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Sister Rug of 'Orphan Rug,' History of Near East Foundation Dominate Assembly Gathering

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

ARLINGTON, Mass. – The Armenian Assembly of America's New England Regional Council's Christmas function elicited many smiles as well as some tears, on Thursday, December 5, at the Armenian Cultural Foundation.

The program focused on the sister rug to the Orphan Rug, which Armenian orphans, saved by the Near East Foundation (NEF), had woven for President Calvin Coolidge.

Armenian Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny said that when he and the Assembly found out that the rug would not be loaned out by the White House to the Smithsonian Institution to be displayed on the anniversary of its presentation, the organization turned to the US Congress, firing off a letter to supporters there, of whom 30 have signed asking the Obama administration to release the rug.



From left, Shant Mardirossian, Anthony Barsamian, Van Krikorian, Dr. H. Martin Deranian, Lu Ann Ohanian and Bryan Ardouny with Deranian's rug

"We will keep fighting the fight until it is properly displayed," he said.

The lawmakers have written President

Obama, urging him to make available the rug, presented in 1925 to President Calvin Coolidge and in storage as part of the White House collection, for exhibition. The bipartisan group includes more than a dozen representatives from California, which has a large Armenian American population.

Assembly Board Member Van Krikorian introduced Deranian and Near East Foundation Board of Directors Chair Shant Mardirossian. He said that back about a century ago when the organization was founded with the help of the US government to aid the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire as it was being wiped out, the organization raised \$160 million from donors large and small in this country, making it the equivalent of \$3 billion today.

He singled out Deranian for his work in keeping the legacy of the rug alive.

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Turkey FM Davutoglu Visiting Armenia

YEREVAN (Agence France Presse) – Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu was scheduled to arrive in Armenia on December 12, on his first visit since the failure four years ago of efforts to normalize ties.

Davutoglu's visit will be the first since October 2009 when moves to open diplomatic ties and reopen the border came to nothing.

He is scheduled to attend a meeting of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation forum in Yerevan on December 12 but it is not known if he will hold separate bilateral talks with Armenian officials.

"In the past, we met with the Armenian foreign minister and can meet any time," Davutoglu said. "We are ready to see VISIT, page 3



Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu

Spitak Earthquake Victims Still Waiting for Help 25 Years on

SPITAK, Armenia (Combined Sources) – December 7 marked the 25th anniversary of the Spitak earthquake in Armenia where some 24,000 people died. A quarter of a century later, some 4,500 families are still living in makeshift shelters, waiting for help, Deutsche Welle reports.

On Wednesday, at 11:41 on the morning of December 7, 1988, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck the northern part of the then Soviet Republic of Armenia. The effects were devastating.

"It was the most horrible thing I have ever seen in my life," said eyewitness Mania Grigoryan, who still lives in the area today. "There was a river of blood in the street. I remember how they put the bodies of the children in the streets. I cried so much. It's been 25 years but I remember it like it was yesterday."

Grigoryan is used to hardship. At 93 she's survived World War II, conflict against Azerbaijan in the 1990s and several earthquakes. Ever since the 1988 Spitak quake she has been forced to live in a tin container that barely resembles a house.

"My life is hard," she says. "You can't really call it life. There is no shower here, the toilet is out of order, there is no heat. How is it possible to live here?"

Grigoryan says the winters are the worst. That's when the average temperature is at minus 10 degrees Celsius and she only has a small gas portable stove to warm herself. All the warmth in the house comes from its small, blue flame.

Grigoryan's tin house stands in one of the many shanty districts scattered across the Armenian city of Gumri, one of the cities worst affected by the earthquake back in 1988. The muddy streets are filled with rubbish. During the Soviet Union, the city was an important industrial town,

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"My life is hard..... You can't really call it life. There is no shower here, the toilet is out of order, there is no heat. How is it possible to live here?"

-Mania Grigoryan
Spitak, Armenia

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU Extends Hand to Armenia

BRUSSELS (UPI) – European Neighborhood Commissioner Stefan Fule said this week it was time to start a new era of bilateral cooperation with Armenia.

"Armenia can count on the continued EU support to advance political, economic and social reforms and improve the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms," he said in a statement.

Fule led a delegation to Armenia in September for informal partnership talks.

He said he welcomed Armenia's commitments to get in line with European standards related to visa facilitation and other reforms.

"At the same time, we have, however, encouraged acceleration of the efforts in specific areas, notably democracy and the rule of law, anti-corruption, human rights and fundamental freedoms and judicial reform," he said.

Artsakh Marks Referendum Anniv.

STEPANAKERT (PanArmenian.net) – December 10 marked the 22nd anniversary of the national Referendum in the Nagorno Karabagh Republic, which served as a public endorsement of the political status of the newly-formed NKR as the nearly all eligible Artsakh voters (98.9 percent) voted for an "independent state acting on its own authority to decide forms of co-operation with other states and communities."

More than a decade later, on the same day in 2006, Artsakh people reaffirmed their commitment to live in a free and independent state by adopting Artsakh's constitution, which consolidated all the basic principles of state sovereignty and determined a new stage in republic's development.

Conducted in full compliance with international norms and acting legislation, the referenda represent pillars of Artsakh's independent statehood and mark key stages of continued democratic development.

On the occasion, NKR President Bako Sahakyan issued a congratulatory address: "December 10 is significant date for the Artsakh people due to important state events, which have been serving as a basis and guideline for our further development," Sahakyan said. "In 1991 Artsakh chose once and for all the path of building an independent democratic state and 15 years later reconfirmed that historic decision with the basic state law – the Constitution."

"Committed to democratic norms and requirements, guided by universal principles and values protecting human rights and freedoms, we passed a difficult way and achieved significant success. However, we still have much to do. The rule of law must become a way of life for our society. Only in this way can we build a powerful and developed country," Sahakyan stressed.

INSIDE

By Jove, It's ZOOS

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

First Budget Air Line to Launch in Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – At least one budget air company will launch in Armenia next year. Executive Director of the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia Arman Khachatryan announced the news at a recent press conference.

According to Khachatryan, the company will offer more competitive prices than the network or national air carriers. “Due to the limited services, the budget air companies manage to provide the air transfers for lower prices. Probably in spring 2014 the first company will start functioning in Armenia connecting Yerevan with about 10 cities of Europe,” said Khachatryan.

Armenia to Make Smartphones

YEREVAN (RIA Novosti) – Armenia will launch its own tablet computer and smartphone next year, the government press service said last week, on the heels of the launch of Russia’s first smartphone earlier in the month.

Prototypes of the devices were presented at a meeting of the country’s Industrial Council, chaired by Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian.

Sargsian said an Armenian-American joint venture – Technology and Science Dynamics Inc./Armtab Technologies – would start producing the Armtab tablet and Armphone mobile in early 2014.

The company’s director, Vahan Shakaryan, said it had already developed test models of the tablet – running on an Android platform, as well as a sample of the smartphone.

Tourists Visiting Armenian Increases

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Year by year the number of tourists, coming to Armenia increases, said the head of the Tourism Department of the Ministry of Economy, Mekhak Apresyan.

“The foreign tourists come to Armenia in groups and visit the historical and cultural places in Yerevan and the marzes of Armenia,” said Apresyan.

The service quality in Armenia is gradually growing and the country has become more and more attractive in the world tourist market. The tourism growth in 2012 was up by 11.3 percent in comparison with 2011. During the months of January-September, the number of tourists who visited Armenia was 670,906, up by more than 12.4 percent from the previous year.

Survivor Testimonies Published in Turkish

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – A book by historian Vergine Svazlian, titled *The Armenian Genocide: Eyewitness Testimonies of Survivors*, has been introduced to the international community in the Turkish language. The book, which was published in the Armenian and English languages in 2011, includes 700 eyewitness testimonies of the Armenian Genocide survivors. Prominent Turkish human rights advocate Ragip Zarakolu has also published the book in Turkey and attended the presentation of the book held on December 10 in Yerevan’s National Library.

Zarakolu said of the book, “I feel myself as if I am surrounded by my own family in here. My thanks to Vergine Svazlian for the work she conducted.”

Svazlian, lead researcher at the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography at the Academy of Sciences in Armenia, presented her research on the oral tradition of Armenian Genocide survivors, through their testimonies and songs they composed that reveal their experiences. Svazlian’s presentation was based on the many oral histories of Armenian Genocide survivors, which she collected beginning in 1955 from 100 localities in Western Armenia.

Spitak Earthquake Victims Still Waiting for Help 25 Years on

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especially for textile production. Now it is capital of the poorest region in Armenia.

Gayane Yenogian lives at the other end of the city. She was 22 when the quake struck and was working in a local factory that day. The building collapsed and she was lucky to get out in time, she says.

Yenogian also lives in a container, sometimes called a domik. In her house, the windows are made of cheap plastic rather than glass.

“In the morning it’s freezing,” she says. “This is the main reason for my health problems. My clothes are dirty because I need to carry water to wash them and I don’t have money to buy detergent.”

Yenogian’s mother died in 2001. She believes that it was partly because of the poor living conditions in the domik that she passed away.

Yenogian and Gregoryan are just two of many residents in Gumri who are still waiting for a public apartment, promised to them after they lost their houses in the quake. The Soviet Union built 4000 apartments before its collapse in 1991, and 20,000 more have been built over the last 22 years. But it’s still not enough.

“The main infrastructure like electricity, water, schools and roads were destroyed,” says Albert Margaryan, the regional head of Urban Development in the Shirak province, of which Gumri is the capital.

“We just did not have the financial conditions to go faster,” he says.

According to Margaryan, 3500 of those families still living in temporary accommodation are not eligible to get an apartment, either because they came from the villages to look for a job in the city, or because they already had an apartment and sold it.

The latter applies to Sveta Gabryelian. The mother of two sold her apartment because she needed the money to pay for eye surgery.

Regional official Albert Margaryan says that some apartments will still be built and given to people at lower prices and in accordance with special conditions. But, until that happens there will still be people dying in Armenia’s sub-zero winters, say local residents.

“When it’s very cold some people just go to sleep,” Sveta Gabryelian explains. “In the morning, they are found frozen to death.”

A delegation of the France-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group, headed by Rene Rouquet, visited Gumri to mark the anniversary. The French delegation included Valerie Boyer, Jean-Pierre Delannoy, as well as the Ambassador of France to Armenia Henri Reynaud.

During the visit the delegation was hosted by the Shirak governor and Gumri mayor.

In the course of the meeting, the French delegation presented the French Parliament Medal to the Gumri mayor, who in his turn presented the guests with the book Gumri. After the meeting the French parliamentarians laid flowers at the memorial devoted to the victims of the earthquake.

The government of Armenia has allocated 78,8 billion drams to the homeless since 2007. In the framework of the program 5500 families have been provided with housing. The program will complete in 2014 aiming at providing more apartments to the earthquake survivors.

Assembly Statement

The Armenian Assembly of America issued a statement on the anniversary.

At the time of the quake, the Assembly’s Board of Trustees Chairman Hirair Hovnanian traveled to Armenia to assess the urgent needs. Among the many actions taken, the Assembly made the decision to build a factory complex to construct prefabricated housing for the earthquake victims. The factory, still in operation today, has helped to build thousands and thousands of homes and apartments as well as schools, health facilities and many other buildings in the earthquake zone and in Nagorno Karabagh.

The Assembly also joined with other organizations in providing assistance to the Armenian people and led the effort to establish a special earthquake relief fund, today known as the Fund for Armenian Relief, swiftly raising more than \$4 million in contributions. The

Assembly opened its Yerevan office on February 4, 1989, to help coordinate relief efforts, the first US organization authorized to establish a presence in the Soviet Union. In addition, the Assembly led a delegation of medical personnel to Armenia to view the destruction firsthand and determine ways in which the US could provide additional relief and support.

With 80 percent of Gumri, Armenia’s second largest city, destroyed, the US government sent nearly \$9.5 million in aid to Armenia and private US organizations contributed more than \$40 million. Overall damage was estimated to be \$16.2 billion.

“As we reflect on the twenty fifth anniversary of the devastating earthquake, we pause to remember the victims and survivors, and extend our appreciation to the outpouring of support from the American people,” stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. “The Assembly will continue its important work for the betterment of all Armenians,” Ardouny added.

(PanArmenian.am and Armenpress contributed to this report.)

Composer Hayg Boyadjian’s Works To Be Performed In Armenia

YEREVAN – Grammy nominee composer Hayg Boyadjian’s composition *Scorpius Rising* for symphony orchestra will be performed here on December 16, at a free concert at the Spenidarian Opera and Ballet Theatre, at 7 p.m.

The concert, titled “Musical Bridge,” will also include *Veils fur Zwei Floten* by New York composer Marilyn Bliss, and *Narekatsi, Voice of God* ballet music by well-known Yerevan composer Edward Sadoyan.

Boyadjian’s composition has been recorded on Opus One CD #177 by the Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Oberg, and the CD is available on amazon.com as are other CDs of works by Boyadjian.

Boyadjian has written about his composition, “My interest as an amateur astronomer has taken me towards writing musical compositions based on, or inspired by, celestial objects. *Scorpius Rising* refers to the Scorpius constellation. The principal motive of *Scorpius Rising* is derived from the shape itself of Scorpius: a form that resembles the letter ‘s.’”

Fanfare reviewed Boyadjian’s composition, saying in part: “*Scorpius Rising* by Hayg Boyadjian while ...triadic, demonstrating hints of Sibelius, Shostakovich, Holst, and Mussorgsky ...like Sibelius, this is craggy, gritty stuff, full of shard-like melodic figures and raw scoring effects ...this orchestral composition never settles for the easy way out.”

More information about Boyadjian is available on www.haygboyadjian.com

New Maps Acquired by Armenian Genocide Museum in Yerevan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The collection of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute has been completed with new maps from the US, Germany and Britain, showing the borders of Turkey.

Accordingly, the eastern boundary of Turkey runs along the borderline which was stated by the arbitral resolution of the 28th US president, Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924).

These maps are the best evidence of the fact that even after the Republic of Armenia was included in the USSR and the proclamation of the Republic of Turkey, the borderline between Armenia and Turkey was considered to be the one established by the US president in November 1920, which did not undergo any changes by an international agreement and was not considered null.

The Armenian Genocide Museum

opened its doors in 1995. The structure, designed by architects S. Kalashian, A. Tarkhanyan and sculptor F. Araqelyan, has a unique design.

During the decennial activity the museum received many visitors including schoolchildren, college students and an unprecedented number of tourists both local and abroad.

The museum provides guided tours in Armenian, Russian, English, French and German.

The Republic of Armenia has made visiting the Armenian Genocide Museum part of the official protocol and many foreign official delegations have already visited the museum.

The impressive two-story building is built directly into the side of a hill so as not to detract from the imposing presence of the Genocide Monument nearby. It overlooks the scenic Ararat Valley and majestic Mount Ararat.



INTERNATIONAL

Book on Vartanian Family of Spies Published

Couple Thwarted Nazi Attempt to Kill Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill

MOSCOW (Armenpress) – The next volume of the Russian-language book series *Outstanding Lives* titled *Vartanian* is dedicated to the prominent Armenian intelligence agents Gevork and Gohar Vartanian. The presentation of the book written by the deputy editor-in-chief of *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* Nikolai Dolgoplov was held in the building of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation.

Dolgoplov presented the new book about the Soviet spy team of Gevork and Gohar Vartanian advancing the 70th anniversary of the Tehran Conference. Dolgoplov's previous books that were released as part of the *Outstanding Lives* series of the Molodaya Gvardiya publishing house, have become bestsellers. They were devoted to Colonel Abel (Fischer) and Kim Philby.

Gevork Vartanian was born to Armenian parents in Nor Nakhichevan, USSR. His father was a Soviet intelligence agent as well who was sent to Persia in 1930, where he worked for 23 years under a cover of a wealthy merchant. Gevork Vartanian was not even 16 when he went into intelligence. In 1955, he graduated from the Institute of Foreign Languages, Yerevan. He is primarily responsible for thwarting Operation Long Jump, concocted by Adolf Hitler, headed by Ernst

Kaltenbrunner, and led by Otto Skorzeny, which was an attempt to assassinate Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt at the Tehran conference in 1943.

In 1942, Hitler decided to set the operation in motion. After careful planning and deliberation under the personal supervision of Security Police Chief Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Hitler sent his special commando agent, Otto Skorzeny, along with six other men to rendezvous at Tehran and spearhead the operation. The plan entailed the capture and/or assassination of Josef Stalin, Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt.

The first tip-off about the planned attempt came from Soviet intelligence agent Nikolai Kuznetsov, under the alias of Wehrmacht Oberleutnant Paul Siebert, from Nazi-occupied Ukraine. Kuznetsov got a drunk SS officer named Ulrich von Ortel to tell him about the attempt. Although the scheduled date of the operation was not known, the fact that it would take place was confirmed.

Gevork Vartanian had been assigned to recruit agents since 1940. In 1940-41 Vartanian's team of seven intelligence officers had identified more than 400 Nazi agents, all of whom had been arrested by Soviet troops. In the autumn of 1943, they were assigned the task of ensuring the security for the upcoming Tehran conference. In their efforts to foil the assassination plot devised by the Nazis, Vartanian's group located six Nazi radio operators shortly before the conference opened on November 28, 1943. The German assassins had been dropped

by parachute near the town of Qom, 40 miles from Tehran. Gevork Vartanian later said, "We followed them to Tehran, where the Nazi field station had readied a villa for their stay. They were travelling by camel, and were loaded with weapons. While we were watching the group, we established that they had contacted Berlin by radio, and recorded their communication... When we decrypted these radio messages, we learnt that the Germans were preparing to land a second group of subversives for a terrorist act – the assassination or abduction of the Big Three. The second group was supposed to be led by Skorzeny himself." All the members of the first group were arrested and forced to contact their handlers under Soviet supervision. The operation got off track and the main group led by Skorzeny never went to Tehran.

In 2003, relying on declassified documents, Yuri Lvovich Kuznets published a book called *Tehran-43 or Operation Long Jump*, which detailed Gevork Vartanian's role at the Tehran Conference. A Soviet film, which featured French actor Alain Delon, was released in 1981.

Vartanian was awarded with the Hero of the Soviet Union medal. In 2007 he met with Churchill's granddaughter and thanked for his service to the Allies. It was revealed that his identity was kept secret until the year 2000, when he finally received full credit for putting a stop to the assassination plot.

Vartanian died at the age of 87 in Moscow on January 10, 2012. Prime Minister of Russia Vladimir Putin attended the funeral and paid his respects to Vartanian's widow Gohar Vartanian.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev expressed his condolences to Vartanian's friends and relatives. He described Vartanian as "a legendary intelligence agent, a genuine patriot of his country, a bright and extraordinary person... He took part in splendid operations, which went down in the history of the Russian foreign intelligence service. His death is an irretrievable loss to his family and all those who knew and highly appreciated the legendary man."

Condolences were also expressed by the President of Armenia Serge Sargsian, Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Sargsian, President of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic Bako Sahakyan.

Turkey FM Davutoglu Visiting Armenia

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meet with everyone everywhere to discuss steps for peace in the south Caucasus."

Ankara had closed the border with Armenia in 1993 in solidarity with regional ally Azerbaijan in its dispute with Yerevan over Nagorno Karabagh.

Davutoglu announced the trip after meeting Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian on the sidelines of a meeting of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Kiev on Thursday, Turkish press reports said.

Davutoglu also met his Azeri counterpart Elmar Mammadyarov and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to discuss the Karabagh (Artsakh) issue which Ankara considers key for a thaw in relations with Yerevan.

From Armenia, the Turkish minister will visit Greece on December 13 and Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus the following day.

In Washington, Armenian National Committee of America Executive Director Aram Hamparian issued the following statement on Davutoglu's upcoming visit: "Turkish Foreign Minister Davutoglu's upcoming visit to Armenia for a December 12th regional conference shines a spotlight on Ankara's continued use of its Protocols to escape liability for mass murder, vast theft and the wholesale dispossession of a nation of its ancestral homeland. The Armenian nation and all peoples should use this visit by a leading official of a perpetrator state to the land of its surviving victims to strengthen our call for a truthful, just, and comprehensive international resolution of the Armenian Genocide. In coming to terms with its responsibilities, Turkey must not only end its denials and stop its obstruction of justice, but also cease its century-long policy of anti-Armenian aggression, strangulation, and coercion rooted in the legacy of this still unpunished crime."

He added, "The United States and our partners in the international com-

munity, rather than abetting Ankara by arm-twisting Yerevan into a politically untenable and morally unacceptable policy of 'normalization without justice,' should be pressing Turkey to forfeit its genocidal gains, to fully return all it has stolen, and to fairly compensate the Armenian nation for its vast and ongoing losses. The Armenian Genocide – an act of premeditated mass murder and national dispossession – is not a bilateral 'conflict' to be reconciled, but rather an ongoing international crime that all nations, not Armenia alone, have a moral and legal responsibility to punish."



Armenian, Turkish Actors Set Record for Longest Handshake

TBILISI (RFE/RL) – In an act aimed at improving ties between two countries, an Armenian actor and a Turkish actor have set a world record for the longest handshake.

Thirty-two-year-old Armenian Oganeg Ajinyan and 35-year-old Turk Denis Barish continued their handshake for 43 hours at an event organized by the Turkish and Armenian NGO Network (TANGO).

The handshake started on December 6 and ended on December 8. The entire event was filmed and will be sent to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Ajinyan and Barish said they wanted to show that the historical conflicts between Armenia and Turkey cannot prevent representatives of the two peoples from having a conversation.

International News

Sargsian Sends Note to South Africa on Mandela's Death

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – President Serge Sargsian sent a letter of condolences to President of the South African Republic (SAR) Jacob Zuma after the death of former President of the SAR Nelson Mandela.

The letter states:

"Today, the soul of the unrelenting champion of the greatest all-human values who left an indelible mark of the pages of world history, a symbol of human dignity and justice Helson Mandela found peace.

Remaining imprisoned for [more than] a quarter of a century, he never ceased to believe in and fight for freedom of others. That boundless faith guided his political and human activities aimed at the materialization and enrooting of the ideas of freedom and equality.

Mandela's legacy transcends the borders of the South African Republic, bequeathing the mankind with the power of love and tolerance, acceptance and reconciliation. Ideas and life journey of Nelson Mandela will undoubtedly inspire and lead many generations since his values and his life philosophy are infinite and enduring.

The Armenian people join in with solidarity the prayers of the progressive mankind. It is hard to speak words of condolences because Mandela name is immortal. He was the one who predetermined his own destiny, [when he said,] 'Death is something inevitable. When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can rest in peace. I believe I have made that effort and that is, therefore, why I will sleep for the eternity.'

Iranian Ambassador Calls Azeri Territorial Claims Unfounded

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – According to Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Mohammad Reisi, Baku's territorial claims to Iran are unfounded as Azerbaijan was created in 1918. The ambassador mentioned this fact during an Armenian press conference this week.

"Azerbaijan has territorial claims to Armenia and other countries as well. However, to have claims, they should present grounds for that," the ambassador said. He also added that Iran has good relations both with Armenia and Azerbaijan.

When commenting on closing of the checkpoint at the Iranian-Azerbaijani border, he said that it was closed because of the December 1 incident at the Iranian-Azerbaijani border, during which a shootout occurred.

"Incidents often happen at the border and the last incident at the Iranian-Azerbaijani border was not a special one," Reisi said. As for Baku's claim that Iran sent spies to Azerbaijan, the ambassador said that Iran does not direct spies to any country.

Ara Guler to Present New Photo Exhibit

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) – Prominent Armenian photojournalist Ara Guler will introduce his new photos of Istanbul, which have never been published before at the December 16 exhibition.

The Armenian photographer discussed the title of the exhibit, "The Old City," saying, "Those old days would have been forgotten now, if not for my photos of Istanbul. The city's aesthetics changed. The civilization moves forward, notwithstanding the people [will] lose [their] sense of beauty."

Guler was born August 16, 1928 in Beyoglu, Istanbul, Turkey. He has been called both "The Eye of Istanbul" and the "Photographer of Istanbul." He is considered one of Turkey's few internationally known photographers.

He studied at the local Getronagan Armenian High School. Owner of a pharmacy on Istiklal Avenue, his father had a wide circle of friends from the art world of the period. Guler's said his early contact with this world inspired him to embark on a career in cinema and photography.

Community News

Houston Parish Celebrates 50 Years, Unveils New Facilities

HOUSTON, Texas – In celebration of its 50th anniversary last month, St. Kevork Church of Houston announced the completion of a three-part building project and unveiled its new park and outdoor basketball court.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), visited the parish on the weekend of November 23-24 and presided over the anniversary events.

On Saturday afternoon, Barsamian blessed the new high-school size Bedikian Youth Basketball Court. The Primate was assisted by Rev. Martiros Hakobyan, the parish pastor.

Among those taking part in the blessing ceremony were benefactors Dr. Hagop and Sylva Bedikian, Diocesan Council Chair Jim Kalustian, and Parish Council Chair Vrej Kolandjian. Fundraising for the basketball court was also carried out by the young people of the parish.

Above the dedication plaque, the parish installed a graphic rendition of St. Vartan Mamikonian – designed by Zareh Aghajanian – to represent the youth basketball team, the “Vartans.”

A reception followed at the home of Vrej and Christine Kolandjian.

On Sunday, Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy. He was assisted by Hakobyan and Rev. Fr. Ghevond Ajamian, pastor of St. Sarkis Church of Dallas.

During the service, Barsamian ordained Haikaz Gharakhanian to the diaconate. A long-time parishioner of St. Kevork Church, Gharakhanian is the principal of the parish's Armenian School.

The Primate expressed his appreciation to the Nazarian family for making possible renovations to the St. Kevork sanctuary. Thanks to their generosity, the church installed a marble bema and dais, designed by Zohrab Tcholakian.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Barsamian led a procession to the St. Kevork Khanoyan Park, built adjacent to the church. The park was donated by Ara Khanoyan and designed by Nazar Dawood. It features beautiful landscaping and a large gazebo. The Primate led an *Antasdan* (Blessing of Fields) service, and blessed the benefactors of all three construction projects.

Later that afternoon, 350 people gathered for a banquet in the church's Hekimian Hall.



Archbishop Barsamian leads an *Antasdan* service in the St. Kevork Khanoyan Park.

Kolandjian served as the master of ceremonies and opened the program with a welcoming address. He spoke about the pride and strength of the Houston community and highlighted some of its achievements.

Several parishioners were honored for their dedication to St. Kevork Church. Archbishop Barsamian presented the “St. Vartan Award” to Khanoyan and Nazar and Tania Dawood.

Certificates of recognition were presented to Zareh Aghajanian, Nina Aivazian, Anais Babajanian, Dn. Garbis Balian, Samar Dawood, see HOUSTON, page 6



Niari Keverian with festive bottles of ZOOS on display at the recent Greek Mistletoe Ball

Niari Keverian Launches ZOOS Greek Iced Tea

WATERTOWN – When it comes to business and brewing tea, budding entrepreneur Niara Keverian stays true to her roots. As vice president of marketing, Keverian is set to launch a new product, ZOOS Greek Iced Tea (pronounced Zeus)

By Gabriella Gage
Mirror-Spectator Staff

in March with her business partner, Kristina Tsiouras. Both Keverian and Tsiouras grew up locally, sharing a deep appreciation for their respective Armenian and Greek heritages.

While Keverian is from Medfield, her “unofficial” home, she says, has always been Watertown, where she grew up heavily involved in the Armenian community and has fond memories of participating in a variety of social and community events.

Keverian attended Armenian Sisters' Academy in Lexington before moving on to high school and then the University of New Hampshire. She originally studied engineering, but quickly realized her passion lay elsewhere. “My father is an entrepreneur and I grew up surrounded by the spirit of entrepreneurship,” said Keverian. She said her years of performing with the Sayat Nova Dance Company and as its marketing director helped prepare her for the fast-paced and people-oriented realm of business marketing.

While earning her MBA at Babson College, she co-chaired the Babson Entrepreneurship Forum, which brought in more than 80 speakers and 800 attendees. Some of Keverian's previous experience includes working for five years in a variety of roles for Staples corporate division, an internship with Collective Brands and working as a brand manager for Welch's juice company.

Keverian was recovering from a car accident when she met future business partner Tsiouras through a Babson connection and was inspired by her idea for marketing Greek tea, which is similar in many ways to the traditional Armenian herbal tea made from wild thyme.

The two women found they shared similar childhood experiences coming of age in culturally-diverse Massachusetts. “Growing up I was involved in several youth groups and had a lot of Greek friends. Both [Kristina] and I shared a similar business acumen and cultural background,” said Keverian.

What makes Greek iced tea different than traditional teas? According to Keverian, it is all natural, real-brewed non-caffeinated tea, containing herbs sourced from the Greek mountains, and produced and bottled in the US. For centuries, families in Greece have trusted this traditional brew for health benefits and as their go-to beverage at home. A first-generation Greek American, Tsiouras spent summers in Greece drinking the tea and finding inspiration in its properties. Both women believe there is nothing like ZOOS currently on the market and that are

see TEA, page 5



Governor Brown Taps Armen Tamzarian as California Superior Court Judge

LOS ANGELES – On December 5, California Governor Jerry Brown appointed Armenian Bar Association member Armen Tamzarian to the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Heeding the calls of the Armenian community, including the Armenian Bar Association, to name another Armenian-American to the judicial bench, and in recognition of Tamzarian's background and experience, Brown's appointment comes as a welcome development.

Prior to his appointment, Tamzarian was a senior appellate court attorney at the California Court of Appeal in Los Angeles. From 1997 to 2008, he was an associate and then a partner of the Century City law firm of Case, Knowlson, Jordan & Wright LLP. His practice consisted mostly of business and real estate litigation. In 1996 and 1997, Tamzarian worked as a superior court research attorney.

Tamzarian has been an active mem-



Armen Tamzarian

ber of the Armenian-American community for most of his life. Beginning from early on in his education and career, Tamzarian studied and then published on the issue of the Armenian question under international law. Most recently, he served on the organizing committee for the ANCA grassroots conference. He also served for seven years as a task force member of the AGBU Generation Next mentorship program.

Tamzarian received his bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and his JD from Southwestern Law School. At Southwestern, Tamzarian received a full three-year merit scholarship and served on the school's law review.

“The Armenian Bar Association welcomes Armen Tamzarian's appointment to the bench by California Governor Jerry Brown. Mr. Tamzarian is a wonderful choice and will make a superb contribution to the California judiciary. We look forward to additional judicial appointments in the near future of other worthy Armenian-Americans in California and other states. We also call upon President Obama to draw from a pool of highly-qualified Armenian-American lawyers and state court judges for an appointment to our federal bench,” stated Ghazarian.



COMMUNITY NEWS

AGBU WDC Annual Gala Banquet Raises Funds for District's Youth Programs

Honors Sam and Sylva Simonian

LOS ANGELES – Excitement was in the air for the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Annual Fundraising Gala Banquet held at the Beverly Hilton on Saturday, November 17. The sold-out event, attended by more than 400 people, raised substantial funds for the Western District's Youth Programs. The evening also commemorated the organization's 107th anniversary.

The evening's honorees were and Sam and Sylva Simonian, founders of the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies in Armenia, who have displayed great dedication and commitment to the youth of Armenia. The Simonians said they desire to give back to education because of the tutelage they received at AGBU schools. Sam

This was a night we will always remember."

Following an inspiring video presentation about the imagination and activities behind the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies, Sinan Sinanian, fellow vice president of the Central Board of Directors of the AGBU introduced the honorees. They were both presented with a plaque and a gift for their unconditional dedication and support to the TUMO Center and the AGBU.

"Having our dear friends Sam and Sylva Simonian as the highlight of the AGBU Western District's Gala Banquet is most fitting and an opportunity to present them to our community," said Sinanian. "Sam and Sylva Simonian are the individuals who had the vision, provided the funds and implemented one of the most advanced, contemporary and comprehensive initiatives of our times, the TUMO Center for Creative Technologies in Armenia. It is a gigantic technology center, that aims to expand young people's horizons and gives them the resources to achieve their full creative potential, through state of the art technology tools and a highly versatile and rigorous learning system that develops their technical, artistic and professional skills."

The event's program featured a flag ceremony by AGBU LA/San Fernando and Glendale/Pasadena Scouts, a video montage of the United States, Armenia and AGBU anthems and an invocation by Archbishop Hovnan Derderian,

Primate Western Diocese. Guests were welcomed by Mistress of Ceremonies, Nora J. Balikian. "A large portion of the audience tonight is composed of our dynamic and capable young professionals who want to move this organization forward and advance the ideals of the AGBU," expressed Balikian. Her words were followed by remarks made by the AGBU Western District Committee Chair Krekor Karaguezian.

"AGBU is proud of its glorious past, excited by its energetic present and confident of its hopeful and bright future. The Union has the



From left, Krekor Karaguezian presenting gift to Honorees, and Sam and Sylva Simonian

Simonian is presently a vice president of the Central Board of Directors of the AGBU.

"Sylva and I were both touched and really overwhelmed by the warm reception and the support we received for our center last Saturday at the AGBU LA gala," he said. "We also received many words of encouragement and several offers of help from various individuals and organizations, for which we are very thankful. AGBU and the Armenian community have always considered modern education as the most essential investment to improve the lives of our youth in our nation and abroad.



From left, Krekor Karaguezian, Hermine Janoyan and Sinan Sinanian

prudence and farsightedness to skillfully adopt its projects to all its districts, as well as to all the prevailing needs of its future generations," Karaguezian said. "Today's youth are tomorrow's hope and the future of the Armenian nation. We should listen and act according to the needs of our new generation. Let us plan and assist our youth and preserve our identity, our beloved AGBU and our glorious nation."

The fundraising gala was under the auspices of the AGBU's Western District Committee and organized by the Special Events Committee (SEC). Chair of this event and the SEC, Hermine Janoyan, received the Lifetime AGBU Honorary Member Award for her dedicated service to the organization for the past three decades.

"I am very surprised and humbled by this honor and would like to thank the Central Board of the AGBU, the dedicated ladies of the special events committee and my many friends of the Western district of the AGBU. This honorary membership is dear to my heart because AGBU has always been the greatest source of inspiration for me," Janoyan said.

Gala guests enjoyed a dynamic video about the youth activities and programs of the AGBU which was professionally produced by talented volunteer Peter Mussurlian of Globalist Films. Popular Singer Ani Christy and Arthur Hakobyan (formerly known as Mister X) entertained the guests with several songs and duets.

The guests danced the night away to the music of DJ Chahan.

Some of the guests present at the Gala included Grand Benefactors Vatche and Tamar Manookian, Primate Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Former Primate, Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, AGBU Central Board of Director Members Sinan Sinanian, Sam Simonian and Yervant Demirjian. Among the local political figures in attendance were CA Assemblyman Adrine Nazarian, and LA City Councilman Paul Krekorian. Organizations represented included the Armenia Fund, United Armenia Fund, the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, the Armenian Revolutionary Federation, the Armenian Jewelers Association, the Armenian Bar Association, the Ararat Home, and the Armenian Chamber of Commerce among others.

"I also thank the District Committee of AGBU's Western Region", added Sinanian, "and its Chairman Krekor Karaguezian for organizing this annual gala, upholding a beautiful tradition and providing an opportunity, year after year, to our community to come together to celebrate our achievements and strengthen our commitment to the mission we all cherish. My heartfelt thanks and appreciation go especially to Hermine Janoyan for her capable leadership along with the members of the Special Organizing Committee for their hard work and dedication in making this event a glamorous festivity."

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Keverian Launches ZOOS Greek Iced Tea

TEA, from page 4

the first to market Greek iced tea in the US. The success of the Greek yogurt market and the health benefits associated with Greek products are two factors that favor ZOOS, said Keverian. "Iced tea is a growing industry in the US, and ZOOS is a healthy, natural and delicious alternative to many products on the shelf," said Keverian.

When it formally launches in March, it will be a large-scale endeavor with ZOOS on the shelves of several big-box stores and independent markets as well. The 16 ounce bottles will be available in three flavors: original, peach and lemon. The product will also be make an appearance in "Dumb and Dumber To," the sequel to the classic comedy film starring Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels, set to hit theaters in November 2014. As businesswomen, Keverian said that she and Tsipouras are excited to make the business their own and avoid corporate pit falls by creating a great product from a fun, stylish marketing campaign.

In terms of the future, Keverian said she is confident in ZOOS entry into a Greek-friendly product market and her enthusiasm for realizing her entrepreneurial dreams run deep. "I'm really excited to share ZOOS and what I'm passionate about with my community," she said.

For more information on ZOOS or upcoming launch news, visit www.facebook.com/drinkZOOS, www.drinkZOOS.com or contact niari@drinkZOOS.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Houston Parish Celebrates 50 Years, Unveils New Facilities

HOUSTON, from page 6

Araz Gharakhanian, Kevork Kasparian, Kristine Khachatryan, Lilit Kirsh, Nairi Kyoumjian, Karlen Malkhassian, Lilia Maranjyan, Tony Masraff, Artyom Nahapetyan, Vanoush Ohanian, Julietta Palyan, Areg Sahakian, Eliane Sahakian, Zaven Sahakian, Araz Sarkissian, Iveta Shahinyan, Karina Shtenberg, Huleh Simonian, Hulik Stepanian and Garo Yeriazarian.

During a cultural program, choreographer Hulik Stepanian led dancers in an impressive performance. Sylva Bedikian and Andre Melikian presented a video on the establishment of the Houston parish and its accomplishments.

The day's banquet was prepared and donated by Tony Masraff.

Hakobyan spoke about the founders of St. Kevork Church, emphasizing that they built a

legacy for future generations of Armenian Christians in Houston. "They established this beautiful sanctuary as a gift to all of us – to give us a place where we could gather to worship the Lord and to preserve our rich heritage," he said.

He went on to express his gratitude to all parishioners who have served and continue to serve in various parish organizations. "Everyone has played some part in our parish story," he said. "Now it is our time to write a new chapter for St. Kevork Church."

Barsamian congratulated the community on its milestone and on the new projects dedicated over the anniversary weekend.

"Yours is a parish with a rich history, and may God remember all those who have built and sustained St. Kevork throughout these 50

years," Archbishop Barsamian said. "You should be proud that the spirit of 'living the Gospel' has been exemplified by the people of this parish, through your service on the altar, your efforts in parish organizations, your outreach to the community and your ministry to each other."



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian ordained parishioner Haikaz Gharakhanian to the diaconate.



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and Fr. Martiros Hakobyan bless the Bedikian Youth Basketball Court in Houston.

OBITUARY

Joyce (Dulgarian) Swedberg

Former Mass. Teacher of the Year

DANVERS, Mass. — Joyce (Dulgarian) Swedberg of Danvers died of lung cancer on December 3, surrounded by her family, at the Kaplan Family Hospice House here. She was the wife of Steven Craig Swedberg. She was 56.

Born on March 21, 1957, in Providence, RI, she was the daughter of the late Earl Dulgarian and the late Beatrice (Nargizian) Dulgarian.

She grew up in Rhode Island. She was a graduate of Cranston High School West, after which she received her bachelor's degree in special education from Syracuse University. She continued her education at Boston University, where she received her master's degree in special education and elementary education.

Her passion was teaching. She will be remembered for the impact she made on her students in special education, many of whom attribute their current successes to her patience, persistence and skill. Her winning of the Massachusetts Teacher of the Year award is just one indicator of her dedication. She was a role model and mentor to fellow teachers for more than 30 years and was known as one of the



Joyce (Dulgarian) Swedberg

most skilled professionals in her field. She spent most of her teaching years in the Manchester Essex Regional School District.

When she wasn't teaching, she enjoyed playing classical piano, making creations for her classrooms and spending time with her family. She had a great sense of humor and her friends loved her ability to make people laugh even during difficult times.

She loved dancing and going to the movies with her husband.

She attended the North Shore community Baptist Church in Beverly.

In addition to her husband of 31 years, she leaves her son, Scott S. Swedberg of Danvers; her mother-in-law Shirley A. Swedberg of Westminster; three brothers, Robert E. and his wife, Janis, of Cumberland, RI, Richard K. of Cranston, RI and twin brother Kenneth R. and his wife, Gretchen, of Providence and their three children, Madison, Morgan and Harrison Dulgarian.

Funeral Services were held on Friday, December 6, at the North Shore Community Baptist Church. Arrangements were made by the Campbell-Lee, Moody Russell Funeral Home, North Beverly. Interment was private.

Memorial contributions in her memory may be made to MGH North Shore Cancer Center, 102 Endicott St., Danvers, MA 01923 and Kaplan Family Hospice House, 78 Liberty St., Danvers, MA 01923.

The funeral was on Thursday, December 12, at the Collins Funeral Home, 500 University Boulevard, Silver Spring. Interment will take place at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to Breast Cancer Research Foundation, 60 East 56th St., 8th Floor, New York, NY 10022.

Anthony Rochambeau Herosian

SILVER SPRING, Md. — Anthony Rochambeau Herosian of Silver Spring died on Friday, December 6. He was 92.

He leaves his wife, Pauline Herosian; children Arthur Charles (Vicky) Herosian and Eleanor Mae Hughes; grandchildren Dawn Renee (Aaron) Aumiller; great-grandchild William Aumiller; step-grandchild Andrew Jung and brother Edward (Ann) Herosian of Falmouth, Mass. One brother, George Herosian, predeceased him.

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Wishing a Speedy Recovery

The staff of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* was saddened to learn recently about the illness of the Very Rev. Raphael Andonian, pastor at the Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church in Belmont, Mass. since 1993. The entire staff, past and present, wishes to convey to Rev. Andonian that they are praying for his speedy recovery and are waiting to see him soon at the *Mirror-Spectator* offices or at cultural events, eager to experience anew his charming sense of humor and kind words.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Richard Hovannisian Presents Lecture on Western Armenia

TRUMBULL, Conn. — On November 3, Dr. Richard Hovannisian presented on the people and culture in historic Western Armenia for an audience of more than 50 at Armenian Church of the Holy Ascension.

After a luncheon and a surprise birthday

cake and wishes for Hovannisian, he began his multi-media presentation.

He opened with Smyrna, the showing of a brief video which was a collage of old photos and footage of life in Smyrna up to and including the burning of Smyrna in September 1922.

Smyrna was a port for much trade and was in the vanguard. In as early as the 1840s, the Armenians in Smyrna had a newspaper, which was unheard of in the Ottoman Empire. A discussion of many of the provinces of historic Western Armenia followed along with photo presentations.

Near the end of Hovannisian's June trip to Turkey, his group headed north to the Black Sea into the mountains in search of the Hamshens. The Hamshens speak a dialect of Armenian, but do not consider themselves Armenian.

The video footage of the interactions with some of the last few remaining Armenians in Dikranagerd was also shown.

Hovannisian is UCLA emeritus professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History and has authored and edited more than 20 books. He sold and autographed some of his books after the presentation and Q & A session in the church hall.



Birthday cake presented to Richard Hovannisian

Arshag Dickranian School Students Put on Show For Western Diocese Christmas Program

BURBANK, Calif. — Dozens of students from the Arshag Dickranian School of the Tekeyan Cultural Association participated at the Christmas Program of the Armenian Church Western Diocese in Burbank. Students in grades 3, 4, 5 and 9 performed for a whole hour, performing a variety of songs and dances. The younger group sang in a chorus, while some performed tangos or traditional Armenian dances. The audience of invited guests and clergy were delighted with the students' talents.



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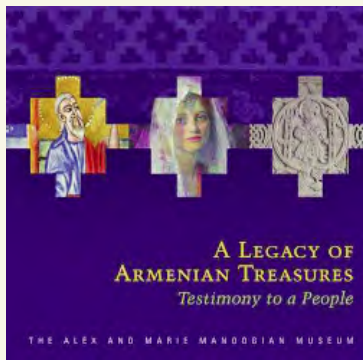
Donations

•The Trustees of the George Ignatius Foundation, George Phillips Sr., Michael American and Walter Karabian, have donated \$1,000 to the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, in appreciation for its service to the community.

•The Detroit Chapters of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party and the Tekeyan Cultural Association jointly donated \$1,200 to the staff of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, to be distributed as Christmas bonuses, thanking the staff. In their note they said, in part, "[we] appreciate your dedicated work which has rendered the *Mirror* as the pre-eminent English-language, Armenian weekly in the US."



COMMUNITY NEWS



A Legacy of Armenian Treasures on Manoogian Museum Launched in Armenia

By Manana Hovakimyan

YEREVAN and DETROIT (*Azg*) – *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures*, a catalog of the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum, was recently published in Detroit. The book contains a lavish presentation of photographs featuring the museum items with appropriate identification and scholarly text. On September 19, a book



From left, Levon Chookaszian, Edmond Azadian, Alice Nigoghosian and Lucy Ardash

launch took place at the Manuscript Hall of the State Art Gallery with many representatives of cultural life in attendance.

Throughout the years benefactor Alex Manoogian and Archbishop Paren Avedikian augmented this collection by purchasing the artifacts from auctions and individuals. Today the collection is a source of pride for every Armenian.

The executive editor of the book, Edmond Azadian, said, “This book is the fruit of almost 10 years of work and we have prepared it with the cooperation of several specialists. It is composed of 336 pages with 160 photographs. Only select items from the collection are featured in the book including illuminated manuscripts, rugs, religious objects, early printed books, ceramics, paintings, textiles and coins. The book is addressed to the general public and is written in English to make it accessible to the younger generation and non-Armenians. Only my introduction is both in Armenian and English. Our editorial staff made certain that each entry stands up to scholarly scrutiny.”

Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan, under whose auspices the event took place, congratulated the representatives of the museum.



Young performers at the presentation

At the conclusion of the program, the director of the Manoogian Museum, Lucy Ardash, said, “what we attempted to accomplish in the Manoogian Museum and in our new book is to re-create a small part of Armenia for the diaspora. In my view, Armenia is an architectural treasure and the entire country is like a museum. By publishing this catalog, we hope to inform Armenians and non-Armenians about our cultural heritage. The publication is the culmination of research by nine preeminent scholars and editors. The Manoogian Museum opened in 1992 and its collection now totals 1,500 objects, most of which are over 100 years old. The vision and development of the museum was the joint effort of the late benefactor Alex Manoogian and Archbishop Paren Avedikian who began collecting artifacts long before the museum was built.”

On this special occasion, publishing consultant Alice Nigoghosian, long time deputy director of Wayne State University Press, under whose direction many scholarly books have been published, said, “The publication of this book was a team effort overcoming many challenges in producing this complex project.”

The president of the Armenian Academy of Science, Dr. Radik Martirosyan, noted, “I have been to the Manoogian Museum more than once. The collection is available to a limited number of visitors but thanks to this book, a large segment of the public will be exposed to the collection regardless of where they live. The book has had a tremendous cultural impact on the public.”

Edward Milieonyan, president of the Writers’ Union, in his turn, emphasized the importance of the publication. “Such a valuable treasure and a great cultural achievement because these books represent the Armenian culture worldwide. When looking at the cover of the book and its content, I was overwhelmed,” he said.



Seyranuhi Geghamyan (left), Hasmik Poghosyan in the foreground, with Papken Megerian next to her (right).



Art historian Levon Chookaszian was the keynote speaker. He said, “This volume brings together an entire heritage which was dispersed around the world because of the Genocide and huge endeavors were necessary to bring the collection together. Alex Manoogian’s work is unique because most of the artifacts created by Armenians has fallen into hands of individuals, while Alex Manoogian collected them for a public museum.”

Poghosyan presented honorary awards to Nigoghosian and Ardash. The minister also presented the Grigor Naregatzi Medal to renowned intellectual and executive editor of the book, Azadian, for his work to preserve and disseminate Armenian heritage in the diaspora.

Seyranuhi Geghamyan, who is the head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Ministry of Culture, was the emcee of the program and she intermittently introduced young musicians who enhanced the program. The event concluded with a champagne reception.

The book can also be ordered from Amazon.com and various bookstores.

AMAA Holds 94th Annual Meeting in Watertown

WATERTOWN – The 94th Annual Meeting of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was held at the Armenian Memorial Church on October 12. AMAA President Joseph Zeronian presided over the meeting, which was attended by more than 70 members. Delegates of Armenian Evangelical Unions, Armenian Evangelical World Council, AMAA Committees and affiliated organizations shared their joys and concerns and praised God for another successful year.

The general membership of the AMAA elected the following nine members for the Class of 2016 (for a term of three years): Alice Altoon, Edward Avedisian, Rev. Ara Guekguezian, Berjuhi Gulesserian, Peter Kougasian, Esq., Thomas Momjian, Esq., Hovhannes Shnorhokian, DD., Joseph Stein and Joseph Zeronian, EdD. The following four members were also elected for a term of two years to serve on the Nominating Committee: Nazareth Darakjian, MD, Peter Kougasian, Esq., Rev. Nerses Balabanian and Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian.

On October 13, AMAA members and guests attended the worship service at the Armenian Memorial Church. Rev. Avedis Boynerian, pastor of the church, was the worship leader. The guest preachers were Rev. Joel Mikaelian and Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian and Rev. Joseph Matossian offered the pastoral prayer. During the worship service, the newly-elected board members of the AMAA were installed by Tootikian.

Armenian Bar Association Holds Mock Trial Workshop

LOS ANGELES – On November 23, the Armenian Bar Association hosted its first Mock Interview and Resume Review Workshop at Loyola Law School. The event was organized in collaboration with the Loyola Armenian Law School Students’ Association (ALSA), the Loyola Law School and all local ALSAs. It was the sequel to the Armenian Bar Association’s Informational and Networking Event held annually at the Southwestern Law School.

The program consisted of presentations by a panel of attorneys, among them Armenian Bar Members Robert Baronian, Garo Kamarian, Tigran Palyan, Armen Sefyan, Board of Governors Member Saro Kerkonian and Executive Board Member Hovanes Margarian. Following the panel presentations, students participated in mock interviews conducted by the panelists and were critiqued and given further advice as to how to present themselves as job candidates. The program ended with a networking lunch to allow students to continue interacting with the panelists.

“Law school students need a thorough understanding of what an employer seeks when hiring an associate attorney. Mere knowledge of the law is not sufficient in the current highly competitive market. It is our goal to give these students the extra edge they need to obtain the best jobs available and grow within our profession. The more successful our next generation is the more pride they will bring to both our profession and our community,” stated Margarian.

“We live in an environment where the employer is looking to its employees to increase its bottom line. Prospective applicants must demonstrate to the law firm of their choice that they possess both the legal skills and the drive to help grow the firm’s reputation and revenues,” stated Kamarian.

This event will be followed by the Armenian Bar Association’s third annual Networking and Information Event for Law Students at Southwestern Law School on February 1. The program will consist of presentations by Judge Jacqueline Chooljian, Judge Amy Hoogasian, and attorneys Anya Artan, Patrick Baghdaserians, Robert Baronian, Milene Chraghchian, Ellin Davtyan, Alice Yardum Hunter, Garo Kamarian, Saro Kerkonian, Hovanes Margarian, Aram Ordubegian, Sarkis Ourfalian, Tigran Palyan and John Tehranian. Following the presentations students will have an opportunity to speed network with the panelists and develop mentorship and internship contacts. Admission will be free.

For further information about the February 1 event contact hovanes@margarianlaw.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Sister Rug of 'Orphan Rug,' History of Near East Foundation Dominate Assembly Gathering

RUG, from page 1

Mardirossian said Americans today need to be reminded of the work of the Near East Foundation in the Ottoman Empire in which countless Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians were saved. "It's a remarkable story of altruism," he said. The NEF is close to his heart because one of the orphans saved was his grandmother.

The NEF was formed after eyewitness reports from US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau, who warned that "it



Dr. H. Martin Deranian

appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress" against the Armenians.

He asked for help from his country to save the victims. With the help of President Woodrow Wilson, Cleveland Dodge and James L. Barton, as well as Morgenthau, were instrumental in getting the US Congress to incorporate the NEF.



Dr. H. Martin Deranian displayed one of the Ghazir factory rugs made by the orphans.

11.7 feet, with a total of 4.5 million knots. It was presented to Coolidge on December 4, 1925. After Coolidge left the White House, the rug traveled with them to their residence in Northampton, Mass., where it stayed until 1958. Because of a request from Deranian, Coolidge's son returned the rug to the White House in 1982.

Deranian also read an email from Kunzler's granddaughter, sent on the occasion of the originally proposed program to show the rug in Washington, in conjunction with the release of Deranian's book. "I know my papa would have been very proud," she said in part.

A plaque was presented to Deranian on behalf of the Armenian Assembly, for his work to bring the rug into focus.



Lu Ann Ohanian



From left, Jason Sohigian, Herman Purutyan and Tom and Dora Garabedian

The NEF then proceeded to raise funds to fulfill its mission. "This project went on for 15 years. They built shelters, schools, clinics, medical centers and rescued more than 1 million refugees," Mardirossian said.

He also spoke about Aurora Mardigian, "our Anne Frank." Her story, much like Frank's, is heartbreaking. She was the only survivor of her family who was rescued by the NEF, after suffering brutal rapes and seeing the murder of family members. After she was rescued from a harem, eventually she made her way to the US, and was helped to write her story, which was turned into a film, "Ravaged Armenia." She starred in the film, capturing her brutal past, and went from city to city to promote it. Reliving her past proved too much for the teenager and eventually she ended up suffering

from a nervous breakdown, dying alone in California.

He also showed a 20-minute film made by Johannes Lepsius, showing the work of the NEF and particularly Swiss missionary Jakob Kunzler. Kunzler took in about 8,000 orphans in what was Cilicia and brought them to Aleppo for safety, eventually starting the Ghazir rug factory at the orphanage of that name outside Beirut, where the "Orphan Rug" was created. About 1,400 girls worked there.

According to Mardirossian, 132,000 children were under the care of the Near East Foundation until the 1930s. Children were placed in Aleppo, Beirut and Alexandropol, which became Gumri, Armenia.

Deranian said that he has been fascinated by the Coolidge rug for the past 30 years, because

of what the Ghazir orphanage and Kunzler mean to him. "I consider him to be a hero. He was the father of Armenian orphans. He would always say, 'I consider Armenians to be my brothers.'"

His book, *President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug*, came out in October.

Among the people Kunzler saved was Varter Nazarian, a widow who lost six children during the forced marches. "Jakob Kunzler helped her escape to Aleppo," Deranian recalled. The story is forever in his heart, because eventually that woman made her way to America, married again "and became my mother."

The Ghazir rug factory eventually created 3,240 rugs, one of which Deranian owns and had brought to the program. The rug woven for Coolidge is very big, measuring 18.5 feet by



Bryan Ardouny



Samuel Salibian, left, and Harry Parsekian

Arts & Living

'Where Is Your Groom?' to Have Encore Performance December 15

ORADELL, N.J. – Following a successful Off-Broadway debut in New York City's The Players Theatre this fall, the cast and crew of the Armenian-themed comedic play, "Where Is Your Groom?" (Pesad Oor Eh) are gearing up for a performance on Sunday, December 15, which will feature a musical set by international singer Robert Chilingirian.

The play, written by Taleen Babayan, is a humorous take on a question that continuously floats around Armenian homes as it follows the story of an Armenian-American family's search to find their daughter a suitable husband.

The cast and crew of the play "Where Is Your Groom?" (Pesad Oor Eh) are a group of spirited and enthusiastic young Armenian-American professionals who have a desire to translate the cultural elements of being Diasporan Armenians on stage in an entertaining manner.

"It's been a wonderful experience working with young Armenians, reconnecting with old friends and making new ones," said Daniella Baydar, who studied education and is a private tutor for students. "This play has struck a cord with audiences who can relate to one character or another as well as the overall theme of the play."

Through comedy, "Where Is Your Groom?" sheds light on important issues that the young generation of Armenians outside the homeland struggle with, and tackles the themes of assimilation, cultural identity and generational divides.

"This play does a remarkable job illustrating the generation gap that is intensified by the Diaspora that many Armenians face," said Kyle Dinkjian, an information technology consultant at Pershing Square Capital Management. "We as young people want to fit in into the country we now call home, but at the end of the day, still know we can't let our ancestors' sacrifices be in vain."

The cast and crew of 20 Armenians from the local Armenian community have spent countless hours rehearsing together over the past few months, which has contributed to the strong group bond and dynamic.

"I've done quite a lot of group related projects in my life and I've never seen such a vibrant and passionate group, where each and every member has color," said Raffi Keshishian, a performer who studied at the New York Film Academy. "The fact that young Armenians have gotten together independently really is beauty in disguise."

"I feel fortunate to be part of a creation of art and culture," said Yervant Babayan, a New York attorney and professor. "There aren't many works that blend comedy and drama so successfully, especially from a young writer's perspective in the Armenian community. Taleen has done a masterful job in creating a lasting satirical work, one that emphasizes various idiosyncrasies in the Armenian community, all while making the audience laugh at things in their own lives, past or present."

To purchase tickets or to learn more about "Where Is Your Groom?" visit www.wherisyourgroom.com



Emcee Jill Simonian with ADAA Paul Screenwriting Award co-winner, filmmaker Levon Minasian, from Moscow via Skype

ADAA Entertainment Industry Panel Attracts Hundreds

Winners of Paul Prize Announced

LOS ANGELES – Before a crowd of 200 patrons, artists and students, the Armenian Dramatic Arts Alliance (ADAA) presented an informative industry panel at the Writers Guild Theater in Beverly Hills on November 8, discussing how Armenian artists can navigate their careers in entertainment.

The conversation provided an opportunity to hear firsthand stories of the panelists' successful careers and priceless lessons learned, followed by a question and answer session with the audience. The event was emceed by television personality Jill Simonian (The Hallmark Channel and HLN "Showbiz Tonight") and the panel was moderated by ADAA President Bianca Bagatourian. Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, started the evening off with an eloquent speech about how art was integral to the Armenian soul.



Michael Goordjian, Bianca Bagatourian, Aris Janigian

Papazian; Emmy-winning actor Michael Goorjian, novelist Aris Janigian (*This Angelic Land*) and Emmy-winning TV producer Hank Saroyan.

Near the outset and throughout the panel, Peretzian advised: "When you make the connections, you better know who you are and what you have to offer. And that requires preparation...you have to be ready. Know what you have to tell us and what is special about you."

Hank Saroyan talked about some of the advice his uncle, William Saroyan, provided him, including to write every day if he was going to call himself a writer. He said: "It's not about being Armenian or being Jewish or from Finland. It's about talent and drive and a spirit of industriousness." He also said that "spirit of industry" has been his guiding principles in his career, which has included producing television for Dick Clark, Joe Barbera and Jim Henson. "If everyone else came in at 8, I came in at 7:30," he noted.

Papazian spoke of his early days of working in television: "A director at CBS asked me what I wanted to do and I told him I wanted to be a producer. He told me... 'You'll see ADAA, page 13

Haig Hovsepien Performs at Carnegie Hall

NEW YORK – Haig Hovsepien was selected as a prize winner to perform at the Finalists Gala Concert of the Fifth Armenian Youth Talent 2013 competition in Carnegie Weill Recital Hall, on December 1.

He performed, with the accompaniment of Ani Hovsepien on piano, Eduard Sardarian's *Armenian Sketches*, which received thunderous accolades of "bravos" to a full house.

He attends Belmont High School in Belmont, Mass., and is a member of the school's Wind Ensemble and the Jazz Band, playing the alto saxophone. He also attends New England Conservatory Prep Division in violin participating in the Chamber Orchestra and the Youth



Haig Hovsepien and Ani Hovsepien (photo by Jirair Hovsepien)

Symphonic Orchestra.

Above, he is seen performing at the Weill Recital Hall, accompanied by his mother.

Charles Kasbarian Releases Dikranagerd-Armenian Dialect Dictionary

TEANECK, N.J. – After years of compilation, a new dictionary of words and expressions from the Dikranagerd-Armenian dialect is now available. Titled, *Inch g'usis: A Dikranagerdtsi Vernacular Handbook*, the term "Inch g'usis" literally means "What do you say?" in the dialect of Dikranagerd.

Authored by Charles Kasbarian, *Inch g'usis: A Dikranagerdtsi Vernacular Handbook* showcases the earthy and humorous dialect of Dikranagerd, presented in English transliteration. Kasbarian is a columnist for the Armenian Weekly.

No one knows how many Armenian Genocide survivors were integrated into Turkish society, nor how many native Armenians may remain, though hidden away. In either case, there are few, if any Armenians in the Diarbekir region of Western Armenia (present-day Turkey) who still speak the native dialect. As a result, it is likely that the dialect of Dikranagerd will become extinct in our lifetime. Aside from this obvious fact, Kasbarian explained his reasoning for creating *Inch g'usis*: "The Dikranagerd dialect is my native language. In my childhood, while trying to converse with non-Dikranagerdtsi Armenians, I would get laughed at for what they perceived to be a queer way of speaking. But in my maturity, I realized that there was a lot to be said for dialects – the one of Dikranagerd in particular."

see DICTIONARY, page 11



ARTS & LIVING

Textile Wealth In Miniature

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK — A family portrait is something to treasure, especially if it is centuries old. And if the portrait is a rare glimpse into history, the value is priceless.

On Tuesday evening, November 12, the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center of the Eastern Diocese presented a unique lecture on the family portrait of King Gagik-Abas of Kars, by artist and scholar Hazel Antaramian Hofman. The speaker was introduced by the Rev. Daniel Findikyan, director of the Zohrab Center and professor of Liturgical Studies at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

Hofman began her talk by pointing out that the eleventh-century miniature family portrait of King Gagik-Abas is the “only known Armenian painting

of a Bagratuni dynastic family.”

The image has been interpreted as indicating the rank and status of the figures, she said, adding that her analysis emphasizes the “sumptuous textiles and the intriguing composition and placement” of the female figures — the queen and daughter, who represent “dowry wealth and matrilineal inheritance.”

The opulence of the textiles, she continued, represent dynastic wealth in an effort to support the central figure, the young daughter, Princess Marem, “within the socio-political context” of the region’s medieval life. Since the daughter was the only heir of Greater Armenia’s last Bagratuni king, she was to inherit the dynastic line from her father at a time when the kingdom was threatened by Seljuk invasions and Byzantine land annexation laws.

The scholar related that this family image was created during the tumultuous time of the Bagratuni



This 11th-century illumination depicts the Bagratuni royal family.

period. “I suggest that the miniature painting reveals the family’s response to the hostile situation of regional politics for Armenian nobles in their homeland,” she explained.

During this time, marital alliances between Armenian nobles were common, and there were intermarriages between Armenian and non-Armenian dynastic families. “Showing dynastic lin-

eage and textile wealth in the image was a credible way to secure a future for Princess Marem through marital arrangements,” she said.

Hofman was born in Soviet Armenia and came at age 5 to the US with her family. She has delved into several specialties, including receiving an undergraduate degree in the sciences (chemistry and biology), a master’s in environmental science, a master’s in art and design from Fresno State University and an associate degree in fashion design and illustration. For several years, she worked as an illustrator for Los Angeles companies in advertising, as well as more than 10 years in the environmental field.

As an artist, she has taken part in several group and solo exhibitions. Her latest scholarly work focuses on the repatriation of Armenians to Soviet Armenia after World War II.

Erevan Choral Society Performs First of Two Christmas Shows

CRANSTON, R.I. — The Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, founded by the late Very Fr. Oshagan Minassian, now under the direction of composer and conductor Konstantin Petrossian, had its special Christmas program on December 1, at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, at Cranston. The concert was dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church. The rich program of Armenian and American carols, and spiritual hymns and works by Armenian composers, included three soloists: soprano Narine Ojakhyan, tenor Giovanni Formisano and soprano Nouné Karapetyan.

At the end of the concert, Fr. Shnork Souin, pastor of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, thanked Petrossian and the chorale for a wonderful evening, and, also, the Greek Orthodox Church’s pastor, Fr. George Andrew,



The soloists, from left, Giovanni Formisano, Narine Ojakhyan and Nouné Karapetyan, flank the conductor, Konstantin Petrossian, third from left, as Fr. Shnork Souin, the pastor of the church, speaks.

who offered the church for the concert. He, also, thanked Mayor Allen Fung, who presented Souin with a Proclamation from the City of Cranston.

The group will perform a second Christmas concert on December 15 at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, in Cambridge, Mass.

— Eliza Suvajian

Charles Kasbarian Releases Dikranagerd-Armenian Dialect Dictionary

DICTIONARY, from page 10

As such, Kasbarian took on the task of trying, in some small way, to document elements of the Dikranagerd dialect for posterity. And so, he began to note Dikranagerdtsi words and phrases, which grew into the present collection. “And far from being laughed at,” Kasbarian continued, “linguistic scholars have consulted me on the virtues of the dialect which they feel is worthy of preservation.”

To make the work widely accessible, Kasbarian decided to put the handbook online. The work can be freely accessed on Kasbarian’s Armeniapedia page:

http://www.armeniapedia.org/wiki/Dikranagerdtsi_Vernacular_Handbook_In_English_Transliteration

Included are words and terms “A” through “Z”, a section on Dikranagerdtsi nicknames, and an Armenian alphabet mnemonic. Arranged alphabetically and containing a pronunciation key, the handbook offers many colorful phrases, interjections and exclamations such as “Kher eghnah” (“May it be useful or good,” often said when somebody sneezes); “Leghin badri” (“May his gall bladder burst,” meaning “May he drop dead.”); “Jivit godreh, doun nusdi” (“Break your leg, stay at home,” meaning “Stop gadding about.”); and “Kna kni” (“Go to sleep,” meaning “Get out of here.”). Parents of young children are cautioned that there are many ribald entries.

Kasbarian grew up, during the Great Depression, in Union City, NJ, which was once heavily populated by Dikranagerdtsi Armenians. Over the years, he has presented folk tales and skits in the Dikranagerdtsi dialect at cultural evenings held in the New Jersey area. Also in progress on his Armeniapedia page are his The Dikranagerd Mystique Armenian Cookbook; a number of articles about growing up Dikranagerdtsi; Oyin Mi Tavli, a one-act play in the Dikranagerdtsi dialect; and The Dictionary of Armenian Surnames.

Says Kasbarian of *Inch g’usis?*, “like everything else, there are bound to be missing words and phrases and even mistakes, in which case readers should feel free to bring them to the attention of the author.”

Kasbarian can be reached at ckgarabed@aol.com

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ARTS & LIVING

Gariné Lives on

Marseille Makes a Triumph for Tchouhadjian's Masterpiece Opera Buffa

By Mireille Bulle

MARSEILLE, France – The music loving public in this southern city attended in large numbers in Marseille, attending in large numbers, Dikran Tchouhadjian's opera-buffa "Gariné" (Leblebji Hor Hor Agha) at the prestigious Odéon Theatre on the November 9 and 10, was captivated by the singers and the orchestra flawlessly, led by conductor Jerome Boudin Clauzel.

The evening was presented by the "International Institute Dikran Tchouhadjian," with the support of the Paris Hamaskaine Association and the Armenian Blue Cross of France, under the auspices of the Embassy of Armenia in France.

This is the second time the show was presented at the Odéon Theatre (produced first in Paris and Marseille in 2010) upon a special request by its director, Jean-Jacques Chazalet, on the occasion of "Marseille: 2013 cultural capital of Europe" festivities.

It was a risky yet successful bet by actor/director Gerald Papasian, who succeeded in dusting off this 19th-century Armenian work of art, by proposing a decisively modern production accessible to the modern French audience. Amélie Robins, soprano, in the title role, charmed the audience, joined by Stéphane Sénéchal's particularly endearing and captivating tenor voice. In the demanding role of Hor Hor the chickpea vendor, producer, translator, writer of the new libretto, stage director and actor Papasian surprised the audience once again by the diversity of his talents. Hilariously funny and touching at the same time, he added to his credit an impeccable singing capacity next to the excellent operatic cast.

The audience, overwhelmed, greeted both



Alexandre Martin-Varroy and chorus

performances with standing ovations.

The two-hour-and-30-minute show held in suspense the elegant Marseille Theater by the quality of the artists. Gorgeous mezzo-soprano



Gerald Papasian and chorus



From left, Stephane Senechal, Gerald Papasian and Amelie Robins

Pauline Sikirdji, lovable baritone Alexandre Martin-Varroy, Sarah Lazerges, Matthieu Justine, Claire Faurot, Sarkis Eurdekian and Levon Derderian were well supported by an excellent all singing/all dancing dynamic chorus, embodying alternately jugglers, chickpea vendors, Constantinople high-society representatives and barely-dressed harem girls who thrilled some of the male members of the audience.

Dancers Lorie Baghdassarian and Tamara Isci were scintillating with their grace and sensuality.

This was a wonderful opportunity to discover Tchouhadjian's magnificent music, excellently served by the "Ensemble Vivace" led by first violinist Guegham Nikoyan and the "Azur Symphonic Orchestra"

Chazalet said, "The Odéon is overjoyed of welcoming you all and of being the privileged partner of your action. Congratulations to the entire company, soloists and

musicians for the harmonious artistic unity of the show and congratulations especially to the creative bearer of this enterprise: Director, translator, performer Gerald Papasian."

(Translated from French)



Gerald Papasian and chorus girls



Gerald Papasian as "Hor Hor"



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

CONNECTICUT

DECEMBER 19 — New Britain High School Madrigal Concert, 7 p.m., Holy Resurrection Armenian Church, 1910 Stanley St., New Britain. NBHS Madrigal Singers will perform in the Sanctuary with musical selections from their Boar's Head Feast along with other madrigal tunes, and concluding the concert with a sing-a-long to traditional Christmas carols. Admission is free; for more info, contact the church office at 860-223-7875.

MASSACHUSETTS

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

NEW JERSEY

DECEMBER 31 — St. Thomas Armenian Church New Year's Eve Celebration, 8 p.m., featuring DJ Shant. Serving extensive appetizers, full course dinner, Viennese table at 12 a.m. and free champagne! Donation: \$65 for adults, children 7-12 \$20, children 6 & under free, please reserve early, space is limited. Additional entertainment for children and gifts from Santa. For reservation contact Tanya 201-941-6764, Talar 201-240-8541 or Jacklyn 201-266-4830, Rt. 9W & E. Clinton Avenue, Tenafly.



On December 19, the New Britain High School Madrigal Concert will take place at 7 p.m., at Holy Resurrection Armenian Church, 1910 Stanley St., New Britain, Conn. New Britain High School Madrigal Singers will perform in the Sanctuary with musical selections from their Boar's Head Feast along with other madrigal tunes, and will concluded the concert with a sing-a-long to traditional Christmas carols. Admission is free; for more info, contact the church office at 860-223-7875.

ADAA Entertainment Industry Panel Attracts Hundreds

ADAA, from page 10

always be a producer. You'll read, you'll find material and guess what? You're a producer.' I'm not keen that you need to study film in school; you innately have talent. If you discover that talent in yourself, you have to hone it." He also encouraged students to complete their education before launching into their careers.

Multi-talented actor/director Goorjian said: "I was very hungry. I had something to prove. I had that drive, which has served me very well. What I've learned over the years that served me more...is looking at the long-term relationships. I haven't burned a lot of bridges. I've made close friends that have served me in the long run. Also, finding your own voice. There are a lot of people talking and they all sound the same but always ask...am I developing my own flavor?"

"It takes tremendous patience, hard work, diligence and a degree of ruthlessness to be able to survive," said author Janigian, whose latest novel, *Dining with Lipschitz at the Chateau Marmont*, is about a down-and-out screenwriter waiting to hear about a response to his script. "There's a lot of aversion to risk among the people with money," he said, when recommending that Armenians explore writing other contemporary stories and themes instead of more genocide stories.

The question-and-answer session featured

Armenian film students and young professionals passionate about progressing in their careers and receiving excellent advice from the panelists.

ADAA's annual Armenian Star Award — for an Armenian making significant contributions to the industry — was then presented by ADAA board member, playwright Lisa Kirazian, to the late Armenian American playwright, Leah Ryan, of Boston, whose play, "Bleach," about the Armenian Genocide, is widely read and performed. Ryan was a playwright who taught at a variety of institutions including Vassar College, the University of Iowa and New York Stage and Film's Powerhouse Theater Apprentice Training Program. A graduate of Smith College, Juilliard and the University of Iowa Writer's Workshop, Ryan's play, "Pigeon," was published by Playscripts, Inc. She died of leukemia at the age of 44 on June 12, 2008, in New York City. The Leah Ryan Fund for Emerging Women Writers (<http://www.leahryansfew.com/>) continues her legacy by supporting talented and unrecognized emerging women playwrights.

On the same evening, ADAA presented the fourth Biennial Lillian & Varnum Paul 2013 Screenwriting Award to Levon Minasian and Eric de Roquefeuil for their script, "The Second Journey," a dramatic comedy that takes place between Yerevan and Paris, and also among three generations of men, all started by the discovery of a bundle of love letters from a woman who captivates them all.

Minasian made a surprise appearance via Skype on the theater screen from St. Petersburg to accept the award with De Roquefeuil, who was in attendance. Both writers are from France. After winning, Minasian stated: "Whatever the outcome of the competition, I know we are all



Paul Screenwriting Finalists, from left, Alec Mouhibian, Yervand Kochar, Jeani di Carlo, Eric de Roquefeuil

winners now, because such events reinforce our motivation to tell our stories, and after that we have no choice — we must be successful."

The other finalists were: "1915," by Garin K. Hovannisian and Alec Mouhibian and "The 13th Image," by Yervand Kochar and Jeani Di Carlo.

In a wonderful show of unity, all six finalists revealed that they had decided ahead of time that all six of them would share the \$10,000 prize money — the first time this has occurred in the competition's history and a strong message of support to fellow artists.

The three finalist screenplays were evaluated by an honorary jury composed of Anahid Nazarian (producer, American Zoetrope Productions), Goorjian and Saroyan.

ADAA Board Member and actress Karen Kondazian helped establish the Paul Screenwriting Award in honor of her family. Before announcing the award, she said: "My mother taught me to put my arms around life...that it's never too late to be who you always wanted to be.

My father taught me about responsibility...He taught me...that with our talent we need to inspire, we need to heal, and most of all...we need to give each other courage. So I'm grateful to be here tonight in their honor, to present this award." Past Paul Award winner Jeff Kalousdian ("The Florist") joined Kondazian to help present the award.

The Lillian and Varnum Paul Screenwriting Award is administered by ADAA through the generosity of the Paul Family, through the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, under the auspices of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese.

In closing, ADAA announced it was accepting applications for its first one-on-one "Industry Mentorship Program," which will begin in 2014. Interested parties and also those who wish to volunteer or intern with ADAA may send their resumes to adaa@armeniandrama.org.

For more information about ADAA, its activities and how to contribute to its mission, visit www.armeniandrama.org.



Panelists, from left, Michael Peretzian, Robert Papazian, Hank Saroyan, Michael Goorjian, Aris Janigian and moderator Bianca Bagatourian



COMMENTARY

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COMMENTARY

Unwelcome Guest in Armenia

By Edmond Y. Azadian

During a recent trip to Armenia, President Vladimir Putin of Russia was met with hostile demonstrations by some groups who genuinely believe in Armenia's adherence to Europe and by other groups acting as surrogates to the forces interested in undercutting Russia's influence in the Caucasus region.

Now another political guest is on his way to Yerevan – the highly-controversial Foreign Minister of Turkey Ahmet Davutoglu. The latter is the author of two foreign policy theories much debated in the international circles: Turkey's zero problem with its neighbors and its plans to counter Armenian efforts to bring worldwide recognition of the Armenian Genocide on its centennial. The commemoration or celebration of the Gallipoli campaign of 1915 seems to be the most potent weapon against the Armenian onslaught, per the foreign minister.

Mr. Davutoglu will be arriving in Yerevan on December 12 to participate in the Conference of Black Sea Economic Cooperation. His decision to visit Yerevan comes after much dilly-dallying.

At first Turkish news media close to the Erdogan administration floated some trial balloons stating that Mr. Davutoglu would refuse Armenia's invitation to visit, unless the Armenian side transfers to Azerbaijan at least two districts outside Karabagh, currently under Armenian control. In return, Turkey may open borders with Armenia, they said.

To begin with, territorial concessions could not be bought against the arbitrary decision of lifting or instituting a blockade, because opening the border is an administrative decision which can be reversed under any pretext. By contrast, to reverse Artsakh's territorial concessions, Armenians need to wage another costly war to recover them.

However, such decisions are not left only to Armenia to implement because Karabagh has become a strategic factor for all the powers having an interest in the region, besides Armenia and Azerbaijan – the US, Iran, Europe and Russia.

The importance of the Karabagh issue was highlighted recently when Victoria Nuland, the State Department representative, revisited it at the Vilnius meeting.

It has been reported that Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Mammadyarov will also accompany his elder brother.

If a decision has been arrived at regarding territorial transfer, that cannot be done unilaterally by Yerevan; the transfer would mean that consensus has been arrived between the conflicting parties. Erdogan's recent visit to Moscow may have something to do with it.

Now it seems that not only Karabagh but Armenia as well has become an asset after agreeing to join the Russian-led Customs Union, which seems to be more than an economic structure; parties dealing with Russia have to consider Armenia in their strategic games in the region.

Mr. Davutoglu would not have come to Armenia, had Turkey's foreign policy been flying high, like it did during the last several years; although Turkey maintains its sway in the Balkans, especially through Kosovo, but in general its "zero-problem" policy has failed miserably.

Turkey's active participation in the campaign against Syria has backfired, domestically and regionally. As Turkey was overreaching its neighbors, trampling the interest of its benefactors (a case in point was its \$20 billion energy deal with Iran, while the US was reinforcing sanctions against that country,) similarly those countries, especially the US, have been cutting deals with Turkey's

neighbors, over Ankara's head. The US-Russia brokered deal over Iran's nuclear program and especially the Geneva Conference next January on Syria, have left Turkey out of the game.

Turkey's protocols with Armenia remain unsigned, despite strenuous efforts by the former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Even after Netanyahu's apology, relations with Israel remain strained.

Davutoglu's Egyptian policy blew up in his face when Turkey continued its support of the deposed President Mohamed Morsi and his Muslim Brotherhood party. Indeed Erdogan and Davutoglu were dreaming of a Sunni hegemony over the Middle East in cooperation with Egypt's Islamists. In Turkey's continued support for the Muslim Brotherhood, Ankara also confronted Saudi Arabia, whose leaders decided to back the military regime fighting the Muslim Brotherhood.

On the sidelines Turkey had been successful in making inroads in the Egyptian scholarly and media circles against the claims of the Armenian Genocide – But when Cairo expelled the Turkish Ambassador, that effort sustained a setback and today Egyptian media is debating the Armenian Genocide freely and there is even talk of recognizing the Genocide.

Turkey had been a conduit for arms and mercenaries fighting in Syria, in cooperation with the tiny Emirate of Qatar, which in a reversal of policy, has been reaching out to the Assad regime, not to be marginalized at the forthcoming Geneva Conference.

Qatar's policy on Syria is at odds now with that of Saudi Arabia, whose chief of intelligence and master of international intrigue Prince Bandar Sultan has publicly ridiculed Qatar as a country of "300 people and [a] TV station," meaning Al-Jazeera.

Iraq is another aspect of Turkey's "zero-problem policy." Turkey was conducting bombing raids with impunity in Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region, whose rising clout has forced Ankara to change course. In an effort to win over the Iraqi Kurds before they inspire their brethren in Turkey, Ankara recently struck oil deals with the regional Kurdish government, in violation of the Iraqi constitution, angering the central government in Baghdad.

Therefore, Mr. Davutoglu is heading to Yerevan after his "zero-problem" policy yielded zero results. The only positive card remains Russia's goodwill. Indeed during President Putin's visit to Armenia, the Russian Ministry of Defense refuted the statement by Russian Military Chief in Armenia Col. Andrey Ruzinski that Russian forces will intervene if Karabagh is attacked by the Azeris. That seems to be in deference to Mr. Erdogan who is negotiating a deal with Russia to build \$20-billion nuclear power plant in Turkey.

A Turkish expert sheds some background light on Davutoglu's visit to Yerevan. The head of the Turkish Center for Strategic Studies of the Caucasus, Dr. Hasan Oktay, gave an interview to the Azerbaijani news outlet, haqqin.az. He stated that Turkish foreign policy has become a hostage to Baku when it comes to dealing with Armenia. "I think this is the wrong approach, as Turkey is a large country and it should take initiative in all matters, and not to look back at Baku," he said. "Whether we like it or not, Armenia is an integral part of the South Caucasus, and we are forced to reckon with its existence."

According to Oktay, who is believed to be close to Erdogan's circle, Turkey will not open its border with Armenia on the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. He added, however, "But my personal opinion is that Turkey should open the borders."

There is much anticipation and speculation about Mr. Davutoglu's visit, similar to the eve of President Gul's visit to attend a football game between Armenia and Turkey in Yerevan.

We hope that this visit will not prove to be another game of football diplomacy with a 0-0 outcome.

LETTERS

Berman's ADL Position Should Take Him out of Contention for Superior Court

To the Editor:

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick has blundered in nominating Joseph S. Berman to be a Superior Court judge. Mr. Berman is a long-time member of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and has been a National Commissioner of that organization since 2006.

The ADL has, of course, worked directly with Turkey to defeat Congressional resolutions on the Armenian Genocide and still refuses to unambiguously acknowledge that genocide. The ADL qualifies, therefore, as an anti-human rights organization.

Before and during the height of Armenian Americans' battle against the Genocide denials of the ADL in 2007, National Commissioner Berman apparently never issued a public statement disagreeing with national ADL policies towards Armenians.

Moreover, there's no evidence that he modified the national ADL's policies, which remain unchanged.

As a National Commissioner, Mr. Berman must bear responsibility for the ADL's anti-Armenian stance, even if he claims otherwise. It's unclear if he understands the human rights issues that judges must deal with.

However, powerful forces, including Boston media, are supporting

Mr. Berman and misleading the public about Armenian issues.

Fortunately, the Governor's Council – eight elected officials who must confirm judicial nominations – is leaning against Mr. Berman's nomination. Among its reasons is his ADL record.

Armenian Americans should write to Governor Deval Patrick and ask him to withdraw Mr. Berman's nomination (see <http://www.mass.gov/governor/contact-us.html>).

They should also ask the Governor's Councilors to vote against Mr. Berman (see <http://www.mass.gov/portal/government-taxes/branches-agencies/executive/govs-council.html>).

In 2007-2008, Armenian Americans mobilized against the ADL. As a result, over a dozen Massachusetts cities, as well as the Massachusetts Municipal Association, severed ties with the ADL's so-called No Place for Hate program. This made international headlines.

With the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide approaching, and the ADL still lobbying against our Genocide resolution, Armenian Americans must now mobilize against Mr. Berman's nomination.

– David Boyajian
Belmont, MA



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Turkey Joins UN Cultural Committee: Wolf in Charge of Guarding Sheep

Earlier this year, I wrote a column describing the Turkish government's bullying tactics to reclaim antique objects from European and American museums. It is ironic that Turkey, one of the greatest looters and pilferers of other nations' cultural heritage, would so aggressively demand the return of these antiquities.

Just in case its threats fail to work, Turkey embarked on a new course of action last month – bribery! Turkish Education Minister Nabi Avci announced on November 10: “Turkey has doubled its contribution to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) amid the financial crisis it faces with the United States and Israel not paying their membership fees.”

Minister Avci did not even attempt to hide the real reason for Turkey's generosity. He disclosed that “significant progress has been made in Turkey's candidacy for the UNESCO World Heritage Committee elections to be held on November 19.” Indeed, the Turkish Minister's predic-

tion came true when his country was elected to the 21-member World Heritage Committee for the next four years.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry immediately announced that as a member of that Committee, “Turkey intends to share, at the international scale, the experience and knowledge it has accumulated in managing and protecting its own 11 world heritage areas representing different layers of Anatolian civilization, including Neolithic, Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman periods.”

Electing Turkey to a body that is supposed to preserve cultural assets is akin to putting a wolf in charge of guarding sheep. Turkey should not be eligible to serve on the UNESCO committee or on any other UN agency because of its long record as a major violator of human rights and the hegemonic threat it presents to the peace and security of neighboring states.

Not surprisingly, the Foreign Ministry's announcement made no mention of the numerous Armenian religious and cultural monuments in present-day Turkey. Only in recent years, with the intent of easing the way for its European Union candidacy as well as generating income from foreign tourists, the Turkish government has renovated a handful of Armenian and Greek churches, after decades of neglect and systematic desecration and destruction.

Now that Turkey has undeservedly become a member of the World Heritage Committee, Armenia's UNESCO representative has the opportunity during each meeting for the next four years to point out the irony Turkey faces – tasked with preserving cultural monuments, while remaining one of the biggest confiscators of other nations' cultural heritage.

Murat Suslu, Turkey's director-general of cultural heritage and museums, told the New York Times with a straight face: “We only want back what is rightfully ours....”

If you come to my house and you steal precious objects from me, do I not have the right to get them back?” Mr. Suslu, who insisted that thievery and looting are wrong no matter when they occurred, must be reminded that Turkey can make such claims only after returning to Alevis, Arabs, Armenians, Assyrians, Cypriots, Greeks and Kurds, what is rightfully theirs!

Just as ironic was the statement made by Ertugrul Gunay, Turkey's culture minister, to the Economist magazine: “I wholeheartedly believe that each and every antiquity in any part of the world should eventually go back to its homeland. Even if these objects are made of stone, just as people have souls, so do animals, plants and monuments. Taking a monument away destabilizes the world and is disrespectful to history.”

Instead of falsely presenting their country as a looting victim, Turkish officials should acknowledge that they are in possession of numerous antiquities confiscated by their Ottoman predecessors while occupying over a dozen neighboring countries. For example, the sarcophagus of Alexander the Great, discovered near Sidon, Lebanon in 1887, was shipped to Istanbul's Archaeology Museum under orders from Sultan Abdul Hamid II, where it is still kept as one of its most prized possessions. It's now up to Lebanon to demand the return of this precious cultural treasure from Turkey! Also, Saudi Arabia has the right to reclaim a plethora of sacred Islamic relics removed from Mecca by the Ottoman authorities in the 19th century.

Turkey's membership in UNESCO's World Heritage Committee provides a unique opportunity for Armenians and other dispossessed nations to draw the world's attention to the Turkish government's illegal confiscation of their cultural heritage and demand their immediate return.

We Care Less:

Through the mist of an untold number of years, planet earth will whirl on the face of the universe with homeland and diaspora Armenians included. They will go through glory and defeat, live some happy years and some unhappy, hopeless, disorientated and sad years. Armenians all across the world witnessed the most glorious, most happy, most promising moments in their history when Armenia declared independence almost a quarter century ago.

Homeland Armenia as well as diaspora Armenians have in their new Armenian-American status thanked God for this blessing and pledged to support independent Armenia. Finally they had a homeland of their own, free to become a member of the community of nations with their own lands, culture and

destiny. They were ready to create a new image, a new Armenia. Diaspora Armenians decided to do their utmost to vitalize the Armenian image and destiny. They wanted to be proud in their culture, history and most importantly, rouse and awaken much more love towards their homeland, cling more firmly to their culture and devotion to all things Armenian and become active participants to help further the Armenian cause, Armenian deeds and Armenian rights.

Today's reality, however, is tragic enough to be discouraging, disappointing and probably will get worse. Diaspora Armenians are sad, very sad, that there is nothing, almost nothing happening in the homeland to make us proud and happy. Nothing to suggest that he or she will be so inspired with being Armenian to proudly declare his or her being of the same blood, culture, origin. Instead the present situation of the Armenian Diaspora, at least in the US, is deplorable and worse than ever. No Armenian church will dare introduce Armenian sermons. They will disappear like the proverbial dodo birds.

We care less that the diaspora Armenian in America completely lacks, or ignores all together, the Armenian language, Armenian schools, Armenian libraries, without feeling ashamed or mournful about their attitude. This powerful and dynamic heritage of ours is almost gone, sad and buried forever.

We care less that only a few years back, Armenian church unity, a most important, burning issue, is now dead and buried without mourners, without tears, without signs or regrets. After all, who cares about church unity now?

The list can go on and on and our community obviously becomes weaker and weaker. Eventually they ignore their roots, culture and language. Most likely Armenian food will last a little longer, but that too will eventually disappear as the older generation passes on.

All of us as a community should recognize the importance, vitality and preciousness of our traditions, history and culture. Without them we will eventually become totally ignorant of our history, culture and mores, identifying ourselves not as Armenian-Americans, but simply as American citizens, ignoring our origin and the blood and tears that were shed by our forbearers.

(Nubar Dorian is a resident of Cliffside, NJ. He is active in the community, including as a Diocesan Delegate.)

The Earthquake in Armenia, After 25 Years

The following is a message from Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America delivered in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the 1988 earthquake in Armenia:

“It is truly humbling to realize that a quarter-century has elapsed since the earthquake struck Armenia on December 7, 1988. It has been 25 years since large areas of Armenia were destroyed; 25 years since tens of thousands of our countrymen perished in the blink of an eye; 25 years since the life of the worldwide Armenian community was transformed, forever.

And it has also been 25 years since we witnessed that beautiful outpouring of goodwill from the world, directed towards our people in their hour of profound need.

The repercussions of that time were so great that they can hardly be enumerated. For the people of Armenia, it was a time of the deepest grief, when the external signs of death and destruction appeared inescapable.

For Armenians in our Diocese – and around the world – it was a time for decisive action, which drew us away from our long-held parochial divisions, and sharply focused our united hearts and minds on the greater cause of our homeland.

For all of us, it was a time of beginning as much as an ending: a moment to discover a common purpose, and to embrace anew the faith that had given hope to the Armenian nation in earlier times of peril – a hope so powerfully symbolized in those images of our great Catholicos Vasken I consoling the people amidst the rubble: a father among his beloved children.

In times of such catastrophe, the purposes of almighty God are deeply mysterious. But with hindsight, we can attest that all of us emerged from the earthquake and its aftermath changed. Armenia itself, once a Soviet republic, was reborn in freedom and independence. The bond between homeland and diaspora was strengthened, and travel to Armenia – once fraught with difficulty – became common and fluid.

A new generation of Armenians – in our homeland,

here in America and around the globe – was decisively shaped by both the tragedy of a catastrophe, and the blessing of so many helping hands in a time of need.

And it is not too much to assert that our own souls were deepened in the wake of the earthquake. In the 25 years following 1988, the memory of our sorrow would be re-awakened whenever similar natural disasters struck our fellow human beings in other corners of the world. A sense of solidarity in suffering has inspired our people to provide relief and comfort to these fellow victims of devastation.

These were not new lessons for the Armenia people. Indeed, they are the lessons our Lord taught us through his holy cross, and his empty tomb; the lessons we embraced as a nation 17 centuries ago; the lessons we carried through the valley of the shadow of death in 1915. They are lessons of suffering and redemption; of the sanctity of life and the power of hope; of the unpredictability of events and the constancy of faith.

The earthquake was the way those eternal lessons were asserted in our generation. It falls to us to transmit those lessons to our children, so they may draw strength in their own times of affliction.

Most of all, we must not lose heart when we feel, 25 years after such an event, that some of those lessons have been forgotten. For they are not lost. The response of our people to the earthquake shows that those lessons and their associated godly virtues are always waiting to be reborn in us, at the right moment, according to God's will.

Surely the Armenian people have been instruments of his will, through our great afflictions and our great achievements, from the depths of our beings as individuals and as a nation. On this solemn anniversary, we pray that God will remember the precious souls he drew to his kingdom 25 years ago, and that he will bless the land and the people who emerged from, and were changed by, that time of trial.

May his guiding hand be upon our people now and forever. Amen.”

Notice to Contributors

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* welcomes articles, commentaries and community news from our readers. In order to assure the accurate and timely publication of articles submitted, please note the following policies:

- All articles submitted should be typed, double (or triple) spaced and printed in a type size large enough to be clearly legible (10 point or larger). Submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be assigned lowest priority.
- Articles sent by fax are acceptable, and e-mail submissions are encouraged.

- All submissions should include the name of a contact person and a daytime telephone number.
- Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is 12 noon on Monday of the week of publication.
- Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director. Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.
- The *MS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.
- Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases, but should be reserved for calendar listings and advertisements.



If You have Anything to Love

By Aram Abrahamian

There are serious, thoughtful people in all nations, and our neighbors. In this respect, of course, are not an exception. An Azerbaijani writer and publicist, Vahid Gazi, living in the West, trying to analyze why his country failed in the 1992-1994 war, noted, in particular, that the winners were not only the soldiers but Arno Babajanyan, Saroyan, Parajanov, Saryan and Aznavour. This is a very deep and correct notion, and as a journalist covering the war, I can attest to its validity: the men returning from the position were singing not only patriotic songs, but were reciting Charents and Pushkin.

Our people won because our backs were facing spiritual and intellectual heritage. Such a legacy cannot be fabricated or created from scratch in a few years; it is a legacy of generations and centuries. Pulverizing, embezzling, destroying the heritage in pathological greed of the authorities and endless complaints and

grunts of others, yes, it is possible. We see the signs of it, God give us strength to discontinue this path.

If Azerbaijan's Gazi's view were dominant, we would have a serious problem: their authorities would not be boasting that they have oil for sale and make money, but would try to establish (just establish, and not steal) their own national identity, which can't be replaced by Russian weapons donated to us and sold to Azeris.

But, fortunately, our neighbors are still far from it. A bill is under discussion at Azerbaijani Milli Majlis, according to which the citizens of Azerbaijan who will be cooperating with any Armenian organization, institution or private person, would be subjected to serious criminal charges. Pursuant to the plan, this law is valid until "complete liberation of occupied lands." All those who cooperate with Armenians in any place of the planet and in any industry, business, mass media, peace initiatives and so on, would be punished.

The authors of the bill, apparently, think that in doing this they raise the fighting spirit of their own people and that this will make the hatred towards the Armenians greater and ensure higher chances to win the war. They have not yet come to comprehend that hatred and malice give only hang-ups to a person, that success can be achieved not by hating others, but loving yours and by demonstrating values that you can love. It would be good if some of our fellow citizens do not forget it, too.

(Aram Abrahamian is the editor of *Aravot Daily*.)

Greek President Receives Wallenberg Centennial Medal

ATHENS – The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation (IRWF) presented the "Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Medal" to the President of Greece, Karolos Papoulias. The ceremony took place at the Presidential Palace in Athens.

Receiving the award from the foundation's chairman Eduardo Eurnekian and its founder Baruch Tenenbaum, Papoulias said that it was an honor for him and the Greek people.

Papoulias said that human rights and democratic freedoms are being tested in an unacceptable manner and repeated the statement he made last July when he visited Auschwitz saying that "those who deny this sacrifice of thou-

sands of European citizens cannot be a part of the European family." Papoulias also referred to the Jewish community in his hometown of Ioannina that perished in Nazi concentration camps during WWII.

"Greece is a small country but it has its share of rescuers. More than 300 women and men have been officially recognized and we are still working to shed light on more cases of rescue which remain unknown. That is why we have an eternal debt of gratitude to the Greek Rescuers and we are committed to instill their legacies in the hearts and minds of the young generations that look for role models," said Eurnekian while addressing the packed audience.

AUA Launches Summer 2014 Program

YEREVAN – The American University of Armenia (AUA) is pleased to announce the AUA Summer 2014 Program.

Comprised of three weeks at Armenia's university this program offers a global education. AUA Summer 2014 is an opportunity to get acquainted with the legacy and culture of the Armenian people in an American-accredited institution, while at the same time getting in touch with modern-day Armenia.

Lectures and presentations on Armenian heritage and culture, Armenian music and Armenian art and architecture will be interspersed with excursions to concerts and theater productions, historical sites in Armenia, as well as visits to museums and galleries.


The AUA Summer 2014 Program is open both to current students and also to individuals generally interested in the topic areas covered by the courses. Because of AUA's American accreditation, the courses will carry credits which may be transferable to your home university according to their guidelines.

AUA Summer 2014 will take place from June 9 to 27, 2014. The deadline for applying is January 15, 2014.


For more information, visit summer2014.aua.am or email summer2014@aua.am.

Founded in 1991, the American University of Armenia is a private, independent university located in Yerevan, Armenia and affiliated with the University of California. AUA provides a global education in Armenia and the region, offering high-quality, graduate and undergraduate studies, encouraging civic engagement, and promoting public service and democratic values.





Tekeyan Cultural Association
Cordially invites you to meet
Hrair Hawk Khatcherian, Author,
Photographer, for a presentation
and launching of his new book
One Church One Nation



Sunday, 12.15.2013
2:00 pm
TCA Center
560 Sylvan Ave.
Englewood Cliffs, NJ

Admission \$20
Space is limited
Wine & cheese
reception to follow

RSVP: Hilda, 201.405.1702
Mail checks to:
Tekeyan Cultural Association
560 Sylvan Ave.
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

Lebanon to Issue Commemorative Stamp for Genocide Centennial

BEIRUT (Arminfo) – The government of Lebanon plans to issue a commemorative stamp picturing the Genocide Monument at Bikfaya, Lebanon, in order to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

On Friday, December 6, Lebanon's Minister of Telecommunications Nicolas Sahnawi visited Catholicos of Cilicia Aram I. During the visit, he spoke of the Genocide and explained the meaning of the monument, erected in 1965 to com-

memorate its 50th anniversary.

Catholicos Aram I then expressed his gratitude to the people of Lebanon for their solidarity at the time and proposed that the Ministry of Telecommunications issue commemorative stamps with the picture of the Genocide Monument.

The minister welcomed the proposal and promised to implement the project at the beginning of 2014.



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Proceeds will benefit the Tekeyan Cultural Association's "Sponsor a Teacher" program, which provides financial support for teachers at Vahan Tekeyan Schools throughout Armenia.

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CHRISTMAS WITH THE KESHISHIANS