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In Our 80th Year

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

Akçam at NAASR Talk Discusses Istanbul Trials Of Genocide Perpetrators

BELMONT, Mass. — Prof. Taner Akçam spoke to a packed audience at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) on the post-World War I trials of Genocide perpetrators in Istanbul and other cities in Ottoman Turkey, part of a promotional tour of his new book, *Judgment at Istanbul*, a collaboration with Prof. Vahakn Dadrian.

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff



Prof. Taner Akçam with Prof. James Russell at NAASR

suggesting that the British High Command had pressured the sham trials to take place as part of Turkey's punishment being in the losing side of World War I.

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Sargisian Participates in Convention Of Homeland Defenders Union

YEREVAN — President Serge Sargisian participated this week at the ninth convention of the Volunteer Homeland Defenders Union, which took place at the Karen Demirjian Sport and Concert Complex. At

the convention, the president of Armenia made a statement:

I am obligated to structure all my speeches according to the accepted standards, to take into consideration how an official statement will be received by the most diverse audiences so that words addressed to the one do not indirectly upset or hurt the other. I have also to consider every protocol nuance. To keep in line, today I should have started like this, "I salute the delegates and guests of the ninth Convention of the Volunteer Homeland Defenders Union." However, I will not do that, because 25 years of shared path make me speak and start in a different fashion — like this: Folks, it's good to see you again.

Vazgen Sargisian used to say, "Homeland defenders are one of our greatest achievements, if not the greatest. They shielded with their bodies, with their blood the borders of our country and it was their blood that spearheaded creation of the Army of this country." Vazgen was right. It is true that homeland defenders are not border troops — they are the

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President Serge Sargisian

Armenian War Veterans Pledge Election Support For Sargisian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — A once-powerful organization uniting thousands of Armenian veterans of the Nagorno-Karabagh war has pledged to support President Serge Sargisian in the upcoming national elections four years after effectively backing his most formidable political foe, Levon Ter-Petrosian.

The Yerkrpah Union reaffirmed its allegiance to Sargisian during a weekend congress that reelected General Manvel Grigorian, a former deputy defense minister, as its chairman.

"We must actively participate in all upcoming elections," Grigorian told the high-see PLEDGE, page 20

Presidential Report Backs Probe into Public Officials for Role in Dink Murder

ISTANBUL (*Today's Zaman*) — A new report from the country's top office is expected to put much-needed support behind judges and prosecutors who are currently conducting investigations into several public officials for their role in the murder of Turkish-Armenian weekly *Agos* editor Hrant Dink.

The State Audit Institution (DDK), which started the investigation into the issue last year in January and posted it on the website of the presidential office on Monday, has stated that a threat against Dink's life was known by the police and gendarmerie officials who failed to take the necessary measures in light of early warnings and tips about the plot to kill Dink.

The report also noted that the seriousness of the actions of public officials in the run up to the murder has not been understood and the link between their actions and the murder could not be established, leading to the failure of all of the investigations into public officials.

The DDK report has come out at a time when there is a secret investigation into several public officials who allegedly had roles in preventing the murder of Dink, who was shot dead by an ultranationalist teenager in broad daylight. Dink was convicted in 2005 for "insulting Turkishness" in a newspaper article, despite an expert report that he had not committed the said charge. He received threats from extremist rightist groups and ultranationalist circles until he was murdered, causing outrage among many Turks who joined a massive demonstration on the day of his funeral.

The 650-page report stated that the DDK's authority is limited in conducting such an investigation, and it should avoid influencing the judiciary, but it evaluates the situation in the face of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) ruling, which declared in

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NEWS IN BRIEF

French-Armenians to Pay Tribute to Sumgait Pogrom Victims

PARIS (Armenpress) — Commemoration events on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the Sumgait pogrom will be sponsored by the Coordination Council of Armenian Organizations in France and Nagorno Karabagh Republic's mission in France, according to *Nouvelle d'Armenie*.

A holy liturgy will be chanted on February 26 in Saint John (Hovhannes) Armenian Apostolic Church, after which participants will lay flowers in front of the statue of Komitas, honoring the memories of the Sumgait victims.

A demonstration condemning the Sumgait pogrom will take place near the mayor's office on February 27.

Azerbaijanis Destroy Armenian Monuments In Nakhijevan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — No Armenian monument has remained in Nakhijevan, expert Argam Ayvazyan told a news conference this week. He said the issue affects everyone. "The intellectuals, state officials, public figures have no right to be indifferent. It is even unknown in which conditions the monuments were eliminated," Ayvazyan said.

He said Azerbaijan vandalizes Armenian monuments and the issue is under the spotlight of the Ministry of Culture. The cross-stones registered during different periods were eliminated primarily during 1998-2006.

He suggests the public demand the preservation of the Armenian culture and voice their concern in the international court.

Georgian MP Charged With Coup Attempt

TBILISI (News.am) — A former member of parliament was detained while attempting to cross the Armenian-Georgian border, Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs informs.

According to the report, Valery Gelbakhiani was detained on Monday. He has been on a wanted list since February 2008, after he was charged with a coup attempt.

Gelbakhiani was head of the headquarters for presidential candidate Badri Patarkatsishvili.

Gelbakhiani fled the state after criminal proceedings against him in 2008, Novosti-Gruziya reports. He circulated a letter earlier this year asking security guarantees in order to visit his sick mother.

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Celebrating 80 Years and Beyond

Benefit for the Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Thursday, May 24, 2012



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Armenian Students May Study in Poland

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — The Ministry of Education and Sciences have announced a competition to win a scholarship to study in Poland in the 2012-2013 academic year for all professions, except medicine and art.

The press office of the ministry said the studies would be conducted in Polish; those who do not know the language must take a one-year course.

Graduates of secondary schools and universities may participate in the competition.

The deadline for the submission of applications is March 2.

World Bank Stands by Growth Forecast

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — The World Bank still expects the Armenian economy to grow by more than 4 percent this year despite the risk of “external shocks” that could slow its recovery, the head of the bank’s Yerevan office, Jean-Michel Happi, said last Friday.

“Today our baseline scenario still projects growth in the range of 4.2 percent for 2012 and 2013,” Happi told a news conference. But he cautioned that this and other economic projections could be revised later this year “in the light of the ongoing crisis in Europe.”

“Obviously, Armenia, given the openness of its economy, is still exposed to external shocks, which may indeed affect those projections, whether through depressed prices of its main export commodities, slower foreign direct investment or reduced remittances,” he said.

The Armenian government agrees that Europe’s financial troubles could have negative consequences for the domestic economy. Finance Minister Vache Gabrielian spoke earlier this month of “considerable macroeconomic risks emanating from the euro zone.” Still, he said the government has no plans yet to revise downward its macroeconomic outlook.

Armenia was already hit hard by the last global financial crisis. Its Gross Domestic Product shrunk by 14 percent in 2009. Economic growth resumed in 2010 and accelerated last year.

Another consequence of that recession was a sharp increase in the country’s external debt that currently stands at roughly \$3.8 billion. More than 40 percent of this sum is owed to the World Bank.

Prime Minister Visits Mesrop Mashtots Tomb

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Prime Minister of Armenia Tigran Sargsian laid flowers on the tomb of the creator of Armenian alphabet, Mesrop Mashtots. An event dedicated to Mashtots and the Armenian alphabet took place at the seminary with the participation of pupils of Mesrop Mashtots senior school.

In 1999, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proclaimed February 21 as International Mother Language Day. Armenia has marked the occasion since 2005.

Sergeant Arrested for Serviceman’s Death in Karabagh

STEPANAKERT (news.am) — A sergeant is being blamed for a serviceman’s death in Nagorno Karabagh.

Sgt. Arthur Zakaryan was arrested in connection with the death of serviceman Karlen Baghdasaryan at one of the units in the Nagorno-Karabagh Armed Forces contact line with Azerbaijan. He is blamed for using excessive force, which led to the latter’s death on February 2, the Armenian Ministry of Defense reported.

Baghdasaryan was injured and died en route to the hospital. At first police thought that the case was a suicide, however, an investigation showed that it was an alleged murder.

US Congressmen Visit Armenia

YEREVAN — A 15-member Congressional delegation from the US House of Representatives headed by Chairman David Dreier met with President Serge Sargsian and Speaker of Parliament Samvel Nikoyan on February 19. Sargsian hosted a dinner for the delegation, which included five members of the US House of Representatives and Ambassador John Heffern.

Dreier, chair of the House Democracy Partnership (HDP), highlighted the importance of the upcoming parliamentary elections to the bilateral relationship and urged the government and all the political parties to “do everything in their power to ensure free, fair and credible elections.” The delegation expressed interest in developing closer ties between the National Assembly and the US Congress.

The HDP is a bipartisan, 20-member commission established by the US House of Representatives in 2005



President Serge Sargsian meets with the members of the delegation.

to support the development of independent, democratic legislatures. This was the second visit of the HDP to Armenia.

The delegation included Dreier (R-

CA); Rep. James Moran (D-VA); Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC); Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE); Rep. Kenny Marchant (R-TX) and Rev. Patrick Conroy, chaplain of the House of Representatives.

New Crowd Control Rules Approved for Armenian Police

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — Security forces should avoid using force against peaceful protesters and resort to firearms only in case of extremely violent riots, according to new rules for crowd control adopted by Armenian police.

The detailed “guidelines” for riot police were elaborated with expert assistance from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and approved by Vladimir Gasparian, chief of the national police, late last year.

The guidelines specify the types of “special means,” which the police can use to deal with “armed resistance” and demonstrations that turn violent and “endanger public safety.” Those include batons, electric-shock guns, stun grenades and rubber bullets.

There is no reference to Russian-made tear gas capsules that were mis-

handled by police officers during the March 2008 post-election clashes in Yerevan, which left eight opposition protesters and two police personnel dead. Four of the civilian victims are believed to have been killed by such capsules. The others were shot dead by live rounds fired by security forces.

The March 2008 events were the worst street violence in Armenia’s history that still reverberates on the local political scene. The Armenian authorities insist that they used deadly force to end “mass disturbances” organized by close associates of opposition presidential candidate Levon Ter-Petrosian with the aim of forcibly toppling the government. Ter-Petrosian and his Armenian National Congress (HAK) vehemently deny the official theory, saying that the authorities deliberately killed people to enforce the results of a fraudulent presidential election.

The new police guidelines stipulate that police officers can use firearms only if the conventional riot gear and other “special means” fail to contain a

violent crowd. But they are not allowed to open fire when there are “substantial concentrations of people” carrying a high risk of injuring innocent civilians. They should not use force at all if a demonstration proceeds peacefully, according to the document.

“The purpose of such changes is to minimize all those cases where a police officer could act in an inadequate way,” Artur Osikian, a deputy chief of the police, said. But he would not say if they are specifically aimed at preventing a repeat of the 2008 bloodshed.

Nikol Pashinian, a senior HAK figure who spent about two years in prison for his role in that unrest, dismissed the guidelines, saying that their absence in 2008 was not the main reason for the loss of life. “These guidelines say nothing about what should be done if the authorities themselves organize mass riots to use force against a peaceful demonstration,” he said.

US Embassy Donates Equipment to Police Educational Complex

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — On February 21, US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern visited and toured Armenia’s Police Educational Complex, where he met its director, Lt. Gen. Hovhannes Varyan, and donated approximately \$50,000 of classroom computer equipment. The equipment will be used for education and training of police personnel, the press office of the embassy reported.

Donated by the US Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement Affairs, the equipment is intended to enhance the educational and training resources for police in Armenia. The equipment includes desktop computers, printers, projectors and scanners.

This current donation is part of the US government’s law enforcement assistance program that aims to strengthen the ability of Armenian law enforcement structures to combat crime effectively and to administer criminal justice fairly.

The US government annually supplies approximately \$3 million in law enforcement and criminal justice assistance to Armenia.

Protesters Reoccupy Yerevan Park

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — More than 100 young environmental activists broke through a police cordon on Monday to reoccupy a public park in downtown Yerevan and again halt the construction of several shops there.

The action came three days after police used force to drive a smaller number of protesters out of the construction site. It remained cordoned off by riot police over the weekend.

The Yerevan municipality authorized the construction after ordering the shop owners to relocate their businesses mainly selling clothing from large kiosks that stood elsewhere in the city center until last month. They were dismantled along with hundreds of other sidewalk kiosks across the Armenian capital.

Environment protection and other civic groups condemned the choice of a new location for the shops, saying that it would inflict further damage on Yerevan’s green areas that have shrunk significantly over the past decade.

The protesters pushed through lines of police officers and metal barriers, chanting “The park is ours!” Joined by

several opposition parliamentarians, they stood there until late evening and pledged to thwart the construction on a daily basis.

Robert Melkonian, a deputy chief of the Yerevan police, was quick to arrive at the scene and call the protest illegal, threatening to end it by force. “I can detain those who organized this,” Melkonian told several young activists. “But I don’t want to do that. So get the people out of here so we can talk calmly.”

Through loudspeakers placed on a police van, the protesters were then given 20 minutes to disperse or face police action. The police avoided using force after the warning was ignored, however.

The activists reoccupied the park after demonstrating outside the Yerevan Mayor’s Office and demanding a meeting with Mayor Taron Markarian. The 33-year-old mayor left it to his chief of staff, Sergei Makarian, to talk to the protesters.

The outcry over the shop construction reflects growing anger among politically active Armenians with the shrinkage of public parks across the city.



ARMENIA

State Pedagogical University Rector Discusses Goals

By Gourgen James Khazhakian

YEREVAN (*Azg*) – The very first question that we addressed to the newly-elected rector of the Khachatour Abovian Armenian State Pedagogical University, Prof. Ruben Mirzakhanian: What allowed you to raise salaries of the faculty and personnel up to 40 percent?

His answer is: “Fortunately, the higher education establishments in Armenia today enjoy sufficient independence to allocate available funds as they deem fit. The priorities of the rector are another matter. One rector may decide to repair and renovate the campus buildings, another sees construction of a new building as a priority. As for me, I am convinced that in today’s conditions, when prices for food, medicines, basic goods are getting higher, the priority for a Pedagogical University is to pursue a socially-oriented policy, which dictates a pay rise. Having said that, I must admit, unfortunately, that even after introducing the pay rise, the level of income of the faculty and other employees remains low”.

Mirzakhanian added that during November and December 2010, five monthly salaries were paid to every member of the faculty and every employee of the University, and as of March 1, 2011 all professors who hold doctorates was a raise in their salaries of 40 percent, and all the other members of the faculty and employees had their salaries raised by 10 percent every month (for four months in a row). We must note that we are speaking about 1600 persons employed by the University – from janitors and cleaners to professors and the rector himself. But the rector points out that each individual salary is calculated depending on a whole number of factors, such as possession of a degree, length of service, position, etc, etc, which is in direct contrast to the Soviet-era approach.

Q: Corruption in Armenian colleges and Universities has become a trite cliché. And even a 40-percent rise, alas, cannot radically change the situation...

A: Let me answer your question with another question: What factors determine the rating of a college or a University, its prestige? It is determined by who teaches at that university and who its alumni are.

Six months ago only one member of the National Academy of Sciences was teaching at our university, and today we have six academicians and one corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences among our staff; we often invite, let’s say, “cutting-edge” scientists to lecture here.

I am not inclined to see this approach as a panacea, but I am confident most people would agree that such most qualified members of the faculty are least susceptible to corruption. And I return to your assertion that even a 40-percent pay rise cannot solve the problem of corruption – you see, well-qualified lecturers agree to read courses at our university for many reasons, one of which is financial, and attractiveness of working here will substantially increase within this year, I can assure you.

Q: When we were students, it was thought that people choosing to study at the Pedagogical Institute did so in order to acquire a diploma, and such applicants were either village school graduates or young girls wishing to enhance their matrimonial prospects... And as we are speaking about prestige, let me ask you: what are you as the newly-elected rector doing to introduce the so-called prestigious professions such as law, management, etc?

A: We have reached an agreement with the Yerevan State Economics University (YSEU) to jointly run a program preparing for master’s degree in education management. In accordance with the Bologna process, students will attend courses in economic disciplines at the SEUA, and in education and psychology studies - at our University, and we shall have Masters in both of those fields as a result. You see, any Headmaster must not only be a good educationist, but a good manager as well. Of course, it is true, today law, economics and management are considered prestigious. With all due respect to those important occupations, I would like to ask a rhetorical question: Is not there today in our small country any

surplus of specialists in those professions, no matter how prestigious the professions in question might be? I am proud to point out that our University has managed to preserve capability to prepare teachers of all the subjects taught at school. But we did not only preserve, we have in fact added a new course (due to the fact that senior high school is being introduced) so that teachers for senior high school would have Master’s degrees in their subjects. Another novelty is introduction of distant-education courses leading to Master’s degree in the Armenian language and literature, elementary school teaching and history and law.

Quite recently Editor-in-Chief of the “Komsomolskaya Pravda” newspaper Vladimir Sungorkin and the well-known political scientist, Director of the New York branch of the Russian Institute of Democracy and Cooperation, Professor Andranik Mihryanian lectured at our University. I think you will agree that such events held systematically will considerably increase the prestige of our University.

Taking up your remark on the traditionally high proportion of rural youth admitted to our university, let me remind you that Yerevan accounts for about 200 schools only out of total 1,404 schools of the republic, and probability that our graduate, born and bred in the countryside, will return to work in his native village is much higher than that of a city youth taking up a teaching position in a remote corner of the country motivated purely by his patriotic feelings.

Q: What is your attitude towards opening of schools in Armenia where teaching is to be conducted in foreign languages?

A: I do not understand the fuss created by that development. My opinion stems from my own experience – in the 1960s, when my parents, unlike many others, held the view that schooling in Armenia must be in the Armenian language, I graduated from school # 114 in Yerevan, specializing in English, and my children graduated from the same school. The right for education is one of the 10 main human rights, and the language of schooling is determined by the child’s parents, not by the state or anybody else, for that matter. There is no doubt that schools maintained by the state must provide teaching in the Armenian language, but if somebody decided to open a privately-funded school with teaching in a foreign language there is absolutely nothing wrong with that.

Q: And what about scientific research in the university?

A: We are taking part in the preparatory work and soon, together with the Yerevan Physical Institute, the State Committee for Science and two French Universities we intend to establish a laboratory dedicated to growing artificial crystals.

With special pride I refer to the fact that today such an established authority in behavioral sciences as Academician Georgy Brutyan is reading a course of lectures in psychology at our University. And we intend to establish an International Institute of Logic and Argumentation, to be headed by Academician Brutyan.

Great attention is being paid to scientific publications; we have now four journals in print. Our journal, *Issues of Psychology and Pedagogics*, the editorial board of which is chaired by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian, who also presides over the council of the ASPU, has a good chance to become an international publication. I want to emphasize that the university has accumulated much that is definitely positive, and we must further develop what we have accumulated.

Q: We are witnessing noticeable intensification of the international ties of the ASPU...

A: Quite recently two of the leading Ukrainian establishments of higher education, the Medical Academy and the Pedagogical University, signed with us an agreement on joint research in the sphere of dolphins’ influence on human beings, in particular on children with delayed development problems. You know that we have three special departments for training teachers for 55

schools for children with special needs. We have also serious cooperation plans with Finland (within the World Bank-sponsored educational program), as Finland is leading the world in educational innovation. We expect that the Finnish experts will introduce the most progressive methods of teaching suited for teacher-training curricula.

Seven leading European Universities involved with TACIS and organized by the British Council are expected to initiate with us a joint program in the field of Museum Studies, starting in September. And, as I have already mentioned, a laboratory for growing artificial crystals will be opened with two French Universities. There are teachers of French and English from France and the US, respectively, who are already teaching our students thanks to the help from the French University of Armenia and other French organizations, as well as the US Embassy.

Q: Let me ask you as an expert on the history of culture and the former dean of the Culture Faculty of the ASPU. It is evident that the level of culture in Armenia within the last 20 years has plummeted, in all respects. Don’t you think that the best weapon in the warfare against aggressive lack of culture is education?

A: Yes, indeed! But it is also important not to neglect traditions, determined by history, people’s mentality and habits.

As a historian I have great respect to Armenia at the time of rein of Tigran the Great, 95-55 B.C., to the Armenian state of the early and the late Middle Ages. But let us be honest: What we, Armenians, were like in the 18th, 19th, 20th centuries? Which city was the center of the Armenian culture in the last decades of the Russian Empire? Tiflis (Tbilisi), which could be considered, in a way, an Armenian city, but it was situated in Georgia, not in Eastern Armenia.

Many of our traditions are rooted in the Soviet

period. And here I deem it possible to point out, that although we in fact were “the most well-read nation in the world”, we used to have an incredibly low level of culture, both domestic and industrial. Somewhere in Sweden, perhaps, people read less, but the level of culture was immeasurably higher.

When I speak of “industrial” culture, in our case, in education, the level of culture is measured by the teacher’s behavior. And when you say that in the last 20 years the level of culture has dropped, I have mixed feelings, as in the USSR the level of the industrial culture was already low, and now it fell even more. The matter is that in those years Armenia was a part of a superpower with a highly developed military-industrial complex (MIC), there were many plants and R&D establishments which worked for the Soviet MIC. Naturally, scientists, technicians, even common laborers had to possess a certain level of the industrial culture imposed by the conditions of high-technology industrial production.

There is another aspect to the problem of the lowering of the level of culture in our society. Even in those years when we used to be “the most well-read nation in the world,” what did our parents aspire to? Did they dream of us really acquiring knowledge or did they want us to get a diploma? This, I dare say, “tradition” has transferred itself to us today. As one MP ironically remarked, “we are the rarest nation in the world, where parents actually pay for their children NOT to receive education!” Just think – there is no other nation with such an attitude!

That is what comes from our “ancient culture” about which we, Armenians, are so fond of talking about, regardless of relevance or irrelevance of such exclamations.

... I am convinced this will pass. I do not know when, but I am sure it will pass!



2010 participants stop to pose for a picture during a team-building exercise.

GLOW (Girls Leading our World) 2012 Thrives

STEPANAVAN, Armenia – Girls Leading our World (GLOW) is a 12-month leadership program for young Armenian women ages 13-16. The program begins with a seven-day residential summer school, giving 50 participants the opportunity to work in a team-based setting to explore topics such personal development, career-planning, leadership, volunteerism, team work, gender, health and human rights. After the summer school participants hold peer education sessions in their communities, contribute to the GLOW newsletters and help organize regional seminars during the year for other young women. A partnership between the Stepanavan Youth Center and American Peace Corps volunteers, GLOW started in Armenia in 2008 and will celebrate its fifth year when the summer school kicks off this June 16 in Stepanavan.

For participants, GLOW summer school offers the unique opportunity to spend a week with other young women from different regions learning, working together on team projects and having fun. Says Gayane Mkrtchyan, a 2011 participant from Vardenis, Gegharkunik Province, “The school left a huge impression on me. We came from many parts of Armenia and all left armed with knowledge that I use now in my everyday life. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to test my strength and abilities, I am now more confident in my actions.”

Asked to describe GLOW in one word she says, “educational.” Mkrtchyan, 16, hopes to return to GLOW this summer as a junior counselor.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Buenos Aires Mayor to Attend Armenian Printing Anniversary

Buenos Aires (armradio.am) – Armenian Ambassador to Argentina Vladimir Karmirshalyan had a meeting with Mauricio Macri, the mayor of Buenos Aires. The ambassador invited the mayor to participate in Yerevan's celebratory events dedicated to the 500th anniversary of publishing in Armenia and the proclamation of Yerevan as World Book Capital 2012.

Macri said the visit to Yerevan would strengthen the ties between the two sister-cities.

Earlier the Armenian ambassador met with the Minister of Culture of Buenos Aires Ernán Lombardi to discuss the details of the Argentinean delegation's participation in the events.

Turkey Refuses to Finance French Race Because of Genocide Bill

ANKARA (News.am) – Turkey refused to finance a prestigious sailing race because of France's decision to approve a bill criminalizing the denial of genocides, including the Armenian Genocide.

The Europa Race was scheduled to start in Istanbul on May 5 and end in La Rochelle in France on June 3, *Hurriyet Daily News* reports.

Gaetan Gouerou, an Executive Board member of the International Monohull Open Class Association (IMOCA), said he was shocked by the decision.

According to him, the boats were ready for the race, but the event has lost its major financing, therefore they would consider an alternative race.

French Official Banned From Event in Gallipoli

ANKARA (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The French military attaché was banned from the annual meeting Turkey hosts honoring the memory of those who perished in the Gallipoli Campaign during World War I.

The ban resulted from the French Senate's adoption of the bill criminalizing the Armenian Genocide denial, according to Turkish media outlets.

"Two Turks in uniform requested the French representatives to leave the conference hall," *Milliyet* reports.

Civil Aviation Recognized As Best in CIS

MOSCOW (Armenpress) – Head of the government-affiliated Civil Aviation Department Artym Movsisyan was in Kiev February 14-16 and in Moscow on February 17.

Movsisyan participated in Kiev in the event organized by the Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia organization.

On February 17, Movsisyan participated in the official event dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the creation of the Inter-State Aviation Committee in Moscow where the Armenian aviation department was considered the best in the Commonwealth of Independent States countries and was granted an award.

Cartoonist's Works to Be Displayed in France

PARIS (news.am) – The works of Armenian cartoonist Krikor Amirzayan will be exhibited in Valence, from February 24 to 26, according to *Nouvelles d'Arménie* magazine.

Amirzayan is a recognized cartoonist in Armenia and his works have been displayed worldwide. This past summer, renowned French cartoonist Plantu invited him to an international exhibition being held within the framework of the Cartooning For Peace initiative.

Amirzayan is also Armenia's representative for the Federation of Cartoonist Organizations.

AGBU Central Board Meets in Geneva

GENEVA – The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Central Board of Directors just completed two days of meetings here, where board members discussed a host of topics, including new programs and projects, education initiatives and upcoming events across the globe. Also attending the meetings were representatives of AGBU Council of Trustees, AGBU Europe and the Strategic Advisory Council to the Board.

"It had been the practice and tradition of the Central Board to hold its meetings from time to time in Switzerland, where the worldwide organization has been incorporated since 1924. In addition, Geneva provided an ideal location for Board members from around the world to convene, report on projects underway and break ground on new initiatives," said AGBU President Berge Setrakian. "With Armenia, Karabagh, our church and the diaspora all at critical junctures, the work of AGBU and our chapters on every continent has never been more important."

Central Board member and representative of AGBU in Switzerland, Vahe Gabrache of Geneva, coordinated the weekend meetings and discussions, and with his spouse, Huguette Gabrache, helped organize the social

activities. Among the events was a dinner hosted by the Hagop Topalian Foundation, a Swiss-based AGBU affiliate, where local Armenian community leaders had the opportunity to meet and speak with the AGBU leadership

Armenia and the diaspora is obvious as was their appreciation for the hospitality of the local Armenian community here in Geneva."

AGBU was incorporated in Lausanne in 1924 and it serves as the holding



AGBU Central Board members during the 86th General Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2010 Inset: AGBU Central Board member Vahe Gabrache of Geneva

on issues specific to the Geneva community, as well as Armenia and the diaspora. "To have all these talented professionals from diverse backgrounds and geographies come to Geneva was gratifying," said Vahe Gabrache. "Their commitment to AGBU and its many programs in

company for most of AGBU's assets in Europe and the Middle East. Vahe Gabrache serves as its "administrateur délégué" and legal representative of the organization in Switzerland. AGBU carries its activities in Switzerland through its affiliate organization, the Topalian Foundation.

Report Backs Probe into Public Officials for Role in Dink Murder

REPORT, from page 1

September 2010 that Turkey failed to fulfill its duty to protect the life of Dink and included a reference to possible links between the 2007 murder of Dink and Ergenekon, a clandestine terrorist group accused of plotting a military coup against the government.

"In that context, there is a decision to evaluate laws and regulations criticized in the European Court of Human Rights ruling in relation to the prosecution of the public officials," the report stated, adding that only a part of the report – the conclusion with some parts covered with black – was made public because of an ongoing investigation by the prosecution into some public officials. "The first point is that it is understood that there are structural problems in the security sector related to the failure to protect the life of Hrant Dink.

"In this framework, in the murder of Hrant Dink and in similar events, there were problems in institutional structures and practices in relation to the collection and evaluation of intelligence and providing individual security; therefore, there is a need to touch on the 'need for reform,'" the report stated.

Cem Halavurt, a co-plaintiff lawyer for the Dink family, said that there are several positive elements in the DDK report, and there are some unknowns due to the secrecy of some parts.

"The report made the point that we have long been making in regards to Law 4483, which protects public officials," he said. "It also makes another point that we have long been making, and it is that public officials who are suspects can be tried in accordance with the Turkish Penal Code's related articles."

Lawyers for the Dink family have been saying that in order to solve the murder of Dink, the whole picture should be seen, and this cannot be done with one separate case in Trabzon, another in Samsun and yet another in Istanbul;

therefore, all the separate cases should be combined. One example of that is in a separate case in Trabzon in which a public official was punished with a prison sentence of six months for dereliction of duty. However, the lawyers of the Dink family say if that case was part of the main murder trial, then it would be possible to ask for this official's punishment under Articles 83 and 220 of the Turkish Penal Code [TCK].

Article 83 relates to malicious murder by dereliction of duty. And Article 220 clearly states that if someone contributes to organized crimes intentionally, then that person needs to be tried and punished accordingly.

"We don't know yet if the DDK report goes further to reveal organizational links of the public officials in the murder," Halavurt said. "The team from the DDK worked well. They called us for submission of many documents. But we don't know yet how far they went. We expect to receive the full report from them. And as this report comes from the top office of the Turkish state, judges and prosecutors should feel the courage to reveal all the facts, all of the wrongful acts of public officials."

The Dink case was closed last month in the five-year-long murder trial with a verdict saying that the suspects had no ties to a larger criminal network but acted alone – even though government officials, politicians and commentators have asserted that this cannot be true.

Even Judge Rüstem Eryilmaz, who delivered the verdict, said – amid growing outrage over the trial that many feel has failed to shed light on alleged official negligence or even collaboration – that while he personally cannot deny the murder was the work of an organized network, the evidence submitted to the court was not sufficient to issue such a ruling.

The trial ended with conviction of the assassin and his instigator. The ruling

was appealed as both the prosecution and lawyers on behalf of the Dink family believe the killers are affiliated with the Ergenekon network, whose suspected members currently stand trial on charges of plotting to overthrow the government.

The gunman, Ogün Samast, and 18 others were brought to trial. During the process, lawyers for the Dink family and the co-plaintiffs in the case presented evidence indicating that Samast was not acting alone. Samast stood trial in a juvenile court because he was a minor at the time of the murder, and he was sentenced to 22 years in prison.

The report by the DDK made a reference to Samast – who was photographed after being captured, posing in front of a Turkish flag and holding another flag next to security officials, indicating that he was given the hero treatment – saying that it is necessary "to confront with marginal understandings that gave a flag to the killer of Hrant Dink."

In a separate trial, two gendarmerie officers were convicted on charges of "dereliction of duty" in the run-up to the Dink murder.

Another suspect, Yasin Hayal, was given life in prison for inciting Samast to murder.

"The DDK report presents new opportunities," said law Prof. Hakan Hakeri.

Since opinions in the Turkish press indicate that a new investigation should be started into the murder of Dink, he added that it is not technically possible to start another investigation into the suspects because the case is under review by the Supreme Court of Appeals.

"However, if the top court overrules the verdict, then a new investigation can be possible. Additionally, with the DDK report, investigations can be started against people who have never been investigated before," he said.

Community News

Gulgulian Feted In Honor of 25th Anniversary of Ordination

By Lisa Manookian
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

WYNNEWOOD, Penn. — On Sunday, February 12, the parish community of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church came together to celebrate its pastor's 25th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Order of the Priesthood. The newly-renovated hall looked regal with more than 320 parishioners, community members and friends in attendance to congratulate the Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgulian on this milestone. Former parishioners came from as far as Connecticut, Florida and Virginia for the occasion.

Master of Ceremonies Steve Barsamian introduced the head table as each walked in and remarked that it was the first time in the history of the parish, that three "Barsamians" were at the head table, referring to Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (who presided over the celebration, as well as the Divine Liturgy, which preceded the banquet), his aunt, Elizabeth Barsamian, banquet co-chair, and of course, himself.

Karinne Andonian began the afternoon with renditions of the American and Armenian national anthems, followed by an invocation from Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian. Committee Co-chair Sarah Selverian welcomed everyone



Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgulian and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian cut the cake in honor of the occasion.

and offered a toast on the occasion, followed by greetings from Parish Council Chair Laraine Ballard. Ballard spoke of Gulgulian's outreach to the entire community and the many events he has helped to initiate working side-by-side with the parish organizations. She also spoke of the admiration of many for his knowledge of Armenian history and church doctrine, which have greatly enriched his sermons and lectures.

Guests feasted on dinner prepared by in-house chefs and served by the ACYOA Juniors and Seniors who also assisted with the room set-up.

A beautiful program filled the afternoon, featuring vocal and choral selections and dancing, interspersed with inspirational remarks.

Accompanied by Ballard, Andonian performed heartfelt vocal renditions of Komitas Vartabed's *Keleh Keleh* and D. Tchouhadjian's *Karoon*. The Junior Choir, under the direction of Khoren Mekhanejian and Andonian, having only rehearsed for a few weeks, performed three selections: the hymn, *Soorb Asdvadz* and two popular Armenian patriotic songs – *Zeytoontseener Kaylerk* and *Artsakh*. And the Hamaskayin Meghry Dance Group of Philadelphia performed two dances under the direction of Tovmas Harutunian.

see ANNIVERSARY, page 12



Wilmington High students continue to be vigilant when it comes to human rights and Armenian Genocide education.

Genocide Education Gaining Momentum in Merrimack Valley

WILMINGTON, Mass. — Students throughout the Merrimack Valley have not only shown a huge interest in Armenian Genocide education, but they are attending commemorations, theatrical productions and lobbying for recognition with a surge of letters to their members of Congress.

This is a contrast to three years ago when many students knew little or nothing about the Armenian Genocide.

Much of the change has been induced by members of the Merrimack Valley Armenian Genocide Education Committee, which has been making a visible presence inside area high schools and colleges.

By Tom Vartabedian

"We're making big strides," said Dro Kanyan, chairman. "Compared to what it was say three years ago, these students are turning into activists and goodwill ambassadors for the Armenian people. Their teachers have been mobilized on the issues."

At Wilmington High, students are ingrained in a curriculum provided by Facing History and Ourselves. There has been such a demand for the class, a waiting list is in effect.

Students have attended Armenian Genocide observances throughout Merrimack Valley, gone to lectures in Boston and are preparing to see the new theatrical production by Joyce Van Dyke, titled "Deported/ a dream play."

Each was asked to prepare a paper about their feelings on genocide, and the following are some highlighted excerpts.

"Stop living in a world of denial," wrote John Grealish and Derek Mayo. "You're only going to put your soul on trial. All the steps you can't retrace. Extermination of an entire race."

They went on to compose a narrative listing other abused nations. Why remember the Armenians?

"Because they were forced to live with a scar for nearly 100 years," writes Zach Anderson. "They were a martyred nation and many countries like the United States haven't recognized this act of atrocity."

"Turkey wants to move past its crimes and not have the country appear in a negative light," Krishna Raval reports. "It's obvious that what happened to the Armenians in 1915 was genocide."

At Haverhill High, students were so touched about the Armenian Genocide during a presentation last year that they launched a Human Rights Club that meets after school.

One student indicated the club's goal was to make a positive difference in the world. Members are raising funds to join Habitat for Humanity in building a home inside a Third World country. Armenia is among the countries in consideration.

Chelmsford High School devoted six hours to studying the Armenian Genocide, compounded by a panel discussion. Four classes reaped the benefits. Instructors there say it has become such a popular class, it has become difficult to sustain the demand.

Meanwhile, attention has also turned to area colleges where UMass-Lowell will present a panel discussion on April 24 and Northern Essex Community College (Haverhill) opted for both a panel discussion featuring other maligned countries and an address to members of the Contemporary Affairs Club.

"My department is sponsoring an effort to have students write about important human rights issues," said faculty advisor Steve Russell. "We consider it a very vital theme on campus."

Meanwhile, schools outside the Merrimack Valley have also expressed a solid interest. Both Melrose and Newton South High School have visits lined up.

"The reason why it has proven so successful is the diversity of our presentation," adds Albert Movsesian, a speaker. "We offer a blend. Genocide is usually

see EDUCATION, page 12

Fundraiser at Zov's Bistro Tustin to Highlight Abuse Against Women

TUSTIN, Calif. — Paros "Lighthouse Charitable Foundation invites the Armenian community to "Sunday Afternoon in Springtime" on March 11, from 3-6 p.m. at Zov's Bistro Tustin. Guests will enjoy good cuisine and help support Paros Lighthouse Foundation's work assisting victims of domestic violence with safe shelter and professional supportive services in Armenia.

Renowned attorney Mark Geragos, Esq. will be the honorary guest speaker. Tickets are \$50 per person. One hundred percent of the proceeds will go to the Foundation, due to Zov's Bistro, which is underwriting the cost of the event.

Paros Lighthouse Foundation is the torchbearer in the fight against domestic violence in Armenia. Last year, it opened a 13,000-square-foot shelter/women's center in the village of Ptghouk. Fifteen fully-appointed rooms safely house and feed neglected mothers with their babies as well as pregnant women. For women in immediate danger, it has established an emergency hotline number, "20-80," which can be called from anywhere in Armenia, is free of charge for the caller and connects directly to the foundation's office.

Other foundation programs include vocational training, psychological counseling and therapy, sewing and cooking classes, women's health services with an on-site OBGYN physician, dental health services with an on-site dentist, feeding the poor and elderly, supporting a local kindergarten, weekly Bible study and donations of essential goods to the needy in Armenia and Artsakh.

Zuhrab and Seta Ghazarian have been providing assistance to the poor in Armenia since 2000. The idea of Paros was established by friends and supporters of the Ghazarian family and grew out of their concern for Armenian women and children as well as the integrity of the Armenian family. Paros "Lighthouse" Armenian Charitable Foundation USA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public benefit corporation registered in the State of California and Republic of Armenia.

For reservations and information about the luncheon, email parosfoundation@yahoo.com. For information about Paros, visit www.parosfoundation.org. Zov's Bistro Tustin is located at 17440 E. 17th St.

Armenian Studies Program At Fresno State to Hold 24th Annual Banquet

FRESNO — The Armenian Studies Program of California State University, Fresno, will hold its 24th Annual Banquet on Sunday, March 11, at the Fort Washington Golf and Country Club.

This year's banquet will recognize and honor Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, AEF Professor Emeritus of Modern Armenian History at UCLA. Hovannisian has a career of more than 50 years in the field of Armenian Studies, excelling in scholarship, teaching and community service. He is a founding member of the Society for Armenian Studies.

The Armenian Studies Program will also be celebrating its 35th anniversary at the Banquet. Armenian courses have been taught at Fresno State since the 1960s, but Dr. Dickran Kouymjian established the modern program in 1976-1977.

More than 50 student recipients of Armenian Studies scholarships and grants for 2011-2012 will be recognized at the banquet, as well as students who are graduating this year with a minor in Armenian Studies.

The Armenian Studies Banquet brings together Fresno State students, faculty, administrators and the community, to celebrate the achievements of the program and its students.

The reception will begin at 5 p.m. followed by the banquet at 6 p.m.

For more information about the banquet, contact the Armenian Studies Program.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Cory Garabedian Healing, Thanks to Friends, Supporters

By Tom Vartabedian

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Seven weeks after losing a leg in a near-fatal auto accident Christmas Eve, Cory Garabedian walked out of Rhode Island Hospital.

With stark memories of that horrific mishap still swirling in his head, the 23-year-old seems determined to put the past behind him.



Cory Garabedian, center, is flanked by good friends Shant Janesian, left, and Ara Vartanian, as he leaves Rhode Island Hospital where he spent the past 49 days recovering from injuries suffered in a horrific automobile accident December 24.

coach, it will be with the AYF, church or some other Armenian sports team. I'd like to give back what the Armenian community gave me growing up."

Words from Garabedian's Facebook page as he left the hospital are bound to uplift friends: "Today is the day when my hospital nightmare ends. I'm going home and never looking back. To everyone, just take life day by day because you never know when it's going to be your last."

According to Garabedian's physicians, he may never have survived such an ordeal had it not been for his strong physical condition and uncompromising faith.

His liver, elbow, leg and lungs all incurred injuries. He was on a respirator and feeding tube for weeks.

"Much of my recovery had to do with the military and the discipline of how to deal with adversity," he said.

Although basketball and track were his forte, the star athlete was named Most Valuable Player in a Division 4 Super Bowl for his high school football team before all his AYF and ACYOA friends who showed up with their tricolors to cheer him on.

Garabedian often thought of those halcyon days while recuperating at the hospital. The fact he was seldom without visitors, whether it was his peers or clergy from different churches, made the recovery process more tolerable.

"When I awoke from a coma, I had no idea what had happened to me or where I was," he said. "After gaining consciousness, only then did I realize that part of my right leg was missing. I immediately looked down and couldn't

believe the limb was missing."

Garabedian said he watched movies and read about people missing body parts, never thinking he would be victimized.

"Some nights, I'd lay there in tears thinking my life was over," he said. "After being discharged, I definitely have some huge adjustments to make like negotiating a shower or a car, even my own bedroom."

Garabedian credited his mom (Leslie) and younger brother (Humberto) for their ongoing motivation to heal, along with their constant surveillance. The adjustments were slow and agonizing at times.

He whiled away the hours watching television when guests were not present. Garabedian's mom and AYF coach/advisor Steve Elmasian never missed a day, often joined by his aunt Kristen Garabedian and grandmother Frances Garabedian.

"My aunt from Minnesota [Janine Garabedian] heard what happened and flew out immediately to spend a week with me in ICU," Garabedian said. "Throughout my hospital stay,

I had a great support system that reached out extensively."

Meanwhile, funds continue to trickle in for Garabedian's medical expenses, adding to the \$6,000 raised at the Providence "Varantian" Ball. Other events have also taken place throughout the community as Armenians have rallied around this young man.

(Those interested in helping can contribute to: Friends of Cory, c/o Sovereign Bank, attn. Ryan Purcell, 184 Taunton Ave., East Providence, RI 02914.)

A fundraiser on his behalf is planned for March 1, at Ladder 133, located at 133 Douglas Ave. in Providence, a block from where his grandfather grew up inside the old Armenian neighborhood.

"Cory came out of his coma and hasn't looked back," Elmasian noted. "He has to deal with the loss of a leg but is focusing on the fact he's still alive and thankful to God for that. He told me to look around and see others who needed more help than himself. That says it all."

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OBITUARY

Shaké Charlotte Koondakjian Ajamian

PHILADELPHIA — On Monday, January 30, a bright light went out in Philadelphia with the passing of Shaké Charlotte Koondakjian Ajamian.

An inspiration for many, Ajamian was a remarkable woman with a great sense of humor who loved life and excelled in everything she did — especially in the way she uplifted others. And it was many of those she uplifted through-



Shaké Charlotte Koondakjian Ajamian

riage: one in mind, body and soul. She was a mother of four, grandmother of 10 and great-grandmother of one, whose love nourished her household and whose devotion to her heritage and faith enabled her to face many burdens and challenges with grace and courage.

She was especially delighted to become a great-grandmother in January 2011 to Noelle Srbouhi, daughter of her eldest grandson, Deacon Justin Ajamian.

She was a friend and confidante to anyone who needed an ear to listen. She made everyone she came in contact with feel special, important and valued and never forgot to remember an anniversary or birthday.

And then there was the Armenian Church, the pillar of her strength, which, in turn, allowed her to become a pillar to many. Ajamian devoted countless hours of her time and talents to St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle, NY, as well as to the parishes of Holy Martyrs Armenian Church in Bayside, NY, and St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church in Wynnwood. As the chair of the Women's Guild at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob, she was instrumental in reaching out to a younger generation of women, caring and nurturing them as if they were her own daughters.

Ajamian is survived by her husband, Chuck; her brother Albert, and his wife, Marilyn; her four children Greg (Betty), Ara (Margaret), Vartan (Denise) and Shake (Boghos); her 10 grandchildren Maria, Justin (Hasmik), Alex, Paul, Andrew, Courtney, Brandon, Sarah, Derek, and Meliné, and her great-granddaughter, Noelle Srbouhi. Services in her memory were held on Saturday, February 4, at St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church with Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian officiating and several clergy from throughout the Eastern Diocese participating. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that all memorial contributions in Ajamian's memory be made to St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

out the years who came to pay homage to her memory and celebrate with her loved ones the beautiful memories she left behind.

She was born in Astoria, NY, in 1936, to parents Avedis and Aghavni. She grew up in Astoria, and at the age of 15, met Herman Ajamian, who she lovingly renamed Chuck. They married five years later.

She was the perfect wife. Married to Chuck Ajamian for 55 years, they had the model mar-



Participants of the Men’s Society overnight retreat, February 3-4

Men’s Retreat by St. John Church Encourages Camaraderie



From left, George Saboonjian, Christopher Korkoian, Fr. Garabed Kochakian and Fr. Tateos Abdalian

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – The Men’s Society of St. John Armenian Church had an overnight retreat the weekend of February 3-4, at the Livonia Embassy Suites. The theme of the retreat was “You Expect Me to Do What?” The weekend was facilitated by Fr. Tateos Abdalian, director of Mission Parishes of the Eastern Diocese.

Of the 20 attendees, 16 were members of the Men’s Society, three were non-members, rounded up by Abdalian. The men met for dinner and then an evening session ensued with George Saboonjian’s opening remarks on the aspects of what shapes us spiritually, “The Love of God and the Love of Thy Neighbor.” Fr. Garabed Kochakian introduced Abdalian, whose mission was to build the faith of the attendees by instructing them to listen, learn, go and do.

The attendees were required to take the Grade 11 Sunday School exam. Discussion and bonding was much easier for everyone as a result of the test. And, of course, the evening ended with a homework assignment.

Saturday morning began with a breakfast. Discussions of *John* 9, verses 1-41, *Matthew* 28, verses 16-20 and a short movie, titled “Martin the Cobbler,” brought about the discovery that each of the attendees now had a purpose for the future: to be the light of our Church. The theme’s question, “You Expect Me to Do What?,” was mentioned more than a few times during the retreat. The group learned that the *Gospel of John* is about going from darkness to light and the attendees were enlightened often throughout the presentation. Abdalian made learning about the different parts of the church

Milwaukee’s Poon Paregentan Dance a Success

By David Lührssen

MILWAUKEE, Wis. – One hundred and twenty people crowded the Culture Hall at St. John the Baptist Armenian Church for this year’s Poon Paregentan celebration. The featured attraction at the big party before the beginning of Great Lent was MidEast Beat, a band from Racine. Although its members are all Armenian American, the group drew from a traditional repertoire common to Anatolia and the Eastern Mediterranean.

“Sometimes the lines get blurred in this part of the world and you will find songs recorded in Greek, Armenian, Arabic, and not know where the origin is,” explained guitarist and singer Kai Kazarian. “Think about an Armenian writing a song in English in this country. Is it Armenian? We have these questions all the time.”

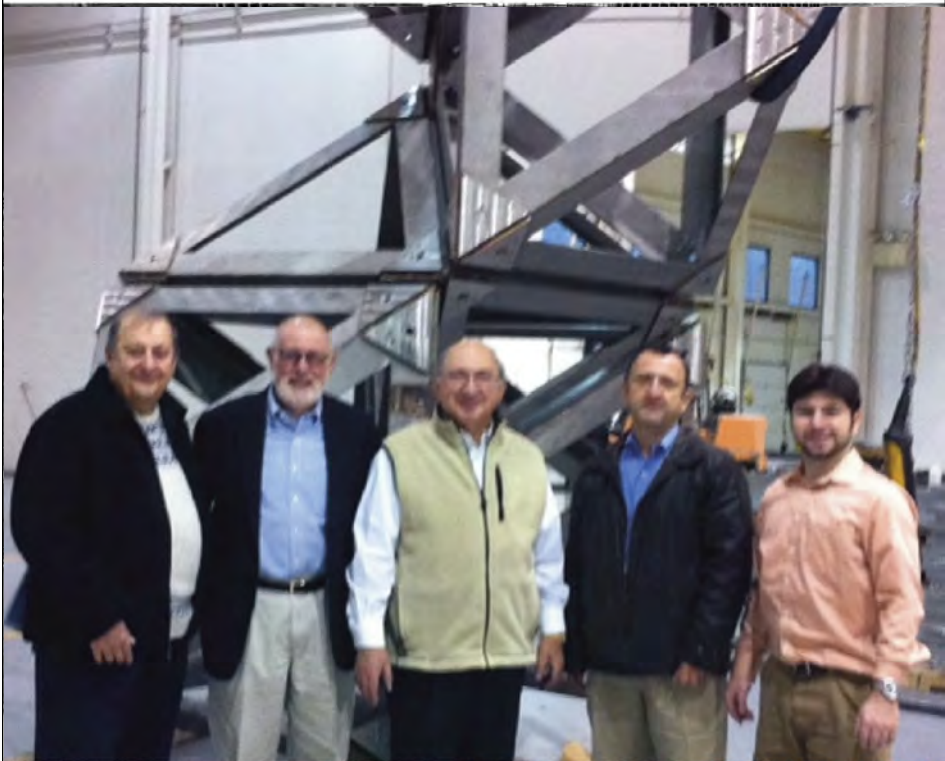
The band, whose core members include Jim Hardy on clarinet, Vahan Kamalian on *oud* and Michael Kamalian on *dumbeg*, picked up the music by hearing it performed at Armenian picnics and by rummaging through old 78 recordings at their grandparents’ homes. There was no sheet music and no study guides when MidEast Beat first organized in the early 1980s. Discovering and learning the old music was hard work that has paid off for the band, whose February 18 performance at St. John’s *Poon Paregentan* event filled the dance floor and entertained an appreciative audience.

A buffet dinner included desserts prepared by the members of St. John’s.

service interesting, enabling the attendees to understand what the words parishioners say during the service actually mean. When questions were asked concerning expectations and outcomes, the answers varied, but many were profound. All agreed that they were looking forward to another retreat.

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Lenten Season Begins

During Lent people are like athletes in training to “fight the good fight” and “finish the race” as St. Paul expressed it. What one does externally can affect him or her spiritually. Thus, an outward discipline is taken on to balance the inward discipline of Lent. Part of that outward discipline is fasting.

The church’s rules prescribe that for the 40 days of Lent (this year starting on February 22) one should abstain from all animal products: meat, poultry, eggs and milk. One should also refrain from parties, movies and frivolous entertainment. Many find this difficult, but every faithful Christian can do the following to remain in the spirit of Lent: 1. Keep Wednesdays and Fridays as fast days; 2. Cut down on outdoor activities; 3. Put aside a regular and consistent amount of time daily for private prayer and for reading the Bible and spiritual books; 4. Attend all Lenten church services faithfully; 5. Receive the sacrament of Penance by self-examination, confession, repentance and positive decisions, and 6. Make a family effort to incorporate these things into each member’s life during Lent.

The Diocese of the Armenian Church of American (Eastern) also has some ideas for this Lenten season. An alternative six-week approach, called “Love-Giving for Lent,” provides a more positive view of this Lenten tradition. It is based on the idea of giving love to others, as if offering it to Christ. By following this path, the blessings of Easter are multiplied.

Week 1: Share your love for Christ by writing at least two notes telling the recipients how much you appreciate them. Include someone you might not normally think to say this to. Also, smile a lot – at everyone.

Week 2: Telephone or visit with two or three people just to chat. Tell them what they mean to you and say “Thank you” or “I’m sorry” if needed. Make an effort to include someone you wanted to contact in the past few months but never got around to. Read *1 Corinthians* 13 several times.

Week 3: Take a small gift to a neighbor or shut-in. It can be as simple as a pie, a flower or a trinket. Or, do an errand for an elderly person. The important thing is to offer yourself gladly. Read *Corinthians* 13 again.

Week 4: Make a list of 10 people to pray for each day. Include people you don’t get along with very well. Forgive them if they have wronged you and ask forgiveness if you’ve wronged them. Read *John* 4:7-21 several times.

Week 5: Pray for yourself this week. Ask God to search your heart and reveal changes you need to make in your life. Vow to do it with his help. Read *John* 4:7-21 again.

Week 6: Do something special with your family. Live an abundant life of love in Christ.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Cruising Armenian Style

Armenian Heritage Cruise XV-2012

By Barbara Haroutunian

Armenian Heritage Cruise XV (AHC) sailed from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. on Saturday, January 21. This cruise proved to have the magic formula of bringing over 1,300 Armenians from all over the world to enjoy a week of sailing aboard the MCS Poesia.

This beautiful two-year-old ship truly proved to be a "little Armenia" on the "Hye" seas in the Caribbean. For one week, the passengers were immersed in pure luxury and fine dining. The destinations were St. Thomas, San Juan, Puerto Rico and Nassau, Bahamas.

Fellow Armenians from all over the world representing many countries such as the United States, Armenia, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, England, France, Germany, Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, Syria, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Many people reunited with relatives, friends and classmates after many years of separation. With tears in their eyes and smiles on their faces they all came together on the Armenian Heritage Cruise. The guests looked up at the

Each guest received an AHC tri-color tote bag and a cardholder as a gift from the ACAA and Travel Group International. All guests were also given a tri-color ACAA Heritage cruise cabin key card; this card granted each guest entry into all the Armenian activities for the week. Without this AHC Card no entry to any Armenian event was allowed. Each morning the daily activities were announced in Italian, French, German, English and Armenian!

We were honored to have onboard Archbishop Yeprem Takabian who each morning conducted services. Participating in the Armenian morning services were the Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian and Rev. Hovanes Sarmazian.

Each morning there were Armenian conversation classes conducted by Ara and Arevig Caprielian. For those guests who needed a little help on the dance floor, Margo Kaftajian taught basic Armenian Dances like the "Shourch Bar," "Tamzara," "Haleh" and many others. Guests could register for Tavlou Tournament under the direction of Antranik Boudakian and John Jerikian and there was the Belote Tournaments under the direction of George Basmajian and Ara Papazian. There was a special table set up



Celebrating Armenian heritage with a lot of red, blue and orange



Flying the flag for the Armenian Heritage Cruise



Comic Kev Orkian dons a life jacket for laughs.

most to see the Armenian flag of red, blue and orange as it greeted everyone flying majestically in the sky.

This was a time for leaving the hustle and bustle of life on hold for one week and enjoying beautiful sites, attending Armenian cultural programs, meeting new people, listening and dancing to Armenian music, eating good food and having fun in the sun in a profoundly unique Armenian way. Guests had one word to describe all the activities on the ship and that one word was, "Wow."

for the Armenian Heritage Tour 2012 with Maro Asatoorian, the ACAA liaison, for a 15-day guided tour of Armenia and Karabagh departing on September 10-24.

Each morning the ACAA Hospitality Desk was open to assist passengers where Faye Weissblum and Susan Wishneff of TravelGroup International were always present.

With so many activities it can be difficult to decide what to do. The Armenian Heritage Cruise XV had something for everyone.

During the days at sea, cruisers spent time

poolside, enjoying the tropical weather. Some people participated in activities such as jogging, working out in the fitness center or just relaxing in their rooms, watching 24-hour Armenian television programs on two channels.

The evenings were filled with dancing and listening to great music. Steve Iskenderian and his band from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Kevork Artinian and his band from Montreal, Canada, and the All-American Band featuring Jim Kzirian, Richard Berberian, Mal Barsamian, Steve Vosbikian, Adelin Alexanian and Sahin Krikorian.

On the first night there was an AHC welcome reception hosted by Marie Tavitian and Shakeh Basmajian. The cruise ambassadors were introduced and highlights of the week's activities were announced. During this program, many of the week's entertainers gave a sampling of their performances.

On Sunday, the unmarried persons participated in a Singles/Mingles Cocktail Party. On Wednesday the ACAA Gala Cocktail Party was sponsored by Travel Group International and the ACAA Armenian Heritage Cruise committee. Those in attendance enjoyed the champagne and hors d'oeuvres. That evening there was an Armenian dinner along with complimentary wine, which delighted the palate and satisfied the Armenian soul.

Early Thursday morning, Barbara Haroutunian and her committee organized the Armenian Festival Day Pool Party. Prizes were awarded for the best Armenian tri-color outfit, red, blue and orange. Along with face painting, Margo Kaftajian's dance class performed the Shourch Bar. There was an Armenian dance contest with prizes for the best Armenian traditional dance. This has become an annual event and people came prepared with original design outfits and special dance steps to compete in the contest.

To add to the festivities the ship prepared an Armenian Buffet for lunch. The next day, the ship went to Charlotte Amalie, the capital of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, a port in the Caribbean where white and pastel houses are heavily sprinkled against a background of emerald hills. A wonderful day was spent shopping or swimming at one of the world's most beautiful beaches.

The next stop was San Juan, Puerto Rico, with its Spanish charm and flavor that delighted everyone.

The last stop was Nassau, Bahamas, while many went shopping at the duty-free stores others went to the Atlantis Hotel on Paradise Island.

Each day there were speakers and programs about relevant Armenian subjects as well as performances including: Ani Dance Group from Montreal, Canada, who dazzled the audience under the artistic directorship of Eva Airapetian; the Armenian Relief Society presented a tea reception and presentation; Armenian patriotic songs were sung in concert; the Knights and Daughters of Vartan gave a reception and presentation on their organiza-

tion; a book presentation was given by Justice Armand Arabian on *From Gravel to Gavel*; the archbishop performed the traditional *Kinezdon*, a sort of baptism by wine for all new published books; comedian Kev Orkian entertained with a one-man piano comedy performance, the second time he has performed on the Armenian Heritage Cruise; a book presentation was given by Dr. Berge Minasian for *The Power of Choice*; Ken Hachikian, chairman of the Armenian National Committee of America, discussed the challenges that Armenians face in Javakhk and what Diaspora Armenians can do to help this region; a panel discussion on Turkish reparations was discussed with Dr. Antranig Kasbarian, Hachikian, Appo Jabarian, Dr. Ara Yeretsian and Boghos Kupelian; Fuller Organization had a presentation by Gohar Palyan on the Fuller Center, which is a non-gov-



Bedros Bandazian addresses the crowd.

ernment charitable organization that supports community development in Armenia; Mountainous Karabagh Issues were presented by Kasbarian and Jabarian, executive publisher and editor of *USA Armenian Life* newspaper, discussed whether the Armenian Diaspora is ready to face the challenges ahead?

The ACAA is a registered Armenian 501 (c) 3, non-profit corporation and donations are tax deductible that primarily assists in cultural activities, research on Armenian topics, grants to Armenian newspapers, publications, internships, depository guardian of the original governmental archives of the first Armenian Republic of 1918 and other Historic Armenian National documents. From all over the United States dedicated individuals have volunteered to work on this event.

For information on next year's cruise, contact Bedros C. Bandazian, chairman, Armenian Heritage Cruise, 604 North Sheppard St., Richmond, Virginia 23221, or email: Bandaz@aol.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Guluzian Mentors Future Leaders at Naval Academy

By Harout Sanjian

Armenians in American society readily celebrate the success, achievement and philanthropy of fellow Armenians. Personality traits that generally characterize the Armenian people (e.g. strong work ethic, industrious, creative and intellectual and resilient – to name a few) have lifted many Armenians to achievement and prosperity. While prominent Armenian-Americans are recognized in business, athletics, fine and performing arts, entertainment, science and government, it occurred to me during a recent trip to visit my nephew at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., that successful Armenian-Americans in the military seem to receive comparatively less attention in the Armenian press.

My nephew serves as a case in point. Commander David Kevork Guluzian, USN is stationed with his family at the Naval Academy and serves as battalion officer (assistant dean of students). In May 1991, my wife and I attended Guluzian's Annapolis graduation; this past spring, we returned to Annapolis (where he is now giving back to his alma mater) to celebrate his 20 years of active duty service as a naval officer.

Guluzian is a Navy Surface (Ship) Warfare Officer with specialty training in nuclear propulsion. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1991 with a bachelor's in physics and later earned an MBA from the University of San Diego. He has served on seven different warships holding various leadership positions in combat systems, operations and engineering. From August 2008 to August 2010, he was commanding officer of USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) leading a 350-sailor crew and 450 embarked marines on two wartime deployments to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf.

I asked him to reflect on his time in the Navy.

Harout Sanjian: Did you have any particularly favorite assignment early in your career?

David Guluzian: I really enjoyed my first job right after graduating from the academy. I served as Ordnance Officer on cruiser USS Princeton (CG 59). I coordinated the onload and offload of weapons, supervised ship's physical security, directed Tomahawk missile missions and handled accounting records for all ammunition. I had been onboard for a little over a year when the ship's new supply officer arrived. His name was Richardson: I had no idea he was Armenian until a few days after he checked in when I happened to be rushing past him in the passageway – and he called to me, “eench bes ek?” I almost fell over!

HS: Have you met any Armenian sailors?

DG: Not many; I think our small numbers are small. When I do run across a fellow Armenian sailor, without fail we immediately discuss our distinctively Armenian experiences (especially food). As you can imagine, there is no *boereg*, *lahmajoun* or *choereg* cooking in the ships' galley. By the end of the conversation, I'm usually thinking a lot about my mother's *dolma*.

HS: Tell me about your nuclear position training.

DG: I went through the same selection process and training regime as the Navy's submarine officers. Schooling consisted of a six-month post-graduate academic curriculum of math, physics, electrical engineering, chemistry and reactor systems followed by six months of practical (“hands-on”) training and qualifying in an operating reactor plant. While all submarine officers complete nuclear propulsion training, only 10 percent of surface (ship) officers attend the training. In addition to serving in positions onboard conventionally-powered surface ships, nuclear-trained surface officers are assigned tours in nuclear-powered aircraft carriers operating the ship's reactor plant and systems. I spent two years as a division officer on the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D Eisenhower (CVN 69) and later was the main propulsion assistant on the carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) from March 2001 to July 2003 supervising 120 sailors in the maintenance and operation of both main engine rooms.

HS: What attracted you to serve in the Navy? What made you stay?

DG: Initially, I was attracted more to the academy than I was to naval service. I wanted something different than the typical civilian college experience. The Naval Academy offered challenges in academics, physical fitness and mental toughness. The school also hardened my moral foundation set in place by my parents and religion, developed leadership skills and allowed me to gain self-confidence. Maximum effort and excellence was required in everything at Annapolis; I liked not having a choice about that. If I had gone to a different school, I might have allowed myself to be satisfied with mediocre instead of striving for excellence.

As for serving in the military, I asked myself this question: if not me, then who? Ultimately, in an all-volunteer service, if each citizen (despite understanding the critical need for the military and national defense) says that military service is for someone else and passes the responsibility along to the next citizen, then the force would quickly weaken and cease to exist. In contrast, if we force everyone to serve, then we would struggle with motivation and efficiency problems. As for being a sailor, I guess it doesn't hurt that I love ships, the ocean and being out at sea.

Lastly, I am humbled to work with the finest sailors and marines in the world. They, more than anything, provide immense professional satisfaction. I have been repeatedly amazed by sailor ingenuity to get the job done, determination to keep the ship fixed and war-fighting spirit in the face of danger. One small example: in late 2008 when I was in command of the amphibious landing ship USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52), we were returning home to San Diego at the end of a six-month overseas deployment. Three days from arriving home (somewhere in the Eastern Pacific between Hawaii and California), I received a call at 2 a.m. (for some reason, whenever something important breaks on a ship, it seems to be at about this time) to inform me that a freshwater cooling tank for the main propulsion diesel engines had become contaminated with debris and its piping clogged. The

steamy tank enough to clear the debris. By 6 a.m. the engines were back operating at full speed making up lost time. The sailor did not utter a complaint before going into the tank, did not hesitate to volunteer (certainly he recognized that he was the best candidate) and never asked for special compensation or recognition after the fact.

HS: Any thoughts on your time in command on a warship? And your ship's work overseas?



Commander Dave Guluzian on the bridge wing of USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) in the Western Pacific. In the background is the dry cargo replenishment ship USNS Amelia Earhart (T-AKE 6) and amphibious assault ship USS Peleliu (LHA 5)

DG: It was a privilege to serve the sailors and marines on Pearl Harbor. Their safety, training and readiness had my undivided attention around-the-clock. One of the most meaningful tasks that we accomplished as a crew was to honor and maintain a relationship with the Pearl Harbor survivors. We considered the survivors of the December 7, 1941 attack to be the “true owners” of the ship.

As for the overseas, the ship's Navy/Marine Corps team completed Theater Security Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance missions in Dili, East Timor and Trincomalee, Sri Lanka in the summer of 2010. While amphibious assault (landing) ships certainly train (and are ready) to insert Marine troops onto a hostile

tools and stock) to go with the work group. The group repaired the showers, fixed a small on-site water purification system and painted the entire facility. Our visit to Trincomalee was historic in that we were the first US warship to visit the city in 30 years. Our young sailors and marines (most are 18-21) helped strengthen our country's relationship with Sri Lanka.

HS: Tell me about your current position at the Naval Academy.

DG: As one of the six battalion officers (assistant dean of students), I am directly responsible for the academic, physical, moral and professional development of 750 of the 4,500 midshipmen in the brigade (student body). I prepare them for graduation and commissioning as officers in the United States Navy or Marine Corps. I also teach a class called “Ethics and the Military Profession,” which centers on resolving ethical dilemmas that one may face in the fleet (during war or peacetime). When I was a midshipman, some fleet-returned officers helped me (in academics, in keeping me out of trouble and in service selection); I am happy to have the opportunity to give back.

HS: What's next in your Navy career?

DG: Probably time at the Pentagon. Most of my career has been in San Diego; I have yet to work on the Navy staff or in a joint service position. If selected, I may have the opportunity to return to sea in command of a squadron of ships or of an amphibious assault flagship. Right now, however, it is nice to spend more time with my family. Ultimately, with how much I have enjoyed working with our Navy's future officers, I may ask to command a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) unit before I retire.

The US Naval Academy is the premier undergraduate college of the United States Navy. The mission of the academy is to develop midshipmen morally, mentally and physically to become professional line officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. Graduates earn a bachelor of science degree and a commission as an Ensign in the Navy of Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) is the 12th and last Whidbey Island-class dock landing ship. Dock landing ship support amphibious operations by embarking, transporting and delivering combat troops and equipment on demand to a hostile beach. The 610-foot long ship displaces over 15,000 tons, can reach a speed in excess of 20 knots and is armed with various self-defense weapon systems. Ship-to-shore movement is achieved through helicopters on the ship's flight deck or landing craft, which debark from an internal well deck.

Guluzian is the son of Kevork and Jeanette Guluzian of San Marino, Calif. He attended San Marino High School and the New Mexico Military Institute before entering the Naval Academy in the summer of 1987. He is married to the former Karen Gordon of Mountain View, Calif.; they have two daughters, Sierra, 8, and Aleena, 5.



Commander Dave Guluzian and Harout Sanjian at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD

casualty limited the ship's speed to five knots (about six miles per hour) and threatened to delay our homecoming (360 sailors plus 420 marines onboard) by four days. The steel tank was completely enclosed, about the size of a small bathtub, and has a very small access manhole cover. After the tank was drained (it was still hot – the temperature of the water in the tank was about 95 degrees), one sailor, who happened to be relatively small and was the only one who could slip through the access cover, entered the tank with a flashlight and some rags. Somehow, he managed to maneuver and shift himself inside that hot, dark and

shore, it is the humanitarian assistance capability that I find most satisfying and professionally rewarding. Sailors and marines together helped train local military forces in order to strengthen regional maritime security. In addition, we provided labor (in some cases, skilled) to clean, upgrade or repair local community facilities: hospitals, schoolhouses, orphanages, etc. For example, in one project at a Boy's Home in north-eastern Sri Lanka, I learned that their area (a basic arrangement of piping and nozzles outside in the backyard of the property) had not been working for several months. I included two of my ship's welders (with some



COMMUNITY NEWS

Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge Vartanantz Day Celebration Highlights Current Conditions in Nagorno Karabagh

WASHINGTON – On Sunday, February 12, the Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge held a Vartanantz Day Celebration in Keshishian Hall at Soorp Khatch Armenian Church.

More than 75 people attended the program celebrating Saint Vartan Mamigonian, who died in the battle of Avarayr in 451 AD. This year's event focused on the housing conditions, transportation and water and sanitation infrastructure in Artsakh (Nagorno Karabagh). The event featured Robert Avetisyan, representative of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic to the United States. Rev. Sarkis Aktavoukian presided and gave the opening invocation. Ani Lodge Secretary Taniel Koushakjian served as master of ceremonies. The Daughters of Vartan Dikranouhi Otyag, led by Matron Marge Satian, provided the hors d'oeuvres and refreshments to support the event.

Ani Lodge Commander Jacob Bournazian welcomed the audience and spoke about the Knights of Vartan mission, the perseverance of the Armenian spirit and the challenges facing the diaspora and the homeland today. "Vartanantz Day is a time to commemorate the heroic efforts of our ancestors who fought to preserve and maintain our identity," stated Bournazian. "It serves as a reminder of the power we have when we maintain our faith in ourselves as Armenians and work together as one community."



Members of the Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge #21

Bournazian also spoke about the founding of the Ani Lodge in 1942, marking 70 years of service to the Armenian-American community in Washington, DC.

Avetisyan described the growth and develop-

ment of Nagorno Karabagh since the 1991-1994 war with Azerbaijan, highlighting the installation of new roads, schools, health care and housing facilities. "The first 20 years of Artsakh's independence have shown that the tri-unity of Artsakh, Armenia and the diaspora can bring unbelievable results," stated Avetisyan. He continued, "Today, Artsakhtsis are convinced that together 20 years later we will witness many more new achievements and victories." Avetisyan also discussed the demining efforts of HALO Trust, one of many organizations that the Ani Lodge has supported in recent years. Following the presentation, members of the audience were able to engage in a question-and-answer discussion on topics ranging from Azerbaijan's military provocations to water irrigation and other social welfare pro-

jects.

The Ani Lodge raised more than \$1,500 for the Ministry of Social Security to benefit the social welfare of the citizens of Nagorno Karabagh. In 2011, the Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge contributed funds to Mer Doon, a charity supporting young women in Echmiadzin, Armenia, the Armenian-American Medical Association of Greater Washington, the Armenian Wellness Center in Yerevan, a humanitarian project of the Armenian-American Cultural Association and the HALO Trust's project for removing cluster bombs and land mines on agricultural land in Artsakh.

Special thanks were given to the Soorp Khatch Parish Council and Ladies Guild members for hosting and assisting in Vartanantz Day.



Robert Avetisyan, Nagorno Karabagh representative to the United States of America

Ghevontians Celebrated In Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE – On February 14, priests of the Armenian Church's Eastern Diocese gathered from across Wisconsin and Illinois at St. John the Baptist Armenian Church, Greenfield.

By David Lührssen

They came to celebrate Ghevontians, a holiday in the church calendar especially dear to clergy for its commemoration of St. Ghevont and the priests who accompanied the Armenian freedom fighters at the Battle of Avarayr (451). While Armenia's military commander at the battle, Vartan Mamigonian, is honored by the more familiar holiday of Vartanantz, Ghevontians, which recognizes Ghevont the Priest (Ghevont Yerets), is a reminder that Avarayr was essentially a spiritual struggle, not a war for land or conquest.

Seldom has any Midwestern Diocesan parish witnessed so many members of the clergy celebrating liturgy together as at Greenfield's Ghevontians commemoration. St. John's pastor, Rev. Nareg Keutelian, was joined by Very Rev. Aren Jebejian (St. Gregory the Illuminator, Chicago), Rev. Yeprem Kelegian (St. Mesrob, Racine), Rev. Tavit Boyajian (SS. Joachim & Anne, Palos Heights), Rev. Paren Galstyan (Holy Resurrection, South Milwaukee, and St. George, Waukegan) and Rev. Hovhan Khoja-Eynetian (St. James, Evanston). Deacons Dikran Kelekian from Waukegan and Levon Saryan from Racine also took part.

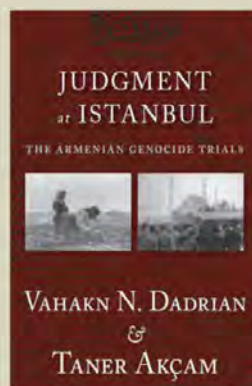
Khoja-Eynetian conducted the choir and gave a sermon on the enduring meaning of Ghevontians, which, along with Vartanantz, marks the first battle in history fought for freedom of conscience. Although Armenia lost the Battle of Avarayr, the persistence of the Armenian faithful against their oppressors eventually won the war. Without their victory, there might not be an Armenian Church (or an Armenian people) today.

Following a requiem for the deceased clergy of the Eastern Diocese who served in the Midwest parishes, a luncheon was served in St. John's Culture Hall.



The Significance of the Trials of the Perpetrators of the Armenian Genocide

**A lecture by
PROF. VAHAKN N. DADRAN**



The post-World War I Ottoman Special Military Tribunal showed clearly, in a legal setting, the genocidal intent of the Young Turk leaders perpetrated against their Armenian citizens. Prof. Dadrian will present his analysis and the significance of the trials. The new book, *Judgment at Istanbul: The Armenian Genocide Trials*, the first on the Armenian Genocide jointly written by an Armenian and a Turkish scholar, will be on sale at a specially reduced price, and the author will be pleased to sign copies.

Eleven years in the making, *Judgment at Istanbul* marks the first time the complete known documentation of the trial proceedings is being provided in English. The study is based on authentic Turkish documentation, which the Ottoman government was forced to release during the trials. It includes the personal, eyewitness testimony of high-ranking Ottoman officials, given under oath, on the magnitude of the crimes against the Armenians.

Friday, March 9, 2012
8:00 pm

St. Thomas Armenian Church,
RT 9 W East Clinton Av., Tenafly, NJ
07670-2300

Ուրբաթ, 9 Մարտի, 2012
Ժամը 8:00 ին

Free admission
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Zoryan Institute
with the participation of:

*Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenian-American Support & Educational Center, Inc.,
Constantinople Armenian Relief Society, Esayan-Getronagan Alumni Inc., Hamazkayin Cultural Association,
Knights & Daughters of Vartan, St. Thomas Armenian Church, Tbreavank Alumni Inc.,
Tekeyan Cultural Association*



New York METRO

Sts. Vartanantz Day Celebrated in New York

NEW YORK — At New York's Sts. Vartanantz Day observance, young people read excerpts from St. Vartan's stirring speech to his soldiers, recited poetry and reflected on the legacy of the fifth-century Treaty of Navarsak, which allowed the Armenians to freely practice their Christian faith in the Persian Empire.

The commemoration at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral on Thursday, February 16, went for-

and the Persians — and compared the document to the 13th-century Magna Carta — one of the foundations for constitutional governance in the Western world. They pointed out that 700 years before Magna Carta was issued, Armenians had found a way to ensure liberties against their Persian rulers.

Grand Commander of the Knights of Vartan Dr. Dennis Papazian struck a complementary

chord in his remarks, reminding the crowd that "We are required by God to remember our deliverance, how God saved us from being assimilated by the Zoroastrian Persians and losing our identity as Christian Armenians."

The Shnorhali Choir of Holy Martyrs Church of Bayside, offered a fine performance of vocal selections, under the leadership of its director, Armine Vardanyan.

Remarks were also made by Ruben Daglyan, chair of the Mid-Atlantic Lodge. Edward Barsamian served as the master of ceremonies.



Khrimian Lyceum students made a presentation about the Battle of Avarayr.

ward under the auspices of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), with the participation of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan.

The evening began with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, with Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presiding.

Celebrating the badarak was the Rev. Arakel Vardazarian, who is serving as an intern priest at St. Gregory the Enlightener Church of White Plains. The St. Vartan Cathedral Choir sang under the direction of Khoren Mekanejian, with accompaniment by cathedral organist Florence Avakian.

A program and dinner in the Diocesan Center's Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium followed services.

Three students of the Diocese's Khrimian Lyceum — Chris Artun, Varujan Belekdanian and Tamar Tokman — made a presentation about the Battle of Avarayr. In both Armenian and English, they read excerpts from the speech St. Vartan delivered on the eve of battle and recited Vahan Tekeyan's poem, "The Mystery of Vartanank" (Khorhoort Vartanank).

The students then spoke about the Treaty of Navarsak — signed in 484 AD by the Armenians



The Rev. Arakel Vardazarian celebrated the Divine Liturgy at St. Vartan Cathedral.

Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian offered the evening's invocation. Barsamian closed the program with his message and benediction.

The evening's dinner was prepared and sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Mid-Atlantic Lodges and Otyags.

Parishes throughout the Eastern Diocese also observed the distinctly Armenian feast day.



The Shnorhali Choir of Holy Martyrs Church of Bayside, NY performed.

Genocide Essay Contest for High School and College Students

NEW YORK — High school and college students are invited to participate in an essay contest to support the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in April. One winner and two runner-ups will be selected by a distinguished panel of judges. First-place winner will receive \$300, second-place runner-up will receive \$200 and third-place runner-up will receive \$100.

The winners will also be recognized at the Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Times Square on Sunday, April 22, which will take place from 2 to 4 p.m., and depending on time constraints, may read their essays.

Those submitting essays should answer the question: "How can international recognition of the Armenian Genocide help prevent future crimes against humanity?"

Requirements of Essay: Word-document (.doc or .docx compliant), 800 words maximum, double-spaced, 11-point Arial type font, with each page clearly numbered. At the top of each page, please include the student's full name and age, teacher's full name and subject area, name of high school or college, graduating year in school, hometown and state, phone number and e-mail address.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, March 30.

The three winners will be contacted directly and announced the week of Monday, April 9.

Co-sponsors of the contest include the Knights & Daughters of Vartan (www.knightsofvartan.org) and Facing History and Ourselves (www.facinghistory.org).

Founded in 1985 by former New Jersey resident Sam Azadian, who lost four siblings during the Armenian Genocide, the Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Times Square has honored the 1.5 million Armenian lives lost during the horrific events of the Genocide of the Armenians by the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire. This annual event draws thousands of Armenians and non-Armenian participants to commemorate the solemn occasion.

Submissions must be made via e-mail to: Lucine Kinoian at April24NYC@gmail.com

Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2012



Since its inception in 2001, TCA's 'Sponsor a Teacher' program has raised over \$518,000 and reached out to 4,064 teachers and school workers in Armenia and Karabagh.



☐ Yes, I want to sponsor teachers in Armenia and Karabagh to continue helping them to educate the children, our future leaders. I would like to have the teacher's name and address.

☐ \$160 ☐ \$320 ☐ \$480 ☐ other \$_____

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COMMUNITY NEWS

TCA Arshag Dickranian School Shines in 28th KAHAM Table Tennis Tournament

Team Wins Third Place

LOS ANGELES – On Saturday, January 21, the Tekeyan Cultural Association’s (TCA) Arshag Dickranian School’s table-tennis team won third place in the 28th KAHAM Table Tennis Tournament (California Armenian Students Athletic Games) held at the Homenetmen Club in Glendale. This is the fourth time the team participates in this tournament and proves competent enough to compete against five Armenian schools including Vahan & Anoush Shamlian School, Alex Pilibos

each took third place, thus placing Arshag Dickranian School at third place in the overall rankings of the tournament. Students Stepan Muradyan, Movses Mkryan, Armen Dayan, Mark Antossian, Mania Mgdsyan and Michelle Dayan won first place in their sections; Arsen Mazloumian, Ashot Nadjiarian, Narek Klitchian and Marine Sanosyan won second place in their sections; Avetis Nahapetyan, Erick Gulyan, Tereza Arutunyan, Alec Kourouyan and Harout Bambalyan won third place in their sections; Daniel Boyadjian won fourth place in his section.



Coach Ara Aroyan with ADS Table Tennis Team

Armenian School, AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, Ferrahian School and Hovsepian School. Arshag Dickranian School (ADS) table tennis team was composed of 18 students this year, ranging from the fourth to seventh grades. Trained by coach Ara Aroyan, sixth-grader Armen Dayan took first place in his age category, while Mark Antossian and Alec Kourouyan

The organizers, participants and attendants were all impressed by the performance of ADS’s players and their enormous progress in such a short time. There were also instances when several ADS players were approached by members from Armenian athletic clubs inviting them to join their clubs. For more information visit www.dickranianschool.org.

Keystone State Pastor to Keynote Central California Men’s Conference

FRESNO – A Pennsylvania pastor will keynote the 2012 Men’s Retreat of California’s oldest Armenian Church. Rev. L. Nishan Bakalian, senior pastor of the Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church of Havertown, will address the Men’s Retreat of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church (FAPC) of Fresno. The retreat will take place March 2-4 at the 320-acre Hartland Christian Camp in the Sequoia National Forest. The theme of the weekend conference is “Invest Your Life: Fulfilling the Great Commission Through the Generations.” Retreat reservations may be made by e-mailing fapc@fapc.net. A native of Pennsylvania, Bakalian studied instrumental music at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, the Berklee College of Music in Boston and the Philadelphia College of Performing Arts. He completed his undergraduate education at Ursinus College and graduate education at Lancaster Theological Seminary. During his seminary years, Bakalian won a fellowship to study in the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, Lebanon. Ordained in May 1984, Bakalian first served the Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco (1984-1992) and then one of four Armenian Evangelical Churches in Beirut (1992-1995). He was next called to the pulpit of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York City (1995-2000) and then back to Lebanon to serve as campus minister of Haigazian University. His duties included leading weekly chapel services, Bible studies, retreats, courses in the Old and New Testaments and leading three separate choral groups. He also joined the Armenian Christian musical group, Nor Yerk, (New Song), which recorded and performed extensively in Armenia, Iran, France, Australia and the United States. Since 2007, he has been senior pastor of his childhood church in Havertown, Penn. Bakalian is married to the former Maria Jizmejian and they have two sons, Armen and Sevag. Forty immigrants from Marsovan chartered the Fresno congregation in a rented hall on July 25, 1897. It is the boyhood church of authors William Saroyan and A.I. Bezzerides and filmmaker J. Michael Hagopian. The clergy includes: Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, senior pastor; Rev. Mike Mekredijian, associate pastor; Philip C. Garo Jr., director of Children’s and Youth Ministries, and Edward V. Esajian, chair of the Committee on Men’s Ministries. FAPC is a member congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.

Genocide Education Gaining Momentum

EDUCATION, from page 5 intertwined with the history and culture of the Armenians. It’s important to review the heritage and give students a sense of feel for our country – how we persevered after the genocide and what’s being done to recognize it.” After one unsuccessful attempt to get a postage stamp minted by the US government, another is being made by the students, who appear relentless in their efforts to invoke justice for the Armenian people. “With all the violence that’s taking place throughout the world today, education is a vital defense mechanism,” said Wilmington teachers

Lisa Joy Desberg and Maura Tucker. “These students want to make a difference. Hearing these testimonies from the outside has a dire effect upon them.” In some school systems, having an Armenian administrator or teacher onboard has facilitated the visit. Church pastors have also been invited to participate, along with other community activists. Books on the Armenian Genocide have been donated to school libraries. “Hopefully, what we’re doing in Merrimack Valley will have a ripple effect throughout the country,” added Kanayan. “Our work is just beginning.”

Gulgulian Feted in Honor of 25th Anniversary of Ordination

ANNIVERSARY, from page 5 Rev. Hakop Gevorgyan spoke on behalf of the five area Armenian clergy and shared of his first encounter with Gulgulian when they were both serving in Germany. Gizirian then spoke and praised the honoree’s devotion to the church. Prior to Gulgulian’s address, banquet co-chair Barsamian presented him with a gift from the parish – a pair of gold cufflinks embossed with

the image of Holy Echmiadzin, which was handmade by Khosrof Pakhtigian. Gulgulian acknowledged the admiration of the many he has served and stated that he would still devote his life to the priesthood, if he had to do it all over again. Archbishop Barsamian spoke of Gulgulian’s service to the Armenian Church and observed that this milestone served as an opportunity to bring the community closer.



Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgulian addresses his guests as master of ceremonies, Steve Barsamian, looks on.



The Primate gives Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgulian his gift, as Master of Ceremonies Steve Barsamian looks on.

Arts & Living

Raymond Kévorkian, Author of History of Armenian Genocide, To Speak at NAASR

BELMONT — Historian Raymond Kévorkian will give a lecture, titled “The Armenian Genocide: Writing the Complete History,” on Wednesday, March 14, at 8 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave. The lecture will be given in Armenian with translation provided by Khatchig Mouradian.

Kévorkian, the director of the Nubarian Library in Paris, is the author of an exhaustive and authoritative account of the origins, events and consequences of the Armenian Genocide in 1915 and 1916. Originally published in French in 2006 as *Le Génocide des Arméniens*, *The Armenian Genocide: A Complete History* presents a detailed and meticulous record of the genocidal process, providing an authoritative analysis of the events and their impact upon the Armenian community, as well as the development of the Turkish state. The English-language edition will be available for purchase the night of the lecture.

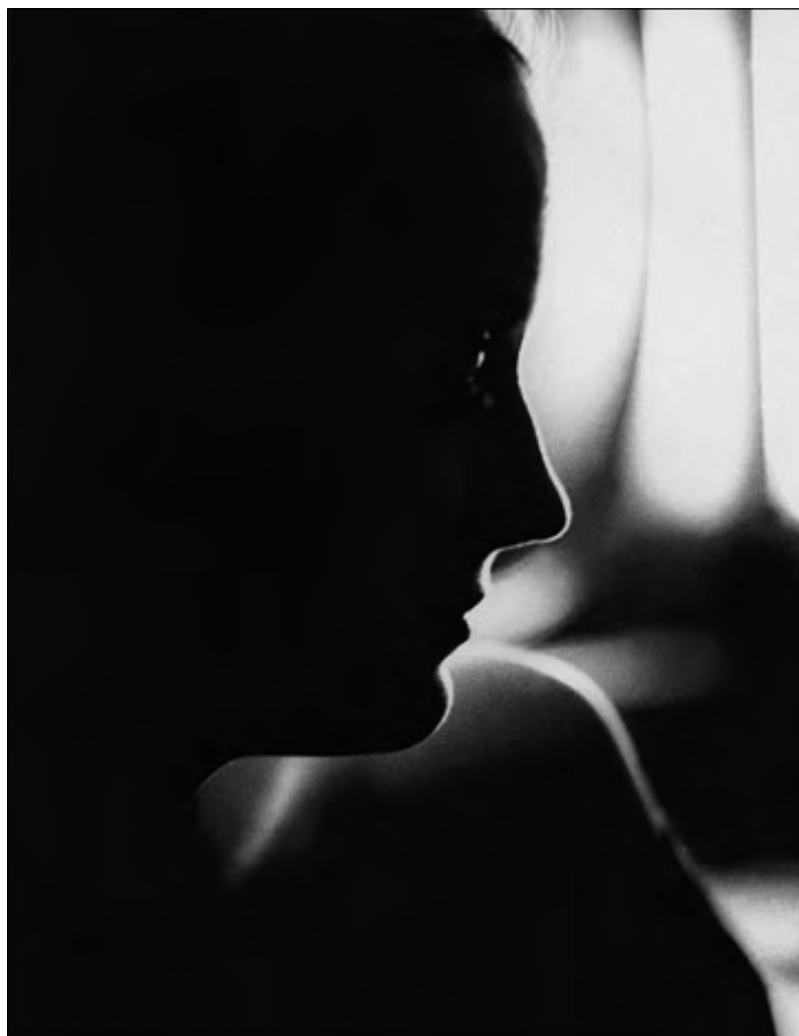
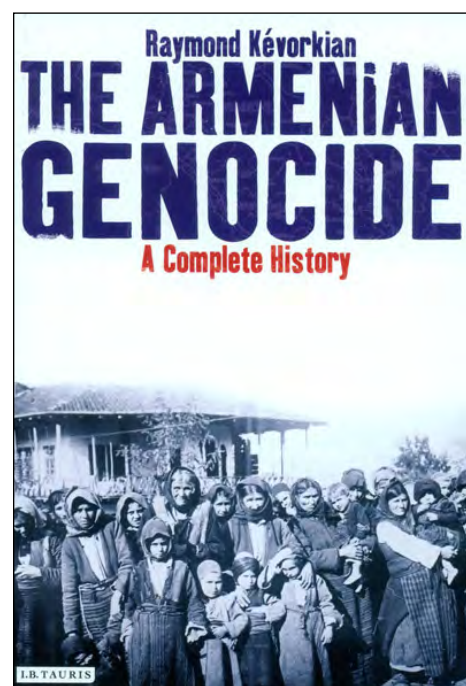


Raymond Kévorkian

Drawing on a vast array of published and unpublished materials, including many eyewitness accounts and materials from the Nubarian Library, Kévorkian gives a village-by-village account of what happened, who was captured and slain and how few survived. He examines the consequences of the violence against the Armenians, the implications of the deportations and the attempts to bring those who committed the atrocities to justice. This landmark book has taken its place as an indispensable resource to historians of the period, as well as those wishing to understand the history of genocidal violence more generally.

Kévorkian's books include important work on early Armenian printed books, *Catalogue des "Incunables" Arméniens (1511/1695)*, *Les Arméniens dans l'Empire Ottoman à la Veille du Génocide* (with Paul Paboudjian), *La Cilicie (1909-1921): Des Massacres d'Adana Au Mandat Français*, *L'Extermination des Deportés Arméniens Ottomans dans les Camps de Concentration de Syrie-Mésopotamie (1915-1916)* and numerous scholarly articles. In 2010 he was presented with the Presidential Award from President Serge Sargisian in recognition of his contributions as a scholar.

More information may be had by e-mailing hq@naasr.org or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.



Silhouette, Bar 81 Les, NY, archival pigment print

Kocharian Photo Exhibition To Be Presented at Robin Rice Gallery

NEW YORK — The Robin Rice Gallery presents the second solo exhibition of photographs by Haik Kocharian. The opening reception will be held on Wednesday, March 14, 5:30-8:30 p.m. The show runs through April 29.

Kocharian's work focuses on the interaction of the individual and the surrounding nature: a forest, body of water or urban street. Just as nature transforms the environment, so does the object in the picture evolve, symbolizing an internal shift. The style is reminiscent of photojournalism forefathers, such as Robert Frank and Cartier-Bresson, yet with a Fellini-esque twist.

This exhibition reflects one man's journey in search of love, vacillating from memories to hope. The collection is a fusion of neo-realism and symbolism. It is the central figure's relationship to the environment that elevates the images beyond realism, representing the transformational power in nature and within ourselves.



Houston Street, NY, archival pigment print

The exhibit includes photographs from Kocharian's expansive travels — from immersing himself in Montauk during Hurricane Earl to a soul-searching journey to India to a humanitarian trip to Ethiopia.

The invitational image, “Promised Happiness,” was taken at Brighton Beach during a rare dust storm. One gazes at what first appears to be a blinding canvas of clouds but upon closer inspection, an outline of the boardwalk and a lone figure are exposed through the sand, reflecting a brief moment of clarity in the storm.

In “Suffocation,” soft brown hues accentuate the raging hurricane-fueled whitecaps, fighting the power captured in the waves' unique grainy texture and steel gray tones. In “Forgive Me,” taken in Ethiopia, a cluster of trees is shown with their upper branches almost lost in the clouds. The rich, almost red tone of the soil draws the eyes downward to remind one that the trees' ancient roots are firmly planted in the ground.

see KOCHARIAN, page 15

Walter and Laurel Karabian to Speak On Ivan Aivazovsky

FRESNO — Attorney Walter Karabian and his wife Laurel will present an illustrated talk on Hovhannes Aivazian/ Ivan Aivazovsky, at 8 p.m. on Friday, March 2, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The Karabians own the largest and finest collection of Aivazovsky paintings in the Western United States, many acquired from the two greatest collectors worldwide, Antranig Shahinian and Andreas Roubian. They will discuss the life and career of the Armenian artist. In a first for Fresno, the Karabians will display four works from their private collection and show slides of other dramatic Aivazovsky paintings they own. A reception will precede the lecture.

The presentation is part of the Spring 2012 Armenian Studies Program Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State.

Aivazovsky was a world-renowned painter of Armenian descent, living and working in the Crimea during the 19th century. He is most famous for his seascapes, which constitute more than half of his paintings. Aivazovsky is widely considered one of the greatest seascape painters of all time.

Aivazovsky gained international fame at the age of 25 and was elected to five European Academies and was awarded the medal of the French Legion of Honor. Eugene Delacroix referred to him in reverence, and William Turner called him a genius. According to V. Adasov, “Perhaps no one in Europe has painted the extraordinary beauty of the sea with so much feeling and expressiveness as Aivazovsky.”

Walter Karabian served in the State Assembly from 1966-1974 championing various issues, including his emphasis on opening the doors of politics to young Latinos, his commitment to his Armenian heritage and various legislative contributions such as the Species Preservation Act, the Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and the California Invasion of Privacy Act.

He was born in Fresno. The Karabian family arrived in Fresno in 1896 from Bitlis led by his great-great-uncle, Krikor Karabian, who was accompanied by his nephew, Hovsep Karabian, who was Walter Karabian's grandfather. His grandmother was Haiganoush Simonian, also from Bitlis, Turkish occupied Armenia.

After graduating from Roosevelt High School, Karabian attended the University of Southern California where he served as student body president. He also earned his law degree and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Southern California. He became a deputy district attorney for Los Angeles County in 1965 before winning a seat in the California State Assembly in 1966 at the age of 28.

By the time he left the Assembly in 1974, he had served as the youngest majority leader in the history of the State Assembly.

Laurel Karabian graduated with honors from Pomona College and earned her MBA from the University of California at Los Angeles. She is a management consultant for various arts, education and humanitarian organizations; a member and past-president of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and serves on the boards of several charities, including the Armenian Library and Museum of America.

The Karabians reside in Los Angeles, where he practices law.

Admission to the lecture is free.



ARTS & LIVING

Armenian Faith, Culture Thrive at North Andover Church

By Paul Tennant

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. (*Lawrence Eagle Tribune*) – When Armenian immigrants, many of them survivors of a massive genocide, came to the United States, they had nothing – except their faith in God, according to Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan.

That faith was expressed in a huge way Sunday, when the archbishop visited North Andover to consecrate the new baptismal font and altar at St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church. The altar included a painting by Ani Khachikian of Peabody.

It is generally estimated that 1.5 million Armenians were murdered by the Ottoman Turks in 1915. Before that mass slaughter, the Armenians suffered many years of oppression from the Ottoman Empire.

Those who survived the Genocide escaped to Lebanon, Syria and other countries before coming to America. Large numbers of those Armenian immigrants settled in the Merrimack Valley, with many of them working in the textile

St. Gregory Church, named for the man who brought Christianity to Armenia more than 1,700 years ago, is flourishing. During the last three years, parishioners have raised and spent about \$1 million on renovations, including the new font and altar, according to Thomas Vartabedian, a longtime member.

While most of the Armenian immigrants came to America early in the 20th century, the culture is alive and well at St. Gregory Church, even among the young people.

Students in the Armenian and Sunday School sang songs and read poetry from their ancestral land, in both English and Armenian, during the banquet that followed the service of consecration.

The archbishop's visit also marked the 42nd anniversary of the founding of St. Gregory Church. A few years ago, the parish contemplated moving to another location, "but we decided to stay where we are," Vartabedian said.

"Our future is bright," John Kulungian, chairman of the church's board of trustees, told the nearly 200 people who attended the banquet. He urged parishioners to make St. Gregory Church a "shining example" of what a Christian



The painting depicted John the Baptist with Jesus.



Archbishop Oshagan Cholyan blesses the altar and painting.

mills of Lawrence and the shoe factories of Haverhill.

The textile mills and the shoe factories are long gone, but the Armenian-American community has stayed.

"They started a new life in this country," Cholyan said, and he noted that today, Americans of Armenian heritage "flourish" in the United States.

congregation should be.

"Above all else is spiritual growth," he said.

Richard Shahtanian, chairman of the building committee that raised the money and got the renovations completed, said it "wouldn't have been possible without God."

Shahtanian urged his fellow parishioners to think about "our purpose as Christians," which he noted includes "helping the less fortunate."

Hayk Demoyan to Speak at Ararat-Eskijian Museum

MISSION HILLS, Calif. – Dr. Hayk Demoyan, director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan, Armenia, will present an illustrated lecture in English, titled "Armenian National Symbols, Flags, and Coats of Arms," on Wednesday, March 7, at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, Hasmig Grdichian Hall.

The lecture is sponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

Demoyan's lecture is will discuss his recently-published book, *Armenian National Symbols, Flags, and Coats of Arms* (in Armenian, 2012), a comprehensive volume comprising more than 1,500 illustrations showing the evolution and history of the Armenian heraldic and national symbols from antiquity until the present day. The book and the lecture will include sections on Armenian heraldry and state symbols of the Cilician

Armenian Kingdom, later flags and coats of arms and modern-period symbols of the First Republic, Soviet Armenia and the national symbols and state awards of the Republic of Armenia.

Demoyan is the director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan, a position he has held since 2006. He is currently also serving on a state commission for coordinating events dedicated to the centennial anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Demoyan was born in the city of Leninakan (now Gumri) in Soviet Armenia. He received his PhD from the Institute of Oriental Studies at the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, and is a lecturer at the History Department of Yerevan State University.

Demoyan is also a researcher and has written several books on such topics such as the Armenian Genocide, Turkish foreign policy and Turkey's involvement in the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict of 1991-1994.

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ARTS & LIVING

Boyadjian Looks for Solidarity, Solace at Genocide Centennial

By Tom Vartabedian

LEXINGTON, Mass. — Let the music ring. Let it ring loud and clear, uniting Armenians across the universe.

Hayg Boyadjian can't think of a better way to commemorate the Armenian Genocide centennial in 2015 than with music and an appreciation for the arts. After all, he says, it is the universal language.

The Lexington-based composer shared his thoughts upon his eminent career, which has resulted in 13 recordings over the past four decades. More recently we sat him down following an Avak luncheon at St. Gregory Church in North Andover after addressing a large crowd.

Since immigrating here in 1958 from Argentina, Boyadjian has carved a prominent niche into the classical music world from chamber to symphonic. A number of his recordings are available through the American Music Center and online through Sibelius Music.

The 73-year-old lives in Lexington with his wife, Brigitte, and is currently working on an Armenian suite. The couple has a daughter and two grandchildren. When Boyadjian is not at the piano composing, he is tuning the instruments professionally.

Tom Vartabedian: When did your love for music begin?

Hayg Boyadjian: As a 16-year-old growing up in Buenos Aires. My father was a tailor. My mother handled the sewing. We were four brothers, none of the others musicians. I began listening to classical music and never stopped.

TV: How would you classify your music?

HB: Modern classical works that cover this century.

TV: Is there a demand for this?

HB: Limited. Even in Beethoven's time, it was limited. More people enjoy this music today than in Beethoven's time due to mass communication and the technology that's available.

TV: Why has it taken so long for people to recognize your music?

HB: If you're talking about the Armenian community, people aren't open to modern classical. If I was writing like Gomidas Vartabed, people would know me. Because I use a language that's very modern and difficult to appreciate, my music isn't recognizable as an Armenian suite. If you listen enough and give it time, you'll appreciate it. It's challenging, yet stimulating.

TV: What inspired you to become a composer?

HB: I bought a piano at age 18, left Argentina two years later and had already started harmony and counterpoint. I attended the New England Conservatory in Boston, got a degree in economics from Northeastern

University and returned to music at Brandeis University studying composition and orchestration. My music appears on 13 CDs, including a solo on the Albany label.

TV: Your most provocative recording?

HB: *Thirty-two Variations on Bach* for piano solo — a 40-minute piece that took a year to compose in between two other works. I work on multiple pieces most of the time, though deadlines and commissions always take precedence. The Bach work will be performed this October at the Gomidas Concert Hall in Yerevan. It's a complex piece that brings Bach to the present.

TV: Biggest highlight in your career?

HB: An hour-long piece done in two sections, called *Oratorio — Time of Silence*, for symphony orchestra, choir, soprano and speaker. The subject is genocide. It was premiered at Sanders Theater in Cambridge with 60 musicians and a choir of 100. It was the last recording my father heard from me before his death two days later. The piece found his way to Yerevan and broadcast annually for many years thereafter.

TV: Are you approached by Armenian groups to compose music?

HB: Only twice over the past 40 years. One was for St. Vartan's Cathedral in New York City, dedicated to the martyrs, and again by St. James Church when poet Hovhannes Shiraz died in the 1980s, a piece for trumpet and percussion which was later performed in Yerevan. I'm better received in the American community and this bothers me.

TV: Tell me about your newest work "Vientos" that has received critical acclaim.

HB: In Spanish, "vientos" means "wind." Spanish is one of my languages, along with French, Armenian, German and English. The piece is original, incorporating my entire background, and employs a constant shift in direction with French, Italian and Armenian visages to create harmony. The pieces are intermingled, much like a carpet being weaved, and runs 11 minutes. I wrote it for the musicians performing it — a commission for guitar, violin and mandolin.

TV: You are working on an Armenian suite?

HB: It was originally written four years ago for piano and trombone after a woman from California commissioned it for her son. I later adapted it for the Rivers Music School in Weston, featuring two oboes and piano, then adapted a third piece to include horn and piano, which has yet to be performed. Now I've orchestrated it adding an additional minute of music. The CD is in limbo waiting to be released. I was told this could be my signature piece.

TV: Who do you respect as a modern Armenian composer?

HB: One would be Yerevan's Tigran Mansurian. He's the most prominent composer of this generation. Another would be Levon Chavoushian, also from Yerevan.

TV: How many times have you been to Armenia?

HB: Ten. I go there to visit my composer friends and honor a concert commitment. I also enjoy hiking in Armenia. For me, it's the beauty of the hike, not the destination. Between my wife and me, we've done the entire Presidential Range in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

TV: Who might your favorite non-Armenian composer be?

HB: This would be like deciding which of my fingers to have amputated or which chocolate to choose from a box. Bach and Beethoven are my pillars — the foundation of my music.

TV: What would society be like without music?

HB: Dormant. No purpose to live. Music stimulates us. It is food for the soul. When I listen to a Chopin waltz, it rejuvenates me. If I don't cry during the last scene of "La Traviata," it's time to give up Verdi. You would have to be a piece of steel not to be affected.

TV: How do you feel about today's music?

HB: Some of it is real good with the likes of Madonna and Lady Gaga. I also like Beyonce. Michael Jackson was an incredible musician. Instrumentally, I lean toward violinist Gil Shaham and pianist Russell Sherman who lives in my city. Pianist/conductor Daniel Barenboim is from Argentina: I heard him as a child and knew he'd make it.

TV: What are your impressions of Armenia?

HB: Economically, the conditions are difficult due to the lack of funding. If Armenia had an open border, this would work to its advantage. We've made big progress in terms of lifestyle, compared to the previous generation. The arts are suffering. People don't have the resources to attend concerts. Performers are underpaid. Good musicians leave to play elsewhere. Tourism has been a lifesaver.

TV: You tune pianos?

HB: Ever since 1960. On a busy day, I'll tune four instruments. Sometimes I'll play bits of Mozart and Beethoven to test the sound. An average piano should be tuned annually.

TV: Tell me something about yourself that might surprise others.

HB: I'm into astronomy. Hayg in Armenian means "Orion" in the constellation — three stars in a line portraying a hunter. I enjoy studying the stars and find the entire universe amazing with its vast setting.

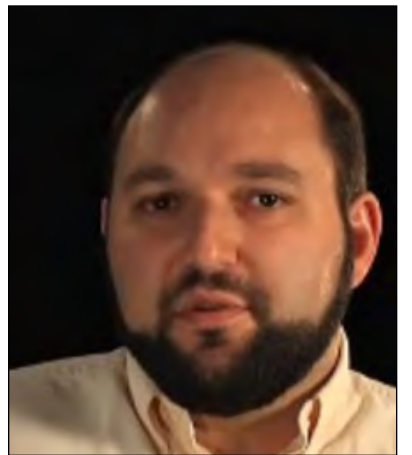
TV: How should we commemorate the Genocide centennial in 2015?

HB: With a multi-cultural event that involves all Armenian churches and organizations together that transcends our cause and exposes us en masse to the Greater American community. Let us turn our focus upon the arts and music. Through these mediums, we can convey our feelings in a way that others may embrace. They speak a universal language.

Author/Attorney Michael Bobelian To Speak at Saint James Men's Club

WATERTOWN, Mass. — On Monday, March 5, Michael Bobelian, lawyer/ journalist from New York will be the speaker at the dinner meeting of the St. James Armenian Church Men's Club. The topic will be, "America and the Armenian Genocide, from Wilson to Obama."

Bobelian's work has covered issues ranging from corporate wrongdoing to foreign affairs. Upon graduating from the University of Michigan Law School, he worked at a large law firm in New York before enrolling at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. He currently writes for Forbes.com and his articles have appeared in American Lawyer Magazine, Legal Affairs Magazine and the Washington Monthly. He has also



Michael Bobelian

appeared on C-Span's "BookTV" and NPR. He teaches at the City University of New York and has delivered lectures about the Genocide at MIT, the University of California at Berkeley, Tufts and Columbia University.

He is the author of *Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-Long Struggle for Justice*, which was published by Simon & Schuster in 2009.

Children of Armenia breaks new ground by telling the story of the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide. It recounts a struggle for justice that takes readers from massive demonstrations, to the halls of Congress, to courtroom battles.

During years of research, Bobelian interviewed more than 65 people — from former presidential candidate Bob Dole to leading Armenian advocates — and investigated tens of thousands of documents at the National Archives and presidential libraries to provide an insider's account of this odyssey.

Children of Armenia has been praised in several national publications, including the Washington Post, Foreign Affairs Magazine, the Washington Times and the Chronicle of Higher Education.

John Evans, former US ambassador to Armenia, wrote, "I heartily recommend this book." Former California Gov. George Deukmejian described the book as a "powerful and gripping account." Dr. Michael Berenbaum, the former project director of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC, called the book "a powerful and provocative work." And in his review of *Children of Armenia*, UCLA Professor Richard Hovannisian simply said: "The book is captivating."

Bobelian lives in New York with his wife and two children.

The social hour starts with appetizers at 6:15 p.m., followed by a complete dinner at 7 p.m. The dinner meeting will be at the St. James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural & Youth Center — Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn St. Ladies are welcome.

Kocharian Photo Exhibition to Be Presented at Robin Rice Gallery

KOCHARIAN, from page 13

Kocharian, also a filmmaker, brings a cinematic eye to his photography. Walking through the exhibit one gets a sense of movement. For Kocharian, the photographic process is in many ways like the aging of wine. He puts his heart and soul into shooting and then lets the images sit for months until he gets a sudden urge to look at them.

Born in Armenia, Kocharian has lived in New York City since 1993. He began his studies at the Armenian Theater Academy and continued his education in film directing at Brooklyn College. His solo exhibitions in New York include Galerie Mourlot, Robin Rice Gallery, 92 Y Tribeca and James Cohan Gallery. He was a finalist in the *Smithsonian Magazine* Photo Competition.

Kocharian also collaborates with various non-for-profits, including African Services Committee, Chodron Foundation and Self Help Africa. Kocharian has written and directed six short films including "Charlie," which won the Thirteen/WNET Reel 13 Shorts competition. He wrote and produced his first feature film, "Manhattan Romance." His new feature film as a writer/director/producer, "Please Be Normal," will be released this year. Kocharian is also a singer-songwriter; his upcoming album, "Children's Album," will be released this summer.

The museum is located at 325 W 11th St.



Man in the ocean, Coast of Maine, archival pigment print



ARTS & LIVING

Hewsen to Discuss Mekhitarist Contributions in Lecture at Ararat-Eskijian Museum

MISSION HILLS, Calif. — Prof. Robert Hewsen will speak on Sunday, March 4, at 4 p.m., at the Hasmig Mgrdichian Hall of the Ararat-Eskijian Museum. The lecture, titled “The Mekhitarist Contribution to the Armenian Renaissance,” will be cosponsored by the museum, the Armenian Cultural Visionaries and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). The event is free and open to the public. The lecture will be in English; a reception will follow in honor of Hewsen’s lifetime of achievements as a scholar.

Between 1717, when Mekhitar of Sepastia (1676-1749), born Gomidas Keumurjian and a convert to Catholicism, arrived in Venice with seventeen followers, and 1816, when the Lazarian College was founded in Moscow, the Mekhitarist monastery, established on the island of San Lazzaro in Venice, was the major

center of Armenian culture worldwide.

Mekhitar’s program for uplifting the Armenian people consisted of three projects: 1) the unification of the Armenian with the Roman Catholic Church; 2) the introduction of the new learning of the European Enlightenment to the Armenian people and 3) the presentation to Western scholarship of the achievements of Armenian culture. To accomplish these goals Mekhitar placed his faith in education and publication. The Mekhitarist Congregation, from its two monasteries in Venice and Vienna, still operates a network of schools in Europe, the Middle East, and the Americas. The Mekhitarist monastery on San Lazzaro remains one of the major centers of Armenian culture in the world.

Hewsen received his doctorate from Georgetown University, where he studied

Armenian and Caucasian history under the pioneer Armenologist, Cyril Toumanoff. From 1967 to 1999, he taught Russian and Byzantine History at Rowan University in New Jersey, where he is now professor emeritus. He has taught Armenian history as a visiting professor at numerous universities in the US and abroad, lectured widely on Armenian subjects, and has been a regular participant in Armenian Studies Association (MESA) conferences.

Hewsen is the translator of the seventh-century *Armenian Geography of Anania Shirakatsi* and is the author of the landmark *Armenia: A Historical Atlas* as well as many scholarly articles, reviews, and book chapters.

For more information contact the Ararat-Eskijian Museum at Ararat-eskijian-museum@netzero.net.



Prof. Robert Hewsen

It’s De-Lovely! It’s De-lightful! It’s De-licious!

NELO Opens 10th Season with Cole Porter Revue

BOSTON — The New England Light Opera (NELO) is opening its 10th season with a brand-new revue of the timeless songs of Cole Porter, called “Night and Day: A New Cole Porter Celebration.” NELO’s performance on Friday, March 2 at 8 p.m. is being presented by the Andreassian Music Fund (AMF) at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 15 Newbury St.

“Back in 2004, we presented a new Porter revue we had created called ‘Night and Day,’” says NELO Artistic Director and Co-founder Mark Morgan. “It went to have several runs and was our most successful show to date. For this, our 10th anniversary, we decided to revisit Porter —there were so many great songs we couldn’t include the first time.”

The new show features an almost entirely new song list including such standards as, *Begin the Beguine*, *Just One of Those Things* and *You’re the Top* as well as rarities, such as, *Heaven Hop* and *I’m Yours*. The show is tied in with reminiscences of Porter in his own words.

The original cast of “Night and Day”

returns for this new show, including: June Baboian, choral director of Armenian Memorial Church; Kaja Schupper, a NELO audience favorite; award-winning cabaret singer Brian DeLorenzo and Morgan. Joining the cast for the first time at the piano will be Margaret Ulmer.

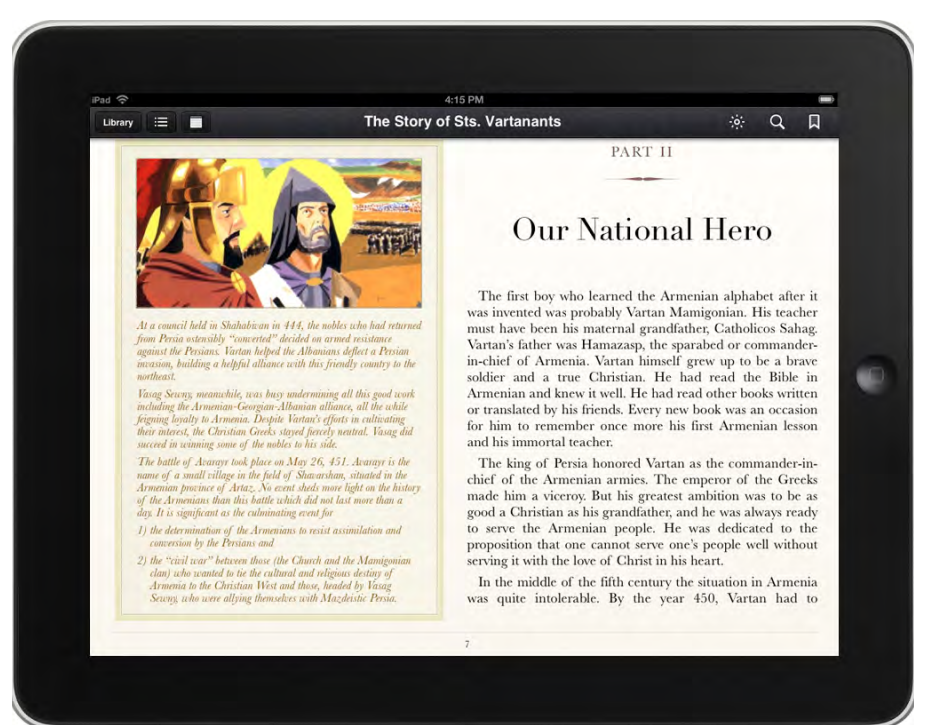
The AMF which is in its seventh year has collaborated with NELO with several of its shows, including “My Favorite Things: A Richard Rodgers Celebration,” “Fascinating Rhythm: A George Gershwin Revue” among others. In addition, the AMF has presented classical artists such as, violinist, Emil Altschuler, and guitarist, Gerome Moufe, (AM Duo) in concert, pianist, Karine Bagdasarian, as well as violinist, Sargis Karapetian, and pianist, Nounne Hacopian.

As with other events hosted by the Andreassian Music Fund, the room will be set up with candlelit tables accommodating six to eight individuals. The cost of admission will include wine served during the performance and an elaborate post-performance dessert reception.

Armand Andreassian says, “I like to create a party atmosphere where people can meet old and new friends.”



The original cast of “Night and Day” returns for this new show, including: June Baboian, Kaja Schupper, Brian DeLorenzo and Mark Morgan.



Screenshot of the Eastern Diocese’s new iBook, The Story of Sts. Vartanants

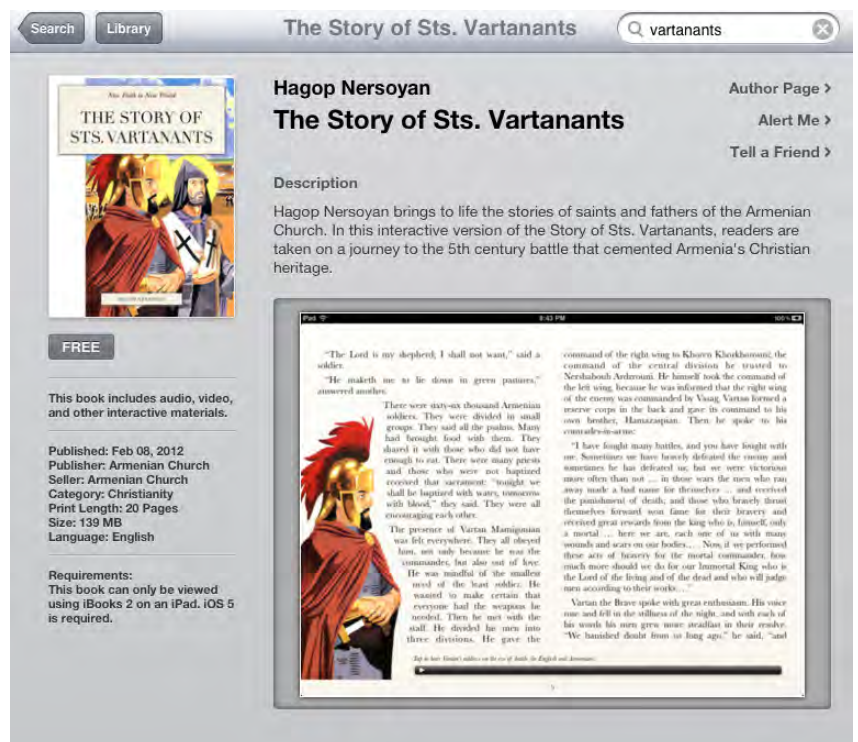
New iBook from the Eastern Diocese

NEW YORK — The Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America announced recently the release of the first-ever Armenian Church iBook designed for the iPad. In this publication, Hagop Nersoyan’s *The Story of Sts. Vartanants* is brought to life on the iPad with interactive features, including photo galleries, video and audio recordings, a glossary and more.

Users can browse images of historic maps, listen to St. Vartan and St. Gevont’s stirring speeches, look up new terms and highlight favorite passages as they read about the Battle of Avarayr. This digital book invites readers to revisit St. Vartan’s stand against the Persian army in defense of Armenia’s existence as a Christian nation.

The iBook is the latest in a series of digital efforts at the Eastern Diocese. It complements the Diocese’s mobile phone application, Vemkar, which is available for free download on the iPhone and Android platforms.

To learn more about the Eastern Diocese, visit www.armenianchurch-ed.net.



The iBook as it appears in Apple’s iBookstore

Advertise in the Mirror-Spectator



ARTS & LIVING

Akçam Speaks on Book on Istanbul Trials of Genocide Perpetrators

AKÇAM, from page 1

Judgment at Istanbul, published by Berghahn Books and supported by the Zoryan Institute, for the first time presents in English and analyzes the indictments and verdicts of the Turkish Military Tribunals. Two editions of the book are out now, one in Turkish, which runs to some 700 pages, and an English one, which is about half the length. (The reason for the briefer English edition is money, Akçam said, as translation costs are very high.)

"The idea for the book started with the first meeting with Vahakn Dadrian in 1990, my mentor," Akçam said. During a conversation, he said, they realized that between the two of them, they had the complete set of the *Takvim-i Vekâyi*, the Ottoman official gazette, which documented the 12 Istanbul trials.

Soon after delving into the topic, he said, they realized that the trials did not take place only in Istanbul, but all over Anatolia.

The coverage of the trials show that cabinet ministers, Young Turk party leaders and others were court-martialed by the Turkish Military Tribunals in the years immediately following World War I. Most were found guilty and received sentences ranging from prison with hard labor to death.

Until recently, knowledge of the trials was limited to those trials whose indictments and verdicts were published by the *Takvim-i Vekâyi*. Over the course of years of meticulous research, Dadrian and Akçam discovered that there were as many as 63 trials. In some cases, very little information has been found about the trials.

Akçam explained that materials relating to the trials should be located in two archives: the

Prime Ministerial Archives in Istanbul and the Military Archives in Ankara. Akçam said that the former was open to researchers but that little of the material was catalogued at that time when research for the book was carried out. In 1922, he said, Istanbul was taken over by nationalists, who purged many archives, and that the documents relating to the Istanbul military courts martial were likely transferred to the military archive. However, that archive is largely closed to outside researchers.

Akçam said that he and Dadrian took years to compile all the material from the official newspapers covering the trials, from the early 1990s to the early 2000s. It took that long because most of the newspapers were not archived. The newspapers, he said, covered the trials thoroughly. However, after the government change in 1919, while the trials still continued, interest in covering them waned.

"The trials were extremely extensive. They are an important contribution for defining the Armenian Genocide as such," he explained.

He then proceeded to line up and knock down the arguments the Turkish government and its apologists use to dismiss the military tribunals. Among the objections they pose, he said, is that the Ottoman legal system offered no basis for a fair trial, that the trials represented the justice of the victors, that the accused were tortured and that no witnesses were presented at the trials.

Akçam said that the trials were in fact based on European standards. He stressed they often included detailed documentation and evidence, as well as witnesses.

One trial, that of Kemal Bey, the deputy governor of Yozgat who was among those respon-

sible for the massacres of Armenians there, ended with a guilty verdict and public hanging of the accused.

Sixteen defendants received the death penalty, though most were in absentia, including the triumvirate who orchestrated the Genocide, Talaat, Enver and Jemal.

Several times during the talk Akçam referred to Guenter Lewy, whose work denies that what was done to the Armenians is properly called genocide, and his inaccurate claims about the trials. For example, Lewy wrote that no witnesses were heard during the trials. Akçam explained that, on the contrary, witnesses testified during the trials, with their testimonies detailed in the newspaper coverage of the trials. In fact, Akçam said that they provided "primary sources that can enlighten us on 1915." He noted that Turkish witnesses were preferred over Armenian ones, and added that in one case, villagers testified about the rounding up and murder of Armenians in their village, as did lower-level military officers.

The military police, however, were lax with security, allowing many of the prisoners to come and go at will during the day, trusting their sense of "honor" to return and not embarrass their jailors. Many of them returned bringing big packages, Akçam said, and female visitors could come any time, without being searched, thus disposing of evidence if needed.

One prisoner who did not care about the embarrassment of his jailors, Dr. Reshid, the governor of Diyarbakir, left for a bath and never came back and two others, Halil Pasha and Kuchuk Bey, ran away as well.

Akçam hope that the book would help shed more light on the Genocide and thus quell

Turkish dissent, as the book used Ottoman and Turkish sources.

"We are all human beings and we need to overcome [differences] as scholars, at least. There is no Turkish perspective or Armenians perspective," he said, only the truth.

He expressed optimism that the tide was turning in Turkey. "There is genuine interest in Turkey to work on this subject," he said, especially in the aftermath of the assassination of his friend, Hrant Dink, the late founding editor of *Agos*. "You may not know how Hrant Dink changed Turkey. Since Hrant, in every court case, at least 500 people show up. Turkey has not experienced such a thing."

For the first time, he said, there is a "very strong civil society in Turkey," adding that since 2008, no one has been arrested on charges of using the phrase "Armenian Genocide."

He added that graduate programs for Turkish students studying the Armenian Genocide should be supported.

Akçam holds the Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at the Department of History of Clark University in Worcester. He is the author of several books, including *A Shameful Act: The Armenian Genocide and the Question of Turkish Responsibility*.

Akçam was introduced by Prof. James Russell, the Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard. Russell began his introduction by inviting the audience to imagine an alternate history, in which Nazi Germany, defeated in World War II, held trials of the Nazi officers who committed the Holocaust, found them guilty, and then, through a change of fortune, got powerful again and denied the validity of the trials, suggesting that they were held under duress and that they were invalid and that indeed, Nazi Germany was innocent of any wrongdoing.

Genocide, he said, is now a part of political life. "The longer a crime is covered up, the worst its effects become. What began as a sin became a policy of crimes, has become a part of the human psyche at large. ... Genocide has not merely changed politics but human nature."

He called Akçam "a champion of human liberation and truth" and said most importantly, he was proud to call him a friend.

Judgment at Istanbul is available for sale at NAASR.

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH 31 — AGBU New England District Presents: Performing Artists in Concert, 8 p.m. Under the artistic direction of mezzo-soprano Solange Merdinian 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

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.

OCTOBER 28 — Save the date. The Armenian American Support and Educational Center, Hye Doon, celebrates its 35th anniversary. Felician College, Lodi. With the participation of Akh'tamar Dance Ensemble and other talented guest performances. Details to follow.

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.

MARCH 11 — Holy Martyrs Fundraising Committee sponsors Tekeyan Cultural Association Mher Megertchian Theatrical Group's "The Flatterer," by Hagop Baronian, a musical comedy. 3 p.m., Cardozo High School, 57-00 23rd St., Bayside. Tickets: \$35 and \$25. For info, call Bertha, (718) 423-8523.



Above is a scene from a production of the musical comedy "The Flatterer," by Hagop Baronian. On March 11, The Holy Martyrs Fundraising Committee will sponsor the Tekeyan Cultural Association Mher Megertchian Theatrical Group's "The Flatterer," at 3 p.m., at Cardozo High School, 57-00 23rd St., Bayside. Tickets are \$35 and \$25. For info, call Bertha, (718) 423-8523.

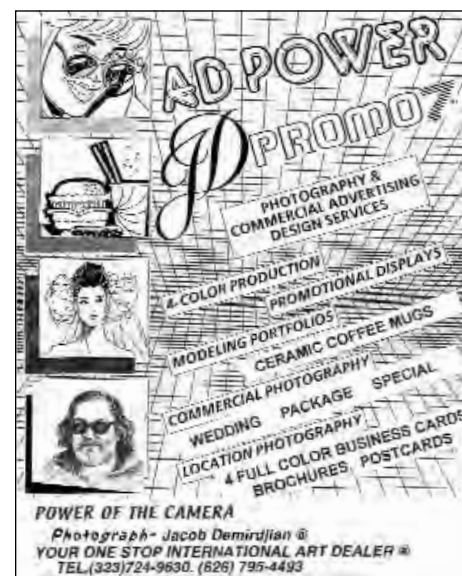
APRIL 28 — Rebirth Concert: dedicated to the 20th anniversary of both the Armenian National Military and Armenia's membership to the United Nations. Organized by the Tekeyan Cultural Association of NY/NJ. With the participation of renowned artists from Armenia and the Philharmonic Symphonic Orchestra of Rhode Island, to take place at 8 p.m.; the Merkin Concert Hall of Kaufman center, 129 West 67th St., New York City. Save the date. Details to follow.

MAY 12 — Shushi hosts a Gala Dinner Dance for an evening of "Celebration," 20th anniversary of Shushi's liberation, Mother's Day. Anniversary of Shushi Dance Ensemble, Kavookjian Hall, 630 Second Ave., New York City. Details to follow.

Sayat Nova Dance Scholarship Available

WATERTOWN — Sayat Nova Dance Company (SNDC) announces that as part of its 25th anniversary celebration, it will introduce a new student dance scholarship.

This scholarship has been designed to encourage dance education and provide a resource to Armenian students to put what they have learned through their dance education to practice. The application has been released for the 2012/2013 academic year. Applications must be submitted by March 30. To learn more about the eligibility requirements and to apply, visit www.sayatnova.com.





COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN Mirror- Spectator

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COMMENTARY

The Ugly Face of Provincialism

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The parliamentary elections are ahead in Armenia and so it is time for horse trading. The Republican Party, headed by President Serge Sargsian, is in an uneasy coalition with Prosperous Armenia Party (Bargavach Hayastan), headed by an oligarch, Gagik Zaroukian. Actually, the party was founded by former President Robert Kocharian, who still manipulates the group behind the scenes. The two parties formed a strong ruling coalition, allowing a small share of power to fall to Arthur Bagdassarian's party, Country of Laws (Orinatz Yerguir). The coalition worked well, even when the ARF (Dashnag) party quit its partners. It worked because a Kocharian comeback was in the offing. As soon as that comeback was endangered, cracks began to appear between the coalition partners.

President Serge Sargsian has no intention of ceding his job to his predecessor and he is seeking a second term as president.

The official document, signed between the partners, to participate jointly in the forthcoming elections, was questioned from both sides. At this writing, nothing is certain – not even if the coalition will survive internal squabbling. March is the convention period; the platforms and tickets will be announced at that time. Meanwhile speculations abound.

A political analyst, Marietta Khachatryan, writing in the daily *Azg*, has covered this pre-election turmoil, reporting that the parties have already started the process of power sharing. For example, the Republican Party has already taken over 25-30 precincts, has ceded nine to the Prosperous Armenia and two to Country of Laws. She has also tried to come up with the opposition's share in the future parliament, asking cynically at the end: "While parties are in the process of sharing the seats in the future parliament, no one gives a damn about the voters; after all, who is the voter to have a say in the elections?"

Every day a new development is revealed. The latest one was the announcement of former Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian joining the Prosperous Armenia Party. His long-term cooperation with former President Kocharian could not lead him anywhere else. This move will give political character to a party, which was thus far Kocharian's shadow in the parliament, headed by an oligarch.

Oskanian's decision to join the Prosperous Armenia seems to have irritated the Republican ranks, which were already in a restive accommodation with the latter. Raffik Petrossian of the Republican Party has criticized Oskanian's move severely. He has even pushed the envelope further to raise the ugly head of provincialism, which, unfortunately is rife in Armenia's political culture. Petrossian, who is a member of parliament representing the Republican Party, has "foreseen" a danger for Armenia in Oskanian's move. Worried that Oskanian one day may become a presidential candidate, Petrossian has stated: "Presidential candidates, who were not born and raised in

Armenia may serve other countries' interests," adding that his party is already taking measures to prevent people like Vartan Oskanian and Raffi Hovannisian from becoming presidential candidates. He concluded his remarks with the following toxic statement: "Armenia's president must be a true Armenian whose ancestors are buried under the soil of our homeland."

In Mr. Petrossian's estimation, Oskanian and Hovannisian are not "true Armenians."

If he considers himself a "true Armenian," then Armenia can only meet an ominous future. Petrossian is an opportunist. He was the dean of the Law Department at Yerevan State University where the gravy train stopped. When Armenia declared independence, he became member of the first parliament representing the ADL (Ramgavar) Party. He was one of the first to jump the train heading for greener pastures.

And today he has become the representative of the ruling Republican Party and the face of provincialism, which many had assumed was the legacy of Soviet culture. However, this attitude seems to have survived to this day to divide the Armenian nation.

Whether we like the policies of Oskanian and Hovannisian or not, they were the ones who introduced the Western-style political culture in Armenia, at great personal sacrifices. Their allegiance to Armenia cannot be questioned.

This mentality is not endemic to Raffik Petrossian or the Republican Party. Unfortunately, patriotism in Armenia is skin deep only. You don't need to scratch hard to find the provincialism.

In the early years of independence, one of the ruling members of Pan-Armenian Movement (Hayots Hamazkayin Sharjun), Eduard Yegorian, was the proponent of this xenophobic policy, who advocated that all the Diaspora Armenians are needed for is to bring money to Armenia and mind their own business in the diaspora.

It is such short-sighted provincialism that divides the Armenian nation. This ingrained attitude there causes the Diaspora-Armenians to lose one court case after the other, when they are trying to invest or buy properties in Armenia. Some even lose their lives along with their money. Therefore, no one in Armenia can blame Diaspora-Armenians if they become hesitant to invest in the homeland.

Armenians are a divided and fragmented people; one faction cannot stand the other one and vice versa. But they cannot be blamed for that; they have lived in different countries and under different political systems, which have shaped their national identities in different ways.

But they will be blamed if they cannot realize the divisive factors, which have kept them apart and rise above the divide and adhere to a paramount national identity, which can bring us together.

Unless we get rid of provincialism and marginalize spokespeople like Petrossian, we cannot move ahead nor build a powerful Armenia.

LETTERS

Embassy Wants to See Update on Veteran's Story

To the Editor:

The article published in your weekly, titled "From Orphanage to Artsakh War," dated January 21 immediately caught my attention for the following reason.

This story about a Karabagh war veteran who was denied an Armenian passport first came out in Hetq online on January 14 (<http://hetq.am/eng/articles/9156>), which I assume was reprinted by you.

However, I would like to inform you that the issue was properly and efficiently resolved by Armenian authorities, which was already reported in Hetq Online on January 18. Igor

Ghahramanyan was granted an Armenian passport by the Head of Police of Armenia himself.

Thus, the story, which created negative reaction among the readers of the *Mirror-Spectator* weekly, exhausted itself even before it was published by you on January 21. I am sure you would agree with me that the readers of your respectful magazine deserve to know about this positive turn of events.

Lilit Davtyan, Consul,
Embassy of Armenia
– Washington DC
AmbassadorResponse 2-25

Editor's Response:

We appreciate the swift response and attention by Consul Lilit Davtyan. While the story ran in the January 21 issue, an update appeared in the January 28 issue (page 2). The story, which originally appeared on January 14, was in the press cycle of our January 21 issue and was updated in the very next cycle. It is heartening to see that the Armenian Embassy staff is taking an interest in a subject and contacting our newspaper, as our frequent phone calls seeking comments from the embassy are seldom answered.

Notice to Contributors

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

– All articles submitted should be typed, double (or triple) spaced and printed in a type size large enough to be clearly legible

(10 point or larger). Submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be assigned lowest priority.

– Articles sent by fax are acceptable, and e-mail submissions are encouraged.

– All submissions should include the name of a contact person and a daytime telephone number.

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

– Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art

director. Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.

– The *MS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.

– Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases, but should be reserved for calendar listings and advertisements.



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Egemen Bagish: Turkey's Minister of Genocide Denial

Even though all Turkish government officials routinely deny the Armenian Genocide, one particular minister has turned denial into a full-time job. Ironically, as Minister for European Union Affairs, Egemen Bagish has harmed Turkey's prospects for EU membership more than any of its critics.

Although Bagish has been making zany statements ever since his ministerial appointment two years ago, his recent blunder in Zurich made headlines around the world. The Turkish Minister arrogantly dared Swiss authorities to arrest him after boasting that "the events of 1915 were not genocide!" Switzerland has a law that penalizes genocide denial, similar to the law now pending in France. A Swiss prosecutor is investigating Bagish's words and his diplomatic status to see if charges could be filed against him for genocide denial.

Of course, it does not take much courage to hide behind the cover of diplomatic immunity and make Don Quixotic statements, challenging the laws of other countries. If Minister Bagish were truly a macho man, he would waive his immunity, go to Switzerland and publicly deny the Armenian Genocide. However, it appears that the feisty

minister has chickened out. After boasting that he would gladly return to Switzerland to deny the Armenian Genocide again, he facetiously declared that he would not go to Switzerland, since he has no money in Swiss banks. The real reason for the minister's abrupt change of heart is his fear of getting arrested should the Swiss prosecutor rule that his diplomatic immunity does not protect him from the crime of genocide denial.

How much longer can Prime Minister Erdogan tolerate Mr. Bagish's clownish antics that make Turkey look like a rogue state in the eyes of the world? Admiring his fluency in English, the prime minister had offered this 41-year-old former New York college student a top ministerial post, not realizing what a liability his loose tongue would prove to be!

Just as President George W. Bush's nonsensical statements became known as "Bushisms," the world now has a rich collection of "Bagishisms." Here is a sampling of his preposterous remarks:

- "What happened in 1915 can't be classified as genocide as far as I'm concerned, but I was not around in 1915!"
- "I'm a politician. My job is to determine the future, not the past!"
- "In recent years, everyone has seen that more Europeans are moving to Turkey than vice versa."

• During a recent conference in Qatar, Minister Bagish became the laughing stock of the audience, when he proudly announced that "Europe" is a Turkish word! The Greek ambassador to Qatar angrily responded: "Europa was one of the lovers of Zeus in Greek mythology, everyone knows that!"

• Minister Bagish does not seem to realize that he is contradicting himself by asking other countries to open their archives to see if there was an Armenian Genocide, while concluding that there was no genocide. The least he could

do is have the decency to keep his mouth shut until the Ottoman archives are fully open. Meanwhile, the archives of other countries have been open for decades.

• Rattling off the witty Americanisms he picked up in the streets of New York, such as "a day late and a dollar short," Bagish told Euronews: "This is execution without trial. Calling the 1915 events a genocide based solely on information we have right now comes from a lobby that nurtures malicious hatred."

• "Germany was a strong ally of the Armenians in 1915, so the Germans should open their archives and give documents to historians for examination," Bagish told EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Fule, according to Hurriyet newspaper. Bagis made two factual errors in one sentence: Germany was the ally of the Ottoman Empire, not Armenians, and the German archives have been open for years.

• "There's no force that could bring about the arrest of any Turkish Minister," Bagish bragged to journalists. Why is he then afraid to waive his diplomatic immunity and then deny the Armenian Genocide in Switzerland?

• Bagish keeps on repeating the falsehood that the Armenian government "did not have the courage to respond to Prime Minister Erdogan's letter requesting the formation of a commission of historians to study the Armenian Genocide." In fact, the then President Kocharian did answer, suggesting that all outstanding issues between the two countries be resolved in the larger context of government-to-government relations. It was the Turkish prime minister that did not respond to Armenia's president.

While Minister Bagish has diplomatic immunity, the rest of Turkey's population does not enjoy such a privilege. It may be a good idea to accord immunity to all 72 million Turks in order to shield them from prosecution, when they utter the words "Armenian Genocide" in Turkey.

The Other Denied Genocides

From Turkey to Guatemala, Nations Deny Worst Crimes

By Daniel Jonah Goldhagen

Like the Holocaust itself, Holocaust denial is a well-known if often misunderstood phenomenon. In its most naked form, it denies the historical fact that during the Nazi period, Germans, helped by many other Europeans such as Ukrainians, sought to kill the Jews of Europe and managed to slaughter roughly 6 million of them. In somewhat less brazen forms, it denies not the Germans' perpetration of the Holocaust in its entirety, but merely central aspects of it, such as that they used gas chambers or that they killed a number close to 6 million Jews. In a still somewhat more attenuated form, Holocaust denial practitioners say little about the events themselves or about the Germans or others who slaughtered Jews, and instead attack survivors or scholars, calling them frauds when they seek nothing more than to tell the truth about what happened.

Holocaust denial consists of more than outright denial of the Holocaust. It includes a variety of attempts to cast doubt on, cover up and confuse people about the Holocaust, in essence to falsify the history of this period and to fabricate a fictitious version, because it serves many people in diverse ways, primarily politically, to have such a fictitious history become accepted. Defenders of the name and honor of Germans or of Ukrainians or other Europeans, anti-Semites, enemies of Israel, propagandists of many stripes and sensibilities, all see the truth about the Holocaust to be inimical to their agendas.

In this sense, the original name that the Holocaust deniers gave themselves, "Holocaust revisionists," is correct insofar as the used a variety of strategies, many of which were not outright denial, to revise (albeit falsely) the understanding of the Nazi period and what the Germans and others did to Jews.

If Holocaust denial is the best-known and most widely practiced form of genocide denial, it is neither the only one nor the oldest. Already this year, in the span of just a few days at the end of January, we saw a few potent examples of the pushback against those who would try to bury the memory of mass murder. The French legislature

criminalized the denial of the Turks' genocide of the Armenians in World War I. A few days later, a Guatemalan judge ruled that the country's former dictator, Jose Efraim Ríos Montt, the mastermind of much of the genocide of 200,000 Mayas in the early 1980s, must face trial, despite the hegemonic denial movement in Guatemala. The International Criminal Court in The Hague also ordered a trial for several of the Kenyan political organizers of the post-election eliminationist assault that in 2008 took the lives of more than 1,000 people and expelled from their homes and ruined the lives of 600,000 more – violence that Kenyan leaders have falsely insisted was simply spontaneous, local and ethnic flare ups. And Baltasar Garzon, the Spanish judge who had exercised the controversial legal doctrine of universal jurisdiction against mass murderers, was himself put on trial in what may be a political vendetta for his having investigated the routinely denied crimes of Francisco Franco's dictatorship, responsible for the death of perhaps 200,000 Spaniards during the middle of the 20th century.

Whatever their differences, these events are each responses to, or the expression of, attempts to deny the large-scale mass murder and eliminationist assaults that took place in each of these countries.

Every denial movement is organized and led by political leaders, often at the helm of a state, who place enormous obstacles to the truth being told or to justice done. Denial movements cast doubt on, and confuse people about, the Hutu mass annihilation of Tutsi in 1994, the Serbs' genocide of Bosniaks in the former Yugoslavia from 1992 to 1994 and, in China, the colossal mass murders perpetrated by the communists under Mao Zedong.

The Turks' denial of their slaughter of 1.5 million Armenians is the oldest, most consistent and, probably, most effective large-scale genocide denial phenomenon. It differs from Holocaust denial in that Turkey has actually criminalized telling the truth about the Genocide and the Turkish state, whether under military or civilian, secular or religious leadership, has continuously made falsifying this history a central foreign policy stance, threatening and sanctioning and influencing countries and individu-

als (including scholars) who would otherwise speak the truth about it. Germany, for all its shortcomings, serves as a model of honesty for its political leaders and elites, in acknowledging the past, in its media's extensive treatment of Holocaust themes, in its educational system's instruction and in making amends with the survivors. While Germans have all been confronted repeatedly with the truth about their countrymen's perpetration of the Holocaust, most Turks have been fed lies by their government, have never been exposed to how their countrymen exterminated Armenians and believe that claims about the genocide are merely attempts to blacken Turkey's name.

Survivors of all genocides say the same thing: We want the truth told.

We want people to know what happened so that it will not happen to others. I heard this again and again from survivors around the world when working on my film "Worse Than War," including in Guatemala, where survivors also called for Ríos Montt to be put on trial. When I interviewed Montt for the film, he defiantly said, "If I was responsible, I would be in jail," implying that his freedom proved his innocence. Now his claim rings even hollow. Now his surviving victims may get their wish. Now the powerful denial movement in Guatemala, which for decades obscured even the basic facts of the genocide, should be powerfully counteracted.

We should honor the survivors' wishes everywhere for truth and justice, and this means that, whatever the momentary political costs, we must insist that the truth be told about all genocides, the Turks' murder of the Armenians included. Those who fail to do so perpetrate a moral and human scandal, and cast a bad light on themselves and others when they rightly condemn and combat Holocaust denial.

(Daniel Jonah Goldhagen is the author of *Worse Than War: Genocide, Eliminationism, and the Ongoing Assault on Humanity*, which is the basis of a PBS documentary of the same name. His work can be read at goldhagen.com. This commentary originally appeared in the February 15 issue of *The Jewish Daily*. *Worse than War* was reviewed by Daphne Abeel for the *Mirror-Spectator* in the January 9, 2010 edition of the newspaper.)



Sargisian Participates in Convention Of Homeland Defenders Union

VETERANS, from page 1

border itself. The homeland defender is a parent who spread his wings over the fires, covered the blow with his own body as long as was need for his child – the young Armenian Army – to grow up and mature. On September 21 that very Army, its young and mature men and women marched proudly down the Republic Square. It was thanks to you, folks, thanks to all our folks and thanks to our nation, its struggle, deprivations, and unbending spirit.

Honor and glory to them all, all those who are not here today. And certainly, honor and glory to the folks who fell on the battlefield and yet continue to bring up generations through their spirit and their example: Everlasting glory to their memory

Long live those who reinforce the power of our pivot. That pivot is created of the material, which makes the Armenian brand, the Armenian system of values. That pivot originates from the depths of times.

At the critical times for the Armenian nation, at the times of life and death challenges, taut strings of the Armenian bows were ringing again and again. And that calling awakened the bearers of a rebellious and righteous Armenian character. In one night that call turns the people of the most peaceful occupations, most peaceful Armenian laborers – teachers, farmers, journalists, tractor drivers and workers – into warriors and courageous commanders. They become an unbending and adamant willpower and rise against the enemy. That's how it was from Hayots Dzor to Shushi, from Avarayr to Sardarapat, from Vaspurakan to Bash Aparan and Karvachar. It will be that way again in the centuries to come, if the foe's sudden sword attempts to darken the Armenian skies again.

At the end of the last century, the world had witnessed once again transformation of the Armenian, who this time emerged as a volunteer defender of the homeland. When an Armenian volunteer was asked in bewilderment, "You have five children, how can you go to war?" he responded, "I go to this war because I have five children, so that they live in a safe country."

The fist of the Armenian homeland defend-

ers crashed the backbone of the enemy's phalanx, brought the enemy to his knees and enforced him into peace.

Homeland defender's spirit and skills forged at the battlefield became the Armenian Army. Heroism of the brave, who fell at the battlefield, became a lesson of patriotism for the thousands of children who are being educated



General Manvel Grigorian (L) addresses a congress of his Yerkrpah Union of Nagorno-Karabagh war veterans in Yerevan.

and will be educated in the Armenian schools. Combat brotherhood of the homeland defenders has become an anchor of social accord, which would lend a hand to our society in times of need. And such days have not been few in the last two decades. The hand was landed by the nation, which was standing at the brink of rift and which supported by this unyielding pivot of values would conquer every dividing line and re-find the road of advancement.

The homeland defender came back home. He returned to his peaceful work, his pen and shovel. The lecturer stood before his abandoned audience, the student occupied his sit in auditorium. The homeland defender assumed the leadership of the country and rode his neglected tractor. Today, looking at a scrawny and humble toiling peasant in a distant village somewhere in Tavush, who is not

too tall, salt-and-pepper already in his hair, and it's hard to believe that you're facing a man who inspired awe into the enemy during the Artsakh war years. The homeland defender participated also in the arduous job of the army building, giving his experience and confidence to young soldiers and commanders.

He was filled and filled the entire nation

organization, which is concerned with the future of our country and our nation, which is far away from opportunism and has its precise and principled stance on every critical issue we face.

Present in this hall are individuals, who at the time of danger showed no fear, for whom Armenia and Artsakh are above politics and everything else. I repeat, everything else. Many of them are my fellow comrades in arms, and I am proud of it.

But the victory has not finished but has given a start to a new task – building of a free and just Armenia.

Today, there are processes underway in our country, which will positively change the country, providing it with characteristics that befit a country of the 21st century civilization. This is a call of the times, and there is no other way for Armenia to develop. It's a huge and strenuous task, but we will accomplish it. We will accomplish it standing shoulder-to-shoulder; united we will succeed.

Armenia is entering a new course of development. We are building a new country, a new society and a new citizen. Discipline and freedom, public order and democracy – they complement and condition each other. The citizen of Armenia will be as free as law-abiding.

All strata of our society demand a free and just country; they demand also a rule of law, not in the future but here and now. And they are right.

Meanwhile, there are individuals among us who overestimate their abilities, who simply abuse the difficulties; there are also impatient and suspicious ones, whose faith has been shaken because they met with injustice or lawlessness. We have to continue to change, restoring our faith – faith in our own strength, our country and future for Armenia.

The country is changing by day. Many negative phenomena, which were habitual yesterday, today are extinct. Some of negative

with the confidence of his leader, the Sparapet that "the beginning of the 21st century will see the formation of the new type of Armenian, who will be become the carrier of its national ideology, void of the inferiority fears, daring, confident, with a glorious history behind his shoulders, and with the horizons in front..."

And this nation, which has countless centuries to come, will remember for a long, long time the wisdom of the homeland defender, as he put it, "There cannot be a former homeland defender; if needed, for our fatherland we

Armenian War Veterans Pledge Election Support For Sargisian

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profile gathering. "Dear comrades-in-arms, let us welcome the president of the republic, Serge Sargisian, who is present in the auditorium."

"We believe and trust you and stand by your efforts to meet challenges facing our country," he said.

Speaking at an ensuing news conference Grigorian did not deny that the Yerkrpah leadership will help Sargisian's Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) win the parliamentary elections due in May. "We said nothing about the Republican Party. But the president is our comrade-in-arms and we will stand by him," he said.

"Do not forget that he was our defense minister during the heavy fighting in 1993-1994," he added. "We executed his orders during the war. He didn't leave us on the battlefield and we didn't betray him, carrying out all of his orders."

The remarks highlighted a dramatic turnaround in Grigorian's stance since Armenia's last presidential election held in February 2008. Many Yerkrpah members backed Ter-Petrosian, the main opposition candidate, and actively participated in his post-election demonstrations. Grigorian was thought to have approved of that.

Ter-Petrosian publicly called the mustachioed general a national hero and said the latter will make sure that the Armenian army is not used for suppressing the opposition street protests against alleged vote rigging. Acting at the behest of outgoing President Robert Kocharian, more than a dozen top Armenian army officers terminated their membership in Yerkrpah in the following days, accusing Grigorian of allow-

ing the opposition to use his organization for "dishonest political purposes."

Grigorian was sacked as deputy defense minister in April 2008, one month after the military helped the Kocharian-Sargisian duo quell the protests. Sargisian publicly accused him at the time of refusing to obey Kocharian's orders.

The Yerkrpah leader afterwards repeatedly denied having any links with the Ter-Petrosian-led opposition. In February 2010, he pledged allegiance to Sargisian and made sure that virtually all opposition backers are excluded from a new Yerkrpah board.

Yerkrpah had enjoyed substantial political clout in Armenia until the October 1999 assassination of its founder, Prime Minister Vazgen Sargisian (no relation to the president). It has lost much of that influence since then.

Levon Zurabian, a top aide to Ter-Petrosian, pointed to Yerkrpah's diminished role in Armenian politics as he commented on the electoral backing promised to Sargisian. "The fact that the authorities are trying to clinch statements from forces having zero role in politics shows that the authorities are very worried," Zurabian said.

Zurabian claimed that most war veterans continue to support Ter-Petrosian's Armenian National Congress (HAK) alliance. "Today all individuals, senior commanders who participated in the war are with the [opposition] movement," he said.

Yerkrpah's stance was also criticized by Armen Martirosian, a leader of the opposition Zharangutyun (Heritage) party. He said it is "unacceptable" for a supposedly apolitical organization to openly side with one of the election contenders.



From right, Vigen Sargsyan, chief of staff, Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan, President Serge Sargisian and President of Volunteer Homeland Defenders Union General Manvel Grigorian

and our friends are ready to put on our uniforms again." (M. Grigorian). Dear Manvel, let God grant us no necessity to do that.

Being a non-political organization, the Union of Homeland Defenders in our society has been holding a social and even political weight and role. Let's admit that at times there were also conflicting views about the Defenders. A person returning from a war has been having serious problems in all times related to the accommodation to a peaceful life, problems related to finding a place and role in the new milieu. These problems are psychological, as well as public and social. Today, with the years' experience before our eyes, we can state that the Union of Homeland Defenders was predominantly able to solve this problem. Moreover, the Homeland Defenders have always been dignified as befits the soldier of the fatherland. Social and political behavior of the Union of the Homeland Defenders has been having its positive influence on our society. The atmosphere in our country is also shaped by their civil position.

Today, in the form of the Union, we have an

trends expanded, some new have come into existence. Changes will first of all be aimed at eradicating them. We have taken the course of Armenia's comprehensive modernization. Modernization will affect our political and legal structure, our industry, education and science. We have to become a modern nation, which is competitive and is ready to face the challenges of the current times.

Armenia is a country of victorious people. It simply cannot be poor or backward. In a country of victorious people, the person's dignity cannot be abused. We see that everywhere in the world, almost every nation stood up for its dignity. We were among the first who did it and have to achieve results faster.

Distinguished Homeland Defenders,

People in this hall symbolize the human and national dignity at its best. You had gone to battle armed with that dignity. You live with it. We are building a new Armenia, which will personify our human and national dignity. I have no doubt that we will succeed. To succeed, we have to believe. We have to believe to carry on with the changes.

Stay firm, folks. I wish you every success.