, which appeared in the July 7 issue of the *Bergen Record*. The drop in the Armenian population began in 1948, when the city of Jerusalem was divided between Israel and Jordan. Jerusalem is host to the world’s second-largest collection of ancient Armenian manuscripts. Aghoyan and other local clergy pray that this trend will soon turn around. There were glimmers of hope in a 29-year-old community youth leader who said the rate of emigration has slowed down.

Photographer **Derek Koyoumjian**’s shots

of some of the highlights of Davis Square appear throughout the August 9-22 issue of *Stuff Magazine*, titled “One Night in Boston: 15 photographers, 8 hours...one unforgettable night.”

In the Improper Sightings page of the July 27 **Improper Bostonian**, **Charles Arakelian**, **Haig Berberian** and **Michael Tutunjian** flank former Miss Massachusetts USA, Lacey Wilson, at the St. Gregory Armenian Church charity cigar night. On another Sightings page from a separate issue are **Michael Kezian**, **Deran Tashjian**, **Michele Radcliffe**, **Marilyn Wolohojian** and **Zovig Tashjian** at an event in San Francisco. Meanwhile, featured on the Proper page of the July 27 issue are **Peter**

Palandjian, CEO of Intercontinental Real Estate Corporation, and his wife, Minou, who attended, on June 9, the Asian American Civic Association’s annual gala, at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, which raised \$190,000. Spotted on the same page a month later were **Gregg Nourjian**, CEO of Nourjian Productions, along with Kristen Kuliga, owner of K Sports & Entertainment, at the Ally Foundation’s eighth annual “Beacon Rock Gala” at the Beacon Rock Mansion in Newport, RI, which raised money towards sex-crime prevention. Mentioned on the Last Scene Here page by Jonathan Soroff, was the “devilishly handsome” **Dave Khtikian**, who was among the many attractive guests at a book party for the book, *Sex on the Moon*, which was held at the W Hotel.

Listed as one of the contributors in the Summer 2011 issue of *Exhale Lifestyle Magazine* is **Dr. Marianna Toroyan**, who has linked fashion and raising women’s self esteem by producing shows for corporations and working directly with clients.

Accupuncturist **Robert Surabian** says that the ancient Chinese tradition of sticking ultra fine needles into specific areas of the body is a way of restoring vitality and getting to the root cause of a person’s problem, unlike Western medicine, which tackles one problem at a time, with gusto, according to a *Boston Globe* article. He looks at his patients’ diet as well as emotional well being before getting to their pressure points.

Adrian Soghoian is one of the hand-picked college graduates selected to take part in Google’s two-year Rotational Associate Manager Program (RAMP), which involves learning the business side of developing and marketing Google products. Aside from the perks, such as gourmet meals, an on-site gym and pool, what Soghoian enjoys most is the trust Google places in their employees to work without too much supervision. The Columbia University mathematics and statistics major has thus far contributed to the marketing, advertising of Google apps, such as Google Docs and Google Calendars, for businesses.



COMMENTARY

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COMMENTARY

Political Dividends from Turkish-Israeli Row

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan is intoxicated with success after his party's third electoral victory handed him a mandate for domestic and legislative reform, with boundless gusto to go after Ergenekon operatives to demonstrate to the civilized world that he means business in putting Turkey's house in order.

The brunt of that gusto targets also the restive Kurdish minority, which is in a bloody clash with the police and the army.

Erdogan's foreign policy guru, Ahmet Davutoglu, had devised his zero-problem-with-neighbors stance, although that zero-problem policy thus far has yielded only zero results, as Armenia's foreign minister, Eduard Nalbandian, has indicated. Now it is headed further south for negative dividends. Turkey has begun to move its warships from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean in a challenge to NATO, Israeli and Greek naval forces, which have dominated the Eastern basin of the seaway, in a part of the world where many conflagrations are extant.

Erdogan's mounting dispute with Israel has crossed another threshold, reaching a point beyond the demand for an apology for the Mavi Marmara incident and plainly declaring his intentions to break the Israeli blockade of the Gaza strip. Erdogan's intoxication is derived from the success of his lip service to the Palestinian case, which Turkey has translated into an economic boom throughout the Muslim world.

Israeli policymakers who were looking for creative formulas to meet the Turkish demand, now have scrapped those efforts for a more assertive and aggressive posture.

Indeed, Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman's arrogance matches that of Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and he has thrown down the gauntlet and undertaken a series of punitive measures to tame Turkey's bold initiatives.

Those measures include some reference to the Armenians and the Armenian Genocide.

In addition to supporting and arming Kurdish rebel groups in Turkey (including the PKK), "Another planned move is the facilitation of cooperation with Turkey's historic rivals, the Armenians. During Lieberman's visit to the United States this month, the foreign minister is expected to meet with leaders of the Armenian lobby and propose anti-Turkish cooperation in Congress. The implication of this move could be Israeli assistance in promoting international recognition of the Armenian Holocaust, a measure that would gravely harm Turkey. Israel may also back Armenia in its dispute vis-à-vis Turkey over con-

trol of Mount Ararat," writes the Israeli paper *Yediot Aharonot*.

Lieberman concludes his diatribe against Turkey by adding: "We'll exact a price from Erdogan that will prove to him that messing with Israel doesn't pay off."

This unexpected confrontation between long-time allies throws Foggy Bottom policymakers into a dilemma.

For a long time, when Muslim Turkey was forced into an alliance with Israel, the US State Department was in a comfortable position. Today, the equations have been changed.

Thus far, all lobbying activities in the US in passing the Armenian Genocide resolution in the Congress have been hampered by the Israeli lobby, as part of its service to Turkey.

We cannot miss this window of opportunity if it is sincere, because it may not last very long.

Though the Jews had gone through the same traumatic experience of ethnic cleansing, Israeli official policy always opposed the recognition of the Armenian Genocide because of political expediency. Now the tables have been turned through the exigencies of the same political dynamic.

We do not believe that the Holy Spirit visited Mr. Lieberman to stir love and sugar in that country's policy towards the Armenians. The Genocide issue is being used as a chip, which unfortunately is the nature of politics.

But the proof of the pudding is in its eating. Mr. Lieberman's sincerity may be proven if he takes the initiative to pass through the Israeli Knesset the Genocide resolution before heading for Washington.

Similarly, Israeli foreign policy is involved in a double game. Indeed, Israel is training the Azeri army and supplying it with lethal military hardware. And Azerbaijan has only one enemy in the world: Armenia.

On the one hand, Israel is using the Genocide issue to punish Turkey and on the other hand, it is encouraging Baku to launch a blood bath in the region.

Besides the interests of the energy sources in Azerbaijan, they both share a common enemy: Iran. Since the Abulfaz Elchibey era, Baku has had claims on Iranian Azerbaijan. On the other hand, Tel Aviv is interested in dismantling another anti-Israeli bastion, after Iraq and Libya, if possible, through US muscle.

As we see it, Israel has a multi-dimensional policy towards Armenia, based on its own national interests. When we are given an opportunity for pick and choose, we should not hesitate to take advantage of these developments, always being mindful that our cases can win when they coincide with the interests of other powers.

Should Mr. Lieberman carry his new policy to the end, he will offer us some political dividends we cannot refuse.

New Light on an Old Horror – and Still There Is no Justice

By Robert Fisk

On Wednesday morning, 14 April 1909, British Vice Consul Major Charles Doughty-Wylie set off to the Turkish city of Adana after receiving a letter from his dragoman – his Turkish translator, a man called Trypani – saying that "there was a very dangerous feeling in that town, threats had been freely offered, there were some murders..."

Doughty-Wylie departed by the next train, memorably adding, in his dispatch to the Foreign Office in London, that "so little had I expected that any massacre was imminent, that I took my wife with me." We can only imagine the good lady's reaction when "about two stations from Adana we saw a dead body... The nearer we got to Adana the more bodies there were, and while I was escorting my wife to Mr Trypani's house ... two or three more men were killed under the very noses of the Turkish guard..."

Doughty-Wylie's dispatches over the next four days are a first-class account of the start of the modern Armenian Holocaust – not the slaughter and butchery and mass rape and death marches in which the Ottoman Turks killed a million and a half Armenians in 1915, but the mass murder of up to 30,000 Armenians in southern Turkey six years earlier, a dry run – albeit a very bloody one – for the later genocide. "I got into uniform, went to the guard, and sharply recalled to the officer his duty to prevent murder," Doughty-Wylie wrote. Having summoned some unwill-

ing Ottoman soldiery to support him, our vice consul "paraded through the town with bugles blowing... We cleared the streets sometimes by charging with the bayonet and sometimes by firing over the heads of the crowd." Ah, those were the days!

The letters of Doughty-Wylie, who was later to have an unconsummated affair with Gertrude Bell before dying at Gallipoli, are, in fact, a record of heroism – I am indebted to researcher Missak Kelechian for finding them in the British National Archives – for the vice consul rescued numerous British subjects and protected many hundreds of Armenian refugees. Trying to save their lives, the vice consul came under sniper fire from a mosque. The Turks blamed the Armenians for the massacres, claiming that they had armed themselves and planned to set up an Armenian principality on Turkish soil – killers have a habit of blaming the victims for their own deaths (see, for example, the Muslim victims of the Bosnian war, the Palestinian civilian victims of Gaza in 2008-9, etc) but Doughty-Wylie, while he acknowledged that an Armenian shot dead two Turks, suspected that the violence included "some secret preparation on the Turkish side." Of the 2,000 dead in Adana, 1,400 were Armenians.

The Turkish authorities supposedly hanged nine Turks for their part in the slaughter. So much for justice. Remarking that many of the dead had been thrown into rivers, the British vice consul concluded in a further dispatch to London that "in the villages, while no exact number can yet be given, the loss ... may be

estimated at between 15,000 and 25,000; of these, very few, if any, can be Moslems (sic). In many cases women, even small children, were killed with the men." Exactly two weeks after Doughty-Wylie received the letter from his dragoman, The New York Times's journalist in Adana was reporting that in the city's vilayet (governorate), up to 30,000 Armenians had been murdered.

And Turkey, just as it does in the case of the later one and a half million Armenian dead, still denies – along with Britain, the US, need we add the rest? – that this was genocide. I have pointed out before that even in the 1930s, Churchill referred to the "holocaust" of Armenians. Now comes proof that the 1909 genocide, let alone the later 1915 massacres, were known as a Holocaust – correctly, with a capital H – before the First World War. For the Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan has just unearthed and published eyewitness Z. Duckett Ferriman's book on the 1909 killings whose original cover bore the title *The Young Turks and the Truth about the Holocaust at Adana in Asia Minor*. The New York Times had, in fact, referred to "Another Armenian Holocaust" after an 1895 bloodbath, but Duckett Ferriman collected victims' names, dates, details of individual murders, statistics of orphans, widows, villages destroyed, photographs, and the identity of the militias – like the Turkish authorities in 1915 and like the Nazis, the 1909 killers used "special units" for killing and rape – and the mass violation of women.

see FISK, page 16



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Book on Armenia-Turkey Protocols Warns Arabs not to Trust Turkish Friendship

I was privileged to attend a special program in Beirut last Friday, sponsored by the Armenian National Committee of Lebanon, dedicated to the publication of my new book in Arabic: *Armenia-Turkey Protocols: Truth or Deception?* The book is the compilation of 43 columns I had written in the California Courier in the last three years on the controversial Protocols.

After introductory remarks by George Sabounjian of the local ANC, Dr. Nora Arissian of Damascus, Syria, the translator of the book, asserted that Sassounian's columns exposed the Turkish government's fake intent. She reminded the audience that the author had accurately predicted at the outset of the negotiations that Turkey would not keep its promise to ratify the Protocols and lift the blockade of Armenia.

Dr. Arissian was followed by veteran Lebanese Minister Michel Edde, who has written a lengthy and insightful introduction to the book. Mr. Edde has held five ministerial posts during his long and distinguished career in various Lebanese cabinets. In his remarks, the prominent minister commended the author for his analytical columns, praised the Armenian community of Lebanon for its active role in

the country's progress, and condemned Turkey for its denial of the Armenian Genocide. At the end of his remarks, Minister Edde surprised the audience by announcing a generous and unexpected personal contribution of \$25,000 to the ANC of Lebanon.

The evening's program was conducted in Arabic, given the fact that there were Arab guests in the audience and the book was intended for Arab leaders and masses. I was gratified to be able to deliver a portion of my remarks in Arabic. Surprisingly, I still remembered the Arabic I had learned more than 40 years ago as a student at the local Sophia Hagopian High School.

I reminded the attendees that the Turkish government's true intent was to exploit the Protocols in order to pressure Armenia into giving up its pursuit of the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide and create a smoke-screen of peaceful negotiations so that other countries, particularly the United States, would be warned not to undermine this make-believe reconciliation and budding relationship by recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

In addition, Turkey wanted Armenia to return Nagorno Karabagh (Artsakh) to Azerbaijan's control, give up its demands for Western Armenia which is currently under Turkish occupation and to tried undermine overall Armenian unity by pitting the diaspora against the homeland.

Doggedly pursuing its intent to extract additional concessions from Armenia, the Turkish government kept refusing to ratify the Protocols it had signed two years ago. Failing to accomplish its self-serving objectives, the Turkish Parliament recently took the final step to kill the Protocols by removing them from its agenda, citing a technicality.

This failed experiment of Armenia-Turkey Protocols clearly proves that Turkey is more interested in playing diplomatic games and creating false impressions than pursuing peaceful co-existence. Turkish commitments cannot be taken seriously and Turkey's leaders' signatures on

international agreements are not worth the paper they are written on.

In my remarks, I pointed out that Turkish leaders have been presenting themselves as defenders of the Palestinian cause and supporters of all Arabs and Muslims, while continuing to be Israel's strategic partner and covertly sharing with it some of the most sensitive military secrets of Arab countries.

In my opinion, Palestinians and Arabs in general do not need the fake friendship of Turkey's neo-Ottoman leaders. Arab masses must demand that their own indigenous leaders, not self-serving foreign rulers, defend their national interest.

We just saw how Turkey sided with the despotic regimes in Egypt and Libya until the very last moment when the dictators of these countries were about to be toppled. This is not genuine friendship. This is crass opportunism!

Since Arabs and Armenians have both experienced horrendous suffering and atrocities under the Ottoman yoke, they cannot be fooled easily by dishonest Turkish gestures of rapprochement. The survivors of the Armenian Genocide were the grateful beneficiaries of Arab hospitality throughout the Middle East. Without such humanitarian intervention, many more Armenians would have perished.

I ended my remarks by expressing my gratitude to Minister Edde for writing an inspiring introduction to my book, and to Dr. Nora Arissian who had spent countless hours to painstakingly translate it from English into Arabic, as well as my previous book on the Armenian Genocide. I also thanked the Armenian National Committee of Lebanon for hosting the evening's program at the Pyunic Hall of *Aztag* newspaper and the Hamazkayine Publishing House for publishing the book. I expressed my special gratitude to benefactor Gabriel Chemberjian and his Pyunic Foundation for sponsoring the book's translation and publication. At the end of the program, signed copies of the book were distributed to the guests.

LETTERS

Thanks from ARA to Donors

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude to those people who have supported families in need of housing need in Armenia. This assistance is very important for Armenian families who can neither afford taking loans from banks, nor save and build their homes.

Thanks to a generous donation of \$4,000 made in January 2011, the Karapetyan family of four (earned \$3,400 support from you), and the Sakanyan family of three (earned \$600 support from you as well as other donors' support) after living in a metal container since the 1988 earthquake, moved out to new homes in May 2011. A total of 15 families moved out of containers in one year.

This 15-family house project implementation became possible with the partnership of the Armenian Relief and Development Association, which invested 50 percent of total expenses; Vanadzor municipality, which invested 25 percent and the Fuller Center For Housing Armenia, which invested 25 percent with your help. These homes were built with the technology of polystyrene foam blocks.

We hope you will visit Armenia one day and we will be happy to take you to see this family in Vanadzor City.

Since 2008 Fuller Center for Housing Armenia supported 166 low-income families in building and renovating safe, simple, affordable homes, by offering them long-term, interest free loans. Their monthly repayments flow into the Revolving Fund and are used to help more families, thereby providing the financial foundation for a sustainable community development effort.

There are about 30,000 families without permanent shelter in Armenia that dwell in metal shipping containers (domiks), dormitories or temporary shelters. We can't help them all at once but try to do it one at a time.

The Sakanyan family has been living in a domik for the past 20 years. The mother of the Sakanyan family is working at a boarding school as a cleaning lady. Her daughter has studied baking in Vanadzor and has been seeking employment for a very long period of time, but in vain. That is why every now and then she was obliged

to go to Russia to find work so as to be able to help the family financially. The family income was too low for living, so they couldn't even think about building a house.

The Karapetyan family has been living in a steel dry cargo container for 23 years. The family consists of four members. The father, an injured Artsakh war veteran, died from a heart attack at the age of 38, leaving his wife and three children (aged 4, 8 and 10) in 2001.

Lilia, the mother of three, is a cleaning lady in an army base. The eldest son is now 20. He has recently completed his military service and now is unsuccessfully seeking employment.

As for the 18 year old, he has been exempted from the military due to his disability. The youngest child, 14 years old, is doing well and dreaming of becoming an economist.

The Karapetyan family's total monthly income is \$406, a miserable amount of money with which it is not possible to live and at the same time build a home.

Now thanks to ARDA charitable foundation, Vanadzor city municipality, Fuller Center for Housing Armenia partnership and the donation of the Armenian Renaissance Association, the family has already moved from the metal shipping container into their newly-built house.

In addition to the loans from the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia, the partner family puts hundreds of hours of "sweat equity" in their home. The FCHA supervises the construction of the home, arranges to provide the materials needed and works with the volunteers, both local and from the diaspora, who come to help at the construction site.

The Fuller Center for Housing was established in 2005 by Millard and Linda Fuller. Millard Fuller was the founder of Habitat for Humanity and led that organization for 29 years. The Fullers had planned to make a second trip to Armenia, but Millard Fuller's unexpected death prevented this. Linda Fuller and others traveled to Armenia to ensure that her husband's vision of helping low income families have decent housing would be fulfilled.

Shortly after Millard Fuller's death, former

President Jimmy Carter called him "one of the most extraordinary people I have ever known. He used his remarkable gifts as an entrepreneur for the benefit of millions of needy people around the world by providing them with decent housing. As the founder of Habitat for Humanity and later the Fuller Center, he was an inspiration to me, other members of our family and an untold number of volunteers who worked side-by-side under his leadership."

(For more information, contact the Armenian Renaissance Association, at PO BOX 243, Watertown, MA 02471-0243.)

—Armenian Renaissance Association Central Committee

Armenians Need Novel Approach to Force Turkey's Hand

To The Editor:

Our persistent attempts to get Turkey to acknowledge its destruction of the native Armenian population of Anatolia has been a failure because there is no compunction for Turkey to admit to such a crime. So it continues to ignore all such accusations from us and others. The situation has been reduced to one of accusation and denial with little prospect of resolution. Therefore it would behoove us to challenge Turkey in such a way that it cannot hide its guilt before the rest of the world with impunity by simply denying it.

Our possible approach is to address an open letter to Turkey with copies to all the governments in the UN General Assembly, asking them to resolve the historical conundrum manifested by the otherwise mystical and complete disappearance of the Armenians from their historical homeland of Asia Minor. A failure to respond to this would then represent an implicit admission of guilt before the world.

Berge Tatian
Stoneham, MA

Political Reshuffle: New Personnel Changes Expected in Armenia

By Naira Hayrumyan

The political autumn in Armenia began with a high-profile resignation as President Serge Sargsian granted the request of his chief of staff Karen Karapetyan to quit. Chairman of the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) Garegin Azaryan died suddenly of a heart attack on the same day.

These two cases are not linked directly, but, systemically, two people associated with obstacles to reforms and fraudulent elections have left the powers structure. Newspapers, quoting their sources in the presidential administration, claim that Karapetyan resisted the reform efforts of the administration's "young branch" led by President Sargsian's son-in-law and proponent of modernization Mikael Minasyan. Partly this is confirmed by a US Embassy worker's cable published by the whistleblower site WikiLeaks which says that during a meeting with the U.S. charge d'affaires in Yerevan in 2008 Minasyan said that Serge Sargsian would like to be obliged to young people, rather than "old thugs", implying the oligarchs. Given that Karen Karapetyan's brother is a major Russian businessman, Samvel Karapetyan, and has an enormous political and economic clout both in Russia and Armenia, newspapers argue that Karapetyan had to go because of his excessive conservatism as far as oligarchy is concerned. The death of Azaryan, who died at age 50, also became symptomatic. In Armenia, an attempt is being made to pass on to normal – fair and transparent – electoral processes. The main opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC), which continues to insist on holding early parliamentary and presidential elections, promises to do everything for the see RESHUFFLE, page 16

Turkish Official Slams Mooted Israeli Reprisals

ANKARA (AFP) – Turkish Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek on Saturday blasted ideas attributed to hawkish Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman for hitting back at Ankara in the row between the two countries.

Israel’s Yediot Aharonot daily reported Friday that Lieberman had suggested supporting recognition by the US Senate of Armenian Genocide by Turkey, backing the

Kurdish separatist PKK and launching a diplomatic offensive against Ankara.

“It’s very troubling that someone with the rank of minister should make such irresponsible remarks,” Cicek said on Turkish television.

He attacked the proposals as “blackmail” and said that if they were put into effect the crisis between Israel and Turkey would become “more complex and more inextricable.”

On Friday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s office said that the cabinet had considered various responses to a further worsening of already stormy relations with Turkey but had not taken action.

A statement said that Netanyahu and his ministers discussed “various theoretical options in the event of escalation.”

“The decision on this will be taken only if and when necessary,” it said. “Israel acts and will act responsibly and hopes that Turkey will

also act in the same way,” it said.

Israel and Turkey have been locked in a bitter dispute since May 2010 when Israeli naval commandos stormed the international Freedom Flotilla, a convoy of six ships trying to reach Gaza in defiance of an Israeli blockade, killing nine Turkish nationals.

The crisis deepened over the past week with Turkey expelling the Israeli ambassador and axing military ties and defense trade.

WikiLeaks on Armenian Genocide: Turkey ‘Purged’ Archives to Destroy Evidence

WIKILEAKS, from page 1

The cable read, “Berktag claims that there have been two serious efforts to ‘purge’ the archives of any incriminating evidence on the Armenian Genocide. The first was in 1918: during the 1919 Turkish Military Tribunals, it was revealed that documents had been ‘stolen’ from the archives,” wrote Arnett. The

second round of ‘closet editing’ was carried out in early 90s, during the tenure of prime minister and then president of Turkey, Turgut Ozal.”

According to Berktag, the archive cleaning was “most probably implemented by Muharrem Nuri Birgi, a former Turkish ambassador to London and NATO and

Secretary General of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.”

Berktag claims that “at the time he was combing the archives, Nuri Birgi met regularly with a mutual friend and at one point, referring to the Armenians, ruefully confessed: ‘We really slaughtered them.’”

Hovhannisyan, a senior scientific worker at the National Academy of Sciences, stresses that the importance of the Turkish archives should not be overestimated.

“Those archives mainly hold records and orders of the Sultan. There is ample evidence proving that other mechanisms of issuing

orders existed during those years, both oral and through encrypted telegrams, the main part of which was burned. It means that whatever survived cannot tell too much anyway, as Turkish historian Taner Akcam stated recently, even the limited documents can prove that what happened was not simply deportation, but genocide,” says Hovhannisyan.

Added Hovhannisyan, “The fact of the Armenian Genocide has been proved by numerous documents preserved at international archives, and the Turkish archives can only change some details in the reality of the Armenian Genocide, that’s all.”



Anush Hovhannisyan

New Light on an Old Horror – And Still There Is no Justice

FISK, from page 14

By extraordinary chance, Duckett Ferriman’s book coincides with the Beirut publication next week of the memoirs of Hagop Arsenian, a 1915 Armenian Holocaust survivor whose handwritten diaries have just been translated into English by his granddaughter, Arda Ekmekji. What makes this work so remarkable

is that the Arsenians were very upper middle class. On their death trail to northern Syria, they were able, for a short period, to travel by rail, first class. “They were transporting us to our graves with our own money,” Hagop wrote. At other times, still paying for their train tickets, they were packed into box cars, 45 to a carriage, Nazi-style. During his Golgotha, Hagop stood beside a pile of Armenian corpses. “One of them in a suffocating voice begged the gravedigger not to pull him by the legs and said, ‘Brother, I have not died yet. Wait till morning before you bury me.’”

Like many Jews on the way to death in the second Holocaust of the 20th century, Hagop “would wonder whether we were such a terrible nation that God had chosen ... to manifest His anger and inflict His punishment on us...” There are good Turks in these stories – in 1909 as well as 1915 – but there are many criminals.

And again, no justice for the Armenians. Few of the Turkish war criminals were hanged. One of the worst, Talaat Pasha, was assassinated in Berlin in 1921, Bin Laden-style, shot by an Armenian revenge group called Nemesis. Most escaped their just deserts for ever, not even facing a Demjanjuk-like court in old age. All are now dead. “War will not end unless the truth is known,” a Lebanese humanitarian agency stated four years ago. And that’s all that’s left to be fought for. Acknowledgement that these crimes were real. Justice is an odd creature.

(Robert Fisk is the Middle East correspondent for the *Independent*. This column originally appeared in that publication on September 10.)

Political Reshuffle in Armenia

RESHUFFLE, from page 15

elections to be held within riggings. The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) has already launched the project “Vote is Power,” under which it carries out actions aimed at ensuring the fairness of the upcoming polls. The re-election of Azaryan, who is accused by the opposition of standing behind vote riggings in the past two general elections, as head election official in July caused a disappointment. Analysts began to say the government was not going to change anything and that the elections would be rigged again. Azaryan’s untimely death will bring to the fore the question of the personality of the new CEC chairman.

The ANC is changing its tactics. Opposition leaders stated that the ANC passes on to a rally campaign to get snap elections. The next opposition rally is scheduled for September 23. ANC leader Levon Ter-Petrosian did not rule out that formal dialogue between the ANC and the ruling coalition may be renewed.

(Naira Hayrumian is a correspondent for ArmeniaNow.)

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