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President Serge Sargsisian, left, with his Azeri counterpart, Ilham Aliyev, in Vienna

## Sargsisian, Aliyev Hold Fresh Talks in Vienna

VIENNA (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Serge Sargsisian and Ilham Aliyev, met in Vienna on Tuesday, November 19, for the first time in two years.

The meeting was later joined by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group co-chairs who afterwards made a statement.

According to the statement, during the conversation, followed by a working meeting with the co-chairs, the two leaders discussed a range of issues related to the settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict.

As the presidential press service reported, Sargsisian and Aliyev agreed to promote further negotiations to achieve a peaceful solution and instructed their foreign ministers to continue working with the co-chairs to achieve the goal.

“A new meeting was agreed on in the months to come. Working meetings with ministers will be organized on the sidelines of the Kiev-hosted Foreign Ministers’ Council session December 5-6. The co-chairs plan to visit the South Caucasus by the yearend,” the statement said.

No further details of the meeting were disclosed, nor did the presidents provide any comments.

As Hraparak daily said earlier citing its

own sources, at the Vienna-hosted meeting, the Armenian side insisted on Karabagh’s involvement in the conflict settlement negotiations.

Russia, France and the US are the co-chairs of the Minsk Group. According to a statement from the group, this is the first meeting of the two presidents since January 2012 in Sochi.

In related news, Sargsisian held a phone consultation with US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Ahead of the Vienna-hosted meeting mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group, Kerry reiterated Washington’s readiness to assist in the solution of the Karabagh conflict. The parties agreed that there’s no alternative to a peaceful settlement of the issue, also stressing the necessity of developing mutually acceptable mechanisms for the conflict settlement based on fundamental principles.

As Kerry noted at a joint news conference with Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu ahead of the talks, “I talked with both President Aliyev and President Sargsisian and they are meeting shortly. We are urging that process to move forward, and we will continue to be engaged in that.”

At the OSCE Permanent Council meeting, Daniel Baer welcomed the Presidents’

see TALKS, page 3

## Genocide Denier Justin McCarthy to Speak at Australian Parliament

By Michael Brissenden

CANBERRA (The ABC) – One of the world’s most vocal Armenian genocide deniers will make an address at Parliament House in Canberra next week.

The ABC has learnt that a committee room in Parliament House has been booked by Labor backbencher Laurie Ferguson for a special invitation-only address titled “What happened during 1915-1923?”

The address will be given by Prof. Justin McCarthy, an American history professor who many Armenians view with the same disdain as Jews view Holocaust denier David Irving.

The ABC has seen an invitation to the presentation to be delivered by McCarthy, who campaigns around the world against the recognition of the Armenian genocide.

April 2015 will be a significant month for several nations. While Australia and Turkey commemorate the centenary anniversary of the Gallipoli landing, Armenians will mark a centenary since the start of the darkest chapter of their history.

Genocide scholars say that from 1915 to 1923 more than 1 million Armenians lost their lives at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

Although it is known as the Armenian Genocide, thousands of Assyrians and Pontian Greeks were also killed.

Turkey has long denied the charge and only recently pledged to ban the entire New South Wales Parliament



Prof. Justin McCarthy

see DENIAL, page 3

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Parliament Rejects NKR Recognition Bill

YEREVAN (ARKA) – The Armenian parliament voted down a motion submitted by the opposition Zharangutyun (Heritage) party calling for formal recognition of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Thursday.

Most of the parliament factions boycotted the vote, including the ruling coalition of Republican Party of Armenia and Orinats Yerkir, Prosperous Armenia, as well as the Armenian National Congress opposition party.

Only 10 out of 109 parliament deputies present voted for the bill, with one abstention.

The bill seeks the formal recognition of the de-facto status of Artsakh (Karabagh) as the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic meets all international law requirements to be defined a sovereign state.

### Russia Air Defense System with Armenia

MOSCOW (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Russia intends to strengthen the unified air defense systems with Belarus and form ones with Armenia and Kazakhstan, RIA Novosti quoted the country’s leader as saying.

As Vladimir Putin noted, the cooperation will significantly increase Russia’s as well as its partners’ defense potential in contributing to peace and security in Eurasia.

The Russian leader welcomed West 2013 strategic exercises conducted jointly with Belarus in 2013, also noted that regional force groupings involving of Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan will be formed in near future.

### WB to Give Armenia \$873 Million Credit

TBILISI (Armenpress) – The World Bank’s strategy plan for 2014-2017 will provide \$873 million of financial support to Armenia. The World Bank’s Regional Director for the South Caucasus Henry Kerali stated this plan during a November 19 press conference. Kerali stated that the main goal of the support is to contribute to economic growth and creating workplaces in Armenia.

“The goal of the strategy of the country’s partnership is to support the approach to the creation of workplaces in the private sector, strengthening the development of Armenia,” Kerali said.

The project also aims at reducing poverty. According to Kerali, Armenia has had to overcome the consequences of a financial crisis in 2008. World Bank confirmed the decision on disposing \$72 million credit to Armenia in 2014.

Since 1992, the beginning of Armenia’s membership in the World Bank, \$1,746,000,000 has been allocated for different programs. Currently, there are 14 active programs in the World Bank portfolio, the total cost of which amounts to \$445.4 million.

## Author Deranian Discusses Evolution of Orphan Rug Story

By Gabriella Gage  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WORCESTER – The Armenian Cultural Foundation’s recent publication, *President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug*, sheds light on a little-known piece of American history. It also currently stands at the center of a political debate surrounding the White House’s refusal to release the rug featured in the book for an exhibit and book launch at



Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian

the Smithsonian. However, for the book’s author, Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian, the work represents another chapter in a son’s lifelong journey to honor the memory of his mother and her battle to survive the Armenian Genocide.



President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug

see DERANIAN, page 8

## Open Feud over Hidden Rug

WASHINGTON (*Washington Post*) – In a new twist to efforts to call attention to the Armenian Genocide, a group of

By Richard Simon

lawmakers has accused the Obama administration of blocking a Smithsonian display of a rug woven by orphans of the mass killings nearly a century ago.

The lawmakers wrote to President Obama urging him to make the rug available for exhibition. It was presented to President Calvin Coolidge in 1925 and has been in storage. The bipartisan group includes more than a dozen representatives from California, which has a large Armenian American population.

The roughly 12-foot-by-18-foot

see RUG WAR, page 8

## INSIDE

### YerazArt Gala

Page 8

#### INDEX

Arts and Living	10
Armenia	2
Community News	4
Editorial	13
International	3



## News From Armenia

### Rest of Souls Service Held for Victims of Damascus Attack

ECHMIADZIN – On November 17, a Rest of Souls service was held in the Mother Cathedral for the Armenian children that were the victims of the terrorist attack on November 11 near the St. Sargis Armenian Church and the Holy Translators Armenian National School in Damascus.

Archbishop Voskan Gaplanyan, member of the Brotherhood of the Mother See, gave remarks and reflected on the tragedy that had happened a week ago in the Holy Translators Armenian National School. Gaplanyan strictly condemned the attack as inhumane, stating that “murdering children is the greatest sin, as all children must be taken care of and protected regardless of their religion.”

Gaplanyan conveyed his condolences to the parents and relatives of the deceased from Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians. At the conclusion, the clergy and those attending extended their joint prayers for the repose of the victims’ souls.

### Armenia Takes Measures To Prevent Polio Spread After Outbreak in Syria

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Measures are being taken in Armenia to prevent the spread of polio in the country after the outbreak of the disease in Syria, where there is a large Armenian presence and from where ethnic Armenians fleeing hostilities have arrived in the past two years or so.

The large-scale vaccination campaign in the entire region began in early November and will continue for the next six or eight months depending on the epidemiological situation.

According to the Ministry of Health of Armenia, polyclinics across the country at present examine the medical records of all children under 6 and invite those who haven’t got the vaccination to get one.

“Work is being carried out with parents who refuse that their children be vaccinated. Also work is being conducted with citizens who arrive from Syria,” the Ministry’s press service said.

### Ayb High School and Dilijan International School Sign Agreement

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – Ayb High School and the Dilijan International School (UWC Dilijan) signed a memorandum of understanding this week at the school.

The agreement notes that “Dilijan International School” and “Ayb Learning Hub” foundations are willing to collaborate within the framework of mutually beneficial projects with the goal to improve the results of the efforts aimed at multilateral education of students.

The agreement seeks to have the two parties help involve Ayb students in community development works in Tatev and Dilijan, host joint summer camps, implement teacher exchange programs and educate children about social entrepreneurship projects.

### Premier Meets with Outgoing Italian Amb.

YEREVAN – Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian received outgoing Italian Ambassador to Armenia Bruno Scappini.

Scappini expressed gratitude to the government for close collaboration, noting that Armenian-Italian relations have evolved in the economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres.

Thanks to the Armenian-Italian Chamber of Commerce, he noted that more and more Italians are visiting Armenia. He announced that a gala event dedicated to Armenian music will be organized in Verona on the sidelines of the events dedicated to the Armenian Genocide centennial.

Sargsian thanked him for contributing to the development of Armenian-Italian relations.

## Echmiadzin Holds Funeral Service For Archbishop Arsen Berberian

ECHMIADZIN – On November 19, Archbishop Arsen Berberian, one of the eldest members of the Brotherhood of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, was laid to rest in the monastic cemetery of the Mother See.

Early in the morning, Divine Liturgy was offered at the St. Gayane Monastery. The celebrant was Bishop Hovakim Manoukian, director of the Inter-Church Relations Department of the Mother See and Primate of the Artik Diocese. During the ceremony, Berberian’s body was placed in front of the Holy Altar, where he received the last anointment. His forehead and the right hand were anointed with

consecrated chrism. During the Kiss of Peace, the members of the brotherhood received the last kiss of peace from him.

Manoukian delivered the eulogy. He reflected on the life and activities of Berberian, highlighting that he loyally served the Armenian Church for decades, having made his significant contribution in the musical sphere, as well as in a range of other pastoral and social activities. Hovakim also noted that during the most critical times of the Soviet Period, Berberian He the Armenian Church “guided by divine providence,” becoming a good role model for many clergy.

Manoukian extended his con-

lences to Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, and Berberian’s relatives on behalf of the clergy and the faithful of the Armenian Church.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Grigoris Buniatyan, Primate of the Armenian Diocese in Ukraine, presided over the burial service. The body of Berberian was interred in them cemetery.

Present at the burial service were Diocesan leaders of the Armenian Apostolic Church, members of the Brotherhood of the Mother See, spiritual servants from various Dioceses and friends and relatives of Berberian.

## Claudio Abbado’s Armenian Concert Cancelled

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Armenian concert of legendary Italian conductor Claudio Abbado, scheduled to be held on December 7, has been cancelled. The concert by Abbado and his orchestra, “Mozart,” was to be a significant event in the entire region as well.

In a conversation with “Armenpress” the Manager of the Festival Sona Hovhannisyan underscored: “I am very sorry to announce that Claudio Abbado’s concert, which was scheduled to be held within the framework of “The Yerevan Prospects” International Festival, has been canceled. Maestro will not visit Armenia because of deterioration of his health conditions. We wish sound health to the prominent conductor.”

Abbado has served as music director of the La Scala opera house in Milan, principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, principal guest conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, music director of the Vienna State Opera and principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic orchestra from 1989 to 2002. He has been a Senator for life in the Italy since 2013.

Born in Milan, Italy, Abbado is the son of the violinist and composer Michelangelo Abbado, who was his first piano teacher, and the brother of musician Marcello Abbado. After studying piano, composition, and conducting at the Milan Conservatory, at age 16, in 1955 Claudio Abbado studied conducting with Hans Swarowsky at the Vienna Academy of Music. He also spent time at the Chigiana Academy at Siena. In 1958 he won the international Serge Koussevitsky Competition for conductors, at the Tanglewood Music Festival, which resulted in a number of operatic conducting engagements in Italy, and in 1963 he won the Dimitri Mitropoulos Prize for conductors, allowing him to work for five months with the New York Philharmonic.

Abbado made his debut at La Scala in his hometown of Milan in 1960 and served as its music director from 1968 to 1986, conducting not only the traditional Italian repertoire but also presenting a contemporary opera each year, as well as a concert series devoted to the works of Alban Berg and Modest Mussorgsky. He was instrumental in increasing accessibility to the working-class. He also founded the Filarmonica della Scala in 1982, for the performance of orchestral repertoire in concert.

He conducted the Vienna Philharmonic for the first time in 1965 in a concert at the Salzburg Festival, and became the principal conductor in 1971.[2] He served as music director and conductor for the Vienna State Opera from 1986 to 1991, with notable productions such as Mussorgsky’s original Boris Godunov and his seldom-heard Khovanshchina, Franz Schubert’s *Fierrabras*, and Gioacchino Rossini’s *Il viaggio a Reims*.

In 1965, he made his British debut at the Halle Orchestra, followed, in 1966, by his London Symphony Orchestra debut. He continued to conduct on a regular basis with the London Orchestra, until 1979. From 1979 to 1988 he became the principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra, and from 1982 to 1986 he was principal guest conductor of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. With both orchestras, Abbado made a number of recordings for Deutsche Grammophon.

In 1989, the Berlin Philharmonic elected him as their chief conductor, to succeed Herbert von Karajan. In 1998, he announced that he would be leaving the Berlin Philharmonic after the expiry of his contract in 2002.

He was diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2000 and the treatment led to the removal of a portion of his digestive system.

In 2004 he returned to conduct the Berlin Philharmonic and performed Mahler’s Symphony No. 6 in a series of recorded live concerts. The resulting CD won Best Orchestral Recording and Record of the Year in Gramophone Magazine’s 2006 awards. The Orchestra Academy of the Berlin Philharmonic established the Claudio Abbado Composition Prize in 2006 in his honour.

After recovering from cancer, he formed the Lucerne Festival Orchestra in 2003 and their concerts have been highly acclaimed. He also serves as music director of the Orchestra Mozart of Bologna, Italy.

In September 2007 he announced that he was cancelling all of his forthcoming conducting engagements for the “near future” on the advice of his physicians but two months later he resumed conducting concerts with an engagement in Bologna. In July 2011, aged 78, he declared himself to be in good health.

Abbado is also well known for his work with young musicians. He is

founder and music director of the European Union Youth Orchestra (1978) and the Gustav Mahler Jugendorchester (1986). He is also a frequent guest conductor with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe with whom he recorded a cycle of Franz Schubert symphonies to considerable acclaim. More recently, he has worked with the Orquesta Sinfónica Simón Bolívar of Venezuela.

He has been known for his Germanic orchestral repertory as well as his interest in the music of Gioacchino Rossini and Giuseppe Verdi.

### US Embassy Marks Global Entrepreneurship Week

YEREVAN – The US Embassy in Armenia marked Global Entrepreneurship Week 2013 by hosting a technology “SparkLab” event at the Yerevan American Corner, including children and teachers from Yerevan School 67. The SparkLab is inspired by the Smithsonian Institution and is meant to encourage critical thinking and problem solving for young people, an important component in building young entrepreneurs. The event was attended by US Embassy Chargé d’affaires Woodward C. Price.

Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) is the world’s largest celebration of the innovators and job creators who launch startups that bring ideas to life, drive economic growth and expand human welfare. During one week each November since 2007, GEW inspires people everywhere through local, national and global activities designed to help them take the next step in their entrepreneurial journey. These activities, from large-scale competitions and events to networking gatherings, connect participants to potential collaborators, mentors and even investors.

Additional events include a business plan competition, a seminar for US program alumni and a micro-enterprise seminar for women in rural communities.





## INTERNATIONAL

# Armenians of China Celebrate Opening of Maxian Hong Kong Armenian Center

HONG KONG – On Saturday, November 9, the Armenian community of China, known as “ChinaHay,” as well as more than 100 guests, including many from overseas, gathered in Hong Kong to attend the official opening ceremony of the newly established Jack and Julie Maxian Hong Kong Armenian Center.

Honorary guests included Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Bishop Haigazoun Najarian, Primate of the Diocese of Australia and New Zealand, Archbishop Aram Ateshian, Patriarchal Vicar of Constantinople, Armenian Ambassador

preserved in a remote country like China, despite the small size of the community,” said Karekin II. His Holiness also visited the grave of Sir Paul Catchik Chater, probably the most famous Armenian in Asia, who moved to Hong Kong in 1864 from Calcutta India and became one of the most successful businessmen in the history of Hong Kong with streets, parks and buildings across Hong Kong still bearing his name.

Speaking on behalf of the Armenian Community of China, Henri Arslanian highlighted the symbolic importance of

Bishop Haigazoun Najarian celebrated Holy Mass, the first celebrated in the center. The guests also enjoyed brunch, after which they attended a lecture by Prof. Sebouh Aslanian, chair of Armenian Studies at UCLA, who had travelled to Hong Kong for the occasion and who described the role of Julfa Armenian merchants in the early modern world of the Indian Ocean and up to Manila and China.

Later, the guests learned that Armenian language, history and culture classes would soon be offered at the new Centre in Hong Kong via the Armenian Virtual College (AVC). Yervant Zorian, the founder of the AVC, described how the educational institute has been helping similar communities worldwide and the enthusiasm of the AVC’s team in working with the Armenian Community of China in the coming years.

From now on, the Jack and Julie Hong Kong Armenian Center will host Armenians from China and all over the world, hold events with guest speakers, exhibitions, invite Armenian artists to perform, but most importantly will be a gathering venue for Armenians and their friends.

Armenians have been traveling and living in China for centuries. In 1910, the Armenian Relief Society created the Armenian Club of Shanghai as a station for Armenian refugees in Shanghai. The Club evolved over the years into a social Club where the community gathered and where Armenian weddings, baptisms and events would take place. In 1923, the 400 people strong Armenian community of Harbin in Northern China built their first Church. Most of the Armenians in China left China around 1949 following the communist takeover of China. The Armenian Club of Shanghai was converted to private ownership by the Communists in 1949 and the Armenian Church was destroyed as part of Mao’s Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s.

The Armenian community of China has been growing considerably over the last years. It currently consists of approximately five hundred Armenians living in the country, mainly in the cities of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Nanjing, and Beijing.

Anyone interested to learn more about the community is encouraged to visit [www.chinahay.com](http://www.chinahay.com) or the ChinaHay Facebook group page.



From left, Jack Maxian, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, Julie Maxian, the Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to China, Armen Sargsyan

to China Armen Sargsyan as well as the honorary consul of Armenia to Thailand, Arto Artinian.

The two-day celebration began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by the blessing given by the catholicos at the center altar, built specially for religious events. “Armenian couples will marry here, and Armenian kids will be baptized in this house,” Jack Maxian mentioned in his welcoming speech. “We will arrange Armenian meetings in this Center, festivities devoted to Armenian culture, and foreigners will be surprised that the Armenian people are able to build an Armenian house outside of their own land,” said Maxian.

In that evening, Karekin II granted a special award – the St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal of Honor – to Jack and Julie Maxian for their devotion to the nation. “We are happy to see that Armenian national identity is so well

this event and presented the Maxians with a real piece from Ararat mountain, in appreciation of their years of devotion to the community and to celebrate their efforts in bringing the idea of creation of Armenian Center to life in Hong Kong.

Jack Maxian, in his inauguration speech, told the guests: “I am convinced that very soon, with your personal and collective commitment, the capacity of the center will multiply and the Armenian community of China will become exemplary in its patriotic and Armenian-oriented activity.”

Jack and Julie Maxian donated a large collection of paintings to adorn the walls of the center, all of which were made specially for this occasion.

After the official ceremonies, guests enjoyed an Armenian dinner prepared by Julie Maxian for the occasion.

On the second day of the celebration,

## Genocide Denier Justin McCarthy to Speak at Australian Parliament

DENIAL, from page 1

from Gallipoli ceremonies after they unanimously passed a motion recognizing the genocide.

A total of 22 nation states, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Russia and the Vatican, and dozens of state and provincial legislatures around the world, including New South Wales and South Australia, have formally recognized the genocide by Turkey between 1915 and 1922.

International bodies such as the World Council of Churches, the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the International Association of Genocide Scholars have also recognized the genocide.

Despite some ferocious lobbying from the Turks, there has also been pressure from time to time from some in the Australian Federal Parliament to formally recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Treasurer Joe Hockey is of Armenian descent and has on numerous occasions

urged the parliament to do just that.

In 2011 he was joined by a handful of others, including Malcolm Turnbull and Labor’s Michael Danby.

Turnbull told the parliament that the Armenian Genocide was one of the great crimes against humanity and resulted in “the elimination, the execution, the murder of hundreds of thousands – of millions of people – for no reason other than that they were different.”

“In this case it was they were not Turks, just as the Jews were eliminated by the Nazis because they were not Germans,” Turnbull added.

Hockey told the parliament: “This is not an issue of definition. Any systematic eradication of a race is genocide, regardless of the political or social unease it may bring.”

Genocide scholar Panayiotis Diamadis says the local Armenian, Assyrian and Pontian Greek communities will be alarmed that such an address is being held in Parliament House.

“Anger, disgust that an official forum – such an official forum as Federal Parliament – is being given to a man who denies the memory of the victims, who denies that this genocide occurred,” he said.

## Sargisian, Aliyev Hold Talks in Vienna

TALKS, from page 1

decision to meet and discuss further steps for the solution of the conflict.

“It is high time to turn words into actions. The US, as a co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group, will continue working with the conflicting parties towards the peaceful solution of the conflict,” he said.

Daniel Baer also hailed the mediatory work of the co-chairs and the Special Representative of OSCE Chairman-in-Office with the conflicting parties.

## International News

### Thousands of Syrian Refugees Flee to Lebanon

ARSAL, Lebanon (Reuters) – Thousands of Syrians were forced to flee to the Lebanese border town of Arsal on Monday, November 18, as heavy bombardments hit the town of Qara, 80 kilometers north of Damascus in the Qalamoun mountains.

The attacks came as rebels hid in the rocky terrain, refugees and opposition activists said.

Located near the highway linking the capital to Aleppo, the region has been used by rebels to cross from Lebanon.

The Danish Refugee Council, which operates on the Lebanese border, said there were preliminary estimates that 10,000 to 12,000 Syrians had fled the bombardment since Friday.

Hundreds of Syrian refugees lined up for shelter in bleak winter rain in the Lebanese border town of Arsal on Monday.

Imposing control over the area would help link Damascus with the Mediterranean coast, potentially an important route for chemical weapons to be removed from Syria under an October deal that spared Syria from US attacks.

While battlefield reports are difficult to verify, a statement by the opposition Qalamoun Media Centre said that Mondays bombardment of Qara was the heaviest since a government offensive there began on Friday.

### Turkey Roadmap Includes Relations with Armenia

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – After the complete failure of its “zero problems with neighbors” policy, Turkey has decided to try again.

According to Ak am newspaper, the Turkish Foreign Ministry has issued a roadmap for 2014, consisting of five points, one of which envisages normalization of relations with Armenia.

The year 2014 will be the year of normalization of relations with Armenia, the newspaper says. The authorities have discussed an option, according to which Armenia will “withdraw from two of the seven regions” of the security belt around Nagorno Karabagh and “will offer Azerbaijan a direct road to Nakhijevan.” The opening of the Turkish-Armenian border is also expected, it says.

Other issues to be tackled, in addition to Armenia and Artsakh are Northern Cyprus, relations with Iraq, ease of tensions with Israel and the Syrian conflict.

### Caucasus Muslim Leader Sends Letter to Catholicos

ECHMIADZIN (Arminfo) – Chairman of the Caucasus Muslims Board Sheikh-ul-Islam Haji Allahshukur Pashazadeh has sent a letter to Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos All Armenians, APA reports.

In the letter Pashazadeh informs about the outcomes of his meeting with Armenian serviceman Hakop Injigulyan, who is being held hostage in Azerbaijan. The meeting took place at the request of Catholicos Karekin II.

### Armenian FM Speaks at UNESCO General Assembly Session

PARIS (Armenpress) – The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Eduard Nalbandian attended the session of the UNESCO General Assembly on November 11 in Paris and delivered a speech. The Department for Press, Information and Public Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia reported that on November 12 Nalbandian left for Geneva to speak at Geneva University. On November 14 he chaired the session of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers in Strasbourg.



# Community News

## Bridge to the Future Gala Raises Over \$100,000 for New Church in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – All of the elegance and glamour of a Parisian soiree greeted guests attending the 3rd Annual Bridge to the Future Gala Dinner & Dance on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine. Two hundred people enjoyed this magnificent event that netted over \$100,000 for a new church campus near Del Mar in the City of San Diego. The event was organized by the Gala and Trust Fund Committees of St. John Garabed Armenian Church.

The Gala featured Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, as guest of honor, and San Diego's NBC 7 reporter, Megan Tevzian, as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Other dignitaries and guests included Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, Past Primate of the Western Diocese of North America; Parish Priest Rev. Datev Tatoulian and his wife, Yeretzkin Araxy Tatoulian; Carol Artinian, chairman of the St. John Garabed Parish Council and Harry Krikorian, chairman of the St. John Garabed Trust Fund Committee.

Also present were members of the professional consulting team for the new property, Marcela Escobar-Eck, Anita Hayworth and Brian Grover; Joe Kellejian, former mayor and city councilman of Solana Beach; Ernie Dronenburg, San Diego county clerk; Victor Manoushakian, a member of the Carmel Valley Planning Group; and dancer and choreographer Armen Way from "Dancing with the Stars," with dancer Natalia Lind.

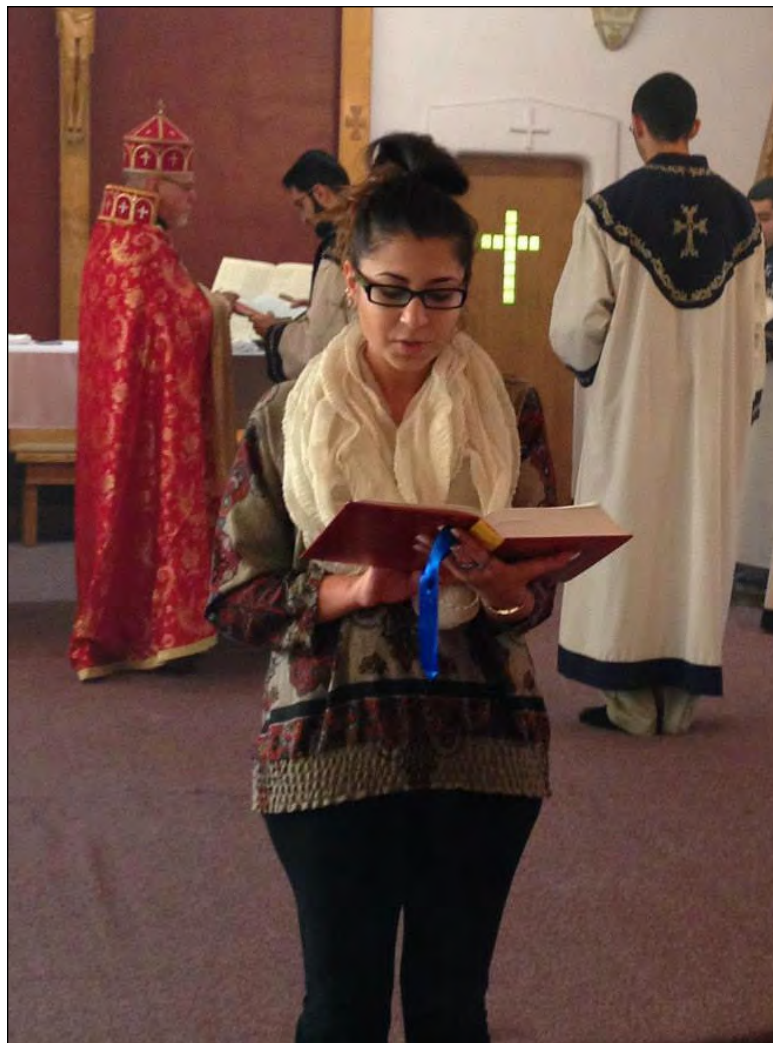
Upon arrival, guests were treated to champagne, appetizers and a silent auction with more than 50 baskets and items. Inside the Paris-themed ballroom, Lisa Kradjian opened the evening and introduced Tevzian.

Welcoming guests to "An Evening in Paris," Tevzian stated, "I am so excited to be here. I'm a San Diego gal, a graduate of Torrey Pines High School, and I'm proud to be Armenian and I couldn't be happier to be among you tonight as the San Diego Armenian community writes its next chapter and builds a new church campus for all of us, at the new property near Del Mar. With a new sanctuary, social hall, education center, youth center, offices and outdoor Armenian Heritage Park, the campus will truly be a jewel of San Diego."

The program featured a Color Guard presentation by the SDSU/USD NROTC and the singing of the national anthems by Element Band. Tatoulian delivered the opening remarks and invocation: "Today, with great joy and by the Grace of God, we gather together at the third annual Bridge to the Future Gala sponsored by the St. John Garabed Trust Committee. This is truly a wondrous occasion. Over the last five years, the Trust Committee has worked hard to realize this project. Each one of us should do our best to keep the foundation of the bridge solid and strong for current and future generations to come. We are actually building three bridges at the same time. The first is spiritual, keeping our relationship with God and Lord Jesus Christ. The second connects our spirit with that of our ancestors. The third connects the current generation with the many future generations to come."

Introduced by Tatoulian, Derderian gave an inspiring keynote speech: "The Bridge is the Church – the divine institution which has become the stronghold of our faith life for over 1700 years. Our ancestors have been church builders and have continuously enriched their lives with the Word of God. The Bridge is the Church – we are the Bridge and we are empowered with the vision of our forefathers to become the ambassadors of the Christian Faith. Established decades ago, St. Garabed Armenian Church has taken the next step to expand our present facility into a new location with the

see GALA, page 7



The conference concluded with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

## Art of Communication a Focus of ACYOA Leadership Conference

STONY POINT, N.Y. – Young adults from 18 parishes across the Eastern Diocese gathered here for the annual Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) Leadership Conference weekend at the Don Bosco Retreat Center, from November 8 to 10.

By Armen Terjimanian

Sponsored by the ACYOA Central Council, this year's conference examined effective styles of communication and let participants evaluate their abilities to communicate as leaders in their parishes.

Conference sessions also taught the 41 participants how to effectively communicate the Gospel of Christ in their everyday lives.

Conference sessions included a Bible study led by the Rev. Kapriel Mouradjian, pastor of Holy Resurrection Church of New Britain, Conn.; a lecture on the art of communication by Dr. Herand Markarian, playwright and adjunct professor at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary; a presentation on communication through sacred music by Deacon Rubik Mailian, chair of the Sacred Music Council; and a talk on Christian communication and social media by Maria Derderian, youth minister at St. James Church of Watertown, Mass.

Other sessions included a presentation on "Ayo!" – a Fund for Armenian Relief sponsored platform that allows individuals and groups in Armenia to make their philanthropic ideas become reality – by Andre Berg; and a breakout group discussion on how to handle communication mishaps and dilemmas in local ACYOA chapters facilitated by Jennifer Morris, director of the Diocese's Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), visited the conference on Saturday afternoon and presented participants with the Diocese's Divine Liturgy pew book as a gift. Diocesan Vicar the Very Rev. Fr. Simeon Odabashian also joined the group on Saturday morning for matins and to interact with the participants during the morning sessions.

"This weekend's theme was so poignant because it allowed us to look at how we communicate our faith through the lens of our everyday interactions," said participant Christine Santourian of St. John Church of Southfield, Mich.

Mouradjian and Rev. Mardiros Chevian, dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, served as the conference chaplains.

Lorie Odabashian, coordinator at the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, assisted the ACYOA Central Council with organizing and leading the weekend's events.

The Rev. Abraham Malkhasyan, pastor of Holy Martyrs Church of Bayside, NY, see ACYOA, page 5

## ATP Expands Presence on West Coast

GLENDALE – Armenia Tree Project (ATP) announces the addition of Maral Habeshian to the organization's US staff as Western Region development director.

"The growth and influence of the Armenian-American community on the West Coast is a force to be reckoned with. We quickly understood that with the third largest concentration of Armenians in the world outside of Armenia and Russia, California needed a strong ATP presence," said Managing Director Tom Garabedian. "We're proud to have Maral on our team to continue the work done by Hermine Mahmoudian and to work in collaboration with Anahit Gharibyan."

Habeshian's experience in working with development projects includes working with the World Bank and IMF missions to Armenia and the Armenian Relief Society's earthquake relief initiatives in the aftermath of the December 1988 Spitak earthquake.

More recently, she worked with Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Krekorian and headed marketing and development for the joint USC-Children's Hospital Los Angeles fetal therapy program, as well as development initiatives and community outreach at Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center. She was also the English section editor of Asbarez newspaper and the project director of the inaugural ANCA National Telethon.



Maral Habeshian

"It's a privilege to work for an organization that is improving Armenia's environment with its planting and reforestation efforts and long-term socioeconomic development of villages. ATP is heightening environmental awareness throughout Armenia, and most important, by teaching respect for the environment both in Armenia and in the Diaspora, it is nurturing a new generation," noted Habeshian. "I am excited to help raise awareness of these amazing programs and develop broad support in California and beyond."

## Traveler, Writer, Producer Gazarian to Speak at About Exotic Adventures

WATERTOWN – On Monday December 2, writer and producer Ric Gazarian will be the speaker at the dinner meeting of the St. James Armenian Church Men's Club. The topic will be "Volunteering in Armenia – Receiving by Giving."

Gazarian enjoys travel and the experiences associated with discovering new people and places. His travels have brought him to more than 75 countries and all seven continents.

He was born in Wellesley, Mass., graduated from Boston College and currently resides in Chicago.

Gazarian spent six months volunteering at an orphanage and an after-school group in Yerevan, Armenia. He also spent eight months volunteering at an orphanage in Phuket, Thailand and a homeless shelter for teenagers in Bangkok, Thailand.

Travel, whether good or bad, contributes to an astounding mosaic of memories. Some of these memories include being shaken down for a bribe by Russian cops on the streets of see GAZARIAN, page 4





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Hartford's St. George Church Celebrates 60 Years

HARTFORD, Conn. — The St. George Church of Hartford celebrated its 60th consecration anniversary on Sunday, November 10.

Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian visited the parish on the occasion, celebrating the Divine Liturgy and presiding over a requiem service for the parish's founders, aided throughout by the parish pastor, the Rev. Gomidas Zohrabian.

To conclude the service, the Primate led the congregation in a veneration prayer for the "Relic of St. Vartan the Brave" — a gift to the Eastern Diocese from Karekin II, the Catholicos of All Armenians, in honor of the 45th anniversary of New York's St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral — which the Primate has been bringing with him on his parish visits.

In the course of the celebration, Barsamian bestowed a special blessing and words of encouragement on the members of the St. George Junior Choir: Victoria and Inna Abalyan, Alexander Demircan, Melanie and Taline Norsigian, Veronica Sardaryan and Angel Zohrabian.

An anniversary banquet followed services at the local Manchester Country Club: a lovely setting overlooking a golf course and lake. More than 100 people came out to express their love and dedication to St. George Church.

Amid the festive atmosphere, there was a

solemn moment when the St. George "Parishioner of the Year Award" was presented posthumously to Julie Tashjian, a vital and inspiring presence in the parish and Diocese for many years and a former Connecticut secretary of state, who passed away unexpectedly earlier this year. The award was accepted with gratitude and humility by Tashjian's husband, Jack.

Others were also honored during the banquet. Young parishioner Sara DerArahamian received the St. George "Outstanding Service Award." Five longtime members were acknowledged by the Primate: Siran Mardirosian received a Diocesan Certificate of Appreciation; and Helene DerArahamian, Zabelle Harutunian, Edward Bagdigian and Haige Garabedian received the Diocese's "St. Vartan Award." All of the recipients, as well as some of their family members, thanked the Primate for his kind gesture.

The banquet program included vocal selec-



Altar servers and choir members pose for a group photo with Archbishop Barsamian and Fr. Gomidas Zohrabian.



Sunday School and Armenian School students, as well as members of the parish dance ensemble, perform at the anniversary banquet.

tions by the Sunday School and Armenian School students: *Mer Hairenik* and *Erevan-Erebuni*. There was also a dance performance by the parish youth group, trained by the Vanoush Khanamirian Dance Academy of Hartford, under the artistic director and choreographer Tomas Harutyunyan.

Among the day's speakers, Parish Council Chair Michael DeCorleto delivered an inspirational message in which he shared his own spiritual journey. He reminded the audience of the power of prayer, and exhorted them to continue to sustain the church.

Zohrabian expressed his heartfelt congratulations to all the members of the community. "We should remember the remarkable faith of our forefathers who responded to the call of Jesus Christ and had a divine vision to build a house of worship," he said. "We praise our forefathers who made tremendous sacrifices to erect this wonderful sanctuary of St. George, which offers spiritual nourishment, cultural heritage, and social activities. We have come a long way and achieved this great milestone through their sacrifices and dedication."

Barsamian likewise congratulated the parishioners and Zohrabian on the 60th

anniversary, paid tribute to the parish forefathers and expressed his gratitude to see the church continuing with the involvement and commitment of the parishioners. He talked about the role of the church youth under the spiritual guidance of Zohrabian. After his words of gratitude the Primate offered a benediction to conclude the banquet.

The parish's 60th anniversary banquet committee included Cynthia Messikian, Virginia Wasynczuk and Melanie Brown, as well as the photographer Mark Harutunian.

## Art of Communication a Focus of ACYOA Leadership Conference

ACYOA, from page 4

and Garen Karamyan, the church's youth director, also attended the conference.

Six seminarians from St. Nersess Armenian Seminary joined the young adults to learn, grow, and socialize during the weekend.

The conference concluded on Sunday with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy by Chevian. A wrap-up session followed services.

Participants said that they found the weekend inspiring.

"The biggest statement I took away from the weekend is to keep your spiritual truth," said



Conference participants speak with Andre Berg of the Fund for Armenian Relief about the organization's "Ayo!" program.

Melissa Mardoian of Sts. Joachim and Anne Church of Palos Heights, Ill. "This can be done by communicating your Christian morals and values not only verbally, but also with your actions."

The skills learned during the conference also helped the ACYOA members to prepare for future leadership roles in their parishes.

"After graduating college, I realized the time for me to become a leader in the parish as a whole is fast approaching," said Christine Hovsepian of Holy Trinity Church of Cambridge, Mass. "This Leadership Conference helped me prepare for that day more than I could imagine."

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## OBITUARY

## Estelle A. Bogosian

ANDOVER, Mass. — Estelle (Aghoian) Bogosian, 77, died on October 18 at Wingate Andover after a long illness.

Born on December 15, 1935, in Haverhill, Mass., she was the daughter of the late Martin and Beatrice Aghoian. She was a longtime resident of Andover.

She loved to cook and garden and was a loving and devoted daughter, wife, mother, sister, cousin, niece and friend. She was a kind and giving soul and nothing made her happier than sharing the fruits of her labors. She loved being outdoors, was a hard-worker, learned from childhood on a farm. Though she loved her children, she dearly loved her three granddaughters, whom she called her "Sweeties." Even as she became ill, she always ensured that she had gifts for them whenever they visited her.

She loved to travel to warm weather destinations, especially Puerto Rico, the Caribbean islands and Florida.

She leaves her husband of 58 years, Aram Bogosian of Andover; her son, Brian Bogosian and his wife, Lisa; and her granddaughters, Ever and Lily of San Francisco; her daughter, Cynthia Bogosian of Boston; and granddaughter, Jacqueline Mimno of Los Angeles; her brother,



Richard and his wife, Sheila, of North Andover and West Palm Beach, Fla.; and her brother, Allen and his wife, Darlene, of Methuen.

The Bogosian family wants to thank the nurses and caregivers at Wingate Andover for their love and care of Estelle in the final stage of her life's journey.

Handling the arrangements was Cataudella Funeral Home, Methuen. The funeral was held on Tuesday, October 22, at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, 110 Main St., Haverhill, followed by a graveside service and burial at Elmwood Cemetery.

## Edward Guleserian

Longtime Sheraton Commander Hotel President

BELMONT, Mass. (*Boston Globe*) — As president of the Sheraton Commander Hotel in Cambridge, Edward Guleserian was known to strike up long-lasting friendships with his employees and help them whenever he could.

When the head housekeeper of more than 37 years was diagnosed with breast cancer, she asked Guleserian if he would donate to a breast cancer walk in which she planned to participate. Though neither knew, it would be one of his last generous acts, and without pause, he promised to support the walk. Three days later, Guleserian died, but his compassion outlived him.

"After he passed, we went into his desk and he had written a check on that morning to the American Cancer Society," said his daughter Dr. Kristine Guleserian, a physician in Dallas. "He was one of those guys who was true to his word."

Guleserian, who served as president of the Sheraton Commander for more than 40 years and was a major presence in the Cambridge business community, died of a heart attack October 7 in his Belmont home. It was his 76th birthday.

His wife, Nancy Guleserian, said Guleserian's gestures of generosity, such as the one he made in his final days, were extended to all sorts of people.

"You could have been the king, a president, or an immigrant who could hardly speak English, but if you came to him with a problem, it would become the most important thing" she said. "He would deal with it."

A son of Armenian immigrants, Edward Nubar Guleserian did not take freedom for granted, and he was driven to succeed. His parents, Dertad Guleserian and the former Vergin Mahserigian, fled the Armenian genocide in 1915.

Born in Arlington in 1937, Guleserian grew up with a father in the hotel business, a path he followed, too. The youngest of three children, he graduated from Watertown High School in 1955 and graduated with a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1960.

Guleserian met Nancy Aghaian at a dance in a Scituate hotel in 1960. Although Guleserian didn't love to move his feet, he obliged for her, and soon they were smitten with each other. He was working in New York State, but the two corresponded constantly and married in 1967.

After college, Edward Guleserian served in the Army as an artillery officer in Fort Sill, Okla.

He then took a job with Bethlehem Steel Corp. in New York State as a metallurgist. He returned to Boston in 1969 to assume the presidency of the Sheraton Commander, taking over for his father.

From the moment he took that role, his extended family grew to include every employee and every guest.

"He enjoyed speaking to the guests, finding out about who they were, and why they were in town," said his son Michael Guleserian of

Cambridge.

Edward Guleserian would lend employees money if they were struggling and give them ample time off for family matters.

He loved to dote on his hotel guests. Perhaps one of his most memorable gestures involving guests occurred when a couple who had celebrated their wedding reception in the hotel long ago sent him the bill in 2001, thinking he might find amusing the price of services rendered in 1938. They had paid \$99.50, which covered the cost of food and beverages for the 50 who attended, along with the cake, orchestra, and tips.

"My dad then researched the couple's wedding," said Michael, who now manages the Commander. "He found out what they had for dinner and the song they danced to. He even tracked down family, and planned a surprise."

Under the guise of offering them a free dinner, Guleserian had a limo pick up the couple at their Cambridge home and bring them to the hotel. After dinner, he escorted them to the George Washington Ballroom, where Would You Like to Take a Walk? — a popular 1930s song they had danced to at their reception — was played and the couple began to dance.

"When the song ended, all of their kids came out from another room and surprised them," said Michael, who added that his father also presented the couple with a framed copy of the *Globe* from August 3, 1938, their wedding day, and "put them up for the night too."

As a member of the Cambridge area's business community, Edward Guleserian served on many boards and for associations, including as treasurer of the Cambridge Hotel Association and president of the Cambridge Rotary Club. His dedication to Cambridge was recognized in 1997, when the mayor designated a corner as Edward Guleserian Square.

Edward Guleserian was also a Parish Council member at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown and he directed many Catholic Charities efforts in Cambridge and Somerville.

In addition to his wife, daughter and son, he leaves a sister, Mary Bergoudian of Belmont.

A service was held for Guleserian on October 10 in St. James Armenian Church, where in 2007 he and his wife had been named parishioners of the year and were awarded the St. Nersess Shnorhali (the Graceful) Medal. Burial was in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge.

Edward Guleserian, who served as president of the Sheraton Commander until the day he died, found ways to incorporate his interest in the hotel industry into all parts of life.

His daughter said that when she took medical exams at various hotels along the way to becoming a doctor, her father always had two questions afterward.

"I came home and said, 'Dad, I'm done with my boards,'" she recalled. " 'Huh,' he said. 'How did they go? And how were the hotel rooms?'"

## Alice Sahagen

COSTA MESA, Calif. — At 7:20 a.m. on October 17, Alice Sahagen died peacefully at home. She was 99.

Loving, generous, gracious — these qualities flowed from Alice (Nahigian) Sahagen to bless her family and friends.

Her parents — Elmas (Terzian) and Mardiros Nahigian — had emigrated from the village of Hussenig in Kharpet, to the Boston area in the early 1900s. They soon became active in the Armenian community and helped establish the Armenian Apostolic Church of Boston, where new immigrants were able to affirm their spiritual and ethnic identities.

Into this loving faith community, Alice was born on January 6, 1914, was baptized into the Faith on November 20, 1916, and was raised in the Church. Her faith in God never appeared to lapse, and she was devoted to trying to live a life

pleasing to Him. She was active in Holy Trinity Apostolic Church of Cambridge, her family being among the founding members.

In her home, she always offered thanks before meals and wouldn't lay her head on her pillow at night without first praying. As a mother, she raised her children in the Church, ensuring that they were taught the truths of the Christian faith.

Upon graduation from high school, she attended the Chandler Secretarial School in

Boston, and later became an executive secretary at Arthur D. Little in Cambridge.

After both her daughters (Beverly and Judi) married and moved to California, she and her sisters, Agnes and Gertrude, moved as well in 1984 and bought a home just one mile from the grandchildren, Debbie and Pauly. They became active in the Costa Mesa parish of the Armenian Apostolic Church when it formed in April 1985, especially enjoying the new friends they made there.

Most meaningful to her grandchildren, of course, was the way their grandmother and their aunts became part of their lives — cheering at their games, taking them on vacations, spending holidays together, playing backgammon and Scrabble with them.

During the final two years of her life, He brought loving Christian women to care for her and to transmit His love and

compassion to her.

In the few days before Alice Sahagen died, her grandchildren and great-granddaughter Kayla spent hours embracing and loving her. Her priest, Fr. Moushegh Tashjian, also visited, offering prayers and blessing, singing from the Divine Liturgy, and providing consolation.

The night before she died, all Alice's caregivers joined hands and encircled her in her bed, praying for her comfort.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

Members and Friends of the  
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Tekeyan Cultural Association  
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## Nora Azadian

for her tireless work on behalf of the  
Tekeyan Cultural Association  
and the preservation of  
our rich Armenian heritage

Cocktails, Mezza, Memories & Fun  
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at the Belian Art Center  
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## Bridge to the Future Gala Raises Over \$100,000 for New Church in San Diego

GALA, from page 4

vision to take the Bridge to the Future. For what we are it is God's gift to us for what we become it is our gift to God. We will succeed in our efforts to build our new church and the complex if only we respond to God's call with courage and wisdom, with genuine love and respect for our children. Transformation of the heart and soul is vital to attain a new beginning in our community life and the church."

Kradjian addressed the audience after dinner with an eloquent speech: "One of my favorite French writers, Victor Hugo, once said,

with Armen Way on the dance floor. Following the auction, guests were mesmerized by a performance by Way, Lind and Way's ensemble, who danced a sensational tango and can-can. The evening soared through the night with music and dancing provided by the Element Band.

The funds raised at the Gala support the Phase One of the Bridge to the Future campaign, whose goal is to raise a total of \$1 million for expenses and fees associated with the Conditional Use Permit application and final land acquisition. The property is located at



St. John Garabed Gala Committee with Archbishop Hovnan Derderian and Archpriest Rev. Datev A. K. Tatoulian

'Nothing is as powerful as an idea whose time has come.' Our time has come. God's idea for us, of a new Armenian Church campus, has come. That is what we are supporting and celebrating tonight. Not only tonight but in years to come, because we will have much to celebrate with our new Armenian Church campus. Not just when the permit approval comes, not just when the buildings are built, but when you and I are standing on the solid, holy ground, we will remember this night."

She added, "When we see our children and grandchildren running and singing and learning, making friends and discovering their identity and praying on that holy ground, we will have the deep joy and satisfaction of knowing that together we created something new for our Armenian people and for our wider community."

The party's energy didn't miss a beat with a successful live auction led by auctioneer Keith McLane. Hot-selling auction items included trips to Paris, Armenia and Cancun, premium seats at the 2014 Emmy and MTV Video Awards, catered, a gourmet dinner for 10 people, "Wheel of Fortune" VIP passes, a high-flyer fighter pilot mission and a private dance

13860 El Camino Real in San Diego, just one-half mile from the ocean.

Trust Fund Committee Chair Harry Krikorian provided this update, "The first major step toward acquiring our CUP has been accomplished. In September, we submitted a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report. The report was very favorable and is now undergoing review by the City and various agencies. Once it is approved and accepted, we move forward to mandated public hearings and finally the planning commission for plan approval. We expect this to occur in the spring of 2014."

The Gala Committee is thrilled to announce that the fourth Annual Bridge to the Future Gala Dinner & Dance - Venice Carnivale - will take place on Saturday, October 4, 2014. Details about the event will be available at [www.stjohngarabedtrust.org/gala\\_dinner\\_dance](http://www.stjohngarabedtrust.org/gala_dinner_dance) in early 2014. In the meantime, photos from the 2013 gala can be viewed at the same site.

To make an online donation or for more information about the new church campus, visit [www.stjohngarabedtrust.org](http://www.stjohngarabedtrust.org) or write [sjgsdtrust@gmail.com](mailto:sjgsdtrust@gmail.com). All contributions are tax-

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## Traveler, Writer Gazarian to Speak at about Adventures

GAZARIAN, from page 4

Moscow, being quarantined by the Chinese government in Tibet for five days, being felled by a case of unbearable food sickness in Yemen, being told by your new friend from Syria that "we hate America" as you drive to Damascus while smuggling cartons of cigarettes or being advised that the "number one mafia in Taiwan" might want to physically harm you.

Gazarian has published two books: 7000 KM To Go and Hit the Road India.

He also produced the full-length documentary, Hit The Road India. It premiered at the Golden Apricot Festival in Yerevan in the summer.

The social hour starts at 6:15 p.m. following by a complete traditional Armenian dinner at 7 p.m., at \$14 per person. The dinner meeting will be at the St. James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center - Keljik Hall, 465 Mount Auburn St.

Women are welcome.

## Donations to Sponsor a Teacher in Honor of Nora Azadian

• Sirop and Maro Bedrosian of Houston, Texas, join the Detroit community in congratulating and honoring Nora Azadian for her tireless work on behalf of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) and the preservation of our rich Armenian heritage, and donate \$500 to Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh.

• Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hintiryan of Detroit donate \$1,000 to the Sponsor a Teacher Program, in honor of Nora Azadian.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Deranian Discusses Evolution of Orphan Rug Story

DERANIAN, from page 1

At age 91, Deranian has seen much of the world and has accomplished much, too. He is a renowned dentist and has served on the faculty of Tufts University School of Dentistry. Deranian has written multiple books on Armenian subjects, including *Worcester Is America, the Story of Worcester's Armenians* and *Miracle Man on the Western Front: Dr. Varaztad H. Kazanjian, Pioneer Plastic Surgeon*.

In 1929, his mother, Varter Bogigian Deranian, 44, died while visiting relatives in Providence. "I was 6-years-old when she died. I have spent the rest of my life in an attempt to accurately trace her story," he said.

The younger Deranian was born in 1922 and grew up in Worcester. He attended Clark University in 1941, a few weeks before Pearl Harbor and served in the US Navy. He recalled taking an interest in Armenian history early on. "I wrote my first term paper on the Armenians. I didn't get a good grade on it," he chuckled, "but it tempted my imagination from there."

## Unimaginable Loss

Varter Bogigian Deranian was born in 1885 in the village of Husenik. Her father, Bedros Bogigian, had worked for five years in the mills of Worcester, the city Deranian would one day call home. Her uncle, Hagop Bogigian, a subject of Deranian's continued research, emigrated to the US, becoming a successful businessman and later benefactor of women's education, thus further helping establish ties with Massachusetts.

Martin Deranian has painstakingly rewoven the memories of his mother's life from family stories, historical research and physical artifacts, such as his mother's simple gold wedding band engraved with the date of her marriage as a young woman to Mughditch Nazarian, representing her life prior to the Genocide.

When she began her married life as Varter Nazarian, she had the promise of a young family and a bright future. However, beginning in 1915, all that changed when Mughditch Nazarian was dragged from his home one day, never to be seen by his young wife again. From there, the all-too-familiar story of Varter Nazarian's Genocide survival began as she faced the deportation march with her children.

Joyce Van Dyke's acclaimed play, "Deported: A Dream Play," documents the journey of Varter Nazarian and her close friend, Elmas Boyajian, Van Dyke's grandmother. During the arduous march, the two friends faced unimaginable pain, losing a total of nine children.

Varter Nazarian reached Urfa, having lost six children. While there, Swiss missionary Jakob Künzler, one of the central figures in the Armenian Orphan Rug, known as the "Father of Armenian Orphans," assisted her to reach Aleppo and to safety. Along with his wife, Künzler helped to shelter more than 1,400 orphan girls at the Ghazir orphanage administered by Near East Relief. In response to desperate need in 1915, Near East Relief, a newly established US humanitarian organization, dedicated its resources to saving more than 1 million refugees, raising funds and organizing a group of American medical personnel, civil servants and various other volunteers to aid those in need. The book notes the importance of this connection: "It is this link with Künzler, never forgotten, that drove [Martin Deranian] to write about this story of the Near East Relief, the Ghazir Armenian orphan weavers and President Coolidge."

"That story has captured my interest and I've devoted myself to whatever I can to tell that story," Deranian said.

## Orphan Rug

Martin Deranian first heard the story of the Armenian Orphan Rug from Alice Jernazian Haig, the daughter of Rev. Ephraim and Marie Jernazian, who had forged a strong bond with

his mother during the Genocide.

Alice Haig began her journey to find the rug in 1973. She located it at the home of Calvin Coolidge's son, John Coolidge, in Connecticut. She urged Deranian to continue the research she had begun and he, indeed, spent decades doing just that.

"The relief effort in the wake of the Genocide intrigued me and captivated my spirit. Coolidge has often been viewed as an austere figure, and yet, I learned he was actually quite a sentimental, warm man," explained Deranian.

Coolidge personally received some of the weavers at the White House and hosted them, Deranian added.

During the Armenian Rugs Symposium of 1982 in New York, Deranian first shared the story with the public when he delivered a paper titled "Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug."

That paper was later printed in the *Congressional Record* during the 1984 proceedings of the US Senate. Later that same year, the rug was temporarily unearthed from storage for a viewing at the White House with Sen. Carl Levin, former US Ambassador to the United Nations Set C. Momjian and Deranian himself. Deranian

recalled his own experience touching the rug "It was like touching heritage," Deranian recalled.



Weavers displaying the Orphan Rug in Ghazir prior to sending it to the US

The orphans wove more than 3,000 rugs. Two of the orphans set up their own business in Philadelphia years later. After much searching, Deranian purchased one of these rugs as his own piece of this little known chapter of history.

In 1995, the White House hosted another viewing of the rug, this time for Vartoochi (Hovsepian) Gulezian, one of the orphan weavers and one of the two girls brought to America.

Deranian continued his work and with the help of the Armenian Cultural Foundation and guidance of its curator, Ara Ghazarians, the book became a reality. "They helped me refine and bring it to fruition," said Deranian. "They played such an important role."

The release of the *Armenian Orphan Rug* prompted several cultural events, the culmination of which was scheduled for December 16, an event at the Smithsonian which they hoped would include the rug itself. In early September, the Smithsonian announced that the White House had declined to lend the rug out, thus prompting the cancellation of the event. Many have voiced their disappointment with decision to withhold the rug and by default, continue the denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Along with US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern, several congressmen reached out to the White House asking for a reversal of its position. The common theory among various segments of the Armenian community, and alluded to in a recent *Washington Post* article and NPR report, is that the White House's denial represents a cautious approach in order not to offend ally Turkey. The rug's creation clearly references the provenance of the weavers and their status as orphans due to the Genocide, a reference the Obama administration has steered clear of since his election.

For Deranian, this development has been met with disappointment. "I think it is a very unfortunate stance. I see this as a story of America's compassion. This [stance] hides that story of America's heroic Near East Relief efforts," said Deranian.

It's not just about remembering tragedy, but for Deranian, the story of the rug represents hope. "Approaching the centennial [of the Genocide], I wanted to show this nation's goodwill and the altruistic response of America — an extreme humanitarian act. Many people died serving in attempts to save these children."

## Open Feud over Hidden Rug

RUG WAR, from page 1

Armenian Orphan Rug was to be featured in a Washington exhibit December 16 at the Smithsonian Institution Building, known as the Castle, that sought to call attention to a new book about the rug, which the lawmakers called a "pivotal icon related to the Armenian Genocide."

A White House spokeswoman said Tuesday that displaying the rug "for only half a day in connection with a private book launch event, as proposed, would have been an inappropriate use of US government property, would have required the White House to undertake the risk of transporting the rug for limited public exposure, and was not viewed as commensurate with the rug's historical significance."

Aram S. Hamparian, executive director of the Armenian National Committee of America, attributed the decision to politics, contending that the administration was "catering to the Turkish government's sensitivities about the Armenian genocide."

"It is without a doubt a political decision," he said in an interview. Hamparian was in New York on Tuesday to take up the issue with the US ambassador to Armenia, John A. Heffern.

An estimated 1.2 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks as the empire was dissolving during World War I, an episode historians have concluded was genocide. But Turkey has contended that Turks and Armenians were casualties of war, famine and disease.

In September, a Smithsonian curator wrote the Armenian Cultural Foundation and Armenian Rugs Society, which were helping to organize the exhibit, that the White House decided that "it cannot lend" the rug for the exhibit. "Needless to say this was a great surprise and disappointment to us here," wrote Paul Michael Taylor, director of the Smithsonian's Asian cultural history program.

The rug, composed of more than 4 million hand-tied knots, was presented to Coolidge in appreciation for US humanitarian assistance. It features more than 100 images of animals, according to Hagop Martin Deranian, a 91-year-old Massachusetts dentist whose book "President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug" was to have been featured at the rug exhibit.

Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Burbank), who helped gather the signatures of 30 other lawmakers on a letter to the White House, called the White House decision "as inexplicable as it is hurtful to the Armenian community." Schiff added, "The rug is not only a symbol of the resilience of the Armenian people through their darkest days; it also serves as a tangible expression of the inherent truth that not only were 1.5 million people killed in the first genocide of the 20th century, but that the American government was a central player in efforts to call attention to the plight of the Armenian people and provide relief to survivors."

"It is difficult to express in words how deeply troubling it is that a historical and cultural treasure accepted by President Coolidge on behalf of the people of the United States may be being kept behind closed doors because of Turkish desire to keep discussion of certain historical facts out of the public discussion," Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-N.J.), co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, wrote the White House in a separate letter. Rep. Brad Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks) also wrote the White House, urging that the rug be put on permanent display at the Smithsonian: "We must acknowledge and learn from the tragic crimes against humanity that orphaned the weavers of this rug to ensure that they are never repeated."

Neither Schiff nor Sherman has received a White House response.

"The Armenian Orphan Rug is a piece of American history and it belongs to the American people. For over a decade, Armenian American organizations have sought the public display of the rug and have requested the White House and the State Department grant their request on numerous occasions. Unfortunately, Armenian Americans have yet to have their requests granted," said Schiff.

Meanwhile, the Armenian Assembly of America, an organization promoting public understanding of Armenian issues supported the efforts by the congressmen. "The Assembly appreciates the efforts of the Armenian Caucus, and will continue to press the case to ensure that this historical treasure is appropriately and permanently displayed for all Americans to enjoy," stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. "The Assembly also applauds the timely work of Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian and his new book documenting the history of this culturally significant rug and the support of the Armenian Cultural Foundation for ensuring its publication," Ardouny added.

Established in 1972, the Armenian Assembly of America is the largest Washington-based nationwide organization promoting public understanding and awareness of Armenian issues.

The controversy over the rug, first reported by the *Washington Post*, is the latest development on an issue that has roiled Capitol Hill for years.

A House panel in 2010 passed a resolution to officially recognize the mass killings between 1915 and 1918 as genocide, but the measure never made it to the House floor for a vote after Turkey recalled its ambassador in protest and US officials warned it could damage US relations with Turkey, an important ally.

In 2007, after a majority of House members signed on as co-sponsors, the resolution appeared headed toward approval.

But two dozen lawmakers withdrew their support after the George W. Bush administration and the Turkish government warned that passage of the resolution could lead Turkey to block US access to its air bases used to get supplies to American troops in Iraq.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# A Special Performance By a Unique Artist

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK – Sunday, October 20 was a special day at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, as pianist Sahar Arzruni performed a demanding program of classical and Armenian compositions with more than 150 in attendance.

The newly-appointed pastor of the church, Rev. Haig Kherlopian, and the church's Board



Pianist Sahar Arzruni

of Trustees vice chairman, Peter Kougasian, welcomed the crowd and introduced the artist who is also a well-known ethnomusicologist, writer, lecturer, and producer. Sahar Arzruni's many accomplishments include command performances at the White House, as well as at the British, Danish and Icelandic courts.

Starting his program with Chopin's *Polonaise in C-sharp minor*, (1826), known for its different textures and dynamics, the artist demonstrated his formidable technique and fiery expression in this work which is replete with octaves, arpeggios, as well as gentle melodies. Then came three well-known lyrical Chopin Nocturnes, and the composer's *Fantaise-Impromptu* (1834), with its many cross-rhythms, ending with mysterious waves. Again Arzruni displayed his impressive technique, phrasing and understanding of the work.

Aram Khachaturian was one of several Armenian composers that figured prominently in the program, which included his three-movement *Sonatina* (1959) with its gentle rhythms, and virtuosic and exciting finale, and the often-performed *Toccata* (1932), filled with diverse harmonies and expressionism.

A group of selections from Khachaturian's "Children's Album" was a delightful surprise for many. Reflecting the deep Armenian feelings of the charming works, Arzruni played several, including *Birthday* with its joyous childlike fun, and the humorous *Two Funny Aunties Have Quarreled*.

Following intermission, the concert took on an air of warm and friendly repartee as Arzruni related humorous and revealing anecdotes about a few of the composers and their works.

Babadjanian's *Elegy* (1978) is one of the most lyrical and soul-searing pieces ever written. Arzruni explained that Babadjanian was

one of the first to hear of Khachaturian's death in 1978 on Moscow State Radio. Babadjanian recalled that when Khachaturian heard a 16-year-old *duduk* player Levon Madoyan play this melody in the 1930's in Yerevan, Khachaturian was "mesmerized" and commented that "no human being can ever write such a beautiful piece. It is superhuman."

Babadjanian arranged this melody, and on the day of Khachaturian's death in 1978, he dedicated it to the memory of the great Armenian composer. The *Elegy* was played on Yerevan State Radio repeatedly for 24 hours the day of the composer's death. With great feeling, Arzruni performed this heart-rending composition.

Introducing *Achtamar* (1947) by Alan Hovhanness, Arzruni related that the composer wrote his first opera at the tender age of 4, and included in it a middle line used in the 14th and 15th centuries in Europe. However, Hovhanness was heartbroken when his mother said it was not playable, and threw it in the garbage. But that did not stop this genius who even as a child often couldn't sleep, seeing notes in his dreams. In a humorous aside, Arzruni revealed that the contemporary *Achtamar* piece really

should have been named after Hovhanness' cat Raja, whom he regarded as his sixth reincarnation. "The composer was so inspired by the piano keys on which Raja stepped that he quickly wrote them down."

A master interpreter of Komitas' piano music, Arzruni presented *Shoror of Mush* (1916), so musically representative of village life with its daily chores, dances, and children playing. (At the concert, a CD of Arzruni playing the complete piano works of Komitas was available).

Two masterworks completed the almost three-hour concert. Arzruni's deep understanding, and pianistic brilliance was demonstrated

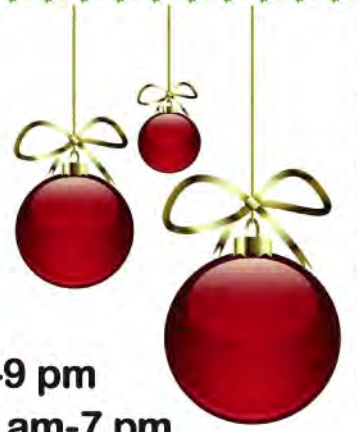


From left, Peter Kougasian, Louise Tezel, Sahar Arzruni and Hilda Melconian

in Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* (1801), one of the most popular and performed compositions, with its combination of nocturnal structure in the first movement, and turbulence in the last movement. Arzruni's masterful rendition of Schubert's *Impromptu in A-flat major* (1827), a composition of lyricism personified, brought the audience to its feet in a standing ovation.

Plaudits for the artist continued during the reception in the church hall. The event was organized by co-chairpersons Louise Tezel and

## 2013 Trinity Christmas BAZAAR



Friday, December 6, 3 pm-9 pm  
Saturday, December 7, 10 am-7 pm

### Delicious Armenian Dinners

Lamb Shish, Losh, Chicken Kebab, and Combos;  
Kheyma (Saturday lunch only)

served

Friday, 4:00 pm-7:30 pm  
Saturday, 11:30 am-6:00 pm

Take-out meals and A La Carte Menu Available

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED FOR MEALS ONLY -  
MASTERCARD, VISA AND AMERICAN EXPRESS

### Armenian Gourmet Foods, Delicacies and Pastries

Choreg, Braids, Paklava, Bourma, Nut & Cream  
Khadayif, Spinach Boreg, Tourshi, Manti, Hummus,  
Simit, Yalanchi, Anoushabour, Sini Kufta, Vospov  
Kheyma, Lahmejune and more!

### Booths and Vendors

Super Country Store, Farmer's Market, Candy Shoppe,  
Sports Silent Auction, The "Punch is Right" for Kids,  
Jewelry, "Second Time Around," Used Books, Made in  
Armenia Direct, Oak Street Embroidery, Raffles,  
ArmenianVendor.com and more!

### Santa's Playland

Saturday, December 7  
Peter Adamian Hall

for children ages 4-12  
Admission: \$5 per child

10:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.  
Various Fun-Filled Activities  
and

### Carnival Games

Tickets for Games  
50 cents or 5 for \$2  
With Prizes for All

11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### "Curious Creatures"

Live, interactive, educational,  
animal program featuring  
a variety of exotic and unusual  
animals along with many  
fascinating, fun facts



### Visit with Santa

And have your photo  
taken too!

Saturday, December 7  
1:30 pm-2:30 pm

Charles and Nevert Talanian  
Cultural Hall

Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston  
145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA • 617.354.0632

## Robert Jay Lifton, Marianne Hirsch and Peter Balakian to Discuss Definition of Survivor at Columbia Panel

NEW YORK – A panel about the meaning of being a survivor and featuring leading scholars in the field will be held at Columbia University on Wednesday, December 4, hosted by the Armenian Center at Columbia University.

"Survivor Meaning: After the Armenian Genocide, the Holocaust, and Hiroshima: A Symposium with Robert Jay Lifton, Peter Balakian and moderator Marianne Hirsch," will feature discussions about the survivor experi-

ence with a focus on psychological and social notions of meaning in the wake of three traumatic historical events.

Each of the panelists has made significant contributions to the study of survivor experience and memory. Robert Jay Lifton, the author of more than 20 books, is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at CUNY/Graduate Center and John Jay College for Criminal Justice and the Winner of the National Book Award for *Life*

*In Death: Survivors of Hiroshima*.

Marianne Hirsch is William Peterfield Trent Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University as well as Professor in the Institute for Research on Women and Gender. She is the author of many books including her most recent *The Generation of Postmemory: Writing and Visual Culture After the Holocaust*.

Balakian is Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar

Professor of the Humanities at Colgate University and currently the Ordjanian Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies at Columbia University. He is the author of many books including his New York Times best selling memoir *Black Dog of Fate*, which won the PEN/Albrand Prize.

The panel will begin at 7:45 p.m. in room 614 of the Schermerhorn building (located at 1198 Amsterdam Avenue). This event is free and open to the public.



# Arts & Living

## New Sunday School Books Released

NEW YORK – Much effort goes into creating Sunday School curricula and books, including for the most recent books issued by the Diocese.

Once the text was set, layout began along with the search for photographs – already underway by contacting Sunday Schools for assistance. The artist and designer of the entire We Believe series, Armen Edgarian, is a prize-winning photographer and freelance designer, currently working for the *Wall Street Journal*. A native of Iran, Edgarian spent long hours looking for the right photos or composing them himself where necessary. Designing for each grade level with the appropriate balance of Armenian and Christian iconography was a challenge, but somehow each book achieved the perfect blend.

While the new We Believe series has been the work of a number of textbook writers and clergy working in close collaboration with project director Elise Antreassian, these two books are the first that draw on talents from the Western Diocese. Both Debbie Derderian (Grade Seven) and Yeretzgin Talin Petoyan (Grade Two), are members of the Christian Education Council of the Western Diocese (the CEC nurtures teachers and provides resources for the Sunday Schools of the Western Diocese; Debbie is Chair) and long involved as leaders and educators in the church.



*Circles of Faith* (Grade Two) is comprised of 28 full-color individual newsletter lessons. *Surprised By Joy: Discovering God* (Grade Seven) is designed for middle schoolers whose faith questions are explored in the context of real life.

Petoyan was born and raised in Burbank, Calif. A graduate of St. Peter Armenian Church Sunday School of Van Nuys, she was preparing to attend Law School when she decided to pursue her true calling of education. In 2001, she earned both her California Teaching Credential and MA in elementary education. Since then, she has taught grades K-3 in both private and public schools.

She served as a counselor, dean, director and curriculum coordinator for the Western Diocese Summer Camp Program and taught Sunday School for over 20 years at various grade levels, serving as superintendent for 10 of those years. Since 2009, she lives in Southern California with her husband, Fr. Sarkis Petoyan, pastor of St. Gregory Church in Pasadena, and their 6-year-old daughter, Grace Shenorij Verjeen. One of her greatest joys and accomplishments was leading 10 annual pilgrimages  
see BOOKS, page 12



From left, Nune Hakobyan, Diana Adamyan and Nicole Babikian Hajjar

## Making Dreams Come True for Young Musicians

LEXINGTON, Mass. – Anna and Noubar Afeyan hosted a benefit gala reception and recital at their home on October 26, for the YerazArt Foundation.

The program featured 13-year old violin prodigy Diana Adamyan from Armenia. Adamyan is the 2012 winner of the Silver Nutcracker at the Nutcracker International TV Contest for Young Musicians. She had participated in the Moscow-based competition with the help of YerazArt Foundation.

Noubar Afeyan and Raffi Festekjian founded the non-profit YerazArt several years ago in order to help young musicians in Armenia. Through the years, the group has adapted its goals and activities in order to help with the most urgent needs for young musicians in Armenia. Whereas in previous years a group of young musicians would be brought to tour the US, now the foundation helps musicians, donates instruments to music schools both in Yerevan and remote areas and offers some financial support to music teachers in Armenia in the process.

YerazArt Executive Board Chair Nicole Babikian Hajjar spoke about the mission of YerazArt at the event.

“Our mission is twofold. At the micro level, we help young and talented musicians in Armenia seize opportunities to be the best they can. This can mean anything from being able to participate in an international competition abroad, being able to attend a priceless master class with a visiting artist or simply being able to play on a better instrument,” she said.

In addition to these efforts, the group also assists music schools especially in more remote areas in Armenia – such as Kapan, Aparan, Talin and Gumri – by donating instruments to them and helping pay the salaries of music teachers, Hajjar noted.

“We also strive to revive some disciplines that are in danger of extinction for the lack of available and quality instruments,” she added. One such case is the oboe.

Both Hajjar and Anna Afeyan in their comments spoke about the launching of a Sistema music program in Armenia. Sistema was originally founded in Venezuela 40 years ago, targeting the most economically and socially vulnerable children and teaching them to play musical instruments in orchestras. The goal has been not only  
see DREAMS, page 11



Raffi Festekjian, left, with Anthony Barsamian

## NAASR Christmas Open House to Feature Talk and Book Launch with Paul Ignatius

BELMONT, Mass. – Former Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius will speak in conjunction with the publication of his new book *5 x 3: Fifteen Books by Three Great Armenian Writers* by NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press, highlighting NAASR's 2013 Christmas Open House on Thursday, December 12. The open house will begin at 6 p.m. with Ignatius' talk set for 8 p.m. The evening's events will take place at the NAASR Center, 395 Concord Ave.

Both before and after the lecture, NAASR's bookstore will be open and feature a one-night-only, 20-percent-off sale, with additional discounts of 40 percent or more on selected titles. Numerous recent titles will be available. Refreshments will be served. Ignatius' book *5 x 3* will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

Ignatius served for eight years in the presidential administrations of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, first as an assistant secretary of the army, then as under-secretary of the army and assistant secretary of defense, and finally in 1967 as secretary of the navy. Following his government service, he was president of the Washington Post for two years and president of the Air Transport Association for 15 years.

Ignatius is the recipient of the Army Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award and the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award. Earlier this year, the US Navy announced that a future Navy destroyer will bear the name USS Paul Ignatius.

A descendant of Armenian parents from the



Paul R. Ignatius

Kharpert region of Historic Armenia, Ignatius is a native of Glendale and a graduate of the University of Southern California. He earned an MBA from Harvard University after serving as a naval officer in World War II. He is also the author of the memoirs *On Board: My Life in the Navy, Government, and Business* (Naval Institute Press, 2006) and *Now I Know in Part*, the second edition of which was published by NAASR in 2011.

*5 x 3: Fifteen Books by Three Great Armenian Writers* offers summaries, commentaries, and anecdotes by Ignatius on a selection of works by Leon Z. Surlmelian (*I Ask You, Ladies and Gentlemen, 98.6, The Daredevils of Sassoun, Apples of Immortality and Techniques of Fiction Writing*), Michael Arlen (*The London Venture, The Green Hat, Hell! Said the Duchess, Babes in the Woods and Man's Mortality*) and William Saroyan (*The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze, Inhale & Exhale, Three Times Three, My Name Is Aram, Sons Come & Go and Mothers Hang in Forever*), three major 20th-century Armenian authors writing in English.

Mixing the keen observations of an astute and experienced reader with the personal observations and witty asides of a born raconteur, Ignatius brings a fresh perspective to books that are both familiar and obscure.

Admission to the event is free (donations appreciated).





ARTS & LIVING

# Erevan Choral Society to Perform Two Christmas Holiday Concerts

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston will celebrate its 46th year with two Christmas Holiday Concerts. The first, on Sunday December 1, at 7 p.m., will be held at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, 175 Oaklawn Ave., Cranston, RI, and celebrates the 100th anniversary of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence. Soloists will include soprano Narine Ojakhyan, tenor Giovanni Formisano and soprano Nouné Karapetian.

The second concert, to be held on December 15, at 7 p.m., at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge, will feature soloists mezzo-soprano Victoria Avetisyan and tenor Yeghishe Manucharyan. This concert is also

held in observance of the 25th anniversary of the earthquake that devastated northern Armenia in 1988. Rev. Vasken A. Kouzouian, pastor, stated that the parish is honored that Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), and Garen Nazarian, Ambassador of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations, will be in attendance that evening.

Composer Konstantin Petrossian will conduct both concerts. The concerts are a gift to the community, but those interested in supporting the Erevan Choral Society may make contributions to Holy Trinity Armenian Church with a direction that the contribution is to benefit the Erevan Choral Society.

— Robert Dulgarian

## Making Dreams Come True for Young Musicians

DREAMS, from page 10  
to teach the children music but also to help them think collaboratively in an orchestra setting.

“At a time when the world becomes ever more global but ever more fractured, it is all the more befitting to be reminded of the role of music as a universal language and a universal connector,” Hajjar said.

Hajjar noted that the evening had raised enough funds to cover the entire budget for the upcoming year in Armenia.

After cocktails and dinner, Adamyan, accompanied on the piano by local pianist, Nune Hakobyan, played Keler Tsofer by Komitas, and arranged by Dumbayev; Meditation by Jules Massenet, two pieces by Fritz Kreisler and La Ronde de Lutins, by Antonio Bazzini. After the thunderous applause that greeted the performance, they played Groong, by Komitas and arranged by Aslamazyan.

The 13-year-old Adamyan was born into a musical family; both her parents are violinists with the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, with her father the orchestra’s concertmaster.

Adamyan seemed transported to another realm during the performance. Gone was the shy young girl and in her place stood a mature musician, fully in command of a large audience.

Hakobyan, praising the young violinist, said, “she creates a unique world of sounds. She will go very far. She has natural talent. We will hear big things about her. She has such technique, feeling and musicality.”

Anna Afeyan summed up what many in the

audience thought: “It was a pleasure to listen to her. We shared a special moment. She has a natural musicality.”

Sylvie Zakarian, a YerazArt board member and a classically-trained percussionist and marimba player, praised Adamyan’s technical achievement. “She touched everyone. It was not cliché,” she said. “You could clearly see she was



Anna and Noubar Afeyan

enjoying it.”

Noubar Afeyan, adding his voice in thanking the guests for supporting YerazArt, noted that the piano played by Hakobyan had been played by many hands, both advanced and beginner, since it had originally belonged to his mother, who had taught piano in Beirut.

For more information on the organization, visit [www.yerazart.org](http://www.yerazart.org)



Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian and his wife, Mary, with Dr. Susan Pattie (right)

### SAINTS SAHAG & MESROB ARMENIAN CHURCH

### CULTURAL COMMITTEE



proudly presents a



## CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CONCERT

*Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church*

featuring

### EREVAN Chorale and Orchestra

of the

Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge, MA

Father Oshagan Minassian, *Founder and Music Director (1965-2008)*

**Composer Konstantin Petrossian, Conductor**

*Featured Soloists*

**Narine Ojakhyan, Soprano, New York**

**Giovanni Formisano, Tenor, MA**

**Nouné Karapetian, Soprano, MA**

**Sunday, December 1, 2013, 7:00 p.m.**

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church  
175 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island

*The public is warmly invited to attend this complimentary concert*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



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Միեր Մկրտչեան Թատրոսխումբ

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Presents Hagop Baronian's

## Բաղաքավարութեան

## Վնասները

## The Perils of Politeness

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Բեմադրութեամբ՝ Գագիկ Կարապետեանի

Directed by Gagik Karapetyan

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Շաբաթ, Նոյեմբեր 23, 2013 ժամը 8-ին Saturday, November 23, 2013 at 8pm

Կիրակի, Նոյեմբեր 24, 2013 ժամը 4-ին Sunday, November 24, 2013 at 4pm

Tickets: \$50, \$35, \$25

For Information/Tickets Call Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850, or Missak Boghosian (212) 819-0097





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## CALENDAR

## CONNECTICUT

**NOVEMBER 23- Holiday Fair 10-3pm, Holy Resurrection Armenian Church, 1910 Stanley Street, New Britain.** Featuring Armenian food & pastries, Vendors for holiday shopping, Kitchen Cafe, Santa appearance from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is free. For more info, contact the church office at 860-223-7875.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**NOVEMBER 22 and 23 — Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church of Chelmsford Annual Bazaar, 10 a.m.- 8 p.m., 180 Old Westford Road, Exit 32 off Route 3, Drum Hill Rotary.** Event will feature lunch and dinner served from 12 noon to 7 p.m. Takeout available. Homemade Armenian food with a wide variety of dry goods, jewelry, white elephant tables, arts and crafts. Come bring the children, eat, play games, browse and meet old friends and new ones.

**NOVEMBER 25 — Lecture and dinner by the Knights Of Vartan Arshavir Lodge No. 2 and Daughters Of Vartan Santoukht Otyag No. 5 , 6 p.m., Church Hall of the Armenian Church Of Our Saviour, 87 Salisbury St., Worcester.** Guest Speaker Joseph Dagdigian will discuss and show photographs of rarely seen sites taken during his trip to Armenia: "Exploring The Hidden Armenia." A roast beef dinner catered by Ron Pahigian is \$15 per person. Reservations at 774-261-0108.

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

**DECEMBER 6 AND 7 — Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 3-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 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. Saturday only: Santa's Playland, for children ages 4-12, 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m., "Curious Creatures" animal program, 11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Admission: \$5 per child. Visit with Santa, 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

**DECEMBER 7 — St. Asdvadzadzin Armenian Church of Whitinsville Annual Bazaar, hosted at the Pleasant Street Christian Reformed Church, 25 Cross St., 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; dinner served from 11:30 a.m. onward and ample parking available.**

**DECEMBER 8 — Taline, Friends and Santa Armenian Christmas Concert for Children, 3 p.m., Regent**



**On December 6, St. Gregory Church will host an anniversary celebration by Lowell "Aharonian" Gomideh, 6:30 p.m., 158 Main St., North Andover. Dinner and program will honor 50-year members Steve Dulgarian and Joe Dagdigian and will remember the 25th anniversary of the earthquake in Armenia. Event will feature soloist Nina Hovsepien, accompanied by Mary Barooshian; donation, \$20 adults, \$10 students.**



Theatre, 7 Medford St., Arlington. Advance \$27. Visit [www.talinemusic.com](http://www.talinemusic.com) or call (818) 730-3487 for more info.

**DECEMBER 15 — Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, Christmas Holiday Concert, 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge.** Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Earthquake in Armenia. Composer Konstantin Petrossian, conductor. featured soloists: Victoria Avetisyan, mezzo-soprano, and Yeghishe Manucharyan, tenor. The public is warmly invited to attend this complimentary concert.

## MICHIGAN

**NOVEMBER 24 — Members and friends of Detroit Tekeyan Cultural Association honor the retiring chairman of the TCA CHAPTER, Nora Azadian, 5 p.m., Belian Art Center, Troy.**

## NEW YORK

**DECEMBER 7 — The Sixth Annual AGBU Performing**

**Artists in Concert, 8 p.m., Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, 154 West 57th St., presented by the AGBU New York Special Events Committee to benefit its performing arts programs in commemoration of the 1998 earthquake in Armenia. Under the direction of violinist Nazig Tchakarian, the event will feature arts fellows from Bulgaria, France, Mexico and the US. Tickets: \$35, \$65, for more info, contact 212-319-6383**

## RHODE ISLAND

**DECEMBER 1 — Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, Christmas Holiday Concert, 7 p.m., Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 175 Oaklawn Avenue, Cranston.** Composer Konstantin Petrossian, conductor, featured soloists: Narine Ojakhyan, soprano; Giovanni Formisano, tenor and Nouna Karapetian, soprano. The public is warmly invited to attend this complimentary concert.

## New Sunday School Books Released

BOOKS, from page 10 to Armenia with her husband, which resulted in the participation of more than 250 pilgrims and the distribution of \$360,000 in aid.

The most gratifying part of drafting the curriculum was seeing a scope and sequence outline blossom into a meaningful, creative, accessible, and updated book.

Having been a dedicated educator for so long, Yeretzgin is a passionate spokesperson. "My deepest hope for our youth is that they will experience our faith with passion. The Armenian Church should continue its mission, making faith formation their number-one priority by providing exciting, engaging and user-friendly messages for our children."

Debbie Derderian (Grade Seven) describes her faith experience as having spanned two unique cultures: the Roman Catholic where she was born, raised and educated and the Armenian Orthodox into which she married at the age of 19. She and her husband eventually moved from their native New Jersey to California where they became members of St.

John Garabed Armenian Church in San Diego.

Derderian has served as a Parish Council member, Ladies' Society Chair, Parish Youth Advisor and Sunday School teacher and is currently the Superintendent of Faith Formation for Children/Sunday School. She was a member of the Summer Camp Committee and for the past 11 years a member of the Christian Education Council. She received a Masters Certification in Catechesis through the Diocesan Institute of San Diego.

She was recently appointed Parish Life

Director at St. James Catholic Church where she has worked since 2000. She and her husband, Bob, have two children, Robert and Dana, and four grandchildren.

Debbie Derderian is eloquent when it comes to the importance of Christian education: "Jesus formed his disciples into a community of faith. He instructed them, prayed with them, and showed them how to live... After his death and Resurrection, they were commissioned, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to go out and teach all nations. The faithful of the

Armenian Church are a link in that unbroken chain and responsible and privileged to witness a Christian way of life!"

To order the new curriculum books, contact the St. Vartan Bookstore.

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## COMMENTARY

## COMMENTARY

## Gallipoli Campaign: Act Two

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Ahmed Davutoglu, Turkey's foreign minister, has laid his campaign plans to drown Armenian voices in 2015. Indeed, as Armenians prepare with their scarce resources to make the Genocide Centennial a turning point in history, Turkey, using its vast resources, has already taken the proactive stand to dampen the impact of those Armenian initiatives. This, of course, within Ankara's "zero problem with neighbors" foreign policy. The Turkish foreign minister has already picked his topic to counter the Armenian onslaught: the centennial celebration of the Gallipoli campaign, which coincidentally began on April 25, 1915, exactly one day after the Armenian intelligentsia and leadership were arrested and marked for slaughter. The campaign had lasted until January 9, 1916. The Gallipoli campaign and Anzac Day are known better by name than by historic substance.

During World War I, Allied Forces, headed by Britain, were fighting the Central Powers headed by Germany. The Australians' and New Zealanders' Army Corps (Anzac), as British colonial subjects, were drafted into the British Army, and Turkey had joined Germany against the Allies. One of the significant battles took place at the Dardanelles, with the Allies trying to open a route through the Straits of Bosphorus to connect with their Russian allies in the East.

Today, Anzac Day is considered by the Australians as the dawn of their national consciousness, while for the Turks, the battle places Mustafa Kemal, then the head of Turkish forces, on a historic pedestal, having begun the campaign for the Turkish "liberation movement" (in fact the continuation of the Young Turks' war and extermination policy) which eventually led to the foundation of the modern Turkish Republic in 1923.

For Australia, which was a former penal colony and belittled as such for long, perhaps it should not be surprising to enshrine a military defeat as the beginning of "national consciousness." On Anzac Day, the most sacred holiday in Australia, people come to celebrate their defeat and honor the "power of the Turks," their murderers. Every year thousands of Australians and New Zealanders visit Constantinople, modern-day Istanbul, to celebrate the Anzac Day.

This mentality is similar to the treatment of Turks by the Austrians. The Ottoman Armies tried to occupy Vienna twice, once during the 16th century under Soleiman the Magnificent and in 1683 under Kara Mustafa. They were routed twice, yet in 1983, the Austrian government decided to celebrate the tercentennial of its victory over the Ottomans and invited the Turks to turn the celebration into a Turkish-Austrian friendship celebration, never mind that in both wars the Turks massacred their Austrian prisoners.

The Gallipoli Campaign remains one of the mysteries of history: the German-Turkish forces were being beaten on the Eastern front, they were being defeated in the Middle East (where volunteer Armenian Legionnaires were fighting along with the Allies), but they won the Battle of Gallipoli.

At that time Winston Churchill was the first lord of the Admiralty and he proposed a naval attack on the Dardanelles, based on erroneous reports on the enemy troop strength. Some historians even believe that those reports were deliberately given to the admiralty, and there are even reports that Allied attack plans were leaked to the enemy. Why would such a "treacherous" act be permitted to cause one's own defeat? This does not sound plausible until we get to the heart of British foreign policy in the 19th and 20th centuries. Perennially the British have tried to — and succeeded — to bar Russians from reaching the warm waters of the Mediterranean. In fact, when the Russian forces reached and occupied Adrianapolis in Turkey and the San Stefano Treaty was signed in 1878, British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli was alarmed and was able to convene a second congress to sign the Berlin Treaty that same year, which had tragic consequences for the Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire. Literally, Armenian subjects were left to the tender mercies of their tormentors.

Therefore, the British wished to demonstrate to their Russian allies that they put an honest effort toward occupying Istanbul but they failed there by denying once more to their Russian allies access to warm waters.

On the Turkish side, Mustafa Kemal was one of five Turkish commanders. At that time, the Ottoman Fifth Army was under the command of German Otto Liman von Sanders. Germany had armed the Turks with military hardware and battleships. In fact, Germany gifted the victory to Mustafa Kemal. And today, as Mr. Davutoglu prepares to celebrate the Gallipoli victory, the credit will be jealously guarded by the Turks and no one will mention that Atatürk played second fiddle to von Sanders during the battle.

But before the Turks face the Armenians in 2015, they have met some unexpected turbulence from the Australians themselves.

Davutoglu has already begun his celebratory campaign on the wrong foot by banning the participation of a New South Wales delegation from the Gallipoli ceremonies in Turkey because that Australian province happens to have adopted a resolution to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Australians are irate and fresh battle lines have been drawn.

Every action by the Turkish government to deny the Genocide blows up in the faces of their leaders. Turkey's action is countered in Australia with calls for the Federal Parliament to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Mr. Davutoglu is planning his second blunder by sending discredited historian Justin McCarthy to "educate" the Australians about Armenian-Turkish historic relations. Many historians compare Justin McCarthy to British Holocaust denier David Irving. McCarthy is not too embarrassed as a scholar and as a decent human being to campaign against the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, countering the line advocated by the globally-respected International Association of Genocide Scholars.

The Australian parliamentarian Laurie Ferguson has managed to invite Professor McCarthy for a lecture in the Canberra parliament house, with a topic titled, "What Happened During 1915-1923."

When the Turks try to derail any attempt by the legislatures of different countries by suggesting that the case be assigned to the judgment of historians, they are banking on hacks-for-hire such as McCarthy and his ilk, who are offered all-expenses-paid junkets by the Turkish government.

Professor McCarthy's long trip has already been overshadowed by a public debate; President of the Turkish Parliament Cemil Cicek has called for a repeal of Genocide recognition by the NSW parliament and has further threatened that Turkey's relation with Australia may deteriorate to which Prime Minister of New South Wales Barry O'Farrell has declared that the threats of Turkey's parliamentary president are inconceivable and reprehensible. In a written statement, he has also asked Turkish officials not to use the celebrations of the centennial of the Battle of Gallipoli for political purposes.

Politicians are astute. They are certainly aware of the weight of Turkish threats. Ankara has threatened before France and Switzerland, only returning to the routine of business as usual.

McCarthy will take advantage of the tolerance of freedom of speech and make his point, although had he tried to reverse his argument in his beloved Turkey, he would have found himself in jail for violating Article 301 of Turkish penal code. Freedom of speech, of course, works both ways. We hope Armenians in Australia will also use their voices to give appropriate treatment to the guest speaker who may earn his honorarium without necessarily convincing too many people.

Forensic psychiatrist and historian at Wollongong University NSW Prof. Robert Kaplan stated in his blog in "The Australian" newspaper: "In Australia there is tolerance of free speech and the Turkish bullying will only bring it closer to the day there is federal recognition of the first genocide of the 20th century. Hopefully this will occur before the first centenary of Anzac Day." [From his mouth to God's ear.

Now the battle lines are drawn for the second Gallipoli campaign. In the first act the Turks had Otto van Sanders and German battleships on their side to win the battle.

In the second act they don't have the truth on their side.

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— All articles submitted should be typed, double (or triple) spaced and printed in a type size large enough to be clearly legible (10 point or larger). Submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be assigned lowest priority.

— Articles sent by fax are acceptable, and e-mail submissions are

encouraged.

— All submissions should include the name of a contact person and a daytime telephone number.

— Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is noon on the Monday of the week of publication.

— Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director. Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.

— The M-S will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.





## COMMENTARY

# Walking a Mile in Their Shoes

By Lucine Kasbarian

On a flight from New York to Cairo a decade ago, I couldn't help noticing many fashionably-dressed Egyptian women. When we touched down, several of them pulled out their chadors and began to cover themselves, as per the local customs.

Conversely, on touching down at Zvartnots airport this summer, I observed native Armenian women on the flight slipping off their flat shoes and putting on stiletto heels. As it turned out, this too was a local custom.

Beauty and fashion are serious matters in Yerevan. And why shouldn't they be? Armenia is a beautiful country. And its culture highly prizes beauty in art, architecture, ornamentation, nature and, of course, women. Not to be confused with International Women's Day on March 8, Armenia's Day of Beauty is a national holiday, celebrated annually on April 7.

Yerevan women, in particular, pay close attention to their appearances. Walk along Abovyan and Sayat Nova streets, and you will see women who put a lot of time and effort into their wardrobes, makeup and hairstyles.

## Best Foot Forward

Yerevan is a city best experienced on foot, where people walk considerable distances. It is startling, therefore, to see local women striding at all times of day and night in 6-7 inch heels. With its share of fractured sidewalks, Yerevan can already be an obstacle course, never mind with towering heels. Even so, local women defended their footwear, telling me that high heels were much more comfortable than flat shoes and that heels flattered their legs.

## Dressing Up or Down?

On the other hand, Yerevanian women tell me they are perplexed by what some would call a low-maintenance look worn by many Western women. "Why", they ask, "would a woman want to look like a man by wearing loose-fitting pants, disheveled hair and no makeup?" and "Aren't these women concerned that their men will look elsewhere for female companionship?" Western

women might respond that the so-called women's liberation movement gave them the right not to dress up, and to choose careers alongside, or even over, marriage and motherhood. Yerevanian women, on the other hand, may believe that Western culture, including unisex fashion, is destructive because it subverts traditional gender roles.

There may be practical reasons for the high-maintenance approach to beauty. Many interviewees believe that women in Armenia, who today outnumber males 3-to-1, have to ramp up their appearances to compete for potential mates. The ratio may have come about partly because sex-selective abortions and also men continue to journey outside Armenia to make a living, while still others are serving in the military. Several interviewees stated that, as a result, "peacocking" conduct, once prominent in males seeking to impress and win females, has become an overwhelmingly female behavior.

## Which Traditions to Keep or Discard?

Why do some new, dubious ideas such as plastic surgery for women easily enter today's popular culture in Armenia while other long-held but problematic traditions — such as women not speaking up — remain relatively intact? One woman, an educator and administrator, would not speak openly in the presence of her fiancé — a literary fixture in Armenia — even though she had very definite views about emigration, the topic we were discussing. I often encountered this phenomenon among women of all levels of education and social status. Locals agreed that women may behave compliantly with their men because of ingrained cultural attitudes. Female deference may be especially necessary now, many say, as rampant male unemployment and underemployment in Armenia have hurt male self-esteem. Thus, in Armenia outspoken women who are "liberated" by Western standards can be perceived of by men and women as unfeminine, aggressive, anti-family and emasculating.

## Comparing East and West?

The women in Armenia are so beautiful that you could drop them in any cosmopolitan city and they would shine. When I expressed this to a local friend, he said, "Yes, the new generation of young women in Armenia is stunning. But when many open their mouths, their beauty disappears." He said today's local Armenian women need to put greater effort into cultivating inner beauty, that is, moral values and character. Though it contains some truth, the emphasis on external appearances is really a global and not just an Armenian phenomenon.

From conversing with locals and watching TV

comedy and talk shows, I know that in Yerevan it is understood that more attractive women may be given preference when applying to a male employer for a job. Those women willing to sleep with the boss may stand an even better chance of landing the job. While this is an abysmal fact, is it all that unique? In fairness, such behavior exists in many countries around the world, not just in Armenia.

Diasporans visiting Armenia sometimes remark about what they perceive of as excessive attention to appearances. Perhaps the judgmental attitude some Diasporans hold towards some native Armenians exists because Diasporans hold their brethren to a higher standard than they do other ethnic groups. While Diasporans may reminisce about the high moral fiber of the Armenian nation prior to the Genocide and among exile communities, they must acknowledge that the repression of the national church and corruption that accompanied Sovietization disrupted the millennia-old virtues of the Armenian nation. Some native Armenians also carry judgments about their Diasporan brethren. A few obvious ones are the impressions that the newest generation of Diasporan Armenians no longer speaks the Armenian language, and is Armenian "in name only."

## Understanding Needed

This essay is not about which Armenian cultural attitudes are better, Eastern or Western. But should all the values that come with either orientation be accepted wholesale? Should all Western attitudes be adopted in Armenia, even if some do not come naturally or are unhealthy for a small, vulnerable country? Who or what institutions are ready, able — and justified, for that matter — in taking on the task of arbitrating? As the authority once vested in public and private schools and the national church may now carry less influence, where else other than in the home can issues relating to cultural and moral guidance be taught?

How can we in the global Armenian community come to terms with our differences and work cooperatively towards the enrichment of the Armenian people? If our nation and people are to survive and prosper in the long run, understanding and acceptance must go both ways. Various NGOs looking to introduce alternative modalities and bridge the divide between the peoples of Armenia and the Diaspora might consider organizing round table discussions that recruit people from each segment, allow participants to address the conceptions and misconceptions Armenians have about one another, and work towards establishing greater understanding. Placing energies here would be time and money well spent.

# You Can't Sweep It Under the Rug

By Osheen Keshishian

Dr. Martin Deranian recently wrote a historical book, *President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug*, the story of a rug woven by over 400 orphan girls following the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman government. The book was to be presented by the Smithsonian Institution in December of this year. In 1925, the rug was sent to the President of the United States Calvin Coolidge as a "Thank You" gift for his assistance to the orphans following the Genocide. Indeed a good gesture. The President assured the orphans that the rug will have a "Place of Honor in the White House." And it did, as it was displayed in the White House during President Coolidge's term in office as US President.

He took the rug home after his term expired and his wife gave it back to the White House.

It was even on display during President Bill Clinton's era.

But, on September 12 of this year, the Smithsonian scholar who helped organize the event for December 16, suddenly cancelled the exhibition, believe it or not, citing the White House's decision not to loan the rug for the exhibit. The White House refused to loan the rug and gave a very vague and short answer explaining that the rug could not be loaned out at this time. No further explanation was given. Very irritating and astounding. Why not at this time? If not now, then when will it be the time and loan it to the renowned Smithsonian Institution, a reputable and world-renowned American icon.

Paul Michael Taylor, director of the institution's Asian Cultural History Program, gave no explanation for the White House's refusal to allow the rug to be on display and said the efforts by the US Ambassador to Armenia, John Heffern, to intervene, had also been unavailing.

The request goes back nine months. In the beginning of January of this year, when Ambassador Heffern was asked to assist in securing the rug for display. Although Taylor, Heffern and the White House Curator, William G. Allman, had discussed during the January meeting the possibility of an event that night include the rug, it became clear that the rug wasn't going to come out of deep hiding.

What's wrong in exhibiting a rug to the public to the public especially when it is donated to a United States President who displayed it in the White House?

What's wrong in exhibiting a piece of handicraft?

What's wrong in exhibiting a hand-made historic work?

What's wrong in exhibiting a sample of cultural heritage?

There has to be a reason as to why the White House, a symbol of freedom, is not explaining and giving reasons for not making the rug available to the public. Government secret? What else! Everyone thinks that there has to be a political reason behind it and most probably it is Turkey, and the US does not want to upset Turkey.

Congressman Brad Sherman of San Fernando Valley, California was not happy and wrote a letter to the White House and asked to have the rug permanently displayed. Thank you Congressman.

I also think that the grandchildren of President Coolidge should file a complaint, after all the rug was a gift to their grandfather and now it is being tossed around.

Many complaints have gone to the White House by important and well known individuals, Armenian and American. And I hope that the White House will respond to the many request positively.

The White House should know that you cannot sweep this Armenian rug under the rug.

(The editorial appeared in the October 30 edition of the *Armenian Observer*.)

## LETTERS

# Karahunge Should Be Source of Pride

To the Editor:

In March 2010, as we left for our flight to Armenia, I reflected on the fact that my grandchildren, who are one-quarter Armenian, suggested to their parents "Our trip to Armenia will be more enjoyable if we travel with Grandma who speaks Armenian." I am amused after the fact as our guide's English was flawless.

I had already been to Armenia twice, once during Communist times in 1987, the second time to a free Republic in 2001. While planning our trip we wanted to go to many, many different types of venues and not just see churches, although these historical religious monuments are truly magnifi-

cent. Shaka Derderian of Sima Tours heard and amply responded to our plea. My daughter and I worked diligently with her and the ensuing proposed itinerary was amazing.

We arranged a private family tour, which allowed us to remain most nights in great comfort in Yerevan and do day trips by van. The seven of us (our family, guide and driver) were in a van that comfortably could accommodate 14. Often in between cities the only ones awake were the driver, the guide and me. My daughter and Pesa (son-in-law) and grandchildren were stretched out comfortably and fast asleep. The driver was excellent and the guide incredibly knowledgeable. Despite two previous tours to the country, I saw many new sights as we traveled in all directions from Yerevan.

Heading south to Sissian, we were taken to Karahunge. The van took us right up to the sight. Seniors, I was able to traverse the area without any help. The entire area at Karahunge was flat. At other sights my granddaughter or grandson would grab my arm. They also helped me on stairs or just provided additional support so I wouldn't trip and fall. I stress this point because I was able to move around freely snapping photos.

Last week while watching the History 2 channel on TV, my ears perked up as I heard that the

next segment would be about Karahunge in Armenia. I suddenly recalled reading that Oxford Scholars were planning to go to Karahunge for research.

Can you imagine my joy at hearing Karahunge is thousands of years older than the world-renowned Stonehenge? Furthermore, it is now confirmed as the world's oldest known observatory. My Armenian pride swelled. Naturally, I Googled it and there it was. My screen saver is of my grandkids from this site.

Both of the grandchildren are now in college. I called my grand-daughter she was so excited to hear this news. She was going to let the members of the Armenian Club in her college know. My grandson's reaction was saying repeatedly "that is so cool."

Now as Armenians we can not only state that Armenia was the first nation to accept Christianity but that Armenia has the world's oldest known observatory as well. Our Karahunge is older than Stonehenge in Great Britain. We Armenians can all hold our heads up higher and thereby walk a little bit taller.

As the diamond is small but of great value, Armenia is a small nation which has a rich history. Look at her with pride and we will keep discovering her riches.

— Rose Zenian Cravotta

## Azadian Earns Gold

To the Editor:

We all owe Edmond Azadian a medal.

His regular commentary on the woeful condition of Armenia is only but reinforced by his sense of humor, albeit even self-deprecating. Thanks to his article, I now know where I can sell my cache of old Soviet medals!

Levon Charkoudian  
Newton Corner, MA





## COMMENTARY



## My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Playing Partisan Politics with Artsakh Damages Armenian Interests

Since every Armenian around the world passionately upholds the interests of Artsakh (Karabagh), many wonder why the Government of Armenia has not officially recognized its independence from Azerbaijan.

Armenia's leaders are concerned that recognizing Artsakh's independence prematurely would undermine the peace process with Azerbaijan and possibly subject Armenia to international pressure and sanctions. Moreover, President Serge Sargsian has announced that Armenia would recognize Artsakh in case Azerbaijan resorts to war.

Opposition political figures assert that Artsakh's recognition is long overdue and blame Armenian officials for not formally recognizing its independence. They also wonder how Armenians can expect other countries to recognize the Republic of Artsakh without Armenia taking the lead. Based on these arguments, opposition Heritage party members periodically bring up a resolution to the Armenian Parliament for the recognition of the Republic of Artsakh. Undoubtedly, such proposals are prompted out of

a sincere conviction that Armenia has an obligation to recognize this liberated territory. However, there are those who are convinced that the opposition's true intent is to embarrass the government's majority by daring its members to cast a vote against Artsakh's independence.

Such resolutions create awkward situations not only for pro-government parliamentarians, but also other opposition members who are compelled to support the resolution in order not to give the false impression that they oppose Artsakh's independence.

On November 13, when Zaruhi Postanjian, leader of the Heritage Parliamentary bloc, proposed such a resolution, the final vote was 10 in favor and 0 against. The resolution was not adopted even though no one voted against it, as the overwhelming majority of the 131 parliamentarians decided to boycott the session rather than vote against Artsakh's recognition.

Surprisingly, officials of Armenia, Artsakh and Azerbaijan have had a similar reaction to the resolution. Vahram Atanessian, chairman of Artsakh's Foreign Relations Committee, expressed his agreement with the position of Armenia's parliamentary majority: "At this moment, recognition of the Artsakh Republic does not serve a useful purpose, as it would cause a number of significant problems." Shavarsh Kocharyan, Deputy Foreign Minister of Armenia, concurred: "Recognizing Artsakh at this time would be contrary to Armenia's interests, because it would make it the only country to do so, thus creating an unfavorable situation for Armenia at the present time."

Elman Abdullayev, spokesman for Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry, agreed with Armenian officials: "The discussion of the bill on the recognition of Nagorno Karabagh as an independent state by the Armenian Parliament would negatively affect the peaceful settlement of the conflict and

aims at undermining this process." Azeri political scientist Fikrat Sadikhov reacted with harsher words: "Such recognition would be a blunt challenge to Azerbaijan, which, of course, would not remain unanswered. Yerevan is very well aware that such a move by Armenia would be crossing the red line, which still detains Azerbaijan from more forceful and radical steps in respect of the release of its lands." Sadikhov further stated: "The Armenian leadership understands that by recognizing the independence of the separatist regime, it will radicalize and exacerbate the situation, and enrage international organizations and regional powers."

Despite the potentially complicating consequences of Artsakh's recognition, Armenians worldwide enthusiastically support the independence of the Republic of Artsakh. However, it would be preferable that such resolutions be brought to the parliament's consideration only after securing the approval of all factions. Otherwise, when a handful of opposition parliamentarians place this issue on the agenda against the majority's wishes, it appears that their whole purpose is partisan political gain, and sends the wrong signal to Azerbaijan and countries around the world that Armenia is against Artsakh's independence. Furthermore, the opponents of such resolutions are typically accused of siding with Azerbaijan on this critical issue, thereby undermining Armenian efforts to secure international recognition for the Republic of Artsakh.

A more preferable strategy for supporting Artsakh's independence would be to strengthen the Republic of Armenia politically, economically and militarily so that its leaders would not have to be too concerned about international condemnation and sanctions, whenever they decide it is the opportune time to recognize the Republic of Artsakh.

# Our Definition Extending to Islamicized Armenians

By Raffi Bedrosyan

The conference organized by the Hrant Dink Foundation about "Islamicized Armenians" at the Istanbul Bosphorus University in early November broke one more taboo in Turkey. A hidden reality, a secret known by many but which couldn't be revealed to anyone, whispered behind closed doors but also filed in government intelligence offices, finally broke open into the public.

The late Hrant Dink would be elated to see this conference become a reality, eight years after the first conference about "Armenians during the late Ottoman Empire era and the 1915 events" held at Istanbul Bilgi University, when protesters hurled insults at the conference participants and government ministers labeled them "traitors stabbing Turks in the back." That conference had also broken a taboo, but Hrant was already a marked man for revealing the identity of the most famous "Islamicized Armenian, Sabiha Gokcen, Ataturk's adopted daughter and the first female Turkish combat pilot, to be in fact an Armenian orphan of 1915 in the name of Hatun Sebilciyan.

It is a known fact that in 1915 tens of thousands of Armenian orphans were forcibly Islamicized and Turkified, tens of thousands of Armenian girls and young women were captured by Kurds and Turks as slaves, maids or wives, tens of thousands of Armenians converted to Islam in order to escape deportations and massacres, and tens of thousands of Armenians found shelter in friendly Kurdish and Alevi villages but lost their identity. What happened to these survivors, or living victims of the 1915 genocide? Hrant was obsessed with them: "We keep talking about the ones 'gone' in 1915, let us start talking about the ones who 'remained.'"

These remaining people survived, but mostly in living hells. And what's remarkable, their children and grandchildren are now "coming out, no more hiding their Armenian roots. One of the first was the famous Turkish lawyer Fethiye Cetin, who revealed that her grandmother was Armenian, in her book, *My Grandmother*. This was followed by another book edited by Aysegul Altinay and Fethiye Cetin, *The Grandchildren*, about dozens of Turkish/Kurdish people describing their Armenian roots, without revealing their real identities. Then came the reconstruction of the Surp Giragos Armenian Church in Diyarbakir, which became a destination for many hidden Armenians in Eastern Anatolia to come out.

On average, more than 100 people visit the church daily, most of them hidden Armenians. Some come to pray, get baptized or married, but most just visit to feel Armenian, without converting back to Christianity. This has created a new identity of Moslem Armenians, in addition to the historical and traditional identity of Christian Armenians. In a country where only Moslem Turks can work for the government, where being non-Moslem is sufficient excuse for persecution, harassment and attacks, where the word Armenian is used as the biggest insult, it takes real courage for someone to reveal that he is now an Armenian and no longer a Turk/Kurd/Moslem. People can easily lose their jobs, livelihoods or even lives for changing their identity. Just to give an example of the level of racism and discrimination, an

ultra-nationalist opposition member of parliament accused President Abdullah Gul of having Armenian roots. Gul sued her for defamation for being labeled an Armenian; the courts sided with him, ordering her to pay compensation for the insult.

It is difficult to estimate the number of Islamicized Armenians, and even more difficult to predict what proportion of them are aware of their Armenian roots, or how many are willing to regain their Armenian identity. Based on independent studies of the 1915 events, one can conclude that more than 100,000 orphans were forcibly Islamicized/Turkified, and that another 200,000 Armenians survived by converting to Islam or by finding shelter in friendly Kurdish and Alevi regions. It is therefore conceivable that 300,000 souls survived as Moslems. The population of Turkey increased seven fold since then. Using the same multiple, one can extrapolate that there may exist 2 million people with Armenian roots in Turkey today, originating from the 1915 survivors. There were even more widespread conversions to Islam during the 1894-1896 massacres, when entire villages were forcibly Islamicized. A couple centuries previously, Hamshen Armenians were Islamicized in northeast Anatolia. The Moslem Hamshentsis, numbering about 500,000, speak a dialect based on Armenian, but never identified themselves as Armenian — until recently. Adding all these forced conversions prior to and during 1915, one can conclude that the number of people with Armenian roots in present Turkey reaches several million; numbers are difficult to accurately estimate, but in any case, easily exceed the present population of Armenia.

The reality is that the secrets of Armenianness whispered for three or four generations after 1915, are now becoming loud revelations of new identities. As evidenced in the recent conference, even Hamshen Armenians have started exploring and reclaiming their long-lost roots. During the reconstruction of the Surp Giragos Church and in my travels in eastern and southeastern Anatolia, one out of every three Kurds that I met had an Armenian grandmother in the family. This fact, hidden until recently, is now revealed openly, often leading young generations to reclaim Armenian identities, but without giving up Islam. One interesting observation is that the hidden Armenians were aware of other hidden ones and all attempted to intermarry, resulting in many couples who ended up having Armenian roots from both parents.

The conference attracted numerous academicians, historians and journalists from within and outside Turkey, as well as dozens of presenters of oral history. One of the most dramatic presentations was about Sara, a 15-year-old Armenian girl from Urfa Viranshehir, who was captured by the Turkish strongman of the region, Eyup Aga. Eyup wanted to take Sara as his third wife. When Sara refused, Eyup killed her mother. When Sara refused again, Eyup killed her father. When Eyup threatened to kill Sara's little brother, Sara couldn't resist any more, and married the killer of her parents, on condition that her brother would be spared and she would keep her name. But her brother was also eventually killed. As she resisted Eyup's advances, she was repeatedly raped and got pregnant 15 times, giving birth to 15 babies, all of whom died prematurely. Eyup constantly tortured her, even marking a cross in her body with a knife. The family also mistreated her as an outcast, and she led a hellish life to the end. At

the end of the story, the presenter, a Turkish academician, revealed that Eyup and the family who committed these crimes against Sara, was her own family. Her final statement was even more dramatic than the story: "We always hear stories told by the victims, it is now time for the perpetrators to start talking about and owning their crimes."

There are new revelations about how the Turkish government kept tabs on Islamicized Armenians. Apparently, the government kept records of every Armenian village or large Armenian clan which was forcibly Islamicized in 1915. It was recently discovered that the identification cards of hidden or known Armenians had a special numbering system to identify them secretly. There are anecdotes that a few Turkish candidates for air force pilot positions were turned away even though they qualified when government records revealed that they come from Islamicized Armenian families.

It is of greater concern to us how the Islamicized Armenians are being dealt with by Armenians. It seems that the Istanbul Armenian community and more critically, the Istanbul Patriarchate are unable or unwilling to accept the hidden Armenians coming out as Armenians, unless these people accept Christianity, get baptized and speak Armenian. But it is unrealistic to expect the new Armenians to comply with these requirements. Since Armenians in Turkey are all defined as belonging to the Armenian Church, if the newcomers are rejected by the Patriarchate, they become double outcasts, cannot get married, baptized or buried by the Church and cannot send their children to Armenian schools. If they have made a conscious decision to identify themselves as Armenian, a risky and dangerous initiative under the present circumstances, they should be readily accepted as Armenians, regardless whether they stay Moslem or atheist or anything else. Relationships get even more complicated as there are now many families with one branch carrying on life as Moslem Turk/Kurd, another branch as Moslem Armenian and a third branch as Christian Armenian. The Echmiadzin Church is more tolerant, which has issued the following statement: "Common ethnicity, land, language, history, cultural heritage and religion are general measures in defining a nation. Even if one or more of these measures can be missing due to historic reasons, such as inability to speak the language, or practice the religion or lack of knowledge of cultural and historic heritage, should not be used to exclude one's Armenian identity." But Chales Aznavour's approach is the most welcoming when he states: "Armenia should embrace the Islamicized Armenians and open its doors to them."

After Armenia, Karabagh and the Diaspora, there is now an emerging fourth Armenian world, the Islamicized Armenians of Turkey. Accepting this new reality will help both Turks and Armenians understand better the consequences of 1915.

(Raffi Bedrosyan is a civil engineer and concert pianist, living in Toronto, Canada. He has donated concert and CD proceedings to infrastructure projects in Armenia and Karabagh, in which he has also participated as an engineer. He helped organize the reconstruction of the Surp Giragos Diyarbakir/Dikranagerd Church and the first Armenian reclaim of church properties in Anatolia after 1915. He gave the first piano concert in the Surp Giragos Church since 1915.)





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