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Armenian Plane En Route to Syria Grounded, Searched In Turkey

ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkey ordered an Armenian plane flying to the Syrian city of Aleppo to land and searched its cargo on Monday, October 15, Ankara's latest move to prevent its airspace being used to supply the Syrian military.

The plane was allowed to continue on its way after the search in the eastern Turkish city of Erzerum confirmed it was carrying humanitarian aid as stated by Armenian officials, a Turkish deputy prime minister said.

Turkey forced down a Syrian airliner that had come from Moscow last week, and said it had found Russian munitions on board destined for Syria's armed forces.

NATO-member Turkey has become increasingly assertive in challenging Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in the face of growing tensions along the border and banned all Syrian aircraft from its airspace in the wake of that incident.

"The plane was ordered to land and it was inspected. It was clear that the declaration was correct and the plane was given permission to take off," Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc told reporters.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Turkey had the sovereign right under the Chicago convention on civil aviation to require planes crossing its airspace to make a "technical landing" but did not say whether this right would be exercised in future.

Armenia confirmed it had known the plane would be searched.

"The landing of the airplane in Turkey was planned and it was carried out according to a previously-reached agreement. The airplane is delivering humanitarian aid to Syria," Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman Tigran Balayan said.

Aleppo has a sizeable ethnic Armenian minority.

Armenia Fund Marks 20th with Rousing Gala



From left, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian and Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan

NEW YORK – The stage was set for a grand celebration, as the Armenia Fund USA 20th Anniversary Gala commenced on Saturday, September 29 at Manhattan's Gotham Hall. Located at the intersection of old world substance and digital-age functionality, the space proved worthy of the A-list participants.

On a clear night illuminated by a Harvest Moon, the seeds of celebration, planted over one year ago, came to fruition.

By 7:30 p.m., the cocktails were flowing freely in the Oak Room, a mezzanine encased in rich wood paneling and overlooking the Grand Ballroom. Once the festivities moved downstairs, the official program began in earnest with mezzo-soprano Solange Merdianian singing the American and Armenian national anthems.

see GALA, page 8

Last week's decision to force down and search the Syrian plane travelling from Russia infuriated Moscow and Damascus.

Russia has said there were no weapons on the plane and that it was carrying a legal cargo of radar equipment. But Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov later said the incident would not hurt the countries' "solid" relations.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip

Erdogan repeated on Monday Ankara's charge that the airliner was carrying military equipment. The packages seized from the plane bore the name KBP Instrument Design Bureau, a Russian weapons manufacturer, and the recipient was the Syrian Defense Ministry, he said.

"The material (being exchanged) between these two institutions, which is now in our hands, is definitely warfare material," Erdogan said. "There is no reason to contort this by calling it radar equipment or something else. In any case, radar material is used for the purpose of war."

see PLANE, page 3

Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem Dies after Lengthy Illness



The late Patriarch Torkom Manoogian

By Arthur Hagopian

JERUSALEM – Clouds scud across the Jerusalem sky, carrying aloft with them the hopes and aspirations of the city's tiny community of poets, artisans and dreamers, the Armenians.

As they pause in their daily labor to mourn the passing of their spiritual leader, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, on October 12, many wonder what the future holds for them and for their church.

The death of the 93-year-old patriarch who called himself, poetically, TAM or Shen-Mah, is bound to have a profound

impact not only on the life and times of the Armenians of Jerusalem, but on the Armenian diaspora as well.

Armenians all over the world regard Jerusalem, the city of Christ, as their second holiest sanctuary after Echmiadzin, although it wasn't the quest for religious rejuvenation that first brought ancestors people to Jerusalem: they had arrived with the

see MANOOGIAN, page 10

Rev. Papken Maksoudian Dies at 103

Champion of Armenian Sacred Religious Traditions

ARLINGTON, Mass. – Rev. Papken Maksoudian, 104, a survivor of the massacres of Adana of 1909 and the Armenian Genocide of 1915, died on October 15, 2012 at home.

Maksoudian and his wife, Yeretgin Azadouhie, were instrumental in founding and supporting the Tekeyan Cultural Association's Vahan Tekeyan School Auxiliary Committee, which helped needy children of the Vahan Tekeyan School in Lebanon.

see MAKSOUDIAN, page 16



Rev. Papken Maksoudian

NEWS IN BRIEF

US Ambassador Concerned over Oskanian Charges

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern says criminal charges filed against former Armenian Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian are "bad for justice and democracy in Armenia."

The National Security Service summoned Oskanian on October 8, formally charging him with misappropriation of \$1.4 million donated by a US philanthropist to Oskanian's Yerevan-based Civilitas Foundation in late 2010.

Oskanian denies the charges, calling them politically motivated and aimed at derailing his chances for a Prosperous Armenia Party victory in the February 2013, presidential election.

Heffern stated that the timing of the charges against Oskanian was "troubling" and called on the Armenian government to "live up to its commitments to the systematic, fair, and transparent implementation of the rule of law."

Istanbul Church Snubs Government's Compensation Offer

ISTANBUL (Hetq) – The Gedikpasa Armenian Protestant Church in Istanbul has snubbed a financial compensation offered by the Turkish Finance Ministry for a building seized by the government decades ago that now belongs to a third party.

The Turkish government has offered 147,000 Turkish lira (\$82,253) for the four-story church building that once housed an orphanage.

The church had the building appraised at 555,000 Turkish lira (\$304,000) and has asked that the government review its offer.

Yerevan, Baku Exchange Warnings

YEREVAN (Hetq) – In response to a statement made earlier this week by a senior Armenian army official that Yerevan is capable of launching missiles against a potential enemy within a range of 300 kilometers and more, a spokesman for Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry claimed that Baku could strike any strategic facility in Armenia.

Maj.-Gen. Artak Davtyan, who heads the Operations Department of the general headquarters of the Armenian armed forces, told reporters that such missile-attack scenarios were included in recent strategic command exercises in Armenia.

This week, according to the APA news service, Col. Eldar Sabiroglu, a spokesman for Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry, returned the threat.

"The enemy should understand that the new missile systems of the Azerbaijani armed forces can strike any strategic facility of Armenia," Sabiroglu reportedly said.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Russian Humanitarian Center to Be Established in Armenia

YEREVAN (news.am) – Armenian National Security Council Secretary Arthur Baghdasaryan, who was in Moscow on a working visit, on Tuesday met with Russian Federation (RF) Security Council Secretary Nikolai Patrushev.

Following their private talk, the two sides' representatives met, during which they exchanged views on the current situation in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) zone as well as on regional and international security. As a result of the talks, Baghdasaryan and Patrushev signed a protocol.

On the same day, Baghdasaryan met with Vladimir Puchkov, Russia's Minister of Emergency Situations to establish a joint humanitarian center in Armenia.

In addition, Baghdasaryan met with Sergei Ivanov, the chief of staff to the president, discussing the military partnership between Armenia and Russia.

German Scholarship Program Welcomes Armenian Students

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – From March to July, select Armenian students will have the chance to study the German National Assembly, thanks to the German International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS) program.

The program allows participants to communicate with German political figures and participate in the democratic decision-making process. Scholarship holders will work in the offices of Bundestag members of parliament and study at one of the Berlin universities.

A representative of the Bundestag, Wolfgang Byornzen, said of the program: "One of the goals of the 21st century is to struggle for democratic values and announce the democracy all over the world. I believe that all the efforts should be invested to strengthen and deepen the interplanetary relations of Armenia and Germany. It will be a new impetus for the development of tourism as well as economic and cultural ties. Armenian students always show satisfactory results, as they are very active, perceptive and industrious. All those who have worked with students from Armenia are very pleased and have expressed their willingness to cooperate with them in future, so this program is very important for us."

The Bundestag covers all living and travel expenses, including monthly scholarships for students.

In the past six years, 24 Armenian students have received this scholarship to study in Germany.

Austrians Receive Awards in Armenia

YEREVAN (news.am) – Armenia's Education and Science Minister Armen Ashotyan welcomed a group of representatives from Austria's Ministry of Education, Science and Culture this past Tuesday.

Ashotyan expressed his hope that the Austrians' visit to Armenia will strengthen Armenian-Austrian ties.

"Thanks to each and every one of you for your efforts to make our country become more cognizable in Austria, to support the Armenological studies and to keep a special focus on the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic," Ashotyan said to his guests.

Former Austrian official, Alois Söhn, stated that the main objection of the delegation's visit was to better acquaint themselves with Armenian history and culture.

Austria's former federal minister of education, science and culture, Elisabeth Gehr, underscored the importance of strengthening Austrian-Armenian collaboration in the fields of education, science and research.

At the end of the meeting, Ashotyan awarded Gehr and Söhn with the Armenian Education and Science Ministry's highest honor, the Gold Commemorative Medal, for their contribution to science and their pro-Armenian activities.

Oskanian's Legal Defense Team to Seek Dismissal of Case Against Him

YEREVAN (News.am) – Attorney Tigran Atanesyan announced during a press conference Tuesday that he will present a formal petition for the dismissal of the criminal lawsuit filed against his client, Vartan Oskanian, the Civilitas Foundation founder, former foreign minister and Prosperous Armenia Party parliament member.

Atanesyan argued that the criminal charges brought against his client are linked with political developments, and not with actual data. In such a case, these charges would be subject to immediate

dismissal, he said.

Reflecting on the actions taken by the Prosecutor General's Office, Atanesyan noted that its representatives present the conclusions and the charges without regard to evidence. Nonetheless, he said he will continue to pursue the dismissal of the case by legal means.

The National Security Service's (NSS) Department of Investigation has brought formal charges against Vartan Oskanian.

On October 2, the National Assembly voted in favor of the Prosecutor General's petition to include Oskanian as a defen-

dant in a criminal lawsuit.

On May 25, the NSS had filed a criminal lawsuit on charges of money laundering.

The NSS Press Center stated that an investigation is underway in connection with selling the 100-percent shares of the Huntsman Building Products Company for around \$2 million, without informing Armenia's tax authorities of the deal.

Additionally, Oskanian is charged with misuse of charitable donations estimated at \$1,135,000 and transferring this amount to the private bank accounts of Oskanian and Board of Trustees member Tigran Karapetyan, for their private use.

According to the NSS, the Civilitas had not presented a report on the \$2 million allocated for charitable purposes.

The Civilitas Foundation was founded in 2008 by Oskanian. After joining Prosperous Armenia Party prior to the May 6 parliamentary elections, Oskanian relinquished his post as the foundation's chairman.

Head of Russian-Armenian Group Endorses Sargisian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – On Monday, a Kremlin-friendly businessman leading the largest Armenian community organization in Russia voiced his support for President Serge Sargisian's bid for reelection.

Ara Abrahamyan said the governing body of his Moscow-based World Armenian Congress (WAC) officially endorsed Sargisian at a weekend meeting in Yerevan.

"We have no other [presidential] candidates yet. Nobody has nominated [their candidacy]," he said during a WAC congress.

Asked whether he and his group have considered backing an opposition candidate, Abrahamyan stated, "You can't become president in two months. You need a serious preparation for becoming president."

The tycoon added that the WAC decided to endorse the incumbent president in recognition of his policy on the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, pursuit of greater international recognition of the 1915 Armenian Genocide and efforts to bolster Armenia's ties with its worldwide Diaspora. He admitted that many Armenians are dissatisfied with their government's socioeconomic track

record, but said Sargisian possesses no "magic wand" to rapidly improve their plight.

Incidentally, Sargisian attended and delivered a speech at the WAC congress on Monday, where he stressed the Diaspora's importance to the country.

The WAC began in 2003 as an offshoot of Abrahamyan's Union of Armenians of Russia. Russian President Vladimir Putin personally attended the WAC's founding congress in Moscow to show his support for the Armenian-born tycoon's attempt to create a global pan-Armenian organization.

The Armenian government's reaction to the initiative was less than enthusiastic, with former president Robert Kocharian openly expressing misgivings about the idea of placing all major Diaspora communities under a single umbrella structure. Leading Armenian organizations in the US and Western Europe have also questioned the WAC's intentions.

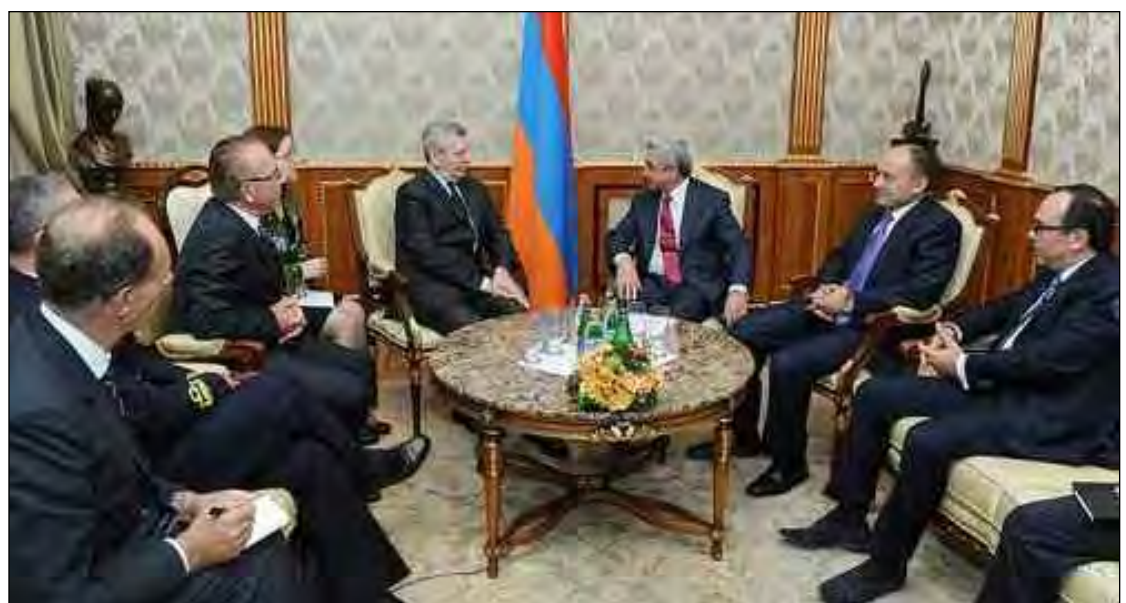
Abrahamyan announced on Monday that the WAC has decided to move its headquarters from Moscow to Yerevan in response to Diaspora allegations that the congress is furthering the Kremlin's agenda.

New Hyatt Hotel to Open in Yerevan Next Spring

YEREVAN (Hetq) – Hyatt Hotels Corporation has announced plans to build a 96-room hotel adjacent to Republic Square. Slated to open in spring 2013, the new Hyatt Place Yerevan will feature a fitness center, an open market, a restaurant and a bar.

"We are proud to develop the first Hyatt Place hotel in Armenia," said Samvel Sargsyan, chairman of the Board, Ginekar Limited Liability Company. "The Hyatt Place brand is a unique and refreshing concept, and we believe that this will be a very successful hotel serving business and tourist visitors to the Armenian capital."

The new hotel will be the third Hyatt establishment under development in Europe, joining Hyatt Place Amsterdam Airport and Hyatt Place Zurich Airport.



President Serge Sargisian, third from right, and Italian Defense Minister Adm. Giampaolo Di Paola, to his right, met in Yerevan on Tuesday.

Armenian President Hosts Italian Defense Minister

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President of Armenia Serge Sargisian hosted Italy's Minister of Defense Adm. Giampaolo Di Paola on October 16. Sargisian greeted Di Paola and his delegation and stressed that Armenia valued its multilateral relations with Italy.

Both men expressed their appreciation for the centuries-old ties between the two peoples.

Di Paola said he knows much about Armenian history and culture through the Mkhitarian library and monastery on St. Lazarus Island in Venice.



INTERNATIONAL

15th Year of AGBU Demirdjian Center's Summer Day Camp Draws Record Number of Attendees

BEIRUT, Lebanon – Another season of educational programs, activities and outings has come to an end as the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Demirdjian Center's Summer Camp, the very first Armenian day camp in Lebanon, celebrated its 15th anniversary.

Since its founding in 1997, the AGBU Demirdjian Center's camp has nearly tripled its attendees, reaching a record-high enrollment of 165 youth this summer. Each year, camp has a different educational theme. This year's theme,

program. Lida Giritlian, who has been sending her two children to the camp for five years, commented, "We, as well as other parents, whether AGBU-affiliated or not, have always felt that the Demirdjian Summer Day Camp will cater to our children's needs. Whether through Armenian language and cultural studies, sports activities, field trips or environmental and social awareness campaigns, our children get what they want during the summer – a lot of fun with their old and new friends, as well as the care and excellent attention of the greater AGBU family."

As in years past, the campers volunteered their time by organizing two community bake sales. Proceeds directly benefited the libraries of the local AGBU schools, the Boghos K. Garmirian Elementary School, the Levon G. Nazarian Elementary School and the Tarouhy-Hovagimian Secondary School, each of which fosters academic excellence in their graduates.

Talar Partyian, whose sons have been attending the AGBU Demirdjian Center's Summer Camp for the past six years, praised the community service initiatives, which also benefit the Lebanese Red Cross. Crediting the camp's emphasis on Armenian cultural heritage, Partyian stated, "As a parent I can only say that this camp is the best venue for my boys to experience the AGBU community. They enjoy attending the camp and have gained so much from the variety of opportunities. They are actively involved in community service, which exposes them to important AGBU values. I am proud and satisfied knowing that they are forging new friendships with other Armenians, speaking their language, reading, dancing and singing Armenian songs."

The culminating event of the camp was Fiesta Night, featuring special performances by all the campers, garnering applause from family and friends. Together in the AGBU Demirdjian Center, campers and supporters not only celebrated this past summer, but the 14 years that had preceded it. A reunion is already planned for the winter.



The AGBU Demirdjian Center's Summer Camp celebrates its 15th anniversary, which saw a record number of 165 youth enrolled.

Amnesty Issues Rights Plea to Rihanna, Shakira Ahead of Azeri Concerts

BAKU (Reuters) – Human rights group Amnesty International urged pop stars Rihanna and Shakira on Friday to open their eyes to recent arrests of journalists, bloggers and activists in Azerbaijan, ahead of their performances there this month.

Both ended up performing on October 13 and 14.

Amnesty and Sing for Democracy said in a joint letter that it wanted to draw the singers' attention to human rights and freedom of speech issues in Azerbaijan.

"Both singers should be aware of the situation in the country post-Eurovision," the letter said, referring to the singing contest in the Azeri capital of Baku in May, which spurred protests and rallies by Azeris demanding democracy.

Authorities in Baku arrested dozens of protesters in May and have since arrested several journalists and political activists.

International rights groups often have criticized Azerbaijan for curbing public dissent, while the government in Baku says Azerbaijanis enjoy full freedom of speech.

"Amnesty International believes that the Azerbaijani government should afford all artists, journalists, activists and ordinary citizens the right to express themselves freely without fear of reprisal. We hope that you share our belief," said the letter to Rihanna and Shakira.

"The Magic of Books," was in honor of the 500th anniversary of Armenian printing. Campers learned about the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which has paid tribute to this anniversary and named Yerevan the "World Book Capital of 2012."

From the start of camp this year, the youth were divided into groups corresponding to five distinct book genres: biographies, comics, encyclopedias, fairy tales and pop-ups. Each allowed the students to deepen their understanding of their cultural heritage. They had the opportunity to share their knowledge during a special visit to the Catholicosate with Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, who has declared 2012 the "Year of the Armenian Book." The catholicos was impressed with the campers' knowledge of Armenian history, as well as their enthusiasm for Armenian literature.

Parents, too, were pleased with the



Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, meets with youth of the AGBU Demirdjian Center's Summer Camp at the Catholicosate to discuss the many facets of Armenian literature.

Armenian Plane en Route to Syria Grounded, Searched In Turkey

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He also downplayed Russian requests for information.

"Russia wants information from us. They don't need to ask us, they can just ask the respective bureau. It's clear from the consignment note," he told a news conference.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said at the weekend that Turkish airspace had been closed to Syrian planes. Syria also banned

Turkish planes from flying over its territory.

The confrontation between Turkey and Syria has escalated in the last two weeks because of cross-border shelling, with Ankara retaliating after five Turkish civilians were killed when a Syrian shell hit a Turkish border town.

The bloodshed inside Syria has worsened markedly in the past two months although neither government nor rebels have been able to gain a decisive advantage.

The increased conflict has fuelled further refugee flows across Syria's borders, with many fleeing to Turkey.

The Turkish disaster management agency (AFAD) said on Monday there were now 100,363 Syrians at more than a dozen camps.

Turkey has said it will struggle to accommodate more than 100,000 and has urged the United Nations to build refugee camps in a safe zone within Syria's borders.

International News

Armenian Minister of Diaspora Concludes Visit to Iran

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Minister of Diaspora of Republic of Armenia Hranush Hakobyan visited Iran earlier this month to take part in events dedicated to the 21st anniversary of the Armenia's independence. In addition, Hakobyan met with Iranian-Armenian figures.

According to the Ministry of Diaspora, Hakobyan visited Tehran's first Armenian church, St. Gevorg. She then visited the Elbis Ferehyan kindergarten, where she acquainted herself with its 70-year history and present activities.

During her visit to the Armenian National Primacy, Hakobyan was accompanied by the Ambassador of Armenia to Iran Grigor Arakelyan, along with Embassy of the Republic of Armenia staff. In the hall of National Primacy, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Tehran, Archbishop Sepuh Sargisyan, greeted Hakobyan.

Minister of Islamic Culture and Primacy, Seyed Muhammad Husani, also welcomed Hakobyan.

Hungarian Armenians to Sue for Safarov's Extradition

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The National Council of Ethnic Armenians in Hungary plans to file a legal claim against the Hungarian government for the decision to transfer Azeri murderer Ramil Safarov to Azerbaijan. The head of the council, Sevan Sarkisian, noted that the charges include abuse of power and bribery, according to daily *Blikk*. There are an estimated 3,500 to 30,000 ethnic Armenians living in Hungary, the daily reported.

Armenia suspended diplomatic relations with Hungary on August 31 when convicted murderer Ramil Safarov was extradited and pardoned in Azerbaijan.

Kapur to Make Film on Armenian Genocide?

BOMBAY (*New York Daily News*) – Noted Indian director, Shekhar Kapur, recently said he might be tempted to make a movie on the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

"Going to Yerevan. Is there an Armenian community in India? Going to Armenia to study massacre of Armenians in 1915 and perhaps make a film on it later," tweeted Kapur this week.

Karadzic Denies Bosnia War Crimes

THE HAGUE (*Belfast Telegraph*) – Former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has claimed he was a peace-lover in an address to his trial for crimes against humanity.

He cast himself as a "mild man, a tolerant man" who tried to prevent war and then worked to reduce casualties in the bloody 1992-95 Bosnian conflict, as he opened his defense in his long-running genocide trial.

Karadzic was given 90 minutes to make a statement on his role in the war that left an estimated 100,000 dead.

Karadzic told the judges he was a reluctant player in the violent break-up of Yugoslavia. "I did everything humanly possible to avoid the war ... I succeeded in reducing the suffering of all civilians."

Prosecutors have painted a starkly different picture of Karadzic during months of witness evidence, portraying him as a political leader who masterminded the persecution and murder of Muslims and Croats.

Karadzic still faces 10 more charges, including one genocide count relating to the Srebrenica massacre.



Community News

UCLA to Host Conference to Mark 500 Years Of Armenian Printing

LOS ANGELES – From November 10 to 11, the Richard Hovannisian Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA will host an international conference titled “Port Cities and Printers: Five Centuries of Global Armenian Print” in honor of Prof. Richard Hovannisian.

From its origins in Venice in 1512, the history of early modern (1500-1800) Armenian print culture was closely entangled with that of port cities, initially in Europe and subsequently in Asia. In fact, virtually every Armenian printing press before 1800 was established either in or close to port cities, and the few that were not, owed their existence to ongoing relations with port locations. Yet, despite the obvious relationship between ports and printers, their synergetic relationship has thus far largely eluded scholarly attention. Convened on the quincentenary of the printing of the first Armenian book, this conference explores the intimate relationship between port cities and printers in the rich history of global Armenian print culture.

The conference will be convened by Dr. Sebouh D. Aslanian, the holder of the Richard Hovannisian Endowed Chair of Modern Armenian History at UCLA, and



Dr. Sebouh D. Aslanian

is co-sponsored by the UCLA Department of History, the UCLA G. E. Von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies, the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the UCLA Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), and is made possible by a grant by Mark Chenian.

The conference will kick off with a keynote address on the topic of the history of books and reading in the early modern Atlantic world, not directly related to Armenian print history, at Royce Hall 314 on Friday at 5 p.m. Starting on Saturday at 9:15 a.m., scholars of Armenian print and book history will hold back-to-back panels on various aspects of Armenian book history ranging from the topic of the crucial shift from manuscript to print culture in the early decades of the 1500s to the relationship between merchants, ports and printers, as well as the social and cultural role of print technology in shaping the arc of Armenian history.

The Saturday and Sunday panels will be held at Rolfe Hall 1200 on the UCLA campus from 9:15 a.m. to 6 p.m. The conference is free and open to the public.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony

Bone Marrow Registry Holds First Walk of Life In New England

WATERTOWN – The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) held its first walkathon in New England, drawing the support of the Armenian community and local organizations. Walk of Life, which took place in Watertown, on September 22, raised \$10,000, including \$3,000 from the Dana Farber Cancer Institute of Boston, a longtime partner of ABMDR. According to the organizing committee, the registry continues to receive contributions from walkathon participants.

“We are very pleased with the turnout and the enthusiasm the walkathon has generated in our community and among our supporters,” said ABMDR Board member Alvard Badalian.

More than 100 participants started their walk from the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center on Nichols Avenue, where committee member Rubina Varjabedian welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. “As you know, our mission at the registry is to help save lives – lives of our loved ones, who are struck by leukemia or similar blood disorders,” she said.

“I know firsthand what it means for a family to go through the pain and agony of such a disease,” Varjabedian continued. “That is why my husband and I have made a commitment to remain engaged in activities such as the walkathon today.” She then invited Very Rev. Raphael Andonian of the Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church and Rev. Arakel Aljalian, pastor of St. James Armenian Church, to offer prayers before starting the walk.



see WALK, page 7



The Erebuni Armenian School Team

Cambridge Parish Honors Past, Looks to The Future

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Parishioners of Holy Trinity Church of Cambridge gathered on Sunday, September 30, to honor the church's 50-year history on Brattle Street and to pay tribute to the memory of the 27 members who comprised its original Building Committee. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), celebrated the Divine Liturgy and presided over the banquet and program following services.

During the Divine Liturgy, Barsamian ordained Armen Skenderian to the diaconate. A native of Iraq, Skenderian has been serving as a sub-deacon at Holy Trinity Church for 10 years, following in the example of his late father who was a longtime deacon at the Armenian Church in Baghdad.

In his sermon, the Primate spoke about the important role of the laity in the Armenian Church, and noted that God calls each of us to serve the church in different ways.

Following services, parishioners gathered for a banquet, where through a series of reflections offered by the descendants of the original Building Committee they paid homage to the generation that laid the foundation for Holy Trinity Church.

Charles Talanian began the program by toasting the parish's five decades of achievement. Talanian is the grandson of the late Nishan



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian ordains Armen Skenderian to the diaconate.

Semonian, the godfather of Holy Trinity Church who gave a toast at the church's consecration banquet in 1961.

Kyle Anderson remembered the contributions of his grandmother, Irene Irene Kolligian, at whose suggestion the Armenian community purchased the property in Cambridge on which Holy Trinity Church was built.

Judith Basmajian, the daughter of the late Gen. Sarkis Zartarian, spoke about her father's chairmanship of the Building Committee and expressed her gratitude to the generation of visionaries who helped to preserve the Armenian heritage in the Boston area.

Nancy Kolligian spoke on behalf of the Kolligian family, whose members have been instrumental in the life of the parish for decades.

Guest speaker Rev. Laura Everett, the executive director of the Massachusetts Council of Churches, congratulated the parish on this milestone. She reflected on the way in which Christian churches complement each other as the body of Christ, stressing that each one has a special tradition of worship.

Rev. Vasken Kouzouian spoke about the parish's trip to historic Armenia in 2010, which kicked off the 50th anniversary celebration. The journey included stops in Kharpert, Van and Erzerum – the cities which the Holy Trinity Church founders once called home.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. James Armenian Church Celebrates 65th Annual Bazaar

By Gabriella Gage
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN – St. James Armenian Church hosted its 65th annual bazaar in Keljik hall on October 12 and 13. As in previous years, the

bazaar featured a silent auction, various raffles, a farmer’s market, an attic treasures table and various vendors, including Alex and Ani jewelry. The menu featured the traditional Armenian dishes, *shish kebab*, chicken kebab, *losh kebab*, *kheyma* and *eetch*, *boereg*, *yalanchi*, *porov kutfeh* and the perennial best-seller, *manti*.

Co-chairs of the bazaar committee, Sandy

Raphalian and Nancy Kassabian, began planning this year’s bazaar just weeks after the 2011 one had been completed. “It’s a wonderful venue to bring everyone together as one church family,” Kassabian shared.

In order to bake and freeze the vast quantities of baked goods, such as cheese and spinach *boereg*, *choereg*, *tahini bread*, *nazook*, *simit*, apricot and apple squares, *bourma*, and the ever-popular, *paklava*, the Women’s Guild began preparing in July, drawing up a baking schedule that intensified as the event drew closer.

With every facet of the church organization partaking in the fes-



Kitchen staff hard at work at annual bazaar



St. James Armenian Church




Nancy Kassabian, co-chair of the bazaar committee

Knights of Vartan – Ararat Lodge of Boston

2012 AWARDS GALA

Honoring
Man of the Year – Haig Deranian
Community Leader – Robert A. Kaloosdian
Faithful Knight – Paul Boghosian



On the evening of
Friday, November 9, 2012

Hyatt Regency Cambridge
Presidents Ballroom
575 Memorial Drive
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Reception at 7 pm– Hors D’oeuvres
 Dinner at 8 pm– Surf and Turf

Tickets - \$125 per person
 Complimentary Parking
 Black Tie Optional

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tivities, there was a conscious effort to pass along traditions by bringing together old and new generations. Kassabian noted the importance of youth involvement in the bazaar, along with “the dedicated older generation coming in to teach the younger generation important traditions.” One such youth, Mary Cimen, remarked, “I always really like doing it,” as she volunteered alongside friend, Aurora Kantarjian, manning this year’s Sunday school bake sale table.

As of this writing, a baking schedule has likely been drawn up for next fall.



Sunday School Bake Sale manned by (Back): Mary Cimen, Marcia Alabachian; (front) Shant Cimen, Aren Cimen, Lauren Hutchinson

First Armenian Church’s Bazaar Set for October 20

BELMONT, Mass. – The annual fall harvest bazaar returns to the First Armenian Church of Belmont on Saturday, October 20 from 12 to 8 p.m. in the Nahigian Fellowship Hall.

The attending can enjoy hand-made pastries and traditional Armenian dishes prepared by church members, as well as frozen dishes available for take-home purchase. The marketplace will offer various household goods and “gently used” books. Supervised

children’s activities are available and a small donation is requested. In addition, there will be a farmer’s market, with sales benefiting orphans in Armenia and Lebanon, as well as church donations to local food banks. All are welcome to attend.

The First Armenian Church is handicap accessible and parking is available. For more information, visit the church website, www.firstarmenianchurch.org.



Volunteers work behind the scene to make the bazaar happen.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Cambridge Parish Honors Past, Looks to Future

ANNIVERSARY, from page 4

"We prayed in what remains of their churches and we felt their spirit standing with us," he said. "And above all, we thanked God that at least some of them made it to Boston to start again."

He added that the building committee was aided by "the unspoken champions of our church" – the many men and women who worked together to organize fundraisers, plan, and execute the project. "Their voices are calling us to do no less than they did, so that new dreams and new hopes are realized," he concluded.

James Kalustian, chair of the church's Trust Fund, encouraged the community to support the church's growth by contributing to its matching fund campaign.

Rev. Mampre Kouzouian, who served as the parish pastor from 1977 to 2002, shared his memories of parish life, and encouraged the young generation of parishioners to carry forward the legacy of the church's founders.

During the banquet, parishioners also recognized the outgoing Parish Council members. The banquet was chaired by Sheryl Panjian.

Barsamian closed the program with a prayer. "This is a parish with a proud history behind it," he said. "And more importantly, it is a place where several generations of our people have found strength and inspiration, in the warm embrace of a supportive community, and under the loving eyes of God."

Holy Trinity Church began forming in the 1880s and established its first house of worship



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and Fr. Vasken Kouzouian with altar servers at Holy Trinity Church.

in 1923 when Armenian immigrants to the Boston area purchased an Episcopal Church on Shawmut Avenue in Boston. As the parish grew, and as parishioners began to move to the

suburbs, the community decided to relocate the church.

They purchased two acres of land on Brattle Street in nearby Cambridge in 1954. By 1959,

the community had completed the church's cultural center, and two years later, on September 17, 1961, the newly built Holy Trinity Church was consecrated.

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Former Holy Trinity Choir Members Invited to Join Choir in Singing Divine Liturgy on November 4

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – A reception to celebrate the centennial of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church Choir will be held on Sunday, November 4, in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall of the church complex, at 145 Brattle St., following church services.

Church, first located on Shawmut Avenue, Boston, was consecrated in 1923. Visiting Armenian clergymen were called upon to serve the religious needs of the community, and services were held using the facilities of local Episcopal churches.



Holy Trinity Armenian Church Choir with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and Rev. Vasken Kouzouian

Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, who was pastor of the church from 1974 to 1976, will preside, as the parish recognizes the 65th Anniversary of his ordination.

All past choir members are invited to join the Choir on Sunday, November 4, in the singing of the Divine Liturgy. Requiem Service will be held for all deceased members of the Holy Trinity Choir.

The Holy Trinity Armenian Church Choir was founded in 1912, before Holy Trinity Armenian

Serving on the Centennial Celebration Committee are Chair, Deacon Gregory Krikorian, Rose Aznavorian, Grace Boyajian, Robert Dulgarian, George W. Haroutunian, Arpie Kouzouian and Helen Krikorian.

Father Vasken A. Kouzouian, pastor, invites the community to join them at this complimentary reception on Sunday, November 4, to celebrate the archbishop's anniversary and to honor all past and present members of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church Choir.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Bone Marrow Registry Holds First Walk of Life in New England

WALK, from page 4

The 2.2-mile walkathon took the participants through historic streets of Watertown, including Mount Auburn Street, to the town center, where they joined the ABMDR table at the Watertown Faire on the Square, held at Saltonstall Park. The annual fair, which attracts thousands of visitors and features numerous vendors and organizations, was a great finale for Walk of Life.

Commenting on the success of the event, Arlette Yegumians, a member of the Armenian Business Network (ABN) Executive Committee, said, "The ABN was proud to participate in the first Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry walkathon in New England, a fun and extremely well-executed event for a very worthy cause. We hope none of us ever needs to be on the receiving end of this organization's good work, but we are fortunate they are around, should any one of us need their life-saving services."

As noted by the organizing committee, youth participation was an important factor in the event's success. "This walkathon is a great opportunity to teach the young generation to be active in the community and to be a part of a greater good through involvement," said Armine Medzoian, principal of the Erebuni Armenian School, who led a team of 11-12-year-old students at the walk. Along their trek, participants made brief stops at the gates of St. Stephen's and St. James Armenian churches, where youths placed flowers at the Genocide memorial monuments.

The walkathon program included the presentation of awards for exceptional team effort. The awards comprised specially-made teddy bears dressed in commemorative T-shirts and award ribbons. "Our awards for the two winning teams come from the village of Berd in Armenia," announced Tamar Melkonian of the



A scene from the post-walkathon event at Saltonstall Park

ABMDR support group during her closing remarks at Saltonstall Park. "Berd Bears are handmade by the women of Berd village, as part of a wonderful program run by the Berd Women's Resource Center Foundation." Subsequently Melkonian presented the Most Funds Raised Award to the ABN Team, and the Biggest Team Award to the Belmont High School Armenian Club, in recognition of the large turnout of its members.



Members of the ABMDR support group, from left: Marilyn Bazarian, Artemis Melkonian, Tamar Melkonian and Arax Badalian.

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Armenian Americans Host Reception at DNC

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Armenian Americans held a reception this past September for delegates and guests at the Democratic National Convention (DNC). The reception was held at the Marriott Center City, steps away from the Staples Arena, where delegates from across the nation gathered to nominate President Barack Obama and Vice President Joseph Biden.

The reception was co-hosted by DNC Ethnic Outreach Director Jeff Marootian from Washington, DC, and Anthony Barsamian from Massachusetts. The event featured South Carolina Democratic chair and political commentator, Richard Harpootlian.

The event preceded a rousing speech by former President Bill Clinton and Massachusetts Senate candidate Elizabeth Warren. Warren and Sen. Scott Brown are locked in hotly-contested race for US Senate in Massachusetts. Warren met with Armenian Americans at the convention and affirmed her support for aid to Armenia and Artsakh (Nagorno Karabagh) and full affirmation of the Armenian Genocide by the Senate and US Government.

To date, Brown has not signed on as a co-sponsor of Senate Resolution 399, affirmation of the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide. Both Republicans and Democrats in Massachusetts have made inquiries into why Brown has not supported the resolution and have yet to receive his support on the pending legislation.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenia Fund Marks 20th with Rousing Gala

GALA, from page 1

As gala host, attorney Mark Geragos offered warm words of welcome. True to form, his breezy charm did not disappoint. Keynote Speaker Eduard Nalbandian, Armenia's foreign minister, brought an appropriate level of gravitas to the tribute, while French-Armenian entertainer Patrick Fiori, in his US premiere, electrified the room.

A recurring theme throughout the evening was how the nation-building mission of Armenia Fund USA transcended divisions and cut across generations. The 300 guests in attendance attested to this fact, as they came from all community and institutional affiliations.

As Geragos observed in his opening remarks, "It doesn't matter if you are from the Prelacy or Diocese, the AGBU or Assembly, or any other organization. You can check all that at the door," he proclaimed.

In a letter of congratulations from New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Armenia Fund USA was again cited as a unifying force on the community level. "The Fund's efforts have also benefited Armenian Americans, especially those across the five boroughs, and have united these individuals in a common purpose," the letter stated.

A congratulatory statement from Serge Sargsian, the president of Armenia and the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the All-Armenian Fund, took the unity theme to the



Khoren Bandazian, left, with Emcee Mark Geragos

Vesna Markarian and committee members Kristine Toufayan Casali, Alex Karapetian, Aline Markarian and Lorig Setrakian mobilized the large presence of young professionals.

Speaking of funding, Mark Geragos, who is a member of the All-Armenian Fund board of trustees, assured donors that their contributions are appropriately distributed. "To those who ask, 'well is the money going to get there?' I can tell you that I have been there repeatedly and I've looked at the projects. I can tell you that we've got an outside accounting firm that goes and actually does the construction quality. And I can tell you that the money is used and benefits the Armenians who are there," he declared, adding

that, unlike most organizations, only eight percent of the funds raised go to administrative costs.

When Armenia Fund USA Chairman Khoren Bandazian stepped up to the podium, he took a few moments to describe the original vision



Hirair Hovnanian at the event

next order of magnitude – the relationship between diaspora and homeland, and "the common dream of living in a prosperous and powerful motherland." In turn, the message from President of the Republic of Karabagh Bako Sahakyan characterized it as the "trinity of Armenia-Artsakh-Diaspora."

Frank Lautenberg, US Senator of New Jersey, sent a statement attesting to the unity that Armenia Fund USA is now enjoying with the international development community at large. He properly commended the Fund for its "focus on rural communities" which "further strengthens Armenia's population."

Armenia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Garen Nazarian also noted the fund's growing relationship with the global community by announcing that, "as part of its broader efforts to engage international agencies in eradicating global poverty, Armenia Fund has entered into a partnership with UN entities, including United Nations Development Program and United Nations Children's Fund, which is beginning a promising cooperation in effectively targeting rural development."

Unity also extended to the religious realm, with the presence of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese (Eastern), performing the invocation, and Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America, delivering the benediction.

The event was largely underwritten by The Hirair and Anna Hovnanian Foundation, in addition to co-sponsors from the local business community, including: Acopian Power Supplies; Brach Eichler, LLC; Cullari, Carrico, Soojian, Bruke, LLC; Estreich & Company, Inc.; Harvest Song; Michael Aram; The Tiger Buying Group; Toufayan Bakeries, Worldwide Express and anonymous.

As honorary chairs of the gala steering committee, Ambassador Tatoul and Anna Markarian and Ambassador Garen and Nana Nazarian did their part to widen the circle of distinguished guests, while Gala Committee Chairperson



Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian

behind the founding of the Hayastan All Armenian Fund. It was "a global effort to channel diasporan resources into Armenia in a strategic manner. And given the strength of the Armenian community in the United States, the leaders in Armenia looked to us."

Then Bandazian pointed out how all the activities of Armenia Fund over the last 20 years mirrored that of Armenia. "When it became apparent that Armenia needed a lifeline to connect to its brothers and sisters in Karabagh, they called Armenia Fund; and we built the Goris-Stepanakert Highway. When Karabagh needed an artery to traverse its mountainous landscape, they called Armenia Fund; and we built the North-South Highway, the 'backbone of Artsakh.' When new healthcare facilities were

required in Karabagh, they called Armenia Fund. When Agriculture development became paramount, they called Armenia Fund. They tell us what they need and we respond in kind," he concluded.

Bandazian recognized the invaluable contributions of his predecessors, former chairmen Berj Setrakian, Hagop Kouyoumdjian, Kevork Toroyan and Raffi Festekjian and acknowledged Hirair Hovnanian, Louise Simone Manoogian, George Pagoumian, Sarkis Acopian and "countless others" who had gone above and beyond the call.

It was Irina Lazarian, the affiliate's executive director, who emerged as hero for her management of the many moving parts an extravaganza celebration like this one entails. Bandazian thanked her "both personally and on behalf of the board of directors" for her "tireless commitment, hard work and dedication over the many years."

Reducing two decades of achievement down to its simplest terms is no easy feat. Yet the anniversary organizers managed to effectively define the core mission in the simple but powerful slogan, "Building A Homeland Built to Last." These words really hit home, however, in the short film presented midway in the program.

In a refreshing departure from commemorative videos of the past, this high-quality production featured an ensemble of professional actors and an inventive, fast-paced interplay of imagery and space.

Alex Kalognomos, Anne Bedian, Armen Armirkhonian, Inga Stamboltyan, Marty Papazian and Silvy Kas, all up and coming American-Armenians working in the film industry, had volunteered their time and talent to explain why and how the affiliate was established and expound on its four key initiatives vital to national rebirth, namely infrastructure, education, community life and healthcare delivery. Directed by Roger Kupelian, written by Kathryn Manuelian, produced by Sona Stamboltsyan, with cinematography and editing by Garen Mirzozian plus original music by Greg Hosharian, the film was well received. It can now be viewed online via the Armenia Fund USA website.

Markarian reminded the audience how, during its first campaign for winter relief back in 1992, Armenia Fund USA managed to raise \$21 million in just one week. He quoted from an article published in the well-respected British magazine *The Economist*, which said that, "The international community needs not to object strongly but rather help to safely reopen the nuclear power station in Armenia, because Armenians, if able to collect 21 million in one week, will do it on their own."

Nalbandian centered his keynote speech on the true meaning of homeland, both internally and externally. He explained that the word Armenia itself literally means "Home of the Armenians" and "That Home has passed through the tests of centuries. Sometimes it was taken away from us. But today we are the owners of that Home."

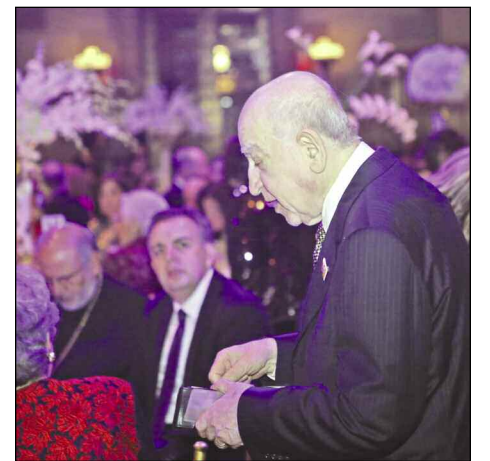
He developed the metaphor further, positing that, "I often say that, founding their own homes in different parts of the world, Armenians established thousands of little Armenias.... But today, the common home of the Armenian people is called Armenia. Many peoples and nations have...failed to keep their house, so that they do not have such home today. But we have."

Nalbandian also addressed some sensitive issues, commenting that "regardless of how the Armenians live in different parts of the world," he said, "in a modest hut or luxurious mansion, foreigners judge us by the resistance, beauty and safety of the house called Armenia. Today foreigners follow how Armenians have built their home. Most of them are friends, but there are also those who want harm. They are not many. I do not think they are more than two," he said, clearly referring to Azerbaijan and Turkey.

A European Super Star

No sooner did Fiori take the stage, than the audience members realized they were in the presence of pop royalty. He opened with an unexpected detour to another time and place with a mesmerizing rendition of Les Montagnes D'Armenia. He then followed with a series of poignant love ballads like Si Tu Revenais and Je Ne Serai Jamais. When it came to Belle, the signature song from his days in the French musical "Notre Dame de Paris," Fiori stepped down into the audience and serenaded a glowing Lucie Bandazian seated next to her husband Khoren – the mastermind behind Fiori's benefit performance that night.

The enchantment continued punctuated with a prelude performed on the duduk by Fiori, followed by Dele Yaman as an introduction to C'est un pays que je ne connais pas ("It's a country that I do not know").



Nazar Nazarian, with Ambassador Garen Nazarian behind him

By pouring his heart and soul into each and every number, Fiori made a visceral, palpable connection with the audience.

Fiori explained why he felt compelled to come. "I had performed in Armenia several times and, each time I returned, I would notice how much progress had been made because of organizations like Armenia Fund."

At various pauses in the program, Geragos, who will be hosting the Armenia Fund Thanksgiving Day Telethon for the 10th year and personally sponsored a table at the event, encouraged the guests to "put their own imprint on the future of the homeland" by sponsoring an Armenia Fund project.

He turned their attention to the commemorative booklet, which included a catalog of naming opportunity projects in both Karabagh and Armenia. Giving levels start as low as \$1,000 to fund pre-hospital equipment for one ambulance and go up to \$350,000 for a complete water delivery system for one village in Karabagh.

By evening's close, Geragos happily reported that several pledges had already been made, with more on the way. Levon S. and Laura Ariyan pledged \$2,500 to fund an art classroom at the Abovian School in Shushi, while Victor Zarougian and his wife, Judith Saryan, decided to fund a new computer center at Mardakert's Vaghuhas School at the \$10,000 level.

To learn more about the 20th Anniversary Gala and view the gallery of photos and video clips, go to www.armeniafundusa.org.



Seventh Annual AGBU YP City Escape Weekend

NEW YORK — Young professionals hoping to leave behind the hustle and bustle of the city got their wish at the end of this summer during the 7th annual Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) City Escape weekend.

The event, which was initiated by the AGBU Young Professionals of Greater New York (YPGNY) in 2006, has since grown significantly in popularity. This year, YPGNY co-hosted City Escape with the AGBU Young Professionals (YP) groups of Montreal and Philadelphia. By joining forces, they drew 40 participants from their respective cities, as well as from Boston and Washington, DC, to AGBU's Camp Nubar in the scenic Catskill Mountains.

The participants arrived at Camp Nubar on Friday, August 24. The camp's vast grounds and state-of-the-art facilities made it the ideal venue for a weekend of outdoor activities, including an early morning 10K run, nature hikes and swimming, as well as basketball, hockey, soccer and volleyball games that brought everyone to the courts. Tina Hagopian of Philadelphia was one of the dozens of YP's who enjoyed socializing with her peers around both picnic tables and campfires. As she commented, "The YP groups put together a wonderful couple of days and a fun itinerary. It was nice for those of us who attended Camp Nubar in the past to relive our experience as adults, and it was even better seeing those that hadn't been to camp enjoying it as much as they did."

For many of the YP's who are also Camp Nubar alumni, the weekend was nostalgic, especially as they celebrate the camp's 50th anniversary this year. Greg Basralian, a tri-state area native, was introduced recently to the YP network, and remarked, "This was the first YP event I've attended, and, from the moment I arrived through the rest of the weekend, I felt so welcomed by everyone. I made friendships in three days that I know will last a lifetime. ... It was wonderful to find a group of such hard-working individuals. The event was well-planned and the execution was even better - all of the groups worked together in perfect harmony. My only regret is that I did not attend a YP event sooner, but I look forward to my further involvement with YPGNY."



Campfire is always one of the highlights of the AGBU YP City Escape weekend.

YPGNY Chair Alexis Halejian stated, "It was an honor having YP Montreal and YP Philly co-host our annual City Escape to Camp Nubar. It doesn't get much better than meeting and reconnecting with young professionals from across the world, surrounded by the beauty of the Catskill Mountains. We hope this weekend tradition only continues to grow year after year."

Marianna Mekbekian, a Brazil native, said the event has

broad appeal. As she shared, "In Brazil we don't really have a camping culture, and City Escape was my first camping experience. It was a very pleasant weekend. Not only did I enjoy Camp Nubar's incredible countryside, but I had the chance to mingle with new people. Being the only participant from overseas, I was warmly embraced by the YP family and I would gladly come back next year."

St. Stepanos Church Marks 25 Years

ELBERON, N.J. — On Sunday, October 7, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), visited St. Stepanos Church of Elberon, as the parish marked the church's 25th anniversary and honored Sirvart Hovnanian, who with her late husband, Kevork Hovnanian, built the church in memory of his parents in 1987.

Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy with the assistance of the Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian, parish pastor. In his sermon, the Primate reflected upon the season of the Holy Cross and his recent experience celebrating the Divine Liturgy at Holy Cross Church of Aghtamar, during the Diocese's



Ara Hovnanian raises a glass to his mother.

September pilgrimage to historic Armenia.

He also spoke of the generations of Armenian faithful who have born the cross with devotion and humility. It was in this spirit that the late Kevork Hovnanian built the St. Stepanos Church, Barsamian said.

"While he was unquestionably a man of genuine stature in American life and a great figure in Armenian life on an international scale, to this parish Kevork Hovnanian was a true father: a man of gentleness and love, of wonderful good humor and touching tenderness to those around him," the Primate said. "He built this church as his beautiful memorial to his parents."

A requiem service followed the Divine Liturgy on the occasion of the third anniversary of his

passing. A world-class business leader, Hovnanian was the founding chairman of the Fund for Armenian Relief, spearheading the Eastern Diocese's outreach and development effort to the Republic of Armenia following the 1988 earthquake. He was also a supporter of causes in the greater New York area.

A committee of parishioners, led by Amanda Haytaian, organized an evening gala at the Oyster Point Hotel in Red Bank, NJ, to honor his wife, Sirvart Hovnanian. Attendees included Dr. Edgar Housepian, vice chair of the Fund for Armenian Relief; U.S. Congressman Frank Pallone Jr.; and Susan Doctorian-Kyrillos, wife of New Jersey state senator and US Senate candidate Joe Kyrillos.

Aida Kado, chair of the St. Stepanos Church Parish Council, welcomed guests and invited speakers to convey messages of congratulations to Sirvart Hovnanian.

Ara Hovnanian, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hovnanian and chair and CEO of Hovnanian Enterprises, spoke about his mother's nurturing role in the Hovnanian family and recalled how she supported her husband as the family set down roots in America.

Barsamian spoke about the strength of the Hovnanians' commitment to each other. "It was a partnership that extended to every aspect of life and will always stand for me as a beautiful example of the tenderness of the Christian sacrament of marriage," he said. "It was as partners that Mr. and Mrs. Hovnanian became a force for progress, compassion and dignity in the Republic of Armenia."

Pallone read the Congressional citation issued in her honor. "A dedicated and loving wife and mother, Sirvart Hovnanian truly exemplifies what it is to live the American dream," he said.

Doctorian-Kyrillos read a resolution passed by the state Senate congratulating the parish on its 25th anniversary. "St. Stepanos Church has grown from its humble beginnings to its present vital and dynamic state due to the steadfast devotion and tireless commitment of many dedicated persons, both religious and lay, including Sirvart Hovnanian and her beloved



US Rep. Frank Pallone presents Sirvart Hovnanian with the Congressional citation issued in her honor.

late husband, Kevork," she said.

Kiledjian said that the parishioners of St. Stepanos Church share a close bond, and work together to continue the legacy established by Kevork Hovnanian. "We are not a large parish, but we are a great one," he said. "It's not numbers that have made us great. It is our people —

their faith and their love of our community — that have helped us to flourish."

The program also included a performance by the Arev Children's Choir. In addition to Haytaian, the organizing committee was comprised of Rose Froomjian, Sylva Terjanian, Diane Pekmezian, Aida Kado and Ashkhen Tadevosian.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem Dies after Lengthy Illness

MANOOGIAN, from page 1

conquering armies of Tigranes II, a full century before the birth of Jesus.

They had stayed, settled and prospered, and bequeathed to this immortal city an invaluable legacy of ingeniousness, creativity and vitality. Jerusalem would never be what it is today without the variegated trove of Armenian contribution, among them the city's first printing press and photographic studio.

When Manoogian ascended the throne of St James as the 96th Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, he refurbished and reinforced the indelible stamp Armenians have left on the city.

And following in the footsteps of illustrious predecessors like the legendary Baron Der and Gregory the Chainbearer, he set in motion a new era of glasnost and perestroika, qualities in dire need at the time.

Among his most memorable achievements are the computerization of the Patriarchate's records, the overhaul of its filing, accounting and database systems and the renovation of dilapidated priestly quarters.

Caught up in the refreshing breezes his advent had launched, life in the moribund Armenian enclave, which occupies more than one sixth of the Old City, took on a new, invigorated meaning.

There was a feeling of almost tangible euphoria in the wake of his election, and there were many who wistfully wished he had come earlier to Jerusalem.

To keep the Armenian diaspora well informed about the Patriarchate and about Jerusalem, he set up a press office (and asked this correspondent to head it), which churned out a steady stream of



The late Patriarch Torkom Manoogian in a procession in Jerusalem

articles, newsletters and press releases over the years.

Manoogian had come home. His destiny had driven him from the deserts of Mesopotamia to the golden domes of Jerusalem, on a journey of devotion and dedication, in the service of the Armenian Church to which he gave his all.

A prolific writer, his most recent oeuvre was a translation of Shakespeare's sonnets into Armenian.

But his favorite topic was what he called the "impossible love."

"It's the ability, nay, the gift, to be able to love your enemy, to forgive love those who hate you and would do you ill," he explained to me.

A gifted musician, he became the acknowledged authority on the Armenian nation's greatest musical genius, Komitas.

I remember visiting him two years ago, when he was in the initial stages of Parkinson's, and sitting silently for long minutes, waiting for him to speak. He had great difficulty finding the words until I broached the subject of his book on Komitas.

The moment he heard the name, his face lit up and he launched into an impassioned discourse.

Manoogian was born on February 16, 1919, in a refugee camp near the sand-enveloped Iraqi town of Baqoubah. As a child, he attended a school in Baghdad, the capital, where Armenians who had sought refuge from the Turkish massacres, had established a community.

Towards the end of his early schooling, tentative yearnings for something spiritually loftier became insistent, assailing his waking and sleeping hours, demanding satisfaction, and ultimately guiding him in the direction of Jerusalem.

He was ordained celibate priest in 1939 and remained in the city until 1946 when he traveled to the US, only to return a few years later.

Ten years were to pass before America called again. But this time he reached its shores as Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church.

He was elected patriarch of Jerusalem on March 22, 1990.

Throughout his life, Manoogian garnered numerous honors and tributes, both from religious and lay institutions, among them the US Statue of Liberty Medal.

He nurtured a keen interest in ecumenical affairs and has been instrumental in helping maintain the spirit of brotherly relations between the various religious institutions in Jerusalem. (In the US, he had also served on the Board of the National Council of Churches of Christ).

Manoogian had dreams of not only revitalizing Armenian Jerusalem, but also expanding and reinforcing the Armenian presence here. One of his most ambitious plans was to construct a hostel for pilgrims on land owned by the Patriarchate, but it never got off the drawing board – city hall had other plans of its own.

Manoogian will be remembered as a caring shepherd and reformer. Under his tenure, the Patriarchate workforce almost quadrupled: there were more employees within the confines of the Convent of St. James, seat of the Jerusalem Patriarchate, than there were people living there.

And he made sure that paychecks were disbursed on time, a welcome departure from past practices.

When Manoogian arrived on the scene, he discovered chaos. His unrelenting efforts to instill a sense of order and accountability into patriarchal

affairs have proved successful, to a degree.

"Much still remains to be done," as one clerical source confided.

A perennial diplomat, Manoogian meticulously maintained smooth relations with both sides of the political divide in the country. The aura of charisma that enveloped him and his standing in the Armenian world, could have very easily secured him the highest accolade the church could ever grant: Catholicos (supreme head) of All Armenians. But although he served as locum tenens following the death of Catholicos Vazken I, he felt he would never leave Jerusalem.

He was the son of a people that had endured and survived wars and cataclysms, but who had not let that pain turn their hearts into stone.

Manoogian will be buried on October 22, in the Armenian cemetery on Mount Zion, just outside the towering walls of the Old City, mere weeks after the Armenian Church mourned another of its princes, Archbishop Aghan Baliozian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Australia and New Zealand.

Who will be the 97th Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem?

No one will know, until election day, which is supposed to take place 40 days after his passing.

Messages of condolence poured in. Karabagh President Bako Sahakyan said, "His Beatitude Archbishop Manoogian had a huge contribution to strengthening the Armenian Apostolic Church, consolidating the Christian faith as well as developing interchurch relations. He also had a valuable input in preserving the Armenian national identity, maintaining the Motherland-Diaspora ties, promoting international recognition of the Armenian Genocide, and truthfully representing the Artsakh issue. Please, accept my deep and sincere condolences. In this difficult hour, the people and authorities of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic share with you the pain and sorrow in connection with this irretrievable loss."

A statement posted on the website of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America noted that Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, the Diocesan Primate, had asked parishes of the Eastern Diocese to conduct a requiem service in the Patriarch's memory on Sunday, October 14.

According to the Diocese statement, "Prior to his election as Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Torkom served for a quarter-century as Primate of the Eastern Diocese. To thousands of people across this country – not only in our parishes, but in the surrounding society – he was the vigorous, compassionate, always impressive face of the Armenian Church of America. He was also the beautiful, poetic voice of our people, advocating in a principled and forceful way for our concerns and aspirations, while embodying the great Armenian civilization that had bestowed works of profound art and spirituality on world culture. As we mourn his passing, we are consoled in the knowledge that Archbishop Torkom's gentle soul has found rest and peace in the welcoming arms of our Risen Lord, whom he loved and served with such distinction in life."

(Additional material used.)



The late Patriarch Torkom Manoogian in a formal photo

Dance to Benefit Dagley Children Raises Funds and Spirits

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – What a legacy Rev. Haroutiun (Randy) and Yeretsgin Patty Dagley have left the community.

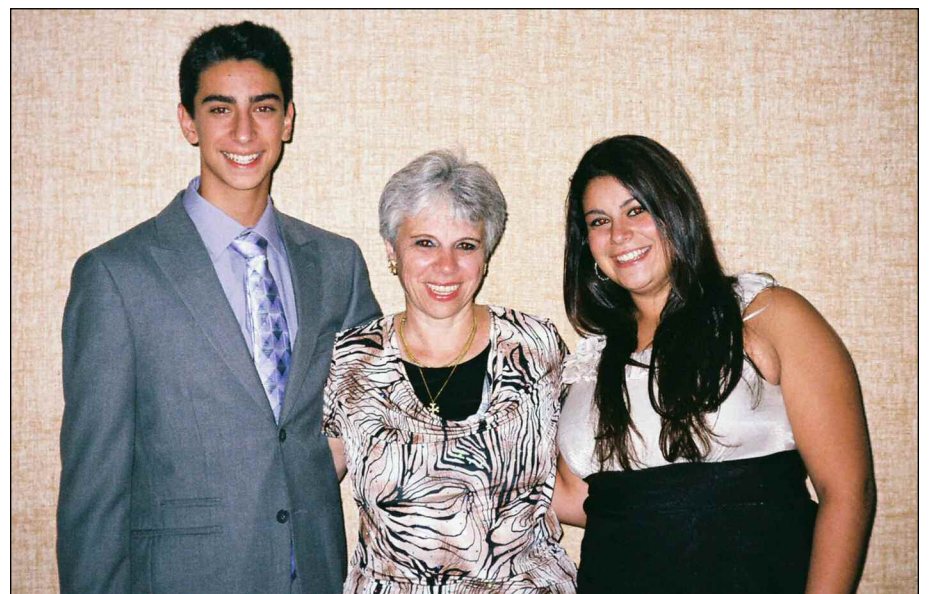
On September 22, more than 300 people of all ages gathered at Holy Trinity Armenian Church to celebrate that legacy at a dance organized by Becky Megerdichian, sister of the late Rev. Haroutiun Dagley. The event was not only a tribute to Rev. Haroutiun Dagley and his wife, Patty, both of whom died before their time, but also was a benefit for a fund established for the children.

All the musicians for the dance contributed their time, which led to an especially fun evening. In fact, there were so many musicians that there were four different sets, each with different players.

As a surprise to the guests, Sona and Sarkis Dagley, the children of the late couple and the stars of the program, flew in from Detroit, where they live. Sona Dagley is a freshman at Michigan State University and Sarkis Dagley is a high school freshman. The children live with their aunt, Sharon Dardarian, sister of the late Yeretsgin Patty Dagley. The children warmed the hearts of all the attendees at the dance, all of whom took part happily in the program.

The Dagley children as well as Megerdichian extended their thanks to those who have supported the children by donations.

Donations may still be made out to Dagley Children Memorial Fund, c/o 875 Massachusetts Ave., Suite 45, Cambridge, MA 02139-3067.



From left, Sarkis Dagley, their aunt, Becky Megerdichian, and Sona Dagley.

Arts & Living

Save the ArQ Donates Lab Equipment to the Armenian School Of Jerusalem

CHICAGO – The organization Save the ArQ provided Sts. Tarkmanchatz Armenian Secondary School, in the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem, with all the necessary equipment for its science laboratories, including chemistry, biology and physics. This is part of Save the ArQ's commitment to enhance its educational level so that the students of Sts. Tarkmanchatz may have access to the most current tools worldwide. Within the sphere of education, the long-term objective of Save the ArQ is to create the best educational environment for the children of the community.

Rev. Norayr Kazazian, dean of Sts. Tarkmanchatz School, conveyed his gratitude to Save the ArQ for their donation and expressed his willingness to cooperate with the organization to undertake the necessary projects for the advancement of the school.

Mary Hoogasian, chair of the organization, elaborated that the latest donation is part of larger educational projects which Save the ArQ regards as a primary concern for the Armenian Quarter's prosperity.

"Prioritizing education as one of the most critical aspects in order to sustain Jerusalem's Armenian Quarter has allowed Save the ArQ to explore different avenues to build the best schooling system for these children. Yes, we were fortunate to raise the funds needed to



Sts. Tarkmanchatz School

replace outdated or nonexistent science lab equipment, but this is one small feat in the bigger picture. We need to ensure that these children receive the best education because only through success, will this community survive. Education is not only the key for each individual child to have the chance at a higher education; it is the eye-opener – the future – for the Armenian Quarter's very own existence," said Hoogasian.

According to Mihran Der Matossian, director of the educational committee of the school, this latest contribution helped the students conduct specific science experiments. "The lab equipment donation that included more than 30 pieces is an essential step for the students to understand not only the theoretical aspect of the scientific subjects, but also the practical aspect," said Der Matossian. For several years, Der Matossian has played a crucial role in reforming and restructuring the curriculum for the school.

see ArQ, page 12



Janette Khalarian and Margar Yeghiazaryan

Dudukner Ensemble Performs in Providence

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Under the sponsorship of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church Cultural Committee, Amaras Art Alliance, Urartu Society and Armenian Music Festival of Rhode Island, the Dudukner Ensemble, from Armenia, presented a program of Armenian sacred music in the Church sanctuary and Armenian folk and popular songs and dance music in the Egavian Cultural Hall on September 26.

The duduk is a double-reed instrument with ancient origins, said to be dating back 1,500 to 3,000 years. It is indigenous to Armenia as it dates back to the reign of King Tigran the Great, 95-55 BC. Earlier instruments were made of bone or cane while today it is made mainly from aged apricot wood. The instrument's body also has different lengths depending on the range of the instrument and region. The performer uses air stored in his cheeks to keep playing while inhaling air into his lungs.

The most important quality of the duduk is its ability to express the dialectic and mood of the Armenian language. In 2005, UNESCO proclaimed the Armenian duduk music as a "masterpiece of the intangible heritage of humanity."

As part of their East Coast tour, the Dudukner Ensemble performed to a capacity crowd in their Providence debut. They were welcomed by Cultural Committee Director Konstantin Petrossian and Parish Council Chairman John Kazarian.

The founder of the ensemble and principal duduk player is Georgy Minasian and the artistic director is Tatyana Minasyan. Other members of the group are Khosrov Mnatsakanyan, alto duduk; Tigran Avetisyan, bass duduk; Mher Mnatsakanyan, clarinet and baritone duduk; Artak Asatryan, tenor duduk; Georgy Minasian Jr., baritone duduk; and Hovhannes Avetisyan, clarinet and manager of the ensemble.

Performing with the Dudukner Ensemble were soloists Margar Yeghiazaryan, from Yerevan, and Janette Khalarian, originally from Armenia and now living in the Boston area.

Following the liturgical portion of the concert in the Church Sanctuary, Rev. Shnorh Souin praised the performers and remarked how "listening to the sounds of the duduk was like hearing the woodwinds blowing our sacred melodies from our beloved Armenia through the heavens to our country and to our shores."

During the intermission, the audience descended from the Church Sanctuary to the Egavian Cultural Hall for the second part of the concert. With the change in mood from the sacred to the festive sounds of Armenian folk music, the performers delighted their audience who clapped rhythmically with the familiar tunes.

see DUDUK, page 12



David Ayriyan on kemancha (right) and Georgy Minasian on duduk

Akçam Says Turkish Archives Show Genocide Planning By Central Government

By Alin K. Gregorian

Mirror-Spectator Staff

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – A capacity audience gathered to hear Prof. Taner Akçam speak about his most recent book, *The Young Turks' Crime against Humanity: The Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire*, at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

Akçam is the only scholar of Turkish descent who chairs an Armenian studies department and one of only a handful of Armenian Genocide scholars researching in the Turkish archives. He has mined the archives extensively, with his latest book significantly contributing to the field.

"At the risk of sounding immodest, this is a first in many ways," Akçam said of the book, noting that he is presenting new theses to explain the Genocide. He said there are two issues: what happened and why did it happen. "As to why," he said, "We still have a long way to go."

The latest book is based on more than 600 documents from the Ottoman archives. There are two contradictory views, he explained.



Prof. Taner Akçam

Armenians who suggest that the Ottoman archives cannot be trusted because they were fabricated by those in power, either during Ottoman or Turkish Republic rule, and Turks who deny the Genocide and suggest that only Ottoman and Turkish sources can be trusted while any Armenian or Western material on the Genocide is suspect.

With this new work, Akçam said he hopes to prove that "Ottoman material shows us the same information as the German, American and British archives. It is different material on the same perspective."

Akçam used papers from the Interior Ministry, including various branches of its General Directorate and the Cypher Office. The role of the latter, he said, was "very important." The office was established in 1913, with the "pure purpose of [encrypted] telegraphic communication between the central office and the provinces."

The authorities encrypted the information, and believing they had developed a foolproof method, freely discussed their plans within the documents.

Other documents found by Akçam included a telegram from the Education Ministry to the Interior Ministry on June 26, 1915, regarding the fate of Armenian children – soon to be orphaned – who would need assimilation.

These documents are still intact, Akçam said, and anyone interested can freely access them.

He spoke about documents from the same archives dating to March 1, 1915, in which the authorities spelled out the Genocide policy.

"Talaat [Pasha] used his home as a private see AKCAM, page 13



ARTS & LIVING

ALMA to Host Lecture by Author Shahkeh Setian on October 21

WATERTOWN, Mass. – On Sunday, October 21, author Shahkeh Setian will discuss her book, *Humanity in the Midst of Inhumanity*, at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) at 2 p.m., as part of her New England book tour. Her book examines the Armenian Genocide with special emphasis on Turkish Muslims who saved Armenian lives, risking their own lives and that of their families.

Included in her book are 16 stories that were submitted by descendants of Armenian survivors who were saved by Turkish Muslims. Setian's message to people of Armenian descent is that they have a moral imperative to publicly honor such heroes. She cautions that it is overdue and is in danger of being lost in the fog of history and in the passage of time.

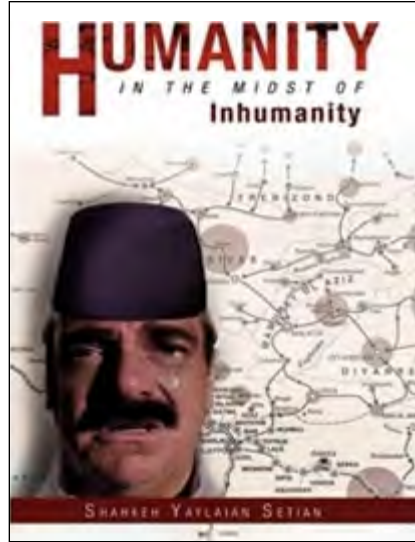
She will ask audience members who have similar stories to submit them to her, not to publish them, but to include them in a list of remembrances to be displayed at an appropriate location at a later date.

Setian earned a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She taught at Springfield College and Artsakh University, and designed and taught a class at Cape Cod Community College titled, "The History of Genocide: Using the Armenian Genocide as a Case Study."

The daughter of Genocide survivors, Setian lived for a year in post-war Artsakh as an independent volunteer. The Cape Cod resident is the mother of three and grandmother of five.

The event is free and open to the public.

ALMA is located at 65 Main St.



Cover of *Humanity in the Midst of Inhumanity* by Shahkeh Setian

Ararat-Eskijian Museum Presents Lecture On Armenian Postal History

MISSION HILLS, Calif. – Private collector Jack Kifedjian will present an illustrated postal history lecture Sunday, October 21, at 4 p.m. This event will be hosted by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum located in Mission Hills.

The presentation will focus on postal items sent from different Ottoman provinces, or vilayets, that were populated by Armenians. Ottoman period postal materials illustrate postage usages, rates, markings, and allow historians to examine the correspondences of Armenians during the period.

According to Kifedjian's research, there was greater postal activity in the Armenian vilayets of

Erzerum, Mamuret-ul-Aziz, Diarbekir, Sivas, Bitlis and Van prior to 1914. Beginning in 1915, postal items from the six Armenian vilayets began to decrease, with items sent by Armenians in the region eventually disappearing entirely. A similar trend has also been documented in the vilayets of Adana and Aleppo, after the withdrawal of the French forces from Cilicia in December 1921.

The postal artifacts to be presented at Kifedjian's lecture help provide insight into the social and economic activities of Armenians during this period.

For more information contact the Ararat-Eskijian Museum.

Save the ArQ Donates Lab Equipment

ArQ, from page 11

Greater changes are anticipated for Sts. Tarkmanchatz School in the near future. Said Hoogasian, "Save the ArQ would like to bridge the educational system by creating different programs. A 'teach abroad' program at Sts. Tarkmanchatz will give teachers worldwide the opportunity to live with such an amazing community inside the Armenian Quarter. However, we realize that not every remarkable teacher will have the opportunity to take a year off from their current position in order to live abroad.

This is where we would like to create another program teaching these children through web classrooms. Truly, how amazing would it be for these kids to be taught by an exceptional teacher halfway around the world? Ultimately, the goal is to make sure these kids are challenged and taught at the same level as the best educational systems in the world."

In the coming months, Save the ArQ is organizing a number of fundraising events as well as a series of lectures in the Midwest and the West Coast for the support of the Organization. Through intensive lectures, panels, and fundraising events Save the ArQ intends to propagate the noteworthy aspects – both historically and presently – pertaining to Jerusalem's Armenian Quarter.

For further information or support, visit the group's website at www.savethearq.org.

Dudukner Ensemble Performs in Providence

DUDUK, from page 11

One of the highlights was the introduction of Gevorg Minasian's boyhood friend, David Ayriyan, accompanying him on the kemancha, another ancient instrument, to the tune of folk song *Noobar Noobar*. Accompanying them on the piano was Petrossian.

A kemancha solo by Ayriyan playing composer Babajanian's *Elegia* also had Petrossian accompanying on the piano.

Khalarian and Yeghiazaryan, dressed in traditional Armenian costumes, sang solo and duets of Armenian folk and love songs with the Dudukner Ensemble.

A standing ovation followed the encores and the incredible evening concluded with Souin leading the crowd in the *Hayr Mer* (Our Father). The concertgoers were then treated to a buffet prepared by the Urartu Society and the church's Cultural Committee.

– MJW



DUDUKNER at Church Sanctuary

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ARTS & LIVING

Akçam Says Turkish Archives Show Genocide Planning by Central Government

AKCAM, from page 11

post office. He could send telegrams from his home," he said, including many directly spelling out the genocidal policies. In fact, he noted that in a 1982 interview only published in 2010, Talaat's widow revealed that the interior minister used the more secure home telegraph line to order the deportation of the Armenians.

Similarly, Akçam said that there is information about the ethnic cleansings of the Greeks, village by village.

Akçam said there was a direct correlation between reform movements in the Ottoman era and the start of mass killings; the first waves of the Genocide started in 1894, while the reform government came into power in 1895. The government sent out representatives to assess the population and wherever those representatives went, Akçam said, killings took place.

He offered some historical context, explaining that the period immediately preceding the main wave of the Genocide occurred at the end of the Balkan wars of 1912-1913, during which the Ottoman Empire had lost more than 80 percent of its European territories and more than 70 percent of its European population.

In return, hundreds of thousands of Muslims migrated to the Ottoman lands from Europe

and were relocated in the Christian-majority Anatolia region, home of the Armenians.

Beginning in 1913, he said, the non-Muslim population of Anatolia was referred to as "tumors" that needed to be removed, and therefore the government embarked upon a "radical restructuring of Anatolia's demographic character."

In other words, the Christians, including the Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians, were removed and the non-Turkish Muslims were relocated and dispersed among the Turkish Muslims to take their place.

Akçam said the removal policy was first tried out on the Greek minority. The Ottoman government came to an agreement, albeit illegal by the standards of international law, with Romania, Bulgaria and Greece and enacted a population exchange in 1913.

The Committee for Union and Progress (CUP), he said, which was in charge, would draw up plans for such removals and exterminations nationally but would later present them as the spontaneous actions of local populations throughout the empire.

The demographic policy was then used on the Armenians, with the plan to reduce the Armenian population to a "governable num-

ber." That number, he said, was deemed to be "5 to 10 percent" of the general population and no more than that. If they formed a bigger share, the Ottoman authorities suggested, they would be less easily governable. Thus, the officials conducted demographic surveys to find out the percentage of Armenians in various locales in Anatolia. For example, in the Kayseri Province, 49,947 Armenians were registered. Most were deported to Aleppo, Damascus and Mosul and the population was reduced to 5 percent. In the Eastern Provinces, the policy was "not a single Armenian was allowed to remain there." The Armenians were deported to Der Zor and by the beginning of 1916, a second wave of the Genocide started, during which an additional 200,000 Armenians were killed in the Syrian provinces in order to maintain the numbers below 10 percent. The authorities, he said, never expected as many to survive the forced marches in the desert.

In a letter from Talaat to Cemal Pasha on October 7, 1916, he specified the need to rid Cilicia of Armenians, as they, he stressed, were so attached to the land and considered it a central part of their heritage.

The Young Turks' Crime against Humanity

was published in April.

Akçam, born in Ardahan, is the holder of the Robert Aram, Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marion Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University, Worcester.

University of Michigan-Dearborn Presents Exhibition on History of Armenian Book Printing

DEARBORN, Mich. — The Armenian Research Center of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, has collaborated with the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum of Southfield, to present a joint exhibit celebrating the legacy of five centuries of Armenian-language book printing, from 1512 to 2012.

Armenian book printing first developed outside the traditional homeland, instead taking root in Italy during the Renaissance. Since then, Armenian-language books have been published in countries on every continent save Antarctica. In the United States, home to about one million Armenian Americans, the first Armenian-language book dates back to 1857. In Michigan, home to a 40,000-strong Armenian-American community, Armenian-language book printing dates back to 1916.

The exhibit of more than 40 historical books and periodicals opened on Thursday, October 18, and will run through November 16. The exhibit will be on the first floor of the Mardigian Library with an opening day reception beginning at 6:30 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Levon Avdoyan, Armenian and Georgian area specialist, from the Library of Congress, who will discuss "The Three Eras of Armenian Literature."

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact the Armenian Research Center of the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

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 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 — 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. Armenian Library and Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown, 7:30 p.m.

NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 21 — Hye Doon (Armenian American Support and Educational Center), 35th Anniversary Celebration, with the participation 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 Gezdin, (201) 394-6310 or the school, (201) 967-5940.

Muriel Mirak-Weissbach is making several stops around the state to support her most recent book, *Madmen at the Helm: Pathology and Politics in the Arab Spring*. She will make a stop at the Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441 Mystic St., Arlington, on Sunday, October 21, at 3 p.m., and at the Robbins Public Library, also in Arlington, at 7 p.m. on October 25.

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 Hajakian (201) 934-3427 or Noushig Atamian (718) 344-5582.

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COMMENTARY

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COMMENTARY

A Vital Moment for Jerusalem

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Holy places, which were meant to be lands of peace, have proven to be some of the most tortured regions of the world. And Armenians, with their traditional penchant for inhabiting troubled areas, have shared the plight of Jerusalem for more than two millennia. It is believed that Armenians settled in Jerusalem during the reign of Tigranes II, who had claimed Jerusalem, at one time, to be part of his vast empire, during his reign 95 to 55 BC.

But the Armenian monastic order in Jerusalem, the Brotherhood of St. James, dates back to the sixth century.

As Armenians have shared the perilous saga of Jerusalem with the religious orders of other faiths, they have been fortunate over the years to have amassed real estate as well as religious, scholarly and artistic treasures. Kings, princes, intellectuals and ordinary pilgrims have endowed the St. James Monastery with immeasurable treasures, believing that the Brotherhood will act as custodians of those treasures, rather than owners. But human weakness sometimes has played a more prominent role than faith by those in charge, thereby compounding the internal problems of the Patriarchate with problems created by outside forces.

With the loss of His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian on October 12, 2012, of blessed memory, the Brotherhood and the Patriarchate face new challenges which come with the succession procedures.

Archbishop Manoogian served for 22 years as Patriarch, having been elected on March 22, 1990.

Arthur Hagopian, in his heart-warming tribute, has covered lovingly the legacy and the achievements of the late Patriarch. Unfortunately, most of his good works enumerated in the article were overshadowed by the problems emanating from the Patriarchate. He was certainly an intellectual, an accomplished scholar like his namesake, Patriarch Torkom Koushagian, but he was not known for being an efficient administrator or a believer in delegating responsibilities to competent subordinates or professionals. That is why some valuable properties were lost during his administration and the succession process has turned into a guessing game.

The Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem is a monastic order serving as custodians of holy places, along with the Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic as well as the Syriac and Coptic Churches. The compound of the Armenian Patriarchate covers one sixth of the Old City; in addition, the Patriarchate owns property outside the compound. To this day, the outside world has not been informed of the Patriarchate's real estate holdings and perhaps no insider has full knowledge of the Patriarchate's wealth either. But the world Armenian community has to extend a helping hand every time a desperate appeal is issued by the Patriarchate.

The Jerusalem Patriarchate, with all its treasures and wealth, has attracted the attention of many parties. Every time Israel and the Palestinians engage in negotiations over the future of Jerusalem, the Armenian Patriarchate is on the table because it occupies such a piece of historic real estate. In addition to the Israelis and the Palestinians, Turkey is vitally interested in its fate, particularly in view of the archival materials pertaining to the Genocide. The Greek Patriarchate has proven to be a perennial thorn in the side of their Armenian counterpart, pursuing an aggressive policy of trampling Armenian rights in holy places, sometimes generating farcical stories during Easter or Christmas. All these forces are vigilantly focused on the election of the next Patriarch, to find out

how well their interests will be represented in Jerusalem.

Another interested party is the See of Antelias, which still holds captive the Diocese in Iran, despite the demise of the Cold War, to undermine the authority of the Holy See at Echmiadzin. The division in the Armenian Church continues and the clergy in Antelias believe that every setback for Echmiadzin will help the cause of the Cilician See.

Turkey has already frozen the situation at the Istanbul Patriarchate by allowing a clergyman of whom they approve to take over, undercutting the influence of the Holy See in that jurisdiction.

After Archbishop Torkom was incapacitated, the Brotherhood convened on January 30, 2012, and assigned Archbishop Nourhan Manougian to provisionally run the affairs of the Patriarchate, until the election of a successor.

At this time, the Brotherhood is scheduled to convene on Friday, October 19, to elect a locum tenens (deghabah), until a successor Patriarch is elected 40 days after the death of the late Patriarch.

Whoever is elected locum tenens can control the developments and steer the election in a direction of his choosing.

The holy places are governed by a set of rules called the Status Quo, promulgated during the reign of Ottoman ruler Sultan Abdel-Majid. Successive governments have abided by the dictates of the Status Quo. The Armenian Patriarchate has its own internal bylaws, which allow only the membership of the Brotherhood to participate in the elections. Outwardly, this may sound rational, because it bars interference from outside forces, especially governments in charge of Jerusalem in any given period. But historically, governments have been involved, whether directly or indirectly, in the outcome of the election. One blatant example in recent memory of such interference was when the Jordanian authorities deported the elected Patriarch, Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan, and ushered in Archbishop Yeghishe Derderian to the throne. While the move was illegal, Archbishop Derderian proved to be a super diplomat, navigating the Patriarchate skillfully among the interests of the Israelis, Palestinians and Jordanians. (In fact, the elected Jerusalem Patriarch cannot take office until his election is approved by the Jordanian and Israeli authorities.)

Unfortunately, the Brotherhood's bylaws have traditionally proven to be a firewall against the influence of well-intentioned Armenian parties and even against the influence of the Mother See of Echmiadzin.

Indeed, during the last convocation, the two delegates from Echmiadzin were not allowed to attend the convocation to read the message of His Holiness. Instead, the message was read by one of the members of the Brotherhood. And this arrogance was justified "because those two delegates were not members of the Brotherhood."

Who will be elected locum tenens is anyone's guess. Prominent and experienced clergy have refused to put their candidacy forward, leaving the floor open to younger clergy who need to prove their competence on the job. God forbid, if the wrong candidate musters the votes, as the very destiny of the Jerusalem Patriarchate will be in jeopardy.

As the saying goes, war is too important a business to be left to the generals; similarly, Jerusalem is too important a center to be left to the 20-30 clergymen, some of whom have chosen the vocation by default.

As we see, the pitfalls and challenges are enormous. Only a wise conclave can measure the historic importance of the moment and cast their votes for the best interests and the survival of the Patriarchate, over individual ambitions.

One Man's Opinion

By George S. Yacoubian Sr.

Perhaps 30 months remain before our unrequited mission to appropriately commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide is launched. In 2015, Armenian Martyrs' Day will fall on a Friday, providing the Armenian Community of Greater Delaware Valley (as well as elsewhere) a full weekend to pay homage to our hallowed martyrs. It is reasonable to assume that our five churches – in concert with the Philadelphia Inter-Communal Committee – will schedule an April 24, 2015, ecumenical liturgy, not withstanding whatever occurs in New York city. Hopefully this liturgy will take place at a familiar facility large enough to accommodate the anticipated audience, and be followed by a program reflecting both the solemnity of the occasion and the renaissance of the Armenian ethnos.

Sunday, April 26 will focus on Times

Square. It is here, in the heart of New York

City, that the Knights of Vartan, accompanied by a panoply of Armenian institutions and organizations, will sponsor an event that has inspired an audience of thousands, captured national and international attention. Both the Eastern Diocese and the Eastern Prelacy will likely close their contiguous churches while instructing their faithful to support this cosmic event and all that follows.

Saturday, April 25, 2015, provides a unique opportunity to demand official recognition from our government and redress of our grievances, whether it be through restoration, restitution or reparations.

One suggestion is the formation of an ad hoc committee comprised of no less than 16 organizations under one umbrella in order to commemorate Armenian Martyr's Day in a manner that will not only compliment, but bridge the Friday and Sunday events. Invitees could include the ACYOA, ADL (ARCA), AGBU, AGBU YP's, AMAA, the ARF (ANC), Armenian Genocide Walk Committee, ARS North, ARS West, Armenian Sisters' Academy, AYP; Hamazkayin, Homenetmen, Knights of

Vartan, SOAR and the Tekeyan Cultural Association. Consideration could also be given to the Inter-Communal Committee and PAND, as well as any others that may have been inadvertently omitted.

The common denominator for all those that participate would be an assessment (perhaps with consideration given to our youth groups) to create a general fund, with the sum to be determined at the founding meeting by all those who wish to participate. Perhaps a goal of \$50,000 could be set. While this sum might appear optimistic to some, and pessimistic to others, contributions from the conscientious as well those incurred if PAND agrees to allocate its proceeds from 2013 to 2014 (a gesture that might well impact their New Year' Eve attendance), would help ensure that whatever end goal is agreed upon is successfully reached.

What must be emphasized is that only an effective, well-orchestrated and adequately financed outreach campaign will validate a centennial commemoration memorializing all those that perished.

(George Yacoubian is a resident of Philadelphia.)



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Rival Congressmen Agree on Artsakh's Independence And Aid To Syrian Armenians

In this third and final article on the debate organized by the Armenian National Committee of America, Western Region, Congressmen Howard Berman and Brad Sherman answered questions from panelists Harut Sassounian and Ara Khachatourian on the safety of Syrian Armenians, the Safarov scandal, the independence of Nagorno Karabagh (Artsakh) and Israel's arms sales to Azerbaijan.

Sherman acknowledged that some of the opposition elements in Syria "are extremely hostile to Christians in Syria." He warned that there would be "consequences for not treating with respect the human rights of the Christian minority."

When asked what specifically Congress could do to assist Syrian Armenians, Berman stated, "There are direct USAID relationships, and there are more covert kinds of ways to ensure that the Christian communities in Syria are being sustained and are being helped."

Berman expressed his concern about Israel's sale to Azerbaijan of more than one billion dollars of sophisticated weapons which could be used against Armenia. When

he indicated that there was a similar relationship between Armenia and Iran, panelist Harut Sassounian challenged the accuracy of that statement. Berman withdrew his statement, acknowledging that he was not aware of such "ongoing relationship between Iran and Armenia."

Sherman objected to the US sale of weapons to Azerbaijan: "We should not be providing any military aid to Azerbaijan, period, and based on what happened in Hungary and based on how this murderer was treated when he returned to Baku, we should not be conducting NATO exercises knowing that perhaps the next soldier, who is hit with an axe in the head and killed, might very well be an American soldier."

Berman later stated, "We want to make sure that Armenia is secure and that the people of Nagorno-Karabagh get to determine their own future. ... Azerbaijan, with its resources, ends up getting stuff they don't financially need, for security threats they don't really have, because of their economic clout."

When asked why most of the aid allocated by Congress for Artsakh was being withheld by the State Department, Sherman stated: "I've requested language to be included in the foreign operations appropriations bill to require USAID to actually spend money on humanitarian development for the people of Artsakh, for the people in the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh, and I'm pleased to report that the committee has included that language in its report."

Questioned on the need to recognize Artsakh's independence, Sherman said, "I think Nagorno-Karabagh is an independent state, period. It's time to put an embassy in Stepanakert. Nagorno-Karabagh is a state because that's what its people have clearly indicated they want."

Berman, on the other hand, was a little more cautious, saying, "The people of Los Angeles don't get to decide for Nagorno-Karabagh, the people of Nagorno-Karabagh get to

decide. Self-determination for the people in Nagorno-Karabagh is the critical issue. I have no doubt that they want independence and that's where I'd like to see the process headed, but we are in a negotiation process that the government of Armenia and the government of Azerbaijan have agreed to."

Sherman retorted: "I agree with Howard [Berman]. It's for the people of Artsakh to decide whether they're an independent country. They've decided! They are – and its time for Howard to acknowledge that Nagorno-Karabagh is an independent republic."

Regarding Hungary's extradition of the Azeri axe murderer to Azerbaijan, Sherman was certain that this action would "affect our military relationship with Hungary.... Several days ago, I sent a letter to the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense saying that Azerbaijan should certainly be suspended from this kind of military cooperation."

Berman added that, "every single NATO country, and that includes Hungary, has now an obligation to suspend Azerbaijan from participation in partnership for peace activities until this wrong is righted."

In his closing statement, Berman promised to continue fighting "for the US recognition of the Genocide as we approach the 100th anniversary. It's not just my commitment as a congressman, but as a Jew whose own people suffered its own genocide. Because the world ignored yours, I will continue to fight for the rights of the Armenian Church and Armenian people who live in Turkey.... I'll fight for the right of self-determination and well-being of the people of Artsakh which was part of the ancient kingdom of Armenia."

Sherman concluded the debate by pledging: "I'm with you seven days a week, and with your help, I'll be there with you seven days a week for another 20 years!"

The case for Vartan Oskanian: An open letter

In recent months, as the campaign of persecution against the head of the Civiltas Foundation, former foreign minister of Armenia, and member of Parliament Vartan Oskanian persisted with all its viciousness and absurdity, my reaction to the unfolding political farce has alternated between disbelief, outrage and sadness.

On a personal level, one feels pain for a dear friend targeted by a political apparatus intolerant of any form of dissent, let alone criticism expressed by a former administration member. In a larger sense, one feels pain for Armenia itself, in view of the Armenian government's seeming inability to prove itself worthy of its own principles of democracy, justice and fairness.

I have known Vartan Oskanian since 1973. We met that year as students at the Yerevan Polytechnic Institute. The friendship that almost instantly developed between us was more akin to the bond of brotherhood, particularly given our commonalities.

Both Vartan and I were sons of the diaspora, raised with an impassioned vision of service to community and homeland. More than a matter of mere idealism, that vision was rooted in a certain existential credo. The values we were instilled with propelled us to get a good education, work hard, but also, ultimately, help contribute to the vitality of Armenian culture, engage in processes which would lead to a better future for the Armenian nation.

Despite the fact that he came from a well-to-do family, which meant he had the option of studying in Europe or elsewhere, Vartan sought to obtain his university education in Yerevan. That's because he wanted to experience the full complement of the Armenian heritage up-close, at the cultural heart of the worldwide Armenian community, where Armenian was spoken everywhere you turned and theaters and concert halls were filled to the rafters week after week. Above all, Vartan, like so many of us, yearned to dedicate himself to community activism.

His first opportunity in this regard came in the late 1980s, when, after having

moved to Los Angeles with his family, Vartan and a group of like-minded friends, including myself, founded the *Armenian International Magazine* (AIM). Envisioned as the *Time* magazine of the Armenian media, AIM soon became a household name, offering in-depth reporting and analyses of current affairs, with a special focus on two historic developments: Artsakh's war of liberation and the independence of Armenia.

By 1992, when AIM already was regarded as one of the world's most respected Armenian news publications, Vartan both served as its editor-in-chief and continued his studies, at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, from which he earned a graduate degree.

It was at this juncture that Vartan resolved to put his abilities directly at the service of our fledgling independent republic. His life in Los Angeles and his job at AIM, had all the makings of a comfortable, prosperous future, while the idea of public service in an Armenia gripped by severe economic hardship and political uncertainty could scarcely be considered appealing.



Yet, to Vartan, the challenge was precisely the point, as the one thing which mattered to him was that he knew he could – and must – be of help to the homeland, in whatever capacity.

After moving to Yerevan with his family, Vartan began to work for the Foreign Ministry and within a short few years was entrusted with the ministry's top position. As foreign minister, Vartan Oskanian carried out a progressive mandate which comprised Armenia's accelerated political and economic integration into the world community, better relations with neighboring states and international powers and the pursuit of an equitable peace process.

Vartan's public service following his tenure as foreign minister has been and continues to be as significant and far-reaching. The Civiltas Foundation, which he established in 2008, is much more than a conventional think tank. It offers innovative yet common-sense programs designed to foster democracy, development, and regional peace, with an overarching emphasis on helping Armenia become a

dynamic, prosperous, and genuinely pluralistic republic. Furthermore, the Civiltas Foundation has become a source of inspiration and hope for thousands upon thousands of Armenian citizens, youths in particular, who take their cues from the foundation to advocate civic discourse, wide-ranging democratic reforms, and grassroots economic empowerment.

So why is Vartan Oskanian, one of Armenia's most forward-thinking and certainly most reform-minded public figures, now being made the target of a veritable crusade by the country's oligarchic powers-that-be? The answer, of course, is provided by the question.

I believe that today every voice of dissent in Armenia, every single action which promotes free speech, better democratic institutions, and economic empowerment of the masses, is as precious and irreplaceable as the most priceless national resource imaginable. There is no future for Armenia without these voices – unless we all resign ourselves to an Armenia forging ahead as a pluralistic state in name only.

By writing this open letter, my hope is that people everywhere will join me in protesting against the false accusations leveled against Vartan Oskanian. With our united stance, we must remind the government of Armenia that the victim here is not just Vartan Oskanian per se, but democracy itself, and that the world is watching.

–Vartan Karaoghlanian
Burbank, Calif.

Notice to Contributors

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

- All articles submitted should be typed, double (or triple) spaced and printed in a type size large enough to be clearly legible (10 point or larger). Submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be assigned lowest priority.
- Articles sent by fax are acceptable, and e-mail submissions are encouraged.
- All submissions should include the name of a contact person and a

daytime telephone number.

- Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is noon on the Monday of the week of publication.
- Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director. Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.
- The *MS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.
- Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases.



Armenia: Diaspora Investors Ready to Move on?

By Gayane Abrahamyan

YEREVAN (Eurasia.net) – Business investors from Armenia's far-flung diaspora, a key engine for the South Caucasus country's sluggish economy, increasingly are expressing frustration with what they describe as Armenia's corrupt judicial system and state bureaucracy. The government, for its part, asserts that it promotes favorable conditions for diaspora

Rev. Papken Maksoudian, Champion of Armenian Religious Traditions, Dies

MAKSOUDIAN, from page 1

From 1952 to 1974, he served as the pastor of Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge.

He was the predeceased in death by his wife, Azadouhie (Kassabian) Maksoudian; son Hagop Maksoudian; grandson Ralph Alexander Highgas and daughter-in-law Yeretzgin Agnes Maksoudian.

He leaves his son, Very Rev. Krikor Maksoudian of Arlington and daughter Arpie Maksoudian Highgas of Peabody; grandchildren Papken Maksoudian and his wife Jill; Toros Maksoudian and his wife Emily Murphy; Arpie Beaman and her husband Ralph; and William Highgas III and his wife Elizabeth; great-grandchildren Armen, Vaughn and Maritza Maksoudian, Isobel and Olivia Maksoudian, Briana and Alexander Beaman and William Highgas IV and Ava Faith Highgas.

A Divine Liturgy will be celebrated and funeral service will be held at St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, on Saturday, October 20 at 9 a.m. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Interment will follow at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Arlington.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in his memory to St. James Armenian Church.

Next week's issue of the *Mirror-Spectator* will carry a more detailed appreciation.

investors.

Reports vary about how large a stake diaspora investment holds in Armenia's Gross Domestic Product of \$18.17 billion, the lowest in the South Caucasus; estimates range from "60 to 70 percent" to as little as 10 percent.

But, given the diaspora's strong networks, keeping those investors happy is key. "Profit, while at the same time building the country of our dreams," President Serge Sargsian urged Diaspora Armenians in London on July 31.

In interviews with EurasiaNet.org, though, some diaspora investors claim that such appeals fail to materialize into reality.

"Diaspora Armenian businesspersons are leaving Armenia to avoid total bankruptcy," said Valerie Ashken Gortsunian, founder of coffee importer and popular retailer, Le Café de Paris, which employs 50 people in Yerevan.

As part of a divorce from her husband, Armenian jazz drummer Vazgen Assatryan, Gortsunian lost control over her company in 2007 when a Yerevan court awarded Assatryan half of the property rights in Le Café de Paris. The decision was made despite a marriage contract, signed in France, which defined Gortsunian as the sole owner of the business, she said.

Faced with a "huge" 80-million-dram fine (about \$200,000) for unpaid taxes – a fine Gortsunian said should be applied to the company itself rather than her personally – she said she eventually had to sell her remaining half stake in Le Café de Paris.

Reasons for why the court did not honor the terms of Gortsunian's alleged marriage contract were not immediately available. Gortsunian charges that her ex-husband, a prominent musician, used "bribes, acquaintances, connections with the top" to secure the ruling. Assatryan declined to comment to EurasiaNet.org about the case.

Gortsunian, who moved back to France from Yerevan this January, said that she "ended up leaving Armenia empty-handed" after investing roughly \$2 million into the company since 1995.

"If the president makes promises, offers assurances for us to come and invest, he has to ensure fair competition as well," she said. "The

corruption of Armenia's judicial system has reached a point when it's simply impossible to run a business there."

Edmond Khudian, a real estate investor from Glendale, Calif., has similar complaints.

In 2010, Khudian filed a lawsuit against his two Armenian partners, Eduard Yesaian and Vladislav Mangasarian, in Arin Capital, a construction business, for allegedly embezzling funds from the company and forging his signature on documents for the sale of apartments in a 13-story building in downtown Yerevan that had already been sold to diaspora buyers.

When the company declared bankruptcy, the initial diaspora buyers were unable to reclaim the \$4 million they had paid for the flats.

In 2010, Khudian filed a criminal case against Arin Capital, but claims that the company's director, Yesaian, has not been called in for questioning and that his own fingerprints have not been taken to test his accusation of forgery.

"No action has been taken to investigate those deals, because they have powerful sponsors in the top," he said in reference to Yesaian, whom he described as a friend of President Serge Sargsian's brother, Levon.

Levon Sargsian, a former member of parliament for the ruling Republican Party of Armenia, has denied the acquaintance.

Contacted by EurasiaNet.org about Khudian's charge of deliberate negligence, the General Prosecutor's Office case investigator Tigran Harutiunian responded that "[i]t's my business when to call in someone for questioning."

"This case needs more time than the diaspora thinks," Harutiunian said, hanging up the phone.

Similar scenarios have marked the investments of several other Diaspora Armenians, leading to the loss of sums ranging from a few hundred thousand dollars to a few million.

Senior officials have been quick to absolve the government from any blame for the failed investments. In general, the losses of diaspora investors are "not massive, and the state isn't at fault, but rather some deceitful people and Diaspora Armenians' lack of knowledge about Armenia's legislation," asserted Armen Alaverdian, deputy chairperson of Armenia's

State Revenue Committee.

One advocacy group for Diaspora Armenians argued otherwise. The main stumbling block for diaspora investors, claimed Chamber of Advocates Vice President Nikolai Baghdasarian, a member of the Initiative Group for the Protection of Diaspora Armenian Investors' Rights, occurs when individuals in the elite abuse their ties to the state bureaucracy.

"Documents are forged and through these 'legal' documents everything is seized and appropriated, and when the [diaspora] investor turns to the courts, fake bankruptcy is declared," claimed Baghdasarian.

International monitors long have chastised Armenia for a judiciary system that allegedly does the executive branch's bidding and for widespread corruption among government bureaucrats. The 2012 US Department of State Human Rights Practices Report identified corruption as "a serious problem."

"Officials frequently engaged in corrupt practices with impunity, and authorities took limited preventive measures," the report found. Armenia's courts, meanwhile, are expected "to find the accused guilty in almost every case."

But Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobian is convinced that Armenia's diaspora still believes in the government's sincerity. "Those cases will not affect the overall sentiment" of diasporan investors toward Armenia," she told EurasiaNet.org.

"The issue here is not about trust, but, rather, [the] economic profitability" of individual investments, Hakobian stressed.

Economy Minister Tigran Davtian agrees, and said that "serious investors" take into consideration "weighty international ratings" that show supposed improvements in Armenia's business climate, and "macroeconomic data" that shows 8 percent growth in the first five months of 2012, rather than individual cases" of bad investments.

"Naturally, we don't want our compatriots to leave Armenia in disappointment, but not everybody can succeed in business," said Davtian.

(Gayane Abrahamyan is a reporter for ArmeniaNow.com in Yerevan.)

The Meaning of Glenn Gould

TORONTO (*Globe and Mail*) – If Glenn Gould were alive now, he would be celebrating his 80th birthday, posting to his blog, releasing another podcast and figuring out how to license downloads of his recordings. Or maybe he would just be hunkered down at the piano playing the work of a dead European composer when not hiding out at classic Toronto diner Fran's, eating rice pudding.

By Kate Taylor

The multifaceted Gould is a kind of Rorschach test for Canadians. Would you like to see him as a digital prophet, the forward-looking recording artist and broadcaster who called for a democracy that would elevate the audience to the level of the performer and who predicted our mash-up culture? Or perhaps you prefer the child of WASP Toronto, the control freak who obsessed over the quality of his recordings, partisan of Bach and Schoenberg.

"You have to get beyond the cliché he was just a rebel," says Canadian pianist and music producer Chilly Gonzales. "There were moments he played into the caricature and there were a lot of moments when he was extremely conservative."

Gonzales was one of many participants at a University of Toronto (UT) gathering last month to mark the 80th anniversary of Gould's birth. It is the forward-looking Gould who is mainly on display at the event – titled "Dreamers, Renegades, Visionaries: the Glenn Gould Variations" – which is infused with the belief that Gould not only predicted but would also heartily endorse our interactive culture of downloading, sampling and remixing.

"Glenn now could spend the morning working on a piece, record it in the afternoon, and send it out to his admirers in the evening. I think he would probably have been a blogger and he would definitely have gotten rid of the record company," suggests Tim Page, a professor of music and journalism at the

University of Southern California.

He had an intense telephone friendship with Gould in the last years of his life, when Page was working as a music critic in New York. "The Internet was made for Glenn Gould," says Page, "and I am just sorry he never got to play with it."

Instead, others will be doing some playing for him. Filmmaker Atom Egoyan, for example, is contributing an outdoor installation that features a giant version of a child's tin-can-and-string device, because he is most interested in Gould's experiments with sound. "I was surprised by his early decision to go digital, to manipulate his recordings, to make the studio his art form," says Egoyan, who remembers, as a boy in Victoria, listening to Gould's CBC Radio broadcasts about music, culture and technology.

Of course, Gould's career predated digital recording, and Egoyan knows that the musician's painstaking splicing of his own recordings in the studio was done using analog technology. The slip of the tongue is telling, for many of the participants perceive Gould, who died in 1982, as digital in spirit if not in fact, a wholly contemporary artist.

They point out that the classical pianist's interest in the work of pop singer Petula Clark foresaw the current blurring of the line between high art and pop culture. They note he argued that recorded music was not a snapshot of a performance but rather a separate art form that would eventually be recognized as such, just as film had been recognized as separate from theatre. And most of all, they celebrate how Gould, extrapolating from the way the home hi-fi listener could fiddle about with the volume, treble and bass, predicted a more democratic, more interactive relationship between the recording artist and the audience.

"He could talk about things that seemed like sci-fi at the time but turned out to be the remix culture," says jazz composer and pianist Ron Davis, co-artistic director of the UT event. Specifically, Gould advanced the notion that recording artists would one day offer listeners the building blocks to create their own musical experience rather than presenting them with finished recordings.

Davis places Gould amongst 20th-century Canadian intellectuals who thought about communications and mass media, from Harold Innis to Marshall McLuhan and Northrop Frye.

People have sometimes quipped that Gould is Canada's Elvis, the musical figure whose star burns even brighter after death, and Davis sees more than a joke in the comparison: "Elvis represented a huge swath of American culture. Gould represented Canadian culture of the period – McLuhan, Frye – publicly accessible but brilliant. In the US, it was the showman; here, it was modest brilliance."

Of course, Gould was never modest about his talents – and not always right in his predictions. "He was wrong on a lot of things," Page says of his old friend. "He used to say the concert would die out by the year 2000 and the record company would rule."

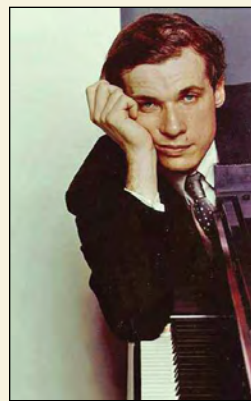
Today, as performers who have lost recording income to downloading rely on concerts to make a living, it's fair to express some skepticism about an unbridled enthusiasm for Gould's technological vision. If Gould the visionary predicted a more democratic musical future, what would Gould the control freak have made of admirers sampling his recordings to create contemporary pop tunes (as one young radio DJ is doing for the UT event) or downloading music

for free?

"My guess is that he was a good enough businessman, you would have probably paid for his downloads," Page says. "He would have figured out something. He had an interesting and unconventional brain."

The paradox of Gould was that behind the musical brilliance and technological precision was always the fragile human element, the lonely man who spent hours on the phone with a few close friends who describe him as generous and funny. He is not easy to box in. "He offers so many ideas to take off from. He's this protean figure," Egoyan says.

In those meticulous recordings, above Gould's analytical piano music, you can sometimes hear the lyrical sound of a man humming as he plays.



Glenn Gould