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Foreign Minister Addresses UN

NEW YORK (ArmeniaNow) – Armenia welcomes the resolution of the Security Council, which could lead to “the elimination of chemical weapons and exclusion of their use in Syria and pave the way to a political solution of the Syrian crisis, putting an end to the sufferings of the Syrian people”, said Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, addressing the 68th United Nations General Assembly in New York on Saturday.

“Armenia remains alarmed by the worsening of the humanitarian situation in Syria. The number of refugees Armenia continues to receive already exceeds ten thousand, but tens of thousands of Syrian-Armenians still remain in that country that has become their second home after the Genocide of 1915, and they are struggling for their survival in unbearable conditions together with their Syrian countrymen,” Nalbandian said, in part.



Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian at the UN

Among other issues in his speech the Armenian minister also referred to the Karabagh issue, accusing Azerbaijan of

obstructing peace.

“Azerbaijan is pretending that the international community shares its approaches and it shares the approaches of the international community. In reality, Azerbaijan is continuously rejecting all proposals of the internationally mandated OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries. Baku rejected all versions of the Basic Principles of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict proposed by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, includ-

ing those presented at the Kazan (June 2011), Sochi (March 2011), Astrakhan (October 2011) and Saint Petersburg (June 2010) summits,” said Nalbandian.

He also referred to the recent statement by President Ilham Aliyev in which, he said, the Azeri leader “once again came up with new threats against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and claimed Armenian territories, including almost three thousand years old capital city Yerevan.”

“Regardless of Azerbaijan’s destructive stance, Armenia will continue its efforts towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict exclusively through peaceful means and on the basis of the purposes, principles and norms reflected in the UN Charter and the provisions of L’Aquila, Muskoka, Deauville, Los Cabos and Enniskillen statements of the three Co-Chair countries’ Presidents,” emphasized Nalbandian.

(See the full text of Nalbandian’s speech on page 3.)

Bishops’ Synod of the Armenian Church Comes to a Close

ECHMIADZIN – From September 24 through 27, in the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians and Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, presided over the opening of the Bishop’s Synod of the Armenian Church. Present at the meeting were 62 Archbishops and Bishops from the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin and the Great House of Cilicia.

On 24 September, following the Morning services in the Mother Cathedral, the Bishops Synod of the Armenian Church opened in the Gevorkian Seminary Events

Center Auditorium.

Serge Sargisian, iresident of the Republic of Armenia, greeted the Bishops during the opening ceremony of the meeting. His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians; and His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, delivered their messages to the Synod members. His Eminence Archbishop Aram Ateshyan, Patriarchal Vicar of Constantinople, also gave opening remarks during the Bishops Synod.

At the conclusion of the opening service, see SYNOD, page 2

Armenian and French Presidents Don’t See Alternatives to OSCE

PARIS (Armenpress) – Armenian President Serge Sargisian who is on a working visit in France had a meeting on October 1 with French President Francois Hollande. As Armenpress was informed from the Press office of the Armenian President, Serge Sargisian thanked the French president for the warm welcome and noted that it was a pleasure to be in friendly France again.

President noted with satisfaction that bilateral relations are supported by historic Armenian-French ties and in the last 20 years have continually developed getting to its historic pick. President characterized Armenian-French relations as deep, comprehensive, multilayer to the extent that it’s difficult to talk about them in a couple of sentences. Serge Sargisian said that two countries achieved this level of relations due to the periodical high level dialogue, including reciprocal visits by French and Armenian presidents, strong parliamentary cooperation and steady contacts of the representatives of cultural, educational, scientific and other fields. President said that

Armenian-French special relations have obtained a very nice tradition in later years, having at least one meeting a year on the presidential level during which Armenian-French, Armenia-EU, regional and global issues are discussed.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Abaka Weekly Holds Benefit On October 19

MONTREAL – The Friends of Abaka weekly of Montreal, a publication of the Tekeyan Cultural Association and a sister paper of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator, has organized a benefit dinner-concert on Saturday, October 19, to celebrate the 38th anniversary of the first trilingual Armenian weekly of Canada.



Quator Rhapsody, a string quartet composed of four Quebec musicians led by Nayiri Piloyan, will be the performers. Over the last seven years the quartet has gained recognition and popularity. Their repertoire consists mainly of semi-classic and chamber music as well as popular, operatic music and pieces from musical movies rearranged and adapted for quartet mostly by Piloyan. Komitas and newer Armenian musical creations also constitute a part of their repertoire.

The benefit concert will take place at the Montreal Tekeyan Cultural Association Center, 825 Manoogian St., St. Laurent, following dinner. Tickets are \$50 including dinner. For reservations call 514-747-6680.

German Medical Center To Help in Armenia

BERLIN (Armenpress) – The medical center Innovation Medizin Zentrum (IMZ) which coordinates the top medical institutions of Germany announced that they will have an official representative office in Armenia.

IMZ director and professor of medical sciences in the field of orthopedics and neurosurgery, Arsen Babayan, stated that there was a need for such a center in Armenia, as the patient flow during the last 15-20 years has increased.

Gumri Celebrates Jazz Anniversary

GUMRI (Armenpress) – A concert dedicated to the 75th anniversary of Armenian Jazz and the first anniversary of the “Jazz and Gumri” project will be held at the State Dramatic theatre this year.

According to the project founder, Mkrtich Manukyan, the state jazz orchestra of Armenia headed by Armen Hyusnunc, as well as all of the participants of the “Jazz and Gumri” project concerts of 2012-2013, will participate in the event, including Vahagn Hayrapetyan, Armen Tutunjan, Levon Malkhasyan, Ervand Margaryan and Michael Voskanyan.

The first concert of “Jazz and Gumri” project took place in November 2012. The main aim of the project is to present the art of Armenian and Western jazz musicians to the Gumri people. The project is being implemented by Manukyan Productions and the Jazz club of Gumri.



President Serge Sargisian, right, and Papken Megerian in Armenia

ADL’s Papken Megerian Receives Medal from President of Armenia

YEREVAN – Since Armenia’s independence, it has become a tradition for the president of the republic to hand out awards on the anniversary of independence to individuals in Armenia and the diaspora who are outstanding in their fields.

This year among the honorees singled out by President Serge Sargisian on September 21, at a ceremony in the presidential residence, was Papken Megerian, co-chair of the Armenian Democratic Liberal (ADL) party District Committee of Eastern US and Canada and member of the Central Board of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of the US and Canada.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Wisconsin Corrections Officials in Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – A Wisconsin Department of Corrections team is spending two weeks in Armenia to help improve that country's prison system, Armenpress reports making a reference to WQOW-TV, an ABC-affiliated television station in Eau Claire, Wis.

The five-person delegation will participate in training, discussions and field observations, including visits to institutions and a new institution under construction in the Armavir province. The group hopes to help develop activation plans and security policies for the new facility.

The delegation departed on September 27. The visit will run through October 12.

Armenia and Russia Sign Cooperation Agreement

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – As a result of the session on the Armenian-Russian intergovernmental economical cooperation the two countries signed the program on a long-term bilateral economical cooperation by 2020. The Information and Public Relations Department of the Government of the Republic of Armenia said that after the end of the aforesaid session the co-chairs of the committee, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Tigran Sargsisian and the Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation Maxim Sokolov, highlighted the importance of the program's realization and noted that the Government of Armenia and Russia will work toward the realization of the projects involved in the abovementioned program.

Komitas Works Performed with Koto

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – As part of the Komitas Vardapet pan-Armenian festival of Ministry of Diaspora, works by Komitas were performed accompanied by a Japanese *koto*.

The *koto*, a traditional Japanese stringed musical instrument, has 13 strings that are strung over 13 movable bridges along the width of the instrument. Players can adjust the string pitches by moving these bridges before playing, and use three-finger picks (on thumb, index finger and middle finger) to pluck the strings.

Vegetable Production Increased

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – According to the latest projections, vegetable production volumes Armenia will reach 865,000 tons, an increase of 1.8 percent from the previous year.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Samvel Galstyan said that vegetable crop production volumes will likely reach 210,000 tons and potatoes will reach 665,000 tons. However, the current price of potatoes in the country has increased, due to lower volume of semi-ripe potatoes.

UNHCR Armenian Representative Visits

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan welcomed the Armenian office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee (UNHCR) Kristoff Frederick Otto Biervirti. The head of the Coordinating Center on Syrian-Armenian issues NGO Lena Halajyan was also present at the meeting.

Hakobyan underlined Armenian positions on the issue of Syrian-Armenians and the programs that have been implemented. She also noted that the Asharak Armenian government is currently constructing the suburb of New Aleppo.

Biervirti thanked the minister for her presentation and support, noting that both sides had committed to working together to help those affected by the Syrian crisis.

Armenian Acting Great Sos Sargsyan Dies

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia, Armenpress) – A public memorial service for People's Artist of the Republic of Armenia Sos Sargsyan took place in the Hamazgayin Theatre on September 28.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsyan, Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, various ministers, deputies of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as other officials attended the ceremony and paid tribute to the prominent artist along with a number of actors, singers, and artists.

Sargsyan died on September 26 at the age of 84.

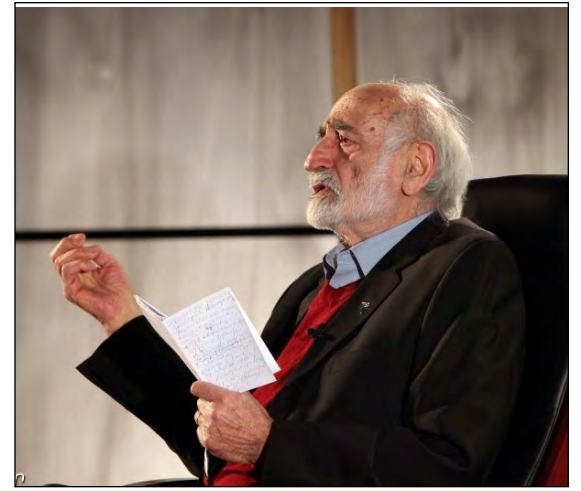
He was born in Stepanavan on October 24, 1929. He graduated from the Yerevan Fine Arts and Theatre Institute in 1954. That year he started performing at the Sundukyan Drama Theatre of Yerevan. In 1992 he established and headed the Hamazgayin Theatre. From 1997 to 2005, he was

the rector of Yerevan Institute of Theatre and Cinema. Besides Armenian films he starred in a number of Russian films, most notable of which is the classic "Solaris" (1972), directed by Andrei Tarkovsky.

Tigran Sargsyan issued a letter of condolence on Sos Sargsyan's death.

I share the grief of the master's family, students, friends and everyone at this moment of irreparable loss."

President Serge Sargsisian concurred. "We are grieving deeply. We have lost a great actor, a great intellectual, and a great Armenian. Sos Sargsyan's presence in our art and public life was sig-



The late Sos Sargsyan

nificant. His conduct and posture were making us all kinder, more honest, and better. The roles he played constitute an entire epoch in the history of our theater and cinema art."

Armenia's FM Addresses Gathering at Harvard University



From left, Dr. Ernest Barsamian, Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, Harvard's Jackie O'Neill and Armenia's Ambassador to the US Tatul Markarian

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Eduard Nalbandian paid a working visit to the United States and made detailed remarks on the foreign policy of Armenia at the Harvard Kennedy School. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia reported that a number of lecturers, professors, researchers, political scientists and analysts attended the remarks delivered by Nalbandian.

On the same day Nalbandian departed to New York to participate in the UN General Assembly sessions.

Prior to the session at the Kennedy School, he handed the Mkhitar Heratsi Medal which had been issued for Dr. Ernest Barsamian by President Serge Sargsisian, and met with Harvard University Marshal, Jackie O'Neill.

Close of the Bishops' Synod of the Armenian Apostolic Church

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the following chancellor of the Synod was established: Archbishop Khajag Barsamyan and Archbishop Oshakan Choloyan were appointed to serve as co-chairman; and Archbishop Narek Alemezyan and Archbishop Arshak Kachatryan were appointed to serve as secretaries. Following the assignment of administrative duties, the Synod agenda items were approved.

On September 24, the Synod discussed the re-establishment of the tradition of canonization in the Holy Armenian Apostolic Church, and specifically focused on the issue of canonization of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Co-Chairmen of the Sainthood Committee, Archbishop Sebul Sargsisian, and Archbishop Yeznik Petrosyan, presented reports on the results of the works and study concerning this issue.

Following lengthy discussion by the Synod on the canonization of Armenian Genocide victims, the Synod made the following decisions: The collective canonization of the victims of the Armenian Genocide was adopted in principle, and the Sainthood Committee was assigned the task of continuing to study the individual and collective canonization of the victims, for presentation and approval at the next meeting. The Sainthood Committee was also assigned the task of reviewing the canon and ritual of canonization, for presentation and approval at the next

meeting.

On September 25 and 26, members discussed the works of the Liturgical Committee on the sacraments of Baptism and Chrismation of the Armenian Apostolic Holy Church. The reports were presented by Co-Chairman Archbishop Arshak Kachatryan and committee members Bishop Mikael Ajapahyan and Bishop Vahan Hovhannisyan. At the conclusion of discussions, the Synod accepted the uniform text for the Services of Baptism and Chrismation.

In the next session, the report on canonical issues the sacrament of the Holy Baptism and the moral-instructive guidelines of Holy Baptism were the topic of discussion. The Liturgical Committee was assigned to further continue their work on those issues.

Also discussed was the language of Armenian Church services and other issues, and it was noted that additional study was required. The sessions of September 27 were devoted to the challenges facing the Church. Archbishop Oshakan Choloyan and Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan presented reports. Discussing the challenges on the liturgical, and religious instruction life of the Church and its educational and social mission, as well as the problems of the preservation of the Armenian identity, the Synod members noted those to be of predominant priority and decided to include them in the agenda of the upcoming Synod meetings.

Reviewing the results of the Bishops' Synod, they also expressed concern for the social, economic, national, and regional and various other challenges and problems present in the church and civil life of our nation. As a solution to those challenges and problems, as their service to the Armenian Apostolic Church, the Bishops decided to establish a foundation for supporting the disadvantaged children of Armenia, Cilicia and Armenians in Syria, with the blessings of the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, and Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia Aram I.

Initially \$2 million was provided for launching the foundation and a special committee was created for organizing the mission of the foundation.

At the conclusion of the Synod, the Bishops reflected on the productive outcome of the meeting and also expressed their appreciation to Karekin II and Aram I, for the opportunity of uniting under the roof of the Mother See. The Synod members remarked on the importance of regularly convening the Bishops' Synod for addressing the various challenges that the Armenian Apostolic Church presently face, and the problems concerning the Armenian people. This will also help in adjusting the viewpoints and approaches of the Armenian Church on those matters.

The next Bishops' Synod is scheduled to be convened in autumn 2014.



ARMENIA

STATEMENT BY EDUARD NALBANDIAN AT GENERAL DEBATE OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The following is the full text of the speech by Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian at the United Nations General Assembly last week.

I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating John Ashe on his election as the President of the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly and to thank the outgoing President Mr. Vuk Jeremic.

Mr. President,

During the past two decades the international community has been making great strides towards development of a cohesive approach to address the political, social and economic challenges the world community is facing nowadays.

We need to analyze our commitments with a view of the difficulties that arose while implementing the Millennium Development Goals. The world economic and financial crises had its share in detracting from the charted path. However, it revealed some of the underlying issues that were either overlooked or underestimated, which were important in the overall success. It became clear once again that no country can achieve in isolation the MDGs in the world of growing interdependence and interconnectedness.

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development -RIO+20, enriched our understanding of the ways of achieving the overall progress towards the political, social and economic development.

Armenia welcomes the inclusion of "Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage" as the theme and main focus of our deliberations.

Mr. President,

Despite the fact that most of us share the understanding that elimination of violence and terror is essential for building peaceful, sustainable and prosperous societies, peace seems to remain an elusive phenomenon in many parts of the world.

Armenia remains alarmed by the worsening of the humanitarian situation in Syria. The number of refugees Armenia continues to receive already exceeds ten thousand, but tens of thousands of Syrian-Armenians still remain in that country that has become their second home after the Genocide of 1915, and they are struggling for their survival in unbearable conditions together with their Syrian countrymen.

Armenia welcomes the resolution of the Security Council 2118 adopted unanimously yesterday based on the agreement reached in Geneva between Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov and US Secretary of State Kerry, which could lead to the elimination of chemical weapons and exclusion of their use in Syria and could pave the way to a political solution of the Syrian crisis, putting an end to the sufferings of the Syrian people.

Mr. President,

To our strong belief, there is no alternative to the peaceful solution of the conflicts. Resolution of conflicts requires political will and determination.

Three months ago, on June 18th the Presidents of the three Co-Chair countries of the OSCE Minsk Group - Russia, United States and France, made a new statement on Nagorno-Karabakh in the framework of G8 Summit in Enniskillen.

In Armenia we welcomed this statement saying that, as the Co-Chairs, we continue to believe that the elements outlined in the statements of the heads of the Co-Chair countries over the last five years can be the basis for reaching a fair and last-

ing settlement of the conflict. We share the position of the Co-Chair countries, that those elements should be seen as an integrated whole and that any attempt to select some elements over others would make it impossible to achieve a solution. We absolutely agree that peoples should be prepared for peace, not war. Unfortunately until now the Azerbaijani leadership is doing just the opposite and is increasing warmongering and anti-Armenian hate-speech on a daily basis using even the highest podium of the United Nations.

We absolutely agree with the heads of the three Co-Chair countries, of the three permanent members of the Security Council, that the use of force will not resolve the conflict, and that only a negotiated settlement can lead to peace and stability. However, by the unprecedented accumulation of offensive weaponry in massive scale Azerbaijan seriously endangers regional and international security, despite its membership in the UN Security Council.

Unlike Azerbaijan, Armenia has on several occasions reiterated and in response to the Enniskillen appeal of the Presidents of USA, Russian Federation and France, once again re-affirmed its commitment to the principles of international law, particularly the non-use of force or the threat of force, equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and territorial integrity.

Azerbaijan keeps misinterpreting the 1993 Security Council resolutions, the core requirement of which was the immediate cessation of all hostilities and hostile acts and the establishment of a durable cease-fire. Azerbaijan not only failed to comply with this requirement, but further intensified its aggression and the military operations against Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia using mercenaries closely linked to notorious terrorist organizations. It is not surprising that after the ceasefire agreement signed in 1994, the mediators, the three permanent members of the Security Council never made any reference to those resolutions.

Azerbaijan is pretending that the international community shares its approaches and it shares the approaches of the international community. In reality, Azerbaijan is continuously rejecting all proposals of the internationally mandated OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries. Baku rejected all versions of the Basic Principles of the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict proposed by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, including those presented at the Kazan (June 2011), Sochi (March 2011), Astrakhan (October 2011) and Saint Petersburg (June 2010) summits.

Baku refused not only the Basic Principles, but also confidence-building measures proposed by the Co-Chairs on consolidation of ceasefire, withdrawal of the snipers from the line of contact and the establishment of a mechanism for investigation of the ceasefire violations.

Azerbaijan not only obstructs confidence-building measures, but also periodically organizes provocations on the line of contact with Nagorno-Karabakh and on the border with Armenia, which result in new casualties.

During the previous session of the General Assembly I spoke about the release and glorification of an axe-murderer Safarov by the Azerbaijani leadership, which was strongly condemned by the entire international community, by the United Nations' and other international organizations'

human rights commissions. Even today, more than a year after it, Azerbaijani leadership continues to declare that what they did "is just very good" and dares to criticize the stance of the international community. This clearly demonstrates the deepening gap of perceptions between the Azerbaijani leadership and the international community about what is good and what is bad.

Most recently Azerbaijani authorities on national level have ostracized the eminent Azerbaijani writer Aylisli for publishing a novel, where he talks about the pogroms against Armenians in Baku, Sumgait and other parts of Azerbaijan. His books were publicly burnt and the writer had to leave the country facing threats to his life.

Just last week the President of Azerbaijan once again came up with new threats against Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and claimed Armenian territories, including almost three thousand years old capital city Yerevan.

Regardless of Azerbaijan's destructive stance, Armenia will continue its efforts towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict exclusively through peaceful means and on the basis of the purposes, principles and norms reflected in the UN Charter and the provisions of L'Aquila, Muskoka, Deauville, Los Cabos and Enniskillen statements of the three Co-Chair countries' Presidents.

Mr. President,

This March, the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus a resolution "On Prevention of Genocide," initiated by Armenia and co-sponsored by over 60 countries. The recognition, condemnation and prevention of genocide remains a priority for Armenia and we will take necessary actions to prevent new occurrences of the crime of genocide, while keeping high on the agenda the issue of responsibility for the crime against humanity and its denial.

As a nation that has survived the first genocide of the twentieth century, Armenia unequivocally welcomes the clear position adopted by the UN member states in precluding any possibility of immunity or pardon for perpetrators of crimes against humanity.

Mr. President,

Since May of this year Armenia has assumed the Chairmanship of the Council of Europe - a regional organization that remains a key partner of the United Nations in our shared global quest united behind the principles of fundamental freedoms, defense and promotion of human rights and continuous efforts for peace and security.

The cooperation between these two organizations is also well established in the fields of the fight against racism, xenophobia, hate-speech and intolerance. These issues are also among Armenia's chairmanship priorities that were defined in response to the challenges that member states of both the United Nations and the Council of Europe are facing today.

Mr. President,

Armenia has committed itself to the strengthening of the institutional capacities of the United Nations. We support the United Nations reform process and are ready to bring our feasible contribution to it. We believe that the reforms provide an opportunity to enhance the role of this organization in addressing the crucial issues facing the world.

Thank you.

New Manuscript Gallery and Exhibition To Open in the Mother See Treasury

ECHMIADZIN – On September 30, at the Alex and Marie Manogian Treasury House Museum of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch



Emma Sogoian, flanked by Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II on the left at the opening of the exhibition

and Catholicos of All Armenians, presided over the opening ceremony of the Manuscript Gallery of Karl and Emma Sogoian.

The Sogoians, benefactors of the Mother See, had donated nearly two dozen religious manuscript scriptures and the first printed Armenian Bible (Amsterdam, circa 1666), to the Mother See of Echmiadzin.

The donated manuscripts will be on permanent display next to those of the Mother See at the new manuscript repository. Some exceptional documents from the archives of the Mother See are also displayed, including the secret papers by the Istanbul patriarch, Archbishop Zaven Yeghiayan, regarding the Armenian Genocide as well as his letter to Catholicos Gevorg V, which declared April 24 as the commemoration day of the Armenian Genocide.

Karl Sogoian died in 2006. His widow, Emma, attended the ceremony.



The Office of the NKR President

STEPANAKERT – On the occasion of her 80th visit to Artsakh, which took place last week, President Bako Sahakian bestowed upon Baroness Caroline Cox the Mesrop Mashdots medal. During the ceremony, Cox also displayed the ribbon that she cut from the opening of the school in the Verin Horatagh village, which was dedicated in her name in 2008.



International News

Armenia and Guatemala Cultural Cooperation

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The republics of Armenia and Guatemala will develop bilateral cultural relations and expand the geography of cultural cooperation, reported the Armenian Ministry of Culture, adding that in order to achieve that end, bilateral ties will be expanded between the two governments.

The aim of the document is to encourage cooperation between museums and libraries of the two countries, support maintenance of cultural heritage, organization and holding of scientific seminars, support holding of contests and professional meetings as well as mutual participation in film festivals organized in the countries.

At the end of 2012 ministry of culture of Armenia received an offer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the issue of establishing cultural cooperation with the Republic of Guatemala.

Top Armenian Grandmaster Invited to Grand Slam Final

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Top Armenian grandmaster Levon Aronian will take part in the 6th Grand Slam Final, which is to be held in Bilbao, Spain, on October 7-13.

Aronian's rivals will be France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Azerbaijan's Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Britain's Michael Adams. The organizers have invited Aronian taking into account his excellent performance this year at Alekhine Memorial (Paris-Saint Petersburg), reports Armchess.am.

Azerbaijan Ambassador Disputes Armenian Assembly's Right to Submit Testimony to Congress

WASHINGTON – For the second time this year, the Armenian Assembly of America was invited to submit testimony to Congress on issues of concern to the Armenian-American community. This move drew the ire of Azerbaijan's Ambassador to the United States Elin Suleymanov, who expressed his "surprise" at the Armenian Assembly testimony and attempted to dispute Armenian-Americans' right to set the record straight on Azerbaijan's aggressive posture toward Armenians at a Congressional briefing held earlier this year titled "Troubled Partner: Growing Authoritarianism in Azerbaijan."

A new video released by the Assembly this week showcases Suleymanov's reaction and highlights segments of the Assembly's testimony, specifically Azerbaijan's state-sponsored policy of cultural genocide as seen in the destruction of an ancient Armenian cemetery in Julfa, Nakhichevan; Azerbaijan's plummeting human rights record and deteriorating press freedoms; and the repatriation, pardon and glorification of Azerbaijan soldier Ramil Safarov who brutally murdered Armenian officer Gurgen Margaryan with an axe while the latter was sleeping at a NATO Partnership for Peace training course in Hungary in 2004.

"The government of Azerbaijan can shower American officials with lavish junkets to their country and launch fancy public relations gimmicks to try to turn American attention away from their petro-fueled authoritarian oligarchy," stated Assembly Communications Director Taniel Koushadjian. "Fortunately, Americans, especially our elected officials in Congress, are much better informed," he said.

As previously reported, the Assembly has been keenly focused on taking the necessary steps to protect the Armenian-American community from the continuing threats posed by Azerbaijan. In February, the Assembly released a ten-page report on the Sumgait Pogroms and Azerbaijan's targeting of Christian Armenians. In July, the Assembly released a new Fact Sheet on Azerbaijan which was shared with Members of Congress.

Armenia Welcomes Resumption of Iran Talks

TEHRAN (FNA) – Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif, welcomed the start of a new round of talks between the Group 5+1 (the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany) and Iran on Tehran's civilian nuclear program.

During the meeting held on the sidelines of the 68th UN General Assembly Session in New York on Saturday, the Armenian top diplomat expressed the hope that Tehran's nuclear standoff with the West would be settled during the upcoming talks between the two sides.

Zarif, for his part, underlined the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program, and expressed Tehran's readiness for the start of the new round of talks with the world powers on the basis of equal footing, confidence

building and mutual respect.

The two senior officials also stressed the need to broaden bilateral ties between the two neighboring states in all arenas.

On Friday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani underlined that his government has full authority from Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei for talks with the world's six major powers.

"The government has sufficient authority to gain substantial results in talks with the Group 5+1," Rouhani told reporters at a press conference in New York.

"The government has the necessary authority in nuclear talks and I have chosen the foreign minister for negotiations," he added.

The Iranian president pointed to a recent meeting of foreign ministers of

Iran and the six world powers, and said, "The meetings of Dr. Zarif with G5+1's foreign ministers were held in a positive and inspiring atmosphere and we hope that these talks could soon bear tangible results."

The foreign ministers of Iran and the six world powers said Thursday they were pleased with their New York discussions over the settlement of the Iran-West nuclear standoff, adding that they have set a new round of negotiations for next month in Geneva.

The top diplomats of the Group 5+1 described their meeting with Zarif on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly as "a change in tone".

European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, who chaired the meeting, told reporters it had been "a substantial meeting. Good atmosphere. Energetic."

She said the two sides had agreed on an "ambitious timetable" to address western concerns about Iran's nuclear program and would meet again in Geneva on October 15-16 "to pursue the agenda to carry on from today's meeting and to hopefully move this process forward".

Ashton also added a note of caution, saying it was important to focus on "effective work that we do on the ground."

Aznavour to Give Concert In Tel Aviv

PARIS (Armenpress) – Charles Aznavour (Shahan Vaghinak Aznavouryan) was born in Paris in 1924 to a family of Armenian migrants Mikayel and Knar Aznavouryans. As a young man he was fond of theatre, but in 1940s he started to give performances in cabaret with Pierre Roche.

Besides being one of France's most popular and enduring singers, he is also one of the best-known singers in the world. Aznavour is known for his unique tenor voice: clear and ringing in its upper reaches, with gravelly and profound low notes. He has appeared in more than 60 movies, composed about a thousand songs (including at least 150 in English, 100 in Italian, 70 in Spanish, and 50 in German), and sold well over 100 million records.

He will arrive in Israel for a one-off performance in Tel Aviv. Armenpress, quoting the Jerusalem Post, reported that Aznavour will present his concert in Tel Aviv's Nokia concert Hall on November 23. Aznavour will dedicate the upcoming concert to promoting the peace process and increasing public support for it.

Armenian Diocese of Brazil Forms Interim Diocesan Youth Central Council

SAO PAULO, Brazil – On Saturday, September 14, an Interim Diocesan Youth Central Council of Brazil was formed. Fifteen young men and women ages 18-27 were invited to the Diocesan Center for a special meeting. Rev. Yeznig Guzelian officially introduced Very Rev. Dr. Nareg Berberian, the locum tenens of Brazil, to the youth and welcomed everyone for this special meeting.

The young men and women had the opportunity to meet with Berberian and discuss with him the current issues that the youth are facing today in Brazil. He introduced them the intent for the youth group on a Diocesan level and acted as the facilitator. An icebreaking exercise guided by Berberian brought them all together. Berberian spoke to them about the importance of youth in the life of the Armenian Church and presented a Power Point pre-



From left: Rev. Fr. Yeznig Guzelian, Very Rev. Dr. Nareg Berberian, Rev. Fr. Boghos Baronian with the newly formed Interim Diocesan Youth Central Council of Brazil.

sentation on the subject, with the theme "Let's Build the Holy Altar of Light."

The youth actively participated in the discussion and committed to engage themselves in organizing youth programs for the Diocese. They discussed initiating various programs, such as religious, educational/cultural, and social. They decided to start youth programs and eventually invite the entire youth of Brazil for a General Armenian Church Youth Assembly. Berberian thanked them for their participation and commitment and assured them that a Department of Youth Ministry will be initiated once the programs are well organized.

Armenian and French Presidents Don't See Alternatives to OSCE

OSCE, from page 1

Armenian and French presidents discussed the above-mentioned issues in detail today as well. Concerning trade and economic relations Sargisian said with satisfaction that there is a big French economic representation in Armenia with such leading companies as Carefour, Pernot Ricard, Orange, Credit Agricole, Alcatel, Veolia and hoped that others would join that list. He also emphasized the aid projects by French Agency of Development which will start this year.

He noted that decentralized cooperation advances as well, including 30 local authorities from Armenia and France. In this context French president empha-

sized the third decentralized forum in Valance October 15-17 this year.

On parliamentary ties both presidents noted with satisfaction friendship groups that actively operate in both parliaments.

It's already a year that Armenia has become a full member of the Francophonie Organization and French-Armenian cultural ties progress as well.

During the meeting Sargisian thanked again Francois Hollande for long and steady efforts of France concerning the peaceful settlement of Nagorno-Karabakh issue. Armenian and French presidents reiterated that they don't see alternatives to OSCE Minsk Group Chairmanship in

Nagorno-Karabakh settlement process. Serzh Sargisian said that Armenia particularly emphasizes the personal involvement of the French president in this issue.

The interlocutors have discussed in detail the prospects of Armenia-EU relations. They agreed that maximum efforts are needed to keep the pace and the quality of cooperation, in order to continue the process of reforms in Armenia and in this regard Armenian president reiterated Armenia's commitment. President Hollande reassured that France as a friend of Armenia, as a leading European state and a world actor will continue to promote Armenia's European agenda.

Community News

Annual Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall Tackles Modern Slavery

BOSTON – Human trafficking and modern-day slavery are the focus of the Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall, Boston, on Thursday, October 24, at 7 p.m. The annual lecture, an endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Foundation, sponsor of Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, is free and open to the public.

“Human Trafficking at home and abroad ... ought to concern every person, because it’s a debasement of our common humanity ... of every community, because it tears at the social fabric ... of every business, because it distorts markets ... of every nation, because it endangers public health and fuels violence and organized crime ... Our fight against human trafficking is one of the great human rights causes of our time ...,” stated President Barack Obama in his address to the United Nations during September 2012.

Keynote speaker is Siddharth Kara, director of Program on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, Carr Center for Human Rights, Harvard Kennedy School of Government and author of *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery*. Cherie Jimenez, Founder/Executive Director, EVA (Education, Vision & Advocacy), formerly Kim’s Project, will speak about Leadership: From a Personal



Siddharth Kara

Perspective. Liam T. Lowney, executive director, Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance, and founding director, Interagency Human Trafficking Task Force created by the Massachusetts Human Trafficking Statute, led by Attorney General Martha Coakley, will offer insights into Massachusetts Laws into Action. Middlesex County Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian will offer specific ways to become more aware and be of help.

WGBH Senior Investigative Reporter Phillip Martin’s multipart series on human trafficking (at www.wgbh.org/topics/Human-Trafficking-103) is an excellent source on the topic.

Following the lecture, attendees will have the opportunity to speak one-on-one with representatives from the following organizations: Boston Police Human Trafficking Unit, Boston University School of Law Human Trafficking Clinic, Kim’s Project, Lutheran Social Services of New England and My Life My Choice. There will also be information available about Polaris Project and its National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888) that answer calls and texts from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, MD, have endowed this annual lecture at Faneuil see LECTURE, page 7



AGBU GenNext mentor Arman Satchyan spends the day with his mentee of five years, Alex.

AGBU Generation Next Mentorship Program Forges Local Partnerships

LOS ANGELES – As students across the US head back to their classrooms, teens in Southern California are filling their schedules with activities offered by AGBU’s Generation Next Mentorship Program (GenNext). Ushering in the school year, GenNext has forged a number of local partnerships, expanding its reach to meet the needs of at-risk youth.

This fall, GenNext will join forces with the Didi Hirsch Community Center, Glendale Community College and Glendale Healthy Kids. These collaborations build on the program’s 16-plus years of pairing Armenian youth with positive role models, and its existing partnerships with the YWCA and the Glendale Police Department. Glendale Chief of Police Ronald L. De Pompa praises GenNext’s impact, remarking, “In society today there are so many risks that our youth encounter [and] mentorships play a critical role in [their] lives...Programs like the AGBU Generation Next Mentorship program provide alternatives and help our youth recognize what path to follow in order to have a successful future.”

In the coming weeks, GenNext will recruit students studying social work and education at Glendale Community College to volunteer as mentors. The YWCA is offering GenNext access to its computer lab, swimming pool and athletic facilities completely free of charge. While the mentees master digital media, their parents will have the opportunity to learn how to monitor and safeguard their children’s online activities through bimonthly seminars at the nearby Didi Hirsch Center.

With these new additions, GenNext will further strengthen the bonds between mentees and mentors, which lie at the heart of the program. By matching participants, GenNext creates friendships that last long after mentees have graduated. This was the case for Armine Pogosian and Sona Avdalyan, who met when the latter was 13. As both women recall, over the past five years they’ve become more like family than friends. They – and all the participants – have grown close through GenNext’s one-on-one sessions and group activities, which include field trips, camping retreats as well as improv comedy classes designed to help mentees express themselves.

Avdalyan, like several mentees, moved from Armenia to California shortly before finding her place in the GenNext family. This year, GenNext will welcome more immigrants from Armenia, as well as refugees from Iraq. As GenNext Program Director Saro Ayzazians explained, mentors play a key role in helping those young people assimilate. “Our mentors relate to these kids by sharing their own experiences,” he detailed. “More often, though, it’s the mentors’ ability to listen that is the most powerful. They allow mentees to feel safe, to open up and share things they normally would not.”

For mentor Arman Satchyan, establishing that trust has meant acting not as an authority figure but rather as a confidant to Alex, his mentee of five years. Arman is one of the many GenNext mentors who insist that the program has benefitted him just as much as Alex. He stated, “Over the years, watching Alex go through adolescence, I feel I’ve gotten the opportunity to grow up myself. He has a natural self-confidence that I always try to emulate.”

Instilling that sense of self-confidence in youth is central to the GenNext see MENTORS, page 6

Health Care Professionals Learn About Effective Medical Education In Armenia

By Lawrence V. Najarian, MD

NEW YORK – More than 50 health care professionals from New Jersey, New York and Connecticut learned about new, more effective ways to educate doctors in Armenia, from two Fulbright Scholars who have presented programs there.

Members and guests of Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) attended presentations on September 13 by Fulbright Scholars Charles J. Greenberg, MSL, MEd and Gevorg Yaghjian, MD, PhD. Greenberg is research services librarian at the Yale Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, and an American who visited Armenia as a Fulbright Scholar. Yaghjian is an Armenian medical educator and leader who spent a year in the US as a Fulbright Scholar before returning to Armenia in September.

“We were honored to have these presenters, who are top professionals in their respective fields. They offered first-hand perspectives that are invaluable to AAHPO members. Increased knowledge about medical education in Armenia helps us to plan initiatives to fulfill AAHPO’s mission,” noted Kim Hekimian, PhD, an AAHPO Board Member, public health specialist, and Assistant Professor at Columbia University who has made frequent trips to study health care in Armenia.

AAHPO’s mission is to improve health care awareness, increase disease prevention and early detection, foster fellowship and career development of Armenian health care professionals, and provide medical support and education to both our local communities and Armenia.

“I appreciated the invitation to present and share my experiences educating both librarians and early career clinical researchers during my two short-term Fulbright Specialist visits to Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU) in 2008 and Republican Scientific Medical Library in 2012,” noted Greenberg.

He also discussed real-time tele-training he provided for the RSML librarians with Skype desktop sharing. AAHPO supports the HyBridge Telehealth program, which remotely connects Armenian doctors with medical experts here in the US. AAHPO also supports a Continuing Medical Education program for doctors located in remote Armenian villages.

Greenberg’s career in library sciences has included numerous scholarly publications. At Yale he is the project co-director of Yale Medicine Thesis Digital Library. He teaches Library Science, Medical Librarianship, Consumer Health Librarianship, and Advanced Reference, part-time for San Jose State University and Southern Connecticut State University.

Yaghjian spoke about “Evidence Based Medical Education: Myths and Realities.” He is former vice dean of Yerevan State University Medical School and associate professor there. He was visiting Boston University Medical School as a Fulbright Scholar during his time in the US.

Yaghjian is a widely published medical and academic leader, as well as a highly trained surgeon. As a plastic surgeon specializing in reconstructive microsurgery, Yaghjian helped to develop the plastic surgery program at YSMU.

“This was my second presentation to AAHPO members,” noted Yaghjian. “I find AAHPO health care professionals to be inquisitive and dedicated to improving health care in Armenia by generously sharing information and ideas with their colleagues in Armenia.”



COMMUNITY NEWS

Amid Criminal Probe, Taxi Owner Looks to Sell

By Thomas Farragher and Jonathan Saltzman

BOSTON (*Boston Globe*) – Boston's biggest taxi owner, under criminal investigation and facing a multimillion-dollar class-action lawsuit, is seeking to sell more than half his cab empire – an estimated \$120 million divestiture that the city's top police official is promising to block.

Edward Tutunjian intends to file court papers Monday asking judicial approval for the sale of up to 200 of his 372 city-issued medallions – or licenses – for at least \$600,000 apiece. The sale would be to “an owner or owners who would make positive contributions to the Boston taxi system,” a spokesman for Tutunjian said in a prepared statement.

But Boston Police Commissioner Edward F. Davis, after learning about the pending sale from the *Globe*, said: “My recommendation is to stop any large transfer of medallions from Mr. Tutunjian due to the ongoing investigation.” Under state law and city regulations, Davis has virtually unlimited authority to stop the sale.

Tutunjian was the focus of a *Globe* Spotlight Team investigation earlier this year documenting how many taxi drivers feel pressured to pay his staff bribes to get keys to taxis that they lease for about \$100 for a 12-hour shift. The *Globe* reported that drivers are often told to make up phantom shortfalls that they cannot dispute because they do not receive receipts – a violation of city regulations.

A federal criminal investigation into those practices is underway.

The day after the *Globe* series began in March, Mayor Thomas M. Menino ordered a sweeping review of how the city's taxis are regulated and managed. The results of that examination are due to be released next month.

On May 31, IRS agents with guns drawn descended on the Kilmarnock Street garage where Tutunjian, a Jordanian-born immigrant who entered Boston's cab business in the 1960s, manages his fleet. The federal agents carted away boxes of Tutunjian's financial records.

Under scrutiny by the city and federal authorities, Tutunjian is being pursued, too, in Superior Court where he and other large fleet owners are being sued by cab drivers who

allege they have been wrongly classified as independent contractors instead of employees and are due hundreds of millions in unpaid wages and benefits.

In June, a state judge froze Tutunjian's assets, ruling that cabdrivers have a “likelihood of success on the merits” of the class-action lawsuit.

Because of that order, Tutunjian's lawyers need judicial approval of the sale of the bulk of his business.

Evgeny Freidman manages hundreds of medallions – or licenses – in New York City and is the largest medallion owner there.

In February, a corporation owned by Freidman called Offense Defense Taxi Inc. bought two medallions in Boston for \$585,000 apiece, according to a taxi industry publication.

In May, the *New York Times* reported that Freidman was facing \$400,000 in fines for overcharging drivers for their daily cab rental rates in New York. The city said that reports of additional overcharges by Freidman could result in fines of more than \$1 million. Freidman has denied the allegations.

Apparently concerned that Freidman is Tutunjian's buyer, Davis said that he would not allow the transactions on two city-issued licenses to close as had been expected within days.

Davis said police officials have begun reviewing Freidman's record as a taxi owner in New York, including media reports about overcharging drivers.

Attempts to reach Freidman in New York were not successful.

Dot Joyce, spokeswoman for Menino, said he “has asked the [police] commissioner to use every authority he has to ensure that we have only responsible medallion owners in the city of Boston.”

A sale to Freidman – or to any single buyer – would instantly make him Boston's taxi king, supplanting Tutunjian. And if Freidman brings his New York brand of taxi management to Boston it may seem familiar to the cabbies who had worked for Tutunjian.

The son of a Russian nuclear engineer, Freidman emigrated with his family to the

United States in 1976 when he was 5. His father started a modest cab company that the son built into the city's largest.

On his website, Freidman says he is “the owner and operator” of New York's biggest fleet, 920 cabs. It says he also operates 510 taxis in Chicago and 200 in Philadelphia.

Shannon Liss-Riordan, the lawyer for the drivers in the class-action suit in Boston, expressed alarm that Freidman might be trying to enter the Boston market – and possibly dominate it.

She said that she spoke to Tutunjian's lawyers recently and tentatively gave them the go-ahead to sell 200 medallions as long as Tutunjian set aside the proceeds for her clients if they won their suit or settled out of court.

But she said she was under the impression that Tutunjian intended to sell them in small quantities over a year and was troubled by accounts of a sale to one owner in New York.

Tutunjian's spokesman said his decision to begin to step away from the business that made him a fortune was driven by personal considerations. “With Mr. Tutunjian nearing retirement age, he believes this is the right time to scale back his involvement in the industry,” the statement said.

Tutunjian bought his first medallion in the early 1970s for about \$30,000 and he drove a taxi for another six or seven years, and then gradually increased his transportation business.

In 2000, he doubled his fleet, buying some 160 medallions from the daughter of the late Checker Taxi founder Frank Sawyer, a legendary power broker and real estate owner.

Andrew Hebert, the former editor of a now-defunct Boston taxi industry newspaper who still works in the business, said Tutunjian might have two reasons to want to sell most of his medallions.

“Either he's worried that the federal agents turned up financial information that's going to implicate him in some kind of impropriety, or he's worried about the current lawsuit over employee status,” Hebert said. If taxi drivers win the class-action suit, he said, Tutunjian “may owe a considerable amount of money.”

Hebert said that Tutunjian told him several years ago that he had visited one of Freidman's garages in New York City. And Freidman, a pioneer in the use of hybrid Ford Escapes as yellow cabs, loaned one to the city several years ago to promote the shift to hybrids in Boston that Tutunjian championed. The taxi Freidman loaned was displayed outside City Hall, said Hebert.

Besides his 372 taxi medallions – worth more than \$600,000 each at today's prices – he owns a limousine service and dozens of properties. He also owns vineyards in Chile and another corporation that sells space for advertisements on the roofs of taxicabs.

Donation

In memory of their cousin, Sonia Ketchian, Philip Ketchian and Elsa Ronningstam Ketchian have donated \$100 to the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

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AGBU Generation Next Mentorship Program Forges Local Partnerships

MENTORS, from page 5

and creates new opportunities for hundreds of mentees while inspiring them to give back. Had it not been for GenNext, former mentee Artin Arakelian believes he wouldn't have graduated high school. Now a college student pursuing his teaching credentials, Artin is looking forward to becoming a GenNext mentor himself this year. “I want to find someone who is heading down the wrong path, like I was, and open their eyes, just like my mentor did for me.

Shaping the next generation of kids for the better that would mean the world to me.”

This summer, GenNext received a record-breaking donation of \$80,000, raised through AGBU FOCUS 2013 fundraising. The funds will help GenNext continue to serve local youth. Yet, there is an ongoing need for support and GenNext is continuing to recruit volunteer mentors and mentees to the program.

To help, visit www.agbugennext.org or email info@agbugennext.org.



Mentors and mentees of AGBU's GenNext join together for one of the program's regular group activities.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

How Two Boys Helped the FBI Find the 'Friday Night Bank Robber,' Carl Gugasian

By David J. Krajcick

PHILADELPHIA (*New York Daily News*) – A couple of boys tramping through the suburban woods near Philadelphia on April Fools' Day 2001 found buried treasure.

A three-foot length of sealed PVC pipe lay inside a drainage culvert in Radnor Township. The boys uncapped one end and inside they found five guns, 500 bullets, eight Halloween masks, notes on the vulnerabilities of scores of East Coast banks and a bundle of crude maps – hand-drawn sketches with headings like “Carbon W,” “Carb M” and “Ca\$he.”

The maps depicted remote spots off rural roads and the relative positions of landmarks like telephone poles, boulders and oddly shaped trees (“gnarly Y.”) Many of the drawings had compass readings and the number of paces from a landmark to unspecified booty.

The kids gave the pipe to police. The next day, an FBI agent looked at the contents and muttered, “It’s the Friday Night Bank Robber.”

Over three decades, the furtive stickupman had earned the grudging admiration of the FBI bank squad.

He was a pro who stuck like Velcro to his system. He worked alone. He burst into banks at closing time, often on Friday evenings, when the institutions were heavy with cash and the staff was distracted.

He wore a Halloween mask – often Freddie Krueger – and oversized clothing that made it difficult to judge even his skin tone, height and weight.

He menaced employees with a gun and ordered them to hit the floor. He would coil into a crouch and propel himself Ninja-style over the counter. He scooped cash into heavy-duty satchels, always hitting the secret hideaways that more pedestrian robbers miss.

He was a bank-robbing machine – in and out in two minutes.

His getaway was another trademark. He didn’t drive. He ran. Friday Freddie hit banks that were located near forests. He would sprint into the woods and disappear, like a sprite.

Some 50 bank jobs that netted \$2 million were pegged to him. He worked a wide swath, from Virginia to New England, robbing from October

to April, when early darkness helped conceal his escape.

Many of the bank targets were in Pennsylvania: Jim Thorpe in 1991, Limerick Township in 1996, Lima in 1997 and Carbondale in 1998. He found fertile ground in the Catskills, as well – Kerhonkson in 1990, Shokan in 1991, Rosendale in 1993.

He returned to Shokan in 1999 for one of his biggest scores – a \$122,000 heist that broke his rules. It was a midday robbery on June 7, a Monday. He dashed across Route 28 into the woods adjacent to Ashokan Reservoir and disappeared.

For months after the boys found the evidence trove, cops, G-men and game officers used the robber’s maps to sniff out a series of small, hand-dug bunkers, many in the Pennsylvania Poconos.

The sites contained about 100 five-gallon plastic buckets filled with \$47,000 cash and Friday Freddie’s tools: 30 guns and thousands of bullets, masks, climbing gear, makeup kits and detailed income records.

And there were several training books from the 1980s: *The Mystic Art of the Ninja*, *Ninjutsu: The Art of the Invisible Warrior* and *Night Fighter’s Handbook*.

A flyer from one of the buckets led agents to a karate studio in Drexel Hill, Penn., where they asked the owner about uber-fit middle-aged martial arts students.

“Sure,” he replied. “Carl Gugasian.”

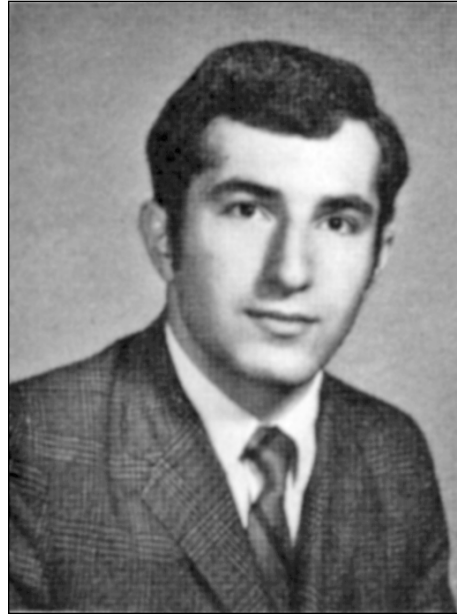
Gugasian, 55, lived alone in an apartment across the road from where the first clue was discovered. A third-degree karate black belt, he was known for jogging while wearing a weighted backpack. He was an Army veteran with extensive university training in engineering, systems analysis and statistics.

He claimed to work as a gambler and business consultant. He drove junkers but had \$500,000 in the bank.

Gugasian was arrested on February 7, 2002, as he arrived at the Philadelphia Free Library, where for years he had been poring over topographical maps while planning his jobs.

He was just as fastidious in handcuffs. He confessed and gave up the details of his long bank-robbing life. He led cops to additional evidence bunkers and agreed to make a bank robbery training video for the FBI.

He could explain everything about what he did



Carl Gugasian in his college yearbook photo from 1971

– but not why he did it. He said he started robbing as a teen and got stuck in a rut.

Gugasian pleaded guilty to federal gun and robbery charges. A prosecutor called him “extraordinarily contrite” and urged leniency.

Gugasian choked up when a judge asked him to speak, but he submitted a statement: “While I have always rationalized my conduct by believing that robbing banks had no victim, I have come to realize that everyone who was forced to endure the harrowing experience of a robbery suffered tremendous harm, even though they were not physically injured.”

In fact, he shot two bank employees – one by accident and the second when she balked at handing over money. Both recovered.

Gugasian, sentenced to 17 years, is locked up at Fort Dix, NJ, 40 miles from home. A model prisoner, he is expected to be released early – in May 2017, when he will be 69.

Linwood Wright Jr., a federal prosecutor, told reporters that Gugasian “may well be the most prolific bank robber this nation has ever known.”

Willie Sutton still gets the bank-robbing ink, 60 years after his last stickup. But he was no Carl Gugasian.

Annual Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall Tackles Modern Slavery

LECTURE, from page 5

Hall in honor of Dr. Najarian’s late father, Avedis Abrahamian. “This endowed lecture on human rights is in my father’s honor as he taught so many about the need to pay attention, to spot injustice and to speak out where ever and when ever it occurs,” commented Carolann Najarian.

Offered in partnership with historical and academic institutions, and human rights organizations, the purpose of the endowed series is to advance understanding of human rights issues and the societal abuses faced by millions today, to increase awareness of the work of individuals and organizations dedicated to eliminating these injustices so that we are all more actively engaged.

The annual lecture has been inspired by the New England women and men – intellectuals, politicians, diplomats, religious leaders and citizens – who, from 1895-1918 at Faneuil Hall, heard the eyewitness accounts of the atrocities taking place against the Armenian minority of the Ottoman Empire and spoke passionately about the urgent need for intervention.

Distinguished Bostonians, among them Julia Ward Howe, Clara Barton, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Alice Stone Blackwell, heard these accounts and were moved to assist the Armenians. Philanthropists nationwide raised over \$100 million. The American Red Cross launched its first international mission with Barton bringing aid to the Armenians. This was America’s first international human rights movement. Peter Balakian, in his *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response* (HarperCollins, 2003), brought to light this important New England history to so many.

Honorary Chairs are Governor Deval L. Patrick and Mayor Thomas M. Menino. Co-Chairs are Charlie Clements, Executive Director, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government; Martha F. Davis, Ph.D., Faculty Director, Northeastern School of Law, Human Rights and the Global Economy; Michael A. Grodin, M.D. Co-Directors, Global Lawyers and Physicians Working Together for Human Rights, Boston University School of Public Health; Shant Mardirossian, Chairman of the Board, Near East Foundation; Joshua Rubenstein, Scholar-in-Residence, Facing History and Ourselves; and Deborah W. Nutter, Ph.D., Senior Associate Dean, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

Inaugural speaker in 2010 was Kerry Kennedy, founder and president of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights based in Washington. Other speakers have been Paul Rusesabagina, president and founder of Hotel Rwanda Rusesabagina Foundation and Ambassador Edward Djerejian, former American ambassador to Israel and Syria.

Serving on the Armenian Heritage Foundation’s Lecture Planning Committee are Carolann Najarian, MD, George Najarian, Joyce Barsam, PhD, Phyllis Dohanian, Linda Kaboolian, PhD, Audrey Kalajian, Barbara Tellalian. Foundation Liaison is Lucy Hoosian and Treasurer is Karen Dederyan.

For further information, visit www.ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TCA Arshag Dickranian School Celebrates 22nd Anniversary of Armenia's Independence

LOS ANGELES – In observance of the Independence Day of Armenia, TCA Arshag Dickranian School celebrated the historic milestone with a formal and artistic program on Friday, September 20th at the Walter and Laurel Karabian Hall. The event was attended by Suren Vardanyants, the consul for economic and community affairs of the



Consul Mr. Suren Vardanyants and Principal Dr. Manoug Seraydarian

Armenian Consulate in Los Angeles.

Vartanyants was escorted to the school office where he first met with Principal Dr. Manoug Seraydarian, School Board chairman George K. Mandossian and board member Diran Depanian. Next, he was led to the Walter and Laurel Karabian Hall, where a multitude of students and parents had gathered to enjoy the program, which was organized by Armenian Department teachers Anahid Nasoyan, Nazelie Kojayan, Emma

Umroyan and music teacher Komitas Keshishyan.

Seraydarian opened the program, concisely describing the harsh path to independence as a long but determined history of will and quest for freedom. He then introduced Vartanyants and welcomed students and parents.

The Armenian National Anthem *Mer Hayrenik* by the school choir followed. Junior Luiza Hekimyan then took the podium and delivered the opening remarks of the event. She discussed the meaning of independence and reminded attendants of Armenia's long struggle throughout history to gain its independence. She also stressed the importance of maintaining Armenian identity in the diaspora and finding a balance in whatever country Armenians find themselves in.

The program included a number of recited poems by such as "Khosk Eem Vortoun" by Silva Gaboudigian, "Hayereni Doun" by



Junior Luiza Hekimyan



Students singing *Sardarapat*, with music teacher Komitas Keshishyan at the piano

Sarmen, national songs such as *Sardarapat* sung by the school choir under the direction of music teacher Keshishian, traditional Armenian dance and music.

At the end, Seraydarian invited Vartanyants to the podium to deliver his address. "It is important to preserve our language and religion in order to preserve the Armenian identity," said Vartanyants. "Don't forget that we are

representatives and ambassadors of Armenia and thus we should strive to give the best impression possible to others."

Prior to his parting, Vartanyants met with 10th-grade student Jenny Chilingirian for an interview that will be published in the school newsletter at the end of the month.

For more information visit www.dickranianschool.org.

Mirak Foundation Donates \$80,000 Ret Cam to EyeCare Project

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. – The Board of Directors of the Armenian EyeCare Project (AECP) announced recently that the John Mirak Foundation has made the generous contribution of a RetCam, worth \$80,000.

With the John Mirak Foundation's donation of a RetCam through their trustees, Robert Mirak, Julia Mirak Kew and Jennifer Mirak Leach, the



From left, Julia Mirak Kew, Robert Mirak and Jennifer Mirak Leach, John Mirak Foundation Trustees

AECP physicians and support staff will be able to provide early diagnostic examinations for Armenian infants for Retinopathy of Prematurity and provide medical treatment and sight-restoring surgery if ROP is identified. Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is a devastating disease that affects infants born prematurely and leads to blindness in a matter of weeks.

The enormous economic and social burden of lifelong blindness makes the treatment of ROP critically important. Up to 60 percent of infants born at less than 30 weeks gestation develop some form of the disease and 10 percent will progress to the advanced form. If left untreated the advanced form of ROP causes rapid and irreversible blindness due to retinal scarring and detachment. With the RetCam physicians can perform serial examinations of infants at risk for the disease, which will allow for the timely application of laser treatments leading to the complete regression of the disease in up to 90 percent of these tiny patients. For the 10 percent of infants who do not respond to laser treatment

AECP physicians can perform a special surgery to restore sight.

Blindness is the most feared disability and has a devastating impact on a person's quality of life. Blind children cannot see their parents' faces or watch the sunset. They have difficulty with interpersonal skills, leading to loneliness and a loss of independence. Blind children also face significant learning challenges since 70 to 80 percent of a child's education takes place through vision. The social and economic costs of a blind child are enor-

mous. Blind children face lifelong health care needs and significant obstacles integrating into society as adults. Hope lies in the fact that 80 percent of all blindness is curable or preventable. A prime example of a preventable cause of blindness that is affecting more and more children in Armenia every year is Retinopathy of Prematurity.

The John Mirak Foundation's participation in the Armenian EyeCare Project's programs will change lives and directly contribute to the elimination of preventable blindness in Armenia. Their

donation demonstrates their resolve to help provide eye care for Armenians in need and their support will have a profound impact on thousands of lives through the restoration of sight.

Founded in 1992, and incorporated in 2002, the Armenian EyeCare Project is a California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation. Over the past 21 years – with programs that combat the causes of blindness – the Project has been able to treat eye disease, restore sight and change lives. To donate, visit www.eyecareproject.com

Lights Outs: Physicists Find a Faster Way to Switch LCDs

By Mingxia Gu

MONTREAL (*Science*) – Physicists have invented a much faster way to switch off liquid crystals, the materials that control light in many computer screens and televisions. The new technique probably won't end up in liquid crystal displays (LCDs), as the switching is far faster than needed in those devices. But it puts a new twist on the concept of an LCD.

"This is something new and very fresh," says Tigran Galstian, an engineering physicist at Laval University in Quebec, Canada. "People must think about this to see if there is some practical application."

Liquid crystals resemble both of their namesakes. As in a liquid, molecules in a liquid crystal jumble about freely and flow. But as in a crystal, the rodlike molecules orient themselves in the same direction. The alignment defines an optical axis and gives the liquid crystal unusual properties. A key one is the way it affects polarized light – light whose electromagnetic waves ripples in a single direction. As it passes through a liquid crystal, light polarized parallel to the optical axis travels at a different speed than light polarized perpendicular to it. And because of that speed difference, or birefringence, light polarized at an angle to the material's optical axis can have its polarization rotated.

That rotation makes an LCD work. The display consists of a layer of liquid crystal between two plates of glass, which sit between two more plates of polarizing glass. The polarizers are set at a 90-degree angle, so that light that enters the display from behind and passes through the first polarizer is blocked by the second. In the "off" state, the liquid crystal is aligned so that it does nothing to the light and leaves the screen dark. When flipped "on," however, an electric field reorients the molecules so that collectively they rotate the polarization of the light, allowing it to pass through the second polarizer and out of the screen. To form a picture, bits or "pixels" of the screen are controlled individually.

The scheme has a basic limitation, says Oleg Lavrentovich, a physicist at Kent State University in Ohio. The electric field wrenches the molecules into the "on" orientation in nanoseconds. When the power goes off, the molecules relax back into their original orientation, which is set by a pattern etched into the confining glass – but they do so 1000 times more slowly, in milliseconds. "That's the Achilles' heel of liquid crystals," Lavrentovich says.

Now, he and Kent colleagues Volodymyr Borschch and Sergij Shiyankovskii have demonstrated a faster way to switch a liquid crystal, as they report today in *Physical Review Letters*. They begin with the usual crossed polarizers and a liquid crystal called CCN-47. In the experiment, in the off state the molecules start out in an ori-

entation that lets light through. Lavrentovich and colleagues then apply an electric field. But they do it in a way that does not rotate the molecules but instead changes the amount of birefringence.

Here's how that happens. The molecules in CCN-47 aren't cylindrical, but are shaped like planks. Normally, the planks all point in the same direction lengthwise, but neighboring molecules twist randomly in all directions, as thermal energy keeps the individual molecules jiggling. The electric field overcomes the twisting and stacks the planks like lumber. In that more orderly state, the liquid crystal has a slightly different birefringence, which changes the angle by which the light's polarization rotates and the amount of light allowed through the cell. When the electric field vanishes, thermal jiggling of the individual molecules restores the liquid crystal to its initial condition in just 30 nanoseconds.

The change in birefringence doesn't shut off light completely, so the display is only dimmed rather than darkened. But the contrast could be heightened by adjusting the geometry and materials, Lavrentovich says. He says the technique might find uses in steering laser beams like the ones that can carry signals between satellites or in creating ultrafast shutters.

The real value in the work may be the new approach, which relies on the collective behavior of the molecules to turn the polarization of light and their individual jiggling to flip between on and off configurations, Galstian says: "It's a clever idea."



New York METRO

AGBU Internship Program Opens More Doors for Students

NEW YORK and YEREVAN – Another season of the AGBU Summer Internship Program has come to an end. This month, New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) participant Narek Tovmasyan joins the staff of Direxion Funds. The firm is just one of the many top companies that AGBU partners with for NYSIP as well as the Yerevan Summer Internship Program (YSIP).

While Tovmasyan begins his job in the finance sector, his NYSIP and YSIP peers will return to school with new knowledge gained through weeks of hands-on work experience. This year, a combined 64 interns from countries as diverse as Canada, France, Lebanon, Russia, Armenia and Turkey participated in the program. From June to August, they worked alongside industry leaders in organizations such as the American Bar Association, Deutsche Bank, the UNDP, New York University (NYU) Medical Center, Armenia's Ministry of Diaspora and the marketing firm Mirrorball. In each office, with the help of their supervisors, they developed new skills and networked with potential employers.

Amidst today's challenging job market, such opportunities are invaluable.

As Tovmasyan remarked, "The support I received from NYSIP was apparent from the beginning. They placed me with a host institution that usually does not take on interns and put me in direct touch with hiring managers. In such a competitive field, just landing an interview is tough and I could not have had this opportunity without AGBU."

Tovmasyan isn't the only AGBU intern to use his summer placement to build his resume. A



AGBU Internship participants visit the Ministry of Defense.

native of Syria and NYSIP 2011 alum, Hovan Agopian is one of the hundreds who have gained valuable work experience during the program and who are giving back. By the time Agopian finished his internship with the finan-

cial services company AXA-Advisors, he had received a job offer. In June 2012, after completing his degree, he already had a position waiting for him. It was a chance for him to advance professionally and to help other young Armenians; this year he became a NYSIP supervisor, mentoring an intern who hopes to follow in his footsteps. "I was able to teach my intern about the industry and helped put him on his career path, just as my supervisor did for me," Agopian described. "I also saw that the quality of students that NYSIP attracts is impeccable and I was so pleased that my intern, like everyone in NYSIP, came with the eagerness to learn

more than an internship—it was an opportunity to connect with each other and the country.

As each of the YSIP interns reported, living in Yerevan and touring the country reinforced their sense of identity as they created lasting memories. YSIP offers a complete cultural immersion experience and the group kept busy taking language classes with AGBU's Armenian Virtual College, as well as cooking classes, where they learned to make dolma and gata. Visiting historic landmarks such as the Ghazanchetsots Cathedral, hiking up Mount Aragats and attending the Armenian Olympics were just some of the summer highlights.

On an excursion to Nagorno-Karabakh, they also saw the great progress the region is making and during the annual supervisor's reception, they had the chance to speak directly with the United States Ambassador to Armenia, John A. Heffern, about Armenia's relations with Karabagh.

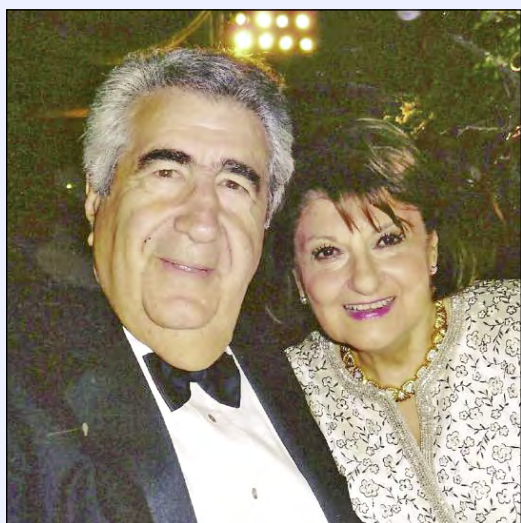
These activities allowed the diasporan students to better understand Armenia's rich history and bright future, leaving each certain that they would one day return. As YSIP and former NYSIP intern, Peter Kechichian of Melbourne, Australia, summarized, "I am not sure in which direction my life and career will take me, however YSIP has helped ensure that they will one day lead back to Armenia and that's the greatest gift of all."

In New York, the interns connected with their historical roots through conversations with renowned Armenian authors. Michael Bobelian presented his book, *Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-long Struggle for Justice*, while Margaret Ajemian Ahnert read from her best-seller, *The Knock at the Door: A Mother's Survival of the Armenian Genocide*. It is a story that her granddaughter, NYSIP participant Sara Price, knows well. Ahnert, seeing firsthand the program's positive impact on Sara and the NYSIP group, made a donation of \$5,000 to support the internship program.

In addition to offering professional develop-

Harry and Edna Keleshian Make Major Donation to St. Nersess Expansion

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. – The future home of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in Armonk will include the Arsen Keleshian Dining Hall. The construction of this new dining room is made possible through a donation from Harry and Edna Keleshian, in memory of their son, Arsen, who passed away in 2012. Arsen Keleshian will always be remembered for participating in the St. Nersess summer sessions during the late 1980s.



Harry and Edna Keleshian

Harry and Edna Keleshian, of Greenwich, Conn. and Boca Raton, Fla., have donated to numerous Armenian Church initiatives over the years. When presented with the idea of financially supporting the expansion of St. Nersess Seminary's new campus and mission, the Keleshians did not hesitate to commit their support. "It is critically important that we have clergy who are well educated, well spoken, and will-

ing to put their arms around the youth in the Armenian American community," said Harry Keleshian. Mr. Keleshian further commented, "Thanks to Father Mardiros, Arsen always felt this warmth and a deeper faith while at St. Nersess."

Under the leadership of its new dean, the Rev. Mardiros Chevian, St. Nersess Seminary has opened the 2013-2014 academic year with nine full-time seminarians in its student body. As the only Armenian seminary in the western hemisphere, St. Nersess has produced 40 priests and laypeople in full-time service to the Armenian Church over the past 50 years. In addition to providing post graduate theological study, St. Nersess has expanded its mission to include research and educational opportunities for exchange faculty and students from the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin and the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, as well as extended study programs in our seminaries in Armenia and Jerusalem to strengthen the Armenian education of our American born seminarians. Another important mission is providing acclimation and acculturation support and training for Armenian priests from abroad who will serve in North American dioceses.

The new campus construction project has been made possible through an initial donation by Haig and Elza Didizian of London, England. The Didizians and their children have funded not only the land purchase but also the construction of a new theological center and chapel. Fundraising for the remaining buildings on the Armonk campus is ongoing and in need of support from the greater Armenian community. To support St. Nersess and become a legacy donor, visit www.stnersess.edu.

as much as possible."



YSIP intern Ani Djirdjirian, who worked with the Children of Armenia Fund, presents artwork alongside young students in the village of Lernagog.

ment opportunities, the AGBU Summer Internship Program places a strong focus on community service. In 2013, keeping with NYSIP tradition, the interns visited the Armenian Home for the Aged in Queens for "Sunshine for Seniors," a talent show that they perform for the residents. The activity is organized by the AGBU Young Professionals of Greater New York, which led a summer-long mentorship program for NYSIP participants and hosted a mixer to fundraise for the program.

Applications are now being accepted for NYSIP 2014 and the deadline is November 1, 2013. To learn more, please visit www.agbu-internship.org or email nysip@agbu.org.

Glowing reviews of this year's interns came from all of the program's supervisors both in New York and Yerevan. Serob Khachatryan, the country director of the Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), praised US student Ani Djirdjirian, commenting, "In a very short period Ani gave our kids values that are both important and necessary: inspiration, hope, confidence and friendship. I am counting on her returning to Armenia soon because our children need role models like her." For Djirdjirian, who accompanied COAF's child psychologists every day to Armenia's rural schools and for all the YSIP interns, the program offered much



Arts & Living

ACF Unveils History of Armenian Orphan Rug

ARLINGTON, Mass. — “The beautiful rug woven by the [Armenian] children in the [Ghazir] orphanage in the Lebanon has been received. This, their expression of gratitude for what we have been able to do in this country for their aid, is accepted by me as a token of their goodwill to the people of the United States. . . The rug has a place of honor in the White House, where it will be a daily symbol of good-will on earth.” These words of President Calvin Coolidge on December 4, 1925, were made in response to Dr. John H. Finley, vice-chairman of the Near East Relief Executive Committee, who presented the rug for the Armenian orphans who “have tied into it the gratitude of tens of thousands of children to you and to America. And what they have tied into it will never be untied. . . It is sent to adorn the dearest of our temples, the White House of our President.”

On Sunday, October 20, at 3 p.m. the Armenian Cultural Foundation will have a reception and presentation of Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian’s work *President Calvin Coolidge*



The cover of the Dr. Martin Deranian

and the *Armenian Orphan Rug*. A labor of love, it is dedicated to the memory of the Armenian orphan rug weavers of the Near East Relief orphanage in Ghazir, Syria (presently Lebanon). Successor to the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, the Near East Relief was established in 1915 in response to urgent pleas from Henry Morgenthau, the American Ambassador to Turkey, and through the efforts of industrialist and philanthropist Cleveland Dodge and the support of President Woodrow Wilson. As such Near East Relief embarked on a herculean task of saving the lives of over 1,000,000 refugees, including over 100,000 Armenian orphans scattered throughout the Middle East and the Caucasus in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide. Over \$100,000,000, an astronomical figure at the time, was raised between 1915 and 1930 and an army of 1,000 American physicians, nurses, civil servants, and volunteers labored to save countless lives.

The result of over three decades of research and investigation, Deranian’s work traces the history of the rug and the Armenian orphans: their transportation from Urfa to safety to the present day Lebanon by the great Swiss human see DERANIAN, page 11



Octet school director Harutyun Asatryan presents Ian Gillan with a portrait done by Gumri artist Samuel Lajikian, in front of Octet school students in orchestra on stage.

Gumri Octet School Launches Musical Renaissance

GUMRI — Armenians in Gumri celebrated the 22nd anniversary of independence appropriately with music. On September 20, a day before the official festivities took place in Yerevan and other cities, leading national figures joined by international

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

guests officiated over the opening of the brand new Octet music school, which had been destroyed in the 1988 earthquake. All those who participated in the years-long effort to establish a new school were on hand: the musicians from England and Australia, Ian Gillan and John Dee of Deep Purple, who had originally launched the idea after having visited the devastated area and, through benefit concerts and commemorative CD’s, raised the initial funds for the project; Edward and Janet Mardigian, whose Mardigian Foundation tripled the amount raised by the Rock Aid Armenia campaign; Armenian President Serge Sargisian, whose government donated further funds for construction; the Governor of Shirak region Felix Tsolakyan and Gumri Mayor Samvel Balasanyan; officials of the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), both from the leadership in New York and the Yerevan office; church leaders, including Archbishop Khajag Barsamian from New York; last but not least, Haik Hovivyan,

see RENAISSANCE, page 12



Sam Lajikian, Harutyun Asatryan, Muriel Mirak-Weissbach, Siranoush Melikian and colleague celebrate the arrival of the piano in the Octet school recital hall

Museum’s Quiet Fighter Protects Treasures

By Ricard Thomas

DETROIT (*The Detroit News*) — “I will have to be dismissed before any art is taken,” said Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) Director Graham Beal. He has fought through several crises since arriving in Detroit in 1999, but Beal’s staying put.

When Detroit’s bankruptcy first loomed as a mortal threat to the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) last spring, many thought long-time museum director Beal would be justified in quietly tendering his resignation. But those who thought Beal would cut and run do not know the man.

If the Detroit emergency manager decides to sell DIA treasures to pay city debts, Beal plans on resisting. “I will have to be dismissed before any art is taken,” he said.

The man at the center of the storm is fond of bow ties and cricket, is deaf in one ear and grew up in a working-class family on the southeast coast of England. Beal, a quiet man who’s been called painfully shy, has spent most of his professional life in the US. Despite his seemingly mild demeanor, he came to Detroit from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art bent on revolutionizing the way great art museums speak to their public, putting the average visitor — not the art buff — at the center of concerns.

Those keeping score would say Beal has succeeded — despite this, his umpteenth crisis, since arriving in Detroit in 1999.

Richard Manoogian, DIA board president emeritus, argues that in 14 years Beal accomplished what most museum directors do not achieve in a lifetime. The founder of Masco Corp. and a major museum donor cites Beal’s “economic, financial and fundraising talents, the creativity to make changes against a lot of negative opinion, the ability to attract people and build a team in a difficult environment and finally, the passing of the millage, which took a lot of political finesse.”

“Graham’s had so many spikes of success,” said Ron Miller, a former DIA vice president for development now at the Phoenix Art Museum, “but everything that could possibly go wrong has gone wrong.”

Beal took on an institution reeling from savage cuts in state support and fought hard to stabilize finances and pay for a top-to-bottom renovation without incurring debt. After voters rejected two previous “culture taxes,” Beal succeeded in winning a tri-county millage that would nearly cover the DIA’s annual budget. Then the bankruptcy and talk of selling art erupted.

Nothing was easy when Beal took over the DIA, which was still reeling from Governor John Engler’s cuts in cultural spending. Funding dropped from \$16 million annually in the early 1990s to half that in 1999, forcing the museum to close on Tuesdays and to cut back hours in the remaining five days. So before Beal could reinvent the museum, he had to raise a great deal of money — fast.

“Graham took to heart a problem his predecessors had not,” said Jeffrey Abt, an art professor at Wayne State University and author of *A Museum on the Verge*, a history of the DIA published in 2001. “There wasn’t enough revenue from city or state to keep the museum operating, and he had to ramp up fundraising.”

This the museum director and his board see MANOOGIAN, page 11



ARTS & LIVING

Museum's Quiet Fighter Protects Treasures

MANOOGIAN, from page 10

did with a vengeance, raising \$330 million from 1999 to 2007. About half went to operating expenses, the rest to the 2007 renovation and reinstallation that Beal maintained was necessary to the DIA's survival. The museum, he argued, needed to grow its audience by creating a museum where ordinary visitors didn't feel inadequate. To do this, the DIA reworked its explanatory labels, making them shorter and friendlier, often with stories behind the art instead of academic art history.

Yet, those changes generated art world panic about potentially "dumbing-down" one of America's greatest encyclopedic art museums.

When the Association of Art Museum Directors met at the DIA in 2008, Beal said, "One director of a major museum didn't come, I think, because he didn't want to tell me how much he hated it." London's Art Newspaper sniffed that the museum had completely "abandoned traditional art history."

James Steward, director of the Princeton University Art Museum, was skeptical, worrying the DIA might adopt an approach just aimed at the visitor with no art background. The real thing turned out to be multilayered. "They found ways of presenting new opportunities for discovery without leaving the expert visitor unfed," he said.

"Gutsy" is how Ray Silverman, museums studies professor at the University of Michigan, refers to Beal. "After the DIA reopened," he said, "he basically had a ticket to go elsewhere if he wanted. But he chose to stay at an institution with a fraught history in a community that's had radical ups and downs."

More "downs" came in 2008, when the recession hit Detroit, hard. While the museum director and his staff had already acclimated themselves to cuts in government funding, they were now slammed with cuts in giving from major individual and corporate donors.

Over the years, Beal merged curatorial departments, reworked the administrative structure and, in 2009, laid off 20 percent of his staff, including a number of top personnel. Chief Operating Officer Annmarie Erickson calls those cuts "incredibly painful."

The layoffs left some former employees bitter, three of whom declined to comment on the record.

"We did things the city perhaps should have done years ago," Erickson said, "freezing pensions, eliminating holidays and taking out every bit of fat."

Still, 2012 brought another triumph for Beal. Though taxpayers declined culture taxes years earlier, Beal and his team crisscrossed the region, courting voters, officials and the media to pass a

millage in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties to provide the DIA with \$23 million a year. Those funds nearly cover the museum's \$25 million operating budget and help the DIA focus its fundraising efforts on boosting its endowment in case of future financial difficulties.

The win was one for the public as well: Those who live in the tri-county region now get free admission. Last year about 600,000 people visited, compared to 380,000 in 2001.

But that high was short-lived. Just nine months later, the bankruptcy bombshell landed. Like any city asset, Detroit Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr announced in May the DIA's collection would have to be priced for possible sale.

"Ironically, the threat only became real to me when the emergency manager said he didn't want to sell the art," Beal said.

"The implication was that he thought he could if he had to."

Orr's spokesman Bill Nowling criticized Beal in May, saying the DIA "really messed up" in not including a clause in the millage that would have

immunized the art from possible sale.

"They could have included that language in the ballot proposal," Nowling added. "Somebody missed that."

"His comments are designed to denigrate," Beal said, adding that millage success was never a sure thing, particularly in Macomb. Including language sure to make political waves in Detroit would have sunk the whole thing, he said.

If the museum escapes the bankruptcy intact, Beal will likely be remembered as the man who implemented what Kresge Foundation president Rip Rapson called "one of the most ambitious and amazing transformations of an art museum anywhere."

That's where Beal hangs his hat, saying "Transforming the DIA into an institution that belongs to the people" is his greatest accomplishment.

"Our success in doing so enabled the passage of a tax — A tax for art! — that, current events aside, has brought a measure of financial stability for the first time in decades."

Ararat-Eskijian Museum Will Host Matthew Karanian

MISSION HILLS, Calif. — Matthew Karanian will present an illustrated lecture titled "The Journey of Creating Armenia's First Travel Guide," on Sunday, October 13, at 4 p.m. at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Hasmik Mgrdichian Gallery, 15105 Mission Hills Road. The lecture is sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). A reception will follow the lecture.

Karanian will discuss the challenges of creating the first commercial guide to Armenia and Artsakh, and present more than 100 photographs that show some of Armenia's most remote and off-the-beaten-path locations, as well as some familiar ones, too. Karanian will discuss some of the methods that he and co-photographer Robert Kurkjian used to create the beautiful photography that is featured in their latest book, *Armenia and Karabakh: The Stone Garden Travel Guide*.

Armenia and Karabakh: The Stone Garden Travel Guide has won three national book awards. A gallery of one dozen Armenia photographs from the book, by Karanian and Kurkjian, were featured in the *Los Angeles Times* in April. The *LA Times* interviewed Karanian and wrote a feature about their book, calling it "a fresh view on ancient Armenia." Copies of the book will be available for pur-

chase at the event, and the author will be on hand to sign copies.

Karanian is a lawyer, writer and photographer. He first traveled to Armenia in 1995, and he has worked there as associate dean of the law program at the American University of Armenia in Yerevan, and as director of the university's Legal Research Center. He and his law students founded Armenia's first English-language law journal, the *Armenian Law Review*. He has also served on the editorial board of the *Armenian International Magazine* (AIM).

ACF Unveils History of Armenian Orphan Rug

DERANIAN, from page 10

itarian and physician Jakob Kunzler, known as the "Father of the Armenian orphans." He details its journey to the United States, presentation to President Calvin Coolidge in the White House, several decades in the possession of the Coolidges and its return again to the White House in the mid-1980s, where it is stored to this day.

Born in Worcester, Mass., in 1922, Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian was born to genocide survivors the town of Hussenig, Kharpert Province, Ottoman Empire. He is named Hagop in honor of Hagop Bogigian, his mother's uncle, who was a pioneer rug merchant in America and benefactor of education for Armenian young women. His mother, born Varter Bogigian, who died in 1929, was a survivor of the genocide, having lost six children, her first husband, and parents. His father, Marderos, who died in 1957, arrived in America in 1900 and operated a grocery store in Worcester. His father raised him from the age of 7.

Dr. Deranian, a graduate of Clark University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, served as lieutenant (junior grade) in the United States Navy (1951-53) and has been engaged in the private practice of dentistry while at the same time serving on the faculty of the Tufts University School of Dental Medicine.

His translation of his father's memoir, *Hussenig, The Origin, History and Destruction of an Armenian Town*, was published in 1996; an earlier bilingual edition appeared in 1981.

His second book, *Worcester Is America, the Story of Worcester's Armenians*, appeared in 1995 followed by *Miracle Man of the Western Front: Dr. Varaztad H. Kazanjian, Pioneer Plastic Surgeon*, which was published in 2007.

The event, open to the public, is co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research and the Amaras Art Alliance, and will be held on Sunday, October 20, at 3 p.m. A reception will follow the presentation.

For more information, contact the Armenian Cultural Foundation during office hours (9 a.m. to 2 p.m.) or check your local Armenian news outlets.

Visitor Services Associate

Armenian Library and Museum of America, Watertown, MA

The Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) is seeking a Visitor Services Associate. This individual will be responsible for handling the front desk and the gift shop during the museum's open hours: Thursday through Sunday, 12-6 p.m., greeting museum visitors and tour groups in a friendly and positive manner, coordinating membership sign-ups and renewals, ensuring that the appearance of the gallery and gift shop is well maintained, preparing weekly visitor and gift shop reports and performing other duties as assigned. Qualifications: Good communication skills, basic computer skills and a professional appearance and mannerism required. The ability to work during all or most of the museum's open hours.

To apply, please send resume and cover letter to Howayda Affan. howayda@almainc.org. No phone enquiries please.

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Gumri Octet School Launches Musical Renaissance

RENAISSANCE, from page 10

president of the Kanaka construction company which built the school in record time, and Harutyun Asatryan, director of the school, his teaching staff and – most importantly – his students.

As soon as the president had arrived and local and international guests gathered in front of the beautiful stone edifice, festively decorated with red and white balloons, the Gumri local brass band launched a musical salute. Under the shrouds of dozens of cameras, manned by journalists from local, national and international networks and newspapers, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), offered blessings in a short religious service, after which Ian Gillan ceremoniously cut the red ribbon. After strolling through the classrooms, offices and recital hall, the entourage gathered in the new amphitheater built to host open-air concerts.

The representatives who spoke said everything one would expect on such an occasion: some recalled the tragedy that hit Gumri and Spitak, others chronicled the process leading to the reconstruction effort, and all expressed their heartfelt thanks to those many who had made it happen. But there was nothing perfunctory or formal in their remarks. The ceremony was deeply moving. Gillan, who recounted his experience in Spitak in 1990, cited one image, a human image, of the suffering: it was an old woman he encountered, who had a photograph of her extended family, her siblings, her children and her grandchildren, along with cousins and nephews and nieces. There were



Young students in Gumri performed for the guests.

28 people in all – all of them, he reported, had perished in the quake.

“How do you possibly deal with something like that?” he remembered asking himself.

The devastation had silenced the entire community as he learned in discussion with the mayor. There had been “no music for over a year, no music in the churches or schools, no music on the radio.” It seemed, he said, “as if even the birds had stopped singing.”

Gillan told the mayor, when they were ready for music again, maybe he and his group could do something. This they did, first with benefit concerts, then with the idea to build a new music school. Gillan said, “The dream was to get music started again” and that the effort was symbolic: “it is truly a renaissance.”

In 2009, as Barsamian summarized in his remarks, the project took on concrete form. Together with FAR and the Mardigians, they raised more funds and mapped out plans for construction. The government joined the effort with financing and political support. A large donation of new musical instruments had arrived from Canada, from Tim Irving of the Who Cares group, also associated with Gillan et al. Archbishop Barsamian saw “God’s presence” in the effort, which “inspires human compassion, creativity and the love of beauty.” It was these musicians, “angels of mercy” who, moved by the music of the school, which for years had been the training ground for children of special talent, came to its rescue.

In recognition of the special role played by Gillan in spearheading the drive, Asatryan presented him a portrait which Gumri artist Samuel Lajikian had made of the musician. (The following day, Lajikian, a friend of the Octet school, was honored in Yerevan, when the president gave him the honorary artist of Armenia award.)

Most appropriately, what followed the speeches was a concert, performed by the students. From ensemble music, with orchestra and traditional Armenian instruments (duduks, kanouns and drums), to soloists, both instrumental and vocal, the students gave the guests a sample of their achieve-

ments; they played and sang with precision, passion and joy.

Local and national media covered the event in their evening news broadcasts. The local population in Gumri took special delight in the ceremony. Although, due to the presence of the president, security was extremely tight, crowds of residents from the immediate neighborhood thronged to the site, following events from the other side of the fences around the school.

As a “coda” to the official opening, on September 23 the Blüthner grand piano donated by the Mirak-Weissbach Foundation arrived in Gumri. Transported overland from Leipzig, Germany, it had made it to Yerevan on September 19, but had to go through customs procedures before being released to the final recipient. The timing turned out to be most propitious, as the public ceremony – and associated stress – had passed and the personnel at the school could arrange the rather demanding operation to transfer the instrument from its truck to the recital hall with care. It was Haik Hovivyan, the engineer who had overseen the construction, along with his crew of workers, who completed the delicate task. With the aid of a crane, a dozen workmen eased the piano out of the truck, onto the ground, and thence into its final resting place.

That day, September 23, was also the first day of school for the students, and we had the opportunity to sit in on several classes and get a first-hand sense of how they learn music. In the several rooms built for individual lessons, students received personalized instruction, whether in singing or at the piano, with violin or flute or kanoun. The school offers a five-year program, after which many students go on to conservatory or other forms of higher education. They receive a solid foundation in solfège, and are encouraged to play by heart as soon as they have mastered a piece. There are about 42 teachers, most of them professional musicians, who train the 240 or so students who attend classes two to three times per week in the afternoons, after their regular school day.

Needless to say, this year, the first day of school was a day everyone will remember. After 25 years of study in makeshift quarters, primitive metal-and-wooden shelters (“domiks”) which were supposed to be “temporary,” teachers and students can now benefit from modern, clean, roomy quarters in a beautiful building, and concentrate their efforts and excitement on great music. All expressed their gratitude for the gifts they had received from abroad – funds for a magnificent new school and lots of new instruments. They promised that on our next visit, they would treat us to a concert of classical European and Armenian music on their new instruments, including the piano from Germany.



Primate Khajag Barsamian at the opening

Wonderful Legacy of Armenian Art Captured by Book on Manoogian Museum Treasures

Edward Y. Azadian et al, editors. *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures: Testimony of a People*. 336 pp. The Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum – Taylor, MI. \$75. 978 0 578 11377 7.

By Daniel C. Melnick

Historic Armenian culture stretches back beyond 550 BC, and one chapter in this volume contains reproductions of some astounding ancient artifacts including incised Bronze Age vessels excavated from Erebuni, now Yerevan. There is a chapter, too, devoted to coins, including examples from the Artaxid Dynasty commemorating Tigran the Great, the leader of Armenia’s first-century-BC empire. There are chapters devoted to paintings, to jewelry, and to garments and embroidery, but the most substantial material in this volume, which presents the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum’s remarkable collection, is to be found in chapters on Armenia’s historic contributions in the areas of illuminated

manuscripts, ceramics, oriental rugs, and sacred objects.

The Ottoman Empire’s effort to obliterate historic Armenian civilization during the 1915 Genocide is not the focus of *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures*, but it is discussed in the introductory essay by Edmond Y. Azadian, a distinguished advisor to the museum as well as to the Armenian government. As he indicates, the volume is designed to display each artifact with full academic rigor. Containing a wealth of reproductions, the individual chapters are written by a variety of well-known scholars in Armenian studies.

In the chapter on sacred objects, the most impressive reproduction is the Manoogian *khachkar*, a large cross-stone carved and elaborately incised on the face of a six-foot-tall stone block. It is only natural that rocky Armenia, the first nation to adopt Christianity in 301 AD, would produce such marvelous and monumental sacred expressions. Unfortunately, the photograph is somewhat greyed and less effective than similar images

found in other books of Armenian art.

The excellent chapter on illuminated manuscripts shows that among the 36 codex manuscripts, nine single leaves and three scrolls held in the Manoogian Museum are some brilliant pages by the 13th-century Armenian artists Kozma and Siméon, containing intricately interwoven geometric and floral patterns which integrate small masterful images of winged lions, gazelles, peacocks, lambs, as well as figures of Christ and of the Saints. These manuscripts – beautifully reproduced here – have a charm and a technical accomplishment on a par with the best European examples of the late middle ages. The museum also contains fine printed bibles and hymnals reaching to the 18th century.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the greatest Armenian artistic achievements are in decorated ceramics and in inscribed rugs. Once again, patterns involving geometric or floral forms and often integrating human and animal images ornament these magnificent tiles

from Kutaya and rugs from Central Anatolia – Mush, Sivas, etc. Such folk patterns and motifs form a remarkable part of the legacy of Armenian art. Anonymous Armenian artists developed a distinctive, vibrant cobalt blue as a glaze for their ceramics and a beautiful “garmir” red dye for the wool of their rugs. Unfortunately, the weakest material in the volume involves the chapter on paintings and sculptures produced by Armenians in the 19th and 20th centuries. Alas, works by Arshille Goriky (née Vostanig Adoian) are not to be found in this chapter, indicating the difficulty of obtaining ideal examples of his work.

As this lovely, nicely produced art book from the Manoogian Museum shows, the unrecognized glory of Armenian art in each of its flowerings has been its use of repeated geometric or organic patterns as the pulsing center of composition or as an ornamental framework.

(Daniel C. Melnick is Emeritus Professor of English at Cleveland State University.)

Book Review



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 5 — Fall Reunion Dance hosted by the St. James ACYOA Seniors, Watertown, St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mount Auburn St., Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall, Featuring Markos and the Hayasa Band! All ages welcome. Mezze will be served. Tickets: \$35 in advance/\$40 at the door, \$20 Children 12 and under. Tables of 10 may be reserved with advance payment. Tickets: Aaron Derderian amderderian@gmail.com 781-264-8680

OCTOBER 5 — "Inheriting the Light:" In Conversation with Diana Der Hovanesian and Nancy Kricorian, 5-7 p.m., ALMA, 65 Main St., Watertown. Poet Der Hovanesian and novelist Kricorian will engage in a dialogue about how family and communal history have inspired and shaped their writings. \$5 donation appreciated.

OCTOBER 13 — Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Chelmsford will celebrate the 35th anniversary of its consecration. His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) will preside. Following divine liturgy, ordination of sub-deacons and acolytes will be conducted. Fellowship reception at 1 p.m., followed by dinner at 1:30 p.m. Donation \$35. At the banquet the Primate will present the St. Vartan Award to Patricia Amboian and George Simonian, for their years of dedicated service to the church. Advance reservations requested by September 25. Contact Rose Amboian at (978) 256-3430 or Patty Kayajanian at (978) 937-9379.

OCTOBER 16 — Meet the Author: Chris Bohjalian discusses NY Times Bestseller Sandcastle Girls, 7:30 p.m. Winchester Town Moderator John Sullivan will introduce the author. Free and open to the public; McCall Middle School, 458 Main St., Winchester. Sponsored by Winchester Reads, a volunteer-based town-wide "Read" program.

OCTOBER 18 and 19 — St. James Annual Bazaar! Delicious shish, losh, kheyma and more! Fabulous pastries, manti, kufte and toorshi! Children's activities, vendors galore, farmer's market. Fun! Friends! Family! 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., daily, at the church hall, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown.

OCTOBER 19 — Hye Kef 5, featuring Leon Janikian, Joe Kouyoumjian, Greg Takvorian, Ken Kalajian, Bob Raphaelian and Jay Baronian, Haverhill, 7:30 p.m., Michael's Function Hall, 12 Alpha St. Tickets \$40, students \$30. Includes individually-served mezza platters. Proceeds to benefit all Armenian churches in Merrimack Valley and New Hampshire. Call either John Arzigian, 6-03-560-3826, Sandy Boroyan, 978-251-8687, Scott Sahagian, 617-699-3581, or Peter Gulezian, 978-375-1616. No tickets will be sold at the door. For advance tickets, please call a committee member. Organized by Armenian Friends of America.

OCTOBER 20 — Holy Trinity Armenian Church's 52nd Anniversary Banquet; Stewardship Sunday, immediately



On October 24, 7 p.m., the K. George and Carolann S. Najarian MD Lecture on Human Rights will feature keynote speaker Siddharth Kara at Faneuil Hall in Boston, Mass. Kara is a director at the Carr Center Program on Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and will lecture on the topic, "In Our Midst: Slavery Unmasked." Send email to info@ArmenianHeritagePark.org for further information,

following church services, Charles and Nevert Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Honoring "Parishioner of the Year," Deacon Gregory Krikorian and recognizing outgoing Parish Council members, Lt. Col. Robert G. Lang, Jr., Richard Sahagian and Armen Skenderian. Donation: \$25 per person; seating by paid reservation only. RSVP by October 15. For more info, contact the church office at 617-354-0632, office@htaac.org or log onto www.htaac.org.

OCTOBER 24 — K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, MD Lecture on Human Rights: In Our Midst: Slavery Unmasked; 7 p.m., Faneuil Hall, Boston, with keynote speaker Siddharth Kara, director at the Carr Center Program on Human Trafficking & Modern Slavery, Harvard Kennedy School of Government. For further information, email info@ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

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. 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 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. For tickets and table reservations, please call Mark at 61-256-5358.

NOVEMBER 16 — Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) 38th Annual Luncheon/Auction, 11 a.m. at the Burlington Marriot, 1 Burlington Mall Road. Event kicks off with a silent auction and bidding; Visa and MasterCard accepted, tickets \$60. For reservations, contact awwaauction@gmail.com.

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.

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.

NEW JERSEY

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

OCTOBER 20 — Program in honor of the dedication of the 100 anniversary of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, with the Cultural Committee and ACYOA presenting the Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble in a program titled "Song and Dance.. Seta Paskalian - Kantardjian, artistic director and Choreographer; Andranik Mouradian, musical director, Armen Hovhannissyan and Salbi Mailyan, vocalists from California. 3 p.m., Roberts Hall, Rhode Island College, 300 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence. Donations: Adults \$20, Students \$10, children under 12 free. Tickets available at the Church office (401) 272 7712, The Deli (401) 461 4774, Sonya's Market (401) 941 9300.

Author Rifat Bali to Speak at NAASR on Jewish Experience in Modern Turkey



BELMONT, Mass. — Rifat Bali, author of *Model Citizens of the State: The Jews of Turkey during the Multi-Party Period* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2012), will give a lecture titled "Forced Turkification, Anti-Semitism, and Lobbying against Recognition of the Armenian Genocide," at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave., on Thursday, October 17, at 7:30 p.m. The lecture will be co-sponsored by the Zoryan Institute for Contemporary Armenian Research and Documentation and NAASR.

Using archival material and first-hand accounts, *Model Citizens of the State* exposes the treatment of the Jewish community in Turkey from 1950 to present, the struggle of Turkish Jews for their constitutional rights, their fight against anti-Semitism and the indifferent attitude of the Turkish establishment to these problems, and illustrates how the

Turkish establishment coerced the leaders of the Jewish community — and through them Jewish organizations in the United States — to thwart efforts to gain recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Bali is an independent scholar specializing in the history of Turkish Jews and an associate member of the Alberto-Benveniste Center for Sephardic Studies and the Sociocultural History of the Jews (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes/CNRS/Université Paris-Sorbonne). He is the winner of the Alberto Benveniste Research Award for 2009 for his publications on Turkish Jewry.

The NAASR Bookstore will open at 7 p.m. the night of the lecture. *Model Citizens* will be available for purchase.

More information about this program may be had by e-mailing hq@naasr.org, or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.

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COMMENTARY

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COMMENTARY

A Sigh of Relief

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Against the backdrop of bloodbaths raging in Syria and Iraq, the drumbeat of a looming new war was too much for the international community to bear. Finally the United Nations Security Council's unanimous vote on September 27 arrived just in time to bring a sigh of relief to the war-weary world.

The UN vote was the work of responsible leadership on all fronts to avert another disaster in the Middle East.

All of the participants – from the east and west – will enjoy the peace dividends of that historic vote. Armenia being in the proximity of that region will also become one of the beneficiaries of this new development.

What has come to be known as the Arab Spring is a sinister process of dismantling stable and prosperous countries in the Middle East to eliminate all real and presumed threats to Israel. Iraq and Libya were destroyed under the false pretenses of bringing democracy to those countries. The aftermath of those debacles is too obvious for any statesman to draw the right conclusions.

During the trigger-happy administration of Bush-Cheney, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not need too much arm-twisting in Washington to draw the US into disastrous adventures.

After \$3 trillion was wasted on war and the sacrifice of 4,500 of the bravest of the brave in the US military, with 50,000-plus maimed and wounded, President Obama paused for a moment before committing the US to another war.

Contrary to news media fabrications, the war in Syria is far from being a civil war, since foreign mercenaries are engaged to establish another Islamist state in the Middle East. The US and the West had been contributing to that goal inadvertently by helping fundamentalist mercenaries.

The bloodshed already afflicting the region and the prospect of another Al Qaeda regime sobered up the statesmen on all fronts to seek a diplomatic solution to the artificial Syrian problem.

Despite the fact that President Obama was elected on the premise and promise of bringing peace to the world, he was pushed into a corner, threatening to attack Syria with Tomahawk missiles.

The budget debate and other domestic concerns forced the White House to reach out across the aisle to garner votes, and hawkish legislators like John McCain raised the price of that support by illegally entering the Syrian territory, ushered by hired guns, to sort out the good terrorists from the bad.

Thus Obama hypothetically drew the red line in the sand, making use of chemical weapons as *casus belli*. That proviso provided the opportunity to Saudi Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, master of international intrigue, Turkey's Premier Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Israeli intelligence to stage the August 21 chemical weapons attack to justify US retaliation.

It took the creative diplomacy of US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to craft a consensus deal at the UN to save the day.

The UN resolution calls for dismantling all of Syria's chemical weapons under its supervision.

The resolution blames no particular party for the August 21 incident, meaning that the Russians, as well as the West, had presented strong evidence to cancel each other out. The resolution does not automatically activate Article 7 of the UN Charter, which calls for military action in case of non-compliance.

These two cases are considered victories for Lavrov's diplomatic skills, at the same time, providing a face-saving device for President Obama, a reluctant warrior.

The 68th UN General Assembly brought another breakthrough when Obama had a 15-minute phone conversation with the newly-elected President of Iran Hassan Rouhani. The standoff between the US and Iran over the latter's nuclear ambitions,

was dramatically eased.

Against a negotiated settlement of the issue, Iran is seeking the removal of international sanctions which had crippled its economy.

Iran being Armenia's important trading partner, its relations were frowned on by the West, while Pakistan, a staunch US ally challenged the sanctions entering into an energy deal with Tehran. Not only Armenia will breathe easily in trading with Iran, but a danger of war on its borders will be averted.

Therefore, it is no surprise that Armenia's Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian welcomed the breakthrough and congratulated his Iranian counterpart Mohammed Javad Zarif for the resumption of G5+1 negotiations.

All of the member representatives of the UN Security Council profusely praised the diplomatic efforts of Kerry and Lavrov for making the prospect of peace a real deal.

Kerry gave credit to Lavrov who took up his challenge of eliminating chemical weapons and worked out the agreement with the Syrian government.

The Middle East correspondent of London's *Independent*, Robert Fiske, reported that during their negotiations in Moscow, when Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moualem complained that Syria would be giving away its most potent deterrent against Israel, Lavrov assured him by stating: "We are your deterrent."

Keeping all the components of the Syrian crisis in perspective, it reminds us of the Cuban Missile Crisis which had pushed the world to the brink of nuclear war.

Reviewing the Cuban Missile crisis, here is what Wikipedia says about it: "Khrushchev told Mikoyan of his idea of shipping Soviet missiles to Cuba. Mikoyan was opposed to the idea, and was even more opposed to giving the Cubans control over the Soviet missiles. In early November 1962, at the height of Cuban Missile Crisis, the Soviet leadership dispatched Mikoyan to Havana to help persuade Castro to cooperate in the removal of the nuclear missiles and bombers the Soviet Union had placed on the island. Just prior to beginning negotiations with Castro, Mikoyan was informed about the death of his wife, Ashkhen, in Moscow; rather than return there for the funeral, Mikoyan opted to stay and sent his son Sergo there instead.

Castro was adamant that the missiles remain but Mikoyan, seeking to avoid a full-fledged confrontation with the United States, attempted to convince him otherwise. He told Castro, 'You know that not only in these letters but today also, we hold to the position that you will keep all the weapons and all the military specialists with the exception of the 'offensive' weapons and associated service personnel, which were promised to be withdrawn in Khrushchev's letter [of October 27.]' Castro balked at the idea of further concessions, namely the removal of the Il-28 bombers and tactical nuclear weapons still left in Cuba. But after several tense and grueling weeks of negotiations, he finally relented and the missiles and the bombers were removed in December of that year."

The same Wikipedia entry says about Lavrov: "Lavrov was born in Moscow on March 21, 1950 to an Armenian father from Tbilisi and a Russian mother from Georgia."

It turns out that two Armenians emerge as peacemakers at the verge of international crises.

The world will benefit from the skills of these two diplomats. In the case of the UN vote, the prospect of a Geneva 2 Conference is becoming reality.

At this time there are more than 10,000 Armenians from Syria living in Armenia, hoping to return to that prosperous community once normality is restored in that country.

Very few people have realized, and will realize in this case, that the diplomatic genius of two Armenians has come to save the world from catastrophe.

On the other hand, the sad commentary is that Armenians excel when they are in the service of foreign powers.

Yet at this point the peace prospect is the most redeeming factor giving a chance to the world to enjoy a sigh of relief.

Low Intensity Democratization

By Yavuz Baydar

The democracy package landed amid tensions post-Gezi protests and extended sentiments along fault lines in the fabric of society, escalating impatience among the Kurds and dismay being voiced by the Alevis.

Considering also the defensiveness of the very party that still enjoys around every second vote, the package certainly is aimed to ease general tension and extinguish fire.

One can argue that Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, now the master of political tactics, is once more attempting to remain on top of the game. He surely deserves fair credit for complaining on Monday about the stumbling blocks his Kemalist and nationalist rivals have laid in front of his party over the past dozen years.

He said: "One wishes that one could have opened the entire ground to freedom 11 years ago through a single package. But the nation saw that Turkish politics does not allow that. In a political milieu, where non-solution mind-

sets dominate politics, reform is a very hard job." He is right in a sense that the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) in particular could have been much more constructive in helping to present a consensus-based constitution.

Yet, much of the criticism aimed at the package still has to do with Turkey's historically powerful leader. Surfing on the strong majority vote, he has not only stalled or delayed the reform process, but also displayed increasingly efficient Machiavellian tendencies. Despite the
see DEMOCRATIZATION, page 15



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Commentary on Recent Armenian, Azeri and Turkish Developments

Here are some thoughts regarding recent noteworthy news items:

- Prominent Los Angeles attorney Mark Geragos, during his appearance on CNN last week, chided the United States for its double standard on the Armenian Genocide. When panelists Christiane Amanpour and Anderson Cooper were criticizing Iran's denial of the Jewish Holocaust, Geragos reminded them about President Obama's unkept promise to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide. "Our greatest ally in that region is Turkey. Yet, Turkey denies the Armenian Genocide. Obama as a candidate would talk about it, 'when I am in office, I will recognize the Armenian Genocide.' He has been completely stultified when he is in. So there is a political dynamic here at play that is a little hypocritical," Geragos asserted.

- During the German elections on September 22, 11 lawmakers of Turkish origin were elected to the German Bundestag, the country's lower house of Parliament, more than doubling their number in the previous legislature. Armenians should not blindly criticize these 11

Parliamentarians because some – whether of Turkish or Kurdish origin – may be sympathetic to recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

- The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) fined Turkey over \$200,000 for expropriating a Turkish family's house, without paying compensation. The Court found that Turkey had violated the family's property rights. The family had exhausted all appeals to Turkish courts before turning to ECHR for justice. A reader posted the following ironic observation on the website of the Turkish Daily News: "It seems like the Court of Christian Europe treats Muslim Turkish people with more respect than the Muslim courts in Turkey."

- Turkish Minister of EU Affairs Egemen Bagish claimed last week that "Turkey will probably never become a member of the European Union because of stiff opposition and prejudiced attitudes from the bloc's current members." Bagish is wrong, as usual! Turkey will fail to become an EU member not because of Western prejudice, but due to its refusal to bring its laws up to European standards.

- Thousands of Christians, including Armenians, have been kidnapped, killed or maimed by Al-Qaeda terrorists in Syria and yet not a single word of condemnation has been issued by any European or American official. Even worse, Western leaders are supplying lethal weapons to the extremists so they can kill more innocent people. It is time for the public in the Western world to show its outrage by mass protests and harsh rebukes. The US Congress should ban the delivery of weapons to all foreign fighters in Syria. Last week, an Armenian Catholic Church and a Greek Orthodox Church were desecrated and robbed in Rakka, Syria. The Jihadists shamefully climbed over the dome of the Armenian Church and replaced the cross with their black flag!

- The dictator of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, regularly and unwittingly assists the Armenian Cause by making hateful announcements that create a negative impression about his country in the international community. Aliyev's outrageous statement that "Yerevan and Zangezur are Azeri territories" and "the time will come and we will live there," is the raving and ranting of a deranged man with a pathological personality. Aliyev is expected to be elected to an unprecedented third term on October 9, meaning that Armenians will continue benefiting from his 'helpful' statements for several more years!

- The war of words escalated at the UN General Assembly last week as the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan made opposing statements. Below are excerpts from Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian's remarks, accusing Azerbaijan of:

a) "Increasing warmongering and anti-Armenian hate-speech on a daily basis"

b) "Unprecedented accumulation of offensive weaponry in massive scale"

c) "Using mercenaries closely linked to notorious terrorist organizations"

d) "Glorification of an axe-murderer Safarov by Azerbaijani leadership"

Armenia's foreign minister further stated that "the recognition, condemnation and prevention of genocide remains a priority for Armenia and we will take necessary actions to prevent new occurrences of the crime of genocide, while keeping high on the agenda the issue of responsibility for the crime against humanity and its denial.... As a nation that has survived the first genocide of the 20th century, Armenia unequivocally welcomes the clear position adopted by the UN member states in precluding any possibility of immunity or pardon for perpetrators of crimes against humanity."

Low Intensity Democratization

DEMOCRATIZATION, from page 14

58 percent backing in a referendum in 2010, and the 49 percent support in the 2011 election, he avoids remembering his pledges to be a "prime minister of the entire nation."

Instead, his vertical, anger-based, at times spiteful, policy making alienated considerable portions of the loose social coalition who, with grand expectations for a peaceful and democratically diverse Turkey, had stood behind him. The Gezi Park events and its aftermath revealed, whether he denies it or not, social and cultural fault lines and added damage to his overall credibility.

He knows he has to repair it. Turkey, because of tactics and fading strategic vision, has lost immensely precious time in the past three years.

Today, even after such a thorny journey, it is needless to say that the package as a whole is a step forward, a correct move to put Turkey irreversibly in its normalization process, back on the right track. Many of the 21-point reforms are welcome, such as the lifting of the antiquated Kemalist morning incantations on Turkishness; the freedom to wear the headscarf while working in public service; allowing local languages, Kurdish and all, in political campaigning; returning the original names to villages, etc. Yet, our memory tells us that almost all of these were in the pamphlet delivered at the Justice and Development Party's (AKP) congress a year ago. In other words, the current package was long overdue and is perhaps too little on the edge of too late.

The issue, therefore, is from now on to measure its impact on the process of social change. It is certain that the package prioritizes the AKP's traditional base of voters. Sunnis welcome the steps on the headscarf. But others, already voicing discontent at various decibels, will not be able to get over the sense that they are discriminated against, much less cared for.

This part is topped by Alevis, who say there is nothing in the text for their expectations, despite constant demands and European Court rulings. Non-Muslims feel the same. Assyrians say the Mor Gabriel Monastery was already theirs, and the Ecumenical Greek Patriarchate feels let down once more since the Halki Seminary will remain shut.

Kurds, seeing the package as part of the peace process, have already declared it almost null and void, and have not been appeased. For all these groups, alienation, frustration and disappointment are the result.

Erdogan may believe he is still buying time until the elections, navigating smartly over a strong conservative vote. But the risk is, as long as these sentiments rule, Turkey will remain on delicate ground, threatened by even more polarization and division – unable to shake itself off from its dark past.

(Yavuz Baydar is a columnist for *Today's Zaman*. This column originally appeared in the October 1 edition of the paper.)

Elect Peter Koutoujian to the US Congress; Vote on October 15

(The following letter was sent to many in the Fifth Congressional District in Massachusetts, in support of Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, running in the primary to fill the seat of Edward Markey, now the state's junior senator. The primary is on October 15. The special election, pitting the Democrat and Republic winners of the primary, is on December 10.)

Fellow Armenian-Americans:

As you are no doubt aware, we have an Armenian-American running for a U.S. Congressional seat in the upcoming October 15th Special Primary Election. If elected, he would be the first Armenian-American Congressman from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This is a proud moment not only for our local Armenian community but for Armenians across the United States.

Peter has had a distinguished career first as a State Representative in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and then as the Sheriff of Middlesex County. Peter has also been an engaged member of the Armenian community, actively advocating for issues of importance to us.

Notwithstanding the recognition that he has received in this regard, such as the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Republic of Armenia's Mkhitar Gosh Medal, Peter has championed a cause that is dear to the Armenian diaspora. He has authored legislation and spent several years spearheading efforts to win approval for the Armenian Heritage Park.

With such a track record and a voice in the US Congress, Peter will continue to advocate for our concerns nationally, especially as we approach the commemoration of the centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

This is why we, the undersigned, are wholeheartedly giving our support and vote to Peter.

Please join us in doing so and be part of history by volunteering, supporting financially, and ultimately electing the first Armenian-American from Massachusetts to the US Congress on October 15, 2013.

Get involved now by contacting Haig Hovsepian (haig@koutoujianforcongress.com) for helping and volunteering opportunities.

Sincerely,

Mr. & Mrs. Anto and Lisa Aboyan
 Dr. & Mrs. Noubar and Anna Afeyan
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack and Lena Antounian
 Mr. & Mrs. Armen and Lauren Arakelian
 Dr. & Mrs. Mher and Alice Artinian
 Mr. & Mrs. Apo and Arlet Ashjian
 Mr. & Mrs. Nigoghos and Roset Atiniazian
 Mr. & Mrs. Nishan and Margrit Atiniazian
 Mr. & Mrs. Jano and Arpy Avedissian
 Dr. & Mrs. Mark and Maral Ayanian
 Mr. & Mrs. Berge Ayvazian
 Mr. Christopher Babayan
 Dr. Richard K. Babayan and Ms. Sonya Nersessian
 Dr. & Mrs. Viken and Lisa Babikian
 Mr. & Mrs. Ara and Taline Balikian
 Drs. Paul and Joyce Barsam
 Mr. & Mrs. Anthony and Nancy Barsamian
 Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Bekarian
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert and Elizabeth Berberian
 Mr. & Mrs. Avo and Houry Boyamian
 Dr. & Mrs. Leon and Bethel Charkoudian
 Dr. Jon Arsen and Mrs. Dianne Chilingirian
 Mr. & Mrs. Vartan and Vartouhie Chiloyan
 Dr. & Mrs. Aram Chobanian
 Dr. & Mrs. Nazaret and Lena Derkevorkian
 Dr. Harout DerSimonian & Ms. Jackie Abramian

Ms. Karina Demurchyan
 Mr. & Mrs. Bedros (Bedig) and Arevik DerVartanian
 Mr. & Mrs. Raffi and Nina Festekjian
 Dr. & Mrs. Vahe and Marie Ghahraman
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry and Katrina Glorikian
 Dr. & Mrs. Nishan Goudsouzian
 Ms. Alin Gregorian
 Mr. Michael Guleserian
 Dr. & Mrs. Jean-Jacques and Nicole Hajjar
 Mr. Denis Hamboyan
 Mr. & Mrs. David Hamparian
 Mr. Sarven Ipek
 Dr. & Mrs. Avak and Christine Kahvejian
 Mr. Dikran Kaligian and Ms. Seda Aghamianz
 Mr. James M. Kalustian
 Ms. Rachel Kaprielian
 Dr. & Mrs. Jack and Dorothy Keverian
 Mrs. Anahid Keushgerian
 Mr. Garo Keushgerian
 Drs. Parnag and Nancy Kasarjian
 Mr. & Mrs. Hovanes Kibarian
 Mr. & Mrs. Raffi and Silva Kotikian
 Dr. & Mrs. Michael and Hasmik Kouchakdjian
 Mr. & Mrs. Alex and Tamar Kouspakian
 Ms. V. Sonig Kradjian
 Mr. & Mrs. Ara and Heather Krafian
 Mr. & Mrs. Kevork and Vartiter Marashlian
 Mr. and Mrs. Zareh Maserejian
 Dr. Ina Baghdiantz McCabe

Mr. and Mrs. Armen and Sylvie Megerditchian
 Mr. & Mrs. Hratch and Tamar Melkonian
 Ms. Barbara J. Merguerian
 Mr. & Mrs. Rouben and Anna Meschian
 Mr. & Mrs. Charlie and Hrip Minassian
 Ms. Mary Minasian
 Mr. & Mrs. Mihran & Rosalyn Minassian
 Mr. & Dr. George and Carolann Najarian
 Drs. Ara and Rosalynn Nazarian
 Mr. & Mrs. Missak and Angelique Ourfalian
 Drs. Ashot & Yelena Papoyan
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry and Hripsime Parsekian
 Mr. Robert Parsekian and Mrs. Kristin Asadourian
 Mr. & Mrs. John and Vera Peterson
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack & Audrey Pilibosian
 Mrs. Araxie Poladian
 Mr. & Mrs. Herman and Laura Purutyun
 Mr. & Mrs. Ara and Bergrouhi Sarian
 Dr. & Mrs. Vatche and Seza Seraderian
 Dr. Alex Shaginian
 Mr. & Mrs. Nelson and Ani Stepanian
 Mr. & Mrs. Shahan and Salpi Stepanian
 Dr. & Mrs. Ara and Mariam Stepanyan
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald and Barbara Tellalian
 Mr. Edward Walsh and Ms. Carla Keushgerian
 Mr. Johnny Yardemian & Ms. Carolyn Atiniazian
 Ms. Arlette Yegumian
 Dr. & Mrs. Sevag and Alik Arzoumanian



Local Production 'Sins of the Preacher' Airs on Lifetime

By Lynne Hedvig

WORCESTER (*Worcester Magazine*) – The world's industrial landscape has shifted dramatically in the information age; our ability to store and transport massive amounts of information on a tiny digital scale has enhanced our capacity to create on a more independent level, outside of the traditional institutionalized settings. So too, in many ways, is the trickling out from Los Angeles of the film industry, once so canonically centralized there, now come to pool in

new areas with welcoming incentives and locations. Places like Massachusetts, and, increasingly, Worcester.

This summer, local production company Moody Independent filmed its most recent movie, "Sins of the Preacher," starring Gail O'Grady, James McDaniel, Christopher Gartin, Tom Kemp and Taylor Cole, almost entirely in Worcester. Drawing from the area for everything from locations to crew to talent, the movie is a truly local production, and representative of an emerging trend. Director John Stimpson ("The March Sisters at Christmas," "The Legend of Lucy Keyes") said, "I think

Worcester is being discovered as a filmmaking hub. David O. Russell discovered it in a big way with 'American Hustle' last spring."

Massachusetts offers a competitive package of tax incentives for filmmakers. These include 25 percent payroll credit, a 25 percent production credit and a sales tax exemption.

As Stimpson noted, "The Mass Film Tax Credit program has been vital to pulling productions to the Commonwealth and the more they come, the more they explore beyond the 128 beltway."

For Stimpson, the appeal of the area stems from both a logistic place and a personal one.

"This is my backyard and we have a great troupe of people that have pulled together on the six films I've shot in and around Worcester...Central Mass. just works for making films in so many ways. The variety of locations, from downtown Worcester, which could double for New York or Boston or Moscow for that matter to the quaint surrounding towns."

"Sins," adapted from Kathryn Casey's book, "Dirty Little Secrets," is the story of a preacher with a dark secret, and the tribulations of a family trying to unearth it.

Many who were a part of the crew wore multiple hats. Local movie darling Andrea Ajemian, who was co-producer and line producer on "Sins," described this extra push from everyone as being a product of the local spirit of the process. "The difference between working on a movie that John and I make locally, and working on a big budget film in LA or Boston, is that what we don't have in money we make up with in heart. We treat our cast and crews like family and that is why multiple Hollywood actors have come back to work with us on multiple films."

Stimpson and Ajemian, along with producers Mark Donadio and Miriam Marcus have worked together on six Moody Independent films now, and with each new one, the work they are doing here the region is becoming noticed more.

Filming around the same time as several other movies in Massachusetts, including David O' Russell's "American Hustle," "Sins of the Preacher" had to compete for cast and crew members from the area's collection of skilled individuals. Ajemian, for example, has put her own feelers out around Worcester for years now and has accumulated a community of involved locals eager to contribute to these productions.

She added, "People in Worcester love that we make films here and are always so willing to help and be a part of the production."

Some of Ajemian's favorite moments from the filming of "Sins of the Preacher" are derived from a pride she feels for the individuals involved. "One of our local actresses, Sarah Cote from Millbury, has a lead role. Sarah was an extra in 'BoyBand' a few years back. So, to see Sarah grow so much as an actress and get cast in such a big role in 'Sins of a Preacher' was really moving for me. That is why I make films here. My production coordinator on the last six films, Katrina Morgan, just joined the union. I am so proud of her. She is from Sterling and started out two years ago as a volunteer. That's just awesome. There is so much talent right here in Worcester. People just need to be given a chance to shine. We give people that chance and they do not take it for granted, they thrive," she said.

"Sins" aired on Lifetime September 14. Look for more local productions to come from these filmmakers in the future. Stimpson is shopping around an adaptation of Casey Sherman's book *Bad Blood* as well as pushing to shoot another, "Crashing Camelot," adapted from William Noonan's novel *Forever Young*.

ADL's Papken Megerian Receives Award from President of Armenia

MEDAL, from page 1

Megerian and his wife are cofounders of the Papken and Anahid Megerian Family Foundation, which supports causes in the US, Armenia, Artsakh, Echmiadzin, the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Diocesan Center in Javakhk, Georgia and Our Lady of Armenia Boghossian Educational Center in Gumri. He is also a contributor to the international children's anophthalmia/ microphthalmia network, the Philadelphia Art Museum and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, an ADL publication.

Among other diasporan activists who received medals this year were Armenia Tree Project President Carolyn Mugar, physician Ernest Barsamian (Mkhitar Heratsi Medal), Armenia Marriott hotel co owner Nishan Atinjian (Anania Shiragatsi Medal) and Jirayr Tanielian (Moses Khorenatsi Medal), the editor of Kamar literary monthly in Lebanon.

K PETER KOUTOUJIAN

★ U.S. CONGRESS ★

My family's story, like so many others in Massachusetts and across the nation, reflects the promise of the American Dream.

My parents always believed in the honor and importance of public service. My mom dedicated her life to teaching and my dad was the City Clerk in Waltham for 30 years.

They instilled in me a desire to help people and to try to make a difference in their lives.

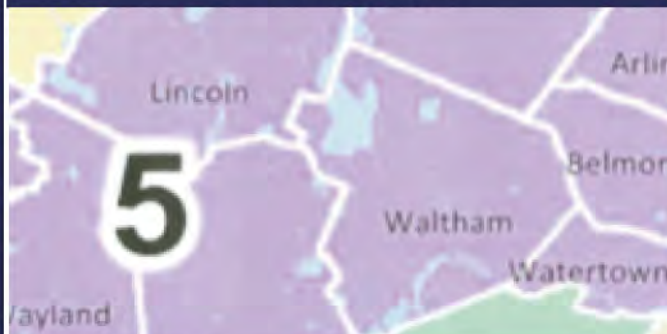
They taught me that when you listen to people, empower people, and help them take action – you can change lives for the better.



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