

## Remembering Hrant Dink: Six Years Later

WATERTOWN— On January 19, 2007, at approximately 12:00 GMT, a young man posing as an Ankara University student fired three bullets at Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink

**By Gabriella Gage**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

Witnesses would later claim that the young man shouted, “I shot the infidel,” before he fled the scene. Six years after his death, many questions regarding the circumstances of Dink’s assassination remain unanswered, but his legacy continues to have a far-reaching impact on the world he left behind.

Dink was born in Malatya on September 15, 1954, spending his formative years at the Gedikpasha Armenian Orphanage, run by the Armenian Evangelical Community, and his summers at the Tuzla Armenian Children’s Camp, where he would meet his future wife, Rakel. After 22 years of sheltering

at point blank range in front of his office at the *Agos* newspaper in Istanbul.



Thousands march in Istanbul to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Dink’s death in 2012. Hrant Dink (right).



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## NAASR’s Mardigian Library Receives Collection of Linguist Dr. John Greppin

BELMONT, Mass. — The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) announced this week a significant donation to its Edward and Helen Mardigian Library, the Armenian collection of Prof. John A. C. Greppin, a former longtime professor at Cleveland State University and since 2011, professor emeritus. Greppin, a linguist and specialist in Classical Armenian (*grabar*), has published 15 monographs and edited books on Armenian linguistics and the history of Armenian medicine. He is the author of many articles in scholarly journals and founded the *Annual of Armenian Linguistics* in 1980 and edited it for

satisfying to donate a scholarly collection to an association where the books will be cared for and, especially, used.”

NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc A. Mamigonian expressed his gratitude on behalf of the organization, saying that “everyone at NAASR is extremely pleased and gratified at Prof. Greppin’s kindness and generosity. This is a collection that substantially bolsters our holdings especially in the area of language and linguistics. It is commendable, too, that Prof. Greppin has shown

the foresight to insure that his collection will continue to be a resource for generations of scholars to come.”

The Greppin collection will be catalogued during the months ahead, but he explained that “the bulk of the books are in the Armenian language. They were acquired first when I was living in Yerevan, 1974-75, and I continued to acquire more when I lived in Ohio, by mail, and when I was in Yerevan” on numerous occasions

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Prof. John A. C. Greppin



Some of the books from the John Greppin collection

twenty-five years.

Greppin’s Armenian collection consists of approximately 900 titles and arrived in 46 boxes just after Christmas 2012. In making the decision to donate his collection to NAASR, Prof. Greppin stated that “I’ve dealt with NAASR for 37 years now, and know it as the primary Armenian research association in USA and certainly the one with the best research facilities. It is most

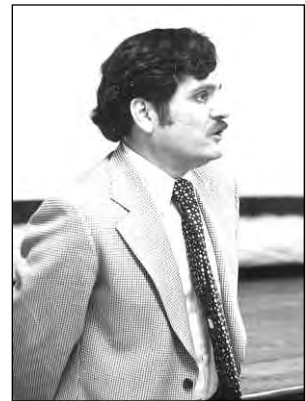
## Dr. Zareh N. Demirjian Dies

BELMONT, Mass. — Dr. Zareh Demirjian, doctor at Massachusetts General Hospital and an active member of the Armenian community, died on December 24, 2012, due to heart failure.

He was the husband of Margo (Balukjian) Demirjian and father of Dr. Aram Demirjian of California and Talinn Demirjian.

Demirjian graduated from the American University of Beirut, Faculty of Medicine, and was a noted hematologist.

Demirjian and his wife were active supporters of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, the *Baikar* weekly and the Tekeyan Cultural Association, Boston Chapter. They spearheaded annual fundraising campaigns for the papers and were instrumental in transferring medical supplies to Armenia, immediately after the earthquake of 1988. In recent years, they led a group of intellectuals dedicated to Armenian culture and organized many cultural events in Watertown and Belmont.



Dr. Zareh Nazareth Demirjian

Cambridge.

The *hokejash* was served at the Sheraton Commander Hotel of Cambridge, during which his classmate, Marzbed Margosian of California, and the former editor of *Baikar*, Krikor Kueseyan spoke.

Funeral services were held at Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Cambridge on December 29. The service was led by former pastor Rev. Mampr Kouzouian with the participation of Rev. Krikor Maksoudian, who spoke of Demirjian’s life achievements, Rev. Arakel Aljalian and Very Rev. Raphael Andonian.

Internment followed at Mt. Auburn Cemetery of

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Levon Aronian Rounds Out Top Three in Chess Rankings

MOSCOW (*Moscow Times*) — Levon Aronian of Armenia has secured the third spot in the World Chess Federation (FIDE) rankings. His rival, Norwegian chess player Magnus Carlsen, recently beat Garry Kasparov’s world chess ranking record. In the FIDE rating list the grandmaster continues to lead with 2861 points. The previous record was dated 1999, when Kasparov scored 2851 points. Second place in the rankings is currently held by Russian Vladimir Kramnik.

### Amnesty International Concerned with Murder Of Armenian in Turkey

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) — The international human rights group Amnesty International issued a statement denouncing the violent murder of an 85-year-old Armenian woman, Maritsa Kuchuk, in Turkey. She had been beaten, stabbed and decapitated.

The Istanbul-based Armenian *Agos* weekly warned that this was not the first case of violence against Armenians. Another woman had been assaulted and robbed in December. Amnesty International warned that last year a taxi driver attacked a passenger only because the latter was Armenian.

The international organization does not rule out that Sevak Balkci’s murder on April 24 in the army was due to religious issues and ethnic intolerance.

The organization appealed to the Turkish authorities to eliminate intolerance in the society in order to prevent such cases.

### Three Armenians Kidnapped in Syria Are Released

DAMASCU (Armenpress) — Three Armenians who had been kidnapped along Raqqa road near the Syrian-Turkish frontier two weeks ago, have been released, according to the press secretary of the Armenian National Prelacy in Aleppo Jirair Reisian. He added that they are safe now and have already returned home. As for the Armenians who were kidnapped on the road from Beirut to Aleppo at the end of 2012, than there is no information about them yet.

Reisyan stated that there have been no serious accidents recorded in Aleppo during the holidays. The current situation in the city was calm. Only church ceremonies were held during the Christmas period.

Unrest in Syria during the past 22 months has left more than 40,000 people dead, including about 50 ethnic Armenians.

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## 1,988 Polling Stations Placed in Armenia's 41 Electoral Districts

YEREVAN (PanArmenian.net) – 1,988 polling stations were recently set up throughout Armenia's 41 electoral districts, according to the official website of the Central Election Commission (CEC.)

The schedule of organization and conduction of February 18 presidential election polls requires applications for appointment as district election commission members to be submitted to CEC from January 19-24.

The eight-member commissions will hold an initial meeting on January 27. The ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA,) Prosperous Armenia (BHK,) Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) Dashnaktsutyun, Orinats Yerkir and Armenian National Congress (ANC) opposition bloc are all authorized to appoint one representative each, with district election commissions entitled to appoint two members.

According to the CEC website, the number of polling stations in 13 electoral districts of Yerevan ranges from 34-40, with the number of election districts likely to range from 36-79 in Armenia's provinces.

## Stepanakert Airport Likely to Launch Operations in January

STEPANAKERT (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Stepanakert airport will soon launch operations, the head of the Central Information Department at NKR President's Office said.

David Babayan did not specify a date but noted that the work is progressing quickly and that the first flight will take place sometime in January.

## EU Is Glad of 2012 Cooperation with Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – European Union is concluding its activity carried out in Armenia and highly evaluates the results of interaction during 2012. Armenia has recorded positive results in the programs implemented on the principle "more for more" as well. This was noted by Head of Advisory Group of the European Union William van der Geest.

"Armenia and EU have had a number of achievements during 2012. There was a noticeable progress not only on the general level but also in separate areas, mainly, the human rights protection strategy has been approved and 6 regional offices have been opened by Human Rights Defender's Office for discussions and examination of different issues," Armenpress quoted William van der Geest as saying during the interview adding that Armenian National Assembly had improved and deepened relations with the civil society. When speaking about the agreement on visa regime facilitation William van der Geest underlined the importance of it for Armenia.

"With this agreement Armenian citizens are provided with a great opportunity. The list of documents needed for those citizens who are official delegates, scientists, students, journalists, athletes and artists are being clarified. Also there is a reduction of the visa price to EURO 35," informed William van der Geest. He also sees the progress in the integration process.

"Three political parties have joined European 'family' which gave them opportunity to participate in the summits of Marseille and Bucharest," he noted also expecting that negotiations on establishing deep and comprehensive free trade area would be concluded until November 2013.

Member of EU Advisory Group Carl Ulbricht noted that reaching Association Agreement required a certain working plan.

"We have initiated a round table, where the strategy of preparing a plan on combatting corruption was discussed" Ulbricht said. According to him the programs against corruption had to be prepared sector by sector.

# AGBU Hye Geen Unveils New Pregnant Women's Center in Yerevan

YEREVAN – New and expectant mothers seeking free, high-quality pre- and post-natal care in Yerevan may now access a full range of services at AGBU Hye Geen's brand new Arshagouhi Tavitian Pregnant Women's Center. The center, the fifth such facility Hye Geen has established across Armenia in the past ten years, was officially unveiled on Wednesday, October 17, 2012. The occasion brought together Hye Geen beneficiaries, friends and supporters who celebrated both a decade of growth and exciting new initiatives that will continue to meet families' needs in the years ahead.

Like the Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers that came before it in Gumri, Talin, Vanadzor and Yeghvard, the Yerevan location is staffed with a team of professionals who equip women with the education and training to improve their well-being and that of their children. The counselors, lawyers, medical practitioners, psychologists and social workers conduct regular one-on-one consultations with the women, while group sessions create solidarity networks that are key sources of their empowerment. Since first opening its doors this past summer, the Arshagouhi Tavitian Pregnant Women's Center has served dozens of beneficiaries who have been so enthusiastic about their experiences that they requested certificates documenting their participation, which were presented at the inaugural event. The positive impact that Hye Geen has had on the lives of those women – and hundreds more – has always inspired the Yerevan facility's benefactor Arshagouhi Tavitian.

For close to 20 years, Tavitian has dedicated herself to a broad range of Hye Geen projects. She has organized Hye Geen's lectures and annual conferences in its Southern California base,

while contributing to the production of the Hye Geen magazine and educational television programs, raising aware-

ness of issues affecting both women and the broader Armenian community. Yerevan unveiling, the dean of the Sociology Department of Yerevan State University, Prof. Lyudmila



Benefactor of the new AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center Mrs. Arshagouhi Tavitian (centers) gathers with beneficiaries at the Center's opening in Yerevan.

ness of issues affecting both women and the broader Armenian community. When presented with the opportunity to help finance a new Pregnant Women's Center in Yerevan, she did not hesitate to pledge her support. At the center's ribbon cutting ceremony, Hye Geen founder Sona Yacoubian applauded Tavitian for her sponsorship. As she put it, "Mrs. Tavitian's support is helping Hye Geen realize the vision we first laid out almost two decades ago: to aid and empower women. Year after year, we are witnessing a general decline in Armenia's population, while persistent poverty compromises children's physical and mental development. However, every day at our Pregnant Women's Centers, we see women receiving essential care and information – bright young women who are raising a new generation of strong, young Armenians who might change the world."

To date, Hye Geen has helped ensure the delivery of more than 1,400 healthy babies, a number that will only continue to rise as it expands its work from the centers to classrooms. At the

Harutounyan, who oversees Hye Geen's Pregnant Women's projects, described the ways Hye Geen's training materials are currently being incorporated into the school's sociology curriculum. It is a natural partnership, as many of the centers' staff members are also employed at the university.

The inauguration of the Arshagouhi Tavitian Pregnant Women's Center, which coincided with AGBU's 87th General Assembly, marked a new chapter in Hye Geen's growth. Clothing donations by Hye Geen committee member Anahid Karahagopian and donations by Hye Geen supporter Jacques and Florine Deyrindjian of France, which were made throughout the week, are helping to sustain Hye Geen's efforts. Yet, much is left to accomplish. The AGBU Hye Geen Center in Talin is in need of extensive infrastructure repairs, while a waiting list of women eager to benefit from Hye Geen's programs runs long at each of its locations. To learn how to help those mothers and families, please visit: [www.hyegeen.com/](http://www.hyegeen.com/).

## State Debate: Armenia, Neighbors Ponder Kerry's Nomination

By Gayane Abrahamyan

ArmeniaNow

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – The nomination of John Kerry, chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to the position of secretary of state has stirred discussion in the South Caucasus. Azeri political analysts predict that the assumption of such a high post by the senator known for his pro-Armenian activities would increase "anti-Azeri" sentiments, while in Armenia hopes aren't high for such developments.

On December 21, president Barack Obama nominated Kerry for the country's top diplomatic post, stressing that the Vietnam war veteran and presidential candidate of 2004 is a "perfect choice to guide American diplomacy."

The 69-year-old senator from the state of Massachusetts with a large

Armenian community, back in the 1990s co-authored Article 907 restricting non-humanitarian US aid to Azerbaijan "for as long as it keeps Armenia in a blockade."

Kerry actively supported the Armenian Genocide recognition bill, with periodical statements that Turkey has to face its historic mistakes.

On September 5, Kerry said in reference to Azeri murderer Ramil Safarov's pardon and release, that he was "shocked and appalled" and that "this needlessly provocative act endangers the fragile peace between these countries and damages the government of Azerbaijan's credibility."

The Armenian Cause office welcomed Kerry's possible appointment, stressing that the senator has "supported the Armenian community of America for around three decades in the matters of the US foreign policy."

Turkey has welcomed Kerry's candidacy despite his role as an Armenian Genocide recognition advocate. Turkish Zaman reports that foreign minister Ahmed Davutoglu has sent a congratulatory letter. The newspaper explains that Turkey would consider it most unfortunate if the other candidate – United Nations Ambassador Susan Rice – had been confirmed. The ambassador withdrew her nomination under harsh scrutiny by the Senate.

Neighboring Azerbaijan has started pessimistic predictions, as Vesti.az newspaper reports, that "if Kerry becomes secretary of state, Azerbaijan would have to resist America's pressure in the negotiation process over the

Karabagh conflict."

Vesti.az cited Azeri political analyst Rizvan Huseynov, who said that "Kerry's activities will lead to an enhanced Russian factor in the Karabagh issue," because "the United States would want to 'trade' with Russia and in exchange for concessions in the South Caucasian issues to get support from Iran and Syria."

Political analyst Rovshan Ibragimov has concerns that "personal fondness of such an elite, top political figure might have an influence on the country's foreign policy."

Giro Manoyan, heading the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Bureau's Armenian Cause Office, also believes that Kerry's "purely personal attitude towards Armenians might have a certain impact on politics."

However, Caucasus Institute director Sergey Minasyan believes that Kerry's nomination "will not be crucial," because "after assuming such a post personal preferences are usually sidelined."

"At first sight it's a desirable nomination for us; however, any high-ranking official follows the policy outlined by his or her country's administration. True, a more favorable Armenian atmosphere might be formed, and the Azeri leadership might experience a certain sense of restriction, but it can't play a crucial role," Minasyan said.

Should Kerry's appointment as secretary of state be confirmed, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman's position would likely be given to another pro-Armenian senator, Robert Menendez.

## Correction

The editorial in the January 5 issue of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, titled "2013: A Year of Anticipation and Trepidation," by Edmond Y. Azadian, incorrectly referred to Norway as the country bending to the will of the Turkish government during an exhibit on the Armenian Genocide. The country in question is Denmark.



## INTERNATIONAL

# YP London Hosts Annual Networking Event with Dr. Armen Sarkissian

LONDON – As the former prime minister of Armenia, a leading entrepreneur and renowned philanthropist, Dr. Armen Sarkissian has a vast knowledge of the business and civic world and an ever-growing network, one that the AGBU Young Professionals of London (YP London) recently had the opportunity to join.

On Friday, November 23, more than 100 career-minded diasporans from across the UK gathered to meet Sarkissian, the keynote speaker at YP London's Annual General Networking Event. They arrived at the Kensington Royal Garden Hotel with a host of questions on ways to advance professionally, while also giving back to Armenia and they left with inspiring answers.

The evening opened with remarks from the YP London Committee, which outlined its mission to create a strong network of Armenian professionals, facilitate networking through industry-focused events and develop cooperation between a large number of Armenian youth organizations in the UK. During his talk, Sarkissian applauded each of those objectives, noting that he was pleasantly surprised to see such a diverse group of young Armenians joining together for the occasion. It is their dedication and enthusiasm, he declared, that will help their homeland develop and prosper. As he told the crowd, "You

shouldn't think Armenia is poor because it doesn't have oil or other natural resources. It has the greatest nat-

start and manage a business. I am guessing that very soon people will prefer Entrepreneurial Arts to MBAs."



Members of the AGBU YP London Steering Committee gather at its Annual General Networking Event, which featured Dr. Armen Sarkissian and was chaired by Ani Manukyan (sixth from right).

ural resource – its people. It's a very rich country and you as a generation, we as a nation and Armenia as a state have a new chance, and we have to take it. For that we have to start from education and be ahead of others."

Sarkissian continued to detail his own educational background and career path. Citing his experience as founding president of Eurasia House International, director of the Eurasia Programme at the University of Cambridge Judge Business School and his recent participation in the World Economic Forum in Davos, he offered insights on how to take advantage of the rapidly changing field of business. He stated, "The world is becoming a world of entrepreneurial people, who can come up with an idea and

Sarkissian engaged the audience at every point in his lecture and they, in turn, engaged him during the event's question and answer portion, which lasted more than two hours – more than twice what had been planned. The Q&A was followed by a prize draw and a networking session.

Throughout the night, several attendees expressed an interest in joining the YP London Committee, which currently consists of 14 volunteers living in and around London. The Committee's priority projects are networking events, including ones for professionals from all industry sectors as well as industry-specific networking events, such as banking, finance, and IT, which are especially popular. Apart from these main projects, YP London organizes other events by popular demand. YP London was also instrumental in restarting the British Armenian Lawyers Association.

To watch a video from the YP London Annual Networking Event, visit <http://www.youtube.com/agbuvideo>.



Armenia's former prime minister, entrepreneur and philanthropist Dr. Armen Sarkissian engages the crowd at the YP London Annual General Networking Event.

## Russian Orthodox Church Promotes Adoption

MOSCOW (Reuters) – The head of Russia's dominant church urged citizens to adopt children, during a Russian Orthodox Christmas address on Monday after President Vladimir Putin signed a controversial law barring Americans from adopting Russian children.

Patriarch Kirill paid particular attention to the issue during a Christmas message, lending support to the promises issued by Putin along with the law that outraged liberals and child rights activists.

"It is very important for our people to adopt orphans into their families, with joy and a special sense of gratitude to God, giving them not only shelter and an upbringing but also giving them their love," the Kirill said.

The ban on American adoptions is part of a law Putin signed on December 28 in retaliation for US legislation designed to punish Russian human rights violators, which the Kremlin chief said is poisoning relations.

Critics of the Russian legislation say Putin has held the welfare of children trapped in a crowded and troubled

orphanage system hostage to political maneuvering, reducing their chances of finding homes or adequate medical care.

The numbers of adoptions by Russian families are modest, with some 7,400 adoptions in 2011 compared with 3,400 adoptions of Russian children by families abroad – nearly 1,000 of those by Americans.

In signing the legislation, Putin echoed Russian lawmakers' arguments that American parents who have been accused of abusing their adopted Russian-born children have been treated too leniently by US courts and law enforcement.

He also signed a decree ordering improvements in the care for orphaned Russian children and appealed to patriotism, suggesting that Russians have an obligation to care for the country's disadvantaged children.

Kirill added a religious element to that message, saying that "the Lord tells his followers that if they want to reach the Kingdom of God they must ... share their opportunities with the needy – pri-

marily invalids, the elderly and children."

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them," says the Lord. These words from him should make us all realize how important children are in the eyes of God," he said.

"And as we celebrate Christmas I would like to appeal to everyone with a request: If you can take this important step in life aimed at adopting children, supporting orphans, take this step," Kirill said. "There should be no orphans in our country."

More than 650,000 children are considered orphans in Russia, including those rejected by their living parents or taken from dysfunctional homes. Of that total, 110,000 lived in state institutions in 2011, according to government figures.

More than three-quarters of Russians consider themselves Russian Orthodox, but far fewer attend church regularly despite a resurgence of religion following the demise of the communist Soviet Union.

The Russian Orthodox Church uses the Julian calendar and celebrates Christmas on January 7.

Kirill's midnight service at Moscow's Christ the Saviour Cathedral was shown live on state television, which also showed Putin – a former KGB officer who has cultivated close ties with the church – attending a service in the southern city of Sochi.

## International News

### Iran Supports Peaceful Settlement of Nagorno Karabagh Conflict

TEHRAN (Armenpress) – Iran wants the Nagorno Karabagh conflict to be regulated via dialogue and is willing to support the both sides in the procedure of peaceful regulation, announced the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ramin Mehmanparast, during a weekly press conference.

Mehmanparast stressed, "The Nagorno Karabagh conflict can find its solution by the support of those countries, which exercise influence in the region. We believe that the Nagorno Karabagh conflict can find its solution via dialogue between the Republic of Armenia and Azerbaijan."

### Levon Aronian Rounds Out Top Three in World Chess Rankings

MOSCOW (Moscow Times) – Levon Aronian of Armenia has secured the third spot in the World Chess Federation (FIDE) rankings. His rival, Norwegian chess player Magnus Carlsen, recently beat Russia's Garry Kasparov's world chess ranking record. In the FIDE rating, the grandmaster continues to lead with 2861 points. The previous record was set in 1999, when Kasparov scored 2851 points. Second place in the rankings is currently held by Russian Vladimir Kramnik.

Aronian has dropped one spot from the previous year.

### Aronian Will Take Part In Tata Steel Festival

WIJK AAN ZEE, Netherlands (Arm Radio) – Grand master Levon Aronian will take part in the main Tournament A of the Tata Steel Festival to be held from January 11 to 27.

His rivals will be grandmasters Carlsen, Caruana, Karjakin, Anand, Nakamura, Wang Hao, Leko, Giri, Harikrishna, Van Wely, Sokolov, L'Ami and Hou Yifan.

Grand master Sergey Movsesian will play in Tournament B of the festival.

### Armenian Parliament Speaker Visits Brussels

BRUSSELS, Belgium (Public Radio of Armenia) – Chairman of the National Assembly of Armenia Hovik Abrahamyan left for Brussels this week at the invitation of the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz.

The delegation comprises the head of the Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) faction Galust Sahakyan, the head of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) faction Armen Rustamyan, the chairman of the National Assembly (NA) Standing Committee on Foreign Relations Artak Zakaryan, the chairman of the NA Standing Committee on Defense, National Security and Internal Affairs Koryun Nahapetyan, the chairman of the NA Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Youth and Sport Artak Davtyan, the chairman of the NA Standing Committee on State and Legal Affairs Davit Harutyunyan, the NA deputies Samvel Farmanyan, Vahe Enfiayan, Khachik Harutyunyan, the NA Chief of Staff Gurgen Dumanyan and the Deputy Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan.

On January 9, the NA president met with European Union Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Štefan Füle, the President of the Senate of the Kingdom of Belgium Sabine de Bethune and the President of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives André Flahaut, the Head of the European People's Party (EPP) Joseph Daul. He will also take part in the creation ceremony of the EU-RA Friendship Group of the European Parliament.

On January 10, Abrahamyan met with the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz and the President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy. He also visited an Armenian church to lay a wreath at the memorial to the Armenian Genocide victims.

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# Community News

## Yerevan State PhD Students at Cosmic Ray Division of Artem Alikhanyan National Laboratory, Awarded Kirakos Vaporciyan Scholarship

YEREVAN and DETROIT — Hasmik Rostomyan and Hripsime Mkrtchyan, final-year PhD students at the Cosmic Ray Division (CRD) of the Artem Alikhanyan National Laboratory (formerly Yerevan Physics Institute), are the recipients of the Kirakos Vaporciyan Scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year. Their award was granted on December 14.

Kirakos Vaporciyan, the late husband of Sandi Vaporciyan and the brother of Harutyun Vaporciyan, believed that supporting education and world-class science in Armenia is of critical importance to Armenia's future. He was an unwavering supporter of the Cosmic Ray Division and made several personal pilgrimages to CRD's high-altitude research stations on Mt. Aragats. His legacy includes the support of the brightest students at the Cosmic Ray Division and a very important project allowing the Cosmic Ray Division to analyze, display,



Young CRD scientists and PhD candidates Hasmik Rostomyan (left) and Hripsime Mkrtchyan (right)

and share its state of the art research and data with the rest of the world's scientific community. In his honor, CRD has named this project the Vaporciyan Multivariate Analysis and Visualization (VMAV) platform. When this project is completed next year, it will break new ground in web-based scientific "ecosystems."

Rostomyan and Mkrtchyan are currently two of the six PhD students at the CRD. The two are in their final year of studies and are working on their experiments and data analysis to write their PhD theses by the summer. As is the tradition at the Cosmic Ray Division, their theses defense will be attended and judged by top cosmic ray scientists from around the world.

Rostomyan, Mkrtchyan and Prof. Ashot Chilingarian are grateful to the Vaporciyan family for diligently carrying out the wishes of Kirakos Vaporciyan and for their own generous support of the CRD and its students year after year, and also to the Armenian General Benevolent Union for managing the Kirakos Vaporciyan Scholarship fund for CRD's students.

Kirakos Vaporciyan was a member of the greater Detroit Armenian community and the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America - Michigan Section.



Scout Tufankjian

## No Rest for the Energized Scout Tufankjian

NEW YORK — After taking the popular Facebook photo that also ended up being the most tweeted photo in history, what's next for Scout Tufankjian?

The Brooklyn-based photojournalist is taking trips to Moscow and Kolkata to document the Russian and Indian Armenian communities. She also recently spent a month traveling to many of the Armenian villages in Anatolia as part of a Diaspora project.

**By Tom Vartabedian**

Tufankjian continues to do freelance work in the New York area and promotes her book, *Yes We Can: Barack Obama's History-Making Presidential Campaign*, which sold-out its initial 55,000 copy run a month before its December 2008 release.

The prize-winner took more than 12,000 photographs throughout the campaign among scores of other cameramen jostling for competition. The image of Michelle and Barack Obama embracing ultimately wound up being used by the president's campaign on both Facebook and Twitter, alongside the caption, "Four more years."

Within hours, the photo became Facebook's "most liked" photo, garnering Tufankjian instant international attention.

"I had no idea the response was going to be like this," she exclaimed. "My friend emailed me on election night to tell me and I didn't believe her. I had no idea about the Facebook thing until the next day. It's been incredible."

The photo was shot in Dubuque, Iowa, in mid-August, on the final day of a three-day bus tour across the state. The president hadn't seen his wife in several days and when the pair met at an event onstage, they embraced.

"I've always had a deep admiration for the Obamas as a couple," said Tufankjian. "They have a deep love and respect for one another. It is truly one of equals. You see it in the way they speak and listen to one another. I find that deeply inspirational. So that's why I chose to focus on just them, rather than the crowd in the background. I wanted to capture them as man and wife."

Tufankjian doesn't take credit for the popularity of the "shot that was seen around the world." It had nothing to do with the image or the lens she chose.

"It's all about how people feel about the Obama family," she said. "And how they feel about them in that moment."

The campaign trail was extremely long and tiring at times, including one 48-hour stretch with only a short respite between each event. Grueling as this was, Tufankjian felt the 2008-09 campaign trail was more demanding.

"The flight attendants on Air Force One took great care of us and made sure we were fed and had power to charge our laptops and camera batteries," she recalled. "That's the most important part of the job."

Is there a surprising side to President Obama?

"The thing that is most remarkable about him is that he's exactly the same person on stage as he is off stage," she said. "I was able to introduce my parents to the president which was a wonderful experience."

Born in Boston to an Armenian-American father and Irish-American mother, her ancestors escaped the Genocide from Musa Dagh. Her Armenian ancestry has always remained a part of her career.

It wasn't until her junior semester abroad in Northern Ireland that Tufankjian began taking photography seriously. She received an internship with the *New Haven Register*. When that ended, she went to the West Bank and Gaza to cover the Second Intifada.

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## Armenian Bar Association Winter Meeting Unites the Past's Tragic Lessons with The Present's Continuing Challenges

LAS VEGAS — Two men, one Armenian and the other American, surpassed in their deaths the global and all-embracing meanings of their lives. Both were widely revered and occasionally resented for galvanizing and defining whole new eras of understanding and acceptance. They are Hrant Dink and Martin Luther King Jr.

Situated between the anniversary of the death of the Armenian martyr and the anniversary of the birth of the American icon, the Armenian Bar Association will convene a special winter educational retreat dedicated to an appreciation and study of human and civil rights: the final loss of them during the Genocide and the challenges to maintain them in the Republic of Armenia. In a somewhat modest twist of irony, the setting for such a sobering discussion will be the Encore Resort in Las Vegas on January 18-19.

Peering into the past, Prof. Richard Hovannisian, First Holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA, will present an illustrated lecture on a rarely-discussed topic: the Genocide's final phase in the arsonous fires and flames of Smyrna/Izmir in 1922. With the use of historic photographs depicting the cultural, religious and economic prosperity of the centuries-old Armenian community, contrasted next to pictures that Hovannisian took during his recent visits to Smyrna which mark the erasure of any Armenian legacy, the story of the Smyrna tragedy will be unfolded and told. Until 1922, Smyrna had been spared the Ottoman Empire's ethnic cleansing of its Armenian populations in the eastern provinces. Armenians and Greeks had thought, perhaps both justifiably and naively, that they had found a safe haven in one of the region's most enlightened and western cities. However, they, too, in the end were not to be spared the Genocide.

Examining the present and looking into the future, specialists from the think tank Policy Forum Armenia (PFA) will present the findings of their latest reports and studies on the successes and failures relating to governance, elections, and civil society initiatives in the Republic of Armenia. PFA is an independent non-profit association whose main objective is to strengthen the discourse on Armenia's democratic and economic development, offering alternative views and professional analysis containing practical recommendations for public participation and government accountability. According to PFA, it offers fresh perspectives and challenges certain ingrained stereotypes and the status quo in order to improve the standing of the Republic of Armenia and the rights of its citizens. With the aid of the latest social science research methodologies, PFA tests what some say are only superficial gestures of improving governance and reducing institutionalized corruption.

"We as Armenians, and particularly as an association of lawyers, judges and law students, look to the lessons of the past in order to protect and serve the interests of our communities both in the diaspora and in the Republic of Armenia. We will be especially privileged with the presence and participation of Professor Hovannisian because he, like few others, can lead us along the bridge connecting our past to where we are today," stated Garo Ghazarian, chairman of the Armenian Bar Association.

Edvin Minassian, chairman ex-officio, who was responsible for introducing his friend Hrant Dink to the Armenian Bar Association and for featuring him during a historic Armenian Bar meeting just three months before Dink's assassination, added: "Hrant Dink the man, the symbol, the sacrifice, and the hope — he stood and fell for the dignity that the Armenian Bar Association strives to deliver to the unresolved issues of the past and of the present."

# AGBUYP of Northern California To Host 14th Annual Winter Gala

SAN FRANCISCO – The Armenian General Benevolent Union Young Professionals of Northern California (AGBU-YPNC) are preparing to host the 14th Annual AGBU San Francisco Winter Gala February 15-17. The weekend will host hundreds of young professionals from across the globe, with three full days of events. For the first time, AGBU-YPNC will donate a portion of the weekend proceeds to two worthwhile charities, the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund and the Pan-YP Green House Initiative.

“The gala weekend offers our greatest opportunity to raise funds for AGBU charities and programs around the world. This year we felt it was important to support our fellow Armenians enduring the conflict in Syria,” expressed Greg Nemet, AGBU-YPNC co-chairman. “We also remain committed to benefiting this year’s Pan-YP Green House initiative,” continued Nemet.

The weekend kicks off Friday, February 15, with a welcome reception, at the host hotel, the Sir Francis Drake in Union Square. Following the reception, guests will head to QI Ultra Lounge where DJ Raffy and DJ Nik will spin hip-hop, top 40 and mash-ups at the venue.

The weekend’s signature gala event takes place on Saturday, and will be held at the beautiful winter gala favorite, Green Room at the San Francisco War Memorial Performing Arts Center. The gala will feature hors d’oeuvres, dessert bar, premium open bar and Armenian dancing to the sounds of DJ Raffy.

Sunday brings another addition to the Winter Gala weekend, a party trolley tour of San Francisco, departing from the host hotel. Attendees will experience an all-inclusive tour through San Francisco’s most famed sites and vistas, a gourmet boxed lunch, hosted bar and roundtrip travel. The City Party Trolley Tour concludes the getaway weekend, as attendees

say farewell to new and old friends alike. “The Winter Gala weekend has become an event the entire young professional network looks forward to and we’re returning to favorites like the Green Room, adding a new venue for the club night and introducing the first ever party trolley tour on Sunday,” said Steven Cherezian AGBU-YPNC co-chairman and gala chairman.

## Justice Arabian Awards Honor Local Public Leaders

WOODLAND HILLS, Calif. – The 13th Annual Justice Armand Arabian Awards Luncheon for Public Service Leaders was held in October 2012 at the Woodland Hills Hilton Hotel.

Being honored this year by Justice Armand Arabian and Co-chairmen Karl Boeckmann and Rickey Gelb were six leaders.

The honorees were: Carolyn Blashek, founder of Operation Gratitude; Stanley Bryant, lifelong valley fundraiser and activist; Ronald S.W. Lew, sitting Judge; Janice Reznick, attorney and co-founder of Jewish World Watch to fight genocide; and Harut Sassounian, publisher of the California Courier and an Armenian activist. The sixth honoree, Huell Howser, KCET television personality, was unable to attend because of illness.

Dale Surowitz, CFO of Providence Health Services, was surprised by the special recognition bestowed on him.

Next year the event will take place on October 10 at the Woodland Hills Hilton for the 14th year. The event usually attracts 400 attendees.

# Dickranian Lions Win First Home Game with New Coach at Helm

LOS ANGELES – Under the direction of the school’s new coach, Zorik Isajane, who was hired in October as TCA Arshag Dickranian School’s new athletic director, coach and physical education teacher, the school’s reformed basketball team, The Dickranian Lions, won their first home game, which took place on December 18 at the Salvation Army Basketball Sports Ground in Hollywood.

The Dickranian Lions and the Westview Basketball team engaged in a competitive match against one another. The Dickranian Lions won 69 to 63.

“We are very excited to have Coach Zorik Isajane train our students,” said Principal Dr. Maral Yeranossian. “He is very skilled and has an interest in developing strong teams for our school. This year we have added basketball teams for the girls as well as teams for younger students. We are looking forward to participating in basketball, soccer and tennis matches.”

Isajane has more than 15 years of experience in athletics; he has been a member of the national basketball team in Iran three times and a member of the Asia Championship Club. He has played in the Pan-Armenian Games and has participated in many international tournaments, acquiring a range of skills and experience in basketball. Isajane is also assistant coach at Glendale College. Besides coaching and training ADS students in basketball, he also trains them in soccer, tennis and track and field.

For more information, visit [www.dickranianschool.org](http://www.dickranianschool.org).



The Dickranian Lions practice.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Armenia in International and Armenian Old Maps Topic of Lecture

SHERMAN OAKS, Calif. — On Friday, January 25, at 7:30 p.m., author Rouben Galichian will speak about Armenian in international and Armenian maps throughout the ages and what that reveals about history, at the Merdian Chapel, 13330 Riverside Dr.

This talk will show how, during the past 2,600 years Greco-Roman, Islamic and Western geographers, historians and cartographers saw and wrote about Armenia and how they depicted the country in their maps. The story will be told with maps made by the Greek, Islamic and European cartographers. These maps form part of the World geographic and cartographic heritage, the originals of which are kept in various well-known libraries and museums, such as the Library of Congress, the British Library, National Library of France, Municipal Library of Berlin and libraries of Bologna, Istanbul, Yerevan and many others. The maps come to prove that, in the territory of the South Caucasus and the Middle East, there are only two countries — Armenia and Iran — that could claim an existence of more than 2,000 years and how our neighboring countries, such as Turkey and Georgia became to be known as they are now, only after some 2,000 years.

It also confirms that the country known as the Republic of Azerbaijan, north of the Arax River was born only in 1918, copying its name from the Iranian north-western Province of Azerbaijan, south of the river Arax. The Armenian-language maps of 14-18th centuries will also be discussed.

Galichian was born in Tabriz, Iran, to an Armenian family who had fled Van in 1915 to escape the Genocide. They arrived in Iran via Armenia, Georgia and France. He attended school in Tehran and then received a scholarship to study in the UK. He received his degree in engineering with honors, from the University of Aston, Birmingham, in 1963. His inter-



Rouben Galichian

est in geography and cartography peaked in the 1970s. In 1981 he moved to London with his family, where he had access to a huge variety of cartographic material. His first book, titled *Historic Maps of Armenia: The Cartographic Heritage* (I. B Tauris, London & NY, 2004) contained a collection of world maps and maps of Armenia over a period of 2,600 years, as cre-

ated by various mapmakers. It became a bestseller in its genre. The following year, an expanded version of the book (in English, Russian and Armenian) was published in Armenia (Printinfo Art Books, 2005). His third book, *Countries South of the Caucasus in Medieval Maps: Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan* (Gomidas Institute, London, 2007), provides more detailed cartographical and geographical information of this area. His fourth book, *The Invention of History: Azerbaijan, Armenia, and the Showcasing of Imaginations* (Gomidas Institute-London and Printinfo Art Books-Yerevan, April 2009), documents the native Armenian pedigree in Nagorno-Karabagh through the centuries as opposed to the Azerbaijani claims. His latest book is titled *Clash of the Histories in the South Caucasus*. Redrawing the map of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Iran, where the Azerbaijani falsifications, their reasoning and methods used are discussed, and 44 old and medieval maps from all over the world are analyzed, proving the truth about the present-day Azerbaijani falsified historiography (Bennett & Bloom, London, 2012).

All the books are available through Amazon.com and other sources.

For his charitable work done in Vanadzor, Armenia, Galichian was presented with the “Freedom of the city of Vanadzor” award in 2006. For his services to Armenian historical cartography, he received an honorary doctorate from the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia in November 2008. In 2009 he was the recipient of Vazgen I cultural achievements medal.

He is married with a son and grandchildren and shares his time between London and Yerevan.

For information please contact Dr. Hagop Panossian at info@ARPAInstitute.org

### OBITUARY

## Sabrina Dimidjian-Kalfayan

ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, N.J. — Sabrina Dimidjian-Kalfayan of Englewood Cliffs, NJ, died on December 28, after battling cancer. She is survived by her son Alex and his wife Traci, her sister Lana and niece Nicole.

Kalfayan was born on January 15, 1958, in New York. She was the daughter of Henri Dimidjian and the late Yolanda Papazian Dimidjian. As a baby she lived in the Bronx until the family later moved to Ringwood, NJ, before settling in Englewood.

She attended Dwight Englewood High School and later Boston University.

Kalfayan had an active childhood and spent summers traveling with her family to Thailand, Beirut, Rhode Island and Marco Island.

Kalfayan dedicated her life to raising her son, Alex. She was able to attend his wedding and she credited her son with providing her with motivation during her final six months. Kalfayan also worked with her father for 25 years and traveled the world with him building their business together.



Sabrina Dimidjian-Kalfayan

The wake was held on January 2 at Frank Patti Funeral Home and the funeral was January 3 at St. Thomas Armenian Church in Tenafly. Rev Papken Anoushian led the service and Maro Partamian provided the musical solo. Internment followed at Englewood Cemetery and a memorial lunch was held at the church hall.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the Cancer Research Center, 72 East Concord St. K712, Boston, MA, 02118.

## Dr. Varant Hagopian

WAYLAND, Mass. — Dr. Varant Hagopian, a life-long dedicated supporter of the Armenian Church, a Knight of Cilicia, and former member and vice chairman of the Eastern Prelacy's Executive Council, died on January 3. He was 84.

He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War.

He was also active in many groups, including the Friends of Armenian Culture Society and the Armenian American Medical Association.

The funeral, led by Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, vicar of the Eastern Prelacy, took place Tuesday, January 8, at St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church, 38 Elton Ave., Watertown.

Hagopian served for many years as a member of the Prelacy's Executive Council during the tenures of Archbishop Karekin Sarkissian (1974-77) and Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian (1978-1998). He served as vice chairman of the council from 1985 to 1988. He was awarded the Knight of Cilicia insignia in recognition of his service by Karekin II, Catholicos of Cilicia (later Catholicos Karekin I of All Armenians).

He leaves his wife, Ruth (Moranian) Hagopian, son Gary Hagopian and his wife Diane of Florida, daughters Melanie Hagopian and her husband Alan Asadorian of Lincoln, Lisa Hagopian of Arizona; son-in-law Donald

McCarthy of Lincoln; grandchildren Mandi, Valerie, Jacqueline, Daniel, Dennis, Donald; great-grandchildren Andrew and Oliver and sisters Anna Demurjian of Millis, Mary Bukujian of Hanson. One daughter, Nanine (Nini) McCarthy, and a brother, Harry Hagopian, predeceased him.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in his memory to St. Stephen's Armenian Church.



Dr. Varant Hagopian

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## ADVERTISE IN THE MIRROR



COMMUNITY NEWS

# Prof. Hovannisian Focuses on Smyrna/Izmir

LOS ANGELES – Prof. Richard Hovannisian has focused on the 90th anniversary of the destruction of Smyrna/Izmir and its Armenian Community in 1922 in his speaking engagements during the Fall Term. Smyrna, with Constantinople, boasted the most vibrant Armenian community in the Ottoman Empire, both culturally and economically. Hovannisian

has prepared a power point presentation on the historical Armenian presence in the city and its destruction in the Great Fire four days after the Turkish army entered Smyrna on September 9, 1922. The publication of Hovannisian's most recent volume in the UCLA series of Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces, titled Armenian Smyrna/Izmir: The

Aegean Communities, has coincided with the anniversary.

Hovannisian first presented Armenian Smyrna/Izmir to a capacity audience of students, faculty and community members at Chapman University in Orange County on September 6. He served as a distinguished Chancellor's Fellow at Chapman during the Fall Semester, during which he taught a 15-week course on the Armenian Genocide for history majors. This talk was followed by others under the sponsorship of Boston University, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, and the First Armenian Church in Belmont, Mass. (September 27); Fresno State University (October 5); St. Mary Armenian Church, Washington, DC (October 28); AGBU, Montreal (November 1); AGBU, Toronto (November 2); Armenians of Colorado (November 18); Oxford University (November 22); Hamazkayin Cultural Association, London (November 24); and Berlin Hay Hamaynk-Armenische Gemeinde zu Berlin (November 25). During this period, he also participated in an international conference at Woodman University (October 27) on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of the Hnchakian party, with a paper on the role of the party during the first Armenian republic.

Hovannisian will bring the story of Armenian Smyrna to Los Angeles on Thursday, January 31, in a program at the Zorayan Museum of St. Leon Armenian Cathedral in Burbank, sponsored by the Diocese, NAASR, and the Ararat Eskiijian Museum. Subsequent engagements are scheduled for Scandinavia and South America.

## Honors Bestowed

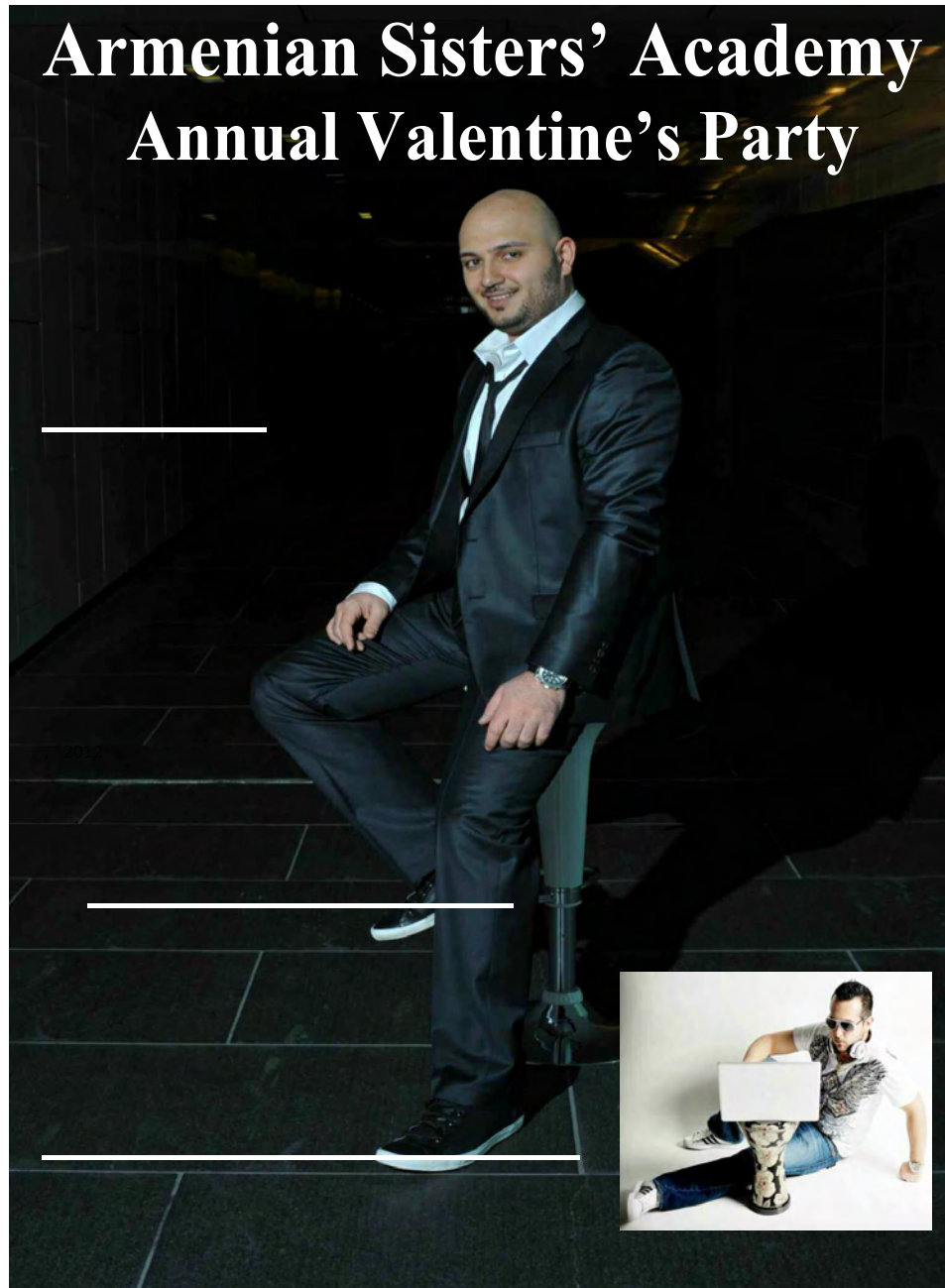
Hovannisian was honored in special ceremonies at St. Leon's Cathedral on November 11. Received at the request of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, an encyclical from Holy Echmiadzin was read by Bishop Armash

Nalbandian of Damascus on the occasion of Hovannisian's birthday. The church services were followed by a reception hosted by the Armenian Bar Association, during which felicitations were extended by ABA President Garo Ghazarian, Raffi K. Hovannisian, who had flown from Armenia for the occasion, and by the religious leaders, to which Richard Hovannisian responded with words of appreciation to Catholicos Karekin II, Derderian and the Armenian Bar Association.

At the same time, from November 9 through 11, a three-day international conference organized by Prof. Sebouh Aslanian at UCLA on "Port Cities and Printers: Five Centuries of Global Armenian Print," was dedicated to Hovannisian. The opening remarks by Aslanian, recently-appointed holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation's Richard Hovannisian Chair of Modern Armenian History, were followed by Hovannisian's brief reflections on his career and thanks to the University for a smooth transition without interruption in the Armenian history program at UCLA.

The Armenian National Committee, Eastern Region, honored Richard Hovannisian with the Vahan Cardashian award during a gala banquet in northern New Jersey on December 1. Baroness Caroline Cox was presented with the Humanitarian Award for her long years of service to the Armenian cause. In his remarks after a thoughtful introduction by Marc Mamigonian, NAASR director of academic affairs, Hovannisian drew attention to the legacy of Vahan Cardashian, who in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide was the foremost activist in the United States and the driving force behind the bipartisan American Committee for the Independence of Armenia (ACIA).

During the Winter Quarter of 2013, Richard Hovannisian has been invited by the University of California, Irvine, as a distinguished lecturer to offer a course on Modern Armenian History.



## No Rest for the Energized Scout Tufankjian

SCOUT, from page 4

Tufankjian split her time working in the US and in Gaza over the next five years. In 2006, she began photographing Senator Obama's presidential campaign – a full-time stint that

extended the next three years.

From there, it was on to such international waters as Haiti, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, along with work on the Armenian Diaspora Project – a photo project aimed at creating a portrait of the global Armenian Diaspora.

She studies the work of other Armenian photographers like Karsh and Harry Koundakjian, along with Chris Hondros, Stephanie Sinclair, Gerda Taro and Damon Winter. Many of her own photos are still on the campaign's website and Flickr page.

As to her name, Scout, she says her parents were fans of Harper Lee's classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. "My parents were obsessed with it," she said. "They were going to name me Atticus if I was a boy. Scout is the name of the little girl in that book."

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COMMUNITY NEWS



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Anna Asdoorian, E. Providence, RI	50
Hrant Jamjyan, East Greenwich, RI	25
Jacob & Ruth Harpootian, East Providence, RI	320
Rose, Betty & Bob Ouloosian, Cranston, RI	100
Sirop & Maro Bedrosian, Houston, TX	500
Zohrab & Arpine Tcholakian, Houston, TX	160
Karekin & Esperanza Jelalian, Vienna, VA	200



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Giragosian Installed as District Deputy Grand Master of Masons

WATERTOWN (*Watertown Tab*) — James Giragosian of Watertown was installed as district deputy grand master of the Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts, and will preside over five lodges in the Third Masonic District for the year. The 232 lodges and 35,000 Freemasons in the Commonwealth are divided into 32 districts, and led by a district deputy grand master.

The Grand Lodge of Masons in Massachusetts is the oldest lodge in the Western Hemisphere and the third oldest in the world. It was chartered in 1733, following the establishment of the Grand Lodge of England in 1717, and Ireland in 1725. In 2013 the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts will celebrate its 280th Anniversary. A grand lodge is the governing body that ensures the activities of the lodges and members comply with its constitutions and regulations; it also maintains the uniformity of the centuries-old initiation ceremony candidates experience when they become members.

As a district deputy grand master, Giragosian serves as the grand master's personal representative to the lodges in his district. Richard J. Stewart of Shrewsbury, Mass., was installed for the third and final of his three one-year terms as the 87th grand master of Masons in Massachusetts and the head of the fraternity. The grand master hand-picked Giragosian for the position.

The third Masonic district is comprised of the following lodges: King Solomon's Lodge (established in 1783), Somerville; Mystic Valley Lodge (1797), Arlington; Bethesda Lodge (1819), Pequotsette Lodge (1856), both of Watertown; and Samuel Crocker Lawrence Lodge (reconstituted in

2010), Malden. Mystic valley Lodge was chartered by Paul Revere during his tenure as grand master.

Raised in Watertown, Giragosian graduated from Watertown High School in 1964, Mass Bay Community College in 1967 and the New England Institute in 1974. He is the president and CFO of Giragosian Funeral Homes in Watertown. He and his wife, Susan, have two children: Mark, 30, of Watertown, and Julie, 28, of Brooklyn. He is a member of the Saint James Armenian Church in Watertown.

He began his Masonic career by joining Arlington's Hiram Lodge (now Mystic Valley lodge) in 1982. He affiliated with Pequossette Lodge in Watertown in 1999, Bethesda Lodge in Watertown in 2009 and King Solomon's Lodge in Somerville in 2009. Since 2010, Giragosian has served as the worshipful master, or presiding officer, of Pequossette Lodge. Masons use the original definition of "worshipful," meaning "honorable;" English mayors and judges are still addressed as "worshipful." As district deputy grand master, Giragosian will be called "right worshipful."

Active in several Masonic bodies, Giragosian is a 32nd degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite — Valley of Boston, and serves as a degree worker for Mount Olivet Chapter of Rose Croix. He is a member of the Aleppo Shriner's Temple in Wilmington.

As a teenager, Giragosian was a member of the Watertown Chapter of the Order of DeMolay, an organization for young men founded, sponsored and run largely by Masons to offer young men similar opportunities and experiences.

## Jailed Ohio Tax Consultant Sued for Alleged Theft of Company Funds

ELYRIA, Ohio (*Morning Journal*) — Central Mutual Insurance Company of Van Wert has joined the list of 17 companies and people suing or with police complaints against Lorain tax consultant Richard Zakarian, who is currently at the Lorain County jail on theft charges.

The lawsuit against Zakarian, 47, and his company Benjamin Franklin Tax Services, alleges that Zakarian with "purpose and malice" converted the company's money to his own use. Zakarian worked with the company last year to perform payroll services. According to the lawsuit, Zakarian used the money for his own use on or before August 29.

The company is seeking \$10,000 in damages, according to the lawsuit.

Central Mutual was the insurer, assignee and subrogee of Stanley Industries Inc., who was the owner of a business at 19120 Cranwood Parkway in Warrensville Heights.

Two lawsuits have had hearings in Lorain County Common Pleas Court.

In December last year, Judge Raymond Ewers ruled that Zakarian was liable for damages in a lawsuit filed by Pooh County Day Nursery School Inc., of Cleveland. Zakarian, Ben-Tax Inc. and Ben Franklin Foundation were not represented at the hearing. They were served with a summons and complaint, according to court records.

Ewers granted default judgment in favor of Pooh County Day Nursery School against Zakarian and his companies only on the issue of liability. The court asked that Pooh County

Day Nursery School submit an affidavit of damages on or before January 31.

Pooh County Day Nursery alleged Zakarian gave them a \$3,360 grant to cover payroll, tax and accounting services in 2011 and 2012, but the school believes the grant was a means for Zakarian's company to gain access to the school's financial information and bank accounts, according to the lawsuit.

The nursery sued Zakarian for at least \$125,000 and is claiming the payroll and tax service kept more than \$117,000 to cover payroll taxes, but was never sent to the IRS. The lawsuit stated Zakarian's company withdrew money from the nursery school's bank account for taxes that were unpaid and it is believed the defendants used the money for their own use or to pay obligations for other clients, according to the lawsuit.

In a lawsuit by Tom and Jack's Lounge, in Wooster, no one appeared on behalf of Zakarian in a default hearing in Judge James Miraldi's courtroom December 27. According to court records, however, Tom and Jack's Lounge failed to provide an affidavit of the status of its account. The company has to provide an affidavit by Jan. 25 or the case will be dismissed, according to court records.

Tom and Jack's Lounge Inc. sued Zakarian and his company Benjamin Franklin Tax Service for more than \$160,456.23 claiming mistakes in the filings and preparation of federal and state tax returns, and for failing to deposit payroll taxes with appropriate governmental agencies, according to the lawsuit.

## Hye Geen Lecture Draws Capacity Crowd To AGBU Manoukian Center

PASADENA, Calif. — Throughout the year, AGBU Hye Geen's lecture series presents audiences from across Southern California with renowned scholars and visionary leaders who spark dialogues on everything from art and culture to politics and history.

On Saturday, November 10, Hye Geen hosted author and Lafayette College professor, Rachel Goshgarian, who drew a full-capacity crowd to the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Center in Pasadena. Her discussion, "Turkey and the Memory of the Armenians," traced the dark history of Armenian repression since the fall of the Ottoman Empire and highlighted movements toward recognition and reconciliation that offer hope and inspiration today.

Hye Geen committee member Houri Keshishian opened the event, after which Goshgarian brought the audience back to the turn of the 20th century, drawing from the extensive research that has informed her published works and forthcoming book, *Ahis Futuwwa and the City: Urban Culture and Inter-Faith Interaction in Late Medieval Anatolia*. She detailed Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's rise to power and the radical cultural shifts that followed — in language, as a new Turkish alphabet was adopted; in clothing, as European fashions were embraced and, most dramatically, in demographics, as minority groups were forced to assimilate, resulting in an estimated two million Turkish nationals who now claim Armenian ancestry. What has had the most lasting impact, Goshgarian argued, was the carefully orchestrated campaign to erase the public

memory of Armenians' long-standing presence in the region, notably through the destruction of ancient and medieval monuments. She cited the case of Vasbouragan, the region in modern Turkey, where over 900 monuments stood at the end of World War I, more than half of which have since vanished; the rest remain in ruins.

Despite such reports, Goshgarian continued, voices of dissent — many from within the Turkish community itself — are debunking widely-held national myths. She praised the work of Turkey's leading academics Hulya Adak, Halil Berktaş, Selim Derengil, Osma Kavala and the late Hrant Dink, each of whom have helped rewrite the historical narrative and account for the horrific atrocities committed against the Armenian people. Their contributions, Goshgarian noted, have created a positive alternative to the dominant public discourse.

However, as Hye Geen founder Sona Yacoubian commented following the lecture, the greatest burden of change lies on Armenian youth. "Today, our youth are more educated than ever before, and full of the resources to correct the wrongs of the past," she stated. "The future rests in their capable hands — and in the hands of those like Dr. Goshgarian, who is successfully advocating for our cause."

The audience members' participation in the post-lecture question-and-answer session proved that they shared that confidence in Goshgarian. Her resume includes a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Grant, a Harvard University Dissertation Completion Grant, a Wellesley College Dissertation Grant and her ongoing research.



Scholar Rachel Goshgarian presents her lecture "Turkey and the Memory of the Armenians" to a full-capacity crowd at the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Center in Pasadena.



Located just steps from Michigan Avenue in the heart of Chicago's thriving Streeterville neighborhood, Sayat Nova is a cozy, romantic enclave tucked back from the city's urban sprawl. Since 1970, we have offered Armenian cuisine that presents a slightly earthier variation on typical Mediterranean fare.

An intimate neighborhood restaurant with a 40 year tradition of serving authentic Armenian/Middle Eastern Cuisine.

The restaurant's namesake is inspired by the 18th century troubadour, Sayat Nova. His poems are sung and recited by Armenians all over the world.



**SAYAT NOVA ARMENIAN RESTAURANT**  
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PH.: 312.644.9159

**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**



# Arts & Living

## ‘Azad,’ ‘The Suffering Grasses,’ ‘Just Like Her’ Take Top Honors at ARPA International Film Festival

HOLLYWOOD – Cinema patrons, industry veterans and emerging filmmakers came out to the Egyptian Theatre to see the most highly anticipated films of the year and to celebrate the best of the 15th Arpa International Film Festival (AFFMA.org) at a star-studded gala Awards Ceremony at the Sheraton Universal Hotel.

Over four days, from Thursday, November 29, to Sunday, December 2, Arpa International Film Festival showcased over 60 films from



Arpa founder Sylvia Minassian with Hratch Titizian

around the globe, Q&A's, receptions as well as a first ever GEMAI industry panel discussion highlighting new technologies for the deaf and blind.

The past year marked a high point for Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art. “Not only did we celebrate 15 years of staging the film festival in Los Angeles,” said the organization’s founder, Sylvia Minassian, “but AFFMA was itself recognized for its continued efforts to support artists and filmmakers.” In 2012, AFFMA was the recipient of an Armenian Heritage Award by Los Angeles City Council and the office of Eric Garcetti, and a Roll Global Grant see ARPA, page 12



Gevorkyan Dance Academy members perform.



Chiara Meghikian

## Armenian Organic Food Movement Seeks ‘Fruits From the Garden of Eden’

YEREVAN – Founder and director of the Environment and Sustainable Agriculture Educational Foundation in Armenia Chiara Haiganush Meghikian recently sat down for an interview with the *Armenian Reporter* to discuss the organic food movement in Armenia.

**Artsvi Bakhchinyan (AB):** Chiara, being an Italian-born Armenian who has lived in the US for many years, it seems you’ve spent more of your time in Armenia recently. Could you share what has brought you to Armenia?

**Chiara Meghikian (CM):** I will be happy to. The first time I came to Armenia to work was in April, 2011. Bert Hellinger, a world famous psychotherapist and the father of Systemic Constellation Therapy, had agreed to come to Yerevan to introduce his work for the first time in Armenia.

I was very, very happy about it. I had told him my dream was to introduce his approach here and I couldn’t believe this was really happening. So the Conference took place at American University [...] In the end, I realized that we cannot wait for others to help us. It is our responsibility to take responsibility.

I was asked to continue to offer workshops in Systemic Constellations. Thanks to this opportunity I started to come to Armenia more and more often.

**AB:** How it did you gradual transition from this area of studies to your current work in the agricultural field occur?

**CM:** During our trips to the regions, I realized how this beautiful land was at a great risk. Its purity was in danger of being seriously contaminated. I felt that something needed to be done, immediately, before it was too late. So when a group of honey producers came to ask for help, it was clear that it was a call [to] action.

**AB:** The worldwide trend is to seek organic food products. Do you think Armenian produce and goods could be accepted into the international organic market?

**CM:** Living in America for almost 20 years has given me the ability to realize how important access to healthy food is. I think that first and foremost, people in Armenia need to realize how important it is for them to have access to healthy food. Unfortunately lack of information and knowledge of the adverse effects of the use of hormones and pesticides and antibiotics in agriculture is steering Armenia away from healthy food.

There is a worldwide organic food movement occurring, but I am not sure such a movement exists in Armenia. I know for a fact, for example, that the honey produced in Armenia, in most cases, is not suitable for export in Europe. This is due to the large use of antibiotics and pesticides employed to treat bees. These products, which remain in the honey and in the wax, are dangerous to the health and therefore its use is banned in the EU.

**AB:** Do you think the rest of the world has any knowledge of the green movement in Armenia?

**CM:** I am not sure there is wide knowledge of any green movement in Armenia. I believe that the first sign of a true movement has come from the Teghut group.

**AB:** You travel a lot in Armenian regions. What kind of developments have you seen?

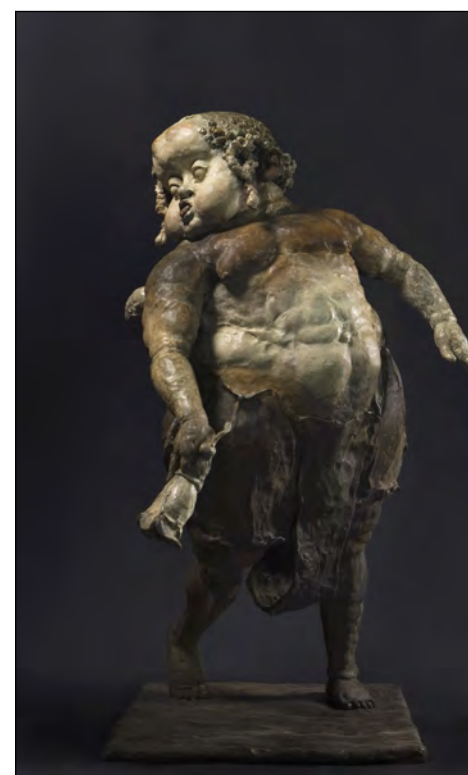
**CM:** I believe a lot of work needs to be done in terms of information. Once people have information and are educated about the risks of certain interventions, they will react. For this reason, I established the Environment and Sustainable Agriculture Educational Foundation (ESA) with two of my friends and colleagues. We believe that education, particularly of young people, will empower and encourage them to have better products that will also be appreciated abroad one day.

see ORGANIC, page 13

## Emil Kazaz Has One Man Show in LA

LOS ANGELES – Airian Dome of Fine Art (ADoFA) and Kazaz Gallery announce the opening of exclusive solo-exhibition “Emil Kazaz – One Man Show” at the LA Art Show 2013, the most diverse art fair in the world, on January 23, 7 p.m., Los Angeles Convention Center, South Hall, Booth 344-445.

While Paris has the Salon, Los Angeles has the LA Art Show. For the first time in the 18 years of the show, the works of Kazaz will be shown amongst the artists. The management of the galleries, the exclusive worldwide represen-



“Angel of Flowers” by Emil Kazaz

tative of Emil Kazaz since 2005, invites the public to visit the fabulous Kazaz’s inimitable bronze sculptures, numinous oil paintings, meticulous drawings and mixed media along with the rest of the artworks the participating galleries have to offer.

For five days, leading galleries from around the world showcase their latest acquisitions at the annual LA Art Show. The Opening Gala Night Premiere Party will embrace Jubilee Celebration of Kazaz’s 60th birthday and the 35th anniversary of his career. Kazaz himself, along with the gallery staff, will welcome the visitors to Booth 344-455.

The 18th Annual Los Angeles Art Show is one of the oldest and longest-running venues for historic, contemporary, modern and traditional art in the country. Moreover, the show will provide a large platform for the visitors and exhibitors to meet and discuss the magic of art and achieve quality professional and emotional bonding. The 2012 show hosted more than hundred and twenty high-end galleries from around the globe and drew more than 50,000 visitors. Some of the early artworks of Emil Kazaz were featured in the Modern and Contemporary Section and turned out to be one of the highlights of the entire LA Art Show 2012.

For more information about the LA Art Show, send inquiries to [info@laartshow.com](mailto:info@laartshow.com).



Emil Kazaz



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# ‘Azad,’ ‘The Suffering Grasses,’ ‘Just Like Her’ Take Top Honors at ARPA International Film Festival

ARPA, from page 10

for its humanitarian efforts. It is the major highlight of a year of accomplishments for the organization which includes founder Minassian as a recipient of the Golden Medal of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Armenia, one of the highest Armenian cultural awards.

Arpa International Film Festival director Alex Kalognomos said, “This year we added even more internationally-themed films to the film



Artist of the Year Award recipient Michael Poghosian with AFFMA Founder Sylvia Minassian

program. We also had sold-out screenings throughout the festival, beginning with the 800-person opening night sell-out for ‘Lost & Found in Armenia.’ We continued to break attendance records as the Los Angeles audiences came out to take part in the all the festival has to offer.”

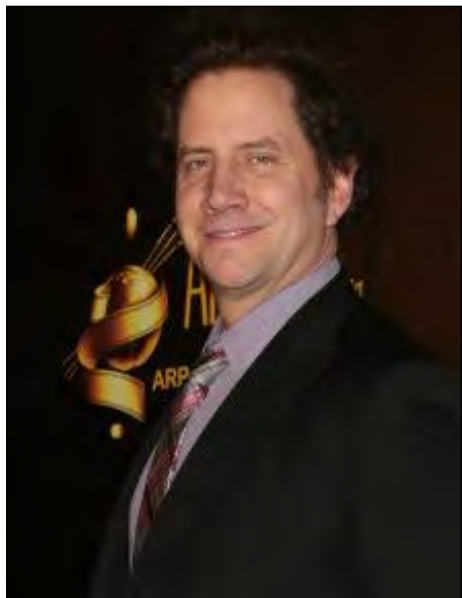
The festival culminated with a gala event and awards ceremony at which filmmakers, sponsors and guests were celebrated for making this year’s festival a milestone event. The evening’s mistress of ceremonies, Marla Maples, invited the filmmakers who were presented their awards after each of their screenings to join her on stage and take a bow for their achievements.

Receiving the award for Best Picture was Nicolas Tackian for his French drama, “Azad.”

Caner Alper and Mehmet Binay won in the category for Best Director for the Turkish film, “Zenne Dancer.”

Arshaluys Harutyunyan won for Best Screenplay for the Armenian drama “Wandering.”

Yara Lee won for Best Documentary Feature for “The Suffering Grasses: When Elephants



Comedian and actor Jamie Kennedy



Actress Marla Maples



Actor Ken Davitian

Fight, It Is the Grass that Suffers.”

Eddie Deleon Melikyan accepted the award for Best Short for directing “Just Like Her.”

Also present were the 2012 special award honorees. Presenters such as filmmaker Haik Gazarian and actress Valentina Rendon presented Hrach Titizian with the Breakthrough Actor of the Year Award; actress Heather McComb presented Michael Poghosian the Artist of the Year Award; actor/filmmaker Sebastian Siegel awarded Frances Fisher the Career Achievement Award; AFFMA Founder Sylvia Minassian presented Lusine Sahakyan, director of “Hamshen at Crossroads of Past and Present” (Armenia, Turkey) with the prestigious Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award; Actress Anoush NeVart presented the Arpa Foundation Award to recipient USC Shoah Foundation, The Institute For Visual History And Education. The award was accepted by Dr. Stephen D. Smith, MBE, PhD who spoke about the merits of supporting independent cinema and archiving efforts such as those by the Shoah Foundation. And Achievement in International Cinema Award was accepted by “Lost & Found in Armenia”



Singer and songwriter Weather performs.



Actress Frances Fischer



Dr. Stephen Smith of Shoah Foundation accepts Arpa Foundation Award.



Michael Poghosian accepts the Artist of the Year Award.

(Armenia, USA) director, Gor Kirakosian.

“Fifteen years makes Arpa International Film Festival one of the longest standing film festivals in Los Angeles,” said Minassian. “We are very committed to supporting independent filmmakers and depend on community support to make events such as the festival possible.” This year’s key sponsors were Tacori, Horizon TV, Yerevan magazine and Siera Jewelers. “Without the support of sponsors,” said Kalognomos during his opening remarks at the Gala, “...it would be impossible to stage such an event where everyone’s influence and creativity build unity and success.”

AFFMA, a non-profit organization, annually stages entertainment industry networking mixers, art exhibits, and fashion shows in an effort to fundraise for its signature event, the film festival.



Actress Valentina Rendon with her husband, director Haik Gazarian



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Kalajian Shares Poem During Pilgrimage Reunion

NEW YORK — The following poem was written and read by Sira Kalajian during a reunion in New York for pilgrims who last April went on a Pilgrimage to Jerusalem that was organized by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America. The poem was inspired by her trip to Jerusalem and is dedicated to Fr. Mardiros Chevian, leader of the pilgrimage.

“I cannot thank Fr. Mardiros enough. He gave me the chance to visit Jerusalem, a memorable journey that I treasure,” remarked Kalajian. The poem was originally written in French.

### Peace to You Jerusalem

By Sira Kalajian

Peace to you Jerusalem  
My heart was touched by you  
You overwhelmed me with your magnificent and  
Majestic Cathedrals.  
Your glorious shrines and edifices were radiant and  
Sublime  
The domes of your Churches reach the sky with  
Style and Elegance  
The icons in the Chapels ornamented with gold and  
Embellished with beauty and Grace.

Peace to you Jerusalem  
For the love of God's House I pray for your Felicity  
God, you answer for all our anguishes  
Deliver us from lies, devastation and wars  
Help us live in peace and tranquility  
We are blessed to be called your children  
Glory to you, My Lord  
You created Heaven and Earth  
Help and stand by your church and do not let it fall  
Give the Church Peace and Joy even though it is

Persecuted and tormented  
The Church of Christ is without fear  
Nothing can shake its walls or its faith  
The Blood of Christ strengthens the stones  
The Blood of Saints and Martyrs repels evil  
Oh Lord, you grant us Grace through Jesus Christ  
Our Saviour, who unifies humanity and forgives the sinner  
And gives us Life and Hope  
Feeling the Footsteps of Jesus all over, and to feel and  
See with my own eyes, the Olive Tree where Jesus  
Was tied and Beaten  
My Heart and Soul have been touched deeply.

Oh Jerusalem  
You Illuminated my Spirit  
You soothed my Soul  
You gave me Serenity  
You astounded me  
You Transfigured me  
You have strengthened my Faith  
And gave me Peace  
My sincere gratitude  
My only wish is to visit you again.

Oh Jerusalem Oh Jerusalem  
You Are .... And Always Will Be in My Heart.

## Damien Hirst's Split from Larry Gagosian Turns Heads in Art World

LONDON (*Guardian*) — They seemed the perfect match. On one side, Larry Gagosian, the world's most powerful art dealer, whose eponymous gallery has more exhibition space than Tate Modern, an annual revenue estimated at more than \$1 billion (£600m) and puts on exhibitions of the likes of Picasso, Matisse and Warhol to rival the greatest museums. On the other, Damien Hirst, the world's most successful living artist, who has amassed a fortune of £215m.

So Hirst's sudden departure after 17 years from Gagosian's blockbuster roster of 77 artists and estates — months after the gallerist mounted an unprecedented simultaneous exhibition of the artist's spot paintings in every one of his then 11 galleries around the world and co-sponsored a Tate Modern retrospective — has raised questions about the careers of these titans of the contemporary art world, and about the art market itself.

The economist Don Thompson, author of *The \$12 Million Stuffed Shark*, which investigated the contemporary art market including Gagosian's 2005 sale of Hirst's best-known formaldehyde work, “The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living,” believes the gallerist initiated the split due to Hirst's declining sales.

Figures published by the market analysts

Artnet in November revealed that works Hirst produced in his most lucrative period between 2005 and 2008, when he bypassed his dealers and took his work direct to auction at Sotheby's, had resold for nearly 30 percent less than their original purchase price. Since 2009 one in three of the 1,700 pieces offered at auction have failed to sell at all.

Thompson said that although Hirst's 2008 direct auction was called groundbreaking, prices were propped up by Gagosian and Jay Jopling, the White Cube gallery owner and Hirst's London dealer, who made bids or purchases worth almost half the auction's first-day sales.

“The überdealer — and Gagosian is the ultimate überdealer — implicitly promises their clients that the art they buy will not decline in value, which is why he tried to keep up Hirst's sales price in 2008,” said Thompson. “But the value of Hirst's work is 30 percent where it was at its peak with a third unsold. So his reserve price is too high.”

Following reportedly disappointing sales from Gagosian's global show of Hirst's spot paintings, Thompson said: “Hirst can better reposition himself selling at a lower price with another dealer.”

In contrast, Gagosian's position has seemed unassailable. In the autumn he opened his 12th gallery, a 17,760-square-foot space in Le Bourget,

near Paris, designed by the French architect Jean Nouvel, and a temporary space in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. He confirmed plans to open a third, larger London outlet in 2013, expected to be his second in Mayfair.

Hirst's split with Gagosian in December came a week after news that another of the dealer's star names, Jeff Koons, best known for his giant kitsch sculptures, planned to stage a show in May at the rival Zwirner gallery. A day later it emerged that Yayoi Kusama, the Japanese artist who like Hirst had a Tate Modern retrospective last year, was also leaving Gagosian. With Hirst and Kusama staying at their London galleries, White Cube and Victoria Miro respectively, some experts see the events as signs of the artists having specific problems with Gagosian.

Wendy Cromwell, a New York-based art adviser, said she could not believe Gagosian would have wanted Hirst to leave because “even with a slowdown in sales he's such a powerhouse brand.” Figures provided by the London-based art market analyst Nathan Engelbrecht, co-director of EB & Flow Gallery, show Hirst's worldwide auction sales peaked in 2008 at a total of \$45.8 million (£28.5m), and were \$18.3 million in 2012.

Anders Petterson, managing director of the analyst firm ArtTactic, said Hirst and Kusama did not represent the primary focus of Gagosian's business in the aftermath of the 2008 stock market crash. “The commercial art market has changed since 2008, with the focus on postwar, blue-chip art such as Warhol, Basquiat, Calder, Bacon, Lichtenstein, Rothko, Kline, etc., accounting for a large majority of the total auction sales. Most of these artists are exhibited or represented by Gagosian gallery. In the current economic climate, it would make sense for the gallery to focus on these artists. However, it probably means less attention is given to many of the other artists that the gallery works with.

“White Cube, has generally a younger stable of artists — with just over 50 artists listed on its website — where Hirst would still be their key artist. You'd rather be a big fish in a smaller pond in today's uncertain market.”

One issue affecting Koons's move may be the bad publicity from two recent lawsuits against Gagosian, including one brought by the billionaire collector Ronald Perelman involving one of the artist's sculptures.

But Koons's decision is also seen as an indication of how the balance of power is shifting away from even the wealthiest commercial galleries to an elite cadre of artists. Unlike Hirst's, his prices are rising: his candy-colored stainless steel sculpture “Tulip” fetched \$33.7 million at Christie's in

November, the second highest figure paid for a living artist, after Gerhard Richter's £21.3 million painting “Abstraktes Bild (809-4).”

The curator and academic Andrew Renton, director of Marlborough Contemporary in Mayfair, said: “The art market has grown exponentially in the past decade and the prime drivers are the big-name artists. It was very radi-



Larry Gagosian, left, and Damien Hirst

cal when Hirst first exhibited with Gagosian in London while remaining at the White Cube. Now it is common to see shows by one artist in different galleries in the same city.”

Michael Werner opened his new London gallery in October with an exhibition of new paintings by Peter Doig, who is already represented in London by Victoria Miro. The American artist Sterling Ruby, who parted ways with the Pace Gallery at the beginning of 2012, will have a show at Hauser & Wirth's Savile Row space in March of 2013. Sprüth Magers, Ruby's London gallery, told the Financial Times that they “happily” continue to represent him.

“It's not so much that these are defections, more that artists are more in control, said Renton. “It's like premiership football. Why did Man City not get Robin Van Persie when they offered more than Man United? When you're already worth tens of millions it's not just about money.”

Global sales of art were estimated to top \$64 billion in 2012, including more than \$10 billion from sales at auction, according to the analysts Artprice. Postwar and contemporary art accounted for 33 percent of the market in 2012, with sales of just over \$3 billion, up from 28 percent in 2011.

The US art season ended in November with a record-breaking sales total of \$412 million for Christie's. The previous day, the rival auction house Sotheby's staged the most successful auction in its history, taking \$375 million.

The Gagosian gallery's turnover in 2011 was \$925 million, according to Forbes. This is almost double that of Pace (\$450 million) and nearly four times that of Hauser + Wirth and David Zwirner, each with annual sales of around \$225 million.

## Organic Food Movement Seeks “Fruits From the Garden of Eden.”

ORGANIC, from page 10

**AB:** Many of our Diaspora compatriots know you as one of initiators of Padus-Araxes association in Venice, organizing intensive courses of Armenian language and culture already 27 years. Can share a little more about your past experiences?

**CM:** I was co-Founder, together with Prof. Rev. Levon Zekian and Prof. Gabriella Uluhogian of the Association “Padus-Araxes” for the development of the Armenian Culture in the diaspora. One of the activities of the association is the Armenian Language course at the University of Venice. I am very honored to have been part of this group and thankful to Hayr and his collaborators for the relentless work in this area.

**AB:** Tell us about your roots. How have you managed to combine Armenian and Italian identities?

**CM:** I was born in Italy. My grandfather Aram had arrived there from Diyarbakir, in Anatolia. I tied deeply to my Armenian roots. Italy is where I was born, and the country that gave refuge to my grandfather. America is where my children were born. I am thankful for this richness of identity.

**AB:** Do your sons have interest in Armenia

and Armenian culture?

**CM:** In their own way, yes, they do. Our children come to Armenia to share their passions with their peers and to get to know their heritage. They've collaborated with various organizations both on environmental issues and in the arts.

**AB:** What are your future projects in Armenia?

**CM:** I am ready to respond to the requests that will come to me and to the Foundation, henceforth. As far as trainings in Systemic Constellations, there is a very interesting group of people here that have gathered to apply the systemic approach to organizations. We are going to continue to work to develop it and to invite experienced professionals to share their knowledge.

As far as the activity of ESA Educational Foundation, we are starting a training in organic beekeeping. We have a good number of very motivated beekeepers that have understood the importance of a more sustainable way to conduct their activity. Of course, after honey, we are willing to address all other issues of organic and sustainable agriculture.

[My hope is that] one day the products from Armenia [will] be sought as the “Fruits from the Garden of Eden.”



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Pamuk Pays Tribute to His Museum of Objects

**The Innocence of Objects.** By Orhan Pamuk.  
Translated from the Turkish by Ekin Oklap. Abrams. 2012, 264 pp. \$35.  
ISBN 978 1 419 704567

**By Daphne Abeel**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

The newest publication by Turkish Nobel Prize-winning novelist, Orhan Pamuk, is a curio, a catalogue and a tribute to his obsession with objects. Richly printed and illustrated with many color photographs, it traces Pamuk's intense focus on the items of daily life and explores the relationship between his recently opened museum in Istanbul and his novel, *The Museum of Innocence*.

Pamuk explains that he first conceived the idea of such a museum when, in 1982, he met an aging Ottoman prince who returned to Turkey and wanted only to be a caretaker in the palace where he spent his childhood and to show the objects there to the public.

When he began writing his novel, *The Museum of Innocence*, in 2002, he had already started to collect objects from the antique shops in Istanbul that the Keskin family in the novel

would use in daily life.

In one of the opening sections of the book, Pamuk states, "This must be how I first thought that I might be able to put together a novel in the form of a museum catalogue with long and richly detailed notes. ...The first object was going to be the earring that Fusun would drop when making love to Kemal. I wanted to exhibit the earring in the museum and tell the earring's story in the novelized catalogue."

Further, he says, "... the novel and the museum each tell a story. The objects exhibited in the museum are described in the novel. Still, words are one thing, objects another. The images that words generate in our minds are one thing; the memory of an old object used once upon a time is another. But imagination and memory have a strong affinity, and this is the basis of the affinity between the novel and the museum."

Pamuk has memorialized his love for old Istanbul in his memoir of growing up in the city, and he was determined to buy an old building in an old neighborhood to house his museum. In the 1990s, the years when he was dropping his young daughter off at school, he haunts the streets lined with old wooden buildings, their second stories overhanging the streets. Pacing through the ruined, shabby streets of Galata, Cihangir and Cukurcuma, he finally comes upon

the house he chooses for his museum. In 1999, he makes his purchase. He recalls, "I liked its winding staircase, the frontage on two streets, and even its smallness, which I would complain about in years to come. But most of all, I was happy to have found a dainty building worthy of Fusun."

For those who have not read Pamuk's novel, *The Museum of Innocence*, it is sufficient to say that it describes the difficult and, ultimately, unhappy love affair between a well-born bachelor, Kemal, and his distant cousin, Fusun, who is not of his social status.

While the building may have originally been dilapidated and crumbling, the photograph of the museum as it is today (it opened in 2012) shows it to be a beautifully-restored wooden structure, filled with immaculately and carefully arranged glass cases of the many objects Pamuk has chosen to place there.

In the course of his studies and research to determine the design of his museum, Pamuk traveled widely, visiting many small house museums. He states, "What I found most enthralling was the way in which objects removed from the kitchens, bedrooms, and dinner tables where they had once been utilized would come together to form a new texture, an unintentionally striking web of relationships. I realized that when

arranged with love and care, objects in the museum — an odd photograph, a bottle opener, a picture of a boat, a coffee cup, a postcard — could



attain a much greater significance than they had before."

Perhaps no collection in the museum demonstrates more fanatically Pamuk's determination to preserve and honor every object from the novel than the case devoted to the cigarettes that Fusun has smoked throughout the length of the story. An entire panel, enclosed in glass, is devoted to the cigarette stubs with captions that detail what Kemal was thinking and observing on the day she smoked that particular cigarette.

Pamuk is also transfixed with the meaning of the passage of time and many of the glass cases contain clocks, stop watches and wrist watches.

He remarks, enigmatically, "Time emerges when individual moments shrink into themselves, so when objects do the same, they lose their stories. It is at this point that the innocence of objects becomes apparent. Our museum has been built on the contradictory desires to tell the stories of objects and to demonstrate their timeless innocence."

This is a book for Pamuk fans and enthusiasts, those readers who are already familiar with his love of the historic Istanbul and who may have read the novel, *The Museum of Innocence*. It is far less a flowing narrative than a collection of Pamuk's observations and musings on the meaning of museums, the objects they contain and the relationship between those objects and life as it is actually lived.

In addition to the photographs of his collection, the book also contains photographs of family moments, the ships that ply the Bosphorus and the hidden and rundown streets of old Istanbul. It is a jumble, but an intriguing and evocative jumble.

Perhaps what Pamuk is trying to tell us is that every life contains a museum.

As he says in one short section titled, "A Modest Manifesto for Museums," "We don't need more museums that try to construct the historical narratives of a society, community, team, nation, state, tribe, company or species. We all know that the ordinary everyday stories of individuals are richer, more humane, and much more joyful. ...The future of museums is inside our own houses."

## CALENDAR

### MASSACHUSETTS

**FEBRUARY 9 — Armenian Sisters' Academy Annual Valentine's Party, presenting Elie Berberian and Band, Oakley Country Club, 410 Belmont St., Watertown; information: Nageeb Diarbakerly at (617) 480-3700.**

### MICHIGAN

**JANUARY 26 — St. John Armenian Church Dinner and Dance at Cultural Hall, honoring Zabel Belian and the late Dr. Garabed Belian, with music by Harry Hovakimian Ensemble; 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield; RSVP Nora Azadian at (248) 757-2320.**



**Armenian Sisters' Academy Annual Valentine's Party, presenting Elie Berberian and Band, Oakley Country Club, 410 Belmont St., Watertown; information: Nageeb Diarbakerly at (617) 480-3700.**

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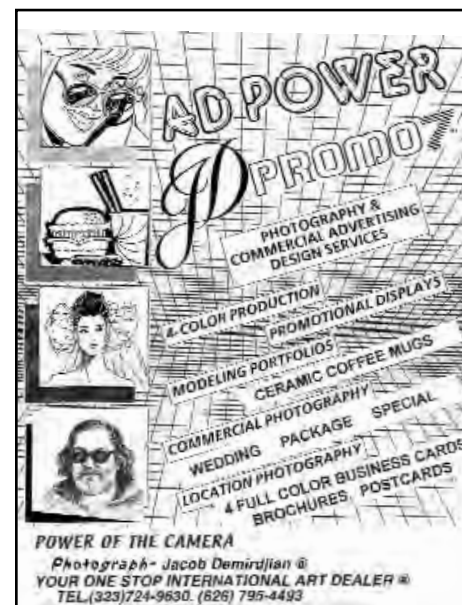
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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Obama Is Exploiting Turkish Leaders' Craving for Flattery

While political leaders often exaggerate their achievements and brag about the superiority of their nation, such claims become absurd if they are far removed from reality and border on chauvinism and narcissism.

When leaders harbor an exaggerated sense of self-importance, they could be easily manipulated by others who exploit their insatiable appetite for flattery. Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is one of several high-ranking Turkish officials who may be suffering from such a character flaw.

The Turkish media provided extensive coverage to a *Los Angeles Times* article reporting that "President Obama has logged more phone calls to Erdogan than to any world leader except British Prime Minister David Cameron." When the two met at the United Nations in New York, Obama gave Erdogan "more face time than any other world leader," lasting almost two hours. The US president reportedly praised the Turkish Prime Minister for showing "great leadership." The *LA Times* specifically noted that Obama even "resorted to flattery" by subsequently phoning Erdogan "to rave about

a Turkish basketball tournament."

The Turkish newspaper, *Today's Zaman*, published a follow-up article further highlighting the close relationship between the two leaders: "Erdogan and Obama's phone chats reveal Turkey's ascent." The article included a photo where the American and Turkish leaders are shaking hands while brimming with wide smiles.

Although Erdogan does not look kindly upon anyone who writes unflattering words about him and frequently sues journalists daring to criticize his policies, prominent Turkish commentator Semih Idiz risked imprisonment by writing an article last week in *Al-Monitor*, titled: "Is Erdogan Aiming to Be a Latter-Day Sultan?" Idiz underlines the prime minister's "authoritarian tendencies and lack of tolerance to any criticism, especially from a free press."

The Turkish journalist writes in great detail about Erdogan's plans to run for president in August 2014, but not before drafting a new constitution that would transform the current head of state's ceremonial post into "an executive presidency" that would not be "encumbered by a system of checks and balances." If elected president, Erdogan would have "the power to dissolve the Parliament, rule by decree and appoint government ministers, senior bureaucrats and jurists without parliamentary approval."

It is not a mere accident that Erdogan recently told Turkish journalists that the American presidential system, with checks and balances that limit the power of the president, is not suitable for Turkey: "The US president cannot appoint an ambassador, he cannot even solely decide on the sale of a helicopter.... That's why we should create a Turkish-style presidential system."

Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, who used to be a serious scholar, appears to be emulating his conceited prime minister. Last week, in his opening remarks at the

annual conference of Turkish ambassadors held in Ankara, Davutoglu made an arrogant statement claiming that Turkey plays a critical role in world affairs: "Because the global powers know that now history flows through Ankara, parties that ignore Ankara cannot understand history. The one that risks relations with Ankara will take risks in all regional policies.... Those who want to understand history must be present in Ankara, Istanbul and every other place in Turkey, because from now on we will be more actively present in shaping the flow of history."

These preposterous words are uttered by a foreign minister who had assumed his current post by pompously declaring that his country pursued a policy of "zero problems with neighbors." The harsh reality is that Turkey now has almost no neighbors without problems. Indeed, Ankara has serious conflicts with neighboring Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Not to be outdone by his senior colleagues, Turkey's controversial European Union Affairs Minister Egemen Bagis, greeted the new year with a fresh list of outlandish statements: "Today there is no government in Europe which is more reformist than our government. While EU countries are struggling in crisis, our country is experiencing the most democratic, prosperous, modern and transparent period in its history. The 'sick man' of yesterday has gotten up and summoned the strength to prescribe medication for today's Europe...and to share the EU's burden rather than being a burden to it."

Obama has discovered that he can get more out of Turkish leaders by honey than vinegar, capitalizing on their overwhelming desire for praise and flattery. The problem is that such lavish praise has turned Turkey into "a spoiled brat" who has become a serious menace to the entire neighborhood.

50 Shades of Turkish Censorship

from previous page

that the book included obscene content, slang language and a plot that clashed with Turkish morals and values. The 1968 book tells the story of little Zeze as he discovers life through poverty, abuse, family and the death of a loved one. The part that offended the now infamous parent is where Zeze recites a song he overheard from his teachers, longing for a naked woman under the moonlight, and Zeze's father's shock upon hearing it. So much for life imitating art.

Ironies seem to abound as the book is among the 100 fundamental texts recommended by the Education Ministry. *Of Mice and Men* is also among the ministry's list of 100 Fundamental Novels. And it is the Izmir Education Directorate's books commission that is seeking to ban certain parts of the novel that are "unfit for educational use" for "immoral sections."

*Of Mice and Men*, in fact, is on the list of the American Library Association's Most Challenged Books of the 21st Century, placing fourth in the Top 100 Banned/Challenged Books (the *Harry Potter* series is at the top).

The novel has been challenged 54 times in the US since its publication in 1936 for "promoting euthanasia," "condoning racial slurs" and being "anti-business." For the Izmir Education Directorate, it's all about sex. The part facing a ban is where Whit, a young worker on the ranch, invites George for a Saturday night trip to the local brothel and features no more than innocent banter among the two men.

Steinbeck's works aren't new to the wrath of censorship, at home and here in Turkey. *The Grapes of Wrath*, the novel that helped him win the Pulitzer Prize, immediately became a target in the US for being racy for its time of publication in 1939. The big question is why 11 publishers were charged in 1973 for publishing the novel. The answer: for "spreading propaganda unfavorable to the state."

"Unfavorable to the state" seems to be the norm in Turkey when banning books and sending authors, publishers and translators to jail. Inciting religious hatred and critiquing state terror are the grounds to attack books and those behind those books. The Kurdish question and the Armenian Genocide are the biggest literary landmines.

The Turkish translation of writer Richard Dawkins' book on evolutionary biology, *The God Delusion*, had caused its publisher Erol Karaaslan, to be investigated by an Istanbul prosecutor back in 2007 for "inciting religious hatred." In 1993, religious hatred led to one of the biggest massacres in the history of modern Turkey. A mob of radical Islamists set fire to a hotel where artist, writers and musicians had gathered for a festival in the Central Anatolian city of Sivas, with 37 deaths occurring.

The frenzy had begun upon the presence of Aziz Nesin, who had translated and published extracts from Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, the book that had ignited Ayatollah Khomeini, the then-leader of Iran, to issue a *fatwa* for the death of Rushdie and anyone related to the publication of the book. Unfortunately, banning a book for its slang language or for including dialogue on going to brothels seems innocent when you live in Turkey.

Re-Gardening of Eden or Environmental Collapse

By Mary Jo Wonacott Agbabian, RN

Armenia has a wealth of biodiversity and a rich natural heritage. The country has 3,600 of the 6,000 plant species found in the Caucasus, 2,000 of which have nutritional or healing properties. It has 17,500 invertebrate and 500 vertebrate species, of which 346 are birds, though regrettably, the Caucasian leopard is now an endangered species.

The forest of Armenia covers only 8 to 11 percent of the land area, down from 18 percent in the 17th and 18th centuries. The dominant tree species are broadleaf, oak, beech and hornbeam.

Lake Sevan is Armenia's largest source of water and one of the biggest alpine lakes in the world. This lake is one of the highest-priority environmental management issues, and depletion of fish stocks is one of the current concerns. In Armenia there are more than 1,000 small lakes and 14 river basins that include 10,000 rivers and streams.

On October 10, Armenia Tree Project (ATP) Director Jeff Masarjian and Deputy Director Jason Sohigian arrived in Southfield, Mich. to educate us. The lecture was titled "The Re-Gardening of Eden or Environmental Collapse in Armenia?" This Inaugural Annual Armenian Independence Day lecture was co-sponsored by the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan - Dearborn and the Armenian General Benevolent Union Alex and Marie Manoogian School.

I have traveled to Armenia three times and have seen the environmental work done by ATP. I am a witness to the impacts of deforestation: erosion, landslides, and flooding. I have seen the mudslides, washed away roads, mud in people's homes, and large tree logs illegally cut, pilfered and plundered for profit. And I have seen the enormous task of restoration by visiting the Karin Nursery and the environmental beautification done at churches, parks and hospitals.

Creating jobs and greening the environment plus environmental education is what ATP does. There are now three nurseries and two educational centers, with the establishment of the new one in the Lori region. Since 1994, more than four million trees have been planted throughout Armenia. One million high-quality fruit and decorative trees have been planted at 909 sites throughout the country.

And now I must address the environmental collapse

in Armenia. ATP has sounded the warning bell about the consequences of open-pit mining and pollution from abandoned mines. There are an astounding 630 mines in Armenia with no regulations for the safety of air, water or soil. The potential damage to the health of Armenia's population, its plants, animals and forests cannot be understated and underestimated. The toxic contaminants left behind in the air, water, and soil are arsenic, sulfur, zinc, lead and cadmium.

All of these heavy metals, minerals and chemicals are toxic to humans and may cause extensive damage to the body such as kidney and liver damage, fetus abnormalities, spontaneous abortions, low-sperm count, delayed growth in children, learning disabilities in children, blood diseases such as anemia, disruption of the digestive enzymes, gastrointestinal disorders, cancer and neuromuscular diseases. This list is just the tip of the iceberg in the causation of illnesses due to a depressed immune system.

The tailings left from ore extraction pollute the water. The unrecoverable and uneconomic metals, minerals, chemicals, organics and processed water are discharged as slurry to a final storage area. Not surprisingly, the physical and chemical characteristics of toxic tailings and their method of handling and storage are of a great and growing concern. There are now at least 25 operational tailing dumps in Armenia.

Seventy-seven laws of the Republic of Armenia have been violated. Environmental protection laws have been ignored. The environmental protection ministry in Armenia is corrupt and inept.

There is no public outcry. What can we do? Spread the word that this plundering and pillage of Armenia must be controlled and stopped. The landmass in Armenia is limited and one cannot contaminate such a small geographical area.

Clean air, clean water and healthy soil are the sustaining life of Armenia. If tourism, agriculture and the beverage industry – three of the economic drivers of Armenia – are compromised, then the country's economy will stagnate and die along with a sick and weakened population. Education and prevention has to be done now.

For whom the death bell tolls; I pray it is not my beloved Armenia.

# Palestinian Authority Rethink Mollifies Armenians, Heralds Return to Status Quo

By Arthur Hagopian

BETHLEHEM – The Palestinian Authority (PA) in Bethlehem has had a rethink regarding its stance vis-a-vis the protocols in practice at the city’s Nativity Church, rescinding a recent decision that had threatened to pit one Christian church against another.

The PA move, which comes after intense pressure, heralds the onset of a palpable peace between two brother churches, the Armenians and the Greek Orthodox.

The two have been embroiled in a territorial dispute in the church for years, arising out of what the Armenians claim is an attempt by the Greeks to encroach upon their traditional standing and position within the church.

The issue involves disagreement over the annual cleaning procedures, culminating in ugly brawls, that last year necessitated police intervention, and a PA edict Armenians saw as biased against them.

The Armenians accused the Greeks of breaching the tenets of the Status Quo of the Holy Places, a “fait accompli” which has ruled relations between churches and governments since the Ottoman era, and which spells out in minute detail the rights and privileges of the Christian churches in the Holy Land, as well as the manner and timing of celebrations of certain rites and ceremonies.

The three Guardians of the Holy Places (the Latin Custodia, the Greek Orthodox and the Armenian Orthodox churches), as well as the dozen other Christian denominations of the Holy Land, are bound by the tenets of the set of agreements thrashed out by the Ottoman Sultans with the aim of safeguarding Christian rights and avoiding internecine clashes.

Though rare, deviations from the Status Quo are viewed with concern and alarm.

The Armenians claim that in December 2007 the Greeks created facts on the ground by moving a ladder used to clean the walls of the church from its assigned place.

(To an impartial observer, the sweeping of a

neighbor’s tile, or the movement of a ladder from one part of a wall to another, may seem trivial and no cause for resentment, but to the owner of the tile or wall, in the troubled Holy Land, the action is viewed as an unwarranted intrusion on its territorial rights).

In the spirit of brotherly feeling, they were ready to consider this a one-off, a temporary realignment with no provision for an encore.

But the Greeks thought otherwise and, according to the Armenians, wanted to enshroud the variation in the cleaning routine in a new status quo.

When the Armenians complained to the PA, the answer they received was simple and blunt: this is a matter between you and the Greeks to resolve.

Hanna Amireh, head of the PA’s Presidential Committee for the Christian churches, declared that the “same arrangements which were reached last year are the most suitable arrangement for this year too.”

He warned that the decision of the Palestinian Authority “shall remain unchanged and the Armenians must submit to the Authority’s decision,” warning it will “take all measures against those who dare to cause any kind of clash,” this correspondent was told.

Unfazed, the Armenians applied more pressure on the PA to reconsider, until the PA finally relented.

In a written pledge delivered to the Armenians earlier this week, the PA conceded 2012 would be the last time the Greeks would clean the church the new way, and that come December 2013, things would go back to what they were before and in accordance with the Status Quo.

To ensure nothing untoward occurred this year, the PA allowed the cleaning on January 2 to proceed under strict supervision, with a special police unit on standby outside the church, just in case.

“Both sides (Greeks and Armenians) were on their best behavior,” a source close to the Armenian church said.

“When all is said and done, both churches share a common history and destiny. For instance, before the invention of the

Armenian alphabet in 405 CE, Armenians wrote in Greek.”

However, he confided that the Armenians still have pending issues “pertaining to our rights in the Nativity church.”

Six months ago, one of the lamps that belong to the Armenians, located under the altar and on the Star of Bethlehem, dropped

down along with the nail from which it hung, promptly spawning a new dispute with the Greeks.

Who had the right to put the lamp back up?

Once again, it would be up to the Palestinian Authority to find a way out of this potential minefield.

## Remembering Hrant Dink: Six Years Later

REMEMBERING, from page 1

Armenian children, the camp was closed by Turkey in 1984, thus marking the beginning of Dink’s own personal journey into activism.

On April 5, 1996, Dink helped found *Agos*, the first weekly newspaper in Istanbul published in both Turkish and Armenian. Through his editorial and investigative writings in *Agos*, Dink expressed views that both challenged contemporary thought on Turkish-Armenian relations and opened dialogues between Turkish and Armenian peoples. He spoke harshly of Turkish denial of the Genocide, mistreatment of minorities and assault on the press. He also urged fellow Armenians to move beyond demands for formal Genocide recognition, instead favoring reconciliation and movement towards a more peaceful future.

After being previously acquitted on charges, Dink was convicted of denigrating Turkishness under Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code and sentenced to six months jail sentence the second time, which was later appealed at the European Court of Human Rights.

The past year has seen some movement in the case of Dink’s assassination. Yasin Hayal was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for Dink’s murder in January of 2012; however, 19 other suspects believed to have a connection with the murder were cleared of charges. Ogün Samast, the 17-year-old Turkish nationalist and triggerman, had previously been sentenced to 22 years in prison under Istanbul’s Heavy Juvenile Court in July of 2011. Thousands reacted publicly in the street to the trial verdicts and the alleged failure of the courts to prosecute all those involved. Marc Mamigonian, director of academic affairs for the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), notes, “The trial didn’t seem to provide any real satisfaction for full justice and it left a lot of unanswered questions.”

More recently, public uproar resurfaced when former Appeals Court judge, Nihat Omeroglu, was elected as Turkey’s Human Rights Defender by the parliament in November. Omeroglu, who sided with a lower court in ruling that there was no conspiracy in the 2007 assassination of Dink, said of the case, “The law changed in 2008. I’m not saying that I did what was correct by upholding Hrant Dink’s ruling, but that was what the law required at the time,” according to ArmeniaNow.

Dink, no longer just one man, has posthumously emerged as a symbol for all minorities in Turkey who feel disenfranchised by the government. From supporters of freedom of expression to Turkish liberals, thousands have rallied around the cry, “We are all Hrant. We Are all Armenian.” Last year’s celebration of Dink’s life and death resulted in an Istanbul rally involving more than 20,000 people. The long-term impact



Noam Chomsky will give a lecture on January 18 at the commemoration of the Dink memorial at Bogazici University.

of Dink’s death is still unclear, but as Mamigonian explains, “There’s no question it brought a level of international attention to the issue of Genocide recognition and a shock to the system in Turkey as well.”

As both the Turkish and Armenian communities prepare to commemorate his death next week through events worldwide, his life and death continue to take on new meaning. Among the events planned, linguist and political activist Noam Chomsky will give a January 18 lecture dedicated to the memorial of Hrant Dink in Bogazici University, Istanbul. Chomsky’s lecture, titled, “Turkey and The Emerging World Order,” will speak to continued human rights issues in Turkey and its place in the current political atmosphere.

## NAASR’S Mardigian Library Receives Collection of Linguist Dr. John Greppin

GREPPIN, from page 1

since the 1970s. Greppin noted that of special interest “are the runs of Soviet Armenian journals,” such as *Tghekgagir* (later *Lraber*) and *Patma-Banasirakan-Handes*. “The rarest set, held complete in very few Western libraries, are the 45 volumes of the concordance series, *Haykakan Hamabarbar*. Also I was able to acquire volumes dating back to the 1940s of studies of Urartian loan substratum in Armenian. In addition, there are a large number of books on the natural sciences, the Armenian vocabulary of which I studied.”

**Other Significant Collections Received**

The collection arrived at the end of a year in which a number of other important collections of various types and sizes had come to NAASR. Academic Director Mamigonian pointed to smaller but very interesting collections such as

an archive of Edward Alexanian, donated by his daughter Adrienne of New York, which includes materials relating to the Hamasebastahay Verashinats Miutiwn / Pan Sebastia Rehabilitation Union, dating between the 1940s-1970s; materials belonging to noted Ramkavar leader Dicran Simsarian, donated by his son Edward of Worcester; as well as the large library of the late Hagop Atamian of Watertown, which is especially rich in literary and politico-historical works.

The Edward and Helen Mardigian Library is named for major NAASR benefactors, the late Mr. and Mrs. Mardigian of Bloomfield Hills, Mich. The Mardigian Library holds more than 25,000 books and thousands of periodicals and newspapers as well as a number of important collections of personal papers and archives. Its catalogue may be accessed through the NAASR website, [www.naasr.org](http://www.naasr.org).





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Each year the Metro Detroit Chapter of the Tekeyan Cultural Association hosts an annual Holiday party in January to raise funds for two major projects: the Sponsor a Teacher Program and the Orphans Higher Education Fund. The Sponsor a Teacher Program supports five schools, four in Armenia and one in Nagorno Karabagh, with funds designated to assist the underpaid educators ensuring they are able to continue educating the children. The Orphans Higher Education Fund is designed to offer educational assistance to Armenian orphans and help to prepare them for an independent life. While the cost to attend university is modest by our standards, the tuition per year is a huge expense in the eyes of an orphan. The Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization and your donation is tax exempt to the fullest extent allowed by law. The potential of such an investment is immeasurable. It has the power to change lives and offer hope and inspiration.

Please plan on joining us this year to have some fun and do some good!