

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXIV, NO. 15, Issue 4309

\$ 2.00

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

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### EU Maintains Interest in Armenian Cooperation

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The decision of Armenia to join the Russia-led Customs Union has brought a new dimension to cooperation negotiations with the European Union (EU), according to the head of the EU delegation in Armenia Traian Hristea. He made the comments on October 22 at the presentation of the European Integration Index 2013 for Eastern Partnership countries.

Hristea noted that in this stage the relations with Armenia are important for the EU.

“Certainly the decision of Armenia to join the Customs Union emerged corresponding consequences, which are directed to change the circles of our bilateral relations,” Hristea. He added that the resources provided by the European Union for the cooperation development should be reevaluated. “Today we need to review and study all the planned programs for Armenia. Especially those programs, which concern to the creation of the deep and comprehensive free trade zone,” Hristea said.

### Actor Vardan Petrosyan In Serious Accident

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Actor Vardan Petrosyan was taken to the hospital and operated on after surviving a car accident late last week.

According to the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the accident took place on the second kilometer of the Yeghvard-Yerevan highway. A report said rescuers helped take Petrosyan out of his BMW and also rescued the driver from other vehicle. Both were first transferred to the Yeghvard hospital and then to the Erebuni medical center in Yerevan.

According to the preliminary report, Petrosyan’s condition was assessed as serious. Media reports later said that the actor had undergone a surgery and was at the Erebuni medical center’s intensive care unit and is said to have stabilized.

### Armenia National Team Coach Bids Farewell

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenia’s national soccer team’s coach and squad manager Vardan Minasyan announced this week he will not coach the national squad in the new qualification stage. “Today I met with FFA (Football Federation of Armenia) President Ruben Hayrapetyan, and we discussed several matters linked to the national team. I prefer another continuation to my [coaching] career. There are several offers, specifically from abroad, and I want to discuss them,” said Minasyan.

“It is a great honor for every coach to be the manager of a national squad. I also would like to thank our football fans. I also would like to thank the media representatives. I have always been honest with them,” Minasyan added.

## INSIDE

### Museum Donor

Page 10

#### INDEX

Arts and Living . . . . .	10
Armenia . . . . .	2
Community News. . . . .	4
Editorial . . . . .	14
International . . . . .	3

## Uttering the Unutterable: Prose about Genocide

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach  
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN – How can you express “the unspeakable” in writing? Is it at all possible? The unspeakable or indescribable, in this case, being the atrocities of mass murder, in the Armenian genocide of 1915, the suffering of the Greek victims of the massacres and deportations in 1922-3, the elimination of European Jews in the Holocaust. Those courageous few, whether survivors of the catastrophic events, or their offspring, or contemporary witnesses, who put down their recollections and reflections in writing, have given birth to a vast literature, the literature of memory, of genocide.

Leading protagonists in this literary process gathered from October 11-13, under the auspices of the Evangelical Academy in Berlin. Co-sponsors of the conference were the Working Group for Recognition – Against Genocide, for International Understanding (AGA) and the German-Armenian Society, Frankfurt. Peter Balakian, who had travelled from the US to participate in the conference, noted that being there Schwanenwerder so near the Wannsee was “heavy;” after all, it was there at the conference bearing its name that the Nazi leadership met in January 1942 to map out the “final solution to the Jewish problem,” what was to go down in history as the Holocaust.

In her opening welcome, Dr. Tessa Hofmann, founding member of the AGA and one of the first in Germany to spread knowledge of the Armenian Genocide, quoted Theodor W. Adorno’s famous 1951 remark, “To write poetry after Auschwitz is barbaric” and noted that long before that, in 1920, author Zabel Esayan from Constantinople had questioned whether or not one could express the indescribable in literature: “It is definitely possible to relate  
see UNUTTERABLE, page 7



SHANT PARSEGHIAN

### Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge Donates Computers to Armenian Sisters' Academy

LEXINGTON, Mass. – It has been a tradition for the Knights of Vartan Ararat Lodge to organize activities every year to raise funds for Armenian day schools here. This year, the lodge organized a Surf and Turf Night and raised funds for both St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School and the Armenian Sisters’ Academy (ASA).

On Sunday, October 20, members of the lodge, with their Commander Jirair Demirdjian, visited the ASA and welcomed Sister Yevtoksia Keshishian, Mother Superior of the sisterhood, above, seated in black, who is visiting the US from the headquarters in Rome. Surrounded by all the sisters of the school, including Sister Emma Mousaian, director of the Philadelphia ASA, staff and members of the school board, Keshishian received from Demirdjian the donation of a dozen computers, which will replace the computers currently at the school. The computers are used for a variety of subjects, including learning the Armenian language.

Keshishian thanked the Knights for their donation and promised that as long as the community is behind the school, the school will keep its doors open.

A breakfast reception followed hosted by Najeeb Diarbekerly.

### Pan-Armenian Journalists' Group Convenes, Awards Mirror-Spectator Annual Prize

YEREVAN – On October 9, the sixth Pan-Armenian Journalists’ Coordinating Committee convened here, under the auspices of Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan and the Armenian Journalists’ Union.

Hakobyan thanked those assembled for raising the issues that Armenians in the diaspora face, and also help shed light on solutions to those issues. She also presented a report on the Diaspora Ministry’s five years of activities.

The committee congratulated the Diaspora Ministry on its fifth anniversary.

She said, in turn, “Without the diaspora, there would be no Diaspora Ministry. Without a diaspora, our programs would not be realized.”

The group is co-chaired by the editor of Aztag newspaper in Lebanon, Shahan

Kandaharian, and ADL Press Committee co-chairman, Hagop Vartivarian. Both spoke and praised the efforts of the Diaspora Ministry.

In addition, Vartivarian thanked her for awarding the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* with the newspaper of the year award, which the ministry hands out annually, in conjunction with the Armenian Journalists’ Union.

“Thank you to the ministry and to Astghik Gevorkyan [of the Journalists’ Union], for recognizing our ADL publication in Massachusetts, which strives to bring news from Armenia to their brothers and sisters in the US, and also inform our fellow Armenians in the Homeland about the lives of American-Americans,” Vartivarian said.

### Koutoujian Looks Back on Campaign, Hopes Community Activism Continues

By Alin K. Gregorian  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

BOSTON – It was a primary campaign that was launched when Sen. John Kerry was named secretary of state by Present Barack Obama and then Rep. Edward Markey won the special election in June to become the state’s junior senator.

On October 15, the intense campaign by seven Democrats and three Republicans seeking to win the special primary in their respective parties to replace Markey ended, and state Sen. Katherine Clark of Melrose



Sheriff Peter Koutoujian

topped the Democratic side with 32 percent of the votes in the 24 cities and towns making up the Fifth Congressional District.

In second place was Middlesex County

Sheriff Peter Koutoujian with 22 percent of the vote. He won Watertown and Waltham handily.

see KOUTOUJIAN, page 5





## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Armenian Justice Minister Hosts CoE Commissioner

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Minister of Justice Hrayr Tovmasyan hosted Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe (CoE) Nils Muiznieks on October 21. Muiznieks arrived in Armenia in order to participate in the High Level Conference on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance in Europe organized in the framework of Armenia's presidency at the Ministerial Committee of the Council of Europe on October 21-22.

Muiznieks asked for a meeting with Tovmasyan to get information on the current situation of the human rights protection in the country.

Tovmasyan explained the current situation of the human rights in Armenia, as well as the reforms made in the field, to the guest. "The amendments in any field are subject to failure without the implementation of the reforms in the judiciary," said Tovmasyan.

This was Muiznieks first visit to Armenia.

## Postanjan Becomes New Leader of Parliamentary Faction

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Zaruhi Postanjan has been elected new head of the opposition Heritage faction in parliament. The change comes after Ruben Hakobyan announced his decision to resign as faction leader earlier this week.

Talking to media in parliament Hakobyan said Heritage Party leader Raffi Hovannisian had been notified about his move well in advance. He left questions about reasons for his step without commentary, only saying that he had decided to step down as faction leader before the recent scandal around Postanjan in the wake of her controversial question to President Serge Sargsian about his gambling habit at the PACE plenary session in Strasbourg on October 2.

Unlike a majority of Heritage members Hakobyan then was critical of Postanjan's behavior. Representatives of the ruling party in Armenia called her statement in Strasbourg slanderous and the parliament speaker threatened to expel her from the Armenian delegation to the PACE.

## Marseille Mayor Heads Business Delegation to Yerevan

YEREVAN (Hetq) – Mayor of Marseille Jean-Claude Gaudin arrived in the capital this week, heading a business delegation scheduled to meet with the Armenia's minister of the economy.

The delegation had been invited by Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan. Gaudin was accompanied by Bernard Hatemian, president of the French-Armenian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vice President Didier Parakian, deputy Marseille mayor and Garo Hovsepian, mayor of the 7th sector of Marseille.

The French delegation was scheduled to meet with Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Ara Petrosyan, Minister of Diaspora Hranoush Hakobyan and local business leaders. This is the only official visit of Jean Claude Gaudin abroad this year.

## NKR President Hosts Armenian Culture Minister

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President of Nagorno Karabagh Bako Sahakyan met with Armenian Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan on October 22. A number of issues related to the cooperation between the two Armenian states in the sphere of culture were discussed during the meeting.

NKR Minister of Culture and Youth Affairs Narine Aghabalyan attended the meeting.

# Shift:Tech Brings Armenia to Forefront of World IT Industry

YEREVAN (Huffington Post) – ONEArmenia and its latest venture, the Shift:Tech initiative bring tectonic change to Armenia, one project at a time. Ad executive and entrepreneur Patrick Sarkissian founded ONEArmenia in 2012 in order to take advantage of that country's remarkable brain-power and cultural strength and to help to save a young generation of Armenians from the corruption and negativity prevalent in all post-Soviet Republics. Armenians, who have been around for some 3,000 years, embrace their past and the many great entrepreneurs and artists that they have produced over the centuries. But the collapse of the USSR, a war with Azerbaijan, a frightening earthquake and blockade by Turkey have left many in Armenia morose. Emigration has surpassed one million (out of four mil-

lion) persons. Corruption is rampant.

"Enough looking backwards!" might be an apt motto for Sarkissian and his colleagues at ONEArmenia. In a remarkably short period of time, Sarkissian has brought together like-minded entrepreneurs and cultural workers including hospitality entrepreneur James Tufenkian who produces gorgeous oriental carpets and has opened a chain of top-rated hotels across the country. The idea behind ONEArmenia is to use crowd-sourcing and crowd-funding – modern fundraising tools – in order to raise money for much-needed projects in the humanitarian, environmental and tech fields. Each project donation is completely vetted to produce zero percent corruption – a most attractive feature to potential investors, young and old.

Of the organization's many projects, its Shift:Culture has been particularly enticing. The project received submissions from all over the globe, both within Armenia and from its far-flung diaspora. The winner, the Epsidon Theater Group, took an old Armenian story by the great writer Nar-Dos called "He and I" and transformed it into a vibrant, contemporary rock opera. The project was so successful and the enthusiasm for it so great that Sarkissian then launched ONEArmenia's current undertaking SHIFT: Tech. As the "shift" in both titles suggest, the idea is to shift traditional ways of thinking both in and outside Armenia about the Republic and the possibilities it affords. "Armenia is a country with 99% literacy and 36 percent unemployment," Sarkissian explained: "I wanted to bring attention to Armenia's highly successful IT sector which has already produced hundreds of millions of exits (export dollars)."

Shift: Tech is an open call to develop a mobile app in Armenia for the world market. Armenia is already considered a high-tech hub for the former CIS countries and the Caucasus. In fact the world's premiere, full-featured mobile photo editor, Picsart, Inc., for example, was founded there and already has more than 77 million users. It was developed and produced in one of the many small offices which now dot the

country's capital Yerevan, which are reminiscent of Silicon Valley's early days when people put together giants like Apple inside small crowded garages and the like. Armenia's booming IT sector, considered to be virtually corruption-free, accounts for no less than 20 percent of the country's annual GDP. Not surprisingly, start-ups are popping up all over the country. Said David Bequette, OneArmenia's in-country director: "Armenia's potential is not up for debate...it doesn't need to look any farther than the Internet for an environment where the talents of its young engineers, programmers, designers and software developers can truly take flight."

SHIFT: Tech's winning entry will be voted on by a peer review committee that includes some industry powerhouses, including Alexis Ohanian, co-founder of Reddit and Hipmunk, Matthew Brimer, co-founder of General Assembly and Yoav Kutner, the Co-Founder of Magento and Oro CRM. "SHIFT: Tech offers enough support for the winning team of developers to focus their time and efforts exclusively on an app idea and make it a reality by building a functioning, viable product for a big global marketplace", said Nigel Sharp, founder of LionSharp Solutions – a leading creative technology start-up: "Awareness of the technology possibilities will improve and hopefully inspire more people to utilize Armenia's impressive engineering and mobile development capabilities."

The first place winner will be given the opportunity to work with Social Objects, a leading mobile app development start-up in Yerevan, in order to turn their abstract idea into a unique and important contribution to the software sphere and to society as a whole. In addition to having a world-class development team build their app, part of the \$25,000 in-kind grant will go to marketing and taking the app to market. Following official OneArmenia policy, a portion of profits from the project will be reinvested to help fund another key OneArmenia sector – namely its community projects. It's a win-win proposition, no matter which way you look at it. For more information, visit [www.onearmenia.org](http://www.onearmenia.org)

## Armenia's PM Sends Letter of Condolence To Dmitry Medvedev

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Sargsian sent a letter of condolence to the Prime Minister of Russia Dmitry Medvedev on a terrorist act, which took place in Volgograd and claimed the lives of seven people.

A copy of the letter was given to the press, in which he expressed his condolences personally and on behalf of the government, on the terrorist act which resulted in the deaths of several persons in Volgograd on October 21.

"We condemn any expression of terrorism and convey our support to the Government of the Russian Federation and the Russian people. Please, convey our words of support and consolation to the families of the victims and wish a speedy recovery to all those injured at that inhuman and violent action," he said in the letter.

The suicide blast that devastated a bus in Volgograd was meant to take place in Moscow, according to a source in the Russian Investigative Committee. The investigation also revealed that the bomber had conspirators in the capital.

According to the source, the investigation shows that Naida Asiyalova – the 30-year-old native of Dagestan who is believed to be the alleged terrorist – conspired with her partner, Dmitry Sokolov, and two others to carry out a terrorist attack in the Russian capital.

Two of the conspirators, Ruslan Kazanbiyev and Kurban Omarov, both 25, had already arrived in Moscow and were waiting for Asiyalova, *Russia Times'* source said. Both men are wanted in Russia for carrying out a twin terrorist bombing in Dagestan in May 2012, in which 14 people were killed.

Sokolov was also expected by the terrorists to arrive in Moscow, the source added. However, she reportedly detonated her device in Volgograd, killing herself and six others, and injuring more than 30.

Police have reportedly put Kazanbiyev, Omarov, and Sokolov on a federal wanted list, and will distribute the terrorist suspects' photos among all police stations and checkpoints in Russia.

A three-day mourning period for the victims of the terrorist attack has been declared in Volgograd province. Volgograd authorities have also been put on high terror alert for the next 15 days.



The Minas mural

## Government to Spend 22.5 Million Drams To Preserve Minas Mural

YEREVAN (Hetq) – The Armenian government will allocate 22.5 million drams to preserve a Minas Avetisyan mural called "Armenia" that now graces the vestibule of the cultural center in the village of Vahramaberd in Shirak Province.

The funds will be given to the Minas Avetisyan Benevolent Cultural Foundation which has carried out preservation work on a number of other Avetisyan murals.



## INTERNATIONAL

## Protests in Paris Over Immigrant Expulsions

PARIS (RFE/RL) – Thousands of French students have blockaded entrances to their schools and marched through Paris and other cities to protest the expulsions of two illegal immigrant students.

The protests came following the deportation to Kosovo of a 15-year-old girl after she was detained in front of her classmates during a field trip.

The government said Leonarda Dibrani's family had been denied asylum and was no longer allowed to stay in France.

The Paris education authority said that a total of 20 schools in Paris were "disrupted" as students protested the eviction of both Dibrani and Khatchik Kachatrian, a 19-year-old Paris student who was deported to Armenia on October 13.

"We feel concerned by what happened to the young Armenian and Kosovar, who were expelled this week," David, a Paris student, said. "We are really outraged by what happened. We find it shameful and we support them wholeheartedly."

Dibrani, 15, smiled as she walked in the town of Mitrovica on October 17,

following her deportation from France.

The Dibranis – ethnic Roma from Kosovo – entered France illegally in 2009 and exhausted their legal appeals against expulsion.

Kachatrian, 19, had been attending a technical school in northern Paris for two weeks when he was arrested last month on charges of theft and sent back to Armenia last week alone. He and his family had been living in France since 2011.

Such expulsions occur regularly in France as the government tries to limit illegal immigration.

The students said the expulsions are unfair to children and want the government to allow the Dibranis and Kachatrian to return to France.

Several students clashed with police, who fired tear gas, but most marched peacefully in the capital. Some of them climbed on bus shelters, calling for the resignation of Interior Minister Manuel Valls.

Valls was born in Barcelona and only became a French citizen when he was 20.

He has taken a tough stance on Romany migration, saying recently

that most of the 20,000 Roma in France have no intention of integrating and should be sent back to their countries of origin.

Valls enjoys wide popularity among the public. Nevertheless, he came under attack from within his own Socialist Party for what some members see as a right-wing approach to immigration that contradicts the values of the left.

President Francois Hollande has so far avoided commenting on the controversy.

But Socialist Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, speaking to parliament on October 16, promised the Dibrani family could return to France if the girl's rights were found to have been infringed.

"If a mistake has been made, the warrant for expulsion from the country will be canceled," Ayrault said. "This family will come back and its situation will be examined and reexamined, according to our rights, our principles and our values."

The protests also spread to other parts of the country. In the southern town of Mende, around 100 youths demonstrated.

## 'Color of Pomegranates' by Paradjanov to Be Shown at Cannes Film Festival

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – This year the World Cinema Fund will restore the film "Color of Pomegranates" by Sergei Parajanov (Sayat-Nova) for the purpose of showing it as a sample of the best of world cinema at the Cannes Film Festival 2014.

As the director of Armenian National Cinema Center Gevorg Gevorgyan pointed out in an interview, every year the Cannes Film Festival takes on a theme.

The World Cinema Fund has a purpose to restore and extend the best samples of the world cinema. This film by Paradjanov is considered to be one of the pearls of world cinema, and the film is in the phase of recovery. The restored version of the film will be ready in the near future. It is an achievement for any country to display a film in the Cannes Film Festival.

Paradjanov was born on January 9, 1924. He was an Armenian film director and artist who made significant contributions to the Ukrainian, Armenian and Georgian cinema. He invented his own cinematic style, which was totally out of step with the guiding principles of socialist realism (the only sanctioned art style in the USSR). This, combined with his controversial lifestyle and behavior, led Soviet authorities to repeatedly persecute and imprison him, and suppress his films.

Although he started making movies professionally in 1954, Paradjanov later disowned all the films he made before 1964 as "garbage." After directing "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" (renamed "Wild Horses of Fire" for most foreign distributions) Paradjanov became something of an international celebrity and simultaneously a target of attacks from the system. Nearly all of his film projects and plans from 1965 to 1973 were banned, scrapped or closed by the Soviet film administrations, both locally (in Kyiv and Yerevan) and federally (Goskino), almost without discussion, until he was finally arrested in late 1973. He was imprisoned until 1977, despite a plethora of pleas for pardon from various artists.

Even after his release (he was arrested for the third and last time in 1982) he was a persona non grata in Soviet cinema. It was not until the mid-1980s, when the political climate started to relax, that he could resume directing. Still, it required the help of influential Georgian actor Dodo Abashidze and other friends to have his last feature films green-lighted.

His health was seriously weakened by four years in labor camps and nine months in prison in Tbilisi. He died of lung cancer in 1990, at a time when, after almost 20 years of suppression, his films were being featured at foreign film festivals.

In 1984, the slow thaw within the Soviet Union spurred Paradjanov to resume his passion for cinema. With the encouragement of various Georgian intellectuals, he created the multi-award-winning film "Legend of Suram Fortress," based on a novella by Daniel Chonkadze, his first return to cinema since "Sayat Nova" 15 years earlier. In

1988, he made another multi-award-winning film, "Ashik Kerib," based on a story by Mikhail Lermontov. Paradjanov dedicated the film to his close friend, Andrei Tarkovsky, and "to all the children of the world."

Paradjanov then immersed himself in a project that ultimately proved too monumental for his failing health. He died of cancer in Yerevan, Armenia, on July 20, 1990, at age 66, leaving this final work, "The Confession," unfinished. It survives in its original negative as "Paradjanov: The Last Spring," assembled by his close friend Mikhail Vartanov in 1992.

Federico Fellini, Tonino Guerra, Francesco Rosi, Alberto Moravia, Giulietta Masina, Marcello Mastroianni and Bernardo Bertolucci were among those who publicly mourned his death.

The Parajanov-Vartanov Institute was established in Hollywood in 2010 to study, preserve and promote the artistic legacies of Sergei Parajanov and Mikhail Vartanov.

## Armenia Participates in ITB Asia 2013 Travel Exhibition

SINGAPORE (Armenpress) – The National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia introduced Armenia at the ITB Asia 2013 International Travel Trade Show which was held from October 23-25. This was the first appearance of the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia at the ITB Asia Trade Show. The National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia said that more than 9,800 travel companies from about 180 countries were expected to participate in this year's event.

The location of the Trade Show was of strategic importance, as it provided easy access from all over Asia to help promote inbound tourism from Asia.

The delegation of the National Competitiveness Foundation of

Armenia had an opportunity to meet and get in touch with their counterparts in tourism industries around the globe sharing

information about Armenia's rich heritage and establishing new partnerships.

ITB Asia, the annually held three-day B2B trade show and convention – now in its fifth year in Singapore – took place at Marina Bay Sands. It was organized by Messe Berlin Pte Ltd and supported by the Singapore Exhibition & Convention Bureau.

This was where international exhibitors of all sectors of the travel-value chain, Asia Pacific's leading travel companies and emerging small and medium-sized enterprises met with top international buyers from the MICE, Leisure and Corporate Travel markets.

## International News

### Turkish Publisher Calls For Recognition of Armenian Martyrs

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) – Many Turkish intellectuals have finally publically recognized the events of the 1915 Genocide carried out against the Armenians. The same historians also accuse the Ottoman Empire of a crime against humanity. A well-known Turkish publisher, Ragip Zarakolu, recently wrote on the subject in a public forum.

Zarakolu points out that the genocidal policy of the Republic of Turkey of 1915 was founded in the formative years of Turkey. He expressed hope that one day Turkish academics, steering away from racism and religious discrimination, will memorialize some of those killed. "We hope that in the future the doctors, typographers, pharmacists, publishers, merchants, craftsmen and others will keep bright the memory of their colleagues who died in 1915. First of all, the responsibility of the Turkish Grand National Assembly is to give a place without discrimination, and to build a monument to the deputies killed in those years," said Zarakolu.

### German Clubs Interested In Armenian Striker Yura Movsisyan

BERLIN (Armenpress) – Various German soccer clubs are interested in the striker of the Armenian National Football Team and Spartak Moscow Yura Movsisyan. It was also noted that the clubs are closely following Movsisyan's matches with Spartak and the Armenian national team.

Movsisyan, who was Russia's best goal-scorer in the last season, scored the winner in the match with Anzhi in the 13th round of the Russian Premier League.

The forward helped the Armenian national team play to a draw with Italy and scored the opener in the fifth minute of the match.

Movsisyan was born in 1987 in Baku, Azerbaijani SSR to an Armenian parents Sergey Movsisyan and Aida Sahakyan. Movsisyan attended and played soccer at Pasadena High School, and played a year of college soccer at Pasadena City College before being discovered by Major League Soccer (MLS) scouts prior to the 2006 MLS SuperDraft.

### FIDE Presidential Candidates Announced

TALINN, Estonia – Two candidates have announced the candidacy for the International Chess Federation (FIDE) presidency – current President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov and the 13th world champion, Garry Kasparov.

Ilyumzhinov and Kasparov announced their candidacies at the FIDE Assembly. The election of the new president of FIDE will be held in August 2014 during the Chess Olympiad to be held in Norway.

### Nalbandian Welcomes Latvian Parliamentary Delegation

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian received the parliamentary delegation of Latvia led by the deputy speakers of Sejm Andrejs Klementjevs and Inese Libina-Egnere this week.

The vice president of the Armenian National Assembly and the head of Armenia-Latvia Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, Eduard Sharmazanov, also attended the meeting.

Nalbandian pointed out that a close cooperation has been established between Armenia and Latvia in recent years. The minister also added that for the bilateral cooperation the activity of the friendship groups in the parliaments of the two countries is important. The two parties discussed the joint steps of strengthening and developing the bilateral cooperation.



# Community News

## Telethon 2013

### A New Route to Security and Prosperity for Northern Armenia and Karabagh

NEW YORK – This year Armenia Fund's 25 affiliates are launching fundraising efforts in support of building an alternate route between Armenia and Karabagh and thus the effort is the designated campaign theme of the upcoming Armenia Fund's 16th International Thanksgiving Day Telethon. The goal of this massive public works effort is to turn the roads that currently link a string of strategically-important towns in northern Armenia and northern Karabagh into a modern highway system. The new route is projected to promote trade, cooperation and economic development among vulnerable border communities that are vital to national security.

For some, this new initiative may beg the question: why another public road works project when there is the Goris-Stepanakert Highway? Since its completion back in 1999, that highway has proven to be the lynchpin of the fund's sustainable economic development and security strategy. Prior to its construction, it took several days to travel from Mardakert in Karabagh to Yerevan in Armenia. After the completion of the Goris-Stepanakert Highway as well as the North-South Highway, within Karabagh alone, it now takes nine hours. With the addition of the Vardenis-Mardakert Highway, there will be a shortcut through the



north, which will take just a few hours to cross. Therefore, trucks can reach markets faster, helping businesses. Equally important, supplies can reach military bases and local government centers promptly. The Goris-Stepanakert route connects southeastern Armenia with south-central Karabagh, ending in its capital city. That excludes access for both northern Armenia's border communities and those border towns in Karabagh, which, 22 years ago, were delineated as part of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic. Today, these villages are neighbors with a hostile Azerbaijan, creating a different security dynamic. An alternative route connecting the two Armenian republics can make all the difference. The Vardenis-Mardakert Highway link 16 village communities and the three towns: Vardenis in Armenia and Kharvachar and Mardakert in Karabagh. All told, more than 76,000 residents stand to benefit from the new highway.

Khoren Bandazian, the chairman of Armenia Fund USA, explained, "Security is a high priority for both Armenia and Karabagh. And the key to that security lies in demographics. The stable presence of an Armenian population is paramount. But keeping multiple generations on their ancestral lands is only possible with economic growth and sustainability. The Vardenis-Mardakert Highway project is at the see TELETHON, page 6



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian ordains acolytes at Sts. Vartanantz Church.

## Sts. Vartanantz Celebrates Milestone

CHELMSFORD, Mass. – Sts. Vartanantz Church marked its 35th anniversary with services and a program last weekend and welcomed Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), who joined the community in its celebration.

On Saturday evening, October 12, Barsamian met with the parish pastor, the Rev. Khachatur Kesablyan and members of the parish council and parish delegates. He spoke about the historic bishops synod, which convened at Holy Echmiadzin last month, and he also highlighted Diocesan programs. Parish leaders shared with the Primate updates on local programs and a discussion ensued on parish life.

On Sunday, October 13, Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy and gave a sermon on the importance of the cross as a symbol of victory and hope. "The Armenian nation is a cross-bearing nation—we are a khachagir people," Barsamian said. "We have been the followers of Christ for two millennia, and today our children and grandchildren must carry forward our faith and heritage in the 21st century."

Following the Divine Liturgy, Barsamian ordained five altar servers. Jeremy Oldham was ordained to the sub-diaconate; David Arakelian, Gregory Chekmeyan, Benjamin Clark and Dominic Sampson were ordained to the rank of acolyte. The young men have been working with Fr. Kesablyan to master their new responsibilities.

Archbishop Barsamian then led the congregation in a special service of veneration of the St. Vartan the Brave relic – a piece of stone encrusted with the blood of Armenia's fifth-century warrior saint, and encased in a silver cross. The Primate had brought the relic to Chelmsford from St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City, where it was first unveiled on the occasion of the cathedral's 45th anniversary in September. The relic is a gift of Karekin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians.

Later that afternoon, some 180 people gathered in the church's Kazanjian Ballroom to mark the church's 35th anniversary.

Diocesan Council chair James Kalustian gave a toast congratulating the Chelmsford community on its achievements and wishing them continued growth in the future.

Matt Hanson, chair of the Chelmsford Board of Selectmen, presented the parish with a proclamation honoring the day's milestone. Richard Juknavorian served as master of ceremonies. Remarks were made by parish council chair Bruce

see ANNIVERSARY, page 7

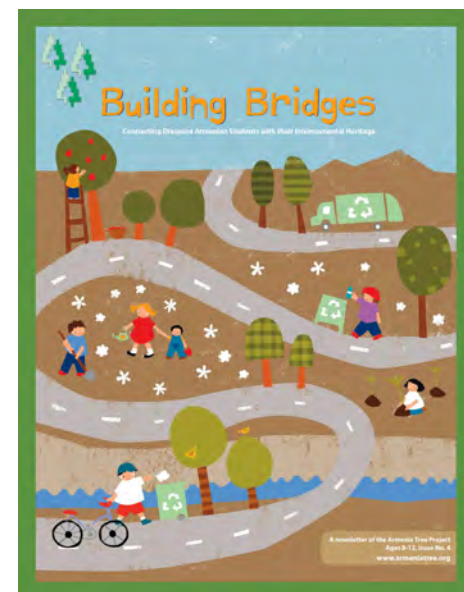


From left, George Simonian, Patricia Amboian and Rev. Khachatur Kesablyan

## ATP Uses Power of Video And Design to Raise Environmental Awareness Among Young Armenians

WATERTOWN – Can two teenagers living 7,000 miles away from each other create a solution to one of the world's environmental problems? American-born Armen never dreamed he would find what he discovers in Armenia, and he counts on his cousin Nuneh living in a small village to carry out his far-fetched plan.

This is the premise of Armenia Tree Project's new film, "Something New," which was produced as part of the Building Bridges education program. This is the fourth year of ATP's program to introduce its environmental education material in Armenian schools across North America. "Building Bridges: Connecting Diaspora Armenian Students



The Building Bridges newsletter was illustrated by Alik Arzoumanian

with Their Environmental Heritage" is funded by a grant from the Thomas A. Kooyunjian Family Foundation.

"The making of 'Something New' was a collaborative effort that involved people from all over the world. We hope that because it was filmed in both the US and in Armenia, students will have a more profound understanding about the state of the environment in Armenia," says Sarah Hayes, Building Bridges manager and executive producer of the film.

"Something New" was directed by Kennedy Wheatley, assistant film professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Tanner Boyajian served as cinematographer and his brother Hunter Boyajian acted as sound editor. It will be screened at Armenian schools in North America and internationally. It is available online at: <http://www.armeniatree.org/somethingnew>

Armen is played by AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian student Peter Deirbadrossian, and his onscreen cousin, Nuneh, is played by Tatevik Ghumashyan from Margahovit's Secondary School in Margahovit, Armenia.

In addition to the film, ATP has published a series of colorful newsletters for schoolchildren ages 8-12 and has distributed thousands of copies to schools throughout the US. The new fourth edition of the newsletter is a collaboration among project manager Sarah Hayes, environmental education consultant Nayiri Haroutunian, and award-winning illustrator Alik Arzoumanian.

"The first three editions of the newsletter primarily focused on trees. This edition addresses another issue that you've probably noticed if you have visited Armenia," explains Hayes. "Armenia is known for its beautiful landscapes and natural beauty, but even some of its most popular tourist sites are affected by trash and littering. This newsletter deals with trash and recycling as a way of promoting environmental awareness and stewardship."

The fourth edition of the Building Bridges newsletter is being distributed to schoolchildren in the US and is available online at: <http://tinyurl.com/atpkids>





## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Holy Translators Church Marks 10 Years

FRAMINGHAM, Mass. – The Church of the Holy Translators marked its 10th anniversary on October 5 and 6. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), visited the parish on this occasion and presided over the celebration.

On Saturday, October 5, the parish hosted a dinner-dance at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Natick, Mass. The evening opened with a youth performance by the Zangakner Ensemble of Boston. Remarks were made by parish council chair Robin Palombo, parish pastor the Rev. Krikor Sabounjian, and Barsamian.

“I fondly recall consecrating Holy Translators, and it is hard to believe that glorious day took place a decade ago,” Barsamian said. “But you can be proud that for the past 10 years and more, the spirit of living the Gospel has been exemplified by the people of this parish. In the most basic sense, to live the Gospel is to recognize that there is a role for each of us to play in Christ’s mission. We take up his mission as believers who have accepted Christ into our hearts, and having done so, we become aware that Christ strengthens and

nourishes us from within.”

The Church of the Holy Translators began as a mission parish in April of 1998. Parishioners purchased the present building in 2001, and the church was consecrated in October 2003.

Guests enjoyed a slideshow highlighting the church’s decade of accomplishments and an evening of Armenian music by the Richie Berberian Ensemble.

On Sunday, October 6, Sabounjian celebrated the Divine Liturgy, with Archbishop Barsamian presiding. The Primate ordained parishioners Raffi Barsamian, Lucas Ferraro, Neil Ferraro, Sevan Hacopian, Noah Toumayan-Miller, Cole Semonian and Lincoln Zaleski to the rank of acolyte. Neil Ferraro and Lincoln Zaleski were then elevated to the sub-diaconate.

The congregation then took part in a special service of veneration of the St. Vartan the Brave relic – a piece of stone encrusted with the blood of Armenia’s fifth-century warrior saint, and encased in a silver cross. The Primate brought the relic to Framingham from St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City, where it was first unveiled on the occasion of the cathedral’s 45th anniversary in September. The relic is a gift of Karekin II,



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian ordains altar servers.

Catholicos of All Armenians.

Also that afternoon, Barsamian blessed the parish’s new altar vessel, which was donated by Anoush Balian in memory of her late husband. A fellowship hour followed services.

“We often hear about other churches in our Diocese marking their 50th or 75th anniversaries. How humbling it is that our church is

only 10 years old, but that in these 10 years we have been able to accomplish so much,” Sabounjian said. “It is thanks to the vision and dedication of a small group of people that we were able to establish a permanent house of worship in Framingham, and we look forward to seeing our community grow in faith in the coming decades.”

## Koutoujian Looks Back on Campaign, Hopes Community Activism Continues

KOUTOUJIAN, from page 1

For many in the Armenian-American community, this special primary became a personal mission. Though the result was not the one he had sought, in an interview on Monday, Koutoujian sounded upbeat and hopeful about the future.

“What was wonderful was that there were so many people that participated,” he said. “We ran the smartest, most organized, best financed campaign in the entire field.”

Koutoujian raised almost \$1 million, more than any other candidate, all on the strength of his grassroots organization.

“It was the best field organization out there. I am very proud,” he said. “When I look back and speak with others with expertise on politics, I think there was nothing much we could have done differently.”

“We did phenomenally well and came in a very solid second place,” he said.

Exact numbers of Armenian-American voters are hard to find, but according to Koutoujian, there are about 3,000-4,000 Armenian-American registered voters in the district.

Turnout on election day was very low in the

243 precincts in total that form the district.

The Democratic candidates were, in addition to Clark and Koutoujian, state Senators Karen Spilka of Ashland, Will Brownsberger of Belmont; state Rep. Carl Sciortino of Medford; Martin Long, an Arlington author, and Stoneham resident Paul John Maisano, who works in the construction industry.

The three Republicans running for their party’s nomination were: actuary Tom Tierney of Framingham, Harvard nanophysics researcher Mike Stopa of Holliston and businessman and lawyer Frank J. Addivola Jr. of Boston, who won the primary.

He said he was thrilled by the number of volunteers and their activism on his behalf.

Koutoujian said during the last weekend before the election, his volunteers and field workers had knocked on 16,000 doors. “I want this to continue. I don’t want this [defeat] to be the end of our community’s activism,” he said. He said he was particularly touched to see all ages involved, including teens working alongside volunteers in their 70s and 80s in pounding the pavement and making calls.

“Our community needs to engage in that manner,” he said. “We need to continue this momentum to maintain the same organization” for future races, he said.

“The Armenian community was very much there. It was wonderful to see my Armenian family and non-Armenian family come together,” he said.

Because of the race, he said, many of his traditional, non-Armenian constituents have become familiar with the special type of frenetic energy that the community can bring.

While he certainly seems to have an appetite for it, he said it was hard spending the bulk of the day on the go, attending fundraisers and introducing himself to potential voters, while still being sheriff.

Koutoujian did not specify what his plans are for the future. He noted that right now, he is happy to be sheriff, where his staff has welcomed him back happily.

He said, “To a person, all the corrections officers said they were sorry for my loss but that they were happy for themselves” for having their boss back.

He added he was especially happy to spend time with his children, attending soccer and hock-

ey practice and playing with his daughter.

“I am very happy being with my family. I am embracing these moments with them,” he said.

The special general election will take place on December 10.

## Dr. Armen Arslanian To Speak at St. James Men’s Club

WATERTOWN – On November 4, Dr. Armen H. Arslanian, MD geriatric specialist (elderly care) will be the speaker at the dinner meeting of the St. James Armenian Church Men’s Club. The topic will be “Geriatric Medicine.”

Arslanian, is a family practitioner, geriatric specialist, sports medicine specialist, internist and pulmonologist (lungs) with his practice in Stoneham, Massachusetts.

He graduated from the faculty of medicine at the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and he completed his internal medicine residency at the Medical College of Georgia and his fellowship in metabolic and endocrine disorder at the Medical College of Georgia. After which, he completed a fellowship in geriatrics at the University Hospitals Case Medical Center of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Arslanian is also principal investigator for internal medicine and geriatrics for Beacon Clinical Research in New Bedford, Mass. Beacon Clinical Research is involved with clinical pharmaceutical trials that are significant in contributing to the development of New innovative medications which contribute to the advancement of health care in our society.

He is an instructor at Harvard Medical School in Boston. Arslanian is fluent in English, French, Arabic and Armenian. Awards received by Arslanian have been Patients’ Choice in 2008-2009, 2011-2013 and Compassionate Doctor Recognition in 2011-2012. He is affiliated with eight hospitals including Winchester Hospital and Mt. Auburn Hospital. Presently, he is the president of the Armenian American Medical Association (AAMA). He and his wife live in Lexington with their two daughters.

The social hour starts with *mezza* at 6:15 p.m. followed by a complete Armenian dinner at 7 p.m. The dinner meeting will be at the St. James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center – Keljik Hall 465 Mount Auburn St. Ladies welcome.

Contact the church for more information and ticket prices.



Dr. Armen Arslanian

## Finding solutions to your legal needs can be challenging

With over 90 attorneys serving our clients needs, the McLane Law Firm has the depth and experience in a variety of practice areas:

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



TradeCenter 128 Woburn, Massachusetts 781.904.2700

For more information, please contact  
Jeanmarie Papelian at 781.904.2700 or  
jeanmarie.papelian@mclane.com







## COMMUNITY NEWS

## AWWA Holds Annual Auction

BURLINGTON, Mass. — The 38th Annual Luncheon/Auction sponsored by the Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) will be held on Saturday, November 16, at the Burlington Marriott. This year's guest auctioneers are Alan "Al" Kaprielian, meteorologist from Chanel 50 in New Hampshire, and Cindy Fitzgibbon, meteorologist on WCVB-TV. Mistress of Ceremonies will be Janet Jeghelian.

The silent auction kicks off at 11 a.m. with a bazaar of tables laden with gifts that will make early Christmas shopping easy. From



Cindy Fitzgibbon

treasures from Armenia, to stocking stuffers, to tempting homemade pastries for the Thanksgiving table, there is something for everyone. Bidders at the silent auction who post their bids before 11:45 will receive a special raffle ticket for each bid made. The five raffle prizes are all gift certificates.

The live auction features Red Sox tickets for any game in the 2014 season, Celtics tick-

ets, a tour of Cooks Illustrated, as well as jewelry, artwork, and much more. This year's auctioneers are excited to be participating and helping raise money for the organization.

The super raffle is the highlight of the day with a first prize of \$1,500, a second prize of \$1,000, and a third prize of \$500. Seven other prizes will be awarded the winners.



Al Kaprielian

Rachel Jackson, this year's auction chair, has been spearheading an active committee who has been planning this event for the past year, ensuring that every moment is a memorable one.

The luncheon/auction is a major fundraiser of the AWWA, owners and operators of the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica Plain (ANRC). The ANRC is a premier facility that has obtained a deficiency-free rating for the third year in a row. In addition, the AWWA has been sponsoring a project in Stepanakert, Nagorno Karabagh, since 2004. This project provides medical and social support to 200 people who are over 65 and live alone.

For reservation information, contact JoAnn Janjigian at [awwaauction@gmail.com](mailto:awwaauction@gmail.com).

Visit [www.awwa-inc.org](http://www.awwa-inc.org) for more information on the organization.

## Azarian Fund Announces Annual Scholarship Winners

MIDLAND PARK, N.J. — On October 1, the John M. Azarian Memorial Armenian Youth Scholarship Fund announced that scholarship grants were awarded to: Gregory Boyajian, Narek Iskahanian, Ani Khachatryan, Inna Mirzoyan and Rafayel Mkrtychyan for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The John M. Azarian Memorial Armenian Youth Scholarship Fund was formed in 1976 following the death of John M. Azarian Sr., by his wife, Barbara. The purpose of the fund is to award scholarships to students of Armenian descent who demonstrate compelling financial

need, academic achievement and Armenian church related activities.

According to its founders, the goal of the Azarian Scholarship Fund is to assist deserving students with the hope that they will one day return something beneficial to the Armenian community.

This year the panel received more than 30 applications for scholarships. Anyone interested in applying for the 2014-2015 academic year can download an application at [www.azariangroup.com/scholarship.html](http://www.azariangroup.com/scholarship.html) or contact Alyssa Azarian at [aazarian@azariangroup.com](mailto:aazarian@azariangroup.com).

## A New Route to Security and Prosperity For Northern Armenia and Karabagh

TELETHON, from page 4 intersection of these three goals. It will hasten the transport of goods and supplies so that local businesses can reliably serve customers and regional trade can increase."

Bandazian also noted Armenia Fund USA's support of and first-hand experience with building the Goris-Stepankert Highway, and later, with the North-South Highway that connect Armenia's communities with Karabagh. "Given our track record, our affiliate is uniquely equipped to help make this project a success," he said.

The road from Vardenis to Mardakert totals 96.7 kilometers. The terrain is posing a multitude of construction, engineering and public safety challenges. For example, there is a significant stretch of unpaved, dirt-covered road that changes dramatically in width at different intervals and involves as many as 339 sharp turns, 17 of which are serpentine configurations. Other sections have been partially blocked due to landslides or river swells.

Armenia Fund USA has begun to reach out to some longtime donors to generate support for this initiative. "We believe that our past sup-



The new road is about security, stability and sustainability connection.

port of major highway projects has convinced our donors that their generosity will produce tangible, lasting benefits once again," said Irina Lazarian, the executive director of the eastern US affiliate. "We have led the way through this type of ambitious undertaking twice before, under more trying circumstances. Sure, building roads is gritty and heavy work and doesn't make for pretty photos, yet the promise for transformative change is golden."



**BOSTON — Daniel J. Gurian, CRPC, vice president of Wealth Management at UBS Financial Services was honored during Boston Business Journal's (BBJ) annual "40 under 40 Celebration" on Thursday, October 10, at One International Place. Gurian serves on the Board of Directors of AccesSportAmerica and is an active friend of Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway. He lives in Wellesley with his wife, Karen, and young son, Jack.**

## Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

**John K. Najarian, Jr.**

Rhode Island's Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

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

[www.nardolillo.com](http://www.nardolillo.com)

## Giragosian

FUNERAL HOME

**James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC**

**Mark J. Giragosian**

Funeral Counselors

576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606  
[www.giragosianfuneralhome.com](http://www.giragosianfuneralhome.com)

Telephone (617) 924-7400

## Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET  
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN  
PAUL BEDROSIAN  
LARRY BEDROSIAN

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

Serving the entire Armenian Community

Any Hour • Any Distance • Any Location

Call (718) 224-2390 Toll Free (888) 224-6088

Bus. Reg. 189-06 Liberty Ave., Hollis, NY 11412  
Consultation Office: 217-04 Northern Blvd., (Suite 23), Bayside, NY 11361

## AUTO PRECISION, INC.

CENTER FOR COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS & COLLISION SERVICES  
AUTO GLASS REPLACEMENT  
CAR RENTAL

24 HOUR TOWING  
617.484.1119



MASS. REG#  
0003335



Anatoly Prokupets  
O: 617.924.2000 x1  
C: 617.438.4427

Andrei Torkler  
O: 617.924.2000 x2  
C: 617.438.2104

Fax: 617.923.0200  
[autoprec@hotmail.com](mailto:autoprec@hotmail.com)

48-50 Prentiss Street • Watertown, MA 02472





## COMMUNITY NEWS

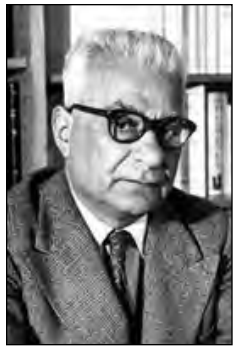
# Uttering the Unutterable: Prose about Genocide

UNUTTERABLE, from page 1

single episodes from this huge martyrdom, yet no human language can give an account of this dreadful thing in its totality, namely to eliminate a whole race."

What emerged from the intensive, emotional discussion was that although it is impossible to replicate the catastrophe, writers have succeeded in transmitting its essence. Here it is particularly fiction, Hofmann said, that "assumes the task that journalism or scientific literature cannot or will not cover." The reason lies in the poetical character of fictional literature, which, as the German word for poetry – *Dichtung* – expresses, condenses reality in images which transmit a deeper reality than that contained in the chronicle of events.

So, for example, Elias Venezis depicted the case of the forced transfer of Greeks from Smyrna after its occupation by Turkish military in 1922. Dr. Michaela Prinzing spoke on "Elias Venezis: Growing Up under the Risk of Death." As a child he lived through the horrors of the Greek-Turkish war, and recalled how his grandfather grabbed a handful of earth to taken with



Elias Venezis

him, a symbol of his lost homeland. Venezis wrote also of his arrest in 1922 and his suffering as a forced laborer in his book, *Number 31328*. Prinzing showed several clips from a film based on the book and titled *1922*. In it director Nikos Koundouros summarized the tragedy of an entire

people in the story of three individuals, one the young boy Elias, another, a young woman, one of the many who were raped, who goes insane.



Peter Balakian

Dr. Magdalena Marszałek, a professor from Potsdam university, spoke on "Concentration Camp Literature: Early Polish Contributions." Although this genre includes works on experiences in the Soviet Gulags, she concentrated on those dealing with the Nazi concentration camps, specifically Tadeus Borowski and Zofia Nalkowska, two non-Jewish writers. She cited Holocaust survivor Henryk Grynberg to the effect that Polish literature had a special responsibility to treat this, since it was "in the epicenter of the crime" – most of the Nazi extermination camps (like Treblinka, Majdanek, Belzec and Sobibór) were located in fact on Polish territory, whether occupied or annexed, and half of the 6 million Jews killed were Poles. Marszałek distinguished between the position of the victims and that of the non-Jewish eyewitnesses, and made this important point: "In order for eyewitnesses



Fethiye Çetin

to become witnesses, an act of speech is required, in which the witness speaks for the others and to others. Without such an act of speech, the eyewitnesses remain imprisoned in the 'grey zone' of onlookers...." One Polish literature expert contrasted the "eloquence" of the victims' testimonies to the "aphasia" (speech disorder) of the eyewitness literature. The roots of the problem lie in the complex situation whereby Polish Christians tended to focus on their own suffering under Nazi occupation. The two communities prior to the war had been divided by religion and language, anti-Semitism was widespread, and this "not only hindered empathy but led not seldom to collaboration ... and complicity in murder." In this context, the work of Borowski and Nalkowska takes on greater significance. Borowski, who survived Auschwitz but committed suicide in 1951, "presented mercilessly how the perfidious camp system – without exception – dehumanized" its victims. Nalkowska adopted a style in which she "let her protagonists speak ... without her commenting or interpreting," thus achieving an "aesthetic and intellectual distance" which "recognizes the obscenity of the claim that one can understand what has occurred."

Coming to the case of the Armenian Genocide, Hofmann stressed the role of the literature of the survivors' children, among them Vartan Hartunian and David Kherdian, as well as the grandchildren, two of whom Peter Balakian and Fethiye Çetin were on hand in Berlin. In his *Black Dog of Fate*, Balakian addresses the transmission of trauma across generations, relating how his grandmother Nafina, in bits and pieces, shared episodes from the Genocide with him as a young boy. The stories would come out in coded words, he said, hieroglyphic and highly symbolic and constituted one part of the process through which he learned about the past, both his family's experience and the broader Armenian tragedy. His book, Balakian explained, is also a development novel, in which he conveys what it was like for an Armenian to grow up in a modern American setting in New Jersey.

Çetin's book, *My Grandmother*, signaled a breakthrough when it appeared in 2004. Although she was not the first Turkish author to approach the taboo theme (Hofmann recalled the works of Ayla Kutlu, for example), Çetin struck a deep chord in the Turkish population, particularly members of her generation who began to raise questions about their own family histories reaching back to 1915. The book recounts how her grandmother Seher, shortly before her death, reveals to her, bit by bit, what she went through as an Armenian child during the genocide, how she was adopted by a Turkish family, and kept her secret for sixty years. Çetin's slim volume, which has gone through several reprints and has been translated in many languages, weaves the threads of the grandmother's personal story together with the historical documentation of the genocide.

Both Balakian and Çetin read selections of their works in the original, and translators followed with the corresponding passages in German. Asked by Dr. Raffi Kantian, publisher of *ADK* (Armenian-German Correspondence magazine), about reports that the Turkish Cultural Ministry had supported her book, she explained that it had initially been neither supported nor attacked (as had works by Taner Akçam and Hrant Dink, for instance) but that when an Italian publisher planned an edition, it sought assistance and received it. The point she underlined in her remarks was the importance of remembering; although girls who had been taken from their families were told to observe silence, many did not forget their estranged rela-



Dr. Magdalena Marszałek

tives and cherished their names.

Balakian, asked to explain how young Armenian Americans are dealing with their distant past, contrasted the current generation with his own; whereas in the 1950s and 1960s, the pressure to Americanize was strong, now American culture has become more open to other cultures and histories; the Genocide has gained interest also as a part of the human rights issue.

As a counterpoint, Dr. Bernhard Malkmus, a professor of German at Ohio State University, spoke about the Armenians' destiny as seen through the eyes of two Jewish authors, Franz Werfel and Edgar Hilsenrath. Unlike Werfel's epic account of *The 40 Days of Musa Dagh*, the work of Hilsenrath, a Holocaust survivor, is not a historical novel, but a fantastic work in the form of a fairy tale. *The Story of the Last Thought* unfolds as the history of the Khatisian family told with the help of a story-teller Meddah as the last thought of the dying Thovma. It is the tale of a founding taken in by a Turkish family and left with no information about its own relatives. Malkmus interprets the deathbed wish of Thovma as a metaphor for the Armenian people's yearning for recognition and reconciliation, and the life story as a metaphor for lives which might have been, those of the unborn, or perhaps someone born in 1915.

It was only fitting that among the three workshops offered during the conference, one was led by Dogan Akhanli, whose best known novel, *The Judges of the Last Judgment*, was inspired by Hilsenrath's book and shares its fairytale-like quality. Akhanli spoke at length about how his experience with arbitrary violence, having been subjected to torture in Turkey as a youth and jailed as an activist, led him as a refugee in Germany to research the history of the Holocaust and other genocides. His and other workshops, by Kantian and Wilfried Eggers, who wrote on the genocide in the form of a thriller, provided the rare opportunity to learn how creative writers tackle the challenge of composing works whose subject is thought to be unspeakable.

(Muriel Mirak-Weissbach is the author of *Through the Wall of Fire: Armenia – Iraq – Palestine: From Wrath to Reconciliation* and can be reached at mirak.weissbach@googlemail.com)

## Sts. Vartanantz Celebrates Milestone

ANNIVERSARY, from page 4

Kayajanian and Sandra Boroyan. The afternoon also included musical performances by parishioners.

"For the past 35 years, our church has attended to the spiritual needs of our church family, providing an inspirational place of worship, religious education for our children, a place to celebrate, nurture, and experience our Armenian Christian heritage, and a haven to bring hope and comfort to parishioners who seek relief from the many trials and tribulations of everyday life," Kesablyan said. "I am truly inspired by and proud of our parish."

The original Sts. Vartanantz Church was consecrated in 1916, in Lowell, Mass. As the community grew in the decades following World War II, plans were made to relocate the parish to a larger house of worship. Under the leadership of its former pastor, the late Rev. Ghevont Samoorian, the parish purchased a property in Chelmsford and in 1978 the present church was consecrated.

Also during Sunday's banquet, the parish honored longtime members Patricia Amboian and George Simonian with the "St. Vartan Award."

Amboian has taught the parish Sunday School, chaired the parish council and assisted with other church organizations. She currently serves on the Women's Guild and is a member of the church choir.

Simonian is a veteran of the Korean War and a longtime public school educator. At Sts. Vartanantz Church, he chaired the

parish council, led the church's building memorial committee and launched its endowment fund.

"Both Pat and George, through their model of love, faith, and devotion, have been inspirations not only to our parishioners but also to me personally," Kesablyan said.

Archbishop Barsamian closed the program with a message and benediction. He expressed his gratitude to Amboian and Simonian for their dedication, and thanked the entire parish for their commitment to the mission of the Armenian Church.

"Throughout our history, the Armenian people have been building churches wherever they went. They have been raising up beautiful houses of worship where they have



Jeremy Oldham is ordained to the sub-diaconate.

gathered to rejoice, to pray, and to strengthen their faith. And Sts. Vartanantz Church is no exception," Barsamian said.

"The spirit of the living Gospel has been exemplified by the people of this parish, through your service on the altar, your efforts in parish organizations, your outreach to the community, and your ministry to each other. As you embark on the next chapter of your history, I pray that you continue on this journey and inspire others to join you in your service."

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



KAROUN  
Restaurant

Armenian Mid-Eastern Cuisine

Entertainment Fridays  
and Saturdays

Eurdolian Family





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# The Front Line in Preventing Deadly Allergic Reactions

By **Lawrence V. Najarian, MD**  
President, AAHPO

With public health estimates suggesting an increase in serious allergic reactions, it's critical that all healthcare professionals learn the most up-to-date information to diagnose, treat, and prevent these reactions, called anaphylaxis.

Fortunately for the Armenian community, 30 members of the Armenian American Health Care Professionals (AAHPO) and medical colleagues learned directly from a recognized expert at a presentation on September 18 titled "Anaphylaxis: Considerations for Timely and Safe Treatment."

The health care providers included more than five nurses, two pharmacists, two dentists, a



From left, Arthur Kubikian, DDS, and Laszlo Osvath, MD

nutritionist, and physicians representing at least 11 specialties. Many of those in attendance earned Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit for attending.

"I was encouraged by the broad base of interest, as nurses and allied health care professionals have more frequent direct contact with patients of all ages than allergists or asthma specialists have," noted Karine Shnorhokian, RN, Clinical Care Coordinator, Cogent HMG at HackensackUMC. "We can act as the 'front line' in the battle against life-threatening anaphylaxis."

The presenter for the CME lecture was Myron J. Zitt, MD, clinical associate professor of medicine, SUNY, and director of the Adult Allergy Clinic at Nassau University Medical Center.

Zitt reviewed the causes and mechanics of anaphylactic reactions, types of symptoms, and guidelines for rapid treatment with epinephrine that can save lives.

Currently, there is a nationwide movement to ensure the availability of epinephrine in schools. States have enacted laws which permit school nurses to store epinephrine, and inject it on an emergency basis using a device called an EpiPen.

According to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, roughly 8 percent of children under age 18, or about 6 million, have at least one food allergy. About a quarter of acute allergy reactions in schools occur among students who are not aware that they have an allergy.

"It's very important for pediatricians to recognize the signs of allergies and properly prescribe needed medications. Parents should consult with their child's pediatrician about appro-



Garbis Dabagdian, MD and Jack Hajjar, MD.

priate measures to ensure emergency treatment," noted pediatrician Garbis Baydar, MD, who also is treasurer of AAHPO.

The Allergy and Asthma Foundation (AAF) offered the Sept. 18 program. Charlotte Collins, AAF senior vice president of public policy and advocacy, has been keeping track of which states are enacting laws to encourage schools



From left, Louiza Puskulian-Kubikian, DDS, Arlin Telfeian, MD, Tsoline Kojaoghlanian, MD, Hourig Karalian, RN, and her mother, Shoghig Chalian

to stock the EpiPen devices. She believes the trend was sparked by last year's death of a Virginia first-grader who had an allergic reaction on a playground after eating a nut. She went into cardiac arrest and died at a local hospital.

Medical experts have said the little girl, who had a peanut allergy, would probably be alive if her elementary school had been able to give her an epinephrine injection. Shortly after the girl's death, Virginia passed a law requiring all its schools to stock the medication and 15 other states followed suit, mostly with legislation that allows schools to have the epinephrine.

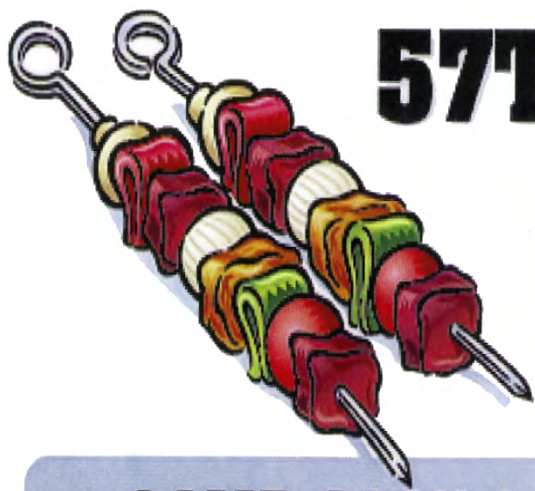
In July, the US House of Representatives passed legislation that would give states that come up with policies to make epinephrine

available in schools special preference when they apply for asthma-related grants. The law could give other states further incentive to pass such laws.

"AAHPO was very pleased to offer this program and better equip our members in protecting the health and well-being of the Armenian Community," noted public health expert Kim Hekimian, PhD, who is a member of the AAHPO Board of Directors.

This topic was of such timely importance, a similar program, "The Role of Auto-Injectors For Anaphylaxis," was offered on October 9 to AAHPO members and colleagues on Long Island.

These events were a kick-off for AAHPO's 20th Anniversary, which is being observed during the coming 12 months.



## 57TH ANNUAL ST. STEPHEN'S

# BAZAAR

LAMB, LOSH & CHICKEN KEBABS • ARMENIAN PASTRIES  
GOURMET FOOD • HARVEST STORE • SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS

**PUBLIC WELCOME!**

**ACEC** 47 NICHOLS AVE | **NOV 1&2**  
WATERTOWN




**New York**  
**METRO**

# Camp Nubar Celebrates 50th Anniversary Season

NEW YORK — The summer season may be over, but the buzz created by AGBU Camp Nubar's 50th anniversary celebration is still in the air. For this year's 300 campers or so and all those who came before them, it was another summer to remember. July's milestone weekend brought camp alumni, family and friends to New York City and to Camp Nubar's home in

the Catskill Mountains, where many are continuing to use the grounds and take in the fall foliage through the off-season.

Former campers and staff representing every Camp Nubar generation were present for the three-day weekend. Some had watched the camp first open its doors in 1963 and others travelled from as far as Holland and Switzerland to reunite with old friends in the place where they all grew up. Together with current camp families they helped raise a record

\$400,000, which will help future generations create more, lasting summer memories.

The celebration kicked off on July 26, 2013 at a New York City reunion, where 400 attendees were welcomed with a replica of the Camp Nubar Buddy Board that has long occupied the Lake Arax waterfront. Keeping the crowd nostalgic throughout the night, Masters of Ceremony Armen Mirakian and Greg Yazujian sang favorite camp songs and presented slideshows from early summers. They also introduced the evening's speakers, who remarked on the camp's growth over the years: AGBU President Berge Setrakian, along with Camp Nubar alumni Sarah Partin, Dr. Barry Halejian and Christina Lalama.

As Camp Nubar Committee Chair Sarah Partin expressed, it is a place where everyone can unplug, where television, computers and cell phones are cast aside as decades-

old traditions thrive "where kids can be kids." This year, in support of the 50th anniversary fundraising campaign, Nazar and Artemis Nazarian, Berge Setrakian and his wife Vera Setrakian, and the Toufayan, Apelian and Margossian families made significant contributions to Camp Nubar.

Those donations will allow the camp to continue to build on decades of capital improvements, which more than 500 guests saw for themselves at the Camp Nubar's open house on Sunday, July 28. Alumni musicians played live music, campers performed Armenian dances around the flagpole, children lined up for face painting and cotton candy, and many took hiking tours throughout the 365 acres.

The open house brought, for the first time in Camp Nubar history, former campers, caretakers, counselors and directors from each of camp's five decades together in their second home. No matter their age or the role they played in camp, the participants joined alongside one another as they relived memories from

past summers. Many left camp years ago, unsure that they would ever return. They were welcomed back by two special guests: Reverend Father Vertanes and Yeretsgin Anahid Kalayjian, who devoted a combined 20 years to Camp Nubar, acting as director, nurse and spiritual guide, respectively.

On the great lawn, Vertanes and Kalayjian participated in the blessing ceremony and rededication of Lake Arax, presided over by Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).

As the weekend came to a close, alumni parents were already making plans for their children to attend Camp Nubar next year and the years to come. For now, they'll continue to take the trip to Fall Cove Road, making off-season visits where guests enjoy the winterized cabins and take advantage of the beautiful lake and hiking trails. Many have already enjoyed watching the leaves turn before winter settles in and brings another summer and anniversary closer to them.



Camp Nubar alumni from as far as Holland, Canada and California reunite in New York for the 50th anniversary celebration.



Members of the 50th Anniversary Committee welcome alumni in New York City before the iconic Camp Nubar waterfront buddy board. From left to right, Jan Herdeman, Christine Chakmakian Badach, Sharis Boghossian, Andrea Halejian and Jane Majian Bowen.



The overcast weather couldn't keep campers, counselors and alumni families from dancing around Camp Nubar's flagpole during this year's Open House.

## Dr. Frieze Presents Lecture on Lemkin's Newly Published Autobiography

By Taleen Babayan

NEW YORK — Dr. Donna-Lee Frieze delivered a lecture titled "Raphael Lemkin: The Armenian Genocide and the Autobiography of the Insistent Prophet" at Columbia University's Butler Library on Wednesday, October 2 at an event hosted by the Armenian Center.

A Prins Senior Fellow at the Centre for Jewish History and a New York City Visiting Fellow at the Alfred Deakin Research Institute in Melbourne, Australia, Frieze spent the last four years editing Lemkin's unfinished autobiography and papers, which were housed for decades at the New York Public Library.

Highlighting the significance of the publication of Lemkin's autobiography, *Totally Unofficial*, Dr. Peter Balakian, who is the Visiting Ordjanian Professor in the Department of Middle East, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia, said Frieze "rescued and recovered one of the most important books in history on human rights."

"This is a remarkable memoir that gives shape and scope to Lemkin's own lifetime efforts to make genocide a crime in international law," said Balakian.

Lemkin, who coined the term "genocide" in 1944, used the Armenian Genocide as a case study, according to Frieze, who said that the tragic event left such an impact on him that it led to his future work as a relentless advocate of the prevention of genocide.

Touching upon the description of Lemkin's childhood in the initial chapters of *Totally Unofficial*, Frieze contextualized his early life as a Polish Jew who was homeschooled by a highly intelligent mother. He describes in detail a childhood full of poetry, music and literature, which exposed him to cultures beyond his own at a young age.

"He's writing about a vanished world, in every sense," said Frieze, who noted that everyone in his family except his brother was lost to the Holocaust. "Lemkin reignites this loss of language, land and culture and this memory of wholeness is perhaps the genocide survivor's key to living."

His first exposure to genocide, however, occurred when he read about the Armenian Genocide and the subsequent trial of Soghomon Tehlirian, who was arrested for assassinating Talaat Pasha, the architect of the Armenian Genocide, as an act of revenge. Lemkin was shocked that Tehlirian was even on trial and reflected, "Why is a man punished when he kills another man? Why is the killing of a million a lesser crime than the killing of a single individual?" This event was a turning point in Lemkin's life as he changed his course of study from linguistics to law.

"It was the intended destruction of Armenians that triggered Lemkin's interest," said Frieze.

As a prominent lawyer and prosecutor in Warsaw, Lemkin became an internationally displaced refugee during the Second World War, which further fueled his tireless efforts towards the prevention of genocide.

"I only lived really when I was fighting for



Dr. Donna-Lee Frieze discusses Raphael Lemkin's autobiography, *Totally Unofficial*

an ideal," writes Lemkin in his autobiography. "I will devote the rest of my life to outlawing the destruction of people."

Arriving in the United States in 1941, Lemkin became a faculty member at Duke University and spent the remaining years of his life to ensuring the passage of the United Nations Convention against Genocide. He used the Armenian Genocide as an example to appeal to the public's moral consciousness.

"The Armenian Genocide deeply influenced his thoughts on genocide, not as mass murder but as sinister panorama of destruction that was intended, specific and planned,"

said Frieze.

Lemkin's efforts, however, were continuously met with opposition and Frieze noted that Lemkin was known as naïve, a fanatic and humorless. "But *Totally Unofficial* shows an extremely shrewd lawyer, three steps ahead of his enemies, as he called them."

"Lemkin was a prophet of sorts," said Frieze. "He knew the Genocide Convention would not prevent genocide and that it would continue. Instead, he saw it as a rallying point."

At the age of 59, Lemkin died of a heart attack in New York and his autobiography was left unfinished until Frieze tackled the challenge of weaving together Lemkin's manuscript.

"By bringing Raphael Lemkin's autobiography to print, Dr. Frieze restores Lemkin to his rightful place in the pantheon of human rights champions," said Mark Momjian, Esq., chairman of the Armenian Center at Columbia University. "The Armenian Center is acutely aware of Lemkin's research into the Armenian Genocide, as well as the critical importance it played in his effort to get the United Nations to pass the Genocide Convention."

"Frieze's lecture on Lemkin and the Armenian Genocide is one of the most important new perspectives on the Armenian genocide in recent years," said Balakian. "It offers scholars and all others, especially, perhaps the Turkish nationalists, a deeper understanding of why the Armenian event became a central, if not the central, event in Lemkin's thinking about what he would come to call genocide."





# Arts & Living

## Boston Hamazkayin Presents Two New Films by Nigol Bezjian

WATERTOWN – The Boston Chapter of the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society will present the local premiere screening of two new films by filmmaker Nigol Bezjian.

The first film, “Milk, Carnation and a Godly Song,” looks into the literary legacy of Daniel Varoujan, one of the pillars of Armenian literature. Through close analysis of his poetry by renowned experts, viewers get a glimpse of how Armenian literary thinking has evolved from the pagan times up to 2010, April 24, to be exact, in Istanbul, where for the first time in history a commemoration was held in memory of the Armenian Genocide.

The second film, “I Left My Shoes in Istanbul,” closely follows the journey of a Lebanese-Armenian modernist poet who embarks onto a journey that has been delayed for a century: the return to his ancestral city of Istanbul, where his cultural and literary roots are. The journey takes viewers to the old streets of Istanbul once populated by Armenians, the ancient cemeteries and the poets buried in them, the old churches and more than a century-old high school. He meets the young and the old, the famed and the humble, Armenians and Turks, listens to their stories, their opinions. He laughs and shares food with them.

Bezjian was born in Aleppo, Syria in 1955. He completed his high school in South Boston, Mass. After completing his cinema studies at School of Visual Arts in



Nigol Bezjian

New York City, he attained a BFA and subsequently completed the postgraduate cinema studies at UCLA, graduating with an MFA. He has made several films and has been recognized by the international film community for his talents, securing many awards and global festival screenings notably for his, “Chickpeas,” “Roads Full of Apricots,” “Muron,” “Verve” and “Home/Land.” He has won many awards from prestigious international film festivals and is a senior TV producer in the Middle East.

“Milk, Carnation and a Godly Song” will be screened Friday, November 1, at 6 p.m. at Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church Hall, 200 Lexington St., Belmont. The screening of “I Left My Shoes in Istanbul” will take place on Wednesday, November 6, at 8 p.m. at Belmont Studio Cinema, 376 Trapelo Road, Belmont. Tickets are \$15 for each screening or \$25 for both and can be purchased at the door or by calling Tatoul Badalian. Bezjian, will be present at both screenings to introduce the films and answer questions. Both films have English subtitles.



Emma Sogioian attends the opening of the museum. To the left is the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II.

## Manuscripts Find Home In Echmiadzin

DETROIT – Emma Sogioian was in the Mother See of Echmiadzin in September for the opening of a wing of the museum named for fellow Detroit benefactors, Alex and Marie Manoogian, dedicated to the manuscripts that she and her late husband, Karl, had donated to the Mother See.

By Alin K. Gregorian  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

In a recent interview, Sogioian said that she and her husband had donated

23 Armenian manuscripts, including the first Armenian-language translation of the Bible, to the Mother See of Echmiadzin.

The value of the collection is hard to calculate, but experts from Sotheby’s, which evaluated the collection, put it in the six-figure range. In some ways, she said, the collection is invaluable as there are no others like them anywhere else in the world.

Sogioian humbly noted that she herself did not start collecting the manuscripts, but her husband did. “My husband knew all about them. He would collect them from across the world, including auctions in London, Belgium, etc.”

She said once word got out that he was a collector, he started getting catalogues for auctions internationally.

The process of amassing the impressive collection, she said, took about 40 years.

The provenance of the manuscripts has been equally diverse, Sogioian said. Often, she said, they come from sellers in Iran or Armenia.

In Belgium, she recalled, her husband had once found a small bookshop that had an Armenian manuscript and he bought that one on the spot.

Her husband died in 2006 and did not live to see his collection at its permanent home.

Sogioian said she was tremendously impressed with the Echmiadzin museum as well as the reception she got in Armenia. “I just went and saw it. It is a beautiful building and museum. I am so happy that these Armenian treasures have found their home.”

Sogioian said, “The Vehapar was very kind and attentive. He hosted us very well and we can’t thank him enough.”

see SOGOIAN, page 12



Emma Sogioian in Echmiadzin

## Armenian Jerusalem Website Seeks to Chronicle Community’s History

By Arthur Hagopian

SYDNEY – The creators of the website originally aimed at preserving the history, culture and traditions of a selected segment of the Armenians of Jerusalem, the “Kaghakatzi,” are revamping the site.

Registered under the URL [www.kaghakatzi.org](http://www.kaghakatzi.org) when first launched a few years ago, the site has now been renamed [www.armenian-jerusalem.com](http://www.armenian-jerusalem.com).

The change of name reflects the decision of the project administrators to expand its scope and enhance its content, a move designed to encompass the whole of the Armenians of Jerusalem, and not just the “Kaghakatzi” Armenians.

The “Kaghakatzi” (“native” or “city dwellers”) are the descendants of the first Armenians to settle in the Holy Land, some 2,000 years ago. They had come with the conquering armies of the Armenian king of kings, Tigranes the Great.

Some were legionnaires, part of the garrisons Tigranes left behind, others adventurers, colonists, who had learned about the strange land overflowing with milk and honey from some of the 10,000 Jewish captives Tigranes was to take back to Armenia with him, and were eager to explore it.

Created more than five years ago, the raison d’être of this unique website initially focused primarily on the preservation of the multifaceted history, culture and traditions of a vital component of the Jerusalem fabric, one that gave the city its first printing press and photographic studio.

The site is now being revamped to chronicle the story of the whole Armenian presence in Jerusalem.

The “Kaghakatzi” (a derivative of the Armenian word “Kaghak” for “city”) have acquired this nickname due to the fact that they are the original Armenian residents of Jerusalem. Their “Vanketzi” (from “Vank” or “convent”) cousins, who live mainly within the perimeters of the Convent of St James, arrived much later, in their flight from the Turkish genocide.

The organizers realize this is a mammoth project.

“It’s more a labor of love,” one of the organizers says. “We are practically restarting from scratch, streamlining the website, redesigning pages to facilitate indexing by the major search engines, introducing new content, sometimes ‘rewiring’ whole pages.”

The project relies heavily on contributions from current and former Armenians of Jerusalem.

“Since this is a non-profit, cultural enterprise, we do not seek any financial support from Armenian community members. It’s a matter of principle,” the organizers say.

The Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, under the leadership of the late Patriarch Torkom Manoogian, has been a staunch supporter, allowing one of Jerusalem’s leading photographers, Garo Nalbandian, to capture over 250 pages of detailed records of births, deaths and marriages of Armenians in Jerusalem. However, those records go back only to about 1840.

“No doubt we’ll need to delve into the Patriarchate’s older archives to learn more about the saga of the Armenians of Jerusalem. But finding and research the relevant material could take years,” the organizers concede.

The organizers are confident the new Armenian patriarch, Archbishop Nourhan see WEBSITE, page 7





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Composer Boyadjian's New Composition to Premiere in November

NEW YORK — Grammy Nominee composer Hayg Boyadjian's new composition *Danzas Oculatas No. 1* (Hidden Dances) commissioned by the New York based chamber ensemble North/South Consonance will receive its world premiere at a concert of the ensemble on Monday November 11 at 8 p.m. at the Christ and Stephen's Church, 120 west 69th street, New York, admission is free.

The composition is written for 10 musicians, a woodwind quintet and a string quintet and it will be conducted by the director of the ensemble, Max Lifchitz, who has also in the past performed, recorded and conducted works of Boyadjian.

The concert will feature New Chamber Orchestra Music by Composers from the Americas, in addition to Boyadjian's composition there will be works by Jose Lezcano (*Concierto Cubanero*), Max Lifchitz (*Yellow Ribbons No. 42*) and Roger Wesby (*diss-FUNK-shun*).

The North/South Chamber Orchestra will be conducted by Max Lifchitz and will include the participation of guitarist and composer Jose Lezcano on guitar.

The new composition is a collection of snippets of dances from western to eastern styles. "As one would suspect from the word 'hidden' in the title, only portions of the dances are heard like apparitions, fragments of a whole entity. To maintain a sense of wholeness to the piece I have chosen to use two common harmonies, C minor and G minor, like a tonic and dominant. Thus all this disjointed material, the dance fragments, have a unifying background in their harmonies," Boyadjian said.

For more information about Boyadjian visit [www.haygboyadjian.com](http://www.haygboyadjian.com)

## Jerusalem Website Seeks To Chronicle History

WEBSITE, from page 10

Manoogian, will be as supportive of the project as his predecessor.

One of the new features that is being posted in the revamped website is the profiling of prominent Jerusalem Armenians, past and present, who have contributed significantly to the enhancement of the Armenian presence in the city.

Among these is the late composer and conductor, Ohan Dourian, who was born in the Armenian Quarter, in a home abutting the Sts. Tarkmachantz parochial school.

The grand piano upon which his fingers ran riot in celestial celebration occupied pride of place in a single room long after he had left Jerusalem to further his studies, and gain world-wide recognition, in Armenia and France.

Haig Khatchadourian, world renowned philosopher and man of letters, who is a very close relative of Dourian and used to live in a "high-rise" a stone's throw away from him, is another prominent face that will be featured on the Jerusalem Armenian website.

The story of the inception of the incomparable Armenian ceramics industry, inspired and spearheaded by the Balian and Karakashian dynasties, is also being told here, complete with full color graphic reproductions of some of their best creations.

Manoug Manoogian, who has the unequivocal reputation of being the first man in the whole of the Middle East to launch a rocket successfully (albeit an experimental one), will also have a story to tell.

"That is what we need to make this website rock, people who will tell us their stories, lend us their records, archives, pictures, recollections," the organizers say.

"We are getting some, but it's still a trickle," they aver. "There's so much more out there the Armenians of Jerusalem can regale and amaze the world with."

Like the tale of the unsung hero who picked up a huge unexploded bomb that had landed in a kitchen and that towered over his diminutive size, and carried it bodily down a long flight of stairs, to dispose of it far away from the huddle of refugees who had sought sanctuary in the Convent of St James, during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

## Project SAVE Calendar Depicts Pre-Genocide Era

By Tom Vartabedian

WATERTOWN — Light before darkness is the theme of the new 2014 calendar released by Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives showing life just prior to the Armenian Genocide, giving viewers a glimpse of more halcyon times in the Ottoman Empire.

The 27th calendar tour takes viewers on a visual journey through Van and Bitlis, Erzerum, Dikranagert and Kharpert, then onto Central Anatolia to Sepastia, Amasia, Caesarea, Konia and finally, on to Bardizag near Constantinople.

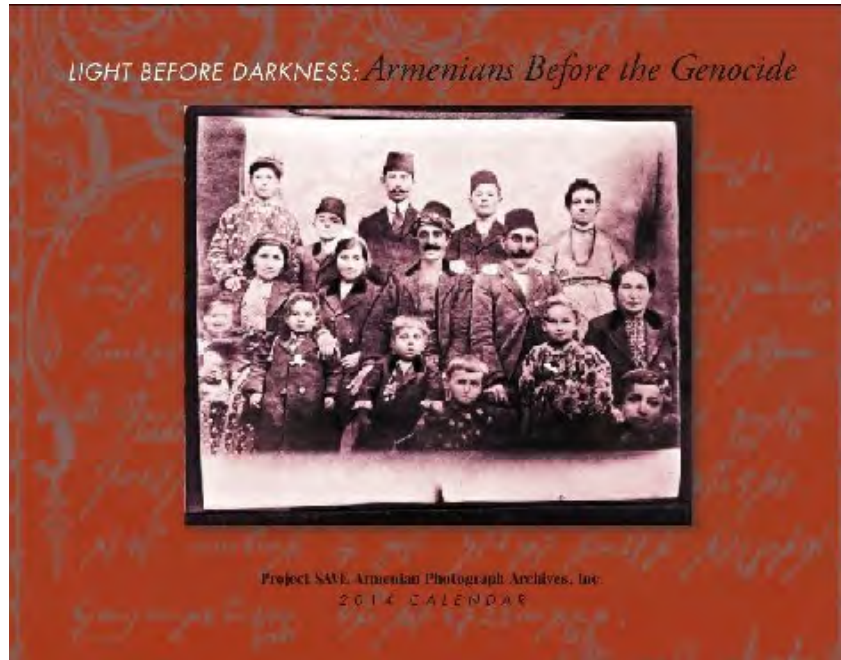
The cover depicts the Endrigian family of Malatia in the province of Kharpert, who were known for their work as coppersmiths and farmers. Photos of historic are further complemented by scenic glimpses of villages on the eve of destruction.

While pondering the theme, Executive Director Ruth Thomasian felt a connection between "light" and "life."

"By 1914, many Armenians were aware that evil times were coming," said Thomasian. "Some families had already sent their sons and daughters to Europe or America to establish a new life and prepare for others to follow. But this was their home

for centuries. How could they leave? Can you imagine having to make such a monumental decision today?"

The pictures selected for calendar reproduction were taken from thousands of original photographs on file showing Armenians living in the pre-1915 era in regions today called Turkey.



Cover of Project SAVE 2014 calendar showing Endrigian family of Malatia, Kharpert Province, Ottoman Empire, around 1913. The family worked as coppersmiths and farmers. Photo courtesy of Daniel Terhanian

Viewing these images shows how vital Armenians were to the fabric of life there, owning land, building homes, running businesses and schools and attending their houses of worship.

"The sophistication of these photographs points to a people well established over many generations in communities that valued edu-

cation and looked to the wider world of Western culture for inspiration and the latest technologies," said Thomasian. "To those forever lost or killed, photographs were indeed the way their families were able to preserve their sacred memories."

In a mission that dates back nearly 40 years, Thomasian has been the catalyst behind photo preservation, documenting more than 35,000 images dating back to 1860. In and out of basements and attics she has meandered in search of forlorn images — a veritable scavenger hunt for lost treasure.

"Today, Historic Armenian lands continue to pull on us with magnetic force, to see those lands with our own eyes, to place our feet on the earth where our ancestors walked, to hear the sounds of life they have heard," she pointed out. "Project SAVE photographs and their stories provide a comforting connection to our heritage, preventing it from ever being taken, lost or denied."

Assisting with the design was Vartus Varadian. Others lending a hand were archivist Suzanne Adams, office manager John Kebabjian and senior archival assistant Aram Sarkisian.

To order, do so online at [armenianvendor.com](http://armenianvendor.com). For further details, email [archives@projectsave.org](mailto:archives@projectsave.org).

## Conference Dedicated to 1,650th Anniversary of Mesrob Mashtots

BURBANK, Calif. — A new world order is in the making and history dictates that those nations, who do not rise to the challenge, will be sidelined from the world stage.

The spread of Christianity in the fourth century led to the establishment of a new world order. The Armenian nation rose to the challenge, thanks to Gregory the Illuminator and specially Mesrob Mashtots. The invention of the Armenian alphabet reshaped Armenia's national identity and contributed to the creation of its Golden Age.

The invention of printing and the Renaissance in the 15th century and onward reshaped the world once again. The Armenian nation was able to keep pace, thanks to Mekhitar of Sebastia. His movement became the catalyst for the reawakening and rediscovering of the Armenian Identity.

For the past several decades, the Internet has been revolutionizing lives and changing the world. Globalization is threatening the sovereignty of small nations. Can the Armenian nation rise to the challenge once again? What role will our past play in shaping our future?

To explore these issues, an academic conference will be held at the Fletcher Jones Auditorium of Woodbury University, 7500 N. Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank, on Saturday, October 26, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The conference is jointly organized by the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Ararat Eskijian Museum, Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society, Nor Serount Cultural Association and the Organization of Istanbul Armenians.

The program will consist of the following presentations:

- Prof. Father Levon Zekyan, "The Symbolism of Mesrob Mashtots: A Retrospect into the Past Sixteen Centuries"
- Prof. Abraham Terian, "The Structure and Purpose of Korivn's 'Life of Mashtots'"
- Dr. Srubhi Hayrapetian, "The Conceptualization and Rooting of National

Identity"

- Rev. Dr. Abel Manoukian, "The Plan to Create a Spiritual Statehood and Preserve National Identity in the 5th Century and Today"

- Dr. Yervant Zorian, "The Mission of the Armenian Virtual College and its Contribution to Preserving Armenian Identity"

- Prof. Hagop Gulludjian, "Place, Role, and Prospects of Language Facing Globalization"

- Prof. Robert Hewsen, "Mesrob Mashtots and Mekhitar of Sebastia: the Second and Third Illuminators of the Armenian People"

The conference will be live streamed in its entirety at [NorSerount.com](http://NorSerount.com).

Admission is free, but seating is limited. Seats could be reserved by contacting [maggiogoschin@gmail.com](mailto:maggiogoschin@gmail.com) or Nor Serount on Facebook.

## Michalczyk Film Bears Witness to Abuse Scandal

By Sean Keeley

BOSTON (*Boston College Heights*) — "The past is never the past because it's your past, your present, and your future," said Alexa MacPherson about halfway through the documentary "Who Takes Away the Sins: Witnesses to Clergy Abuse." MacPherson said, "It becomes you, it defines who you are."

Those words echoed through the Museum of Fine Art's Remis Auditorium, as "Who Takes Away the Sins" screened there on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The film, co-produced by husband and wife team and Boston College professors John and Susan Michalczyk, is an attempt to bear witness to a very ugly and disturbing past indeed: the history of the Catholic Church's sex abuse scandal, which drew headlines across the world in 2002. Focusing locally around the Archdiocese of Boston, where the scandal first broke, "Who Takes Away The Sins" includes a broad assortment of testimonies from survivors, advocates, an investigative reporter, a concerned clergy member and the attorney who represented many of the Church's victims. The result is an impassioned and moving film that integrates a diversity of viewpoints into its inescapable conclusion: that the Church knowingly covered for abusive priests and hushed up

their crimes to protect its reputation.

"Who Takes Away the Sins" is all the more powerful for letting these stories speak for themselves. It is not a flashy film stylistically, nor does it need to be. The horrific stories of the survivors and the legacy of pain written on their faces need no adornment.

At the same time, the Michalczyks' film expands from witness testimonies to explain the scandal's larger context. Walter Robinson, a reporter for the *Boston Globe* who covered everything from contentious political battles to the Gulf War, said that it was the toughest story he ever had to cover. Mitchell Garabedian, the attorney who filed hundreds of lawsuits against the church, explained his ongoing battle to change the statute of limitation laws to hold the church accountable. Advocates like Paul Kellen and Anne Barrett Doyle described their efforts to launch organizations to get information about abuse cases out to churchgoers and hold bishops accountable.

Doyle and Garabedian, meanwhile, stressed the legal barriers to action against the Church. A bill currently in the Massachusetts State House would abolish the statute of limitations on child sex crimes, a key action that would allow more victims to file suit. But it has remained stuck in committee, and the panel's speakers urged the audience to call House Speaker Robert DeLeo to pass the bill.





## Manuscripts Donated To Echmiadzin

SOGOIAN, from page 10

After the Lord's Prayer and the performances of psalms, Sogoian cut the ribbon at the exhibition hall, allowing the guests to enter the newly opened exhibition hall.

At the end of the ceremony, the Catholicos of All Armenians gave his blessing to Sogoian and said: "We express satisfaction with the fact that the Lord grants us with such noble Armenians who willingly donate to national institutions our spiritual assets that they have diligently gathered throughout their lifetime."

Included in the collection is a work from Sargis Pitsak, who was an early 14th-century Armenian artist.

In addition to the manuscripts, the exhibition also showcases some exclusive documents from the archives of the Mother See, including the secret documents of Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, Archbishop Zaven Yeghiayan in relation to the Armenian Genocide, as well as the archbishop's letter addressed to Gevorg V, Catholicos of All Armenians, on setting April 24th as Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day.

Emma Sogoian has long been involved with helping the Armenian Church, both Echmiadzin and Antelias, as was her husband. They first got involved with building churches in Armenia through Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian, who had headed the Prelacy in New York before moving to Armenia to help Echmiadzin revive churches in Armenia. Ashjian asked them to build a church a Vayk, in southern Armenia, St. Drtad Church.

They were active supporters of many Armenian causes, both in the United States and in Armenia. Their many projects have also included the women's health clinic in Yerevan founded by Rita Balian of Washington, DC and renovating a school in Talish.

"Karl loved Armenia. He was born in the US and could not read or write Armenian, but he had a feeling for it," she said. She noted that he was a mechanical engineer, a solid sort of professional, but that he "thought outside the box." She explained that he was a thinker, interested in making a difference and for those reasons, he wanted ancient manuscripts to find a permanent home in Echmiadzin and also sought the unity of the Armenian church.

Though his background was in Prelacy churches, Sogoian said that she and her husband would attend and support any and all Armenian Churches, from Prelacy and Diocese churches to Protestant or Catholic.

In fact, she recalled, she and her husband would always be invited by a church or another at Thanksgiving; they never turned down the invitation. "He has a respect for religion," she recalled.

Karl Sogoian donated several Urartian artifacts to the Manoogian Museum in Detroit. He and his wife also donated church organs to both Armenian Apostolic churches in the area, St. John's and St. Sarkis.

A native of Istanbul, Turkey, Emma Sogoian studied at that city's St. Joseph German School before coming to the United States in 1955. She met her future husband in Detroit, and the two married and settled in his native city.

Sogoian – a longtime member of St. John Church of Southfield – was awarded the St. Gregory Medal and Pontifical Encyclical last year during a banquet at the church in Southfield.

In typical modest fashion, upon receiving the medal, said that it was thanks to her husband that she received the award.

Advertise in the  
Mirror-Spectator

# Eric Bogosian Returns to His Roots

By Mark Kennedy

NEW YORK (AP) – Eric Bogosian has been looking back on his old angry work lately and laughing.

The former monologist who used to speak about substance abuse and dangerous sex has been sifting through two decades of work for an upcoming book – "100 Monologues" – and a new one-man show, "100 (Monologues)," at the Labyrinth Theater Company.

"Man, I talk about drugs, A LOT. I talk about sex, A LOT. That was what my life was about, which it isn't now," he says. "I don't think a monologue show about being a dad is as interesting as being a guy being on the edge of some sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll kind of lifestyle."

Both the book and the show, which ran through October 19, pull pieces from Bogosian's six solo shows between 1980 and 2000 – including "Pounding Nails in the Floor With My Forehead" and "Wake up and Smell the Coffee" – for which he received three Obie Awards.

"I didn't know what I was doing. And there was something good about that," he says of the monologue style that he now calls a "shoot-from-the-hip, intuitive, crazy thing."

The new show and collection of his monologues correspond with a special project involving many of his actor-friends, including Liev Schreiber, Bobby Cannavale, Vincent D'Onofrio, Jessica Hecht and Jeremy Sisto. All will help record 100 of Bogosian's monologues for online posting starting this winter.

He's written a number of full-length plays – his "subUrbia" was made into a film – and appeared in several movies, including Robert Altman's "The Caine Mutiny Court Martial" and "Under Siege 2" opposite Steven Seagal. Bogosian also has written several books, as well as the upcoming "Nemesis," about a group of Armenian assassins who went after Turkish leaders after World War I.

Bogosian, 60, took a break from rehearsal to talk about the show, the fate of the monologue, how an angry young man became a cop on TV, and an odd fantasy that involves a vampire.

AP: Why 100 monologues?

**Bogosian:** One day I was just curious as to how many monologues there were. I counted them up and it was like 99. If I threw in the guy from 'Talk Radio,' then I had 100 monologues. So I called up my publishers and I said, 'You know, there are a hundred of 'em. Why don't we put out a book?'

AP: You left the monologue around 2000. Why?

**Bogosian:** It's all about real shotgun attitude stuff. Monologues put out one idea really hard and fast. I sort of moved into other realms where I could explore something different, like a novel or a history book.

AP: Is it weird seeing others perform your work?

**Bogosian:** They bring something else. In fact, they do things and I'm like, 'Oh, I didn't know you could do that with that line.' Or they find a



Eric Bogosian



beat somewhere I didn't know about. I wrote it and I didn't realize you could do it.

AP: What happened to the monologue as an art form?

**Bogosian:** It was at its best when all the monologues worked in one big theme. But eventually that started to fall by the wayside. Monologue shows started to become a showcase for talent, or because of Spalding Gray's influence, people thought that the minutia of their personal lives was fascinating, not being the artist that Spalding was.

AP: Will it ever disappear?

**Bogosian:** I don't think it's something that will ever die because it's very cheap to produce. When you're a starving artist, it's a great way to get started. But I think when it's used as a stepping-stone to other things, then it does have a capacity to get lost.

AP: How did a counterculture icon end up a police captain on a "Law & Order" franchise?

**Bogosian:** I totally accept the idea that a person's ideas can change over their life. But I never said anything against cops, I never said anything against soldiers, in my work. I come from a blue-collar town and grew up with guys who were cops and carpenters and soldiers. So I have a great deal of respect for those guys.

AP: What appealed to you about doing the show?

**Bogosian:** I wanted to do that kind of show because I felt that those shows are very similar to the style of the old Elia Kazan dramas, where nobody ever smiles and everything's very intense. I wanted to be able to do something where I never smiled and was grumpy all the time.

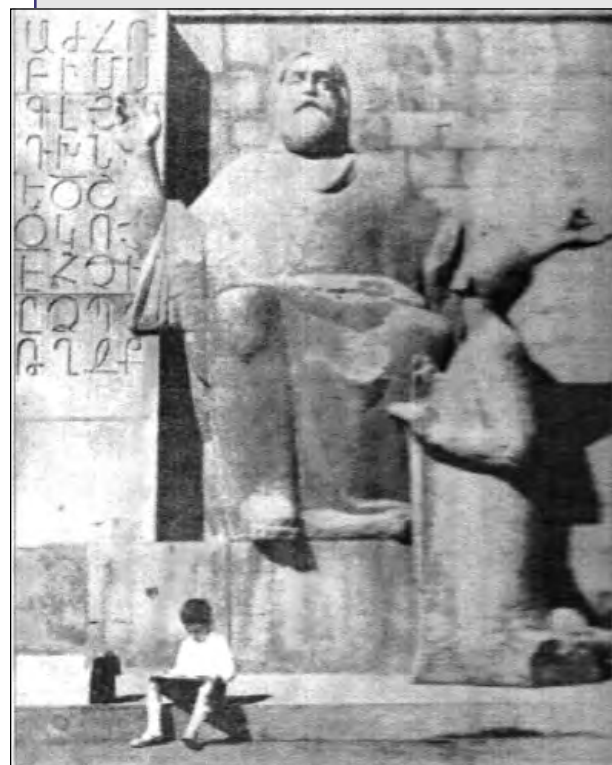
AP: Where do you want your career to go?

**Bogosian:** Who knows where my little journey's going to go as an actor because I'm not out there all the time. Honestly, I've got one thing left to do: I want to play a vampire in something and then my entire card will have been filled. I got to play an intense drama. I got to be the villain in an action movie. I got to be on 'Law & Order.'

AP: A vampire, really?

**Bogosian:** Yes. I want to be an old vampire. I want to be the leader of all the other vampires.

## Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2013



Since its inception in 2001, TCA's 'Sponsor a Teacher' program has raised over \$563,000 and reached out to 4,440 teachers and school workers in Armenia and Karabagh.



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

\$160  \$320  \$480  other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**TCA Sponsor a Teacher**  
5326 Valverde, Houston, TX 77056

Your donation is Tax Deductible.





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## CALENDAR

## MASSACHUSETTS

**OCTOBER 26 — Fall Harvest Bazaar, First Armenian Church**, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont. Noon – 8 p.m. Armenian delicacies - manti, choreg, kufte and more. Enjoy kebab dinners (lamb, beef or chicken with pilaf and salad,) losh, boreg, paklava, pastries and more in our festive hall or takeout. 617-484-4779, or [www.firstarmenianchurch.org](http://www.firstarmenianchurch.org). Handicapped and MBTA accessible.

**OCTOBER 29 — Julia & the Zerounian Ensemble**, in an enchanting cabaret evening of songs from around the world. 7:30 p.m., Regattabar, Cambridge. For information and reservations, visit <http://www.getshowtix.com/regattabar/moreinfo.cgi?id=3031>

**NOVEMBER 1 and 2 — 57th Annual St. Stephen's Bazaar**, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown. Open to the public; lamb, losh and chicken kebab, Armenian pastries, gourmet food, harvest store and silent & live auctions.

**NOVEMBER 7 — Avak luncheon**, noon, Jaffarian Hall, St. Gregory Church, 158 Main St., North Andover, speaker, Dr. Edward Khantian, clinical professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, "Impressions of a Keynote Visit to Armenia."

**NOVEMBER 8 and 9 — Annual Autumnfest Bazaar sponsored by the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe**, 110 Main St., Haverhill, Friday 12-8 p.m. and Saturday, 12-7 p.m. Lamb, losh and chicken kebab and kheyima. Dinner served all day. Pastry table, Armenian cuisine, gift basket raffles and raffles for cash and prizes. For more info, visit our new website [www.hyepointearmenianchurch.org](http://www.hyepointearmenianchurch.org) or call 978-372-9227.

**NOVEMBER 10 — St. Stephen's Ladies Guild presents "The Gamavor Story,"** performed by the Way We Were Ensemble of New York/ New Jersey, 2 p.m., St. Stephen's Church Hall, Elton Ave., Watertown. Tickets: \$20 advanced purchase, \$25 at the door, \$10 children under 12. For tickets, contact Mary Derderian at [hyeguina@yahoo.com](mailto:hyeguina@yahoo.com) or 781-762-4253; make checks payable to St. Stephen's church.

**NOVEMBER 16 — Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) 38th Annual Luncheon Auction**, Burlington Marriott, Burlington; 11 a.m. silent auction and bidding; Guest auctioneers Al Kaprielian and Cindy Fitzgibbon; \$60 per person, Visa and MasterCard accepted. For reservations and info, contact: [awwauction@gmail.com](mailto:awwauction@gmail.com).



**On November 16 at 11 a.m., the Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) will host its 38th annual Luncheon Auction at the Burlington Marriott, Burlington, MA. There will be silent auction and bidding with guest auctioneers Al Kaprielian and Cindy Fitzgibbon. Tickets are \$60 and Visa and MasterCard are accepted. For reservations and information, contact [awwauction@gmail.com](mailto:awwauction@gmail.com).**

**NOVEMBER 16 — Second annual Mer Doon Benefit Dance**, 7:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, 465 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown. Featuring John Berberian, Bob Mougamian, Mal Barsamian and Bruce Gigarian. Mezza, dessert table and more. Tickets: \$40 adult, \$30 student; for tickets and table reservations, please call Mark at 617-256-5358.

**DECEMBER 6 — Anniversary celebration by Lowell "Aharonian" Gomideh**, 6:30 p.m., St. Gregory Church, North Andover; dinner and program honoring 50-year members Steve Dulgarian and Joe Dagdigian; remembering the 25th anniversary of the earthquake in Armenia; soloist Nina Hovsepian, accompanied by Mary Barooshian; donation, \$20 adults, \$10 students.

**DECEMBER 6 AND 7 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar**, Friday, 3-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge.

**DECEMBER 15 — Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra-Christmas Holiday Concert**, 7 p.m., Church Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Save the date, details to follow.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

**NOVEMBER 3 — Ararat Armenian Congregational Church Celebrates 100 Years: 1913-2013.** Join the historic Armenian American community of Southern NH for a celebration lunch at Tuscan Kitchen restaurant, 67 Main St., Salem; 1 p.m. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, contact [janigian@comcast.net](mailto:janigian@comcast.net).

## NEW JERSEY

**OCTOBER 26 and 27 — St. Thomas Armenian Church Food Festival and Bazaar**, Saturday, 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Kebabs, sweets, vendors, raffles, kid's fun, White Elephant and more. For info, call (201) 567-5446; 174 Essex Drive (corner of Route 9 W & E. Clinton Ave.), Tenafly.

**NOVEMBER 23-24 — TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group** celebrates 15th Anniversary with production of Hagop Baronian's "The Perils of Politeness" (Kaghakavaroutyan Vnasneruh) directed by Gagik Karapetyan from Armenia; Dwight Englewood High School, 315 E. Palisade Ave., Englewood, NJ. Nov. 23, Saturday at 8 p.m. and Nov. 24, Sunday at 4 p.m. For tickets; \$50, \$35, \$25; call Marie Zokian (201)745-8850 or Missak Boghosian at (212)819-0097 or (347)365-6985.

## RHODE ISLAND

**NOVEMBER 9 AND 10 — Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church's 83rd Annual Armenian Food Fair and Bazaar**, Saturday 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday noon to 6 p.m. at the Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson St, Providence. Authentic Armenian food and pastries, take-out food booth, Armenian market featuring traditional favorites, activities for children of all ages, daily and scratch tickets, silent auction, penny social and tv room for football. Cash, check, Visa and MC accepted. Free admission and free valet parking — everyone welcome. For more info, call 401-272-7712 or visit [www.armenianfoodfairri.com](http://www.armenianfoodfairri.com).

## Ayda Erbal to Speak on Turkish 'Apology Campaign'

BELMONT, Mass. — Ayda Erbal of New York University's Department of Politics will give a lecture titled, "Mea Culpas, Negotiations, Apologies: Revisiting the 'Apology' of Turkish Intellectuals," on Thursday, November 7 at 8 p.m. at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), 395 Concord Ave.

The "We apologize" or "Ozur diliyoruz" campaign initiated by four Turkish intellectuals and signed by thousands of others was a remarkable yet controversial development in modern Turkish-Armenian relations. It also stands as a unique occurrence in modern Turkish history since no other similar "apologizing act" has been extended to any other group that has been victimized by state policies.

Although what constitutes a proper apology is well defined in the present cross-disciplinary literature, it is not so clear what exactly acts of apologies are or their functions in the domestic and international politics of the "sorry nations." Are apologies new ways of "imagining," hence transforming, the "nation"? What differentiates a successful apology from a pseudo or a non-apology? What is the difference between apologia and apology?

These are some of the questions Erbal will

address while providing a close analysis of both the text and the political context in which the Turkish apology campaign — and counter campaigns — was launched in December of 2008. She will discuss philosophical, linguistic, and political aspects of the Turkish "We apologize" campaign, such as what kind of meaning does the text of the apology convey; what are the limitations of the text itself; and what may be the political implications of the use of a certain language within the apology (e.g., euphemisms, lack of agency, use of passive tense)?

Erbal teaches Middle Eastern politics and democratic theory as adjunct professor of politics at New York University, Department of Politics. She is interested in democratic theory, the politics of "post-nationalist" historiographies in transitional settings, the political-economy of mass violence and state formation and the politics of apology. A chapter of her dissertation, "Mea Culpas, Negotiations, Apologies: Revisiting the Turkish Intellectuals' 'Apology' Campaign," was recently published in *Reconciliation, Civil Society, and the Politics of Memory* (ed. Birgit Schwelling). An award-winning filmmaker on the side, Erbal is in the process of writing her second narrative short



Ayda Erbal

"Meligone." She is also a published short-story writer and one of the founding editors of *Azad Alik* (<http://azadalik.wordpress.com>), a multi-

lingual politics blog primarily dealing with minority issues in Turkey.

For more information, email [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org).





## COMMENTARY

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror Spectator

Established 1932

An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gabriella Gage

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

#### SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:

Edmond Azadian

#### CONTRIBUTORS:

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

#### CORRESPONDENTS:

**Armenia** - Hagop Avedikian  
**Boston** - Nancy Kalajian  
**Philadelphia** - Lisa Manookian  
**Berlin** - Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

#### Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair Hovsepian

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

#### Baikar Association, Inc.

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

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

[www.mirrorspectator.com](http://www.mirrorspectator.com)

E-Mail: [editor@mirrorspectator.com](mailto:editor@mirrorspectator.com)

For advertising: [mirrorads@aol.com](mailto:mirrorads@aol.com)

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

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

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

**Baikar Association, Inc.**

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

## COMMENTARY

## An Exercise in the Democratic Process

By Edmond Y. Azadian

For months now Peter Koutoujian's name has been on the national stage for Armenian-Americans and the hopes were quite realistic to see another Armenian on the Hill come December 15. But those hopes were dashed when the results of the Democratic primary were announced on October 15. Seven democrats were seeking to replace Edward Markey in the Massachusetts Fifth Congressional District. State Sen. Katherine Clark of Melrose won the primary with 32 percent of the votes in the 24 cities and towns comprising the district, followed by the Middlesex County Sheriff Koutoujian with 22 percent. His hometown Waltham and Watertown with a sizable Armenian population did not let him down as they delivered the votes.

The prospects are very promising for Clark because Democrats outnumber Republicans in the district.

Koutoujian waged a clean and courageous campaign as did Ms. Clark. The latter has been a competent candidate who gave a tough run to Mr. Koutoujian. Armenian voters did not question her competence and qualifications; their preference was based on the fact that Koutoujian is more sensitive to the issues most Armenians are concerned with. When Clark heads to Washington, all voters would still be well-represented in the Massachusetts' Congressional delegation, which has often been very supportive of the community's issues.

Besides being Armenian, Koutoujian enjoys an impeccable reputation as a public servant that had to motivate Armenians and non-Armenian voters equally.

The outcome of the election should bother the Armenians more than Mr. Koutoujian himself who will continue serving as the sheriff or he may set his eyes on Massachusetts Attorney General's position which will be vacated by Martha Coakley.

As the voter turnout was low it was the most appropriate opportunity for the Armenian voters to show up in larger numbers at polling stations. Mr. Koutoujian was proud that in one weekend volunteers knocked on 16,000 doors. Even if more Armenian doors were open only 3,000-4,000 Armenians are estimated to be registered voters in the district.

Koutoujian, occupying second place, won 15,290 votes. Even if all registered Armenian voters showed up at the polls, they still would account for one-third of the votes, at best.

In terms of fundraising Koutoujian outdid his competitor, raising \$915,000 for his war chest, versus Clark's \$855,000. The fundraising campaign gave the initial indications of a successful ending for Koutoujian as the voting ratio had more in the general electorate than among the Armenians.

Armenians boast of having a population of one million in the US, but if that one million cannot be mobilized as a political force it will prove to be a political dead weight.

No one can give the exact count of Massachusetts Armenians, but certainly more than 4,000 could have been registered in the

district to raise a powerful voice to not only elect a candidate of Armenian extraction, but to be a segment of the population to be courted by any candidate seeking public office here.

Another problem Armenians have in the US is a lack of long-term political goals. No plans are in place to groom future candidates and have them rise through the ranks. The candidates thrust themselves on the community which adopts them by default. In this case, Koutoujian was a qualified candidate with a long and deep involvement in many school, church and social organizations in our community, but there have been others in the past, who have expected the support of the community only on the strength of an "ian" in their last names, who have not really been plugged into any Armenian groups. They did not care nor participate after their defeats.

We have to also reflect on the role of the Armenian political parties which trace their roots in the past with an agenda of liberating their homeland from Ottoman tyranny. Over the years their roles have evolved to mean the preservation of the Armenian heritage, a task that merits accolades.

But today many people question the role of the Armenian political parties. Their logical milieu would have been Armenia, because the ideology of a political party can be tested in a country where the parties are supposed to serve.

In the case of Armenia, an anomaly has been created in its political system, because the traditional parties have been marginalized, for a number of reasons. One reason is that they are considered transplants and most importantly, the weaning process from the authoritarian system has taken its time and toll. In fact, the political parties are formed around the agendas of oligarchs, warlords or strongmen, rather than any ideology.

Returning back to host countries where Armenian communities are active, the political parties can justify their relevance by taking an active role in the democratic process.

The antiquated framework of political parties has no room for the emerging generations with a globalized vision. The members of the new generation either wonder in the wilderness or they become a hazard to the community's collective goals trying to introduce untested practices.

Or worse, organizations destined for other roles may be tempted to fill the vacuum, perils notwithstanding.

Koutoujian's campaign is a classic case study in trying to integrate into the political system.

One important case which we need to note and celebrate is that there was no political divisions in the Armenian community, so that the candidate enjoyed the solid support of the entire community, especially the ones who came out to knock on doors. They voted and they became a force to be reckoned with.

Although Koutoujian did not win the race, he has shown a courageous outlook and he has been gratified by the support he has received.

We Armenians can also consider this campaign a test case to empower the community for the next challenge.

That may turn an electoral defeat to a prospective victory in the democratic process.

## How Long Before Truth Comes out on Syria?

By Robert Fisk

Major General Jamaa Jamaa was not a popular man in Beirut. One of Syria's most senior intelligence officers in Lebanon until the withdrawal of Bashar al-Assad's troops in 2005, he was headquartered in the rundown Beau Rivage Hotel in west Beirut and also in the Bekaa town of Anjaar, where Lebanese men would be taken for interrogation and later emerge – or not emerge at all – sans teeth or nails. He was a loyal, ruthless apparatchik for Bashar's father Hafez, and his mysterious killing last week in the Syrian war provoked no tears in Beirut. The UN had interviewed Jamaa about the murder of former Lebanese prime minister Rafiq Hariri whose 2005 assassination brought about the Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. But how did Jamaa die? Syrian state television would say only that he was "martyred while carrying out his national duties to defend Syria and its people and pursuing terrorists (sic) in Deir el-Zour".

All kinds of rebel groups – including, of course, the equally ruthless al-Qa'ida affiliates – wanted to add his name to their

"kills". He was shot in the head by a sniper in the eastern Syrian oil town. Jamaa was also killed, we were informed, by a booby-trap, and blown up by a suicide bomber. All that we can be sure of is that his remains, such as they were, were taken for burial in the village hills above Lattakia where he was born. How long before we know the truth?

I am brought to this question by the secrecy which still smothers the 1954-62 Algerian-French war of independence where a cruel French regime of occupation fought a war against an equally cruel and determined Algerian resistance, primarily led by the National Liberation Front, the FLN. French officers indulged in an orgy of torture while their Algerian opposite numbers slaughtered each other – as well as the French – in a Stalinist purge of thousands of their own followers suspected of collaborating with the French occupation. For decades, the French refused to discuss this most dishonourable of wars – censoring their own television programmes if they dared talk of torture – while the subsequent FLN dictatorship only published infantile accounts of the heroism of their "martyr" cadres. The French, you see, were fighting "terrorism". The FLN were fighting a bru-

tal, Gaullist regime.

The parallels are, of course, not exact. But over the past months, a remarkable phenomenon has made its appearance in Algeria. Dozens of elderly Algerian maquisards from the conflict that ended just over half a century ago, have turned up at small publishing houses in Algiers and Oran with private manuscripts, containing frightening accounts of the savage war in which they fought and in which their officers tortured and massacred and assassinated their own comrades. Rival Algerian resistance groups – not unlike the "Free Syrian Army" and their Islamist rebel enemies in northern Syria today – also slaughtered each other.

Take, for example, the death of Abane Ramdane. The "architect" of the Algerian revolution, a friend of the French philosopher and revolutionary Franz Fanon, organizer of the Soummam congress which created the first independent Algerian leadership in 1956, Ramdane – a man almost as keen on his own personality as he was on the classless revolution he helped initiate – was assassinated in Morocco the following year, allegedly by the French. For decades,

*continued on next page*





## COMMENTARY

# The Question of Church Restoration Projects

**W**hen someone visits Armenia for the first time, the tour itinerary invariably includes a multitude of churches and monasteries. Modern Armenia is the land of churches. Historic Armenia in Anatolia was also a land of churches, with nearly 4000 churches and monasteries. The Van Lake region alone had more than 300 churches. The ancient city of Ani, dubbed the “City of 1001 Churches,” contained 40 churches. We are proud of our churches, awed at their architectural beauty and intricate construction techniques, amazed at their settings perched on inaccessible mountaintops.

On the other hand, this obsession with churches, when combined with our tragic history, makes me wonder: “I wish we had fewer churches to visit and instead, many more victory monuments like Sardarabad. I wish our Armenian kings, princes, political leaders and wealthy notables in the past had spent less time, talent, resources and money on these churches and instead, more on fortifications and defense of our lands and territories.”

When one delves more into the historic reasons why these churches are built, it becomes apparent that they are not necessarily built to meet the religious needs of the population, but rather to bring glory to the benefactor and perhaps to help him ‘ease into heaven.’ Throughout history, our religious leaders have conditioned the benefactors that there is no better way to serve god, Jesus Christ and its Armenian

**By Raffi Bedrosyan**

folk than to build another church. Therefore, regardless of political, economic or social realities and upheavals, Armenians have continued building churches in both historic and modern Armenia, as well as in all corners of the world, often times disregarding other needs and priorities. This has been the case in medieval Armenian kingdoms in historic Armenia, continuing in Cilicia and Eastern Anatolia up until 1915, then in Diaspora and now in modern Armenia.

The tradition continues today. When future generations look back into our present history of 22 year-old Armenia and Diaspora Armenians, they will see the challenges of establishing a new country from the ruins of the Soviet Empire, at the same time fighting the deadly Karabagh war, the closed borders and economic blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan, simultaneously dealing with the disastrous 1989 earthquake, and most critically, the continuing depopulation of Armenia due to lack of employment and investment opportunities.

And yet, despite these monumental tasks, they will also see examples of vast church building activities both in Armenia and Diaspora. In 1997, in the midst of urgent needs to reconstruct Armenia ravaged by the earthquake and Karabagh destroyed by war, Armenians did find the money to build the Saint Gregory Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan. In 2001, Diaspora Armenians in Los Angeles did start the construction of a huge cathedral, while there was and is scarce money to keep Armenian schools open. In 2011, an oligarch donated all the funds to build the St Hovhannes Cathedral in Abovyan, while the starving local population had almost emptied the town.

Just last month, wealthy Russian Armenians opened a vast new cathedral in Moscow. The Echmiadzin Catholicosate has become a state within a state, a Vatican-like complex expanding continuously with new buildings. The combined total expenditure on these large churches, as well as several other smaller church projects, easily exceeds \$200 million. These projects are not funded from revenue-generating sources or regular budgets, but instead, from one-time significant donations of benefactors, mostly from the Diaspora. They will not generate any revenues, either, but will create a continuing need for additional donations for upkeep and maintenance.

One wonders if these donations could be used for more worthwhile projects, such as helping Armenians remain in Armenia, or helping Armenians remain Armenian in the Diaspora. There seems to be a widely accepted belief that neither the government nor

the church are in touch with the concerns and needs of the common people. During a recent private audience with the Catholicos, he was asked what the Church can do to keep our youth more interested in the Armenian church and attached closer to their Armenian roots. His curt response was that ‘this should be done at home and at school’. The much anticipated Bishops Synod, assembled last month for the first time in 600 years, did not produce any tangible resolutions to address concerns of the common Armenian, be it in Armenia or the Diaspora. Most benefactors do not want or trust to invest in Armenia due to the fear that government corruption and bribes will make their investment useless and therefore, will not generate economic benefits for themselves nor help the Armenian population. Unless the government takes concrete steps to change the valid perception that investments only end up in the hands of the governing oligarchs, there will not be much participation in the desperately needed economic growth of Armenia, which is essential to keep the Armenians from leaving Armenia. In the meantime, the church leaders just continue preaching the tried and true convincing argument that the most beneficial donation a benefactor can make for himself and his family is giving to the church.

Of course, there are truly worthwhile church building and restoration projects, with strategic and significant benefits for all Armenians. One example is the restoration of the Ghazantchetsots Church in Shushi, undertaken immediately after the Karabagh war. During the war, Azeris controlling Shushi had used this historic church as an arms depot and military centre, while continuously bombarding Stepanakert down below in the valley. Their reasoning was that Armenians would never attack and fire on their own church. When Armenian commandos victoriously entered Shushi in May 1992, they found the church in shambles, burnt, desecrated and full of human excrement. Today, it stands as a symbol of victory against all odds.

The other critical restoration project is the total reconstruction of the Diyarbakir/Dikranagerd Surp Giragos Church in Turkey in 2011, the first time an Armenian church was restored as an Armenian church in historic Armenia after being destroyed in 1915. This project is strategically significant for a number of reasons: First, the restored church became concrete evidence against the denialist state version of history of the government of Turkey, demonstrating that there was a large Armenian presence in Anatolia before 1915. Secondly, it immediately became a religious and cultural center helping the Turkish and Kurdish population of Turkey understand the realities of 1915, through media events, conferences and concerts. Thirdly, the foundation which restored the church started the process to reclaim the properties belonging to the church but confiscated after 1915, with several properties already secured through negotiations and courts, for the first time since 1915. Fourth, the church became a living genocide memorial, attracting tens of thousands of Armenian visitors from Diaspora and Armenia annually, helping start a dialogue and better relationship with liberated Kurds and Turks who have faced the historical truths of 1915, and now demand their government to do so. Last but not least, the most significant outcome of the restoration of this church, has been the emergence of the hidden Armenians. Islamicized Armenians have started ‘coming out,’ visiting and praying in the Church, getting baptized, participating in Armenian language courses, helping build an Armenian museum on the church grounds, contributing to the security and administration of the church, demanding acceptance of their real identity by the government, and so on. The church acts like a magnet for these people, with over one hundred people visiting daily on average, coming from all over Anatolia, not just Diyarbakir, trying to find their Armenian roots. New initiatives underway to restore and reclaim other destroyed Armenian churches and monasteries in historic Armenia will help accelerate all these outcomes.

In conclusion, it is my sincere hope that future government and church leaders, as well as future benefactors, will decide more wisely on what projects to invest in, giving higher priority to the needs and wants of the Armenian people than their own.

(Raffi Bedrosyan is the director of port lands & civil infrastructure at Waterfront Toronto and can be contacted at rbedrosyan@waterfronttoronto.com.)

## How Long Before Truth Comes out on Syria?

from previous page

he was extolled as a martyr who had “died under French bullets”. But now a former member of the FLN has dared to suggest the names of his real killers: Krim Belkacem, head of the FLN’s third wilaya (district) and later a minister of defence and foreign affairs in the newly independent government of Algeria; Abdelhafid Boussouf, the vicious “father of intelligence” in all the Algerian wilayas, who condemned many of his own comrades to death; and Lakhdar Ben Tobbal, a guerrilla leader who later negotiated with the French at Evian.

Then there’s the sinister figure of Si Salah, head of wilaya 4, who was persuaded – by French intelligence, although he did not know this – that hundreds of his own men were collaborators. On Si Salah’s personal instructions, almost 500 of his comrades were tortured to death or executed. But Si Salah, fearful that the FLN’s military wing might be defeated by the French, secretly opened negotiations with De Gaulle – and was then himself assassinated, supposedly by the French, but almost certainly by the FLN. The French investigative journalist, Pierre

Daum, has spoken of the “extreme timidity of Algerian historians”, and recounted how one Algerian publisher said he lacked the courage to print a book on the infiltration of the FLN.

“In 2005, this guy came to see me,” the publisher told Daum. “I refused his manuscript because it was filled with names, ‘X tortured Y’, and so on. Imagine the children of a ‘martyr’ – who believe their father died under French gunfire – discovering that he

perished under Algerian torture!”

The real story of the much more recent Algerian war – between the Islamists and the government in the 1990s (total deaths 250,000, a hundred thousand more than in Syria today) – still cannot be told by Algerian historians. It has been left to today’s Algerian novelists to cloak facts in fiction in order to reveal the truths of this terrible conflict. One such tale – a real incident – is recalled in a novel. A junior officer in the

Algerian army, it seems, was discovered to have betrayed his comrades to Islamist rebels. His wife and children were summoned from their village and taken by military helicopter to the barren hillside where the captured soldier was being held. And there, in front of his family, the man was tied to a tree, doused with petrol, and burned alive.

(Robert Fisk is a regular columnist for the *Independent*. This column originally appeared on October 21 in that newspaper.)

## 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.





16th International Armenia Fund

# Telethon 2013 | NOVEMBER 28 Thanksgiving Day



Դեպի Արցախ  
En Route Artsakh



Call: 1-212-689-5307

Visit & Donate: [www.armenianfundUSA.org](http://www.armenianfundUSA.org)

1-800-888-8897

Armenia Fund USA 80 Maiden Lane, Suite 2205 New York, NY 10038