



Producer Katherine Sarafian Wins Golden Globe for 'Brave'

LOS ANGELES (PanArmenian.net, *Christian Post*) – Executive Producer Katherine Sarafian and Director Mark Andrews accepted the award for Best Animated Feature Film for “Brave” at the Golden Globe Awards on January 13.

The story of headstrong Highland princess, Merida, which features the voices of Billy Connolly, Emma Thompson, Robbie Coltrane and Kelly Macdonald, fended off competition from “Frankenweenie,” “Rise of the Guardians,” “Hotel Transylvania” and “Wreck-It Ralph” to take the trophy. It was the sixth win for the Disney’s Pixar Animation unit in the seven years since the Globes added the category.

For Sarafian, the success of “Brave” represents the merits of taking the road less traveled. One thing that differentiates “Brave” from the traditional Disney story is that there are few princes and none play a central role in the story.

The story of the young princess is akin to Sarafian’s own, as she underwent a journey of self-discovery while working on the project.

“Merida is her mother and father. She doesn’t mind being a princess, but she wants to be her own style of princess. Merida thinks that she is more like her father but comes to understand that she has the best of both parents,” Sarafian.

“I’m excited about not involving



Producer Katherine Sarafian and her animated counterpart, “Merida”

princes or male figures,” Sarafian said. “Pixar does its own thing, wanted its own hero. It’s a love story, but love of family, not love of a prince. Merida has to solve her own problems; she drives the story forward ... the plot is not driven by circumstances, magic or anything else.”

Merida’s story is actually based on the experience of one writer, whose 6-year-old daughter was fiercely independent. Her mother wondered what she would be like as a teenager, if she was already so rebellious. Hence, Merida’s story was born, and in

2006, work officially began on the project.

Sarafian said the idea of being true to who you are is incredibly important and is one of the themes she hopes viewers will come away with, no matter the age.

“When you can reconcile who you are with what’s expected of you and learn to trust the love of your family ... that’s brave. When you realize, ‘I’m still me and I can still love my family and be a member of my community, just maybe not in the way that people would expect’ ... that’s brave.”

Spotlight on the Members of the Jerusalem Brotherhood: Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

By Hagop Vartivarian

The members of the Brotherhood of St. James of Jerusalem’s Armenian monastery will assemble on January 23 to elect their new leader, the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem. Patriarch Torkom Manoogian passed away last year on October 12 at 93, and the Brotherhood elected the 78-year-old Archbishop Aris Shirvanyan as *locum tenens*. Manoogian had been elected on March 22, 1990 as the 96th patriarch of the Apostolic Holy See of Jerusalem.

Any member of the Brotherhood who has at least attained the rank of *dzayrakoyvartabed* and the age of 35 is eligible as the new patriarch. According to sources, four priests of the brotherhood are ready to submit their candidacy.

Of these four, I already have conducted an interview with Very Rev. Papken Anoushian, which has been published in our Armenian-language press and appeared online. Today I wish to highlight the experience and activities of another candidate, Archbishop

Vicken Aykazian, outlining his qualities as a person and a clergyman.

Aykazian was born in Siirt, Turkey in 1951, and came to Jerusalem at a young age. There, he studied at and graduated from the Armenian Seminary, and in 1968 was ordained a deacon. In 1971 he became a celibate priest, and was ordained as an apegghay during the reign of the patriarchate of Archbishop Yeghishe Derderian. That year turned out to be fruitful one for the Church of Armenia with the ordination of many talented members of the clergy. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, now Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), Archbishop Kisag Muradian, Primate of the Armenians of Argentina, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, Grand Sacristan of the Cathedral of St. James of Jerusalem, as well as Aykazian, were among the future leaders.

Aykazian was elevated to the rank of bishop in 1992 in Holy Echmiadzin, by Vazken I, Catholicos of All Armenians. His career extended over two fields of activity, both of which were extensive and challenging.

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Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

Philanthropist Sami E. Totah Dies

POTOMAC, Va. – Sami Elie Totah, 66, died on December 26, 2012, after a lengthy illness.

He was the husband of Annie Simonian Totah, father of Tamara, Nicole, Elliot and Karina Totah, brother of Milo Totah, Frida Lailah, Jacqueline Lambez and Lola Laniado, and grandfather of four.

He was born in Damascus, Syria on December 28, 1945 to Elie and Fortune Totah. He was managing partner and co-founder of Charleston Homes, a home-building company that built approximately 100 houses per year in Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties, Md. He was involved in financing, home construction and the acquisition and sale of property.

Totah was executive vice president of Prince George’s Metro Center, Inc. for 27 years, supervising 150 employees. The center, based in Hyattsville, Md., consists of more than one million square feet of office space and 464 apartment units.

He and his wife, Annie, have been known in the community as philanthropists and leaders of the Armenian Assembly of America of Washington, DC and contributed to many Armenian organizations and newspapers in the United States and Armenia.

His funeral was held on Friday, December 28, at Magen David Sephardic Congregation. Interment followed at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the Magen David Sephardic Congregation.



Sami E. Totah

Explosions in Aleppo’s Armenian Districts

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Reports indicated that explosions hit the Armenian districts of Aleppo on January 15. Berio National Primacy Press Secretary Jirayr Reisyan stated that the locations of these explosions have not been pinpointed as of deadline.

While there have been no reported changes to the Armenian New Village district, the population has become increasingly cautious after the latest accident in which an Armenian was struck by a sniper bullet. Reisyan stated that the Armenian wounded is still recovering.

According to United Nations data, approximately 60,000 people were killed in Syria during 22 months of ongoing clashes, including four dozen Armenians.

Genocide Recognition Is Turkey’s Duty

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President Serge Sargisian said during an expanded session of the heads of the legislative, executive and judicial powers convened in the Ministry of Defense on January 15 that it has been more than 20 years since the Turkish-Azerbaijani tandem formed under the slogan “One Nation, Two States,” the goal of which is to hinder Armenia.

According to Sargisian, as a progressive nation, Armenia wants to pursue a peaceful course. He noted that Armenia had made overtures to Turkey, but had been rebuffed. Alluding to the Protocols, he said, “Everybody is aware of the destiny of this procedure and in what conditions the Turkey stepped back from its obligations, maintaining the only closed border of Europe.”

Sargisian underscored that the recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide is Turkey’s duty before the Genocide victims, survivors and their heirs. He noted that Genocide recognition was making inroads among the population and that “the most progressive and courageous part of the Turkish society speaks out about the Armenian Genocide openly.”

Woman Gives Birth Aboard Armavia Plane

YEREVAN (AP) – A passenger gave birth aboard an Armavia airline flight last week, two hours before the plane landed in Yerevan after a long flight from Siberia.

Flight attendant Hasmik Gevondyan said she noticed that 31-year-old passenger, Armina Babayan, appeared to be in labor and organized the delivery.

“All of our crew helped to deliver the baby,” Gevondyan said.

Babayan, who had claimed to be only six and a half months pregnant during check-in, named her first child Hasmik after the flight attendant.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Julio Iglesias Will Perform in Yerevan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Well-known Spanish singer and songwriter Julio Iglesias will visit Yerevan in the spring as part of his world tour.

According to the singer's official website, he will give a concert at Yerevan's Karen Demirchyan Sports & Concerts Complex on March 18.

Specialist Says Government Failing in Its Javakhk Obligations

YEREVAN (Heta) — At a press conference on Tuesday, Georgian specialist Haykazoun Alvrtsyan took aim at the Armenian government for not doing enough to assist the Armenians of Javakhk, both culturally and politically.

"I don't see the Armenian authorities carrying out their obligations in this respect at all," noted Alvrtsyan.

He said that while the Armenian president and prime minister have spoken out about the issues faced by Javakhk Armenians, their pronouncements have remained mere words.

Alvrtsyan argued that such passivity only encourages Georgian authorities to implement their anti-Armenian policies that seek to ethnically cleanse the region of Armenians.

He called for greater Armenian investment and civic action in Javakhk in order to improve the socio-economic situation and to lend moral support to local Armenians.

New Website Chronicles Pogroms in Azerbaijan

YEREVAN (Hetq a.m) — A new website dedicated to the ethnic cleansing of Armenians in Azerbaijan from 1987-1992 called KarabakhRecords.info was publicly launched this week in Yerevan.

Project coordinator Marina Grigoryan urged all those wanting archival materials about those tragic events to feel free to upload photos, eye witness accounts and video clips from the new website since the information is reliable.

The site was created within the scope of the "Ordinary Genocide" project of the Public Relations and Press Division of the Armenian President's Office.

Also on hand at the launch was Larisa Alaverdyan, Armenia's first Human Rights Defender, who was born in Baku.

She lamented the fact that those Armenians who suffered in Azerbaijan have not been adequately defended, neither internationally or even in Armenia.

Alaverdyan said that the political elite in Armenia hadn't developed to the level necessary to grasp the importance of defending the rights of Armenians subjected to Azerbaijani genocidal policies, which are in direct contravention of the UN Convention on Genocide.

Sargisian Congratulates Indonesian Ambassador

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — President Serge Sargisian congratulated the new Indonesian Ambassador to Armenia Niniek Kun Naryatie, during their meeting last week. Sargisian wished her success and stressed that Armenia was willing to "develop, activate and deepen relations and cooperation" of bilateral interest.

According to Sargisian, the visit by the Armenian foreign minister to Indonesia in 2012 and the desire of Armenia to open an embassy in Jakarta represent Armenia's diplomatic cooperation with Indonesia.

Sargisian also stressed the importance of strengthening inter-parliamentary ties and the activation of economic conferences on state level.

Cooperation in tourism, and the cultural, educational and scientific spheres were considered to be of top priority, as promoted by the agreement titled "Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation between Armenia and Indonesia," which was signed last year in Jakarta.

Domestic Violence Needs State Attention

By Gayane Abrahamyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) —The case of Mariam Gevorgyan, who was tortured by her husband and mother-in-law, reached the court only after civil society's protests and demands, and finally was resolved last week, opening a new page in the often-closed history of domestic violence in Armenia.

Vayots Dzor province's general jurisdiction court sentenced Haykanush Mikaelyan, who repeatedly tortured her daughter-in-law for almost a year, to four years of imprisonment, but since her case falls under the amnesty related to the declaration of independence of Armenia, the sentence was reduced.

So the mother-in-law, who burnt her daughter-in-law with an iron and a cigarette lighter, pierced different parts of her body with a fork and bet her regularly, will most likely spend only a year or less in a penitentiary.

Gevorgyan, 23, believes the punishment is too mild.

"They have disgraced my entire life, and only one year? At night I jump awake and remember that hell, for half a year I was forced to sleep standing, they

wouldn't let me lie down in bed, so that even now at times I can't believe I am in bed... You know, when I recall it all, I don't even know how I have survived," Gevorgyan told ArmeniaNow, reflecting with horror on the ten months of "marriage in hell" she spent in Saint Petersburg, away from her family.

Gevorgyan's husband, 28-year-old David Ziroyan and Mikaelyan's sisters attended the trial and threatened that Gevorgyan would have to pay for the slander.

"It's all a lie. Those traces were from dermatological problems. Here, we have all the facts, we will prove everything," said Ziroyan.

The husband was convicted of "deliberate moderate damage to somebody's health," but as the maximum punishment is three years of imprisonment, he was pardoned during amnesty, so he will not bear any legal responsibility for his crime.

Surveys show that every third woman in Armenia is subjected to domestic violence; however, according to Laurence Broers, expert at Amnesty International, this case is "the visible tip of the iceberg."

The pan-republican survey by the United Nations (UN) Population Fund in 2010 revealed that women are still silent, despite the fact that domestic violence was the case with 80 percent of interviewees but only 15 percent actually voiced their concerns on record.

The mother-in-law's trial started a new stage in the fight against domestic violence in Armenia.

In 2006, surveys by Sociometer sociological center showed that in 25 percent of cases of domestic violence it is implemented or instigated by mothers-in-law, but not a single case had been filed against a mother-in-law prior to this one.

The mother-in-law in a 2010 case was also said to be an accomplice when 20-year-old Zaruhi Petrosyan was beaten to death, but only the husband, Yunis Sarkisov, received a 10 year sentence. This case would likely have suffered the same cover-up, had public pressure and protests not played a role.

Petrosyan's murder became a turning point in the perception of the issue of

domestic violence in Armenia. Prior to the case, lawmakers and government members often denied the existence of such and claimed that "NGOs are exaggerating to get grants." The death of the young woman, mother of an 18 months old child, proved that the issue does exist and needs measures.

During a 16-day campaign Yerevan against gender discrimination and violence (it launched on November 25—International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women, and concluded December 10, International Day of Human Rights), another case of a husband killing his wife took place in Vayots Dzor province.

Resident of Aghavnadzor village, Yurik Babayan, who killed his wife Anahit Babayan, was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. 27 years of marriage for the mother of three sons ended with murder. According to testimony, the husband first physically abused her, then dragged her to the courtyard of the house, as he testified "not to mar up the house," and beat her to death with pieces of concrete and a bludgeon.

Human and women's rights activists have a hope that these tragic cases will sober officials and force them to finally adopt laws against domestic violence.

"These are regrettable facts, which might have been possible to prevent, if there was a law on domestic violence obliging the state to create a developed network of shelters for women who have found themselves in such predicaments. They would be escorted to a shelter by special-trained police officers," said director of Women's Resource Center Lara Aharonyan.

The passing of the law on domestic violence has been postponed since 2007, though promises are voiced almost annually.

"I believe by December 10 the complete legislative package will be submitted to the government, and we will solve the issues by law in the nearest future having the most effective levers of preventing tragic consequences of domestic violence," Lala Ghazaryan, head of the department for Family, Women and Child Affairs at the ministry of labor and social affairs, said.

Paper says Legendary Olympic Champ To Become Next Sport Minister

PHOTOLURE PHOTO



Yuri Vardanyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) — A local pro-opposition paper predicts a reshuffle within the Armenian Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, saying that a legendary Olympic champion is likely to be appointed minister after next month's presidential election.

According to a Haykakan Zhamanak report, Armenian weightlifter Yuri Vardanyan, a winner at the 1980 Moscow games, will replace Hrachya Rostomyan as minister in the next government.

Rostomyan, who has also led the National Basketball Federation and served as secretary general at the National Olympic Committee of Armenia

(NOCA), was criticized by a number of pro-government lawmakers last year over the performance of Armenian athletes in the summer Olympics.

Team Armenia represented by 25 athletes brought only one silver and two bronze medals from the London Games despite expectations of the gold.

But attending an annual awards ceremony organized by NOCA President Gagik Tsarukyan late last month President Serge Sargisian downplayed the concerns about the state of affairs in the Armenian sport.

"Comparing 2012 with previous years, we can say that it was a successful year and we have had a good collection of medals," the president said in remarks broadcast by Kentron TV on December 26.

"I am confident that we will win gold medals at the next Olympics," he added.

World Economic Forum Highlights Risks of Decade

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Fragile economies and extreme weather have combined to crank up the global risk dial in the past year, creating an increasingly dangerous mix, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Risks report.

Despite Europe's avoidance of a euro break-up in 2012 and the United States stepping back from its fiscal cliff, business leaders and academics fear politicians are failing to address fundamental problems.

That is the conclusion of the group's Global Risks 2013 report, which surveyed more than 1,000 experts and industry bosses and found they were slightly more pessimistic about the outlook for the decade ahead than a year ago. Severe wealth gaps and unsustainable government finances were seen as the biggest economic threats facing the world, as they were last January. There was also a marked increase in focus on the dangers posed by severe weather.

The 80-page analysis of 50 risks for the next 10 years comes ahead of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in the Swiss ski resort of Davos January 23 to 27, where the rich and powerful will ponder the planet's future.

Bringing together business leaders, politicians and central bankers, Davos has come to symbolize the modern globalized world dominated by successful multinational corporations. Concerns about rising greenhouse gas emissions have grown notably in the past 12 months. The issue is ranked as the third biggest worry overall, while failure to adapt to climate change is viewed as the biggest single environmental hazard.

Superstorm Sandy, which wreaked havoc on the East Coast of the US in October, was a wake-up call for many. But it was not an isolated event in a year that also saw droughts, floods and the Arctic ice caps melting to a record low level. Outside the interlinked areas of the environment and the economy, the WEF identified other dangers, including increasing resistance of bacteria to antibiotics and the danger of "digital wildfires" created by the rapid spread of misinformation online.



INTERNATIONAL

AGBU YP Toronto Kicks off New Educational Series

TORONTO — The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Young Professionals of Toronto (YPTO) hosted one of Canada's foremost online social media experts, Randall Craig, during the debut of YPTP's new season of educational programs. On December 9, Craig led the discussion "Social Media with No Time Wasted" at the AGBU Alex Manoogian Cultural Center in Toronto.

Developing practices for social media success was the main focus of Craig's seminar, which he delivered to close to 50 attendees, among them both young professionals and entrepreneurs. The event covered new strategies for networking, job hunting and elevating their organization — all from your computer. Craig offered practical insights while fielding personal questions from the crowd, helping participants to determine their own approaches for utilizing online platforms.

In addition to exploring the "do's" of harnessing social media, Craig reviewed

the "don'ts" as well, coaching each of the seminar's attendees on ways to avoid missteps and stay ahead of the digital curve. As YPTO Chair Mihran Egavian commented, "In the age of technology and

Craig has been advising on web strategy since 1994, when he helped put traditional media outlets such as the Toronto Star and the Globe and Mail online for the first time. YPTO Vice-Chair Aren

Sarikyan observed, "Randall has an undisputed background in business, finance and entrepreneurship, and it is only through hearing about experience like his that we will begin to envision new ways to interact, collaborate and conduct business online."

Craig has founded several start-up companies, worked at a "big-four" consulting firm and was an executive at a US public company. He lectures at the York University Schulich School of Business in Ontario, blogs for the Huffington Post and hosts "Professionally

Speaking TV," which features weekly interviews with Canada's thought-leaders. A best-selling author, Craig is also the president of 108 Ideaspace Inc., a sponsor of the YPTO event.

For more information visit www.agbu.org/yp.



Members of the Young Professionals of Toronto Steering Committee gather with social media expert Randall Craig (fourth from left), who kicked off the group's new educational program series.

communication, it is an absolute imperative to understand and engage in the meaningful application of online tools. Mr. Craig's presentation offered a striking revelation of surprising, yet widespread, gaffes and little-known practices that can benefit us all."

Missionary Murder Suspect Threatens Judge

MALATYA, Turkey (*Today's Zaman*) — A defendant in the trial regarding the 2007 murders of three Christian missionaries employed at the Zirve Publishing House in Malatya threatened to shoot the judge at a trial hearing on Monday.

"I will shoot you in the head," defendant Varol Bulent Aral shouted at presiding judge Hayrettin Kisa of the Malatya 3rd High Criminal Court as he

was being taken out of the courtroom for causing a disruption by constantly raising objections.

Monday's session was the 52nd hearing in the trial. Suspect Ruhi Abat, who is accused of organizing panels to foment hostility in the public against missionaries, which prosecutors suspect was part of a larger plan devised by groups plotting to overthrow the government, was the next defendant to testify. He said he wanted to read out loud his 850-page defense statement in the courtroom. He was given three days to complete the delivery of his defense statement. Abat wanted a full week, but this was rejected by the judges, who said this was indicative of an attitude intended to prolong the trial.

Co-plaintiff lawyers Erdal Dogan and Cem Halavurt were present at the hearing yesterday, including lawyers representing the families of Tilman Geske, one of the three victims. Defense lawyers also attended the hearing. Two of the suspects, Hamit Ceker and Salih Gurler, did not attend the session citing health reasons. Another suspect, retired Gen. Hursit Tolon, who is under arrest as a suspect in the investigation into Ergenekon, a network accused of plotting to overthrow the Justice and Development Party (AK Party) government, also did not attend the trial.

Co-plaintiff lawyers requested the court obtain a copy of a letter sent to the National Intelligence Organization (MT), which the MT forwarded to a parliamentary commission probing past coups and coup attempts. The letter, written by a whistleblower in the military, includes details about how a cabal inside the military developed a plan in writing to stir anti-missionary sentiment in public. The tipster is an officer at the Special Operations Unit. The six-page letter accuses the Mobilization Unit of the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) of having instigated the Malatya murders, the 2006 killing of an Italian priest in Trabzon, the 2007 murder of journalist Hrant Dink and the 2007 armed attack on the Council of State building that killed a senior judge — in which the shooter initially appeared to have acted on religious motives.

Speaking about the anonymous tipster's letter to *Today's Zaman*, Dogan

said there was a large number of documents related to various assassinations kept in the archives of the MT, the general staff and the intelligence units of the National Police Department, but claimed that these agencies weren't sharing this information with civilian prosecutors. Dogan also recalled that Mehmet Eymur, the former head of the Counter-Terrorism Department of the MT in 2001, wrote about a grouping inside intelligence units called the "white forces" on a website on January 6, 2001. "Eymur refers to the white forces in his article from Jan. 6, 2001. The article also gives details about how interested the General Staff was in the health situation of [late Prime Minister] Bulent Ecevit."

Dogan said a court witness in the Zirve murder trial, Iker Cinar, in his testimony spoke of similar illegal groups that were active as part of the National Strategies and Operations Department of Turkey (TUSHAD). He said the MT tipster's letter overlapped significantly with Cinar's testimony. "Iker Cinar had given similar information. I am certain that the police department, MT and the military have many documents about these issues."

The Zirve Publishing House murders were the brutal murders of three employees of the Christian publishing house. On April 18, 2007, Necati Aydin and Ugur Yuksel, along with German national Tilmann Ekkehart Geske, were tied to chairs, stabbed and tortured at the publishing house before their throats were slit. The publishing house printed Bibles and Christian literature.

The indictment states that the Zirve murders were carried out as part of the Cage Action Plan, a subversive plot allegedly devised by military officers who sought to undermine the government through a series of assassinations and other acts of terrorism against non-Muslims in Turkey. The Cage plan was allegedly drawn up on the orders of Ergenekon, a clandestine group that plotted to overthrow the AK Party government. Cage plan documents specifically refer to the killings of Armenian-Turkish journalist Dink and Catholic priest Father Andrea Santoro as well as the Zirve murders as an "operation."

Armenian Art Showcased at Sotheby's Exhibition

LONDON (Armenpress) — The contemporary culture of Caucasus and Central Asia will be exhibited under the slogan "At the Crossroads" in Sotheby's New Bond Street, London, from March 4 until March 12.

The exhibition will introduce around 50 contemporary artworks by artists from across Central Asia and Caucasus, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

The exhibition will focus on non-conformists as well as socialist-realist art from the 1960s, moving on to emerging contemporary practices.

Commenting on this event Senior Director and Head of Sotheby's Russian Art Department in London Jo Vickery stated, "Countries throughout Caucasus and Central Asia have experienced rapid growth in recent years. This territory is very interesting and it has a rich history and culture. Also, one can meet interesting artists there, which are notable for their unique pieces of art."

The aim of this exhibition is to highlight the diverse cultural expressions of the region, while exploring its Soviet past.

International News

Norway Discusses Nagorno-Karabagh with Azerbaijan

OSLO, Norway (Arminfo) — Norway supports the efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group to resolve the Karabagh conflict, Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide said on Monday, at a joint press conference with his Azerbaijani counterpart, Elmar Mammadyarov.

According to Eide, Oslo also urged Armenia to abstain from flights to Nagorno-Karabagh. Eide said, "Armenia must not resort to provocative action. Azerbaijan has already voiced its position to Yerevan."

For his part, Mammadyarov said that the opening of the airport in Karabagh should be part of a peace agreement on Karabagh.

When commenting on the reports about the settlement of Syrian Armenians in the security zone of Nagorno-Karabagh, Mammadyarov pointed out that this issue is on the agenda of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs. He said that the matter concerns a small number of Syrian Armenians, but in any case it is illegal and Azerbaijan informed the OSCE Minsk Group of its position.

On January 28 the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs will meet with Armenian and Azerbaijani foreign ministers. The format of these negotiations has not yet been defined.

Armenian Companies to Participate in 'International Green Week'

BERLIN (Armenpress) — The Armenian Development Agency (ADA,) in cooperation with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the Southern Caucasus Economy Stimulation Program, is scheduled to participate in the "International Green Week." The agricultural exhibition fair will take place in the Messe Berlin exhibition center and is aimed at representing Armenian companies abroad.

Beginning in 2009, GIZ has sponsored this Armenian agricultural fair.

According to the ADA, seven local companies, Yerevan Brandy Factory, Yerevan Ararat Brandy-Wine-Vodka Factory, Yerevan Champagne Wines Factory, MAP, Shahnazaryan wine and brandy House, Yerevan Beer CJSC and SIS Natural, will be represented at the fair.

The participants say they hope to present Armenian goods to the European market and to contribute to the promotion of export volumes in Armenia.

Javakhk Armenians of Russia Launch Investment Program

AKHALKALAKI, Georgia (Armenpress) — Javakhk Armenians of the Russian Federation have put forward a general, efficient investment policy for the development of Samtskhe-Javakhk. The "Javakhk Armenians of Russia" public organization said that the establishment and development of economic relations with Samtskhe-Javakhk are promising. According to the organization, local authorities and population are interested in the inflow of foreign capital and implementation of investment programs in all spheres of the economy.

Javakhk members said they hope foreign investors will take an interest in developing businesses in Javakhk, given its geopolitical location, neighboring the world's most significant commercial railroads that connect Europe to Asian countries.

A number of accompanying laws have been developed and enforced in Georgia. They aim to support foreign investors who wish to develop their business in the country.

The production of construction materials, technological facilities and household goods is of a high importance for Javakhk.



INTERNATIONAL

Likely Tension from PKK Funerals Leads to Concern for Future of Talks

ISTANBUL (*Today's Zaman*) — The bodies of three Kurdish activists affiliated with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) who were killed last week in a shooting at their Paris office are being flown to Diyarbakir, giving way to fear that if the funerals turn into massive pro-PKK demonstrations, this might jeopardize ongoing peace talks between PKK chief Abdullah Öcalan and National Intelligence Organization (MIT) officials.

Kurdish activists Sakine Cansiz, one of the co-founders of the PKK, Fidan Dogan and Leyla Söylemez were discovered dead at the Information Center of Kurdistan on Rue Lafayette at around 1:30 a.m. last Thursday. All three had been shot, execution-style.

There have been many theories as to who is behind the killings. Kurds in Europe have blamed Turkey, with thousands protesting in France during the past week. Observers see the killings as an attempt to sabotage the ongoing talks for peace, while yet another theory points the finger at a third country as being behind the killings. There is also speculation that the killings were executions conducted within the PKK.

Zübeyir Aydar, a PKK leader who is responsible for the group's activities in Europe, was quoted on Tuesday by the Arbil-based Kurdish language daily Rudaw as saying that the executioners in Paris were trying to sabotage the peace process. Aydar said he didn't think it was a possibility that the Turkish government was behind the murders. "We [as the PKK] should prevent the peace process from coming to a halt. This is what our leader, Apo [Öcalan], thinks."

Autopsies were completed on Tuesday, and the bodies of the three women were expected to be flown to Istanbul on Wednesday morning and then on to Diyarbakir, where the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) will organize a funeral ceremony.

The BDP has been closely following the investigation into the murders. BDP leader Selahattin Demirtas, Chairwoman Gültan Kisanak and Van independent deputy Aysel Tugluk returned from France, where they had flown after the murders, on Tuesday. BDP Chairman Demirtas said the BDP delegation

met with the interior minister in France, and said he felt confident that French officials were conducting a thorough investigation. Two PKK-related organizations, including the Firat News Agency (ANF), said the bodies will be flown to Turkey on Wednesday following a ceremony in the Parisian suburb Villiers-le-Bel. The bodies will be sent on a plane taking off from Charles de Gaulle, according to the agency, but the flight time was not cited. BDP officials in Turkey have confirmed that the bodies will arrive in Diyarbakir on Wednesday, when a ceremony with a large participation will take place, and the funerals will be held for the three women in their hometowns on Thursday.

Following Wednesday's ceremony in Diyarbakir, Cansiz will be buried in Dersim, Dogan in Maras and Söylemez in Mersin. Local civil society groups and observers have expressed to *Today's Zaman* their fear that the ceremonies and funerals might turn into a power display for the PKK, ending the ongoing peace process, as was the case in 2009 when a group of Kurdish refugees and PKK militants clad in guerilla outfits, returning to Turkey as part of a government opening to give more rights to Kurds, were met by a massive crowd at the Habur border gate, triggering a powerful nationalist backlash and ending the process.

Local groups worried

Diyarbakir Bar Association Chairman Tahir Elçi called on security forces to try to facilitate the event, and requested a funeral in line with religious and social customs, adding that they were hoping that an adverse development will not take place during the funeral. "It is an important deal when three women are brutally massacred. People should express their feelings through a funeral. This is why security forces should take measures to ensure this fundamental right. This is not any funeral. Some reactions might be disturbing for everyone, but this should not cause any events to break nor should it be allowed to influence the talks process."

Head of the Diyarbakir branch of human rights group MÜS AD Sehabettin Akut said he believed the BDP was trying to put on a

power show during the event. "There are those who want a second Habur case," he said. Akut noted he was pretty certain that things are not going to go smoothly on Thursday. "There will certainly be vents," he said.

Diyarbakir Entrepreneurial Businessmen's Association (D GAD) president Alaaddin Korkutata said: "Whenever a positive step has been taken, we have seen events such as Habur or the Daglica attack. I don't understand why they are bringing the bodies to Diyarbakir first, instead of sending them directly to their hometowns." He said he feared a massive demonstration like in Habur could stall the process.

"There will most likely be agitation at the funerals. The consequences might equal three Haburs," said Ibrahim Güçlü, a Kurdish politician and writer.

Fahrettin Akyil, head of the Diyarbakir Commodity Exchange, said it was crucial that no incidents take place during the funerals. "If there is anything, it will affect the peace process," he said.

Politicians call for calm

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday urged Kurds for calm at the funerals, speaking at his Justice and Development Party's (AK Party) parliamentary group meeting.

The BDP's Diyarbakir Mayor Osman Baydemir eased worries also on Tuesday, saying he was confident that no agitation or provocation would take place during the funerals. "Nothing can justify violence and terror. Terror has brought nothing to this country but pain, blood and tears. Our only wish and aim is to dry the tears of mothers," he remarked, adding that although his party has been left alone by the opposition parties to fight against terrorism, it will not take a step back from its peace initiative. "We have never lost hope and will not. We are cautious and hopeful," he declared.

The first reaction against the repatriation of the bodies to Turkey came from Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahçeli, who said, "They shouldn't make a mistake and turn this into the Habur masquerade." Labor

Minister Faruk Çelik was quick to give a response for the government, saying the three are Turkish citizens. "There might be segments that will try to create agitation using the funerals, but Turkey has the maturity to absorb this."

Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Arınç, who spoke to journalists on Monday following a Cabinet meeting, gave a stern warning to those looking to cause a provocation. "This is a humane issue. It should be seen as such and the funerals should be held according to customs. The funeral should not be turned into an act of provocation. We think that statements on the funeral ceremonies should be made responsibly. We believe that statements should not allow for provocation and hurt confidence and peace in Turkey." Parliament Speaker Cemil Çiçek made a similar call on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, deputy chairman of the BDP's parliamentary group Pervin Buldan said all segments of society that want perpetual peace should participate in the funerals, including government members. The BDP on Tuesday discussed the funeral program in its group meeting. Buldan also made a call against possible acts of provocation.

Civil society groups in Diyarbakir called for calm on Tuesday. Reports from the city say the BDP and its extension, the Democratic Society Congress (DTK), organized as a civil society group in Diyarbakir, have been issuing calls for all to attend the funerals.

Öcalan's brother, Mehmet Öcalan, went to Imrali Island, off the Istanbul coast, on Monday to meet with Öcalan as part of a peace talks between the PKK leader and the authorities to resolve the Kurdish issue and said his brother was saddened by the killings of the Kurdish women in Paris.

Mehmet Öcalan told reporters after the talks with his brother that the meeting was "normal" and described the talks as "emotional." He said his brother was upset over the Paris killings and condemned the assassination of the Kurdish women.

Mehmet Öcalan said the PKK leader expressed condolences to the families of the Kurdish women.

AGBU France's Screening of 'Wounds of Karabagh' Attract Hundreds

PARIS — For millions around the world, news and images of the Nagorno-Karabagh war with Azerbaijan are forever burned in memory. The Bulgarian reporter Tsvetana Paskaleva's dispatches from the frontlines of the 1988 to 1994 conflict not only helped propel it into the international spotlight, but earned her numerous awards and were developed into seven documentaries. The films, entitled collectively "Wounds of Karabagh," received renewed attention over the past few weeks during a series of events organized and sponsored by AGBU France, which kicked off Paskaleva's international tour.

Paskaleva's work has long been utilized in changing public opinion regarding the atrocities suffered by the Armenian community in Karabagh. From 1993-1994, "Wounds of Karabagh" was screened before Amnesty International, the Parliament of Canada, the United Nations and the United States Congress, among other government bodies and organizations. On November 29, the French Senate was added to that list. At the invitation of French Senator Philippe Kaltenbach, who heads the France-Armenia Inter-Parliamentary Friendship Group, a delegation of Armenian parliamentary leaders, met with French representatives in Luxembourg Palace. There, they viewed the film and participated in a roundtable discussion on peace and dialogue in Karabagh. In the days that followed, dozens more elected officials and community leaders gathered at AGBU centers across the country.

On November 30, AGBU Valence hosted a screening that drew guests from both near and far, including the Mayor of Valence Alain Maurice, the Mayor of the Armenian city of Idjevan Varuzhan Nersisyan and AGBU Valence Chair Jean Jacques Vartanian. Since AGBU

Valence adopted Idjevan as a sister city over two years ago, the two have joined forces to promote cultural and sustainable development initiatives internationally, and Nersisyan's presence demonstrated that their relationship remains strong. The following day, Paskaleva headed to Marseille for a showing of the film that was co-organized by the local AGBU chapter and the Coordination Council of Armenian Organizations of France (CCAF). AGBU Lyon also partnered with the CCAF, as well as with Radio Armenia, for their screening, which was held on December 3, and attracted more than 70 attendees, among them AGBU Lyon Chair Michel Sandjian.

At each stop on her AGBU tour, Paskaleva, who was joined by her producer, Zara Nazarian, recounted what first prompted her to visit Karabagh, the violence she witnessed there and ways she believes the region can achieve peace and stability to move forward. In 1991, when reports of mass deportations of Armenians living in the Karabagh villages of Getashen, Martunashen and Shahumyan reached Moscow, where Paskaleva was a PhD film student, she immediately packed her camera and traveled into the heart of the conflict. What she thought would be a short-term assignment turned into a three-year engagement, as she began reporting for major news outlets and became the only international journalist on the ground continuously throughout the Karabagh war. She filmed hundreds of hours of harrowing footage, risking her life time and time again to ensure that the horrors of the war did not go unreported. Her acts of bravery were recognized by a Medal of Courage from the Armenian Government in 1996, as well as with the rank of Karabagh Defense Army Colonel, which she received in 1995, despite never bearing arms during the conflict.



From left, AGBU France Chairman Philippe Panossian, journalist Svetana Paskaleva, Ambassador of Armenia to France Vahagn Atabekian and film producer Zara Nazarian meet in the Armenian Embassy of France following the screening of Paskaleva's film, "Wounds of Karabagh," organized by AGBU France.

Years later, Paskaleva says her work is not finished. As she commented during the AGBU France events, "Now is the time for Armenians to win the last battle: the diplomatic battle... I initiated this international tour to remind our politicians that the conflict is still painfully unresolved and that they bear the responsibility to bring sustainable peace to Karabagh so we may finally put

the past behind us." At each of the screenings organized by AGBU France, policy makers were already responding to Paskaleva's appeal, gathering to discuss the status of Nagorno-Karabagh and ways to create a brighter future in the region. As Paskaleva's international tour continues, she is sure to continue to inspire the political will to move toward positive change.

Community News

Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge Celebrates Artsakh's Independence in DC Hill

WASHINGTON — Last month, members of the Knights of Vartan-Ani Lodge #21 joined nearly 100 Armenian-Americans on Capitol Hill to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the independence of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh (Artsakh).

The annual independence celebration took place on December 5 in the historic Russell Senate Office Building and was hosted by the Congressional Armenian Caucus, which is co-chaired by Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA), the incoming chairman of the influential Foreign Affairs Committee, and Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ). Pallone served as the evening's master of ceremonies.

"As we celebrate 21 years of independence and democracy in the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh (Artsakh), we want to thank our US Congress for their efforts and remind them of the need to increase financial aid and extend diplomatic recognition to Artsakh in an effort to ensure a lasting peace and stability in the Caucasus," stated Knights Commander Jake Bournazian.

A highlight of the evening was the ceremony, conducted by the Ambassador of Armenia, Tatoul Markarian, bestowing the Republic of Armenia's Mkhitar Gosh award upon Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA).

Eshoo, who is of Armenian and Assyrian descent, offered emotional words of appreciation following the award presentation. "I'm humbled by this high honor, and I'm grateful to the President of Armenia and the Armenian people for it," Eshoo said. "This award is deeply meaningful to me, and it renews my commitment to complete the unfinished work of the United States to finally acknowledge the Armenian Genocide."

Sherman expressed his gratitude for the award, stressing Nagorno-Karabagh's progress. "Despite Azerbaijan's deeply unjust blockade and a devastating war in from 1991 to 1994, Artsakh continues to solidify its democracy and improve its economy," remarked Sherman.

In addition to the Mkhitar Gosh Award, Nagorno Karabagh Republic Foreign Minister



From left, Knights of Vartan-Ani Lodge Commander Jake Bournazian, Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Armenian Assembly of America Executive Director Bryan Ardouny and Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)

Karen Mirzoyan offered both Eshoo and Sherman a medal in honor of Artsakh's independence.

Joining Mirzoyan in discussing the obstacles and opportunities that Karabagh faces were Markarian and Nagorno-Karabagh Representative in the US Robert Avetisyan. The evening's benediction was offered by Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, legate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, joined by Rev. Sarkis Aktavoukian of Soorp Khatch Armenian Apostolic Church of Bethesda, Md. and Rev. Hovsep Karapetyan of St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church of Washington, DC.

"We appreciate all the Members of Congress who joined us this evening in support of Artsakh's independence," Bournazian said. "In these tumultuous times, it is important that we remind Congress of the need to maintain Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act and take a stand against Azerbaijan's military aggression against Christian Armenians," he added.



Students of the Armenian Sisters' Academy of Lexington

Armenian Sisters' Academy Looks to The Future

LEXINGTON, Mass. — After 30 years of continuously serving the children of Greater Boston and now with the possible threat of closing well behind them, the Armenian Sisters' Academy (ASA) is planning for the future with renewed dedication to their goal.

By Gabriella Gage

Mirror-Spectator Staff

The Lexington-based Armenian Catholic school, founded in 1982 by Sister Alphonsa Bedrosian of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, has reaffirmed its school mission and plans to expand the student body in the upcoming academic school years.

When the sisters considered closing the school, a coalition of alumni families and parents, led by the school's advisory board, teamed together to keep the school open.

Advisory Board Chairperson Katrina Menzigian shared, "We wanted to show the sisters that the school was in demand in the Boston community and that the dedication to Armenian education still existed."

Menzigian said of the school, "It has been part of this community for over 30 years. The reality is we have turned out hundreds of graduates. The school has a place in the greater Boston community and a network of people with ties to the [Armenian] Sisters' Academies around the world."

Rejuvenated by the local community's enthusiasm, the sisters agreed to keep the school open.

The advisory board hopes that by continuing its operation, the school will reaffirm its original mission as well as generate a new vision for the future. Menzigian cited a plan to build up the sixth, seventh- and eighth-grade class sizes, whose

see ACADEMY, page 6



Students of the Armenian Sisters' Academy of Lexington

Bringing the Keghetzi Spirit to Life in Detroit

By Mitch Kehetian

DETROIT — For Greater Detroit Armenians of Keghetzi family roots, a mission of old world pride is sweeping this community.

The movement is anchored with a goal to link its rebirth to present-day Nor Keghi in the new Republic of Armenia.

The spirited movement of the newly formed Nor Keghi Association will feature its rebirth with a February 2 "Kef Time Keghi" dinner dance highlighted with an elaborate Armenian buffet topped with the famed Keghetzi *pagharch*.

"While our rebirth is meant to retain the heritage of our parents and grandparents, we decided to launch our cause on a high note for our younger generation by looking ahead at bonding with the Nor Keghi district in Yerevan, Armenia," said Richard Norsigian, chairperson of the Nor Keghi Association Steering Committee.

In stressing the goal of perpetuating the movement "with our young generation of American Armenians of Keghetzi family roots and Armenia," Norsigian said funds raised at this year's dinner dance and at Kef Time *pagharch* celebrations through 2015 and beyond will help purchase educational equipment for the public school in the Nor Keghi district in Yerevan.

In declaring its goal, the committee reaffirmed: "We intend to help the school in Nor Keghi as we honor the memory of our ancestors who perished in the Ottoman Turkish government's 1915 Genocide carried out against 1.5 million Armenians."

By its rebirth, the Nor Keghi committee message is clear: "The Turks massacred our people and still deny the genocide. Our movement here in Detroit is strengthened by a unified spirit across spiritual and political lines. As we unite for the 100th solemn observance of the genocide, our small but patriotic voice will be heard. We will prevail until justice is achieved."

The unified movement starts at 6:30 p.m. on February 2 at St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall in Southfield.

At latest count, more than 20 local and out-state musicians of Keghetzi family roots have volunteered to perform at the dinner dance.

Historical Keghi district is now within Turkey and depopulated of its Armenian population. In ancient times the Hittite Empire's ruling capital was located within the Keghi region. For the pre-Biblical Hittites, *pagharch* was their main winter meal during the freezing February temperatures that swept through the Keghi mountains.

The Hittites shaped the wheat-based *pagharch* to resemble Keghi's towering Mt. Sulbuz, which the Armenians call *Sourp Looyse* (Holy Light).

Nor Keghi district in Armenia was given its name designation when the country was under Soviet rule. At the time it was named Nor Keghi, the Turks complained that there is only one Keghi, the old one now under their rule.

The newly formed Nor Keghi movement believes its rebirth will serve well into the future through support for the Nor Keghi school within Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

Other Steering Committee members include Greg Vartanian, Haig Korkoian, Stitch Vosgerchian, Alice Nigoghosian, Marty Shoushanian, Sandi Nigoghosian, Karen Nigosian, Barbara Norsigian and Mitch Kehetian.

Further information on the history of historical Keghi is available at www.keghi.org.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Sisters' Academy Looks to the Future

ACADEMY, from page 5

ranks had previously dwindled. This year's class of fifth graders will have the opportunity to matriculate to the sixth grade in the upcoming school year.

The current advisory board members include: Chairperson Menzigian, Fr. Raphael Andonian, Vice Principal Mayda Melkonian, Armen Arakelian, George Barmakian, Ara Deirmendjian, Nageeb Diarbakarley, Armik

and families of alumni also contribute to the school's enrichment. "There are a lot of ties from a generational standpoint," said Menzigian.

The Armenian Sisters' Academy has been granted accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc. (NEASC) and is a member of Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE.)



Armenian Sisters' Academy teachers, first row from left: Kathleen Pondelli, Zovig Kojanian, Vice Principal Mayda Melkonian, Principal Sister Cecile Keghiayan, Sister Aghvita Der Ghougassian, Sister Barbara Gilmetti, Catherine Izzo; second row from left: Armine Hananian, Chake Semerjian, Jayanthi Rangan, Norma Demirchian, Shake Chaglasian, Barbara Sergi, Chake Kebabjian, Elizabeth Avakian, Marine Kavlakian, Mary Demirjian, Alice Cerrone

Hananian, Raffi Kotikian, Anahid Mardiros, Lalig Musserian and Shant Parseghian.

The advisory board – composed of a combination of alumni, current parents and parents of alumni, church representatives and faculty – works closely with the academy's parent committee.

Menzigian said the function of the advisory board is to "support the vision of the school, its operations and act as ambassadors of the school in the community."

Moving forward, Menzigian said the advisory board will assume more involvement in "certain key areas such as public relations, fundraising, educational vision and supporting strategic planning for the school." The sisters and teachers will continue to focus on the day-to-day academic and spiritual education of students and help to realize the vision for the future of school.

Menzigian said that one of the strengths of the school – as well as unique distinctions – is its membership in an expansive network of Sisters' Academies around the world.

"The community outside the board is also very strong and made up of supporters from around the world and a strong parent network," she said.

Adding to this global network, the alumni

The advisory committee of the ASA has several events planned for the upcoming year, including their annual Valentine's Dance on February 9. January 23 will mark the beginning of its open enrollment period for pre-K and kindergarten classes. The academy will also host an open house for the entire school on March 3, providing potential students and families an opportunity to visit the school campus and learn about its academic programs. Plans for the annual spring bazaar are also in the works.

For more information on the school or the upcoming open house, visit the school's website at www.asalexington.org.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. James Armenian Church of Watertown Celebrates Name Day and 81st Anniversary

WATERTOWN — Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), visited the St. James Church on Sunday, December 16, as the parish observed its 81st anniversary and held its annual Name Day banquet.

Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy and delivered the sermon. Rev. Arakel Aljalian, pastor of St. James Church, assisted the Primate. Also taking part in the service were the Very Rev. Krikor Maksoudian, Rev. Arsen Barsamian

Diocesan delegates, in addition to taking up other roles at the local and Diocesan levels.

During the banquet program, former Sunday School students Levon Kurkjian and Alicia Antreasian offered warm memories of the influence Brewster and Derderyan have had in their lives. Sunday School Superintendent Marsha Alabachian also made remarks. Subdeacon Mark Giragosian, a cousin of Dederyan, served as master of ceremonies.

Brewster, who was married at St. James Church and went on to teach Sunday School for 39 years, has also served on the Parish Council and Diocesan Council. Not Armenian by birth, he said he has developed a deep attachment to the Armenian Church. “I was not born in Armenia, but Armenia was born in me,” he said, quoting Karekin I, the late Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Born and raised in Watertown, Dederyan has been a lifelong member of St. James. Throughout her decades of service, she has been active in the church’s Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) chapter, Sunday School and Parish Council. Aljalian noted her constant presence in church on Sunday mornings and her willingness to serve the community.

Barsamian expressed his appreciation to Brewster and Dederyan for their commitment to the Armenian Church. “You are an example to the young generation of parishioners at St. James Church,” he said. “May the Lord continue to bless you and to guide you in your service.”



From left, Edward Brewster, St. James Parishioner of the Year; Rev. Arakel Aljalian, pastor, St. James; Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Eastern Diocese and Karen Dederyan, St. James Parishioner of the Year

and Rev. Dajad Davidian.

Following the Divine Liturgy, a banquet was held to celebrate the Feast of St. James, the Bishop of Nisibis, for whom the Watertown church is named.

Two longtime parishioners, Edward Brewster and Karen Dederyan, were presented with the Parishioner of the Year award. The 250 people in attendance congratulated the honorees, who have dedicated their services to the parish and Diocese for more than 30 years. Both have served as Sunday School teachers and

Motivational Business Speaker Manoog Kaprielian at St. James Men’s Club

WATERTOWN — M. Manoog Kaprielian, a private consultant who has delivered speeches and lectured worldwide will address the dinner meeting of the St. James Armenian Church Men’s Club on February 4. The topic will be “The Armenian Soul in the World of Business.”

Michael Manoog Kaprielian is a decorated Vietnam Veteran who, had he not been embraced unconditionally by the Los Angeles Armenian community, may not have been here or anywhere at all. Most candidly, this simple embrace in America, took Manoog off a certain self-destructive post war path on which there was no admission of Vietnam in his life, to a series of demands upon his experience in and after Vietnam. While in the studios of WGBH-TV to review the production of the first Vietnam Series, he bonded with fellow panelist including playwright David Berry, Wayne Smith, later to become a vital leader in a Nobel Peace Prize winning organization in DC, and Thomas Suprock, a former Ohio State football player and decorated chopper pilot who, in the Mee Kong Delta in April 1971 had flown cover when the gunboat upon which Kaprielian, nicknamed “Kappy,” served when it earned its second Presidential Unit Citation.

As a graduate student, he took a project research directorship for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the US Department of Commerce to investigate the possibilities of

cable television in America and laying the groundwork for the first community access programs, government and educational channels throughout every disparate system.

Throughout the decades, Kaprielian has received many honors, including one from the president of Armenia, induction into the National Academy of Psychology of the Republic of Georgia, 12 national and international awards in television and has the distinction of providing “Two and a Half Men’s” head writer his first TV comedy writing experience.

In overseeing an award winning local cable television, he had never personally touched a video camera. Then, he picked one up to arrive on the scene of the 1988 Armenian earthquake where he recorded and rushed messages of pain from the children in Armenia to America and then back with messages from the ranks of 400 Armenian-American children. This unmediated and unedited video of children directly speaking to each other was up-linked through a NASA satellite to seven university hospitals including Johns Hopkins and Bethesda Naval Hospital.

“Manoog is an extraordinary individual. He combines an impressive range of talents and experience. His work in public relations, media management and social service work is exceptional. As you will note his education is similarly multi-disciplinary and is record in college and graduate school is superior. I know Manoog Kaprielian to be a man who possesses deep human values and high character,” Peter Balakian, a writer and a professor at Colgate University, said of him.

The dinner meeting will be at the St. James Armenian Church Charles, 465 Mt. Auburn St. The program is open to all, including women.



M. Manoog Kaprielian

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE MONUMENT

Armenian Memorial to be Placed at Lowell MA, City Hall Plaza



IN MEMORY OF
1915-1923
THE VICTIMS OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE
MOTHER’S HANDS

Knot by knot, her hands weave the history of her people. The delicacy of the crochet integrated into this cross stone is symbolic of the beauty and strength of the Armenian heritage.
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IN MEMORY OF
1915-1923
THE VICTIMS OF
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

A MOTHER’S HANDS

“Knot by knot, her hands weave the history of her people. The delicacy of the crochet integrated into this cross stone is symbolic of the beauty and strength of the Armenian heritage. This ancient culture lives forever, just as the imprint of the first genocide of the 20th century in the collective memory of the Armenians.”

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New York METRO

Christmas Celebrated at New York's St. Vartan Cathedral

NEW YORK — After a cold spell in New York, a sunny, warm day met worshippers on Sunday, January 6, as they gathered in the city's St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral for the celebration of the Feast of the Nativity and Theophany of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), celebrated the Divine Liturgy, before a large crowd of more than 1,000 people. Many leaned forward during the procession, led by Archbishop Barsamian, to receive the Primate's blessing and to capture snapshots on handheld cameras and cell

MICHAEL OVANES PHOTO



Sarkis Jebejian with family after the Blessing of Water service on January 6

phones. In the narthex, people lit candles and exchanged the Christmas greeting — *Krisdos dzunav yev haydnetzav!*

In his homily, Barsamian spoke about the need to make faith a center of daily life. Speaking of the turmoil in the Middle East and last month's shooting in Newtown, Conn., he said, "The presence of evil in our lives results from the absence of Christ in our homes. It is by following in Christ's footsteps that we can begin to bring peace and reconciliation."

The Primate also spoke about last fall's Diocesan pilgrimage to historic Armenia, noting the importance of reasserting the Christian

Armenian identity in places like Holy Cross Church on Aghtamar island, St. Giragos Church in Dikranagert and the cathedral in Ani.

"Sanctuaries that have long been silent again rang with the sounds of Armenian worship," he said. "Indeed, this was a life-changing journey, and a sign that nothing is impossible with God."

As celebrant during the January 6 liturgy, the Primate was surrounded on the altar by a number of clergymen, deacons, and seminarians. The Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian, the newly-appointed dean of St. Vartan Cathedral, and cathedral priest the Very Rev. Sooren Chinchinian participated in the service.

Sarkis Jebejian served as godfather for the *churorhnek*, or Blessing of Water Ceremony, which commemorates the baptism of Jesus by the hand of John the Baptist. "Sarkis is a wonderful example to the young generation of Armenian-Americans," Barsamian said. "He embodies the Armenian values of faith, family, and service through his activities on behalf of the Armenian Church and the AGBU."

The sacred music of the Divine Liturgy was rendered beautifully throughout the service by the St. Vartan Cathedral Choir, under the direction of Khoren Mekanejian. Accompanying on the organ was Florence Avakian.

Public participation was also robust at the Armenian Christmas Eve service on the evening of January 5. The celebrant was Kiledjian. The Christmas Eve service featured scripture readings by students from the Diocese's Khrimian Lyceum, who also added their voices to the St. Vartan Cathedral Choir's singing of the Divine Liturgy.

After the service on January 6, a reception convened in Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium, where a traditional home-blessing ceremony was led by Barsamian. The faithful then stepped forward to receive



The Blessing of Water service followed Badarak

blessed *nushkhars*. A colorful dance performance was offered by the Shushi Dance

Ensemble of St. Vartan Cathedral, under the direction of choreographer Seta Kantardjian.

MICHAEL OVANES PHOTO



The Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble of St. Vartan Cathedral performed after Christmas services.



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**New York
METRO**

St. Nersess Summer Conference Dates Announced

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. — Dates for the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary's Summer Conferences for young people have just been announced. Students have the option of attending one of four sessions offered this summer on the New Rochelle campus: Deacons' Training June 24-July 2; High School "A" July 5-13; High School "B" July 29-August 6 and Post High School August 8-13.

Each conference session makes daily worship, Bible Study and Armenian language instruction appealing and fun. In addition, sports, outings, home-cooked meals, and those special St. Nersess traditions make for a well-rounded and

innovative experience where young people form deep, lasting friendships and discover their place in the Armenian Church.

Seminary alumni clergy will direct the conference sessions, including Rev. Tavit Boyajian for the first high school session and Rev. Hovnan Demerjian leading the second high school session. Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan will once again direct the Deacons' Training Program, while the new seminary dean, Rev. Mardiros Chevian, will make his return after 20 years to direct the Post High School conference.

Other clergy and church lay leaders will assist in instructing the participants in the fundamen-

mentals of the Armenian Church's faith and traditions. Participants will also be encouraged to ask any frank question they have about the church, its teachings and traditions, Christian faith, the Bible and issues of concern to them, no matter how sensitive or controversial. Anonymously dropped into a special box, the questions will be addressed by a panel of clergy.

Another experience during each session involves an afternoon trip to the local area Armenian homes for the aged. This allows participants the opportunity to visit, pray with



Participants listen and learn in a casual, safe environment at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.



Participants of the Deacons' Training Program celebrate the Badarak at the St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City.

and learn from the elder community.

The conferences have attracted thousands of teenagers and college-age students over the past five decades to explore their faith and heritage with friends in a safe, fun and unique environment. This includes select students from the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School in Jerusalem who have participated in the conferences for the past six years thanks to benefactors and Summer Conference scholarships, coordinated between Chevian and the Very Rev. Norayr Kazarian of Jerusalem.

"The Jerusalem students have the opportunity to experience one the best programs for youth that exists; they get to meet other young Armenian students with whom they

establish friendships and continue to maintain contact; and they broaden their horizons and take a new look at the faith and traditions of the Armenian Church in which they have grown up," explained Chevian. "Also, our American Armenian youth are offered the valuable experience of meeting other young people from Armenian Jerusalem, getting to know them as individuals and learning about the life and history of Armenians in the Holy City."

Registration for the conferences will be available online soon. A maximum of 25 participants will be accepted for each session.

For further information, contact the seminary at info@stnersess.edu.



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(Graduate Student of Genocide Studies at Clark University)

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Arts & Living

Sacred Objects from Armenian Churches of Constantinople Topic Of Fresno State Lecture

FRESNO — Dr. Ronald Marchese will discuss his recent research in Constantinople/Istanbul with a talk on “Treasures of Faith: Sacred Objects from the Armenian Churches of Constantinople and What They Tell Us About Armenian Society and Culture” on Monday, January 28.

This Leon S. Peters Foundation Lecture will be held in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium on the Fresno State campus and is part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring 2013 Lecture Series.

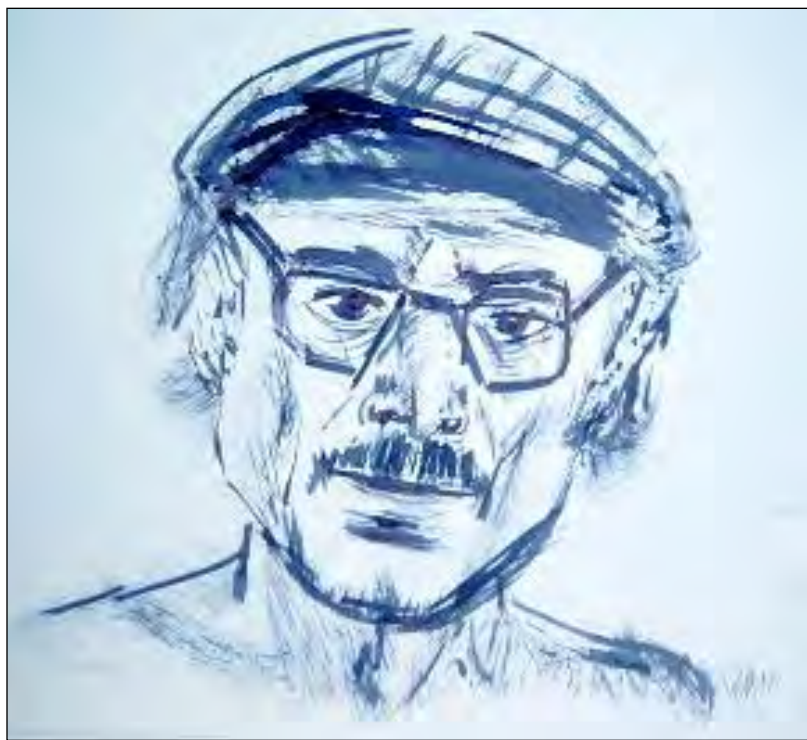
Marchese is professor of ancient history and archaeology at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and has spent the last several years documenting the rich cultural history of the Armenians in Constantinople by studying the works of art that the Armenians produced. He will accompany his talk with slides of some of the artwork that he has catalogued.

Over the course of hundreds of years Armenian society and culture developed in Constantinople after the founding of the Armenian Patriarchate in the city in 1461. Although a traditional date, it is clearly evident that a substantial number of Armenians from eastern Anatolia had established themselves in the city long before this date. Most went unnoticed in the pages of history due to the fact that they were absorbed within Byzantine material and political culture. Simply stated they became “Byzantine” in nature. After the mid-15th century and especially after the establishment of their own patriarchate and “patrik” this “invisibility” disappears.

Encouraged to immigrate “to the city” the Armenian population increased substantially as witnessed by Samataya, and Beyoglu. By the mid-18th city to the mid-19th century — 1750-1850 — approximately half of all Armenian churches in the city were founded. Some were in close proximity to others in densely concentrated areas near the Patriarchate, especially in Kumkapi, Yenikapi. Associated with this increase in population was the rise of an Armenian “aristocracy” — the amira class. Many of these individuals financed church construction and are well-known in both Ottoman and Patriarchal records. The issue here is not who these people were, a powerful group of wealthy entrepreneurs, merchants and bankers, who gave clout to their group, but rather those who worked hard, accumulated modest amounts of wealth and were faithful church goers who participated in the affairs of their congregation and neighborhood—the emerging “petty bourgeois.” Who were they and what they did has barely been recorded. It was their contributions to their respective churches that is brought to light in his current research and is illustrated in this presentation.

Marchese received his PhD from New York University and has a distinguished career in archaeology, having conducted research at the Plataiai Archaeological Excavation in Greece and at Tel Dor in Israel. He is the author of numerous articles and book chapters in the field. He is an alumnus of California State University, Fresno.

He is the author, together with Marlene Breu, of *Splendor and Spectacle: The Armenian Orthodox Church Textile Collections of Istanbul* (Çitlembik Ltd., Istanbul, 2010). He has authored several other books on art and weaving.



A self-portrait by Arthur Pinajian

Pinajian Discovery Debuts in New York

NEW YORK — To launch Rediscovered Masters, art historian Peter Hastings Falk presents “Lost and Found: The Pinajian Discovery,” the first in a series of exhibitions dedicated to deserving late career artists and/or those have passed on and whose achievements have been forgotten or overlooked. A stellar example of one such notable but neglected artist is Arthur Pinajian, a 20th-century American painter who died in 1999 at the age of 85 and whose much-lauded abstract landscapes in “Lost and Found” are showcased in New York for the first time.

The exhibition of Pinajian’s paintings, on view in New York for the very first time, will run from February 13 through March 10. It will open on February 13 with a benefit for the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR). The benefit will be hosted by Antiquorum at the Fuller Building at 57th Street and Madison Avenue.

After Pinajian’s death in 1999, five decades of accumulated artwork were found stacked up in the one-car garage and attic of the Bellport, NY, cottage he shared with his sister. He had left instructions for his collection to be discarded in the town dump. At the last moment an artist cousin refused to let the garbage truck haul away the paintings. Instead, Prof. William Innes Homer (1929-2012), then dean of American art historians, was asked to examine the life’s work of the unknown artist and was stunned by what he found: a large body of extraordinary abstract landscape and figurative paintings by a gifted artist who was completely unknown in his lifetime. Homer urged Falk to head the project. Soon a team of art historians was conducting research into the life and art of Arthur Pinajian.



Abstract by Arthur Pinajian from 1985

As a boy growing up in an Armenian community in West Hoboken, NJ, Pinajian was a completely self-trained cartoonist. During the Great Depression, he became one of the pioneers in a new medium: the comic book. In 1940, he created “Madam Fatal,” the first cross-dressing superhero, for Crack Comics. After World War II, he enrolled at the Art Students League in Woodstock, NY. For 22 years, his life revolved around Woodstock, albeit largely reclusive, while he passionately pursued his painting. His admirable poetic color combinations are linked to the tonalities of his better-known fellow Armenian, Arshile Gorky (ca. 1904-1948). Late in life, he moved with his sister to Bellport. There, he strived for visual and spiritual conclusions regarding flatness and color that parallel the goals of the Abstract Expressionists.

The exhibition is accompanied by a 128-page hardcover book with essays by art see PINAJIAN, page 11

Wealth of Middle Eastern Art Showcased at Dubai Opera Gallery

DUBAI (Emirates 24/7) — A combination of contemporary and modern artwork by Arab Artists was recently hosted by the Opera Gallery here.

Works of art by regional artists were showcased at the Art Nights at Gate Village on January 13.

Works from Middle Eastern talents such as Nasrollah Afjehei, Youssef Ahmed, Reza Derakshani, Mohammad Ehsai, Paul Guiragossian, Sabhan Adam and Parviz Tanavoli were exhibited at the first of the 2013 popular Art Nights series.

Contemporary Iranian visual artist Nasrollah Afjehei, born in 1933, has had numerous works sold at auction. Most recently, “Wave” was sold at Christie’s in Dubai in 2011, for \$218,500.

Widely regarded as the greatest plastic artist in the Middle East, Qatari creator Youssef Ahmed takes traditional regional calligraphy and shapes his pieces using modern techniques.

Reza Derakshani is best known for his gold-leaf work on canvasses, whose foundations augment under different reflections of light.

Born in Iran, in 1939, Mohammad Ehsai received classical training in traditional calligraphic methods he has traveled far to experience other cultures, which has shaped his use of Persian script in his work.

Lebanese-Armenian painter Paul Guiragossian (1926-1993) has been based in Beirut throughout his life, studying in Florence and traveling globally to exhibit his work. His paintings continually express the complexities of the human condition, through static and animated representations of the body.

Sabhan Adam developed his own highly-recognizable figurative painting style. His popular canvases reflect the heavier, darker side of mankind.

Considered Iran’s foremost modern sculptor, Parviz Tanavoli has created sculptures with bronze, ceramics, fiberglass and scrap metal and have a deep engagement with Persian folkloric traditions.

Yasmina Alaoui and Marco Guerra collaborate in their works, primarily in Morocco. Alaoui fuses ink calligraphy with human body imagery, while Guerra — a New York-based fashion photographer, originally from Chile — collaborates with the artist.

Young graduate of a liberal arts and fine arts program, photographer Khalid Al Hamad is famed for his series of black and white pictures that explore the human anatomy.

Ali Esmaeilpour has had paintings commissioned by the Iran Museum of Heritage and Culture as well as the Iran Ministry of Olympics.

Concert at ALMA on January 27 to Feature Works by Babajanian

WATERTOWN — The Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) presents a concert by students of the Walnut Hill School for the Arts. The concert will take place on Sunday, January 27, at 4 p.m., in ALMA’s Contemporary Arts Gallery.

This collaboration between ALMA and the school includes the performance of a very special piece of Armenian chamber music, Arno Babajanian’s *Piano Trio* (written in 1952) which combines traditional Armenian melodies with rich Romantic textures, and serves as a musical testament to the feelings of nationalist identity of the Armenian people under Soviet domination. The chamber groups will also present Erwin Schulhoff’s *Concertino for flute, viola and double bass*, and Alexander Zemlinsky’s *Trio for clarinet, cello and piano*. Tickets will be available at the door. Admission free for students. Refreshments to be served following the program.

For more information, contact info@almamc.org.



ARTS & LIVING

Pinajian Discovery Debuts in New York

PINAJIAN, from page 10

historians Falk, Richard J. Boyle, and the late William Innes Homer; art critic John Perreault; conservator Jonathan Sherman; bestselling author Lawrence E. Joseph, owner of the collection; and, Pinajian's artist-cousin, Peter Najarian. The collective essays present one of the most compelling discoveries in the history of 20th-century American art. Dr. Homer writes: "Even though Pinajian was a creative force to be reckoned with, during his lifetime he rarely exhibited or sold his paintings. Instead, he pursued his goals in isolation with the single-minded focus of a Gauguin or Cézanne, refusing to give up in the face of public indifference. In his later years he could be compared to a lone researcher in a laboratory pursuing knowledge for its own sake. His exhaustive diaries and art notes make it clear that he dedicated all of his days to his art. He was passionate and unequivocally committed."

An Intriguing Literary Connection

It is interesting to note the astonishing resemblance between Pinajian and the hero in Kurt Vonnegut's *Bluebeard: The Autobiography of Rabo Karabekian*, a 1987 novel about an eccentric painter. Both Pinajian and Karabekian, a.k.a. Bluebeard, were Armenian-Americans, raised by parents who survived the 1915 Armenian Genocide who then made their way to the United States where they raised their families during the Great Depression. Both men then served with the United States Army during World War II in the European theater, each earning a host of ribbons and medals, including the Bronze Star. After the war, both abandoned their careers as illustrators for higher artistic pursuits, joined the Art Students League in New York, and hung out with the Abstract Expressionists at the Cedar Tavern in Greenwich Village. Both eventually moved to Long Island's East End near the ocean, where they kept their paintings tightly locked away in a garage.

"Ultimately Pinajian's work reflects the soul of a flawed, yet brilliant, artistic genius. When he hits the mark, especially in his abstractions, he can be ranked among the best artists of his era . . . His life is, above all, a model for those who feel that they



Abstract by Arthur Pinajian, from 1954

must follow their calling despite a lack of public acceptance," concluded Dr. Homer.

According to Falk, Rediscovered Masters will provide a singular and valuable service for exhibition planners, connecting museum curators, gallerists, historians and critics with important, gifted artists about whom tastemakers might not be aware. Admission is by invitation only. Once an artist is admitted they are represented online with a thematic exhibition, a critical biography and other essays. Artists are identified through an Art Advisory Board composed of a cadre of museum directors and curators, art gallery owners, and other art professionals.

The senior advisor is Peter Selz, former curator of paintings at The Museum of Modern Art and founder of the Berkeley Art Museum.

Opening eyes while fighting ageism, "Rediscovered Masters" expands upon Falk's 37 years of identifying and promoting excellent late-

art market information.

FAR, an organization founded following a devastating earthquake in 1988, has served hundreds of thousands of people through more than 225 relief and development programs in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. It has chan-



Another abstract by Arthur Pinajian, from 1963

career artists and artist estate collections. Falk is author and publisher of what has long been regarded as an exhaustive biographical dictionary on American art, *Who Was Who in American Art*, a three-volume opus that won the Wittenborn Award for the Best Art Reference Book published in North America, awarded by the Art Libraries Society. Falk also pioneered the documentation of art auction prices with his annual *Art Price Index International* and that data is now online at Artprice.com, the leader in

neled more than \$290 million in humanitarian and development assistance by implementing a wide range of projects including emergency relief, construction, education, medical aid, and economic development.

The exhibition opens on February 13 and will continue through March 10 at Antiquorum, 41 East 57th St. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, or by appointment.

For more information visit www.rediscoveredmasters.com.

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ARTS & LIVING / BOOKS

The Armenian in America Documents Armenian Life throughout the US

LOS ANGELES — *The Armenian in America*, a volume of photographs documenting Armenian life across the United States, was published last month.

Featuring close to 600 photographs with captions, *The Armenian in America* has been in the making for the past four years. The volume is the work of Stepan Partamian, who traveled throughout America in search of Armenian landmarks and establishments, as well as public signs containing Armenian references.

Starting in 2009, when the project was announced, Partamian meticulously researched the destinations he was to document, and embarked on successive road trips, which encompassed most of the continental United States. In addition to his preliminary research, the author met with Armenian communities in various states, both to gain fresh insight into

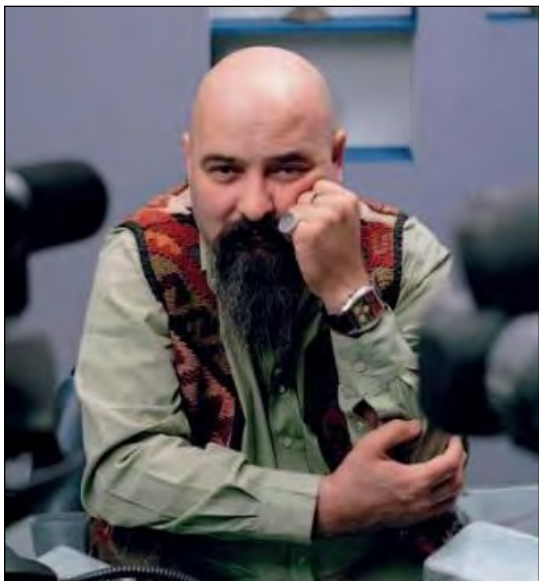
preservation of Armenian culture, but rather believe in nurturing and celebrating its creative energies, its wonderful potential,” Partamian said. “While we Armenian-Americans claim to be proud of our long history in America, most of us don’t know the first thing about Armenian communities beyond the cities or counties in which we live, let alone communities in far-flung states. As I discovered in the past four years, there is a breathtaking diversity of Armenian life in the United States.”

“I sought to document the dazzling tapestry of Armenian-American culture not only given the fact that, amazingly, no one had yet attempted a project of this type, but because I wanted to share the multifaceted nature of our cultural footprint with fellow Armenians, the young generation in particular,” Partamian continued. “Collectively, Armenians suffer from either the superiority complex of a glorious past, or the inferiority complex of a victimized nation. My hope is that, through an initiative like *The Armenian in America*, our compatriots will form a clearer idea of the extent of our presence and accomplishments in this land, and rightfully feel a sense of shared achievement.”

The Armenian in America comprises photographs of Armenian institutions and establishments such as churches, schools, community centers, and businesses; landmarks such as statues, khachkars (stone crosses), Genocide monuments, war-veteran memorials, and various memorial plaques; and public signs such as Armenian street and highway names; and even Armenian flags placed in front of public buildings.

Partamian’s photographs reveal factoids about Armenian-American history. In Ocala, Fla., for instance, the author came across two Armenian churches facing each other, one affiliated with the See of Antelias and one with the See of Echmiadzin. Although the two churches remain Armenian-community-owned, both are rented to non-Armenian congregations, indicating that Armenian church services are no longer held in these houses of worship.

In California, Partamian came across Yettam, the only town in the US with an Armenian name. In Connecticut, he photographed a sign of the Antranig Ozanian Memorial Highway, as well as the memorial stone of Haroutune



Stepan Partamian

local histories and gather further information on Armenian landmarks worthy of inclusion in the book.

Partamian ended up taking thousands of photographs of Armenian sites and signs, which were eventually distilled into *The Armenian in America* — a full-color, 184-page volume documenting Armenian life in every state with an Armenian community, from Arizona to Washington, DC.

“The main reason that this project came about is that I’m not interested in the mere

ALMA Director to Lecture on ‘Treasured Objects: The Extraordinary Lives of Ordinary Things’

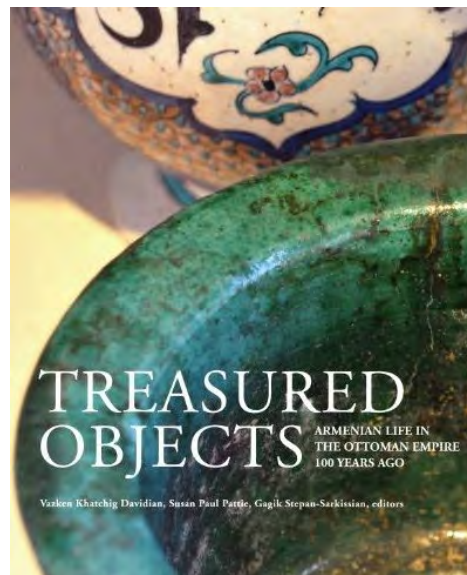
WATERTOWN, Mass. — What things do people keep, hoping to pass them on to the next generations? What stories could these objects tell, if they only had a voice? Dr. Susan Pattie will give a lecture at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) about the rich oral history narratives inspired by ordinary objects, the treasures of every-day life.

Using examples from a recent exhibition in London of Armenian life during Ottoman times, Pattie will show how objects within homes reveal intimate details of past lives as well as the journeys taken to arrive in their present location.

Her recent book, *Treasured Objects: Armenian Life in the Ottoman Empire*, co-authored with colleagues at the Armenian Institute, London, will be available for purchase.

Pattie is a cultural anthropologist and continues her research and writing on the Armenian Diaspora. She is the director of ALMA, senior research fellow at University College London and teaches subjects including “Food, Culture and Identity” and “Sacred Across Cultures.”

ALMA is located at 65 Main St. in Watertown MA, 02472. The lecture will take place on the Contemporary Art Gallery (3rd Floor) at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will follow the presentation.



Daghlian, a physicist with the Manhattan Project who had accidentally irradiated himself in 1945. While in Virginia, Partamian searched for the grave or a memorial of Martin the Armenian, one of the first settlers of the Jamestown Colony. As the author’s search turned up nothing, he looked for and found an extraordinary-looking tree and dedicated it to Martin the Armenian, commenting that just like the Armenian people, the tree would grow and wither, but certainly give rise to new shoots.

The publication of *The Armenian in America* comes on the heels of a series of books by Partamian documenting the contributions of Armenians to American Civilization. In *Yes, We Have* and its sequel, *Yes, We Have Too* as well as an Armenian version, titled *Ayo, Menk enk*, Partamian has documented the con-

tributions of hundreds of Armenian-Americans to their adopted homeland, in fields ranging from science, technology, and literature to politics, journalism and sports.

Partamian said that just as proceeds from the sale of the *Yes, We Have* series helped fund the publication of *The Armenian in America*, proceeds from the sale of the latter volume will benefit his next major project, *The Armenian in the World*.

A sweeping photographic survey of Armenian institutions, landmarks and signs across the entire globe, *The Armenian in the World* will be published just before April 2015, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Medz Yeghern.

The Armenian in America is available for purchase at Armenian bookstores and online at TheArmenian.com.

Book Presentation Organized by Hamazkayin of New York

NEW YORK — The presentation/Kinedzon of Dr. Meline Karakashian’s recently published book, *Gomidas: A Psychological Study*, took place on Friday, December 7, at the Armenian Center. The event was organized by the New York chapter of the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society. The book is published by the Richard and Tina Carolan Literary Fund (Holy See of Cilicia, Antelias) and is available at the bookstore of the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church in New York.

Following the opening remarks by Dr. Ara Caprielian, currently the chairman of the chap-

ter, Karakashian made an engaging presentation, highlighting pivotal points in the life of Gomidas Vartabed. The author emphasized several critical events, affecting the emotional and psychological state of the patriot and the giant of Armenian music. Given the tragic events that befell Gomidas, and for that matter countless Armenians who lived through the harrowing experience of 1915, it would be hardly surprising to note certain behavioral changes or expressions of post-traumatic disorder. Had the knowledge and treatments we now have been available then, Gomidas assuredly would have lived a different life, carrying out his sacred mission in the development, preservation and enhancement of Armenian music. Further elucidations were offered by Karakashian. The reader is encouraged to purchase the book and take the fascinating journey with Gomidas Vartabed. The meticulous research and archival photographs make this worthy study still more interesting.

As Karakashian noted, there still are unstudied archives in Armenia and France, awaiting their researchers.

The in-depth presentation was followed by a lively question-and-answer period. At the conclusion of the program, the executive board of the chapter presented Karakashian with a portrait of Gomidas by artist Minas Minassian. The



At the book sale and signing



Dr. Meline Karakashian, Dr. Ara Caprielian and Roupen Barsoumian at the presentation of the portrait of Gomidas Vartabed

portrait was donated by Hamazkayin member Roupen Barsoumian.

Rev. Mesrob Lakissian, pastor of the St. Illuminator’s Cathedral, performed the tradi-

tional ceremony of Kinedzon. He also made brief remarks and invited the audience to honor the memory of the 1988 earthquake victims by a moment of silence.

Beer: The Book

By Jason Foster

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan, Canada (*Saskatoon's City Magazine*) Every now and then, people ask me how I got so into beer. The short answer is easy: I love to drink the stuff! There's a longer answer of course, which includes developing a passion for everything about brewing quality beer. But a central element in my beer education has also been reading beer-related books. I can't get enough of them. An oft-repeated standby of beer literature is the "beer atlas" – a large, glossy coffee table spread that travels through some of the best beer the world has to offer. The genre was pioneered way back in 1977 by Michael Jackson (the British beer writer, not the creepy singer), but it's been a few years since a quality example was released. That changed this fall, when *The World Atlas of Beer*, co-written by Tim Webb and Canadian Stephen Beaumont, was released. Big, beautiful and informative, it travels the world, offering tasting notes for more than 500 craft beer to be found. A book that offers a more general look at beer overall, rather than specific examples, is *The Brewer's Apprentice*, written by Matt Allyn and Stone Brewing's Greg Koch. Also attractive

and accessible, it intersperses chapters on beer ingredients, processes and styles with profiles of some the US's most respected craft brewers. If humorous stories about beer are more your speed, head straight for one of Pete Brown's books. This British beer writer doesn't aim to educate as much as entertain, although you'll learn a few things in spite of yourself. Brown tells funny stories that glorify beer, and increases the public's appreciation of both its value to civilization and drinking with your mates along the way. His books are both intelligent and wickedly fun. He has three out currently – *Man Walks Into a Pub*, *Three Sheets to the Wind* and *Hops and Glory* – and any of them would make a good gift. When it comes to Canadian content, one thing that's sadly lacking is an equivalent atlas for Canuck beer – but you could do worse than picking up *Brew North* by Ian Coutts, which is a gentle trip through Canada's brewing history. There are more thorough books on Canadian beer history, but none is packaged as well to appeal to casual readers and beer aficionados alike. If your favourite beer lover is thinking about getting into homebrewing, Charlie Papazian's *The Complete Joy of Homebrewing* is an absolute must. It's the longtime bible of introductory homebrewing (and the one I cut my teeth on 20-plus years ago). It's not a light read, but by the time you're done, you'll be completely ready not just for your first batch, but also ready to tackle intermediate and early advanced phases. First published in 1984, when homebrewing was in its

infancy, the latest edition was published in 2003. If that sounds a bit daunting for your budding brewer, start them off with *How to Brew* by John Palmer, which takes you through the process a bit more slowly. It's also a more up-to-date than Joy, but not quite as thorough. What if you have a beer fan also big into politics? The book for them is *Fermenting Revolution* by Mark O'Brien – it's both an homage to the joys of beer and a treatise on how to use beer to change the world. From advancing environmental sustainability and enhancing local economies to undermining patriarchy, O'Brien links good craft beer with important political causes. Written in an upbeat, hopeful tone, it will motivate you to take action with beer to save the world, rather than drown your sorrows in it. How cool is that? Finally, if you have an absolutely crazed, intense beer geek in your life, pony up for a copy of *The Oxford Companion to Beer*, edited by Brooklyn Brewing's Garrett Oliver. Produced by the unparalleled Oxford University Press, Companion is the world's first beer encyclopedia. Literally covering everything from Abbey Beer to zymurgy (the science of yeast fermentation), it has entries addressing beer history, brewing science, beer styles, important breweries and tons of other technical information. While it might not be perfect (there have been complaints about some historical and scientific inaccuracies), it remains the premier resource for the beer-loving equivalent of Big Bang's Sheldon.

Lecture at NAASR by Levon Chookaszian on Artist Arshag Fetvajian

BELMONT, Mass. – Prof. Levon Chookaszian will give an illustrated lecture titled, "The Life and Art of Arshag Fetvajian: Master Armenian Artist," on Thursday, February 7, at 8 p.m. at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), 395 Concord Ave. The lecture is co-sponsored by the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) and NAASR. An exhibition of Fetvajian's work is currently on display at ALMA's third-floor gallery, 65 Main St., Watertown. Fetvajian (1866-1947) was one of the most international of Armenian artists. Though his sophisticated views of late-19th-century European and Armenian scenery and manners have made him the subject of some important exhibitions and studies, there remains a need to take a closer look at Fetvajian. He was born in Trebizond, trained in Ottoman Turkey and Italy, lived in Austria, Russia, Armenia, Georgia, England and the United States and traveled widely. Unfortunately, his works are scattered across the world and many are seldom seen and little known.



The late artist Arshag Fetvajian

Chookaszian's recent work on Fetvajian is the most comprehensive to date in presenting a large number of his artworks, accompanied by a detailed narrative of his life and works in Armenian, Russian and English. Chookaszian is the UNESCO Professor of Armenian Art History at Yerevan State University and one of the leading authorities in the world on Armenian art. He has taught at Yerevan State University since 1978 and is one of the founders of the department of art history. He is the author of many scholarly books and articles on a wide variety of subjects.

This lecture is being given in memory of Arshag Merguerian (1926-2005), architect and an active member and friend of NAASR for nearly 50 years. More information about Chookaszian's lecture may be had by e-mailing hq@naasr.org, or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.



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MICHIGAN

JANUARY 26 – St. John Armenian Church Dinner and Dance at Cultural Hall, honoring Zabel Belian and the late Dr. Garabed Belian, with music by Harry Hovakimian Ensemble; 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield; RSVP Nora Azadian at (248) 757-2320.



St. John Armenian Church will host a dinner and dance at the cultural hall, honoring Zabel Belian and the late Dr. Garabed Belian on January 26, with music by the Harry Hovakimian Ensemble; 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield, MI; RSVP Nora Azadian at (248) 757-2320.

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COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Moment of Truth in Jerusalem

By Edmond Y. Azadian

An eerie silence reigns over the Armenian news media, both in Armenia and in the diaspora, on one of the most crucial issues facing the entire Armenian world. Indeed, the election of a patriarch in Jerusalem is around the corner when the Brotherhood of St. James convenes on January 23.

We cannot lull ourselves into believing that this is an issue which concerns only the Brotherhood, or for that matter only Armenians. What happens at the Armenian Patriarchate on that date has far broader ramifications than many of us believe. The interested outside parties have their own plans. Rival churches have their own. Indeed, the only people indifferent to these developments appear to be the Armenians who hold the key to the situation. All that needs to be done is to use that key wisely to preserve the treasures and the legal rights which our ancestors have attained through blood and sweat over the centuries.

The Armenian Patriarchate in Jerusalem traces its roots all the way to the sixth century, when a congregation and monastery were established. Without enjoying the support and the protection of a powerful Armenian state, the Armenian Patriarchate has won and maintained equal rights along with the Greeks and Catholics and it controls one sixth of the Old City.

In addition to legal and ceremonial privileges, the Patriarchate has vast real estate holdings to the envy of other denominations and ruling authorities of Jerusalem. After the Matenadaran in Yerevan, the Patriarchate boasts the largest collection of Armenian ancient manuscripts which have been jealously guarded and catalogued by the monks, the last one being Bishop Norayr Bogharian of blessed memory.

Although Greeks have suffered the same bitter fate at the hands of the Turks as have the Armenians, Jerusalem has been a place where historically there has not been any empathy from the Greek Patriarchate toward the Armenians. On the contrary, they have taken every opportunity to trample Armenian rights, the last one being recorded in the Church of the Nativity. There are probably more problems in store in this relationship, in view of the rapprochement between Israel and Cyprus in exploring the continental shelf of the island for oil and gas, despite threats issued by Ankara.

The rights of different faiths are guaranteed and governed by the clauses of the Status Quo, decreed by the Ottoman Sultan in the 1850s.

The Status Quo protects the rights of each denomination against encroachment by the other churches. For the convenience of the authorities ruling the holy places, that covenant also discourages any interference by outside powers. However, historically the Vatican has been successful in influencing the conduct of the local authorities as well as the Russians and the Greeks. Only the Armenians have failed to exert any influence, seldom having a sovereign or powerful government. Additionally, the Brotherhood has been loath to encourage any outside influence nor has it sought advice from any hierarchical authority. And the weaker the Brotherhood has become, the more it has overplayed its authority, sometimes to the detriment of the Patriarchate's interests.

We all remember the degree of importance the Armenian Quarter attained when it became a political hot potato at the Camp David negotiations. Since the future of Jerusalem has not been determined yet, the destiny of the Patriarchate still hangs in the balance.

As the Brotherhood convenes for the election, all the challenges facing the Patriarchate must be the prime concern rather than the personalities – and likes and dislikes – of the potential candidates. A responsibility of historic magnitude rests on the shoulders of each member of the Brotherhood.

We may briefly outline those challenges, and the Brotherhood in its wisdom may decide on the commensurate qualities of the candidates and cast their votes, realizing fully the far-reaching consequences of that vote.

The Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem will remain a bone of contention between the Israelis and the Palestinians for the foreseeable future. And when the historic opportunity arises for a final settlement, that person at the helm will determine the future course of history for the Armenian Patriarchate. The Brotherhood has to

foresee who the best individual will be for that watershed moment.

Until 1967, and following the take over of Jerusalem by Israel, two clergymen demonstrated their diplomatic skills in maneuvering between the feuding forces to preserve the interests of the Patriarchate. Those leaders were the much maligned late Patriarch Yeghishhe Derderian and the Chancellor, Archbishop Shahe Ajemian.

Our skirmishes with the Greeks and Ethiopians will continue, perhaps even intensifying. Determination, patience and diplomacy have to play their role, alternately, as the case may warrant, so that no legal or ceremonial rights are compromised.

Nowhere in the world does the Armenian Church possess more holdings than in Jerusalem. And those properties have whetted the appetites of many parties.

Historically real estate has been poorly managed in Jerusalem, costing tremendous losses. Any property leased for 99 years, as the precedents have demonstrated, must be considered lost. Because, in time, real estate changes its value and the legal manipulations by hostile parties may take their toll. The patriarch himself cannot be a real estate expert, but must have the prudence of delegating the responsibility to the clergy or lay parties, skilled in the trade.

Property management in the hands of clergy has historically proven to be a losing proposition. Not only have Armenians lost valuable property in Jerusalem, but also in Venice, where the Mkhitarist fathers lost \$50 million worth of property, claiming that it was only the monastery's business and no one else's. The properties in Jerusalem and elsewhere have been donated by benefactors or been acquired through the contributions of ordinary church members and, the clergy, in principle, plays the role of custodian rather than owner.

For many centuries the Jerusalem Patriarchate has served as the center of academic activities, producing a valuable body of scholarly works. Recent years have seen a sharp decline in scholarship, somehow indicating that the historic mission has been abandoned.

The collection of rich manuscripts and historic documents, coupled with an invigorated leadership may warrant the resumption of that historic role. Especially throughout the 20th century, when Echmiadzin was under Soviet rule, Jerusalem assumed the role of educating young members of the clergy who eventually all took leadership positions throughout the diasporan churches and they continue serving eminently. As Echmiadzin is in the process of catching up in its role of clergy training, a heavy responsibility still rests on the shoulders of the Jerusalem Patriarchate in that area.

The Patriarchate at one time had been physically and spiritually catering to a thriving community in Jerusalem. The dwindling population of that community has added responsibilities to the Patriarchate's leadership.

As the election date approaches, we have yet to witness a consensus among membership of the Brotherhood around a leading candidate.

There are precedents when the Brotherhood elected patriarchs outside its ranks, but we believe deserving members may emerge from within – a candidate trained in Jerusalem and who has served around the world, with broad experience in the Armenian Church structure as well as in the ecumenical realm; a clergyman fluent in several languages and with experience with many dioceses.

Certainly age discrimination cannot be a consideration, but age eventually may become a factor in an atrophied leadership as it happened with the late patriarch.

Also, whether we like it or not, a silent tug-of-war continues behind the scenes, between the forces that have divided the Armenian Church and the forces that uphold the supremacy of the Holy See and Echmiadzin. Any candidate with a record of standing for the unity of the Armenian Church will not only contribute to Jerusalem, but also to the healing process of disunity through the entire structure of the church.

As we can see, the challenges are great and overwhelming. When a new patriarch is elected, he will need the cooperation and the talents of the entire Brotherhood.

We do hope the members of the Brotherhood will be able to envision the historic perspective over their personal priorities and rise to the occasion. The challenges are overwhelming, the choices are painful but the impact of individual visions is critical.

This is no time for personal ambitions – the moment of truth is approaching in Jerusalem.

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

telephone number.

- Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is 12 noon on Monday of the week of publication.
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- 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.

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Defense Secretary Nominee Owes Apology to Armenian-Americans

Most political observers predict a contentious hearing in the Armed Services Committee and later in the full Senate on the confirmation of former Sen. Chuck Hagel, President Obama's nominee as the next Secretary of Defense.

During his 12 years in the Senate, Hagel, a Republican, managed to offend a slew of constituencies, including conservative Senators of his own political party, as well as Jewish Americans, Armenian-Americans, Cuban-Americans, and gays.

In order to appease his critics and secure Senate's confirmation, Senator Hagel has been busy in recent days issuing retractions and apologies to various groups.

Upon learning of Hagel's nomination, Jewish-American organizations harshly criticized him for being soft on Iran and hard on Israel, and for stating that "the Jewish lobby" in the United States "intimidates a lot of people."

Senator Hagel responded by telling *The Lincoln Journal Star* on January 7 that his record demonstrates "unequivocal, total support for Israel" and endorsement of tough economic sanctions against Iran. There is "not one shred of evidence that I'm anti-Israeli, not one [Senate] vote that matters hurt Israel," Hagel told the newspaper.

The nominee also backed down from his opposition to

ambassadorial nominee James Hormel in 1998 whom he had called "openly, aggressively gay." He issued an apology last week to gay rights groups, stating that his earlier comments were "insensitive."

However, the nominee for Defense Secretary remains unapologetic regarding his highly insensitive remarks on the Armenian Genocide.

During a press conference in Yerevan on June 2, 2005, Senator Hagel expressed his opposition to a pending congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide: "Historians and others should deal with it. But, I don't think that the United States Government should become involved in the issue based on a resolution or any other way. What happened in 1915, happened in 1915. As one United States Senator, I think the better way to deal with this is to leave it open to historians and others to decide what happened and why." This happens to be the exact position of the denialist Turkish regime on the Armenian Genocide.

Senator Hagel went on to tell Armenian journalists: "The fact is that this region needs to move forward. We need to find a lasting peace between Turkey and Armenia and the other nations of this region. I am not sure that by going back and dealing with that in some way that causes one side or the other to be put in difficult spot, helps move the peace process forward." These comments were simply intended to cover-up the Turkish crime of genocide.

Senator Hagel's pronouncements against the recognition of the Armenian Genocide are highlighted by his expressions of admiration for Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, who continued the genocide initiated by the predecessor regime. It is not surprising that the Ataturk Society of America presented Senator Hagel, the Ataturk Society's Leadership Award on May 19, 2005, two weeks before going to Armenia and endorsing the Turkish government's views on the Armenian Genocide.

Hurriyet newspaper quoted Senator Hagel as making the following highly laudatory statement about the Father of modern Turkey in a 2008 speech: "Ataturk is one of the

most valuable leaders of the 21st century. Children in the United States know nothing about this great leader. They should teach about him in schools and write about him in history books. Ataturk played a leading role in shaping today's world."

Armenian-Americans and human rights activists, who are deeply concerned about Hagel's nomination, were quoted in an article by Adam Kredo in *Washington Free Beacon* titled, "Chuck Hagel has an Armenian Problem." Here are some of their statements:

- "We remain troubled by former Senator Hagel's acceptance of Ankara's gag-rule on American honesty about the Armenian Genocide," ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian stated.

- "We expect a rigorous confirmation process which will also serve as an opportunity for Senator Hagel to forthrightly acknowledge the US record on the Armenian Genocide," stated Bryan Ardouny, executive director of the Armenian Assembly of America.

- "On the eve of the Holocaust, Hitler mockingly asked, 'Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?' Not Chuck Hagel, apparently," stated Rafael Medoff, director of the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies.

- "What Chuck Hagel said in his press conference in Armenia in 2005 regarding the genocide of Armenians by Turks is shameful," said Walter Reich, former director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. "In his forthcoming confirmation hearings, senators should confront him with what he said and should expect him to address it."

- Hagel's opposition to U.S. recognition of the Armenian genocide "betrays a shocking lack of moral leadership," stated Thane Rosenbaum, Fordham University Law Professor.

Unless Senator Hagel apologizes for his "insensitive" remarks on the Armenian Genocide, Armenian-Americans should urge the Senate to block his confirmation.

LETTERS

Remembering Dr. Varant Hagopian

To the Editor:

It is always difficult to lose a public servant in our Armenian community. It is even harder if such an individual was as multifaceted and dedicated to his church and organizations as much as Dr. Varant Hagopian manifested throughout his life.

A respected ophthalmologist and named one of Boston Magazine's top eye doctors, Dr. Hagopian never possessed any pretensions of grandeur, yet he was grand in his own humble way.

Whether it was his role with the Armenian Prelacy or with the Friends of Armenian Culture Society (FACS), Dr. Hagopian was a visionary who sought to keep his people united and strong.

Whether he did it through generous philanthropy or rolled up his sleeves, he never settled for mediocrity.

My best impression of the man was not on some dais accepting an award or the many titles he held throughout his active life. That is not what personified his character.

Instead, it was moments at Symphony Hall when he was surrounded by members of his family, exposing his children and grandchildren to fine music. He was truly in his element at Armenian Night at the Pops.

His passion for classical music and the Armenian performing arts made him a somewhat inveterate fan.

No doubt, the organization would never have prospered and persevered had it not been for his expertise and insight as a valued committee member and catalyst. He served on the planning committee and delighted in seeing his efforts culminate on stage with some of the world's greatest musicians and conductors.

Despite all his other accomplishments, the devotion he had to his wife Ruth and members of his family remains his biggest legacy.

-Tom Vartabedian
Haverhill, MA

Possible Emergence of Independent Kurdistan Expected to Impact Armenia

By Naira Hayrumyan

The events currently unfolding in the Middle East could lead to a major redrawing of the boundaries in the region, with the emergence of a new state, Kurdistan, in the Kurdish-populated areas of Iraq, Syria and Turkey. Some international experts already speak openly about such a possibility. And such a prospect will have a bearing on Armenia as well, since it may potentially get a new neighbor.

Iraqi Kurdistan is a de facto independent. Syria's Kurdish-populated areas are also close to achieving independence from Damascus and their reunion is no longer deemed as a fanciful scenario. At present, the Turkish government is doing everything to prevent the Turkish Kurds from joining the growing national-liberation movement of Kurds in the Middle East.

The Kurdistan Workers' Party, better known as PKK, has long been fighting for autonomy in Turkey, and for 40 years Ankara has waged an uncompromising struggle against Kurdish separatism.

Sensing the danger recently, however, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has decided to resume talks with the PKK leader, Abdullah Ocalan, who is now serving a life sentence in a Turkish jail. According to Turkish media, Ocalan allegedly assured Ankara that his party was fighting not for independence and establishment of Kurdistan, but only for autonomy within Turkey.

Apparently, Turkey is thinking over granting autonomy to its Kurds and facilitating the creation of Kurdistan on the territories of Syria and Iraq. Some reports indicate that Erdogan is contemplating a visit to Washington next month for the lobbying of this issue.

However, the killing of three Kurdish female activists in Paris, France, a few days ago was, apparently, aimed at disrupting the Turkish-Kurdish reconciliation plan. More and more experts now are inclined to believe that Turkey will eventually be divided.

It is not completely clear how a possible Kurdish autonomy in Turkey could be established — if it could at all — or what lands an emerging independent Kurdistan could claim from Turkey, but some Armenian experts already now fear that the plans may also affect the territories of historical Armenia that are now under Turkish control. Technically, Kurdish lands are situated south of so-called Western

Armenia, but the issue of historical Armenian lands in Turkey will not be avoided in the event of a major revision of borders in the region.

Officials in Ankara acknowledge that Turkey may be in trouble in view of the approaching year 2015 — the centennial of the Ottoman-era Armenian Genocide that successive Turkish governments have refused to admit. The possible recognition of the Armenian Genocide on its 100th anniversary by the United States will inevitably lead to territorial claims to Turkey from Armenia.

Turkey clearly understands this and recent ethnically motivated attacks against Armenians in Turkey provides further proof of Turkey's awareness. Three ethnic Armenians have recently fallen victim to apparent racist attacks in Istanbul. An elderly woman and a man who taught at a local Armenian school have been brutally murdered, with their throats cut, while another woman escaped with a severe injury after a taxi driver attacked her only because she spoke Armenian.

This is likely to exacerbate Armenian-Turkish troubled relations. Yerevan has not made any statement regarding this point, but Armenia is seeing large-scale preparations for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, which in itself, is a strong message and challenge to their more powerful neighbor.

Director of the Yerevan-based Modus Vivendi think tank, former Ambassador to Canada Ara Papien thinks that Armenia needs to be developing its relations with the Kurds. This alliance, he says, is necessary no matter what — whether the Kurds manage to dismember

Turkey and achieve autonomy in Turkish territory, or if they just continue fighting for independence.

Yerevan has never made any formal territorial claims to Turkey, but Armenia still does not recognize the current borders of the Turkish Republic formed under the 1921 Treaty of Moscow. This is also enshrined in the constitution of the Republic of Armenia.

Meanwhile, voices in support of another international document, the Treaty of Sevres that was signed between the Ottoman Empire and the Allies at the end of World War I, are getting louder within the public and political circles of Armenia. Turkey subsequently refused to ratify the treaty that implied the establishment of so-called Wilsonian Armenia, the boundary configuration of the Armenian state drawn by the then US President Woodrow Wilson to incorporate some of the formerly Armenian-populated areas of the Ottoman Empire and provide democratic Armenia with an outlet to the Black Sea.

(Naira Hayrumyan is an ArmeniaNow Correspondent.)

AGBU Young Professionals of Boston Hold Successful Christmas Fundraiser

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — On Saturday, January 12, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Young Professionals (YP) of Boston held the third Annual Armenian Christmas Party Fundraiser at Nubar restaurant, in the historic Sheraton Commander Hotel. The event is now known as AGBU YP Boston’s signature event and Armenian young professionals from Boston as well as other parts of New England attended the holiday festivities.

Guests enjoyed appetizers and cocktails in the bar and lounge area of Nubar all while supporting an important initiative.

This year the young professionals chose to raise funds for a Pan-YP Greenhouse Project, which will be funded, developed and implemented by AGBU YP groups around the world. The Greenhouse Project will provide sustainability and self-sufficiency to the 400 at-risk villagers in Barekamavan, Armenia, in the Tavush region, located treacherously close to the Azeri border. The greenhouses will provide a source of income for the villagers and will help ensure the survival and sovereignty of Armenia’s borders.

The 2012 chairperson, Laura Michael, spoke briefly to acknowledge the committee’s hard work and also welcomed several new committee members for 2013. While explaining the importance of the Greenhouse Project she thanked all attendees and donors

and concluded by saying, “I hope that all of you can one day visit Barekamavan and see the greenhouses that you all had a part in building.”

YP Boston is in the midst of planning several upcoming events, including a happy hour on March 14 at Mead Hall in Cambridge.



From left, Chris Mensoian, Tamara Tsaturyan, Narine Karapetyan, Haik Diloyan, Michael Guleserian, Laura Michael, Charlie Larkin and Irina Nanagoulian

The 2013 AGBU YP Boston Steering committee is composed of Chairperson Irina Nanagoulian, Vice Chair Laura Michael, Secretary Charlie Larkin, Treasurer Haik Diloyan and committee members Armine Afeyan, Julie Fabbucci, Anna Haleblan, Narine Karepetyan, Chris Mensoian, Nicole Meregian and Tamara Tsaturyan.

For more information about the chapter, volunteer opportunities or donations, find AGBU YP Boston on Facebook or contact the committee directly at ypboston@gmail.com or at <http://agbuypboston.webs.com>. For further information regarding the Greenhouse Project, visit www.agbu.org/ypsgogreen.

Ukraine Takes Over OSCE Chairmanship

KIEV (Public Radio of Armenia) – Ukraine will seek to make progress on resolving protracted conflicts, strengthening conventional arms control, combating human trafficking, reducing the environmental impact of energy-related activities, and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) chair in 2013, Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara, said last week.

Kozhara, the incoming chairman, highlighted his country’s role and experience as a co-mediator and guarantor in the Transdnistrian settlement process and welcomed the momentum achieved in these talks over the past year.

Ukraine would also be working to make progress in arms control and confidence-building measures, he stated, as a way of strengthening security and military stability.

Energy security in terms of the environmental impact of energy-related activities is another of Ukraine’s priorities for the year. “One of the specific issues that merits a distinct place in our political dialogue within the OSCE is energy security, in particular its environmental aspects,” said the minister.

Emphasizing that protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and implementation of existing OSCE commitments in this area remain an important integral part of the OSCE’s concept of comprehensive security, Kozhara said that Ukraine’s chairmanship would promote the fight against human trafficking, support media freedom and encourage meaningful steps in a number of human dimension issues.

He praised the achievements of the outgoing Irish chairmanship.

“Ukraine sees its Chairmanship mission as further promoting the conditions that would lead to change in our mindsets – from confrontational thinking to a co-operative approach,” the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office said.

Spotlight on the Members of the Jerusalem Brotherhood: Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

BROTHERHOOD, from page 1

The first was within the Armenian Church, serving various Armenian communities. From 1972 to 1974, he served as dragoman or translator for the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. From 1975 to 1976, he served in the churches of the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople, becoming the assistant to Patriarch Shnorhik Kalustyan. Later, he was appointed as the pastor of the Armenian community of Switzerland. From 1980 to 1992, he organized the Armenian communities of Zurich, Bern, Kreuzlingen and Lugano, in addition to Geneva, which served as his headquarters. He then was appointed as the first Primate of the newly-formed Armenian Diocese of Switzerland, and he continued serving in this capacity from 1992 to 1996.

About a decade after the Armenian earthquake of Leninakan and Spitak, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America appointed Bishop Aykazian as director of the Fund for Armenian Relief’s Yerevan office in 1997, and he held this philanthropic position until 1999.

Aykazian’s former classmate, Archbishop Barsamian, appointed him as Diocesan Legate in Washington, DC, a position which Archbishop Papken Varjabedian had previously held for many years.

Aykazian also carried out wide-ranging and impressive activities in the international ecumenical arena. As early as 1985, he began to represent the Catholicosate of All Armenians in the World Council of Churches on various boards. From 1982 to 1992, he participated in the Council’s Orthodox Task Force, and from 1991 to 1999, he held important positions on the Council’s Mission and Evangelism Unit 2. He continues until today to serve on the executive board of the Council.

In 2007, he was elected president of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA for the years 2008 and 2009, thus becoming the first Oriental Orthodox clergyman to hold this extremely prestigious ecumenical position. Although the Catholic Church is not part of this council, 37 different Christian churches are members, including the Evangelical, Anglican, Protestant, Orthodox and historic African-American churches which represent 45 million Americans organized in over 100,000 congregations throughout the country.

Of course, it is challenging to carry out a constructive mission in such an assemblage of Christians from different denominations, races, languages, ideologies and orientations. To his credit, Aykazian was fully worthy of his office.

It is also important to note that Aykazian received a doctorate in 1999 from the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia. He completed his doctoral course requirements at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland, at its Faculty of Catholic Theology. He previously had received a bachelor of divinity degree from King’s College in London, and studied pastoral theology in St. Augustine’s College in Canterbury.

Last year he participated in the pilgrimage organized by the Diocese in New York to historic Armenia (in present-day Turkey).

He is a clergyman with tremendous energy and dedication. He is loyal to the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin and a defender of the traditions and customs of the Church of Armenia.

His sociable and balanced demeanor and his dedication to his calling and belief in hard work make him a standout member of the Armenian clergy leadership. He is a man of calling with vision and vigor.

(Translated from the original Armenian)



Artwork by Zabel Belian

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As we dine, dance and enjoy a medley of international music by

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Each year the Metro Detroit Chapter of the Tekeyan Cultural Association hosts an annual Holiday party in January to raise funds for two major projects: the Sponsor a Teacher Program and the Orphans Higher Education Fund. The Sponsor a Teacher Program supports five schools, four in Armenia and one in Nagorno Karabagh, with funds designated to assist the underpaid educators ensuring they are able to continue educating the children.

The Orphans Higher Education Fund is designed to offer educational assistance to Armenian orphans and help to prepare them for an independent life. While the cost to attend university is modest by our standards, the tuition per year is a huge expense in the eyes of an orphan.

The Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization and your donation is tax exempt to the fullest extent allowed by law. The potential of such an investment is immeasurable. It has the power to change lives and offer hope and inspiration.

Please plan on joining us this year to have some fun and do some good!