

THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXV, NO. 16, Issue 4359

\$ 2.00

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fourteenth Anniversary of TCA Sponsor A Teacher Program Is Celebrated

By Aghvan Asoyan

YEREVAN (*Azg*) – This year marks the 14th anniversary of the founding of the Sponsor a Teacher Program of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) in Armenia and Karabagh.

During the last 14 years, the project has raised more than \$604,000 and reached out to 5,104 teachers and school workers in Armenia and Karabagh. Throughout this period, Maro Bedrosian, treasurer of the TCA Board of Directors of USA and Canada, has headed the project. Letters of thanks to sponsors and donors have been mailed providing the names of the teachers they have sponsored, visits to schools have been documented and photographed, and articles have been written in various newspapers, including *Azg* in Yerevan; *Abaka* in Montreal, Canada; the *Armenian Observer* and *Nor Or* in California; and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* in Boston, covering the delegations' visits to the schools. Once a year, the names of all donors are published in the above newspapers.



Gayane Muradian presents a check to chess teacher Armen Grigorian.

see TEACHERS, page 8



Teachers in front of Vahan Tekeyan monument at the Garpi school. First row, from left, are Gayane Muradian, principal Arsen Ohanian and Kevork Marashlian.

Etyen Mahçupyan Appointed Turkish PM's Senior Advisor

ANKARA (Armenpress) – Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu appointed Turkish-Armenian journalist Etyen Mahçupyan to the post of his Senior Advisor, according to the Turkish Haberler news website.

Davutoglu and Mahçupyan have known each other for a long time. Davutoglu told the press that he made the decision on Mahçupyan's appointment based on his "intellectual identity."

Mahçupyan said that he will support the Turkish prime minister by working in the areas of "democracy," "government and public relations" and "minorities." Mahçupyan is the first non-Muslim among the advisors of the Turkish president and prime minister.

Mahçupyan graduated from the Faculty of Chemistry at Bogaziçi University of Turkey in 1972 and the Faculty of Political Science at Ankara University. Born in 1950 in Istanbul, he was the editor-in-chief of *Agos* newspaper from 2007 to 2010. He contributed to the Turkish national daily *Taraf*, and now writes for the pro-government *Aksam* after leaving *Zaman*.

Centennial Committee Hopes to Build Museum In California

GLENDALE – Representatives of the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee - Western USA (AGCC - WUSA) met on September 29, with Glendale Mayor Zareh Sinanyan and City Manager Scott Ochoa to initiate the process of locating the Armenian American Museum of California here.

"The 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide presents an opportunity to transform the experience of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and generations of Armenian Americans into a vehicle for preserving liberty and equality in a democratic society," stated AGCC-WUSA Co-Chair Garo Ghazarian.

The representatives of the following organizations and institutions serve on the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee - Western USA: Armenia Fund - Western Region USA; Armenian Assembly of America; Armenian Bar Association; Armenian Catholic Church; Armenian Council of America; Armenian Democratic Liberal Party; Armenian Evangelical Union of North America; Armenian General Benevolent Union - Western District; Armenian National Committee of America - Western Region; Armenian Relief Society - Western USA; Armenian Rights Council; Armenian Revolutionary Federation; Armenian Youth Federation; Ignatius Foundation; Organization of Istanbul Armenians; Social Democratic Hunchakian Party; Unified Young Armenians; USC Institute of Armenian Studies; Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America; Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Parties to Karabagh Conflict Agree to Continue 'High-Level Negotiations'

PARIS (ArmeniaNow) – The talks on the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict settlement here concluded late on Monday with a tripartite meeting of French President Francois Hollande and his Armenian and Azerbaijani counterparts, Serge Sargisian and Ilham Aliyev, at the Elysee Palace.

Before that Sargisian and Aliyev held one-on-one talks followed by negotiations in the presence of international mediators rep-

resenting the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, which is co-chaired by the United States, Russia and France.

Summarizing the results of the talks, a statement issued by the Armenian president's press office said that the participants of the meeting "placed importance on the continuation of dialogue within the framework of the OSCE Minsk Group and efforts

to strengthen confidence" in order to achieve progress in the peace talks.

"The absence of an alternative to a peaceful settlement of the conflict was emphasized. Agreement was reached between the parties to continue negotiations at the high level," it added.

The Sargisian-Aliyev meeting in Paris was the third such meeting of the two leaders in less than three months.

In August, in the wake of a major outbreak of violence in the Karabagh conflict zone and at the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, the two leaders met in Sochi, Russia, at a meeting hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin. A month later, Sargisian and Aliyev met on the margins of a NATO summit in Wales, UK, and that meeting was organized by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

20 Billion Drams Allocated for Armenian Genocide Centenary Events

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenia's Deputy Finance Minister Pavel Safaryan said at the discussion of the draft state budget 2015 that 20 billion drams (\$4.8 million) will be allocated for the Armenian Genocide centenary.

He noted that a special commission on centenary events has been set up, which is chaired by the president of Armenia. All the proposed projects that the commission has received from the government, non-governmental organizations, and the diaspora – actually from all possible sources, are under discussion. After summing up the projects, we will make financial assessments and be able to take financial measures, Safaryan said.



From left, Presidents Ilham Aliyev, François Hollande and Serge Sargisian in Paris

Facing History in Transition as Armenian Genocide Centennial Approaches

By Aram Arkun
Mirror-Spectator Staff

BROOKLINE, Mass. – Facing History and Ourselves is a unique international organization which has done yeoman's work in promoting understanding of genocide, including the Armenian and Jewish cases, as well as human rights, by training educators since the

end of the 1970s. It is at present in a period of transition. Its founding executive director, Margot Strom, is retiring from the leadership position, while still remaining involved with the organization. Roger Brooks, dean of the faculty and chief academic officer of Connecticut College, and holder of the Elie Wiesel Professorship in the Department of Religious Studies, will begin in December as president and chief executive officer.

see HISTORY, page 9

INSIDE

Making a Play for It

Page 10

INDEX

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



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Special Medal Granted to Turkish Genocide Researcher

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Western Armenian National Congress awarded Turkish historian, public figure Ismail Beshikchi with Gevorg Surenyants Medal for his two works on the studies of the Armenian Genocide.

The Gevorg Surenyants Medal was founded in 2014 October 12 for the Turkish intellectuals, who have been against the crime of denying the Armenian Genocide through their activity and works and have put forward significant evidence to prove the reality of the Armenian Genocide.

Russia to Continue Developing Military Bases in Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Russia will actively keep developing its military bases abroad, Russian Defense Minister General Sergey Shoigu said on October 28. “We keep developing our bases abroad in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Armenia. We are developing them rather actively,” he said at a meeting of the Public Council of the Defense Ministry, according to the Itar-Tass Russian news agency.

Shoigu recalled that recently a Russian squadron went on combat duty in Belarus. He said: “We settled there and started combat duty and everything connected with training.”

Diamond Industry Revival in Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Russian Alrosa Company produces a quarter of the world’s raw diamonds. It owns 97 percent of Russia’s diamond industry. Deputy President of Alrosa Company Andrey Polyakov, who participated in the investment forum “Armenia – Regional Jewelry Center,” in Yerevan, explained Armenia’s role in his field: “The intergovernmental agreement signed between Armenia and Russia provides for the import of uncut diamonds to Armenia at Russia’s domestic market prices. In particular, the export duties are canceled. According to the agreement, first the entire volume of the necessary raw materials will be transferred to Armenia to be processed. There is an agreement with the Armenian side on the exchange of statistical data, which shows the necessary volume of the raw materials, the processing volume and based on that, the number of the raw diamond, exported to Armenia, is being determined.”

Catholicos of All Armenians Arrives in US

ECHMIADZIN – On October 18, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, departed for the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America.

In the United States, the catholicos is scheduled to meet with the benefactors of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin to discuss the implementation of various projects.

Armenian President to Leave for Jordan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The President of the Republic of Armenia Serge Sarigisyan will leave for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on an official visit. The President’s Office reported that within the framework of the visit Sargisyan will meet with the Jordan’s King Abdullah II Ibn al-Hussein al-Hashimi, the Prime Minister Abdullah al-Nusur, the Senate President Abdel Rauf al-Ravabeh and the House of Representatives Speaker Atef Yousef Salah al-Tarauna.

By the results of the Armenian-Jordanian negotiations it is planned to sign documents directed to the development and strengthening of cooperation in a number of areas between the two countries.

Ester Ajemian Scholars Named in Armenia

YEREVAN – The Ester Ajemian 2014-2015 scholarship program concluded and the five students were chosen to receive scholarships were named.

Lusine Hakobyan (Aragatsotn region, town of Ashtarak) has a Bachelor’s degree in Journalism and has written many articles for online news websites. Currently she is a correspondent for <http://haylur.am/>.

In 2014-15 she is a master’s student at Yerevan State University (YSU), faculty of Journalism.

Ani Eloyan (Yerevan) has a bachelor’s degree in linguistics and Communication. In 2012 she has entered and graduated from the “TV Ideal” School of anchors and journalists. She has conducted interviews, written articles and prepared reports. This year she is a master’s student at YSU, Faculty of Journalism.



From left, Ani Eloyan, Qnarik Baghdasarian, Lusine Hakobyan, Heriknaz Baghdasaryan and Qishmish Ghazaryan



The Ester Ajemian Scholars met with organizers at the Yerevan FAR office.



From left, Ani Eloyan and Qnarik Baghdasarian

Qnarik Baghdasaryan (Ararat region, village of Kanachut) graduated from Yerevan state institute of theatre and cinema in 2011 with the specialization of Directing. Right after graduation she started working at the Hakob Paronyan Yerevan Theater of Musical Comedy. In 2014 she entered YSU, Faculty of Journalism. As she says the synthesis of her specialization in directing and the new one will bring forward innovative ways and ideas in the sphere of journalism.

Heriknaz Baghdasaryan (Yerevan) entered the YSU Faculty of Journalism to deepen her knowledge and skills in her profession. During study years she has prepared articles and reports for www.armstar.am, www.aravot.am, www.operativ.am, www.esem.am and other online journals and newspapers. She has also participated in a number of trainings, round-table discussions.

Qishmish Ghazaryan (Republic of Georgia, Akhlaqalaq region) has a bachelor’s degree in Journalism. Her skills and knowledge helped her to organize events and write articles for both Armenian and Georgian-Armenian newspapers and websites.

A meeting at FAR Yerevan office was held with them. We told about their benefactor’s philanthropic deeds and about the book *Knock at the Door*. They were very happy to receive a copy of *Knock at the Door* book and all of them asked the organizers to convey their deepest gratitude to Margaret Ajemian Ahnert.

As promised several copies of *Knock at the Door* were sent to Naghsh Martirosyan, Dean of the Faculty of Journalism, YSU.

TCA Haigashen Ouzounian Awards Granted

YEREVAN – The Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Haigashen Ouzounian Awards were presented on October 27 at the hall of the Tekeyan Center in Yerevan. This award has been given to Armenian writers and researchers beginning in 1966 biennially in order to encourage authors in the diaspora and, especially during recent decades, in Armenia.

The jury, led by the well known author and public figure Vatche Semerdjian of California, conscientiously carried out its work, choosing from over 50 books submitted for the award.

Only three were found worthy, and received certificates and financial rewards.

Thus, Aram Topchyan, translator and scholarly researcher, won the award for his new translation of Hamlet, together with a valuable textual study. According to the master of ceremonies, Hagop Avedikian, his work is fully on a European level and is a great contribution to Armenian Shakespeare studies. The literary and art critic Yervand Ter-Khachatryan spoke in greater detail about the book and its author.

The next award was bestowed upon journalist and specialist in Armenian-Turkish relations Tatul Hakobyan for his work Hayatsk Ararat: Hayere yev Turkere (“View from Ararat: The Armenians and the Turks”). Narek Seferyan, the translator of the book into English from its original Western Armenian with classical orthography, spoke about this work.

Historian Suren Sargsyan received an

award for his work examining the roots of Armenian political ideology. The title of his book is Armenia parberakane (“The Periodical Armenia”). It includes the main articles that appeared in the periodical Armenia published by Mgrdich Portukalian in Marseille, along with a detailed study of the life and activity of the latter. The academic editor of the book, the erudite historian Albert Kharatyan, presented the volume in a comprehensive fashion.

At the end, the recipients expressed their thanks for their awards. Taline Avakian-Ouzounian, the eldest daughter of the late Armenian Democratic Liberal, TCA and Armenian General Benevolent Union leader Haigashen Ouzounian, spoke too, and promised to continue the gratifying work of her father.

The event concluded with words of praise and encouragement from Minister of the Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia Hranush Hakobyan.

Correction

In Edmond Y. Azadian’s column of October 25, Levon Hayrabyan was mistakenly referred to as Roupen.



INTERNATIONAL

London Tekeyan Celebration of 145th Anniversary of the Birth of Komitas

By Hasmik Harutunyan Seymour and Seda Khachatryan

LONDON – St. Yeghishe Armenian Church in London vibrated with a memorable classical concert on October 18, 2014. The Tekeyan Trust of London (TTL), a registered charity since 1979, organized an autumnal concert of Armenian music with the participation of the Komitas Choir, the first Armenian choir in the United Kingdom (UK), to celebrate the 145th birth anniversary of the great composer Komitas.

The TTL, the backbone of the London TCA and the Tekeyan Centre Fund (Armenia), has always been dedicated to the preservation and promotion of the national identity and to furthering links between Armenia and the Diaspora through various cultural, educational, community life activities.

The idea of creating the Komitas Choir, the brainchild of TTL Honorary Secretary Vartan Ouzounian and tenor

Sipan Hakobyan, was enthusiastically supported by the Trust. Thus, in November 2013, the Komitas Choir was formed under the chairmanship of Ouzounian and the baton of the young promising conductor Hagopyan. Currently the choir consists of more than 30 singers. For an entire year, Artistic Director of the Komitas Choir Hagopyan and wonderful Concert Master Ella Babayan, have been working relentlessly and passionately to prepare the singers for their major public recital on October 18.

Present at the great event were representatives of all organizations of the British-Armenian community, Baroness Caroline Cox of the House of Lords, other civic and religious dignitaries, musicians, critics and music-lovers.

The concert started with Ouzounian's welcoming speech and a brief review of the 39-year activity of the Tekeyan Trust. The chairman also detailed the idea and the goal of the Komitas Choir.

At the concert apart from the Komitas Choir performance, the audience heard recitals by talented young Armenian artists in the UK: violinist Ani Batikian, international award-winning soprano Tereza Gevorgyan, twenty-year-old pianist and composer Kristina Arakelyan and soprano Arpineh Kassabian, who introduced several masterpieces of Komitas Vardapet. Komitas not only re-invented the tradition of Armenian folk music by getting rid of foreign influences, but without him, many of those 4000 ancient folk songs would have vanished forever.

The first to perform was the multi-talented Arakelyan, a third-year scholar of Royal Academy of Music in London.

Arakelyan performed two Dances for Piano by Komitas with youthful vigor and confidence. In the first half of the concert, she also accompanied soloists with huge professionalism.

In the first part of the program Hagopyan sang two well-known songs by Komitas with his warm, velvety tenor, accompanied by Arakelyan on the piano. As a child Hagopyan attended the Tchaikovsky Music School in Yerevan for gifted young musicians and later graduated from Yerevan State Conservatory with Master Degree. He continues his vocal training in London where he takes master classes with Professor Philip Dogan at the Royal Academy of Music (RAM) in London. Hagopyan has performed on Armenian and British stages throughout the past four years, and from concert to concert, his natural talent is growing stronger and more compelling.

Violinist Batikian is an accomplished soloist, and graduate from RAM with the top prize for violin. For this evening, she had selected two masterpieces of Komitas, which she interpreted with verve, precision and admirable intonation. The opening low notes from the famous Krounk sounded mesmerizing, followed by an effortless shift to higher octaves, performed flawlessly, so that she set a high standard for the rest of this very challenging violin piece. The



The Komitas Choir performing at St. Yeghishe Church, London

young violinist showed a restrained lyricism throughout the second piece, Kele Tsoler.

Another revelation of the evening was the young soprano Gevorgyan, who performed two celebrated songs by Komitas, Apricot Tree and Swallow. One of the most memorable recitals of the evening was her version of Groong by Komitas, which was emotional, sensual and rich in musical texture and nuance.

One of my favourite recitals of the evening was the duet called "Habrban" interpreted by Hagopyan and Gevorgyan, accompanied by Batikian on violin and Arakelyan on piano. Cheeky, joyful and youthful, this piece was quite suitable for the young artists and there was a lot of creative chemistry among those four musicians who had joined together in this uplift-



Makruhi Tahmazian, Baroness Caroline Cox, Vartan Ouzounian, Sipan Hakobyan, Elizabeth Simolac after the concert

ing and positive piece. It made one's heart thump with pride.

In the second part of the concert the Komitas Choir performed nine songs; three of them by Komitas and the rest, popular and folk songs.

At the end of the evening an emotional speech was given by Very Rev. Aren Shahinian, who welcomed the audience to St. Yeghishe Church, and used a metaphor from the song Krounk to symbolize the Armenian nation's survival. He praised the brilliant initiative to form the first Armenian choir in the UK. Ara Margarian from the Armenian Embassy in London congratulated the Komitas Choir and wished it much future success.

In his closing speech, Ouzounian thanked all the members of the choir for their dedication and contribution to Armenian culture and music and presented them with certificates of appreciation. He expressed his gratitude to benefactors for supporting the Komitas Choir, and thanked dignitaries and the audience for their attendance.

International News

Session on Genocide at Italy Conference

CAGLIARI, Italy (Armenpress) – One of the discussions at the international conference held here last week was dedicated to the Armenian Genocide.

The Embassy of Turkey in Italy made several unsuccessful attempts to make the international conference fail and even tried to persuade the mayor of Cagliari not to take part in the conference but nothing stopped the Italian-Arab Assadakah organization, which had launched a pan-European recognition campaign for the Armenian Genocide.

At the conference, Director of the Armenpress News Agency Aram Ananyan told the story of Aharon Manukyan, born in 1914, who was 1 when his family had to leave their house in Van. His father died in the fight for Van's defense. His mother reached Echmiadzin with her sons, and as she had to look for a job there, she took the boys to an American orphanage in Gumri. Ananyan stated that the story is just one example of the stories of children who lost their parents in the Genocide.

New Primate in France To Be Elected in Nov.

PARIS (Jamanak) – The election of a new Primate in the Diocese of the Armenian Church of France is scheduled to take place the first weekend of November. The Diocesan Assembly will convene to replace the previous Primate of the Diocese, Archbishop Norvan Zakarian, who resigned more than a year ago. The locum tenens, Very Rev. Mesrob Barsamian, will preside over the meeting in Paris.

Candidates for Primate include Bishop Vahan Hovhannesian, Primate of the Diocese of England; Fr. Zadig Avedikian and Fr. Krikor Khachadurian.

It is expected that after the election, the new Primate will conduct his first divine liturgy at the end of November in the cathedral of St. John the Baptist, the headquarters of the Diocese, in Paris.

A regular meeting of the Diocesan Assembly is planned to take place in Lyon at the beginning of December. The newly elected Primate will preside over this assembly. The election of a new Diocesan Council will be on the agenda in Lyon. At present, Patrice Djololian heads the Diocesan Council. During the period after the resignation of Zakarian he assumed great responsibilities.

Turkey Loses out on UN Security Council Seat

NEW YORK (BBC News) – Turkey failed to win a seat on the United Nations (UN) Security Council after member states voted on Thursday.

The five non-permanent seats were given to Venezuela, Angola, Malaysia, New Zealand and Spain, the latter two beating Turkey to represent the West.

Turkey has been under international pressure to help combat Islamic State militants waging war along its border.

The new members of the Security Council will begin their two-year appointment on January 1, 2015.

Despite lobbying heavily amongst the UN's 193 member nations, Turkey lost out to Spain, which won the third round of run-off voting for the second of the two Western seats.

New Zealand won the first round with 145 votes.

The state-run Anadolu Agency reported Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu as saying: "We could not abandon our principles for the sake of getting more votes."

New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key said: "We just put on display the credentials of New Zealand, which is a country that's seen as an honest broker, someone that stands up for what's right."

There were celebrations in Venezuela as the country took the Latin America and Caribbean seat unopposed.

The United States, who publicly opposed Venezuela's bid in 2006 remained silent this time though they would not say how they voted.

Argentina, Australia, Luxembourg, South Korea and Rwanda will step down at the end of the year to make way for the newly-elected members.

Community News

ACYOA Juniors Gather for Sports Weekend

FAIRLAWN, N.J. – Over Columbus Day weekend, some 265 young people from 18 parishes around the Diocese gathered for the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) Fall Juniors Sports Weekend, hosted by St. Leon Armenian Church.

Lorie Odabashian, the Diocese's coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and members of the St. Leon parish welcomed participants on Friday, October 10, and directed them to their respective host families.

Saturday began with morning service, followed by an "Insights" program led by sub-deacon Saro Kalayjian. Sports competitions followed at the parish's Grace and Charles Pinajian Youth Center. Team sports included co-ed volleyball and boys' and girls' basketball. Individual competitions included chess, *tavloo*, Connect Four and ping pong. On Saturday evening, participants enjoyed a dance in Abajian Hall.

On Sunday, the group took part in the Divine Liturgy. The Rev. Diran Bohajian, parish pastor, celebrated the Divine Liturgy and gave a sermon on the Holy Translators. The afternoon continued with sports finals, followed by an awards banquet and dance in Abajian Hall.

The weekend came to a close on Monday with a farewell breakfast, where the participants and parishioners alike remarked on the spirit of Christian fellowship present throughout the weekend. The young people also expressed their gratitude to Bohajian, St. Leon Church youth adviser Susan Chamesian and to the entire parish for hosting them and organizing the various events.

2014 Award Winners in Team Sports

Volleyball

First Place: Holy Translators Church, Framingham, MA; Second Place: St. James Church, Watertown, MA

Girls' Basketball

First Place: St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church, Wynnewood, PA; Second Place: St. Leon Church, Fair Lawn, NJ

Boys' Basketball

First Place: "Hye Five" combined New see ACYOA, page 5



A girls' basketball game underway during Sports Weekend.



Vardenis-Mardakert Highway Goal of Armenia Fund USA 2014 Telethon

NEW YORK – Armenia Fund USA is gearing up for its traditional Thanksgiving Day telethon. Last year's broadcast raised more than \$22 million to launch the construction of the Vardenis-Mardakert Highway, designed to connect communities on the northern border of both Armenia and Karabagh. Yet in a departure from previous years, in which a different project is highlighted with each new Telethon, the All Armenian Fund and its affiliates decided to once more make this grand-scale project the campaign's centerpiece.

Given the troubling twists and turns with Azerbaijan earlier this year, the border hostilities and geopolitical complications have put national security back on urgent status. It was decided that a second aggressive push to complete this massive infrastructure project was warranted.

Khoren Bandazian, the chairman of the board of Armenia Fund USA, put it into perspective by noting that, "Just as the Goris-Stepanakert Highway and the North-South Highway were indispensable to the national security and economic development of both republics in the early years of independence, the 117-kilometer Vardenis-Mardakert Highway will create access to a now isolated and vulnerable region. By linking these communities with a modern roadway, we will strengthen economic activity in the area and also fortify the defense of the region. That's why we are asking our Eastern US region constituents to think strategically and act generously."

Since breaking ground last year, the reconstruction and renovation of this critical route has been well under way. Earthworks are being performed simultaneously. see TELETHON, page 5

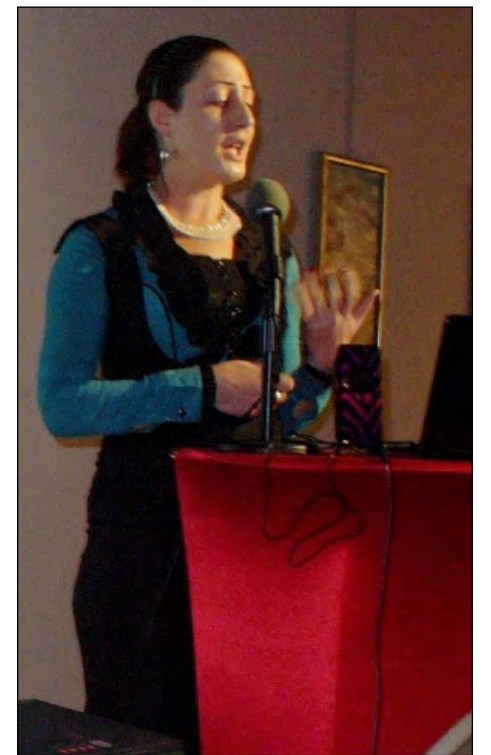


The new Vardenis-Mardakert Highway on the map

Gyumri IT Center Director Hosted in Watertown

WATERTOWN – A gathering of approximately 60 business people and technical developers gathered at the Armenian Museum of America (AMA) to learn about services offered by the Gyumri Information Technology Center (GITC) in Gumri, Armenia. Amalya Yeghoyan, GITC's executive director, outlined both GITC's training program and the software and computer services offered to clients worldwide.

GITC offers a 2-year program of hands-on IT training to qualified applicants with an existing background in computer science, electronics, mathematics or related fields. Students select a focus either on mobile applications or web development. GITC's environment replicates a work environment with daily seven-hour attendance and strict adherence to professional behavior and dress codes. The second year includes a co-op program where students work in industry gaining real-world practical experience. More than 90 percent of GITC's graduates



Amalya Yeghoyan talk at ALMA

find work in Armenia in their field of study, and no graduates have left Armenia. Students pay \$500 tuition per year which is only a fraction of GITC's real cost per student.

To support their effort GITC offers consulting and software development services to clients, focusing on web development, mobile applications using the IOS and Android operating systems, software development, networking, and other services. Currently GITC is serving clients in Armenia, Russia, Germany, and the US. Communication with GITC may be in English, Russian, or Armenian via email, Skype, and telephone. Yeghoyan indicated the per-engineer see IT, page 7



GITC director Amalya Yeghoyan and ABN founder Jack Antounian



COMMUNITY NEWS

ACYOA Juniors Gather for Sports Weekend

ACYOA, from page 4
 England regional team; Second Place: St. Leon Church, Fair Lawn, NJ

Overall Weekend Champions

St. Leon Church, Fair Lawn, NJ

Outstanding Sportsmanship Awards

Neil Ferraro, Holy Translators Church, Framingham, MA; Nairi Ostayan, St. James Church, Watertown, MA; Individual Competition Winners

Beginner Chess

First Place: Armen Dervishian, St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church, Wynnewood, PA; Second Place: Armen Kassabian, Holy Martyrs Church, Bayside, NY

Advanced Chess

First Place: Armen Arsenian, Holy Martyrs Church, Bayside, NY; Second Place: Christian Khachian, St. Gregory the Enlightener Church, White Plains, NY

Beginner Tavloo

First Place: Dylan Madden, St. James Church, Watertown, MA; Second Place: Armand Zeibari, St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church, Wynnewood, PA

Advanced Tavloo

First Place: Alek Kevorkian, St. Leon Church, Fair Lawn, NJ; Second Place: Andrew Reppucci,



Sports Weekend participants take a group photo.



A game of *tavloo*

St. James Church, Watertown, MA

Connect Four

First Place: Nick Tokmanian, St. Leon Church, Fair Lawn, NJ; Second Place: Greg Keshishian, St. Leon Church, Fair Lawn, NJ

Boys' Ping Pong

First Place: Levon Najarian, St. Leon Church, Fair Lawn, NJ; Second Place: Greg Keshishian, St. Leon Church, Fair Lawn, NJ

Girls' Ping Pong

First Place: Ana DerSimonian, St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church, Wynnewood, PA; Second Place: Ani Maroyan, Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge, MA.



An Armenian Christmas Pilgrimage to the **HOLY LAND**

JANUARY 12-22, 2015

A SPIRITUALLY-UPLIFTING 10-DAY JOURNEY to the Holy Land.

VISIT THE HOLIEST SITES OF OUR FAITH, including guided tours of Jerusalem, Jericho, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, the Jordan River, Tiberias, and Qumran.

TOUR JERUSALEM'S ARMENIAN QUARTER, the Sts. James Armenian Monastery and the Armenian Patriarchate, and be received by His Beatitude Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem.

TRAVEL TO THE CITY OF OUR LORD'S BIRTH—Bethlehem—to celebrate Christ's Nativity with a Christmas procession and a midnight Divine Liturgy on January 18-19.

Առաջնորդութիւն Քայլոց Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան Թեմի
 Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
 630 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10016
 www.armenianchurch-ed.net

The cost of \$2,598* (plus \$50 administrative fee) per person includes:

- * Roundtrip airfare from JFK to Tel Aviv, via El Al Airlines (depart January 12, return January 22)
- * Accommodations at Jerusalem's Notre Dame Hotel, double occupancy (single rooms available for an additional \$550)
- * Buses, driver, guide, entrance fees
- * Breakfast and dinner daily
- * All gratuities and taxes

*Per person cost without airfare is \$1,698 (plus \$50 administrative fee)

For details, contact Fr. Mardiros Chevian, the pilgrimage coordinator, at (914) 636-2003; or e-mail dean@stnersess.edu

Questions about registration can be directed to Educational Opportunities Tours, at (800) 247-0017, ext. 385. You can also contact your local parish pastor for information on the trip and the application form.

A \$300 deposit is required with registration. Full and final payment must be made by December 1, 2014.

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

www.armenianchurch-ed.net/programming/pilgrimages

Armenia Fund USA 2014 Telethon

TELETHON, from page 4
 taneously across 12 sections of the highway. This entails blasting rocks, leveling surfaces, widening roads and transposing existing engineering structures. In addition, crews are installing gutters as well as building embankments and crash barriers.

This phase is expected to be completed before the new year, which will allow for passenger cars to traverse from Gegharkunik region in Armenia to the Mardakert region in Karabagh. As a result, travel time will be significantly reduced and community interaction and cooperation can be facilitated as never before.

Still to come are the final phases, including paving roadways and installing traffic signage, painting lane indicators and building rest stations. It is expected to implement these phases with funds raised during the Telethon 2014 campaign.

Prior to the broadcast, Armenia Fund USA will reach out to Eastern Region communities with a direct mail campaign soliciting "early bird" donations, which can be contributed by phone, online or by regular mail.

To support this effort, to see the Telethon broadcast schedule and participating TV channels, visit www.armenianfundusa.org.



Construction crew actively building the road



COMMUNITY NEWS

AMAA Orphan and Childcare Committee Celebrates 'In the Spirit of Giving'

WELLESLEY, Mass. — The Boston-area Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Child and Orphan Care Committee celebrated this year's wine and dine cocktail event, "In the Spirit of Giving," on Friday, September 26, at the Wellesley Country Club. Host Michele Simourian welcomed AMAA Executive Director Zaven Khanjian, who set the tone for the evening with some words of inspiration. Committee member Joyce Janjigian then introduced celebrity auctioneer and Channel 5 Weathercaster Mike Wankum, whom also named this year as "honorary Armenian." Music for the evening was provided by the fabulous John Baboian Trio. Guests were all smiles as raffle winners were announced and highest bidders revealed, most appreciative of all the evening's gracious donors and guests. All proceeds from the event go to benefit AMAA children's programs in Armenia and Karabagh.

Reflecting on the event, Khanjian said, "An event well planned, well organized, well attended, well groomed, well meant, well understood and well concluded. Kudos to every lovely, motivated and energetic member of the committee."

Founded in 1918, the AMAA is a non-profit charitable organization whose purpose is to serve the physical and spiritual needs of people everywhere, both at home and overseas without discrimination. For additional information, visit www.amaa.org



A few AMAA Boston-area Child and Orphan and Care Committee Members with Celebrity Host Mike Wankum

Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America Celebrate Fifth Anniversary of New York-New Jersey Section

HACKENSACK, N.J. — The Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA), New York-New Jersey section celebrated their fifth anniversary of the founding of the section at a banquet attended by more than 120 supporters, at the Stony Hill Inn, on October 4.

The evening began with welcoming remarks by banquet chairman, Raffi Oundjian, recognizing the presence the Armenian Ambassador the United Nations, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, and guest of honor, Michael Haratunian. The introductions were followed by the traditional American and Armenian anthems sang by Haig Mardirossian.

New York-New Jersey section President Aram Setian presented a review of the chapter's last year activities, including the ever-popular Mentoring Program led by Vahan Tanal in collaboration with AAHPO led by Dr. Lawrence Najarian and hosted by Dr. Harold Takooshian. Setian announced the upcoming programs, such as the Rutgers University and Yerevan State University collaboration project coordinated by Garnik Nanagulian of Fund for Armenian Relief; lectures to be conducted in Yerevan by AESA members, Vahan Tanal and David Michaelian; AESA and USAID project coordinated by the US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern. In addition, increased collaboration with the AESA Headquarters in California and expanding the New York-New Jersey section membership to the neighboring states.

Antranig Ouzoonian introduced the guest of honor, Haratunian, a respected community leader and engineering executive. A short video illustrated his vast career accomplishments, followed by his remarks about the beginning of his career as a young engineering student and spanning the many years of his remarkable

career. Haratunian's advice to all young engineers was that in order to succeed, they must expand beyond their engineering expertise namely, to concentrate on their interpersonal, communication and presentation skills. In recognition of his significant contributions to the engineering and Armenian communities, Haratunian was presented with the AESA NY-NJ Award by Setian, and Vice President Hovhannes Mardirossian.

As the AESA NY-NJ section actively supports the involvement of youth in the engineering and science fields, each year they participate and support the Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School Science Fair, led by Principal Zarmine Boghssian. Setian and Mardirossian presented the First Place Award to the 2014 contest winner, Margaret Sakar, who was accompanied by her parents.

The program continued with Mardirossian announcing the decision of the AESA New York-New Jersey Section Board to honor the chapter founding president Aram Setian, with a meritorious award for his five years of dedicated service. Mardirossian presented a brief review of Setian's education, business career accomplishments, volunteerism and service in the Armenian Community, followed by Vahan Tanal's presentation of the "Five Year Outstanding Service Award," commending him for his commitment to the success and growth of the young organization.

"On behalf of AESA, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation to Mr. Setian's outstanding leadership, hard work and contributions to our organization" said AESA President Vasken Yardemian. "We appreciate Mr. Setian and his team for all the efforts to make New York/New Jersey Section a great success."

OBITUARY

Laurel Dickranian Karabian Dickranian School Benefactor

LOS ANGELES — Laurel Dickranian Karabian passed away on October 19. She was 60.

She was born in Beverly Hills, to Archie and Eleanor Dickranian.

She attended Beverly Hills High School and graduated cum laude from Pomona College where she majored in Renaissance studies. She earned her MBA in fine arts management at the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

Her love of music took her to San Francisco, where she worked as the associate director of development for the San Francisco Symphony. She moved back to Los Angeles to take a position with the Los Angeles Philharmonic as the director of development. Later, she worked as an independent consultant providing management and fundraising services for arts and community organizations.

Beyond music, Karabian was an advocate for the arts and education. She was appointed by former Gov. George Deukmejian to the California Arts Council. She was a member of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, served as a board member of the Armenian Library and Museum of America, and was the founding president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Armenian International Women's Association. In addition, she contributed her



expertise to many other volunteer organizations.

She enjoyed going to the opera, theater, ballet and symphony. She loved to travel and had a particular love for Italy, and spent many summers in Venice. There, she continued to learn Armenian, which was her fourth language, including French and Italian.

Many of her happiest times were at her family's home in Malibu and at her apartment in San Francisco.

She and her husband were benefactors of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Arshag Dickranian Armenian School, which had been founded by her parents. Her daughter, Madeline, attended the school from nursery through the eighth grade.

She is survived by her daughter Madeline and her husband former California State Assembly Majority Leader Walter Karabian, and his son Benjamin. She is also survived by her sister Cindy (Ken) Norian.

Services were held Monday, October 27, at St. Leon Armenian Cathedral 3325 N. Glenoaks Blvd. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to TCA Arshag Dickranian Armenian School, 1200 N. Cahuenga Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90038.

(Editor's Note: An abbreviated version of this obituary appeared on the front page of last week's *Mirror-Spectator*.)

Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

John K. Najarian, Jr.

Rhode Island's Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

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

www.nardolillo.com

Giragosian

FUNERAL HOME

James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC
Mark J. Giragosian

Funeral Counselors

576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606
www.giragosianfuneralhome.com

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN

Edward D. Jamakordzian, Jr. d/b/a

Edward D. Jamie, Jr. Funeral Chapel

Serving the entire Armenian Community

Any Hour • Any Distance • Any Location

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

Bus. Reg. 189-06 Liberty Ave., Hollis, NY 11412

Consultation Office: 217-04 Northern Blvd., (Suite 23), Bayside, NY 11361





COMMUNITY NEWS

Rose Babaian, the Ultimate Scrapbook Keeper

By Tom Vartabedian

BRAINTREE, Mass. — Like all of us, Rose Babaian enjoys a good Armenian story. She has found them in the pages of our local papers, clipping them and preserving them forever inside her treasured scrapbook.

It has been this way throughout the 1930s and 1940s — the heyday of the Armenian community in America — without ever missing a beat.

Only now, in her 91st year, has the 400-page anthology has seen new light, thanks to community activist/musician John Arzigian, who chairs the newly-founded Armenian Friends of

America, based in Merrimack Valley.

Arzigian found out about the scrapbook and made it a point to visit Babaian 100 miles away from his New Hampshire home. Little did he realize the book contained a story of his own uncle.

“I’ve never been interviewed before,” beamed the affable Babaian, upon meeting Arzigian for the first time. “And all because of my scrapbook.”

It is more like an anthology with every iota of Armenian news to come across the valley. Births. Deaths. Society items. Sports heroes. Weddings and anniversaries. Military news. Academic achievements. Business tidbits. Even cartoons.

Babaian would sit at her table with newspapers she would collect and delve into each one,

looking for Armenian names with their stories. Her scissors were ready to clip like a surgeon ready for an incision. Day after day, week after week, there was no shortage of news clippings.

Wedding bells were ringing for Dikran Seferian and Helen Karakashian. Charles Mooshian passes his First Class Petty Officer exam. Charles Hasekian was reported killed in action while serving as a pilot in the Canadian Royal Air Force. Holy Cross Armenian Church staged a production called “The Black Soul.” Mr. and Mrs. Krikor Melian honored at their 25th anniversary. Beatrice Takvorian is engaged.

Also included were *Playbills* containing Armenian names and commencement programs featuring Armenian graduates and honorees.

Susan Atamian, a niece of Babaian, took the

entire volume and had a copy made for Arzigian, who uploaded it to a flash drive to be viewed by some 330 guests during a dinner-dance in Haverhill October 11. Moreover, he had CDs made for each of the four Armenian churches in the area.

“I wanted to show this to the people of Merrimack Valley,” said Arzigian. “Rose gave me permission to include it all into a PowerPoint and people are so anxious to explore the pages and see what life was like back two generations ago.”

Among those who nearly fell from his chair was Armen Bogosian, who noticed a wedding he had attended many moons ago.

“I know some of these people,” he reflected. “I can’t believe one woman did all this. It’s such a precious hobby she undertook.”

During their meeting, Arzigian took on the role of a journalist with a mission. He wanted to know how she got involved and the stories that she harbored.

“It turned into a labor of love,” Arzigian pointed out. “What impressed Rose the most was all the stories about Armenians that were featured in the press at that time. A day didn’t go by when some Armenian wasn’t being publicized.”

Babaian was born and raised in Lawrence where she graduated high school in 1940. The scrapbooking began when she was a teen. She studied to become a hairdresser and sang in the choir at Holy Cross Church in Lawrence.

She married Khatchador Babaian in 1947 and they moved to Braintree where they raised three children while operating a supermarket in nearby Whitman. Today, she’s blessed with seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

“Whenever I saw an ‘ian’ after anybody’s name with a picture or story, I felt extremely proud,” admitted. “You might say it’s a scrapbook for the ages.”

New Vice Chairman of Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues Named

WASHINGTON — Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) has been named vice chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues.

In addition to playing an active role in the Armenian Caucus, notably efforts to secure Turkey’s return of confiscated Christian Armenian, Greek, and Assyrian religious property and U.S. reaffirmation of the Armenian Genocide, Bilirakis also serves as the Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Issues, and as Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic-Israeli Caucus, among others.

“I look forward to working with like-minded House colleagues in the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues to continue and grow the Caucus’ focus on issues of concern to the Armenian American community,” Congressman Bilirakis told FLArmenians.com.

“I have long admired the tenacity and strong will of the Armenian people who have thrived despite enduring a history of suffering

under repressive regimes. I am especially gratified to be a part of the Caucus as we come upon the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide — a horrific massacre of over 1.5 million innocent Armenian men, women, and children. I intend to work diligently so that the Caucus can pass a resolution that expresses a sense of Congress that is meaningful and effective. Finally, as co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Hellenic Affairs and founder and co-chair of the Congressional Hellenic-Israeli Alliance, I am eager to help incorporate Armenia into the broader discussion of energy and security issues with Greece, Cyprus and Israel. The Caucus has a long history of bipartisan cooperation which I look forward to continuing as we take on new challenges in the years ahead.”

Bilirakis sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and is the vice chair of the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee.



Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla)

A.W.W.A. 39th Annual Luncheon/Auction

Saturday, November 15, 2014
Burlington Marriott
One Mall Road
Burlington, Massachusetts

11:00 a.m. - Silent Auction and Bidding
12:30 p.m. - Luncheon, Live Auction and Raffle
All major credit cards accepted

Mistress of Ceremonies
Cindy Fitzgibbon - WCVB-TV 5

Guest Auctioneer
Jordan Rich - WBZ News Radio

Proceeds to benefit the mission of the A.W.W.A., Inc.

PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY NOVEMBER 1st

Enclosed is \$_____ for _____ reservations at \$60 per person.
\$25 of your Luncheon / Auction reservation is tax deductible.

I cannot attend. Please accept my donation of \$_____.

NAME _____ Checks payable to A.W.W.A., Inc.
ADDRESS _____ Mail to:
Karen Hovsepian
345 Lincoln St., # 2
Waltham, MA 02451
PHONE _____ email: awwaauction@gmail.com
EMAIL _____

Please list additional guests on the back of this card.

Donation

The staff of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator thanks the Atinjian Family for their gift of several pieces of office furniture in October.

Gyumri IT Center Director Hosted in Watertown

IT, from page 4

costs in Armenia are significantly lower than alternative offshore development centers, and that GITC is committed to high quality standards and to satisfying its clients.

Yeghoyan’s brief PowerPoint presentation was followed by an eight-minute video showing GITC’s facilities with testimonies by students. A question and answer session followed. The presentation was in English.

GITC was established in 2005 by the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), the Enterprise Incubator Foundation, Shirak Technologies Ltd, and donors from Armenia and the Diaspora to provide an IT infrastructure in Gyumri and attract businesses. It is now embarked on an effort to establish a revenue stream to sustain its education programs.

Additionally GITC, in partnership with the Armenian Educational Foundation, has reached out to schools in Artsakh and Armenia’s border regions with educational programs.

Yeghoyan’s visit to the US was sponsored by FAR. Her presentation in Watertown was sponsored by the Armenian Museum of America, the Armenian Business Network (ABN), and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). Armenian Museum director Berj Chekijian, ABN’s founder Jack Antounian, and Yeghoyan’s host Joseph Dagdigian offered brief introductory remarks. The Armenian Museum, Eastern Lahmajun and Massis Bakery provided the refreshments.

For more information on GITC visit <http://gitc.am/gitc/>.



GITC director Amalya Yeghoyan talk at ALMA



COMMUNITY NEWS

Fourteenth Anniversary of TCA Sponsor A Teacher Program

TEACHERS, from page 1

The Sponsor a Teacher Program began when the difficult economic situation of teachers working in Armenia's schools after the collapse of the Soviet Union was brought to the attention of the TCA. The latter placed this issue on its agenda at its annual convention in California. It was reported that the teachers working in Tekeyan schools were struggling financially and thus were often forced to emigrate. The convention collectively adopted a motion to launch Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia to initially reach out to the three schools named after Vahan Tekeyan. At that time, teachers in the schools of Armenia were among the most poorly paid professionals in the country. In 2000, a teacher's annual salary was \$120 and now, since the involvement of the Tekeyan Cultural Association, the government has increased their salaries so that they make anywhere from \$200 to \$250 a month. The TCA Board of Directors raises funds and delivers them to the teachers through special yearly visits.

Former TCA Executive Secretary Kevork Marashlian in an interview with the newspaper *Azg* said: "When we started this program, the economic situation of teachers in Armenia was quite dire. And now it already has been 14 years that this philanthropic endeavor has been organized for the teachers and entire staff of the schools named after Vahan Tekeyan in Armenia and Artsakh."

The project is administered in Armenia by Gayane Muradian, a member of the TCA of Armenia, who distributes the funds.

The principal of the school in Garpi village, Arsen Ohanyan, said, "This philanthropic action



The teachers' room in the Stepanavan school

school, in a custom special to the villagers, gave Marashlian a present of gata, a special pastry from the *tonir* (oven).

The next stop was Gumri. There the guests again were received with open arms, this time at Senior School Number 2. Everybody was happy, but as they themselves stated, the cause for their happiness was not money. History teacher Emma Aleksanyan said, "We are not happy because of the money, but because this culture

and clubs catering to the student's preferences. The Stepanavan school has 250 students. Through the intervention of the TCA Armenia, the school was included in the gov-

ernment's plan and received a new annex in 2010. The Garpi school has 722 students. The entire school has been refurbished, including the Cultural Hall, with new chairs donated by Serop and Maro Bedrosians of Texas. The school in Karabagh is in Berdzor (Lachin Corridor). The school is located on the city's heights, with 280 students.

The distribution of aid to the schools in Yerevan and Berdzor will take place shortly.



Enjoying recess



Gym class at the Stepanavan school

is a bit of aid for the teacher in these difficult conditions. What is important is to be appreciated. This did not just get us used to receiving aid, but also obliged us to participate ourselves in the philanthropic work."

While seeing Marashlian off, the staff of the

has already turned into a beautiful tradition. Generally the teacher is always happy in his work since when you enter the classroom, you forget about salary and receive great energy."

The most experienced teacher of the school, Assistant Principal for Instruction Hasmik Davtyan, said the assistance always encourages the teachers.

The principal of the school, Hovhannes Petrosyan, noted, "If we look at it from the individual point of view, the assistance appears trivial, but in a global sense, today a small issue was solved for around 80 families."

And finally the station was Stepanavan. The story of the school was extremely moving. When Assistant Principal for Instruction Hasmik Ghazaryan related the story of the creation of the school, she could not suppress her tears. She said, "I remember when after the earthquake classes were held in huts, where nothing existed. We worked without salaries. While now I am happy when I see this school in good order."

And what do such philanthropic efforts mean for the teacher? "The pedagogue feels that his work is being appreciated—it is not as much financial aid as moral."

However, in all three schools,

The Sponsor a Teacher Program has increased the prestige of the Vahan Tekeyan schools. Four of the schools are in Armenia. In Yerevan, the school is located in the Malatya-Sebastia district and comprises 600 students with laboratories for chemistry, physics and biology. In Gumri, the school has 800 students. Owing to community involvement, the school is equipped with a year-round heating system in addition to a computer classroom


ernment's plan and received a new annex in 2010. The Garpi school has 722 students. The entire school has been refurbished, including the Cultural Hall, with new chairs donated by Serop and Maro Bedrosians of Texas. The school in Karabagh is in Berdzor (Lachin Corridor). The school is located on the city's heights, with 280 students.

The distribution of aid to the schools in Yerevan and Berdzor will take place shortly.

ՄՏԲՓԱՆԱՎԱՆԻ ՎԱՀԱՆ ԹԵՔԵՅԱՆԻ ԱՆՎԱՆ ՈՒՆՎԱԿԱՆ ԳՐԱԴՐՈՑ

22, Լուսա մարզ, ք.Մտեհանավան, Մարզի վարչակազմի 1

2-46-06, 094 101206



STEPANAVAN, SECONDARY VAHAN TEKEYAN'S SCHOOL NUMBER 6

Տար. Վարձա տ. 1, Տեպանավան, Լուրի Վերջու, ՌԱ

2-46-06, 094 101206

N 23 20/10 20/10 stepanavan6@schools.am

Ամերիկայի և Կանադայի Թեքեյան մշակութային միության անդամների, համակիրների ֆարերարների


Ի խորոց արտի Ձեզ իր երախտագիտությունն է հայտնում Մտեհանավանի Վ. Թեքեյանի Գրավար անուան կողմ 6-րդ դպրոցի տնօրինությունը և մանկավարժական անձնակազմը:

Շնորհակալության զգացումով լցվելով՝ Ձեր հետևողական մեծանունությամբ ու բարեգործությամբ միևնույն ժամանակ պարտավորված ենք զգում մեզ: Գիտության սերունդների արժանի ամենաարևմտյան կրթությանը է. ցի կարևորվում է մեր ազգի ապագա սերունդի գիտելիքն ու կարողությունը:

Թող բարին իշխի Ձեր գործուն և անխաբար լինեն Ձեր վեհ իրազորումները:

Երախտագիտությամբ՝

Մտեհանավանի Վ.Թեքեյանի անվան 6-րդ միջնակարգ դպրոցի տնօրին



Վ. Մարտիրոսյան



FALMOUTH, Mass. — Lorig Charkoudian ran the Cape Cod Marathon on Sunday, October 26, coming in second in her category, completing the marathon in 3 hours, 48 minutes, and 10 seconds. From left, Aline Charkoudian-Rogers, Lorig Charkoudian, Raffi Charkoudian-Rogers, at the finishing line of the Cape Cod Marathon.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Facing History in Transition As Armenian Genocide Centennial Approaches

HISTORY, from page 1

Peter Balakian, Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of Humanities at Colgate University, has been involved with Facing History since the mid-1990s. He has been a member of its academic board for the last 15 years. He said that “Facing History has had an enormous impact on Armenian Genocide education in the US curriculum; its study guide on the Genocide has done a great deal to bring this history into the mainstream in a comparative context; this has been groundbreaking. Facing History is an innovative intellectual and cultural institution and has done much to advance the state of education in the US and now globally. It embodies the best of a progressive American educational tradition.”

Margot Strom explained how it all started as a course incorporating “the ideas and events that led to the Holocaust”: “We were at one of the eight schools in Brookline teaching social studies – the [John D.] Runkle school. At one point, roughly in 1976, I, Bill Parsons and others were invited by a very phenomenal director of social studies to a conference that he and the superintendent, [Dr. Robert] ‘Bob’ Sperber, had been involved in organizing on the history of the Holocaust. I had a master’s in history by then, and a very great interest in learning how to teach social studies and history through multiple disci-

plines. It was at that moment that I really got interested in the scholarship and the scholars. I knew nothing much about the history of the Holocaust then. And I only remember hearing in graduate school a heated conversation between a professor talking about the Armenian Genocide and Turkey with a student.” A few years after the conference, probably by 1979, Strom knew that this was the field for her.

Strom began studying and learning, and each of the conference participants became mentors to what soon became the Facing History organization. She received a federal Title IV grant. Strom said, “I am an adult learner, and when I started teaching in my classroom I began learning together with my students and their parents. People kept bringing me new materials. Working with people in a giant network, in Harvard education, was a benefit. People were likeminded, interdisciplinary, and valued democracy, and

when they looked at injustice, they said, what can I do. People gravitated to me with the federal grant. Brookline let us write it, and it turned out to be a great books course for teachers. We did K[kindergarten] to 12th grade, and librarians, teachers, Parent-Teacher Organizations, and many other people were involved.”

Strom continued, “I knew other teachers needed to teach this, so I left teaching and started the organization.” By 1982, Facing History formally turned into a non-profit organization. Today it has 180 staff members and 10 offices, including several abroad, and an annual budget of 25 million dollars. It estimates that it reaches over three million secondary students every year through its programs and the teachers it prepares.

Adam Strom, Margot’s son, who joined the organization in the early 2000s, and now is Chief Officer for Content and Innovation, added that Facing History did not just provide workshops or curriculums and books for teachers. It was unique in also assigning a person to follow up with each teacher.

Adam said, “We believe less is more, preferring to focus on things in particular to raise larger questions. I would rather see a course that does a few things in depth rather than a little bit of everything. So, students look at the relationship between the individual and society and understand the factors influencing choices people



Margot Strom and Adam Strom holding the Armenian Genocide resource book

plines. It was at that moment that I really got interested in the scholarship and the scholars. I knew nothing much about the history of the Holocaust then. And I only remember hearing in graduate school a heated conversation between a professor talking about the Armenian Genocide and Turkey with a student.” A few years after the conference, probably by 1979, Strom knew that this was the field for her.

Strom began studying and learning, and each of the conference participants became mentors to what soon became the Facing History organization. She received a federal Title IV grant. Strom said, “I am an adult learner, and when I started teaching in my classroom I began learning together with my students and their parents. People kept bringing me new materials. Working with people in a giant network, in Harvard education, was a benefit. People were likeminded, interdisciplinary, and valued democracy, and

make, especially about the treatment of other people. They examine issues of membership—how do nations define universal obligation? They look at the role that science plays. Facing History is about particular histories and human behavior, both the universal and the particular.” History can provide some perspective for students to understand problems in contemporary society involving prejudice and conflict. And while history is an important part of Facing History, it is approached in an interdisciplinary fashion. Students must be taught to ask moral and ethical questions while learning particular skills and information.

Facing History deals with many types of prejudice and bigotry. The Armenian Genocide was an integral part of its curriculum from the very beginning, and Margot Strom relied on many Armenians who were helpful. Manooq Young and others at the National Association for



Margot Strom at Facing History headquarters

Armenian Studies and Research, Margot Strom said, “began to teach me. They helped me bring Rev. [Vartan] Hartunian into my classroom, and later Bill Parsons and I worked on new materials. I still remember Hartunian – to see him as a speaker allows you to walk in the shoes of others as victims, and as new immigrant citizens.” Strom later interviewed a descendant of US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau about the Armenian Genocide.

She emphasized that “Scholars have been incredibly generous.” Richard Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History at the University of California, Los Angeles, and Balakian spent a great deal of time helping Facing History develop its resources on the Armenian Genocide. She said, “They want us to get the story right, and we do the best we can. We take from the latest scholarship and books, and always are trying to remain up to date.”

Facing History’s main resource book for teachers, *Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior*, is centered on the Holocaust. However, it also looks at other instances of genocide, and contains several sections on the Armenian Genocide. It shows some of the parallels and connections between the Armenian case and the Holocaust.

In 2004, Facing History published a resource book specifically focusing on the Armenian Genocide: *Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians*. Adam Strom said, “We don’t just care about these histories because they are ethnically identified. This is why we gave our book this title. We had great mentors in the Armenian community. Richard Hovannisian and Peter Balakian read every single page, literally. We feel very privileged. Both have been incredibly kind to the organization.”

Developed through a grant from the Armenian-American philanthropist Carolyn Mugar, this 198-page volume according to Samantha Power accomplished what Facing History “does best: bring history to life, gather moving portraits of suffering, indecision, and heroism, and force young and older readers alike to ask what we would have done if we had faced such wrenching moral dilemmas.” Facing History has lesson plans for teachers who wish to cover the Armenian Genocide in their classes, and provides various additional resources on this topic, including a list of speakers.

Margot Strom said that the general resource book and the lesson plans were in the process of being updated, including the treatment of the Armenian Genocide, as new research will allow going deeper into issues. Among other things, more is known about how the coiner of the term “genocide,” Raphael Lemkin, understood the Armenian Genocide. This year, new video interviews of scholars on the Armenian Genocide will be conducted and older materials will be digitized. Audio versions will be made from some of the key readings in the Armenian resource book.

Adam Strom said, “We will have an online workshop for education which will use the Armenian Genocide as a particular case study to raise general issues. We hope we can run it again and again. It will be live and interactive. Probably we will video some sessions.”

Aside from these efforts, for the centennial of

the Armenian Genocide, Facing History will organize workshops in regional offices, and partner with community events. There are a few things in the works that will be announced later. Adam Strom declared, “Facing History wants to be a good partner in the anniversary. We think our role is education.”

In the meantime, Facing History continues to expand. It is striving to double the number of teachers and students it impacts as part of a five-year plan, and expanding the use of modern technologies to leverage its teaching capabilities during a period in which issues of religious intolerance appear more and more frequently.

How 3 Men of Vision Leveraged Their Skills To Help Armenians For 20 Years

By Lawrence V. Najarian

NEW YORK – The Armenian community is invited to join the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) on November 21, for a Gala Banquet at the New York Athletic Club to celebrate AAHPO’s 20th Anniversary, and also to honor the organization’s three founders, Nabet Kasabian, MD, Khoren Nalbandian, RPh and John Nercessian, MD. Raffy Hovanessian, MD also will be honored at the banquet.

Nalbandian, RPh still serves on the AAHPO Board of Directors. He recently spoke about the founding of AAHPO. He said that the trio knew each other and by 1994, they were interested in establishing a medical organization to serve the local Armenian community. It took

He said, “Each of us brought 10 names of health professionals we knew. These were all active health professionals who had a private practice, or we knew them through my drugstore. We called these individuals and got a great response because we did not exclude any health care specialty. The 16 professionals we invited became our first Board of Directors.”

He added, “Our vision was to connect and unite Armenian health professionals, so I am very satisfied with the growth of AAHPO. ... For the future, AAHPO must assist younger Armenians with their medical careers and encourage them to give back through organizations when they are ready. I believe we should devote ourselves to reach out into the Armenian community here, and establish a walk-in clinic, because many people need help. They cannot afford medication due to low income, and do not have access to medical services. This is very important for the Armenian community.”

For information about the 20th Anniversary Gala Banquet or to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.aahpo.org/events.php>

Arts & Living

Finalists Announced for ADAA 2014 Saroyan Prize

LOS ANGELES – The Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance (ADAA) announced recently the finalists for the 2014 \$10,000 William Saroyan Prize for Playwriting in Human Rights/Social Justice: “Carla Cooks The War,” by Laura Maria Censabella; “I Am Not Mine,” by Sevan Kaloustian-Greene and “Manahatta,” by Mary Kathryn Nagle. Runners up are “Veritas” by Betty Shamieh; “Mr. America” by Jules Tasca and “The Family Steering Committee” by Steve Karp.

In addition, the three finalists for the \$1,000 Commendation for Armenian Excellence Award are: “Bosphorus” by Gorune Aprikian and Eric De Roquefeuil; “My Genius of Humanity” by Richard Kalinoski and “In the Name of Silence” by Sevan Kaloustian-Greene.

On Saturday, December 6, at 6 p.m., in conjunction with Human Rights Day, the Saroyan Prize will be awarded at a VIP reception at the Pasadena Playhouse. The grand prize will be awarded by Pier Carlo Talenti, Literary Manager of Center Theater Group (CTG).

“Carla Cooks The War” by Laura Maria Censabella, asks questions such as, “after a war how do innocent survivors take on the roles of victimizer and oppressor?” and “how do witnesses to the same atrocities harmonize their



Mary Kathryn Nagle, Laura Maria Censabella and Sevan Kaloustian-Greene

various interpretations of what actually happened, and what becomes of their ability to love and nurture if they don't?”

Inspired by the Syrian Civil War and Greek Tragedies, “I Am Not Mine” examines the unforeseen aftermath of the Arab Spring revolutions. Written by Sevan Kaloustian-Greene, this new play is a playwright's response to the Syrian Civil War/Revolution examining the sins that will be visited on the coming generations.

“Manahatta” tells a narrative that focuses on one of the United States' most egregious historical social justice atrocities: the genocide of the Native Americans who lived here prior to the arrival of Europeans. Interweaving the past and the present, it presents a patchwork quilt of questions regarding how the past social abuses continue to inform social and human rights issues today in America, inviting us to learn what it means to be native in 21st-century America.

The renowned honorary jury for the 2014 William Saroyan Playwriting Prize for Human Rights/Social Justice is Sebastian Born, Associate Director of the National Theatre, London; Erik Ehn, American playwright and director of writing for performance at Brown University; and David Lan, artistic director of the Young Vic Theatre in London.

With the 2014 cycle of the competition, ADAA's \$10,000 William Saroyan Prize for Playwriting launched a Human Rights/Social Justice focus, to include plays which engage an audience with social and political issues and/or promotes peace, social justice and human rights, in addition to plays with Armenian themes. This resulted in a significant increase in submissions to the contest this year from around the world.

see AWARDS, page 11



High-energy dancing by the members of the Gevorkian Dance Academy

Gevorkian Dance Academy Debuts in San Diego to Huge Audience

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – On October 19, more than 800 people attended a spectacular and unforgettable performance by the Gevorkian Dance Academy. One hundred dancers of all ages took the stage in San Diego's first ever Dances Under the Stars at the Moonlight Amphitheatre in Vista. The mesmerizing choreography, dazzling costumes and spirited music brought the audience into the very heart of the Armenian culture. Enchanting dances from other countries, including Russia, Georgia, Moldova, Israel, Greece, Romania and the United States, were also performed.

George Krikorian, Jr., owner of Krikorian Premiere Theatres, was the lead sponsor of the evening.

“Words cannot describe the beauty, grace and energy displayed by the Gevorkian dancers. The performance made every one of us so proud to be Armenian. The Academy has shown the world that the Armenian nation is very much alive and thriving. We thank Vartan, Siranoush and Sona Gevorkian, and all the dancers and their parents, for bringing this great celebration to San Diego,” stated Harry Krikorian, chair of the organizing committee.

The Los Angeles-based academy enjoyed two successful concert tours in 2001 and 2005, including three consecutive sold-out performances at the renowned National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Yerevan. In 2005, they celebrated their 10th anniversary at the Kodak Theatre. In 2010, they celebrated their 15th anniversary at the Nokia Theatre with a live performance, where Vartan Gevorkian received a gold medal from the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia. In 2013, the Gevorkian Dance Academy participated in the “My Armenia” festival in Yerevan, where they received a gold medal from the Minister of Diaspora.

The event was planned with the participation and support of many Armenian organizations of San Diego, including the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenian Jeweler's Association, Armenian National Committee, Armenian Relief Society, Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Armenian Catholic church community, Armenian Protestant church community, Homenetmen San Diego Sevan Chapter, Knights & Daughters of Vartan, St. John Garabed Armenian Church, Trust Fund Committee and the Triple X Fraternity.

At the request of the sponsors and organizing committee, the net profits from Dances Under the Stars will support Phase One of the Bridge to the Future project, which will establish a new church campus in San Diego near Del Mar.



Young dancers of the Gevorkian Dance Academy

‘Orphans of The Genocide’ Nominated for Regional Emmy

COCONUT GROVE, Fla. – Armenoid Productions, a documentary film production company announced last week that their most recently documentary, “Orphans of The Genocide,” by Bared Maronian, has been nominated for a 2014 Regional Emmy Award by The National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, Suncoast Chapter in the Documentary – Historical category.

This is the 38th Annual Suncoast Emmy Awards 2014 Program which three years ago, nominated the seven-minute version of the “Orphans of the Genocide” for a Regional Emmy Award.

The documentary weaves historical archives with interviews and memoirs of Armenian orphans to establish irrevocable proof of the Armenian Genocide. An emotional, visual journey through never-before-seen archival footage and memoirs of orphans who lived through the last century's first and least recognized genocide, that of the Armenians, features insightful interviews with prominent figures and scholars such as British journalist Robert Fisk, Clark University's Director of Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Prof. Debora Dwork and Armenian-American Dr. Jack Kevorkian, among others.

Over the last two years, “Orphans of the Genocide” has been broadcast on PBS stations nationwide reaching more than 12 million viewers. Additionally, the documentary has been invited to participate at various events and film festivals throughout the US, Canada, Europe, as well as in the Middle East and South America capturing numerous awards including:

Honorable mention for best documentary Michael J. Hagopian Award and the coveted Audience Choice Award for the documentary category at the 8th Annual Pomegranate Film Festival, POM 2013. “Orphans of the Genocide” is the only feature film to win two awards at POM 8.

It was selected for screening as part of Unspoken Human Rights Film Festival, Socially Rated Film Festival, 2014 Cannes Film Festival - documentary division, Apricot Film Festival and Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH) 2015 lineup of films.

Maronian, a four-time regional Emmy Award winner, is currently working on a new documentary titled “Women of 1915,” which celebrates the heroic attributes of Armenian and non-Armenian women in post-Genocidal society under the Ottoman Empire.

To make a tax-deductible donation for the “Women of 1915” project, contact the Armenoid Productions or director, Bared Maronian at bared.maronian@gmail.com.

Founded in 2006, Armenoid Productions has produced numerous award-winning documentaries among them “Father Komitas” depicting the lives and deaths of two major Armenian clergymen's contributions to the Armenian nation and “The Wall of the Genocide,” a poetic tribute to the 5,000 years of Armenian History starting from Noah's Ark resting upon Mount Ararat to the modern day assassination of outspoken Turkish-Armenian editor of *Agos* weekly newspaper, Hrant Dink. Both documentaries were honored with Telly Awards in 2007 and 2008, respectively.



Filmmaker Bared Maronian



ARTS & LIVING

Khachaturian Trio to Perform on November 14 at Fresno State

FRESNO – On Friday, November 14, the Khachaturian Trio will perform at a commemorative concert dedicated to the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide. The event will begin 8 p.m. and take place at Fresno State Concert Hall located in the University's Music Building. The program will include works by Rachmaninoff, Babadjanian and Khachaturian.

The concert is co-sponsored by the Fresno State Armenian Studies Program and the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concerts.

Named after the renowned Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian, the trio consists of pianist Armine Grigoryan, violinist Karen Shakhgaldyan, and cellist Karen Kocharyan. Educated at prestigious institutions including the Yerevan State Conservatory and the Moscow Conservatory, the three colleagues have toured extensively throughout the Central and South America, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, China, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Australia, Moldova, Georgia, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia and Armenia. They are widely considered as one of Armenia's leading chamber music ensembles and have been praised for their virtuoso performances, subtle sense of style, warmth and deep musicality.

The Fresno State Armenian Studies Program (www.fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies) offers courses on Armenian history, Armenian language and literature, art and architecture, film, William Saroyan, the Genocide, and contemporary issues. It supports the Armenian Students Organization, the student and program newspaper *Hye Sharzhoom* and the Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series.

The event is one in series of activities promoted by the Armenian Genocide Centennial – Fresno Committee, which includes representatives from the religious, educational, social and political organizations of the Central Valley. The group's goals are to commemorate the 1.5 million martyrs who perished at the hands of the Ottoman Turkish Government; to educate others about the Armenian Genocide and historical injustice; and to inspire people to overcome adversity through the story of the survivors' of the Armenian Genocide. The AGC – Fresno Committee is organizing and promoting numerous events in the coming year. For more information, visit the AGC–Fresno Committee's website at www.agcfresno.org and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/agcfresno.

Free public parking is available at Fresno State Lot P1.



Members of the Khachaturian Trio

General admission is \$25, \$18 for seniors, and \$5 for students. For tickets, go to www.keyboardconcerts.com/special-events.aspx.

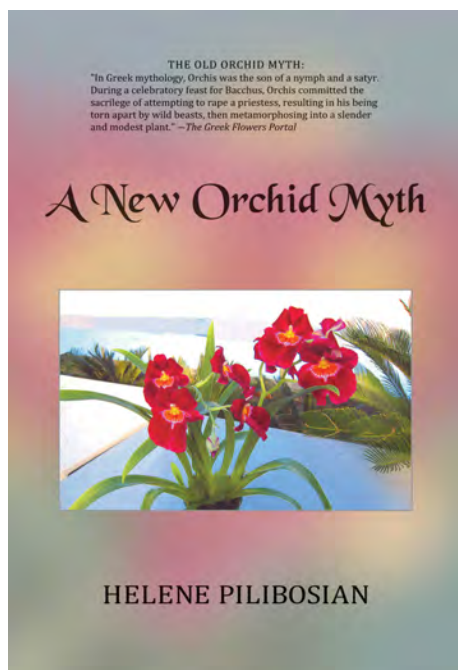
Helene Pilibosian Book Receives Honorable Mention from Writer's Digest

WATERTOWN – Helene Pilibosian's book of poems, *A New Orchid Myth*, has won honorable mention from Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards. She had previously won an honorable mention for her book, *History's Twists: The Armenians* and a first prize for *At Quarter Past Reality: New and Selected Poems*. The announcement was made in October by *Writer's Digest*, a magazine published in Cleveland, Ohio.

A New Orchid Myth is a fantasy-reality tale that breaks with her usual ethnic subject matter to explore the possibility of a different kind of civilization on the planet Tome from which Mr. and Mrs. Everydream descend to Earth. They find life in New York City puzzling, but extensive travel within the states gives them a broader landscape.

Sunflowers and orchids are important in this narrative. The sunflower seeds provide great nourishment here and in their home planet. Orchids also exist there but are wilted and becoming sterile as are the people. What is needed there is optimism, and the red on orchids seems to symbolize it.

The worry is that people from the home planet will kidnap their daughter Taralee to try to revitalize their own system. Eventually the Everydreams develop a plan to send orchids to the planet, thus saving it and themselves. Then



The cover of *A New Orchid Myth* by Helene Pilibosian

forgiveness rules.

Poems describe the best attributes of many of the states, which they visit. For comic relief, the

characters Plastic and Polyester appear occasionally and either comment or run around New York City. Manhattan and California bear detailed descriptions of American places. And there are a few Armenian characters in the background – Mr. and Mrs. Garmirian and Maral Laramian among them.

Optimism given and restored boosts the morale of the people in the book and the people who read the book. The work has the most appeal to parents, grandparents, adolescents, art lovers and residents of the many states described. It indirectly sends the messages of coexistence and understanding, which anyone can use. It provides an exploration of imagery and imagination and can also be read by adolescents.

Poet Alan Semerdjian wrote of her work, "Marianne Moore is a good starting place for entering Pilibosian's work. Their writings share the same natural kind of prosaic structure, attention to sibilance and syntax, and transformative quality. Pilibosian, now at a different point in her life, places herself as a successor of modernist ideals and attentiveness to image."

Richard R. Blake, official reviewer for Amazon.com wrote, "The beauty of her choice of words brings to mind delicacies, rich, delicious tidbits of many flavors. Contemporary themes bring to light the tenor of the times, the

pressures brought about by the turmoil and uncertainties of today... A touch of poetic genius."

Kirkus Review states, "Pilibosian describes her landscapes with color, music and sounds, the resulting poems becoming, at their core, loving depictions of life. A unique collection of verse with a sci-fi twist on the American dream."

Pilibosian's poems have appeared in many American and Armenian literary journals and anthologies in the US and abroad. Some of her poems were finalists in literary competitions or won first prizes and honorable mentions. Her early work has been cited in the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Multiethnic American Literature*. She holds a degree in humanities from Harvard University.

Formerly a writer/editor of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, she now heads Ohan Press, a private bilingual micropress which has published 10 books of both prose and poetry, including her story *My Literary Profile: A Memoir*, awarded honorable mention by the New England Book Festival, in addition to *A New Orchid Myth* published by CreateSpace.

The book is available from www.createinspace.com/4649646, amazon.com and other online bookstores or from Ohan Press at [/home.comcast.net/~hsarkiss](http://home.comcast.net/~hsarkiss).

Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2014



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



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

\$160 \$320 \$480 other \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Tel: _____

Make check payable to: Tekeyan Cultural Association – Memo: Sponsor a Teacher 2014
Mail your check with this form to:

TCA Sponsor a Teacher
5326 Valverde, Houston, TX 77056

Your donation is Tax Deductible.

Seeking Advertising Representative

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* is seeking a part-time advertising sales representative, starting immediately.

Salary will be based on commission only. Hours are flexible.

If interested in the position, contact Hasmik Saroyan at 617-924-4420 or email resume and contact information to mirrorads75@gmail.com



ARTS & LIVING

Tekeyan Poetry Celebrated in Toronto

TORONTO – The Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) of Toronto held a book signing evening at its center on Friday, October 17, with a capacity crowd attending.

Two books of Vahan Tekeyan poetry were presented at the affair.

George Tutunjian, president of the TCA Chapter, served as the master of ceremonies. He invited his brother, Jirayr



Kevork Tutunjian



Kevork Tutunjian and Silva Sahakian



Edmond Azadian

Tutunjian, editor and writer, to make a presentation of Tekeyan's bilingual book translated by Gerald Papasian and John Papasian, and edited by Edmond Azadian and Gerald Papasian.

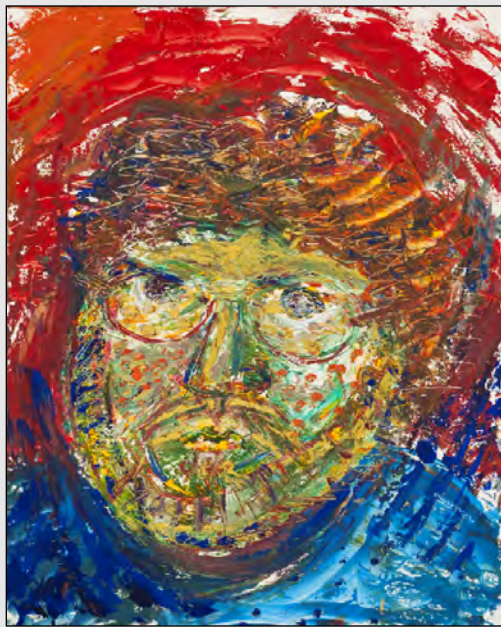
Although he spoke in English, his command of the Armenian language and knowledge of Armenian literature were impressive. He made an incisive analysis of the books, offering his evaluation of rendering Tekeyan's poetry in English.

Silva Sahakian, a veteran performer on Toronto stages, recited three poems by Tekeyan. Edmond Azadian was invited for concluding remarks. He thanked the participants in the program and then he dwelt on the publication of the twin books on Tekeyan. The Armenian version was intended for readers in Armenia, where the poet is not a very familiar figure. The bilingual book was intended to an international audience. The introductions of both books, authored by Azadian, have different thrusts and direction.

Laura Boyajian Retrospective at Armenian Museum

WATERTOWN – The Armenian Museum of America is presenting a new exhibition, "Laura Siroog Boyajian: A Retrospective," on view from November 16, through January 11, 2015. The opening reception will take place on November 16, from 2 to 4 p.m., Sunday, November 16, in the Adele & Haig Der Manuelian Galleries in the 3rd floor of the Armenian Museum.

Painter and poet Laura Boyajian will present a retrospective of expressive oil and watercolor paintings. Boyajian holds a BA in Literature from Smith College in Northampton. Her artwork has been exhibited in New Hampshire as well as nationally and has won awards and acclaim. Admission is free but donations are appreciated.



"Red Fred" by Laura Siroog Boyajian

Heavy (and Delicate) Metal at Armenian Museum



#408 from the Berdj Garabedian Collection

WATERTOWN – The Armenian Museum of America will present a new exhibition, "Metal Memories: Selections from the Berdj Garabedian Collection," on view in the rear gallery on the second floor of the Armenian Museum beginning November 2.

Garabedian, a native of Syria, was a passionate collector of Armenian coins and domestic metalwork, and published numerous academic articles about his collections. The Armenian Museum is fortunate to acquire Garabedian's extensive collections of metalwork including heirloom plates, tools, cookware, weapons, trays and inkwells. The Armenian Museum presents selections from this important collection for a limited time.

Finalists Announced for ADAA 2014 Saroyan Prize

AWARDS, from page 10

"We can't stress enough how touched we were by the scope of the pieces we received - plays that seek to illuminate dire conditions in dark corners of our world. It has truly been an honor for us to be able to host this contest on 'Human Rights!'" said Bianca Bagatourian, this year's administrator of the contest.

In continuing with the work of previous years to support Armenian stories and artists, a special Commendation for Armenian Excellence will be additionally awarded to a play on an Armenian theme.

The Saroyan Prize is made possible by a donation from The William Saroyan Foundation, which inaugurated the award at ADAA in 2007. The President of the William Saroyan Foundation is Haig Mardikian, and the Vice President is Scott Setrakian. Additional support for the Prize comes from Gagosian Galleries and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

For more information, visit ADAA's newly redesigned website, www.armeniandrama.org or email adaa@armeniandrama.org. Event information is available on itsmyseat.com.

ST. STEPHEN'S ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

58th ARMENIAN BAZAAR

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 & 8, 2014

10 A.M. – 9:30 P.M.

Armenian Cultural & Educational Center
47 Nichols Avenue, Watertown, MA



Meals served from 11:30 A.M. - 8:30 P.M. (take out is available)

Delicious Meals • Armenian Pastries • Gourmet Arts and Crafts Books • Raffles • Attic Treasures
Friday and Saturday – Auction Starts at 7:00 P.M.

For more information please contact the church office at (617) 924-7562

COME SUPPORT OUR ARMENIAN CHURCH!

Advertise in the Mirror-Spectator



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 6 — The Armenian Assembly of America will host a special presentation by Dr. H. Martin Deranian, author of President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug, and the exhibition of the Armenian Orphan "Sister Rug" at Woodbury University-Burbank, 7500 N. Glenoaks Blvd., Burbank, on from 6 to 8 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Assembly at 202-393-3434 or info@aaainc.org.

NOVEMBER 15 — AMAA-Haigazian University Celebratory Banquet in honor of Dr. Mihran Agbalian and George R. Phillips, Esq.; Saturday, November 15, 2014, 6 pm, Beverly Hills Hotel, \$200; Information: Julie Aharonian 818-368-5266; Katia Kermoyan 818-242-5064.

NOVEMBER 22 — Armenian International Women's Association, Los Angeles Affiliate present Luncheon honoring Lily Ring Balian, recipient of the 2014 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, Beverly Hills Hotel, 9641 Sunset Blvd., 11:30 a.m. Reception; 12:30 Luncheon. Donation: \$100.00. For RSVP and info contact Houry Aposhian (818)957-7020 or Cindy Norian (310) 277-4490.

MASSACHUSETTS

NOVEMBER 1 — Third annual Mer Doon Benefit Dance, in loving memory of Julie Ashekian, 8 p.m. Featuring Onnik Dinkjian, John Berberian and more. midnight dessert table. St. James Armenian Church Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown. Adults \$40 Students \$20. Please call Mark Kashgegian to reserve tables of 10 and purchase tickets at 617-256-5358.

NOVEMBER 2 — "Musical Benches," an organ and piano concert presented by Glenn "Ananian" Priest and Christopher Garven on the occasion of the dedication of the recently restored sanctuary of the First Armenian Church of Belmont, at the church sanctuary, Sunday, 3 p.m.

NOVEMBER 3 — Trinity Men's Union and St. James Men's Club Joint Dinner Meeting, Monday, Speaker: Dan Shaughnessy, sports columnist for the *Boston Globe*. Losh Kebab and Kheyma Dinner Social Hour (mezza) 6:15 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. \$14 per person. St. James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural & Youth Center - Keljik Hall 465 Mt. Auburn St.

NOVEMBER 6 — Avak luncheon, sponsored by St. Gregory Armenian Church, noon, 158 Main St., North Andover; speaker, Sonya Vartabedian, "Diary of a Community Editor," reflections from Sunday School student here to award-winning journalist and editor of the *Andover Townsman* and *Andover Magazine*.

NOVEMBER 7 — Public Lecture on "The Divine Liturgy of the Armenian Church" by the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, professor of liturgical studies at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary and director of the Zohrab Information Center of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern). He will offer an engaging presentation on the basic elements of the centuries old, most prominent worship service of the Armenian Church. Buffet dinner to precede the lecture. Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford. 6:30 p.m.



On Monday, November 3, Boston Globe sports columnist Dan Shaughnessy, will be the guest speaker at St. James Armenian Church's Men's Club dinner meeting. The program takes place at the Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown. Social hour starts at 6:15 p.m. and a traditional losh kebab and kheyma dinner is at 7 p.m. Ladies are welcome.

For further information and reservation, call 978-256-7234, or email Father Khachatur at terkhachatur@yahoo.com.

NOVEMBER 7-8 — St. Stephen's Armenian Church will hold its 58th Bazaar, from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave, Watertown. Meals served from 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Take-out available. Delicious meals, Armenian pastries, gourmet food, arts and crafts, books, raffles and attic treasures. Friday and Saturday. Auction starts at 7 p.m. For info call the church office at 617-924-7562.

NOVEMBER 7 and 8 — Annual Autumnfest Bazaar sponsored by the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, 110 Main St., Haverhill, Friday, noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday noon to 7 p.m. Lamb, losh, chicken kebab and kheyma. Diner served all day. Pastry table, Armenain cuisine, gift baskets, raffles for cash and prizes. For more info, visit www.hyepointearmenianchurch.org or call 978-372-9227.

NOVEMBER 8 — Armenia Tree Project 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Reception. Special guest Actor David Alpay. Cocktails 6:30 p.m. Dinner 8 p.m. John Joseph Moakley US Courthouse, Grand Atrium. One Courthouse Way overlooking the Boston Harbor. Art Sale & Live Auction. Artist Arthur Hovhannisyan. Visit www.ArmeniaTree.org or call (617) 926-8733.

NOVEMBER 15 — The 39th Annual Luncheon/Auction

of the Armenian Women's Welfare Association at the Burlington Marriott Hotel, Burlington, MA @ 11 AM
Mistress of Ceremonies: Cindy Fitzgibbon, WCBV-TV5
Auctioneer: Jordan Rich, WBZ 1030 News Radio Funds raised at this event support programs at the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica Plain, MA and the Hanganak NGO Health Clinic in Stepanakert, Nagorno-Karabagh for seniors in need. Founded in 1915, the A.W.W.A. Inc. will soon be celebrating its 100th year of service to Armenians. For more information about the event or for tickets, please call Karen Hovsepan @ 617-898-8619 or e-mail awwaauction@gmail.com

DECEMBER 1 — St. James Men's Club, Monday, Speaker: Chris Nishan Garabedian, President, CEO and director Sarepta Therapeutics. Topic, "The Age of Genetic-Based Medicine is Here, from Muscular Dystrophy to Ebola." Losh Kebab and Kheyma Dinner Social Hour (mezza) 6:15 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. \$14 per person, St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural & Youth Center - Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Ladies are welcome.

DECEMBER 4 — Annual Holiday Reception featuring a special presentation by Dr. Rouben Adalian, director of the Armenian National Institute (ANI), on "The Armenian Church & the Armenian Genocide," at the Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441 Mystic Street, Arlington, 6 to 8 p.m. Food and refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public. Donations are kindly accepted. Please RSVP to Luann Ohanian (617) 510-6612 or luannohanian@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 5-6 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 12-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Featuring delicious Armenian dinners, a la carte menu and take-out meals; booths and vendors; Armenian gourmet foods, delicacies and pastries; raffles, and more. For further information, contact the church office at 617.354.0632.

DECEMBER 6 — Lowell Gomideh anniversary celebration, 6 p.m., St. Gregory Armenian Church, 158 Main St., North Andover; dinner, entertainment, program, speaker, David Boyajian, "The Survival of Armenia: Dangers and Opportunities;" admission, \$20 adults, \$10 students. Details, Tom Vartabedian, (978) 373-1654 or tommyvart@aol.com.

DECEMBER 14 — Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, Christmas Holiday Concert, 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Save the date; details to follow.

NEW YORK

DECEMBER 7 — 8th Annual ANC Eastern Region Banquet, Ritz-Carlton Battery Park, NY. Freedom Award Honoree: former Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau and the Morgenthau family; Vahan Cardashian Award Honoree: ANCA activist Alice Movsesian. Tickets \$250. For reservations and information, visit www.anca.org/erbanquet or 917.428.1918.

RHODE ISLAND

NOVEMBER 8-9 — Saturday and Sunday, Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, will hold the 84th annual Armenian Food Fair

Bedross Der Matossian to Present *Shattered Dreams Of Revolution* in Talk at NAASR

BELMONT, Mass. — Dr. Bedross Der Matossian will present a talk titled "Shattered Dreams of Revolution: From Liberty to Violence in the Late Ottoman Empire," on Friday, November 7, at 8 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave.

The Ottoman revolution of 1908 is a study in contradictions — a positive manifestation of modernity intended to reinstate constitutional rule, yet ultimately a negative event that shook the fundamental structures of the empire, opening up ethnic, religious, and political conflicts. Der Matossian's just-published *Shattered Dreams*

of *Revolution* (Stanford University Press) considers this revolutionary event to tell the stories of three important groups: Arabs, Armenians and Jews.

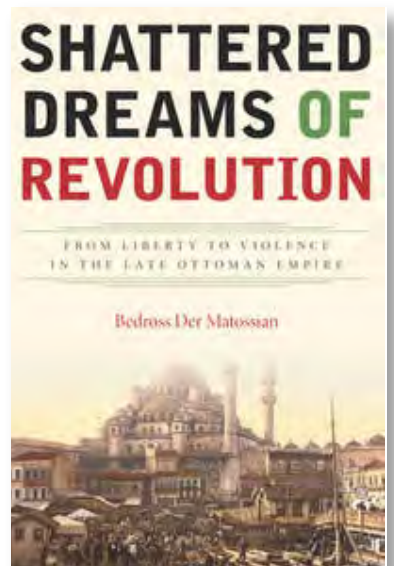
The revolution raised these groups' expectations for new opportunities of inclusion and citizenship. But as post-revolutionary festivities ended, these euphoric feelings soon turned to pessimism and a dramatic rise in ethnic tensions.

The undoing of the revolutionary dreams could be found in the very foundations of the revolution itself. Inherent ambiguities and contradictions in the revolution's goals and the reluctance of both the authors of the revolution and the empire's

ethnic groups to come to a compromise regarding the new political framework of the empire ultimately proved untenable. The revolutionaries had never been wholeheartedly committed to constitutionalism, thus constitutionalism failed to create a new understanding of Ottoman citizenship, grant equal rights to all citizens, and bring them under one roof in a legislative assembly.

Der Matossian is assistant professor of history at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and holds a PhD from Columbia University.

Shattered Dreams of Revolution will be available for purchase and signing by Der Matossian.





COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

The Museum That May Never Be

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Armenians are hell-bent angry at the destruction of the Martyrs Monument and church in Deir Zor at the hand of Islamic zealots at the bidding of the Turkish authorities. That anger is compounded by global indifference in the face of such barbarism.

The US government was able to muster the forces of 80 countries and thus formed a coalition to fight the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The Turkish government, led by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is thumbing its nose and blatantly helping ISIS forces, despite having nominally joined the coalition against them.

The once-thriving Armenian community in Aleppo, Syria, and the Deir Zor monument have always represented wounds to the Turkish government, which was waiting for an opportunity to destroy them. The war in Syria, mostly instigated by Turkey, provided the golden opportunity to make their move. Much like the Young Turk government, which used the cover of World War I to execute a long-planned extermination of its Armenian population, Erdogan used Turkey's surrogates to decimate the Armenian community in Aleppo and the Martyrs' Monument in Deir Zor.

Similarly, the Turks have been watching with alarm the formation of an autonomous Kurdish enclave on their border, around Kobani. That city at this moment is bearing the brunt of the ISIS offensive, using weapons and intelligence provided by Turkey.

Our anger is rightfully directed at Turkey and its surrogates.

But today, we have also to address another facet of that anger, which must be directed at ourselves.

The occasion is the eve of the Genocide centennial, which we will face unprepared. We do not have yet a worldwide plan to create major political impact. Armenia is forming its own centennial committee involving anybody and everybody from the diaspora. The United States, where Armenians enjoy the broadest freedoms to engage in politics, has two centennial committees, with no visible coordination between them.

Thus far, all major projects which would have some political significance, have been mired in embarrassing controversies and failures.

Take the Armenian Genocide Museum in Washington, which began with heavenly promises but ended up in lawsuits and acrimonious public exchanges. It was too good to be true to see just a handful of benefactors contribute millions to build a Genocide museum within earshot of the White House. It is futile to sort out who was right and who was wrong. The fact is that the museum will not be ready by the centennial.

The Turkish government, which has hired high-powered lawyers and public relations companies to react to every Armenian initiative, certainly was not indifferent to an undertaking of this magnitude. Conspiracy theories are rife and it would be naïve to think that the Turkish government was an innocent bystander. We have to wait for the next wikileaks or Edward Snowden leak to find out the Turkish role in this debacle. But Armenians are equally at fault in this melee.

The latest news brings a glimmer of hope in the museum project. A news release issued on October 13, 2014, in Minneapolis, where the Cafesjian Family Foundation is based, stated, "The Cafesjian Family Foundation has engaged a leading philanthropic and fundraising consultancy to conduct a feasibility study for the Armenian Genocide Museum and Memorial in Washington. The decision follows the recent conclusion of lengthy legal proceedings around the Washington properties intended for the project.

"Kathleen Cafesjian Baradaran, chair of the Cafesjian Family Foundation, noted that the feasibility study is a required first step for the project of this scale. 'The study will serve as the foundation for an international fundraising campaign to make the dream of the museum and memorial a reality,' she said. 'The goal is both to renovate and reimagine the downtown Washington location, where the story of Armenians will be told to the current and future generations.'"

The late Gerald Cafesjian and his Cafesjian Family Foundation have brought world-class art to Armenia and state of the art museums at the Cascade in Yerevan. If the same vision is extended to the Genocide museum, an equal splendor may be anticipated.

But still, a serious question remains: why should the fate of the museum remain at the mercy of one family or one foundation, no matter how charitable, when it must be owned by 1.5 million Armenian martyrs and 10 million survivors and descendants? We hope the public will be rewarded with the answer to this existential question.

Another scandal germane to the Genocide issue erupted when

teams of Armenian lawyers successfully sued New York Life and AXA insurance companies, winning a compensation of \$37.5 million. The money was awarded to the surviving descents of the Armenian policyholders. But instead of consolidating on our success, we witnessed a flurry of accusations and counteraccusations between these legal teams, overshadowing the victory. The Turkish authorities must have had a field day when the victory degenerated into vindictiveness.

Now comes another piece of news from Pasadena, reporting that William M. Paparian, the former mayor of that city, has announced his resignation as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Pasadena Armenian Genocide Committee, amidst allegations that the board treasurer had provided fraudulent information on his background along with a slew of other accusations. Should you ask that unnamed treasurer, you will certainly hear a different story. But rather than getting to the heart of the story, one should only consider the public relations aspect of the controversy; the centennial is around the corner and Armenians are still engaged in self-flagellation. That is the only moral of the story.

While Armenians are staging these scandals around the world, what are the Turks doing? The government of Turkey has long taken the challenge very seriously. The chief architect of the Turkish reaction is none other than Ahmet Davutoglu himself. Now that he has the state apparatus at his disposal, as Turkey's prime minister, he can conduct his campaign more effectively. We have yet to learn what is in store for 2015, but Mr. Davutoglu has the bull by the horn.

To stifle any public exposure of the Genocide issue, Mr. Davutoglu has been planning a huge international affair to celebrate the centennial of the Gallipoli campaign, where Turkey scored a dubious victory, under Mustafa Kemal, while losing the war. The Australians and New Zealanders will be playing into the hands of the Turks. Finding no other serious occasion for the birth of "national consciousness," these two nations have decided that Anzac Day marks the birth of their nations. The truth is that Australians and New Zealanders were brought to Turkey by their British Colonial overlords to serve as cannon fodder at Gallipoli (Chanakkale).

Mr. Davutoglu's other undertaking has been to take the time and develop a historical theory, justifying why the Ottoman government had to exterminate the Armenians. His thesis was published in the *Turkish Quarterly*, which received an appropriate response signed by Gerard Libaridian.

Since we are at a point dealing with scholarship, we need to record that the only significant achievement could be considered the scholarly volumes published by Armenian and non-Armenian scholars. Ironically, most effective among those scholars have been those of Turkish and Kurdish extraction – Taner Akcam, Ugur Umit Ungor, Murat Belge, Halil Berkay, Fatima Muge Gocek and Elif Shafak. If course, Armenians and other nationalities have also contributed significantly to the Genocide scholarship, despite the fact that the Turkish archives have not been available for them, contrary to the Turkish government assertions.

The major art film on the Genocide again is by a Turk, namely Fatih Akin, who just released his sensational film, "The Cut." Atom Egoyan's "Ararat," which preceded "The Cut," was a good movie, but as a Genocide film, it pulled its punches by creating unnecessary abstractions.

As far as grandiloquent gestures are concerned, it looks like President Serge Sargsian's invitation to President Erdogan to visit the Martyrs' Memorial on April 24, 2015 will have the same fate as the similar gesture of football diplomacy; and Charles Aznavour, who is planning to accompany Erdogan to Yerevan, will be forced to take a lonely trip.

The Turks have been watching Armenians to determine the fault lines – which are all too obvious. They will be extending some bait, like Erdogan's "condolences" to further confuse Armenians. Now that Mr. Davutoglu has engaged veteran journalist Etyen Mehcupyan as his chief advisor on Armenian affairs, he will be in a better position to package his false message.

In view of the disarray throughout the Armenian world, the Turks cannot contain their glee, because most of the damage that they were contemplating to cause Armenians is already being done to themselves by themselves.

Talaat Pasha, the executioner of the Armenian nation, is reported to have said that he will give such a blow to the Armenians that they will not recover for a hundred years.

He is also reported to have said that he will leave one single Armenian in the world to serve as a museum artifact.

Come to think of it, that museum may never be.

Mirror Spectator



Established 1932
An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:
Edmond Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

Florence Avakian, Dr. Haroutiune Arzoumanian, Taleen Babayan, Diana Der Hovanessian, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Harut Sassounian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian

CORRESPONDENTS:

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

Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian and Jirair Hovsepiyan

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is published weekly, except two weeks in July and the first week of the year, by:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509
Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

© 2014 The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Boston, MA
and additional mailing offices.

ISSN 0004-234X

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, 755 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472

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

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

Baikar Association, Inc.

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

For Your Internal News of Armenia Log on to www.AZG.am
In English, Armenian, Russian and Turkish



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Strangely, Turkey did not Publicize Correcting Signpost of Armenian Church

I just learned that the Turkish government has quietly corrected the signpost near the historic Holy Cross Church (Sourp Khach) on Akhtamar Island in Lake Van, by indicating its “Armenian” origin.

For decades, Turkish authorities systematically concealed the true identity of thousands of Armenian churches and monuments so no one would remember that Armenians lived for thousands of years in lands presently occupied by the Republic of Turkey. By not disclosing the traces of Armenian civilization, Turkish officials calculated that there would be no need to explain the disappearance of Armenians – another manifestation of Turkish denialism.

Back in 2007, the Turkish government held an elaborate opening ceremony after renovating the 10th-century Holy Cross Church. While some Armenians naively participated in this Turkish propaganda exercise, I wrote several critical editorials pointing out that Turkish officials did not permit Armenian church services (except once a year), and refused to allow a cross displayed on its dome. Instead, the Sourp Khach

Church was officially designated as a museum and placed under the administration of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and not under the jurisdiction of the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul. Since then, a cross has been placed on the Church dome.

One issue that I failed to mention back in 2007 was the inscription on the signpost leading to the Church. The original signpost made no reference to Armenians neither in English nor in Turkish. Below is the heading and first words of the previous inscription, written in English:

“Akdamar Island & Monumental Museum. Fee 5 TL [Turkish Liras]. Akdamar Island and Church. Akdamar Church was built by the monks of architects Manuel between 915-921 by the order of Vaspurakan King Gagik I...”

Last week, during a chance encounter in a Glendale Armenian bookstore, Senem Cevik, Assistant Professor at Ankara University, showed me two different photos of the Holy Cross Church signpost. The first, taken by her a year ago, showed the foregoing inscription. The second, taken by one of her colleagues last month, displayed the new inscription that refers to the building as an Armenian Church:

“Akhdamar Armenian Church of the Holy Cross. The Church was built by monk/architect Manuel between 915 and 921, by the order of Gagik I, King of Vaspurakan. Built at the form of a four-leaf clover and under the plan of a cruciform, the church was covered by a dome from inside and by a pyramidal cone from outside. The church has two gates, one at the southern and another at the western side. During subsequent periods, the Chapel of Zacharias I, a jamatun and a bell tower were added to the church and the Chapel of Saint Stephanos was built separately. Built in the name of the Holy Cross, the church has been transformed into a monastery in 1131. On the stone reliefs of the façade of the church, religious scenes taken from the Old and New Testament, palace

life, hunting scenes as well as human and animal figures are depicted. These depictions are important as they distinguish the church from similar ones. There are various wall paintings representing descriptions taken from the Bible on the inner side of the church's walls.”

This new inscription clearly designates Holy Cross, both in English and Turkish, as an Armenian Church. However, there is still a problem. While the church's name is correctly written in English as Akhtamar, in the Turkish language inscription it is referred to by its Turkified name, Akdamar.

I can only speculate as to why the Turkish government did not make a public announcement regarding the revised inscription of the Sourp Khach Church signpost. Here are some possible reasons:

- Oversight by low-level Turkish officials who did not realize the P.R. value of publicizing the change.
- Reluctance of high-ranking officials to draw attention to the change, fearing that they would appear ridiculous taking credit for something so obvious that should have been done long time ago.
- Concerns by Turkish officials that making public the revised text would impress the outside world, while triggering criticism at home for catering to Armenians.
- Preoccupation of newly-elected Turkish leaders with other urgent matters. They may yet make an announcement at a later date.

It is equally puzzling that no one on the Armenian side, including the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul, has made any mention of the revised inscription reflecting the Armenian origin of Holy Cross Church.

One hopes that this single rectification of the Akhtamar Church signpost would be a prelude to similar recognition of Armenian cultural heritage in museums, churches, and monuments all across Turkey, including the City of Ani.

Reader Takes *Harvard Magazine* to Task over Erroneous Caption

The following letter to the editor by Sylvie Papazian has been sent as well to the editor at *Harvard Magazine*, upset over a caption under a photograph they printed.

To the Editor:

I was surprised to see the familiar black and white photograph on page 75 in the November-December 2014 issue of *Harvard Magazine*, and could not wait to read the caption. But to my dismay, there wasn't a single mention that the woman in the photograph was an Armenian Genocide survivor, crying over one of the many victims of the brutal crimes perpetrated by the Turkish government. In fact, neither the caption nor the description of the book mention the ethnicity or reason for the child's death. Armenians and genocide scholars throughout the world know this photograph all too well. The caption in *Harvard Magazine* hides all traces of genocide by stating: “the endless pain of the Middle East: woman and dead child near Aleppo, Syria.”

Seeing this is like a punch in the gut. I feel sick. Calling it a mistake or a typo is just not enough.

This photograph is available online in the Library of Congress archives, and it is titled: “Armenian woman kneeling beside dead child in field, within sight of help and safety at Aleppo.” The photograph is found within the collection titled “Near East Relief,” along with countless other Armenian Genocide photographs dating from 1915-1916. These Armenians had walked for hundreds of miles, forced from their ancestral homeland in Anatolia and driven into the deserts of Syria. The Turkish government offered no food, water or shelter. Many Armenians were led to their destination point at the concentration camp of Der Zor, never to see the light of day again. Turkey, to this day, calls these death marches “deportations”. They refuse to use the legal term of genocide, even though the word was coined by Raphael Lemkin based on what happened to the Armenians.

My great-grandmother was among the “lucky” Armenians. She carried her youngest son, and walked with my grandmother (3 yrs. old) and my other great-uncle (not yet a teenager), from Kayseri to Aleppo (almost the equivalent of Boston to Philadelphia). She, like many Armenian women, made this journey without an older male relative.

Her husband, my great-grandfather, was forced into the Turkish labor battalions, unarmed like other Christians, never to be heard from again. Her 5-year-old son was kidnapped by a soldier, and her eldest daughter died after refusing to change her Armenian name and convert to Islam. Her brother, his wife and kids, were all killed by Turkish soldiers. Other relatives killed their own beautiful daughters, afraid of what horrors they would otherwise have to endure in evil hands. Entire families were often met with the same fate. I can't begin to imagine what was going through my great-grandmother's head during this march. But at one point, she felt too weak to continue. She put down her youngest son, who was only 1-year-old at the time. Other women in the group told her to think of herself and her other children, and to leave behind her youngest. She placed him on the ground, and was slowly led away from him. When she looked back, she saw him

innocently playing with the dirt, clueless to what was happening around him. She ran back to him, grabbed and hugged him, and said she didn't care if they all died. She had already lost a daughter and son to the genocide and could not bear to lose another. Her children were all that she had left in this world. She found the strength within to somehow make it through with her surviving three children, and finally into the hands of relief workers in Syria.

This photograph is very personal to me. That is not just a woman or a dead child, in some unknown place, from a long lost era. The death of that child, and the death of 1.5 million Armenians, is a sad reminder of the many families that never had a chance at life like mine did. This was not an “endless pain,” as the *Harvard Magazine* caption reads, as if these people were suffering from arthritis. It was the deliberate act of genocide committed by the Turkish Ottoman government. This is why the Armenian Genocide is still a topic of conversation today, especially as we now approach the centennial. It is not some event that happened in the past, to be forgotten. Seeing this caption with that photograph is a sobering reminder as to why history, and not some fabricated version of it, is so relevant.

Sylvie Papazian
Harvard University

Two Major Candidates for Governor in Mass. Voice Support for Armenia

BOSTON – In the run-up to the Massachusetts gubernatorial election on November 4, both major candidates, Republican Charlie Baker and Democrat Martha Coakley, have issued statements in support of the recognition of the independence of Armenia as well as acknowledging the Armenian Genocide.

Baker's office issued the following statement:

“I am happy to congratulate the Armenian-American community of Massachusetts on the 23rd Anniversary of the Independence of Armenia. The Armenian-American community has enjoyed great success in the Commonwealth, which is home to the oldest Armenian church in America, and the second largest Armenian community in the nation.

More importantly, as we approach the centennial of the first genocide of the 20th Century, it is important that we reaffirm America's proud record on the Armenian Genocide as Massachusetts and 42 other states have supported. Between 1915-1923, 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children were killed in a systematic campaign to destroy the Christian-Armenian population. America's effort to help save the survivors of the Armenian Genocide was unprecedented in American history at that time. That is something that all Americans can be proud of and something that we should recall as we begin to mark this crime against humanity.

As a candidate for governor of our great Bay State, I stand proudly with the Armenian American community and pledge to work to advance human rights concerning Armenian issues in the future.

I look forward to our future efforts in working together to build bridges with Armenia, the democracy of Nagorno-Karabakh, and the dynamic Armenian-American community of our Commonwealth.”

In her statement, Coakley, the state's attorney general, said:

“It is with great pleasure that I join all citizens of Massachusetts in congratulating the entire Armenian-American community on the 23rd anniversary of the independence of Armenia.

The Massachusetts Armenian Community has a rich history that spans over 110 years, from the first parish in America established in Worcester, Mass, in 1891, to providing vital funding for your homeland to build roads and providing new healthcare and educational facilities to greening Armenia with new forest lands.

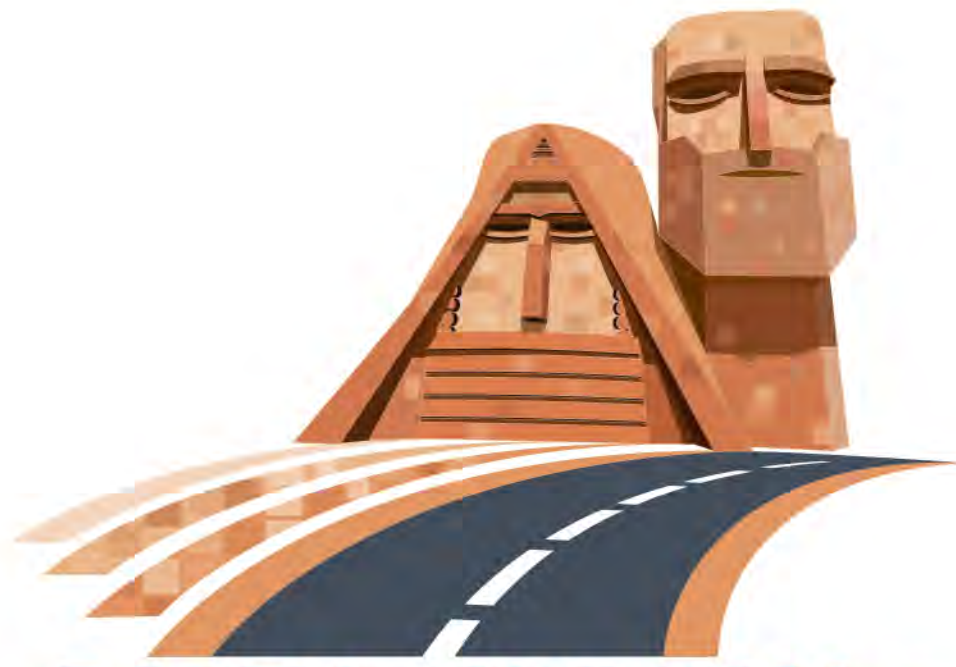
On the eve of the 100th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide beginning in April 24, 1915, I recall the proud chapter in America's history in helping to save the survivors of the first genocide of the 20th century, including those gathered at Faneuil Hall who galvanized support for the Armenian people. Understanding the lessons of the past through the teaching of the Armenian Genocide in our public schools will help ensure that such atrocities never occur again.

Today, I stand with you in celebration and promise for the future prosperity of Armenia and the fledgling democracy of Nagorno Karabakh on this, the 23rd anniversary of the Republic of Armenia.

I look forward to our continued efforts to expand and strengthen US-Armenia relations and ensure a bright future for the Armenian people.



ARMENIA FUND 17TH INTERNATIONAL TELETHON 2014



ԴԵՊՐԻ ԱՐՅԱԽ
EN ROUTE ARTSAKH

**THURSDAY
NOV 27
2014
11AM-11PM**

THANKSGIVING DAY

MICHIGAN

WMYD TV 20 | *Detroit*
Comcast/Xfinity — Ch. 20, 1003, 235
Brighthouse Networks — Ch. 6, 206
WOW! TV — Ch. 20, 206
AT&T U-verse — Ch. 20, 1020
Charter Communications — Ch. 10, 16
Dish and DirecTV — Ch. 20

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

WMBC 63
Blue Ridge Cable TV — Ch. 18
Dish — Ch. 63 / 8115
DirecTV — Ch. 63 / 895
Over the Air — Ch. 63.1

CONNECTICUT

WMBC 63 | *Norwalk*
Cablevision — Ch. 86
Over the Air — Ch. 63.1

NEW YORK | WMBC 63

NYC | *Upstate NY* | *Long Island*
Verizon FiOS — Ch. 18
RCN — Ch. 19
Cablevision — Ch. 20, 117
Time Warner Cable — Ch. 10, 18, 21, 63
Dish — Ch. 63 / 8115
DirecTV — Ch. 63 / 895
Over the Air — Ch. 63.1

NEW JERSEY | WMBC 63

Verizon FiOS — Ch. 18
Cablevision — Ch. 20, 117
Comcast Cable — Ch. 17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 32, 63
Time Warner Cable — Ch. 21, 63
US Cable of Paramus — Ch. 10
Service Electric — Ch. 18
Dish — Ch. 63 / 8115
DirecTV — Ch. 63 / 895
Over the Air — Ch. 63.1

Check your local listing for more coverage.

TV BROADCAST: 12PM – 6PM EST

LIVE FULL WEBCAST ON WWW.ARMENTIAFUNDUSA.ORG (11AM-11:00PM EST)

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
& TELETHON
CONTRIBUTIONS:

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

Phone: 212-689-5307
Fax: 212-689-5317
Web: www.ArmeniaFundUSA.org
Email: info@armeniafundusa.org

OR CALL
TOLL-FREE:

1-800-888-8897

**Text ARMENIA to 80088
and donate \$10.00 to the
Armenia Fund USA**

Charges will appear on your wireless bill, or be deducted from your prepaid balance. All purchases must be authorized by account holder. Must be 18 years of age or have parental permission to participate. Message and Data Rates May Apply. Text STOP to 80088 to STOP. Text HELP to 80088 for HELP.

Full Terms: mGive.org/T | Privacy Policy: mGive.org/P