

Dink Assassination Anniversary Commemorated

ISTANBUL (Combined Sources) — Thousands of people gathered in the Sisli district of Istanbul to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the assassination of Hrant Dink, a Turkish journalist of Armenian origin on January 19.

The crowd stood in homage at 3:05 p.m., the exact time of Dink's death, in front of the *Agos* newspaper building where he was killed. Hidayet Sevkati Tuksal, a daily *Taraf* journalist, American linguist Noam Chomsky and Raket Dink, Dink's widow, spoke. The



Raket Dink, left, and Noam Chomsky, center, speak in Istanbul.

crowd also listened to a recorded speech Dink had given prior to his death.

Dink was murdered on January 19, 2007, in front of the offices of *Agos*, the paper where he worked, by Ogün Samast, a 17-year-old Turkish nationalist. After a two-year trial, Samast was convicted of premeditated murder and sentenced to 22 years and 10 months in prison.

The court also ruled that Dink's murder was not an organized crime despite serious claims that some civil servants linked to the "deep state" were "indirectly" involved, to the dismay of Dink's family.

The Friends of Hrant Dink organization,



Flowers covered the sidewalk where Dink had been killed.

established in memory of the late journalist, called the event "Buradayiz Ahparig!" (We are here, brother).

Following the commemoration, the

crowd walked to Taksim square, shouting slogans such as, "We all are Hrant, we all are Armenian."

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Dink Remembered at St. James Program

WATERTOWN — The numbers six and 17 played a symbolic role in the January 20 talk delivered by Ümit Kurt during a post-service program hosted by the Friends of Hrant Dink at St. James Armenian Church. These numbers served as a reminder of the loss of the Turkish-Armenian journalist — six for the number of years since Dink's assassination and 17 for the number of assailants who have yet to be punished for taking his life.

By Gabriella Gage
Mirror-Spectator Staff

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Ümit Kurt speaks to the community during memorial coffee hour.

Dickran Abasian Receives Boghos Nubar Pasha Medal

ATHENS — Dickran Abasian, chairman of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) District Committee of Greece received the Boghos Nubar Pasha medal of service from the Ministry of Diaspora of Armenia for his 40 years of service and dedication to the Armenian Community of Greece through the AGBU Kalpakian Daily School, the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, the Ararat Cultural Association and the weekly *Nor Ashkharh*.

Abasian graduated from Melkonian Educational Institute of Cyprus and trained as a computer data analyst. He has been chairman of the AGBU Athens chapter for more than two decades. At the same time, he has served in leadership positions at the local ADL chapter and Ararat Cultural Association. For many years, he managed the *Nor Ashkharh* weekly newspaper of the ADL, which is published in Greek, Armenian and English.

The medal was bestowed on him on December 28 by the Ambassador of Armenia to Greece Gagik Ghalajian during an official ceremony at the Armenian Embassy in Athens.



Ambassador Gagik Ghalajian, left, and Dickran Abasian

Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian Dies

BILLERICA, Mass. — The Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian, of Billerica, died on January 20, 2013. He was 78.

Born in Cambridge, on April 17, 1934, to Melkon and Mary Samoorian, Samoorian was baptized Diran. He attended public school in Arlington and graduated from Lexington High School. Even though he grew up very much an American, his Armenian ethos was breathed into his soul by his late grandmother who sang Armenian hymns to him while he was a young boy. He received numerous art awards; won a scholarship in 1951 to study mural painting in Verona, Italy, and attended the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts. When he turned 16, an awareness of his Armenian heritage emerged, and he began attending the Holy Trinity and then the St. James Churches in Boston and Watertown, respectively.

He majored in history and government at Boston University. From 1954 to 1956 he served in the US Army's military intelligence



Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian

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Turkish Embassy Staff Attack Dink Protestors

LONDON (hetq.com) — On January 18, the eve of the anniversary of the 2007 murder of journalist Hrant Dink in Istanbul, Eilian Williams, leader of the Cardiff organization Solidarity with the Victims of All Genocides, and one of his colleagues were physically attacked by the members of the Turkish Embassy in London.

The attack occurred when Williams and his colleague attempted to deliver a letter of protest to Ambassador Ahmet Ünal Ceviköz. The embassy staff refused to accept the letter and one of its members attacked Williams.

Williams' clothes were torn and a police officer had to intervene to prevent the attack from escalating. Williams was then expelled from the embassy.

In his letter, Williams called on Turkey's ambassador to answer the question: "Who kills the Armenians in Istanbul?," referring to an article by Jenny White published on January 11 at Boston University.

Armenian History to Be Taught in Georgia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Armenian history will soon be included in the curriculum of Georgian schools.

During a visit to Yerevan on January 18, Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili made this promise to the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Catholics of All Armenians Karekin II.

At their meeting Karekin II reiterated his request that the Georgian Diocese transfer control of several historic Armenian churches to the Armenian Apostolic Church. He expressed his hope that Georgian authorities would consider his request.

Ivanishvili said he would personally oversee the maintenance of Armenian churches in Georgia.

The ethnic Armenian community in Georgia is mostly concentrated in Tbilisi and the southern Javakhk province, which borders Armenia.

Armenian Pupils Win Six Medals at Olympiad

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (Panorama.am) — The Armenian team won six medals in the science and math categories at the ninth international Zhautikova Olympiad. The students earned a total of three silver and three bronze medals.

39 teams from 13 countries with 350 participants took part in the Olympiad. According to the Education and Science Ministry press office, the winning 2013 Armenian students were Edgar Minasyan Edgar, mathematics, 11th class, silver medal; Narek Hovsepyan, mathematics, 12th class, silver medal; Alexander Petrosyan, physics, 12th class, bronze medal; Razmik Hovhannisyan, physics, 12th class, bronze medal; Alvert Sahakyan, informatics, 12th class, silver medal; Karen Hambardzumyan, informatics, 12th class, bronze medal.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Sargisian Puts Turkish Initiative on Hold

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – According to President Serge Sargisian, Armenia will not take any initiative in the development of more positive Armenian-Turkish relations in the near future.

Sargisian discussed this issue during the meeting with the residents of Avan administrative district of Yerevan on January 21.

“In case Turks don’t ratify Armenian-Turkish protocols, we will just reconsider our decision and remove the issue from the agenda of National Assembly and say that our signatures under the document are invalid. Everything has its time and deadline,” Sargisian explained.

He noted that if Turks want to start negotiations in future, there will have to be new conditions and terms negotiated. “I don’t regret [...] the efforts made and the time lost,” he said, reminding the critics from Armenia and the Diaspora as well.

Presidential Election Kicks off

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The race to become Armenia’s next president has officially started.

Eight candidates, including incumbent Serge Sargisian, will take part in the presidential election on February 18.

According to the country’s electoral laws, the candidates have a right to 60 minutes of free air time on public television and 120 minutes of free time on public radio.

However, purchases of air time for advertisements on public television are limited to 120 minutes and they can buy no more than 180 minutes on public radio during the campaign.

Sargisian said in an interview on January 19 that the presidential election will be held in a “competitive” way.

Sargisian plans to make a television address to voters on February 16, the last day that campaigning is allowed.

US, Armenia Establish Nuclear Forensics Lab

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – On January 18, Ambassador John A. Heffern joined officials from the Armenian Ministry of Energy and National Security Service to open the Armenian Nuclear Forensics Laboratory at the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant (ANPP).

The US Department of State’s Preventing Nuclear Smuggling Program (PNSP) partnered with the ANPP to establish a Laboratory for Technical and Forensic Analysis of Nuclear and Radioactive Materials as part of a joint effort to strengthen Armenian capabilities to respond to the transnational threat of nuclear smuggling.

The laboratory will allow Armenia to collect nuclear and radiologically contaminated evidence at crime scenes and perform technical analysis necessary to support the prosecution of smugglers. New opportunities could arise for Armenia to cooperate with governments investigating illicit uses of nuclear material. Additionally, the facility will likely advance aspects of the 2010 Nuclear Security Summit work plan discussed at the 2012 summit in the Republic of Korea.

PNSP is a US Department of State program. PNSP works globally to counter nuclear smuggling. By improving nuclear forensics practices and cooperation, it is hoped that countries will be able to counter nuclear smuggling.

Raffi Hovannisian Meets With UK Ambassador

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Presidential candidate Raffi Hovannisian met with UK Ambassador to Armenia Catherine Lich on January 22. The two discussed the upcoming presidential elections in Armenia and highlighted the importance of holding free and fair elections in accordance with international standards.



Grandmasters Tigran Petrosian and Anna Hayrapetyan

Petrosian, Hayrapetyan Win National Chess Championships

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Grandmaster Tigran Petrosian was crowned male champion at the recent National Championships of Armenia. Anna Hayrapetyan was crowned champion in the women’s championship competition.

Based on this result, both victors acquired the right to become members of their respective national teams.

This was Petrossian’s second consecutive national title.

Some Syrian Armenians Hope Learning Russian Will Help Them to Better Integrate

By Julia Hakobyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Diranouhi Garabedian diligently pronounces: “Ya lyublyu russkii yazik” (I love the Russian language). The teacher corrects her, praises, asks a new question.

Garabedian is 42, but this is not the surprising part of her attending Russian language courses. Garabedian is an Armenian refugee from Syria who says she wants to learn Russian because she realizes it comes in handy for better adaptation in Yerevan. She also hopes that some day she will be able to read some classic Russian literature in the original language. Her husband and son also attend the same classes.

The family moved to Armenia a year and a half ago, because of the ongoing conflict in Syria, which has been going on for two years. They say that in the beginning it was hard to adjust to the life in Yerevan, but by now, when they get used to life in a new country, they are thinking of staying in Yerevan forever.

“The Russian language is the second language in Armenia, and we thought, since we stay here, we have to learn it, because it is being widely practiced in Yerevan. Russian words are heard in everyday speech and can be seen in markets, in streets, in restaurants. I think if we acquire basic knowledge it will be very helpful to us,” says Garabedian, who herself is a teacher of Armenian language at Yerevan’s Cilician school. (The school was opened last year for the Syrian Armenian students, who study a Syrian curriculum in Arabic.)

Garabedian is one of nine Syrian Armenian students who attend the newly opened Russian courses organized specially for them at the Russian Training Center of the Rossotrudnichestvo agency in Armenia (The Federal Agency for the Commonwealth of Independent States). Russian classes for Syrian Armenians started two weeks ago and are held three times a week.

Victor Krivopuskov, the head of the Culture and Science center of the agency says they were ready to organize the classes for free, but Syrian Armenians said they prefer to pay for it.

“Learning a language requires consistency and it was their desire to pay in order to treat to it seriously. I am not surprised that a group of Syrian Armenians, even a small one, wants to learn Russian, because the language is in high demand in Armenia. Though they are some opponents of the use of Russian in Armenia, it is obvious that Russian language is very important to Armenia, since it has its biggest Diaspora in Russia (about 2 million) and therefore, many ties. Russian remain the major investor in

Armenia, and Russia currently fully or partially owns many enterprises in fuel and energy, metallurgical and construction sectors. In Armenia, there are about 1,500 Russian companies, and of course, people who work there have to know Russian very well.”

Meanwhile, Krivopuskov says the agency will soon organize classes for another group of Syrian Armenians, and now the agency is considering the possibility of employment of Syrian Armenians, since many of them are well educated and can be engaged in Russian-Armenian companies.

Thousands of ethnic Armenians have fled the bloody conflict in Syria and about 5,000 of them have come to Armenia. While about 2,000 left Armenia lately for yet another country, others try to adjust to the life in Armenia, waiting to the conflict’s end.

Others, like Garabedian’s family who learn Russian, regards the possibility of staying in Armenia on a permanent basis even after the conflict ends.

The family of Garen Balkhian, another student in the Russian classes also intends to stay in Armenia. The 17-year-old Balkhian is a student of the Cilician school.

“For the first time I heard Russian speech in movies and decided to learn it, because many of my Yerevan friends speaks Russian,” says Balkhian, who intends to study business and economy.

As for Garabedian, moving to Yerevan pushed her to think on acquiring another profession, and now she is a first grade student of the Romano-German philology at Yerevan State University.

“I know Armenian, Arabic, Turkish and I know a little French. As many languages a person knows, the more advantages she has,” she says.

Armenia May Be Looking to Russia For Security of Karabagh flights

By Naira Hayrumyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Late last week the subject of the Stepanakert airport unexpectedly again appeared in the news as information came from Karabagh that the first Yerevan-Stepanakert commercial flight could be operated within days (the fourth time such a prediction has surfaced).

In response, the Azerbaijani government ordered the country’s air defense forces to shoot down civilian aircraft “illegally entering its airspace.”

Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian, in turn, said that Armenia’s anti-aircraft defense would ensure the safety of civilian aircraft flying from Yerevan to Stepanakert.

Only a very good reason and a significant change in the current balance of forces could make it possible to launch the flights of civilian or military aircraft to and from the recently renovated airport near Stepanakert. Azerbaijan does not change its policy of isolating Karabagh, and it is military rather than political guarantees that are needed for such flights.

Experts say such guarantee could be military presence in Karabagh of one or more states. Some do not exclude that the new military-technical agreement between Armenia and Russia involves the deployment in Karabagh of new powerful missile systems and certain security guarantees from Russia.

Speaking at a meeting with the heads of all branches of government on January 15, Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan described the Armenian-Russian cooperation as the core of Armenia’s security. But this cooperation does not apply to Karabagh yet, and the Russian authorities have never hidden their desire to send peacekeepers to Karabagh.

During a meeting with journalists on January 18 Ohanian said “the Armenian-Russian military-technical cooperation will enter a new stage.”

He added, “There is an issue as to distributing the supplies of weapons [of the Russian military base] throughout the territory of Armenia and not only in Gumri.”

It is no coincidence that *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, an influential newspaper in Russia, has published an article that says that “a possible aggravation of the Karabagh conflict forces Moscow to shift contract-based servicemen to the region, Russia is enhancing the military preparedness of its troops and armed allied forces in the South Caucasus.”

Other states have not yet reacted to such a possible scenario. The mediators only advise that Armenia should not provoke the escalation of the situation by opening the airport. But it is possible that the Western countries and Russia already have an agreement on the joint use of the airport in the Karabagh capital. They already jointly use the Russian airport of Ulyanovsk (for Afghan operations).



INTERNATIONAL

French Police Arrest Kurdish Man in Connection With PKK Assassinations

PARIS (CNN) — Police in France have arrested a man in connection with the killing of three Kurdish activists in Paris this month, prosecutors said Monday.

The suspect, Omer Guney, is a 30-year-old Turkish national who, prosecutors said, has been a member of the Kurdish nationalist PKK for two years — the same group co-founded by one of the victims.

The activists' apparent assassination earlier this month sparked shock in the Kurdish community. Mystery had swirled around the slayings, with no claim of responsibility or any indication from authorities as to who might have pulled the trigger.

The fact that one of the women was a founding member of the PKK, the Kurdish Workers' Party — a group viewed by Turkey, the United

States and others as a terror organization — led to heightened speculation.

The killings come at a delicate time

them the jailed head of the PKK, Abdullah Ocalan.

Analysts have suggested the attack



Three Kurdish victims, from left, Sakine Cansiz, Fidan Dogan and Leyla Sonmez, were shot dead in Paris.

Facebook Censors Turkey's Biggest Anti-racist Initiative

By Emrah Güler

ANKARA (*Hürriyet Daily News*) — Facebook's confusing censorship policies have hit the Facebook page of DurDe!, a grassroots initiative to fight racism, nationalism and hate speech in Turkey.

"Facebook is contradicting itself," said one of the site's founders. The main mission for DurDe! or Say 'No' to Racism and Nationalism Initiative, according to its website is "to come together and take permanent steps with those who say 'I'm against racism and nationalism.'"

The initiative has organized high-profile campaigns, such as the "Remove 301, Try Racists" campaign, referring to Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code, which led to a petition with 20,000 signatures, along with a visit to the Turkish National Assembly.

It also organized a commemoration for the Armenian Genocide of 1915 in Istanbul in 2010, drawing 2,500 people to the controversial event. The initiative has held events every year since its foundation in 2007. DurDe! is also a member of United for Intercultural Action, a European network that fights against nationalism, racism and fascism and supports migrants and refugees, as well as the European Grassroots Antiracist Movement.

With traffic of 25,000 monthly visitors to their website, 7,000 Twitter followers and 50,000 Facebook followers, DurDe! is the biggest initiative in Turkey advocating a strong stance in the fight against racism and nationalism.

In Facebook's community standards, it says: "Facebook does not permit hate speech." The site adds, "We do not permit individuals or groups to attack others based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, disability or medical condition." Why then, were all of the administrators of DurDe!'s Facebook site prevented from accessing the page last week?

"Last week, all of us found out that our admin statuses had been revoked.

for Kurds in Turkey, where analysts say the government has recently entered into talks with Kurdish leaders — among

The page was still active, but we did not have access to the page," Cengiz Algan, one of the founders of the DurDe! initiative and administrators of the page, told the *Hürriyet Daily News*. Algan is also the director of the Social Change Association, which kicked off the Campaign Against Hate Crimes which, among other activities, drafted special legislation against hate crimes to be submitted to the Turkish Parliament.

"This is systematic and deliberate," said Algan. "Similar mechanisms of censorship happened in the past when news about Kurds and Armenians increased, and when January 19 was approaching." January 19 is the anniversary of the assassination of Hrant Dink, the editor-in-chief of the Turkish-Armenian newspaper and a long-time advocate of Turkish-Armenian reconciliation.

"There had been incidents when some of the page admins were shut off in the past; we could not post entries onto the Facebook page," said Algan. "This happened during the hunger strikes [by Kurds in prisons across Turkey], when we were covering the murder of Armenians in Samatya [Istanbul] and generally when we were posting entries about Kurds and Armenians. But nothing this big had happened before."

Algan said there were dozens of pages and posts that overtly advocate hate speech against Kurds and Armenians, but which Facebook chooses to ignore.

Have they contacted Facebook? One of the major problems when dealing with Facebook management is, well, not being able to reach Facebook management. "We have contacted Facebook Turkey, and there is no answer. The next step is to approach the Facebook headquarters. And if that doesn't work, we will file a lawsuit," said Algan.

"Facebook needs to reassess its operations in Turkey. There are obviously racist employees in the team," said Algan. "More transparency is long overdue."

Visit durde.org to sign a petition to reinstate the rightful administrators of the Facebook page.

could have been an attempt to derail a nascent peace process in what is one of the Middle East's longest-running conflicts.

The PKK, a pan-Kurdish nationalist movement, is best known internationally for the guerrilla war it has fought for nearly three decades against the government of Turkey, a conflict that has claimed more than 40,000 lives.

The ethnic Kurdish population extends across parts of Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq.

Last week thousands took to the streets in the predominantly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir, Turkey, to mourn the activists' deaths.

The women were saluted as the "three flowers of Kurdistan" by a mourner using a sound system atop a bus, while some carried portraits of the victims or signs reading "Sakine Cansiz is immortal."

Cansiz, one of the three killed, was a co-founder of the PKK.

Also killed were Leyla Sonmez and Fidan Dogan. French authorities said the bodies of the three women were discovered in the Information Center of Kurdistan in Paris.

After the killings, French Interior Minister Manuel Valls told reporters in Paris the three women had been "without doubt executed" and described the killings as "totally unacceptable."

Romanian Cultural Minister Welcomes Ambassador

BUCHAREST (Times.am) — On January 2, Armenian Ambassador to Romania Hamlet Gasparyan held a meeting with the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of Romania Daniel Barbu.

During the meeting, both sides stressed the importance of bilateral meetings and mutual cultural exposure.

The parties also discussed the cooperation program on culture, science and education for 2011-2015 between Armenia and Romania, including some planned joint programs in theatre, cinematography and literature.

Gasparyan then extended Barbu an invitation on behalf of Armenian Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan to visit Armenia. Barbu accepted the invitation.

International News

Armenian Gas Imports To Grow by 22.3 Percent

MOSCOW (PanArmenian.net) — Russian gas imports to Armenia grew by 22.3 percent in 2012 to total 1,967.2 million cubic meters, up from 1,609.1 million cubic meters in 2011.

Natural gas consumption in Armenia's energy and industry sectors increased by 23.7 percent and 2 percent, respectively, to total 231.9 and 254.7 million cubic meters.

In 2012, gas consumption by Armenia's population dropped by 1.6 percent to comprise 542 million cubic meters.

Georgian President Promotes Armenian-Georgian Relations

STRASBOURG, France — During a recent winter session of the council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE,) Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili said, "Georgia has always played stabilizing role in South Caucasus and we have been in good relations both with Armenia and Azerbaijan. These are not just words."

Saakashvili refrained from commenting on Georgian Prime Bidzina Ivanishvili's recent visit to Azerbaijan. Saakashvili also did not address Georgia's potential role as mediator in the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

When speaking about relations with South Caucasian countries, Saakashvili noted, that more than half million Armenians visited Georgia last year. "Recently we have not only activated relations between governments, but also between the nations, all existing stereotypes have disappeared. We have once again discovered each other which is more important than relations between presidents or the governments," Saakashvili said.

Noam Chomsky Urges Turkey to Pursue Kurdish Peace

ISTANBUL (Reuters) — The American left-wing philosopher and activist Noam Chomsky urged Turkey on Friday to end its "malignant" war with Kurdish rebels, saying recent peace efforts offered a real chance of a settlement.

Chomsky, whose writings have in the past caused trouble for his Turkish publisher, said the growing independence of the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq and the possibility that Syria's Kurdish zone could break away if Syria's civil war worsens meant Turkey must confront its own Kurdish problem fast.

Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan is backing talks with Abdullah Ocalan, head of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), and says he is sincere about trying to end a war with the PKK that has claimed more than 40,000 lives since 1984.

"Turkey must find its place if, of course, it can heal its internal sores, and none is more malignant than the perennial Kurdish issue," Chomsky said in a talk at Bosphorus University. "There do appear to be some real prospects with recent negotiations despite criminal efforts to disrupt them," he added, referring to the assassination of three Kurdish activists in Paris last week.

Chomsky also criticized Turkey's practice of jailing journalists, especially those from Kurdish media. Reporters Without Borders calls Turkey the world's biggest prison for journalists, with 72 jailed as of December. Chomsky's publisher was accused of violating anti-terrorism laws and "insulting Turkishness" for printing criticism by Chomsky of Turkey's handling of the fight against the PKK. The cases, stemming from 2002 and 2006, resulted in acquittals.

Chomsky, professor of linguistics and philosophy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), was speaking at a lecture in honor of journalist Hrant Dink, who published an Armenian-Turkish newspaper until his murder on January 19, 2007. Chomsky called Dink a "brave martyr of freedom."

(See related photo and story starting on page 1.)



Community News

Loyalty and Betrayal – They Live Among Us

By Betty Apigian Kessel

DETROIT – With all the abundance of beauty and majesty God has created in this world, it is unfortunate we have to deal with the human nature trait of betrayal and jealousy. It remains rampant in all of society.

Friendship and alliances can become fractured when one person takes the previously established relationship for granted and through careless, deliberate, and selfish reasons cause something that should be treasured and valued to disintegrate for their own personal aggrandizement and glory, bringing an end to what was a former friendship of mutual respect and care. The green-eyed monster thus emerges.

Loyalty in friendship is a highly desired character and ethics indicator. Unfortunately, it is believed jealousy is an inborn trait that cannot be eradicated. It is possibly the worst human trait.

True friends stay connected and respectful of one another, sharing the joys and sorrows of life. One should set the bar high as part of this experience.

Betrayal, disloyalty, or call it jealousy typically reflect the negative thoughts and feelings of fear, anger, insecurity, and resentment.

The Bible tells us that humanity was created in the image of God but God's jealousy expresses his great love for his people, wanting the best for them, the complete opposite of what we humans demonstrate in our behavior.

We are such a small nation of people and many Armenians feel these negative traits seem to be common among us and attribute it to living under the oppressive yoke of the Turks for hundreds of years. Rather than make us more loyal to each other, often the opposite is true.

The Turks pitted Armenians against each other, promising to spare their lives and homes if they would spy and become traitors. In Armenian we have words for such acts: *madnichm*, *tavajan* (traitors), Loyalty was *havadarim*, *oughghamid* and *orinabah*, much more desirable traits. They used fear as a control tactic.

On another level, we have seen how Turkish Parliament member Krikor Zohrab the famous Armenian writer, editor, and lawyer was treated by Talaat Pasha with whom he thought he had a friendship. Talaat had total disregard for Zohrab, having him arrested and killed along with Vartges Serengulian, another Parliament member.

In the book, *The Legacy*, the story of Arshavir Shirigian, the youthful member of the Armenian Revolutionary Movement, we see how he completed his revengeful execution missions towards those who planned the Armenian Genocide. Unfortunately, part of his story deals with fellow Armenians who to save their skin become traitors against their own people resulting in their death.

In this book Shirigian tells of notorious Armenian informers and spies based in Constantinople such as Hidayet, the
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American University of Armenia

Former Dean at UCI School of Business to Head AUA's College of Business and Economics

IRVINE, Calif. and YEREVAN – David H. Blake, professor emeritus and former dean of the Merage School of Business at the University of California, Irvine, this month steps into the role of interim dean of the College of Business and Economics (CBE) at the American University of Armenia (AUA).

"I'm honored to have been chosen for this position," said Blake, an accomplished academic who has served as the dean of four major US business schools. "The College of Business and Economics at AUA is the leading business school in the region and I have been and continue to be very impressed with the commitment of students, faculty, staff, and university leadership to CBE and AUA as well as the broader alumni and business communities."

The CBE offers a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree, taught in English, and a number of executive and professional certificates. Its flagship programs, the two-year MBA degree and a two-and-a-half-year professional MBA degree for working professionals, are rigorous and well-rounded programs that offers a balance between theory and practice, the quantitative and qualitative perspectives and the economic and social responsibilities of business leadership. The AUA MBA enjoys a strong reputation in Armenia and in the region.

Blake takes the helm at CBE with extensive experience in management as a scholar and business school dean for 22 years. He has more than two decades of experience as a former dean at Northeastern, Rutgers, Southern Methodist University and most recently the University of California, Irvine. He has also served both as a consultant and board member for more than 16 public and private companies and a number of non-profit organizations.

As a board member and business advisor, Blake has shepherded many companies through startup and funding issues, mergers, acquisitions, spin offs, SEC investigations, corporate raider attacks and strategic repositioning challenges.

He has written seven books and spoken extensively on issues related to his field. He is currently writing two books, *Making Ethics Work* and *Doing Leadership*.

"Dr. Blake has had a distinguished career as both an academic scholar and a corporate board member for several technology and financial service companies," said AUA Provost Dennis Leavens. "I am grateful for his willingness to serve as dean during this transitional period and look forward to working with him until a permanent dean is in place."

Blake currently serves as director of the Center for Ethical Business Leadership of Beta Gamma Sigma, the international business school honor society. He also is a state-certified mediator specializing in business, workplace and family mediations in California.

The AUA is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 985 Atlantic Avenue, #100, Alameda, CA 94501.



Prof. David H. Blake

Assemblyman to Introduce New Bill on Rape

LOS ANGELES (AP) – An appellate court ruling overturning a rape conviction because the victim wasn't married prompted anger last week from women's groups and a state legislator who plans to introduce a bill that would close the legal loophole.

In its ruling, California's Second District Court of Appeal reluctantly concluded that Julio Morales hadn't raped an 18-year-old because a state law crafted in the 1870s says a person who gets consent for sex by pretending to be someone else is only guilty of rape if the victim is married and the perpetrator is pretending to be the spouse. In this case, Morales apparently pretended to be the teen's boyfriend, and she didn't recognize otherwise until seeing him in the light.

The court urged the legislature to update the law, and State Assemblyman Katcho Achadjian, (R-San Luis Obispo,) said Friday that he would introduce a bill.

"Californians are justifiably outraged by this court ruling, and it is important that the Legislature join together to close whatever loopholes may exist in the law and uphold justice for rape victims," Achadjian said.

Achadjian had proposed a 2011 bill that would have expanded the rape law to include perpetrators who pose as live-in boyfriends or girlfriends and dupe their victims into sex. The bill was approved by the assembly but stalled in the Senate Public Safety Committee because of its policy to hold any legislation that could add to the state's prison overcrowding problem.

Achadjian said that should no longer be a problem after voters in November approved Proposition 36, revising California's three-strikes law.

The earlier bill was prompted by a Santa Barbara County case in which a man broke into a woman's home while she slept. The woman assumed the man was her live-in boyfriend and consented to sex. When she realized it wasn't her boyfriend, she resisted and the man fled.

Prosecutors couldn't pursue a felony rape charge because the woman wasn't married, she consented and the man hadn't pretended to be her husband.

A similar law in Idaho prevented an unmarried woman from pressing rape charges three years ago after being tricked into sex with a stranger by her then-boyfriend. Idaho's law was amended to cover all women in 2011.

"It is imperative that we now change the law to prevent a grave injustice for future rape victims. All of us in public safety deeply appreciate the extraordinary efforts made on the part of Assemblyman Achadjian to seek this minor change in the law that will have a tremendous effect on future victims," Santa Barbara County District Attorney Joyce Dudley said.

The appellate court noted the law has been applied inconsistently over the years in California, a state that has been aggressive in broadening its rape laws. California has removed a requirement that a rape requires force to have been used, and it has classified various aggravations of sexual assault as rape.

Patty Bellasalma, president of the California National Organization for Women, said it's incumbent upon legislators to ensure laws mesh with modern-day lifestyles.

"If unmarried women aren't included, that means the intent of the law is not about protecting women, it's about protecting something else," she said.

In the Morales case, the victim said her boyfriend was in the room when she fell asleep following a night of partying with Morales and others. They opted not to have sex that night because he didn't have a condom. After the boyfriend left, Morales entered her room and they began having sex.

It wasn't until morning that the woman realized it wasn't her boyfriend, prosecutors said.
see LAW, page 7



COMMUNITY NEWS

Stephen Colbert's Sister Plans House Bid in S. Carolina

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (Politico) – This Colbert candidacy is for real.

Elizabeth Colbert-Busch, Stephen Colbert's sister, is running as a Democrat for Congress. The sibling of the Comedy Central host – whose pretend flirtations with public office have been a running joke on his show – plans to file Tuesday to run for ex-Rep. (and now Sen.) Tim Scott's House seat.

If she wins the Democratic primary, it could mean a general election battle against Mark Sanford, the ex-governor who is mounting his own bid for the 1st District seat.

Sanford, who is seeking to resuscitate his political career after admitting to an extra-marital affair with an Argentinian woman in 2009, is the favored candidate in a crowded Republican field.

The South Carolina Democratic Party confirmed Colbert-Busch's entrance into the contest. It is possible that other Democratic candidates could enter the race.

Colbert-Busch works as director of sales and marketing at Clemson University.

"I think she's a very talented person. I think she's got the ability to raise money. I think she can create a contrast with the Republican candidate – certainly Mark Sanford," South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Dick Harpootlian told reporters.

Colbert-Busch faces long odds in the race for the Charleston-area seat, which heavily favors Republicans. Party nominees will be chosen in a March 19 primary, and an April 2 runoff will be held if no candidate wins at least 50 percent of the vote. The general election is slated for May 7.

Other Republican candidates include state Sen. Larry Grooms and state Rep. Chip Limehouse.

Wisconsin Hye Notes

BY NAOMI ZEYTOONIAN

As the year 2012 comes to a close and we look forward to an even better new year, we reflect on the past happenings and are amazed on how fast this year went by. The elections are over and now we pray that the Lord guides our president to fulfillment for our country and our citizens.

Our sympathies to the families of those who have passed on to a better life, friends and loyal parishioners, Sam and Mary Kaprielian, Helene Kirch, mother of Sharon and George Kadamian and family and George's mother, Claire Kadamian. A dear friend from my Watertown days, Rev. Fr. Papken Maksoudian, and, of course, our Jerusalem Patriarch Torkom *Srpazan* Manookian. I was a very young ACYOA member when Torkom *Srpazan* was then a *vartabed* and parish priest in Philadelphia, and I remember him playing basketball with the young men of the parish. He was an amazing man and a truly loving priest.

This past summer we also lost an awesome brother – former *Sbarabed* Haig Basdekian of Hayasdan Lodge in Boca Raton.

St. Mesrob witnessed the ordination of two young men of the parish. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian bestowed the order of deacon on Joseph Gabrielian and Stanton Sheridan. Both men have served their parish faithfully. A banquet followed the ordination service in the church hall.

The ACYOA sports weekend was held in Chicago this past summer and a birthday celebration was in order for ACYOA Central Council chair, Danny Mantis. Following this event, summer time sent the Grigorian sisters abroad again. Ani experienced the Holy Land with the young professional group headed up by Khajag *Srpazan* and Alina spent a few weeks in Armenia helping with the Habitat needs.

Then, of course, the round of picnics began full cycle – St. Hagop, St. Gregory, Sts. Joachim and Anna and the Evanston street fair, which was held inside this year because of the heavy rains. St. Mesrob's Armenian fest saw their most successful year on the shores of Lake Michigan in Racine.

Bill Bennetti and Nick Akgullian chaired the annual golf

tourney in August, which was a successful fundraiser for the Armenian Eye Care Project. There were about 80 golfers present from the two Racine parishes of St. Mesrob and St. Hagop. Good job guys. The Heritage Committee in honor of Armenian Cultural Month presented a most enlightening program with special guest speaker, Ms. Kath Lestina, a Wisconsin resident who served with the Peace Corps in Armenia from 2010 to 2012. She shared her experiences with us in pictures and a lecture.

October was quite a blustery month as we travelled to Boston for my granddaughter's wedding and ran smack into Hurricane Sandy, which followed on the heels of the wedding. Noelle Zeytoonian and Antonio Lapore shared their vows at the Church of the Holy Translators in Framingham. Noelle is the daughter of Rhona Zeytoonian and Michael and Lisa Zeytoonian. Everyone leaving afterwards experienced massive cancellations and delays and Sandy left its mark everywhere as trees and whole sidewalks were uprooted and so many people left without power. We thought we saw the last of the hurricanes when we left Florida, but this one followed us to New England.

Congratulations also to former Chicagoans, Louise and Harry Apoian, now of Pompano Beach, as they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations are in order for former *Avak Sbarabed* Haig Deranian of Belmont, Mass., who was recently honored as the Knights of Vartan "man of the year."

Time was when all our columns were hand written, honest! Progressing into the new mode of electric typewriters and now on into the computer age makes life easier and unbelievably faster. Sometimes its best to just slow down a bit and enjoy nature.

This morning I watched the wonders of the sunrise over Lake Michigan. What a gorgeous time of day! To this end our wishes for all our readers - may you experience beauty in all your days and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian Dies

SAMOORIAN, from page 1

operation where he a special assistant to a two-star general. He received an honorable discharge in 1956. He returned to Boston University, where he studied marketing, advertising and graphic arts. While he resumed his studies, he also became further acquainted with Armenian organizations again and he rejoined the ACYOA and the AYF. It was in the late 1950s that he began expressing an interest in the priesthood. He began working with Fr. Papken Maksoudian at Holy Trinity Church in Boston [later Cambridge] and even did some writing, editing and design work for the church. Maksoudian asked him to paint a painting for the side altars of the newly-consecrated church [1960] and to this day, the painting of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob hangs in the sanctuary. In 1961, he decided to become a priest. The Knights of Vartan became his sponsor and he left for the Holy City of Jerusalem in 1962 to begin his studies.

In 1962, Samoorian entered the Seminary of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. The late Patriarch Elishe quickly utilized his vast talents by commissioning him to restore the priceless artwork of and treasures of the monastery. He was also called upon to design the mosaic of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, which hangs in the Tomb of the Holy Sepulchre. It was here that he was discovered by the world-renowned Armenian

architect and artist Edouard Utujian and he was asked by him to become a fellow at the highly acclaimed art school at the Sorbonne in Paris, France. Because Samoorian was passionately in love with the monastery and his desire to become a monastic of the Armenian Church, he declined. He continued his studies at the monastery under the great Armenologist Archbishop Norayr Bogharian and Armenian teacher par excellence, Manual Keuseyan. It was under the latter's tutelage that he became a master of the Armenian language and idiom. Soon thereafter in 1964, Samoorian was ordained a deacon by Patriarch Elishe and now known as Diratsou Diran.

During the Six-Day War in 1967, Fr. Ghevont was personally responsible for the negotiated release of 12 young boys from various Israeli prisons and concentration camps in the West Bank.

He returned to America in 1968 and attended St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary in Scarsdale, NY. During his tenure at Sts. Vartanantz, he was instrumental in acquiring 16 acres in nearby Chelmsford, Mass. in order to build a new church.

He was elevated to rank of Vartabed of the Armenian Church by Archbishop Manoogian in 1973. As its new pastor, Samoorian worked tirelessly. By 1976, he had built the most vibrant ACYOA in the diocese and laid host to its ACYOA Sports Weekend and Convention. He was given the title *Dzarakouyn Vartabed* of the Armenian



Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian at his ordination

Church by Patriarch Elishe of Jerusalem in 1978. In the years following the consecration, Fr. Ghevont continued to beautify the church complex. He served as Sts. Vartanantz's pastor from 1969 to 1994.

He also served as editor in chief of *Avarayr* periodical of the Knights of Vartan.

During the 1970s and early 1980s, he raised millions of dollars for the Diocese of the Armenian Church. In 1992, he was appointed the Vicar General of the New England Regional Jurisdiction by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church.

In 1994, he was asked by Barsamian to become pastor of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church in Providence, RI. After his term there, he visited many parishes and mesmerized thousands of the faithful with his masterful sermons. In 2000, with a cadre of young savants, he founded the Armenian Orthodox Theological Research Institute, a theological consortium created to research and communicate the magnificence of

the Armenian Orthodox Tradition. It was this vehicle that he believed would breath "esprit de corps" back into the Armenian Church. This institute published two books - the *DOMAR*, the liturgical calendar of the Armenian Orthodox Church, and the *Burial Rites*. According to the Armenian Orthodox Church [forthcoming]. In addition, he crafted many masterful theological and

Armenological articles, short stories and vignettes that will soon be published by a new Institute in his memory.

While visiting parishes in 2009, he suffered a terrible car accident and injured his back. He ended up in a wheel chair and fought sickness for the next two years.

He was the brother of Arlene Depolito and the late Mhuran Samoorian. He leaves his nieces and nephews Patrick, Mark and Sandra Depolito, Stephanie Befumo, Michael Samoorian and Susan Guarino, as well as his cousin Jerry Seymourian, his sister-in-law Marion Samoorian and his dear friend Kathy Geyer.

Visiting hours were at Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Road, Chelmsford (Rte. 3, Exit 32) on Thursday, 4 - 8 p.m. Funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, Cambridge on Friday, January 25, at 10 a.m. Interment followed at Westview Cemetery, Lexington. Arrangements were by Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home.

Origins of Caspers Hot Dogs: A Tale of Immigration and Success out West

By Robert Rogers

SAN FRANCISCO (*Contra Costa Times*) – Tracing the history of one of the Bay Area's most enduring eateries is not easy.

"Nobody kept books or coherent records," said Ron Dorian, grandson of an original partner in Caspers Hot Dogs.

"A lot of my knowledge of company history was passed on from conversations with older relatives and not from anything in writing."

Dorian, 54, is the grandson of Steve Beklian, one of the five men who established Caspers Hot Dogs in the East Bay between the 1920s and the 1940s. It started in the 1920s, when Kasper Koojoolian, an Armenian immigrant, decided to flee Chicago for the warmer climate and business opportunities of California.

Dorian said the first store was in Oakland, and it was called "Kaspers." Kaspers' success soon drew friends and family, including cousins like Steve Beklian, business savvy restaurateur Paul Agajan, Hagop Beklian and brother Paul Koojoolian.

Agajan operated two cafeterias in Cicero before moving to California. "You had to be tough to operate businesses like that in Chicago in the 1930s," Dorian said. New stores

popped up in Oakland and surrounding suburbs, including the Richmond store in 1947.

As often happens in business startups, the family relationships were strained by the growing enterprise. Kasper and his brother Paul Koojoolian broke away and retained his "Kaspers" name, while the other partners branched out and expanded their "Caspers" brand, Dorian said. Paul's son, Harold Koojoolian, still operates the Kaspers in Oakland. Tragically, Kasper Koojoolian died in 1943 while en route to Fresno, where he was looking for a ranch to buy. He always wanted to leave the city and retire as a rancher, Dorian said. Today, there are eight Caspers with 12 owners, including Dorian, all descendants of the original five. But it all started with a dream and impossible odds.

"The Koojoolian brothers and Beklian brothers emigrated as young boys – all together with no adults – fleeing Turkey with money their parents gave them," Dorian said. "The parents couldn't leave – and they knew their children would be killed if they stayed. The five of them made it from their village in Turkey to France and sailed to Philadelphia and crossed to Chicago at a time in their lives that kids today would still be in school. Their closeness cannot be underestimated."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Hagop Armenian Church Celebrates 100th Birthday of Ardavast Unjian

PINELLAS PARK, Fla. — On Sunday, December 30, St. Hagop Armenian Church was filled with friends and admirers of Ardavast Unjian, to congratulate him and celebrate his 100th birthday. Unjian is a founding member of St. Hagop Armenian Church and of the Armenian Suncoast Society.

Following the *badarak*, Fr. Hovnan Demerjian, pastor of St. Hagop Armenian Church, made his congratulatory remarks to Unjian, who was seated in the front of the church in a birthday chair with balloons. Demerjian then turned the program over to Eileen Barsamian Jennings, chairwoman of the event. She presented Unjian with a large poster board birthday card. Jennings also presented a birthday card sent from the White House signed by President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama.

Parishioner Tanya Sarafian made a presentation in Armenian to Unjian of the large poster board birthday card. It was signed in English and Armenian by members of St. Hagop's.

In a contrast of ages, the 4 and 5-year-old children of the Sunday school and their teachers presented the man of the hour with a large collage depicting aspects of Unjian's life, including



Centennial Birthday Chairwoman Eileen Barsamian Jennings presents Ardavast Unjian his 100th birthday card on behalf of St. Hagop Armenian Church.

his 80th birthday party, photos of him as captain of his boat Adventure and his photos as

president of the Armenian Suncoast Society. The poster was put together by the children under the supervision of Yeretskin Anna, with photos donated by Unjian's long-time friend, Louise Yardumian, who also spoke to the congregation about many of Unjian's past accomplishments as a professional engineer.

Later in the program, Unjian was happy to present to Demerjian a large, ancient Armenian *Bible* that belonged to his great grandfather and had been printed in Venice in 1733 (the first Armenian *Bible* was printed in Amsterdam in 1666). The congregation then kissed the historic *Bible* before going into the narthex to enjoy a luncheon prepared by the Women's Guild.

"Mr. Unjian enjoyed his 100th birthday celebration, and he loved seeing so many friends who had come to congratulate him," stated Demerjian. "It is a true pleasure to know him and to have such interesting conversations with our very own centenarian. Not only is he a wonderful man, he is still very charming at 100 years of age! What is his secret to longevity? You will have to ask him yourself," he said.



St. Hagop Armenian School children and teachers present Ardavast Unjian with signed birthday wishes from parishioners of St. Hagop Armenian Church.

Loyalty and Betrayal — They Live Among Us

LOYALTY, from page 4

priest who became a Moslem; Mgrditch Haroutunian, and Vahe Ihssan, born Essayan, who was despised by his countrymen, relatives, and his own children for their becoming turncoats.

Ihssan and Hidayet, the former priest, were the ones who helped draw up the list of prominent Armenians who were the first to be rounded up and killed on April 24, 1915, in Constantinople. On the evening of the same day thousands of young Armenian provincials who had come to Constantinople to work as laborers were jailed, killed or deported, a detail seldom recorded.

Though unsavory, it is not unusual for circumstances to create disloyal traitors. These are people we hold in utter contempt and low esteem. They exist still among us in modern times, leaving one to wonder why Armenians are not more cooperative and helpful to each other.

The legendary founder of Armenia was Hayk a chieftain who called upon his kinsmen to unite into a single nation thus forming Armenia. It is his example we should follow.

The 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of all Armenians is three short years away. Can we not as an intelligent people unite under one banner as Hayk requested for the sake of our martyrs? If you do not, the finger of betrayal is pointed straight at you.

That is an intelligent move Armenians can make. We are known worldwide as chess champions. Now tell me, how many Turkish chess champions can you name? If it was the Turk who wanted to destroy the Armenian nation, why do we perpetuate the fracture?

I suggest one of the finest books that all Armenians should read is *The Legacy, Memories of An Armenian Patriot* by Arshavir Shirigian, translated by Sonia Shirigian with introduction by Leon Surmelian. Contact Hairenik Press for availability.

If asked "What have you done for your nation of Armenia?" this book gives you answers as you travel with the avengers on their search for Armenian justice. Victim or avenger? Read the book and be proud to be Armenian.

Lesson to be learned: Those who lay down with dogs, get up with fleas. Don't compromise your character by disloyalty under any circumstance.

Assemblyman to Propose New Law on Rape

LAW, from page 4

Defense attorneys argued Morales believed the sex was consensual because the victim responded to his kisses and caresses.

The appellate ruling said Morales gave conflicting testimony about whether he tried to identify himself. The court, which remanded the case back for retrial, noted prosecutors had argued two theories and it wasn't clear which the jury used for the conviction that led to a three-year prison sentence: that Morales "tricked, lied to or concealed information" from the victim, or because he had sex with the woman while she slept. The latter is already defined as rape under state law.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris, whose prosecutors handled the appellate case, promised to work with legislators to amend the law.

"The evidence is clear that this case involved a nonconsensual assault that fits within the general understanding of what constitutes rape," Harris said in a statement. "This law is arcane and I will work with the Legislature to fix it."

Defense attorney Edward Schulman declined comment, only to say that "the decision speaks for itself."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Hrant Dink Commemoration at St. James

DINK, from page 1

Close to 200 people gathered after church services for the coffee hour. Parishioners, members of the community, Dink family members and those seeking justice for Dink communed for a memorial tribute and discussion of Dink's legacy, six years after his death.

Dink, an influential Turkish-Armenian journalist and advocate for freedom of speech and recognition of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey, was assassinated on January 19, 2007,

and his unfinished work. He asked, "How much more would have happened had he lived?"

Kurt shared his own journey of discovering that his hometown of Aintab, Turkey, was once home to Armenians. When he was 22-years-old, Kurt met a friend at a coffee house with unique architecture and unknown script around the door. "Who made this? Who had been here before?" were questions he was suddenly confronted with.

Kurt would come to find out that the entire neighborhood had once been Armenian. "I had no idea that this place in my own hometown was [o n c e] Armenian," Kurt said of this discovery. Though Turkish, Kurt mentioned that he has also begun an investigation of his own family history to see if there is any Armenian heritage.

As the talk progressed, he discussed the oppressive nationalism in Turkey, saying, "We are being killed by this nationalism everyday."

He spoke about the current problems facing Turkey and why there is hope despite the immense challenges ahead. "It has been six years since his death when he was taken from us in front of Agos... It has been six years and lawlessness has never been more commonplace in this country [Turkey] ... Because in Turkey to express something is forbidden."

Kurt also provided the audience with a clear-

er picture of the events surrounding Dink's death, the elaborate assassination plot and the latest developments in seeking justice for Dink.

Although the original court decision had ruled that Dink's murder was not part of an organized criminal plot, an appeals court recently disagreed and ruled that the murder was part of a full-fledged "deep state" organization. Kurt said that a new trial would begin in Turkey soon involving those responsible for Dink's murder.

Kurt noted progress regarding Article 301 of the Turkish penal code, the controversial law punishing "insulting Turkishness," and the same law for the violation of which Dink was prosecuted. The prosecution of Article 301 offenders has moved under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice in Turkey, thus making Turkish officials far more hesitant to pursue convictions and effectively eliminating such cases, he said.

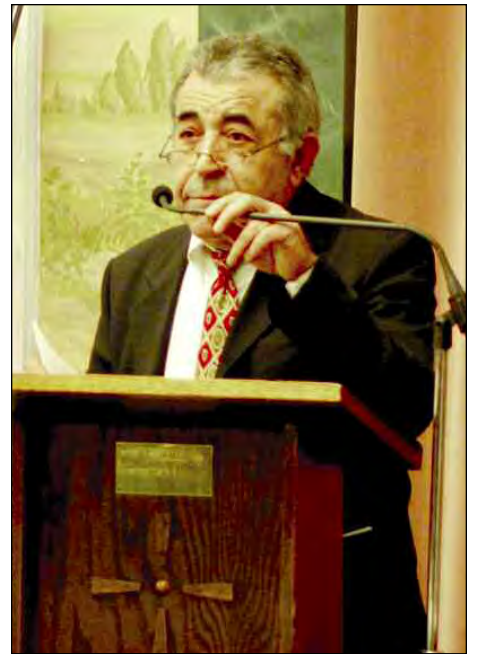
Kurt ended by addressing those 17 conspirators who still walk free six years after Dink's death. "You took his life [but] You couldn't touch his spirit. You couldn't even reach him," he said.

In his closing remarks, Ozcan said of Kurt's work, "This is the fruit of his [Dink's] legacy... Hrant wanted to lift the black curtain in Turkey... Hopefully Hrant's legacy will shed some light on these issues."

Fellow Friend of Hrant Dink, Varujan Gulderian, spoke of plans by the organization to host a future event in an outdoor and highly-visible public forum, in order to broaden their outreach and spread Dink's message.

"The larger global community — not just Armenians — need to know what happened. We need to go public if want to get justice for Hrant," Gulderian said.

Izabel Keremian, an audience member from Lexington, shared her reason for attending the event and the importance of Dink's legacy to Armenian-Turkish relations. "I'm from Turkey.



Friends of Hrant Dink member Zadik Ozcan welcomes attendees.



A memorial tribute to Hrant Dink

in front of his office at the Agos newspaper in Istanbul.

Rev. Arakel Aljalian, pastor of St. James, opened with a blessing, saying "May his [Hrant's] memory be eternal in anyone who believes in justice."

Friends of Hrant Dink Vice President Zadik Ozcan introduced the featured speaker, Kurt is a graduate student in the Genocide Studies program of Clark University under Prof. Taner Akçam.

During his talk, Kurt spoke of Dink's legacy

To have him represent Armenians in Turkey is huge for me and his memory," she said.

Kurt is currently researching the confiscation of Armenian properties and the role of local elites in Aintab during the Armenian Genocide. His dissertation topic is, "The Emergence of the New Wealthy Social Strata between 1915-1922: The Local Elites' Seizure of Armenian Property in Aintab" and he is the Agnes Manoogian Hausrath Fellow in Armenian Genocide Studies, 2010-2013.

He said he plans to remain in the US for the foreseeable future and to eventually teach on this subject.

For more information on Friends of Hrant Dink and upcoming events, visit <http://www.friendsofhrantdink.org/>.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Miss America Pageant's Official Photographer Captures Sashes, Smiles

By Xazmin Garza

LAS VEGAS (*Las Vegas Review-Journal*)—A lot has changed since Bruce Boyajian started shooting photos of the Miss America pageant 36 years ago, including his hormones. You might say his motives for taking the gig at age 23 weren't quite as squeaky clean as the organization's image.

"I mean, I was just in it to look at women. And then I got older than the contestants ... I mean, now I'm like way older. I could be their father," said Boyajian, 58. "I'd be proud to be their father."

With two daughters of his own, and now Miss America's official photographer of 17 years, he actually sounds sincere. Through the same viewfinder that once saw them as sex symbols, contestants turned to bright, wholesome "kids" over the years.

The titleholders' hairstyles and hometowns have changed, but the man clicking away behind them hasn't.

With a career stretching 40 years, Boyajian has worked as an Associated Press (AP) freelancer, Philadelphia Bulletin staffer and portrait studio photographer. He has shot breaking news that included two beach plane crashes in two New Jersey cities in one day. He has snapped Donald Trump calling his private plane's pilot to complain about the turbulence. He has taken photos of Frank Sinatra and President Jimmy Carter.

But none of those jobs could compare with the one that introduced him to "butt glue," the stuff that keeps swimsuit bottoms in place.

His passion for the job spurred him to take a Miss America executive aside 17 years ago and pitch the idea of one photographer representing the organization. An iconic event should own its own images, he asserted.

"It's not a football game," said Boyajian, still passionate about his pitch. "It's Miss America."

The organization agreed, and the rest is photog-

raphy, about 10,000 images' worth each year.

According to last year's ratings, the Super Bowl pulled in about 100 million more viewers than the Miss America pageant. Boyajian, however, remembers a time when a beautiful woman weeping beneath a halo of sparkles could compete with the big game.



Photographer Bruce Boyajian working an event

But those were the glory days, when Miss America was still a Jersey girl.

Atlantic City played host to the pageant from 1921 until 2006, when Las Vegas stepped in.

The most notable differences between the two host cities? The Boardwalk, the Boardwalk and the Boardwalk.

That is where each contestant waved from a parade car, dressed in a costume representative of her state, casinos and Ferris wheels flanking the pure Americana scene. It's also where a pageant photographer could produce some of his best work.

By the time the pageant reached the Strip, it was struggling. ABC had dropped it because America had all but done the same. Things were different.

Back in the '70s and '80s, there were more events throughout the week, more fans, more access, more photos. And, when photographers

caught the moment with their eyes, none with their cameras.

Except Boyajian. The only guy in the bunch who didn't see it for himself, had it forever on film, as discovered in the dark room. The AP ran the shot that followed the money shot: The contestant "stuffing herself back in."

That seems like a lifetime ago, though. While walking into preliminary competitions at the Planet Hollywood Resort showroom Tuesday night, another photographer tells Boyajian his gig is comparable with working for the Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition or Playboy. A few decades ago, he saw it the same way.

Now, he said, "I just want to take pictures their parents are proud of."

Boyajian speaks highly of the Miss America Organization and the more than \$45 million in scholarship money it awards young women annually.

He still gets the chills when the winner is crowned because, he said, he thinks of what it means for their fathers.

Boyajian now lives with his wife in Richmond, Va., where he shoots advertising and public relations photography. Miss America isn't the most lucrative of his gigs, but he finds it rewarding all the same.

As for his future, he sees himself retiring from his post as the official Miss America photographer in four years, when he has reached his 40th year clicking crowns. He's counting on the pageant continuing the uptick in ratings it experienced last year, its second year back at ABC (at one point it averaged 8 million viewers). Boyajian's big dream is to judge the 100th Miss America pageant in 2021.

It's a job for which Miss America Organization President and CEO Art McMaster says he's certainly qualified. As for now, though, it's hard to imagine anyone but Boyajian in his current position.

"He's extremely respectful of these young ladies," McMaster said. "I tell the contestants each year, 'You need to be comfortable around him because he will be going everywhere you go. He will be backstage, in your hospitality suites, right there in rehearsals. He will be recording history.'"

still worked with film, more surprises.

Women who hail from a world of sashes and smiles don't exactly provide ample opportunity for the unexpected. In fact, even with the silent feature on the Canon EOS 5D Mark 3 he uses today, Boyajian said his pageant subjects are always aware of the camera.

But a certain publicity event in 1987 produced a classic unexpected moment. Contestants gathered in swimsuits at the Bally's swimming pool, and a bevy of male photographers followed.

Miss Oregon made two splashes that day, the first when she jumped in the pool and the second when she popped up exposed. Twenty photographers were in attendance. All of them

Fashion for Funds at Holy Martyrs School

OAKLAND GARDENS, N.Y. — The Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS) Alumni Association will host A Night of Fashion on Friday, March 1, at Leonard's of Great Neck. The Fashion Show Committee, composed of alumni spanning over 20 years, from 1982 to 2006, as well as veteran PTO advisors, HMADS faculty, and Principal Zarmine Boghosian, is enthusiastically organizing all the details for what promises to be a special evening of fantastic fashion for young children and ladies, dinner with open bar, dancing and fun for everyone in the family.

The show will feature looks from Flair Designer Boutique in Stony Brook and My Petite Me Chic Children's Online Boutique — both suc-

cessful businesses run by young Armenians. The fashions will be modeled by HMADS students, as well as professional models.


The fundraising event, anticipated to attract more than 200 guests, will also feature many exclusive vendors, and more than 50 gifts and services raffled through a Chinese auction - all to benefit the Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School. The sounds of DJ Harry Latiroffian will provide beats for everyone's dancing pleasure.

The Fashion Show Committee is accepting business card advertisements and congratulatory messages from sponsors to enhance a booklet being created to commemorate the event.

For tickets and more information on prices, call the school by February 22.



Holy Martyrs alumni along with advisors and Principal Zarmine Boghosian are working on organizing a fashion show.



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Arts & Living

Acclaimed Chicago Drama 'Hit the Wall' Sets Off-Broadway Dates

By Adam Hetrick

NEW YORK (*Playbill*) — Ike Holter's rock-propelled gay rights drama "Hit the Wall," which premiered at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre last winter, will debut Off-Broadway February 19 at the Barrow Street Theatre.

Scott Morfee, Jean Doumanian and Tom Wirtshafter, who also produce the Barrow Street's current production of "Tribes," are producing "Hit the Wall." The team flew to Chicago last spring to see "Hit the Wall" and had expressed interest in giving it a future New York life.

"Hit the Wall" gives another side to the story of the birth of the gay rights movement outside New York City's Stonewall Inn on June 27, 1969. The play, which was shaped and populated by the artist collective The Inconvenience, was a Chicago hit.

Critics embraced the gritty and gutsy take that promises stories from cultural revolutionaries who claimed, "I was there."

Eric Hoff, who staged the Chicago premiere, will also helm the production, which will officially open March 10. The Barrow Street Theatre is located just blocks from the Stonewall Inn. The production has original music and music supervision by Dan Lipton.

Original Chicago cast members Rania Salem Manganaro and Arturo Soria will be joined by Nick Bailey, Jessica Dickey ("The Amish Project"), Ben Diskant, Nathan Lee Graham ("Wig Out," "Priscilla"), Matthew Greer ("Seminar"), Gregory Haney ("Bring It On," "Wicked"), Sean Allan Krill ("On A Clear Day You Can See Forever"), Ray Rizzo, Carolyn Michelle Smith ("WHADDABLOOD-CLOT!!!") and Indigo Street.

The play's creators describe the plays setting as "... the early hours of June 28, 1969, when a routine police raid on The Stonewall Inn, a popular underground gay bar in Greenwich Village, sparks a full-scale riot. Violent protests and street demonstrations continued for the next several days in what became known as The Stonewall Riots, thrusting a group of unlikely revolutionaries onto the frontlines of history and igniting one of the most influential social and political movements of the 20th Century. Hit the Wall focuses on that wild and enigmatic first night of the riots, placing the audience just on the periphery of the conflict. With an imaginative and theatrical blend of history and mythology, Hit the Wall shines a contemporary light on the legacy of Stonewall."

The design team includes Lauren Helpert (set design,) David Hyman (costume design,) Keith Parham (lighting design,) Daniel Kluger and Brandon Wolcott (sound design) and J. David Brimmer (fight director.)

The full production team includes Morfee, Doumanian, Wirtshafter, Patrick Daly, Burnt Umber, Roger E. Kass, Starry Night Entertainment, BarLor Productions, Christian Chadd Taylor, Marc and Lisa Biales.

Tickets are now on available and can be purchased at Smarttix.com.



Visitors enjoy the Young Professionals of Northern California's first Emerging Artists Art Exhibit, the proceeds of which benefitted the pan-YP Greenhouse Project in Armenia.

Young Professionals of Northern California Hosts Inaugural Emerging Artists Art Exhibit

SAN FRANCISCO — Art lovers in the San Francisco area can put "talents to watch" on their radar, following the AGBU Young Professionals of Northern California's (YPNC) very first Emerging Artists Art Exhibit. Combining art and fundraising, the two-night event showcased a wide range of original pieces, with proceeds benefiting the pan-YP Greenhouse Project in Barekamavan, Armenia.

The endeavor was the product of months of planning and preparation that all came together at the unveiling on Saturday, December 1, 2012, at the SoMARTs Cultural Center. Located in the heart of San Francisco's art district, the center has become well-known in the city over the past few decades as a multicultural, community-built space, making it the ideal venue for YPs who are establishing themselves in the local arts scene. On the exhibit's opening night, more than 200 guests filled the gallery and many returned the following evening to take full advantage of the back-to-back viewings.

Throughout the weekend, the crowds enjoyed works that varied from traditional oil on canvas paintings to cutting edge fashion designs. Six up-and-coming artists were featured: Zarouhie Abdalian (installation), Sergey Bagramyan (ink on canvas), YP Northern California Co-Chair Greg Nemet (photography), Nina Sarkisyan (hair fashion design with live model installations), Nadine Takvorian (illustration and animation) and Onnik Yaglioglu (oil on canvas). Whether the artists had used a paintbrush, a camera or non-traditional mediums, each of their pieces excited and inspired the viewers, who provided overwhelmingly positive feedback to the event Co-Chairs Greg Nemet and Ani Jalalian.

Commenting on the event's success, Nemet stated, "This visual arts exhibit has helped give working Armenian artists, many of whom have already been commissioned for public works projects,

even wider exposure. We were so pleased by the great turnout, which has encouraged us to turn this into an annual AGBU YPNC tradition and look forward to watching it grow next year and in the years to come."

Though the YPNC exhibit was local, its impact is global. Funds raised in ticket sales will be donated to the pan-YP Greenhouse Project in the rural village of Barekamavan, bringing more sustainable development to the homeland. With the support of over a dozen YP groups internationally, the struggling border area will soon become home to brand new greenhouses that will enable families to raise and sell fresh crops in their backyard, thereby revitalizing their community. The YPs "Go Green" initiative has roots in the 2009 AGBU Young Professionals Biennial Assembly in Chicago, where the global YP Network decided to launch an environmental project in Armenia that would be conceived, funded and developed entirely by them. In 2010-11, the YPs built a vibrant new park in the border village of Khachik that local residents enjoy today.

For more information about the AGBU Young Professionals, visit www.agbu.org/yp.



Up-and-coming artists Zarouhie Abdalian (left) and Nadine Takvorian showcase their work at San Francisco's SoMARTs Cultural Center.

Chookaszian To Lecture on Armenian Art Saved during Genocide

MISSION HILLS, Calif. — Dr. Levon Chookaszian, UNESCO Professor of Armenian Art History at Yerevan State University, will present an illustrated lecture titled "Armenian Art Treasures Saved From Genocide" on Sunday, January 27, at 4 p.m. at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Hasmik Mgrdichian Gallery, 15105 Mission Hills Road. The lecture is sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). A reception will follow the lecture.

During the years of the Armenian Genocide in 1915-1922 not only 1.5 million Armenians were killed but also thousands of



Dr. Levon Chookaszian

Armenian art treasures were destroyed and looted by the Turks and Kurds. The gold and silver objects, illustrated manuscripts, carpets, liturgical textiles and carved woodworks were stolen from Armenian churches and the deported Armenian refugees and sold in world markets, especially in Near Eastern countries and in European auctions.

Numerous artifacts were gathered by two expeditions working in 1916 in Western Armenia, one of which was sent by the Russian Imperial Academy to Western Armenian territories and the other sent by the catholicos in Echmiadzin. Through the efforts of scholars and others involved in those expeditions, numerous artifacts were discovered and transferred to Echmiadzin. Thousands of silver objects and illustrated manuscripts were saved by Armenian refugees who survived and reached Echmiadzin or European countries and the US.

The relics of the Catholicosate of Cilicia at Sis that were transported by monks to Aleppo, Syria, and later to Antelias in Lebanon and those that were gathered by the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem can be considered as Armenian art treasures saved from the Genocide. During the last 100 years many Armenian art treasures saved from the Genocide have appeared in museums and private collections in different countries.

For more information contact the Ararat-Eskijian Museum at ararat-eskijian-museum@netzero.net or NAASR at hq@naasr.org.



ARTS & LIVING

Sayat Nova Presents 'Journey Through Time' in Montreal

MONTREAL, Quebec – The Sayat Nova Dance Company (SNDC) of Watertown is preparing for a February 9 performance at the Salle Pierre-Mercure. SNDC dancers participated in weekend rehearsals, while the crew mended costumes, tweaked music recordings and

sance of Armenia's Golden Age expressed in the poetry and gentle grace of women's dances, to the unthinkable tragedy of the Genocide, to the re-birth of the Armenian nation in the new generations scattered around the world proudly carrying their history in their hearts.



Paying tribute to the group's namesake in a dance

prepared for the show.

The SNDC will return with "Journey Through Time," directed and choreographed by Apo Ashjian. The production and premiere of this show marked SNDC's 25th anniversary and has been performed in Boston, Washington DC, Los Angeles and Worcester in 2011-2012. The group last performed in Montreal six years ago.

"Journey Through Time" paints in sound and movement the story of the Armenian nation – from the early tribes worshipping pagan gods to drum rhythms, to the spirited battle of Vartanantz, to the times of the occasional peace in the ancient world and the cultural renaissance

"Journey Through Time" is meant to be experienced, not just viewed, and the SNDC says they hope viewers will walk away inspired.

The SNDC is an independent, non-profit organization, now in its 27th year. They have traveled internationally, performing throughout the US, Canada and Armenia.

For more information about SNDC or tickets, visit www.sayatnova.com.

"Journey Through Time" will be presented at 7:30 p.m. at Salle Pierre-Mercure (UQAM-Centre Pierre Peladeau,) 300 Boulevard de Maisonneuve Est, Montreal, QC H2L 4J5, Canada. This performance is sponsored by St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Cathedral.

Aznavour Is Still Young At Heart

By Zhang Kun in Shanghai

SHANGHAI (*China Daily*) – Charles Aznavour watched the students playing and offered a helping hand when he saw anyone in difficulty. Few at the mental health school in Shanghai's Yuyuan community realized he is an internationally renowned singer, songwriter and activist.

Aznavour, born in 1924, made his second trip to Shanghai in mid-December. It was a private trip, accompanied by his youngest son, but even so he was happy to set some time aside for a trip to Home of Sunshine. He met 30 students who ranged in age from between 19 and 35 and when one of the teams had problems sucking at a slip of paper with a straw, Aznavour came to the rescue.

"Some people retire, but he never will," says his son, Patrick, the youngest of his five children.

Aznavour constantly hummed tunes as he strolled around and at 88, he is still touring, performing and composing. He has just completed a tour of South America and will fly to Britain to record a new song next month.

Aznavour made his first visit to China in June, when he performed three songs at a gala dinner during the Shanghai International Film Festival.

"I have sung in 19 countries, and I'd love to introduce French music to China," he says.

Aznavour has been one of the most enduring singers in France, famed for his clear tenor voice and is often compared with Frank Sinatra. He has acted in more than 60 movies



and composed about 1,000 songs, in several languages. Aznavour's parents were from Armenia, and he has been heavily involved in humanitarian and charity initiatives for the country. He is the ambassador of Armenia to Switzerland, as well as the UNESCO cultural ambassador for Armenia.

With an artistic career spanning more than 60 years, he has collaborated with many great artists, such as Sinatra, Edith Piaf, Fred Astaire, Andrea Bocelli, Elton John and others.

"He has a traditional way of singing, characterized by poetic lyrics and melodic music," Patrick Aznavour says.

"He's an open book," says Prestige PR's Sarah el Asri, who organized his Shanghai trip.

Listening to him singing is like sharing French musical history, she adds. "He performs with a unique style. He's like an actor that sings, and his songs have inspired many artists."

On China's video sharing website Youku.com, one of Aznavour's most popular videos sees him collaborating with Edith Piaf, produced through 3D digital imaging. No, Piaf didn't help him with his career, comments Aznavour. "She used to promote her lovers, but I was only a friend."

"Lovers pass by, but friendships last longer," he says.

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Boston Premiere Armenian Cultural and Educational Center [47 Nichols Avenue]
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A panel discussion on: "WHO IS AN ARMENIAN?"

The Tekeyan Cultural Association London cordially invites you to a panel discussion on "Who is an Armenian?"

Panelists:
H.G. Bishop Vahan Hovanessian, Primate of the Armenian Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland
H.E. Ambassador of Armenia (to be designated)
H.E. Ambassador Dr. Manuel Hassassian, Palestinian Diplomatic Mission
Dr. Bert Vaux, King's College, Cambridge University
Mr. Hovann Simonian, University of Southern California (Zurich)
Dr. Sossie Kasbarian, Lancaster University
Dr. Hratch Kouyoumjian, Chairman, TCA

Date and Time:
Friday, February 22nd, 2013 at 7:00pm

Venue:
Kensington Library Lecture Theatre, Phillimore Walk, London, W8 7RX

The public are invited to meet the panellists at 6:30pm over refreshments.

Due to the limited number of places at the venue, RSVP with an email confirming attendance to: tca@tekeyantrust.org.uk

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ARTS & LIVING

Helene Pilibosian’s Book Garners More Awards in 2012

WATERTOWN – Helene Pilibosian’s latest book, *My Literary Profile: A Memoir*, was just awarded honorable mention from the New England Book Festival in the memoir category. The books were judged on the capability of the author to tell a good story and the advisability of the honored books to sell more copies. The books were exhibited on January 19 at the Omni Parker House Hotel in Boston.

Grand prizewinner of its annual competition



Helene Pilibosian

honoring the best books of the holiday season was *Julia’s Cats: Julia Child’s Life in the Company of Cats* by Patricia Barey and Therese Burson. This book dramatizes food, cats, the exotic splendors of foreign travel and the magic of Paris with rare photos of the famed chef and fresh anecdotes following her progress to TV superstar and American icon.

The Journal of the Association for Armenian Studies published a favorable book review of

the Pilibosian’s memoir written by Dr. Mary A. Papazian, president of Southeast Connecticut State University. The book has received many other positive reviews, posted on amazon.com and other sites.

In it she describes her life as well as the study of literature with Howard Mumford Jones and Paul Engle, scenes of Watertown and Cambridge, Mass., in the 1950s, marriage and travel to Europe and the Middle East, emergency surgery performed by Dwight E. Harken, MD, editing the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* at the time of the 50th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and so forth. The theories of C.G. Jung led her to a mystical experience, which fired her literary inspiration, and she established Ohan Press to publish a number of books, including her own.

This is not the first honor for Pilibosian’s books. She has won prizes for poems with others achieving finalist status in competitions, a first prize from *Writer’s Digest* for *At Quarter Past Reality: New and Selected Poems* and an honorable mention from that magazine for *History’s Twists: The Armenians*. Her early poetry has been cited in *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Multiethnic American Literature*.

In addition, her poem, titled “Reinvented on the Subway,” won first place in the Lucidity Clarity Contest. The poem is not Armenian related but is a narrative depiction of Harvard Square and its subway station. The author knows this station well for having traveled through it for a lifetime and was very pleased when it was extensively redone in 1983. She describes in modern poetry form the panel New England Decorative Art by Joyce Kozloff, an 83-foot-long mosaic split up into 8 sections, each resembling a quilt, as well as the atmosphere of the square. The poem will be published in a future collection.

Both items are detailed on the Ohan Press website at <http://home.comcast.net/~hsarkiss>.

Armenian Sisters’ Academy Annual Valentine’s Party

2012

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JACOB DEMIRDJIAN

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A Family Novel Probes Mixed Identity, Loves and Hates

The Young Man in the Gray Suit by Agop J. Hacikyan. Interlink Books. 2013. 248 pp. \$20. ISBN 978-1-56656-907-1

By Daphne Abeel
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Agop J. Hacikyan’s new novel focuses on the complex identity of the Kardam family, and in particular on the story of its youngest son, Nour, who discovers a secret in his past that sets this multi-plotted tale in motion.

The novel opens in the 1950s and moves between the Kardam mansion (or yali) on the Bosphorus and New York, the two poles of the story.

Nour, the youngest son of Riza Bey, is in his early 30s, partially educated in the United States and has been appointed above his older brothers to take charge of his father’s successful tobacco business. Riza Bey is portrayed as a deeply flawed character, a successful businessman and philanthropist in the present, but a former governor of Aintab who identified with the Young Turks and possibly was complicit in the Armenian Genocide. He has married three women and is the father of six sons and three daughters.

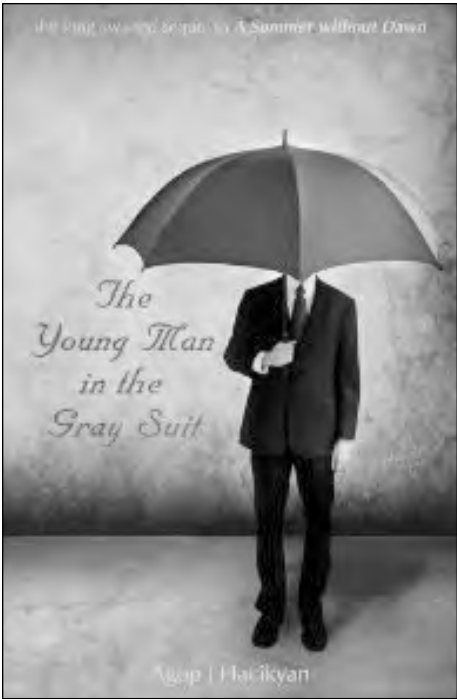
His sudden death precipitates the reading of his will, which divides his vast wealth between

his surviving wives, Safiye and Leila (his second wife having died) and his children. But his final bequest drops a bombshell. Riza leaves a bequest of more than \$1 million to a woman, unknown to the family, named Maro Balian.

There are many story lines in this densely plotted novel, among them the older sons’ involvement in criminal business ventures that extend to illegal sales of the family company’s tobacco and trafficking in the opium trade.

But the main thread of the story is Nour’s effort to discover who Maro Balian is. He has always believed that he was the son of Leila, Riza Bey’s third wife, but he ferrets out the truth from a former family servant and discovers that he is, indeed Maro’s son and that his father saved her, an Armenian refugee, during the period of deportations. Maro, already married and with a son by her Armenian husband, Vartan, becomes a member of Riza Bey’s household, and the mother of his son. Only Leila, the adoptive or substitute mother has known the truth of Nour’s origins. Maro and her first son, Tomas, are eventually banished from the household and eventually rejoin Vartan.

His father’s will has indicated that Maro may be living in New York and Nour embarks upon a tortuous attempt to locate his real mother. Maro and her husband, Vartan, represent, a recognizable Armenian couple living in the Diaspora.



They publish an Armenian newspaper; Vartan is active in the community as a lecturer and supporter of the Armenian cause, and in addition to Tomas, they have four additional children, a son and three daughters.

Leila and Vartan are both consumed with jealousy. Leila fears, if Nour finds his real mother that he will abandon her. And Vartan, who knows that Nour is the son of Riza Bey, is not only jealous but hateful towards a man he knows was active in the Genocide of the Armenians, perhaps salving his conscience by saving Maro.

Nour eventually finds his way to Maro and meets all of his new family, including his half sister. Somewhat shockingly, the half brother and sister embark upon a torrid love affair, although Nour is also involved with a young Turkish doctor, Esin, whom he is considering marrying.

The discovery by Turks of an Armenian ancestor or even parent is certainly based in reality as this has been the experience of many who have probed deeply into their origins. Nour’s discovery has particularly complicated results and he remains, for some period of time, torn by the passions and demands of both his families.

Hacikyan covers a lot of ground in this novel and the turns and twists of the plot, the revelations, particularly of Nour’s brothers criminal activities, are sometimes so murky that the reader may have trouble following certain aspects of the narrative.

Still, many will find this a provocative and compelling story of mixed identity, its sources and its consequences.

Hacikyan, a Canadian university professor, lives in Quebec and is the author of a previously well-received novel, *A Summer without Dawn*, a historical saga that focuses on the Armenian Genocide.

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

FEBRUARY 9 — Armenian Sisters’ Academy Annual Valentine’s Party, presenting Elie Berberian and Band, Oakley Country Club, 410 Belmont St., Watertown; information: Nageeb Diarbakerly at (617) 480-3700.

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.

Merrimack Valley Plans Syrian Relief Benefit

By Tom Vartabedian

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. — Merrimack Valley will join communities throughout the world in rallying around the Armenians caught in the turmoil currently taking place in Syria.

An illustrated presentation titled, “Armenia Unseen — Among the Mountains, Valleys and Villages,” will be given by photojournalist Joe Dagdigian, who makes annual trips to his beloved land of Ararat documenting unusual sites. The program will also include an update on conditions in Syria by Rev. Karekin Bedourian, pastor, St. Gregory Armenian Church, a native of Kessab, a city which continues to remain at risk.

The dinner-program will take place Saturday, February 23, at 6 p.m., at St. Gregory Church, 158 Main St., and all proceeds will be given to the Syrian-Armenian Relief Fund.

“Conditions are rapidly deteriorating in that battered land,” said Bedourian. “Schools and churches are being destroyed. People are at unrest. We owe it to ourselves to come to their aid and support a necessary cause. My heart goes out every day to the families who have been tormented, including my very own.”

Dagdigian’s illustrated talk will surround photographs he took during his trip to Armenia last summer.

“Most of these sites are almost never visited by travelers,” he said. “They include places near the center of Yerevan which are largely unknown, even by residents in that locality.”

Dagdigian is a member of the Lowell ARF chapter, which is sponsoring the event, and also belongs to the Boston Chapter of the Knights of Vartan.

He has long focused on helping the Cosmic Ray Division in Armenia, a scientific research station on Mount Aragats, raising thousands of dollars for that cause.

Last year, Dagdigian launched an Armenian history course at NAASR where a portion of the proceeds benefitted the Shengavit Historical and Archaeological Cultural Preserve in Armenia.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and may be purchased at the door.

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THE ARMENIAN

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COMMENTARY

A Moral and Political Dilemma

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Upon the nomination of Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel as the next secretary of defense, a political firestorm broke out involving gays, the Israeli lobby in Washington and the Armenians. The nominee being a straight talker has offended the above groups, and perhaps many others throughout his political career. Now, as he faces the uphill battle for his confirmation before the Armed Services Committee and later the full Senate, he has to answer all those groups in a satisfactory manner to win the confirmation.

On the other hand the nominee for the position of secretary of state, former presidential candidate and current senator, John Kerry, does not anticipate hurdles.

Before we draw our battle lines, we need to postulate the offenses of which the Republican maverick Hagel is accused.

First, the gays have an axe to grind with Mr. Hagel who had remarked in 1998 that James Hormel, a philanthropist and later, an ambassador to Luxembourg, was “openly, aggressively gay,” the inference being that he was not a suitable candidate for an ambassadorial post in that country.

Next in line is the Jewish lobby with the “neo-cons” in the background because of Hagel’s remark that “the Jewish lobby in the United States intimidates a lot of people.”

Now all the political weapons in the arsenal of the Israeli lobbyists are directed against Mr. Hagel, calling him anti-Israel, anti-Semitic, soft on Israel’s enemies and so on. A crusade has already been mounted against him. There is a Kafkaesque irony in standing up to deny the obvious, just for the sake of political expediency. And indeed, Hagel has tried to accommodate his critics in an interview given on January 7, 2013, to the *Lincoln Journal Star* where he stated that his record demonstrates his “unequivocal, total support for Israel [...] There is not one shred of evidence that I’m anti-Israel, not one vote that matters hurt Israel.”

This kind of categorical denial, to save his career, only confirms rather than denies his earlier statement that the “Jewish lobby intimidates a lot of people.”

Mr. Hagel tried to come clean with the gay community stating that he had demonstrated “insensitivity” towards gays, meaning that his views have evolved since over the issue.

These are powerful interest groups in America which any aspirant for a political position can ignore at his or her own risk.

In order for any campaign to succeed, it must be aligned with the interests of other powerful groups. This time around, Armenians are in good company, because not only have they been handling the firing line but also many human rights groups and prominent Jewish leaders have joined the fray.

Hagel’s statements are unfortunate and abominably wrong. “What happened in 1915 happened in 1915,” Hagel said during a 2005 trip to Armenia when he was serving in the senate. “As a 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 is a vintage Genocide-denial recipe concocted in Ankara and delivered hot to Mr. Hagel. The former senator compounded his insensitivity by voting against the Armenian Genocide bill in the Senate.

Now, as a result, a powerful ally has rushed to the rescue of the Armenians: “What Chuck Hagel said in his press conference in Armenia in 2005 regarding the Genocide of the Armenians by Turks is shameful,” said Walter Reich, a former director of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. “In his forthcoming confirmation hearings, senators should confront him with what he said and should expect him to address it. It is a disgrace and a disservice to the memory of the victims to say that their murder should be forgotten in the service of the peace process, as if a real peace process is possible if one hides or ignores or mischaracterizes what actually happened,” Reich said.

It is better said than any Armenian could have formulated it. It is a very happy coincidence that Jewish leaders have taken up our cause, of course not without self-interest. But that’s the nature of politics and we can only be thankful to them for articulating so forcefully the Cause of the Armenian Genocide.

Now comes the moment of truth; Mr. Hagel has apologized to the Jewish and gay lobbies, he has yet to make a statement about his scathing remarks on the Armenian Genocide. We can easily extrap-

olate the reason why he has been silent so far on the Armenian issue, after so much outcry. The answer is simple; those lobbies are powerful enough that every politician has to reckon with. What clout do the Armenians wield in the US and the Caucasus region? The answer to that question alone will determine Mr. Hagel’s actions and behavior.

Armenian lobbying groups are not entirely in harmony – the scandal about the Genocide Museum is the hallmark of our weakness. Besides, large contingents of Armenians have been voting with their pocket books, with little or no regard about this country’s problems and exigencies in Armenia. President Obama won the election for his second term by empowering a coalition of Latinos, blacks, gays, immigrants and the dispossessed, while Tea Party zealots and unelected neo-cons took for granted that they owned the country. Where were the Armenians in the election shuffle? Some were trapped in “single issue syndrome,” others were out of sync with the political currents and crying needs of Armenia and the Genocide recognition. This situation can only teach one lesson; unless we mobilize the masses for political action, Mr. Hagel, and for that matter, any other politicians will never oblige.

On the other side of the equation is Turkey’s growing political clout in the world scene and Azerbaijan’s dangerous escalation of militarization, while Armenia’s work force abandons the country in droves and Diasporan armchair politicians have only criticism to direct at their homeland, without any actual input. But there is a silver lining in Chuck Hagel’s nomination yet that cannot be viewed as an isolated issue. It has to be analyzed within the context of broader political developments.

When the first President George Bush was elected, he promised a “gentler, kinder America.” But all we witnessed was a series of wars and bloodbaths around the world, especially with the election of the younger Bush, who became a hostage to the neo-con cabal, and fell into the trap which President Eisenhower had warned against: the takeover of the country by the military-industrial complex. Economic collapse, insecurity and instability around the world became the standard and pessimism reigned.

President Obama was elected with the promise of improving the economy, overhauling the healthcare system and winding down the senseless wars abroad. His opponent, Mitt. Romney, was promising \$15 billion more to the Army, which did not know what to do with it. That was, of course, in line with the neo-con policies of supplying cannon fodder for the growing military-industrial complex.

Chuck Hagel was chosen first as a Republican, to deflect criticism against the administration when it takes up the task of sizing down the Armed Forces, to become leaner yet more efficient and affordable.

In his inaugural speech, President Obama stated: “We, the people, still believe that enduring security and lasting peace do not require perpetual war [...] We are also the heirs of those who won peace and not just the war, who turned sworn enemies into the surest friends.”

These statements introduce monumental strategic changes to the White House world views. Mr. Hagel fits in the perspective of the president’s policies. Plus, as Bill Keller stated in his op-ed piece in the January 20 issue of the *New York Times*, Obama’s foreign and defense policies are directed from the White House.

President Obama seems to have subscribed to Moshe Dayan’s statement, “If you want to make peace, you don’t talk to your friends; you talk to your enemies.”

If this peaceful policy is implemented, we can see a relaxation in the intensifying Cold War with Russia over the plans to use Turkish territory to install new missile systems aimed at Moscow. We can also anticipate further diplomacy with Iran, rather than threats whose fallout could be disastrous for Armenia.

Currently Washington has taken a neutral position between Japan and China over the dispute of coastal islands.

Since Mr. Hagel is amenable to develop his views, and since he can only implement the president’s policies, we may expect some light at the end of the tunnel. The secretary of defense can no longer be a loose canon; he has to implement the president’s policies. While it is true that Mr. Obama still hesitates to use the word “genocide” with regard to Armenian history, his views thus far are closer to the historical truth uttered by any US president, with the exception of Ronald Reagan.

Hagel’s nomination still remains a moral and political dilemma until he makes good on our expectations.

Notice to Contributors

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

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

telephone number.

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



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Turkey Claims Non-Turkish Antiquities By Intimidating Foreign Museums

The Turkish government has recently embarked on an aggressive campaign, pressuring a large number of European and American museums to return antiquities that were taken out of the country during Ottoman times.

While it is understandable that nations would want to recover ancient relics that were part of their patrimony, in the Turkish case there are certain anomalies that merit closer scrutiny.

If these valuable relics were taken out of Turkey in recent times without proper authorization, one could argue that the Turkish government is perhaps entitled to them, even though they emanate from ancient civilizations that pre-date the conquest of that part of the world by Ottoman Turks.

It is ironic that the country claiming these antiquities is one of the history's biggest looters and pilferers of other nations' cultural heritage such as churches, monasteries, monuments and schools belonging to Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks. One must have clean hands before having the audacity of accusing others of theft.

Most shocking of all, the Turkish government is preparing a lawsuit against the British Museum in the European Court of Human Rights based on Article 1 of the First Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights which states: "Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions."

According to an article by Ceylan Yeginsu in the International Business Times (IBT), using human rights laws to recover antiquities is a novel concept never before used by any country. It is incredible that one of the biggest violators of human rights in the world is getting ready to sue the British Museum ostensibly for violating the rights of Turkish citizens.

Turkey is planning to file this lawsuit on January 30 to reclaim the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, "one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world." The British Museum, however, argues that it had not misappropriated this ancient relic. Olivia Rickman, press and PR manager of the museum, told IBT that the sculptures from the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus in the museum's collection were acquired in 1846, 1857 and 1859. Rickman further states that "these pieces were acquired during the course of two British initiatives, both with firmans [legal permits issued by the Ottoman authorities] that granted permission for the excavation of the site and removal of the material from the site (1857 and 1859) and Bodrum Castle (1846) to the British Museum."

IBT quoted Charlotte Woodhead, an expert in cultural heritage law at the University of Warwick in England, stating that she was not aware of human rights legislation ever being used before to reclaim such objects. "If a claim is brought before the European Court of Human Rights, it will be interesting to see on what basis it is argued and also to see what the outcome is," Woodhead stated.

Turkey has also used an Ottoman law banning the export

of artifacts in order to claim ownership of ancient artifacts from major museums around the globe, such as the Louvre in Paris, the Getty in Los Angeles, New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cleveland Museum of Art and Harvard's Dumbarton Oaks. If Turkey can claim Ottoman-era assets, then it must be held responsible for Ottoman-era liabilities such as plunder, territorial conquest and genocide.

By filing such questionable lawsuits, Turkey's real intent is to intimidate foreign museums into returning the claimed artifacts. If the museums do not cave in to Turkish pressure and refuse to turn over these items, it would be interesting to see if the Turkish government would still go ahead with its threatened lawsuits. The big risk for Turkey is that if the courts reject its claims, no museum would ever agree to return any of the demanded antiquities.

However, should a foreign museum wish to return an ancient relic to Turkey, it should make it conditional on the Turkish government officially identifying the true origin of the object, such as Hittite, Roman, Greek, Armenian or Assyrian. This is necessitated by the fact that Turkey has omitted all references to the origin of ancient Armenian churches and monuments from inscriptions presently affixed to the entrance of these sites.

Turkish efforts to reclaim antiquities from the world's great museums provide a unique opportunity for Armenians to publicize the Turkey's misuse and outright destruction of thousands of Armenian churches, monasteries, schools, cemeteries and castles.

Armenians should petition the European Court of Human Rights, objecting to the return of any artifacts to Turkey, unless its government makes a legally binding pledge to preserve and identify all remaining Armenian monuments on its territory. The next step would be to demand that Turkey return the more than 2,000 churches to the Armenian Patriarchate of Istanbul.

LETTERS

Paying Tribute to Fr. Samoorian

To the Editor:

A man of extraordinary talents, a man of extraordinary intellect, a man of extraordinary passions and understanding has left us to join the growing procession of gifted minds that have been almost Messianic in their ability to nourish and enlighten new generations.

Father Ghevont Samoorian, of Billerica, Mass., has left us unwillingly, defeated by the most insidious of infections. And, he leaves to us the seeds of a burning passion with which to seek out and discover the deep mystery of our Armenian existence. To those whom he mentored, he has left a monumental responsibility, that of intensifying the truths and realities which he communicated to us through the living fire in his heart and the unquenchable love of all things Armenian in his soul.

To those of us whom he touched deeply, to those of us who shared his love and his passions, to those of us who learned how to bear the burden of pain that has befallen our race, mourning is inadequate. Mourning does not articulate the tragedy of his death sufficiently to console the soul.

Because Hayr Soorp was not simply a man, but a phenomenon that enabled minds to transcend superficiality and reach into the depths of human understanding. Hayr Soorp loved life. Life was the precipice upon which he stood and played his philosophical lyre to a world that understood, to a world that did not understand, to a world that is yet to be born.

His pen demonstrated the genius of his talent and his mind. His heart was his shield of strength. I grieve not for Father Ghevont, but for myself.

—Peter Hanoian

The Existence of Evil and God's Will

By Fr. Bedros Shetilian

"My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?" Matt., 27.46

These words of Christ, said on the cross, are very impressive. It's difficult to find another expression, which more obviously shows His human nature. How profound is the tragedy of our Lord and it shows how great is His Self-sacrifice for the salvation of human beings. There is no other occasion where we can see how much he is similar to us. By these words, He becomes the symbol of all people with suffering.

With these words, Christ is screaming on behalf of the Holocaust victims; on behalf of the victims of the 9/11 attacks; on behalf of the people of Africa who are dying because of the starvation and finally on behalf of our fathers and mothers who became the victims of the Genocide.

During history, human beings justifiably asked this question and will continue to ask it. As long as the world exists, evil and suffering will exist and so the human beings will continue screaming:

"My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

In reality this issue is the most sensitive and painful one in the subject of man-God relationship. And limited human logic is not enough to find an answer to this question. In philosophy and theology, there is a division called Theodicy which deals with this issue; however, there is no complete answer.

- Why are good human beings suffering while evil ones are happy?

- Why are some good people dying early because of sickness and some evil ones are living a long time?

- How we can explain the evil that exists in the world with the fact that God is almighty and just?

Vladimir Pozner, one of Russia's most prominent journalists, challenges faith: "Maybe I can understand why good people are suffering, because although they are good, they may commit some mistakes or sins, but how can you explain the suffering of innocent children?"

Now can you imagine that everyday an estimated 30,000 children are dying because of the poverty and instability in the world? Thirty thousand innocent children every day. Truly it can be said, "My God, how can I understand you...?" (Poet Vahan Tekeyan).

When such tragedies happen far from us, we can find some "explanation." But the dilemma starts when we ourselves become a part of such tragedies and we can ask. "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

The person who can understand and feel this issue without being part of it is blessed; and actually Christ is calling us to be such a person and to be sensitive to the pain of our brothers and sisters, and enemies as well.

There is no better way to find an "answer" to this question than to consider the Armenian Genocide. For us The Genocide is a most painful issue. Here is a clear example: The first Christian nation, who had the desire to be part of the civilized world and was demanding its basic

human rights, was annihilated by the barbarians.

Where was God during the Genocide?

Why didn't He take care of his people?

Jews during the Holocaust asked such questions. The Jewish world-renowned philosopher Levinas, who was a Holocaust survivor and who lost many of his family members, came to this conclusion after long years struggling with God:

- "God himself was suffering with His own people in the concentration camps."

There is another example and it's considered to the Genocide survival Areknaz Kocharian from Philadelphia, who passed away several years ago. Her daughter Mari Zakarian says: "In the spring of 1980 I interviewed survivors of the Genocide in Philadelphia for the Armenian Assembly's Oral History program in Washington, DC. As I interviewed the survivors of the Genocide, the image of my mother in prayer stayed with me, her eyes lifted toward the heavens, her hand making the sign of the cross. One day as she was praying, I asked how she could believe in a God who had allowed the bloodshed she had seen. In a moment of human failing I cried, 'Where was He?' 'Hush, my lamb,' she said, 'He was right there with us. God was right there among the dead and the dying.' She continued to pray."

How impressive are the words of this simple and uneducated woman, who came to the same conclusion as the Jewish world-renowned philosopher.

Truly it is difficult to find another answer to this major question. God himself suffered and is continuing to suffer with his own people.

In reality people who are at a distance from such experiences mostly ask such questions. People who are part of such tragedies are saying and acting in a different way because the person who feels that death is imminent feels also the imminence of passing to eternal life, so he or she is judging in a different way. We, who don't have such experiences, think theoretically; but those who are part of such experiences, think more correctly.

As a pastor I have been a witness to such an experience. Where I was serving in New York City I had the chance to know an Armenian woman, named Janna, who was working in the Armenian Nursing Home in New York City. She was in her 60s. She was a survivor of the Armenian massacres in Baku, Azerbaijan. People used to call her "skorie pomash" (ambulance in Russian) because she was a very helpful and giving person. After coming to America and after her children were grown and married, it seems it should be time to bear the fruit of her good behavior and her suffering. But she was diagnosed with cancer.

When her illness started, I was in New York City. When I moved to Massachusetts, I was regularly in contact with her. One day I had a call from her daughter. I understood that there was no hope left and she was going to die. I went to the hospital to see her. She had changed in a very bad way. It was difficult to see her in that condition and therefore I was struggling with God. It came out from my mouth: "God is with you." She turned away her face from me. I understood that she herself was struggling with God and what I said was not the right thing to say at that time. When I visited her several days before she passed away, I gave her the last communion and a neshkhar. I was very concerned how she would pass away from this world, whether upset with God or at peace with Him. During the funeral I was consoled, because I was told that during last days and hours of her life here on earth, she was kissing the neshkhar and she passed away in peace and harmony with God.

see EVIL, page 16

Dink Assassination Anniversary Commemorated in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, from page 1

Police reportedly intervened in the march, where some people were at risk of being crushed due to the large crowds, and used pepper gas against some demonstrators.

The Friends of Hrant Dink claim that almost all the civil servants who were involved in the death of the journalist have been protected and promoted by the government.

A number of exhibitions, panel discussions and live performances have also been displayed at the Tobacco Warehouse (Tütün Deposu) since the beginning of the week in memory of Dink.

“I feel like a dove in this society, which has to

thropist Robert Bogossian in 2001.

“Armenia is the greatest motherland, and the diaspora is its islands,” Dink once said.

Turkish upper circles were well aware of the initiative of Dink’s murder

The representatives of the civil society of Armenia addressed a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon with regard to the possible transfer of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) European Regional Office from Bratislava, Slovakia, to Istanbul.

They complained that the country “has committed genocide – the genocide against Armenians living on their own historic motherlands, and parts of the Ottoman Empire, that started in Istanbul on April 24, 1915. Turkey committed also massacres of other national minorities, including Greeks and Assyrians. All of these crimes are until today blatantly denied by the Turkish authorities, despite the fact that the Armenian Genocide of 1915 has been recognized and condemned by a number of UN member states.”

In addition, they noted that it had blockaded Armenia for two decades.

In Turkey, the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) submitted a proposal to open a parliamentary inquiry into

the murder of Dink.

The proposal, submitted to the Parliamentary Speaker’s Office on January 21 by a group of BDP deputies led by deputy parliamentary group chair Idris Baluken, said public servants who neglected their duties deliberately or unintentionally were not investigated at all.

(Hurriyet and Armenpress contributed to this report.)



Marching in memory of Hrant Dink



Noam Chomsky, center, at the event

be very vigilant, so I handily swirl my head up and down, right and left, to avoid the danger, but I am not afraid, cause doves are not being shot in this society,” wrote Dink in his last article.

Hrant Dink was posthumously rewarded in 2007 by Armenian President. Dink was among 18 writers, artists and scientists awarded that year from a special presidential endowment set up with the help of French-Armenian philan-

The Existence of Evil and God’s Will

EVIL, from page 15

Anyone who is passing through the experience of death – in other words one foot is here and one foot there – their eyes open. For this reason most of the people pass away in Peace. There are some exceptions.

And this is not a dream, or an illusion or fake religious propaganda. This is a fact and reality. Faith in the eternal life and the resurrection is the answer to this question.

When human beings are facing injustice and difficulties they may ask such questions, and they may find the answer if they are able to open their eyes. In other words if they can find the power and ability and by the grace of God overcome the limited bor-

ders of the human logic and look at these things with their hearts and souls.

It is said that Christianity is the religion of heart; it is said that Christianity is the most humanitarian religion, because Jesus Christ speaks not only from God’s side, but also from the human side: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

And Jesus Christ answers: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” Luke, 23.46

(Fr. Bedros Shetilian is serving at Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church in Troy, NY and St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Church in Springfield, Mass.)

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The Honorable Mr. Serge Sargsyan

The Guarantor of Peace, Security & Prosperity of the Republic of Armenia

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Coalition of Supporters of the Republic of Armenia