

Biden Apologizes to Turkish President

By Sebnem Arsu

ISTANBUL (*New York Times*) – A diplomatic rift between Turkey and the United States was patched over late Saturday after the American vice president, Joseph R. Biden Jr., officially apologized to Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, for remarks suggesting that Turkey helped facilitate the rise of the Islamic State terrorist group.

In remarks at Harvard University on Thursday, Biden said Erdogan had admitted erring in allowing foreign fighters to cross Turkey's border into Syria, eventually leading to the formation of the group, also known as ISIS and ISIL.

Biden's spokeswoman, Kendra Barkoff, said in an emailed statement that the two leaders spoke by phone on Saturday. "The vice president apologized for any implication that Turkey or other allies and partners in the region had intentionally supplied or facilitated the growth of ISIL or other violent extremists in Syria," Barkoff said. "The United States greatly values the commitments and sacrifices made by our allies and partners from around the world

to combat the scourge of ISIL, including Turkey."

Earlier Saturday, Erdogan had demanded an apology, saying he had never made any such remark to Biden. "If Mr. Biden has said such a thing at Harvard, he needs to apologize to us," Erdogan told reporters here.

Erdogan, despite widespread evidence to the contrary, denied that Turkey's long, porous border had enabled thousands of militants to cross onto the Syrian and Iraqi battlefields since the Syrian civil war began in 2011. "Foreign fighters never crossed into Syria from our country," Erdogan said. "They would cross into Syria from Turkey on tourist passports, but nobody can claim that they have crossed with arms."



Vice president, Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Speaking at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Biden said allies including Turkey, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates had extended unconditional financial and logistical support to Sunni

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Chairman of Board of Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial Announces Resignation

PASADENA, Calif. (*Pasadena Independent*) – William M. Paparian, former mayor of Pasadena, announced his resignation as chairman of the board of directors of the Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial amid allegations that the board treasurer provided fraudulent background information about himself, that the treasurer failed to follow California law regarding legal filings and that other board members did nothing to address it.

"California law requires that the board of directors carry out their responsibilities in good faith and with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as would be used by an ordinarily prudent person," said Paparian.

"It is my belief that the board has failed in that fiduciary obligation owed to the community."

The memorial, approved by the Pasadena City Council in September 2013, has been scheduled to be completed and dedicated at the north side of Memorial Park in April 2015 to mark the 100th anniversary of the killing of 1.5 million Armenians over a three-year period beginning in 1915.

On August 6, the webmaster and social media coordinator for the memorial reported to the board that the bio of the treasurer had been removed from the website (www.pasagmc.org) due to the discovery

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Gyumri Information Technology Center Director Yeghoyan Visits East Coast

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN, Mass. – The city of Gumri, Armenia's second largest center of population, suffered greatly during the 1988 earthquake, and even today has not fully recovered from that heavy blow. Despite the fact that it had many important institutions of higher learning, and was able to prepare a new generation of educated young people, the earthquake and the changes in Armenia's economy after independence left little opportunity for employment locally. Young people were forced to emigrate to Yerevan and abroad in droves. The Gyumri Information Technology Center (GITC) was created 10 years ago to counter this negative trend. Its executive director, Amalya Yeghoyan, visited New York, Philadelphia and Boston at the end of September and early October in order to promote the center's work. She had a number of private meetings along with several public presentations, including one at the Armenian Museum of America in Watertown.

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Executive Director Amalya Yeghoyan with local host Joseph Dagdigian

Comedy Legend Andrea Martin Releases New Book

By Alin K. Gregorian

Mirror-Spectator Staff

SAN FRANCISCO – For anyone who is a fan of comedy, Andrea Martin's name is a familiar one.

From her early television presence on the Canadian sketch show "SCTV," where a host of insane characters people the headquarters of a fictitious television station, to her recent turn on Broadway, Martin has gone from strength to strength in her four decades entertaining audiences.

The actress and comedienne, who divides her time between New York and Toronto, jokes that she is often thought to be Jewish and Canadian, but indeed, she is an Armenian and a Mainer. "I don't think I said I was Jewish. It is just that no one knew I was Armenian and it was easy for people to assume it," she said.

Martin, 67, when not donning wigs or prosthetic butts or guts, is a beautiful woman. However, she did not always see herself that way. "I don't think it was until I was a lot older that I was comfortable with how I looked. It was 1995, when I was 47-48, that I believed I had any merit looking like myself," that she could be "really sexy and pretty and really comfortable with myself."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

2014 Tekeyan Cultural Association Awards Deadline

YEREVAN – The approximately 23 years of cultural preservation activity of Armenia's Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) has won a special place in Armenia's cultural life. The association's annual distribution of awards, which has already turned into a tradition, has given new meaning and inspiration to Armenian artists working in Armenia and the diaspora. The 2014 TCA awards ceremony take place at the end of November. Interested authors must present their works between October 7 and November 7 to the TCA office at Yerevan's Khanjyan Street No. 50, second floor.

There are four categories of prizes (financial awards): 1. Literature, from the TCA Shake Ghazarian Fund; 2. Music, from the TCA Shake Ghazarian Fund; 3. The fine arts, from the TCA Shake Ghazarian Fund; and 4. Ara-Maral (works for children), from the Silva Der-Stepanian Fund. Special committees will serve as juries for each category. TCA of USA (Eastern) and Canada provide major funding for these awards.

Azeri Gunfire Kills Armenian in Karabagh

STEPANAKERT (RFE/RL) – An Armenian soldier serving in Nagorno-Karabagh has been killed by gunfire coming from Azerbaijan.

Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovannisyan said on October 2 that Karabagh Army soldier David Navasardyan "died of fatal wounds after Azerbaijani forces opened fire on October 1."

Exchanges of gunfire along the front-line boundary that separates Nagorno-Karabagh and Azerbaijan have been common.

Tensions flared in early August and dozens of people on were killed along the disputed border during a brief period of heightened hostilities.

Returned Azeri POW to Be Examined

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Hakob Injighulyan was returned to Armenia via a third party country after his captivity in Azerbaijan. He is scheduled to undergo a medical examination at the Saint Gregory the Illuminator Medical Center. A professional group has been assembled to carry out the medical examination, the results of which will determine if Injighulyan is able to continue his military service.

Injighulyan, 23, while serving in the Armenian military, lost his bearings the night of August 7-8, at about 3 a.m. and crossed into Azerbaijan. On August 8 the Armenian Office of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appeared to the ICRC Baku Office about the incident.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Artsakh at Paris Tourism Expo

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The IFTM Top-Resa 2014 annual international tourism expo was held September 23-26 in Paris. The Nagorno Karabagh delegation, headed by Chief of Tourism and Historical Environment Protection Department Sergey Shahverdyan, participated in the exhibition.

The delegation came with a separate pavilion, which was decorated in a traditional style and presented rich literature on Artsakh, sights, maps, information about hotels, etc. The pavilion appeared to be interesting not only for tour specialists but ordinary visitors as well, the NKR Tourism and Historical Environment Protection Department said.

The Azeri delegation usually tries to impede the Karabagh pavilion but failed this year as always.

President Congratulates Jewish Community on New Year

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The President of Armenia Serge Sargsian sent a message last week congratulating the country's Jewish community on Rosh Hashanah.

According to the president's press office, he wrote, "I sincerely congratulate you on the occasion of the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah. I wish you a festive mood. May the coming year be a year of peace, creation and abundance for our Jewish compatriots of Armenia and the entire Jewish people and may the thousand-year history of friendship and cooperation between the Armenian and Jewish peoples continue to strengthen."

Serbia to Open Embassy In Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The First Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia Ivica Dacic announced on October 2 during a press conference in Belgrade Serbia's intention to open an embassy in Yerevan.

Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian was in Serbia last week on an official visit by the invitation of Dacic. Nalbandian is expected to meet with the high ranking representatives of the Serbian legislative and executive authorities and the Patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

Criminal Case Filed on Soldier's Death

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Contract serviceman David Victor Navasardyan was killed by a rival's shot in his head at about 9 p.m. on October 1, at one of the units of the Defense Army of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic. The Department for Information and Public Relations of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Armenia revealed that a criminal case has been filed at the general military investigation agency of the Investigative Committee in accordance with the 13th clause of the second part of the 104th article of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Armenia. The motives cited are national hatred. A preliminary investigation is being carried out.

Armenia Hosts First Lady of Poland

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – First Lady of Poland Anna Komorowska has arrived in Armenia, according to the Twitter blog of the Embassy of Poland to the Republic of Armenia. The First Lady of Poland and First Lady of Armenia Rita Sargsian will attend the opening ceremony of the exhibition of the works of the Polish-Armenian painter Theodore Aksentovich, to be held at the National Gallery of Armenia from October 8. During the event, organized under the auspices of the presidents of Armenia and Poland, the public will be able to see 53 works of the painter.

Gyumri Information Technology Center Director Yeghoyan Visits East Coast

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While at the *Mirror-Spectator*, Yeghoyan explained that Gumri (the Mirror traditionally uses this transliteration of the name, while Gyumri is the form used by GITC in English) was still in dire straits in 2005. A group of young professionals visiting through the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) witnessed the situation. Among them was Patrick Sarkissian, the founder and chief executive officer of Sarkissian Mason, a high tech design and marketing services firm in New York City. Sarkissian saw the contrast between great human potential, with great education especially in mathematics, and the desperate economic situation.

Sarkissian quipped that the only thing which works in Gumri is the human brain. He was confident that a technology center could become a magnet to keep youth in Gumri. Meanwhile, according to FAR director Garnik Nanagoulouian, FAR also had been looking for ways to stop the loss of talented youth there. FAR in a sense was born as a result of the situation in Gumri and northern Armenia after the earthquake. It decided to look at industries which could be nurtured locally to provide employment. After deciding against textiles and fashion, FAR consulted with Sarkissian and several others and became convinced to focus on internet technology.

Armenian-American donors liked the idea of preparing the youth for work in Gumri as specialists. The trained specialists no longer had to leave for education or work abroad, and instead work would be brought to Gumri. Internet technology work was expanding in Yerevan, and did not require large amounts of capital to start, unlike other industries. Private businesses in Armenia declared that the graduates of educational institutions in Gumri were provided with excellent general knowledge but still needed training to begin practical work.

FAR found out exactly what these companies were seeking in new employees, and accordingly established a curriculum. Then it decided on the best way to teach the curriculum. Instead of using the universities, it decided to hire as teachers the most advanced programmers and other young people in private firms in Armenia who already had experience in dealing with clients in the US and Europe. Nanagoulouian said, "This became an extremely complex project. We had to bring these people from Yerevan on weekends, when they were not working at their regular jobs, provide them with hotels, and then bring them back. We soon realized we had to develop our own faculty. Patrick Sarkissian and some local organizations were instrumental in this."

Yeghoyan said, "At first, we had nothing – no internet connection, no society that knew what was high tech, no curriculum, no teachers. We had twenty ambitious students and the desire and ambition of our three-person staff in Gumri. We started in 2005, teaching chip design, then we began to teach website design and planning."

The two-year post-baccalaureate program turned out to be highly successful. In 2007, the entire graduating class of 20 was hired by the chip designer Instigate Design, which already had a center in Yerevan. Now Instigate Design established a second Armenian center in Gumri.

Each year thereafter, new internet technology corporations opened up in Gumri. The government started a technopark. GITC played a key role in

all this. Each year it produced 20 graduates, so that up to the present there have been a total of 140 graduates, of whom 90 percent work in Armenia, and 40 percent in Gumri.

GITC began to be sought after for projects in other parts of Armenia and in Artsakh. In 2009, the Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF, based in Glendale, Calif.) contacted GITC and asked that it prepare teachers to use computers that it wished to donate. The AEF paid all the costs of transportation and equipment, while GITC provided the specialists. This turned into an ongoing program, and in different years, GITC worked in different provinces of Armenia, such as Lori or Tavush, and in Artsakh. Yeghoyan said, "We want donors to see that what they do serves the entire community. Our graduates gift back with their knowledge. We teach teachers, do free programs for children and prepare websites for free for associations for the handicapped and other benevolent groups."

GITC instituted rigorous procedures, starting with entrance exams for students. Only 30 people are accepted for the first year, and behavior, performance, speech and dress are all scrutinized in order to prepare people for the western business mentality. Classes are seven hours a day as in a regular place of work. Whoever fails is expelled without the certificate of graduation. Usually only 20 out of 30 graduate.

Students who do not possess the proper education are sent to a summer preparatory course before starting the two-year program. Students must decide between the web and mobile technology divisions. After learning the basics the first year, in the second year, the students are sent out to different places with specialists for practical work experience. Reports are sent back about their accomplishments, so that GITC sees who can actually do the work.

Students pay \$500 tuition per year. During the second year, the students can work during the week for pay and come to classes on the weekend.

In 2010 GITC's board decided to strive to create sustainability for its programs, and established a business department—GITC Solutions. It would find work for GITC's graduates. The new approach is, said Yeghoyan, that "we will now ask our donors to find us work and projects for Gumri instead of our asking donors to give us money directly. We want to slowly become independent from donors. I am here now for this purpose."

Yeghoyan declared that GITC can deliver a higher quality product at a cheaper cost than firms in Asia often used by US companies for outsourcing work. She said, "We want to remain in Gumri. If we have no work, we will all think of emigrating. Instead, we can do software and web development work for people in the diaspora. We have a great portfolio—we've worked for UNICEF (an e-learning portal), German associations, USAID and New York firms. We can do search engine optimization and mobile applications for IOS and Android." She pointed out that GITC specialists can communicate in English, and offer a team to work on projects, not just individual specialists. She said, "Moreover, we don't just prepare websites. We have a creative approach and can suggest new directions. Our flexibility is our strength."

Yeghoyan's own success story is a testament to both her native talents and the opportunities that diasporan assistance can provide. After graduating school in Gumri, she wanted to go

to Yerevan but it was too expensive for her parents. Instead, she worked as a volunteer as a journalist and then at a psychology center. Then she studied at the Gumri Pedagogical Institute while working part-time as a translator to earn her tuition. After getting married and having children, thought she would have to leave Armenia in order to economically survive. She pointed out that "in Armenia, if you don't have a lot of money or great patronage, you can't make it. And I had neither."

Fortuitously, after taking her final exams, her English teacher told her about a new center being founded in Gumri, which needed an administrative assistant. She went to GITC, not believing that they would accept somebody without connections. Yet after the interview, they accepted her. The director, Narine Petrosyan, encouraged her to overcome new challenges and helped her learn new computer programs, but six months later left for the US. Soon Yeghoyan became coordinator of the academic department, and began working closely with Nanagoulouian at FAR. Then she became assistant director. In 2011 she became director. She said, "I was fortunate that American Armenians were my directors. They helped me learn from my mistakes. Even our donors are so modest and humble that when they call they ask first whether I have two minutes to talk."

Nanagoulouian later said, "We wanted Amalya to come here to promote GITC's new approach. She is very impressive. She worked her way up to become a leader. She can easily turn into a mayor or leader of the province. And GITC proved to be an extremely efficient entity. It is now a recognized name in Armenia, and provides advanced training to business owners, academics and non-governmental organizations. Armenian businesses here in the US will see that our people can deliver at least as good service as the Indians on a continuing basis, and at a lower price." FAR likes the GITC model so much that it is considering similar approaches in cities like Vanadzor and Stepanakert.

Shushi Signs Friendship Pact With French Town

SHUSHI, Karabagh (ArmeniaNow) – President of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic Bako Sahakian on Sunday received a delegation of officials from the French town of Bourges-Valence, headed by its Mayor Marlene Mourier.

According to the NKR president's press office, Sahakian welcomed the signing of the friendship declaration between the towns Bourges-Valence and Shushi considering this direction of mutual cooperation among the bases of strengthening ties between Artsakh and France.

Issues related to Nagorno-Karabagh's domestic and foreign policies were also touched upon, according to a report. NKR Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan and other officials partook in the meeting.

Shushi also signed a declaration of friendship with the city of Los Angeles in September of last year.



INTERNATIONAL

Supreme Patriarch Sees Rangoon's Armenian Church Granted Heritage Status

By San Yamin Aung

RANGOON, Burma (Irrawaddy) – Catholicos Karekin II, the supreme patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, attended a ceremony in Rangoon last week that saw the city's historic Armenian Apostolic Church of St. John the Baptist fitted with a blue plaque to honor its status as a heritage site.

The church, Rangoon's oldest Christian place of worship, is the third beneficiary of a larger project by the Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) to highlight the city's expansive colonial architecture.

Along with Karekin II, who made his first-ever visit to Burma this week, Rangoon Division Chief Minister Myint Swe, Rangoon Mayor Hla Myint and the British ambassador to Burma, Andrew Patrick, attended an event unveiling the plaque at the church, located on the corner of Merchant and Bo Aung Kyaw streets.

The plaques serve to commemorate landmarks, or well-known events or people, in the city, YHT said.

"It is a special day for us. Because today, at the entrance of the church, there is a plaque which has been established to indicate its heritage position," Karekin II told attendees via a translator.

"We have come here to encourage Armenians and their children to preserve the tradition. We have come here not only to see the preservation of the church, but also to strengthen [Rangoon's] Armenian heritage," he said.

Burma's dwindling population of Armenians arrived in the 17th century from Iran, where they had settled after fleeing the Ottoman Empire. In 1881, a



Catholicos Karekin II, the supreme patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, attends the unveiling of a blue plaque to honor the heritage status of the Armenian Apostolic Church of St. John the Baptist in Rangoon. (Photo: Sai Zaw / The Irrawaddy)

census by the colonial administration revealed that there were 466 Armenians living in the country, and a decade later that number had grown to 1,295.

But today the church is struggling to fill the pews, with only a small number of worshippers attending service each week. Of these, few trace roots back to the community that founded the building more than 150 years ago.

Distinguished by its tropical architecture combined with Gothic features, the church is the oldest church surviving in Rangoon, according to a press release from YHT on Wednesday.

Canadian Sharman Minus, who said her great-great-grandparents helped build the church, said that the Armenian delegation had been incredibly welcoming to her, inviting her to Wednesday's event and taking great interest in her personal family history.

"I feel like I am in dream," she said of Wednesday's ceremony.

"This event marks the third plaque to be installed in a historic building of Rangoon," said Moe Moe Lwin, director of YHT, at the unveiling ceremony. "We hope that this blue plaque will highlight our city's heritage, and serve as a gateway for Rangoon residents as well as visitors to celebrate its wonderful diversity and incredible history."

Previously, plaques have been fitted on City Hall and the building that once housed the up-market department store Rowe & Co.

Moe Moe Lwin said YHT is working to extend the existing list of heritage buildings in Rangoon. The blue plaque designation means the Armenian Apostolic Church of St. John the Baptist will be included in the extended list, help to ensure its long-term preservation.

Spat Over Who Speaks To UN Hints Of Looming Political Crisis in Georgia

By Robert Coalson

TBILISI (RFE/RL) – When Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili took the podium for his 15 minutes of fame at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in New York this week, the country's president was back in Tbilisi, licking his political wounds.

At a press conference on September 11, Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili said his plans to represent his country at the UN had been "thwarted" by "serious, organized efforts" by the Georgian government to block him from travelling. It was a strange statement from a country's head of state.

"This creates an awkward situation and leads one not to take either of these institutions seriously," says Tbilisi-based constitutional scholar Vakhtang Dzabiradze. "However, we can take comfort in the fact that once, a long time ago, France found itself in a similar situation when both the president [Francois Mitterand] and the prime minister [Jacques Chirac] flew to a G7 summit [in 1986]."

"We aren't the first to do something like this," he adds, "but such cases are still remembered with laughter around the world."

Laughter aside, the conflict between the president and the government is indicative of a serious problem in Georgian domestic politics – weak institutions and informal governance.

A poll in August found that 50 percent

of Georgians believe that former Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili continues to play a decisive role in governing the country despite not holding any office for nearly a year. Only 17 percent said he does not play a role.

The conflict between Margvelashvili and the government is not about policies, says Gia Khukhashvili, who served as an adviser to Ivanishvili when he was prime minister.

"The reality is that the president and prime minister don't have differences about fundamental issues – our foreign-policy vector, their foreign-policy statements," Khukhashvili said in an interview. "The only thing that cannot be agreed upon is the form who shall go where and who is the main figure in this country."

Billionaire businessman and philanthropist Ivanishvili emerged from the 2012 parliamentary elections as Georgia's political savior. He cobbled together the opposition Georgian Dream coalition and led it to victory. He served as prime minister, as promised, for one year before handing over the reins to political ally Gharibashvili in November 2013.

At the time, he told Georgian television that Gharibashvili "reminds me of myself – it is not necessary to repeat things to him several times."

Ivanishvili also picked Margvelashvili as the coalition's candidate in the 2013 presidential election.

But something seems to have changed.

In a much-discussed interview in

March, Ivanishvili said he was "surprised" and "disappointed" by Margvelashvili. He said Margvelashvili had shown "fundamentally different features and character" after he was elected president. In particular, he criticized the president for using a lavish presidential palace built by the government of former President Mikheil Saakashvili.

Ivanishvili also expressed his backing for Prime Minister Garibashvili, saying his successor was a better prime minister than he had been.

Transparency International Georgia wrote in its statement that, following the Ivanishvili interview, "the disagreement between President Margvelashvili and representatives of the government of Georgia has become even more apparent."

Under Saakashvili, political power was too concentrated in the executive branch and this was a major campaign argument that brought Ivanishvili's Georgian Dream to power. Now, however, analysts are concerned that Ivanishvili's alleged informal rule since he resigned as prime minister threatens to move governance beyond the country's constitutional framework altogether.

Analyst Khukhashvili agrees. "None of [the politicians] is the main figure," he says. "In this country, the Georgian people are the main figure. [The leaders] are simply hired by the Georgian people and this relationship must be maintained – which means mutual respect among institutions, not personalities."

International News

Levon Hayrapetyan Released from Prison

Moscow (Armenpress) – On October 3 the Basman District Court released Armenian businessman Levon Hayrapetyan from prison while requiring him to remain under house arrest, according to RIA Novosti.

The Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation detained Hayrapetyan, a Russian resident, on July 15 in Domodedovo Airport, where his flight landed from Monaco. The investigators transported the Armenian businessman to the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation under special surveillance, where he was officially informed of his arrest. The law enforcement authorities accuse Hayrapetyan of being connected with criminal leader Sergey Finagin.

Markarian Hands Credentials to President Of Council of Europe

BRUSSELS (Armenpress) – The head of Armenia's mission to the European Union (EU), Ambassador Tatul Markarian, presented his credentials to President of the Council of Europe Herman Van Rompui on October 2.

Subsequently Markarian and Van Rompui had a private talk, during which they referred to a number of issues concerning Armenia-EU relations. Congratulating the ambassador, Van Rompui expressed hope that he would do everything possible to strengthen Armenia-EU bilateral relations.

Markarian expressed his thanks for the warm reception and assured that he is ready to exert efforts for the continuous strengthening of Armenia-EU relations. Upon the request of the president of the council, he presented the latest developments in attempts at regulating the Karabagh conflict, and the current situation in Armenian-Turkish relations and in the region.

French Gymnast Arthur Magakian Dies at 89

PARIS (Jean Eckian) – Dubbed King Arthur by the French press, legendary gymnast Arthur Magakian died last week at age 89 from a brain tumor.

Magakian became champion of France in junior decathlon gymnastics in 1945.

In 1952, an injury prevented him from participating in the Olympic Games in Helsinki and his career came to an end.

Magakian then became one of the leading coaches and leaders of the French Gymnastics Federation and was its first national technical director from 1963 to 1986.

His remarkable career was rewarded with the Legion of Honor, the National Order of Merit and the Gold Medal of Youth and Sports.

Magakian was born on November 11, 1925 in Vienne. His funeral was held on Wednesday, October 8, in Valence.

14 Killed in Xenophobic Attacks in Russia

MOSCOW (RFE/RL) – A Moscow-based think tank that monitors xenophobia and extremism says 14 people have been killed and 77 injured in ethnically motivated attacks across Russia since the beginning of the year.

According to the latest report presented by the Sova Center for Information and Analysis on September 30, 31 individuals have been sentenced for hatred attacks since January 1.

The report did not include ethnically or racially motivated attacks in Russia's volatile North Caucasus region or in Crimea, the Ukrainian region that was annexed by Moscow in March.

The main victims of the attacks were migrant workers from Central Asia and the Caucasus, as well as representatives of youth subculture groups and sexual minorities.

The Sova Center said that 20 people were killed in ethnically motivated attacks across Russia last year.



Community News

Fr. Vasken Kouzouian to Celebrate 20th Anniversary of Ordination

Five Sub-deacons to Be Ordained

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — On Sunday, October 26, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Rev. Vasken A. Kouzouian's ordination to priesthood, the 53rd anniversary of the Consecration of Holy Trinity Church on Brattle Street, and the ordination of five sub-deacons.

The morning will begin with the Divine Liturgy, at 10 a.m., presided over by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), who will ordain Oscar Derderian III, Stephen Hollisian, Harry Lang, Gregory Torosian and Mark Torosian to the sub-diaconate during the Divine Liturgy.

Present at the services and Celebration will be Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Diocesan Legate and past president of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, member of the Governing Board of the World Council of Churches, presently the president of Christian Churches Together and moderator of the Christian Jewish Dialogue.



Fr. Vasken Kouzouian

Also attending the celebration will be Armenian and non-Armenian clergy from the Diocese and greater community. Following church services, family, friends, parishioners and the community are invited to the "20th Anniversary Celebration," in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, which will honor Kouzouian's two decades of service and recognize his service to the Armenian Church, his parish and the greater community.

The Celebration Committee, chaired by Lisa Stephanian Burton, Esq., is planning a program which will include tributes, reflections and multimedia presentations chronicling his 20 years of pastoral ministry.

"Holy Trinity is very lucky," Burton states, "we will not only be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the ordination of our pastor and church leader, but also the accomplishments of our life-long friend and fellow Holy Trinity parishioner. One of the greatest gifts we can give *Der Hayr*, Yeretzgin Arpi and Alina is to all come together to share in the moment and thank him for all he has done."

Seating is by advance paid reservation only, with an RSVP deadline of October 15. Babysitting services, which will include a pizza lunch and supervision, will be provided for guests' children, ages 3-9, at \$5 per child. It is his wish that any gift made on this occasion benefit the establishment of a Youth Center at Holy Trinity Armenian Church. For further information, or to make a reservation or donation, contact the Holy Trinity church office or email office@htaac.org. Payment for dinner reservations may be made online at www.htaac.org.

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Sam Manoian Post #1, Armenian-American Veterans of Lowell, presented five scholarships to worthy high school graduates Oct. 4 during a dinner-dance at Sts. Vartanantz Church, Chelmsford. From left, Commander Richard Juknavorian, Samantha Sarkisian, Nairi Hovsepian, Robert Papazian, Daniel Donabedian, Rob Kochakian, standing in for son Matthew, and Scholarship Chairman George Manuelian.

Lowell Veterans Award Five Scholarships

CHELMSFORD, Mass. — One graduate looks to a career in medicine. Another is opting to become a nurse. A third has chosen English literature and biochemistry as possible majors. A fourth yearns to design video games as his future career while a fifth student will get a business degree.

By Tom Vartabedian

Post 1, Armenian-American Veterans of Lowell.

The ceremony took place at Sts. Vartanantz Church with some 240 guests in attendance during the 24th annual dinner-dance. Among the gathered were clergy from three area churches, along with members of their respective congregations.

The students were recognized with the usual fanfare. Since 1990, more than \$140,000 in scholarships has been awarded to 154 candidates of Armenian-American descent in the community.

The scholarships memorialize Menas G. Boghosian, who was a member of the organization.

This year's contingent included: Daniel Donabedian, Matthew Kochakian, Nairi Hovsepian, Robert Papazian and Samantha Sarkisian.

"The academic standing and extra-curricular side sticks right out," says Commander Richard Juknavorian. "They're continuing their education at quality schools and look to enter wonderful careers. Hopefully, the scholarships we've presented will come back to enrich our community in some way. The youth represents our future and we want to invest in that principal."

Of the scholarship presentations, Juknavorian further added how it's been a tradition that has been woven into the fabric of academic life in the valley.

"Anything we can do to enhance their schooling is a mission we've taken very seriously," he pointed out. "We try to make it very personal. Parents and siblings become part of the celebration."

Sarkisian graduated from Westford Academy where she belonged to the Spanish Club, played volleyball, secured honor grades and enjoys dancing. She attends Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, majoring in pre-med with a long-range goal of becoming a physical therapist.

Hovsepian, another Westford Academy grad, played varsity ice hockey when she didn't involve herself with Project Purple — a cause against drug abuse among students. She, too, was an honor student and still reflects upon her trip to Armenia two summers ago where she volunteered building homes in depressed areas. Among other personal highlights was winning an essay contest sponsored by the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley.

Donabedian graduated from St. Joseph's Preparatory in Brighton where he was Student Council president, participated in theater productions and did soccer and track in addition to his role on the National Honor Society. He majors in English Literature and Biochemistry at Harvard University and hopes someday to become a science fiction writer.

Papazian took honors classes at Shrewsbury High School and secured a second-degree black belt in karate. He's majoring in game design at Becker College and sees an open market in an already active society.

Kochakian was also an honors student at Middlesex School in Concord where he participated in soccer, track, squash and music. He also ran a voluntary program to help deaf students playing baseball and, like Hovsepian, was also a first-place essay winner in the Merrimack Valley Genocide Contest. He attends New York University's Stern School of Business. Accepting in his behalf was his dad, Rob.

Five veterans were honored with life memberships: Richard "Muggy" Juknavorian, John Amboian, John Balian, Haig Goodsoodan and Jacob Ajemian.

For more on the veterans, log onto their website: www.armenianamericanveterans.org.

Students, AYF And Armenian Bar Association Participate in Free Legal Clinic

MONTEBELLO, Calif. — Dozens of lawyers, law students and community members gathered on September 18, to participate in a free legal clinic reaching deep into the Armenian community of Southern California.

"We want to let the community know that we are fully invested in it, and ready to meet their needs," said Haig Siranosian, a member of the Montebello "Vahan Cardashian" chapter of the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF).

The clinic took place at the local Armenian Center and was hosted by AYF Montebello in collaboration with the Armenian Bar Association and the Pepperdine University School of Law's Armenian Law Students' Association (ALSA).

Armen K Hovannisian, chairman of the Armenian Bar Association, stated, "With the rising currents of devotion of our world-class members, the Armenian Bar Association has developed into a lightning rod of positive energy. We continue to fulfill one of our primary missions of offering legal guidance to those in need. This time, we had the privilege of being welcomed into one of the most storied Southern California communities — Montebello. This is where another generation now stands proud and humble in the long shadow of earlier pioneers who helped build the iconic Genocide Monument more than 45 years ago."

Attorneys from the Armenian Bar Association offered hours of free legal consultations in the fields of immigration, landlord/tenant, labor, criminal law and other areas, conducted in both English and Armenian.

Pepperdine's ALSA, along with law school students of different backgrounds from Southwestern Law School, Loyola Law School and other areas schools, assisted community members in communicating their legal issues with the attorneys.

"The collaborative effort between the Armenian Bar Association, the AYF, and the ALSA enabled us to serve the Montebello community and help people in a way we couldn't as individual organizations. We hope to continue co-programming and innovating ways to serve local communities," stated Tatev Oganyan, president of Pepperdine's ALSA.

The organizers felt that Armenian refugees who had fled from upheavals in Syria and Iraq would particularly need legal services as they navigate the complex immigration system of the United States. And, in fact, several of the public participants came with immigration-related questions related to their and their families' exodus from these regions.

"Because of the cycles of dispersion caused by the Genocide and its aftermath, our compatriots have found it necessary to emigrate to new countries," Hovannisian of the Armenian Bar Association explained. "When they arrive in America, we will be waiting to meet them with what they will need to know about their legal rights and responsibilities. I am particularly moved by the great commitment of our partners in this community-betterment effort, namely the law students and the young men and women of the Armenian Youth Federation."

The legal clinic with the Armenian Bar Association is part of a larger goal among AYF Western Region chapters to make a positive impact in their local communities. AYF chapters currently offer services ranging from weekly special-needs basketball programs to community health fairs in Pasadena.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Group Celebrates Armenia's Independence at NYC Event

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK – The brilliant sunny day reflected the happy occasion of the 23rd celebration of the Republic of Armenia's independence. Under the auspices of the Armenian Diocese (Eastern) and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, and the Armenian Mission to the United Nations, and UN Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, it took place at St. Vartan Cathedral Complex's Kavookjian Hall on Sunday, September 21, following church services.

The event was sponsored by the volunteers of the group Noyan Tapan (Noah's Ark), which planned, organized and funded the celebration, and who for several years has organized not only these annual remembrances, but also has been instrumental in working with the Times Square Genocide commemorations.

On September 21, Kavookjian Hall was festooned with tricolor balloons, as more than 250 people took their seats at flower-bedecked tables. Across the stage was a massive tricolor flag with a gigantic emblem of Armenia placed in the center. The program began with the opening prayer by Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, followed by the singing of the American and Armenian national anthems by Vagharshak Ohanyan, accompanied on the piano by Dr. Lloyd Ariola.

Noyan Tapan Vice Chairman Tigran Sahakyan was the master of ceremonies, introducing a patriotic video replete with fireworks, robust choral singing and poetry accompanying a tribute to Armenian soldiers marching in step with rows of tanks and missiles following them, and cheering crowds celebrating Armenian Independence Day in Yerevan's central square.

Mnatsakanian, speaking in Armenian, stated that the country's history, faith, culture and language are the strong bases for the finding of solutions in the future. "We are recognized internationally. We have to preserve our rich legacy,

and strengthen our state institutions," he said.

The ambassador related that there are "tragic pages in our history, the pain of the Genocide. This is not an historical question. It is a political question of the present. The fourth or fifth generation of the survivors still carry the pain. Justice not delivered is pain not healed." For sec-

field, and is a guarantor of Armenia's security. Today we have a secure Armenia and Artsakh. Other state institutions were born, including diplomacy, and we are proud that our flag flies high internationally, and at the United Nations." He thanked all who live and work for Armenia and Artsakh. "We have much to celebrate."

we can hope for in this country. For our homeland to thrive, it must be supported." She berated those who "meddle in our petty politics." Armenia, she said, "needs peaceful relations with its neighbors, economic stability, rule of law, a strong educational system, and a healthy politic. We have to connect the past with the future to



Some of the dignitaries, organizers and speakers at the celebration

ond and third generations, the 20 to 25 year olds, the emotion is different, he said, adding, "Nationalism is natural for the young generation. They will be taking over the decision making soon," he said.

"Today, we are a proud people, and independence is the most serious question for Armenia and Artsakh. Our army was born on the battle-

Southern Connecticut State University President Dr. Mary Papazian, representing the Daughters of Vartan, reminded the audience that the youth in Armenia always had a country, though "For us in the US, an independent Armenia was a dream."

She paid tribute to the huge majority who has participated in Armenia's elections, "something

insure Armenia's future, and the strength of our forebears."

In emotional remarks, Hagop Vartivarian, representing the ADL-Ramgavar Party, paid tribute to "this holy land which came about from the blood of our brave soldiers and people. Next year on the 100th anniversary of our Genocide, we shall commemorate it at the Tsitsernakabert Genocide Memorial. The diaspora has to be ready for its responsibilities to Armenia and Artsakh so that our independence is not threatened."

Armenian Assembly of America Executive Director Brian Ardouny, in offering a personal reflection, revealed that his grandparents, who were Genocide survivors, came to America, but always kept a close connection to the homeland. "Their sacrifices, and those of many others like them, contributed to the independence of Armenia," he said, and reiterated that freedom and democracy for Artsakh was still in question. "We have many challenges ahead of us, but we have had, and continue to have the enduring spirit for survival. We have much to be proud of."

Noyan Tapan Chairman Artyom Sahakyan, thanked all those present, and declared, "Our forefathers fought for our independent homeland. We have to work together and make sure that our future is maintained and strengthened for future generations."

Several performers delighted the audience with Armenian songs, including soprano Anoush Barclay with piano accompaniment by Lucine Vahradyan, and coloratura Maria Sahakyan, accompanied by Vagharshak Ohanyan. The Antranig Dance Ensemble, clad in colorful traditional costumes and with graceful movements, performed several patriotic and lyrical numbers. Coinciding with the official program, in a side room, children were entertained with games, a magic show and movies.

In his heartfelt remarks, Gizirian declared, "Our survival in a difficult neighborhood is exemplary. Our ideals have not been diminished. We should be proud of our holy homeland with its songs, its dances, its icons, its culture, its history. And Artsakh is our responsibility and must be protected."

He related that when he came to the US 23 years ago, he went to the United Nations, "and with tear-filled eyes, paid homage to our flag. Every country has minuses, but we should get nourishment from our roots, and be proud of our homeland, and our people, and pray that God will always bless our nation and its people."

The event concluded with prayers offered by Gizirian and the Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian. They joined the assemblage in the singing of the *Hayr Mer*.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

After 44 Years at Yale, Harutunian Is Still Young at Heart

By Greg Cameron

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (*Yale Daily News*) — Seeing Yale fencing coach Henry Harutunian in person, one might think he was 60 or 65. Hearing his booming voice speak about his love for Yale, he might sound 40, and watching the energy with which he conducts practice five days a week, he would seem around 18 to 22, the age of his fencing students.

Never would one guess that Harutunian is about to turn 82 — the exact age of Payne Whitney Gymnasium — and is now entering his 45th year as the head of the Yale fencing program. His tenure at the helm spans seven Yale presidencies, five NCAA fencing titles for Yale and the entire length of the women's fencing program, which he himself created in 1974.

The former American Olympic coach credits his job at Yale, which he willingly works at from 5:30 a.m. to after 6:30 p.m. each day, for keeping him young over the years. A religious man who hails from Armenia, he said that it is important to enjoy the years that God has given him.

"For me, everything comes naturally," Harutunian said. "I just like life, I like young people. My life is my team."

Harutunian's office, the only room on the seventh floor of Payne Whitney Gymnasium other than the fencing room, is an organized mess that encapsulates his life: busy and loaded with memories.

Nearly one hundred photos of his past teams and the children of his alumni hang behind his

desk, while a complete fencing workshop — all the equipment of his team, tools for building the weapons and even a sewing machine for fencing outfits — is dispersed around the office.

Harutunian is currently in the midst of using his tools to make an épée from scratch for Dillon Lew '16, who is switching from foil to epee this year and did not have the appropriate equipment.

He stores and takes care of all of the team's equipment, he said, because his students should not need to think about fencing when they are not in the Yale fencing room.

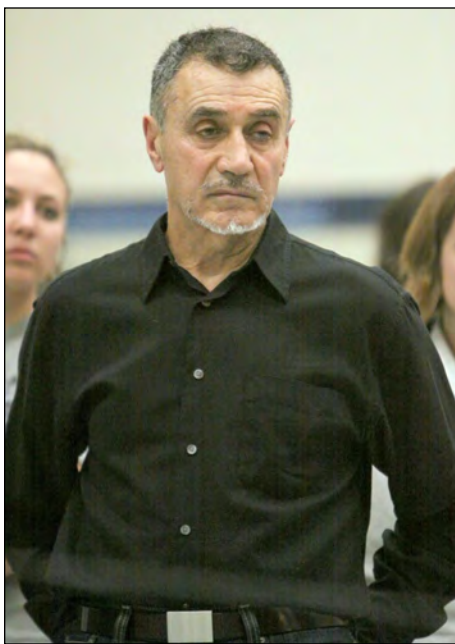
"I ask, from October 15 to March, for two hours a day, you come to fencing and forget everything else," Harutunian said. "At 6:15, you leave, and unplug from fencing. [Take care of] your studies, social life, whatever else in your life, because that's your profession and future. Your parents are paying for education, not fencing."

During those two hours a day, Harutunian runs practices with as much intensity and energy as the fencers themselves, captain Hugh O'Kinneide '15 said.

Above all else, O'Kinneide said that Harutunian has taught him when to draw the line between a lighthearted tone and serious one.

"His coaching has really given a boost to my love of the sport, because he is so passionate about it," O'Kinneide said.

Harutunian's philosophy for coaching has certainly proved successful. His women's team has won three NCAA titles, all between 1982 and 1985, while the men's team won a champi-



Coach Henry Harutunian

onship each in foil and sabre in the early 1990s.

"[Harutunian] has made my experience on the Women's Fencing team one of the best parts about my four years at Yale," women's captain Lauren Miller '15 said in an email. "His long-standing dedication to the team means a lot to us and our alumni and I know that we wouldn't have the team we have today without him."

Just 11 years after his immigration to America, he began working with its national team, eventually coaching in the 1984 Olympic games.

Harutunian has produced this success at Yale

— over 500 wins in 44 years — despite many of his most successful athletes never having touched a piece of fencing equipment before college. One notable example, David Jacobson '74, was a football player in high school before Harutunian approached him at Payne Whitney Gym in his freshman year at Yale.

Harutunian told him to report to the fencing room the next day to try the sport. Jacobson proceeded to earn all-American honors in fencing and join the American national team.

As much as Harutunian's former students owe him for his teachings in fencing, he also has much for which to thank them, as it was one of Harutunian's pupils who brought him to Yale in the first place.

Harutunian moved to the United States in 1966 to become a conversational Russian instructor at Harvard. Howard Daniel '66 was Harutunian's graduate student. After discovering Harutunian's coaching talent and Yale's need for a revitalized fencing program, he decided to connect the future coach to Yale.

Harutunian visited the campus and was awestruck by its beauty, especially the size of the Yale fencing room despite the small membership of the team. In 1970, after three years of coaching at Brandeis, he eventually was offered the fencing job at Yale.

Forty-four years later, the former Harvard instructor remains one of the greatest supports of Yale as an institution. He frequently referred to past and present administrators as "brilliant," picking out one name, A. Bartlett Giamatti, as the best Yale president he has witnessed. Giamatti's picture also hangs on the filled walls of Harutunian's office.

The Yale fencing team's season starts November 7 at Penn State.

OBITUARY

Bernard 'Ben' Akillian

ASHLAND, Mass. — Bernard "Ben" Akillian, formerly of Ashland, died on October 2. He leaves his wife, Vivian (Cormier) Akillian; children Joyce Rossignol and her husband, Charles, Steven Akillian and his wife, Phyllis, and Gail Phillips and her husband, Eric; grandchildren Chris Rossignol, Jacqui Rossignol and Zachary Phillips. He was the brother of the late Victoria Akillian, Setrak, Sarkis and Nubar Akillian. He also leaves several nieces and nephews.



Bernard "Ben" Akillian

He was inducted into the Watertown High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

He was an outstanding scholar-athlete at Watertown High School, from which he graduated in 1948. He excelled in football, basketball and baseball, served as class president for two years, was senior class marshal and a member of the National Honor Society and the Cum Laude group.

After graduation, the New York Yankees offered him a contract, but he chose to attend Harvard College instead. He played for the leg-

endary John P. "Stuffy" McInnis. He was one of the Ivy League's best outfielders, a hard-hitter who displayed major league potential with his running, fielding and throwing skills.

After graduation, he was again approached by the Yankees and other major league teams who were interested in signing him to a minor league contract. Although greatly tempted to pursue a career in professional baseball, he followed the advice of his older brother, Nubar, and attended Harvard Business School.

After military service, he joined the federal government and retired after 37 years of federal service.

He lived most of his married life in Ashland with his wife, Vivian and his children and grandchildren.

His family summered for many years at their favorite vacation place, Camp Wulamat on Newfound Lake in New Hampshire.

Funeral services were held on Monday, October 6, at Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church in Belmont. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church, 200 Lexington St., Belmont, MA 02478.

Arrangements were made by the Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home in Watertown.

Walter McKertich

SCARBOROUGH, Maine — Walter McKertich, of Scarborough, died on August 13, 2014. He was 76 years old.

He was born to Rose Chopoorian and Joseph McKertich.

He grew up in Watertown, the younger brother of Vahan and Lillian.

In high school he was co-captain of Watertown's championship football team and was later inducted into the Watertown Football Hall of Fame. After high school, McKertich joined the United States Marine Corps and did his tour of duty in the Mediterranean. Upon returning to the US, Walt graduated from AIC in Springfield, Mass.

He then started to work at Honeywell Corporation as a production manager.

He married Glenda (Glenny) Silon and they had three children, Lisa, Edward and Robert. Wanting a change from corporate life, he and his wife opened a natural food store in Andover in 1976. The store was an instant success and

grew in size and stature becoming a shopping and social destination for many people in Andover.

Always interested in the world around him, he became active in local political causes especially in the Clamshell Alliance, a group against nuclear weapons. Throughout his life, he enjoyed many pastimes, from ballroom dancing to golf to creating stained glass pieces and sparring in the boxing ring. But his greatest passion and joy was for his family. He adored his wife, children and grandchildren.

In 1999, the couple sold their store and "retired" to Portland, Maine. Never one to be idle, he worked part time at the Woodlands Country Club in Falmouth and later, wanting to serve his country after 9/11, he became a TSA employee. The couple also began to travel and enjoyed many trips both in the US and abroad.

Even in illness Walt never lost his sense of humor, making his hospice nurse smile. He will always be remembered and loved.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Fr. Vasken Kouzouian to Celebrate 20th Anniversary of Ordination

CELEBRATION, from page 4

Pastoral Journey

Born in New Jersey in 1964 to Rev. Fr. Mampre A. Kouzouian and the late Yeretzgin Nuvart Kouzouian, Alexan Sarkis Kouzouian was raised in the Armenian Church in a devout family that has a long history of serving the church. He is the 51st priest in his maternal lineage (Der Bedrosian).

In 1977, when Fr. Mampre Kouzouian became the pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, the family moved to Massachusetts. Fr. Vasken graduated from Belmont High School and received his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Boston University in 1986. He studied at the Seminary of Holy Echmiadzin in Armenia for two years (from 1988 to 1990), and was ordained to the diaconate at the Cathedral of Holy Echmiadzin, by the late Archbishop Nersess Bozabalian, Chancellor of the Mother See, and with the bless-

ings of Vasken I, Catholicos of All Armenians, of blessed memory. In May 1994, he graduated from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological and St. Nersess Theological Seminaries in New York, receiving the Master of Divinity degree.

Following his seminary graduation, he married Arpi Musluyan of Toronto, in July 1994. The two had met on a trip to Armenia for young adults in the summer of 1992.

During the weekend of October 29-30, 1994, at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Kouzouian was ordained to the Holy Order of Priesthood in the Armenian Church by Archbishop Barsamian. "Deacon Alexan" was renamed "Fr. Vasken" in memory of the late Vasken I, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

After fulfilling his pastoral internship at Holy Trinity, under the direction of his father, Barsamian assigned the younger Kouzouian to serve as pastor of the St. Mark Armenian Church, in Springfield MA, from 1995 to 1999.



Fr. Vasken Kouzouian at his ordination in 1991

Berjoohie Zakarian Bequest to *Mirror* And Tekeyan Cultural Association



Berjoohie Zakarian

WORCESTER — The late Berjoohie H. ("Berjie") Zakarian of Worcester was a longtime subscriber to the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* and supporter of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA). Through her estate, she recently donated \$10,843 to the *Mirror*, and the same amount to the TCA. The *Mirror* and TCA are most appreciative of her support, and are certain her memory will live on among friends and relatives.

Zakarian was born on November 18, 1921. A graduate of Commerce High School, she worked as a hairstylist for almost 40 years. She was active in the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, as well as in the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenian Assembly, Daughters of Vartan and the Armenian Museum of America. She passed away on February 15, 2013. The daughter of Hapet and Yougaper

(Topjian) Zakarian, she was sister of Asbed "Ozzie" Zakarian, and has many surviving relatives. She is buried at Hope Cemetery in Worcester.

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While still serving at St. Mark's, Fr. Vasken and Yn. Arpi were assigned to serve the St. Vartan Summer Camp Program as Director and Director of Programming, respectively. Under their leadership, the St. Vartan Camp program flourished experiencing renewal and growth. He served as camp director from 1996 to 2001, and again from 2010 to the present. He also served as camp chaplain from 2002 to 2004.

With the successful revamping of the St. Vartan Camp program, Barsamian asked Fr. Vasken and Yn. Arpi to lead the Diocesan Youth Ministry Program; Fr. Vasken served as director from 1999 to 2001. It was during this time that the couple underwent extensive professional youth ministry training. In 2000 and 2006, he was Director of the Diocesan Youth Pilgrimages to Jerusalem and the Holy Land. In 2001, he led a Diocesan Young Adult 1,700th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Armenia.

In 2002, Holy Trinity Church welcomed Kouzouian back home as its pastor to lead it into the future. With vast youth ministry experience serving the Diocese, he and his wife brought about a renaissance of direction and activity into the parish youth program. He has personally led more than 100 parishioners on four pilgrimages, two to Armenia, one to historic Armenia, and a special Christmas pilgrimage to Bethlehem and the Holy Land.

A personal highlight for the Kouzouians was the birth of their daughter, Alina, in 2002. Having grown up within the Holy Trinity parish, Alina is actively involved in parish life.

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She is a Sunday School student, a member of the Holy Trinity ACYOA Juniors and has attended St. Vartan Camp.

During Kouzouian's tenure, Holy Trinity has seen the establishment of a Distinguished Speaker Series, a fellowship group for its senior parishioners, a Vacation Bible School program for its youngest faithful; an annual Blessing of Babies' Service and major renovations to the systems of the 50 plus year old Church complex.

He has continued to be actively involved on the Diocesan level serving on the Diocesan Council since 2007, and the Board of Directors of the Ararat Center since 2011.

In the community, Kouzouian has served on the Massachusetts State House Genocide Commemoration Committee since 2002, the Boston Minister's Club (founded in 1870) since 2004, with the encouragement of Archbishop Vicken Aykazian and the Mayor's Interfaith Clergy Council, City of Cambridge MA.

Ordination of Five Sub-Deacons

Oscar Derderian III, Harry Lang, Stephen Hollisian, Gregory and Mark Torosian come from families that are committed and devoted to the Armenian Church and its teachings. These five young men have been brought up within the Holy Trinity Church parish from a young age. All are graduates of Holy Trinity's Sunday School program, were actively involved in the Holy Trinity ACYOA Juniors program, and are current members of the Holy Trinity ACYOA Seniors. They have attended the St. Vartan Camp program as campers, CITs and staff members as well as the Deacon's Training Program at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. Derderian, Hollisian, and the Torosian brothers each have participated in the Diocesan Young Adult Pilgrimage to Jerusalem. For four years, Lang attended the Junior Choir Leadership Development Program, sponsored by the Sacred Music Council of the Diocese of the Armenian Church, from which he recently graduated.

In April 2003, the five young men received the Four Minor Orders of Acolyte in an ordination presided over by Barsamian at Holy Trinity Church. Since then, they have served on the altar whenever possible as they furthered their liturgical training under the direction of the long-time deacon of the Holy Trinity Church, Gregory Krikorian.



COMMUNITY NEWS

AGBU Announces Partnership with Teach for Armenia

NEW YORK — The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) is proud to announce its partnership with Teach For Armenia, an initiative premised on the idea that every child deserves access to an excellent education. In honor of this new partnership, AGBU hosted a series of lectures with founder and CEO Larisa Ryan on September 30 in Pasadena, October 2 in San Francisco, October 7 in New York and October 8 in Boston.

The events are designed to inform the community about the state of education in Armenia and Teach For Armenia's role in its development. Driven by a belief in pursuing innovative solutions to social problems, Teach For Armenia plans to recruit the best and the brightest from Armenia and the diaspora to teach in the Armenian educational system. By including enthusiastic and dynamic teachers and leaders in the nation's schools and elevating the discourse about education, the enterprise looks to increase the quality of education in Armenia.

Larisa Ryan, Teach For Armenia's founder



Teach For Armenia plans to recruit the best and the brightest from Armenia and the diaspora to teach in the Armenian educational system.



Teach For Armenia is premised on the idea that every child deserves access to an excellent education.

and CEO, is a Teach For America alumna. "As much as we are leveraging Teach For America's model, we are not a franchise, but an Armenian organization that adopts and translates cutting-edge trends in order to boost Armenia's competitive advantage," says Ryan.

The initiative's goal of expanding educational opportunities for young

Armenians means that it is committed to building alliances with partners who are willing to put their faith in the future of Armenia's economic and social strength. With supporters like the AGBU, Teach For Armenia will expand its program by recruiting, training, and placing its fellows in schools throughout Armenia to guarantee that the country's students can realize their potential.

Over the past few months, Teach For Armenia's efforts have received support from major Armenian foundations, organizations, corporations and individuals who have joined them in their mission to provide stellar education. For more information about Teach For Armenia, visit <http://teachforarmenia.org/>

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenians Honor USC President for Championing USC Armenian Institute

LOS ANGELES — The University of Southern California Institute of Armenian Studies Leadership Council marked its 10th year with a gala celebration in the presence of 600 guests and supporters, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on Sunday, September 28.

The 10th anniversary gala honored USC President C. L. Max Nikias for championing the Institute. Nikias, born in Cyprus, was USC Provost when the Institute was established. “He recognized and supported the Institute both as an idea and as a university program, and for that we’re grateful,” said Charles Ghailian, chairman of the Institute Leadership Council



From left, Charles Ghailian, USC President C.L. Max Nikias and Judge Dikran Tevzian, of the USC Institute of Armenian Studies Honorary Council

and host of the banquet.

The Gala committee, headed by Diane Cabraloff and Lori Muncherian, raised nearly \$2 million to support the Institute’s work. In addition to donations by the Turpanjian Family Educational Foundation, there were several significant commitments by others who believe in supporting students through scholarships. The Kassabian brothers — Garo, Jiro and Diko — established a scholarship fund in their parents’ names. International Jeweler and Collector Michael Kazanjian also established a fund, as did Leadership Council member and Closet World CEO Frank and Hoori Melkonian. The Tufenkian family generously established the

Richard Tufenkian Memorial Scholarship. Attorneys Mark Geragos and Brian Kabateck directed some of the proceeds of the AXA Insurance Settlement case in support of the Institute’s programming fund.

Several dignitaries were present to join in honoring Nikias. The Carnegie Corporation’s president, Vartan Gregorian joined the guests, as did Haigazian University’s president, Paul Haidostian, from Beirut. Paul Ignatius, former Secretary of the Navy, and Ambassador John Evans, who served in Armenia as ambassador, both members of the USC Institute’s Honorary Council, were also present. Also in attendance were Paul Kjekorian, a member of Los Angeles City Council, and Sam Simonian, founder of Yerevan’s Tumo Center.

Several members of the USC Board of Trustees were among the attendees, including Ron Tutor, who introduced the president. Nikias spoke about the importance of scholarship for development, and reiterated the importance of the Institute to the university.

The Institute falls within the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Dornsife Dean Steve Kay expanded on the Institute’s mission, and expressed appreciation for the generous support of donors. He acknowledged the three new appointments made in the Armenian Studies program and repeated the College’s commitment to helping the program grow. Professor Richard Antaramian is the inaugural holder of the Turpanjian Chair in Contemporary Armenian Studies. Salpi Ghazarian will head the Institute of Armenian Studies. Professor Richard Hovannisian will work with the USC Shoah Foundation Institute to develop the cataloging and indexing of the Armenian Film Foundation’s collection of survivor testimonies.

Institute Director Salpi Ghazarian addressed the audience by acknowledging both the seriousness of their commitment to the role of scholarship in problem solving, and the seriousness of the questions and problems facing the Armenian nation and the Armenian state.

The evening’s program included a musical medley, supported by Sara Zaruhi Chitjian, and performed by the Armenian Pops Orchestra, led by Greg Hosharian.

Around Town



Park and Party

BOSTON — On Monday, September 23, Friends of the Armenian Heritage Park hosted a Friends’ Social at Abby Lane to benefit efforts for the park’s Ongoing Care. Pictured above are the greeters at the event, from left, Tsoleen Sarian, Demetri Petrosian, Sara Jangigian, Trifiro, Chris Mensoian, Dr. Armineh Mirzabegian, Sarven Ipek, co-chairs Martha Mensoian and Arlette Yegumians, Ann Chaglassian, Cathy Minassian and Gladys Partamian. To support our Park’s Care, visit ArmenianHeritage.org

* * * * *



Michigan Festival Draws Volunteers

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — Members of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party and the Tekeyan Cultural Association Detroit Chapter came together at the St. John Armenian Church Festival on September 27. ADL and Tekeyan members helped out in the kitchen and were joined by friends for this photo. The three-day festival was a huge success. Captain Jack Alexanian gathered the troops for a photo.

* * * * *

(LEO GOZBEKIAN PHOTO)



Ambassador in Glendale

GLENDALE — On Tuesday, September 30, a reception in celebration of the 23rd anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Armenia was held at the Glendale Hilton, hosted by Consul General of Armenia Sergey Sarkisov, and his wife, and with the participation of the newly appointed ambassador of Armenia to the United States, Tigran Sargisian. The ambassador, fifth from left, is flanked by journalists, community leaders and members of the clergy.

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Arts & Living

Armenian International Women's Association Honors Lily Ring Balian

LOS ANGELES – The Los Angeles Affiliate of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) anticipate a capacity crowd to walk the red carpet on Saturday, November 22, at the world renowned Beverly Hills Hotel. The special occasion for the luncheon is to honor Lily Ring Balian, recipient of the 2014 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Balian received this medal on May 10, at a moving ceremony on Ellis Island in recognition of her contributions to both the Armenian and American communities.

Silva Katchiguian, president of AIWA-LA, states "We are proud to honor Lily Ring Balian who has had a distinguished career in both public and community service. She has served on the Executive Board of AIWA-LA since its establishment, was elected president in 2000-2003 and currently serves as Publicity Chair and Liaison to the International Board. Lily Ring Balian has received recognition and garnered praise for her deep sense of commitment to the Armenian Apostolic Church and for her tireless work on behalf of the Armenian community."

Balian's public service began in the Office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney, where she rose through the ranks to serve as executive assistant to Evelle J. Younger, District Attorney (1964-1970) and continued serving as his executive assistant following his election as attorney general of the State of California (1971-79). In 1980, she moved to Washington, DC to head Citizens

Operation for the Reagan-Bush campaign. Following the presidential election, President Reagan appointed her to the 15-member National Advisory Council on Adult Education (1981-1988) advising the president and secretary of education on adult education programs throughout

the United States. She was soon elected chair (1985-88).

Following her volunteer activities in the gubernatorial campaign of Pete Wilson, the governor appointed her to the California Commission on the Status of Women where she served for six years (1991-96) and was elected chair in 1994-96. In 1995 she represented the California Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations Fourth World Conference in Beijing, China. From 1991 to 1997, Balian served as corporate director of Civic Action and Public Affairs for Northrop-Grumman Corporation in Century City administering its government relations program.

Balian's volunteer service in the Armenian community is extensive, particularly her articles in the Armenian newspapers. She has served as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Western Diocese since 1981 and served as its chair for 15 years. She was elected to the Diocese Council in 2006 and re-elected in 2008, where she served as its secretary. Currently, she is honorary chair of the Government Relations and Protocol Committee; member of the Zorayan Museum Committee and Annual Christmas Ball Committee. Balian was awarded the Gontag and St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal from Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II in 2004. Her other awards include: the Archbishop's Award from Archbishop Hovnan Derderian (2006); "Angel of the Year" by the Westside Ararat Guild (2006); and the Justice Armand Arabian Leaders in Public Service Award by the Encino Chamber of Commerce (2013).

Reservations and/or sponsorships can be obtained by contacting Houry Aposhian,



Actor David Alpay

ATP Anniversary to Feature Actor David Alpay and Artist Arthur Hovhannisyan

BOSTON – The organizing committee of Armenia Tree Project's 20th anniversary recently announced that actor David Alpay will be featured as a special guest at the Boston event. The celebration will be held in the grand atrium of the John Joseph Moakley Courthouse overlooking Boston Harbor on Saturday, November 8.

David Alpay's debut into the world of acting started with his role in "Ararat," directed by Atom Egoyan, which garnered international recognition. He has starred opposite Robin Williams in "Man of the Year" and Shirley MacLaine in "Closing the Ring." A leading man with chameleon-like versatility, Alpay plays Atticus Shane on "The Vampire Diaries."

Alpay can be seen currently starring in the Lifetime Network's new original drama, "The Lottery." An acclaimed actor, he has been nominated for two Gemini awards and for the Genie award (Canada's Oscar) for best male lead in "Ararat." He is also an accomplished violinist and fiddle player and tours with Tim Robbins and the Rogues Gallery Band.

His relationship with ATP began several years ago, when he was inspired by a visit to several of the project sites in Armenia.

The 20th anniversary fundraiser is being chaired by Nina Festekjian and Nicole Babikian Hajjar, who are coordinating a team of more than two dozen ambassadors for the event. The organization has set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$3,000,000 in honor of this milestone.

"I feel privileged to have been entrusted with such a momentous responsibility and to serve such an awesome organization," notes Hajjar. "We're planning a celebration that will reflect, in its scale and nature, the scope and texture of this vibrant organization. We want the diverse mission and the formidable work they do to touch a whole new constituency, the ultimate goal being to pave the way for the exponential and grassroots growth of the organization."

The committee is planning a truly unique event, promising a few special surprises for the evening. In addition to Alpay, the program will feature the music of Black Sea Salsa and an art sale and live auction by multiple award-winning painter Arthur Hovhannisyan from Armenia who has been invited by ATP on this occasion. The sale of artwork will benefit ATP's programs in Armenia.

The "Land in Harmony" exhibition will open with a preview on Thursday, November 6, at the Contemporary Art Gallery of the Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown, at 7 p.m., followed by an ongoing exhibit and sale on Friday, November 7, from 2 to 6 p.m. Art sales will continue through the 20th anniversary celebration on November 8.

Born in Yerevan, Hovhannisyan produces distinctive and original canvases that mix contemporary reality with elements of classical art. He has participated in numerous international exhibitions, including Moscow, New York, Singapore and the Venice Biennale. He is currently a lecturer at the Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts.

"Our goal is to raise further awareness of what ATP has accomplished in improving the quality of Armenia's environment. My vision and hope is for us to create loyal followers that will continually support this great cause," emphasizes Festekjian.

"A green Armenia is a healthy Armenia. This is what motivated me to get involved," adds Festekjian. "For us to have a prosperous Armenia we need many things, first we need a place where we can look around and be proud. We need to nurture its natural beauty for it to be a healthy place for families to remain and for kids to grow."

Since its inception in 1994, ATP has planted nearly 4.5 million trees, established three nurseries and two environmental education centers, and has greened villages, churches, parks, and open spaces throughout Armenia. In the process, the organization has provided employment for hundreds of people and provided vital resources to thousands of villagers throughout the country.

For more information about supporting the 20th anniversary event on November 8, visit www.ArmeniaTree.org

Metro Detroit Kaghetsi Group Stays True to Roots and Hosts 'Pagharch' Celebration

By Mitch Kehetian

DETROIT – A mission to strengthen the lifeline between local Armenians of Kaghetsi roots with the residents of the Nor Keghi Village in the present-day Republic of Armenia remains on course.

The spirited project is fueled by heritage dedication and embraced with a wheat-based staple dish that dates back to the ancient Hittites who ruled the Anatolia region of historic western Armenia 500 years before the birth of Christ.

This wheat-based staple smothered with butter and garlic-laced yogurt, revered by Kaghetsis as "pagharch" will be the toast of Kef Time Keghi II at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 25, at St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall in Southfield.

Last year's initial Kef Time Keghi celebration attracted more than 400 metro Detroit Armenians joining hands as one community to dance and dine on pagharch and tass kebab.

Richard Norsigian, chairman of the Nor Keghi Association's steering committee, said funds raised through "pagharch" celebrations will go to a deserving cause in present-day Armenia. "Our ultimate goal is to fund a community development project in Nor Keghi Village that its residents decide upon as a necessary need within their community."

Nor Keghi Village was established on February 10, 1962 by the then government of Soviet Armenia, at the request of Keghi compatriotic associations in the diaspora.

Norsigian said the donation for the Kaghetsi "pagharch" celebration is \$40 with dance music provided by the Keghi All-Star Armenian Band.

By reviving the spirit of Kaghetsi Armenians, committee activist Marty Shoushanian pointed out that last year's event brought Armenians together to jointly celebrate a tradition that ultimately serves the entire community. "While our event serves to fund a community development project in Nor Keghi it also serves as a uniting force as Armenians worldwide prepare for next year's 100th observance of the April 24 genocide. We Armenians survived. That's why this project we've started in Detroit has a dedicated goal to create linkage with our fellow Hyes in present day Armenia."

According to historical research, the Hittites shaped the wheat-based "pagharch" to resemble Keghi's towering Mt. Sulbuz which the Kaghetsis called *Sourp Looyse* (Holy Light.) For the Hittites the wheat-based staple to make pagharch was the only whole-grain still available in their dwindling storage bins during the freezing winter months in the Anatolian mountain region.

In addition to the mission to help the Nor Keghi district, committee member Alice Nigoghosian is expanding the organization's "family history" project. "While we've lost the majority of senior Kaghetsis in our community, we're asking their children and/or grandchildren to share with us any and all family information they can recall relating to the genocide and how their parents survived to find refuge in America," said Nigoghosian, a retired editor of press and publishing at Wayne State University.

Steering committee members also include Greg Vartanian, Esther "Stitch" Vosgerchian, Haic Korkorian, Sandi Nigoghosian, Barbara Norsigian, Greg Nigogian, Karen Nigogian and Mitch Kehetian.

Further details on the Keghi Association can be obtained at www.keghi.org.



ARTS & LIVING

Comedy Legend Andrea Martin Releases New Book

MARTIN, from page 1

Martin often plays over-the-top characters but when speaking in person, she is self-effacing, polite, charming and sweet to a fault. It is hard to think that Edith Prickly, the brash, bossy and aggressive station manager from "SCTV," clad in her trademark leopard print outfit and rhinestone-covered glasses, occupies the same body as this elegant, charming woman.

Martin's Armenian Genocide survivor grandfather changed the family name to Martin from Papazian upon arriving in Maine. "I think my background really infused a lot of

Year." She has won a host of other stage awards, including the Outer Circle Critics Award, Drama Desk Award and the Elliot Norton Award.

It seems it is on stage that she is happiest. "What brings me most joy is theater. I love the routine of the theater, the camaraderie of the cast, the community of the cast. You are with the same people every night."

She added, "I love doing the part of Berthe in 'Pippin.' It is age appropriate. I perform on a trapeze in a corset." She added that she is "very fit, agile and vital and I feel the part allows me to be very expressive."

She has appeared in many movies, including brilliant roles in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" as Aunt Voula who is puzzled by vegetarians and Phyllis Stein in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," who is Hedwig's manager.

She came up in the world of comedy with several other legends, such as Martin Short, who was her former brother-in-law, Eugene Levy, John Candy, Joe Flaherty, Rick Moranis, Catherine O'Hara and Harold Ramis, among others.

A veteran of both comedy and drama, Martin said for sure, it is harder to make people laugh in a theater rather than to act seriously. In fact, she has written and staged two one-women shows, including "Nude, Nude, Totally Nude" and "Final Days! Everything Must Go!" which she said were incredibly rewarding though terrifying.

Speaking from San Francisco, Martin said that she was in a special abbreviated tour of "Pippin" there and in Los Angeles for two weeks.

"I really love the show," she said.

HarperCollins Publishers in September released her autobiography, *Lady Parts*. The book is by turns hysterically funny, observant, empathetic, confessional and somber. So much of it revolves around her two sons. She is brutally honest about the challenges she faced as a single parent after she divorced her husband when her boys were young. She speaks about her anxiety which sometimes would cripple her, her battles with alcohol and bulimia, as well as her work ethic.

Martin admits in the book that she has been flying regularly to Atlanta for the one hairdresser in the world that can manage her wild mane. (On the day of our interview, a delighted Martin said her eyes had misted over when



Dazzling as Berthe in "Pippin"

a young hairdresser had shown just the right touch with her hair the day before.)

She added, "I'm a hair diva and bitch."

Martin also freely discusses sex, her dependence on one particular psychic in New York and the effects of age on various parts of her body.

She has a light touch that can make the reader chuckle or bring tears to one's eyes, such as when she talks about her last visit with her childhood friend, who lost her battle with cancer a couple of years ago.

Martin also writes extensively on her own private demons, including anxiety. She said that for her, speaking openly about mental illness and banishing stigmas was important. "It is how we think about anxiety. It is taboo to talk about the illnesses of the mind. These are afflictions that I thought were particular to me. Many of us deal with what I have dealt with. I don't think we talk about it enough."

The process of writing the book was "grueling," Martin said. "You think of every reason not to write," she said, but once she got started, she said, "I loved it. I loved the storytelling aspect of it. I love entertaining audiences [albeit] in another genre. It was really gratifying."

And entertaining it is.

She has some great reviews from fellow comic geniuses. Says Tina Fey, "I have loved Andrea Martin from afar for many years, but now, after reading this funny and heroically honest book, I would like to take things to the 'next level' and marry her."

Steve Martin calls the book "A lovely, bawdy and emotional memoir from one of our finest comedy artists."

And Martin Short says, "Andrea's genius at combining hilarity and poignancy is breathtaking and will break your heart. From the first page, you know this is going to be a brilliant and joyous ride with one of the truly great, funny originals."

It is clear both from the book and from conversations that Martin dotes on her sons. "They are my biggest fans. They love to laugh. They are proud of me and are an amazing audience."

She noted, "They have grown up around show biz and are not intimidated by it."

As for the key to her success, Martin, in typical style, downplayed her genius. "I'm a hard worker. Talent is overrated. I have been lucky. I think there was less competition [when I started]. I don't know where I would be if I started out now. It is all luck, talent and perseverance, never being bored at what I do. The idea of retirement is not even in the realm."

When Martin speaks, it is hard to believe that she has spent decades in a competitive business. In fact, she calls herself "enormously naive" and says that she has always had difficulty with self-promotion. If she had a bit more of that, she said, "It would have propelled me to be a household name. It is not something I do very well. I just put it out there."

Martin said she has been pleasantly surprised by the different people that she has reached with her book. "I thought I was writing it for my demographic. It has been so gratifying, particularly when young women, or gay men come up to me, crying. I learned the most powerful connection is honesty."

People, she said, "feel compelled to connect with someone so authentic."

Martin has advice for young people just starting in their path in show business. "It's a business. Take nothing personally. Hone in on your own voice and exploit that for all its worth. That is what people want to see and hear. Don't be shy."

She concluded with this humorous appeal to Armenian-American readers: "If you are a good Armenian, go to Amazon.com and take \$20 and make me a best-selling author. Chris Bohjalian can't be the only Armenian-American author on the *New York Times* Bestseller List!"

Lady Parts is available at amazon and at all major bookstores.



Andrea Martin

the characters that I did on 'SCTV.' I wasn't aware of it, but it was cellular, really. There is great pride in being Armenian, humility, self-effacement," creating a balance. "One kept the other in check," she said.

Martin has received acclaim in every field she has tackled. She has received two Emmy Awards for writing for "SCTV," as well as garnering several Emmy nominations for acting and writing on "SCTV" and other shows. In addition, she received a Gemini Award in Canada for her TV work as well as two Tony Awards for her roles on Broadway, as Berthe in "Pippin" and as Alice Miller in "My Favorite

turns hysterically funny, observant, empathetic, confessional and somber. So much of it revolves around her two sons. She is brutally honest about the challenges she faced as a single parent after she divorced her husband when her boys were young. She speaks about her anxiety which sometimes would cripple her, her battles with alcohol and bulimia, as well as her work ethic.

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ARTS & LIVING

Peter Oundjian: From Injury to Triumph

By John Allison

GLASGOW, Scotland (*Telegraph*) – In Toronto, when musicians talk about “the resurrection,” they’re likely to mean the near-death experience of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and its comeback from crippling debts and empty houses in the first years of this millennium. Though the business of running a successful orchestra is so complex that no one person deserves all the credit, a key figure in that



Peter Oundjian, music director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra

turnaround has been the music director, Peter Oundjian. He took up the challenge in 2003 and is due (several contract extensions later) to stay there until at least 2017. Oundjian is now also midway through his

first contract as music director of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO), which opens its season this week with concerts in Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow. At the RSNO he inherited a much better run organization, but has also made his mark as an orchestral builder.

To understand an orchestra from the inside out, it does no harm to have been a violinist – in Oundjian’s case, no ordinary fiddle player but leader of the Tokyo String Quartet for a decade and a half. When repetitive strain injuries forced him to step down, in his late 30s, from the quartet in 1995, he took comfort from a comment Herbert von Karajan had made to him during his student days at the Juilliard School: “Never forget that you have the hands for conducting.”

As Oundjian recalls, he had been leading the Juilliard Orchestra when the legendary German maestro made a rare appearance in New York to give master-classes. “When Karajan stopped a session 20 minutes early, everybody thought he was going to get up and demonstrate what he’d been trying to teach.

“Instead, he made me conduct the slow movement of Brahms’s *First Symphony*, standing two feet away and covering up the music. It was an incredible experience, and years later when I realized that my hand wasn’t going to let me work as a violinist for much longer, that memory meant an awful lot. You don’t become a conductor lightly.”

The son of an Armenian father and English mother, Oundjian was born in Toronto but educated at Charterhouse and the Royal College of Music. He is proud that one of his citizenships is Canadian – “Not many conductors can say, this is the city in which I was born and they’ve asked me to be their music director” – but is truly cosmopolitan, at home anywhere

where he is working.

His actual home base has long been near New York, yet being in Britain (where his cousins include Eric Idle) allows him to connect with other roots. “When I conduct Vaughan Williams, I think, ‘Oh, we were at the same school!’ It’s like singing my own tunes.” Little wonder, then, that Oundjian’s programming strands at the RSNO feature so much British and American music. But perhaps nothing at the moment excites him quite so much as their imminent Bruckner Seven. “The orchestra hasn’t done a lot of Bruckner, and

people think of it as box-office death. But that’s only because so often it hasn’t been properly interpreted. His music has unbelievable inner tension, yet the sound should be fabulously clear in its textures. After all, it comes straight out of Schubert.

“As a string quartet player, I did all the late Schubert. Playing those masterpieces is very close to conducting a Bruckner symphony. Everyone must conduct from experience, and for me the chamber music informs what I expect from an orchestra. It’s about listening to each other.”

AWWA Sponsors Luncheon on November 15

BURLINGTON, Mass. – The 39th Annual Luncheon/Auction sponsored by the Armenian Women’s Welfare Association (AWWA) is being held on Saturday, November 15, at the Burlington Marriott.

Cindy Fitzgibbon will be the Mistress of Ceremonies for this year’s auction. She will be joined by Jordan Rich from WBZ 1030 Radio, who returns by popular demand to be the Auctioneer for the Live Auction.

The Silent Auction kicks off at 11 a.m. with a bazaar of tables of gifts. From treasures from Armenia, to gifts for that someone special, to

funded the Hanganak NGO, a clinic that provides health care, provisions, and community services to 200 elderly from Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabagh, who are over the age of 65, live alone, and are in need. This October, five members of the organization will travel to Stepanakert to celebrate the 10th Anniversary with the staff and beneficiaries of the Hanganak Clinic.

For reservations to the Luncheon/Auction, e-mail awwauction@gmail.com. Visit the AWWA website at www.awwa-inc.org for more information on the organization.



Left, Cindy Fitzgibbon WCBV – TV5 Meteorologist StormTeam 5. Right, Jordan Rich WBZ News Radio.

tempting homemade pastries for your Thanksgiving table, there is something for everyone. In addition to a Super Raffle of all Apple products from MacBook to iPad to iPods, the event also includes a Live Auction with tickets to Boston sports events, culinary opportunities such as a tour of Cook’s Illustrated/America’s Test Kitchen, and many more items of local interest. Auction Coordinators Susan Deranian and Melanie Khederian have spearheaded the event along with an active committee.

The Luncheon/Auction is a major fundraiser of the AAWW, owners and operators of the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica Plain. The ANRC has obtained a deficiency-free rating for the fourth year in a row from the Department of Public Health. In addition, this is the tenth year that the AWWA has

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դասական եւ ժողովրդական երաժշտութիւն՝
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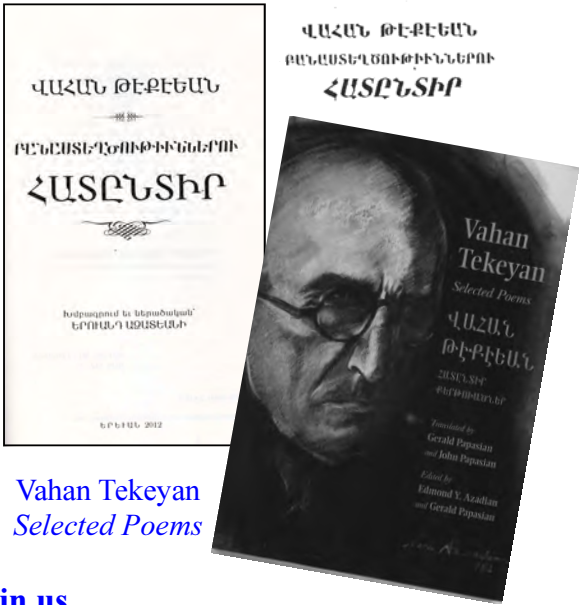
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Համերգ՝ ժամը 8:30-ին Concert at 8:30 pm

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(SELECTED POEMS)
by VAHAN TEKEYAN
Edited by
EDMOND Y. AZADIAN

VAHAN TEKEYAN
SELECTED POEMS
Translated by
GERALD PAPASIAN and JOHN PAPASIAN
Edited by
EDMOND Y. AZADIAN and GERALD PAPASIAN

Books to be presented by



JIRAIR TUTUNJIAN
Editor and Author

Remarks by
EDMOND Y. AZADIAN



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 15 — SAVE THE DATE: AMAA-Haigazian University Celebratory Banquet in honor of Dr. Mihran Agbabian and George R. Phillips, Esq.; Saturday, November 15, 2014, 6 pm, Beverly Hills Hotel, \$200; Information: Julie Aharonian 818-368-5266; Katia Kermoyan 818-242-5064.

NOVEMBER 22 — Armenian International Women's Association, Los Angeles Affiliate present Luncheon honoring Lily Ring Balian, recipient of the 2014 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641 Sunset Blvd., 11:30 a.m. Reception; 12:30 Luncheon. Donation: \$100.00. For RSVP and info contact Houry Aposhian (818)957-7020 or Cindy Norian (310) 277-4490.

MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 12 — Holy Trinity Tailgate, immediately following church services, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Join us to watch the New England Patriots vs. Buffalo Bills game on Holy Trinity's new 12-foot screen or outside on a TV near the grill. Admission: \$15, which includes sandwich (choice of losh kebab, sausage or hot dog), chips and drink; \$10 for Armenian and Sunday School students wearing Patriots or football attire. Additional food items available for purchase. For further info, contact the church office, 617.354.0632.

OCTOBER 17 — Margaret Ajemian Ahnert, the author of *The Knock at the Door: A Journey Through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide*, will speak at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University on Friday, October 17, at 6:30 p.m., 179 Longwood Ave., Boston. The Armenian Student Association is organizing the program. Dinner and refreshments will be served.

OCTOBER 17 and 18 — St. James 67th Annual Bazaar — 11 a.m.-9 p.m. St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown. Delicious Armenian food; Fabulous delicacies and pastries; booths and vendors, including the Farmer's Market, Silent Auction, and more. Attic Treasures, APPLE© Raffle, \$100 Raffle, Children's Activities. All are welcome! For more information, contact the church office at 617.923.8860 or info@stthagop.com.

OCTOBER 21 — Julia and the Zerounian Ensemble Concert, 7:30 p.m., Regattabar, Charles Hotel, Cambridge. An all new repertoire from around the world, including the exciting young violinist Menuhin Competition winner from Mongolia, Chinese violinist Angelo Xiang Yu, from Macedonia versatile young musician Goran Daskalov on saxophone and accordion, and seasoned Klezmer specialist Grant Smith on percussion, Sean Farias on bass and Sarkis Zerounian on piano. For reservations, www.getshowtix.com/

OCTOBER 23 — Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall, Boston. 7:30 p.m. Topic: Truth to Action: Media Freedom - Protecting Human Rights Globally. Introduction: Courtney Radsch, PhD, Advocacy Director, Committee to Protect Journalists. Speakers: Ray Suarez, Host, "Inside Story" on Al Jazeera America and "America Abroad" on Public Radio International; Stephen Kurkjian, founding member and former chief, Investigative Spotlight Team of the *Boston Globe* and editor of its Washington Bureau; and Thomas Mucha. Editor, GlobalPost. A reception follows at the Millennium Bostonian Hotel for all who attend the lecture to continue the discussion with the speakers and the lecture's leadership. Free and open to the public. An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway. www.ArmenianHeritagePark.org



Margaret Ajemian Ahnert, the author of *The Knock at the Door: A Journey Through the Darkness of the Armenian Genocide*, will speak at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University on Friday, October 17, at 6:30 p.m., 179 Longwood Ave., Boston. The Armenian Student Association is organizing the program. Dinner and refreshments will be served.

OCTOBER 25 — Fall Harvest Bazaar, First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont, noon to 8 p.m. Handmade choreg, manti, Armenian pastries and more. Grilled kebab all day. Marketplace treasures. All are welcome, rain or shine. MBTA and handicapped accessible. Call 617-484-4779 or visit www.facbelmont.org/ for more info.

OCTOBER 25 — Ararat Center Boston Cruise on the Odyssey, 30 Rowe's Wharf, Boston. Embark at 7 p.m. Return 11 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, dinner, complimentary bar, live Kef. Adults - \$175; Under 21 - \$100; Purchase tickets at araratcenter.org or contact Pam at 617-645-2781

OCTOBER 26 — Fr. Vasken Kouzouian's 20-Year Pastoral Journey — Join us as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our Pastor's Ordination, immediately following church services, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Dinner Tickets: \$40 per person; \$20 for ages 10-21; babysitting services available, ages 3-9, at \$5 per child (includes pizza lunch and supervision). Seating by advance paid reservation only; RSVP deadline October 15. Payment for dinner reservations may be made online at www.htaac.org, or by contacting the church office, 617.354.0632.

NOVEMBER 1 — Third annual Mer Doon Benefit Dance, in loving memory of Julie Ashekian, 8 p.m. Featuring Onnik Dinkjian, John Berberian and more. mid-night dessert table. St. James Armenian Church Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown. Adults \$40 Students \$20. Please call Mark Kashgegian to reserve tables of 10 and purchase tickets at 617-256-5358.

NOVEMBER 2 — "Musical Benches," an organ and piano concert presented by Glenn "Ananian" Priest and Christopher Garven on the occasion of the dedication of the recently restored sanctuary of the First Armenian Church of Belmont, at the church sanctuary, Sunday, 3 p.m.

NOVEMBER 7 and 8 — Annual Autumnfest Bazaar sponsored by the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, 110 Main St., Haverhill, Friday, noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday noon to 7 p.m. Lamb, losh, chicken kebab and kheyma. Diner served all day. Pastry table, Armenain cuisine, gift baskets, raffles for cash and prizes. For more info, visit www.hypointearmenianchurch.org or call 978-372-9227.

NOVEMBER 8 — Armenia Tree Project 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Reception. Special guest Actor David Alpay. Cocktails 6:30 p.m. Dinner 8 p.m. John Joseph Moakley US Courthouse, Grand Atrium. One Courthouse Way overlooking the Boston Harbor. Art Sale & Live Auction. Artist Arthur Hovhannisyian. Visit www.ArmeniaTree.org or call (617) 926-8733.

NOVEMBER 15 — The 39th Annual Luncheon/Auction of the Armenian Women's Welfare Association at the Burlington Marriott Hotel, Burlington, MA @ 11 AM Mistress of Ceremonies: Cindy Fitzgibbon, WCBV-TV5 Auctioneer: Jordan Rich, WBZ 1030 News Radio Funds raised at this event support programs at the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica Plain, MA and the Hanganak NGO Health Clinic in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Kharabagh for seniors in need. Founded in 1915, the A.W.W.A. Inc. will soon be celebrating its 100th year of service to Armenians. For more information about the event or for tickets, please call Karen Hovsepian @ 617-898-8619 or e-mail awwauction@gmail.com

DECEMBER 5-6 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 12-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Featuring delicious Armenian dinners, a la carte menu and take-out meals; booths and vendors; Armenian gourmet foods, delicacies and pastries; raffles, and more. For further information, contact the church office at 617.354.0632.

DECEMBER 14 — Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, Christmas Holiday Concert, 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Save the date; details to follow.

NEW YORK

OCTOBER 28 — Sip on French wine, nibble on delectable hors d'oeuvres, meet talented artists and cinematographers, and network with kindred spirits, all in a cozy salon at "Château Village," Alouette's home in Greenwich Village. This exclusive soirée will benefit SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 1 Minetta St., 2E (STREET, not Lane, NE corner of Bleecker St & Sixth Ave, W 4th St subway stop). Donation: \$60 Early Bird, \$75 Regular. SR is a film festival that focuses on socially relevant human stories and raises awareness to social problems by offering positive solutions through the powerful medium of cinema. SR believes that through raised awareness, expanded knowledge about diverse cultures, and the human condition as a whole, it is possible to create a better world free of violence, hate and crime.

RHODE ISLAND

OCTOBER 18 — The Cultural Committee & ACYOA Proudly Present The Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church Centennial Ball, Saturday, 8 pm - ? Inspired by Dr. Herman Aivazyan, Battle of the Bands, Joe Kouyoumjian Ensemble and the Sevan Band, Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson St., Providence. Mezze - Cash Bar - 50/50 Raffle. Tickets \$35 - Under 16 \$25. For Tickets and Table Reservations Please Call: Ann Ayrassian Seven Janigian 401-272-4743, 401-533-4147

Dr. Ara Dostourian to Lecture on Armenia and the Crusades at NAASR

BELMONT, Mass. — Dr. Ara Dostourian will give a lecture titled "Armenia and the Crusades: the Chronicle of Matthew of Edessa," on Thursday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave.

The lecture is co-sponsored by NAASR and the Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard University, and the Mashtots Professor of

Armenian Studies, Dr. James R. Russell, will offer introductory remarks.

The Chronicle of Matthew of Edessa has long been recognized as an invaluable source of information concerning the dramatic events taking place in the Near East between the years 952 and 1162 AD. Byzantine emperors, Crusader knights, Arab potentates and Turkish invaders march across the pages of this eyewitness account.

Dostourian translated this crucial primary source into English for the first time for his doctoral work at Rutgers University. It was published in 1993 as *Armenia and the Crusades: The Chronicle of Matthew of Edessa* by NAASR and the University Press of America; NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press has just issued the second, revised edition in paperback, incorporating corrections by the translator as well as additions

to the notes and bibliography.

Dostourian is professor emeritus of history at the University of West Georgia and a former research fellow in Armenian Studies at Harvard University. He has a Master of Arts in medieval history from Fordham University, and a Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., and a doctorate in Byzantine history from Rutgers University.



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Biden’s Misguided Apology

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Vice President Joe Biden seems to be in a lot of hot water because of statements he made at Harvard University last week – statements that had global reverberations and ones that the *Washington Post* believes will cost him the 2016 presidential nomination for the Democratic party.

To begin with, very few analysts, including the ones in the Democratic camp, believed that Mr. Biden was a serious contender when Hillary Clinton had already been wearing her cold warrior armor in preparation for the bid.

For the neocons and the military industrial complex, Mr. Obama’s “pacifist” foreign policy has outlived its usefulness, and the priority of the foreign policy agenda is intensifying the cold war. To save his legacy, his entourage has been forcing him already to conduct that policy by “leading from behind.”

Since the US is the only remaining superpower, all the world developments have to be viewed and analyzed within that context.

According to the *Washington Post*, the vice president has committed three gaffes recently, the major one being directed against the US’s strategic ally, Turkey, for which he was forced to apologize to preserve the collaborative veneer of the 40-nation coalition which the US has enlisted under the presumed goal of defeating ISIS, the evil incarnate force which is beheading western hostages, provoking all world capitals.

Before we delve into the task of sifting fact from fiction, it is important to refer to the Biden-President Erdogan incident, which covers and uncovers a host of political realities in the unfolding events of the Middle East.

Mr. Biden was forced to apologize over the weekend to Turkey and the United Arab Emirates after suggesting in a speech at Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government that these two allies, along with Saudi Arabia, were the United States’ “biggest problem” in dealing with the civil war in Syria. “What were they doing?” asked the vice president. “They were so determined to take down [Syrian President Bashar] Assad and essentially have a proxy Sunni-Shia war....They poured hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of tons of weapons into anyone who would fight Assad – except that the people who were being supplied were Al-Nusra and Al-Qaeda and the extremist Jihadis coming from other parts of the world.” Mr. Biden, added Erdogan, admitted to him that Turkey “let too many [foreign fighters] through” into neighboring Syria.

Turkey’s president called for an apology and Biden obliged him. But was an apology warranted and who was speaking the truth? Here is Mike Whitney, writing in Counterpunch: “Biden apologized for his remarks on Sunday, but he basically let the cat out of the bag. Actually, what he said wasn’t new at all, but it did lend credibility to what many of the critics have been saying since the very beginning, that Washington’s allies in the region have been arming and funding the terrorist Frankenstein from the onset without seriously weighing the risk involved.”

The vice president’s cowardly apology served as public relations damage control. What in fact happened was that Washington and Ankara agreed to lie publicly to keep Turkey happy, which had already joined the US-led coalition against ISIS reluctantly. The irony underlying the political goals of the coalition is that the west has been using a collection of medieval monarchies to introduce western-style democracy in the secular states of Iraq, Libya and Syria, with the long-term calculation that the self-serving monarchies are disposable any time they outlive their usefulness.

Counterpunch is also using a quote from “How the West Created the Islamic State,” by Nafeez Ahmed, who says, “Since 2003, Anglo-American power has secretly and openly coordinated direct and indirect support for Islamic terrorist groups linked to al-Qaeda across the Middle East and North Africa. This ill-conceived patchwork geostrategy is a legacy of the persistent influence of neoconservative ideology, motivated by longstanding but often contradictory ambitions to dominate regional oil resources, defend an expansionist Israel, and in pursuit of these, re-draw the map of the Middle East.”

If one follows the mainstream media, one is at a loss, since only the face value of events are defined tailor-made for their respective governments to lull the voters and shape public opinion for their legislative agenda. Had we believed the excuses justifying foreign aggressions in Libya, Iraq and now Syria, the bloodbaths resulting from those wars would have undermined the claims and led the public to confusion. Independent and investigative journalists – sometimes with the help of Julian Assange’s Wikileaks and Edward Snowden’s “treasonous” revelations come to shed more light on the root causes of political developments.

By creating the coalition, the US policymakers believe that

provoking constant wars in the Middle East and leaving dysfunctional governments behind pave the way for Israel’s hegemony in the region. Whereas Turkey, by joining the coalition, albeit reluctantly, has a completely different agenda and that is why at times, their policies are in conflict. By destabilizing strong governments in lands formerly ruled by the Ottomans, Turkey aspires to recreate an Ottoman Empire for modern times, its apostle being Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

A cursory review of conditions set by Turkey in joining the coalition will reveal its true intentions. A no-fly zone in Syria, a border buffer and the right to invade Syrian territories are not goals to uproot ISIS. When Vice President Biden spilled the beans, he was right. Even after the parliamentary vote in Ankara, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu announced that one should not expect immediate action by Turkey. Because Ankara is in the process of arming and training ISIS forces to do its bidding, the first goal is to depopulate the Kurdish region in Syria, including Kobani, to prevent the creation of an autonomous Kurdish area, which can cause a lot of headaches for Ankara.

In an interview with the prominent journalist Amberin Zaman in Al-Monitor, a Kurdish leader, Cemil Bayik, reveals that Turkey has supplied ISIS with trainloads of armaments in Syria, basically confirming the inadvertent indiscretion of Mr. Biden.

The fact that ISIS released 46 Turkish hostages unharmed while beheading on camera other hostages, further proves that the two supposed adversaries are in bed together.

Another writer for Counterpunch, Dan Glazebrook, outlines the intentions, of at least Britain, behind the coalition, by writing: “Air strikes will inflict casualties on ISIS in Syria and Iraq, but they will not be enough to defeat the group and may not even contain it.” Then he asks: “Why do they not pursue a more effective strategy? Because the defeat of ISIS is not really their goal. ISIS and its friends have played right into the hands of British foreign policy for the last three years, acting as the vanguard in the Anglo-American proxy war of attrition against the Syrian state.” Just this week, while ISIS was overrunning the Kurdish region of Kobani, Turkey was banning Kurds from crossing into Syria to rescue their brethren, while the coalition was unleashing airstrikes – a charade, if not a tragic political comedy.

It becomes clear that ISIS represents a necessary evil to each member of the coalition, to serve a narrow agenda for each.

After NATO broke up Yugoslavia, Turkey extended its political and economic influence throughout the Balkans. The war in Syria can launch the second phase of the Turkish leaders’ old dreams. The only problem is that once Turkey invades Syria, it will definitely face Russia, Iran and Hezbollah Party. In that scenario, it will be difficult to anticipate the outcome of the conflict. The cold war is in full swing, if you also figure in the perspective crisis in Ukraine and tensions in the Caucasus.

Turkey also used ISIS to teach a lesson to the Armenians, first by unleashing the murderous gangs to rampage Kessab, that historic Armenian enclave in Syria, and recently by directing those hordes to commit the most heinous sacrilege against the church and Martyrs memorial in Deir Zor. One million and a half martyrs were denied the right to have their own individual graves. Some remains, recovered from the desert, had been enshrined in St. Mary’s Church, to symbolize an entire nation lost in that desert. As a tool in the hands of the Turkish authorities, ISIS once again violated the Armenian martyrs.

The UN condemnation is inadequate and insufficient response to the barbarity committed in Deir Zor. On October 3, the United Nations Human Rights Office expressed concern about the continuing wave of destruction unleashed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (or Iraq and Syria, sometimes). According to the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), ISIS militants destroyed an important Armenian Church in the Syrian city of Deir Zor as part of an ongoing campaign of violence and terror which has seen the group also blow up mosques, shrines and damage churches in Northern Iraq. “We condemn the destruction of the church and other religious institutions,” UNHCHR Spokesperson Rupert Colville told a news briefing in Geneva.

Without identifying the significance of the martyrs’ memorial and issuing a generic condemnation, the UN has done a disservice to the martyrs. It actually has added insult to injury. Would they have had the same reaction if this similar desecration and violation had happened to a Jewish shrine?

Mr. Biden’s apology is misguided. It tries to cover up, awkwardly, a lie, when the truth is so obvious. He does not owe an apology to Erdogan. He and the UNHCHR owe apologies to the Armenians, to the 1.5 million martyrs, on the eve of the centennial.

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

UK Shifts Policy on Armenian Genocide After Jurist Robertson's Report

Geoffrey Robertson, prominent British expert on international law, wrote a 40-page report in 2009, exposing the false and inaccurate statements on the Armenian Genocide by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Robertson's investigative report, "Was there an Armenian Genocide?" was based on internal British documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, which revealed that the Foreign Office had denied the Armenian Genocide and misled the British Parliament on this matter in order to curry favor with Turkey.

Mr. Robertson had sent me an advance copy of his new 286-page book, "An Inconvenient Genocide: Who Now Remembers the Armenians?" to be published this month in the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and the United States. Anyone who reads this influential jurist's meticulously researched book will have no doubt about the true facts of the Genocide and Armenians' just claims for restitution.

The confidential FCO documents recently obtained by

Robertson reveal that the British government has made a gradual shift in its position on the Armenian Genocide, going from denial to declining to state its position. The Foreign Office acknowledges that the change in governmental policy is a direct result of the powerful legal arguments advanced by Mr. Robertson in his 2009 report.

Until recently, Great Britain had tenaciously clung to its outright denialist position on the Armenian Genocide. A secret 1999 FCO memo, quoted by Robertson, admitted that the British government "is open to criticism in terms of the ethical dimension. But given the importance of our relations (political, strategic, and commercial) with Turkey, and that recognizing the genocide would provide no practical benefit to the UK or the few survivors of the killings still alive today, nor would it help a rapprochement between Armenia and Turkey, the current line is the only feasible option."

However, shortly after the publication of Robertson's 2009 report, British officials quietly shifted their position from denial to avoidance of taking a stand on the genocide issue. In a 2010 internal memo, FCO stated: "Following Mr. Robertson's report and the publicity it attracted, we have updated our public line to make clear that HMG [Her Majesty's Government] does not believe it is our place to make a judgment (historical or legal) on whether or not the Armenian massacres constituted genocide." In another memo, FCO explained that it will no longer maintain that "the historical evidence was not sufficiently unequivocal to persuade us that these events should be categorized as genocide." The memo went on to assert that "there is increasing agreement about the extent of the deaths and suffering experienced by the Armenian community" and that "jurisprudence in relation to genocide, and particularly the nature and type of evidence required to prove the rel-

evant intent, has developed significantly in the wake of events in Rwanda and the Balkans in the 1990's." Yet, FCO still advised against an explicit recognition of the genocide because "the Armenian diaspora in the UK is relatively small (less than 20,000) and there is limited wider public interest."

Nevertheless, in view of the upcoming Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, the British government has decided to become a bit more accommodating on this issue. Last year, when the British Ambassador to Lebanon asked London for guidance on attending an April 24 commemoration in Beirut, the Foreign Office advised him to go ahead. FCO also recommended to its staff not to "give the impression that we deny what happened in 1915...we still consider them (the massacres and deportations) to be truly dreadful and in need of remembrance."

To bring the genocide issue to a legal resolution, Mr. Robertson makes two suggestions: that the Armenian government submit it "to adjudication at the International Court of Justice [World Court] pursuant to Article IX of the Genocide Convention" or ask the UN Secretary General to establish an ad hoc court on the Armenian Genocide.

Geoffrey Robertson should be commended for authoring a most important book on the eve of the Armenian Genocide Centennial. The Armenian National Committee of UK has already purchased 1,000 copies for distribution to elected officials and members of the media in London. The book is available from Amazon.com. I feel honored that Mr. Robertson has made half a dozen references to my columns in his monumental work.

Mr. Robertson has appropriately dedicated his book to the cherished memory of Ben Whitaker, author of the 1985 UN Report which classified the Armenian mass killings as genocide.

The Caucasus Time for Sanctions on Baku

As the West has turned its attention to the Islamic State and the Ukraine crisis, the government of President Ilham Aliyev has expanded its crackdown on dissenting voices in Azerbaijan with harassment, threats, beatings, and arrests. Even American citizens and international NGOs have been caught up in the widening net of repression. These actions demand a response.

Published on October 2, 2014

For years, Belarus's leader Alexander Lukashenko has been called Europe's last dictator, although Vladimir Putin is giving Lukashenko a run for his money, amidst the worst crackdown on human rights in Russia in decades. And now we might also add another leader in the region to the list: President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan.

After an accelerating series of arrests, Aliyev's government now holds nearly 100 political prisoners, roughly double the number in Belarus and Russia combined. Beyond the raw numbers, Azerbaijan's authorities are also getting more thuggish in their handling of critics, journalists, and opposition figures — as well as Westerners.

Statements of concern and criticism from Western and international officials and organizations have fallen on deaf ears in Baku. Even President Obama's recent criticism of Azerbaijan's treatment of NGOs made no impact. To the contrary, there are now credible reports that the Azerbaijani authorities plan to arrest investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova when she returns to Baku from a trip abroad. The best way to try to reverse this disturbing trend is to impose penalties on the Aliyev regime for its outrageous treatment of its own people.

Among the most egregious abuses are the July 30 arrests of civil society activists Leyla

and Arif Yunus, accused of spying for Armenian secret services — implausible charges linked to the decades-old dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh. On August 20, journalist Ilgar Nasibov was savagely beaten into a state of unconsciousness while he was in the office of a rights organization in the Naxcivan region. Several leading opposition figures — including Ilgar Mamedov of the opposition movement REAL and Tofiq Yakublu of Musavat — languish in prison on unsubstantiated charges.

American citizens and organizations are not immune from Azerbaijan's heavy-handed intolerance of dissenting voices. Said Nuri, an American citizen of Azerbaijani origin, was recently blocked for nearly a week from leaving Baku, after visiting his ailing father. The local offices of several American and international non-governmental organizations have been raided and/or their bank accounts frozen, and their employees harassed including IREX, the National Democratic Institute, Transparency International, and Oxfam. Several grantees of the National Endowment for Democracy have been arrested, and numerous others have had their accounts frozen.

Azerbaijan's smear campaign has included U.S. officials, too. Recently departed U.S. Ambassador Richard Morningstar was subjected to various personal attacks by Azerbaijani government representatives, including the Chief of the Presidential Administration, Ramiz Mehdiyev. Senate staffers during a visit to Baku earlier this year were called "dogs" by a prosecutor and "spies" by a parliamentarian after meeting with Khadija Ismayilova.

David J. Kramer and Richard Kauzlarich

Any individual or organization that criticizes Aliyev or promotes democracy is viewed as hostile. Mehdiyev has characterized independent media as "anti-Azerbaijani forces" financed from abroad.

The Council of Europe's human rights chief, Nils Muiznieks, slammed the Azerbaijani government earlier this month for the "totally unacceptable" human rights situation, which, he said, "flies in the face of the human rights obligations undertaken by Azerbaijan" as a member of the Council. In August, several UN human rights envoys said they were "appalled" by the growing number of abuses and arrests of rights activists "on the basis of trumped-up charges." The "criminalization of rights activists must stop," they declared, calling for the release of the Yunuses and others.

For years, Azerbaijan's oil and gas reserves insulated the country from exposure for its abysmal human rights record. The West's attention lately has been focused on the Russia-Ukraine crisis and the challenge of the Islamic State, giving the Aliyev regime a sense that it can get away with its crackdown. To be safe, at last month's NATO summit it offered to take part in investment and reconstruction projects in Afghanistan, betting that contributions to the allied effort would buy it a pass on its internal situation. Azerbaijan has also thrown around lots of the money it has earned from energy exports to buy influence and friends in the West.

Azerbaijani authorities often argue that they live in a tough neighborhood — sandwiched between Russia and Iran and with an unresolved conflict with Armenia — and that this should excuse them for their behavior. Geopolitics, however, shouldn't shield Azerbaijan from criticism for treating its citizens and Western organizations as criminals.

It's time, therefore, for the United States to apply a law modeled on the 2012 Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law and Accountability Act to authorities in Baku. A number of Azerbaijani activists have called for such measures. Given the reported assets the Aliyev family and its circle hold overseas, freezing their assets and denying them access and travel to the West might just do the trick. The State Department should also issue a travel warning to American

citizens alerting them of the surveillance, harassment, and possible detention they might face in Azerbaijan.

At a time when Vladimir Putin is continuing Russia's aggression against Ukraine, some will argue that, for geopolitical reasons, this is not the time for the United States to get tough on Azerbaijan. There is never a good time to take such steps, but the situation inside Azerbaijan demands a response now. Further Western expressions of "concern" or characterizations of the situation as "unacceptable" would sound increasingly hollow. The Aliyev regime must understand that there are consequences for its abuses.

(This opinion piece originally appeared in American Interest on October 2. Richard Kauzlarich is the former US ambassador to Azerbaijan. David J. Kramer is the executive director of Freedom House.)

LETTERS

Left out of Gharabekian Tribute

To the Editor:

It is with great surprise that I found out from a composer friend of mine about the concert event "Tribute to Maestro Aram Gharabekian." Neither I nor Dianne Goolkasian-Rahbee, the two well-known Boston composers of Armenian heritage, were asked to participate in the event that took place on October 4 at the Longy School of Music. Both composers are known to the organizers of this tribute, thus it is for me hard to understand the omission of our participation, since Aram Gharabekian was familiar with both me and Dianne Rahbee. I had met with Aram a number of times at my house here in Lexington and at his parents' house also in Lexington, and met him a number of times in Yerevan.

I hope that the organizers of this concert tribute realize the injustice done to myself and Dianne by ignoring our existence as composers.

— Hayg Boyadjian
(Grammy Nominee)
Lexington, Mass.

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Chairman of Board of Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial Announces Resignation

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that his claims of being a certified treasury professional and a former paid employee of the cities of West Hollywood, Sierra Madre and Pasadena were false.

Three days later, Paparian informed the board that the report from the webmaster was corroborated by a background investigation by another municipality, which found that the treasurer had made material misrepresentations about his professional and educational background in his application for appointment to an advisory committee and that he had been

removed as treasurer of an Armenian community organization in Pasadena for the same reasons.

The Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial Board of Directors severed ties with the webmaster and took no action on the allegations against the treasurer.

On August 27, Paparian was informed by the board's independent certified public accountant that the treasurer had never registered the Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial with the California attorney general's Registry of Charitable Trusts as required by state law,

although the treasurer informed the board on May 19, 2013, that he had filed the registration.

Paparian also learned that no financial reports had been filed by the treasurer for the past two years with the California attorney general as required by state law. Paparian said he was shocked to learn that the board had been unintentionally receiving donations for the memorial illegally as a result.

"Members of the board include a retired police officer, an active duty police officer and a candidate for elected public office," Paparian said. "It is shameful that the board's reaction to

the treasurer's fraudulent background information and the unlawful receipt of donations has been denial and cover-up. They have failed to take decisive action, which I believe makes them complicit with the treasurer's actions."

The Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The Internal Revenue Code prohibits direct or indirect participation in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for elected public office. Paparian said one of the board members is a candidate for the California Senate and that the board treasurer, who is the candidate's campaign fundraiser, organized a fundraising event for the candidate in Glendale on June 26 during which attendees were urged to donate to the candidate because of his membership on the board of the memorial.

"This put the Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial's nonprofit status at risk and is shameful and disrespectful to the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide this project is intended to remember," Paparian said.

"I am the first-born son of a survivor of the Armenian Genocide and have dedicated myself to the pursuit of justice for the Armenian nation all of my adult life, and this was a major focus of my 12 years as an elected public official," Paparian said. "For the past two and a half years I have worked tirelessly on the Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial project."

"My fiduciary obligation as chairman of the board of directors is more than merely a legal requirement; it is part of an unspoken promise to honor and cherish the memory of those who perished in the Armenian Genocide and the triumph of those who survived," he added. "I cannot continue to be associated with this board of directors since they continue to ignore the facts."

Biden Apologizes to Turkish President

APOLOGY, from page 1

fighters trying to oust the Syrian government of President Bashar al-Assad.

"President Erdogan told me," he said, according to the Turkish newspaper Hurriyet, "You were right. We let too many people through. Now we are trying to seal the border."

"Our allies poured hundreds of millions of dollars and tens of thousands of tons of weapons into anyone who would fight against al-Assad," he said, including jihadists planning to join the Nusra Front and Al Qaeda.

Biden also praised the Turkish parliamentary vote on Thursday that authorized cross-border operations into Syria and Iraq to tackle militants from the Islamic State and would allow foreign forces to use Turkish territory for incursions.

"It took a while for Turkey, a Sunni nation, to figure out that ISIL was a direct and immediate threat to their well-being," Biden was

quoted as saying.

Facing mounting international criticism about lax border controls, Ankara has stepped up the sharing of intelligence with allies in recent months to update a no-entry list with 6,000 names, government officials say.

In September, Turkey agreed to join an American-led coalition against the Islamic State, but declined to sign a communiqué calling for military action because the group was holding 46 Turkish citizens as hostages.

After the hostages were released in a covert intelligence operation, Turkey gained more flexibility in addressing the threat.

Instead of making a firm military commitment, however, Mr. Erdogan on Saturday underlined the importance of setting up a buffer and no-fly zone inside Syria to prevent an influx of refugees, and called for training and equipment for moderate Syrian opposi-

tion forces.

In a related story which appeared in the *Washington Post*, Biden apologized on Sunday to the United Arab Emirates, for comments he made suggesting that the United States' Arab allies armed and funded terrorists in Syria.

The furor over the comments, made during a foreign policy address at Harvard University last week, have exposed deep rifts between the United States and its regional allies over who is to blame for the rise of the Islamic State and how to go about confronting it, underscoring the fragility of the coalition formed to fight the extremist group.

The White House said Biden telephoned Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, the crown prince of Abu Dhabi and the most prominent Emirate leader, to say that the vice president did not intend to imply that the UAE supported terrorists.

NAJARIAN LECTURE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AT FANEUIL HALL

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—Amnesty International 2014



Mayor's Remarks
Martin J. Walsh
Mayor, City of Boston



Introduction
Courtney Radsch, PhD
Advocacy Director, Committee to Protect Journalists



Ray Suarez
Host, *Inside Story* on Al Jazeera America and *America Abroad* on Public Radio International



Stephen Kurkjian
Founding member and former chief, *Investigative Spotlight Team* of The Boston Globe and editor of its Washington Bureau



Thomas Mucha
Editor, GlobalPost

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