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Turkey Protests Swiss Probe Against Minister

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) – Turkey on Monday summoned the Swiss ambassador to protest his country's probe of a Turkish official who is alleged to have denied that Armenians endured a genocide.

Swiss laws criminalizes denying the Armenian Genocide.

Turkey's chief European Union negotiator Egemen Bagis was alleged to have said in Switzerland, "There is no Armenian Genocide. Let them come and arrest me."

A Turkish Foreign Ministry official, speaking anonymously due to government rules, said Swiss Ambassador Raimund Kunz was told Monday the probe was "unacceptable."

Zurich prosecutor Christine Braunschweig confirmed officials have opened a preliminary investigation into the allegations.

Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdog on Monday called the probe "ridiculous."

"Bagis expressed his view in a country which apparently has no tolerance for freedom of expression," he said.

Turkey itself is under intense pressure from the European Union to increase freedom of speech and stop prosecuting writers, intellectuals and journalists for expressing their views.

Some people, including Nobel Prize winning writer Orhan Pamuk, have been prosecuted for statements on the massacres of Armenians, but charges of insulting Turkey were dropped.

In 2008, a Swiss court convicted three Turkish men of racism for denying the deaths amounted to genocide. The men have been fined but received no jail sentences.

Most historians contend that the killings as the Ottoman Empire broke up was the 20th century's first genocide, and several European countries recognize the massacres as such.

But Turkey maintains there was no systematic campaign to kill Armenians and see PROBE, page 4

Zarakolu's Name Submitted for Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO (Bia News) – Members of Parliament of the Swedish Left Party Amineh Kakabaveh, Jens Holm, Bengt Berg, Siv Holma, Marianne Berg and deputies of the Green Party Jan Lindholm and Valter Mutt applied to the Nobel Prize Committee in Oslo to nominate Ragip Zarakolu for the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize.

In their application to the committee, the members of the Swedish Parliament emphasized that Zarakolu was an internationally-recognized human rights defender who became a symbol for press freedom and freedom of expression.

The application also mentioned several awards given to publisher, writer and human rights advocate Zarakolu for his efforts in this context.

A news article in the *Radikal* daily also referred to numerous prison sentences handed down to the publisher on the grounds of books on the Armenian Genocide, see ZARAKOLU, page 20



Ragip Zarakolu

Russia Promises Support for Armenian Agriculture, Nuke Construction

By Hovannes Shoghikian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – High-ranking Russian officials pledged to help spur agricultural activity in Armenia and reaffirmed Moscow's stated support for the construction of a new Armenian nuclear plant during separate visits to Yerevan last Tuesday.

Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov held what he described as "quite productive" negotiations with Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian that focused on bilateral economic ties and, in particular, agricultural assistance requested by the Armenian government.

"We agreed on the main directions of our cooperation that concern agriculture in the first instance," Sargsian said. "We need support and assistance from our Russian

partners in the areas of cattle and seed breeding and in the provision of agricultural equipment."

"We mapped out very important areas of cooperation ... and that applies to agriculture and seed breeding in the first instance," confirmed Zubkov.

see RUSSIA, page 4

Members of Congress, Armenian Assembly Urge Affirmation of Genocide as Clinton Statement Draws Ire

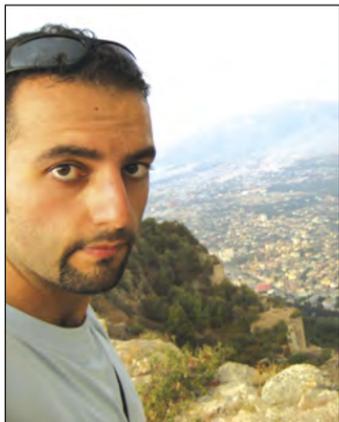
WASHINGTON – Members of Congress and the Armenian Assembly expressed strong concerns regarding Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's remarks on the Armenian Genocide at a town hall meeting last week, reported the Armenian Assembly of America.

In a letter circulated this week, Representatives Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Robert Dold (R-IL), sponsors of the Armenian Genocide resolution, urged members to join them in sending a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton calling on the Secretary to "disavow her ill-considered statement." The letter also urges the Obama Administration to unequivocally affirm the Armenian Genocide this April 24th and firmly recognize "genocide wherever and whenever it occurs."

Speaking at a town hall meeting last week at the State Department, Clinton, in response to a question about the Armenian Genocide and the recent developments in France surrounding the adoption of new legislation criminalizing its denial, stated: "I think it's fair to say that this has always been viewed, and I think properly so, as a

see CLINTON, page 20

Prolific Young Scholar on Armenian Genocide in Holland



Ugur Üngör in Sis

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

AMSTERDAM – Ugur Ümit Üngör is one of a new generation of scholars emerging from Turkey who deal forthrightly with the Armenian Genocide. Assistant professor at the Department of History at Utrecht University in the Netherlands and researcher at the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam, his main interest is the historical sociology of mass violence and nationalism. He has recently published three books dealing with the Armenian Genocide and related issues.

see SCHOLAR, page 8

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aram Julfalakyan Wins Gold at Wrestling Tournament

SOFIA, Bulgaria (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenian Greco-Roman wrestlers won four medals at the Dan Koloff-Nikola Petrov International Wrestling Tournament currently taking place here.

Julfalakyan beat Hovhannes Varderesyan (both 66 kilograms) to win a gold medal in the final. Varderesyan took the silver medal.

Both Arthur Mkrtchyan (60 kilograms) and Hrach Hovannisyan (84 kilogram) secured bronze medals, while Tigran Sahakyan (84 kilograms) finished fourth.

Armenian Cathedral to Be Built in Ukraine

KIEV, Ukraine (PanARMENIAN.Net) – On February 3, Kiev hosted a joint sitting of Ukrainian Association of Union of Armenians of Ukraine and Armenian Community in Kiev NGOs.

A discussion of the coordination of all Armenian organizations of the Ukrainian capital, construction of Armenian cathedral, as well as organizational and legal aspects of holding elections of the head of Armenian community in Kiev took place during the sitting, analitika.at.ua reported.

Armenian Ambassador to Ukraine Andranik Manukyan, head of the Ukrainian Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church (AAC) Archbishop Grigoris Buniatyan, head of the Union of Armenians of Ukraine Vilen Shatvoryan, Consul Armen Aslanyan, representatives of Kiev city administration and Armenian community members of the Ukrainian capital were present at the event.

When finished, the new church might be the largest Eastern Rite church in the region.

Journalist, Professor Osheen Keshishian Hospitalized

LOS ANGELES – Respected journalist, long-time Tekeyan Cultural Association's (TCA) Central Board member, TCA Arshag Dickranian School Trustee and publisher of the *Armenian Observer* weekly, Prof. Osheen Keshishian suffered a stroke during a public lecture and was rushed to Glendale Memorial Hospital, where he has since been under the care of intensive medical team.

We wish our colleague a speedy recovery.

– *Mirror-Spectator* staff

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Ignatius On Life

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Opera, Ballet Premieres
In 2012

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Aleksander Spendiaryan Opera and Ballet National Academic Theatre will present a number of premieres in 2012.

Theater Director Kamo Hovhannissyan said premieres of both ballets and operas are expected. He said among the works that are expected to be mounted are Bizet's "Carmen," Puccini's "La Bohème" and Tchaikovsky's "Shelkunchik."

"We want to have this ballet to invite our children to theatre during the New Year days," Hovhannissyan said, adding that "Giselle" will also be restored to the lineup.

Armenia's Universities
Among Top Taxpayers

YEREVAN (news.am) – Armenia's State Revenue Committee (SRC) publicized the list of the country's top-1,000 taxpayers for 2011, which includes the educational institutions.

And the list's highest taxpaying university is Yerevan State University, which is in 105th spot, with close to 790 million drams (approx. \$ 2,041,280). In second place is the State Medical University, which is in 149th spot, with 567.9 million drams (approx. \$1,467,396). And the third highest taxpaying institution of higher learning is the Armenian State Pedagogical University, which is in 190th spot in the list, with 434.4 million drams (approx. \$1,122,445).

In total, the educational institutions paid to the state budget around 3 billion 250 million drams (approx. \$8,397,672) within the first six months of the current fiscal year.

Sugar Prices See Record
Inflation

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Inflation was at 4.7 percent in Armenia this past year and prices for meat products went up by 10 percent, dairy by 7 percent, oil by 12 percent. However, the price of sugar increased by 35 percent. Speaking to reporters, chairman of the Association of Consumers, Armen Poghosyan, said inflation is a natural phenomenon and the main factors promoting it are transport expenses.

"It is much cheaper to transport cargos from different parts of world to Batumi, than from Batumi to Yerevan. It is necessary to build a Fioletovo-Vanadzor railway to cut the length of Batumi-Yerevan railway by 260 kilometers," he said.

Armenian Coalition
Tensions Mount

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Tensions between the two main members of Armenia's ruling coalition rose on Tuesday as deputies from the Prosperous Armenia Party (BHK) demonstratively walked out of the parliament one day after blocking the passage of a major government bill.

The BHK's 26-strong faction in the 131-member National Assembly announced a one-day boycott of parliament sessions in response to strong criticism from Speaker Samvel Nikoyan and other senior lawmakers from President Serge Sargsisian's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK).

The statement, which BHK Deputy Naira Zohrabian tried to read out before the walkout, cited a "non-constructive atmosphere in the parliament." Nikoyan cut her short.

The row centers on amendments to several economic laws drafted by the government. The most important of them would ban cash transactions among businesses exceeding 3 million drams (\$7,770). The government says the measure is important for combating tax evasion.

BHK deputies, whose leader, Gagik Tsarukian, is one of the country's richest businesspeople, rejected this explanation. Their decision not to take part in Monday's parliament vote on the bill scuttled its passage. The development followed months of reported friction between Tsarukian and Sarkisian.

Galust Sahakian, the HHK's parliamentary leader, played down the BHK walkout.

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund Launches Renovation of
Gumri Children's Home Orphanage

YEREVAN – The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund has launched an extensive renovation of the Gumri Children's Home orphanage.

Built in 1924, the orphanage was used as a boarding kindergarten until 1972. Two additional wings were constructed in 1946 and 1993, respectively. The Hayastan All-Armenian Fund will refurbish the two older buildings, which comprise a total area of 900 square meters. The project will include the renovation of the bedrooms, gym, cafeteria, kitchen and restrooms as well as installation of air-conditioning and fire-protection systems.

Currently more than 120 children with mental or physical disorders live and receive care at the facility. After they reach age 6, they are placed in various mainstream or specialized orphanages, among them the Kharberd special-needs orphanage and the Mary Izmirlian Orphanage in Yerevan. These subsequent placements are made based on assessments of each child's mental and physical health, specific care needs and prospects of improvement. For instance, children with eyesight disorders are placed in Yerevan's No. 14 Boarding School, which specializes in the education and care of children with ocular diseases. As for children whose health improves considerably following appropriate medical treatment, some rejoin their families at the families' request.



The children of Gumri House celebrate a Christmas with staff and family.

"Conditions at the facility deteriorated day by day," said Ruzanna Avagyan, director of the Gumri Children's Home orphanage. "The water and sewage pipes were corroded. As a result, the restrooms were frequently out of order, and the walls were gravely damaged because of water seepage. Furthermore, the air-conditioning system had long ceased to work, a fact that has made the care of children with various disorders all the more difficult."

Commenting on the upgrades currently implemented by the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund, Avagyan stated, "When completed, the renovations

will allow us to vastly improve our operations. We will also be able to provide the children with critically important physical therapy."

On his part, Gilbert Moundjian, chairman of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's German affiliate, reaffirmed the German-Armenian community's commitment to supporting development projects in the homeland. "Naturally we wish that all Armenian children can be healthy in body and mind," he said. "As for those children with various disorders, we must do our utmost to help ease their pain, to make their lives better and more meaningful."

Armenian Journalist Freed amid Media Uproar

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Facing an uproar from Armenia's leading press freedom groups and independent media outlets, law-enforcement authorities released on Monday a prominent journalist who was arrested on controversial charges last Friday.

Hayk Gevorgian, a veteran editor and correspondent with the pro-opposition daily *Haykakan Zhamanak*, linked the case with his professional activities as he walked free from Yerevan's Nubarashen prison early in the afternoon.

Gevorgian was detained for allegedly hitting and injuring another man with a car driven by him on January 13. The Armenian police say he did not help the middle-aged man, Armen Frangulian, and instead verbally abused him before fleeing the scene.

Frangulian confirmed this version of events in a police video report broadcast by Armenian television over the weekend. Wrapped in a blanket, he said he has still not recovered from the injuries despite spending several days in a Yerevan hospital. The report also featured a hospital doctor saying that those injuries were of "medium gravity."

Nikol Pashinian, the *Haykakan Zhamanak* editor, dismissed those claims and claimed that the incident was a police provocation organized in retaliation for Gevorgian's scathing articles about Vladimir Gasparian, the chief of the national police. One of those articles was published on January 13.

Gevorgian likewise alleged personal retribution by Gasparian after his release. "They just wanted to show what happens to those who write negative things about him," he said outside the Nubarashen jail. "This is simply persecution."

"I had no doubts that they will arrest me because, thank God, I know the intellectual level of that [law-

enforcement] system very well," he said. "They prepared the arrest for 20 days. Even in those circumstances they did it with huge violations, which made my dream come true."

Gevorgian at the same time refused to comment on details of the January 13 incident. "They will commit more mistakes during their further investigation and the trial. If I recount details now they may avoid some of those mistakes," he explained.

Gevorgian's release was ordered by a prosecutor overseeing the high-profile criminal case. Sona Truzian, a spokeswoman for Armenia's Office of the Prosecutor-General, said the prosecutor took into consideration the fact that the journalist is not accused of committing a grave crime and has no prior criminal record.

Truzian defended his detention, saying that he ignored police summonses and evaded prosecution.

Pashinian insisted, however, that the journalist simply wanted to "clarify his status" before showing up for interrogation. The *Haykakan Zhamanak* editor also said that Gevorgian never went into hiding and could have been easily located by the police.

The Yerevan Press Club and the Armenian Committee to Protest Freedom of Speech made a similar point in a joint statement that expressed outrage at the police actions. "For more than 10 days Hayk

Gevorgian was on the police wanted list while continuing his journalistic activities and entering government buildings," said the statement issued on Saturday.

The two media watchdogs also described as "fairly plausible" the *Haykakan Zhamanak* claims that Gevorgian was prosecuted for his coverage of the police and Gasparian in particular.

Bagrat Yesayan, editor of the *Yerkir* daily, likewise dismissed the police arguments as "laughable" and demanded that his colleague be immediately set free. "I'm shocked and just can't find an explanation for this action taken by the authorities," said Armine Ohanian, editor of the *Hraparak* daily.

Gevorgian's arrest also prompted strong condemnations from Armenia's leading opposition forces, including the Armenian National Congress (HAK), of which Pashinian is a senior member.

President Serge Sargsisian was asked to comment on the case when he met with female members of his Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) in the resort town of Tsaghkadzor on Saturday. Panorama.am quoted him as saying that only courts can determine the legality of the police actions. "I will not express my opinion until there is a decision by the court, which I hope will be made as early as possible," he said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Clinton Briefed on Latest Summit

By Emil Danielyan

MUNICH (RFE/RL) – US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was briefed on the results of the latest Armenian-Azerbaijani summit in Russia during separate talks with Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev and Armenia's Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian held over the weekend.

Clinton met with the two men on the sidelines of an annual conference on global security that took place in Munich, Germany. She made no public statements after those meetings.

In a short statement, Aliyev's press office said the Azerbaijani leader and the chief US diplomat had a "broad exchange of opinions on the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani Nagorno-Karabagh conflict." It did not elaborate.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry said Nalbandian and Clinton "discussed in detail the latest developments in the negotiating process of the Karabagh settlement" and, in particular, Aliyev's January 23 meeting with President Serge Sargsian that was hosted by their Russian counterpart, Dmitry Medvedev, in the Russian city of Sochi. Nalbandian shared with her details of the summit, a ministry statement said.

A senior US State Department official said ahead of the Munich Security Conference that the Karabagh issue is "something the Secretary takes a personal interest in." "The Secretary wants to talk to both sides about the results of that [summit] and the follow-on from that and how we can help move the process forward," the official said.

Azerbaijan, Iran Gas Flow to Turkey Halted

BAKU (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The flow of natural gas from Azerbaijan to Turkey was halted on Tuesday, February 6, because of technical problems, Turkish Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said.

The minister also said that the supply of gas from Iran had dropped after an explosion at a compression station.

"We had been receiving around 40 million cubic meters a day from Iran and Azerbaijan together and that has now fallen to between 6-7 million cubic meters a day," he said during a press conference.

He expected supply to return to normal and ruled out shortages.

"Neither industrial nor residential consumers will see any cut in gas supply," he said, adding that Turkey was still receiving gas from Russia, Algeria and Nigeria.

A spokesman for BP, which operates Azerbaijan's Shah Deniz gas field, told dpa that the flow of gas to Turkey would resume later on Tuesday.

Turkey has experienced a series of gas shortages over the past weeks due in part to record high gas consumption prompted by extremely cold weather.

Turkey imports up to 6.6 billion cubic meters of gas each year from Azerbaijan, 10 billion cubic meters from Iran and 30 billion cubic meters from Russia. It also buys liquid natural gas (LNG) from Algeria and Nigeria, M&C reported.



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with President Ilham Aliyev

In joint statement with Medvedev issued after the Sochi talks, Aliyev and Sargsian did not announce progress towards an Armenian-Azerbaijani agreement on the Basic Principles of the conflict's resolution jointly drafted by the United States, Russia and France. They only "expressed readiness to accelerate the achievement" of such a framework peace deal.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said there is still "a whole series of issues that remain to be agreed" by the conflicting parties. This was a further indication that a breakthrough in the long-running talks is unlikely in the coming months.

The Sochi statement insisted that the nearly one-dozen Aliyev-Sargsian meetings organized by Medvedev since late 2008 have brought the parties closer to peace. Both the US and France have also repeatedly welcomed the outgoing Russian president's mediating efforts that have enhanced Moscow's role in the peace process.

According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry statement, Nalbandian stressed the importance of the US involvement in the process. The statement also quoted Clinton as saying that Washington will continue to lend "full support" to the conflict's resolution by "in a solely peaceful way."

Both Baku and Yerevan say that the existing peace proposals by the US, Russian and French co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group are largely in tune with their positions. At the same time senior Azerbaijani officials regularly criticize the mediating powers.

Ali Ahmedov, executive secretary of Aliyev's Yeni Azerbaijan party, demanded "significant changes" in the Minsk Group's activities the day after the Sochi summit. The Trend news agency quoted Ahmedov as saying that Baku could seek "a new format" for the negotiating process if the group's three co-chairs fail to take "serious steps to resolve the conflict within a short period."

Malatya Municipality to Rebuild Demolished Armenian Shrine

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The municipality of Malatya has agreed to rebuild a complex involving a chapel, a guard house and an annex inside a historical Armenian cemetery after municipal workers demolished it on February 3, *Hurriyet Daily News* reported.

"The folk in the street cried when they saw that our Last Prayer [complex] was demolished. I don't think it to be neighborhood pressure. There is some pressure, but it emanates from sources unknown to us," Hosrof Köletavitoglu, the head of the Malatya Philanthropists' Association (HAYDER), said.

Malatya Municipality spokespeople said that the guard house had been brought down due to complaints issued by the local populace and that the chapel had been mistakenly demolished.

"They had said the guard box wasn't suitable here and decided to demolish [it]. Now they are taking over the construction of the entire complex by themselves," Köletavitoglu said on behalf of a group of Malatya Armenians residing in Istanbul who met with officials regarding the matter on February 6 morning.

The municipality promised to push forward with the project without making any additional changes, Köletavitoglu said, adding they were also going to certify that promise in the governor's office through a notary.

"We are going to pursue this to the end," he said. "We had just built the complex with money we collected from Armenians of Malatya [residing] in Istanbul and the diaspora. The demolition came about just as we were finishing it."

The project had originally been drawn up by the patriarchate of Turkish-Armenians.

The cemetery which measures thousands of acres in size also contains the burial grounds of the family members of Hrant Dink, the chief editor of the weekly *Agos*, who was gunned down in front of his office in Istanbul on January 19, 2007.

"We were going to hold a mass by organizing a tour on June 30 to bring Armenians originating from Malatya here. It will be a little difficult to hold the mass under these circumstances," he said.

The Turkish authorities nationalized the cemetery in the late 1940s, while only some two acres are still owned by the Armenian community.

International News

French Constitutional Council to Examine Genocide Bill

PARIS (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The Constitutional Council of France will examine the bill criminalizing the Armenian Genocide denial before March 1. The votes of seven council members are required for issuing a verdict.

On January 23, the French Senate passed the bill criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide, with 127 votes for and 86 against. If approved, the bill will impose a 45,000 euro fine and a year in prison for anyone in France who denies this crime against humanity committed by the Ottoman Empire.

Two separate groups of French politicians who oppose the legislation – from both the Senate and the lower house – said they had formally requested the Constitutional Council examine the law. The groups said they each had gathered more than the minimum 60 signatures required to ask the council to test the law's constitutionality. The council is obliged to deliver its judgment within a month, but this can be reduced to eight days if the government deems the matter urgent.

Armenia-Israel Direct Flights begin in April

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armavia and Eshet Tours air companies concluded an agreement on the launch of Israel-Armenia direct flights in April.

Armavia intends to boost the number of flights from one to two a week as an exclusive representative in Israel. The number of passenger seats will also be increased from 50 to 130.

Eshet Tours also plans to sell tour packages including tours to Armenia and Georgia, Israeli media outlets report.

Scholars Call for Israeli Knesset to Recognize Assyrian and Greek Genocides

ATHENS (Armenpress) – In a significant milestone for efforts towards the worldwide recognition of the Assyrian Genocide, nearly 30 internationally-renowned Holocaust and genocide scholars, and Assyrian and Greek social, cultural and religious groups, have written to the Israeli Knesset calling for the inclusion of Assyrians and Greeks in the Knesset's forthcoming legislation on remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, according to world.greekreporter.com.

The letter, sent on January 27 by the Assyrian Genocide Research Center to numerous members of the Israeli Knesset or parliament, noted that hundreds of thousands of Assyrians and Greeks "faced targeted killings, rape, abuse, destruction of home and villages and the razing of churches at the hands of the Ottoman Turks and their Kurdish allies" during the Ottoman campaign against Christian minorities of the Empire between 1914 and 1923.

While the better-known genocide of Armenians has garnered more international attention, Assyrians and Greeks worldwide have campaigned for the recognition of their genocides alongside that of the Armenians. "Many do not know," the letter notes, "that genocide was also committed against other ethnic groups, namely the Assyrians and Greeks, who were living from time immemorial on their ancestral lands, which were within the borders of the Ottoman Empire in 1914."

Despite the extensive corpus of academic research and archival material proving the reality of the genocide, the Turkish Republic has until now refused to formally recognize the genocide of Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks. Numerous governments, parliaments and international bodies have recognized the Genocide. Most recently, the Parliament of Sweden endorsed a resolution to officially recognize the Assyrian Genocide, alongside those of the Armenians and Greeks.



INTERNATIONAL

Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry Completes Recruitment Drive in Lebanon

BEIRUT – From January 27 to 29, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) conducted a successful recruitment campaign.

Led by Dr. Sevak Avagyan, executive director of the Los Angeles-based ABMDR, the campaign enjoyed the support of the Armenian Relief Cross of Lebanon (ARCL). Throughout the three-day initiative, ARCL Chair Taline Koulbashian and other leaders of

was accompanied by ABMDR staff members Naira Mkrtychyan and Gohar Malkhasyan.

On January 27 and 28, recruitments were held at the Araxi Boulghourjian Center in Burj Hamud, the Homenetmen Aghpalian Club in Antelias and two other districts with sizeable Armenian communities. The recruitment effort continued on January 29, with a major event held at the ARCL Clinic in the Armenian town of Anjar.

All of the recruitments, which featured informative lectures by Avagyan and ARCL personnel as well as ABMDR information boots, were attended by large numbers of supporters. The events resulted in a total of 262 recruits as potential bone marrow stem cell donors.

“My colleagues and I were delighted to promote the ABMDR cause and were overjoyed to see so many young people interested in being recruited,” Koulbashian said.

In addition to providing logistical sup-

port for the realization of the recruitment events, the ARCL leadership ensured that the ABMDR campaign would receive maximum media exposure.

On January 27, Avagyan gave interviews to the “Vana Dzayn” Armenian radio program as well as the OTV television station. Topics discussed by Avagyan in both interviews included life-threatening blood-related illnesses such as leukemia, the history and mission of ABMDR and the vital importance of Diaspora



A scene from one of the recruitment events in Burj Hamud

the organization facilitated several recruitments in Beirut, Anjar and elsewhere. Moreover, they helped raise public awareness of the ABMDR mission through various media outlets and made informative presentations at recruitment events.

“We are so very touched by the warm welcome we received from the Armenian-Lebanese community as a whole and the Armenian Relief Cross in particular,” said Avagyan, who throughout the recruitments



ABMDR executive director Dr. Sevak Avagyan looks on as a young supporter is recruited.

Armenians joining the ranks of the registry as potential bone marrow donors. The recruitment campaign also received coverage by Aztag Daily.

Commenting on the success of the recruitments, Dr. Frieda Jordan, president of ABMDR, stated, “The activism of the Armenian-Lebanese community is truly

inspiring. What Dr. Avagyan and his assistants witnessed in Lebanon is an outstanding spirit of volunteerism which we can all be proud of. With this regard, our special thanks go to Mrs. Taline Koulbashian and all of her colleagues at ARCL, for their hard work and tremendous dedication to our shared mission.”

Russia Promises Support for Agriculture, Nuke Construction

RUSSIA, from page 1

Armenia already began importing large quantities of high-quality grain seed from Russia in late 2010 as part of a government plan to significantly increase domestic wheat production. About 150 farmers and agricultural firms received such seeds last year.

Sargsisian and Zubkov said that a Russian-Armenian “working group” will meet in Moscow within the next month to flesh out their preliminary agreements. According to the Russian vice-premier, one of them envisages the establishment of an Armenian subsidiary of Russia’s Rosagroleasing enterprise that provides tractors and other equipment to farmers. He also said that a leading Russian agricultural bank should open a branch in Armenia and start extending loans to local farmers and food-processing companies.

Zubkov also welcomed a 16-percent increase in the volume of Russian-Armenian trade that exceeded \$1 billion registered in 2011. But he



Prime Minister Tigran Sargsisian (left) meets with Russia’s Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov (right) and Transport Minister Igor Levitin (center) in Yerevan.

said the two governments should strive to raise it further.

Zubkov’s delegation comprised Transport Minister Igor Levitin, who co-chairs a Russian-Armenian inter-government commission on economic cooperation together with Tigran Sargsisian. The two men visited later on Tuesday the premises of a Russian-owned research institute in Yerevan that that will soon be turned into a tax-free zone for hi-tech firms. Levitin said that a Russian-Armenian joint venture will complete preparations for the launch of the tax haven in the next six months.

The talks coincided with a separate visit to Armenia by Sergei Kirienko, head of Russia’s state-run Rosatom nuclear energy corporation. Kirienko met with President Serge Sargsisian after visiting the aging nuclear power station at Metsamor and inspecting the adjacent site of a new nuclear plant which the Armenian government plans to build in the coming years.

A statement by Sargsisian’s office said the two officials discussed “the development of interac-

tion on the construction” of the new nuclear facility. Kirienko was quoted as praising Yerevan for its “open” dealings with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Union.

“This is a very correct approach in terms of operations of the existing plant, additional safety measures taken there and the new [facility’s] construction,” he said before receiving a Medal of Honor, a top Armenian state award, from Sargsisian.

The Armenian leader discussed the crucial Russian involvement in the ambitious project with Russia’s President Dmitry Medvedev during an October 2011 trip to Moscow. Medvedev expressed hope that the two sides “will work out an optimal scheme” for implementing it. Kirienko’s deputy, Nikolay Spassky, said in Yerevan two days later that Moscow continues to regard the project as “promising.”

Armenia’s Energy Minister Armen Movsisian said in December that Rosatom is ready to invest up to half of an estimated \$4.5 billion needed for replacing Metsamor with a more modern and safer nuclear plant.

Double Olympic Wrestling Champ Ponders Comeback

SOFIA, Bulgaria (Reuters) – Double Olympic wrestling champion Armen Nazarian is pondering a return to competition with the lure of a gold medal at the London Olympics on the horizon.

Nazarian, who turns 38 next month, won Greco-Roman gold at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics while competing for Armenia before taking up Bulgarian citizenship and winning gold at the 2000 Sydney Games. He took the bronze four years later in Athens.

“I haven’t decided yet but it goes through my mind,” Nazarian, who announced his retirement in 2009, told Bulgarian daily *Tema Sport* on Monday.

“I’m still in the gym all the time and I’m trying to lose some kilos.

So if I improve my shape, I’ll probably compete in the 66-kilogram category at the Olympic qualifications in April.”

The Olympic qualification tournament will take place at the Arena Armeec Sofia from April 18 to 22.

On Friday, Swedish Greco-Roman wrestler Ara Abrahamian came out of retirement to compete at the Nikola Petrov tournament, also in Sofia.

The 36-year-old hit the headlines at the 2008 Beijing Olympics for being stripped of his 84kg-category bronze medal after he discarded it on the mat in protest at the refereeing.

Armenia-born Abrahamian, who won gold medals at the world championships in 2001 and 2002 and silver at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, declined to comment on his future when contacted.

Turkey Protests Probe Against Minister

PROBE, from page 1

that many Turks also died during the chaotic disintegration of the empire. It also says that death toll is inflated.

Turkey’s relations with France have already been strained over a bill that also criminalizes denial that the killings constituted genocide.

France’s Constitutional Council has been asked late January to determine whether that bill violates the constitution.

Turkey suspended military and economic cooperation after the French lower house approval of the measure in December. The Senate gave it the green light in late January.

President Nicolas Sarkozy – who personally backed the bill – must sign the legislation for it to become law.

Community News

97th Anniversary Commemoration of The Armenian Genocide to Be Held In Times Square

NEW YORK – For the 27th year, thousands of Armenian Americans and their supporters will gather in Times Square (Broadway between 43rd and 44th Streets) to commemorate the first genocide of the 20th century: The Armenian Genocide (1915-23). To be held on Sunday, April 22, 2-4 p.m., this event will pay tribute to the 1.5 million Armenians who were annihilated by the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire.

The commemoration will also celebrate the survival and spirit of the Armenian people, their rich heritage and global contributions. Presenters will include civic, religious, humanitarian, educational, cultural leaders and performing artists. This event is free and open to the public.

The theme of the commemoration is “Turkey is Guilty of Genocide; Denying the Undeniable is a Crime.”

The 97th commemoration is organized by the Mid-Atlantic chapters of Knights & Daughters of Vartan www.knightsofvartan.org, www.knightsofvartan.ca, a US fraternal organization of Armenian-Americans, and co-sponsored by Armenian General Benevolent Union www.agbu.org, Armenian Assembly of America www.aaainc.org, Armenian National Committee of America www.anca.org, Armenian Council of America and ADL-Ramgavars.

Participating organizations include: Diocese of the Armenian Church, Prelacy of the Armenian Church, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Presbyterian Church, Armenian Evangelical Church, Armenian Catholic Eparchy for US and Canada, Mid-Atlantic ACYOA, AYF and Armenian Youth Organizations.

ArmenBar to Honor Rep. Schiff, Glendale City Council Member Rafi Manoukian

GLENDALE – US Rep. Adam B. Schiff and City Council member (and former Glendale Mayor) Rafi Manoukian will be the guests of honor as the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar) hosts a reception at the Phoenicia Restaurant on Thursday, February 23. ArmenBar's vice chairman, dean of the Peoples College of Law and member of the Glendale Civil Service Commission, Garo Ghazarian, will preside as master of ceremonies.

“Both Congressman Schiff and Councilman Manoukian have had long and distinguished careers in public service,” said Edwin Minassian, chairman of ArmenBar. “We look forward to celebrating their exemplary careers in service to nation and community at the upcoming dinner and reception.”

Schiff has served in Congress since 2001, representing Glendale and surrounding communities. Schiff is a member of the House Appropriations Committee and a senior member of the House Intelligence Committee. During his years in the House, Schiff has been an unflagging voice in support of the interests of the Armenian people. He was a prime mover of House Resolution 106 in 2007, an act recognizing the Armenian Genocide, and remained so in the face of intense Turkish government pressure to have that legislative effort quashed.

Before his election to national office, Schiff served a four-year term in the California State Senate, chairing that body's Judiciary
see ARMENBAR, page 9



Christopher Soghoian likes to find security flaws, and then shame big organizations into fixing them.

The Pest Who Shames Companies into Fixing Security Flaws

LOS ANGELES (*Wired*) – Every Christopher Soghoian production follows a similar pattern, a series of orchestrated events that lead to the public shaming of a large entity – Google, Facebook, the federal government – over transgressions

by Mike Kessler

that the 30-year-old technologist sees as unacceptable violations of privacy. Sometimes he discovers these security flaws by accident, other times because someone has pissed him off, but mostly

because he is parked at his computer all day looking for security flaws.

When he finds one, Soghoian, a PhD candidate in computer science at Indiana University Bloomington, learns everything he can about it and devises what he sees as a viable solution. Then he alerts the offending party and gives them a chance to fix things, explaining that if they don't, he will go public with his discovery. (OK, sometimes he skips the give-them-a-chance step.) When the inevitable wave of media coverage starts breaking, Soghoian is often the first expert that reporters turn to for sound bites – about stories he has effectively handed them. In the end, the security holes get patched, and Soghoian gets more notoriety and more work. He is vertically integrated.

“If Chris Soghoian points out a technology-related privacy problem, then it should probably be taken seriously,” says Marcia Hofmann, a senior staff attorney at San Francisco-based Electronic Frontier Foundation, which tackles free speech and privacy issues. “Nobody else is doing what Chris does – at least not at his level.”

Consider Gmail. Everything you send and receive through Google's email servers is automatically encrypted using secure sockets layer, or SSL, which is indicated by the letters https at the beginning of a gmail URL. It wasn't always so. Google used to keep SSL off by default; it can slow things down a bit. It was left to users to figure out how to opt in for extra security.

Soghoian interned at Google in the summer of 2006 and says that, like many Google employees, he was issued an encrypted laptop. He found it unacceptable that the company wasn't offering the same level of protection to the public. So three years later, when a fellowship at Harvard's Berkman Center for Internet & Society gave him access to free legal counsel and contacts to numerous tech-world leaders, he persuaded 36 of them, including Ronald Rivest (the R in RSA encryption algorithm) to sign an open letter urging Google to make SSL the default. He sent the letter to reporters and to then Google CEO Eric Schmidt.

Soghoian won't claim direct credit, and Google won't give it (or deny it). But hours after the letter was published, Google changed its position, claiming that it had been planning to make SSL the default for Gmail. Seven months later, it did so. “All of the privacy lawyers at the big Internet companies now have Chris on their radar,” says Caspar Bowden, a former Microsoft executive who recently moderated a panel on privacy organized by Soghoian. “He has a natural talent for bringing issues to a head, making real changes to corporate and government policies, and communicating the issues to the wider public. Organizations will probably feel bruised by the encounter but will realize in time they have been moved to a better place. Few people can do that, and Chris is a rare example of a genuinely strategic activist.”

see SECURITY, page 7

The Armenian Cardinal and His Servant

By Tom Vartabedian

HAVERTHILL, Mass. – Growing up inside an Armenian Catholic Church in Harvard Square, my Sundays were always occupied as an altar boy.

I would wear the *shabig* and go through the entire ritual of a Holy Mass, uttering the responses and smoking out the congregation with a censer.

Each Sunday, for more than three decades at Holy Cross Church, the celebrant was Fr. Luke Arakelian and he ran a tight ship. His altar boys were trained like Prussian soldiers, answering every call as if the Almighty had ordered it.

One day, he took me aside and said, “Thomas. The cardinal is coming. You will be his chief servant.”

I thought maybe a glass of water when he needed it or perhaps fulfilling any request made of him. After all, it wasn't every day such a high authority of the church would be visiting the community.

The protocol I envisioned was nothing compared to what was expected. My altar duties were ready to take a quantum leap. I would serve as his deacon and give all the responses expected of my role.

His arrival to Greater Boston was met with high anticipation. Cardinal Gregory Peter XV Agagianian was here to bolster the Armenian Catholic faithful, stimulate the church populace and heighten the understanding of our common heritage.

My nerves stood on edge in the days that followed. Suppose I fell apart and forgot the prayers? What if I tripped on my robe and took a dive? Like any sheepish teenager, it was like waiting for a tooth to be pulled.

The year was 1951 and the big day finally arrived. I remember him hearing my surname and smiling, “You are the son of a priest. I couldn't have a more appropriate assistant.”

Of course, he had two. On the cardinal's opposite side was Arakelian himself and down below, a cadre of other altar boys and candle bearers – the whole entourage. It went off like a charm.

My thoughts go back to the 1958 papal conclave in Rome following the death of Pius XII. Agagianian was on the verge of being elected to the highest post in the Catholic Church. He received a large number of votes from the College of Cardinals, eventually approaching the majority needed for election. This was confirmed by the elected pope himself, Pope John XXIII.

In a talk at the Armenian College in Rome, three months after the conclave, the new pope admitted that his name and that of Agagianian's “went up and down like two chickpeas in boiling water” before he finally got elected on the 11th ballot with the two-thirds vote required.

Thousands who gathered outside St. Peter's Basilica in Rome that October 28 had laid witness to a smokestack ritual. At one interval when the smoke changed from black to white, a new pope had been elected, thought to be the Armenian cardinal. Before the celebration began, the smoke reverted to black.

Had Agagianian been elected but declined the post? We'll never know.

Our paths would cross again two years later at the Mkhitarist Monastery in Vienna where I was sent to pursue my
see CARDINAL, page 6



COMMUNITY NEWS

Cultural Life inside the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Alex and Marie Manoogian School, as a Central Michigan University mandated charter school, began the 2011-2012 academic year with extracurricular activities and guest visits. Due to its high academic standards and its 97-percent university admittance rate, the reputation of the school is expanding rapidly within Armenian and non-Armenian circles.

The school administration, composed of Dyana Kezelian, principal of the elementary and middle school, and Dr. Hosep Torossian, principal of the high school, encourage and support extracurricular and Armenian undertakings, ensuring a high quality of Armenian education.

The first to kick off the new school year took place on October 27, 2011, with a commemoration of the Republic of Armenia's 20th anniversary and a celebration of Armenian culture. The elementary students glorified Armenia and Armenian culture with recitations and songs. With great anticipation, students watched a performance by the fifth-grade class of Hovhannes Toumanian's tale, "The Foolish

Man," accompanied by Armenian classical music. The play was bilingually adapted by Sebouh Avedikian, head of the school's Armenian department.

In the afternoon, the middle and high school students gathered in the main hall. The festivities began with "The Birth of Vahagn" and music from Aram Khachaturian's "Gayane" ballet, followed by opening remarks in English and Armenian, as well as by recitations from Paruyr Sevag and Sayat-Nova, interspersed with music. Then the students proudly watched scenes from the military parade held on September 21, 2011, on Republic Square in Yerevan. After the showing of a video by sisters Inga and Anush, Edmond Azadian, vice chairman of the Manoogian School Board of Education, was invited to the podium as the keynote speaker.

Because of his public and political involvement, Azadian has been an eyewitness and participant of the process and development of independence in Armenia. The festivities ended with a medley of Armenian poems presented by middle and high school students under the direction of Anahit Toumajan.

The next event was a visit to the school by historian Dr. George Bournoutian on December 2, 2011. Bournoutian was in Michigan, having been invited by several community organizations to present his latest work, an English translation of a Russian statistical account of the population of Karabagh in 1823.

In the presence of Torossian, Avedikian and high school head teacher Judith Kadri, the 11th- and 12th-grade students greeted the scholar, whose two-volume history of the Armenians they use as a textbook. Bournoutian reflected upon the present and past history of Karabagh. He presented his evidence which undeniably proves that 95 percent of the population of Karabagh in 1823, as well as in 1923, was composed of Armenians. After his brief lecture, Bournoutian answered students' questions. He congratulated the school principal and the Armenian department teachers for developing such well-informed and well-rounded students.

Afterward, Bournoutian toured the school and visited classrooms. He expressed his delight having witnessed the sound success of the school.

The next event took place on December 7, 2011. That day, Suzanne Khardalian, filmmaker and screenwriter of the documentary film, "Grandma's Tattoos," was invited to the school. She was visiting Michigan thanks to an invitation from the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

High school students were invited to the main hall, where, after Avedikian's opening remarks, they watched the documentary with great interest and asked several questions. Khardalian related in detail about the inspiration and motivation behind the making of this



From left, Dr. Hosep Torossian, Dr. George Bournoutian and Sebouh Avedikian

film, based on the experiences of her own grandmother during the Armenian Genocide. Torossian offered closing remarks, thanking Khardalian for this film and pointing out the need for more documentary films as the centennial of the Genocide approaches.

Lastly, on December 9, 2011, the seniors, accompanied by their teachers, Avedikian and Robert Maul, along with art teacher, Nicole Gouaiana, visited the Detroit Institute of Arts, to enjoy an exhibition of the works of Rembrandt, devoted to different aspects of the Bible.

At the school's Christmas party held to honor the faculty, school board members and friends, the principals stressed the fact that the school is, first and foremost, indebted to its founders and benefactors, Alex and Marie Manoogian, as well as to their children, Richard and Louise, through whose material and moral support the excellent standard of education continues at the school.

The Armenian Cardinal and His Servant



Cardinal Agagianian at the Mkhitarist Monastery in 1958, surrounded by elite clergy of his day including Archbishop Mesrop Habozian, left, Abbott General of the Motherhouse

CARDINAL, from page 5
studies. Every morning for one year, the first call to duty was serving the Abbott General of this vank — Archbishop Mesrop Habozian.

And then history repeated itself.

"The cardinal will be visiting us next week and we would like you on the altar," the abbot general proposed. "You may have met him in Cambridge."

An old acquaintance renewed. I was psyched. I remembered the beard, the feisty personality, this passionate disciple of Christ. But most of all, I remembered the twinkle in his eye. If there was any haughtiness in his presence, it didn't show.

At least a half a dozen priests accompanied the cardinal at Mass that day with me below this time as the altar in Vienna sparkled like never before. He remembered me from 1951 during his visit to Holy Cross Church. "The son of a priest," he had smiled.

He stuck around the vank for a few days after that. We even got to play a game of chess during a rare moment of leisure. I didn't stand a chance nor did I want to. He could have been the next Pope in Rome — the first Armenian elected to such a pontifical seat.

Agagianian died in Rome in 1971 as the most celebrated Armenian Catholic in history. And I was proud to be his servant.

OBITUARY

Richard S. Serabian

Haverhill, Mass. — Richard Serabian, 70, died on Saturday, January 28.

He was born in Haverhill on October 14, 1941, the son of Charles and Beatrice (Mantarian) Serabian.

He was a graduate of Haverhill High School and received his bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Suffolk University.

While at Suffolk and throughout his professional career, he was a member of the Delta Sigma Pi accounting fraternity.

After graduation, he worked for various certified public accounting firms, before beginning a 30-year career as an internal staff auditor with the US Defense Contract Audit Agency. Serabian was a longtime resident of Haverhill and a parishioner of the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, St. Gregory's in Haverhill. In addition, he was involved in a number of religious, charitable and educational organizations,

which provided opportunities to those in need.

He was actively involved with the church, serving in various organizations as Parish Council member, council chairman and advisor. He was on the building and finance committees for the current church project.

He was a Red Sox and Patriots fan, having their schedules well planned in advance. He also played for different softball teams while at Textron-Avco and the Haverhill City Leagues.

He is survived by his brother, Robert, and other family members, in addition to cousins in Boston, New York and Providence.

In recognition of his many years of dedication to his church and the Armenian community, the wake was held in the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, St. Gregory's church sanctuary.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to: The Armenian Church at Hye Pointe Building Fund, PO 8069, Ward Hill MA 01835.

Giragosian

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AGBU to Phase out School Activity in Toronto

Resources to Be Redirected toward Endowment in the Name of Taniel and Alice Zaroukian

NEW YORK – The AGBU Central Board of Directors announced this week that it will phase out the operation of its Zaroukian School in Toronto by the end of the current school year.

The AGBU Central Board concurrently announced the establishment of a major endowment in the name of Taniel and Alice Zaroukian, in recognition of their substantial gift to AGBU and their past generosity in constructing the Taniel and Alice Zaroukian School and donating it to the AGBU.

Through this new endowment, AGBU will provide scholarships annually to college graduate and/or university undergraduate and

university post-graduate candidates of Armenian descent starting with the academic year 2015, to memorialize the dedication of Taniel and Alice Zaroukian and their support for AGBU's educational and cultural initiatives. The Central Board is confident that this new initiative will help many aspiring young and talented college graduates and university students achieve their goals and aspirations through generous tuition assistance and fellowships.

The AGBU elementary school of Toronto, named after Daniel and Alice Zaroukian, was established in 1985 and for the past 27 years has offered a curriculum that combines an aca-

demical program based on state standards with Armenian language teaching and cultural experiences in a small school setting.

Over the past five years, in spite of the targeted efforts of AGBU's Education Department in collaboration with the school board at maintaining a strong academic program and sound instructional practices, through administrative and faculty changes, teacher development initiatives and better communication with the parents and the community, enrollment has steadily declined and has reached a point where it is now prohibitive to the sustenance of an optimal learning environment. Consequently, the Central Board of

Directors decided to relinquish its school activity in Toronto and phase it out at the end of the current 2011-2012 school year.

AGBU will divert its financial resources to strengthening its cultural and youth programs in Toronto and to encouraging participation in its many activities, such as its Armenia-based programs that provide internships and strong bonding opportunities through camps, work-and-study experiences and excursions that combine social service initiatives, in addition to the online multilingual Armenian language, history and cultural resources provided through the Armenian Virtual College, by subsidizing their expenses.

The Pest Who Shames Companies into Fixing Security Flaws

SECURITY, from page 5

The impression that Soghoian is trying to become a Ralph Nader for the Internet age is only strengthened by his personal style – ruffled, alternately charming and grumpy, as righteous as he is intelligent. He is notoriously frugal; he bikes everywhere, and he lives in a basement room of a Washington, DC house he shares with four roommates.

And he talks. A lot. With a slight British accent – the product of a childhood spent in London – he speaks in 1,000-word bursts with nary a pause. Whether he is talking to staffers on the Hill, presenting at conferences or giving interviews, he is direct, confident, focused and unwavering. “I can walk into a room and explain how a cookie works or how geolocation tracking works or how encryption works or why data retention is a bad idea,” he says. “This is what I'm good at.”

Soghoian was born in San Francisco in 1981, his mother a social worker and his father a jazz musician and computer engineer. When Soghoian was 1, the family moved to London, where his father had a job as a computer engineer.

He has been using computers for as long as he can remember. When Soghoian was 11, he persuaded his headmaster to sign paperwork that let him head over to King's College London computer lab, where he used email, jumped into Usenet groups and explored the nascent World Wide Web. As a teen, he took evening classes in computer science at a community college. He finished high school at 16 and went to James Madison University in Virginia to study computer science. There he talked his way into a few graduate-level security classes, which piqued his interest in the field.

In 2006, Soghoian enrolled in the PhD program at Indiana University Bloomington's School of Informatics and Computing. During the late summer of that year, the 25-year-old was en route to Indianapolis from that most public of venues, the Burning Man festival in Nevada, when privacy became a much more personal issue. At the airport in Reno, Transportation Security Administration agents told him he couldn't take his Middle Eastern lunch through security. He wrote about it on his security-themed blog, *Slight Paranoia*.

Them: You can't take these on board. They're liquids.

Me: No. They're solid foods. The hummous is more of a paste than a liquid.

Them: You can't take it through.

Me: I realize that hummous and Al Qaeda come from the same part of the world, but, well, so does algebra.

Soghoian was pulled aside for a thorough search.

Once he got back to Bloomington, Soghoian set about exposing what he saw as the absurdity of TSA procedures. He devoured papers on airline security, looking for loopholes and back doors. Then he realized he could make his point simply by altering a Northwest Airlines e-ticket he had on his PC from a recent flight. The October 18 blog post he wrote about it, titled “Paging Osama, please meet your party at the information desk,” explained how to bypass the

FBI's no-fly list in 10 easy steps.

Soghoian's Targets

Over the past five years, the technology activist has delighted in publicizing the questionable practices of powerful organizations.

- TSA: In October 2006, Soghoian revealed a TSA security breach by publishing a method for printing fake boarding passes, which earned him an FBI apartment raid. The TSA began to close the loophole the following June.

- Firefox: In 2009, he created TACO, a security plug-in for Firefox that enables users to opt out of targeted advertising.

- Google: Soghoian published an open letter to Google, in June 2009, calling for automatic encryption for Gmail users. Seven months later, Google made encryption the default. The following year, he filed an FTC complaint against the company for providing search info to third parties.

- Sprint Nextel: While working for the FTC in the fall of 2009, Soghoian secretly recorded a Sprint Nextel executive admitting that his company gave user data to law enforcement some 8 million times in one year. The recording was featured on “The Colbert Report” (punch line: “Can you hear me hear you now?”). The following year, a Ninth Circuit Court judge cited the Sprint recording in a decision about how Fourth Amendment protections relate to GPS tracking.

- Telecoms: In December 2009, Soghoian released a list of the prices companies charge the government for handing over private data. This past July, he went on NPR to explain phone spoofing and voicemail hacking. He later appeared on “CBS Evening News” and demonstrated the technique by breaking into his own voicemail.

- Federal government: Soghoian coauthored a paper, published in March, that explains how governments are able to spy on allegedly secure websites; for example, a federal agency could use a surveillance device from the likes of Arizona-based Packet Forensics to route around encryption software.

- Dropbox: In April, he blogged about Dropbox's backdoor access to user data. Two days later, Dropbox clarifies its terms of service.

- Facebook: He helped expose Facebook as the unnamed entity behind a PR campaign in May to push negative stories about Google's privacy policy.

- AT&T: In June, Soghoian persuaded AT&T to require passwords for user voicemail accessed from their own phones.

“TSA doesn't have access to the airline's computer systems,” he wrote. “Thus, they have no real way of knowing if a boarding pass is real or not. All they can do is verify that the name on the piece of paper (which may or may not be a boarding pass) matches the ID they have been given.” In other words, if you were on the no-fly list, all you had to do was buy an e-ticket under a fake name and save it as HTML. You could then go into the HTML code and replace the fake name with your real one, print the ticket, and present it and your ID at security, which has no computers to check the no-fly list or confirm that the name on the ticket matches airline records. At the gate, where ID is not required,

you could use your original boarding pass with the fake name, which, when scanned, wouldn't come up as a no-flyer.

Soghoian spread the word to the media – including *Wired.com* – and the workaround quickly made headlines. On October 27, US Rep. Ed Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat who was then a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, called for the arrest of whoever was responsible. When the FBI showed up, Soghoian asked the agents to wait a moment, went to his computer, and posted a quick note to his blog – “FBI are at the door. Off to chat.” – then told them to come back with a warrant. They did. “Having my own computer seized by the FBI turned what had been an academic interest in privacy into something that directly impacted my life,” Soghoian says. “I saw firsthand how a massive government agency can, in my opinion, abuse its power to go after a critic of government policies. That one experience made it very easy to see the government as an adversary, against which I continue to fight.”

But Soghoian is not against fighting from within the system. Once Markey realized the perpetrator was a graduate student who studied security, he backed down and even suggested that the Department of Homeland Security give Soghoian a job “showing public officials how easily our security can be compromised.” DHS passed, but three years later, the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Division of Privacy and Identity Protection recruited Soghoian as a staff technologist. “They didn't have anyone doing this,” Soghoian says. “That's the equivalent of the EPA not having any environmental scientists on staff.”

His first act at the FTC was to refuse to submit to the required background check. “I shouldn't have to sacrifice my own privacy to protect consumers,” he says. The FTC brought him in anyway to, in his words, “add technical weight to their privacy-enforcement team and to help them find new cases.” Emboldened by his new position, Soghoian attended the October 2009 Intelligence Support Systems World conference, a sort of South by Southwest for security wonks – cops, intelligence-gathering experts, surveillance-tech vendors and telecom brass who gather to discuss everything from the Patriot Act to the latest spyware. It is known informally as the Wiretapper's Ball.

When Soghoian's contract came up in August 2010, the FTC chose not to renew it. Soghoian claims his boss's boss told him the conference stunt was the reason. (The FTC wouldn't confirm this.)

Regardless, Soghoian says going to the conference was worth it. “I shaved for the first time in several years and put on a cheap suit,” he says. “I felt like a secret agent, infiltrating the enemy's HQ. It was easily the most creepy yet exciting place I've ever been.”

After leaving the FTC, Soghoian went back to living off his savings, a graduate stipend and income from a fellowship and consulting work. And he has found plenty of opportunities to continue his privacy crusade. He files up to four Freedom of Information Act requests each week, an arcane task that he says delights him,

and he has an ongoing suit against the Department of Justice for its refusal to hand over 600 pages of documents related to the FBI's use of GPS tracking.

Last spring, he and some friends discovered a flaw in the privacy policy of Dropbox, the cloud service that allows users to sync files across multiple devices. The company failed to disclose that it had a back door into that data. Soghoian wrote a blog post about the flaw. “The response from the tech community and paying users was instant and vicious,” he says. Dropbox subsequently updated its privacy policy, disclosing its access to data stored on its servers. (The company declined to comment for this article.)

A few weeks later, he received an email from an employee at the PR giant Burson-Marsteller offering to help him write and publish a smear piece about Google's privacy policy. The effort was being funded by an unnamed client. Soghoian refused. Instead, he posted the exchange online and tweeted about it. The media picked it up, and Dan Lyons of *The Daily Beast* determined that the client was Facebook, which quickly found itself engulfed in a storm of bad publicity.

In June, Soghoian persuaded AT&T to require customers to always enter a password to access voicemail, a policy that leaves users less vulnerable to phone hacking. He has been pressing T-Mobile and Sprint to do the same. After the Murdoch empire's News of the World phone scandal blew up last summer, Soghoian appeared on NPR, explaining how phone-spoofing technology allowed reporters to access voicemail illegally. The next night, he broke into his own voicemail on the “CBS Evening News” in front of 5.5 million viewers.

Soghoian's financial situation improved in August when he began a George Soros Open Society Foundations fellowship, which gives him a high-five-figure stipend and a research assistant. His fellowship project is a website called *PrivacyReports.org*, which will grade telecom and ISP privacy practices for the layperson. Search engines, email providers, cell phone companies, online backup services – Soghoian will break down each company's level of security and privacy protections. “Visitors will be able to know how long providers are retaining their text messages and whether they provide law enforcement easy access to your location data,” he says. “People have a right to know what companies aren't telling them. My hope is that after a year, once I have the data up and it's proving to be useful, I can give it to the ACLU or someone like that to run.”

And then? Soghoian says that under the right circumstances he would consider another government job – ideally for the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, which advises the White House on matters of individual privacy. It has been inactive since 2008. “I don't want security clearance,” he says. “I don't need a staff. I just want to be an ombudsman, with an office and letterhead and access to lawyers and a fax machine. I know it'll never happen. They're not going to want someone who has a track record of speaking truth to power using their soapbox to point out their flaws. But that would be an ideal gig.”



COMMUNITY NEWS

Prolific Young Scholar on Armenian Genocide in Holland

SCHOLAR, from page 1

Üngör studied at the Universities of Groningen, Utrecht, Toronto and Amsterdam. After obtaining his master's degree in 2005 at the latter university he continued his studies until defending his doctorate there in 2009. He lectured at the University of Sheffield in England from 2008-09 and served as a post-doctoral research fellow at the Centre for War Studies of University College Dublin (Ireland) from 2009 to 2010.

According to a September 17, 2009 interview with Vahram Emiyan published in the Beirut Armenian newspaper *Aztag*, Üngör was led to his interest in the Armenian Genocide by reading about the Holocaust, and in particular, a book by Yehuda Bauer, *Rethinking the Holocaust*. Bauer made comparisons with other genocides, including the Armenian one. Despite his own family origins in the same region as this genocide, Üngör said, "I had never heard about such an event and it sparked my curiosity. When I did my research, I was amazed by the difference between the denial of official histories in Turkey versus what the ordinary population in Eastern Turkey knew about the Genocide. I traveled around Eastern Turkey and did many interviews with old people, who openly spoke about the Armenians as having been massacred by the government."

In 2007 Üngör published his first book, *Vervolging, Onteigening en Vernietiging: De Deportatie van Ottomaanse Armeniërs tijdens de Eerste Wereldoorlog*, a short volume in Dutch which provides an overview of the Armenian Genocide. It also includes a sociological analysis of identity conflict. In the Armenian-Turkish conflict, as Üngör later summarized, "Armenians want to remember a history that Turks want to forget." Since their "constructed memories are a prime component of group identity, both Armenians and Turks experience any deviation from that memory as a direct attack on their very identity. For Turks most of this also relates to a guilty conscience, a so-called 'perpetrator trauma': facing the full reality of the genocide is simply too painful and shameful."

A few years later, Üngör published his doctoral thesis as *The Making of Modern Turkey: Nation and State in Eastern Anatolia, 1913-1950* (Oxford University Press, 2011). Here he examined the process of social engineering the Young Turks and their Republican successors engaged in to unsuccessfully create a homogeneous Turkey, including the use of mass violence and genocide against Armenians and Kurds. Üngör focused on events in the province of Diyarbakir to illustrate the process of state and nation formation. He used Turkish and Western sources, along with some Armenian works in translation, and conducted oral history interviews of people originally from Diyarbakir. His thesis won a number of Dutch prizes in 2010 and 2011.

His most recent volume, *Confiscation and Destruction: The Young Turk Seizure of Armenian Property* (London: Continuum, 2011), was cowritten with Mehmet Polatel. It examines how Turkish economic nationalism led to the confiscation of Armenian wealth and property, and how the proceeds were distributed. Again, general conditions are illustrated with detailed provincial studies, in this case of Adana in addition to Diyarbakir. The role of local elites and their relationship with the central authorities, and the participation of ordinary Turks in the plunder and distribution are shown.

Üngör explained to the *Mirror* how he ended up doing a collaborative work: "I got in touch with Mehmet when I was in Istanbul one summer and heard he had written a master's thesis on the spoliation of Armenian property. Coincidentally, I was sitting on a chapter on Armenian property I had wanted to include in my PhD thesis, but the text had become too long for a book chapter. So I contacted him and we sat down to discuss possible collaboration. It turned out we could easily forge the two texts into a book, so we did. We are fairly happy with the final result; Turkish and Spanish translations are underway."

Üngör and Polatel ended the book on a pessimistic note concerning the possibility of a solution to the issue of restitution, but pointed to other modern cases as potential guideposts.

Üngör revealed that one of the cases he was thinking about before the book was published was that of Ukrainian-Polish relations. In 1994 scholars from the two nations convened a conference to discuss the violence openly, but the problem is the much greater asymmetry in violence in the Turkish-Armenian case. However, Üngör continued, "My views on this changed after *Confiscation and Destruction*, which was a deeply frustrating and depressing book to write. Perhaps for the first time ever, the enormity of the crime became apparent to me. When I finished writing, I was convinced that the injustice was of such magnitude that it would be impossible to reverse or repair. In essence, this is the nature of genocide: irreversible and irredeemable destruction."

Turkish and Kurdish reactions to Üngör's books, ranging "between vitriol and praise," have on the average been "ambivalent." Üngör explained: "Nationalist Turks have placed me firmly on their treachery radar and have threatened me in various ways, whereas liberal Turks have encouraged and praised me for their own reasons. Nothing surprising there, but some reactions have surprised me. Some family members have attacked me without having read a single sentence from any of my publications. But then, some Turks have contacted me privately and explained that they grew up with stories from the Genocide. Since I never lived in Turkey, do not have a degree specifically in Turkish history and therefore do not consider myself a 'Turkologist,' I am rather unknown in and isolated from the Turkish academic community. That might change because my books are currently being translated into Turkish."



Ugur Ungör in Yerevan at the Armenian Genocide memorial

Armenians, on the other hand, have generally welcomed and supported Üngör's research. Most of the emails he has received have been from interested Armenian readers, though the situation changes when he critically tackles historical taboos or national myths. Üngör said, "Some nationalist Armenians find that unsettling and question why a 'Turk' should be digging around in 'their' history. At those moments, suspicion can take over about my intentions and loyalties."

Üngör's research has been facilitated by his background. His family members were largely peasants from village south of the town of Erzincan. He can trace his family back five generations. He feels that "the regional culture of Erzincan, i.e. Anatolian peasant/village life, has strongly affected my childhood (think Balakian growing up in Diyarbakir Armenian culture). And that culture overlaps significantly with Ottoman Armenian culture, which I consider my own as well."

Historically, Üngör said, "Armenians, Turks and Kurds lived in ethnically mixed villages whose names I used to hear in the family." Culturally, he was brought into contact with the Armenians of Erzincan through the literary works of Hagop Mntzuri, which were published in Turkish translation by Aras Publishing House in Istanbul. Üngör came to understand the similarity between the different peoples of the region even more through his first personal encounters with Armenians originating there. He said, "I had another eye-opener when

I met Ms. Haygan Mardikyan at a Genocide commemoration in Holland. She is the granddaughter of the late Hayganas Cordikoglu (Djordikian), a woman from the Erzincan village of Zimara (which is in our documentary), who survived the Genocide and passed away a few years ago. Haygan was the first 'Yerznkatsi' Armenian I ever met, and it felt like looking into a mirror: she talked, gesticulated, and cooked just like any Erzincan woman in my family. It sounds naïve and obvious, but back then it felt like a revelation to me. It also conjured questions: why were these people, who were so similar to us, excluded from this society?"

His family background helped provide him with useful linguistic skills. Üngör speaks several Western languages and of course knows Turkish fluently. Furthermore, he said, "I consider both Zazaki and Kurmanci mother tongues because both languages are spoken in my family, though my Zazaki is better than my Kurmanci."

Üngör has made an effort to learn the Armenian alphabet and can understand a little conversationally. However, he is not yet able to use it for research and relied on friends and colleagues for access to Armenian sources. He added that "In principle, I am very motivated to learn Armenian, but whether I actually will depends on future research plans, which in turn depends on employment opportunities."

Üngör's ability to study the region is enhanced, he feels, by a combination of inside knowledge and a certain degree of personal detachment or distance which can add objectivity: "I often characterize myself as a 'local outsider': I was born in Turkey but raised in the

context helps show that a search for the document proving "intent" is fruitless as no such document exists in any genocide, while "what makes the Armenian genocide genocidal is simply that Ottoman Armenians were targeted for an abstract category of group identity: all Armenians, loyal or disloyal, secular or religious, rural or urban, working class or intelligentsia, were deported and massacred." Furthermore, genocide is more than just mass murder: "It is a delusional attempt to destroy a hated collective identity, for example through destruction of material culture (long after the victims are dead), and forced identity change (such as conversion to Islam, or change of place names)."

Making his work on Armenians, Kurds and Turks accessible to people of other backgrounds has been a challenge. At present, he said, "I teach mostly middle-class Dutch students who come from similar backgrounds and have hardly heard of Armenians, let alone their history. They struggle trying to imagine and make sense of a society 100 years and 4,000 kilometers away. In the UK the problem was comparable, but with in-depth reading and plenty visual material in an intensive history course the kids could reach a reasonably high level of sophisticated knowledge." It is not all that much different in broader historical circles, as the Armenian Genocide has only very recently begun to be integrated into broader histories such as those of World War I.

Üngör was featured in a documentary which aired on Dutch public television on April 24, 2008 called "The Country of Our Grandparents," in which he and Armenian scenario writer Alexander Geokjian (also co-director of this film) travel together to the sites of their respective ancestors' origins in Turkey. Geokjian's family was originally from Sis or Kozan in Cilicia. The film was awarded the prize of Best Documentary by the Pomegranate Film Festival in Toronto in 2008.

Üngör himself would "love to make" a documentary using oral histories of ordinary people in Turkey who are children or grandchildren of eyewitnesses to the Armenian Genocide. He already has conducted many such interviews in 2002 and 2004-7, and may also write an article based on them. He points out that "Elderly Turks and Kurds often remember vivid anecdotes from family members or villagers who had witnessed or even participated in the massacres." He does not have the resources himself to transcribe and publish these interviews and others but he feels that this would be a great project to launch with the goal of publishing in 2015. Its value, he said, is that "it would undoubtedly prove that there is a clash between official state memory and popular social memory: the Turkish government is denying a genocide that its own population remembers."

Üngör is currently occupied with a variety of new projects. He is writing a comparison of the Armenian Genocide with the Soviet deportation of Chechens and Crimean Tatars in 1944, as the study of the former can also help us understand the nature of deportations, or "forced migration." Having already published an article on Kurdish collaboration in the Genocide and already having used new Kurdish materials, he is curious to learn more about what the Kurdish intelligentsia wrote about in this period. He is working with a close friend on authoring the history of the Kurdophone Shirkat Armenians, who survived due to the protection of a major Kurdish tribe of that region.

As far as upcoming books go, Üngör is shifting to larger-scale studies, such as a book on genocidal violence in the Hapsburg, Ottoman and Russian Empires. Üngör said, "Currently I'm broadening my intellectual horizon. So far my research and teaching have focused on nation formation and ethnic conflict during the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire, including the Armenian Genocide. I would still like to keep one foot anchored in this field, but also reach out the other foot to the global problem of mass violence in general. After all, I came into Armenian Genocide studies through Holocaust studies, and have also worked on Rwanda and the Balkans." He also is in the early phase of writing a more general book on mass violence.

Netherlands. My background facilitated the research a lot. My family provided the personal contacts I used to delve deep into the local memories. Being educated abroad then provided me with a sense of immunity from the dense moral and political field in which most of this research is embedded."

He has evaluated the strengths and weaknesses of the state of Armenian Genocide studies in a number of places, including a chapter in *New Directions in Genocide Research* (<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415495974/>). While he feels that the "dedication of its scholars, the quantity and quality of Armenian memoirs, and the relatively well-researched and well-documented international context" are its strong points, Ottoman operative documents, a thorough analysis of the workings of the Young Turk regime from 1913-18, and local or regional histories showing how genocide was perpetrated by ordinary soldiers, gendarmes and others are lacking. Üngör is convinced that an exploration of the Ottoman land registry archives (Tapu Kadastro), the military archives (ATASE), the General Security Directorate (Emniyet-i Umumiye Müdüriyeti) of both the Ottoman and Republican periods and the Foreign Ministry archives would lead to major discoveries, yet, he concludes, access will not be freely given in the near future because "just as the Turkish government is afraid of its own population's collective memory, so it is of its own archives."

Placing Armenian Genocide in a comparative



COMMUNITY NEWS



From left, Lily Balian, Ambassador Melanne Verveer and Joan Agajanian Quinn

AIWA Representatives Meet with US Ambassador Melanne Verveer

LOS ANGELES – At a reception and private viewing of “Women Hold Up Half the Sky,” held at the Skirball Cultural Center, on January 11, Melanne Verveer, US ambassador at large for Women’s Global Issues was honored. The ambassador was presented with the Jewish World Watch Fifth I Witness Award in recognition of her dedicated service in pursuing foreign policy issues relating to the political and economic advancement of women around the world.

Attending the private reception were Joan Agajanian Quinn, the Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA) representative to the United Nations, and Lily Balian, AIWA Executive Board member. At the recent sixth International Conference of the Armenian International Women’s Association in San Francisco, October 6 - 10, Verveer, at the invitation of Quinn, addressed the women in attendance by video. The ambassador in her remarks reported on the huge strides made in Armenia in mobilizing support for women’s rights and economic empowerment through initiatives and programs designed to increase women’s and girls’ access to education and health care, to combat violence against women in all its forms and to ensure that women’s rights are fully integrated with human rights in the development of US Foreign Policy.

This event afforded the AIWA representatives the chance to thank Verveer for her participation in the AIWA conference and to express their thanks and appreciation for her efforts on behalf of women throughout the world.

Genocide Education Project Trains Grant High School Teachers in LA

LOS ANGELES – Teachers at Grant High School in Los Angeles learned how to teach about the Armenian Genocide at a workshop provided by The Genocide Education Project on their campus on January 17.

Suzanne Douzmanian, GenEd’s Southern California regional coordinator, led the workshop for Grant’s social studies teachers, which is part of a series of teacher-training events provided in coordination with the Los Angeles Unified School District, which has purchased GenEd’s lesson plans and teaching materials for all its high school history teachers.

“Suzanne gave an enthralling and thought provoking workshop,” said Kevin Kruska, Grant’s social studies department chair. “I felt like everybody came away from the workshop with a greater understanding of genocide and specifically, the Armenian Genocide.”

Grant High School has a substantial Armenian student population that has experienced tensions with the school’s Latino students. In the weeks leading up to the workshop, Kruska and GenEd’s education direc-

tor, Sara Cohan, discussed ways of integrating the study of Armenian issues into the curriculum, as a means of building understanding and mutual respect within the diverse student body, as well as between the teachers and students.

The workshop theme was “The Eight Stages of Genocide,” a valuable teaching tool developed by Dr. Gregory Stanton, a past president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. “By using Stanton’s work, teachers and students can better comprehend the intentional and methodical nature of the Armenian Genocide, as well as all genocides, and can analyze ways of preventing genocide in the future,” said Raffi Momjian, GenEd’s executive director.

Teachers received a full set of resources on the Armenian Genocide produced by GenEd and provided by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD).

The LAUSD is the second largest school district in the country and has been collaborating with GenEd over the past eight years to help fulfill the California state mandate to teach about the Armenian Genocide.

ArmenBar to Honor Rep. Schiff, Glendale City Council Member Rafi Manoukian

ARMENBAR, from page 5

Committee and Select Committee on Juvenile Justice. Prior to assuming his elective duties in Sacramento, Schiff served as a prosecutor in the US Attorney’s Office in Los Angeles. He is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School. He and his wife, Eve, have two children.

Manoukian, a certified public accountant (CPA), has directed the Manoukian Accountancy Corporation since 1993. He has served continuously as an elected officer in Glendale city government for the past decade, with duties as mayor in 2002-2003 and 2005-2006. During his tenure as councilman, Manoukian also served as chairman of the Housing Authority and Redevelopment Agency.

Manoukian embodies much of the American dream. As a youngster he and his family emigrated from war-torn Beirut to the United States. At age 17, he enlisted in the Air Force, serving for four years before honorable discharge as a sergeant in 1982. One of his major early goals was education. He completed an associate degree while still in uniform and, two years after discharge, he earned a bachelor’s in economics from California State University at Northridge. He completed his MBA at Cal State, Dominguez Hills, in 2004. He and his wife, Zovig, have three children.

The venue for this event, scheduled to take



From left, Rep. Adam B. Schiff and ArmenBar Executive Director Jacklin Boyadjian

place from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., is the Phoenicia Restaurant (343 North Central Ave.).

For further information, visit the ArmenBar website at www.armenianbar.org.

Alfred Demirjian
Data Recovery
Computer Forensic Specialist
20 Concord Lane Cambridge, MA 02138
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techFusion.com

Scholarships Available for Students of Armenian Descent Having Completed One Year of College by June 2012
Application and other information may be obtained from

Tibrevank Alumni, Inc.
Vahan Adjemian Scholarship Fund
P.O. Box 14
Palisades Park, NJ 07650

Or

www.vahanadjemianscholarship.org
Deadline for returning completed applications:
April 30, 2012



From left, Glendale City Council Member Rafi Manoukian, ArmenBar Chairman Edvin Minassian and Board member Armen Hovannissian


**New York
METRO**

Reception Pays Tribute to Bishop Haigazoun Najarian

Named Pontifical Legate of Central Europe, Sweden

NEW YORK – Recently, a reception was held in honor of Bishop Haigazoun Najarian, who was recently elevated to this rank and was appointed pontifical legate of Central Europe and Sweden.

Najarian has served the Armenian Church for more than two decades at the Eastern Diocese of the United States. When he was in New York in late December, Hagop Vartivarian, the Tekeyan Cultural Association of New York and New Jersey chair, and his wife, Maria, hosted a reception in honor of the newly-appointed bishop.

Amongst the notable attendees, were the United States Eastern Diocese Primate; Khajag Barsamian and a few of the Tekeyan Cultural Association committee members and friends.

Najarian attended the Vahan Tekeyan School in Beirut and then the Hovagimian-Manougian secondary school. He then immigrated to Armenia and graduated from Echmiadzin's Gevorgian Theological Seminar, and he became

consecrated an *apegha* or celibate priest in London in 1975, after graduating from a high level Kings Theology college in England. Upon his graduation, he served as pastor for three years of the St. Peter Armenian Church in London. In 1981, he returned to Armenia to become the assistant director of Echmiadzin's Theological Seminary, then he became a *vartabed* (a higher level of celibate priest) in 1983, a few years later, he advanced his rank to *Dzayrakouyn Vartabed* and became the director of the theological Seminary. He was invited to New York, in 1994, by Archbishop Torkom Manougian, who was the primate of the Eastern Diocese at the time, to continue his education and fill the position of vicar general, at the Diocese. He also served parishes in New Jersey, Texas and Pennsylvania. The latter years at the US he has held the position of second to the Primate of the Diocese of New York.

He has stayed a cordial friend of the TCA and ADL, upholding his nationalistic religious service to the Armenian Church. He has always encouraged and has been present and partici-



From left, Lucy Ishkhanian, Shoghig Chalian and Hagop Tankian



From left, Papken Megerian, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Archbishop Yeghishé Gizirian, Bishop Haigazoun Najarian, Hagop Vartivarian, Dr. Raffy Hovanesian and Dr. Hagop Gulekjian

pated at TCA programs and events, in all the countries where he has served.

The host of the reception, Hagop Vartivarian, gave his heartfelt congratulatory speech and presented the Primate with a special work of art that depicted a church in the background, by the talented Lebanese-Armenian painter Krikor Norigian.

Archbishop Yeghiché Gizirian and Diocesan Council members Papken Megerian and Dr. Raffy Hovanesian, also expressed their heartfelt congratulations to the newly-appointed bishop, and wishing him success in his religious community endeavors, in Europe, where he will be very much appreciated.

Najarian was touched greatly and with great emotion, expressed his appreciation for this intimate reception, surrounded by genuine friends, he reminisced and noted some of his special memories from his years of service in America and he thanked Archbishop Khajag Barsamian for his big brotherly advice, that had helped him in the past years and lastly, he specifically thanked Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin for his ordination.

Barsamian expressed his feeling of great con-

temptment, when he was personally present at the Najarian's elevation to the rank of pontifical legate of Central Europe and Sweden, he noted the noble, spiritual soul of service that Najarian possesses and his qualifications as a religious compatriot, endowed with an extensive education and a loyal servant to the Mother See of Echmiadzin.



Bishop Haigazoun Najarian

Putting Corruption, Human Rights Abuses in Armenia Front and Center at Talk

FAIR LAWN, N.J. – On January 27, close to 300 Armenian-Americans gathered at St. Leon Armenian Church to participate in the first serious conversation about the deplorable state of corruption and human rights in Armenia. The organizer's stated purpose was to raise awareness, share information, consider the consequences of inaction and begin the process of exploring solutions.

The forum, titled "Truth or Consequences: Challenges to Human Rights and Rule of Law in Armenia," was moderated by Arda Haratunian, a strategic communications and crisis management professional from New York. In her opening comments, she addressed Armenia's documented problems with human rights and the rule of law, but emphasized that it is much easier to address a problem than a crisis and that the diaspora can and must be aware, engaged and involved. She pointed to the cornerstones of any democracy: free and transparent elections; a free press; economic opportunity and a functioning judicial system. "Clearly, credible and objective concerns have been raised about all of these in Armenia," she said.

First up on the podium was the guest speaker, Simon Payaslian, PhD, holder of the Charles K. and Elizabeth M. Kenosian chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University. Payaslian's presentation, largely based on his new book, *The Political Economy of Human Rights in Armenia: Authoritarianism and Democracy in a Former Soviet Republic* (I.B.Tauris, 2011), was intended to create some historical context and perspective from which to launch the panel discussion and generate audience questions.

Joining Payaslian as panelists were three individuals coming from very different experiences and perspectives. They included Karen

Hakobian a musician, researcher, human rights advocate/ trainer from Armenia, who is also president of Huis (Hope), a human rights NGO; Aram Hamparian, executive director of the Armenian National Committee of America in Washington, DC; and Garo Yeghukian, an entrepreneur, business owner, attorney and human rights activist from New York who moved to Armenia two years ago. He is currently a senior fellow at Policy Forum Armenia.

The main theme of Payaslian's presentation was that, in modern history, the Armenian nation has had very little experience with the concept or practice of human rights and rule of law. This is primarily due to its long history of subjugation by imperial powers. Most references to human rights by Armenian intellectuals are in the context of human rights and liberation from outside powers. In the absence of Armenian statehood, Armenians did not have an opportunity to develop political institutions that could promote modern human rights standards.

The professor also presented a series of slides showing various indicators of Armenia's democratic status versus other nations. These rankings only underscored the reality of Armenia's dismal human rights standing according to international human rights standards. He also described how the systemic corruption of the Armenian judiciary makes a mockery of the nation's own Constitution.

Yeghukian focused on how government corruption impacts the business sector and economy, noting that because of corruption in tax, customs collection and public procurement expenditures, there is a budgetary loss of a quarter billion dollars a year. He urged the leaders in the Armenian government to pay more than lip service to its anti-corruption stance and actively root out the violators.

Yeghukian also suggested that one way for Armenia's youth to gain exposure to democratic perspectives could be through kibbutz-like models, organized by the government in partnership with an organization such as Birthright Armenia. He further proposed that 20,000 Diasporan-Armenian business leaders should "invade" Armenia with business plans and investments. This would create an economic force to be reckoned with and help drive out corrupt oligarchs.

Karen Hakobian began his presentation citing the massive depopulation of the country since independence, mainly due to the inequities and corruption that deny opportunity. Then he presented various cases of egregious human rights abuses, especially within the Armenian military.

Hakobian described how Armenia's soldiers are often compelled to pay for "protection" by their superior officers. Those who can't afford it are literally abused or tortured to death and then reported as suicides. Some innocent soldiers are coerced into confessing to the killings and thrown in prison. A group of mothers has been protesting these injustices for years, gathering every day in front of the government building to raise awareness of their sons' plight. The audience was visibly disturbed to learn of such gross injustices against Armenia's first-line defenders and the wider implications they pose for national security.

Hamparian made various points and counterpoints throughout the evening, among them that for the diaspora to promote human rights and rule of law in Armenia, unity and organization are essential. He also refuted the argument that, given the diaspora's limited resources, it must prioritize causes and issues. Hamparian contended that fighting for human rights over

genocide recognition was a false choice; both are worthy pursuits.

Vartan Abdo, director of the Armenian Radio Hour of New Jersey and a vocal advocate on these issues, made several observations about the proceedings. "It was a mentally stimulating and ambitious program which covered a plethora of topics. But due to lack of time, most of the topics were not discussed in detail."

He also pointed out that, "What sparked the organization of Truth or Consequences was the news of the illegal arrest in Armenia of Nareg Hartounian. The reaction of the entire diaspora to Nareg's case is a clear barometer of the concern of diasporans of what transpired in Armenia. The diasporans sent a clear message to the oligarchs, patriarchs, matriarchs and others that there is just so much we can accept."

The discussion ended with an impromptu message from Saro Hartounian, his brother, who is also a target of judicial abuses by Armenian authorities. He reported that many of the Hartounian family's company employees have been threatened and coerced into signing false statements about his family's tax and business practices.

The event was co-sponsored by a diverse group of organizations, sending a signal to the community that a public discussion of such issues is both vital and urgent. The list includes: Armenian Bar Association; Armenian Engineers and Scientists Association (ASEA) Of NY/NJ; Armenian Human Rights Advocates; Armenian National Committee (ANC) OF NJ; Armenian Society of Columbia University; Knights of Vartan; New York Armenian Students Association (ASA); Policy Forum Armenia; Rutgers Armenian Club; Tekeyan Cultural Association and the Tufenkian Foundation.


New York
METRO

A Record Year, with a Deepened Determination to Do More

By Judith Lee

FAR HILLS, N.J. — Following a year of record participation by its members and recognition from the community, the Armenian American Health Professionals Association (AAHPO) begins 2012 with an even stronger commitment to improve the health of all Armenians, according to AAHPO President Lawrence V. Najarian, MD.

Addressing the nonprofit organization's Annual Meeting in December, Najarian



Lawrence V. Najarian, MD, delivering the 2011 Annual Report to members of the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO)



The 2011-2012 AAHPO Board of Directors

reviewed the year's accomplishments that included a medical mission to Armenia, collaboration on a project that helps save lives in Armenian villages and recognition as a New Jersey Healthcare Hero for initiatives in the tri-state area.

"By working together, AAHPO accomplished more to help our community than at any time in its history. In short, as we enter 2012 we are a strong, growing organization that knows it has much more to do," Najarian said.

Several dozen AAHPO members in attendance brought spouses and families to the Palisadium in Cliffside Park. Following the

Annual Meeting, more than 150 celebrated the Holiday season with a brunch and program co-chaired by Knarig Khatchadurian Meyer, PhD, and Kim Hekimian, PhD. Everyone enjoyed piano performances by the Kafafian brothers



The Kafafian brothers played the piano for 150 AAHPO members and their families at a brunch in December.

and Svetlana, Armenian songs by opera singer Anahit Zakarian, Christmas carols and a visit from Santa.

Now in its 17th year, AAHPO was founded by health care professionals determined to improve health care. With a growing membership of 450, AAHPO members represent all health care professions, including physicians, nurses, dentists, nutritionists, psychologists and public health experts.

"AAHPO originally was a local organization, and has expanded to become an important international voice," noted Nabet Kasabian, MD, a urologist and one of AAHPO's founders. "Yet AAHPO is still committed to the local communities. This Board has done a tremendous job of serving Armenians here and in Armenia."

Hekimian is a public health expert who joined the AAHPO Board in 2011: "I was immediately impressed with their professionalism and their commitment. The missions of other organizations sometimes get hampered by individual and political agendas. I have seen none of that with AAHPO — every board member is focused on serving the organization. And what a wonderful group of people to work with."

Najarian also credits the AAHPO Board for recent achievements: "Our volunteer health-care providers, led by a hard-working, selfless board, have been consistent and relentless in sharing our knowledge, abilities and resources with our brethren. Our sustained efforts have enabled AAHPO to be more engaged with our lay and professional communities than ever before."

The expansion of AAHPO outreach programs caught the attention of The Healthcare Heroes Awards program, which designated AAHPO a finalist among organizations that make a significant impact on the quality of health care in New Jersey.

Najarian reviewed some of the 2011 initiatives:

AAHPO's affiliation with the North Hudson Community Action Corporation (www.nhcac.org) continues to provide medical services to the uninsured and underinsured.

In March, AAHPO approved the AAHPO Continuing Medical Education (CME) program and implemented a program that trains physicians from Javakhk and Karabagh how to provide modern medical skills that are critically needed in their home villages ("Help Save Lives! Support Continuing Medical Education of Doctors in Armenia").

In October 2011, AAHPO held a fund-raising gala that raised enough funds to ensure that the CME program will continue for another year.

The relationship with the CME graduates continues through the HyeBridge Telehealth Program, a collaboration between AAHPO and Armenia Fund USA. Physicians in Armenia consult directly with US medical experts through the latest telecommunications technology.

Fifteen AAHPO members, their spouses and families traveled to Armenia in 2011 for the first Medical Mission to Armenia. These AAHPO volunteers visited clinics, treated patients and surveyed the medical systems from rural villages to regional medical centers and tertiary medical centers.

AAHPO videotaped 29 educational TV shows about common medical conditions and broadcast them on cable TV. They can be viewed on the AAHPO website (www.aahpo.org).

AAHPO continues its outreach via email with important medical information (consumers may subscribe to the free service through www.aahpo.org) and now also shares the information through YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

Also on its website, AAHPO offers a free directory of Armenian health care providers.

After thanking AAHPO members for their 2011 participation, Najarian noted that most programs will be continued, including the North Hudson alliance, educational TV programs, the email/social media outreach,

physician CME in Armenia ("Help Save Lives!") and HyeBridge Telemedicine.

Some additional programs already being scheduled include a February 17 Mentoring Program for College Students and Young Professionals of Armenian Descent held in col-



Knarig Khatchadurian, PhD, was co-chair of the AAHPO annual brunch, which followed the Annual Meeting. The other co-chair was Kim Hekimian, PhD.

Armenian Heritage Park

On the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, Boston



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laboration with the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (for more information, email kseverian@gmail.com). AAHPO will have a Membership Meeting on March 16. A meeting with the Armenian Bar Association also is being planned.



Arts & Living

A Brawl over Turkish Press Freedom

By Susanne Fowler

PARIS (*New York Times*) — A war of words between an American novelist and the prime minister of Turkey over press freedom is playing out in a befittingly public venue: in newspapers and on Web sites.

Paul Auster, author of *The New York Trilogy* and other works, told *Rendezvous* by telephone from his studio in Brooklyn on Friday that he had told a Turkish journalist that he would not visit Turkey, nor China for that matter, as a way to protest the jailing of scores of journalists and writers there.

He was not referring to a specific recent invite, although his Turkish publisher would certainly welcome him: Dozens of his works have been translated into Turkish and his name resonates with Turkish readers. His newest book, *Winter Journal*, was published in Turkey months before it was due to come out in English in the United States.

Our colleagues over at the Arts Beat blog reported earlier this week Auster's response to being called "ignorant" by Prime Minister Recep Teyyip Erdogan of Turkey.

Auster, in addition to being a writer, is a member of American PEN, an organization that aims to fight censorship and defend freedom of expression. Under Erdogan's leadership, Turkey has made significant economic strides and has been hailed as a role model for the Middle East, but it has also been accused of treating independent media harshly.

"I wanted to make the statement," Auster said Friday, "because not enough people in the West are discussing this, the pressure on the press in Turkey."

"Of course in every case, these people are not put into jail for what they write," he said, referring to



Paul Auster

arrested journalists, "but because they are accused of being terrorists. It's a very complex business."

The latest figures from International PEN, he said, showed nearly 100 writers imprisoned in Turkey, "not to speak of independent publishers such as Ragıp Zarakolu."

Zarakolu, who has described his own detention as Kafkaesque, was arrested in November, accused of having ties to a group with links to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party. The newspaper *Radikal* said this week that members of Sweden's Parliament have asked the Nobel committee to nominate Zarakolu for the peace prize.

In boycotting Turkey, Auster unknowingly echoed a recent vow Erdogan himself had made.

As French lawmakers debated a proposal to outlaw denial of the Armenian Genocide last month, Erdogan was splashed across the Turkish front pages saying he'd never visit France again if the law were enacted.

Erdogan has not been invited to France.

But Auster has been invited to Turkey. After the public spat with Erdogan, the opposition leader, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, extended an invitation to Auster.

Will he accept?

"I don't know what I am going to do," Auster said on Friday, his 65th birthday. With previous commitments, he has no time to go to Turkey this year, he said, "but perhaps some time down the road. We'll see."



Boats on the Yarkon estuary, photo from the Kahvedjian Collection

Finest Photographs of Early 20th-Century Palestine Shuttered in Controversy

By Nir Hasson

JERUSALEM (*Ha'aretz*) — On the counter of the small photography shop Photo Elia in the Old City of Jerusalem lies an early 20th century picture of the Western Wall, which appears squeezed among the homes of the Mughrabi Quarter that no longer exists. To contemporary Israeli eyes, there is something striking about the scene of worshippers: Women and men are praying together in public.

Another photograph shows the flight of the German Zeppelin here in 1931. The gigantic airship hovers in black and white like a strange UFO above the Old City. In a third picture, large sailboats are seen in the Yarkon estuary; in a fourth, a European-style clock tower rises above the Jaffa gate and in a fifth the Kapulsky chain of cafes is seen in its humble beginnings: a small coffee wagon with a sign that reads "Kapulsky" at the edge of Jerusalem's Zion Square.

The pictures are part of a collection of about 3,000 photographs taken by Elia Kahvedjian, a refugee of the Armenian Genocide and one of the greatest photographers in Jerusalem at the beginning of the 20th century. The pictures, which had been hidden away for 40 years, were rediscovered 25 years ago and serve to help researchers and aficionados of Jerusalem probe its past. Thus, for example, the architects who reconstructed the Hurva Synagogue in the Jewish Quarter (destroyed by the Jordanians in 1948 and rebuilt in 2010) were guided by Kahvedjian's pictures — as were the Antiquities Authority researchers who wanted to reconstruct elements of the city's walls and gates.

The only certain fact that family members know about Kahvedjian is that he was born in the region of Urfa in Eastern Turkey. They do not know his date of birth or even his original name. Eli Kahvedjian, who was named after his grandfather, says that the elder Kahvedjian was separated from his mother when he was a young boy, and did not even know his surname. "At an orphanage they asked him what his surname was and he didn't know, so they asked him: 'What does your father sell in his

Family of Armenian Refugee and Photographer Elia Kahvedjian Is Fighting to Preserve His Legacy



Gypsy women dancing in Jerusalem, photo from the Kahvedjian Collection

see PHOTOGRAPHY, page 14

Andrea Martin in New Cabaret Show

COSTA MESA, Calif. — The multi-talented Andrea Martin will bring an entertaining twist to Segerstrom Center's popular Cabaret Series, February 16-19, when she performs "Final Days, Everything Must Go," her hilarious new one-woman show filled with Broadway tunes, outrageous comedy and tales of her life, career and famous Hollywood friends. From "SCTV" on the small screen to "Young Frankenstein" on Broadway to "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" on the movie screen, Martin offers a bounty of characters and decades of award-winning performances in this high-octane program. The show will feature musical accompanist and YouTube sensation, Seth Rudetsky. *USA Today* calls Martin "a comic genius."

Martin has been seen in more than 20 films including "Breaking Upwards," "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," "All Over the Guy," "Stepping Out," "Bogus,"



Andrea Martin

"Wag the Dog," "New York Minute," both the original and remake of "Black Christmas" and "Cannibal Girls," for which she won the Best Actress Award at SITGES, the international horror film festival of Spain.

Martin co-starred in the television series "SCTV" for which she won two Emmy Awards for writing and received the Emmy nomination for best actress. Her additional television credits include "My Big Fat Greek Life," in which she reprised her role from the popular film and numerous movies including the television film of "Gypsy." She is the recipient of three American Comedy Award nominations for several cable specials including her own "Andrea Martin Together Again," which also received a Cable Ace Award nomination for writing.

She has lent her voice to an impressive list of animated projects.

Martin has received more Tony and Drama Desk Award nominations as a featured actress in a musical than any other actress for her performances in "Young Frankenstein," "Oklahoma," "Candide" and "My Favorite Year," for which she won both awards as well as the Theatre World Award. She was last seen on Broadway opposite Geoffrey Rush and Susan Sarandon in "Exit the King," for which she received the Drama Desk Award and Outer Critic Circle Award nominations, and also starred in the revival of "The Fiddler on the Roof." Martin's off-Broadway theater credits include her one-woman show "Nude, Nude, totally Nude," for which she received a Drama Desk Award nomination, "One the Town," for City Center Encores!, "The Exonerated," "The Vagina Monologues" and "The Merry Wives of Windsor." Martin has appeared regionally in the "Torch-Bearers," "A Midsummer Night's Dream," "The Matchmaker," "The Royal Family" (all at Williamson Theatre Festival). She also starred in "Betty's Summer Vacation," for which she received the IRNE and the Elliot Norton Award for Best Actress, and "The Rose Tattoo" at the Huntington Theatre Company.

Tickets for the show featuring Seth Rudetsky are available online at SCFTA.org, at the Box Office at 600 Town Center Drive.



ARTS & LIVING

Jazz Sensation Grace Kelly Performs to Benefit Armenian Children

LEXINGTON, Mass. — Grace Kelly is a saxophonist, singer, songwriter and composer/arranger from here. Having studied saxophone since the age of 10, she is rapidly making her way up in the jazz music world. Trumpeter and Jazz at Lincoln Center Artistic Director Wynton Marsalis was so impressed with Kelly's three-night stand as guest of the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra that he invited her to join the ensemble at the Kennedy Center's Eisenhower Theater in Washington, DC. Harry Connick Jr. heard Kelly in a master class on a December afternoon and brought her on stage to sit in with his band that night. Since then, Kelly has been voted "Best Jazz Act" in Boston four consecutive years in the WFNX/Phoenix Best Music Poll, received the ASCAP Foundation's Young Jazz Composer's Award in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011 and won "Jazz Artist of the Year" at the Boston Music Awards in both 2008 and 2010. The 2009, 2010 and 2011 Downbeat Critics Poll added her to the list naming her one of the "Alto Saxophone Rising Stars," the youngest ever to be named so. Kelly graduated from the Berklee College of Music in December.

On January 21, the Grace Kelly Quintet performed at the National Heritage Museum in Lexington. The event was a fundraiser for the Avedisian School in Armenia. In an email to fans, Kelly explained her support for school children in Armenia: "Yes, it's true. I am of Korean descent, have an Irish name and Armenian relatives. Educational opportunities for all is a cause I truly believe in."

This was an extraordinary night with Kelly displaying a prodigiously virtuosic mastery on not only the alto sax but the soprano saxophone as well. Combine that with an incredible voice and the reader can have some idea of the maturity and depth of her talent. Her vocal style is one that includes scat, which alone would have been extraordinary, but during one scat segment added an improvised tale on the spot relating to the evening and the Avedisian High School. The audience lapped it up and thunderous applause greeted her at the end of the number.

Kelly also composes deeply sensitive words and feelings in her compositions shown in one of her songs called *Eggshells*. From there she was equally at home in her rendition of Thelonious Monk's *Round Midnight*. She and her quintet again brought the house down with that old standard *Down by the Riverside*.

It should be noted that the quintet was equally impressive as the audience was treated to extended solos by guitar/ bass/ trumpet and drums. What a night for music it was.

The Avedisian School in Malatya-Sepastia, Armenia, was founded by a grant from the family of Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian under the stewardship of Edward and Pamela Avedisian. The first Armenian Evangelical School in Armenia, the Avedisian School was established in an existing building given to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) by the Armenian government. After much renovation to the building, the school opened its doors on September 20, 1999, as a tuition-free kindergarten with 75 students in three classes.

Students from economically-disadvantaged homes and some single-parent homes were accepted into the school. They were hungry for the chance to explore and learn. The Avedisian School, under the direction of the AMAA, is now an educational jewel of Armenia and is home to nearly 300 students as well as 56 staff members, including 32 teachers. As part of the curriculum, the school teaches English, Russian and French to students in kindergarten through ninth grade. In both 2009 and 2010, the school's Russian-language team won first prize in Russian language competency, competing against all schools in Armenia. In 2010, the school won first place in the countrywide competition for French-language competency. In addition, the school and its principal, Melania Geghamian, received a gold medal in 2004 from the Minister of Education for being the best school administration in Armenia. This prestigious award is given only once every five years.

The primary objective of the Avedisian



The Grace Kelly Quintet

School is to bring up the present and future Armenian generations in a nurturing environment where students receive a well-rounded education. The school provides this environment by offering quality education, cultural, spiritual and moral training, three nutritious meals each day, summer and winter uniforms and health care. The school also instills a sense

of civic responsibility and cultivates morality by awakening the love and desire to learn.

Because of the school's exceptional reputation in Yerevan as a tuition-free, quality school, there is a long waiting list of families wishing to register their children there.

A recent engineering report found that the present school building is structurally unsound and cannot be repaired. In addition, the school only teaches up to the ninth grade, leaving the students to seek the last four years of secondary education elsewhere.

The Avedisian family and the AMAA together are committed to ensure that young people in Armenia have the opportunity for a quality education that will provide a better future for them, their families and for Armenia. The Avedisian family has pledged up to \$5 million in matching funds to make this dream of building three buildings, containing kindergarten through Grade 12, a reality.

The Avedisian School is slated to be the first LEED Certified Building in all of Armenia exemplifying Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Building and construction techniques will employ the latest advancements in solar and energy design systems making it both earthquake resistant and less costly to operate.

The Hrant Dink Library and Research Center at the Avedisian School will be the repository of an extensive collection of the life and works of Dink. These materials will be available for scholars, students and the public on site as well as digitally worldwide. The center will be the only one of its kind in Armenia honoring Dink.

Plans are underway for a similar benefit concert by Kelly in Philadelphia. The Lexington, Mass. event was organized with the help of the Boston University Armenian Student's Association, the Avedisian family, Daniel Hagopian, Seta Kalajian and Jeanmarie Papelian (who is one of Kelly's Armenian relatives).

For further information about the AMAA ministries, go to www.amaa.org or call the AMAA headquarters.



Jeanmarie Papelian, Esq. (chair of AMAA Development Committee), Pamela Avedisian (Avedisian School benefactor), saxophonist Grace Kelly and Edward Avedisian (Avedisian School benefactor)

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ARTS & LIVING

Finest Photographs of Early 20th Century Palestine Shuttered in Controversy

PHOTOGRAPHY, from page 12

shop?" He said 'coffee' so they called him Kahvedjian," recalls the grandson, noting that "kahve" means coffee in Turkish.

"He went with his mother on the death march (the Turkish army marched masses of Armenian civilians to desert regions of southern Turkey). "His mother thought his life would be better if she gave him away. By chance, a Kurdish man passed by them and agreed to take the child, but sold him as a slave. In his new life Elia was called Abdu and he operated the bellows for a blacksmith. One day the blacksmith got married again and the new wife did not want Elia so he was thrown into the street where he lived from begging," continues Eli Kahvedjian.

"One day a man came up to him and offered him food. The man took him into a cave and by chance Elia lost his balance, fell on the floor and felt that the floor was full of human skulls. He realized he was in danger and started to run away. The kidnapper threw a sword at him and wounded him in the leg. Until the day he died he had a scar there. When I tell this today I get the shivers," says the grandson.

In the end, Kahvedjian was saved by an American aid organization that brought tens of thousands of orphans out of Turkey to the Middle East. Kahvedjian entered an orphanage in Nazareth when he was about 10 or 11 years old, the family estimates. There he was exposed to photography for the first time, when he served as a porter for one of the teachers at the orphanage who also worked as a photographer.

Eventually he moved to Jerusalem where he lived in a sort of housing project for orphans. He started working for the Hananya Brothers, a well-known Christian family that ran a photography shop adjacent to the place known today as

Israel Defense Forces Square in the center of the city. When the brothers wanted to close up shop he took out a large loan and bought it. He very quickly won commercial success.

His grandson believes the explanation of this surprising success lies in a certain photograph he found a few months ago, in which the grandfather is seen in a group portrait of the Jerusalem Order of the Freemasons – a surprising discovery to the family. "Clearly someone high up helped him but it's strange that he kept this a secret. His relationship with us was pretty close," he says with a smile, hinting that his grandfather had connections with the

family put the storeroom in order. Eventually the family realized they had a treasure in their hands. The first exhibition of his works was held in 1990 at the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem. According to Eli Kahvedjian, "People went wild – they were hungry for this material. We knew it was a success, but we didn't understand just how much of a success."

Since then the shop has become a small museum of black and white photographs from the early 20th century in high quality prints. Most of the customers are tourists. Beyond their historical and anthropological value, the photos are stunning in their precise composition and capture of inspiring moments and perspectives. For the most part, the pictures deal with everyday life: vendors in the market, shoeshine boys (including a Jew polishing an Arab's shoes) and caravans of camels.

One of the photos became the focus of a political controversy last year. The picture, a portrait of a Palestinian family taken in a citrus grove at the end of the 1930s, served as the basis for artist Eliyahu Arik Bokobza's painting "The Citrus Grower." MK Aryeh Eldad (National Union)

protested the Knesset's purchase of the painting for its permanent exhibit, claiming that it was an attempt to depict the past from an Arab perspective, and suggest that "we robbed and expelled them."

In 1998 the family published a volume of several dozen photographs titled *Jerusalem Through My Father's Eyes*, sold only in a small shop in the Christian Quarter (for NIS 230), which became a collectors' item. The grandson relates that there are those who buy the book in order to sell it and make a profit. "They sell it for the same price on the Internet, only in dollars." And indeed, a look at the Amazon site confirms

that it is possible to buy the book for \$225.

The family is especially proud of the quality of the book – the paper was purchased especially in France and the printing was done under their supervision. In recent years, however, cheap imitations – using inexpensive paper and low-quality reproductions – have been appearing in souvenir shops and bookshops in Jerusalem. "I don't want to get rich from this – it's part of the family's history," says Eli Kahvedjian, "but it hurts me that people are disrespectful. With me there are no compromises in quality. I give the pictures the respect they deserve."

Eventually the family sued three shop owners who refused their demand to stop selling the pirated book. The defendants tried to argue that they had not been involved in the forging of the book, but only in its distribution, and did not know it was a forgery. They also argued that the photographs do not belong to the Kahvedjian family because the grandfather had inherited them together with the Hananya Brothers' studio and there was no proof that he had taken the photographs.

Jerusalem District Court Judge Joseph Shapira rejected their arguments, prohibited the defendants from continuing to distribute the book and ordered them to pay the family 63,000 shekels (about \$17,000) in damages.

"The question of copyright was not with regard to each individual picture "but rather with regard to the book as a collection," explains Deuel Peli of the law firm of Agmon & Co., one of two attorneys who represented the family. "Somebody forged the whole book but at a very inferior quality. We hope the trial has created a deterrent effect and in the near future we will be seeing fewer pirated books. But we still don't know who printed the books."

Today, a photo of Elia Kahvedjian gazes down from the wall at the family's shop, hanging among antique cameras that still work. He died in 1999, at the age of 89, according to the family's estimate. "He was an incredibly strong man. He had to have been," says his grandson, "otherwise he would not have survived all that he did."



Old Jerusalem street, photo from the Kahvedjian Collection

British authorities by means of the Masons. The help from "above" was manifested in projects Kahvedjian photographed for the British.

He received further help two days before the outbreak of the War of Independence, relates the grandson. "A British officer came to him and told him: 'Get rid of your things and get out of here.' He took his negatives to a storeroom in the Armenian Quarter and closed the shop."

Kahvedjian fled to the Old City and by 1949 he had opened the small shop in the Christian Quarter that remains there to this day.

The thousands of negatives that were hidden in 1948 came to light again only in 1987, when

Film Director Shares Sights and Sounds of Beirut's 'Little Armenia'

By Schams Elwazer

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNN) – Film director Nigol Bezjian was born in Syria, raised in Lebanon and studied in the United States, but nowhere does he feel more at home than in Little Armenia.

Little Armenia is the vibrant Bourj Hammoud neighborhood of Beirut. Bourj Hammoud was developed mainly in the 1930s



Nigol Bezjian

by Armenian refugees who arrived in Beirut after the Genocide of Armenians in 1915 and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

Bezjian, 57, director of the 1992 film "Chickpeas," took CNN on a tour of his favorite parts of Bourj Hammoud, taking in a family restaurant, bookshop, church and art gallery, where he catches up with colleagues.

He said: "If you ask me what I am, I would tell you I'm Armenian.

"Bourj Hammoud has played a significant

role especially after 1950s – this is where the Armenian patriotism was born ... Armenian literature took root again. Armenian culture was reborn here in a way."

As he walked down the bustling streets, Bezjian shook hands with people he knew. "This is the thing I like, you run into people and friends without planning," he said.

In an Armenian bookstore, he said: "When I come here, I see lots of acquaintances and friends from all different walks of life, I directly connect to my people and I get lots of inspiration from them."

In 2003, Bezjian made a documentary called

"Muron," named after the consecrated mixture of oil, flowers and scents used in various rituals in the Armenian Church.

Visiting a church Bourj Hammoud, he said: "Muron is basically used to consecrate icons and also for baptizing, and I wanted to see how this was made.

"When they do a new one what remains from the oil is mixed in the new one so in a way the Muron that is made today is directly connected to what was made in year 301. This sense of continuity is very important."

Bezjian said he is not religious, but loves the church for the silence it provides from the noise

of the streets outside.

"Church has always played a central role in preserving the Armenian identity and culture," he added.

Bezjian took CNN to an Armenian radio station where the news is read in Armenian and where he is a regular guest.

Ending his tour in a restaurant called Baroud run by a father and son, Bezjian ponders the question of identity.

"In this part of the world people don't talk about identity so much, it's a given. Identity is North American invention ... who am I? You are who you are."

Pianist/Composer Armen Donelian's *Whole Notes* Published by Advance Music

Whole Notes: A Piano Masterclass, the third instructional book by veteran pianist, composer, bandleader and educator Armen Donelian, has just been published by Advance Music.

Written in a conversational tone, the book "offers practical guidance grounded on principles of music theory, rhythm, analysis and composition as well as physics, anatomy and holistic development," Donelian writes in the book's final chapter. Although "this is not the first attempt to examine these subjects in writing, nor will it be the last," he writes, "it incorporates my personal experience in the worlds of both composed and improvised music. I treat these not as two separate areas, but as multi-faceted expressions of universal musical sound phenomena that transcend categories, because that is how I experience them."

Concerned with how as well as what to play, *Whole Notes* is both a piano method book per se and, more importantly, a guidebook to accompany the reader's personal journey into

music. Posture, practicing, mental and physical health, using weight and force, economy of movement and expression are some of the topics addressed. These themes are amply explored through detailed piano arrangements of Donelian's compositions and are of universal interest to all musicians. As a practical inquiry, *Whole Notes* offers many options for creatively applying and integrating them for individual use. For this reason, the needs of non-pianists are also discussed.

The 212-page book contains photographs, numerous original compositions, musical examples and technical exercises. It is available through www.kendormusic.com, www.w.w.j.a.z.z.b.o.o.k.s.c.o.m, www.carismusic.com and www.armenjazz.com, and internationally through www.advancemusic.com.

Donelian's career, spanning four decades, includes seminal stints with Sonny Rollins, Billy Harper, Chet Baker and Mongo Santamaria. An invaluable educator and

international clinician, he has previously written the two-volume *Training the Ear* (Advance Music). Donelian is currently on faculty at William Paterson University and the New School and is the co-director of the Hudson Jazz Workshop. He has taught at the Manhattan School of Music and at the Yerevan State Conservatory as a 2002 Fulbright Senior Scholar; he also did Fulbright residencies in Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and Greece. "Over the years I discovered I had a knack for teaching and later a talent and beyond that a responsibility," Donelian says.

On "Leapfrog," his critically-acclaimed latest album (and ninth release for Sunnyside), Donelian focuses on his spacious, lyrically-charged compositions with an exceptional quintet comprised of Dutch tenor saxophonist Marc Mommaas, guitarist Mike Moreno, veteran bassist Dean Johnson and drummer Tyshawn Sorey.

For more information, visit



ARTS & LIVING

A Women's World of Art

Former Academic Opens Laguna Gallery Specializing in Art by Women to Explore Concept of Gender

By Cindy Frazier

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. (*Coastline Pilot*) — Former New Yorker Lisa Aslanian spent 20 years in academia, studying, lecturing on and admiring contemporary art by women until deciding to embark on a new journey by opening The George Gallery in Laguna Beach.

The gallery — the only one in the city devoted solely to the work of female artists — held its grand opening last week.

Aslanian does not think that women are under-represented in galleries; nor is her gallery filled with strident feminist “message” art. The gallery’s women-only concept is simple but also subtle: What makes art by women different from that of men?

One of the seven artists in the opening show, “Accomplished,” uses a childlike motif of braids in her work. What Talin Megherian is expressing, according to Aslanian, is a distinct feminine identity, particularly in the artist’s Armenian culture, where women used to wear braids on a daily basis.

“I am not a first-generation feminist,” Aslanian said, referring to the early women’s movement and its emphasis on boldly confronting gender issues. “Women can want equality but not want to be men.”

Aslanian named the gallery after the French novelist George Sand, a woman who wrote under a male pseudonym. Sand also defied gender restrictions in her personal life, dressing as a man and declining to marry her partner, Frederick Chopin.

Aslanian said that gender issues have fascinated her since she studied for and earned her doctorate in art philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York. Studies in homoeroticism particularly fascinated her, she said.

“There is no pedantic polemic behind it [the gallery], but our experience is always gendered,” she said. “If a woman is an artist, does it betray that in her art?”

On her website, Aslanian declares: “The George Gallery represents women artists who create within a wide range: Some boldly portray aggressive sexuality and parodies of domesticity while others deliver art that is, like Ms. Sand’s, uncannily and ironically gender neutral.”



Lisa Aslanian

In her studies, she noticed that few women joined the ranks of professional artists until the 1950s and 60s, with the explosion of political — and feminist — art.

Aslanian does think that women’s art tends to be marginalized as “crafts” when it strays beyond paint and canvas. And there are equity issues.

“Women are well-represented in the arts but does their work fetch as much money as [work by] men?” she asks.

As for taking the risk of opening an art gallery at a time when many longtime gallerists have closed their doors, Aslanian says she is enjoying the process, which is so different from the cloistered academic life she has been pursuing. She got a taste of what a gallerist’s life is like by working for a time for Salt Fine Art, also in Laguna Beach.

Entering the competitive world of retail art, Aslanian is keeping her cool — and keeping her eye on the art she loves.

“Teaching is a form of selling, and every one of the artists I’ve chosen is one I believe in,” she said. “We have some affordable artwork and it is all by artists who are collectible. They are all internationally known and acclaimed.”

The work ranges in price from \$1,500 to \$12,000, and some more expensive work is coming soon, she said.

For her introductory show, Aslanian selected work that

portrays a wide range of themes, some of it obviously gender-based, but not all of it.

“The work in this show has a refined and gentle femininity, but the artists all have more aggressive work,” Aslanian said. The more provocative work will be seen in some upcoming shows, she said.

The current show has a delicacy that can be deceptive.

Livia Marin’s “Broken Things” are reminiscent of Salvador Dali’s dripping clocks: exquisite ceramics that appear to have melted. She also paints broken teacups, stitching them together on the paper with gold thread.

Susan Jamison’s egg tempura paintings are beautifully drawn surrealist works. In one, a bare-breasted, bald, tattooed woman is seemingly being examined by white rats who hold a red thread. One of the rats stares at the viewer through red eyes.

“Bridge of Sighs” by Carla Gannis is a series depicting a woman’s body bridging a river or chasm, as people wander over her, seemingly oblivious to the fact that they are standing on her body.

Future shows will consist of two-artist exhibitions, including some of the artists in the current show, and an exhibition by a six-woman New York artist collective.

The George Gallery is at 354 N. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach. For more information, visit thegeorgegallery.com.

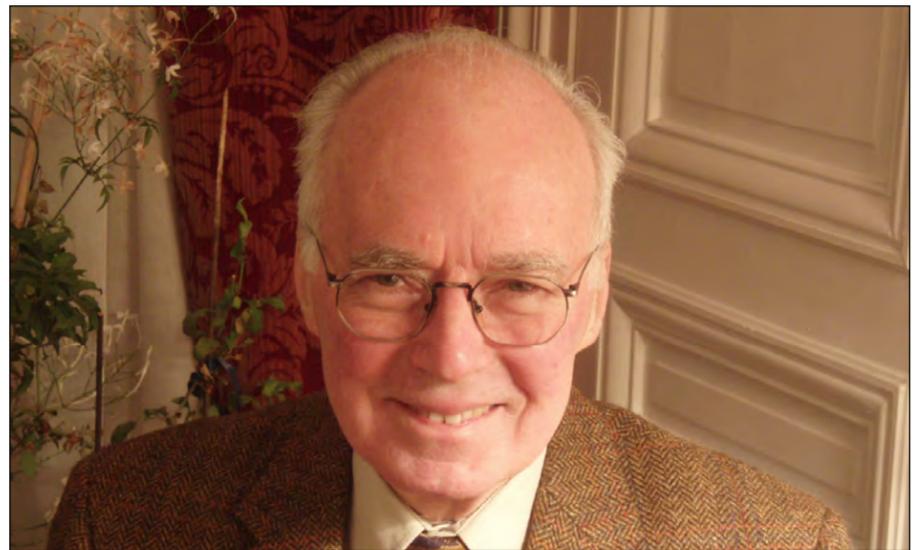
Mathews to Lecture on *Gospel* of King Gagik

LOS ANGELES — The Friends of the UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies, a university-recognized organization liaising with the Armenian community of Southern California, announced recently that an illustrated lecture by art historian Thomas Mathews on a lavish *Gospel*, commissioned by King Gagik of Kars, now in the possession of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem will take place on Sunday, February 19, at the Glendale Public Library at 3:30 p.m.

Twice the size of Byzantine luxury works, this exquisite manuscript with an unparalleled set of 227 illuminations of the Life of Christ, arguably the most ambitious illuminated *Gospel* book of the entire Middle Ages, was commissioned by Gagik, the last Bagratuni king of Kars in the years before the Seljuk forces overran the state. In his lecture, titled “The Mystery of the Gospel of the King Gagik of Kars,” Mathews will share the fruits of his new research project, clarifying some of the many uncertainties surrounding this fascinating work. When was it created? How do we interpret the profound spiritual meaning of the illuminated scenes? What is the meaning of unique portrait of King Gagik’s daughter, Marem? What was the manuscript’s impact on later Cilician illumination? How did the manuscript

migrate to Jerusalem and what has been its more recent history there?

Mathews is the John Langeloth Loeb Professor of History of Art Emeritus at New York University’s Institute of Fine Arts and is currently visiting California as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at the UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. This is a sort of homecoming for the scholar, who served as a professor in the UCLA Art History department earlier in his career before continuing at NYU for three decades with great renown. An acknowledged expert in his field of Early Christian and Medieval religious art with a specialty in Armenian church architecture and manuscript illumination, Mathews has held many prestigious fellowships and honors (e.g. Guggenheim, National Endowment for the Humanities, Kress, Paul Getty Museum). Most recently he was invited to deliver the plenary lecture on medieval Armenian culture at the triennial meeting of the International Association of Armenian Studies at Budapest in October 2011. The prolific author of 13 monographs and numerous articles, he continues to be actively engaged in groundbreaking research. Together with the late Prof. Avedis Sanjian, he published an innovative study of UCLA’s *Gladzor Gospel* of the early 13th century and



Prof. Thomas Mathews

acted as guest curator of the manuscript’s exhibition at the Getty Museum in 2001. Earlier he curated an exhibition spanning the whole medieval Armenian tradition of manuscript illumination under the title “Treasures in Heaven” at the Pierpoint Morgan Library, in New York,

with accompanying catalogue and collected essays.

The lecture will be illustrated by a PowerPoint presentation. Refreshments will be served after the lecture. All are invited to attend.



ARTS & LIVING

Ignatius Memoir Is an Inspiring American Story

Now I Know in Part. By Paul R. Ignatius. The Armenian Heritage Press. National Association of Armenian Studies and Research. 2011. 226 pp.

By Daphne Abeel

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

The dust jacket for Paul Ignatius' memoir could not be more apt — it is a montage that displays the American flag as a screen across a family photo of Ignatius' Armenian immigrant family that pictures his great grandmother, his grandfather and grandmother, his father and an image of himself as a small boy. The photo was taken in 1929.

Ignatius, who served in both the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, becoming secretary of the navy in 1967, has written an autobiographical account of a thriving Armenian family, planted on American soil.

Although Ignatius enjoyed a distinguished public career which began in 1961 when he was appointed assistant secretary of the army during the Kennedy administration, a great portion of the book is devoted to memories and anecdotes of Armenian family life, lived mainly in Glendale, Calif.

This book, an expanded version of what Ignatius published in 2000, chronicles Ignatius' family history for his children and grandchildren and also the broader Armenian community. As he says in his introduction, "I want my kids and their kids to know more about the Armenians,



even though their connection to the ancient land and people is not as intense as mine. My heritage is 100 percent Armenian. For my children, the percentage is half this, and for their children it is only 25 percent... Perhaps these children and their children will feel as I do, that their relationship to a people who have suffered greatly throughout their long history will give them a better understanding of the world around them."

Ignatius' maternal grandparents came to the United States in 1906, and his grandfather built a house in a small village called Tropic, eventually incorporated into the town of Glendale. Later, his father also built a house in Glendale and Ignatius relates happy memories of a beautiful apricot orchard in the garden and the sumptuous Armenian meals his father would prepare for guests. It was a more innocent time and Ignatius and his brother and friends enjoyed simple pass times, roller skating or playing roller skate hockey on the cement driveway.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, life for young children was peaceful and governed by the rhythms of family life. There was virtually no street violence and the distractions of television and the computer world didn't exist.

Ignatius sums up a homey routine. "We would walk to the excellent schools nearby, carrying our lunch boxes and return home for games before dinner, then do homework, listen to the radio and talk with our parents before going to

bed. We were a close family in a warm household and I learned the values there that shaped my life."

Prior to coming to the United States, Ignatius maternal grandfather, escaping what would be the massacres of the Armenians in Turkey by Sultan Abdul Hamid in 1895-96, moved to Manchester, England in 1892 and became a founder of the Manchester chapter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). He started a soap factory, which supported the family, and as a young man, Ignatius worked there for a summer.

Ignatius' father, born in Harput, had studied English at Euphrates College, but when he came to the US, he continued his studies at Eastman Business College in Poughkeepsie, NY and later moved to West Virginia, where he worked for a glass manufacturing company. On a business trip to Southern California, he met Ignatius' mother, a talented pianist, and founded a successful rug company that became the basis for the family's livelihood.

Ignatius attended several public schools, most notably Hoover High School, and, showing early signs of leadership, he was elected class president and president of the student body, wrote for the school newspaper, acted in plays and played varsity tennis. His parents were determined that he would become a good American and thus he never learned Armenian and although he was baptized in an Armenian church, he did not attend Sunday School.

The placid routine of home life was enlivened by visits from the writer, William Saroyan, and his uncle, Aram, who was a lawyer. The family also had some Hollywood connections and Ignatius, through his father's relationships, landed a job as a messenger boy on the Warner Bros. studio lot. He rubbed shoulders with actors such as Errol Flynn, Mickey Rooney and even Ronald Reagan. He even played a few bit parts, but deep down knew that the movie world was not for him, that he was interested in a career in public service.

Eventually, Ignatius enrolled in the University of Southern California (USC). There he worked hard both at his studies and a series of jobs as janitor, usher at a football stadium and movie theater and as a sorter at the Glendale post office. However, he began to read the *New York Times* and become interested in world affairs. After reading an article by Dean Acheson, Ignatius became focused on the rewards of government service. Ignatius actually dropped out of college twice, once to write and produce plays and once to become a locomotive fireman in Arizona. However, as he worked on the railroad he continued a program of independent study at USC. When a recruiter from Harvard Business School visited USC, Ignatius applied to a program that connected the MBA degree with service either in the army or navy. Having been accepted, in 1942, Ignatius became an ordinance officer and eventually served on the aircraft carrier, the Manila Bay. He saw active service in the Pacific and this service set the stage for his later government appointments, first as assistant secretary of the army, then as under secretary of the army, assistant secretary of defense and finally as secretary of the navy during the Vietnam War.

One of the additions to the present publication is a spirited defense of his books, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, who was often dubbed the architect of the Vietnam War.

The last chapters of the book are devoted to his account of an emotional visit to Armenia, speculation over recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey, his belief that future generations of Armenians will not forget the Genocide and his efforts to establish a chair of Armenian Studies at USC.

This account is testimony to the reality that the American dream can come true. And it is testimony to the role that hard work and the embrace of family and family values can play in making that dream come true.

More information about the book can be obtained by contacting the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) at hq@naasr.org or by writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave. Belmont, MA 02478.

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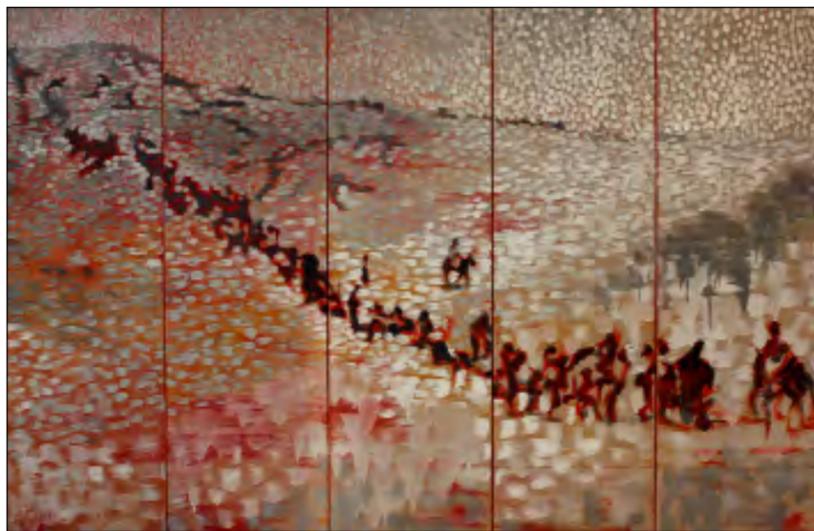
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ARTS & LIVING



"History Ignored" by Hope Ricciardi

Artist Hope Ricciardi Opening Reception at ALMA on February 19

WATERTOWN – On Sunday, February 19, artist Hope Ricciardi will launch an exhibit of her works at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA). Her paintings consist mostly of oil on canvas and panels based on photographic transfer and focusing on personal imagery: people, places and historic images that have meaning for her.

"My ancestry and roots in Armenian history are the catalyst for my current work. To know what we are, we must know where we come from. The past is often muddled, memory fails us, often familial histories are selective and leave out the painful moments," she said.

In 2011, her exhibition, "History Ignored," exploring Armenian history was presented at the Galatea Fine Art Gallery in Boston. Ricciardi currently maintains a studio in Boston and is preparing a major exhibit for 2015, the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Her work serves to inform and honor the history and numerous contributions of the Armenian culture.

The public is invited to the opening reception, which will take place at ALMA's Contemporary Art Gallery at 2 p.m. Ricciardi's exhibit will run through April 29.

ALMA is located at 65 Main St. in Watertown.

'Still Documenting The 1915 Genocide'

Part II: Politics, Prose and Poetry

By Alan Whitehorn

Artistic portrayal of the Armenian Genocide can emerge through the literary word, whether in novels, short stories, plays, poetry or even film scripts. Often the inspiration for such works can be found in a specific traumatic incident, a particular family's agonizing odyssey or a village's or region's shared bleak fate. Unfortunately, a great tragic void is created by genocide due to the vast numbers of dead victims (often entire families and community groups). As a result, so many key episodes are not fully or formally recorded. But sometimes, vivid memories continue, as best they can, in the oral tradition of survivor accounts passed on, from one generation to another. They are perhaps told in hushed, quiet, reflective moments. Armenian families often share fragmentary family recollections from those terrible times.

When Armenians learn of my ongoing academic work on genocide, it is not uncommon to be taken aside and told of a deeply personal account of the terrible plight of a parent, grandparent or even a great-grandparent. It is often a metzmama's searing tale of survival. One person whom I got to know well in Yerevan told me about her great grandmother. It is a powerful story that most of her colleagues at work never knew. Her family story had not previously been published. From her account and that of her family, I faithfully penned the following poem. It is an attempt

to document at a personal level the 1915 Genocide; this time, through a literary voice.

The Woman With No Mirror

Born in Van
and only five years old
when the terrible slaughter commenced
Her parents and brothers were killed.
Her sisters abducted.
Yet, amidst the horror,
her neighbours,
Muslim Kurds,
took in the young Christian child
and hid her for several days.
Her kind and brave neighbours,
were fearful of being caught defying the draconian state decrees,
which forbade any humanitarian assistance to the Armenians.
And so,
during the dark hours of the night,
the neighbours sent the child
up into the mountains,
to be hidden by a shepherd amongst his sheep.
Once there,
she was cared for by others,
until she could be safely brought to Yerevan.
She alone of her family made the final journey.

For the rest of her life,
in remembrance,
she only wore black.
She mourned the loss of her extended family.
She also vowed never again to look into a mirror.
For to do so, she feared
she would see
not herself,
but her beloved lost sisters.
For the remainder of her life
she lived
with no mirror in her house.
This way she would not see
whom she could not bear to have lost.

Mariam's family was profoundly grateful that I had recorded their family saga. After so many years of the family suffering in private, now they shared the family chapter with friends, colleagues, and others. It is a very dark page in history. This is a poem of great loss, but also offers some hope. As best we can, we continue to try to document the 1915 Genocide, but it is a very, very difficult account to write. Sometimes, we have only fragments left, like a shattered mirror.

(Alan Whitehorn is author of several books on the Armenian Genocide, including *Just Poems: Reflections on the Armenian Genocide*.)

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH 31 – AGBU New England District Presents: Performing Artists in Concert, 8 p.m. Under the artistic direction of mezzo-soprano Solange Merdian and conductor Aram Demirjian, the inaugural program will feature young Armenian artists who are recipients of scholarships from AGBU in the performing arts. They will perform the works of both Armenian and non-Armenian classical composers. Details to follow.

MAY 24 – Celebrating 80 and Beyond, Benefit for the Armenian Mirror-Spectator. Royal Sonesta Hotel. Details to follow.

NEW JERSEY

hosting a **Lenten Luncheon** at 12:30 p.m. Holy Cross Armenian Church Center, 27th Street and Bergenline Avenue, Union City. RSVP by February 25. Donation, \$20. For info, call Diana Burggraf (201) 868-0520.

MARCH 8 – Hovnanian School Open houses The doors of your child's future are open, come see for yourself from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Hovnanian School, 817 River Road, New Milford. For information: (201) 967-5940.

MARCH 31 – CARS presents Armenian singer Sibil from Istanbul at 7 p.m. Special guest performance by Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble. Bergen County Academics, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack. For information, call Hilda (516) 496-0248, Margit (914) 686-0840, Adi (973) 761-1544. Tickets, depending on seats: \$50, \$30 and \$25.

MAY 19, 2012 – HMADS Gala Dinner Dance. Details to follow, June 25. HMADS 30th Commencement Exercise at 8 p.m., Kalustyan Hall.

NEW YORK

FEBRUARY 29 – HMADS Hye Bardez. Nursery and Kindergarten, Grades 1-6, open house 9:15 a.m.-11 a.m. RSVP (718) 225-4826. HMADS 209-15 Horace Harding Expressway, Oakland Gardens.



AGBU New England District presents its inaugural performing artists in concert program, at 8 p.m., on March 31, under the artistic direction of mezzo soprano Solange Merdian, pictured above, and conductor Aram Demirjian. Works of both Armenian and non-Armenian classical composers will be performed.

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COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

The New World Disorder

By Edmond Y. Azadian

During the conference of Berlin in 1878, when the destiny of the "Sick Man of Europe" (The Ottoman Empire) was at stake with the plight of its subject nations hanging in the balance, German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, the promoter of the "iron and blood" policy, is reported to have said: "I do not exchange the bones of a dead Pomeranian soldier with the entire Eastern Question." As a statesman, Bismarck's insensitivity towards the misery of the masses is not a unique phenomenon; it is prevalent to this day. At present it is even worse; people's democratic rights are being used as pretexts to induce tragedy and misery in the lives of the very nations in whose names wars are being waged and lofty principals are enunciated at the highest forums of world politics.

With the collapse of the Soviet empire, the strategic balance of the bi-polar world shifted towards the West. The US policy makers were quick in forestalling the formation of the United States of Europe, which could provide a balancing act to unilateral US policies and self-interest.

Of course, there is no love-lost with the demise of the Soviet Union, especially as many constituent nationalities emerged to shape their own policies and destinies. Armenia was among them.

Globally speaking, the balance of power was lost and a uni-polar world dominance spelled disaster for most of the regions of the world, especially the Middle East.

A group of unelected government functionaries were able to hijack US foreign policy to use for their own ends, whose beneficiary was certainly not the United States. The cabal of neo-cons, hiding behind the most cynical politician of the time, namely Vice President Dick Cheney, the real power broker at the White House, engaged the country in reckless wars, wasting billions of dollars and wrecking the economy of the country in the process. The US was left as the most powerful nation in the world, but rather than taking pride in that unchallenged power, the neo-cons converted it into a sword of arrogance, wielding it irresponsibly around the world. The motto of the day was the creation of a new world order. A few years into that policy the world is in shambles and the US is in no better shape.

President Barack Obama was elected on a most moralistic platform, but his promises were soon to be corrupted by the entrenched policy makers at the State Department and other levels of the government. One of the first casualties was, of course, the Armenian Genocide, along with the Guantanamo gulag colony, with all its apologists for water boarding, recognized as torture by every major human rights organization in the world.

The new world order was a two-pronged policy: to contain the residual power of the former Soviet Empire and to change the map of the Middle East to tailor it to the Israeli political designs.

Currently, Russia is engaged in self-flagellation, content with its newly-found energy resources and devoid – almost – of any foreign ambitions, which has left only the reshaping of the Middle East to the prophets of the new world order.

The process began with Iraq, the most prosperous Arab country ruled by a dictator who tended to the economy and the welfare of his people, contrary to the demonization of him in the Western media. No one can say he was a humanitarian, as he knew how to terrorize subjects who strayed from the proscribed path (i.e. Kurds), but before the sectarian strife was introduced from outside, no one knew in Iraq who was Sunni and who was Shia. When armed rebellions took place by outside forces, the ruler had to protect his government and the stability of the country. Timothy McVeigh, in this country, was not offered a birthday cake when he bombed a federal building.

This became a standard practice; implant armed insurrection in a targeted country and cry wolf at the UN that the West had to rescue the people from a tyrant, of course with the complicity of the pliant media.

That policy did not have a chance of success in Iraq, therefore outright lies had to be sold (and told). The excuse of weapons of mass destruction was concocted, and the most honest US diplomat, Colin Powell was sacrificed at the UN forum – reducing him to a political cadaver – and a bloody war was launched against Iraq.

After sacrificing 4,500 US troops and maiming another 30,000, that country is no closer to any shape or form of democracy. Sectarian warfare is continuing and on the other hand no one is asking accountability of 1 million civilian casualties and 2 million Iraqi immigrants.

Of course no weapon of mass destruction was found, which was obvious to any student of the Middle East.

The next target was Libya, the most egalitarian country in the Middle East. Muammar Qaddafi was an eccentric, but he distributed all the oil revenue to his people. That is why an internal insurrection did not have a chance to succeed in the country and NATO forces had to intervene. And the way Qaddafi was murdered cannot be justified in any norm of civilized conduct. Today, the country is destabilized, the economy is in ruins and "democracy," which was promised, is manifested in revenge killings and kangaroo courts.

Egypt's stability was guaranteed by President Hosni Mubarak, whose departure has resulted in chaos, instability, repression of the Coptic minority and other Christians, as well as turmoil.

Now the next target is Syria, home to one of the oldest Armenian communities in the Middle East. But Bismarck's policy is still alive. No one gives a damn what happens to the Armenians in that country, where they are respected and they enjoy all minority rights, contrary to the media characterization of the contrary.

The "Arab awakening" or the "Arab spring" also blossomed in Tunisia, which became one of the most unstable societies in North Africa.

Iran is also on the target list of the new world order promoters. The US and Israel have threatened Iran with military strikes, because Iran and Syria present a counter weight to the Israeli-Turkish hegemony in the Middle East.

Of course, no one is interested in regime change in Jordan or Saudi Arabia, which are ruled by absolute monarchs, no better (i.e. democratic and humanitarian) than the other former or current rulers of the Middle East, because those monarchs happen to be willing to go along with the script given to them by the US and Israel.

There is a huge media machine to dupe the world and convince the people that the Arab spring or Arab awakening is in the best interest of the nations in question. The unfortunate sexual assault of CBS reporter Lara Logan in the middle of a throng put a kibosh on the feigned, giddy coverage of Tahrir Square as ground zero of democracy in Egypt.

Given the bloodshed, instability, poverty and misery resulted by the thrust of this new world order, even the most naive observer cannot be convinced that the region is being blessed with a new dawn of liberty and prosperity. In fact, the Arab awakening has become an Arab nightmare.

But there is a pattern to this policy, which is adorned by the most attractive slogans of democracy and human rights. Any country, which has harbored animosity against Israel, is on the list of the West to be "democratized." Even Tunisia, which seems an innocent bystander in the Arab-Israeli conflict, hosted Yasser Arafat and the PLO, after Ariel Sharon invaded Lebanon in 1982, that is why it got on the list.

After abstaining at the UN where an invasion was planned against Libya, Moscow leaders realized that the Arab spring is coming closer to home and threatening their own interests in the region and finally stood up against this policy and vetoed the intended aggression against Syria, infuriating Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and some European countries.

Turkey is smuggling arms to the "insurgents" in Syria and has been already hosting a government in exile.

It is obvious to any serious student of the Middle East that stable, albeit far-from-perfect governments are being pulled down for reasons that serve not their own people and which in fact devastate them. The US and Europe are not the beneficiaries of these uprisings either; all they gain is hostility of the subject nations and ferment hotbeds of terrorism.

Armenians have already left Egypt, Lebanon and Jerusalem and now the time has come to leave Syria and Iran.

Iran is one of Armenia's lifelines to the outside world. Any conflict with Iran will be devastating for Armenia and for the entire region.

Apparently, this philosophy of the new world order has gone too far, in its destructive path, to be safely renamed as the new world disorder.

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Armenians Need to Pursue Their Cause With More Confidence And Commitment

This week's column deals with the self-defeating attitude of some Armenians whose negative outlook manifested itself once again with the latest news about the French bill criminalizing denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Some people hold the skeptical view that any project undertaken by Armenians is doomed to failure. A few years ago, I was advised by several readers not to call for dismissal of the *Los Angeles Times* managing editor for censoring an article by Mark Arax on the Armenian Genocide. On another occasion, I was advised not to ask *Time* magazine to apologize and make amends for disseminating a Turkish denialist DVD. I ignored the defeatist suggestions that countering such powerful publications would be futile and even counter-productive. It was not an easy struggle, but I am happy to report that Armenian activists prevailed in both campaigns.

It is noteworthy that such apathetic individuals not only fail to offer any assistance or encouragement, but go to great lengths to discourage those who are furthering the

interests of the community. Interestingly, those who sit on their hands are usually the ones who complain the most about others who are serving the common cause.

Imagine if 20 years ago the small band of Armenian freedom fighters had listened to such nay-sayers and decided that it was not possible to liberate Artashk (Karabagh) from Azeri and Soviet occupation forces! Would I be here today if my ancestors, the brave people of Zeitoun, located in the heartland of the Ottoman Empire, had not fought against powerful Turkish armies and won more than 40 battles and hundreds of skirmishes to preserve their safety and autonomy?

Returning to our own times, how often are we told by misinformed Armenians with an "all-knowing" attitude that the US Congress will never recognize the Armenian Genocide, when in fact it was recognized in 1975 and 1984? Or how many times have these misguided fortune-tellers prophesized that no US president will ever recognize the Armenian Genocide because Turkey is too important, unaware that President Ronald Reagan recognized it in a Presidential Proclamation on April 22, 1981?

These same Armenians were confident that the French Parliament would not adopt a bill criminalizing denial of the Armenian Genocide last December, either because there would be a last-minute snag or that President Nicolas Sarkozy was tricking Armenians to get their votes in the forthcoming presidential elections. Yet the parliament approved the legislation by a wide margin. When the bill made its way to the Senate on January 23, 2012, once again the skeptics confidently predicted that an unexpected development would block its passage. The bill was adopted by a vote of 127-86.

Last week, when some French legislators, aided and abetted by the Turkish ambassador, appealed to the Constitutional Council to review the bill, some Armenians

fell into deep depression. They insisted that there was an anti-Armenian conspiracy, claiming to have known all along that the initiative would end up in failure. These people do not seem to realize that the appeal does not necessarily mean defeat of the bill. In fact, should the council determine that the bill is constitutional, those who would be arrested for denying the Armenian Genocide could no longer challenge the new law.

However, should the Constitutional Council reject the bill, it would not be the end of the world, as President Sarkozy has pledged to amend it and resubmit it to both legislative houses. Nevertheless, the pursuit of the Armenian Cause does not depend on any particular bill. Armenians have many other major demands from Turkey under international law.

Rather than simply deploring that the bill has ended in the Constitutional Council, Armenians should demand that certain members of the court disqualify themselves from this case due to their impermissible affiliation with Turkish think tanks or for having made prejudicial statements on this issue. It is noteworthy that six of the French senators who filed for the appeal are currently enjoying themselves in Azerbaijan as guests of the state, tasting Caspian caviar and indulging in other Azeri "delicacies."

Far more important than any bill is Armenians' solemn determination to continue the struggle for their rightful cause, undeterred by setbacks or obstacles. Having survived several millennia of occupation, pillage, massacres and genocide, Armenians cannot succumb or surrender at the first sign of adversity.

Armenians can go forward only when they purge themselves of their self-defeating attitude and subservient mentality, left over from centuries of Ottoman Turkish subjugation and servitude.

New Challenges to Armenian-Iranian Relations

By Richard Giragosian

Armenia has always been a prisoner of its geography, serving throughout history as an arena for both competition and cooperation for larger regional powers. Since its independence, Armenia's geographic vulnerability became only more pronounced, as both Azerbaijan and Turkey closed their borders with Armenia in a demonstration of "fraternal allegiance" over the Nagorno Karabagh conflict.

Over time, small, landlocked Armenia generally adapted to its isolation by adopting economic and trade strategies aimed at overcoming the constraints of having two of its four land borders sealed. Nevertheless, the threat of isolation was never fully addressed, and Armenia's borders with both Georgia and Iran, as its primary export and import route and as the only alternative trade and energy link respectively, only grew in strategic significance.

Concerns and Challenges

Yet it is Armenia's relationship with its southern border Iran that raises concerns and poses challenges. And as the West imposes ever tighter sanctions against Iran and the threat of military action over Iran's nuclear program mounts, so do the challenges to Armenia.

Only a few months ago, during a late-December 2011 meeting in Yerevan, Armenian President Serge Sargsian and his Iranian counterpart, Mahmud Ahmadinejad, called for a "diplomatic" solution to Iran's nuclear standoff with the West. As hosts, the Armenian side was careful to placate Ahmadinejad during his one-day visit to Yerevan, promising expanded "high-

level relations" and reiterating a commitment to "good relations." Similarly, in a joint statement, the presidents "noted the right of all countries, including Armenia and Iran, to the peaceful use of atomic energy," but stressed "the importance of resolving Iran's nuclear issue by means of negotiations and in diplomatic ways."

But as tension between the West and Iran has deepened, Armenia is increasingly concerned over renewed consideration of a possible US or Israeli military attack targeting Iranian nuclear facilities. Discussion of a possible military strike against Iran has also grown within Armenia, fueled in part by Russian media coverage, leading many in Armenia to worry about the country's proximity to Iran.

Fears of a looming military attack against Iran have grown in recent weeks, as Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak warned that there is "a wide global understanding that Iran must be prevented from becoming nuclear and no option should be taken off the table." Going even further, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Yaalon, who heads the strategic affairs ministry and is a former Israeli military commander, threatened that Iran's nuclear installations are "vulnerable to military strikes," directly contradicting mainstream military skepticism over the feasibility of air strikes. In response, however, US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta recently downplayed reports suggesting the "strong likelihood" that Israel was planning a military strike sometime in the coming 2-4 months.

From a military perspective, however, any such attack against Iran would most likely fail and may even be counter-productive. Militarily, the fact that such an operation would target

Iranian nuclear facilities that are both widely dispersed throughout the country and deep underground raise serious doubts over the success of any air campaign. At the same time, even if an air campaign locates and neutralizes most of its target list, many experts expect only a temporary setback to an already entrenched nuclear program.

A military operation would also be largely counter-productive politically, for three main reasons. First, it would tend to only embolden and even bolster a regime in Tehran whose very legitimacy is limited to posing as a perceived victim of Western conspiracies and aggression. Secondly, it would further weaken the already vulnerable, but still significant portion of pro-American Iranians, and perhaps even drive many Iranians to unite behind their government in the face of open attack. A third factor is rooted in the likelihood that by resorting to a military option, international support for diplomatic pressure and sanctions would erode, especially as Russia and China would most likely withdraw their support for the Western-designed sanctions regime.

For Armenia, which has been importing small amounts of Iranian natural gas through a pipeline built in 2009, meeting the demands of tighter sanctions is also a challenge, especially in light of current bilateral energy ties and the roughly \$300 million in annual bilateral trade. The energy ties include the ongoing construction of a third electrical transmission line connecting the Armenian and Iranian power grids and the planned construction of two hydroelectric plants on the Arax River dividing the Armenian-Iranian border. It would also complicate ambitious Iranian plans to build a \$2.5 billion, 540-kilometer railway con-

necting Iran to Armenia.

And sanctions have been steadily tightening and broadening, covering both more general areas of trade and economic sectors, as well as targeting more specific groups within Iran, ranging from the Iranian Central Bank to its Revolutionary Guards. The US Congress, for example, follows this track, as the US Senate Banking Committee recently approved a new package of proposed sanctions targeting Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps and companies involved in joint energy and uranium mining ventures with Tehran. It would also penalize companies and individuals that supply Iran with weapons that could be used against Iranian citizens.

But this recent trend toward tighter sanction targeting Iranian banking and financial services pose even more serious challenges for Armenia, by imposing new demands for greater transparency and higher scrutiny of Iranian banks currently operating in Armenia. It would also trigger new, more serious complications over pending and planned bilateral projects in the energy sector, in some ways hindering the one sector that is rooted in a shared economic and strategic interest between Armenia and Iran.

An Opportunity in Every Crisis

Despite these obvious challenges for Armenia, at the same time, there is a potential opportunity from this crisis, however. In a broader strategic context, this opportunity is rooted in Armenia's role as a potential "bridge" or "platform" for engaging Iran. Reflecting a shared sense of isolation and a pronounced perception of hostile neighbors, Armenia and Iran have been both destined and determined to forge a strategically stable relationship, no matter how unnatural and contradictory.

Against this backdrop, Armenia is Iran's only neighboring country that could serve as a reliable mediator or trusted third-party broker, hosting or even facilitating a new round of talks and diplomacy between the West and Iran. And for its part, affirming the new role of "small states" in contributing to greater international security, Armenia also stands to benefit from offering its own unique insight into how best to engage Iran. Only in this way, can Armenia transform itself from being less a prisoner of geography to more of a practitioner of geopolitics.

(Richard Giragosian is the director of the Regional Studies Center (RSC), an independent think tank in Yerevan, Armenia.)

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Experts Warn that Armenia Needs to Tackle Drug Abuse, Alcoholism

By Lilit Arakelyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Psychologist Samvel Khudoyan says that a negative attitude towards narcotics should be formed among children early on.

Drug addiction, alcoholism and, increasingly, gambling, are said to be growing concerns in Armenia, which health care workers say reflect economic and social problems, and that should merit government policy attention.

At a Monday forum, specialists in the field of prevention and treatment of drug and alcohol abuse said campaigns at the state level would prove particularly effective among children and teenagers.

Psychologist Samvel Khudoyan says that a negative attitude towards narcotics should be formed early on among children still in school.

Armenian Narco-Clinical Center Director Petros Semerjyan is also in favor of a more coordinated state-level campaign. He refused to attend

Monday's discussion, however, because the host club had a poster advertising a liquor company on its wall.

By his boycott of the discussion Semerjyan sought to deliver a message that despite certain legal regulations, television, radio, magazines, websites, as well as city billboards, continue to advertise alcohol, tobacco products and casinos.

(Advertisement of strong alcoholic beverages, except brandy, is banned on TV; commercials for lighter beverages, such as beer and wine, are allowed, but limited to certain hours, as are advertisements of gambling places and lotteries. But, in practice, TV companies still find loopholes in the legislation, such as presenting advertisement as sponsorship of certain programming, etc. Advertisement of tobacco on TV is banned, and in print media, has certain restrictions, for example, it must not be placed on the front and back pages of editions. Tobacco advertisement on billboards is also banned, while billboards with alcohol and casino advertisement are allowed, but with certain place limitations, such as away from kindergartens, schools, medical establishments, etc.)

Drug addiction is also more associated with crime, given the illicit nature of acquisition of narcotics by those having an addiction.

According to police data, more than 1,800 crimes and offences connected with illegal drug trafficking were registered in 2011, comparable to the previous year. Marijuana, according to police reports, remains the most common drug, of which a total of 20 kilograms were confiscated last year.

Khudoyan advocates hypnotherapy "... as it aims to provide a positive change in a patient's mentality and help bring him or her back to reality." The doctor says his patients with drug addiction problems are mainly young people aged 18-25 who are forced to attend sessions by their parents or relatives.

Comparing the extent of drug abuse in Armenia, the psychologist says it has a lower rate than in neighboring Georgia and Azerbaijan.

"Most of the religious population in Azerbaijan

are Muslims and their religion prohibits the use of alcohol. But one in three young people in Azerbaijan abuse drugs that are mainly brought from Iran," says Khudoyan. "Alcoholism among young people in Armenia decreased as compared to what its rate was during the Soviet times, not least due to the country's further departing from the influence of Russia [which is known to have a high rate of alcoholism]."

(Still, Armenia was the only former Soviet republic where there were no so-called sobering-up stations that were commonly practiced elsewhere in the USSR.)

According to the Armenian police, 98 percent of those prosecuted for drug trafficking are formally unemployed.

According to the Health Ministry data, of 1,631 people tested at specialized clinics for drug abuse in 2011, 1,130 were put on the registry as drug users, with a majority of them using cannabis (marijuana, hashish, etc.).

State Gives Top Marks to Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

JAMAICA PLAIN, Mass. – The Massachusetts Department of Public Health declared the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (ANRC) to be in 100-percent compliance with more than 180 federal and state regulatory standards after completing their annual unannounced inspection on January 25.

This was the second deficiency-free survey in a row for the center.

The survey team spent three consecutive days scrutinizing every aspect of care from nursing and rehabilitation services to cooking and food storage, housekeeping and laundry.

Using a defined sample selection process, they also examined the clinical records of 17 active and discharged residents. In addition, they observed interaction between staff and residents and interviewed many residents (both individually and as a group) to obtain feedback about their experience in the center. The report



From left, Alexander Bilizerian, Ange-Marie Val and Naomi Armen

indicates that the responses from residents and families were overwhelmingly positive.

For more information on the survey process, visit www.Medicare.gov and click on "Nursing Home Compare."



Management staff from left, seated, Acela Hermida, business office manager, Wayne Sakovich, social worker, Dawn O'Toole, RN, Ruth Kane, director of nursing, and Karla Fleming, executive director

Congress, Armenian Assembly Urge Affirmation of Genocide as Clinton Statement Draws Ire

CLINTON, from page 1

matter of historical debate and conclusions rather than political. And I think that is the right posture for the United States government to be in, because whatever the terrible event might be or the high emotions that it represents, to try to use government power to resolve historical issues, I think, opens a door that is a very dangerous one to go through."

Expressing surprise and dismay, the Assembly sent a letter to President Barack Obama requesting swift action. "Secretary Clinton's response is untenable and requires immediate remedy. Mr. President now is the time to fulfill your campaign promise and unequivocally affirm the Armenian Genocide," the Assembly wrote in its letter.

"There is no debate about the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide," Schiff and Dold told the Assembly. "Raphael Lemkin, a Holocaust survivor who coined the term genocide and worked tirelessly toward the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, invoked the Armenian experience as a prime example of genocide," continued Schiff and Dold.

"We welcome this bi-partisan initiative to set the record straight," stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. "We urge human rights activists from across the country to make sure that their Member of Congress signs this important letter to Secretary Clinton," added Ardouny.

Zarakolu Nominated for Nobel Prize

ZARAKOLU, from page 1

the Kurdish question, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and Islam – topics considered taboos in Turkey – published by Zarakolu together with his late wife, Ayse Zarakolu.

Despite all pressure and attacks, Zarakolu continued defending freedom of thought and contributed to the reconciliation between cultures.

The Swedish parliamentarians put forward that Zarakolu became a target of the state due to his efforts. "If Turkey established a commission on law and reconciliation one day, Zarakolu should become head of this commission," the deputies stated.

Zarakolu was arrested on November 1, 2011

in the context of an operation against the Union of Kurdish Communities (KCK), an organization founded by Abdullah Öcalan, imprisoned leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), recognized as a terrorist organization by the European Union and other countries. The International Publishers Association (IPA) criticized his arrest and announced, "He does not deserve imprisonment but the Nobel prize."

Zarakolu received rewards of the IPA in 1998 and 2008; in 1995 and 2007 he was awarded by the Turkey Publishers Association; in 2003, he was awarded by the Norwegian Ministry of Culture and in 2010 he received the National Library Award of Armenia.

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