

THE ARMENIAN
Mirror-Spectator
Volume LXXXIII, NO. 13, Issue 4258 \$ 2.00
In Our 80th Year

The First English Language Armenian Weekly in the United States Since 1932

NEWS IN BRIEF

Archbishop Baliozian Laid to Rest

By Arthur Hagopian

SYDNEY – In death, as in life, Archbishop Aghan Baliozian, the late Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand, garnered an endless row of tributes from all with whom he came into contact.

And they were legion, for he was a man of and for all people.

They were all there, laymen and clergymen alike, standing in silent and solemn vigil at his graveside as his casket was lowered in the foreign soil of Sydney, a shore too distant from his native Aleppo, Syria.

In a ceremony embellished with all the pomp and grandeur due a prince of the church, Baliozian was buried in the Armenian section of the North Ryde cemetery on October 4.

Eulogized and lionized by a panoply of dignitaries representing not only the established Christian churches and state and federal officialdom, but the local community and ethnic groupings as well, Baliozian was sent along to his final journey. The elaborate



Burial ceremony, with Archbishop Nourhan Manougian in center and Archbishop Natan Hovhannessian to his right

burial ceremony stretched to nearly four hours and was presided over by visiting Archbishop Natan Hovhannessian, the personal envoy of the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, assisted by the Patriarchal Vicar of Jerusalem, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian.

Baliozian had been in poor health over the past few years, and had recently

entered Sydney's Royal North Shore hospital for treatment. He passed away on September 22.

There were no bells to ring to spread the news of his passing, the rust-encrusted belfry perching forlorn atop the Armenian church in Sydney's high-end Chatswood suburb, muffled by city ordinance.

see FUNERAL, page 3

Kevorkian Estate, ALMA Settle

BIRMINGHAM, Mich. (AP) – A lawyer says a dispute has been settled between Dr. Jack Kevorkian's estate and a Watertown museum over the ownership of 17 of the assisted-suicide advocate's paintings.

The executor of Kevorkian's estate, Michigan-based attorney Mayer Morganroth, told the *Detroit News* last week that the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in Watertown, Mass., will keep four paintings. Thirteen others will be returned to Kevorkian's estate.

The museum sued in federal court in Massachusetts last year ahead of a New York auction. It claimed Kevorkian donated the art in 1999. His estate said he loaned it to the museum for an exhibit and subsequent storage.

Kevorkian died in 2011 at age 83.

The *Boston Globe* reported in 2008 that Kevorkian, who was the child of two Armenian Genocide survivors, planned to attend the unveiling of the paintings when they came to the museum.

In a phone interview at the time, Kevorkian said he did not consider himself an artist, just someone who "puts in paint the condition of the world that we live in."

He said he began to paint as a hobby when he was a young man. But he kept delving into the topics of life and death he dealt with as a medical examiner. "Everyone was painting landscapes and clowns and I couldn't see the value in that. I guess the rebel in me was thinking I'll shock them," he recalled.

Renowned Composer Mirzoyan Dies at 92

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Renowned composer Edvard Mirzoyan died on October 5, after a long illness. He was 92.

Mirzoyan was born on May 12, 1921 in Gori, Georgia. He graduated from the Komitas State Conservatory. He left for Moscow to further refine his art. In 1956, he was elected president of the Armenian Composers' Union, a position he held until 1991.

Mirzoyan's compositional output was relatively small but distinguished, combining lyricism with drama. With its formal structure and tonal design, his style has been described as neoclassical, with elements of Armenian folksong always present. Mirzoyan's *String Quartet*, *Cello Sonata*, *Symphony for Strings and Timpani*, and *Epitaph for String Orchestra* have become notable additions to the international music repertoire.

President Serge Sargisian's office released a statement mourning his death. "I was so deeply saddened to hear of the passing of renowned composer, USSR and Armenian National Artist Edvard Mirzoyan. [His music] is filled with optimism and bright philanthropy, is the best manifestation of creative spirit of the Armenian people."

INSIDE

Sponsor A Teacher

Pages 8-9

INDEX

Arts and Living	11
Armenia	2
Community News	4
Editorial	14
International	3

Caltech Biologist Sarkis Mazmanian Named MacArthur Fellow

PASADENA, Calif. – Sarkis Mazmanian, a microbiology expert at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) whose studies of human gut bacteria have revealed new insights into how these microbes can be beneficial, was named a MacArthur Fellow and awarded a five-year, \$500,000 grant. Each year, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awards the unrestricted fellowships – also known as "genius" grants – to individuals who have shown "extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits and a marked capacity for self-direction," according to the foundation's website.



Prof. Sarkis Mazmanian

"I was in a state of shock when I heard the news," said Mazmanian, a professor of biology at Caltech, who was tricked into taking the award announcement call; he thought he was simply being added to a prescheduled conference call. "It's not the kind of thing you ever expect – I do what I do because I love science and it makes me happy, so this is terrific and a nice reward. At the same time, I never think of awards as goals of mine because they seem so unattainable. My goals are to make discoveries, so I was just in absolute disbelief."

Long before he was named a 2012 MacArthur Fellow, Mazmanian was showing the attributes that the foundation seeks to reward, particularly a capacity for self-direction. As a graduate student in the early 2000s, he decided to stray from the normal path of study and try something new.

"I had been studying microbial pathogenesis – or bacteria that make us sick – which is what 99.9 percent of the field of microbiology does to this day," said Mazmanian. "Toward the end of my PhD, I decided that I wanted to study organisms that didn't necessarily cause disease, but were associated with our bodies. Ten years ago, this was completely on the fringe of science – we knew that the organisms existed in our intestines and all over our bodies, but had no idea what they were doing."

Today, Mazmanian's work examines some of the trillions of bacteria living in human bodies that make up complex communities of microbes and regulate

see BIOLOGIST, page 10

Oskanian Defiant After Being Charged with Money Laundering

By Gayane Abrahamyan

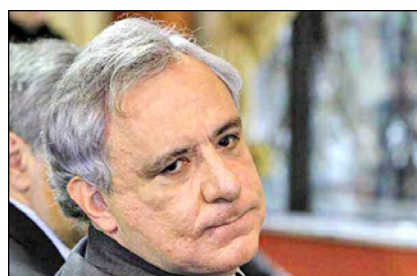
YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and current MP Vartan Oskanian, who was formally charged with money laundering on Monday, said he was ready to run for president in next year's presidential election if his Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP) decided so.

The 57-year-old politician faces up to 12 years in prison under two charges – misappropriation of funds (Article 179 of the Criminal Code) and "legalization of incomes in a criminal way" (Article 190).

Oskanian refused to testify when summoned by the National Security Service on Monday. He and the PAP have described the current case as an instance of political persecution. Many analysts link it with the upcoming presidential election in which Oskanian has been widely tipped as a possible challenger to current President Serge Sargisian.

Meanwhile, many ask: "Why Oskanian?" The Syria-born and US-educated former minister of foreign affairs was considered to be a rare non-corrupt official in Armenia. Former President Robert Kocharian did not fail to emphasize these qualities in his state

see OSKANIAN, page 2



Former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Russian-Armenian Joint Campaign Bolsters Armenian Tourism

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – During a recent press conference, Russia's Ambassador to Armenia Vyacheslav Kovalenko stated that the Russian-Armenian cooperative tourism venture will aid tourism and strengthen relations between the two countries.

Kovalenko stated, "I am hopeful that more and more [Russian] tourists will visit Armenia and study the ancient history and monuments of this country with extraordinary curiosity."

The ambassador added this campaign will help to successfully mainstream the development of tourism in Armenia. Finally, Kovalenko Armenian and Russian connections through a shared past, religious generalities and partnership.

Chancellor of International Academy of Tourism Igor Zorin said that the global community has unintentionally neglected the rich culture of Armenia. Zorin also emphasized his perspective on the development of spiritual tourism in Armenia. Zorin reasoned that once the tourism venture begins, new venues for tourism will allow Armenia to share its history and culture with the world.

Finland's Parliament Speaker Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenian Parliament Speaker Hovik Abrahamyan met with his Finnish counterpart, Eero Heinäluoma, as a part of the European Conference of Presidents of Parliaments, held under the auspices of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE).

The two discussed Inter-parliamentary cooperation, regional issues and the Azerbaijani murderer Ramil Safarov's case.

Abrahamyan noted that Armenia attaches great importance to development of ties with Scandinavian countries, particularly enhancing high-level political dialogue with Finland.

Armenia Blames Hungary for NKR Complications

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Armenian president, Serge Sargsian, has again accused Hungary of complicating the protracted conflict over Karabagh by handing over a convicted Azeri axe-murder of an Armenian to Azerbaijan.

During an interview with the Hungarian ATV channel last week, Sargsian, made clear that the responsibility for the bad decision rests entirely with Hungarian government and that Armenians should not blame the Hungarian people.

The decision by the Hungarian government to extradite Ramil Safarov to Azerbaijan led to Armenia's suspending its diplomatic ties with Hungary. Several international organizations and governments of throughout the world, including the United States, questioned Hungary's decision.

Azerbaijani army officer, Safarov, was serving a life sentence in a Hungarian jail for murdering a fellow Armenian student during a 2004 NATO-sponsored English language course in Budapest. On August 31, he was handed over to Baku where he was quickly pardoned and promoted to the rank of major, receiving a house and eight years worth of back-pay provided by the state.

"The decision of the Hungarian government not only jeopardized the Armenian-Hungarian relations, which is regretful, but also led to problems in the European Union's Eastern policy and [Armenia's] peace talks with Azerbaijan, and, therefore, has put the stability of the region at risk," said Sargsian in the interview.

He also stressed that Budapest's decision has only aggravated the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict over Nagorno-Karabagh.

"But I don't want the Armenian people to turn their back on the Hungarians because of the Hungarian government that turned its back on Armenia," the Armenian leader reiterated.

Married to Tradition

Armenia's Yezidi at Odds over Government Amendment on Matrimony

By Gayane Mkrtychyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – A young woman with black velvety hair and with equally black shiny eyes is pouring hot, aromatic coffee into flower-patterned cups. The grayish steam going up and disappearing in the air veils the melancholy in her eyes; the coarse, cracked skin on her hands speaks of a hard life.

"My mother-in-law and I have decided to abide by our tradition, she is too young but we gave her [to marriage] anyway," says the girl's mother, Sona Aslo, 33-year-old mother of four, who lives in Aragatsotn province's Rya Taza Yezidi village, 80 kilometers from Yerevan. "I got married when I was 15, too, so what? We saw it's a good family, and what could my daughter have said?"

Aslo moved here from Tbilisi to live with her mother-in-law after her husband's death. Relatives gathered in their courtyard are discussing her 14-year-old teenage daughter, Ilona's, engagement details.

Ilona's uncle, Kyaram Davreshyan, 56, who has arrived from Tbilisi for the occasion, says with bemusement: "What were they thinking when they agreed to this marriage? She is too young and will have a hard time. They should have waited at least for a couple of more years to let her mature a little bit."

Yezidi women explain their early marriages by ethnic customs and traditions. Rya Taza village head Ahmad Broyan says that there isn't a single 20-year old girl left in the village now, they are all married.

"There is a queue for girls, we want to wait until they grow up, but there aren't any, not even spinsters. The youngest bride in the village is 16, the youngest bride-to-be is 14," says Broyan adding that they have nothing against the government-approved amendment to the Republic of Armenia Family Code, by

which the minimum marriage age would be 18 versus the former 17. The amendment, approved in July, is to be debated in the autumn session of the National Assembly.

The chairman of the World Yezidi Union Aziz Tamoyan has spoken against the amendment, saying that the 60,000 Yezidi community objects to the bill since they view an unmarried 18-year-old girl as a spinster and Yezidi girls get married at 15-16.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian responded to their objections by promising to reconsider the draft law if it, indeed, would violate the natural life arrangement of the Yezidi community. (The Yezidi, whose origin is Kurdish, form the largest ethno-religious minority in Armenia, where many are active as shepherds, living in the highlands. There religious belief is a mix of paganism and Islam.)

While the union leader objects, young Yezidi women support the bill because they got married at an early age and have experienced first hand what that means.

Seda Mhoyan, 41, says her health issues are the consequence of early marriage.

"Many women become unhappy but endure it, they don't get divorced. For the sake of their father's reputation they won't go for it. Plus there is a certain attitude toward divorced women," said Mhoyan, who lives in Tbilisi and is now visiting her parents in Rya Taza.

For five years she kept her younger sister with her in Tbilisi not letting her come to Armenia, to prevent an early marriage.

"I kept her until she turned 21 but they wouldn't let me keep her any further. My daughter is 14 and I won't let her get married until she gains higher education," she added.

Yezidi men, on the other hand, believe that it is due to early marriages that they don't have divorces.

Fifty-nine-year-old Tarlan Hasoyan's

cheeks are flushed. The bandana tightly around her head, little golden globes decorating her ears and a long black dress complete the image of a Yezidi woman. She spoke with confidence and respect for their customs and traditions.

"A Yezidi woman is predestined to get married, become a good wife, a good mother, take care of her family, milk cows... and respect men. When you see a man approaching you have to stand up to greet him, you should not eat at the same table with him, that's respect," she said, complaining only that girls are not allowed to acquire education.

Her granddaughter, 17-year-old Leyla, said that she will break that mentality and continue her studies after finishing school.

"My family has agreed. I put education above traditions. What harm would it be if a Yezidi woman could become an official and represent her community's rights as well?" she said.

Leyla is the only girl in Rya Taza attending school.

There are no women with higher education in the village. Young women are conflicted about standing up for their rights and freedoms.

With her raven-black hair pulled tightly back, Asya Mhoyan shakes white bed sheets and puts them on a line to dry. She says she got married at 16, but will fight for her daughter to let her turn at least 20.

"For 15 years I have not eaten at the same table with my father-in-law, he has never seen me eat. I have never spoken to him in a loud voice, only whisper," said Asya, who is now 36.

Rya Taza is preparing for Ilona's engagement.

Ilona sister, Ela, who is now 12, can sense the looming threat: "I won't let them marry me off so early. I am dreaming of becoming a dancer, I keep telling them that I won't get married," she said. And in her "no" are signs of rebellion that might, one day, spark revolution in this society wed to archaic customs.

Oskanian Defiant After Being Charged with Money Laundering

OSKANIAN, from page 1

ment issued in defense of his longtime minister who is now stripped of his parliamentary immunity pending the investigation into an alleged misuse of funds donated to his Civilitas Foundation by US philanthropist Jon Huntsman Sr. back in 2010.

Many conclude that this prosecution is a warning to the PAP leadership that prosecuting any one of them, including millionaire businessman Gagik Tsarukyan, is an easy matter if even a "spotless" person like Oskanian has been "exposed."

Tsarukyan has not personally commented on the matter yet. Media reports allege that Sargsian had put a deadline before Tsarukyan to make a final decision this week whether he supports the incumbent's reelection bid or not.

There is no answer yet, but analysts believe the only way out of this dilemma is that Tsarukyan takes a neutral position, without committing himself to supporting anyone nor having a candidate of the party running for president.

But this seems unlikely, considering soon after being formally charged on Monday, Oskanian said in an interview with CivilNet TV that a party like the PAP must participate in the elections with its own candidate.

"Considering the fact that the PAP today is a party that has a solid reputa-

tion in Armenia and that people have great expectations from it, I think it will only be right if it contests the presidential election with its own candidate. It is natural that the first choice as candidate should be the party's leader Gagik Tsarukyan. However, if Mr. Tsarukyan decides that he doesn't want to be a candidate and the party decides on my candidacy, I am ready to assume this responsibility," Oskanian stressed.

While Tsarukyan is mulling his decision, political analysts in Armenia consider several trends in domestic politics that have emerged in the wake of the Oskanian affair and are likely to influence the February vote.

The main point is that political struggle has shifted from the opposition-government plane into that involving two establishment forces, which effectively broke up an opposition movement mounted by former president Levon Ter-Petrosian five years ago.

Former Interior Minister and Mayor of Yerevan Suren Abrahamyan, meanwhile, described the current standoff over Oskanian as a "wonderful job by a wonderful stage director and playwright."

"The opposition-government antagonism has been reduced to a standoff between two establishment forces. The public's full attention has been drawn to PAP. I think that the logic of the whole scenario suggests that in the end

there will be a situation in which the public will have to vote for Serge Sargsian choosing the lesser of two evils," said Abrahamyan.

The vote in the National Assembly last week to lift Oskanian's immunity (64 to 6, with one abstention) revealed another reality – ex-president Kocharian does not have political support in the current National Assembly, despite numerous publications suggesting that many of the ruling Republican Party's MPs are in fact Kocharian "loyalists."

"This shows that Kocharian shouldn't yet cherish hopes of personally returning, everything is being done through second-echelon persons," leader of the Marxist Party David Hakobyan said.

And Oskanian is widely seen as a second-echelon person in the current situation.

Independent political analyst Yervand Bozoyan thinks the criminal case against Oskanian may still have a boomerang effect and start to work "in Oskanian's favor" and against the authorities.

"With a status of a victim Oskanian, in fact, gets cleansed from his sin of justifying the actions of the authorities during the March 1, 2008 riots, and it also raises his rating to make him a plausible candidate to be nominated in the presidential election," Bozoyan said.



INTERNATIONAL

Turkish President Says 'Worst Case' Unfolding in Syria

ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkish President Abdullah Gul said on Monday the “worst-case scenarios” were playing out in Syria. Turkey vowed to do everything necessary to protect itself, as its army fired back for a sixth day after a shell from Syria flew over the border.

The revolt against President Bashar al-Assad has evolved into a civil war, which threatens to draw in regional powers. Gul said the violence in Syria, could not go on indefinitely and that Assad's fall was inevitable.

“The worst-case scenarios are taking place right now in Syria ... Our government is in constant consultation with the Turkish military. Whatever is needed is being done immediately as you see, and it will continue to be done,” Gul said.

“There will be a change, a transition sooner or later ... It is a must for the international community to take effective action before Syria turns into a bigger wreck and further blood is shed, that is our main wish,” he told reporters in Ankara.

In recent days, Turkey's armed forces have bolstered their presence along the 900-kilometer (560-mile) border with Syria. Turkey has also been responding in kind to gunfire and shelling spilling across from the south, where Assad's forces have been battling rebels who control swathes of territory.

According to Turkey's military website, Chief of Staff Gen. Necdet Ozel, traveled south to Adana in order to inspect the region patrolled by Turkey's Second Army, which protects the border with Syria.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said the escalation of the conflict along the Turkey-Syria border, as well as the impact of the crisis on Lebanon, are “extremely dangerous.”

“The situation in Syria has dramatically worsened. It is posing serious risks to the stability of Syria's neighbors and the entire region,” Ban stated at a conference in Strasbourg, France.

The exchanges with Turkey mark the most serious cross-border violence in Syria's revolt against Assad, which began in March last year.

“From now on, every attack on us will be responded to immediately. Every attack that targets our sovereignty, our security of life and property will find its response,” Turkish government spokesman, Bulent Arinc, said after a cabinet meeting.

Parliament last week authorized the deployment of Turkish troops beyond its borders although government officials said the move was meant as a deterrent rather than a “war mandate.”

“Turkey will decide itself when the situation necessitates acts mentioned in the motion the parliament passed last week. Nobody should think war will follow a parliament approval ... but we are more sensitive about our independence and sovereignty than most countries,” Arinc said.

Turkey's Dogan news agency said some 25 warplanes had been sent to a military base in Diyarbakir, the largest city in the southeast.

Separately, a convoy of military vehicles, including tanks loaded on trucks, traveled to Akcakale on Monday for border deployment.

Fighting deeper within Syria also intensified on Monday.

Syrian government forces advanced for the first time in months into the rebel-held Khalidiya district and in the besieged central city of Homs.

“They have occupied buildings that we were stationed in and we had to evacuate,” a rebel fighter told Reuters.

Skirmishes on the Syrian side of the border have been escalating and it is unclear who fired the shells that have crossed into Turkey.

Damascus has said it fired on Turkey accidentally, but has failed to honor last week's pledge to prevent further ordnance flies, which came after a Syrian shell killed five civilians in Akcakale.

A Turkish official said that Turkey only launched its latest retaliatory strike on Monday after a mortar bomb fired from Syria landed in its countryside province, Hatay.

Further east, Syrian rebel sources in the Raqqa province, which borders Akcakale, reported seeing five Turkish army trucks full of soldiers patrolling the border.

Turkey has nearly 100,000 Syrian refugees in territory camps, has given sanctuary to rebel leaders and has led calls for Assad to quit.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu stated over the weekend that a potential leader in an interim Syrian government could be Vice President Farouq al-Shara.

Reports in August said al-Shara, a former foreign minister who was appointed vice president six years ago, had tried to defect to neighboring Jordan, but Syrian state media subsequently said he had never considered leaving.

“The opposition is inclined to accept these names. Farouq al-Shara has the ability to understand the system of the last 20 to 30 years,” Davutoglu told the state broadcaster TRT.

“Farouq al-Shara did not get involved in the recent incidents, the massacre, in a very wise and conscientious attitude. But perhaps there is nobody who knows the system better than al-Shara.”

International News

Atatürk Bust in Budapest Splattered with Red Paint

BUDAPEST (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Barely two days after it was unveiled on September 29, the bronze bust of Kemal Atatürk was doused with red paint by unknown people in Budapest's District XIX.

As politics.hu website reports, the incident came amid continued strained relations between Hungary and Armenia over the extradition of Armenian officer Gurgen Markarian's assassin Ramil Safarov

The unveiling was preceded by strong protests from the local Armenian community, while the district government had been urged by the Foreign Ministry to rethink the plan.

Hungary Should Seek Redemption By Recognizing Genocide

BUDAPEST (Armenpress) – The Hungarian government's decision to extradite Safarov has been strongly criticized throughout Hungary. According to Hungarian journalist and publisher, Gabor Deak, few Hungarian officials could actively respond to protests in Central Square due to internal issues within the country.

Deak stated, “Tomorrow we will make a visit to Gurgen Markarian's tomb and pay a tribute to his memory. We have initiated this trip, but our opinion is the same with the majority of Hungarians.”

Citing the Hungarian court's decision, Gabor Ivanyi explained that the court had underscored the importance of having the convicted serve the entirety of his sentence. According to surveys within the country, Hungarians are embarrassed by the outcome and want to restore relations with Armenia.

“Regretfully, Hungary has not yet recognized the Armenian Genocide by Turkey when millions of people became the victim of it. Now it is time for Hungary to think about the correction of its mistakes and redeeming its fault,” noted Hungarian historian and political analyst Zoltan Biro.

Archbishop Baliozian Laid to Rest in Australia

FUNERAL, from page 1

It was the one major regret Baliozian had once voiced to this writer.

“I grew up in a city of bells,” he said wistfully, “but can hear them no more.”

In Aleppo where he was born, in 1946, and particularly in Jerusalem where he studied for the priesthood, his daily routine would be punctuated by the tolling of bells, calling the Christian faithful to prayer or announcing a holy feast. And, rarely, broadcasting the mournful news of the death of a man of the cloth.

Early in his youth, Baliozian had felt stirrings of a spiritual yearning and this led him to the city of Christ where at age of 22, he was ordained a celibate priest, the first rung in the ladder that would elevate him to the rank of archbishop.

It was the late Catholicos of All Armenians, Vazken I, who picked him to head the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand.

Baliozian's keen interest in ecumenical affairs catapulted him to the post of first president of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).

According to the NCCA general secretary, the Rev. Tara Curlewis, Baliozian “was held in high esteem both in Australia and around the world for his wisdom and commitment to Christian unity, interreligious dialogue and peace building.”

Her sentiments were echoed by other Christian church representatives who dwelt on Baliozian's “unshakable faith and valor.”

And speaking for their close neigh-

bor, the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies CEO Vic Alhadeff noted that “Baliozian's life and career were personified by his commitment to a society based on the principles of respect and harmony.”

He noted Armenians and Jews share a number of key and core themes, like the importance of family, the value of culture and tradition, the trauma of genocide and the need at all times for acceptance of diversity and celebration of difference.

Among the flood of condolences pouring in, Hovhannessian, who is director of the publications department of the Mother Church in Yerevan, Armenia, had brought from Catholicos Karekin a personal message of expressing profound loss and pain at Baliozian's “untimely” death.

The catholicos dwelt on Baliozian's strong commitment to his church and his nation, and his passion for the encouragement and nurturing of ecumenical relations and Christian brotherhood, and his love and courage, in the face of adversity.

Pain was a topic Manougian was to dwell on in his eulogy.

“People ask what is truth,” he said. “Truth is pain.”

But in the face of pain, Baliozian displayed exemplary endurance, and was able to steer the boat of the church with skill and determination, during the many stormy seasons it had to navigate through.

Manougian's arrival in Sydney, after a grueling 20 hour flight, is of particular significance and relevance, with its implied confirmation of the importance Jerusalem plays in the heart of Armenians all over the world.

The state of New South Wales is home for over 40,000 Armenians, mostly from the Middle East, with a large contingent from the Holy Land, and Jerusalemite Armenians are profoundly concerned over the current situation in the Holy City, with the Armenian Patriarchate in relative limbo following the incapacitation of its Patriarch, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian.

The presence of Archbishop Nourhan Manoogian (no relation) is therefore intended to give a clear message to expatriate Armenians, a message of hope and reassurance.

For the Armenians in Australia, the presence of Joe Hockey, deputy leader of the federal opposition party, and Gladys Berejiklian, State Transport Minister, who had both arrived in church without fanfare, can mean only one thing: no matter how lofty our social or political standing, no matter where who have become, whenever two of us meet anywhere in the world, in the words of Pulitzer Prize winner William Saroyan, see if we shall not create, and perpetuate, a new Armenia.

And the presence of the heads of Christian churches at the funeral ceremony, carries its own different message, aimed not only at those in attendance, but at the world as well: “The Christian church is one. We all stand together in Christ.”

William Saroyan once described Armenians as a tribe of unimportant people whose history is forgotten. He forgot that it is people like Archbishop Aghan who are the ones who perpetuate our history.

It will never be forgotten.

Turkish-Armenian Community Renews Plea For Education Reform

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Representatives of the Turkish-Armenian community have renewed their plea for education reform for children of Armenian immigrant workers, who are not considered eligible to attend state schools.

Officials of the Gedikpasha Armenian Protestant Church, which opened its doors last year to educate 84 students whose parents are undocumented immigrants from Armenia, are still awaiting a response to their ongoing grievances.

The church officials are striving to provide education for 100 students this school year under difficulty, facing many legal and physical challenges. The classes are held in the basement of the church and some of the makeshift classrooms have no doors. The classrooms used to be divided by curtains before board separators were recently installed.

Church officials and families are frustrated that nothing has changed since last year as they tried to address the fact that “guest student status” does not correspond to the needs of Armenian immigrants' students. The parents of these Armenian children were concerned because guest student status would not be enough for their children, who needed proof of their education in Armenia, where they plan to return.

Armenian community representatives describe granting “guest student status” as a deceptive move aimed to silence the community. “Neither we nor any family are happy with that. We call on the state to give our children a valid certificate or a valid diploma,” one said.

Turkey's new academic year has begun for around 17 million students and 800,000 teachers, with a new education system that increases the duration of compulsory education from an uninterrupted eight years to 12 years.



Community News

Women's Fund of Long Island to Honor Artemis Nazerian and Arda Haratunian

JERICHO, N.Y. – Artemis Nazerian and Arda Nazerian Haratunian, community leaders and an inspiring mother/daughter team, will be honored at the Women's Fund of Long Island (WFLI) 18th Annual Women Achievers Against the Odds Breakfast on Thursday, October 25. This annual event draws nearly 650 attendees as it celebrates the accomplishments of a select group of Long Island-based women who have made outstanding contributions not only to their industries, but also to their communities.

"Artemis and Arda's commitment to public service and volunteerism has spanned two generations of work in education, government and the private sector," said Stacey Scarpone, executive director of the Women's Fund of Long Island. "They have worked individually and in partnership with organizations in their communities and as a strong mother/daughter team raising their families. In the process, they have positively touched many lives."

Artemis Nazerian, who together with her late husband, Hagop, raised two daughters, Ani and Arda, has had a distinguished career in the fields of education and music. Born in Beirut, Lebanon to parents who had fled the Armenian Genocide, she graduated from the American University of Beirut and was awarded a full scholarship from the Institute of International Education to pursue her graduate studies in education at Friends World College. The scholarship, which also included studies at the New England Conservatory of Music, involved an 11,000-mile, racially-integrated study tour of dif-



Artemis Nazerian, left, and her daughter, Arda Haratunian

ferent educational philosophies across the eastern United States.

Professionally, Nazerian was a school administrator, most recently serving as assistant principal at St. Demetrios Greek American School in Astoria. She also spent several years teaching elementary school and music, and was also an Adjunct Professor at Brooklyn College in the education and music departments. She served on the Boards of Directors of the Armenian Center at Columbia University, St. Nersess Seminary and Armenia Fund USA, as well as on the grants review committee of the WFLI.

Arda Nazerian Haratunian is a strategic communications advisor to public and private companies. She also teaches at Queens College in its honors Business and Liberal Arts program, and Columbia University, where she helped found the master's program in Strategic Communications. She and her husband, Stephen, have two children, Kenar and Armen. She most recently served as senior policy advisor to former Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, managing large-scale initiatives related to government efficiency, health and human services and regional planning. She joined his administration in 2003 from Citigroup, where she was managing director of Global Corporate Communications for its Corporate & Investment Bank. She previously was director of the New York press office of former New York Governor Mario Cuomo.

Haratunian is a member of the Central Board

see WOMEN, page 10



Volunteers helped patients.

AMAA's Fourth Annual Medical Mission to Armenia

PARAMUS, N.J. – This June, the medical mission team of the Armenian Medical Association of America (AMAA), led by Dr. Al Phillips and his wife, Sue, returned to Armenia for its fourth year.

The mission team of 37 worked in ambulatory clinics in Vanadzor and Stepanavan. The team consisted of seven physicians, a chiropractor, a pharmacist, a registered nurse, 20 ancillary workers and seven Armenian translators. The team used the Vanadzor Evangelical Church and the AMAA Social Service Center in Stepanavan for their medical facilities. Patients came from local neighborhoods and many were transported to the clinic by bus from outlying villages.

Over the course of the week, 917 patients were seen. This included adults and children. Many of the patients had been seen in previous years and relayed that the mission's prior treatments had improved the quality of their lives. Common conditions included hypertension, diabetes and musculoskeletal problems. Purchased medications from donations allowed for an extensive pharmacy. Patients received all their drugs without charge. The group had enough medications to supply patients with a year's worth of treatment. Also, reading glasses were distributed. While patients were waiting to be seen, the nurse educator gave lectures on various medical issues. Donated toothbrushes and other oral hygiene items were distributed and patients were taught how to maintain good dental health.

During the clinic, patients were also encouraged to attend church services.

The medical mission team has committed to return to Armenia for the fifth year in June 2013. To help, visit the AMAA website (www.amaa.org).



The mission to Armenia members

Scholars to Participate In Academic Conference To Mark 125th Anniversary of SDHP

BURBANK, Calif. – The Social Democrat Hunchakian Party (SDHP) is the longest serving Armenian political party. Founded in Geneva in 1887, the SDHP has played an important role at every stage of the Armenian nation's history.

An academic conference scheduled for October 27 at the Fletcher Jones Foundation Auditorium of Woodbury University in Burbank will mark the 125th Anniversary of the SDHP. The conference is organized by the Armenian Educational Benevolent Union (AEBU) and Nor Serount Cultural Association (NSCA) and co-sponsored by the Richard Hovannisian Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA, the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan, Dearborn; Woodbury University and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). A host of historians, academics and scholars will conduct a day-long review of the political, intellectual and social history of the Armenian people, as analyzed through the history of the Hunchakian Party and many of its prominent members who shaped it.

The following is the list of scholars who will participate in the Conference, and the titles of the papers they will be presenting:

- Rev. Dr. Abel Manoukian, "The Founders: Formative Period as University Students"

- Prof. Kevork Bardakjian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), "Ideology and Literature: The Mother Party and Some of Her Literary Children"

- Prof. Gerard Libaridian (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, retired), "At the Origins of the Social Democratic Hunchakian Party: Problems and Paradoxes"

- Prof. Vahram Shemmassian (California State University, Northridge), "Absolute Monarchy: The Hunchakian Revolutionary Episode in Armenian Musa Dagh during the 1890s"

- Dr. Garabet Moumdjian (independent historian), "1895 to 1914: The Relations of Armenian Political/Revolutionary Organizations with the Young Turks"

- Prof. Hratch Tchilingirian (Oxford University), "From End of Empires to the Global Age: Issues and Questions in Armenian Political Ideology and Strategy"

- Prof. Richard Hovannisian (University of California, Los Angeles), "The Hunchakian Party and the First Republic of Armenia"

- Aram Arkun (independent historian), "The role of the Hunchakian party in post WWI Cilicia"

- Prof. Ara Dostourian (emeritus professor of history, University of West Georgia), "The Labor & Political Work of the SDHP of the Eastern US in the Context of the Worldwide Hunchakian Movement (1890-2000)"

- Dr. Vartan Matiosian (Armenian National Education Committee), "The Hunchakian Party in the Armenian Communities of South America: An Outline of its Early History"

- Prof. Ara Sanjian (University of Michigan, Dearborn), "Khrushchev, Karabagh and the Hunchakians: A Documented Journey in the World of Oral History in-Progress"

Seating to the Conference is limited. The organizers encourage all who wish to attend to pre-register at info@sdhp125.org

Admission is free, however a \$100 donation will offer the donors confirmed registration to the conference (lunch included), an invitation to a dinner with the scholars, to be held on the night of the Conference at Phoenicia Restaurant in Glendale, and preferred seating to the SDHP 125th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for Nov. 18th at the Glendale High School Auditorium.

The conference will be web-broadcast live. For more information visit www.sdhp125.org



COMMUNITY NEWS

Assembly's Distinguished Humanitarian Award Presented to Elizabeth Agbabian, Flora Dunaians and Savey Tufenkian

WASHINGTON – Hirair Hovnanian, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Armenian Assembly of America, presented the Distinguished Humanitarian Award to three individuals: Elizabeth Agbabian, Flora Dunaians and Savey Tufenkian at the Assembly's 40th Anniversary Gala last month in downtown Los Angeles.

Introducing the trio, Assembly Board Member Peter Kezirian, who was master of ceremonies for the gala dinner, stated, "we have benefitted from their leadership" because they are a "foundational component of our society and the Assembly. They have taught their generation as well as future generations the meaning of giving and the joy of sharing," added Kezirian as he welcomed them and Hirair Hovnanian to the podium for the presentation of the award.

Bestowed upon them for their compassion, generosity and dedicated service to the Armenian people, the award read "for your passionate commitment to all benevolent efforts." Hovnanian commended their outstanding dedication and decades of service to the entire community stating, "You have set an example for people to follow in your footsteps."

To express their gratitude and speaking on behalf of all three women, Flora Dunaians explained how they came together in the mid 1970s when they were asked by the late Dr. J. Michael Hagopian of the Armenian Film Foundation to chair a banquet which would change their lives forever. This was the "beginning of their journey together," Dunaians recalled.

Speaking about their work with the Assembly, Dunaians stated that the Assembly is "our voice in Washington, DC." With the devastating earthquake in Armenia in 1988 followed by Armenia's independence in 1991, they formed a bond that kept them "together with determination that we are committed to helping Armenia and all organizations, be they religious, political, educational or social."



Elizabeth and Mihran Agbabian with family

"By honoring Elizabeth, Flora and Savey, who come from different backgrounds, denominations and countries, the Assembly also upholds its founding principle to bring diverse elements of the community together for the betterment of the Armenian people," stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.



Savey and Ralph Tufenkian with friends



Flora and George Dunaians with family and friends

Armenian Church Bazaar Set for October 20

BELMONT, Mass. – The annual Fall Harvest Bazaar returns to Belmont on Saturday, October 20 from noon to 8 p.m. in the Nahigian Fellowship Hall of the First Armenian Church, located at 380 Concord Ave.

Enjoy Armenian delicacies prepared on site. Food is available in freezable packaging for later use. Traditional Armenian pastries and coffee will also be available on the day of the bazaar.

Traditional Armenian food will be prepared all day for consumption there or in to-go packages. Vegetarian options are available.

Dried fruits and nuts fresh from farms in California are available for holiday baking needs. Pistachios, walnut halves, dried apricots, raisins and more are available in bulk, offered by the church's Benevolence Committee. Sales benefit orphans in Armenia and Lebanon and help to fund the church's donations to local food banks.

Attendees can browse through The Marketplace for Christmas gifts or hard-to-find household items. New or "gently used" paperbacks and hardcover books as well as children's books and games and favorite "attic treasures," are available at great prices. Supervised children's activities are available (a small donation is requested).

The Fall Harvest Bazaar will take place rain or shine and all are welcome to attend. Information is available through the church office or by visiting the church's website, www.firstarmenianchurch.org.

PARTICIPANTS

PROF. RICHARD HOVANNISIAN . PROF. GERARD LIBARIDIAN . PROF. KEVORK BARDAKJIAN
 PROF. ARA DOSTOURIAN . PROF. ARA SANJIAN . PROF. HRATCH TCHILINGIRIAN . DR. GARABET MOUMDJIAN
 PROF. VAHRAM SHEMMASSIAN . DR. VARTAN MATIOSSIAN . REV. DR. ABEL MANOUKIAN . MR. ARAM ARKUN



SOCIAL DEMOCRAT
 HUNCHAKIAN PARTY

125

THROUGHOUT
 HISTORY



ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

Dedicated to the 125th Anniversary of the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party
 Organized by the Armenian Educational Benevolent Union & Nor Serount Cult. Assoc.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2012 9:00am - 5:00pm

WOODBURY UNIVERSITY 7500 North Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank, CA

CO-SPONSORS

THE RICHARD G. HOVANNISIAN CHAIR IN MODERN ARMENIAN HISTORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles, CA
 ARMENIAN RESEARCH CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Dearborn, MI
 WOODBURY UNIVERSITY, Burbank, CA
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH, Belmont, MA

Seating is limited. Reservation recommended. email: info@sdhp125.org 1060 N Allen Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91104 Tel.: 626.398.0506

for more information please visit our website
www.sdhp125.org



COMMUNITY NEWS

Lowell Veterans Award \$8,000 In Scholarships

By Tom Vartabedian

LOWELL, Mass. — Since 1990, members of the Sam Manoian Post #1, Armenian-American Veterans, have done more than march in parades, conduct graveside services and donate Easter baskets to children. They have contributed to the educational welfare of Merrimack Valley and beyond, to the tune of more than \$100,000.

This year's distribution of \$8,000 was divided among eight students. Honored were: Kevin Doherty, Merrissa Daigle, Dannielle and Christopher Seifel, Victoria Kulungian, Olivia Barberian, Christina Parnagian and Lucas Takessian.

More than 200 guests turned out October 6 to applaud the recipients during a dinner-dance at Sts. Vartanantz Church in Chelmsford. As

protocol had it, each student presented words of gratitude upon their presentation.

Over these past 22 years, a total of 144 high school graduates have been endowed with scholarships.

"It's a tradition we hope to continue for a lifetime," said Commander Richard Juknavorian. "The future of our younger generation is a matter we take seriously. Anything we can do to enhance that goal will be encouraged."

According to Scholarship Chairman George Manuelian, many recipients have graduated college, started careers and showed their gratitude by contributing to the Menas Boghosian Scholarship Fund.

"The moral responsibilities they have exercised are exemplary," said Manuelian. "It's nice to know that we've contributed to their welfare with scholarship aid. We try to make it very personal. Parents and siblings become part of the celebration."



Lowell Armenian-American Veterans of Sam Manoian Post #1 donated \$8,000 in scholarships October 6 during a dinner-dance at Sts. Vartanantz Church, Chelmsford. From left, Commander Richard Juknavorian and Acting Chairman John Balian make presentations to Lucine Seifel, representing Dannielle and Christopher Seifel; Olivia Barberian; Merrissa Daigle; Victoria Kulungian; Lucas Takessian and Kevin Doherty. Missing from photo is Christina Parnagian. (Tom Vartabedian photo)



CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — On Saturday, October 6, during Harvard Square's Oktoberfest, Sheriff Peter Koutoujian and volunteers stopped by to say hello to friends at the Holy Trinity booth serving kebab and other treats.

The group's history dates back to 1947 when Armenian-American Veterans of World War II gathered at the Pine Street Potato Chip Company on Gorham Street and elected Menas Boghosian as their first commander.

The numbers grew enough to become officially chartered and in 1961, they joined the Veterans' Council of Lowell.

Over the decades, they have served the Armenian-American community with diligence and pride, volunteering at Veterans' hospitals, assisting the indigent, sponsoring Christmas parties for children and donating Easter baskets and Christmas toys to children. Roses are distributed after church services on Mother's Day.

Members conduct special graveside services for veterans and have never missed a Memorial Day Parade or Armenian Genocide commemoration.

In 1975, the organization purchased a building and named it the Sam Manoian Post, honoring a devoted past commander. Ten years later, they erected a monument dedicated to Armenian settlers who became a vital part of the Greater Lowell fabric.

"To all our deceased members, their sacrifice will never be forgotten," added Juknavorian. "We dedicate our efforts to both the living and the dead. By honoring our youth, we're investing in the future of this country."

Bible Study Classes

Do You Need God in Your Life?

We Would Like To Invite You To Come And Join With Us and Attend Our 'Excellent' Bible Study Classes.

Classes are held on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays of each month in the social hall of the church and led by Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian

PROGRAM

Social Time: Coffee, chorag and cheese 6:30-7:00 P.M.

Bible Study Class 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.

Armenian Memorial Church, 32 Bigelow Avenue, Watertown, MA

Call us at 617-923-0498 and let us know if you are planning to attend.

You will be greatly enriched.

Giragosian

FUNERAL HOME

James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC
Mark J. Giragosian

Funeral Counselors

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

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN

Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

John K. Najarian, Jr.

Rhode Island's Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

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

www.nardolillo.com

Law Office of
Greg Krikorian
978-844 7401



Cost Effective Legal Solutions

FREE Initial Consultation - Seniors 10% DISCOUNT

Business - Real Estate - Wills, Trusts & Estates
Divorce - Personal Injury - Bankruptcy - Immigration

185 Alewife Brook Pkwy - Suite 416 - Cambridge, MA 02138

Հայերէն Կ'խոսուիս info@gklegal.com

ADVERTISE IN THE MIRROR



COMMUNITY NEWS

The Armenian American Wellness Center Wins 'Public Confidence Award' for Excellence in Women's Health

By Negar M. Joy

WASHINGTON – The Armenian American Wellness Center became the first recipient of the 2012 Public Confidence Award for Excellence in Women's Health, presented by the National Council of Public Confidence in Medical Services in Armenia. The event took place at the Aram Khachaturian Hall in Yerevan. Khachanush Hakobyan, the executive director, accepted the award on behalf of the Wellness Center in front of a packed hall of 2,000 spectators and TV cameras, broadcasting nationwide. The Wellness Center



The Public Confidence Award presented to the Wellness Center for Excellence in Women's Health

was recognized for its quality care and innovative approaches using the latest Western technology and expertise in delivering women's health services to the people of Armenia.

This award, established two years ago, represents the public's choice for excellence in medi-



The Executive Director, Khachanush Hakobyan (center), along with some of the medical staff, accept the Public Confidence Award on behalf of the Wellness Center.

cine, ophthalmology, dentistry and public health. This is the first year that women's health was also considered. Dr. Ara Babloyan, chairman of the Parliament's Subcommittee on Health Issues, presented the award to Hakobyan.

The recipients of the awards were chosen based on interviews and surveys conducted by the council among the public and through questionnaires distributed at work places, public libraries, community centers and schools.

"The women of Armenia have been putting their trust in us every single day for the past 15 years," said Hakobyan during her acceptance speech. Daily, 100-125 patients receive services from one or more of the Wellness Center's eight departments.

Since its establishment in 1997, the Wellness Center has dedicated itself to preventive care and the early and accurate detection of cancer through the latest western technology.

However, the Wellness Center's state-of-the-art facility is not just the premier facility for Armenian women and families; it has also become the most desired workplace for the country's medical professionals. It promotes transparency and accountability, access to the latest Western technology and equipment, and the opportunity to receive regular specialized training, thus attracting some of the country's top professionals.

Armenian American Cultural Association (AACA), the founding organization and the main US sponsor of the Wellness Center, strives to pro-

vide the Wellness Center's medical and administrative staff with the best available equipment, latest technological advances and many opportunities for professional exchanges between Armenia and the West. AACA regularly arranges for the staff to receive continued medical and administrative training in the latest Western approaches both on site in Armenia and in the US and Europe. For guidance in this area, AACA draws upon the expertise of its US Medical Advisory Board comprising 14 volunteer health care professionals and consultants.

"We are very grateful to our Medical Advisory Board, the individual doctors, nurses, engineers, business men and women who have chosen helping Armenia a priority during their on and off hours," said Rita Balian, president and CEO of AACA and Founder of the Wellness Center. "We are also indebted to the institutions with which these dedicated volunteers are associated, which have joined the humanitarian effort to make Armenia a healthier and more health-conscious nation," continued Balian, who herself has volunteered 16 hours of her days each and every day for 15 years for the life-saving work of the Center.

Receiving the Public Confidence Award crystallizes the role of the Wellness Center in revolutionizing the health care delivery system in Armenia. "There is no better recognition than the one coming from those who are being served," said Hranush Hakobyan, co-founder of the Wellness Center, now also the Minister of Diaspora in Armenia.

With more than 90 attorneys in 4 locations, McLane can bring the depth and experience to meet your needs, comparable to downtown Boston law firms but at significantly reduced costs.

McLane's resident TradeCenter attorneys focus primarily in the areas of:

Commercial Litigation	Intellectual Property Law
Corporate Law	Real Estate & Land Use Law
Domestic & Family Law	Tax Law
Employment Law	Trust & Estates Law

We look forward to the opportunity to work with you.

For more information, please contact Jeanmarie Papelian at (781) 904-2700 or jeanmarie.papelian@mclane.com.

www.mclane.com

TradeCenter 128 | Woburn, Massachusetts | 781.904.2700



The Public Confidence Award Certificate presented to the Wellness Center along with the trophy.



COMMUNITY NEWS

A First-Hand Look at TCA's Sponsor a

By Inga Petrosyan

YEREVAN (Azg) – The Sponsor a Teacher Program of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) has provided financial aid for 12 years to teachers in schools in Armenia and Artsakh bearing the name of poet Vahan Tekeyan. Financial aid is given thanks to the fundraising organized by the TCA of the United States and Canada.

There are five schools named for Vahan Tekeyan in Armenia and Artsakh, located in Yerevan, the village of Garbi, Stepanavan, Gumri and Berdzor (Karabagh). This year, the time for the realization of the program coincided with the day before Teacher's Day, celebrated annually here on October 1. A total of \$41,600 was donated this year to the teachers and workers of five schools.

The program anticipates aiding 293 teachers and 69 people from the staff serving the schools in 2012. Teachers and employees of the Stepanavan, Garbi, Yerevan, Gumri and Berdzor schools have already received the aid.

The visit to Yerevan's School No. 92 took place on September 24. The school was visited by Gayane Muradyan, director of TCA's Armenia office and coordinator of the program in Yerevan, and Alis Marashlian from Washington, DC. Muradyan said, "Every year



Third grade students of the Gumri Tekeyan School



Alis Marashlian and Garbi school teacher Garine Hagopyan

our [TCA] friends from the diaspora, when they are in Armenia, participate in the program of visits to the schools."

Tsovinar Mardanyan, the principal of Yerevan's School, praised the program and spoke about how it has changed the school. "Perhaps because every year the school receives assistance from the Tekeyan Cultural Association...
continued on next page



Gumri school special needs teachers receive their donations.



Third grade student Anahit Manoukyan recites a poem at the Yerevan school.



At the front entrance of the newly-constructed Tekeyan School of Stepanavan

Teacher Program in Armenia/Artsakh



Gumri school students during physical education class



From left, Alis Marshlian, Berdzor biology teacher Heriknaz Kasparyan and Principal Anahit Kosakyan

from previous page

Association, it is already different from other schools. In addition to this, every year, with the assistance of the TCA, 10-day-long camps are organized for the relaxation of the children in the summer camps, again thanks to fundraising," she said.

She stressed the one issue still needing to be fixed in the school was its heating, which is anticipated to be solved in 2012.

Yerevan's School No. 92 was founded in

1956, and it was renamed for Vahan Tekeyan in 1986. At present, it has 450 students. This year, a partial renovation was carried out and a new teachers' training school which has a Tekeyan corner was opened. Part of the renovation work was conducted through the efforts of the TCA and with the direct assistance of the principal.

On Monday, all the teachers of the school, 58 people, as well as 14 people from the service staff, received funds from Tekeyan. Students presented a small concert for the guests.

Muradyan expressed the hope that the Sponsor a Teacher Program would be ongoing.

The principal of Berdzor (Karabagh) School, Anahit Kosakian, said, "When your work is appreciated, you dedicate yourself in a special way." The staff of the school has increased to 28 teachers and 16 workers because of student body has doubled by natural expansion and because seven Armenian families from Kamishli, Syria, have settled in that region.

Marshlian is herself an educator and this year took on the responsibility of delivering the money for the teachers. As a teacher and a specialist in public health, she understands the important work of teachers and the need to reward them.

Marshlian was born in Iraq and moved to Argentina as a child, where her father was the director of the Armenian section of the AGBU Marie Manoogian School, and her mother was



A sign on a Berdzor school wall says "Your health is in your hands."



From left, Gayane Muradyan, Alis Marshlian and Gumri School chemistry teacher Lena Atoyan

a teacher. After going to school there, at the age of 14, she moved to Boston and studied public health in the United States.

At present, Marshlian teaches in a hospital for immigrants, where patients are from different age groups and her task is to convey to



From left, Alis Marshlian and Stepanavan school biology teacher Ludmila Barseghian at the biology classroom

Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2012



Since its inception in 2001, TCA's 'Sponsor a Teacher' program has raised over \$518,000 and reached out to 4,064 teachers and school workers in Armenia and Karabagh.

☞-----

Yes, I want to sponsor teachers in Armenia and Karabagh to continue helping them to educate the children, our future leaders. I would like to have the teacher's name and address.

\$ 160 \$ 320 \$ 480 other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Tel: _____

Make check payable to: Tekeyan Cultural Association - Memo: Sponsor a Teacher 2010
Mail your check with this form to:

TCA Sponsor a Teacher
5326 Valverde, Houston, TX 77056

Your donation is Tax Deductible.

them information about healthcare. This was not the first time that she had visited Armenia. In addition to the Sponsor a Teacher Program, she has volunteered in projects in Artsakh.

Marshlian said she was particularly impressed by the fact that students in the Garbi school came back years later to be teachers at their alma mater, in order to help their community. As for the Stepanavan school, she said it was important that inclusive education was already being realized there.

And what are her impressions of Armenia and Artsakh and the changes she has seen there? The young teacher only replies with a smile, "I am optimistic."



COMMUNITY NEWS

Caltech Biologist Sarkis Mazmanian Named MacArthur Fellow

BIOLOGIST, from page 1

processes like digestion and immunity. His main focus is to understand how “good” bacteria promote human health – work that has transformed a quickly-evolving field of research that is investigating the connection between gut bacteria and their relationship to both disease and health.

His research helped lay the groundwork for the Human Microbiome Project (HMP), an initiative of the National Institutes of Health that aims to characterize, for the first time, “the microbial communities found at several different sites on the human body, including nasal passages, oral cavities, skin, gastrointestinal tract and urogenital tract, and to analyze the role of these microbes in human health and disease,” according to the HMP website. His laboratory was the first to demonstrate that specific gut bacteria direct the development of the mammalian immune system and provide protection from intestinal diseases. This means, he said, that fundamental aspects of health are absolutely dependent on microbial interaction within our bodies. In addition, he said that many disorders whose incidences are increasing in Western countries – such as inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis and asthma – involve a common immunologic defect believed to be caused by the absence of intestinal bacteria. An understanding of the beneficial immune responses promoted by gut bacteria may lead to the development of natural therapeutics for immunologic and perhaps neurologic diseases, said Mazmanian.

“This award is extremely well-deserved – Sarkis has revolutionized the way we think about the interactions between microorganisms and people,” said Stephen L. Mayo, William K. Bowes Jr. Foundation Chair of Caltech’s Division of Biology, and Bren Professor of

Biology and Chemistry. “His research has had an important impact in making the connection between personal hygiene and the immune system, and even neurological diseases like autism.”

When the award announcement went public, Mazmanian was in Armenia, his native homeland, teaching a one-week course on host-microbial interaction to PhD students at a molecular biology institute. He travels to the country once a year to volunteer his services. The timing, he said, couldn’t be better, as he hopes to use some of the prize money to develop an international educational outreach program.

“I think that when you have a windfall like this, the least you can do is help people who are in need,” said Mazmanian, who credits the members of his lab for his research success. “In many countries, they are in need of education and resources, like lab equipment, text books, you name it. It would be terrific if I could use the money to help advance science in countries where there is hardship.”

Mazmanian received his bachelor’s degree in 1995 and his PhD in microbiology in 2002, both from UCLA. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard, he joined the Caltech faculty as an assistant professor in 2006. In 2012, he was promoted to professor of biology. In 2011, Mazmanian was the recipient of a Burroughs Welcome Fund Award for research in the pathogenesis of infectious disease, and in 2008 he was awarded a Searle Scholarship and was named one of *Discover* magazine’s “20 Best Brains Under 40,” which highlighted young innovators in science.

This year’s crop of 23 Fellows includes stringed-instrument bow maker Benoit Rolland and mathematician Maria Chudnovsky; Mazmanian joins the ranks of Caltech’s previous MacArthur Fellows, including 2010 awardee John Dabiri.

Women’s Fund of Long Island to Honor Artemis Nazerian and Arda Haratunian

WOMEN, from page 4

of the Armenian General Benevolent Union and is actively involved in other community activities, including volunteering with the church on both projects at the Diocesan level and also teaching high school level at her local parish. She is a board member of The Energeia Partnership, an academy for regional stewardship, and volunteers with a number of Long Island organizations, including WFLI, Erase RACISM and the Manhasset Women’s Coalition Against Breast Cancer, where she chairs its high school research scholarship committee.

Among the other honorees this year are Becky Creavin and Patricia Janco-Tupper, man-

aging directors of Deutsche Bank, and two young women, Laura Perez, an East Hampton High School senior and Kalifa Lillian Davy, a St. Anthony’s High School junior. They will each receive the 2012 Shapiro-McCormick Young Woman Leader Award.

“We are thrilled to be honoring such an outstanding group of women this year,” added Scarpone. “They exemplify what the Women’s Fund of Long Island stands for and are exceptional role models for women and girls across Long Island.”

For more information on the Women Achievers Against the Odds breakfast or to purchase tickets, email info@womensfundli.org.

St. Gregory Church Fall Fair Set for October 27

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. – On October 27, St. Gregory Church of Merrimack Valley will combine its annual fall fair with a Halloween theme.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. inside Jaffarian Hall, 158 Main St., and is open to the public.

Children 10 and younger arriving in costume and accompanied by a parent will receive a

prize.

Both the eat-in and the take-out menus are available.

There will be a country store, Armenian pastries, Armenian gift table, raffles and other games of chance, as well as a white elephant table.

For further information, contact the church office.

Edward D. Jamakordzian, Jr. d/b/a
Edward D. Jamie, Jr.
Funeral Chapel

Licensed in New York and New Jersey
 217-04 Northern Blvd., (Suite 23), Bayside, NY
 11361
 Service any hour, (718) 224-2390 or toll
 any distance free (888) 224-6088



ST. JAMES 65TH ANNUAL BAZAAR!

BAZAAR

Friday, October 12, 2012 (10 a.m. - 9 p.m.)
Saturday, October 13, 2012 (10 a.m. - 9 p.m.)

ARMENIAN FOOD, DELICACIES & PASTRIES!
 (Served from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
 Shish Kebab, Chicken Kebab, Losh Kebab, Kheyma and Eetch!
 Boereg, Manti, Yalanchi, Porov Kufteh, Tourshi, Choereg,
 Cream & Nut Khadaif, Bourma, Baklava & more!

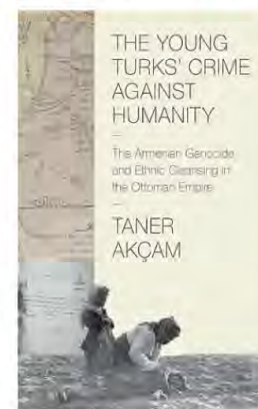
BOOTHS AND VENDORS!
 Including the Farmer’s Market, Silent Auction, Armenian Items,
 the popular Attic Treasures, and vendor booths!

<p style="text-align: center;">Apple® Raffle! Win a Macbook Air, iPads, iTouches and more! \$5 per ticket, 6 for \$25</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">KidZone! Pumpkin Decorating! Clown and balloon animals! Games! & More!!!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">\$100 RAFFLE! Grand Prize - \$5,000. Three \$1,000 and four \$500 prizes! Popular \$2 Raffle!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sponsorship & Volunteer Opportunities Available! Please contact Co-Chairs Nancy Kassabian at (781) 322-0029 or Sandy Raphaelian at (781) 762-6465.</p>

St. James Armenian Church
 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472 (617) 923-8860 info@sthagop.com

Assimilation: A Structural Element of the Armenian Genocide

Book Signing and Discussion with the Author



With new evidence from over 600 secret Ottoman documents, Taner Akçam goes deep inside the bureaucratic machinery of Ottoman Turkey. In his most authoritative work to date, he shows how a dying empire embraced genocide and ethnic cleansing in order to achieve the radical demographic transformation of Anatolia and paved the way for the Turkish Republic.

By uncovering the central roles played by demographic engineering and assimilation in the Armenian Genocide, this book will fundamentally change how this crime is understood and show that physical destruction is not the only aspect of the genocidal process.

Taner Akçam, holds the Kaloosdian and Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University.

Date: Friday, October 19, 2012
Time: 7:45 P.M.
Place: St. Leon Armenian Church
 Charles & Grace Pinajian Youth Center
 12-61 Saddle River Road
 Fair Lawn, NJ
 201-791-2862

This event is jointly sponsored by AGBU Ararat, Armenian National Committee of NJ, Knights of Vartan, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), New York Armenian Students Association, St. Leon Armenian Church, and Tekeyan Cultural Association

The event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the presentation.



Arts & Living

Armenian Studies Program Will Open 500th Anniversary of Armenian Printing Exhibit at Fresno State

FRESNO — On September 17, Armenian Studies Program director, Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian, announced the opening of an exhibit on “The 500th Anniversary of Armenian Printing,” to be displayed in Fresno State Henry Madden Library.

The Armenian Studies Program will host a reception from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 14, on the second floor of the Henry Madden Library, to mark the official opening of the exhibit. The reception is free and open to the public; refreshments will be served.

The exhibit is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program, the College of Arts and Humanities and the Henry Madden Library.

Special guest speaker for the day will be Dr. Kevork Bardakjian, Marie Manoogian Professor of Modern Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, who will discuss “The Impact of the Armenian Script and Printing on Armenian Identity and Letters.”



Dr. Kevork Bardakjian

Fresno State president, Dr. John Welty, Provost Dr. William Covino and dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, Dr. Vida Samiian, will also speak at the afternoon reception.

The exhibit features rare books and several examples of earlier manuscripts from the Armenian Studies Program collection. The majority of the printed works are from the Parnay Collection consisting of 300 rare, early printed works. The majority of them were published by the Armenian Mekhitarist Congregation of Venice. The collection includes books from Constantinople, Tiflis and elsewhere. Ray Parnay donated the collection, once belonging to his late father, Mardig, and late uncle, Serope Y. Parnay (Yedi-Kardashian), in 2006.

A 1782 *Guidebook to the Holy Places of Jerusalem* is the oldest book on display. Other works include a translation of Homer's *Iliad* (1843), a *History of Vartan and the Armenian War* (1859) by Yeghishe and *A Geography of Place Names of Greater Armenia* (1855) by Father Ghevont Alishan.

A special facsimile reproduction of the ninth-century Etchmiadzin Gospels on loan from the collection of Arminee Shishmanian and the late Dr. Leo Shishmanian of Fresno will also be displayed. *The Etchmiadzin Gospels* contain the “Final Four Miniatures,” the earliest known Armenian miniature paintings, which date back to the sixth century.

The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, can be viewed during regular library hours throughout October. For specific hours and openings, visit the library website: <http://www.fresnostate.edu/library/>.

For more information on the reception and exhibit, contact the Armenian Studies Program.



Stamps designed for the Republic of Armenia

New Exhibition at ALMA Puts Spotlight On Arshag Fetvadjan

WATERTOWN, Mass. — On Sunday, October 14, the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) will open an exhibit paying homage to the Armenian painter and art historian Arshag Fetvadjan (1866-1947).

Born in Trebizond and trained in Rome, Fetvadjan became one of the most prominent Armenian painters of the late 19th century. He is known for his watercolor paintings of the architectural monuments of the medieval Armenian city of Ani, as well as portraits of Armenians at the turn of the 20th century. He is also the designer of the currency and postage stamps of the first Republic of Armenia (1918-1920).

Following the creation of the Republic of Armenia in 1918, the members of the country's Finance Ministry commissioned Fetvadjan to design the new currency to replace the Russian ruble, as well as stamps for the nascent state. Fetvadjan's attractive designs featured animal motifs that were found in Ani. The printing was conducted in Europe but just as the banknotes were being printed in Paris, Soviet Russia was completing its conquest of the republic. By December 1920, the Armenian state was finally absorbed by the Soviets. The banknotes thus were never put into circulation.

The opening reception will be held on Sunday, October 14 at 2 p.m.

The new exhibit will be featured in the museum's third floor Contemporary Art Gallery.

Admission on opening day only will be free.



Fetvadjan in New York in 1920



A 100-ruble note designed for the Republic of Armenia

Pianist Arghamanyan To Perform Recitals in Boston, Philadelphia And New York

By Ara Arakelian

BOSTON — When she takes the stage at the Calderwood Hall of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston on Sunday, October 21, Nareh Arghamanyan would be making her professional debut. It won't be the 23-year-old pianist's first concert in Boston, however. She played a recital in 2004 at age 14 at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, under the auspices of Hamazkayin Armenian Cultural and Educational Association. In addition, in 2008, after capturing the first prize at the coveted International Montreal Music Competition, she performed with the Boston Pops for the Armenian Night at the Pops.

Born in Vanadzor, Armenia, Arghamanyan has played the piano since the age of 5. Three years later, she began her studies with Alexander Gurgenov at the Tchaikovsky Music School for Talented Children in Yerevan. In 2004 she was the youngest student to be admit-



Pianist Nareh Arghamanyan

ted to the University for Music and Performing Arts Vienna, where she studied with Heinz Medjimorec and continues chamber music studies with Avo Kouyoumdjan.

She has attended the summer studies program both at Tanglewood in Massachusetts and the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont. Since 2010, she has been working with Arie Vardi in Hannover, Germany.

She is the recipient of numerous awards and prizes, including the 2007 Piano Campus International Competition in Pontoise, France, and the Jose Roca Competition in Valencia, Spain.

Now under professional management on both sides of the Atlantic, Arghamanyan is in her second season of artistic engagements, a busy schedule of recitals and soloist appearances around the world. Highlights include a recent performance of the Saint-Saens' *Second Piano Concerto* with the Tonhalle Orchestra of Zurich with Sir Neville Marriner, and upcoming appearances with the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig under Riccardo Chailly, and performances with Oslo Opera Orchestra, Bern Symphony Orchestra as well as the Vancouver, Columbus (Ohio) and Utah Symphony Orchestras. Last season, she appeared as soloist with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna Chamber Orchestra and in recitals in such esteemed venues as the Berlin Philharmonie and Tonhalle Zurich.

Arghamanyan's performances have prompted enthusiastic response. The Independent of London commented: “Arghamanyan's playing is compulsive, emotional yet remarkably ‘complete’ for such a young musician... — sensitive, unaffected, genuine.” And the Los Angeles Times raved about her “clarity of articulation, firm tone and emotional restraint.”

see PIANIST, page 13



ARTS & LIVING

Boyadjian's New Work for Flutes, Piccolo to Premiere

LEXINGTON, Mass. – Lexington's Grammy Award Nominee, Hayg Boyadjian, has a new composition, *Danzas Ocultas No. 2* (Hidden Dances), for 11 flutes and a piccolo. The work will have its world premiere performance by the Willow Flute Ensemble, for whom Boyadjian wrote the work, at the Third Life Studio, 33 Union Square, Somerville, on Saturday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Composer Hayg Boyadjian has written the following about the composition, "As the title implies it comprises elements or fragments of dances, eastern and western. Most of the music is based on the opening motive, and as is often with much of my music the intervals that make up that motive are used throughout the piece with constant changes, development like, to accommodate for the changes in the dance fragments." For more information about the composer visit his web site: www.haygboyadjian.com

The concert will also include the following works: *Overture to Agrippina* by Handel, *Incidental Music to Abdelazer* by Purcell, *Concerto in D major, op. 15 No.1* by

Boismortier, the 4'33 by John Cage and *Fantasia para un Gentilhombre* by Joaquin Rodrigo.

The concert will span three centuries of music from Renaissance melodies to a video telling of Aphra Ben's play "Abdelazer" with Purcell's incredible music, to Boyadjian's world premiere composition.

The Willow Flute Ensemble is one of the oldest flute ensembles in New England, which rehearses in Arlington. The ensemble was first established in 1996 by flutists of the Power Music School in Belmont. "We are always reinventing ourselves. We don't just rely on repertoire that is printed. We are always doing something new or doing something different in the way we approach a piece" said Orlando Cela, who took the helm of the ensemble in 2001. The American Record Guide has written about the ensemble's recent CD recording "World Winds", "The style of the Willow Flute Ensemble can definitely be characterized as guts and gusto."

Admission to the concert is free, seating is limited.

'Voyage to Amasia' to Screen at Belmont Studio Cinema, October 28

BELMONT, Mass. – "Voyage to Amasia," a new documentary by Randy Bell and Eric V. Hachikian, will have its Boston premiere at the Studio Cinema on Sunday, October 28 at 2 p.m. The film had its world premiere at the Pomegranate Film Festival in Toronto in December 2011, where it won the prize for Best Documentary. It has also screened at the 2012 Golden Apricot International Film Festival (Yerevan, Armenia), Minneapolis International Film Festival and the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival, and it will screen in November at the St. Louis International Film Festival.

"Voyage to Amasia" documents composer Hachikian's return to his ancestral home – Amasia, Turkey – nearly 100 years after Ottoman soldiers deported his grandmother, Helen Shushan, during the Armenian Genocide. A long-time Belmont, resident, Shushan was active in many local cultural and educational organizations, including those sponsoring this event. The film is set to Hachikian's piano trio of the same name, which provided the initial inspiration for the documentary.

"Voyage to Amasia" traces a path through the past, honoring the composer's relationship with his grandmother and uncovering what her family's life in Turkey might have been like. It also explores how the events of nearly a century ago continue to strain the relationship between Armenians and Turks today. Inspired by one family's story, the filmmakers embark on their own journey in the hopes of finding a

greater understanding between two peoples still at odds.

Bell is a Washington, DC-based independent filmmaker. His documentary films, which explore subjects as diverse as American popular music, mid-century European modernist architecture and the AIDS orphan crisis in Kenya, have won awards from the Cleveland International Film Festival, the New England Film and Video Festival, and the Ivy Film Festival. He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University in 2000, and his master's in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in 2010.

Hachikian's music has been hailed by the New York Times as "lovely and original." His compositions and orchestrations can be heard in a variety of major motion pictures,

network television shows, and national and international ad campaigns. They have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Boston's Symphony Hall, at The Getty in Los Angeles, and Off-Broadway in New York City.

A reception will take place following the film, with an opportunity to speak with the directors. In honor of Shushan's commitment to the community, this event is being jointly sponsored by the Armenian Library and Museum of America, the Friends of Armenian Culture Society, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, and the Armenian Cultural Foundation. Admission is free and open to the public.

"The filmmakers embark on their own journey in the hopes of finding a greater understanding between two peoples still at odds."



ԹԵՔԵԱՆ ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹԱՅԻՆ ՄԻՈՒԹԻՒՆ

ԱՆՆԱԽՐՆՅԱԳ ԽԱՄԵՐՉ ԱՇԽԱՐԽԱԽՈՂՅԱԿ ԵՐՉՋՈՒԽԻ՝

ՄԻՈՒԽ

Առաջին անգամ ըլլալով Մոնթրեալի մէջ
Salle Claude Champagne

Շաբաթ, 20 Հոկտեմբեր 2012, երեկոյեան ժամը 8-ին

Գեղարուեստական ղեկավար,
տաղանդաւոր երգահան-երաժիշտ՝
ՄԱԺԱԿ ԹՈՇԻԿԵԱՆ-Ի

Հնկերակցութեամբ՝ Պոլսահայ տաղանդաւոր դաշնակահար՝
ՊՈՒՐԱԿ ՊԵՏԻԿԵԱՆ-Ի

Մասնակցութեամբ՝ «ԳԱՌՆԻ» պարախումբի եւ
Յատուկ նուագախումբի

\$35 եւ \$50 (թուագրեալ)

«ԱՊԱԳԱՅ» Շաբաթաթերթի ի նպաստ այս ձեռնարկին
Կ'օժանդակէ Մոնթրեալի Պոլսահայ Միութիւնը
Հեռաձայնել՝ 514-747-6680 թուին



First Armenian Church

380 Concord Ave., Belmont, Mass
617-484-4779

FALL HARVEST BAZAAR

Saturday, October 20, 2012
12 Noon – 8:00 PM

Shish, Losh and Chicken Kebab Dinners

Delicious Armenian foods to take home:

Cheese Boreg	String Cheese
Choreg	Kadayif
Manti	Paklava
Kufte	Yalanchi

Premium Dried Fruits and Nuts
and Much More!

Come visit our marketplace:
Attic Treasures, New & Gently Used Children's Books & Toys, etc.
plus Children's Fun Activities!

Law Office of
Greg Krikorian
978-844 7401 

Cost Effective Legal Solutions

FREE Initial Consultation - Seniors 10% DISCOUNT

Business - Real Estate - Wills, Trusts & Estates
Divorce - Personal Injury – Bankruptcy - Immigration

185 Alewife Brook Pkwy -Suite 416- Cambridge, MA 02138
Հայերէն Կ'խոսինք info@gkklegal.com

Advertise in the Mirror-Spectator



ARTS & LIVING

Arlington International Film Festival Oct. 17-21 to Feature 'Grandma's Tattoos'

ARLINGTON, Mass. — The Arlington International Film Festival (AIFF) is a celebration of cultures as well as a platform for recognizing the common global human experience. The festival's mission aims to foster appreciation for different cultures by exploring the lives of people around the globe through independent film — to nurture the next generation of filmmakers within our community.

The festival features narrative, documentary, experimental and animated features and shorts, including a special category of short submissions from local high school and college filmmakers. Several World, East Coast, and Massachusetts premieres will be featured during the five-day festival.

The second AIFF, scheduled for October 17–21 at Regent Theatre, will open with the film awarded Best of Festival, "All Me: The Life and Times of Winfred Rembert." Filmmaker Vivian Ducat and subject Rembert will be participating in a moderated discussion/Q&A session following the screening.

A feature documentary, the film chronicles the life of Rembert, a 66-year-old African-American who grew up in Cuthbert, Ga. Rembert spent most of his childhood working



Still from "Grandma's Tattoos"

in the cotton and peanut fields. When he could attend school he loved drawing but not much else. Attendance at a civil rights demonstration got him thrown in jail without charges or a trial. An escape over a year later resulted in a prison sentence, but only after Rembert had survived an attempted lynching. While serving seven years on Georgia chain gangs, Rembert fell in love with both his future wife and with leather as an art medium. Life and eight children intervened after prison; it was not until 1995 that Rembert began to carve, tool and then dye pictures on leather in his studio in the front room of his home in New Haven, Conn. Most of his colorful art depicts scenes and themes from African American life in segregated Cuthbert, and from the time he spent on those chain gangs. His work was exhibited at the Yale University Art Gallery in 2000 and a triptych about a lynching was acquired by Yale for their permanent collection. Rembert subsequently exhibited at various other venues. His first major catalogued one-man exhibition was presented in New York in 2010 by Adelson Galleries in association with Peter Tillou Works of Art.

Rembert and his family still live in New

Haven's inner city. In 2012 a traveling exhibition, a retrospective of Rembert's art, was curated by the Hudson River Museum, where it showed from February to May. It exhibited at the Greenville Art Museum in Greenville, SC, through August 2012.

On Saturday, October 20, among the films that will be shown will be "Grandma's Tattoos." At 6:45 p.m., Martin Haroutunian and friends will perform Armenian music, with a discussion with the director after the film. Filmmaker Suzanne Khardalian makes a journey into her own family to investigate the terrible truth behind her late grandma's odd tattoos. Her grandma was always a bit strange, never liking physical contact and covered with unusual marks. Everybody in the family seemed to know the story, but no-one ever spoke about it. So when grandma's mystery is slowly unveiled, family taboos are broken down and Suzanne exposes the bigger story — the fate of the Armenian women driven out of Ottoman Turkey during the First World War. The painful journey behind Suzanne's grandma's tattoos unfolds through Armenia, Lebanon, Sweden and Syria, finally bringing out the truth.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 17 — Haigazian University Trustees Banquet in Honor of Joyce Philibosian Stein, Ellis Island honoree, Sheraton Universal Ballroom, Los Angeles. Social hour, 6 p.m., dinner, 7 p.m. For more information, call (323) 456-8031 or joyceabdulian@gmail.com.

MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 17-25 — Muriel Mirak-Weissbach book presentation of *Madmen at the Helm: Pathology and Politics in the Arab Spring*, on four dates:

- **OCTOBER 17** — with panel discussion with Prof. Roger Owen, author of *The Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life*. This program is presented as part of the Partners in Public Dialogue program at Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact info@osmh.org or call (618) 482-6439;

- **OCTOBER 18** — BookEnds, 559 Main St., Winchester, Thursday, 7 p.m. For information, (781) 721-5933 or www.bookendswinchester.com;

- **OCTOBER 21** — Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441 Mystic St., Arlington, Sunday, 3 p.m. For information, (781) 646-3090; and

- **OCTOBER 25** — Robbins Public Library, 700 Mass. Ave., Arlington, Thursday, 7 p.m.

OCTOBER 20 — The Fall Harvest Bazaar, Saturday, from 12 noon to 8 p.m. The First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont. Handmade choreg, manti, Armenian pastries and more. Grilled kebab all day. Browse the Marketplace. All are welcome. Info, www.firstarmenianchurch.org or call 617-484-4779.

OCTOBER 25 — K. George and Carolann S. Najarian Endowed Lecture on Human Rights. Speaker: Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian, founding director, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Rice University and former US ambassador to Israel (1992-1994) and the Syrian Arab Republic (1988-1991). Faneuil Hall, Boston. Thursday, 7 p.m. An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park. Free and open to the public.

OCTOBER 27 — Saturday, AWWA Annual Luncheon Auction, Burlington Marriott, 11 a.m. Silent Auction and bidding, \$50 per person. Contact awwauction@gmail.com or call JoAnn Janjigian at 781-329-4398.

NOVEMBER 1 — Save the date. An Evening with the AUA Administration Team. American University of Armenia (AUA) president, Dr. Bruce Boghosian to speak, along with top university administrators to review AUA's academic and institutional accomplishments during its 20 years of operation in Armenia and the strategic plans that will shape the future of the university. Details on venue and start time to follow.

NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 21 — Hye Doon (Armenian American Support and Educational Center), 35th Anniversary Celebration, with the par-



The First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont, Mass., will hold their Fall Harvest Bazaar, Saturday, October 20, from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Handmade choreg, manti, Armenian pastries and more will be available, as will kebab and the Marketplace. All are welcome. For more information, visit www.firstarmenianchurch.org or call 617-484-4779.

icipation of Akh'Tamar Dance Ensemble of the Hye Doon, Arev Armenian Folk Ensemble of Hamazkayin of Boston, Sunday, 3:45 p.m. Bergen County Academics, 200 Hackensack, NJ 07601. All net proceeds to benefit the Hovnanian Armenian School. Tickets: \$50, \$35 and \$25. For tickets, call Sonya Bekarian, (201) 315-5916; Juliyet Tabibian, (201) 233-0326; Nivart Arslan, (201) 475-0224; Maral Kalishian, (845) 729-1888; Maral Kaprielian, (201) 289-6486; Lina Bakhtirian, (732) 299-1120; Linda Gezdir, (201) 394-6310 or the school, (201) 967-5940.

NOVEMBER 17-18 — Musical theater presentation by TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group, Yervant Odian's "Love and Laughter" (Ser yev Dzidzagh), directed by Krikor Satamian, with more than 20 actors participating. Dwight Englewood High School, Englewood Cliffs, 8 p.m. on Saturday and 4 p.m. on Sunday. \$25, \$35, \$50. For tickets, call Marie Zokian or Noushig Atamian.

NOVEMBER 18 — Join the TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group Cast Party to celebrate "Love and Laughter." Special honoree, Karnig Nercessian, one of the founding members of the TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group. St. Thomas Armenian Church, East Clinton Ave. & 9W, Tenafly. 8 p.m. Donation: \$30. BYOB. For tickets, call Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850, Maro Hajkian (201) 934-3427 or Noushig Atamian (718) 344-5582.

Pianist Arghamanyan To Perform Recitals in Boston, Philadelphia And New York

PIANIST, from page 11

In April Arghamanyan released her debut recording with solo works by Rachmaninoff for the Dutch label Pentatone. This is followed by a Liszt concerto disc (to be released this month) with the Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra and Alain Altinoglu. Previously the Analekta label released a disc of the sonatas by Rachmaninoff and Liszt to great acclaim. In the liner notes for the solo Rachmaninoff album, she writes about her convictions and affinity for the composer's music: "I think American writer Kurt Vonnegut may have been inspired by Rachmaninoff's artistry when he prescribed his own epitaph 'the only proof he needed for the existence of God was Music.' If my performances can elicit even a single soul to ponder the same thoughts, I would feel gratified."

Sunday's performance at the Gardner museum will feature music of Bach (Partita No. 2 in C-Minor), the Fantasiestucke Op. 12 by Schumann and a set of Etude Tableaux by Sergei Rachmaninoff. More information about the concert can be found at www.gardnermuseum.org.

Arghamanyan repeats her recital program in Philadelphia on October 24 at the American Philosophical Society, presented by the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society (www.pcmsconcerts.org), and in New York on October 28 at Lincoln Center's Walter Reade Theatre (www.lcgreatperformers.org).

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



KAROUN
Restaurant

Armenian Mid-Eastern Cuisine

Entertainment Fridays
and Saturdays

Eurdolian Family



COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN
Mirror-Spectator

Established 1932
An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

COPY EDITOR

Dilani Yogarantnam

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:
Edmond Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

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

CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian
Boston - Nancy Kalajian
Philadelphia - Lisa Manookian

Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair Hovsepian

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

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509
Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U.S.A.	\$80 a year
Canada	\$125 a year
Other Countries	\$190 a year

© 2011 The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Boston, MA
and additional mailing offices.

ISSN 0004-234X

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

Other than the editorial, views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the policies of the publisher.

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

Baikar Association, Inc.

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

COMMENTARY

Fallout from an Iranian Crisis

By Edmond Y. Azadian

When we characterize the Middle East as a powder keg which might explode at any moment, we are using a cliché commonly cited in today's political discourse.

As the tensions rise there, the ramifications reverberate around the world. At the present time, when motorists pay through their noses at the gas pump, they seldom realize that the fluctuations in oil prices correspond with the war rhetoric in and about the Middle East. The news media has refined its brainwashing capacity to such a sophisticated degree that the average citizen is at the mercy of demagogues.

The concern over Iran's nuclear prospects has contributed to the tensions in the Middle East, especially at the prodding of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been pushing the Obama administration to draw the "red line" in front of Tehran, threatening military action, if Iran crosses that red line.

The Israeli prime minister's insistence went so far recently that an op-ed piece in the New York Times advised President Obama to draw a "red line" in front of Netanyahu to stop him from meddling in the US presidential politics.

After Republican candidate for President Gov. Mitt Romney's pilgrimage to Israel and his pledge of complete surrender (Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, Palestinians inferior to Israelis), hopes were raised within the Israeli leadership that the Obama administration would rush to match Romney's rhetoric, courting the support of the Jewish voters. A contender may promise the sky, yet the leaders in charge of a country's destiny cannot act recklessly. Given the continuing bloodshed in Iraq and Afghanistan, when a combined number of 6,500 US troops have been sacrificed with more than 50,000 veterans disabled or gripped by suicide fever, the Obama administration reacted more responsibly, staying the course and insisting that economic sanctions had been working in dampening Iran's nuclear hopes.

Ironically, the policy paid off and President Obama's ratings in the polls rose significantly, driving home the truth that people in the US are tired of continuous wars which have had a catastrophic impact on the US economy, parallel to the human losses.

In view of these developments, Netanyahu toned down his bellicose rhetoric.

Under the pressure of the sanctions, Iran's currency, the rial, recently suffered a 40-percent depreciation, touching off riots in the streets there.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the protests in Iran linked to the country's weakening currency are causing Israeli officials to reconsider the likelihood of a strike against Iranian nuclear targets.

Iran, in its turn, raised its own war rhetoric, which must not have

been lost on observers. Indeed, the former chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps announced to Press TV that "if the Israelis attack, Iran's deterrent power would deal a mortal blow to them and that the Israeli death toll would not be less than 10,000."

All this exchange of rhetoric has been flying over the heads of neighboring nations, which will suffer most should a conflagration be triggered. Armenia, being on the front line, will become the first one to be affected.

The US has befriended medieval potentates in the Gulf Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, using the euphemistic description of "moderate regimes" to cover up the political compromise of its own democratic principles. Therefore, Armenia is entitled to choose its own friends (especially when its lifeline hinges on that choice) regardless if those friends are viewed as less democratic in the Western lexicon of double-standards.

Iran has been a friend of Armenia for centuries. Armenians have enjoyed prosperity during the rule of the Shah and they have been treated with dignity even under the Islamic Republic. As Georgia is conniving with Azerbaijan against it, Armenia has a more reliable route with the outside world through Iran.

Plus, through political necessity, the two countries have been drawn closer together.

Iran is a huge country with abundant energy resources which it has also been trading with Armenia. Iran is the 18th largest country in the world, with a land mass of 636,372 square miles that can cover the UK, France, Germany and Spain, combined. Its population is 75 million, with Persians accounting for 61 percent of the population, Azeris 16 percent and Kurds 10 percent.

Unlike the Ottomans, Ittihadists and Kemalists who exterminated Armenians to take over their historic homeland, the Persian rulers have valued Armenians as creative and enterprising people and they have encouraged them to be integrated into their societies. An example of that "tough love" was expressed by Shah Abbas, in the early 17th century, who forced Armenians from Julfa (Jugha) in Nakhichevan, Armenia, to migrate to Persia and form New Julfa, in Isfahan, to contribute to the economic development of his country.

The war rhetoric around Iran has another dimension, which no longer is kept as a secret but is discussed publicly: the plan is to implode Iran along ethnic fault lines and to snatch the northern region (Iranian Azerbaijan) and attach it to the Republic of Azerbaijan, the dynastic property of the Aliyev clan, ruled by another "moderate" despot, to please the West. If this indeed happens, it will create a huge docile country in the region, at the expense of Armenia, which would face a more formidable, larger enemy, supported and armed by Turkey and Israel.

The fallout from any military attack on Iran or any territorial partition will translate into a catastrophic blow to a beleaguered Armenia.

Curtailing an NGO and Political Debate in Armenia

By David Ignatius

The campaign against Western-backed NGOs is spreading to Armenia, where a former foreign minister is accused of "money laundering" because he accepted contributions from the father of former US presidential candidate Jon Huntsman to support civil-society projects.

The target is Vartan Oskanian, a US-educated Armenian who served as foreign minister from 1998 to 2008 and then started a non-governmental organization called Civilitas. The allegation is that Jon Huntsman Sr.'s contribution of nearly \$2 million, described in detail on Civilitas's Web site, violates Armenian laws.

At the heart of the case, according to analysts in Armenia, is politics — and whether Armenia will have open, multiparty debates or follow Russia back into Soviet-style authoritarian government. The Armenian National Security Service has revoked Oskanian's parliamentary immunity, in what's described by the local media as a prelude to criminal prosecution.

The move to prosecute Oskanian began after he allied himself in early 2012 with the opposition Prosperous Armenia Party and then announced that he would not support a coalition with President Serge Sargsian and his ruling party. Sargsian's government has been a solid ally of Russia; Oskanian is seen as more independent and potentially pro-Western.

The legal battle in Yerevan, Armenia's capital, might seem like a small sideshow on the

world stage, but it illustrates an important and worrying trend. In Moscow and other former Soviet capitals, NGOs are being squeezed by the authorities, who see them as potential vehicles for popular protest and political change. This month, Russia announced it was expelling the US Agency for International Development, which has funded many Russian NGOs. A similar squeeze is evident in Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Belarus, as well as in many Muslim countries, such as Egypt and Pakistan.

The Civilitas case is interesting in part because of the involvement of the father of Jon Huntsman. The senior Huntsman has an active philanthropist in Armenian since the 1988 earthquake and is said by Civilitas to have contributed about \$20 million to Armenian causes. When Huntsman International, a family company, decided in 2010, to close its Armenian subsidiary, Huntsman Building Products, the company directed in a written message that the proceeds should go to Oskanian for the benefit of Civilitas. The sale produced about \$2 million, of which \$577,000 went directly to Civilitas and \$1.4 million to Oskanian, for future distribution. (Oskanian said he has already sent another \$548,000 to Civilitas, with the rest to follow.)

Civilitas produces a newspaper and an Internet television news show, which are independent voices in a country where most media outlets are controlled by the government. Oskanian and Civilitas have attracted international donations, including government grants from Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Switzerland, the UK and the United States.

They have also received private grants from the Eurasia Partnership Foundation and the German Marshall Fund (GMF). (Full disclosure: I am a GMF trustee and have met Oskanian at several international conferences.)

John Heffern, the US ambassador to Armenia, visited Civilitas in June, along with a group of European ambassadors, and then spoke with a reporter from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Armenia service. He called the move against the organization "troubling" and added: "Civilitas is a very important partner for us, and we think it's really important for Armenia politically and for the media." Civilitas has an international advisory board that includes Stephen Bosworth, a US former ambassador who is dean of Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, where Oskanian took a graduate degree.

The decision to go after Oskanian and Huntsman, two prominent and widely respected figures, is scary because it illustrates how far the authorities are willing to go in the former Soviet republics in curtailing debate. Just a few years ago, Russia and its former satellites were brimming with civil-society projects and NGOs, whose links to the West gave a cosmopolitan feel to once-dreary capitals of the old Soviet empire. You can see a figurative door swinging shut in the moves over the past year to suppress Western contamination — and the freer political debate the NGOs have encouraged.

(This column originally appeared in the *Washington Post* on September 29.)



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Two Congressmen Battle Over Armenian-American Votes

This is the second part of the debate between two Democratic Representatives Howard Berman and Brad Sherman, held at the Ferrahian School's Avedissian Hall in Encino, Calif., on September 29. The debate was organized by the Armenian National Committee of America, Western Region.

Representative Sherman: "We need to recognize the Genocide not only for Armenia, not only for America, but the Turkish state will never be a modern state until it comes to grip with its own history." Criticizing the US government's reluctance to use the term Armenian Genocide, Representative Sherman asked: "What kind of superpower cowers before history? What kind of superpower worries about Turkish threats? Dozens of parliaments around this world have recognized the Genocide. It is about time for Congress to have the same level of courage!"

In response to a question on what the two Congressmen would do to encourage America's allies such as Israel to recognize the Armenian Genocide, Representative Berman

stated that "it is audacious for a country that itself hasn't recognized the Armenian Genocide, to start telling other countries what they should be doing. So number one: get this [genocide] resolution passed, and push and persuade the Executive Branch to support what the Congress has done, and then you do want to make it into an international consensus. But, we are not effectively going to tell a government that they should do something that we haven't yet done..."

Representative Sherman: "I'm proud that Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, recognizes the Armenian genocide; proud that the Holocaust Museum in Washington does the same. We need to recognize the Armenian Genocide at the U.S. government level, but I for one have the chutzpah to urge my Israeli friends to do it even before we do it. And the politics in Israel are a little different. Here, there is still this mirage that somehow Turkey is the critical American ally. In Israel, that same mirage was more or less shattered recently, and so we may indeed find that Israel is able to beat the United States in recognizing the first genocide of the 20th century. And given the history of Israel and the history of the Jewish people, I think it's an important thing to do. So I for one don't believe we should wait to urge Israel to move forward, but we should be inspired to move forward ourselves as quickly as possible."

Panelist Harut Sassounian: "I would like to clarify something for the record based on the answers that you both gave. Before we give any wiggle room for Israel to wait for us to pronounce judgment on this issue, I think we would do well to remember that in 1975 and in 1984, twice, the House of Representatives, the full House, adopted resolu-

tions recognizing the Armenian Genocide. So Israel doesn't have to wait for the US to do it first. We've already done it twice, so they can do it once at least, in the meantime."

Representative Berman: "For historical reasons Israel should do it, particularly Israel, should do it."

Representative Sherman: Israel is going to recognize the Armenian Genocide "because it is the moral and right thing to do and because the historical record is there."

In response to a question on whether the United States should stop paying rent to the Turkish government for the Airbase in Incirlik, Turkey – located on occupied Armenian territories – and pay that money to the heirs of original Armenian owners, Representative Sherman stated: "I look forward to developing a foreign policy where we are less dependent upon the use of bases in Turkey, because I've seen them try to lobby the Pentagon, to lobby Congress not to recognize the Genocide on the theory that, 'oh, you need our bases.' We can and should work with our other southeast Asian NATO allies to have a basing structure that does not require us to be paying rent to the Turkish state. ...However, as long as our base is on that land, that becomes an excellent argument for additional aid to the Armenian state because we're on that territory."

Representative Berman: "...One of the arguments made in Congress against the genocide resolution is 'Oh the Turks will kick us out of Incirlik.' The Turks have no intention of kicking us out of Incirlik. They want us there; they're desperate to have us there. This is a smokescreen. This is an argument that people who are fronting for the Turkish position use to scare Congress into thinking there'll be great dangers to our national security."

(to be continued)

Armenian-Americans at RNC 2012: Support Mitt Romney for President

By Taniel Koushajian

Every four years, the campaign for the highest office of the land takes place. As candidates from the Republican Party navigated the choppy waters of the primary storm this election season, one man sailed to victory: former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney. Winning the party's nomination was no easy feat and on several occasions, the media and members of his own party, were quick to write him off. However, Mitt Romney and his campaign rose to the challenge, and secured the 1,190 Republican Party Delegates necessary to clinch the nomination. No doubt, the battles he faced in the primary contest will come in handy when he goes head-to-head with President Obama.

Among these Republican Party Delegates, who are elected within their respective state party systems, were six Armenian-Americans. The states of Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan and Rhode Island were each represented by an official GOP Delegate of Armenian descent.

Harout Samra, an attorney in Miami said, "it was a privilege to attend the Republican National Convention as a delegate for Florida. Coming to the floor of the Convention hall for the first time was very exciting. Frankly, I did not expect to be as moved as I was. It was a great honor to have been selected to represent my fellow Floridians. That came home to me as I reached the floor. I genuinely enjoy interacting with people from different backgrounds. The United States is a remarkably diverse place, and I believe this diversity was represented not only in our delegation, but also in those of the other states. Florida's delegation included first-generation Americans, such as myself, and long-time natives. It included Indian-Americans, Cuban-Americans, and even one Armenian-American.

"Governor Romney knows and understands the issues that are important to Armenian-Americans. Living in Belmont and serving as the Governor of Massachusetts, he's had more important contacts and relationships with the Armenian-American community than any President since Ronald Reagan. He will not mislead us and pander



to us to get Armenian-American votes like President Obama.

"Governor Romney is the right man for the moment. He understands how to turn around the economy at home and to ensure that America is respected abroad. Unlike President Obama, Governor Romney's top priority will be to create an environment that leads to more jobs and spurs economic growth," stated Samra.

Another Republican Party Delegate, Bob Semonian, state chairman of Massachusetts Republican Party-Ethnic Outreach expressed that he was "thrilled to attend the Republican National Convention in Tampa this year. Americans want honesty in the White House and Mitt Romney is an honest man who will best represent all of America," stated Semonian, who also serves as the Armenian-Americans for Mitt Romney Coalition Massachusetts state chair.

From the Great Lakes State was Krista Haroutunian, who serves as the Republican Party chair for the 13th Congressional District. She stated, "My time at the 2012 RNC was extremely important and made me proud to be American, an Armenian, and from Detroit, Michigan." Haroutunian continued, "The first concern of an American, of whatever cultural or ethnic background,

is the independence, freedom, and well-being of Americans. This allows us to be able to express concerns for Armenian issues and to assist appropriately.

"Mr. Romney knows that the founding fathers of America had great concerns about dictatorial attitudes and insisted upon a separation of powers – something Mr. Obama has side-stepped for the better part of four years. Mr. Romney wants to return to a Constitutional government through our elected Representatives. Mr. Obama wants all-pervasive government with the decision makers being unelected bureaucrats.

"The choice is clear – constitutional guarantees and responsibilities to preserve the rule of law versus arbitrary actions from a few with no guarantees of the rule of law. For all Armenians and all Americans, Mitt Romney is the best choice."

Over the course of this year, several Armenian-Americans across the country, including the author, have been challenged on our positions of supporting Governor Romney over President Obama. "What do you expect from Romney that will be different than Obama," is the common intrigue. To put it plainly, like all Americans, we expect leadership, honesty and values from

our elected officials. When it comes to Armenian issues, President Obama failed to fulfill his campaign pledge to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide as President. That calls into question his honesty. President Obama's nomination and subsequent recess appointment of Matthew Bryza to serve as Ambassador to Azerbaijan was opposed by Senators of his own party, not to mention many Armenian-Americans. That calls into question his ability to lead. And the silence of the Obama administration on the destruction, confiscation and profiteering of Christian Armenian religious properties by the Turkish Government, as well as Azerbaijan's completed destruction of centuries-old Armenian Khachkars at Julfa, call into question his values.

From Fresno to Philadelphia, from Manchester to Miami, from Detroit to Denver, from Waukesha to Washington, DC, Armenian-Americans have expressed their frustration with President Obama, and many former Armenian supporters of his are now backing Mitt Romney for president. In fact, one prominent Armenian-American who supported President Obama in 2008, and is now backing Governor Romney, expressed as much to the author. Speaking on condition of anonymity, she shared her frustration: "Senator Obama chose to promise, in campaign speeches and written outreach, recognition of the 1915 Genocide of Armenians at the hands of Ottoman Turks. He fully understood the importance of that issue to the Armenian American community and indeed to all right thinking Americans. Americans deserve a President who knows his principles and makes his decisions in accordance with those principles. Americans deserve a President who has integrity. So why come November would I vote for a President who over the course of four years has delivered precious little and lied to us and other communities?"

Indeed, why would we? She then confessed, "I'll take a chance on Romney."

(Taniel Koushajian is the manager of the Armenian-Americans for Mitt Romney Coalition. The Armenian-Americans for Mitt Romney Coalition is not affiliated with Mitt Romney for President. The group's Facebook page can be visited at www.facebook.com/armenianamericansforromney or on Twitter @Armenians4Mitt.)



**The K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, M.D. Lecture on Human Rights
Endowed Public Program of the Armenian Heritage Foundation,
Sponsor of
Armenian Heritage Park on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, Boston**

Honorary Chairs

Governor Deval L. Patrick
Mayor Thomas M. Menino

Armenian Heritage Foundation

Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian
Registrar Rachel Kaprielian
James M. Kalustian, President

In partnership with

Boston Women's Heritage Trail
Susan Goganian, Chair

The Bostonian Society

Joshua Young, Chair
Brian W.J. LeMay, Executive Director

Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy

Georgia Murray, Chair
Nancy Brennan, Executive Director

Co-Chairs:

Charlie Clements, Executive Director
Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Martha F. Davis, J.D., Faculty Director
Northeastern School of Law, Human Rights and the Global Economy

Michael A. Grodin, M.D., Director
Global Lawyers and Physicians: Working Together for Human Rights, Boston University

David Hollenbach, S.J., Director
Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice

Shant Mardirossian, Chair
Near East Foundation

Deborah W. Nutter, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean
Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Ph.D., Director
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Human Rights and Justice

Joshua Rubenstein, Senior Advisor
Amnesty International USA

Adam Strom, Chief Officer for Content
Facing History and Ourselves

In collaboration with:

Donna McKay, Executive Director
Physicians for Human Rights

Robert Rivers, General Manager
Millennium Bostonian Hotel

Former Speakers:

2011 Paul Rusesabagina
2010 Kerry Kennedy

Lecture Committee:

Carolann Najarian, M.D.
Joyce Barsam, Ph.D.
Phyllis Dohanian
Linda Kaboolian, Ph.D.
Audrey Kalajian
Barbara Tellalian

In celebration of the opening of Armenian Heritage Park



**Ambassador
Edward P. Djerejian**

Date & Time: **Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 7pm**

Place: **Faneuil Hall, Boston**

Speaker: **Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian**

An Ambassador's Reflections on U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East and Caucasus

Founding Director, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Rice University, Ambassador Djerejian was the former U.S. Ambassador to Israel (1992-1994) and to the Syrian Arab Republic (1988-1991).

Ambassador Djerejian has served in the U.S. Foreign Service for eight Presidents from John F. Kennedy to William J. Clinton (1962-1994). Prior to his nomination by President Clinton as U.S. Ambassador to Israel, he was Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs in both the George H.W. Bush and Clinton administrations (1991-1993). After his retirement from government service in 1994, he became founding director of the Baker Institute. His book "Danger and Opportunity: An American Ambassador's Journey Through the Middle East" was published by Simon & Schuster (2008). In 2011 he was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and named to the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Join us for our third annual lecture

Free and open to the public

About the Lecture on Human Rights

This endowed lecture at Faneuil Hall has been inspired by the New England women and men - intellectuals, politicians, diplomats, religious leaders and citizens - who from 1895-1918 at Faneuil Hall heard the eyewitness accounts of the atrocities taking place against the Armenian minority of the Ottoman Empire and spoke passionately about the urgent need for intervention. Relief workers, missionaries and diplomats including the U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau provided accounts. Many who heard these accounts were moved to action. Distinguished Bostonians, among them Julia Ward Howe, Clara Barton, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Alice Stone Blackwell, heard these accounts and were moved to assist the Armenians. As a result, the American Red Cross launched its first international mission with Clara Barton bringing aid to the Armenians. Philanthropists nationwide raised over \$100 million in support. This was America's first internationally focused human rights movement. Source: Peter Balakian, *The Burning Tigris, The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*. HarperCollins, 2003

A Century Later

Just as these brave and noble witnesses gave voice to those in crisis and mobilized the gathering of Bostonians at Faneuil Hall which was to spark a nationwide response, it is our hope that this lecture will serve to refocus our attention, not only on past events, but upon the critical human rights issues of today, inspiring us to meaningful action.

"This endowed lecture on human rights, a public program of the Armenian Heritage Park, is in my father's honor as he taught so many about the need to pay attention, spot injustice and speak out wherever and whenever it occurs." -

Carolann S. Najarian, M.D.