



James Kalustian, president, Armenian Heritage Foundation, makes a presentation to Jeffrey Mullan, former Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation, for his support over the years. (Tom Vartabedian photo)

Armenian Heritage Park Hits a Fenway Homer

BOSTON – Throughout the past century, Fenway Park has served as the home of the Boston Red Sox with many an auspicious moment to be celebrated.

By Tom Vartabedian

Now it has served as the center of another attraction – the much-anticipated Armenian Heritage Park.

A crowd of 250 turned out November 17 on the upper deck of the stadium for a fundraising reception that raised \$100,000 in endowment money. The proceeds inched closer to the \$6.2 million goal, which is expected to be met by April 24 when a Genocide observance is planned on the site, culminating a near-decade dream.

The memorial is currently under construction on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, within proximity of Boston's historic Faneuil Hall. It will pay tribute to the 1.5 million martyrs as well as those immigrants who distinguished themselves in all phases of the Armenian community while adding to the richness of American life and culture.

see FUNDRAISER, page 7

French FM Wants To Establish a 'Commission' to Study Genocide

YEREVAN (News.am) – Speaking during a press conference last week in Turkey, French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe called the period of the Armenian Genocide hard for both Armenians and Turks, and expressed France's willingness to establish a commission to study the Armenian Genocide.

Juppe's statement made in Turkey contradicts an official policy of this country on the Armenian Genocide, Member of Parliament (MP) from Prosperous Armenia Party Naira Zohrabyan said.

"The fact that the French foreign minister makes such a statement is at least strange, taking into account the statement made by President [Nicolas] Sarkozy in Armenia this year. In fact, the



French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe

statement of Foreign Minister Alain Juppe directly contradicts Sarkozy's statements. It is also opposed to France's position on this issue, the ratified law on genocide and [the] country's policy on [the] recognition of the Armenian Genocide," said Zohrabyan.

Zohrabyan believes the Armenian Foreign Ministry should ask for explanations from the French colleagues.

"I followed the statement of French see COMMISSION, page 4

Military Vows Response to Fresh Combat Deaths

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The Armenian military pledged on Monday to respond "disproportionately" to the deaths of two Armenian soldiers in skirmishes with Azerbaijani forces reported in Nagorno-Karabagh over the weekend.

Karabagh Army's spokesperson said the

19-year-old conscripts, Aren Simonian and Mihran Markarian, were shot dead by Azerbaijani snipers in separate incidents on Saturday and Sunday along the border.

The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry did not immediately comment on the information.

see RESPONSE, page 2

Archbishop Pargev Martirossian: The Face of Karabagh

By Alin K. Gregorian

Mirror-Spectator Staff

BOSTON – Stepanakert, the home of Archbishop Pargev Martirossian, the Primate of the Karabagh Diocese, is a world away from the US, but for this ambassador of this tiny republic and man of God, no distance is too great to spread the word about Karabagh.

Martirossian is Karabagh's first archbishop since the 1930s. The late Catholicos of All Armenians Vazken I appointed him in 1989 to the post. "Moscow allowed it," he said, much to the chagrin of Azeri authorities.

Martirossian, who was given the name Gurgen at birth, was born in Sumgait, Azerbaijan, to a family from the northern Karabagh town of Chardakhly. He entered the Gevorkian Seminary in Echmiadzin in 1980. He was ordained in 1983 and graduated in 1984. In 1985 he was ordained a celibate priest and given the name Pargev. He was made a bishop by Vazken I in 1988 and was named an archbishop by the late Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I in 1999.

Martirossian stopped for an interview during his short visit to Boston, part of his tour of the US in support of the Armenia

Fund Telethon, scheduled to take place on Thanksgiving Day.

see ARCHBISHOP Page 9



The Atinizian and Mardiros families had dinner with Archbishop Pargev Martirossian during his visit.

Pallone Decries Turkey's Being Singled Out for Investment Projects in US

WASHINGTON, DC – Citing concerns with Turkey's present and past conduct, Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. last Thursday spoke against a legislative proposal which would give Turkey preferential treatment in leasing tribal lands in the United States. Pallone co-authored an amendment along with Rep. John Sarbanes that would preclude Turkey from being the sole country authorized to engage in economic development opportunities on American Indian land.

"This amendment will open up the playing field fairly and benefit tribes by having more partners to work with," said Pallone at the Natural Resources Committee Markup on the legislation. "The Republic of Turkey acts increasingly hostile to US interest and has a long history of human rights violations. Turkey is not a country that should be receiving preferential treatment in any sense and certainly not explicitly approved by this Congress."

Current and past human rights violations that include failure to recognize the 20th century's first genocide in which 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks, Turkey's illegal occupation of Northern Cyprus and Turkey's aggression towards Israeli merchant vessels among other actions by Turkey were named as reasons to oppose the legislation by Pallone.

Berlin Hosts Premiere Of Requiem by Tigran Mansurian

BERLIN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – On November 19, the German capital hosted the world premiere of a requiem by Tigran Mansurian, performed by the Munich and Rias Chamber Orchestras, *SchottMusic* reported.

The work is dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

"During its composition, I was confronted by the problem of differing interpretations of the canonical texts laid down by the Armenian and Roman-Catholic churches. I hope that the interlinking of ancient sacred and secular music of Armenia with the Latin text has created something unexpected and even slightly paradox in my music," Mansurian said.

Written in eight parts, the requiem is intended for soprano, baritone, mixed chorus and string orchestra.

Mansurian was born in 1939 in Beirut, Lebanon. In 1947 his family moved to Soviet Armenia, finally settling in the capital, Yerevan, in 1956. Mansurian studied at the Yerevan Music Academy and completed his PhD at the Komitas State Conservatory where he later taught contemporary music analysis. Mansurian's compositions range from large-scale orchestral works to individual art songs and film scores between 1968 and 1980.

INSIDE

Books and More

page 5

INDEX

Arts and Living	12
Armenia	2, 3
Community News	5
Editorial	18
International	4



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

1,050th Anniversary of Ani as Capital

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — An international conference dedicated to the 1,050th anniversary of declaration of Ani as capital of Armenia took place November 15-17 at the National Academy of Sciences. In the opening speech chairman of the Republic of Armenia National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Radik Martirosyan expressed hope that the Armenian people will have more opportunities to visit Ani.

“This conference is another step toward studying the rich historic-cultural heritage of Ani, making it reach the world public,” Martirosyan said.

At the opening ceremony the message of the Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian was recited.

“Ani continues living in our national sub-consciousness as a town of eternal dream where our ways are taking. The town has attracted people with its activity, economic attractiveness,” the prime minister said in his message.

Scholars from Russia, France, Italy, the US and Austria participated in the event.

Taron Markarian Becomes Yerevan Mayor

YEREVAN (News Armenia) — The Yerevan Council of Elders has unanimously elected Taron Markaryan as the mayor of Yerevan.

The election process was initiated by the City Council of Elders on November 4. Earlier reports said that the Republican Party of Armenia had introduced Vice Mayor Taron Markarian as candidate for the position on October 31.

Yerevan Mayor Karen Karapetyan resigned in on October 28.

Head of the fraction of the Republican Party, Derenik Dumanyan, called Markarian the most suitable candidate for the position. Markaryan himself thanked the party, its chairman, Armenian President Serge Sargsian and said that he has a good understanding of the job.

Babadjanian Fest Honors 90th Anniversary

YEREVAN (Panorama) — A festival dedicated to the composer Arno Babadjanian began on November 21 and will last until December 19. The festival, being held under the auspices of President Serge Sargsian, is dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the late composer.

Babadianian Fest is organized by the Armenian Ministry of Culture, the Union of Composers and Musicians and director of Armenia's State Youth Orchestra, Sergey Smbatyan.

The Armenian Ministry of Culture said six concerts will be held in conjunction with the festival.

Armenia Votes against UN Resolution on Iran

UNITED NATIONS (news.am) — Armenia did not support a resolution approved last week by the UN General Assembly on Iran.

UN member states deplored a disrupted plot to assassinate the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States on Friday, calling on Iran to cooperate with any countries trying to bring to justice those who planned, sponsored or attempted to carry out the plot, says a statement on UN website.

Member states called on Iran to comply with all international legal obligations, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons.

The resolution introduced by Saudi Arabia, received 106 votes in favor and nine votes against. Forty countries abstained.

Armenia, Bolivia, Cuba, North Korea, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Venezuela and Zambia voted against the document, *Haaretz* reported.

Russia was among the countries which abstained.

Sargsian Vows End to Business Oligarchy in Armenia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — President Serge Sargsian made a case for separating government and business in Armenia on Wednesday, saying that is vital for securing the country's long-term economic development.

Addressing members of the leading Armenian business association, Sargsian also said that his government is already succeeding in improving a flawed business environment widely regarded as a serious hurdle to faster growth.

“Business must be consistently separated from the state system and the authority,” he said in a speech at the annual congress of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. “Instead, the state should keep learning to fully respect the interests of every citizen and entrepreneur.”

This, explained Sargsian, will be part of a radical “transformation” of Armenia, which he said will serve as a “long-term guarantee of our further economic growth and development.”

Government connections have long been essential for engaging in large-scale entrepreneurial activity in Armenia, resulting in an effective monopolization of lucrative sectors of its economy by wealthy businesspeople close to the ruling establishment.

Also, many senior Armenian officials are known to have had extensive business interests. Throughout his long political career Sargsian himself has been dogged by opposition allegations of sponsoring such “oligarchs” and even making a personal fortune.

Dozens of parliament deputies from

his Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) are wealthy individuals. Reports in the Armenian press have said that Sargsian intends to bar many of those lawmakers from entering the next parliament to be elected in May 2012.

Government critics claim, however, that the president will continue to heavily rely on them in order to retain control over the National Assembly and win a second term in office in 2013. The government-linked tycoons will therefore continue to enjoy privileged treatment by the government, critics say.

But Arsen Ghazarian, chairman of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, insisted that Sargsian is committed to dismantling the “oligarchic system.” He said he and other senior members of the union arrived at such a conclusion after a “quite frank” meeting with Sargsian held in early October.

“Comments made by him lead us to the following conclusion: there is a political will to ... finally start breaking up the oligarchic system,” Ghazarian said.

Most of the oligarchs are not affiliated with or are only nominal members of Ghazarian's organization uniting hundreds of entrepreneurs.

“Business needs a favorable business environment and we are going to ensure that,” Sargsian said in his speech. He insisted that government efforts to improve the investment climate are “already producing results,” citing the findings of an annual survey conducted by the World Bank.

The bank's *Doing Business 2012* report released late last month rated

183 economies on 10 aspects of government regulation of business, including taxation and the ease of starting and closing businesses and registering property. Armenia occupies 55th place in the rankings.

“Armenia is the only country among 183 economies that implemented as many as five regulatory and institutional reforms between June 2010 and May 2011,” according to the report.

Governor Questioned over Assault Claims

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Surik Khachatryan, the controversial governor of Armenia's southeastern Syunik region, has been questioned by law-enforcement authorities over allegations that he assaulted a businesswoman after she accused him of business-related fraud, it emerged on Friday.

A law-enforcement source gave no details of the interrogation. The source said the Special Investigative Service (SIS) has still not decided whether to prosecute Khachatryan.

The businesswoman, Silva Hambardzumian, claims that Khachatryan hit her in the head in a Yerevan hotel lobby late on Monday just days after she made her accusations. Hambardzumian, who has business interests in Syunik, said last week that a mining company owned by the governor misappropriated mining equipment worth more than 100 million drams (\$263,000) from another firm belonging to her.

Khachatryan, who is notorious for reportedly violent conduct, denied assaulting the entrepreneur on Tuesday. Nevertheless, the SIS decided to open a criminal case after receiving a formal complaint from Hambardzumian. The law-enforcement body subordinate to state prosecutors is also conducting a separate inquiry into her fraud claims.

Hambardzumian was again questioned by SIS investigators on Friday. She said that she insisted on her version of events.

Hambardzumian also said that the chief of the national police, Vladimir Gasparian, has agreed to provide her with police bodyguards. She asked for police protection shortly after the alleged incident, saying that she fears for her security.

The assault allegations led to renewed calls for Khachatryan's sacking. The Syunik governor has for years been accused by media of attacking local business rivals as well as government critics, including a Syunik newspaper editor whose car was set on fire in 2005.

Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian said on Wednesday that the government's reaction to the latest scandal will depend on the outcome of the SIS inquiry. “Any government statement made now could be regarded as interference in its course,” he said. “The government will closely watch the investigation without any interference.”

Armenian Military Vows Response To Fresh Combat Deaths

RESPONSE, from page 1

In a written statement, the Karabagh Defense Army accused Baku of deliberately violating the ceasefire to torpedo international efforts to broker a peaceful solution to the Karabagh conflict. It said its forces will react to such violations with “tougher” actions from now on.

A separate statement issued by Armenia's Defense Ministry said, “since Azerbaijan's political and military leadership does not care about the lives of its own soldiers, we have to remind Azerbaijan's population that as was the case before, the Armenian side's response to the death of every Armenian soldier will be disproportionate.”

The ministry spokesman, Davit Karapetian, spoke of “punitive actions” to be taken against Azerbaijani troops. “That is going to be our natural and legitimate reaction,” he said. “And if the Azerbaijani side suffers casualties as a result of that, it will be fully responsible for them.”

Armenian and Karabagh forces were already ordered to launch such retaliatory operations following the killing of three Armenian soldiers near Karabagh in May.

“Unfortunately, the Azerbaijani side hasn't learned lessons from previous adventures as a result of which it suffered much greater casualties,” said Karapetian. “This testifies to their irresponsible attitude.”

Defense Ministry sources in Yerevan claim that 42 Azerbaijani troops have been killed on the Karabagh frontline and along Armenia's long border with Azerbaijan so far this year.

The Azerbaijani military has not yet released any casualty data for 2011.

The military authorities in Yerevan and Stepanakert are likewise reluctant to publicize the Armenian combat death toll. Armenian human rights groups estimated before the latest deadly fighting in Karabagh that nine Armenian soldiers have died in action since December 2010.

The skirmishes highlight the lingering threat of another Armenian-Azerbaijani war, which is prompting growing concern from the world community. They came less than a month after US, Russian and French mediators said the conflicting parties have agreed in principle to a “draft mechanism to investigate incidents along the front lines.”

The three co-chairs announced that following yet another visit to Baku, Yerevan and Stepanakert. Armenian and Azerbaijani officials made no statements to that effect.

Correction

A photo in last week's issue of the *Mirror-Spectator* misspelled the last name of one of the people shown. The photo featured Nancy Kolligian and Robert Proodian.

We regret the error.



ARMENIA

Land and Culture Org. Partners With French Town in Goris

GORIS, Armenia – This summer, one of the campaigns of the Organization Terre et Culture (OTC-Land and Culture Organization's French chapter) was in partnership with the sister cities of Vienne, France and Goris.

On July 25, 20 young French and French-Armenian volunteers from Vienne arrived here to continue the renovation of the Sourp Astvatzatzin Church built in 1771, near the pagan-era caves in Old Goris. Local youth and city officials welcomed the group with the French and Armenian flags. In the city hall, Mayor Nelson Voskanyan greeted the volunteers from France.

During the summer campaign, the French and Armenian volunteers were busy cleaning the interior of the church, clearing the roof and exterior, while archaeologists were on site for excavation work at the church and the nearby caves. "I heard about the project from the City of Vienne and was interested in participating in this program as it is important to work with the City of Goris in this historical project," said Vienne firefighter Mehdi Bourahla. Joseph Papazian from OCT and the Vienne-Goris Sister City



Local Goris youth welcome French volunteers.

copper factory in the area.

This year's annual meeting of the LCO chapters from France, the United States, Armenia, the United Kingdom and Belgium was held in Lyon and Vienne. During the meeting, they had the opportunity to meet with officials from Vienne and discuss the sister-city renovation project of Sourp Astvatzatzin. Patrick Curtaud, deputy mayor for culture, heritage, tourism and international relations, is overseeing the project on behalf of Vienne. This project is in collaboration with the Vienne-Goris Sister City Association, the City of Vienne, the City of Goris and several other organizations.

Vienne is located about an hour from Lyon. It is a quaint

town built on Roman ruins. Of Vienne's population of 30,000, the Armenian community of 3,000 has a strong presence. Vienne is home to April 24, 1915 Street (Rue de 24 Avril, 1915), an Armenian Cultural Center and Armenian Genocide Memorial and khachkar (stone cross). The community mostly

encompasses descendants of the Armenian Genocide who migrated from Marseille to work in the local factories.

In addition to the Goris project, this summer OTC/LCO also returned to complete the early 18th-century Sourp Astvatzatzin Church in Yeghvard, Armenia and continued its renovation of the seventh-century Tchitchkhanavank Monastery in Shirakamut, Armenia. The more than 60 volunteers at the three campaign sites gave their hearts, sweat and soul to the mission of preserving Armenian heritage sites. LCO conducts all renovation projects in conjunction with historical and architectural experts in order to restore and resemble its original legacy.



Preparing the church's interior



Volunteers excavating around church

Program oversaw the project.

Joining and supporting the Vienne/OTC volunteers in the project were local Armenian student and youth groups from the Goris University Student Council, Goris French Language Center, David Bek's Pilgrims, high school students as well as Goris municipal workers and citizens. Goris and the rest of Syunik Region have had a longstanding relationship with the French dating back to the late 1800s when there was a French

Businessman Jailed on Pedophilia Charges

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A 70-year-old US businessman of Armenian descent was sentenced on Thursday to 15 years in prison on charges of pedophilia which he partly accepted.

Serop Der-Boghossian, the owner of a mining firm based in the northern Armenian town of Akhtala, was convicted of "coercing" local underage boys to have sex with him.

Der-Boghossian, whose Metal Prince company is the small town's main employer, was arrested in February following media reports that accused him of engaging in homosexual contacts with Akhtala teenagers. State prosecutors said he seduced them in 2009-2010 with cash and other "material assistance."

Der-Boghossian strongly denied the allegations shortly before the arrest. In a February 3 statement, he said unnamed individuals are trying to seize control of Metal Prince company by ruining his reputation.

But during his ensuing trial held in closed session the Iraqi-born businessman said he had had consensual sex with both underage and older men.

A court in Vanadzor backed the prosecutors' claims, however, convicting him under an article of the Criminal Code dealing with forcible sex with minors.

Der-Boghossian's lawyer, Tigran Safarian, condemned the verdict as unfair and said he would appeal it. "If, according to the prosecution, an individual had a sexual relationship with Serop Der-Boghossian for two years, he could not have done that against his will," Safarian said.

But Hovsep Sargsian, one of the trial prosecutors, dismissed this argument. He insisted that the defendant exploited the poverty of Akhtala boys and made them "materially dependent" on him. "We have to bear in mind that the victims were underage," Sargsian said.

The prosecution identified 10 victims. All of them testified during the trial. The Vanadzor court was also presented with unpublicized video evidence of Der-Boghossian's illicit relationships.

Der-Boghossian was listed as an adviser to Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian on the Armenian government's website until January 31. According to the government press office, the Metal Prince owner stopped working for Sargsian on December 31, 2010 for reasons unrelated to the sex scandal.

PM Sargsian Says He's Being Blackmailed, Orders Investigation

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian has petitioned the prosecutor's office to open a criminal case against a citizen who has accused Sargsian of embezzlement.

On Monday, Aram Ananyan, spokesman for the prime minister, released a statement saying that Harutyun Arakelyan's statements sent to the Ministry of Justice, according to which Sargsian has embezzled \$31 million, are false accusations and attempts of blackmail.

Arakelyan has submitted a letter addressed to Prosecutor General Aghvan Hovsepyan and National Security Service Director Gorik Hakobyan, claiming that in 2006, during the sale and purchase of stocks of Nairit plant, which are considered to be state property, and during the further exploitation of the plant, \$31 million has been embezzled.

"Rhinoville Property Limited [the company which bought Nairit in 2006, which is registered off-shore and whose owners are not identified], levied the 90-percent package of stocks of Nairit plant presented by the Central Bank of Armenia, in the Interstate Bank and got a \$70-million loan. Only \$39 million of that money has entered the State Budget of Armenia, the fate of the remaining \$31 million has remained unknown," Arakelyan's letter reads.

The accuser claims that Sargsian, who was chairman of the Central Bank in 2006, his brother and deputy head of Nairit plant,

Ashot Sargsian, general director of the plant and at the same time representative of the Interstate Bank Vahan Melkonyan, Minister

of Energy and Natural Resources Armen Movsisyan, and six other people had a hand in the alleged fraud.

Government Curbs Tsarukian Donations to Universities

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Education Minister Armen Ashotian on Thursday effectively confirmed reports that he has banned state-run universities from accepting scholarship donations from Gagik Tsarukian, a millionaire businessman leading Armenia's second-most important governing party.

Ashotian denied any connection between the move and reported tensions between President Serge Sargsian's Republican Party (HHK) and Tsarukian's Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK).

In recent years a charity belonging to Tsarukian has provided scholarships to university students from low-income families meeting a number of academic criteria. Those students have always been selected by university administrations.

Ashotian, who is a senior member of the HHK, said the universities will no longer be allowed to accept such assistance without his ministry's approval. "Personal scholarships in state universities can be introduced only with

the permission of the relevant state body," he told journalists. "Nobody has made such negotiable offers to us."

Ashotian added that the Gagik Tsarukian Fund and other charities keen to help students will now have to apply to the Ministry of Science and Education.

Reacting to Ashotian's order, Vahe Enfiajian, a senior BHK member involved in student funding, said, "Right now we are dealing with our organizational issues. There is a board that will discuss that issue."

Ashotian denied any political considerations behind his directive. "The ministry has many projects and I often appeal to Armenian entrepreneurs and philanthropists to invest in education," he said.

Tsarukian, who is thought to be close to former President Robert Kocharian, reportedly came under renewed pressure from his senior coalition partner last month after he pointedly declined to reaffirm support for Sargsian's reelection in 2013. Kocharian

gave in late September more indications that he would like to return to the political arena.

Earlier this month, Sargsian engineered the resignations and sackings of several top state officials, including parliament speaker Hovik Abrahamian. Some observers regard that as an attempt to ward off a potential challenge from his predecessor.

Tsarukian's charitable activities have sparked controversy before. The BHK leader began his and party's political activities ahead of the May 2007 parliamentary elections with the distribution of relief aid to tens of thousands of impoverished farmers. He also paid for free medical aid and other supposedly public services provided to urban residents.

The practice was denounced as wholesale vote buying by the opposition and some pro-HHK figures. The BHK, which has the second largest faction in the current parliament, denied any wrongdoing.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Turkish Journalists on Trial for 'Anti-Government Plot'

ISTANBUL (BBC) – Two prominent Turkish journalists have gone on trial accused of involvement in a plot to topple the government.

Ahmet Sik and Nedim Sener are accused of being part of Ergenekon, allegedly a secret military-backed organization. They are among more than a dozen defendants.

Their supporters say the trial is based on fabricated evidence and aims to silence government opponents. The government insists the pair is not being prosecuted for their writings, but for alleged criminal activity.

Tuesday's trial was adjourned after four hours to wait for a ruling by a higher court on whether to replace the presiding judge.

Defense lawyers argue that the judge could not be impartial because he took part in the murder case of ethnic Armenian journalist Hrant Dink. Sener won a press freedom award for a book about the murder.

The court said it would decide whether to release the suspects from jail when it returned on December 26.

The Turkish government's human rights record is coming under uncomfortable international scrutiny at a time when it is actively promoting democratic values in the rest of the Muslim world.

Outside the court, journalists unfurled a banner in support of their colleagues calling for their release.

Chinese Diplomat: Iran Entitled to Use Nuclear Energy

BEIJING (IRNA) – Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations office in Vienna Chen Jingye said on Saturday that it is Iran's legitimate right to use nuclear energy.

"Iran as a signatory to the Non-proliferation Treaty has the right to use atomic energy for peaceful purposes," he said in an International Atomic Energy Agency meeting in Vienna.

Chen cited negotiations and cooperation as the only way to solve Iran's nuclear issue.

"China under current circumstances believes that holding negotiations with Iran is an important way to peacefully solve Iran's nuclear issue," he added.

He reiterated that imposing more sanctions or exerting more pressure on Iran can not help solve the country's case.

The Chinese ambassador said that China is at the same time against the proliferation of nuclear weapons in any country in the Middle East.

PEN Joins Calls for Zarakolu Release

PARIS – PEN International has joined the International Publishers Association in calling for Turkish publisher Ragıp Zarakolu to be released from incarceration.

The owner of Belge publishing house was arrested on terrorism charges and imprisoned on November 4.

PEN International and the IPA have expressed concern about the effect of the detention on Zarakolu's health. They said the pre-trial detention period, which is likely to be a year, is contrary to Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The two organizations have also appealed for Zarakolu's son, Deniz, and professor and writer Bülent Ersanli, to be released immediately.

Bjørn Smith-Simonsen, chair of IPA's Freedom to Publish Committee (FTPC), said: "By putting this man behind bars, the authorities clearly want Ragıp Zarakolu's important work – documenting all freedom to publish violations in Turkey and making them public – to stop. This is unacceptable. The recipient of IPA's 2008 Freedom to Publish Prize should be released immediately."

Turkish General Flees to Russia to Avoid Arrest

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – An Istanbul court issued an arrest warrant in August as part of a probe regarding the establishment of several websites that allegedly ran propaganda campaigns against civilian groups.

Maj. Gen. Mustafa Bakici, for whom an Istanbul court issued an arrest warrant in August as part of a probe regarding several websites that allegedly ran propaganda campaigns against civilian groups on behalf of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK), has fled to Russia to evade arrest, Turkish media reported on Friday, November 18.

Bakici, who was the commander of the 23rd Border Division Command, was assigned to a desk job at the Land Forces Command's Inspection Department during this year's Supreme Military Council (YAS), due to his suspected involvement in the anti-government website campaign. He was among the 14 suspects for whom the Istanbul High Criminal Court issued arrest warrants as part of the investigation on August 8 after an indictment prepared by the prosecutor overseeing the case was accepted by the court.

After an appeal he filed against the arrest warrant was rejected, he was hospitalized at the Gulhane Military Academy of Medicine (GATA) shortly after the arrest warrant was issued and had recently been released from GATA. He began his new position at the Land Forces Command but submitted a petition for one month of leave that was approved by his superiors. The general's

whereabouts since then are unknown.

Bakici, who refused to turn himself in to prosecutors, reportedly submitted a petition to the Land Forces Command via his wife and requested retirement. Although the General Staff's legal department opposed his retirement on the grounds that the general should have been handed over to civilian prosecutors and that approving his retirement would be illegal, his petition for retirement was approved in the end and he retired on September 20.

After Bakici's family said they didn't know where he was, police informed border gates and airports of the situation and discovered that Bakici had fled to Russia through northern Iraq. He was also discovered to have withdrawn all the money from his bank accounts, which some reports say amounted to 300,000 liras, before his escape.

Bakici is among the key suspects in the investigation, which began in 2010, based on evidence found in the home of retired Col. Hasan Ataman Yildirim, another suspect. Later, an anonymous tipster from inside the military sent an email to inform the public and the prosecutors that the General Staff had established 42 websites for the sole purpose of disseminating propaganda about the government and religious communities.

There are a total of 22 suspects in the propaganda website case who are being accused of attempting to overthrow the government and of leading and being a member of an armed terror organization. They are also accused of categoriz-

Prosecutor Seeks up to 28-Year Sentence for Diyarbakir Mayor

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (*Today's Zaman*) – Diyarbakir Mayor Osman Baydemir faces up to 28 years in prison

on charges of spreading propaganda for a terrorist organization and committing a crime on behalf of a terrorist organization without holding membership.

An indictment filed against Baydemir, a member of Turkey's pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), by the Diyarbakir Public Prosecutor's Office, was accepted by the Diyarbakir 7th High Criminal Court on Tuesday, November 15. The indictment says Baydemir attended the funeral of seven terrorists from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in April in Diyarbakir. The indictment accuses Baydemir of spreading propaganda for

the PKK in a demonstration held in Diyarbakir to protest the killing of the seven terrorists by Turkish security



Diyarbakir Mayor Osman Baydemir

forces.

Stating that Baydemir most recently attended a protest held to protest the capture of jailed PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan in Kenya on February 15, 1999 on its anniversary, the indictment accuses Baydemir of showing solidarity with Öcalan and spreading propaganda for the PKK during this demonstration as well.

French FM Wants to Establish a 'Commission' to Study Genocide

COMMISSION, from page 1 Foreign Minister, he spoke on behalf of France. Our Foreign Office should at least require further explanation. Previously we had precedents of misunderstanding," said Zohrabyan.

Earlier, the Turkish Anadolu agency reported that during the joint press conference in Ankara, Juppe stated that all the major states conduct studies on their own history.

"Such studies may be conducted with-

in the frameworks of a commission of historians," the agency quoted Juppe. The source states that the French foreign ministers called the period of the Armenian Genocide hard both for Armenia and for Turkey and expressed readiness of his state to organize and host Armenian-Turkish discussions on the subject.

While visiting Armenia last month, French President Nicolas Sarkozy called on Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

ing military officers according to their religious or political beliefs, possibly for future reference. Fourteen officers on active duty, four retired military officers and a public servant have been accused in the indictment.

The content of the websites indicates that they were used as part of the "Action Plan to Fight Reactionary Attitudes," allegedly drafted by Col. Dursun Çiçek. Çiçek's suspected plan of action details a military plan to destroy the image of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) and the faith-based Gulen movement in the eyes of the public, play down the Ergenekon investigation and gather support for members of the military arrested as part of the investigation into Ergenekon, a clandestine organization nested within the state and bureaucracy accused of plotting to overthrow the government, Today's Zaman reported.

Sourp Magar Monastery On Verge of Destruction

NICOSIA, Cyprus (PanARMENIAN.Net)

– Through neglect by the "authorities" of the Turkish part of Cyprus, the Armenian monastery of Sourp Magar, a 1,000-year-old treasure and sacred pilgrimage site could soon fall into rubble and succumb to nature, vandals and the swathes of litter and used toilet paper that mar the area, Patrick Dewhurst said in his article, titled "A slice of history left to crumble."

Nestled deep in the Plataniotissa forest, Sourp Magar it is thought to have been founded by Coptic Christians in memory of Saint Makarios, the Hermit of Alexandria, around 1,000 AD.

By 1425 it came into the ownership of the Armenian Church, becoming a popular pilgrimage site and retreat for those en route to the Holy Land, and by the time the Ottomans arrived it had taken on the name Blue Monastery after the color of its wooden shutters.

Back then, pilgrims would have trudged through nearly 8,500 donums of monastery owned olives groves from sea level to an altitude of 530 meters.

Its last use as a working monastery is thought to be around 1800, after which it fell into a variety of alternate uses, including a school, a safe house for Armenian refugees fleeing Ottoman massacres in the 1890s, a summer camp for scouts and then, after the 1974 invasion, a mess for invading Turkish officers and refuge for settlers.

Were any ancient Armenians to make the long hike today, however, they would be surely be horrified by what it has become.

Asked about funding, Armenian community leader Vartkes Mahdessian said: "There is no funding for Sourp Magar monastery because it is outside of our parameters, and in our thinking, the church in Nicosia was more of an inter-communal place."

The Armenian community has reached out to "authorities" in the north in the past, but, as Mahdessian says, funding was the key issue: "We tried but they didn't have the money. There is virtually nothing left there and the problem we now face is how to maintain what is left," the *Cyprus Mail* reported.

Community News

More Than Books

NAASR Brings Community Together in Quest for Armenian Studies

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

BELMONT, Mass. — Many people know the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), based in this suburb of Boston, as a bookstore specializing in English-language works on Armenians and Armenian studies, but it actually conducts a much broader range of work in support of Armenian studies.

Founded by Armenian-American academics and concerned community leaders in 1955, it raised funds for the first two endowed chairs in Armenian studies in the US, at Harvard and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) during its first decade of life. It continued to support the expansion of Armenian studies programs in other universities over the following decades. Unlike other Armenian centers in the US, it is not a purely academic center affiliated with a university, nor does it have a staff of academics, but it does provide advice and direction to researchers, as well as the use of an extensive library. It provides grants for Armenological research, publishes books and a journal and organizes conferences and extensive lecture series throughout the United States. It even



Marc Mamigonian standing next to Prof. Taner Akcam of Clark University

holds Armenian language classes at its center.

NAASR as an independent institution has a constitution and an elective structure. Its annual assemblies elect in a staggered fashion each year one-third of a 27-person board of directors (at present 24 or 25 people) representing various regions of the country, which in turn elects annually from its members a seven-person Executive Committee. Regional or local chapters are formed in various parts of the country. Various advisory boards, including academic and financial, help the central administration. The NAASR staff carries out day-to-day affairs.

Raffi P. Yeghiayan of Lexington, Mass., a retired engineer (and son of the well-known writer Puzant Yeghiayan) who is now in his second year as board chairman, explained that the Executive Committee meets monthly and the board meets quarterly. The board makes policy decisions and the executive carries out tasks. Last year a conference call system was instituted for distant board members allowing for their participation without costly journeys. The Internet and email also allow for quick board decisions.

Yeghiayan said that the total paid membership of NAASR at present is somewhere in the 600s, and has dropped a bit from its heyday of more than 1,000. While the membership is

see NAASR, page 10



Fatma Muge Gocek

Sociologist Traces Roots of Collective Violence in Turkey against Armenians

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — On Wednesday, November 16, Fatma Muge Gocek, associate professor of sociology and women's studies at the University of Michigan, gave a lecture at Harvard University's Knafel Hall as part of a series of seminars on Turkey in the modern world.

By Daphne Abeel

Mirror-Spectator Staff

Titled "Deciphering Denial: Modernity, the Turkish State and the 1915 Collective Violence against the Armenians, 1789-2009," the event drew an audience of about 40, including students, faculty and members of the Turkish and Armenian communities.

Following a brief introduction by Cemal Kafadar, professor of Turkish Studies, Gocek used a PowerPoint slideshow and a historical chart to illustrate her investigation of collective violence against Armenians in Turkey.

"The violence against Armenians was the first instance of collective violence in Turkish history," Gocek said. "I'm a sociologist and when I began to explore this topic, I realized I had entered a political minefield. The nationalists on either side, Turks and Armenians, said I couldn't be a Turk."

She continued, "I wanted to explore the contested memoirs of 1915. On the one hand, we have the Armenian Diaspora, which argues that this was the first genocide of the 20th century and that it killed between 800,000 and a million-and-a-half people. The Turkish state, on the other hand, denies that the events were a genocide, calling them reciprocal massacres and claims there was nothing intentional in them. Turkey sets the number of deaths at 400,000, both military and civilians."

She added, "Most scholars agree that the events were a genocide. Then the question is, why do the Turkish state and society still deny it? This is not just a significant issue for a sociologist; it is a significant issue in Turkey today."

To explore the historical roots of collective violence, Gocek said it is necessary to study social pressures. "Even if there is tension in a society, it doesn't necessarily translate to violence."

Studying government documents, interviews with survivors or descendants of survivors and Turkish memoirs can provide evidence of certain patterns.

"If you look at Ottoman history," said Gocek, "you can see that violence was always there, even as far back as 1789, the time of the French Revolution. There were the massacres under Abdul Hamid in 1894 to 1896, and the pattern of violence continued in the Turkish Republic with forced military recruitment in 1941-42 and the forcible removal of the Greek population in 1964."

In reading the memoirs of Turkish Muslims, Gocek said it was possible to discover patterns of attitudes and emotions expressed towards Armenians and other minorities. In one striking account by a Turkish Muslim couple, published in 2004, the wife acknowledged seeing Armenians dying and being deported. However, her husband, who was a participant, asserted, "I would have done it again."

Gocek said, "Under the *milliyet* system, there emerged a divide between Muslims and non-Muslims that was kept under control by the state or local leaders. One can see in these memoirs a social polarization. There were certain instances used by the state and society to rationalize violence."

Gocek sketched the differences between the Western-Armenian communities, which traded with Europe and were more affluent, and the Eastern, more rural and provincial communities, where land was the most important possession. When land reform efforts did not ameliorate conditions, in 1830, Armenians in the Eastern provinces mounted protests against injustices.

Gocek pointed to the attempted takeover of the Ottoman Bank in 1895 by Armenian revolutionaries as an attempt to get the attention of the rest of the world for their suffering. The bank manager actually escorted the revolutionaries to his yacht to take them to France.

"This was the first instance in which the Western powers took any interest in what was happening in Armenia," said Gocek.

see ROOTS, page 16

Armenian Assembly Opposes Unbalanced Bill that Favors Turkish Enterprises

WASHINGTON — Over the objections of Representatives John Sarbanes (D-MD), Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) and Nikki Tsongas (D-MA), the House Committee on Natural Resources this week approved H.R. 2362, the Indian Tribal Trade and Investment Demonstration Project Act of 2011, reported the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly). The legislation, which is designed to facilitate economic development by Native American Indian Tribes, provides exclusive access to Turkish private enterprises.

"Providing exclusive, monopoly access to one entity is not in keeping with America's fair trade principles," stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. "We commend Congressman Sarbanes for spearheading efforts to amend H.R. 2362."

Sarbanes conveyed a series of concerns with the legislation. He cited the questionable practice of singling out one entity to receive benefits, Turkey's ongoing blockade of Armenia, Turkey's denial of the Armenian Genocide, Turkey's decades-long illegal occupation of the island of Cyprus, human rights issues, as well as the fact that the bill as drafted appears to violate existing trade laws under the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other international agreements as highlighted by a recent Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report. Sarbanes submitted for the record letters he received in opposition to the bill as follows: The American Hellenic Council of California (AHC), the Armenian Assembly of America, the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), PSEKA/Cyprus Federation of America, the Pancyprian Association and the Armenian National Committee of America.

In opposing the bill, Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Pallone also expressed ongoing concerns with respect to Turkey, stating, "Turkey is not acting in the interests of the United States," and noted that Turkey blocked an economic project for Cyprus and Israel, while Tsongas associated herself with Sarbanes' remarks and reiterated the concern that one country was being singled out for preferential treatment. Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI) voiced his concerns as to whether or not the US Department of State had been consulted and suggested that the House Committee on Foreign Affairs also have an opportunity to review the bill.

Sarbanes sought to offer an amendment, which was co-authored by Pallone and Tsongas, to broaden the bill to include all "foreign nations" and also add a strong human rights component. The amendment however was ruled out of order on a technicality and thus members did not have the opportunity to consider its merits. Without the benefit of the amendment, the bill was then adopted by a vote of 27 to 15, of which ranking member Edward Markey (D-MA) was among those members who opposed the bill.

"It is unfortunate that Congressman Sarbanes' amendment to broaden the opportunity to all foreign nations while ensuring compliance with democratic principles, safeguarding human rights and respect for religious freedom was ruled out of order by a parliamentary procedure. We will continue to oppose this legislation as currently drafted," Ardouny concluded.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Tongue in Cheek

By George S. Yacoubian

PHILADELPHIA — Long dormant, the specter of intemperance appears to have resurfaced in the Philadelphia-Armenian community.

But first, a historical perspective.

In recent years, three organizations have sponsored New Year celebrations. Foremost of the three is the Philadelphia Armenian Nor Daree (PAND), a longstanding coalition of dedicated Armenians, representative of five Armenian churches. Their commemoration, in reality a sequence of activities, including an Eve of the Eve Dance, has proven so successful that its attendance is an envy of the vast number of celebrations, sponsored coast to coast, with guests traversing the Eastern corridor to be in Philadelphia. Even more admirable is that all the proceeds benefit all five churches equally, and given PAND's longevity — three decades and counting — its munificence has been spectacular.

The other two functions are more compatriotic in nature; they cater to specific groups of adherents, friends and extended family members, sympathetic to the mission of the sponsoring organization and their zeal and enthusiasm compares favorably to the dedication and devotion that motivates PAND.

The dilemma with which we are confronted is not inconsistent with the reality of the 21st century.

American-Armenian institutions and organizations are challenged. Fundraising activities such as dances have become anachronistic. In Philadelphia, of distant memory are Steak Dinner Dances sponsored by Men's Clubs; a social sponsored during Lent by the Ararat Square Club and an annual dance hosted by the Armenian Sisters' Academy, all of which — at one time — attracted hundreds.

The competition for attendance today is fierce. And success, but even more important, survival, demands numbers. And this quest, unfortunately, may well risk provocative measures.

One such measure was a communication from PAND advising the churches that if facilities were rented to an Armenian organization for New Year's Eve, that church would be financially penalized by PAND.

Of Philadelphia's five churches, only two were impacted by this directive. To its credit, one of them rejected PAND's financial incentive, while the other, also to its credit, capitulated and evicted an Armenian organization that had, traditionally, sponsored a New Year's Eve Celebration on its premises for many years.

This episode recalls the individual who wanted to live in the biggest home in his neighborhood. He had two alternatives. Build the biggest home or demolish all the others. He chose the latter. So while he achieved his goal to live in grandeur, he dwelt in isolation.

Sociologist Traces Roots of Collective Violence in Turkey against Armenians

ROOTS, from page 5

When the Young Turks took over the Ottoman Empire, there was a marked social polarization amongst the Turkish Muslim majority. The reformists wanted to transform the empire while the traditionalists hoped to sustain Ottoman rule.

With the formation of the Committee of Union and Progress (CUP), a policy of ethnic cleansing ensued, said Goçek, exacerbated by the Balkan Wars. This was a period of rising nationalism and fear on the part of Turks about whether they would have a place to call their own. In order to claim the lands of Anatolia, the massacres and deportation took place.

"This was a period when Turkey felt that the Western Europe ignored the plight of the Muslims and led to the idea that the Turk had no friend but himself," she added.

After 1919, said Goçek, the violence before 1923 was not discussed — the subject was banned from the educational system. The trials

of the perpetrators were declared illegitimate and many of them escaped. The Armenian issue was considered closed.

Said Goçek, "Of all the deputies in the First Turkish Assembly, 25 percent had been involved in the massacres, but many were promoted to important government positions."

The period of 1975 to 1986 saw retaliatory efforts by individual Armenians who assassinated Turkish diplomats. These acts introduced Turkish society to its own history, yet Armenians were defined and labeled as revolutionaries and terrorists.

While Goçek does not employ the word "genocide," she said, "It is important to acknowledge the suffering." She views what happened to the Armenians, and to other minority populations such as the Greeks, the Assyrians and the Circassians, as part of "the end of a great complicated empire that broke up over the period of the 19th century. Outsiders were involved in this breakup and the story of the Armenians needs to be put into that nuanced context."

Goçek pointed to the fact that the Genocide has received more discussion since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. For example, she said the Kurds, in the last five to 10 years, have acknowledged what they did to the Armenians.

She added, "When I attended that important conference at Bilgi University in Istanbul in 2005, there were granddaughters there who had discovered from their grandmothers that they were Armenian. And it is often the women who pass on this knowledge."

The event was sponsored by the Harvard Center of Middle Eastern Studies and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. The next seminar, scheduled for Wednesday, November 30, is titled "Turkey and Its Neighborhood Foreign Policy," to be given by Prof. Kemal Kirisci of Bogazici University.

Medical Interpreter Guides Patients, Staff

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (*Boston Globe*) — At Mount Auburn Hospital, Lilia Karapetyan helps bridge cultural differences for patients. Karapetyan's first experience as a medical interpreter came after a massive earthquake in her native Armenia in 1988. As foreign aid workers arrived, Karapetyan, who spoke English, volunteered to translate for American doctors. "Thousands were dying and many more injured," she said. "Interpreters were needed everywhere. I hope I helped save lives."

Nine years later, Karapetyan immigrated to the United States and settled in the Watertown area, where she was inspired to become a liaison between the large Armenian community and the medical system.

Today, Karapetyan, 54, works for Mount Auburn Hospital's Interpreter Services Department, translating for Armenian and Russian patients.

"The interpreter is only the voice of the patient and doctor," she said. "You can't add your own personal emotions, feelings or thoughts, otherwise the doctor doesn't know if it's the interpreter speaking or the patient."

Boston Globe: How did you learn to speak English?

Lilia Karapetyan: My mother was an English teacher in Armenia and my first English teacher as well.

Boston Globe: What sort of patients do you typically interpret for at Mount Auburn?

LK: Many of the Armenians moved to this country in their late 60s or 70s to be with children and grandchildren. Some are uneducated small villagers; others are highly-educated architects, dentists and scientists. Some can read English, but have difficulty speaking or understanding doctors when they talk. I have interpreted for Armenians from Syria, Turkey and Armenia, of course, as well as Russians from

Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and Uzbekistan.

Boston Globe: Do you keep a log of expressions and terminology, since new terms arise all the time?

LK: I have notebooks in my home and office, and as I learn new procedures I add them to my



Lilia Karapetyan at work

vocabulary.

Boston Globe: What's an example of phrase that's challenging to interpret?

LK: When I first started I didn't understand "Can't keep anything down." You just have to know what it means. The exact translation doesn't make too much sense.

Boston Globe: How can cultural misunderstandings lead to complications or problems in treatment?

LK: Sometimes a patient will refuse a cup of water with ice cubes after having surgery. The doctors and nurses think they are being difficult or are confused, but in my culture, if you are sick, you drink only room temperature water or tea. Another example is when patients are told they will be seen by a nurse practitioner, they get upset, thinking that a "practicing" nurse, not a real one with a license, is going to experiment with their treatment.

My job is not only to interpret but to be patients' guide to the American medical culture.

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OBITUARY

Memorial Service for Garabed Haroutunian

FAIR LAWN, N.J. — A 40th-day memorial service (*Karasoonk*) will be held for Garabed Haroutunian, 78, on Saturday, December 3, at 11 a.m. at St. Leon's Armenian Church, 12-61 Saddle River Road.

A memorial luncheon will follow at Biagio's Ristorante, 299 Paramus Road, Paramus.

The family requests memorial donations be made to: St. Leon's Armenian Church, 12-61 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 or Naregatsi Art Institute School for Children, www.naregatsi.org/new/shushi/shushi.php.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Heritage Park Hits a Fenway Homer

FUNDRAISER, from page 1

"It's people like you that will make it possible to create the endowments for programs in this park, including the perpetual care and maintenance," George Elanjian, chairman, All Gifts Campaign, told the gathering. "When finished, this park will be the jewel of the RFK Greenway which will reflect our past, present and future."

The evening wasn't complete without the special recognition of two invited guests: veteran sportscaster Bob Lobel and former Massachusetts Transportation Secretary Jeff Mullan. Both received gifts from Elanjian and Armenian Heritage Foundation President James Kalustian, who were more than generous in their praise.

"They've contributed immensely to the enhancement of Boston's development in their own special way," lauded Kalustian. "This memorial is the result of everybody together in the true spirit of unity. When people work toward a common cause, we can realize our ambitions."

Kalustian further applauded Gov. Deval Patrick for helping make the project a reality as it shifted from one gubernatorial election to another.

Lobel showed up on crutches, the result of a degenerative muscle disorder. He was accompanied by close friend David Aykanian, president of Precision Fitness Equipment, who supplied services to the iconic TV announcer.

Since leaving Channel 4, Lobel is back on the air with an all-new television program called "Sports Legends New England," interviewing some of New England's biggest heroes.

Taking the podium, he wasted no time in creating a stir by announcing Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian as the next skipper of the Boston Red Sox.

"Management could do a lot worse," he joked with a smile.

Lobel felt at home here in more ways than

one. He warmed up to the crowd and chatted with former Emmy Award-winning meteorologist Mish Michaels, whose married name is Atamian.

"This has to be the friendliest place I've ever been," he admitted. "I'm a little overwhelmed by all this. The cause is genuine."

"Human rights is something we must embrace throughout our daily lives," he added. "This memorial is a tribute to the generations who endured many hardships to make America the land of their dreams. It fits the project. I can't wait to see the Labyrinth."

Despite his ailment, Lobel has a vision. He wants to walk that labyrinth at Heritage Park, which celebrates his "journey of life," whether with crutches or not.

"It's very spiritual," he added. "For Boston, it's another proud moment, a wonderful gift. Whoever thought of it deserves a lot of credit."

Lobel was moved by a documentary he had seen on The Armenian Genocide and implores the United States to officially recognize this moment in history.

"It's one of those untold stories of horror," he pointed out. "At what level will people go to gain power? It continues today. To ignore it would be a travesty."

Mullan's efforts toward the project proved invaluable from the inception. Prior to serving as secretary of transportation from 2009-2011, he was executive director of the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority. He has been involved with the project since 2007.

"It's the best example of a public-private partnership you can find," he said. "The Armenian community generously gave the city of Boston a gift."

The path was not always smooth and laden with crevices.

"People who managed the Greenway didn't want it," he confessed. "The Turks didn't want



George Elanjian, chairman, All Gifts Campaign, on the left, makes a presentation to former WBZ-TV sportscaster Bob Lobel during a reception conducted by the Armenian Heritage Park Project November 17 at Boston's Fenway Park. (Tom Vartabedian Photo)

it. There was a strong undercurrent. Even Mayor [Thomas] Menino had some reservations about the project before finally coming around to support it. At the end of the day, this became a state asset. The Armenian community should be proud of what's been accomplished here."

Mullan said the monument will touch all nations who have endured hardship, not just the Armenians.

"It'll remain a beacon of peace and harmony throughout the world," he noted. "People will be attracted to it because it affects us all. It will remind us all that the events surrounding 1915 should never be repeated."

Koutoujian showed his usual exuberance in opening the program. He continues to remain an avid proponent of the endeavor and helped with legislative issues while still a state representative.

"There are so many milestones in Boston and

this will be among them," he emphasized. "The photos you now see set their own stage of development, one step at a time."

He was joined at the dais by Rachel Kaprielian, former state representative and now registrar of Motor Vehicles. Together, the two co-hosted many a Genocide commemoration on Beacon Hill.

Kaprielian praised those such as Mullan for their initiative in getting the project off the ground and running.

"I feel very fortunate to have worked with people like that," she said.

Background music was performed by the John Baboian Ensemble. A buffet line conformed to the surroundings; on the menu were Fenway franks and chili.

Guests toured the park and lingered throughout the evening, rekindling friendships while supporting an earnest cause.

Five Scouts Receive Eagle Scout Rank, A Record in Troop 127 History

GLENDAL, Calif. — On Friday, November 11, at 11:11 a.m., Troop 127 of Boy Scouts of America, Foothill District, the Verdugo Hills Council, celebrated its annual award ceremony, 10-year anniversary and awarded five of their scouts the highest rank, that of Eagle Scout.

This is the first time in Troop 127's history that five boys simultaneously received the rank of Eagle Scout during the Rank Advancement and Merit Badge ceremony. Under Johnathan Sagherian's leadership, Troop 127 has produced 20 Eagle Scouts during its 10-year history.

Eagle Scouts Christopher Raffi Ovanessian, Sasoon Amerian, Allan Robert Issai, Shunt Manoel and Steven John Ayoob are children of first-generation immigrant Armenian and Lebanese Christian families. All five scouts are distinguished seniors in the Glendale Unified School District and at Saint Frances where their dedication to scouting is matched by their commitment to academic excellence.

To receive the rank of Eagle Scout, the boys had to earn 21 merit badges in cate-

gories such as camping, outdoor activities, community service, public service and leadership. Additionally, each one of the scouts completed an Eagle Project, which included planning, organizing and leading a community service project.

The projects included Ovanessian, securing the donation of four picnic tables and building two wooden benches for Brand Park and its trails; Amerian building three wooden kiosks

for Brand Park trails; Issai's 5,000-piece

Clothing Drive for Focus on Children Charity; Manoel's stripping of the Glendale YMCA parking lot and Ayoob repairing a wooden bench and rebuilding bike trails for Verdugo Peak in Verdugo Mountains.



Five Scouts received the Eagle Scout Rank, a record in Troop 127 history.

ON
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Representative Hecht Launches Campaign for Senate Seat

Rep. Jonathan Hecht, a friend of the Armenian community of Massachusetts and a sponsor of the Armenian Genocide Commemorations in the State House, has announced his candidacy for the Senate seat of Sen. Steven Tolman, who has resigned.

The 2nd Suffolk and Middlesex Senate district in Massachusetts includes **Watertown, Belmont and parts of Cambridge, Allston-Brighton, the Fenway and the Back Bay.**

For more information contact State Representative Jon Hecht at

electhecht@gmail.com
617.320.8905



COMMUNITY NEWS

Trinity Christmas Bazaar to Be Held December 2-3

By Seta A. Buchter

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Trinity Christmas Bazaar will take place on Friday, December 2, and Saturday, December 3, in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St. Bazaar hours are Friday, from 3 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Bazaar co-chairmen are Gregory A. Kolligian Jr., and Ara Hollisian, both members of Holy Trinity's Parish Council. Along with their committees, they have been working over the past several months to ensure that this year's bazaar offers something for everyone. Holy Trinity Church is in the midst of a yearlong celebration of its 50th anniversary on historic Brattle Street in Cambridge, with the bazaar actually celebrating its 51st year. "In this ongoing 50th anniversary celebration of our church," Kolligian states, "we look forward to welcoming the greater Boston-area community to this annual Christmas tradition."

The bazaar's traditional favorites will include the bountiful Farmer's Market with fresh fruits and vegetables; the Country Store with sweets and gourmet delights; Christmas Wreaths and Plants with decorated wreaths and holiday poinsettias; Sports Silent Auction where one is able to bid on Boston's favorite team tickets and sports Memorabilia; Second Time Around; The Punch is Right for kids; Books; Jewelry, T-Shirts and Aprons; the Sweet Candy Shop; the Armenian Vendor and other booths. The bazaar is a perfect time to do Christmas shopping.

Making his annual visit to the bazaar is Santa

Claus who will be stopping by on Saturday, December 3, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., to greet children and to pose for pictures.

The bazaar would not be complete without the Armenian delicacies, prepared by the Women's Guild and the Gourmet Booth Committee, that will be sold at the various food booths.

Armenian dinners will be served throughout the bazaar weekend. Friday night dinner will be served from 4 to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday dinners will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Take-out meals and an a la carte menu will also be available.

On Saturday, December 3, Santa's Playland will provide an array of activities for children ages 4 to 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Peter Adamian Hall. There will be arts and crafts activities, painting ornaments, decorating Christmas tree sugar cookies, face-painting, the Mystery Walk and incredible artistic balloon creations by Jo-Jo, back by popular demand for the fourth year. There will also be a separate playroom for children under 3. Carnival games will include basketball, beanbag toss, golf, washer toss, Plinko, the balloon pop and the rat race.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase. First prize is a Dynex 40" LCD Flat Screen TV; second prize, 3' x 5' Oriental Rug and third prize, Microsoft X-Box 360.

A limited number of Super Raffle tickets at \$100 each are still available. Only 150 tickets will be sold. First prize is \$2,500; second prize, \$1,000 and third and fourth prizes, \$500. These tickets may be purchased by calling the Holy Trinity church office or emailing office@htaac.org.

The Bazaar Committee invites the entire community to visit.



BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Actor Mike Connors, of "Mannix," the eight-year television series, born Krikor Ohanian in Fresno, and Walter Karabian, whose family lived two blocks away from the Ohanians in Little Armenia Town near Emerson School, got together for lunch in Beverly Hills. Karabian said a number of people stopped by and offered their best wishes to Connors, 86, after recognizing him from his long-running television show. Above are, Connors, on the left, and Karabian.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

UPenn Hosts College Of Health Sciences Seminar on Public Health in Armenia

PHILADELPHIA — On October 27, the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and the Penn Center for Public Health Initiatives and the University of Pennsylvania MPH Program hosted a seminar on “Update on Public Health in Armenia: Myths, Evidence, and Implications for the Region and the World.” This seminar featured the research and policy advocacy work of the American University of Armenia (AUA) College of Health Sciences (CHS) faculty and research staff and celebrated the 20th anniversary of the American University of Armenia.

The event emerged from a growing partnership between AUA and Penn Nursing, spearheaded by AUA CHS Associate Dean Varduhi Petrosyan and Penn Nursing Prof. Sarah Kagan who is also an AUA visiting professor. The seminar capped a daylong AUA CHS Annual Faculty Workshop, held in Penn Nursing’s Fagin Hall to develop new directions for growth in CHS’ programs. CHS faculty from around the world gathered to direct new and expand initiatives in nutrition, nursing, medical and public health education.

Students and faculty from the School of Nursing, Center for Public Health Initiatives and Master’s Program in Public Health and representatives of the Armenian community in Philadelphia and Baltimore attended the public seminar. CHS Dean Robert Bagramian opened the discussion, outlining the history and current activities of AUA and CHS.

Associate Dean Varduhi Petrosyan highlighted research in tobacco control that has resulted in marked changes in public policy and legislation in Armenia, one of the former Soviet Republics (FSR’s) most affected by tobacco use. Dr. Byron Crape provided a stimulating synopsis of tuberculosis control, offering insights into comparisons with other FSR’s. Finally, Dr. Kim Hekemian presented an uplifting examination of recent advances in health policy for improved maternal child health in Armenia, noting that large dividends in health are returned from relatively small investments in this beautiful country set in the southern Caucasus Mountains. The participants responded with questions and posed ideas about future research and public involvement.

Kagan, CHS visiting professor and Lucy Walker Honorary Term professor of Gerontological Nursing at University of Pennsylvania, noted: “I think we have made connections for two and possibly three research project collaborations between AUA and colleagues and students who attended today. I think AUA faculty who attended truly felt the warmth and collegiality of Penn Nursing and were happy with the day. And community members attending the lecture were excited about all that they learned and the future possibilities outlined for them.”

Sts. Joachim and Anne Church Marks 53 Years

PALOS HEIGHTS, Ill. — Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), visited Sts. Joachim and Anne Church last weekend, as the parish marked the 53rd anniversary of the church’s consecration.

Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy on

Sunday, November 13, and delivered a sermon on lay ministry — the focus of this year’s Diocesan theme. “Today and in the months to come, I ask you to open yourselves up to the call of Christ in your own lives,” he said. “Doing so, I pray, will illuminate a path of ministry for you. And I have faith that your families, this parish, our Diocese and the Armenian Church overall, will grow stronger, healthier, filled with greater creativity and inspiration, as we attend to Christ’s call to follow Him.”

Following services, some 120 people gathered in the church hall for an anniversary dinner. Robert Koshkarian and Pearl Gopioian, two longtime parishioners, were honored as “Lay Ministers of the Year.” Koshkarian has served on the Parish Council

and is currently on the parish’s stewardship and membership committees. Gopioian, who divides her time between Sts. Joachim and Anne Church and St. David Church of Boca Raton, Fla., is a member of the Women’s Guild, and has assisted with other church organizations.

Another highlight of the gathering was a musical program prepared by parish children, who sang *Kreesdos ee Mech* and a song about the Ten Commandments written by the Rev. Tavit Boyajian, parish pastor.

The parish extended its congratulations to Barsamian on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his ordination into the holy priesthood and his 20th anniversary as Primate of the Eastern Diocese.

Boyajian said he appreciated the success of the event and added that the community was supportive and glad to have the opportunity to meet with the Primate.

On Saturday evening, Barsamian engaged in a discussion with parishioners in the church hall. He answered questions on a range of topics, including his personal journey to the priesthood, the ecumenical movement and the traditions and practices of the Armenian Church.

The parish also drew attention to its innovative video ministry — a series of sermon videos and other education clips available online, on the parish website.

To learn more, visit their website www.saintsjoachimandanne.net.



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian distributes Holy Communion at Sts. Joachim and Anne Church on Sunday, November 13.

Archbishop Pargev Martirossian: The Face of Karabagh

ARCHBISHOP, from page 1

During his visit, Martirossian attended the Knights of Vartan’s annual program, dedicated this year to raise funds for Armenia Fund USA and the World Bank program in Armenia.

He visited the Armenian Library and Museum of America, where he spoke at length with curator Gary Lind-Sinianian and toured the new exhibit of photographs by Yousuf Karsh. He also met with Ruth Thomasian, founder and executive director of Project SAVE. He visited the site of the Armenian Heritage Park in Boston and performed the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge. Kevork and Jacqueline Atinizian then hosted him at a private dinner.

The prelate had nothing but praise for Armenia Fund USA and all the other chapters of Armenia Fund, suggesting that several layers of controls ensured that the funds went where they were intended.

This year’s theme for Armenia Fund USA is water. Martirossian said, “It is enormous work. First there was the Road of Life, linking Goris [Armenia] and Stepanakert, then the North-South Highway, which is the backbone of Karabagh and then many schools and hospitals.”

“These heroes who have won and kept our borders, if we don’t give them clean water, shame on us,” he added with emphasis.

Water, he said, affects every part of life, clearly, and its absence hinders the republic’s programs to boost its population. He recalled that Prime Minister Araik Haroutunian visited a village recently and spoke with a farmer who had three sons and asked the patriarch if any of the

sons were married and if not, why. The archbishop said, the farmer had replied, “We work with animals and can bathe only once a week. How can we bring a young girl here to live under these circumstances?”

The current population of Karabagh is 150,000, Martirossian said, but noted that it should have been 300,000 by this time. Everything, including a larger population, requires money, he said.

“To bring people in Karabagh, we need to spend \$70,000 per person,” he said. That money, he said, is the cost of building infrastructure and creating a high living standard, including roads, light, gas, water, schools, clubs and sports arenas.

“We need help from the diaspora,” Martirossian said.

Martirossian said that the one thing that hinders growth in Karabagh is that the country is not recognized internationally, and thus is not qualified for many loans and other assistance programs. Their only source of help, thus, is Armenia.

Martirossian said that the Azeri government “talks with ultimatums” but that it needs to “recognize that Karabagh can never stay under Azeri rule.” He added that the republic needs a tacit agreement from the Azeri government

guaranteeing its safety, but that agreement, he said, is not forthcoming.

He noted, however, “sooner or later, the Karabagh Question will be solved.” After all, he said, Kosovo, Abkhazia and Eritrea have all set precedents.

“We are very grateful to the OSCE



Archbishop Pargev Martirossian with Ruth Thomasian of Project SAVE

[Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] who are moderating and organizing meetings,” he noted.

Martirossian was happy about the change in the fortunes of Shushi, which had been in ruins after the war for liberation. The city, he said, has two new hotels and life is improving there, though he cautioned that improvements were still needed.

Martirossian was most proud that 75 percent of the republic has access to gas and electricity and that the Internet and cell phones have become readily available.

“Of course, life is easier, but it still is not enough. People want everything quickly,” he said, adding, “Paris, Moscow or New York, none of them became what they are overnight.”

He said that Karabagh is looking into attracting more tourists with its majestic mountains and monasteries. The region’s old Christian past should also attract religious tourists, he noted.

When asked how he was able to cope with all that he has to with all the difficulties that the republic has faced, Martirossian got philosophical: “It’s like a father in a house with his children. The children need to be taken care of no matter what. It is my job. They are my 150,000 children. I am accountable to God. You need to take care of them. That the duty of every cleric.”

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COMMUNITY NEWS

NAASR Brings Community Together in Quest for Armenian Studies

NAASR, from page 5

predominantly from New England, there are members in all parts of the world, even distant places like Japan.

NAASR's bookstore carries the largest number of English-language book titles on Armenian topics in the world. Catherine Minassian, the administrative director of NAASR, is responsible for its management. She took over this post from Sandra Jurigian, who has been with NAASR for many decades and now serves as part-time executive assistant. Minassian revealed that in 2010, NAASR sold about 1,900 books, worth in all roughly \$40,000. Interestingly, a large portion of that, approximately one-third, was sold through Amazon.com, which now lists NAASR's holdings. A great number of books were sold at lectures and other events or directly in the store. The rest were sold through telephone, mail or the NAASR website.

Every year, 40 to 50 new English-language titles, including some published outside of the US, are acquired by NAASR, which attempts to be comprehensive in its attempt to find new relevant publications. It carries around 2,500 different titles of books in all.

Historical works and books about political topics have been the best sellers in recent years. The second most popular category of books would be memoirs and biographies. NAASR often manages to locate difficult-to-find books on Armenian topics, such as self-published works or even works published abroad. Writers in Europe, Armenia and the Middle East know that NAASR is a good outlet for distributing their books in the US.

According to Yeghiayan, NAASR has cut back on its presence at book fairs like that of the *Boston Globe*, as it does not usually get enough sales to justify the staff time required. However, in-house sales such as for the Christmas season are still held.

Marc Mamigonian is the fulltime (perhaps more than fulltime) director of academic affairs for NAASR. Mamigonian grew up in New Hampshire, isolated from any organized Armenian community, and while interested in Armenian history, only began his involvement in the Armenian world after starting work at NAASR in early 1998. He had obtained a master's degree and was working on his doctorate on James Joyce before embarking on this new career. He had come to do genealogical research at NAASR and interviewed his distant relative, Manoog Young, who happened to be a founder and chairman of NAASR. It turned out that NAASR was looking for a new employee and Mamigonian was in the right place at the right time. Hired as an assistant to Young, Mamigonian then became in turn director of publications, director of programs and publications and then director of academic affairs, in 2008. Mamigonian added, "I've been fortunate to have access to a wealth of material, books and people here in this building."

Mamigonian is involved with many aspects of NAASR's activities. He is in charge of programs. He spends a lot of time coordinating activities with academics and helping people who contact NAASR with questions pertaining to Armenian studies. He responds with advice as to what books are available or what academicians might be able to assist in the matter. He has succeeded Dr. Barbara Merguerian as the editor of NAASR's *Journal of Armenian Studies*, publishing six issues, including two double issues, and is in charge of NAASR's publication series.

Eight books have been published by NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press between 2003 and 2010 on a variety of Armenian topics, and there are two more books in press at the moment. NAASR arranges the editing, printing and publication of these works. Several were published in collaboration with other institutions, such as Harvard University's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, or Haigazian University. Some of the volumes received outside funding. Mamigonian has served as editor of the publication series, and specifically of some conference proceedings.

Mamigonian oversees the Edward and Helen Mardigian Reference and Research Library at NAASR, with holdings of over 20,000 books and other items primarily in English and

Armenian. Recently the library was enriched by Ani and George Bournoutian's personal collection of 3,000 volumes. The library also has some personal papers of Armenian-Americans.

Mamigonian provides the administrative coordination for the NAASR research grant series, as well for the Knights of Vartan grants administered through NAASR. These grants in the last five years have supported a wide variety of work, including that of the Armenian National Committee for Byzantine Studies in Armenia, the Association Internationale des Etudes Arméniennes (for its 2009 workshop on Armenian literature), a researcher traveling to the Mekhitarist library in Vienna to work on Ottoman Armenian newspapers and the publication of George Bournoutian's new book, *The 1823 Russian Survey of the Karabagh Province* (Mazda Press).

NAASR's most visible activity, as Yeghiayan has pointed out, is its lectures and conferences on Armenian topics, which are free and open to the public. In recent years, NAASR has been much more active in this sphere, which again is coordinated by Mamigonian. The latter explained: "Years ago, during the earlier days of the organization, it was much more common for us to hold events in other parts of the country. That practice fell into abeyance for a number of years. As we started doing more and more programs here in Belmont, we thought it would be good and useful – and people in other parts of the country who contacted us agreed – to do similar programs in other parts of the country. We want to expand the reach of Armenian studies and bring good quality scholarly programs to a wider range of people than we can if we just have them in our center. Of course it helps increase interest in this organization, and membership in it too."

Southern California is one of the most active areas in which NAASR organizes events, though it does so in many parts of the United States outside of its hometown.

Local NAASR members have helped arrange

proud of is that NAASR has managed to maintain good relationships with all of the [university] chairs and everybody working in the field of Armenian studies."

Mamigonian has become formally involved in Armenian studies outside of NAASR too. At present, he serves on the executive of the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS), a scholarly association based in the United States. As complementary organizations, NAASR cosponsored

ther attempts to establish endowment chairs in Armenian studies. The costs of endowments have increased immensely, while we have an ample number of chairs that can produce the necessary scholars in the field. In fact, graduates cannot readily find appointments, and we might even end up with a glut of specialists. NAASR is now more inclined to promote Armenian studies in existing programs."

Another major change, he continued, is that



NAASR board members with Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin of the Ararat-Eskijian Museum and NAASR's Southern California committee, from left, Raffi Yeghiayan, Yervant Chekijian, Mangassarian-Goschin, Roxanne Etmekjian, Bertha Mugurdichian, Shushan Teager, Van Aroian and Nancy Kolligian

the SAS 35th-anniversary conference at UCLA two years ago.

Mamigonian has also participated in two workshops on the state of Armenian studies organized by Prof. Gerard Libaridian at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Despite some current arguments to the con-

NAASR works outside of the borders of the US, in Armenia and elsewhere. The "N" in NAASR does stand for national, meaning US, but the annual assembly modified this. There is cooperation with Armenian universities, and many research grants now support studies in Armenia, whether by scholars there or from the US.

Young, one of the main founders of NAASR, led the organization as chairman for 47 years until Nancy Kolligian succeeded him in 2001. She served in this position for nine years, until 2010. Yeghiayan, who served many years on the executive as first vice chair, and was a board member since 1962, said he felt that Kolligian had done an excellent job, and he is continuing in the same direction. He is trying in particular to further the work of creating a stronger financial foundation for the organization.

NAASR began a \$2-million capital campaign on its 50th anniversary, which is still continuing today, with some \$1.4 million having been raised so far. Yeghiayan stressed that endowed funds today bring very low returns because of low interest rates. With lower income, NAASR is in a deficit situation. Though it has been able to continue without cutting back on operations due to various bequests, this cannot be counted on forever. Yeghiayan has initiated a membership drive to earn more income through membership dues. In addition, he is attempting to find more donors to sponsor specific lectures and programs. Donors have specific interests and this satisfies them while allowing funding to continue for events.

Mamigonian said that last year, NAASR organized a social event for area Armenian college students as part of its outreach activities. He declared, "We would like to do more such things to encourage membership in this organization and to foster a sense of community among the students."

With advances in technology, NAASR already has placed its library catalogue online and is continuing to modernize.

NAASR is also still seeking donations of Armenian source materials, including in particular the archives of Armenian-American groups such as the compatriotic unions from different parts of Western Armenia. It wants to improve its already extensive collection of volumes published by these organizations on different towns and villages of the Ottoman Empire and perhaps help in arranging for translations into English of these invaluable works.



Cathy Minassian, center, with Raffi Yeghiayan and visiting author Dr. Susan Pattie

these lectures, along with colleagues in other Armenian organizations. Frequently, NAASR cosponsors its events with partner organizations in order to get larger audiences and share costs. Some of the events are to promote newly-published books, and this allows NAASR to sell books and thus cover some of its expenses. Also, NAASR has been fortunate to find that many speakers who waive their speaking fees or only accept very modest honoraria.

NAASR has hosted evening social events for area Armenian scholars doing work on Armenian subjects in order to encourage a sense of community as well as to make them feel welcome at NAASR. At the initiative of Professors Simon Payaslian and James Russell, over the past year or so, it has held a number of roundtable gatherings of area scholars at NAASR or in Russell's office so that the latter can meet and discuss work in progress, share ideas and ask questions of one another.

Mamigonian said, "One of things that I am

trary, Mamigonian takes an optimistic view of Armenian studies: "I don't see Armenian studies going into decline. You can look at any era in the history of Armenian studies in this country, going back at least 55 years, and do it in such a way that it looks like either happy days are here again or the decline and fall is upon us. I think that there is ample reason to pay close attention and be vigilant to what is going on in the field and with all the programs, and make sure that the universities are honoring their commitments to their endowed chairs and programs. However, we have a lot of outstanding scholars working in the field right now. Excellent work is being done and will continue to be done. I tend to try to take the long view with these programs."

New Directions

Yeghiayan said that there were several major changes in NAASR's work in recent years: "One major change is there are no fur-



COMMUNITY NEWS

Christopher P. Mooradian Takes Command Of US Coast Guard Tahoma

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — On June 16, Commander Christopher P. Mooradian took command of United States Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Tahoma (WMEC 908) in a ceremony here. The change-of-command ritual took place with the attendance of the assembled company of command, families and friends.

Mooradian was commissioned after completing Officer Candidate School, in Yorktown, Va., in 1990. His first assignment was aboard USCGS Laurel, in Jacksonville, Fla., where he served as a deck-watch officer and navigator. He then served as executive officer of USCGC Adak, from 1992 to 1994, where he conducted fisheries law enforcement and search and rescues in the First Coast Guard District (Northeast United States). Following his tour on CGC Adak, he was assigned to Officer of Military Personnel, Policy and Standards Branch at Coast Guard Headquarters, from 1994 to 1997.

In July 1997, Mooradian took command of USCGC Wrangell, in Portland, Maine, where he carried out missions in law enforcement and search and rescue operations throughout the First Coast Guard District and in the Caribbean. While serving there, Mooradian made two deployments to Frontier Shield and Frontier Lance, Coast Guard counter-



Commander Mooradian with wife, Alicia, and daughters, Emma and Grace

drug operations in the Caribbean.

Upon completing his assignment in 1999, Mooradian was assigned to duty under instruction in the Coast Guard's law program. His first assignment as a judge advo-

cate was to the Coast Guard Judge Advocate General's Office of Maritime and International Law, where he worked on law of the sea, communications and maritime security and defense issues, from 2002 to 2004. Mooradian then served as first Coast Guard representative to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of the General Counsel, from 2004 to 2006. While there, he also served as an adjunct instructor with the Defense Institute for International Legal Studies, in Newport, RI.

In 2006, Mooradian returned to shipboard duty on USCGC Jarvis, in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he served as executive officer until 2008. While serving there, he made fisheries law enforcement deployments in the Bering Sea, the North Pacific and the Central Pacific.

Since July 2008, Mooradian has served as the deputy staff judge advocate for the First Coast Guard District, in Boston.

Mooradian received his bachelor's degree in international studies, with a concentration in economics and Latin America, from Kenyon College in 1989. He received his law degree in 2002 from Boston University, where he also served as articles editor on the Boston University Law Review.

Mooradian and his wife, Alicia, have two daughters, Emma and Grace.

Dr. Vartan Matiossian to Deliver Lecture Hosted by Zohrab Center

NEW YORK — A presentation titled "The Aryan Myth, Hitler and the Armenians," will be given by Dr. Vartan Matiossian on Thursday, December 1, at the Diocesan Complex at 7 p.m.

During his lecture, Matiossian will explore the definition of the word "Aryan" and how it has historically related to Armenians.

"At the beginning of the 20th century, there was a strong anti-Armenian, racist current in Germany, which became evident during the Armenian Genocide and its aftermath," said Matiossian.

"Hitler, who was aware of anti-Armenian writings, first mentioned Armenians in 1922, when he already spoke of them as a mixed race and maintained such views from time to time."

He will also touch upon the Dr. Vartan Matiossian campaign waged against



Armenians that would have categorized them as Semites, if it were not for a strong Armenian lobby that succeeded in ensuring the recognition of Armenians as Aryans.

Matiossian began his research on this topic almost a decade ago after reading about a German-Armenian scholar who had been involved in the lobby for recognition of Armenians as Aryans in Nazi Germany. After publishing subsequent articles about his findings in Armenian, he found an absence in scholarship on the topic in English and continued his research, which has now evolved into a book-size manuscript.

While he investigated the topic thoroughly he came across unexpected information that fueled his research further. "It was extremely interesting to see how unfavorably Armenians were pictured, particularly in the 1800-1920 period, in the West," said Matiossian.

Matiossian is currently the executive director of the Armenian National Education Committee in New York. He is a native of Montevideo, Uruguay, and earned his PhD in history from the National Academy of Sciences in Armenia. He is the author of five books in Armenian and one in Spanish and has translated more than a dozen books from Armenian into Spanish.

Levon Avdoyan to Speak at Columbia, Michael Haratunian to Be Honored

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK — The Armenian Center at Columbia University is sponsoring a double-billed program on Thursday, December 1, featuring a lecture by Library of Congress's Dr. Levon Avdoyan, titled, "To Know Wisdom and Instruction — 500 years of Armenian Printing." The event will also honor Michael Haratunian, former chair of the Armenian Center and a board member for many years.

The program, with a reception to follow, will take place at the Faculty House, 1207 Amsterdam Ave., between 119th and 120th Streets, at 7 p.m.

"To Know Wisdom and Instruction" comes from Proverbs in the Bible and are the first words written in the Armenian alphabet in 405 AD. In the year 1512, 72 years after the inven-

tion of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg, Armenian words were printed by movable type. Since that time, a unique body of work and an impressive library heritage have been developed by Armenian writers.

Avdoyan who is the Armenian and Georgian specialist at the Library of Congress since 1992, will focus his talk on the 500 years of Armenian printing and a history of the Armenian collection at the Library of Congress. A world authority on manuscripts from this region, the scholar will also relate a forthcoming exhibit at the Library of Congress celebrating the 500th anniversary of



Michael Haratunian

Armenian printing and conduct a tour of the extensive Armenian collection there.

Under Avdoyan's tenure, which started in 1977 at the Library of Congress, the Armenian collection has increased from 7,000 items to approximately 45,000 pieces. He has also authored an illustrated guide to the Near East collection at the library, as well as several articles on both scholarly and library subjects.

The evening will also pay tribute to the many years of service that Haratunian has rendered to the Armenian Center at Columbia.

The center's chair, Mark Momjian, stated, "On behalf of the entire Board of the Armenian Center, we owe Michael Haratunian our deep gratitude for his remarkable dedication to the cause of Armenian Studies at Columbia University. Michael's leadership has been inspirational, and we are indebted to him for his incredible support of public programs showcasing the field of Armenian Studies."

NKR President Meets with AGBU Leadership at AGBU Central Office

NEW YORK — Shortly after arriving in the United States on Wednesday, November 16, Nagorno Karabagh Republic (NKR) President Bako Sahakyan, who was accompanied by Primate of the Artsakh Diocese Archbishop Pargév Martirosian, NKR Permanent Representative to the United States and Canada Robert Avetisyan and press attaché of the NKR president David Babayan, attended a dinner-meeting hosted by AGBU President Berge Setrakian and members of the Central Board at the Armenian General Benevolent Union Central Office, during which a number of issues related to Karabagh were raised and discussed. Also in attendance were Armenia's Ambassador to the United States Tatoul Markarian, Armenia's Representative to UN Garen Nazarian and Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America Archbishop Khajag Barsamian.

Discussions focused on new and developed projects implemented in Karabagh. Sahakyan stressed AGBU's important role in the development of the republic over the past several years, as well as the need for AGBU's further involvement. NKR's leader also called on AGBU to give a new impetus to the organization's programs and projects throughout the country.

After welcoming the guest of honor, Setrakian said that he was pleased to have had the opportunity of meeting with the Karabagh president to discuss the national policies and programs of AGBU, its long-standing commitment to the safety and well-being of Armenia and Karabagh, the integrity of ancestral territories, as well as the various venues through which AGBU could coordinate and channel assistance to Karabagh by encouraging and organizing investment strategies from the diaspora, toward its socio-economic development. He then introduced Central Board member Joseph Oughourlian, who has been involved actively in developmental efforts in Karabagh. Oughourlian, in turn, expressed his admiration for the heroic qualities of the citizens of Karabagh and extolled their character and integrity, which he had come to appreciate through his personal experiences and business dealings in the country. Setrakian said that Oughourlian will act as the board representative on issues related to Karabagh,

emphasizing the importance of investing in the rich natural resources of the country.

AGBU continues to sponsor various projects in Karabagh, including the Artsakh Chamber

Orchestra and chess competitions and has recently partnered with the Fruitful Armenia Fund (FAF) to launch the NUR plan, which is similar to the One Laptop Per Child project.



AGBU Central Board member Joseph Oughourlian (far left) discusses his recent developmental efforts in Karabagh as AGBU President Berge Setrakian, NKR President Bako Sahakyan, Armenia's Ambassador to the United States Tatoul Markarian and Armenia's Permanent Representative to UN Garen Nazarian listen on.



Arts & Living

Composer Echoes in Unexpected Places

By Larry Rohter

NEW YORK (*New York Times*) — One of the top executives and producers at Columbia Records, George Avakian, received a telephone call from the classical music composer Alan Hovhaness, who told him, “There’s a terrific musician from India who is here, and you should meet him.” His friend was so adamant, Avakian recalled recently, that a few minutes later Hovhaness was knocking on the door, with Ravi Shankar in tow.

The consequences of that encounter were many, starting with Shankar, who at that time had no recording contract in the US, making a series of American albums, one with liner notes written by Hovhaness. But within a decade Shankar was also giving sitar lessons to George Harrison and playing at the Monterey Pop Festival — events that encouraged an entire generation of rock and pop musicians and listeners to look eastward for new inspiration.

This year is the centennial of Hovhaness’s birth, and for the occasion, Delos Records just released a commemorative CD of some of his most important works, called “American Mystic: Music of Alan Hovhaness.” But as Avakian’s account suggests, Hovhaness’s most lasting legacy may be not in the realm of symphonic music but in of the sphere of popular music, particularly jazz and what has come to be known as “world music.”

Born near Boston to an Armenian father and a Scottish mother, he gravitated from the very beginning to music outside the European tradition. His first contact with Shankar came during a United States tour by the Shankar family dance troupe in 1936, but from childhood Hovhaness had been immersed in the work of Komitas Vartabed, an Armenian priest and musicologist who specialized in the medieval liturgical and folk music of his homeland. In the world of mainstream American classical music, however, Hovhaness, who died in 2000, was — and remains — an outlier. At a time when dissonance, serialism and other styles were in vogue and many of his colleagues were writing works meant to be both modern and specifically American, Hovhaness embraced tonality and also showed a fondness for archaic elements like the polyphony of Renaissance music and the counterpoint of Baroque fugues.

“Alan was a composer who was not really interested in being contemporary and he didn’t look to Western Europe as his only inspiration,” said Dennis Russell Davies, a conductor who has long championed the music of Hovhaness, first as music director of the American Composers Orchestra and the Brooklyn Philharmonic and now at the Bruckner Orchestra in Linz, Austria. “He wasn’t concerned with trends. He had a vision of what he wanted his music to sound like.”

As Hovhaness’s initial fascination with Armenian music expanded, his curiosity led him further and further afield, first to India, where he lived in 1959 and 1960, then Indonesia, and finally to Japan, China and Korea. Those influences all worked their way into his music. “American Mystic” includes a *Gamelan in Sosi Style* recorded by the Shanghai Quartet, and he also wrote pieces he described as *ghazals*, the name given to a genre of classical sung poetry popular in India and Pakistan.

“To me the hundreds of scales and *ragas* possible in Eastern musical systems afford both



Janet Khalarian

11th Annual Concert by Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale Dazzles City

WORCESTER, Mass. — The Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale presented its 11th Annual Gala Concert and Dinner on Sunday, September 18, in the Cultural Center of the Armenian Church Of Our Saviour. The chorale is under the direction of Konstantin Petrossian.

By Charles DreKazarian

Following an Armenian dinner, city proclamations from Worcester Mayor Joseph C. O’Brien were presented by City

Councilor Joseph Petty, declaring “Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale Day” in honor of the occasion to Petrossian, Rev. Aved Terzian of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour and Rev. Dr. Khatachadour Boghossian of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church. Both churches have been co-sponsors of the event since 2000.

The concert was dedicated to the 20th Anniversary of the Republic of Armenia’s independence and many of the musical selections celebrated the glory and beauty of Armenia. Featured were the Arevig Children’s Chorus and Dance Group with choreography by Alin Sarkisian and Ani Yaghmourian who also performed several dances. Guest soloists included Janet Khalarian, soprano, and Gohar Manjelian, mezzo-soprano. Karine see CHORALE, page 14



The Junior choir



The Arevig Dance Group

AMAA Holds Concert to Benefit Avedisian School In Yerevan

LEXINGTON, Mass. — The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) will present singer Grace Kelly in concert on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at the National Heritage Museum. The 19-year-old saxophonist, singer, composer and arranger has played at Lincoln Center and was voted Best Jazz Act in Boston for the past four years. Her latest album, “Grace,” marks a new direction for her into Gospel Jazz.

For information on Kelly, visit her website at www.gracekellymusic.com.

Cocktails will start at 6:30 p.m. followed by the concert at 8 p.m.

Proceeds from the Concert will benefit the Avedisian School in Armenia.

For more information or how to purchase tickets and prices, visit www.amaa.org.



Singer/saxophonist Grace Kelly

Protesters Want Getty to Return Pages from Sacred Armenian Book

LOS ANGELES (*LA Times*) — About 30 protesters called on the Getty Museum to return seven ornate pages taken from a sacred medieval Armenian book considered to be a national treasure.

The protesters gathered outside the gates of the museum Saturday, holding signs that read “Shame on Getty” and “Our history is not for sale.” Armenian church officials are trying to secure the pages, which they say were illegally obtained by the museum nearly two decades ago.

The Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America filed a \$105-million lawsuit against the J. Paul Getty Trust in June 2010 alleging that the museum illegally bought seven pages ripped from the *Zeyt’un Gospels*, a sacred manuscript that dates back to the year 1256.

The Getty bought the pages in 1994 from a private collector for \$950,000. The church says the previous owner was the heir of the man who allegedly stole the pages in 1916 when the Turks expelled Armenians from an area of the Ottoman Empire that is now part of Turkey.

Getty spokeswoman Julie Jaskol said the Getty is confident it holds the title to the work.



ARTS & LIVING

Composer Echoes in Unexpected Places

COMPOSER, from page 12

discipline and stimuli for a great expansion of melodic creations," Hovhaness once said in an interview. "I am more interested in creating fresh, spontaneous, singing melodic lines than in the factory-made tonal patterns of industrial civilization or the splotches and spots of sound hurled at random on a canvas of imaginary silence."

The two most common complaints against Hovhaness are that his work is "exotic" and that he was simply too prolific. There is some basis to both criticisms. He wrote more than 400 pieces, among them 67 symphonies of varying quality. Some compositions, like *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayam*, included on the centennial collection CD with a narration by Michael York, or the symphony *And God Created Great Whales*, can veer toward kitsch.

But his music could also be deeply spiritual, a quality on display in well-known works like his *Symphony No. 2*, called *Mysterious Mountain*, and his *Prayer of St. Gregory*, both of which feature soaring trumpet and meditative string parts. He also complained of "the tyranny of the piano" in classical music, and, to combat it, wrote pieces featuring Middle Eastern stringed instruments like the *oud* and *kanun*, and other compositions mimicking wind instruments like the Armenian *duduk* and the oboes and flutes used in Japanese *gagaku* music, one of Hovhaness's favorite styles.

At the time he was experimenting with all of this it may indeed have seemed exotic. But such sources and techniques are now widely used in both popular and classical music. As Davies noted, Arvo Pärt and Giya Kancheli "are two composers who in their own way have done a

similar thing" by drawing on medieval liturgical music and feeling "at home using tonality and expressing spirituality."

Hovhaness's career started promisingly and conventionally enough. When the BBC Symphony Orchestra performed his first sym-

phony, called *Exile* in recognition of the genocide Armenia had suffered under Turkish rule, Leslie Howard, the conductor of the ensemble, described Hovhaness, then still in his 20s, as a "young genius."

But at Tanglewood one summer in the early 1940s, Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland publicly attacked Hovhaness, with Bernstein going to the piano to play chords mocking his style, which he derided as "cheap ghetto music." Hovhaness withdrew to regroup, earning his living as an organist at an Armenian church and destroying many of his scores. But he returned after World War II with an even stronger commitment to writing melodic music that featured nontraditional scales and instrumentation.

An innovative 1945 work, a concerto for

his jazz phase in the late 1970s and early 1980s and occasionally working with her, he recorded a version of the second movement of *Mysterious Mountain* for his album "Oneness." The jazz bass virtuoso Jaco Pastorius recorded and often improvised live on *Mysterious Mountain*, and Wynton Marsalis has recorded *Prayer of St. Gregory*. But among current jazz figures influenced by Hovhaness the best-known is probably Keith Jarrett, who recorded *Lousadzak* in 1989.

It was in the early 1970s, when Avakian was managing Jarrett, that the pianist seems to have first expressed interest in Hovhaness's music. Avakian's wife, the violinist Anahid Ajemian, who played or recorded many Hovhaness works beginning in the 1940s, gave Jarrett scores and recordings to study and not long after began detecting the results in the early piano solo albums that made Jarrett an international star.

Davies was the conductor when Jarrett recorded *Lousadzak*, which means "dawn of light" in Armenian. He too sees a strong connection. "Both Hovhaness and Lou Harrison have been very influential in a direct way on Keith," in part because "they have a melodic and harmonic language that is very close to him," Davies said. "When Keith was forming his improvised music, these two composers had already written a lot of that, so he felt at home there, that it was part of his musical language."

Eventually Hovhaness settled in Seattle, which seems appropriate in view of his interest in the civilizations on the other side of the Pacific Rim. So the next time that *Norwegian Wood* or *Paint It, Black* comes on the radio or a mash-up of *bhangra* with hip-hop, house or reggae is played at a club; or someone like Michael Brook releases a CD collaboration with Djivan Gasparyan, Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan or U. Srinivas, it might be appropriate to remember that Hovhaness was already occupying a similar musical space before any of those involved were born.

"Hovhaness's own music may have been too idiosyncratic for others to copy, but his embrace of other cultures has been influential in general," said Gerard Schwarz, former musical director of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, which regularly features the Hovhaness repertory. "He opened that world to other composers, the way they were influenced harmonically by Debussy and rhythmically by Stravinsky. Would they have heard it anyway? Who knows? But certainly Hovhaness was there first."



The composer Alan Hovhaness, working in a studio piled high with scores.

piano and orchestra called *Lousadzak*, used elements of aleatory music, with instruments repeating phrases in random, uncoordinated fashion. That technique impressed John Cage and Lou Harrison, two fellow composers who became Hovhaness's friends and supporters; the growing individuality of his music may also help explain his considerable appeal to jazz musicians over the years.

In 1947 saxophonist Sam Rivers studied orchestration with Hovhaness, who was then teaching at a conservatory in Boston; he cites Hovhaness as an important early influence.

"In a way you could say Hovhaness was the start of free music," Rivers said last month, referring to a style practiced by John Coltrane, Ornette Coleman and others in the 1960s. "Jazz didn't come up in his course, although Armenian and Asian music did. But he always talked of trying to go beyond the limits, of following your own path, not the traditional composers, and challenging the whole structure of music and that had a big impact on me."

The jazz pianist and harpist Alice Coltrane, who played in the quartet of her husband, John, was also known to be an admirer of Hovhaness, and when the guitarist Carlos Santana was in

Hmayil from the Minasian Collection of UCLA Subject of Talk at Fresno State

FRESNO — Kristen St. John from the UCLA Library Conservation Center will present a talk on "The Conservation of Armenian Scrolls: *Hmayil* from the Minasian Collection of the UCLA Library" at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 28, in the University Business Center, Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

St. John's presentation is part of the Fall 2011 Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series and is sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

Hmayil are Armenian prayer scrolls that serve as talismans to protect the bearer against evil and potential danger. The Minasian Collection of the UCLA Library has approximately 40 scrolls dating from the early 17th to the 19th century. The Minasian collection contains Armenian, Persian and Arabic materials gathered by Dr. Caro Minasian of Isfahan, Iran in the mid-20th century. UCLA acquired the collection directly from Minasian in the late 1960s.

The *hmayil* in the Minasian Collection range from modest paper fragments to scrolls more

than 20-feet long. While some contain only text, there are also elaborately-illuminated manuscripts that bear the signs of centuries of heavy use and care.

This talk will focus on the conservation of these scrolls underway at UCLA. The goal of library conservation is to enable scholarly access to information in all formats. These scrolls present many challenges to that goal given their size, fragility and condition. Inks and pigments used to write and illuminate the scrolls may be unstable. While compact and portable, the rolled format can impede ready access. Previous mends placed to hold the lengths of paper together or repair tears may result in additional damage. Conservation techniques used to address these problems will be discussed. Particular attention will be paid to the repair of a long, illuminated scroll created in Isfahan in 1608.

St. John is collections conservator at the UCLA Library Conservation Center. She has given many classes and workshops on book conservation and preservation of heritage materials.

Admission is free to the lecture.

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ARTS & LIVING

Boyajdian, Local Composers, Featured at December 10 Concert

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Lexington Grammy nominee composer Hayg Boyadjan's composition *Cancion de Cuna* (Lullaby) for guitar solo will have its world premiere at a concert on Saturday, December 10, at 8 p.m.

The concert will take place at the New School



Hayg Boyadjan

lullabies written for him by a number of contemporary composers; some of the composers will be present for the occasion.

This concert is Larget-Caplan's latest New Lullaby Project Premiere Concert.

"I thought the project would be finished with the release of the CD 'New Lullaby' (2010)," said founder Larget-Caplan, "but it continues as I keep receiving new lullabies." Caplan has since starting the lullaby project premiered 30 lullabies and his solo CD featured 14 of them and was met with rave reviews.

Composers for the December 10 concert, in addition to Boyadjan, will include: Greater Boston composers Michael Veloso, Francine Trester

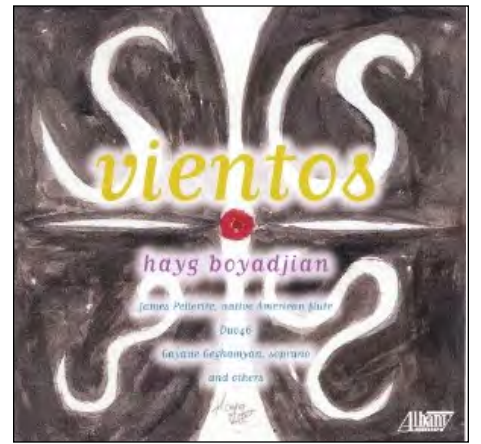
(Berklee), John McDonald (Tufts), Canary Burton (Cape Cod) and Martin Schreiner, as well as Alan Fletcher (Colorado), Thomas Schuttenhelm (Hartt School of Music, Connecticut), Demetrius Spaneas (Five Towns

College, New York), Patricia Julien (University of Vermont), Jacob Mashak and Thomas L. Read (University of Vermont). Many of the lullabies will be world premieres.

Born in Oklahoma and raised in Colorado, Larget-Caplan attended the New England Conservatory and is now on the faculty at the Boston Conservatory.

A year ago Albany Records issued Boyadjan's solo CD, "Vientos," which included Caplan's performance of Boyadjan's composition, *Mi Tango*, which *Fanfare Magazine* called "stunningly played." Larget-Caplan has performed *Mi Tango* at many concerts, including two recent performances in Provincetown and Texas.

For tickets and information go to: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/212596.



Cover of "Vientos"

11th Annual Concert by Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale Dazzles City

CHORALE, from page 12

Avanesov was the chorale's piano accompanist with Mark Donabedian on the *dumbeg*.

In view of the fact that the concert was one week after the 10th anniversary of September 11, a special performance of *America The Beautiful* was sung in memory of the victims of that tragic day. The finale, *Erebuni-Yerevan*, was sung jointly by the Chorale, the Children's Chorus and the two soloists and resulted in a standing ovation from the audience, which

appreciated the performances, which were a tribute to the cultural legacy and spirit of the Armenian people.

The Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale is looking forward to the 12th anniversary concert next year and continuing, as stated in O'Brien's city proclamation, its dedication "...to the preservation and promotion of the rich musical heritage of the Armenian people."

For more information, visit the Chorale's website at www.armenianchorale.com.

51st Young Concert Artists Series Presents Debut Of Clarinetist Narek Arutyunian at Merkin Hall

NEW YORK — Clarinetist Narek Arutyunian, 19, first-prize winner of the 2010 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, makes his New York recital debut on Tuesday, December 13, at Merkin Hall in the Rhoda Walker Teagle Concert.

Born in Gumri, Armenia, Arutyunian is a



Narek Arutyunian

graduate of the Moscow Conservatory. He has appeared as soloist with the Prague Radio Symphony, the Kalingrad Philharmonic and the Moscow Virtuosi. Accolades include first prize at 16 in the International Young Musicians Competition in Prague and at 15 in the Musical Youth of the Planet Competition in Moscow.

Arutyunian attends The Juilliard School and studies with Charles Neidich, the distinguished clarinetist, who calls his protégé "a brilliant artist who plays with virtuosity, warmth and charisma. Narek Arutyunian is one of the most compelling performers today."

He will be accompanied by pianist Steven Beck. He will perform works by Poulenc, Francaix, Weber, Horowitz, Denisov and Schoenfield.

To order or purchase tickets, visit www.yca.org/tickets or the Merkin Hall Box Office, 129 West 67 St.



The Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale and Arevig Dance Group

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ARTS & LIVING

Somewhere, Beyond the Sea

The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean. By David Abulafia, New York: Oxford University Press, 2011 816 pp.

By Benny Morris

In the *Rebel*, his treatise against totalitarianism, particularly of the Left, and in some of his earlier essays, Albert Camus hailed the Mediterranean, which for him embodied life, light, beauty (quite probably sex) and a sense of limits. He contrasted what Cambridge don David Abulafia calls “the Great Sea” – actually a Hebrew designation (*hayam hagadol*) – with the darkness of northern Europe’s cities and forests, seedbeds as they were of the 20th century’s encompassing murderous ideologies, Bolshevism and Nazism.

“The Mediterranean sun has something tragic about it,” Camus wrote in *Helen’s Exile* (1948):

“Quite different from the tragedy of [northern] fogs. Certain evenings at the base of the seaside mountains, night falls over the flawless curve of a little bay, and there rises from the silent waters a sense of anguished fulfillment. In such spots one can understand that if the Greeks knew despair, they always did so through beauty... Our time, on the other hand, has fed its despair on ugliness and convulsions. This is why Europe would be vile, if suffering could ever be so.”

He identified the sea with Greece, a place that revered moderation.

“It never carried anything to extremes, neither the sacred nor reason, because it negated nothing. ... balancing shadow with light. Our Europe, on the other hand, off in the pursuit of totality, is the child of disproportion.”

Abulafia’s sweeping survey of the “sea between the lands” and its shoreline peoples from the Stone Age through the present era of global tourism tells us a different story. It is a tale in large part characterized by hubris, excess and mass murder. Take the Punic Wars of the third and second centuries BC, the three bouts of combat between the Phoenician colonies (with their center in Carthage) and Rome for command of the central and western Mediterranean. It was a war to the finish, ending in the annihilation of Carthage and the sowing of its ruins with salt, its inhabitants put to the sword or consigned to slavery. Or take the campaigns of the Almohads, sectarians who ruled the western Mediterranean lands (Spain, Morocco) during the 12th and thirteenth centuries with an iron fist, dispensing death and terror in the name of a pristine Islam. Or take some of the crusaders, who slaughtered Muslims (and Jews) in vast numbers in their efforts to reclaim and purify the Holy Land.

Abulafia doesn’t really tackle the contemporary resurgence and its implications, of Salafist Islam around the Mediterranean basin, from the Strait of Gibraltar through Bosnia and Alexandria, which may yet herald a new Mediterranean age (in *The Great Sea* he postulates five eras between 22,000 BC and AD 2010, a periodization that is not completely persuasive). But he does refer to a “new Ottomanism” when considering the Gaza flotilla incident of May 2010 and its aftermath.

(He could well have added Turkish prime minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s recent repeated threats to send Turkish warships into the eastern Mediterranean to assert the “rule of law.”)

Excess seems to be part of the human condition, and while paragons of excess-mass murderers, in short-may have flourished at certain times in certain places, there are probably few of the earth’s regions that have demonstrated complete immunity.

What we have in *The Great Sea* is a history that emphasizes politics and warfare: these are the primary and most significant arenas of human agency and the major vehicles of change. In fact, in his introduction, Abulafia, a man of noble Sephardic Jewish lineage (and in his book one repeatedly encounters the Jewish dimension, almost invariably Sephardic, in this or that period and land – and the occasional

precursing Abulafia to boot), sets out the parameters that distinguish his opus from previous major works of Mediterranean historiography, most notably Fernand Braudel’s *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II* (1949) and Peregrine Horden and Nicholas Purcell’s *The Corrupting Sea: A Study of Mediterranean History* (2000). Horden and Purcell dealt mainly with communities and peoples living along the littoral, what happened on land, not with what transpired on the sea’s surface. Braudel, for his part, argued that geography, rather than men’s actions, was the real determinant of development and change in and around the vast water’s edges. “Braudel showed what almost amounted to contempt for political history,”

writes Abulafia. He could have added military history as well. Sea and wind currents, climate and landscapes ruled the tales of men. Abulafia prefers to stress “the human hand” as “more important in moulding the history of the Mediterranean than Braudel was ever prepared to admit.”

Abulafia is profusely informative about commercial and cultural connections between the various communities that lived in the surrounding areas (Phoenician fertilization of Italy, the gifts of the Sea Peoples to the Levant) and allows for the importance of geography in periodically determining the foci of human activity, the sites empires and peoples covet, attack or abandon (Gibraltar dominating the sea’s western thoroughway, Corfu controlling passage up the Adriatic).

But throughout, Abulafia casts an impartial, not to say jaundiced eye on the successive struggles for dominance in the various Mediterranean theaters at different times. Occasionally, he appears bent on provocation, and (inevitably) distortion is the result. Take Abulafia’s view of Persia versus Greece in fifth century BC, the struggle, as traditionally taught in schools, that helped forge who we Westerners are, where civilization battled and overcame invading barbarism. “Whether the Greeks were really fighting for liberty against Persian tyranny is questionable,” he writes. Indeed, the Persians generally left alone cities that offered up the symbolic tribute “of earth and water,” he tells us. Still, a good case can be made that submission to an Asiatic overlord meant loss of sovereignty and that political freedom was what was really at issue.

It all began when the Ionian Greek cities along Asia Minor’s Aegean coast and the Hellespont failed to help the Persian king Cyrus against the Lydians in the mid-sixth century. The Persian ruler, after victory, forced the Ionians to give him ships and men with which to subdue other Greek cities and islands. In 509 BC, the Persians conquered Lemnos and massacred many of its inhabitants. Revolt ensued and mainland Greek poleis came to the aid of the Ionians. According to Abulafia, as the Ionian revolt “petered out, the Persians were surprisingly considerate, accepting democratic governments and attempting to remove a source of tension between cities by demanding that they make trade agreements with one another.” But then, with the accession of Xerxes to the throne in 486, Persian policy “shifted from tough accommodation with dissidents to vigorous suppression of Persia’s foes.” Xerxes prepared huge armies and fleets to invade mainland Greece and then struck. He was briefly stalled by the Spartan 300 at Thermopylae (the “hot gates”) and then was thoroughly defeated at sea at Salamis (480) and Mycale (479) and on land at Plataea (479).

Such is Abulafia’s presentation. But it is strangely deficient and incomplete. To crush Greece wasn’t the whim of a particular Persian emperor; it was consistent long-term imperial policy. From around 500, if not earlier, the Persians intended to extend their rule deep into Europe, including over Greece. Facilitation of this was probably the main aim of their abortive expedition against the island of Naxos, midway in the Aegean. No wonder, then, that the Ionian rebels of 499-493 felt able to ask for, and receive, help from the mainland.

True, then Persian leader Darius subsequent-

ly treated the beaten rebels with (relative) kid gloves – he needed their maritime support for the invasion of Greece – and demanded of the mainland city-states relatively cheap tokens of submission. But when these were not forthcoming, the Persian army crossed the Aegean and attacked Euboea and then, in 490, landed in Attica, north of Athens. There, at Marathon, a small, mainly Athenian force roundly defeated the Persians, putting an end to the first invasion of the mainland.

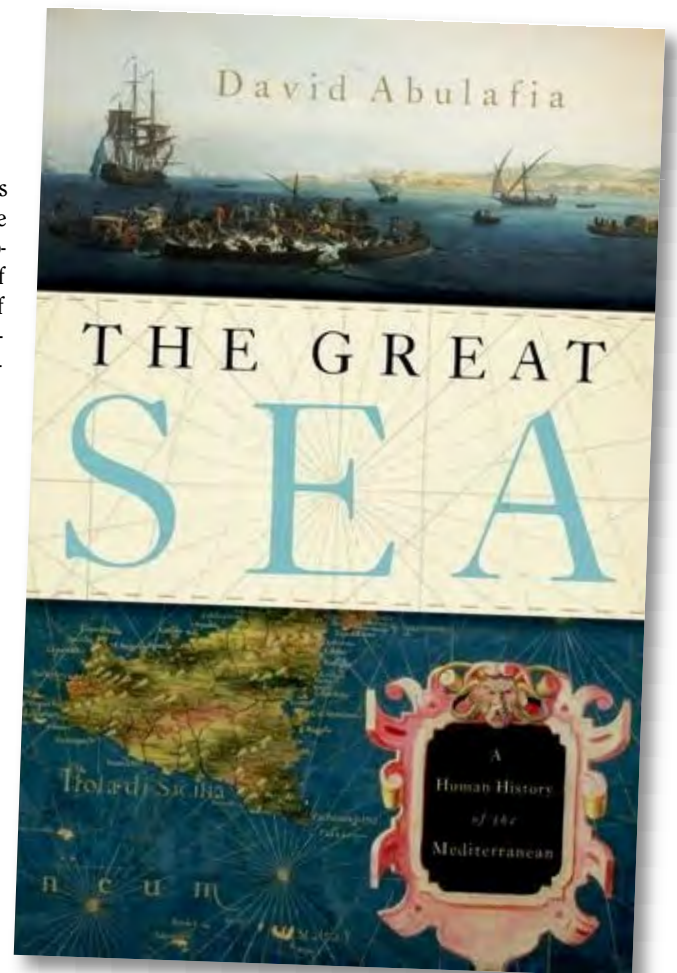
Astonishingly, Abulafia fails even to mention the campaign and the surrounding circumstances, jumping straight from the Ionian revolt to the (second and larger) Xerxian invasion of 480, and then moving on to detailed descriptions of post-479 Sparta and Athens as effectively nondemocratic imperial polities, as if to assert a moral equivalence with the empire they had just defeated. Abulafia devotes a long paragraph to describing the to-and-fro of the squadrons at Salamis – but not a word about Marathon, surely a crucial battle in European history and one which even inserted itself into humankind’s vocabulary.

And then there is the question of clashes of civilizations, another key historical meme that Abulafia’s narrative seems to skirt. He certainly expends a great many pages on tracing Muslim-Christian conflict and contact in the Mediterranean from the seventh through the 20th centuries. And one is struck not merely by the quick succession of combat and commercial and cultural intercourse but by the, on occasion, simultaneous occurrence of these interactions. While crusaders are out to beat back the Muslims and reclaim Palestine for Christendom, Christians and Muslims nearby are buying and selling and making cross-civilizational profits. Throughout, Muslim warlords make pacts with Christian warlords as their cousins are busy killing each other.

Take Francis I, King of France (1494-1547), at loggerheads with Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor (1500-1558), who was busy fighting the Turks. Francis goaded the *beys* in Tunis to send corsairs against the Kingdom of Naples and supplied the Muslims with cannons to reduce the Spanish fort in Algiers. In 1543, a French ambassador “accompanied [the Muslim] Hayrettin’s fleet as it savaged the coasts of southern Italy, carrying off the daughter of the governor of Reggio.” The king even allowed the Turks to use Toulon for a winter bivouac; with 30,000 Turks dispersed in the town, the cathedral “was [temporarily] transformed into a mosque.” Meanwhile, the Turks made expeditions into the countryside to lay hold of young peasants to sell off as slaves.

Still, Christian and Muslim rulers continuously fought, with the Mediterranean serving as a major battlefield. Abulafia rightly pinpoints as crucial the late 16th-century engagements at Malta and Lepanto in which the Ottoman Empire was decisively contained in its expansion westward. But when it comes to other episodes, Abulafia often pooh-poohs claims that Muslim-Christian clashes were driven by religious motives.

He may have it right when he asserts, quoting the historian Frank Lambert, that the American campaign against the North African Barbary pirates in the early 19th century was “primarily about trade, not theology.” But clearly theology, or straightforward religious-national hatreds, trumped commercial interests a century later when Turks slaughtered Armenians during World War I and subsequently killed hundreds of thousands of Greeks. No doubt, individual covetousness on the part of Turkish neighbors played a part, and Turkish leaders were interested, for nationalist reasons, in dispossessing and then replacing the Greek



and

Armenian middle classes with a new Turkish one. But the testimonies of Western, particularly German, witnesses at the time all point to religious antagonism as a key motivating factor.

Abulafia, reasonably, devotes far more space to the Turkish-Greek episodes (they inhabited the Mediterranean littoral) than to the Armenians (most lived, and died, in the interior of Asia Minor). And the Greeks – the descendants of the second- and first-millennium-BC Ionians and Black Sea settlers – also served between 1915 and 1923 as fodder for a harrowing and today largely forgotten tale.

The Greeks had been fighting the Turks on and off for years. The Turks wanted the Greeks out of Asia Minor (and, if possible, also out of the Aegean). The outbreak of World War I interrupted the low-key 1914 Turkish campaign to achieve that goal, but it was renewed a year later. Greece then joined the Allies and declared war on the Ottoman Empire in July 1917. By 1919, with the Turks out for the count, the Greek army occupied the port city of Smyrna and part of the Ionian coastline and then pushed inland, reaching the outskirts of Ankara.

Economically and militarily overstretched, the Greeks proved unable to defeat the new nationalist Turkish army or to retain the lands they had occupied, and they were eventually driven back. Then came revenge.

The Turks first destroyed the Greek communities along the Black Sea (Samsun, Ordu, Bafra) and then, in September 1922, reached the Ionian coast, with the Greek army and many Greek civilians from the interior retreating helter-skelter before their advance. The Greek troops boarded ships and departed for Piraeus. The Turks entered Smyrna, by then the chief Greek city, and torched the Christian quarters.

Thousands were killed (the presence of Allied warships probably prevented a wider massacre). Within days, hundreds of thousands of civilians were evacuated to Greece – though tens of thousands were slaughtered (Abulafia says “something like 100,000”) and a similar or perhaps larger number were deported by the Turks inland, never to be heard from again.

(During World War I and its aftermath, the Turks managed to perform a linguistic sleight of hand: “deportation” became synonymous with annihilation, something the Nazis later replicated.)

The 3,000-year-old Greek communities along the coast of Asia Minor and the Black Sea were thus erased, never to be resurrected.

Today, only a small community of Greeks in Istanbul remains.

Abulafia blames the United States, Britain and France for Smyrna, saving only “twenty thousand” by placing them aboard Allied ships. He charges the Allied naval commanders and, see REVIEW, page 16



ARTS & LIVING

Review: Opera Singer/Pianist Are the Cat’s Meow

By Christine Pilgrim

VERNON, Canada (*Vernon Morning Star*) – The first encore, *The Cat Duet*, performed by soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian and husband, pianist/composer Serouj Kradjian, delighted the audience so much that they demanded a second encore at the North Okanagan Community Concert Association’s Wednesday, November 16 presentation at the Performing Arts Centre.

According to Bayrakdarian, this duet, usually sung by two sopranos, reflected the ups and downs of touring life for a husband and wife team. It was deliciously tongue-in-cheek and perfectly timed as was everything the couple performed, whether comic or tragic, solo or duo, with work by Franz Liszt, Hector Berlioz or Kradjian himself in a program that ran the gamut from classical to opera to folk songs and dances.

And *The Cat Duet* crowned it all. From his seat at the Steinway, Kradjian not only enhanced every perfect note that fell from his wife’s lips, but he interjected meows of his own. Once, the two even spat (cat like) at each other, before purring into Bayrakdarian’s final immaculate high note, “Meee...,” which proceeded to cascade down the scale into its “eeeeooooooooow,” bringing everyone to their feet again.

Vernon is blessed to have guest performers of this caliber.

Emotional integrity and acting finesse were balanced by the technical brilliance of these two Canadians of Armenian heritage.

When Kradjian played his composition *Homage to Gomidas*, which honored the priest, pianist, choir director and singer who collected some 4,000 Armenian folk songs before he lost his mind as a result of witnessing the atrocities of the 1915-23 Armenian Genocide, his Armenian spirit shone through his performance. So did Bayrakdarian’s when she sang a mother’s farewell to her child who, like countless others, died as a result of the Armenians’ forcible eviction by Ottoman Imperialists.

But sadness was short-lived with these two

experts at managing the crowd. Apart from their outstanding musicality, they looked magnificent on stage: he in his designer shirts and she in stunning gowns, by Atelier Rosemary Umetsu.

Another moment of sadness, evoked by the death of Shakespeare’s Ophelia, scored originally by Berlioz for a female chorus, was offset by the wit and ebullience of Rossini’s “Barber of Seville.”

First came Kradjian’s piano solo transcribed

from the celebrated baritone aria *Largo al factotum*, followed by Bayrakdarian’s faultless comedic rendition of *Una voce poco fa*. She remembers this aria fondly, as “The Barber of Seville” marked her opera debut. An understudy with the Canadian Opera, she went on as Rosina on opening night and hasn’t looked back since.

Nor should she. Bayrakdarian is engaged to her fingertips in everything she sings and her

command of the audience is total, whether with personal stories such as that of her 3-year-old son’s response to her Armenian lullaby (he suggests the key she should sing it in!) or the exquisite love songs she added to the program, “begging our indulgence.”

Judging from their response last week, Vernon audiences would “indulge” Bayrakdarian and Kradjian any time they wish to return.

Somewhere, Beyond the Sea

REVIEW, from page 15

by extension, their governments – with “calousness.” And to be sure, everything bad he says about the American high commissioner and naval chief, Mark Bristol, and more, is justified. But the overall story, as illuminated by the contemporary documentation, is somewhat different. While understandably reluctant to go to war (again) with Turkey, the Allied naval teams performed in the Smyrna crisis with courage and humanity, orchestrating the withdrawal to safety of more than a quarter of a million Ionians, mostly on Greek ships, in one of the great maritime evacuations in history.

And – I can’t restrain myself – one last point about Abulafia’s book in connection with the battle of cultures – and religions. One of its principal theaters in the 20th century has been Palestine, where the Jews, seen by themselves and by their Arab neighbors as representatives and embodiments of the West, have repeatedly clashed with the country’s Arabs and the surrounding Arab world. The conflict is both political – over a patch of territory – and over values. Abulafia does not put the Palestine conflict in these terms, or, indeed, in any others, and devotes to it only a small amount of space, mostly by zooming in on the history of the seaside Arab town of Jaffa, on the site of a first-millennium-BC Philistine city and the emergence of its Jewish neighbor, Tel Aviv, founded in 1909. Arab attacks on Jews by the late 1930s had

turned Jaffa into an almost exclusively Arab place, but in April-May 1948 it was conquered by Jewish militiamen and almost all of its population fled to Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon. The town was then co-opted by its larger Jewish neighbor, creating one municipal area designated “Tel Aviv-Jaffa.” While tens of thousands of Arabs inhabit Jaffa today, Arab Jaffa no longer exists.

Abulafia’s cool, evenhanded treatment of this microcosmic history leads to serious elisions that, to my mind, amount to distortion. He writes of the second bout of anti-Jewish rioting by the Arabs: “Outbreaks of violence between Jews and Arabs soured relations from 1921 onwards.” And of the 1936-39 Arab revolt against the British government and its Zionist wards, he writes: “The port of Jaffa serviced Tel Aviv until the outbreak of a new and even more serious round of violence in 1936.” Similarly, his succinct reference to the 1948 war also fails to attribute agency to any side – violence simply breaks out, no one starts it.

As to Jaffa during the 1948 war, no context is provided. Abulafia tells us, simply:

“Over a number of weeks in spring 1948, . . . tens of thousands of Jaffan Arabs fled by ship or overland.... The United Nations had designated Jaffa as an enclave of the proposed Arab state that would coexist with a Jewish state in Palestine. Following bombardment by Jewish forces in late April, the population of Jaffa dwindled.”

No mention is made of the fact that the Palestinian leadership in 1947 rejected the partition resolution and launched, albeit inefficiently, a war to prevent its implementation; no mention of the fact that from November 30, 1947, the day after UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (partition) was passed, Jaffa’s militiamen daily assailed Tel Aviv with sniper and, occasionally, mortar fire and that the Jews finally attacked and conquered Jaffa after suffering these depredations for five months.

Abulafia writes well and offers up a comprehensive, fair-minded history. For those who can plow through 650 pages of historiography, this is a good read. And, occasionally, the prose is captivating.

Abulafia has a good eye for quotes. Take Pharaoh Merneptah’s (13th-century BC) inscription at Karnak relating to his conquest and pacification of Canaan:

“Men can walk the roads at any pace without fear. The fortresses stand open and the wells are accessible to all travellers. The walls and the battlements sleep peacefully in the sunshine till their guards wake up. The police lie stretched out asleep. The desert frontier-guards are among the meadows where they like to be.”

Would that this were so today.

(Benny Morris is a professor of history in the Middle East Studies Department of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He is the author of *One State, Two States: Resolving the Israel/Palestine Conflict*, Yale University Press, 2009. This review originally appeared in the *National Interest*.)

C A L E N D A R

MASSACHUSETTS

DECEMBER 2-3 – Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge, Friday, 3-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Lunch and dinners offered. Booths include: farmer’s market, country store, candy, gourmet, pastries, wreaths and poinsettias, jewelry, second-time around, sports silent auction and more. Santa’s Playland, Saturday 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 11 – Christmas Holiday Concert: Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, 3 p.m., church sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Conductor Konstantin Petrossian. For further info, contact the church office at office@htaac.org or (617) 354-0632.

JANUARY 21 – The Armenian Missionary Association presents jazz sensation Grace Kelly in concert. Proceeds to benefit the Avedisian School. National Heritage Museum, Lexington. Tickets: \$35, \$20 with student ID. Cocktails, 6:30 p.m.; concert, 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.gracekellymusic.com or www.amaa.org.

NEW YORK

DECEMBER 3 – The AGBU/NYSEC presents the fourth annual AGBU Performing Artists in Concert, at 8 p.m. Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. 154 W 57th St., New York City. Tickets, \$65. For info, call AGBU at (212) 319-6383, ext. 124. To purchase tickets directly through the Carnegie Hall Box Office: carnegiehall.org. Carnegie charge: (212) 247-7800. Box Office: 57th Street and Seventh Avenue.



On December 11, the Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra will perform their Christmas Holiday Concert at Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge, at 3 p.m., in the church sanctuary, under the direction of conductor, Konstantin Petrossian, pictured here. For info, contact the church office at office@htaac.org or (617) 354-0632.

DECEMBER 3-4 – St. Peter Armenian Church Women Guild present their Holiday Bazaar. Gourmet Pantry and Bakery. St. Peter Armenian Church, 100 Troy Schenectady Road, Watervliet. For info, (518) 274-3673.

DECEMBER 11 – Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs presents Shnorhali Choir. Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Armenia’s independence at 4 p.m., Madison Theater of Molloy College, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. For info, (516) 678-5000, ext. 7715.

MAY 19, 2012 – HMADS Gala Dinner Dance. Details to follow, June 25. HMADS 30th Commencement Exercise at 8 p.m., Kalustyan Hall.

NEW JERSEY

DECEMBER 2 – Manti Dinner at Hovnanian School sponsored by the PTO and Class 2012. Dinner at 7 p.m. BYOB. Adults, \$30; 12 and under, \$15. For information, call Garine Kahvejian (201) 741-5555.

DECEMBER 3 – St. Thomas Armenian Church presents Taline Friends and Santa, Saturday, 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. at St. Thomas Church, corner of E. Clinton Ave. and Route 9W. Tickets, \$28. For info, call Martha Saraydarian (201) 568-5315, Mary Ann Saraydarian (201) 871-9111 and Tara Sarafian (201) 444-2478.

DECEMBER 10-11 – Tekeyan Cultural Association, Mher Megerdichian Theatrical group presents Aldo Nigolski’s “To Kill for Love,” a comedy directed by Gagik Karapetian. Oradell Elementary School, 350 Prospect Ave., Oradell, NJ. Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 4 p.m. Call Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850 or Maro Hajakian (201) 934-3427.



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Wanted: Owners of Six Tons of Gold Left in Historic Armenia

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Every time a nostalgic Armenian travels to the land of his ancestors, currently occupied Turkey, he or she is surrounded by the ubiquitous volunteer guides who offer their services to hunt for hidden treasures. Amrenian Weekly's Khatchig Mouradian, who had recently visited Diyarbakir, recounts his experience with those treasure hunters and quotes Hrant Dink who used to say: "You are digging and looking for treasures underground and you fail to realize that the real treasure was walking on the ground in these lands and was annihilated."

My own mother once visited the house in Adana where she was born; the occupants of that house, who still did not have the deed, had inquired from her where the family had hidden their treasures, after offering lavish Turkish hospitality.

Many Turks welcome the visits of the Armenians as tourists, but many more to this day look for opportunities to strike gold with the help of those nostalgic tourists. And indeed, when Armenians were being deported, it seldom crossed their minds that they were heading to a "final solution" perpetrated by Talaat Pasha. They were all led to believe that they were being subjected to some temporary measure, and that they would return to their towns and homes at the end of the war. Thus, they either buried their treasures or left them with their trusted Muslim friends, like many Armenians and Greeks featured in Kemal Yalçın's books.

Recently a story emerged in Switzerland about six tons of gold, shipped from historic Armenia to Geneva to be deposited at the Credit Suisse Bank, which refuses to release the treasure to a Turkish family who claims ownership.

The news first broke in the Turkish newspaper, *Hurriyet*, on October 17. A commentary about the case also appeared in the *Turkiye* newspaper by Prof. Cagri Erhan, who, rather than questioning the provenance of the treasure, questions the Credit Suisse Bank's motives for refusing to give the gold to a businessman from Elazig (the historic Armenian city of Kharpert) named Sayid Ali Bayraki.

The Turkologist Hagop Chakerian has translated the article for the daily *Azg* in Yerevan, spicing it with his own comments.

Most of the information about this developing story comes through Mr. Chakerian's article, published in the November 11, 2011 issue of *Azg*. The Elazig businessman, Sayid Ali Bayraki, has been fighting for many years to receive 800,000 Ottoman gold coins inherited from his father. The Swiss ambassador in Turkey, Raymond Kuntz, has traveled to Elazig to discuss the case of the gold, the origins of which are still shrouded in mystery. Isn't this an extremely extraordinary story? But how could one carry 800,000 Ottoman gold coins, which weigh six metric tons, from Turkey to Switzerland? According to Mr. Bayraki, his father transported the six tons of gold to Switzerland, traveling on land and by sea. Today, the 800,000 Ottoman gold coins are worth \$3.5 billion.

In addition to involving the Swiss ambassador to this case, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan himself has intervened on behalf of Mr. Bayraki. According to the latter, his father had shipped six tons of gold right on the eve of the putsch by Gen. Kenan Evren on September 12, 1980, who established military dictatorship in Turkey. It is not difficult to conclude that Bayraki's father was part of the "deep state," which has created the reign of terror in Turkey. Today, the web of misdeeds of the "deep state" is being entangled by the Ergenekon investigations.

Professor Cagri states: "As far as I know, in the first years of Republican Turkey no citizen has owned that kind of money. For example, when the IS bank was founded in 1924 its entire capital was 250,000 Turkish liras. It is a major problem to hide that kind of money from the government. According to Bayraki, his father had earned that money doing business and he had hidden the gold in a hole dug under the house. Earning the gold by doing business is questionable because after the Turkish Republic was established, business was no longer conducted through the Ottoman currency. It looks like Bayraki's

father trusted the gold to the Swiss bank believing that the banking system which kept secrecy on Nazi gold would treat his treasures in the same way. But missed the fact that the gold deposited in the Swiss banks did not belong to the Nazis; it belonged to the Jews.

The Nazis, who had exterminated millions of Jews and usurped their property, had a special interest in the gold deposited by their victims in Swiss banks.

In the 1990s international scandals broke out about the gold deposited in Swiss banks and the government was forced to divulge some secrets to the US and British governments. To this day, many organizations related to Holocaust victims have been chasing those banks. If the 800,000 gold coins were deposited in the Swiss bank imitating the "Nazi gold," then suspicions should arise because their source is unknown. Talaat Pasha has written in his "secret file" that 70,000 Armenians were deported from Elazig. No Armenians returned to Elazig. The wealthy Armenian families were also deported. Almost all the deported families hid their gold in a secret place or trusted to their Muslim neighbors, hoping to return one day. And for years stories were being circulated about hidden Armenian treasures. Additionally many Armenians visit their parent's native towns to discover their hidden treasures.

Professor Cagri concludes his remarks by the following statement: "2015 is around the corner. Armenians attach great importance to the 100th anniversary of the 'so called' Armenian Genocide. There is no doubt that the Armenian lobby, which misses no opportunity, has already focused on the gold whose source is 'unknown.' The bank Credit Suisse is already considering the case 'scandalous' and believes 'there is some conspiracy behind it.' Therefore, we see where the case is heading and it is not right to involve the prime minister. This may create an embarrassing situation for the entire country."

Professor Cagri maybe is referring to the Armenian lawyers when he mentions lobbyists, who went after the French and

German banks and insurance companies and did a laudable job in recovering some of the funds owed to the victims of the Genocide. Fortunately, the good professor is not aware that the same lawyers have put aside the Turks for the moment and are at each other's throats suing each other.

One cannot dispel the suspicions of conspiracy when the lawyers who were going

after Turks and Turkey have turned their guns on each other.

By the same token, the generous benefactors who initially contributed princely sums to build a Genocide Museum are again at each other's throats, suing each other and jeopardizing the completion of the museum in time for 2015.

In the meantime, many victim groups are suing the Turkish state and the government is drowned in thousands of lawsuits. The European Court of Human Rights is inundated with lawsuits. Last year, there were 5,000 cases. That figure has jumped to 7,000 this year. Turkey is losing almost all the cases.

Recently, Foreign Minister Ahmad Davutoglu joined Justice Minister Sadoulla Erguin to give a press conference about these court cases. He stated that the flood of lawsuits at the European Court, means that here is a sickness in Turkey which should be remedied.

"Turkey has to adopt a new strategy to forestall so many lawsuits. We need to change our methods of defense since we lose almost all cases," he said. He classified the cases in three categories: a) cases triggered by Turkey's foreign policy. Ankara's aggression on and occupation of Cyprus territory has produced an avalanche of court cases; b) Turkey's antiquated domestic laws which trample citizens' and minority rights have generated 19,000 cases and c) cases generated by the suppression of freedom of speech and press (like Article 301 in the penal code).

The world is suing Turkey and winning the cases, while Armenian lawyers fight each other.

Six tons of gold are sitting in the Swiss bank. The gold is up for grabs and it can do a lot of good for Armenia. We have to rise up to the occasion.

It is time to leave behind internecine squabbles and go after the gold.

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COMMENTARY

To Be, or Not To Be, a Turk

Reflections on the Inner-Turkish Debate on 1915/1916

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Why does Turkey have such difficulty in dealing with its historical past? Why can the Turkish authorities not acknowledge that in 1915 the Armenian population in the Ottoman Empire was the victim of genocide? If the German post-war political elite was capable of facing up to the Holocaust and establishing relations with the Jewish people, in Israel and elsewhere, why cannot the Turkish leadership do as much?

The question was raised during a seminar in Potsdam, Germany on November 5, on “The Inner Turkish Discussion of 1915/1916.”

Other issues discussed were the history of Turkish denial and how Turkish publications have attempted to deal with this, as well as subjects related to the Genocide itself, the fate of the survivors and how Armenians have been struggling with their traumatic past. What made this gathering sponsored by the Lepsiushaus in Potsdam quite special was the list of guest speakers, almost all of them prominent Turkish intellectuals, most of them from Turkey. Their task was to present the current status of the discussion process inside the country regarding 1915/1916.

The title of the event itself is symptomatic of the problem: instead of referring to the Armenian Genocide, one had to cite “1915/1916,” perhaps to protect those Turkish participants from being subjected to punitive measures from state authorities on their return home. In fact, one planned guest speaker, Ragib Zaragolu, a prominent publisher who has issued books on the Armenian question, was prevented from attending the conference by an arrest on October 28, when he, along with 48 others, were detained on trumped-up charges of membership in or association with a terrorist-linked organization.

Thus, the Potsdam gathering was a special event, because the themes addressed and the personalities involved constituted a challenge to the current Turkish establishment, albeit neither political nor militant, but nonetheless a challenge on the intellectual/psychological level.

The comparison to the German treatment of the Holocaust was historically relevant and instructive. In answer to the question, why Turkey has such difficulties in dealing with its past, some suggest that they fear demands by the Republic of Armenia and/or the diaspora for territorial concessions and reparations, the latter on the German model. But there is more. Elke Hartmann, an Ottoman expert from Berlin, explained that Turkey, unlike Germany, was neither defeated nor occupied. To be sure, the Ottoman Empire lost in World War I, but the Turkish Republic emerged victorious from its struggle for national sovereignty and independence. In post-war Germany, it was the occupying powers who organized the Nurnberg trials which tried, convicted and executed leading Nazis for crimes against humanity. In subsequent years, especially in the 1960s, historians worked through the Nazi experience and the broader German public was educated about the reality of the Nazi regime.

In Turkey, immediately after the Ottoman defeat, trials were also held and leading Young Turk officials who had not managed to flee the country, were put on the dock, convicted and in some cases executed. Others, including the leading figures Talaat Pasha and Jemal Pasha, were hunted down in their exile and assassinated by Armenian assailants. But after the establishment of the Republic in 1923, Mustafa Kemal declared the assassinated Turks to be martyrs, and, where possible, had their remains returned to Turkey for heroes’ burials. To grasp the import of this act, one should reflect on what would have happened had Konrad Adenauer rehabilitated Göring.

As Rober Kaptas, the new editor in chief of Agos, Hrant Dink’s newspaper, explained, the 1919 trials had been made possible because an opposition government had come into power

after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire and the flight of the leading Young Turks. One could write about it, discuss it openly and Turks knew a lot about the Genocide in 1919. But with the establishment of the Turkish Republic under Mustafa Kemal, that changed radically. He arranged for 150 CUP members on trial in Malta to be freed and redefined the perpetrators as martyrs. Thus, the policy of “forgetting” began with the establishment of the Republic.

The Phases of Denial

The history of the Turkish Republic’s handling of 1915/1916, was summarized by Elke Hartmann, who stepped in for Prof. Dr. Halil Berkay on short notice. In a speech on “1915 and Scientific Reappraisals since the founding of the Turkish Republic: Between State Guidelines and Freedom of Research,” she showed how at the time of the events, the perpetrators knew exactly what they were doing and demonstrated it in their memoirs, for example, those of Talaat, which well full of justifications for what had occurred. After Turkey’s independence war, the policy was one of silence and forgetting. Attempts from the outside to address the Genocide, as in the 1934 film on Musa Dag, were blocked, then and again in 1938, by Turkish political pressure.

Although the dramatic revelations of the dimensions of the Holocaust after World War II overshadowed discussion of the Armenian Genocide, in 1965, when Armenians abroad demonstrated to commemorate the 50th anniversary of their tragedy and began to erect monuments, the issue was again on the political agenda. A turning point occurred in 1973, when the first Turkish diplomat was assassinated by an ASALA assailant, which inaugurated the wave of revenge killings. This, Hartmann said, led to a policy change in Turkey, in that the Turkish authorities decided to present their own version of events. As Koptas put it, after the ASLA assassinations began, Turkey realized that “they had a 1915 problem.” According to Hartmann, historians in the West, especially Turkologists in the US, enjoyed Turkish support for research and access to archives to develop a literature of denial. Following the 1980 military coup, a campaign was launched in Turkish schools to educate (or better indoctrinate) youth on 1915. This campaign, which unfolded in parallel with the natural process of dying out of the survivor generation, fixated on so-called “proofs” that the Genocide did not occur. Author Marc Nishanian has dubbed Turkish historiography in the 1990s as a “historiographical perversion,” in that researchers admitted that perhaps hundreds of thousands of Armenians had perished in 1915, but questioned the “significance” of this “fact.” Nishanian’s view was that a “fact” without significance is not truth. Some Armenian scholars responded with an attempt to accumulate ever more “facts.”

The Grandchildren Speak Out

The breach in the wall of denial came with the appearance of Fetiye Cetin’s groundbreaking book, *My Grandmother*, in 2004 followed by the assassination of Hrant Dink in 2007. Cetin’s autobiographical account of her discovery that her grandmother was an Armenian who had survived the Genocide unleashed a literary-political-psychological revolution. She may have couched her story in terms of “bitterness” and “pain” instead of using the banned word “genocide,” but her moving account opened the minds and hearts of thousands of Turks, and, as both Hartmann and Koptas stressed, made it possible for Turks to discuss the matter for the first time in their lifetimes. (It was a special treat to have the gracious author Fetiye Cetin on hand in Potsdam and to hear extracts from her book presented in an evening session in German translation.)

In 2005, as Dr. Ayse Gül Altinay of Sabanci University in Istanbul reported, Cetin’s book had already become a best-seller and university conferences have dealt with the issue. In her speech on “The Survivors from 1915 in the Testimonies of their Descendants Living in

Turkey,” Prof. Altinay actualized the issue by posing very direct, pertinent questions: what should one say as a Turk to Fetiye Cetin, perhaps, “I’m sorry about your grandmother?” What should one say if one were to meet that grandmother? She reported on other books that have since appeared, taking up similar themes. What this indicates is that the “grandchildren generation,” those whose grandparents were victims of the Genocide, has broken the silence. These are not isolated cases but examples of a sociological phenomenon: here a Turk, there a Turk is discovering he or she had an Armenian grandmother. Altinay and Cetin collaborated on an exciting project interviewing 25 people from this generation. In their book, *Les petits enfants* (Actes Sud), they present the drama of Turks in this age group who have begun to explore their family histories, to ask who their grandmothers were and where they came from. In Dr. Altinay’s terms, these are Armenians who are “coming out of the closet,” that is, openly acknowledging their Armenian heritage.

‘Assimilation’ of the Women and Children

On the one hand the policy of the Young Turks was to eliminate the Armenians, through killings, starvation and deportations, as Dr. Ugor Ü. Üngör from Utrecht University, reviewed. If the Armenians before 1915 had 2,500 churches and 2,000 schools among their 2,900 Armenian settlements, what remained in 1918 were 6-7 churches in Istanbul and no cloisters or schools. The Young Turks targeted first the intellectuals and civic leaders, then confiscated Armenian property, then killed through executions and deportations. On the other hand, they also had a policy of forced “assimilation” that is, that Armenian women and children, especially young girls, should be spared, forced to convert to Islam and to marry Turks. Fethiye Cetin’s grandmother comes out of this process, as so many others. Figures on how many Armenians were involved are hard to come by and historians’ estimates vary; Vahakn Dadrian spoke of thousands of young orphans, 10,000 girls who were taken as concubines or wives; Balakian refers to thousands of forced converts and Serafian, to 20,000 orphans. Who knows how many Armenian women and children, especially girls, were taken into Turkish homes, converted to Islam and given Turkish names? Although some figures for the dead are given in Turkish records, there are no reports of the survivors, a term, in fact, which is not used. How many are they? It is almost impossible to determine. But if the number of “assimilated” after 1915 was tens or hundreds of thousands, then their offspring and grandchildren could exceed a million today.

It is the grandchildren of these forcibly “assimilated” Armenian females who are now openly raising the question of their parentage and ethnic identity. They are tugging on a thread of yarn which threatens to pull the entire fabric of denial asunder.

The implications of this process are vast and profound.

For those Turkish citizens who have discovered an Armenian (or Kurdish) grandmother, there are two questions that emerge: first, why didn’t I know about my Armenian parentage? Then: What happened to the Armenians in 1915? These are the explosive questions that are punctuating a widespread sociological discourse in Turkey today. In parallel, as certain Armenian churches are being reopened and allowed to host services, there are a number of Turkish citizens presenting themselves for baptism, albeit anonymously to avoid harassment. This was the case at the reopening of St. Giragos (Surp Giragos) Church in Diyarbakir on October 22. In short, there is a slow, but steadily expanding process of rediscovery among Turkish citizens of Armenian descent of their heritage.

The publication of Cetin’s *My Grandmother* was a watershed of historic dimensions. The assassination of Hrant Dink in January 2007

was another. As Koptas, his successor, related, Dink and Cetin were different heroes, but both presented Turks with the existential question: where do I come from? When Dink was killed, many Turks linked his fate to the historical dilemma. They asked themselves: well, if they killed him, maybe they also killed the Armenians in 1915. What really happened then? Dink, he stressed, introduced a new political language in Turkey and posed the need to face the Armenian question as part of the process of democratization: if Turkey wants to become a democratic state, then it must deal with 1915, he insisted. Koptas also pointed to the case of Hasan Jemal, grandson of Young Turk triumvirate Jemal Pasha, who went to Yerevan and paid homage to the Genocide victims at the Genocide monument. Hasan too is of the grandchildren’s generation.

The Threat to Turkish Identity

To return to the question posed at the onset: why is it so difficult for Turkey to deal with its historical past? What became clear at least for this writer during the Potsdam conference is that the challenge Turkey faces is not primarily political or economic; it is not solely an issue of Armenian reparations or territorial claims or the like. The issue is Turkish identity. If the Turkish establishment were to acknowledge reality, that 1915/1916 was Genocide, then it would have to acknowledge that the Young Turk regime of 1915 was responsible. This would raise questions about the credibility of the Atatürk regime from 1923 on which rehabilitated the Young Turk leaders.

As Koptas noted, “Turkishness” was the very foundation of the Republic; the State tried to force the issue of identity, making Alevites into Sunnis and treating Greeks and Armenians as special groups whose numbers were to be reduced.

When confronted with eyewitness accounts of the 1915 massacres, the State would respond that the Armenians were “traitors” who had to be punished.

But a nation erected on the basis of a lie cannot have the moral capacity to endure. The Turkish Republic of Mustafa Kemal was built on the lie that the Genocide never occurred and the corollary lies that the Armenians were Russia’s fifth-column, traitors who had to be punished.

In purely ethnic terms, the proceedings of the Potsdam conference pose the question: how many Turks are actually ethnic Armenians or at least partially so? What, then, does it mean to be a Turk? If the actual population of Turkey today is multiethnic, then where does the Turkish identity lie? Is it ethnic? Is it religious? How can a young Turkish student – perhaps with Armenian ancestors – go to school in the morning and recite an oath exalting his Turkishness?

Interestingly, there has been much discussion over recent years of a “new Ottomanism,” which is usually presented in regard to Turkey’s foreign policy thrust towards strengthening relations with its neighbors, many of whom were subjects of the Ottoman Empire. Without caving in to temptations of regional hegemonism, such thinking could perhaps help in facing the national identity crisis, which is quietly exploding in Turkey. Recognizing multi-ethnicity in the Turkish population could provide a way of liberating it from the implicitly racist constraints of “Turkishness” and assist in the process of finally dealing with the 1915 Genocide.

Koptas said he was confident that, by following Hrant Dink’s approach of educating the Turkish people about their past without wounding them in the process, they would be able to “mourn and accept” and sympathize with the Armenian people. Dink’s insistence on grasping the psychological dimension of the problem was crucial: that one must deal with both the trauma of the Armenians and the paranoia of the Turks. This process of social awakening must develop from the grass roots level upwards – and that is what is occurring. As for the State, Koptas was straightforward: he expressed his desire for a Willy Brandt to emerge in Turkey – referencing the German Social Democratic leader who fell to his knees at the Warsaw Ghetto, in recognition of – and apology for – the crimes of the Nazi regime against the Jews

(Muriel Mirak-Weissbach is the author of *Through the Wall of Fire: Armenia, Iraq, Palestine: From Wrath to Reconciliation*.)



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Turkey Seeks to Monopolize Investments In American Indian Tribal Lands

In a few weeks, when high-priced Turkish lobbying firms file their mandatory reports with the Justice Department, important revelations will emerge about their behind the scenes role in pushing through Congress a bill which would give Turkish companies a monopoly for investments in American Indian tribal lands.

These reports would disclose the chain of contacts leading to the approval of Resolution 2362, the “Indian Tribal Trade and Investment Demonstration Project Act of 2011,” by the House of Representatives’ Committee on Natural Resources by a vote of 27 to 15, on November 17.

One should not be surprised to learn that this innocent sounding resolution, meant to “facilitate economic development by Indian tribes and encourage investment by Turkish enterprises,” was gliding through Congress helped by the lavish flow of funds – the mother’s milk of politics – to some House members.

Of course, there is nothing wrong in helping Native Americans to attract foreign investments, except that Congress was being asked to give preferential treatment to

a single country – Turkey! Strangely, majority of the Committee members were willing to go along with this unusual and illegal request, ignoring strong warnings from the Congressional Research Service that extending special privileges to only one country would violate provisions of major US trade agreements – Most Favored Nation (MFN), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and World Trade Organization (WTO).

Moreover, there was no need whatsoever for Congress to approve a pilot program for any one country, when the same Committee was simultaneously considering a more inclusive bill – House Resolution 205 – which would provide to all countries an equal opportunity to trade with and invest in Indian tribal lands. In fact, the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs testified that he had serious reservations about Resolution 2362. That is why he preferred to support Resolution 205, which would “foster the same goals...on a broader scale.” When Rep. John Sarbanes (Dem.-Maryland) tried to introduce an amendment to expand the scope of Resolution 2362 beyond Turkey, it was ruled out of order due to a technicality.

Before the vote, several Armenian-American and Greek-American organizations submitted to the House Committee letters in opposition to Resolution 2362, pointing out the impropriety and illegality of giving Turkey a monopolistic access to Indian tribal lands. These organizations raised five key objections to Congress extending special privileges to Turkey because that country: 1) remains an unrepentant perpetrator of genocide against millions of Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians; 2) continues to blockade Armenia, occupy Cyprus, confront Israel, attack Kurds and undermine US regional interests; 3) threatens US commercial interests in the Mediterranean region; 4) is linked to American Turkish entities suspected of involvement in illegal activ-

ities and 5) supports Iran in violation of US sanctions.

The possible aim of the proponents of Resolution 2362 is to pass this particular bill before the more inclusive Resolution 205 is approved, in order to give Turkey a head start and undeserved advantage over all other nations. Turkey could then strike exclusive trade deals with Indian tribes for up to 25 years, renewable for two additional terms of 25 years each, for a total of 75 years. This means that by the time companies from other countries have a chance to sign contracts with Indian tribes, Turkish firms would have snatched up the most lucrative deals, leaving the others empty-handed.

Immediately after the Committee’s adoption of Resolution 2362, Turkish-Americans and the Turkish Embassy in Washington rushed to celebrate a premature victory. The Turkish Coalition of America issued a press release on November 17, expressing its joy that the resolution was approved by the committee and would soon be adopted by the full House. That same night, the Turkish Embassy hosted a reception in Washington “to mark American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month and celebrate the successful passage of H.R. 2362 out of the House Natural Resources Committee.” Turkey’s illustrious Ambassador Namik Tan was personally tweeting pictures of American Indians in their native costumes as the festivities were taking place at the embassy.

The ambassador should be reminded that a victory celebration is premature because there are no guarantees that this defective bill would ever reach the House floor, let alone the Senate, since it grossly violates a number of US trade agreements. Even if the bill receives Congressional approval, American civic organizations and many countries would file lawsuits to block this discriminatory piece of legislation.

Former Turkish Ambassador: ‘EU Dream Is Dead’

ISTANBUL (*EU Observer*) – Turkey’s former ambassador to the EU, Volkan Bozkir, has described it as a spent force in

By Andrew Rettman

world affairs amid general acceptance EU-Turkey accession talks are going nowhere.

Bozkir told delegates at a business congress in Istanbul last Friday, November 18: “The EU dream has come to an end for the world. There is a paradigm shift. The EU is no longer the same Union that provided comfort, prosperity and wealth to its citizens as in the past. It no longer generates visionary ideas such as Schengen [the EU’s passport free zone], or the Common Agricultural Policy.”

“Greece, Portugal, Spain – the EU has a hard time supporting these countries in the economic crisis. It is not able any more to help its members recover from a crisis.”

Bozkir, who was Turkey’s ambassador to the EU between 2005 and 2009 and is now chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the Turkish parliament, blamed the situation on the EU architecture - fiscal union between unequal economies and consensus-based decision-making.

Using an automotive image for Eurozone economies, he said: “You took cars that can only speed up to 60 kilometers per hour and put them on the road with cars driving at 100 kilometers per hour. So of course, these cars crash and are pulled off the road. But when one breaks down, all the others are affected.”

He added: “In normal democracies, you have a majority-based decision mechanism, but never a unanimous mechanism ... In order to fix the crisis, you need the vote of countries that caused the crisis. But of course, they say ‘No.’”

He also blamed unanimity for letting Turkey’s historical antagonist, Cyprus block the opening of negotiating chapters in accession talks, putting them on hold since 2009: “That is what is causing the political deadlock, so the negotiations are not going anywhere.”

Bozkir noted that EU membership is still Turkey’s “strategic objective”, but only in the sense that adoption of EU-type standards and values is good for Turkey whether it joins or not.

‘Positive Agenda’

For their part, two EU commissioners, Stefan Fuele (enlargement) and Karl de Gucht (trade), came to the Istanbul event – put on by Turkish business organization Tuskon and the Brussels-based think-tank, the EPC – to promote what the EU is calling a “positive agenda” – a plan to keep going with see EU, page 20

LETTERS

Hovanian Deserves Accolades, Other Assembly Founders Need to Be Remembered

To the Editor:

I join with Nubar Dorian’s sentiments about the great contributions of Hirair Hovnanian expressed in his tribute to him in the November 18, 2011 issue of the *Mirror-Spectator*. I observed Hirair’s dedication and commitment for much of his life and wealth since the early 1970s, when I first met him when he joined us in the Armenian Assembly. I was awed by him at that first meeting he attended – which – if I remember correctly – was in a Detroit motel.

There, while we were intently planning and discussing development of a national convocation of Armenian-American leaders from coast-to-coast, we were talking about small dollars. Even though this was his first meeting with us, he piped up to say, “Forget this penny-ante stuff. I don’t want to be involved if we are talking nickels and dimes. We have to do this one, big.” It was his assertion that made a large impact on other wealthy businessmen that got us up to the next rungs in the ladder.

I was also amazed that he, with his great wealth, along with Stephen Papken Mugar, also of means, bankrolled our operation, with some help from others. They enhanced our budgets and at the same time, the two of them actively participated fully in all our meetings and treated us with utmost respect even though we were much younger and of modest means. They sat incessantly and listened as well as talked and expected and received no special treatment by reason of their overwhelming wealth. Hirair was a major benefactor of the Armenian community generally, not only here in the United States, but also for so many years a loyal and generous benefactor in Armenia. What I know about is probably only the tip of the iceberg of all that he has done for the benefit of the Armenian people.

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to correct or amplify on a couple of statements in Nubar Dorian’s well-written article. The Oral History Project of the Assembly which Nubar mentions came about strictly because of the urging and assistance of the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA). When ALMA was founded in 1971, almost from the very beginning, we focused for the first years on our Oral History Project, interviewing survivors of the Armenian Genocide. We recognized that we must do that before the living survivors of the Genocide passed on. The ALMA project was administered by Bethel Bilezikian Charkoudian, then a young mother, a graduate of Radcliffe (Harvard’s then-name for women attending Harvard). She led the effort. My brother, Vigen Der Manuelian, supervised and contributed greatly to the concept and planning of ALMA’s Oral History Project. He consulted with a scholar or scholars from Brandeis

University who had involvement with oral histories of the Holocaust survivors. After the second or third year, my brother prepared a draft proposal for funding of an Armenian Oral History Project from the federal government. ALMA provided the draft proposal to the Assembly and urged it to apply for the grant. The Assembly was selected because it had some good relations with Congressional and other government leaders. When the Armenian Assembly received a matching grant from the federal government, ALMA provided it with the various forms and instructions that we had worked out in connection with our own Oral History Project and also provided the Assembly with hundreds of oral history tapes of our interviews of survivors.

Over the 70 years or so that I have been active in the Armenian community, I have been amused by later attributions to others incorrectly of who did or originated what. I learned long ago from the late Vartan Hartunian’s maxim: “Once you do good, forget the good you have done or you will be enchained by it.” Many of the things I have done have similarly been mischaracterized to others. However, I can forget about those but I do not want to forget about John Hanessian, one of the four founders of the Armenian Assembly because of my lasting memory of his unique contribution. The other three founders were Dr. Haigaz Grigorian, a psychiatrist; Aram Kaloosdian and myself, both practicing attorneys in the Boston area.

The most important of the four of us was John Hanessian. He originated the idea of the Armenian Assembly. When the four of us got together to formulate our strategy to establish such an organization, he was our leader. We lost him all too soon because he switched to a Turkish airliner in Paris headed for London and it crashed over France. His name never seems to get mentioned. As to the other three of us, Haigaz Grigorian left the Assembly relatively soon after its founding, Aram and I persevered on an Executive Committee. I, for about a decade and the I left to focus back on building ALMA up. Aram Kaloosdian remained in the leadership for decades and may still be part of that leadership.

*The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ
Moves on. Nor all thy Piety nor Wit
Shall lure it back to cancel half a line,
Nor all thy Tears wash away a word of it.
– Rubaiyat of Omar Khayam (Fitzgerald translation of 1859).*

–Haig Der Manuelian
Boston



New England 'Walks Thru' the Bible

WORCESTER, Mass. — On Saturday, November 12, 124 parishioners of all ages from parishes throughout the New England region gathered at the Church of Our Saviour here and were exuberantly miming, gesticulating and shouting out the key words and phrases that outlined the story of the entire *Old Testament*.

When one of the participants videoed the scene to his wife on his iPhone, she replied, "Wow, that's the happiest, most participatory group of Armenians I've ever seen in the church!"

And indeed, the high spirit in the room was a thing to behold.

Sponsored by the Diocesan Department of Youth and Education (DYE) in partnership with the New England Region Sunday School

Superintendents Association (NERSA), "Walk Thru the *Bible Old Testament*" was an effort to infuse all parishioners with the infectious joy that comes with the knowledge of Scripture and a love of God.

"One of the things all superintendents have come to realize is that unless the entire community is modeling a powerful and authentic faith, then whatever we offer our children and young people is futile. They learn from believing adults who are faith models," said Elise Antreassian, the Diocese's Christian Education coordinator.

Worcester Sunday School Superintendents Rebecca Kapur and Joan Arakelian were gracious hosts of the day, welcoming participants from every one of the 11 New England region parishes (of the 124 participants, more than three dozen were elementary, middle and high school students) who began arriving early. They and their committee and helpers (including an admirable number of youngsters and teens) had prepared a breakfast and lunch buffet and made everyone feel at home. In the same spirit, the Rev. Aved Terzian, the pastor of the Church of Our Saviour, welcomed the audience.

"The Walk Thru the *Bible*" seminar leader was Rich Leland, a pastor for more than 30 years, most recently at the Somersett Street Church on Nantucket Island, and an instructor for the Walk Thru the *Bible* organization for 28 years. From the moment Pastor Leland took the



Seminar participants pose for a group photo.



Children took part in the interactive "Walk Thru the Bible" seminar at the Church of our Saviour in Worcester, Mass., on Saturday, November 12.

stage, the audience was mesmerized. Between brief explanations of content, he led the audience through gestures and mnemonic techniques to help participants learn and remember the *Old Testament* story, from Creation through the prophetic voices that preceded the coming of Christ.

He would regularly leap onto the stage to lead the audience in repeatedly reviewing the cycle of movements and words. It was a good exercise in imagination. At one point he had everyone picture themselves as standing on a map of the ancient Near East and locate the great cities, rivers and seas of biblical times. By day's end, he had participants eagerly shouting for another chance to go through the story themselves, from the beginning.

Most moving were the occasional interludes when Leland would pause in reflection and apply *Old Testament* lessons to people's daily lives. Whether it was Abraham's decision to leave what he knew for what he trusted God to

know or David's disheartening vices, there was always something for the audience to reflect upon in their own hearts and personal stories. As a result, many people later cited a desire to grow more trusting, more loyal, more faithful and more loving in their relationship with Jesus Christ, as well as extend those goals into all their relationships from friendships to marriages.

NERSA Chair Laurie Bejoian thanked participants for "the blessed presence of children and young people who made this day a truly family event." She drew special attention to the day's youngest participant, 1-year-old John Stickler, son of Providence Sunday School superintendent Debbie Onanian.

Diocesan vicar, the Very Rev. Simeon Odabashian, concluded the day with a prayer and closing remarks expressing his hope that "this kind of inspiring program can be replicated in other parishes and brought to our youth retreats and camps."

US Judge Extends Armenia Genocide Fund Fighting

LOS ANGELES (*Glendale News Press*) — A federal judge on Monday gave attorneys fighting over accounting discrepancies at a multi-million-dollar compensation fund for the descendants of Armenian Genocide victims two weeks to hash out an agreement or face an extensive court-ordered audit.

US District Court Judge Christina Snyder ordered attorneys Mark Geragos and Roman Silberfeld to come back on December 5 with an update on how they want to address accounting discrepancies in a compensation fund set up several years ago by insurance company AXA to pay descendants of Armenian Genocide victims.

Geragos requested that he and Silberfeld, who is representing Glendale-based attorney Vartkes Yeghiayan, be "locked in a room" because he believes they can reach an agreement.

Attorneys on both sides and their staffs have been examining 94 claims that initially appeared to have problems out of about 1,000

claims filed with the fund's administrators.

In a motion filed with the court on Friday, Silberfeld said every claim was underpaid because the multiplier used to determine payment amounts was off by 0.1 percent.

In some instances, separate but identical claims filed by siblings were denied, while others were approved, according to Silberfeld's motion.

Also, some claimants who received multiple checks only cashed those for smaller amounts, even though checks for larger amounts were supposedly issued at the same time.

Silberfeld argued that if there were discrepancies with some of the 94 claims studied, it is reasonable to believe there are problems with the remaining 900 claims.

Earlier this year, Geragos and attorney Brian Kabateck sued Yeghiayan, charging that he and his wife, attorney Rita Mahdessian, set up bogus charities and misused nearly \$1 million during

Former Turkish Ambassador: 'EU Dream Is Dead'

EU, from page 19

pro-EU reform talks outside the formal accession process.

Fuele told Turkish TV the "agenda" is "in no way" an alternative to enlargement but is intended to "inject new blood, energy" into relations. He admitted the accession talks are at a "standstill" and warned there is a risk Turkish industrialists will lose interest in the EU if they do not have "a process, anything to be part of."

The commissioner said the Turkish economy is tied to the EU: 46 percent of Turkish trade is with the Union, 80 percent of foreign investment in Turkey comes from EU companies and Brussels will pay Ankara 1 billion euros in pre-accession aid next year.

But Turkish delegates indicated their country no longer sees itself as a poor neighbor seeking favors.

Turkey to Fill Arab Spring 'Gap'

Bozkir said the Arab Spring is transforming Turkey into a regional power: "We don't see the US [dominant] in the Middle East anymore. No one has confidence in the UN. So who is going to fill this gap? Turkey. When our prime minister visits these regions, people really welcome him. They wave Turkish flags in the streets."

Turkish EU Affairs Minister Egemen Bagis said the question is not what the EU can do for Turkey but vice versa: "The EU was never seen as economic project by us, but as a peace project and we are working to turn it into a global project."

Its economy minister, Mehmet Caglayan, could not resist the temptation to take a jab at its other old enemy across the Aegean: "With Greece, if we became a member [of the EU], they wouldn't have to look too far for help," he said.

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