

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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In Our 80th Year

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

## Uruguayan Visit Signifies 'New Stage' in Karabagh Recognition Policy

By Naira Hayrumyan

STEPANAKERT (ArmeniaNow) – The so-called “step by step” strategy which has been used to promote the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide is now also being utilized in efforts to gain international recognition for the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic (NKR or Artsakh.)

Chairman of the House of Representatives of Uruguay Jorge Orrico visited Nagorno Karabagh this week where he met with NKR President Bako Sahakian. Head of the Information Department of the Presidential Administration of Karabagh David Babayan said: “The meeting was held in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The sides discussed cooperation between the two countries.”

After the meeting, Babayan said that it signified the beginning of a new stage in Karabagh’s foreign policy. “We are interested in developing relations with other countries and it is not conditioned by other issues, in particular, those related to recognition. Recognition is a key issue on Karabagh’s foreign policy agenda, but it is not an obsession,” said Babayan.

In fact, Karabagh has set out to improve relations with other countries without requiring recognition. Though good relations and economic ties may eventual lead to recognition. The visit of such a high-ranking official of Uruguay is also recognition of sorts.

The foreign ministries of the two Armenian states believe that friendly relations with foreign states will contribute to a peaceful and just settlement of the Karabagh conflict and prevention of a new war.

According to Karabagh’s presidential spokesman Babayan, the NKR President noted during the meeting with the visiting Uruguayan official that the relations between Karabagh and Uruguay in various fields should be brought to a new level.

After the meeting, Uruguay Parliament Foreign Relations Committee member Ruben Martinez Huelmo and head of the parliamentary group at the Armenian see URUGUAY, page 2

## Worcester Celebrates ‘Power of The Printed Word’ with Lecture

WORCESTER, Mass. – On Thursday, November 15, the Worcester Armenian Book Commemoration Committee hosted a lecture on “The Power of the Printed Word: Successes and Challenges, Past and Present” at the hall of Church of Our Saviour. A crowd of more than 40 audience members attended the event which featured current perspectives from the editors of two major Armenian-American weeklies, Alin K. Gregorian of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* and Khatchig Mouradian of the *Armenian Weekly*.

The program was part of the month-long celebration in honor of the 500th anniversary of Armenian book printing, which includes an exhibit featuring Armenian printing, alphabet and calligraphy, along with other texts. The program was initially scheduled for November 7 at the main branch of the Worcester Public Library, where the exhibit runs through the end of November, but was rescheduled due to inclement weather.

By Gabriella Gage  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

see WORCESTER, page 7



From left, Van M. Aroian, City Councilor Philip Palmieri, Alin K. Gregorian and Khatchig Mouradian

## Rep. McGovern Urges US Protection For Syria’s Armenian community

WASHINGTON – Rep. James McGovern (D-MA) has called on Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to ensure that the United States acts with “increased vigilance in demanding that all parties in Syria protect minority populations, including Armenians and other Christian communities that have been caught in the cross-fire between opposing forces,” reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

“We very much appreciate Congressman McGovern’s leadership and constructive engagement with the Department of see MCGOVERN, page 16



Rep. James McGovern

## American University of Armenia Delegation Visits Mass.

KEN MARTIN PHOTO



Dr. Bruce Boghosian speaks, as the members of the AUA Executive Team, from left, Maral Chalian, Gevorg Goyunyan, Ashot Ghazaryan and Dennis Leavens, listen.

By Alin K. Gregorian  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN – The team at the helm of the American University of Armenia (AUA) made a stop at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) to discuss the expansion of the university, including its new undergraduate program, to a packed audience.

The panel from the AUA included: Dr. Dennis Leavens, provost; Maral Chalian, vice president of institutional advancement; Ashot Ghazaryan, vice president of operations; and Gevorg Goyunyan, vice president of finance and President Dr. Bruce Boghosian, a Massachusetts native who has led the university since 2010.

“People felt there was a need to learn more about it on the East Coast,” see AUA, page 16

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Clashes Flare up Near Kessab

KESSAB, Syria (Armenpress) – The situation is tense in the Syrian border town of Kessab, which has a mostly-Armenian population, located in Latakia Province, according to the Press Secretary of the Armenian National Prelacy in Aleppo Jirayr Reisian. He said that clashes between the governmental forces and armed rebels flared up in that region and while they are not in the immediate Armenian-populated regions, they have caused heavy damage and electrical and cell phone outages.

Aleppo, he said, remains calm.

Arab media also reported on the heavy clashes in Latakia. It was announced that fights are going on in several villages near Kessab.

One of the members of Emergency Unit of the Syrian-Armenians, Raffi Avetisyan, told “Azat Hay” that during the past 20 months, 40 Armenians have died and 66 injured. In addition, seven were kidnapped and two servicemen are missing.

### Moscow Armenians Plan Aid Concert

MOSCOW (ArmeniaNow) – The Armenian community of Moscow will provide assistance to ethnic kin in Syria through a charity concert scheduled for December 2.

The concert will feature Karnig Sarkissian, a popular Syrian-born performer of patriotic songs, who will be on Moscow stage for the first time, reports News.am.

Sarkissian’s concert is organized by the Armenian youth group, with support by the Russian-Armenian Cooperation and the Hamshen Association. The proceeds will be forwarded to the “Help Your Brother” civic initiative, by way of the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund.

### MP Cautions Spanish Colleague on Azeri Lies

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Chairman of the National Assembly’s Standing Committee on Foreign Relations Artak Zakaryan issued a letter to his counterpart from Spanish Senate Muñoz Alonso Ledo, refuting some of the claims made by the Azeri government on Artsakh (Karabagh).

In the letter, he said, “We learned from the Azerbaijani media that at the initiative of the Azerbaijani delegation to Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, on November 22 the Senate of Spain will hold hearings on the ‘military aggression of Armenia against Azerbaijan.’”

He urged his “esteemed colleagues” in the Spanish Senate to realize that Azerbaijan often spouted anti-Armenian propaganda and thus “not to allow the Azerbaijani MPs to spread incorrect information and in this way to try to gain political dividends.”

Zakaryan invited Ledo to visit Armenia.

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### Film on Genocide

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Officials Cite Progress in EU Integration

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – At a November 20 seminar on the cooperation and interaction of Armenian state institutions, Onno Simons, head of the European Union (EU) political, economic and press department in Armenia, stated they have seen progress in Armenia's integration into the EU.

According to Simons, during the process of cooperation Armenia agreed to pass to system of association. He suggested Armenia follow successful examples of EU member countries by creating efficient cooperation between the state institutions. Simons also added that parliament should be a platform connecting society and government.

An EU parliamentary group presented the document, pointing out the gaps of the cooperation between governmental and presidential administration. The document also contained some suggestions on possible reforms. The main topic of the conference was "Towards a common inter-institutional approach for EU-Armenian integration."

Alexander Arzoumanian, the leader of the EU delegation to Armenia, stressed the importance of the seminar to successful Armenian integration into the EU.

## Armenia Is Ready to Cooperate with New Georgia Government

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenia is ready for active cooperation with the new government of Georgia, said Prime Minister Tigran Sargsisian during the meeting with CIS, Baltic and Georgian chief editors' club members.

Sargsisian noted that Armenia is interested in the establishment of regional peace and security.

"We respect the decision of Georgian nation and we are ready to actively cooperate with the new government of Georgia. We are interested in the prosperity of Georgia because it is beneficial for Armenia and Armenian nation. Relations with Iran are also very important for us so we pay great attention to them" he said.

## President Issues Condolences to Family Of Singer Martirosyan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian President Serge Sargsisian issued a message of condolence to the family of Flora Martirosyan after the singer's recent death.

"With deep sorrow I learned of the passing of famous Armenian singer, People's Artist Flora Martirosyan. It is a sudden and painful loss both for me and for our culture. The full concert halls in Armenia and in Diaspora are the evidence of her popularity which she achieved being a unique singer and Armenian artist. I am extending condolences to Flora Martirosyan's family, close relatives, friends and thousands of her fans."

## 80th Anniversary of Painters' Union Celebrated

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – A new exhibition was recently launched on the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the Armenian Painters' Union. Prime Minister Tigran Sargsisian, Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosian and representatives of the union attended the event.

Poghosian thanked the union for continuing to restore and develop Armenian culture. "I wish your masterpieces to always be in bright colors," noted Poghosian.

According to the leader of the union, Karen Aghamyan, the Armenian Painter's Union will continue its work and activities in Armenia. Approximately 500 works created by union members were presented in the exhibition. The Armenian Painters' Union has more than 750 members.

## Shengavit Archaeological Site Represented at US Ambassador's Cultural Heritage Meeting

By Vladimir Tshagharyan

YEREVAN – On October 7, US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern received a group of US specialists who wanted to visit the Shengavit Historical and Archaeological Culture Preserve in Yerevan.

This visit by the US researchers was a follow-up to a visit this summer by Heffern to the fourth-millennium BC site.

Among the visitors were Dr. Paul Taylor, director of the Asian Cultural History Program and Curator of Asian, European and Middle Eastern Ethnology at the Smithsonian Institute's department of Natural History, and Trevor Merriam and Jasper Waugh-Quasebarth, researchers in the Asian Cultural History Program at the Smithsonian. Hasmik Mikaelyan from the US Embassy accompanied the group.

The guests studied the site, including artifacts on display in Shengavit's museum. Taylor cited the site as a unique Stone Age settlement, characterizing the collection of artifacts on display at Shengavit's museum as "fantastic." The group considered the forensic face reconstruction of the male skull found at Shengavit, done during Soviet times at the school of face reconstruction by the late Dr. A. Tshagharyan, one of Armenia's most prominent physicians and the father of this article's author, as one of the best.

The US researchers were aware of the early research done at Shengavit by Hovsep Orbeli, a renowned scientist and academician who was also the director of the Hermitage Museum in Leningrad (now Saint Petersburg). The guests departed impressed with the significance of the Shengavit site, noting the crucial importance of the preservation of Shengavit and the operation of the museum.



Shengavit Historical and Archaeological Culture Preserve, US Embassy in background

The following day the US ambassador and his wife hosted a dinner party at their residence for the US researchers. Heffern conducted an impromptu tour of his home, sharing his collection of souvenirs from other countries, his library and pictures, as well as the small garden where he and his wife are growing various flowers. The tour of the house ended with the room where Heffern is learning Armenian. "The magnificent view of Mount Ararat opening from the adjacent balcony helps me assimilate Armenian better," Heffern said.

Cultural Attaché Sean O'Hara, the directors of the Genocide Museum, the Erebuni Preserve and Museum and the Sardarapat museum, also attended the dinner party. Taylor presented the purpose of their visit, stating it was their first visit to Armenia and they were very impressed. In two days they had visited the Matenadaran, the Genocide Museum, the State Art Gallery and Shengavit. They discussed various

issues related to museums including finances, acquisition of materials/exhibits, maintenance, education and many other topics common to most other museums in the world. The evening lasted more than three hours.

On October 10, the embassy hosted a seminar titled "International Museum Capacity Building." Welcoming remarks were made by Heffern and head of the Public Affairs Office, James Land. At the end of his remarks, Heffern said that he was happy that his two daughters had started their professional careers at the Smithsonian Institute with Taylor, who conducted the seminar.

(Vladimir Tshagharyan is an architect by training and has been the director of the Shengavit Historical and Archaeological Culture Preserve since October 2009. On the site is an ancient settlement dating to the fourth millennium BC exhibiting the "Kura-Arax" culture. The preserve is in the Shengavit district of Yerevan.)

## Uruguayan Visit Signifies 'New Stage' In Karabagh Recognition Policy

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National Assembly and ARF Bureau member Vahan Hovhannisyanyan talked to the media.

Hovhannisyanyan recalled a seminar hosted by Uruguay last year during which Uruguayan Minister of Foreign Affairs Luis Almagro expressed the view that the process of the recognition of Nagorno-Karabagh would naturally progress. "This is a process that should be carried out step by step. The visit and the meeting are the first steps that should be continued," stressed Hovhannisyanyan.

"A visit to Artsakh does not require particular courage, that's just a step. We have friendly relations with the Armenian people," said Huelmo.

Uruguay was the first country to recognize the Armenian Genocide in 1965. Responding to the question as to whether the recognition of Nagorno Karabagh by Uruguay was possible, Huelmo said: "In theory yes. But this is a political process that must be carried out step by step. All steps need to be put in a set and presented as arguments to the political forces."

In May, while visiting Yerevan, Almagro said that "Nagorno Karabagh is closely linked with Armenia and this is the future of Karabagh – that it can choose exercising its right to self-determination." There were reports that he would also pay a visit to Karabagh, but



The Uruguayan delegation flanks Artsakh President Bako Sahakian, center.

he has yet to make the trip.

The recognition process, however, is underway. The legislatures of the US states Rhode Island and Massachusetts have already passed resolutions calling on the US president and Congress to support the self-determination and independence of Nagorno Karabagh. In October, the Australian state of New South Wales followed suit.

The Armenian Revolutionary Federation and Hay Dat committees have been lobbying to gain recognition for Nagorno Karabagh.

Later, during a talk at Yerevan State University, in Yerevan, Orrico refused to comment on Baku's negative reaction

to his delegation's visit to the Nagorno Karabagh.

At the same time, when speaking of Uruguay's position on the Karabagh problem, he pointed out that Montevideo has no official position on this issue, though during his visit to Armenia in 2011, Almagro, suggested that Uruguay might recognize the NKR. Orrico said that Uruguay is interested in the peaceful resolution of the Karabagh problem, and the issue of recognition of the NKR should be settled in the diplomatic way, without any bloodshed.

(Arminfo contributed to this report.)





## INTERNATIONAL

## Azeri President Condemns Armenia on Twitter

MOSCOW (RIA Novosti) – Heads of state across the world have long embraced Twitter as a means for communication with the masses.

But few, it seems, have taken to it as voraciously as Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, who used the social network to unleash a barrage of disparaging tweets on November 20 against Armenia, the predominantly Islamic country's bitter rival.

"Armenia as a country is of no value," Aliyev tweeted from his official handle, @president-taz. "It is actually a colony, an outpost run from abroad, a territory artificially created on ancient Azerbaijani lands."

He added that his country would "continue to expose Armenia's aggressive policy in all international organizations."

The comments at first appeared to be aimed at domestic consumption. The tweets were excerpts taken from a November 16 speech he gave at a meeting of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party, which was celebrating its 20th anniversary, according to Aliyev's official website.



While Aliyev also spoke of Azerbaijan's positive development, his extensive comments on Armenia were the first to be broadcast over Twitter.

"I have often talked about it, I want to say it again without fearing anyone – our enemy is the Armenian lobby," Aliyev added.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been bitter enemies since the Russian Civil War, in which inter-communal massacres by both sides took place in Baku and elsewhere.

Their recent mutual enmity is rooted in a dispute over the break-away majority ethnic-Armenian republic of Nagorno Karabagh, which declared independence in 1992, but remains internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan.

The territory was the subject of a brutal war between the two countries in the early 1990s that left more than 30,000 dead and drove out most of the non-Armenian population. Both sides have regularly violated the precarious 1994 ceasefire, with low-intensity border incidents and sniper attacks now commonplace.

More recently, a military build-up in both Armenia and Azerbaijan has led observers to fear another outbreak of large-scale violence may be imminent.

"Azerbaijan grows stronger and more powerful by the year, while Armenia weakens and declines every year," Aliyev claimed in his tweets.

As international powers have unsuccessfully sought a solution to the frozen conflict – particularly in the form of the Minsk Group, organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – officials from both Armenia and Azerbaijan have continued to trade barbs amid the heightened tension in recent months.

Aliyev's latest tirade may reflect the heightened tensions between the forces.

"We will continue our efforts to isolate Armenia," Aliyev said, his Twitter page adorned in a blue sunburst and emblazoned with the motto, "We turn initiatives into reality!"

"This policy is working," he added. "We see its results."

Aliyev's counterpart, Armenian President Serge Sargsian, does not appear to have an official Twitter account.

## In Visit to Kuwait, Nalbandian Discusses Gaza, Syrian Crises

KUWAIT CITY (Public Radio of Armenia) – During his official visit to Kuwait, Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian had a meeting with Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait.

Expressing gratitude for the reception, the foreign minister conveyed to the Emir of Kuwait the greetings and wishes of Armenian President Serge Sargsian and reaffirmed the Armenian president's invitation to the Emir of Kuwait to visit Armenia. Al-Sabah asked

Nalbandian to convey to Sargsian his warmest wishes and to inform that he would accept the invitation to visit Armenia with great pleasure.

In the course of the meeting, the implementation of the agreements reached in the frames of the state visit of the Armenian President to Kuwait in 2009 was discussed.

Al-Sabah praised the Armenians living in his country, stressing their contribution to the prosperity of Kuwait. Nalbandian expressed his gratitude for

warm and caring attitude provided by the Kuwaiti authorities towards the Armenian community and in supporting the construction of the Armenian Church in Kuwait.

The Emir of Kuwait and Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs exchanged views on the developments in the Middle East as well.

Expressing gratitude for the invitation to visit Kuwait, Eduard Nalbandian said that Armenia attaches great importance to the development of relations with Kuwait, and in the Arab world generally, and Armenia would continue taking steps towards that direction.

During the meeting, the two touched upon the implementation of the agreements reached between the heads of the two states, the expansion of legal framework and the deepening of trade and economic cooperation, as well as issues related to the development of ties in the spheres of bank, agriculture, health, education and culture.

Discussing the developments in Gaza, Nalbandian said, "Armenia, as well as the international community, are deeply concerned about the increase of tensions in and around the Gaza Strip. The use of force which has resulted in dozens of casualties amongst the civilian population is seriously damaging the already fragile regional situation. It should be put an end to the use of force or threat of use. We firmly believe that there is no alternative to a settlement through peaceful negotiations."

Nalbandian expressed his concern over the situation in Syria, as well, mentioning that due to the conflict Armenia is continuing to accept thousands of Armenians living in Syria. In that context Kuwaiti Minister of Foreign Affairs informed about the decision of the Kuwaiti authorities on the provision of humanitarian aid to the Syrian Armenians.

Nalbandian discussed the recent developments in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabagh issue and stressed that Armenia appreciated the balanced position of the Kuwaiti authorities to support the international community, the steps undertaken by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs towards the settlement of the issue.

Nalbandian invited Al-Sabah to pay a visit to Armenia.

## EC Commissioner Reveals Azerbaijan Hack Attack

BAKU (BBC) – Laptops belonging to European Commission officials were hacked when taken to a government conference in Azerbaijan, says an official.

The attack was revealed by European Commissioner Neelie Kroes in a blogpost after attending an Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting in Baku.

Security warnings from Apple revealed that the laptops had come under attack.

Azerbaijan disputed the attack details but said it would investigate any official complaint.

In the blogpost Kroes said she was ambivalent about attending the IGF meeting in Baku because of the country's poor record on human rights.

She was persuaded to attend, she said, because the IGF can be a catalyst for change and because of a pledge from the Azerbaijan president that would meet political prisoners.

The IGF is a UN-backed discussion group that stages conferences to debate the future of internet policies, practices and technologies.

Despite the assurances Kroes did not get to meet any prisoners, she wrote. In addition, she said: zActivists were harassed at the internet conference. My advisers had their computers hacked.

"So much for openness," she said. The hack attacks on laptops

owned by two members of Kroes' staff took place when the laptops were in a hotel in Baku, said spokesman Ryan Heath.

Security messages from Apple revealed that "third parties" had accessed the machines, he said.

"I'm presuming it was some kind of surveillance," Heath told AP. "What we're going to do is to get the computers forensically analyzed to see what if anything was taken out of them."

Heath declined to speculate on who was behind the attacks.

A spokesman for the Azerbaijani 's president's office said local law enforcement and the managers of the hotel where Kroes and her staff stayed had been told to "address the issue."

So far, the spokesman told Azerbaijan's Trend newspaper, no facts or evidence about the attacks had been passed to authorities.

"If Kroes and her assistant really believe that there was interference in their computers, then please let them turn to the Azerbaijani Prosecutor General's Office," he said. "A criminal case will be filed and investigation will be launched based on this appeal."

The spokesman denied there had been any interference with the laptops and said Kroes' claims were made to undermine the image of the country.

## International News

### Armenian President Meets Lyon Mayor

LYON, France (PanArmenian.net) – Armenian President Serge Sargsian met with the mayor of Lyon, Sen. Gerard Collomb, on November 13, as part of his official visit to France.

The two men praised the cooperation between Yerevan and Lyon, hailing the Armenian-French partnership.

Sargsian expressed gratitude to Collomb for his continued interest in Armenian-related issues, his contribution to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and his input in the development of the relations with Yerevan. Sargsian expressed confidence that the Armenian-French friendship will continue to strengthen.

Upon completion of the meeting, Collomb hosted an official dinner in honor of Sargsian, who met with several representatives of the French business community. Sargsian received the Medal of Honor of Lyon. He spoke of recent initiatives and developments which were of interest to the entrepreneurs of France and Lyon in particular.

### Germany Conference on Justice in Karabagh

FRANKFURT, Germany (PanArmenian.net) – The Peace Research Institute Frankfurt (PRIF) will host an international conference titled, "Nagorno Karabagh Peace Process: The Role of Justice in the Conflict Resolution." The conference, which is supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), will take place November 23-27, at the Evangelische Akademie Arnoldshain.

More than 40 participants, including high-ranking representatives from politics and research from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Russia and Germany are expected at the four-day conference.

The conference's aim is to explore, how and under what conditions the disparate ideas can be communicated and transformed in order to contribute to a peaceful settlement of the conflict. Following introductory lectures by German experts on the problems of justice in peace processes as well as on the Nagorno Karabagh conflict, scholars from Armenia and Azerbaijan will take a critical look at the conflict from the perspective of their respective states.

After these discussions, government officials and parliamentarians from both countries will discuss their respective ideas of solution to the conflict. Further presentations, including those of renowned experts from Germany and Russia, will deal with external factors in conflict management.

This marks the first time experts from research and politics in both countries will be brought together in Germany to create an international dialogue.

The conference is organized by PRIF's research Department for Governance and Societal Peace.

### Georgian Minister Garibashvili Accepts Invitation to Armenia

TBILISI, Georgia (Armenpress) – Armenian Ambassador to Georgia Hovhannes Manukyan had a meeting with newly appointed Minister of Internal Affairs of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili on November 19. Manukyan congratulated Garibashvili and extended an invitation to the minister to meet with Armenian Chief of Police Vladimir Gasparyan, which was kindly accepted.

During the meeting, Garibashvili promoted Armenian-Georgian bilateral relations and noted that the policy of the new Georgian government is aimed at developing and strengthening Armenian-Georgian cooperation.

Garibashvili also shared with Manukyan the upcoming reforms to be made in the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia.

Manukyan also met with Georgian Minister of Education and Science Giorgi Margvelashvili to acquaint himself with the educational policy of Georgia, the bilingual schools in the country, issues with textbooks and to further promote Armenian-Georgian cooperation in the sphere of education.



# Community News

## Glendale to Celebrate 55th Birthday of Monte Melkonian

LOS ANGELES – A program celebrating the life and legacy of famed Armenian-American commander Monte Melkonian will be taking place on Friday, December 7, on what would have been his 55th birthday.

Melkonian, a California native, was an intellectual and a freedom fighter who dedicated his life to the national-liberation struggle of the Armenian nation. He played a key role in the liberation of a part of Armenia – Artsakh – and was awarded the title of National Hero of the Republic of Armenia.

The event will feature the premiere of a documentary film prepared by Hayrenaser, which



The late Monte Melkonian

reflects on his role in the liberation of Artsakh and the significance of his liberated territories. Political scientist and historian Dr. Armen Avvazyan will present a comparative analysis, drawing parallels between the rebellion of the 1720s in the Artsakh-Syunik region led by Davit Bek and the meliks of Artsakh and the actions of the Armenian commanders, particularly Melkonian, in the most recent liberation war in Artsakh.

Singers Armen Movsisyan and Hovhannes Shahbazyan will perform, while an exhibit will showcase photographs dedicated to Artsakh's liberated regions of Kashatagh and Karvachar.

The program will commence at 7:30 p.m. and is free to the public. The Glendale Public Library is located at 222 East Harvard St., Glendale, CA 91205.

The event is organized by the "Hayrenaser" organization, which has a mission to contribute to the preservation and development of Armenia's independent statehood by identifying and addressing critical challenges.

## Gov. Patrick Appoints Nahigian to MassDOT Real Estate Review Board

NEWTON, Mass. – Gov. Deval Patrick announced in September that he has reappointed Rob Nahigian of Auburndale Realty Co., to the MassDOT Real Estate Appraisal Review Board.

Patrick, along with Lt. Gov. Murray, stated in a letter his thanks to Nahigian for having served on this board over the last few years and his commitment to continue serving the Commonwealth. Nahigian has been on the Appraisal Review Board, which offers final recommendations on property valuation taken by eminent domain on behalf of MassDot for public use, since 2004.

Nahigian has served on many cases, including properties at the Cape Cod Bridge, the Route 2 corridor, Fenway Park area and Martha's Vineyard.



Emma Sogioian receiving the "St. Gregory Medal" and Pontifical Encyclical

## A Celebration of Service in Detroit

DETROIT, Mich. – On November 11, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), visited St. John Armenian Church of Southfield, where he ordained two altar servers to the diaconate and joined the community in recognizing the dedication of several long-time parishioners.

Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy with the Rev. Garabed Kochakian, parish pastor, assisting. Barsamian ordained Dr. David Aprahamian and Aram Sarkisian to the diaconate, with Rev. Abraham Ohanesian and Rev. Diran Papazian taking part in the ordination service.

Both deacons are active members of the parish. Aprahamian directs the parish's Altar Service Training Program and chairs the Men's Society. Sarkisian, who is currently pursuing graduate work in Chicago, grew up at St. John Church and returns often to serve on the altar.

In his sermon, the archbishop spoke about the raising of Jairus daughter, stressing that faith in Christ helps overcome adversity. "When doing the work of God," the Primate said, "do not be afraid."

Following services, the parish hosted a banquet titled "A Celebration of see DETROIT, page 5



Emma Sogioian and Edmond Azadian



Recipients of the Diocese's "St. Vartan Award"

## Ambassador Djerejian Offers Analysis of Middle East Crisis at 'Evening With a Scholar' Event

LOS ANGELES – Every year, AGBU Asbeds' signature "Evening with a Scholar" event features a public figure who discusses pressing social and political issues with interested attendees from across greater Los Angeles. This year, Asbeds was proud to present the Honorable Edward Djerejian, the distinguished US diplomat and former ambassador to Syria and Israel, who drew a standing room only crowd of over 800 to the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Center on Friday, October 5. Throughout the talk, "The Arab Awakening, the Turkish Role in the Region and the Future of Armenians in the Middle East," Djerejian drew from his vast foreign policy experience, exploring in critical detail the turmoil plaguing the Middle East and proposing his opinions as solutions to the crisis.

With a career spanning over 30 decades and eight US administrations, from John F. Kennedy to Bill Clinton, Djerejian was uniquely qualified to discuss the latest developments overseas. In addition to serving as an ambassador, he has held positions as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs under Presidents George H.W. Bush and Clinton, special assistant to President Ronald Reagan and most recently as the founding director of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University.

Djerejian is one of the many credentialed speakers to participate in AGBU Asbeds' series. Past guests include Nagorno-Karabagh Presidents Arkady Ghoukasian and Bako Sahakyan; historians Dr. Taner Akcam, Hasan Cemal, Dr. Vahagn Dadrian and Ara Sarafian; and AGBU President Berge Setrakian. Each was acknowledged by Krikor Yerevanian, who delivered the evening's welcoming remarks. After noting that the Asbeds Committee is celebrating its 10th anniversary year and special events are now underway, Yerevanian passed the microphone to Asbeds Committee Chair Diran Jeredjian, who formally introduced Djerejian.

In his introduction, Jeredjian recalled the strong cultural, humanitarian, religious and social institutions that an exodus of Armenians established across the Middle East, and especially in Syria, immediately following the Armenian Genocide. They are the very institutions, he detailed, that have been endangered by the ongoing unrest – placing the Armenian Diaspora at a precarious crossroads. These themes – the region's growing instability and its implications for Armenians – were further examined by the former ambassador, who approached the podium to a round of applause.

After noting how grateful he was for the opportunity to address the community and humbled by the turnout, Djerejian identified three key areas: "The Arab Awakening," Syria, and the Caucasus, Armenia and Turkey. He recounted the changing international order following World War I and the ways it shaped the current political landscape in the Middle East. Djerejian then advocated two approaches to today's threats: the implementation of conflict resolution as opposed to conflict management and the promotion of economic and political reforms abroad. Turning to Armenia, he outlined what are, in his opinion, the greatest problems the nation faces today, citing widespread corruption, persistent poverty and rising unemployment and inflation. At the same time, he was optimistic that the country's democratic ideals, investments from foreign governments and a commitment to diplomacy and dialogue with its neighbors can point to a brighter future. Through the questions and answer session, which immediately followed the lecture, Djerejian further stressed the need for Armenia to establish a good working relationship with its neighbors, as well as open borders in order to ensure its prosperity, security and opportunities.

As the evening came to a close, Jeredjian presented him with a token gift of the Asbeds' appreciation, speaking for the whole audience when he said the event had been both thought-provoking and enlightening.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Chicago Forms New Armenian International Women's Association Affiliate

CHICAGO – On Saturday, October 17, a group of women met in Chicago to form an affiliate of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA). The meeting was held at the home of AIWA life member Sonya Doumanian.

An interim committee was formed consisting of Veronika Moroian, president; Tamar Wasoyan, vice president; Greta Doumanian Harley, secretary; Christine Markarian, treasurer and Rita Terterian, chair of philanthropy.

Several of the women had attended AIWA's sixth international conference in San Francisco last November and were inspired to form their own affiliate by the exceptional talent displayed by the Armenian women speakers.

They hope to follow the example of AIWA's new San

Francisco affiliate, which was formed following the international conference and which has held a number of activities during the past year.

The interim committee is making plans to recruit a large group of women from the Chicago area.

AIWA was formed in 1991 in order to promote and enrich the social, economic and personal advancement of Armenian women worldwide through educational and other community activities that unite Armenian women, promote gender equity and emphasize their cultural heritage. Further information about AIWA and its activities is available by contacting via email: AIWAinc@aol.com or through its website: www.AIWAinternational.org.



Standing from left, Christine Markarian, Rita Terterian, Veronika Moroian, Greta Doumanian-Harley; seated, Tamar Wasoyan, Sonya Doumanian

## A Celebration of Service in Detroit

DETROIT, from page 4

Service," to honor parishioners for their dedication to the Armenian Church.

Ohannes Boyajian, Almas Derderian, Mary Egigian, Peter Egigian, Alberta Godoshian, Sooren Gozmanian, Agnes Carman Hovsepien, Sirvart Mezian, Edward Papelian, Charles Stambouljian, Simon Tashjian and the late Harry Keoleian were recognized with the parish's "St. John the Forerunner Award."

The honorees have been involved in various church organizations, from the Parish Council and Women's Guild to the choir and educational ministry. "Their service is ongoing. They are always present in the life and activity of the parish," Kochakian said.

The Diocese's "St. Vartan Award" was presented to Howard Atesian, Dr. Vincent Baylerian, Simon Javizian, Edward Korkorian, Arthur Mardigian, Deacon Richard Norsigian, Dr. Edward Sarkisian and Dr. Gary Zamanigian. The honorees have served not only as diocesan delegates and on diocesan boards such as the Diocesan Council and the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, but also on local parish committees.

Emma Tabibyan Sogoian was awarded the "St. Gregory Medal" and Pontifical Encyclical. Sogoian, with her late husband Kalousd, has supported a number of projects at Holy Echmiadzin. In 2007, she donated 18 Armenian



Recipients of the parish's "St. John the Forerunner Award" with the Rev. Garabed Kochakian and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian

manuscripts to the Holy See. A longtime member of St. John Church, Sogoian has also been a supporter of the local parish.

The parish plans to make the "Celebration of Service" banquet an annual tradition. Sunday's program also included a message by Deacon

Mihran Hoplamazian. Karmen Santourian served as mistress of ceremonies.

The program concluded with a homage to Veterans Day and Deacon Rubik Mailian sang, *I Vow to Thee, My Country* with the accompaniment of the parish's newly-formed Komitas Bell Choir.

## Trinity Christmas Bazaar to Be Held November 30, December 1

By Seta A. Buchter

CAMBRIDGE – Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston will usher in the holiday season with its annual Trinity Christmas Bazaar, which will take place on Friday, November 30, and Saturday, December 1, in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St. Bazaar hours are Friday, from 3 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Bazaar co-chairs are Gregory A. Kolligian Jr., and Ara Hollisian, both members of Holy Trinity's Parish Council.

The bazaar's traditional favorites will include the Farmer's Market with fresh fruits and vegetables; the Country Store with nuts and sweets; Christmas Wreaths and Poinsettias with decorated wreaths and holiday poinsettias; the Sports Silent Auction; Second Time Around; The Punch is Right for Kids; Jewelry; the Sweet Candy Shoppe and ArmenianVendor.com. New this year is Alex and Ani jewelry and back by popular demand, the Silent Auction offering an array of items to bid on.

Making his annual visit to the bazaar is Santa Claus, who will stop by on Saturday, December 1, from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., to greet children and to pose for pictures.

The Trinity Christmas Bazaar would not be complete without the Armenian gourmet foods, delicacies and pastries that will be sold at various booths. Armenian dinners will be served throughout the bazaar weekend. Friday night dinner will be served from 4 to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday dinners will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Take-out meals and an a la carte menu will also be available.

On Saturday, December 1, "Santa's Playland" will provide an array of engaging activities for children ages 4 to 12, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the Peter Adamian Hall. There will be arts and crafts activities, painting wooden ornaments, decorating Christmas sugar cookies, face-painting, the Mystery Walk, and a separate play room for children under 3. Carnival games will include basketball, bean bag toss, golf, washer toss, Plinko, the balloon pop and, new this year, Nerf Target Challenge. Admission is \$5 per child. Carnival game tickets are 50 cents each or 3 for \$1 with prizes for all.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase. A limited number of Super Raffle tickets are still available. Only 150 tickets will be sold. These tickets may be purchased by calling the Holy Trinity Church office or emailing office@htaac.org.

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## OBITUARY

### Dr. Elizabeth Gregory Dedicated Pediatrician and Music Patron

ARLINGTON, Mass. — Dr. Elizabeth Gregory, a beloved pediatrician and longtime resident of this town, died on October 30 in Kennett Square, Penn. She was 95.

Gregory was born on April 7, 1917, in Bridgewater, Mass., the eldest child and only daughter of Gregory and May Kadjperoni, Armenian immigrants who fled the Turkish massacres in Van, Armenia.

She grew up in Bridgewater and Chelsea, and graduated Bates College in 1938 as the only female in her class to complete the pre-medical course of study. She received her medical degree from Boston University in 1942 and then became a pediatrician, establishing an office in 1945 in Arlington.

Gregory was a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a diplomate of the American Board of Pediatrics. She treated more than 10,000 children in her 43 years of practice and she played an influential role for some of

her patients to pursue careers in medicine.

She was a member of the Harvard Medical School faculty and was a co-founder of the Armenian American Medical Association. She also served as advisor to the Armenian Health Alliance and as coordinator for Medical Outreach after the 1988 Earthquake in Armenia.

Gregory supported many Armenian cultural and philanthropic causes. She was a founding member of the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), a member of the Boards of Directors of the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association and the National Center for Genocide Studies.

A passionate lover of music, she was a member of the Board of Directors of the Longy School of Music and the Friends of Armenian Culture Society (FACS), for which she co-produced a weekly radio show dedicated to Armenian music and culture on Boston's

WCRB-FM classical station from 1977 to 1992.

As a key member of the Armenian Music Committee in the 1940s, she helped raise the profile of Armenian-American composer Alan Hovhanness, one of the most prolific composers of the 20th century, who remained a lifelong friend.

She also befriended many artists, including Boston Expressionist Hyman Bloom and Greek mystic painter Hermon DiGiovanno, and collected their work. Much of her art collection was donated to Bates College, where she also served on the Board of Trustees.

The Arlington Board of Selectmen and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis proclaimed April 9, 1989 as Elizabeth A. Gregory Day in recognition of her 43 years of pediatric practice in the Greater Boston area.

She received the Arlington Chamber of Commerce Award in 1990 for services to the town and the Humanitarian Award from the Boston University School of Medicine in May 1992. In 1996, FACS honored Gregory for her leadership in promoting Armenian art and culture in a special concert at Lexington's Museum of Our National Heritage.

She frequently stated, "My father was way ahead of his time. He felt that a girl should have the same education as a boy, and that all of us should go into service professions of some kind. As an immigrant, he had the idea that education was the most important thing you could have because no one could take it away from you."

She is survived by her brother, Robert Sissag Gregory and her nephew, Robert Gregory, both of Montclair, NJ; her two nieces, Betsy Gregory of London, England and Gail Brekkelmans of Changchun, China; a grandniece, Nina Brekkelmans, and two grandnephews, Thaddeus Gregory and Robert Brekkelmans.

A memorial service will be held in the near future in remembrance of her.



Dr. Elizabeth Gregory

### Armine Zambak

NEW YORK — Humanitarian, mother and educator Armine Zambak died earlier this month. She was 96.

Zambak created the Armine and Garabed Zambak Scholarship Fund in 2010 in honor of her husband, the late Garabed Zambak, a successful entrepreneur and business leader in Istanbul who was especially dedicated to preserving Armenian heritage. After Garabed Zambak's death in 1977, she continued his legacy.

Like her husband, Armine Zambak believed strongly in furthering educational opportunities. Through this particular scholarship she hoped to strengthen Armenia's future by providing support and greater opportunity for young Armenians with dreams of becoming strong and dedicated future leaders in politics, international relations and public administration. Each fall the program provides full scholarships to four outstanding graduate students at Armenian universities.

"Now, I am not just another member of the civil service community. I will have to work very hard to serve my country," said Tamara Ghalayan, one of the first recipients of the scholarship who is now working in Armenia's Ministry of Finance.

She was born Armine Tahtalyan in Ankara in 1916, the youngest of three children, shortly after her father was taken during the Genocide. Her sister went to live in an orphanage and their uncle took care of the rest of the family.

Despite numerous hardships, she graduated at

the top of her class from Uskudar American College in Istanbul and excelled as a top employee in a bank. Following her move to the US in 1984, Zambak remained a devoted supporter of the Armenian community.

She married Garabed Zambak in 1944, a successful businessman and an influential leader in the Armenian community in Istanbul. He served as treasurer and as the financial backbone of Tibrevank seminary as well as the Sourp Pargich Armenian Hospital. Armine had a large part to play in her husband's success. She supported him in his business and volunteer work and traveled extensively with him, sometimes serving as his translator. She was also a worldly and gracious hostess, entertaining with elegance. The couple had two daughters, Agavni Pontish and Marie.

Garabed Zambak died in 1977 and in 1984 Mrs. Zambak moved to the United States where



Armine Zambak

she remained a committed and passionate supporter of the Armenian community. She was a regular attendee of the St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church in Wynnewood, Penn., and an active supporter of the Armenian Sisters Academy in Radnor. She followed politics closely and was committed to the development of strong national leaders. She funded a scholarship program in the early 1990s for Armenian graduate students in the United States. She then transferred the fund to the Fund for Armenian Relief, dedicating it to supporting graduate students in political science and public administration at Armenian Universities.

To all who knew her, Zambak was the gentle teacher of life lessons. People around her were always left learning something valuable, about being graceful, about how to be in relationship with others, about being a lady. She was filled with practical wisdom.

Throughout her life, Armine Zambak was a constant source of strength for her family.

She is survived by daughters Agavni Pontish and her husband Ara Yeramyant and Marie Zambak Gregory; by granddaughters Araks Yeramyant and Ani and her husband Daniel Speirs, and by five great-grandchildren.

### Elizabeth 'Betty' Arakelian

BELMONT, Mass. — Elizabeth "Betty" Arakelian died on November 8.

She was the wife of the late Badrig "Bud" Arakelian.

She leaves her daughter, MaryAnn Kazanjian and her husband, Edward, of Belmont; grandchildren Karen Lilla and her husband, Paul, of Belmont, and Krista Kazanjian of Watertown; great-granddaughter Marianna and great-grandson Damian Lilla; and brother Charles Boyajian of Belmont, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins, including her niece and "second daughter," Linda Boyajian Abkarian.

A brother, Andrew Boyajian, predeceased her.

She was born in Lowell in 1916 and was the first baby christened at the Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Lowell. At the age of 13, she became the church organist.

After moving to Arlington, she was a student of the well-known composer, Alan Hovhanness,

who also lived in Arlington at the time.

At the age of 18, she became the first organist at St. James Armenian Church in Watertown, where she was an active choir member, organist and accompanist for services, weddings and funerals for the next 50 years, retiring in 1988. She also played at Holy Trinity Armenian Church on Shawmut Avenue in Boston for funerals and weddings.

Elizabeth and Badrig Arakelian married in 1944 and were a great team at home and in their workplace and business, Belmont Cleaners and Tailors, for 27 years.

They were also devoted members of St. James and were recognized in 1988 as Parishioners of the Year in appreciation for their many years of service. She was a charter member of the St. James Women's Guild and member for 60 years, and a former member of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research and the Armenian Library and Museum of America. She retired from Curtin Insurance in Cambridge, in 1981.

The couple also had a very close relationship with their daughter's in-laws, Edward and Araxie Kazanjian.

Funeral arrangements were made by the Giragosian Funeral Home of Watertown.

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to the Badrig and Elizabeth Arakelian Permanent Fund, c/o St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472.



Elizabeth "Betty" Arakelian

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## 16th Original Armenian Heritage Cruise

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. – The Armenian Heritage Cruise will be sailing from Ft. Lauderdale on January 12-19, 2013 for a seven-day Caribbean cruise on the MSC Poesia.

By Barbara Haroutunian

This will be the 16th Armenian cruise, and we are pleased that the entire Armenian community from all over the world come together for a week of renewing old friendships, meeting new people, attending cultural programs, listening and dancing to Armenian music, eating good food and having fun in the sun. AHC will be visiting Cozumel, Isal del Roatan, Georgetown and Montego Bay.

This year the guests are Armen Yeghanyan, the Armenian Ambassador to Canada and Antonia Arslan, author of *Skylark Farm*. A blessing of the book (*Kinetson*) *The War Gods*, written by Roger Kupelian, which will soon be produced into a movie, will take place. Osep Sarafian will discuss Armenian architecture in historic Armenia. There will be a presentation by Ken Hachikian, ANCA Chairman and Dr. Antranig Kasbarian will discuss the current status of Nagorno-Karabagh (Artsakh). For the first time there will be a special medical presentation by the Armenian Medical Organizations and Institutions and a presentation from the Armenian Fund USA.

Entertainment will be provided by two bands, The All Star Traditional Band featuring Khatchig Gingirian and Richard Berberian as well as Khoren Mouradian and the D-Unknowns. The Akhtamar Dance Ensemble from New Jersey will perform traditional Armenian folk dances.

The Armenian festival party will feature an afternoon of dancing and fun by the pool. Prizes will be given to those with the best outfit in Red, Blue and Orange. A must on the Armenian cruise will be the annual Tavlou and Belote Tournaments.

An Armenian TV channel will be designated for daily Armenian programs and shows. The Armenian Network of America, a group made up of young Armenian professionals will meet on the ship.

For reservations and information about the Armenian cruise contact TravelGroup International.

## Worcester Celebrates 'Power of the Printed Word' with Lecture

WORCESTER, from page 1

Father Khatchadour Boghossian of Armenian Apostolic Holy Trinity Church and Father Aved Terzian of Armenian Church of Our Savior joined together to open the event with a hymn dedicated to the Holy Translators, titled *Vork Zataretsi*, meaning "Those Who Enhanced the Work."

Worcester Armenian Book Commemoration Committee Chair Van M. Aroian gave opening remarks, along with a slideshow of the Worcester Library exhibit.

Aroian also showed a brief film about Matenadaran manuscript repository in Yerevan.

Worcester City Councilor Philip Palmieri presented Aroian and guest lecturers Gregorian and Mouradian with proclamations from Mayor Joseph Petty declaring November Armenian Book Commemoration Month in the city of Worcester, and presented each of the honorees with keys to the city. Palmieri thanked the honorees and the committee for "keeping up the traditions of such a strong community."

In introducing the lecturers, Aroian stressed the important role both Armenian papers play in using media and technology to "penetrate the evil curtain of denial." Both Gregorian and Mouradian shared their observations on the state of Armenian journalism and their roles as interpreters of major events in the Armenian community.

In her talk, Gregorian took audience members on a historical journey through Armenia's "long love affair with the written word." Beginning with the historical significance of the Holy Translators and events captured by early Diasporan papers such as India's *Azdarar* in the 1790s, Gregorian continued on to contemporary political issues facing the diaspora and Armenia.

She also discussed the influence of Armenian personalities and social media of today, noting, "On our pages, we trace the stories of these people and many, many others who on a day-to-day basis play a more vital role in our greater American and world community and bring it to our readers from our specific viewpoint."

Beyond their role in delivering timely news to the diaspora, Gregorian explained the archival importance of Armenian papers, which provide historical snippets of history and capture "what mattered most to readers at any given time."

Mouradian shared several stories during his lecture from his travels to historic Armenia (modern Turkey) and his work in the Armenian press that illustrated the power and resilience of the Armenian written word throughout history, despite devastation and hardship.

Mouradian spoke of the connections between the historic and contemporary written word, as well as the connections among Armenians living throughout the world to their past. "To communicate that connection to the readership," Mouradian said, "is the greatest current challenge for newspapers."

He recalled instances where Kurdish denizens of a former Armenian village had brought over utensils with Armenian inscriptions left over from the time of the Armenian Genocide, and asked him and other Armenian visitors to read the writing on them so that they would "change back" from their current state as base metals to gold.

During the lectures and the question-and-answer that followed, both Gregorian and Mouradian shared their mutual goal of reaching out to young readers, and the opportunities the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* and the *Armenian Weekly* seek interns to get involved in the process of preserving the written word through contemporary journalism. Mouradian characterized the current generation as "different not indifferent" and cited youth involvement as one of their key tasks for the Armenian community.

Likewise, Aroian added, "We need to appeal to the younger generation" to get involved.

In his closing remarks, Aroian thanked committee members, volunteers, library staff, the National Association for Armenian Studies (NAASR), the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) and various other supporters of the exhibit and accompanying lecture series. Refreshments were served.

The recorded event will be aired on local public access television.

The Worcester Armenian Book Commemoration Committee is composed of representatives from the Worcester Armenian community with the support of the Armenian Church of Saviour, the Armenian Church of the Martyrs, and Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church. The committee chairman is Aroian and committee members are Hrair B. Aprahamian, Nevert Asadoorian, Charles K. Der Kazarian, Frank S. Minasian, Sarah D. Moradian and Stephen J. Papazian.



Khatchig Mouradian



Alin K. Gregorian

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## New York METRO

# Catholicos Presides over Dedication Of Haroutune and Siranoush Toufayan Hall of St. Mary Armenian Church

LIVINGSTON, N.J. — Friday November 16, was a historic day for St. Mary Armenian Church. Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II travelled from Holy Echmiadzin to preside over the blessing and opening of the new expanded Haroutune & Siranoush Toufayan Hall of St. Mary. It was a

presiding over the celebration and added, "May God bless all of us at St. Mary Parish and may all its parishioners enjoy Toufayan Hall for many years to come."

An emotional Harry Toufayan thanked all for the many years of hard work and for the sup-



Harry and Suzanne Toufayan with Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II

great honor for national benefactors, Harry and Suzanne Toufayan, to see the catholicos with more than 250 attending the opening of a major complex they have supported.

Among the clergy attending were Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, Bishop Haygazoun Najarian, Rev. Oshagan Gulgolian, Fr. Anania Tsaturyan, Rev. Vazken Karayan, Der Diran Bohajian, Rev. Simeon Odabashian, Fr. Shnorh Soiun and Fr. Karekin Kasparian. Many other national benefactors were present.

Following the prayers Harry and Suzanne Toufayan were surrounded with their children and their grandchildren as they cut the red ribbon and made the grand entrance through the doors into the new hall.

port of friends, "This Hall is for the future generation. I am proud to dedicate it in memory of my parents" In his remarks Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) spoke highly and with great pride of the friendship he enjoys with the Toufayan family and thanked them for their generosity.

Throughout the program a number of videos were shared. One video brought out images of the construction of the Toufayan hall from day one. Another video reminded all gathered of yet another major project of the Toufayan - the St. Haroutune Armenian Church in Orlando, Fla. and the Harry and Suzanne Youth Center in Holy Echmiadzin. The most interesting video was the digitalized version of a vintage video



Members of the clergy along with the members of the Toufayan family at the ribbon-cutting

The program included the singing of the American and Armenian National Anthems by 14-year-old Alex Nargizian, a grandson of the Toufayans. The Invocation was delivered by Karekin II. While dinner served the newly appointed young pastor of St. Mary Armenian Church, Fr. Arakel Vardazaryan, delivered his remarks and warmly welcomed the catholicos to St. Mary and praised the benefactors; the Shushi Dance Ensemble members performed.

Kristine Toufayan Casali also spoke, thanking all who worked so hard to make the expansion happen.

Suzanne Toufayan thanked the catholicos for

recorded on October 21, 1989 when the first dedication of Toufayan hall was celebrated.

It was 23 years ago that Harry Toufayan said, "I do not know what else to do for my parents than to thank them in front of all my friends for all they have done for me."

The final Message and Benediction was delivered by Karekin II. He listed the Toufayans' donations and especially the work that goes into the Harry and Suzanne Hayortats Doon where more than 600 children are served in after school programs.

The center also serves as a soup kitchen for elderly men and women.

# Upstate New York Armenian Community Participates in Festival of Nations

WATERVLIET, N.Y. — The Festival of Nations, one of the areas most anticipated events of the year, took place in late October at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in downtown Albany, with a strong presence from the Armenian community.

As clearly stated in their bylaws, "The purpose of the Festival is to create awareness and appreciation for the cultural heritage of the people from diverse national origins and to promote unity, understanding and fellowship among the many national and ethnic groups residing in the Capital District and vicinity." And it did just that as 23 nations, including Armenia, were represented in this year's celebration.

The Festival of Nations, Inc., started 41 years ago. Armenia was one of the first nations to participate. While there were a few years of Armenia's absence in the event, the community, through the recent efforts of Deacon Rafi Topalian who also serves on the Festival of Nations planning committee, has participated on several levels of the Festival.

This year, Armenia had a food booth selling lahmajoun prepared by Bill Nevins of CeCe's catering, and, homemade paklava by Marianne Topalian. Additionally, Samantha Karian participated in the Miss Festival of Nations contest as Miss Armenia, while young Armenian boys and girls from the area, under the direction of choreographer Maria



Chairman of the Festival of Nations Executive Committee, Manoj Ajmera, stands amongst 21 talented and educated young ladies who represented their nation as contestants in the Miss Festival of Nations. This year, Miss China won the title of 2012 Miss Festival of Nations.

Derian, performed traditional dances on stage for a crowd of thousands.

"Participating in the Festival of Nations was an incredible experience for me, not only because I was representing the Armenian culture, but because I had the opportunity to learn about other nations, their cultures and customs," shared Karian. She added, "The festival is meant to bring nations of the world together, and that's just what it did this year and has done for the past four decades. I am proud that I was able to bring a name and face to the Armenian community this year, and am honored that I was selected to represent our beloved nation."

"Nine years ago, I became involved with the Festival of Nations," Topalian who rallies the Armenian community. He further explained, "It is a very important event within the greater Capital District because it indeed unites and creates an environment of celebration and acceptance of all cultures."

Manoj Ajmera, who has served as the chairman of the Festival of Nations Executive Committee for the past 27 years, agrees. "This event is a forum to showcase different cultures while allowing for camaraderie between people of different nations," he said, adding how beneficial it is to the younger generation as well. "The Festival of Nations provides children a glimpse of the world in a short time and allows them to also appreciate their own heritage and culture," explained Ajmera, who is originally from India.

This event also serves to unite the Armenian people as well. This year, Topalian organized the Capital District Armenian Cultural Organization, which represents all Armenian churches and groups in the area, including St. Peter Armenian Church of Watervliet, Holy Cross Armenian Church of Troy, the United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church, and, the Knights and Daughters of Vartan. "We sincerely hope that this combined contribution will continue in order for us to represent the Armenian community at the Festival of Nations annually," expressed Topalian.

"This newly-formed organization not only serves to have a united representation during the event, but is also a great platform and example of how we as Armenians can indeed come together for the greater good."

"It is rewarding to be a part of a committee that organizes such an invaluable and important event for the entire community," concluded Topalian.

To find out about how you can help to ensure Armenia's participation in the Festival of Nations for decades to come, or for sponsorship opportunities, contact Topalian by emailing rafitop@aol.com.



Samantha Karian represented Armenia as a contestant in the 2012 Miss Festival of Nations held in Albany, NY in late October.



**New York**  
**METRO**

# ACYOA Members Sharpen Faith Literacy

STONY POINT, N.Y. – The members of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) attending a leadership conference in upstate New York this month took an in-depth look at different aspects of the worship and practices of the Armenian Church.

The conference, held November 9-11, brought

together 40 young people representing 16 parishes for a weekend of lectures, worship, and reflections. Titled “Faith Literacy for Young Leaders,” it planned by the ACYOA Central Council, and held at the Don Bosco Retreat Center. Also joining the ACYOA members were young representatives from the Coptic

Orthodox Church.

Participants arrived on Friday evening and got acquainted with one another. The group then prayed together during a Vespers service.

Saturday began with a Matins service, followed by two presentations given by St. Nersess Armenian Seminary students Eric Vozzy and Saro Kalayjian.

Vozzy’s talk – titled “Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox ... Other?” – outlined the theological differences between the Armenian Church and

ing in our faith we can help lead others in theirs, and grow our chapters by showing others our love for Christ and humanity.”

On Saturday evening, participants worked in small groups to deepen their understanding of four parables of Jesus. The groups acted out their interpretations of the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, the Parable of the Prodigal Son, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, and the Parable of the Talents.

The evening concluded with an open forum

## 2012 Trinity Christmas BAZAAR



Friday, November 30, 3 pm-9 pm  
Saturday, December 1, 10 am-7 pm

### Delicious Armenian Dinners

Lamb Shish, Losh, Chicken Kebab, and Combo;  
\*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, Hommus,  
Simit, Yalanchi, Anoushabour, Sini Kufta and more!

### Booths and Vendors

Super Country Store, Farmer’s Market, Silent Auction,  
Sports Silent Auction, Wreaths and Poinsettias, Candy  
Shoppe, The “Punch is Right” for Kids, Jewelry, “Second  
Time Around,” Raffles, ArmenianVendor and more!

### Santa’s Playland

Saturday, December 1  
10:30 am-12:30 pm  
Peter Adamian Hall

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

Arts & Crafts Activities  
Decorating Ornaments  
Decorating Sugar Cookies  
and more ...

Artistic Balloon Creations  
by Jo-Jo

Carnival Games  
Tickets - 50 cents or  
3 for \$1  
With Prizes for All



### Visit with Santa

And have your photo  
taken too!

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

Charles and Nevart Talanian  
Cultural Hall

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



ACYOA members prayed together during this month’s Leadership Conference in Stony Point, NY.

other Christian denominations.

Kalayjian’s presentation, “Understanding Scripture,” encouraged participants to become more familiar with the writings of church fathers and their interpretation of the Bible.

Later in the afternoon, the Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan spoke on the rituals of the Divine Liturgy in a presentation titled “Beyond the Words of the Badarak.”

He explained the significance of sanctuary architecture, deacon litanies and sacred objects in the church, and conveyed the message that the badarak is a “love song” to Jesus Christ.

Deacon Ryan Tellalian spoke on “The Magnificent Seven: The Sacraments in Our Lives,” which gave a close look at the

importance of the sacraments and outlined ways in which the administration of these sacraments in the Armenian Church differs from other denominations.

“We were able to learn about the history and nuances of our faith,” said Nathaniel Kadamian of St. Mesrob Church of Racine, Wis. “By grow-

ing on the altar and singing in the choir.

“The weekend was a wonderful opportunity to enrich our faith and appreciation for our church’s rich traditions in an atmosphere of fellowship and friendliness,” said Christine Santourian of St. John Church of Southfield, Mich.



Participants listen to a presentation during the conference.



Conference participants pose for a group photo.



# Arts & Living

## Major Armenian Genocide Film Launched at TUMO Center

YEREVAN — Producers of the upcoming feature “Three Apples Fell From Heaven,” a drama set against the backdrop of the Armenian Genocide, gathered at Tumo Center for Creative Technologies last month to introduce award-winning director Shekhar Kapur who was in the country to scout locations for the film.

“This is a challenging project that reveals a shameful chapter in world history,” said Kapur whose movies, including “Elizabeth” and “The Golden Age,” have earned nine Academy Award nominations. “I am not one to back down from a challenge and I believe the world is ready to join me in finally examining this tragedy and its far-reaching consequences. My films aspire to put human faces on history and I think that’s what make them relevant. That’s what I hope to do in depicting the Armenian Genocide.”

The Tumo Center event was held to welcome the production team to Armenia where they hope to do some of the filming. “Three Apples Fell from Heaven” is based on Micheline Aharonian Marcom’s award-winning novel of heroism and heartbreak of the same name, set against the savage backdrop of the Ottoman purge of its Armenian population during the years 1914-1917. The film’s executive producer, Vahe Yacoubian, introduced author Marcom, along with producer/actress Sona Tatoyan and her husband, Academy Award-nominated screenwriter José Rivera (“The Motorcycle Diaries”) who has adapted Marcom’s novel for the screen. They were joined on the podium by the film’s French producer, Edgard Tenenbaum, and Turkish co-producer, Cigdem Mater.

“I cannot express my joy in working with Shekhar Kapur on this project,” says Tatoyan. “José and I just spent a week with him in Yerevan working on the script and location scouting. I’d read that he is a director who works at the intersection of art, myth and activism and that is a perfect description for this film.” Tatoyan continues, “The film is the first of its kind — an epic historical drama to be filmed in a country with little film infrastructure. ‘Three Apples’ will be the catalyst to creating a world-class film industry in Armenia so it really is an act of activism. The other important thing to note with the film is that it is a co-production with Armenia, France and Turkey. This is obviously historic and challenging in an amazing way. The film is not only a narrative about genocide. It works on several levels. Like the book, it is surrounded by passion and love. We want to share the film with people around the world, with all cultures and people of all faiths. Not only with Armenians, but with all human beings who look at genocide as a universal tragedy.”

“Launching this film in Armenia, surrounded by so many talented artists and internationally recognized filmmakers, was an emotionally charged experience,” adds Yacoubian. “It gave the proper inspirational foundation for making a film that will commemorate the Armenian Genocide and help pave the way for a peaceful and harmonious future for humanity.”

After filmmaker introductions, Yacoubian introduced a performance by electronic musician and vocalist Karin Tatoyan, who was joined by an ensemble of classical musicians from Armenia’s Philharmonic Orchestra and the prestigious Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory.

Following the musical performance, each guest spoke about their involvement with the film. Rivera uttered a few Armenian phrases, to which the audience responded with enthusiastic applause and laughter. Following the presentation, the film’s co-producer, Alex Kalognomos, hosted a closing reception that

see FILM, page 11



The members of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church Choir with the pastor and deacons

## Holy Trinity Armenian Church Celebrates Two Milestones

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — It was a day of reflection and joy as the Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston celebrated two milestone events on Sunday, November 4. Current and former choir members and the entire parish celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church choir and also welcomed their former pastor, Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, on the 65th anniversary of his Ordination to the Holy Order of Priesthood.

Gizirian, who served as pastor from 1974 to 1976, celebrated the Divine Liturgy where a Requiem Service was held for all deceased Holy Trinity choir members.

Following church services, he presided over the complimentary Centennial Celebration Reception in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall where more than 230 current and former choir members and parishioners and friends gathered to celebrate both the 100th Anniversary of the choir and the archbishop’s 65th anniversary.

Noting that Gizirian is a priest, archbishop and a man who is loved by all, who has been the spiritual mentor for the clergy of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), and who is one of the most decent human beings he has ever had the privilege of meeting, Fr. Vasken Kouzouian, pastor of Holy Trinity, thanked him for being who he is, and that on his 65 years of service, may he receive back the same blessing he has offered.

The invocation was given by Gizirian, and serving as master of ceremonies was Deacon Gregory Krikorian, chairman of the 100th anniversary celebration, who welcomed those gathered and thanked all the benefactors and donors for their gifts that made the celebration possible. George W. Haroutunian offered the celebratory toast honoring both the archbishop’s and the choir’s anniversaries. Warm reflections of the Holy Trinity Choir of Shawmut Avenue were given by Rose Aznavorian and George W. Haroutunian. A moving collection of the choir, past and present, was shown.

While shared memories of past and present choir members prevailed, the celebration also included a look to the future with the Junior Choir, under the direction of Daniel Teager, delighting the attendees with the singing of *America the Beautiful*, *Marmin Deroonagan* and concluding the day’s program with the *Hayr Mer* with all past and present choir members joining them. In his remarks, Fr. Vasken directed his attention to the Junior Choir members, telling them: “Our celebration today would not be complete without your involvement. This great church was built for you; it’s yours to participate in; it’s yours to serve; and it’s yours to take an active role in.”

Kouzouian thanked Krikorian, choir chairman, for chairing the dual celebration and also his committee, choir members Rose Aznavorian, Grace Araxie Boyajian, Robert Dulgarian, George W. Haroutunian, Arpie Kouzouian and Helen Krikorian. And “to the ladies and gentlemen of our choir,” he stated, “you give of yourselves each and every week; you come prepared, you sing for the glory of God; and you do it with love. With our hearts full of appreciation, we say thank you!”

**“You give of yourselves each and every week; you come prepared, you sing for the glory of God; and you do it with love.”**

## Rahbee to Conduct Whatcom Symphony In March Concert

BELLINGHAM, Wash. — On Sunday, March 3, 2013, David Alexander Rahbee will conduct the Whatcom Symphony Orchestra as a finalist for the position of music director leading a concert with guest artist, violinist Sarah Chang, who will perform a suite from Bernstein’s *West Side Story* arranged by David Newman. The program also includes the Barber’s *Essay No. 2, Op. 17* and Dvorak’s *Symphony No. 9, From the New World*.

Rahbee (Belmont High School class of 1992), who has been based in Vienna, Austria for nearly a decade, has earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts from the University of Montreal. Recent performances include a concert with the Boston New Music Initiative in Boston and l’Orchestre de la Francophonie in Montreal, Canada. An article from his doctoral thesis, titled “Direct Influence of Musical Ideas on the Symphonies of Gustav Mahler” will appear in the Spring 2013 Issue of the musical journal *Sonus*, and will also appear in the next journal of the Gustav Mahler Society in Vienna and will thus reach libraries on all six continents.

A recipient of both the American-Austrian Foundation’s 2003 Herbert von Karajan Fellowship for Young Conductors, and 2005 International Richard-Wagner-Verband Stipend, Rahbee has enjoyed an increasingly busy sched-



David Alexander Rahbee

ule. As part of his fellowship and residency at the 2003 Salzburg Festival, Rahbee was assistant conductor of the International Attergau Institute Orchestra (under the patronage of the Vienna Philharmonic), where he assisted and worked with members of the Vienna Philharmonic and guest conductors including Bobby McFerrin. As a result he has regularly attended rehearsals of the Vienna Philharmonic since 2003. He appeared in concert with orchestras such as the RTE National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Kammerphilharmonie Berlin-Brandenburg, Orchestre de la Francophonie, the Dresden Hochschule orchestra, Orquesta Sinfónica de Loja, Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, Savaria Symphony Orchestra, Cool Opera of Norway (members of the Stavanger Symphony), Schönbrunner Schloss Orchester and the Divertimento Ensemble of Milan. With these ensembles he has lead a variety of works from the baroque, classical, romantic and modern eras.

From 1997 to 2001, Rahbee was conductor of the Fidelio Chamber Orchestra in Cambridge, Mass. He holds degrees from Indiana University (bachelor’s, violin and composition, 1996), and from the New England Conservatory (master’s, conducting, 2000) and University of Montreal (doctorate, conducting, 2012). He has also attended the Pierre Monteux School and participated in post-graduate conducting classes at the Universität für Musik und Darstellende Kunst, Vienna.

Rahbee has taken part in conducting master classes given by Kurt Masur, Sir Colin Davis, Jorma Panula, Zdenek Mácal, Peter Eötvös, Zoltán Peskó and Helmut Rilling.

Rahbee is the son of composer Dianne Goolkasian Rahbee and grandson of Genocide survivor Peter Aharon Goolkasian.

The March 3 concert will start at 3 p.m. For tickets, visit [www.mountbakertheatre.com](http://www.mountbakertheatre.com).





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Zangakner Ensemble to Perform 'Armenian Children's Planet'

WATERTOWN – The Zangakner Performing Arts Ensemble will stage their inaugural musical, "Armenian Children's Planet," on December 8, 5 p.m. at the Watertown Middle School.

The show organizers aim to spread a message of peace and tolerance through music.

The Zangakner Performing Arts Ensemble was established in fall 2010, upon the initiative of Artistic Director Hasmik Konjoyan, from Fein Academy, with the idea of bringing the world of music to children from many Armenian schools in New England. The 30 members of Zangakner (which means bells in Armenian), aged 4 to 14, are selected through an annual audition process and are trained in voice, movement, characterization, script analysis, improvisation, dance, diction and performance skills.

"It is our ensemble's mission to provide opportunities for children to excel in the performing arts and to teach them that only through hard work, dedication and a heightened sense of discipline is this excellence possible," said Konjoyan. "It is no secret that children enjoy singing. What Zangakner offers them is a venue to preserve their Armenian language, culture and traditions through music."

Refreshments and baked goods will be served after the show. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and can be purchased at [www.amarasonline.com](http://www.amarasonline.com).



The Zangakner Ensemble

## Major Armenian Genocide Film Launched at TUMO Center

FILM, from page 10

allowed guests a closer look at the state-of-the-art Tumo facility, and Kapur continued to share his impressions of being in Armenia for the first time and his deep respect for the historical significance of "Three Apples" story.

*Three Apples Fell From Heaven* was the debut novel of award-winning author Marcom, for which she won Columbia University's Anahid Literary Award. The novel was also named a Notable Book by the *New York Times* was cited as one of the best books of 2001 by both the *Los Angeles Times* and *Washington Post* and was a runner up for the PEN/Hemingway Award for First Fiction.

Marcom has published four novels, including a trilogy of books about the Armenian Genocide and its aftermath. The second book of the trilogy, *The Daydreaming Boy*, was the *Los Angeles Times* Book of the Year for 2004 and was awarded the PEN/USA Award for Fiction in 2005. Marcom was also the recipient of the 2004 Lannon Foundation Fellowship, a 2006 Whiting Writers' Award for emerging writers, and was a 2008 Fulbright Fellow. Her fifth book, *A Brief History of Yes*, is forthcoming from Dalkey Archive Press in spring 2013.

Kapur is a globally-recognized film director, activist, media visionary and proponent on the future of New Media. Having started his career

as an accountant, management consultant and economist in London, he returned to India in search of a new direction and went on to become a well known actor, director, writer and producer. He is best known for films, such as "Elizabeth," "Golden Age," "Bandit Queen," "Mr. India," "Masoom" and "Four Feathers," that have won or been nominated for numerous awards including the Academy Awards, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTAs) and Filmfare Awards. He has diverse environmental interests while currently championing the cause of water as a resource. He was given one of India's highest civilian state awards, the "Padma Shiri," for his service to media in the nation.

Rivera, wrote the screenplay for "The Motorcycle Diaries," a film directed in 2004 by Walter Salles. Rivera studied with Nobel Prize winner Gabriel García Márquez at the Sundance Institute in 1989, and he has been the recipient of a Whiting Foundation Award, a McKnight Fellowship, a Rockefeller Foundation Grant and a Kennedy Center Grant. On a

2012 Cannes Film Festival and stars Kristen Stewart ("Twilight"), Kirsten Dunst and Amy Adams.

Tatoyan is a first-generation Syrian-Armenian-American actress, producer, writer, and director living in New York. Tatoyan is the founder and president of Door/Key Productions. Currently in pre-production are "Three Apples Fell From Heaven" and "Celestina." In development are a biopic on the Armenian abstract expressionist artist Arshile Gorky and "The Der Zor Project," a documentary about the infamous death march through the Syrian desert during the 1915 Armenian Genocide. Marking Sona's feature writing and directorial debut, "The First Full Moon," (Sundance RAWI Middle-Eastern Screenwriting Lab Fellow 2011, Dubai Film Connection/Festival 2012 project) mingles past and present to explore the ghosts, the traumas, the guilt and the loves of a modern Armenian heroine. In this and other projects, she seeks to explore the untold stories of her scattered people and share her rich, ancient, multi-faceted culture with the

This painting was painted in 2012, acrylic on canvas and has been made into a giclee print on canvas capturing the beauty and texture of the original image. It is entitled, "Tree of Wishfilment" and features a Church built in the 1300s.

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From left, Edgard Tenenbaum, Cigdem Mater, Micheline Marcom Aharonian, Sona Tatoyan, Jose Rivera, Shekhar Kapur and Vahe Yacoubian

Fulbright Arts Fellowship he was writer-in-residence at the Royal Court Theatre in London. Since the success of "The Motorcycle Diaries," Rivera has gone on to pen screenplays for Sony Pictures, Dreamworks, Summit Entertainment, Miramax, and many others, as well as teleplays for Showtime, HBO, NBC and CBS. Re-teaming with Salles, Rivera wrote the screenplay adaptation of Jack Kerouac's seminal novel *On the Road*, executive produced by Francis Ford Coppola. The film recently premiered at the

wider world. As an actress, lead roles on film include Eve in "The Journey" (winner, Audience Award, Milan International Film Festival 2002), and the "No Name Girl" in the short "The Tape Recorder" (José Rivera, director), and Laila in Tatoyan's writing/directing debut short, "Toujours" (Arpa International Film Festival 2012). She is playing the part of Lusine in "Three Apples Fell From Heaven."

For more information about the film, visit [www.facebook.com/ThreeApplesFellFromHeaven](http://www.facebook.com/ThreeApplesFellFromHeaven).





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Study of German-Armenian Relations During WWII Refutes Charges of Collaboration

**Summer of '42: A Study of German-Armenian Relations During the Second World War** by Levon Thomassian. Schiffer Publishing Ltd. 2012. 216 pp. ISBN 978-0-7643-4045-1

**By Daphne Abeel**

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Historian Levon Thomassian has chosen to address a sensitive issue in his scholarly, heavily documented examination of German-Armenian relations during World War II. It is not disputed that a certain number of Armenians, mainly ex-Red Army POWs, served the Nazi regime in various roles, but Thomassian is determined to refute the allegation, perpetrated, he asserts, mainly by Turkish sources, that the Armenians subscribed to the racist, anti-Semitic practices of Hitler's forces.

Thomassian was provoked to study this topic after reading a book titled *Foreign Volunteers*

research and study.

He comments in his preface, "I later learned that Armenians served under the Third Reich in various capacities, some voluntarily, others involuntarily." His initial inquiries revealed that many sources that referenced German-Armenian relations were of Turkish origin and they often perpetrated the notions that Armenians supported the killing of the Jews. He quotes an article hosted by the Assembly of Turkish American Associations (ATAA) by Ayhan Ozer that states, "Historical evidences point to a devious Armenian collusion with Hitler to exterminate the Jews during WW II."

The complexities of alliances and loyalties are not easy to disentangle given the violence of the period and the fissures in Armenian politics. As he says, "One's affiliation or sympathies with the Armenian Bolsheviks, Hnchaks, Ramgavars, or Dshnaks oftentimes influence interpretation of German-Armenian relations prior to, during, and after the war."

It must be remembered that a signature event, following the absorption in 1921 of briefly independent Armenia into the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), was the assassination in 1933 of Archbishop Leon Tourian in New York. Tourian had refused to permit the presence of the tri-color flag of independent Armenia to be flown on the stage where he was to speak. His death, perpetrated by members of the Dashnak party, dramatically deepened the split between Dashnaks and their rivals, the Ramgavars, Hnchaks and Armenian Bolsheviks.

Although, officially, the Dashak Party sided with Allies during the war, a segment of the party, led by the First World War hero, Drastamat Kanayan, known more familiarly as General Dro, chose to support Germany as a means to an end. But Thomassian refutes the notion that Dro ever led any Armenian battalion in service of the Nazi cause. He states, "German officers' ranks, including that of battalion commander, were exclusively reserved for the Germans."

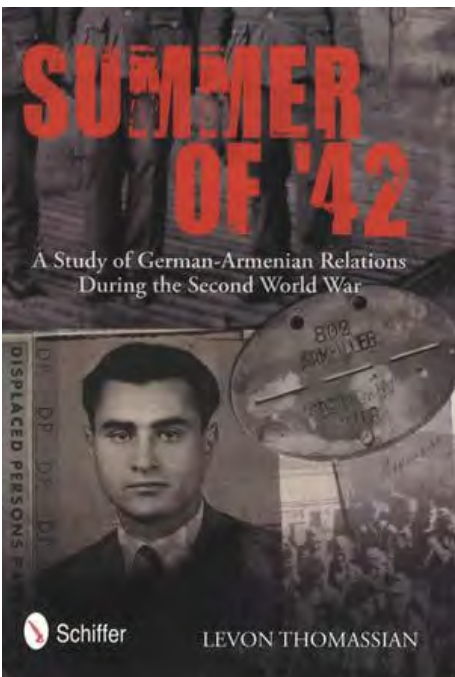
Relying predominantly on German archival documents and some American sources, Thomassian concludes that the Ostarbeiter (Eastern Laborers, which included some Armenians), "were little more than unpaid slave laborers for German agriculture and various industries."

Thomassian shows that Armenians were subjected to the racist policies of National Socialism. Armenians, in many instances, were not accepted as Aryan and were forced to wear identifying badges, a strategy strikingly similar



**CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Dan Teager, an Armenian Boston-based musician, will bring his full band, Black Sea Salsa, to Ryles Jazz Club, 212 Hampshire St., at 8 p.m., on Friday, November 30. Teager, above, fourth from left, writes the original Middle Eastern and Latin Jazz for this 15 piece band. He received a music award from the Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art (AFFMA) in Los Angeles; he and his group are also two-time winners of Massachusetts Cultural Council music grants. Teager is a graduate of Princeton University, and studied at the New England Conservatory of Music. He leads the junior choir at Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, and is on the music staff at Arlington High School. He lives in Arlington with his wife, Maria Mahdasian, and their children, Lucinée and Van.**

### Books



of the *Wehrmacht:1841-45*, which described the existence of the so-called Armenian Legion, formed under the auspices of the German Armed Forces. This group of men consisted primarily ex-Red Army POWs who had been captured by the Germans when they invaded the Soviet Union in 1941. Mention of the Armenians in this publication was brief, however, and Thomassian decided to conduct his own

to the ostracizing of the Jews by means of the yellow star. Germany set up what was called the Ostministerium (Ministry of Eastern Affairs) to select "volunteers" from the Soviet prison camps where conditions were woefully bad. To escape the camps, a number of Armenians agreed to join the German forces. And then there were those, including General Dro, who hoped to renegotiate Armenia's independence with Germany once the war was won by Hitler and his forces. Also, Dro and others also felt that their alliance with Germany would ensure that Turkey could not invade Armenia nor would it enter the war. A further reason some Armenians were willing to join with German forces were their anti-Bolshevik sentiments.

In cases where Armenians were actually permitted to fight against the Soviets, for example in Georgia, Armenia and the North Caucasus, they were represented in very small numbers, perhaps 20 or 30 men in a commando unit.

In his concluding chapter, Thomassian makes his strongest argument for the fact that Armenians did not collaborate with the Nazis. He

argues that those who did serve the Third Reich in various capacities did so primarily because they faced death and suffering in the Red Army camps. He points out that far more Armenians volunteered for and served on the side of the Allies during the war. The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic alone provided several hundred thousand troops to the Allies, and thousands more from the United States, Britain and France volunteered for and fought on the Allied side. He also cites the many contributions made by Armenian civilians to the war effort, notably the Armenian community in Fresno, Calif.

This is probably not a book for the general reader. Densely written and heavily documented, both with chapter notes and extensive bibliography, it is a text for other historians and for those who may still rankle at the suggestion that Armenians contributed in any free willed or substantive way to the Nazi effort.

An appendix includes some interesting color illustrations of the badges and insignia doled out to the Armenians, which differed from those assigned to German troops. For example, Armenians were not permitted to receive the award of the Iron Cross for acts of bravery and merit, but were allowed to wear a badge dubbed the Eastern People's Award.

Eleven years of research contributed to this study, which is based on the author's master thesis for California State University. While Thomassian firmly rejects the concept of Armenian collaboration with the Germans, he has shown, in this relatively short volume that, indeed, Armenians played a part in the drama that convulsed Europe during World War II.

## Artist Tashjian Recalls Trip to Armenia

SANTA FE, N.M. — Artist Richard H. Tashjian after 39 years remembered the dramatic scene visiting a remote church in Armenia in October 1973.

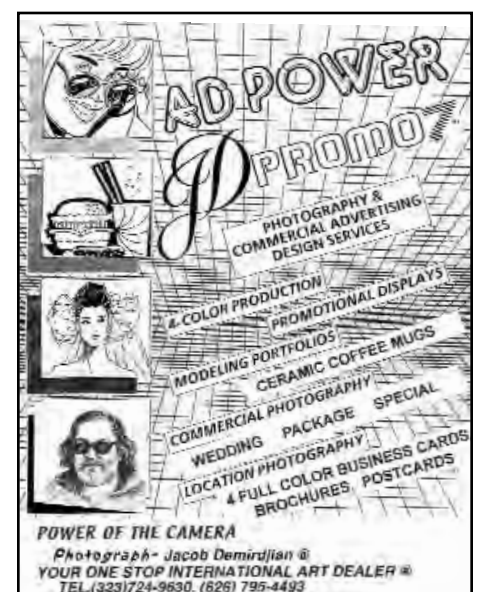
Tashjian was invited to take a trip with artist Minas Garabed Avetisian, two Parisian artists and one artist from Armenia. They trekked 22 miles from Yerevan to a village where the Saghmosavank church, located on the banks of the K'assakh River, could be seen.

The artists traveled by foot making a pilgrimage through the terrain.

The memory of this scenic imagery provided the inspiration for his recent painting, "Tree of Wish-Fillment," which depicts torn shreds of cloth on the branches of bushes with the church pictured in the foreground. Tashjian explained the significance of the cloths in the painting, saying, "In Armenia, a woman that is pregnant will go to the church, pray, come out and tear off a piece of her skirt or handkerchief and tie it to a tree, so that the baby will be born healthy. It's not just for pregnant women, practically all women do this when they come out of the church. It's like a wishing well."



"Tree of Wish-Fillment" by Richard Tashjian







## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Tickets on Sale Now for AGBU NYSEC's 5th Annual Performing Artists in Concert Event Honoring Sayat Nova

## Proceeds to Benefit the AGBU Scholarship Program to Support Young Artists Worldwide

NEW YORK – For centuries, Sayat Nova's work has captured the imaginations of artists and audiences around the globe. Today, 300 years after the legendary Armenian troubadour's birth, his poetry and music continues to inspire us all – and AGBU's own young performers are no exception.

On Saturday, December 1, at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, the AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC) will proudly honor both Sayat Nova's enduring legacy and the talents of AGBU's performing arts scholarship recipients during its fifth Annual Performing Artists in Concert event.

This year's concert will showcase 12 scholarship recipients, who have trained at top institutions, including the Conservatory of Geneva, the Juilliard School of Music, the Peabody Conservatory, the Vienna Conservatory and Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory, among others. Funds raised from the upcoming event will help ensure that hundreds more students have the opportunity to develop their talents while connecting with their musical heritage.

Under the artistic direction of pianists Hayk Arsenyan and Sofya Melikyan, the Performing Artists ensemble will present a repertoire of Sayat Nova's most celebrated pieces. Though he is believed to have produced thousands of poems and compositions, only a limited number have been recovered and their universal appeal has allowed them to stand the test of time. Arsenyan, who is also the artistic director of the newly

formed AGBU Performing Arts Department, describes, "Although he lived in a mainly religious society, Sayat Nova was one of the oldest Armenian composers of secular music. His influence on Armenian classical music is immense and can be heard through Khachaturian, Hovhanness, Mirzoyan, Arutiunian, Mansurian and many others. We will perform some of their works at the concert, along with new works written and arranged by young composers Artur Akshelyan of Switzerland and Vahram Sargsyan of Canada, inspired by the music of Sayat Nova. We are anticipating this beautiful collaboration with great excitement." In addition to Sargsyan and Akshelyan, who was awarded first place in the 2006 AGBU Sayat Nova International Composition Competition, the concert will showcase an international array of performers – a string quartet, pianists and a soprano from the United States, a clarinetist from Austria, as well as a marimbist from Belgium. Together, on the tercentenary of Sayat Nova's birth, they will demonstrate how the oldest Armenian traditions continue to hold strong today.

Over the past four years, the annual AGBU NYSEC concert has raised more than \$200,000, which has benefitted the AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship program, supporting hundreds of gifted young Armenian performers internationally, as well as other musical projects and initiatives.

Tickets for AGBU NYSEC's 5th Annual Performing Artists in Concert are on sale now. Visit [www.carnegiehall.org](http://www.carnegiehall.org).

Guests are also invited to make a tax-deductible donation that will enable AGBU to sustain and expand its scholarship program. Contact AGBU for more information.



The 2012 AGBU Performing Artists in Concert, top row (from left): Artur Akshelyan, Hayk Arsenyan, Garineh Avakian and Tatevik Ayazyan; center row (from left): Arminé Chamasyan, Tanya Gabrielian, Vardan Gasparyan and Tatevik Khoja-Eynatyan. Bottom row (from left): Sofya Melikyan, Vahram Sargsyan, Anoush Simonian and Gurgem Simonian

## Dr. La Porta to Speak about Armenian Identity in the Middle Ages at Columbia University

NEW YORK – The Armenian Center at Columbia University will host a lecture by Dr. Sergio La Porta titled, "Networks of Knowledge: Communication and Identity in 12th-14th Century Armenia," on Friday, November 30.

La Porta, who is the Haig and Isabel Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University, Fresno, will discuss

the various ways Armenians were involved in trade and cultural exchange during the middle ages in routes that crossed Anatolia from Iran to the Mediterranean and from Russia to the Middle East. He will also delve into how Armenian monastic schools during this time period



Dr. Sergio La Porta

formed and helped define Armenian identity in the 12th-14th centuries.

"This community was linked in spirit by a shared textual heritage and physically by the trade routes that stretched from Iran to Mediterranean and from the Crimea and Georgia to northern Mesopotamia," said La Porta. "While differences remained, I think that these connections helped Armenians retain a unique identity during a period of great cultural transformation."

La Porta's interest in this topic was spurred several years ago while working on his thesis on Grigor Tat'ewac'i. One aspect that was most striking for La Porta was discovering how significant the city of Erzinka and the monastic institutions on Mt. Sepuh outside of the city were in the development and the sharing of Armenian culture.

"I was interested to see if we could speak of a 'textual community,' beyond the Bible, that linked Armenians intellectually throughout the homeland and the dispersion," said La Porta.

La Porta notes that the period between the 12th and 14th centuries was one of tremendous transformation in the Caucasus and the Middle East. Because the demography and geography of the region changed and old institutions of power and stability either eroded or disappeared, a dynamic cultural hybrid was created as a result.

"Armenians were never culturally isolated, but this period witnessed an extraordinary amount of cultural interaction for Armenians to navigate without the mediation of traditional institutional structures," he said, highlighting that Armenians avoided cultural loss and stag-

nation by adapting yet also maintaining their cultural identity.

"The Armenian Center at Columbia University is very honored to host Dr. La Porta's presentation. He is, after all, a native son, having graduated from Columbia College, and we are tremendously proud of what he has accomplished at the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State," said Mark A. Momjian, chair of the Armenian Center at Columbia University. "The students there adore him, frequently remarking that he is one of the university's best professors."

"We are thrilled that Dr. La Porta's lecture is

our marquee program this fall," said Dr. Nicole E. Vartanian, vice chair of the Armenian Center at Columbia University. "His record of scholarship distinguishes him in the field of Armenian Studies, and his passion for exploring new areas of research makes him a dynamic and exciting scholar to watch."

The program will begin at 7 p.m. with reception to follow. The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place at the Columbia University Faculty House, 64 Morningside Drive at 116th Street.

—Taleen Babayan

## CALENDAR

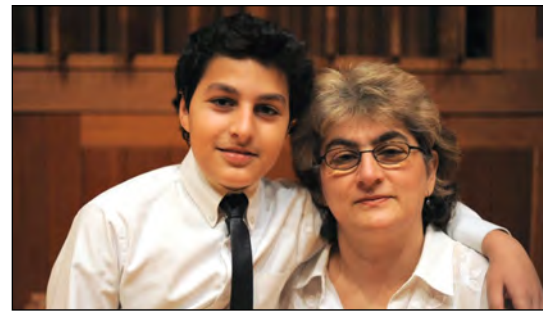
### MASSACHUSETTS

**NOVEMBER 30 and DECEMBER 1 – "Trinity Christmas Bazaar,"** Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge, Friday, 3-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Delicious Armenian cuisine; farmer's market, country store, candy, gourmet foods, pastries, wreaths & poinsettias, jewelry, second time around, silent auction, sports silent auction and more. Santa's Playland, Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**DECEMBER 8 – Mother-son duo of Ani & Haig Hovsepian perform on piano and violin 6 p.m.,** at Jaffarian Hall, St. Gregory Church, 158 Main St., North Andover, sponsored by Lowell "Aharonian" Gomideh, dinner and program; donation, \$20 adults, \$10 students.

### RHODE ISLAND

**NOVEMBER 24 – Christmas with Onnik Dance** hosted by the Providence ACYOA, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI. Doors open at 8 p.m. Adults \$30 and Students \$20. Mezza, cash bar and raffle. Contact Kevork Vartanian for details: [kevorkvartanian@gmail.com](mailto:kevorkvartanian@gmail.com).



The mother-son duo of Ani and Haig Hovsepian will perform on piano and violin December 8, 6 p.m., at Jaffarian Hall, St. Gregory Armenian Church, 158 Main St., North Andover. \$20 adults, \$10 students.





## COMMENTARY

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**Mirror-Spectator**

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## COMMENTARY

## Uruguay Becomes Player in Caucasus Equation

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Armenians who have visited the country of Uruguay have an understanding of the status of the Armenian community in that country. Most of the settlers in that hospitable South American country were Genocide survivors with a bitter baggage of traumatic experiences and memories. Yet through their diligence, hard work and the appreciation of that host country's hospitality and culture, they have integrated wisely into the fabric of the society, without assimilating.

Their contributions to the development of Uruguay have been well over what their numbers warrant. Consequently, their impact as well, is more profound than a community of that size would generate elsewhere.

A major thoroughfare in the capital city of Montevideo is called Armenian Boulevard and the main square is called Plaza Armenia.

The prestige that the community enjoys in Uruguay has helped both the families and the larger Armenian society in their development.

This mutually-beneficial relationship with Uruguay's population has yielded dividends far beyond the country's borders, as the government of Uruguay was the first nation to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Since Armenia's emancipation from Soviet rule, the relationship has helped also the general Armenian cause, whereby becoming the diasporan extension of Armenia's foreign policy.

In theory, any community in a particular country must strive to play that role by introducing the Armenian issues in that country's foreign policy agenda. We have that opportunity in the US if we can harness our resources wisely and politicize large masses within the community.

Recent developments have demonstrated that Uruguay has come forth to play an essential political role in the Caucasus checkerboard of diplomacy.

Indeed, through the influence of its petro-dollars, Azerbaijan has been striving to isolate Armenia and Karabagh. That influence is especially tangible through the Islamic Conference and Azerbaijan's election as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Armenia's efforts to break the stronghold of political isolation have met with limited success for very obvious reasons, i.e., lack of economic resources. Therefore, Uruguay's emergence on the Caucasus stage becomes a significant new political development.

Recently the largest and most populous province of Australia, New South Wales, passed a resolution in its parliament to recognize the right for self-determination of the people in Karabagh. That was a small step in breaking Karabagh's isolation, especially in view of the fact that the entire country of Australia has yet to subscribe to that position.

On November 13, a delegation from Uruguay, headed by the Speaker of Parliament Jorge Orico, paid an official visit to the Republic of Mountainous Karabagh and held political discussions with the leadership of the enclave. Any foreign dignitary or political representative who visits Karabagh is immediately blacklisted in Baku. Therefore, the government of Uruguay undertook the visit in defiance of Azerbaijan's threats.

Prior to that visit, Armenia's Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian had taken a tour of Latin American countries, which the Azeri official media characterized as "complete failure." This visit discredits the Azeri claims. In fact, it goes even further to suggest that the possibility has arisen that Uruguay may become the first country to recognize Karabagh's independence.

There are countries in Latin America that are not a party to the continuing low-intensity cold war between East and West. A case in point is the recognition of Abkhazia and South Ossetia by Nicaragua and Venezuela after they broke away from Georgia. Uruguay's policy is in line with that South American trend.

The fact that an official parliamentary delegation has paid a visit to Karabagh is a groundbreaking initiative which has met Baku leadership's ire.

Azerbaijan's contention was that "no official government entity in the world can establish any relations with Karabagh." Well, a precedent has been set and according to Ashod Ghoulian, the speaker of the Karabagh Parliament, "This visit may prove to be the beginning of new developments."

Those developments may eventually lead to the recognition of Karabagh's independence by Uruguay. Having been asked directly about such a possibility, Ruben Martinez Huelmo, chairman of Uruguay's Foreign Affairs Committee, has responded, "To be honest with you, theoretically that possibility exists. But this is a political process which has to take its course. Documents have to be compiled and studied. At this time, we are on a fact-finding mission. The collected facts have to be presented to the political powers."

Beyond the existence of theoretical possibility, the delegation has been compiling facts about the issue. In the absence of political vigilance by Armenians, Uruguay may follow suit and erect Heydar Aliyev's statue, as it was done in Mexico.

Last year, Uruguay's Senate adopted a resolution to provide a budget to build a museum dedicated to the Armenian Genocide. The recognition of Karabagh's independence will be a breakthrough in bringing out the mini state from its isolation.

While the Uruguayan parliamentary delegation was on its visit in Karabagh, a conference of Eurasian countries took place in Yerevan. The Eurasian Integration Project is President Vladimir Putin's brainchild to create a global economic counterweight to the European Union. The majority of former republics of the Soviet Union are involved in it. The conference included the major political parties of the countries participating in the project. The Republican and Prosperous Armenia parties represented Armenia. Putin's United Russia Party represented Russia. Ukraine, Kazakhstan and other countries were also represented. Karabagh was represented by the Azad Artsakh Party. The next conference will be held in St. Petersburg and along with Karabagh, Abkhazia and South Ossetia will also be invited. This move will further contribute to Karabagh's recognition by the other countries.

At this point, Uruguay's decision will prove to be crucial. The parliamentary fact-finding may take a long time or it may turn out to be a smokescreen to conceal the true intentions of the Montevideo government. It may further become a bargaining chip for Uruguay to extract some business deals or vote buying at the United Nations at Armenia's expense. Any development must be expected realistically in politics. That should not deter Armenians in their determination to seek justice for the people of Karabagh.

If indeed the government of Uruguay recognizes Karabagh's independence, the Armenian community there must be credited in the first place and its role must be emulated in other countries with significant concentrations of Armenians.

Turkey and Azerbaijan have the wherewithal to peddle influence in many countries and they have been making inroads in the political fabric of countries where Armenian presence is sparse or non-existent.

In Mexico, Azeris have been successful in erecting Heydar Aliyev's statue. Additionally, they have forced their way to have the Mexican Parliament pass a resolution condemning the so-called genocide of Khojalu supposedly perpetrated by Armenian forces.

Whether Uruguay comes forth with recognition or not is immaterial. The official visit of the parliamentary delegation has induced enough fear in Azerbaijan about losing their grip on the situation.

Persistent, comprehensive and consistent policy will eventually bring the much-needed relief to Karabagh people, who will eventually be integrated in the world community.

Let's not hold our breath and extend our gratitude to Uruguay for its initial contribution to Karabagh's situation, hoping that it will take the next crucial step of recognition.

## Bittersweet Impressions

By Florence Avakian

Armenia in any season has its own unique qualities, but in autumn the weather turns ideal though it can feel like late summer with high temperatures. It is also the season of luscious juicy peaches, plums, grapes, watermelon and other delicacies which can only be found in Armenia. It was during this time, that I was again in Armenia in September.

However, my first trip to the homeland was in summertime when I was a student on vacation. Then, Armenia's most luscious fruit, the apricot was in full bloom, hanging off trees, and there for the plucking and eating. I was fortunate to meet fellow students who showed me the real Armenia, outside the cities. We went on a weeklong trek

into the countryside, with awesome vistas, and timeless mountains that reached to the heavens, and had been carved by rain, snow and wind throughout the centuries.

Our goal was to walk from ancient churches and fortresses to the next one, only stopping when it became dark, then eating our delicious supplies of homemade bread, cheese, and apricots, and hunkering down in our sleeping bags under a starlit sky, and in the freshest - though very chilly air. Waking up the next morning with the sunrise, we always found a fresh and pure water stream to fill our pots for coffee and down it with another delicious meal. Then, it was trekking it to the next church or monument. This is when I first fell in love with Armenia.

On the trip this September, the countryside was basically the same with small villages dotted along the roads, but with an increase in home

*continued on next page*





## COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Azerbaijan's Consul in Los Angeles Needs to Learn How to Use a Laptop

A funny thing happened to the Consul General of Azerbaijan on his way to make an audio-visual presentation at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council last week.

Consul General Nasimi Aghayev stepped up to the podium, turned on his fancy laptop, and proudly urged the audience to watch scenes of Azerbaijan on a large screen on the wall. To his horror, nothing but a frozen partial image appeared on the overhanging screen. Mr. Aghayev's aides and the World Affairs Council's president rushed to the stage and began pushing all sorts of buttons on the laptop, as the guests waited impatiently. Mr. Aghayev not only was unable to showcase his native land, he could not even present his speech, because the text was locked up in his uncooperative laptop.

In desperation, the Azeri diplomat began speaking off the cuff, after pulling a piece of paper from his pocket on which he had scribbled some notes. This was the inauspicious start of an evening that was intended to show off Azerbaijan's impressive advances and dazzle the audience with high-tech gadgets.

The Consul General appeared agitated throughout the

lecture. Perhaps he was unaccustomed to speaking before such an august gathering or he was nervous because there were "representatives of the Armenian Diaspora in this room," including myself and a handful of Armenians.

Mr. Aghayev talked at length about Armenia "occupying" a part of his country's territory, a reference to the liberation of Artsakh (Karabagh). Calling this conflict "Azerbaijan's top problem," he expressed his chagrin that "one million Azeris today are refugees." However, he failed to explain why a government with billions of dollars in oil revenue would allow such a large number of its citizens to live in abject poverty for more than 20 years.

Imitating the Turkish regime, the Consul General made a serious gaffe by referring to the Armenian Genocide as a "so-called genocide." Is it wise for Azeri officials to insult Armenians by denying the Genocide, at a time when they have their hands full with the Artsakh conflict? Why would Azerbaijan's leaders want to complicate matters by associating themselves with Turkey's denial and further antagonize Armenians, making them less likely to sit with them at the peace table?

Mr. Aghayev's remarks completely ignored the massive violation of the human rights of Azeri citizens, including those of ethnic minorities, as he falsely described Azerbaijan as a land of "religious and ethnic tolerance." He went on to engage in gross historical revisionism by forgetting the massacres of Armenians in Sumgait and Baku and claiming that Armenians enjoyed their full freedom in Soviet Azerbaijan. He also described Muslim Azerbaijan as "one of the earliest nations to accept Christianity, in 313 AD."

After several pre-arranged questions from some in the audience on how "tolerant" Azerbaijan is to "Mountain Jews" and the great relationship it enjoys with Israel, the World Affairs Council president cautiously avoided giving me the chance to pose a question. Fortunately, two other Armenians, Arutin Hartounian, president of Unified

Young Armenians and Garo Ghazarian, chairman of the Armenian Bar Association, were granted the opportunity ask questions. The two Armenians raised the issue of Ramil Safarov, an axe-wielding Azeri soldier who killed a sleeping Armenian officer during a NATO training course in Hungary. After the Hungarian government released Safarov from prison prematurely and extradited him to Azerbaijan, President Aliyev pardoned and glorified the axe-murderer. Foolishly contradicting his President, the Azeri Consul General stated that Azerbaijan "does not condone" Safarov's crime.

Mr. Aghayev's appearance before the World Affairs Council raises some troubling questions. Why did the Council take the unusual step of inviting a lowly Consul General to offer "a competing view" to the one presented by Armenia's Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, at the same venue, on September 24? One wonders what inducement Azerbaijan offered to the World Affairs Council to secure a presentation by a junior diplomat, possibly undermining the reputation of this prestigious organization.

Days later, when Mr. Aghayev's lecture was posted on the Azeri Consulate's website, the laptop glitches were carefully eliminated from the heavily edited video. The 48-minute speech and question and answer period had been reduced to 15 minutes.

The incident with the Consul General's laptop is symptomatic of a much larger problem for Azerbaijan. The country's leaders have spent billions of dollars to acquire a massive amount of advanced military hardware. But, if they don't know which button to push, the sophisticated weaponry will be as useless as Mr. Aghayev's laptop.

Rather than labeling the Armenian Diaspora as Azerbaijan's "main enemy," President Aliyev should be more worried about his diplomats who cannot use a laptop. Incompetent officials are more of a liability for Azerbaijan than the Armenian "enemy."

# Bittersweet Impressions

from previous page

construction and more advanced farm machinery. Sheep, goats and cows still grazed contentedly on the grassy plains. But the changes in the cities were dramatic, even during the last three years when I visited the country on a yearly basis. On arrival, the first sight one sees is the spanking new modern airport that can vie with any in a European city. On the half hour trip from the airport to central Yerevan, the scene is inundated with one gambling casino after another, which according to the latest news, will now be moved to a more remote location shortly.

Yerevan is now experiencing an increase in traffic jams, and the smelly unfiltered gas that pollutes the air, and makes breathing unpleasant and unhealthy. This is in addition to the 65 percent of smokers, mostly men. People scurry about in modern fashions, possibly spending more on dress than immediate and basic necessities. But this is the scene in the center of Yerevan, and especially on Abovian Street, Yerevan's Fifth Avenue, where one goes to see and be seen. There is also a sense of civility where one can enjoy sitting on ornate carved benches, and relax or renew old friendships. The tourists abound, the restaurants and cafes are packed, and the shops are filled with very expensive foreign designer goods, obviously for the tourist clientele and the small but very wealthy group of oligarchs.

September 21 was the 21st anniversary of Armenia's independence, and it was celebrated in grand style in Yerevan's brilliantly-lit Republic Square with its unique rotunda of imposing buildings. The huge crowd of all ages enjoyed music, water flourishes, and spectacular fireworks until midnight. Young people with the national colors painted on their foreheads and cheeks, and draped with huge Armenian and Artsakh flags paraded in groups chanting their loyalty to their homeland. Main streets leading to the Square were lit amid the distinct air of festivity.

However, the reality of the rest of the country may be quite different, with an alarming rate of emigration. The government officially claims the population of Armenia to be 3.2 million, but the reality is quite different, the figure I was hearing from many is closer to 2 million. There is also that appalling 40 percent poverty rate, with almost 20 percent extremely poor and with very little opportunity for work that pays adequately, especially for those with families. There are high prices for food, medicine, hospital care and higher education. Most families have to make the choice between some of these items.

With this huge rate of poverty, one wonders why this country has not erupted in large protests. A frequent traveler to Armenia who has analyzed the situation over the years had a plausible explanation. The government has allowed people to

emigrate to other countries — especially Russia, to find work. In 57 percent of most families, a member goes abroad to work, and sends money back to sustain the family, even though possibly on a very scant scale. This financial cushion is able to somewhat support a family, and prevent the explosive pot from boiling over.

While in Armenia last September, I had a chance to spend time with visiting Board members of the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) who were in the country, in particular for the Armenian National Science and Education Fund (ANSEF) project that FAR has been funding for 12 years. Leading the group was the president of FAR, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, and FAR Board of Directors Chairman Randy Sapah-Gulian. Several Board members who have generously donated to projects throughout the homeland for ANSEF and other FAR programs also were in the group, including Dr. Aram Chobanian, Nishan Atinizian, Bonnie Barsamian, Marta Batmasian, Edward Mardigian, Patrick Sarkissian, Dennis Tarzian, Oscar Tatosian and Greg Toufayan.

I also joined the FAR Board at a meeting with the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II in the Veharan, where the Primate introduced each FAR member, and the Vehapar praised FAR's important mission in Armenia. Following the celebration of the Holy Badarak in Echmiadzin Cathedral, the members toured the magnificent and ancient Noravank chapel surrounded by soaring, sculptured mountains. Tatosian, chairman of the Eastern Diocesan Council, commented on its awesome unique architecture with its famed outside stone staircase.

The centerpiece of the FAR trip however was the ANSEF forum at the Armenian National Academy of Sciences in Yerevan, led by ANSEF founders and scientific personnel. It was chaired by ANSEF founding member Dr. Aram Chobanian who substituted for ANSEF President Dr. Terzian, who was unable to come. Several prominent researchers who have received ANSEF grants over the years, presented their research.

One of the most fascinating was the revelation of an ANSEF grant recipient who reported on his recent work on the "Markarian Galaxy," discovered by Dr. Benjamin Markarian in 1964 at the famed Byurakan Astrophysical Observatory using the Schmidt telescope, the largest telescope then to have a full aperture. Named after Markarian, the Galaxy has an ultraviolet excess, compared with other galaxies.

Since its creation, ANSEF has awarded close to 300 research grants, totaling more than \$1.4 million to leading researchers in the physical and natural sciences, engineering and the humanities. What is so crucial about this program is

that it has played a primary role in reversing the "brain drain" following the fall of the Soviet Union.

The visit to the FAR Children's Center in Yerevan was an eye-opener for many. This Center under the tutelage of its dedicated executive director Dr. Mira Antonyan, has been a lifeline for abused, abandoned, sexually trafficked and disadvantaged children. Dr. Antonyan expressed appreciation to FAR benefactors Edward and Janet Mardigian, founders of the FAR Child Protection Foundation. The audio visual room has also been equipped with modern computers and other technology due to the benevolence of Greg Toufayan.

One of the Center's most prominent supporters, former first lady Mrs. Bella Kocharian, in a private conversation with me, emphasized the need for the Armenian government to realize the compelling importance of the Center's work, and for more financial support in order to increase the personnel, and therefore the number of children that can be admitted to its rehabilitation program.

The trip to the historic city of Gumri which had suffered such great damage during the 1988 earthquake, showed that it is still in its restoration stage. We first visited the FAR Gumri Information Technology Center (GTIC), and saw the students working on their modern computers, a project that a New York entrepreneur and FAR Board member Patrick Sarkissian has shared his expertise with. A heartwarming visit then followed to the FAR soup kitchen, and the facility's benefactor Nishan Atinizian, where we mingled with the almost 200 elderly who greatly benefit daily from this lifeline. One recipient, with tears in her eyes, thanked the visitors for their care and compassion.

The final stop in Gumri was at the construction site of the Octet Music School which will feature modern classrooms to replace the makeshift tin buildings which serviced the students since the 1988 earthquake. This construction project has come about largely due to the generosity of Edward and Janet Mardigian. During the ceremony, the two Mardigian sons placed a "time capsule" in the building's foundation. "My dream is finally starting to come true," said an obviously emotional Edward Mardigian during the reception.

Another trip was taken by Greg Toufayan, co-chair of the FAR Economic Development Committee to the village of Zangakatoun, where the Harry Toufayan family has reconstructed the school house facilities, and built the Toufayan Agribusiness Support Center, a large structure to house and preserve the village's prized apples and other fruits. Greg discussed with Zangakatoun farmers and FAR Armenia people how the newly built Center could become a true support to the village and the region.

Meetings with President Serge Sargisian, US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern and visits to several tourist sites in Yerevan, concluded a valuable and for many a first trip to the homeland by the FAR Board members. "This has been such an eye-opening and inspiring trip to the land of my forefathers," said Dennis and Linda Tarzian, speaking for the other members. "We hope to come back very soon."





# American University of Armenia Delegation Visits Mass.

AUA, from page 1

Boghosian said. "The AUA is really a project of the University of California. It is a gift from the entire diaspora to the Republic of Armenia."

The AUA was founded in 1991 as a collaboration between the University of California, the government of Armenia and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). Boghosian said that the same body that accredits the UC system, the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, accredits the AUA.

Carol Aslanian of the AGBU Central Board and Ed Avedisian, who serves on the Board of Trustees of the AUA, attended the ALMA presentation.

Boghosian discussed the innovations at the university, including the new undergraduate program, as well as other new graduate programs. Boghosian was the chairman of the Department of Mathematics at Tufts University for 10 years before his appointment at AUA. Boghosian received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and his doctorate from the University of California, Davis.

Boghosian stressed that the goal of his team is to make AUA a world-class international institution, following in the footsteps of its sister school, the American University of Beirut. "Our intention is to give a global education in Armenia," he said. For that reason, he noted, searches for faculty positions stretch internationally.

"The goal is to give the highest quality of education. We measure ourselves against international institutions," he said, adding that they want to do so in a way that is "inexpensive enough" in order for students to afford the tuition. Currently, the tuition is about \$2,500 a year for local students and \$8,000 for foreign

students. The foreign students come from Iran, Russia, India, Europe and the US.

The actual cost for educating each student for one year is considerably higher – closer to \$10,000 – Boghosian noted.

"We rely on donations to make up a large part of it," he said. He noted that the school has a "full-need and need-blind" admission policy, meaning that a student's inability to pay any portion of the tuition will not impact his or her admission.

Boghosian and his team spoke about the launch of the undergraduate program in September 2013, as well as getting more international students into AUA, as Armenia is 98.5 percent ethnically homogenous and the infusion of foreign students would benefit both the locals and the foreign students in terms of exposure to Armenia.

The undergraduate program got the green light in June, after a year of the approval process. Initially, the program will offer three majors and accept 300 students annually. Boghosian said by 2017, therefore, will have 1,200 undergraduate and a total number of 1,600 students, including the 400 graduate students. In addition, the school has close to 2,000 extension students studying computers or English.

Another area in which AUA is accelerating is organizing conferences and seminars, some jointly with Yerevan State University. Among the speakers in the past six months have been Dr. Aram Chobanian, the former president of Boston University.

Boghosian said AUA students have a lower rate of emigrating than other schools, with 75 percent of graduates opting to stay in the country.

Leavens spoke next, noting that he joined the school in July. "I am most excited to be in Yerevan. It is a very dynamic, very historic



Edward Avedisian, center, a board member of the AUA, speaks with Ashot Ghazaryan, left, as Laura Boghosian listens. (Ken Martin photo)

moment," he noted. He praised the students, noting they are "very serious, dedicated and ambitious."

Leavens stressed that the AUA was trying to focus on what the country needs in order to help students fill that gap. He also noted collaborations with the Armenian International Women's Association for the women's entrepreneurship in Armenia, as well as now providing education for 80 refugees from Syria, who thanks to two anonymous donors, are studying for free.

"We feel honored to have these people on our campus," he said.

Leavens most recent post was at the United Arab Emirates University, where, over a period

of seven years, he served as associate dean and dean of Humanities and Social Sciences. Before that, he had taught at several universities in the US.

A lively question-and-answer session followed the talk by the panelists.

Serving as master of ceremonies for the program was Katrina Menzigan of Arlington, vice president, research relations, at the Everest Group, who had been a consultant to the AUA in its early years.

## Judge Armand Arabian to Speak at St. James Men's Club

WATERTOWN – On Monday, December 3, Armand Arabian, former Associate Justice, California Supreme Court, will be the speaker at the dinner meeting of the St. James Armenian Church Men's Club. The topic will be his book, *Gravel to Gavel*.

Arabian, prior to becoming one of the most notable judges of the last 50 years in California, had been a driving force in organizing the California Armenian community behind governor, and then President Ronald Reagan; as well as attorney general and then Gov. George Deukmejian.

Arabian is an electrifying speaker, provocative and incisive in his commentary on California and national legal and political issues of particular importance to Armenian Americans. Sharp-witted and articulate, he is adept at handling questions from the audience, promising an exciting program.

Arabian, the first-born son of Armenian immigrants who came to America after surviving the infamous Armenian Genocide of 1915, was raised in New York. He completed his undergraduate studies at Boston University's College of Business Administration. Then, as an ROTC distinguished military graduate, he was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant and served two years at Fort Benning, Ga. Elevated to the rank of first lieutenant, he served as a company commander and graduated from Airborne, Jumpmaster and Pathfinder schools.

Arabian returned to Massachusetts in 1958 and entered Boston University's School of Law, graduating in 1961 and elected president of his class. He then traveled west, becoming a deputy district attorney of Los Angeles County, and an attorney in private practice (1963-1972). In 1970, he received an LLM degree from the University of Southern California.

In 1972, Reagan appointed him judge of the Municipal Court and in 1973, to the Superior Court. In 1983, Deukmejian appointed him as an associate justice of the Court of Appeal and in 1990 as the 105th associate justice of the

Supreme Court.

He authored 104 majority opinions and retired in 1996.

Arabian then became president of ARMS Providers, Inc., engaged in alternative dispute resolution conducting arbitration and mediation in all areas of law. He was appointed trustee of Albert Einstein Correspondence Trust and supervised an international auction of his private papers.

His honors and accolades are extensive. Included are the 2011 Valley Community Legal Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2009 Leaders of Character Award, and the Americanism Educational League "Spirit Award", 2006 Fernando Award, 2005 Women of Los Angeles Highlight Award, 2005 Los Angeles Magazine "Super Lawyer," 2004 Ellis Island Medal of Honor, 2004 "St. Gregory the Illuminator" medal of honor by Karkin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholics of all Armenians, 2003 Albert Einstein Gold Medal of Honor, and 2003 Russian Academy of Natural Sciences. In 2006, Arabian was named "Who's Who" in the World. In 1992, he was named "Who's Who" in American Law. He holds Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees from Pepperdine University School of Law, Southwestern University School of Law; and is a Pappas Distinguished Scholar from Boston University School of Law.

Organizations have also named awards in his honor such as Project Sister, an anti-rape support group, first presented the "Justice Armand Arabian Healing the Heart" award in 2002 to those persons devoted to giving hope and dignity to victims of sexual assault; the San Fernando Valley Bar Association which dedicated the "Justice Armand Arabian Attorneys' Research & Communication Centers in Van Nuys and San Fernando Courthouses both in 1999; the San Fernando Valley Bar Association also awards the "Armand Arabian Law and Media" award; Pepperdine Law School's Fall Moot Court Competition is named the "Armand Arabian Advocacy Tournament" and since 1999, the

"Armand Arabian Leaders in Public Service Award" has been presented by the Encino Chamber of Commerce where Arabian serves as Honorary Attorney General.

In 1993, he became the only recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" given by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association for "Dispensing Justice Tempered With Mercy." In 2003, he provided funding for the restoration of the sixth-century monastery of St. Gayane in Armenia. She was the Mother Superior of nuns who were protected by her against sexual assault. She and 26 others were tortured and killed for their resistance and faith.

In 2005, the Justice Armand Arabian Judicial Reception Hall was dedicated at the Constitutional Court in Yerevan, Armenia. Arabian donated this modern, fully equipped facility that serves all visitors in the nation's highest court.

In 2006, the County Board of Supervisors dedicated the Justice Armand Arabian Reception Hall at the Chatsworth Superior Court Building.

He also holds an extensive catalogue of published writings. Perhaps his most lasting legacy to our state and to our nation comes in the area of sexual assault reform. As a trial judge in 1973, Arabian initiated a new mindset in the courtroom when he refused to instruct a jury that a rape is a charge easy to make and difficult to defend. In 1975, this decision was upheld by a unanimous California Supreme Court.

He completed a law review article, "The Sexual Assault Counselor-Victim Privilege: Jurisdictional Delay into an Unclaimed Sanctuary," in Pepperdine Law Review volume 37 (2009), encouraging the remaining states to provide this protection.

The social hour starts with mezza at 6:15 p.m. following by a traditional Armenian meal at 7 p.m.

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.

## Rep. McGovern Urges US protection For Syria's Armenian Community

MCGOVERN, from page 1

State in ensuring that American aid reaches all those in need in Syria, including Armenians, other Christians, and all victims of violence and deprivation in and around the Aleppo region," said Aram Hamparian, executive director of the ANCA.

"We share his concern for the welfare of the innocent victims of this conflict, and join with him in calling upon the Administration to apply the full force of American diplomacy in impressing upon all parties in Syria that they must protect minorities and all at-risk populations."

In a letter sent earlier to Secretary Clinton, McGovern, who serves as co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Congressional Human Rights Caucus, voiced his strong support for US humanitarian efforts, including an ANCA-backed provision in the House Appropriations Committee's version of the FY13 State-Foreign Operations Bill calling on the State Department to prioritize humanitarian and resettlement assistance for minority communities, including Armenians and other Christian populations in Syria.

McGovern also highlighted for Clinton the fact that "the Armenian community of Syria, particularly those in and around the Aleppo region, includes a great many descendants of survivors of the Armenian Genocide and the forced death marches through the Syrian desert. These Armenians, along with other Christian and minority populations, are, today, increasingly the victims of violence – in the form of bombings, sniper attacks, murders, kidnapping and acts of destruction and desecration of holy sites. Only recently, the Armenian Genocide Martyrs Memorial Church in Deir Zor, a site of pilgrimage for Armenians worldwide, was severely damaged as a result of shelling from unidentified assailants."