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Mass. Governor Re-nominates Joseph Berman For Judgeship

By Colleen Quinn

BOSTON (*Weston Town Crier*) – A controversial judicial candidate whose bid for the bench was blocked by the Governor's Council will get another shot to convince them of his qualifications after Gov. Deval Patrick withdrew and resubmitted his nomination on Tuesday.

Joseph Berman, whom Patrick nominated for a seat on the superior court, came under fire from members of the council for his role at the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), his hefty campaign contributions to Democrats and his representation of a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay detention camp.

The national ADL refused to recognize the early 20th century Armenian genocide – a fact that led some council members to criticize Berman for holding a high-ranking position in the organization. Some councilors thought he should have resigned from an organization that did not recognize the Armenian genocide. He was questioned
see NOMINATION, page 16

An Ideal(ist) House Candidate from NYC

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

NEW YORK – Jeff Kurzon loves New York. Even more than the city he has called home for almost a decade, he loves its residents.

The progressive Democrat is taking that commitment further, combining it with his strong sense of ethics, to launch a campaign to represent his district in Washington. He is seeking to unseat the current representative of the city's Seventh District, Nydia Velázquez (D), in the primary this June.

Kurzon praised the incumbent on several points, but said the main difference between the two was that Velasquez was beholden to banking and financial institutions, such as Goldman Sachs.

Kurzon prides himself as being the only federal candidate who will not take any PAC (political action committee) or lobbyist money.

see KURZON, page 8



Jeff Kurzon

Fallen Abington Marine Honored in Natick

By Brian Benson

NATICK, Mass. (*Daily News*) – For Mark Vasselian, the pain of losing his son is still fresh.

"A piece of us had been ripped away from us," Vasselian said of losing US Marine Sgt. Daniel Vasselian of Abington in December.

But, Vasselian said the grief is a little easier to manage when he feels support from

About two-dozen veterans, Vasselian family members and others gathered in front of the memorial, which lists the name of every Massachusetts resident killed in action in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and Natick residents who died in many prior conflicts.

Vasselian, 27, was killed December 23, 2013 in an ambush in Afghanistan.

Vasselian was serving his third combat tour of duty, family members told The Enterprise newspaper after his death.

He was the first Abington resident killed in combat in more than 40 years, said Paul Carew, Natick's veterans services director.

"While I never had the honor or pleasure to meet Sgt. Vasselian, I am sure all here present know the brotherhood of all those who served as Marines," said Carew, who served in the Marines. "There is no such thing as an ex-Marine. (We're) brothers and sisters forever."

US Army Capt. Justin Fitch, the commander of Natick's American

Legion post, said Vasselian had just returned from a mission but volunteered for what would be his last mission because he did not want to see another soldier get hurt.

"He didn't have to. He volunteered to put his life on the line for his brothers," Fitch said. "That is truly heroic."

Mark Vasselian said his family was touched by the tribute.

"I'm very proud of my son and I'm at a loss for words," he said.



Erin Vasselian, wife of Sgt. Daniel Vasselian, is given a citation from the Senate during the unveiling of Marine Sgt. Daniel Vasselian's name on the Fallen Heroes memorial at the Natick VFW.

people who had never even met his son. That happened outside the Natick Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post Sunday when veterans unveiled Daniel Vasselian's name on a memorial.

"I appreciate the outpouring of support from people here in Natick who didn't know my son," said Mark Vasselian, who drove to Natick from New Hampshire for the ceremony. "To have his name honored here at this memorial means a whole lot."

TCA Benefactor Eleanor Dickranian Dies

LOS ANGELES – Eleanor Dickranian, the benefactor of the Tekeyan Cultural Association's Arshag Dickranian School (ADS) here, died on Sunday, February 16,



at age 101. She was two days shy of her 102nd birthday.

In 2012, the school, named for her late husband, established a Centennial Fund in honor of her milestone birthday.

She leaves two daughters, Cindy Norian and Laurel Karabian, and their families.

Arrangements have not been finalized as of this writing.

A more detailed obituary will appear next week.

Azerbaijan again Violates Ceasefire

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Azerbaijani side on February 18 again violated the ceasefire regime opening fire towards Paravakar-Vazashen road, the spokesperson of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Armenia, Artsrun Hovhannisyan, reported.

Hovhannisyan also reported that there were no injuries.

Last Survivor of Armenian Genocide Living in Italy Dies

CERCHIARA, Italy (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Sergio (Sarkis) Musceghian, the last survivor of the Armenian Genocide here, in the southern Italian province of Calabria, died last week at age 98.

As Paris-based journalist Jean Eckian said that Musceghian was born on November 4, 1916. At age 4, he was roaming the streets of Constantinople when he was taken in by Italian missionaries. He lived most of his life between Puglia and Calabria.

In his eulogy, Cerchiara Mayor Antonio Carlomagno paid tribute to the man "of great dignity and moral rectitude."

"The community of Cerchiara di Calabria had the pleasure and honor of meeting Sarkis during commemoration of the victims of the greatest tragedy of Armenian people, still waiting for the historic justice," Carlomagno said.

In the last years of his life, Musceghian devoted much of his time to participating in the Armenian Genocide commemorative events. "I cannot miss an opportunity to speak of the fate of my people," he used to say.

The home village of Musceghian in Italy, Nor Arax (Bari) inaugurated a *Khatckar* in tribute to the victims of the Genocide in January 2013.

Turkey May Lift Blockade, Open Armenia Border

YEREVAN (Tert.am) – *Aksam* newspaper reports that Turkey is launching border checkpoints for two of its neighbors, Iran and Armenia.

According to the Turkish service of The Voice of Russia, the country continues its demining activities in the border areas. In the meantime, modernization activities are under way on the Iranian and Armenian borders.

The Zurich Protocols signed between Turkey and Armenia (for the normalization of bilateral ties and the opening of the closed border) in October 2009 were never ratified. Ankara put a stop to ratifying them in the wake Azerbaijan pressures, linking the process with the unresolved Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (which is unrelated to the protocols).

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Aloha to Truth

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Ghulyan: NKR Settlement Impossible without Participation of Artsakh

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The President of the National Assembly of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic, President of the Artsakh Democratic Party Ashot Ghulyan on February 17 hosted members of the Armenian-British Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by John Whittingdale.

During the course of the meeting Ghulyan, at the request of the guests, spoke about the position of Artsakh authorities on the Azerbaijani-Karabagh conflict.

Ghulyan said that the occurring on the Karabakh and Azerbaijani contact line in the recent period and militant statements of Azerbaijan prove that the latter's attitude is hindering the peaceful resolution of the conflict. He said that the complete settlement of the conflict is not possible without the immediate participation of NKR. At the end of the meeting the sides agreed to continue discussions both in Stepanakert and in London.

Regular Air Travel to Link Armenia and Turkmenistan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Head of the General Department for Civil Aviation Artyom Movsesyan on February 6 introduced an agreement on "Air communication between the Republic of Armenia and Turkmenistan."

Movsesyan noted that the agreement will serve as a legal basis for the formation of regular air travel and will contribute to the further development of economic and cultural ties between the two countries. "To carry out regular air communication in the defined routes the sides can appoint one or more airline companies and can have freedom rights to move from point to point," Movsesyan noted.

Benin's Ambassador Presents Credentials to President

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The newly-appointed Ambassador of the Republic of Benin to the Republic of Armenia Aniset Gabriel Kochofa (based in Moscow) handed his credentials to President Serge Sargsian. The President's Office reported that Sargsian congratulated Kochofa on assuming the office and stated that Armenia attaches importance to the political dialogue and contacts with Africa, including Benin.

The interlocutors expressed hope that the two countries will manage to develop mutually profitable cooperation in the economic, scientific-cultural and other spheres after establishing the necessary legal- contractual frameworks.

Agriculture Minister Stresses Need for Greenhouse

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Minister of Agriculture Sergo Karapetyan considers it necessary to get more harvest from greenhouses. On February 18, Karapetyan visited a greenhouse in Ghukasavan Village in the Ararat Marz (province). "Our aim is to get a bigger harvest from one square meter of the greenhouse. If in the European countries they get about 80-100 kilograms of tomatoes and cucumbers from one square meter of the greenhouse, we get only 18 kilograms," Karapetyan.

He added that to reduce the expenses and the production costs it is necessary to increase the fertility.

Karapetyan stressed that the government encourages the establishment of the greenhouses in accordance with the defined procedure. Karapetyan walked around the greenhouses in which tomatoes and lemons were growing got acquainted with the conditions and problems.

Armenia Joins World Wide Lightning Location Network

YEREVAN – The Cosmic Ray Division (CRD) of the Yerevan Physics Institute operates a unique geophysical network of environmental monitors. The network is unusual due to the numerous climatic zones in Armenia, with high mountains together with high mountain lakes, and frequent severe lightning storms. This network is instrumented with electric field strength meters, lightning detectors, meteorological stations, and advanced cosmic ray particle detectors designed in Armenia. Young Armenian students and recent graduates play a key part of Armenia's research in this field.

In the fall of 2013 the CRD joined the World Wide Lightning Location Network (WWLLN), managed by the Department of Earth and Space Sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle, Wash. This network detects very low frequency (VLF) radio waves emitted by lightning strikes. Research in this field has a number of applications in the scientific, commercial and government sectors. It could provide a better understanding of the electric currents circulating the globe at very high altitudes, shed light on global warming and atmospheric discharges, and provide warnings of severe storms and hail for agriculture. This past summer, many Armenian farmers suffered severe hail damage to their crops.

Upon joining the WWLLN the CRD



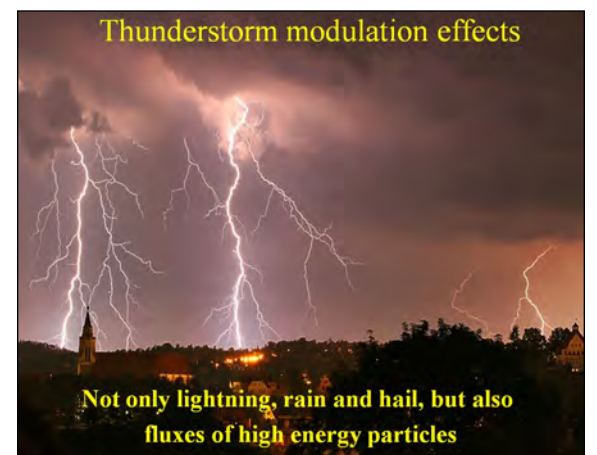
Some of CRD's new crops of scientists, from left, are Ashot Hovhannisyanyan, Levon Vanyan, Hripsime Mkrtchyan, Hasmik Rostomyan, Tatev Sargsyan, and Tigran Karapetyan.

installed monitoring stations in Yerevan, on the slope of Mt. Aragats, and near Lake Sevan. Localization of lightning strikes requires the precise timing of the VLF radio signals by at least 5 monitoring stations. The geographical location of these stations is extremely important. The stations in Armenia fill a crucial void as there are no other stations for thousands of kilometers to the east or west and the nearest station to the southwest is in Tel-Aviv. Thus Armenia's stations are extremely important. Integration of Armenia's stations into the WWLLN will help Armenia calibrate its stations and will provide enhanced research world-wide.

As with all other CRD projects, CRD's young scientists play an integral role in this project. Recent post-doctoral students, Levon Vanyan and Tigran Karapetyan, are already making their mark in the field, having received a number of invitations to present their important research at international scientific conferences.

Hripsime Mkrtchyan, who received her master's degree last year, has entered the PhD program at the Yerevan Physics

Institute specializing in Cosmic Ray Physics, with Yerevan Physics Institute's director Prof. Ashot Chilingarian as her advisor. She is one of the Kirakos Vaporciyan scholars, supported by the Kirakos Vaporciyan scholarship endow-



Thunderstorm modulation effects: not only lightning, rain and hail, but also showers of high energy particles.

Southern Railway Plans Being Drawn

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian on February 18 received the delegation led by the chairman of Rasia Group, Joseph K. Borkowski. During the course of the meeting the draft for Armenia's Southern Railway construction, its economic and technical justification were discussed.

The length of the railway will be around 300 kilometers, according to the government press office. It will consist of bridges, 60 tunnels, and 27 stations.

The construction of the railway is initially assessed to be \$3.2 billion. The construction is envisaged to last up to 6 years. According to the introduced draft, construction activities can start in 2016 and end in 2022.

"We need to work out a "road map" for the implementation of work activities to make the draft real," Sargsian said.

Correction

An article in the Armenian Mirror-Spectator last week incorrectly identified Archbishop Aris Shirvanian. Archbishop Shirvanian is the director of ecumenical relations at the Jerusalem Patriarchate, while Archbishop Nourhan Manougian is the Patriarch in Jerusalem.

UK Parliamentary Delegation Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Hovik Abrahamyan hosted the visiting delegation of the British Group of the Interparliamentary Union on February 18, headed by John Whittingdale (House of Commons of the Parliament of the Great Britain).

The National Assembly of Armenia reported that Abrahamyan praised the increasingly close ties between Armenia and Great Britain.

He highlighted the participation of the government and the public organizations of Great Britain in Armenian programs and considered the establishment of the Armenia-UK Chamber of Commerce in Yerevan to be an achievement. Concerning the development and expansion of the Armenian-UK cooperation, Abrahamyan stated: "We greatly

value the interparliamentary cooperation between Armenia and UK, as the parliamentary diplomacy between the countries is one of the most important levers to develop the dialogue. We are interested in the development of the interparliamentary cooperation." Earlier that day the British Group of the Interparliamentary Union visited the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. At the Eternal Flame, the members of the delegation laid flowers at the memorial and with a minute of silence commemorated one and a half million of Armenians fallen in the Genocide. The deputy of the House of Commons of the Parliament of the Great Britain Stephen Pound noted that they have come here to show that the world never forgets about the Armenian Genocide.



INTERNATIONAL

Russian Volunteers Smuggle Sochi Strays to New Life Far from Olympics

By Will Englund

TUAPSE, Russia (*Washington Post*) — The purple Chrysler PT Cruiser sped through the night, barreling around rain-slicked hairpin curves on a clandestine rescue mission. It was 3 a.m. Ahead glared the harsh lights of a security check point. Sochi was 60 miles behind. This was the outer edge of the “Ring of Steel” guarding the Olympics, and the Chrysler was aiming to get past it, to break free into the vast Russian countryside that lies beyond.

The back of the car was crowded with uneasy, bewildered passengers. Most were drooling out of anxiety. One had thrown up several times, but at this moment of truth she reassuringly laid her right front paw on the shoulder of the human sitting in front of her.

The car sped past the police.

Six more lives were saved.

Okay, the Ring of Steel isn’t actually designed to keep cars or people — or dogs — on the inside. It’s supposed to keep unwanted, unaccredited and unwelcome visitors out. But that’s why the Chrysler had to make this trip, along the mountainous Black Sea coast that runs northwest from Sochi.

The 2014 Winter Games have made the packs of stray dogs wandering on the streets of Sochi and around the arenas more visible and vulnerable than ever. The city tried to step up its years-old effort to get rid of the canines, with exterminators shooting poison darts at any loose dogs they found. That provoked dog lovers to escalate the resistance.

On this night, the Chrysler had a rendezvous with volunteers from Moscow, who had just driven 1,000 miles to Tuapse, which was as far as they could legally go without Olympics credentials. They planned to fill their vehicles with dogs and then turn right around and drive 1,000 miles back, delivering these

in a bid to save as many dogs — and cats, too — as possible. Filippova and a friend are lodging 24 dogs in temporary foster homes for \$150 a month, plus food and medicine, paid for by donations. She has four dogs in her own apartment. Over the past two years, she said, she has helped rescue 500 canines.

“Mostly we rescue dogs in trouble — dogs who have been abused, or have been in an accident, or puppies without their mothers, or dogs in a dangerous

Last week, Mayboroda’s shelter started to receive financial support from Oleg Deripaska, a Russian oligarch who had a hand in Olympics construction. Also, the city, taking note of unflattering news reports about killing dogs, is building its own small showcase shelter next to hers, and has asked the exterminating company to catch and deliver live animals to fill it.

But Mayboroda wonders whether the effort can be sustained past the

(AP PHOTO)



Stray dogs brought out of Sochi by activist Yulia Krasova wait to be transferred to the car of fellow activist Igor Airapetyan at a rendezvous point in Tuapse, Russia.

place,” she said. In other words, dogs living in a place where someone might call in the exterminators.

On the Moscow end, the indefatigable road warrior is Igor Airapetyan, 41. In January, he drove down from Moscow and took 11 Sochi dogs back with him. On Monday night, here in Tuapse, he and three co-conspirators took the six dogs from the Chrysler — one of them pregnant — and 18 others from four other cars.

“If somebody doesn’t do it, nobody will do it,” Airapetyan said, before he started hefting one mangy animal after

Olympics. “You won’t change the situation in one month or two,” she said.

Mayboroda echoed a notion common among Russians: that dogs are innocent and shouldn’t be made to suffer because of the cruelties and negligence of human society. Caring for dogs can seem like an outlet for a more general frustration with life here.

“I don’t need money. I don’t need anything. I just love animals,” said Nina Stoyanovski, a volunteer at the shelter. “It’s what my soul needs. I can’t bear to see them die.”

On the drizzly and deserted street corner in Tuapse, dawn was still hours away. Under a lone streetlight, Airapetyan held a smallish dirty-white mongrel and began nuzzling her, his nose to her ear. She nuzzled back, and then he said that he was going to adopt her, to live with him at his home 15 miles south of Moscow.

Through social media, he had already found families willing to take the other dogs in — Krasnodar, Voronezh, Lipetsk, Tver and even St. Petersburg, another 400 miles beyond Moscow. It was going to be a long trip back.

Filippova said Airapetyan provided strong references when he first proposed the dog-lift in January. She was satisfied that the first batch had been well taken care of.

This time, he brought a large load of donated dog food and medicine for the local volunteers to take back to Sochi with them. He also brought a dog — a ferocious Doberman pinscher making the reverse journey, sent by a St. Petersburg family to its owner in Sochi. Vladislava Provotorova, a 31-year-old dentist, got the Doberman into her Toyota Camry, which is equipped with a barricade between the front and back seats, and sped off down the coast. The Chrysler followed close behind. Local license plates assured their passage back through the Ring of Steel.

A gray dawn had broken by the time the partisans caught sight of Sochi.

Airapetyan weighed in 24 hours later on Facebook — still on the road, men and dogs tired and thirsty, miles yet to go.



(AP PHOTO)

Stray dogs brought out of Sochi by activist Yulia Krasova wait to be transferred to the car of fellow activist Igor Airapetyan at a rendezvous point in Tuapse, Russia.

Sochi strays from seemingly certain extermination.

The transfer had been arranged on the Olympics end by Dina Filippova, a 28-year-old part-time lawyer in Sochi who quit a job in construction management when she realized she cared more for dogs than buildings.

“I found six puppies in the park across the street,” she said. “I didn’t know about the shooting then. I thought dogs lived happily on the street.”

She found out otherwise. Sochi has a large and continually replenished population of strays, and for seven years the city had just one dog policy: paying exterminators to kill them.

Filippova joined with other advocates

another into the back of his Korean minivan. “This won’t solve the problem, but we’re trying to attract attention to it. And a life is a life. Saving even one life is important.”

Dog advocates point out that the culling of strays in Sochi was happening long before the Olympics began to take shape. But they’ve been happy to exploit the publicity that comes with the Games.

Nadezhda Mayboroda, 39, a private tutor who opened her own shelter on a steep hillside outside town, with more than 100 dogs in residence, agrees that neither dog-lifts nor shelters will solve Sochi’s dog problem, which requires a concerted sterilization effort. But the efforts do help.

International News

Argentinean Armenians To Mark Sumgait Anniv.

BUENOS AIRES (Armenpress) — A rally will be held in here on February 26 on the occasion of the anniversary of the massacres of the Armenians in Sumgait, Kirovabad and Baku.

The Armenia Youth Federation of South America reported that the protest action will be held in front of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Buenos Aires. “The rally is directed to the Azerbaijani government, which continues its attacks on Armenia and Karabagh.

“Twenty six years ago Azerbaijan unleashed the massacres of the Armenians in Sumgait, which was the continuation of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 carried out by Turkey. We are filled with determination to achieve justice,” the group’s statement indicated.

Argentina recognized the Armenian Genocide in 2007.

Armenia and Iraq to Establish Closer Ties

BAGHDAD (Armenpress) — Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian paid an official visit to Baghdad on February 16. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq Hoshyar Zebari welcomed Nalbandian to the country. The ceremony of welcoming was followed by the brief private conversation between the ministers.

On February 17 Nalbandian was hosted by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Al-Maliki stated that his country is interested in the development of ties with Armenia in all possible spheres and highlighted that there is a huge potential for it.

Nalbandian expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and highlighted that the ties between the Armenian and Iraqi peoples have a long history. He said, “We highly appreciate the relations between our two friendly peoples and states and we want its further development and this is the main goal of my visit.”

Al-Maliki and Nalbandian held detailed discussions on the issues regarding the expansion of the legal-contractual field between the two countries, promoting cooperation in the economic, educational, healthcare, agricultural and other spheres, as well as the steps aimed at the establishment of direct air travel between Armenia and Iraq.

Hungary Armenians Plan Erecting Monument to Slain Armenian Soldier

BUDAPEST (Armenpress) — An event dedicated to the 10th anniversary of death of Armenian officer Gurgen Margaryan, who was killed by Azerbaijani criminal Ramil Safarov, was scheduled to be held on February 19 in the Armenian Cultural Centre of Hungary. The chairman of the Armenian Cultural Centre of Hungary, Nikoghos Hakobyan, stated that the representatives of the Armenian community will place flowers by the cross-stone near the Danube River. After, the Hungarian public activists, who paid a visit to Armenia after Safarov’s extradition and apologized to Margaryan’s parents, were scheduled to deliver speeches at the Armenian Cultural Centre of Hungary.

Hakobyan said: “We are planning to erect a monument dedicated to Gourgen Margaryan’s memory in the academy. We intend to apply to the Ministry of Defense for the permission, so that we could start the activities.”

Safarov was sentenced to life imprisonment for killing Margaryan in his sleep in Budapest in 2004. He was transferred to his home country in 2012 under an extradition agreement. Although Azerbaijan pledged that the life sentence handed down to him in Hungary would continue when he was returned to his homeland, the Azerbaijani president granted him a pardon and formally recognized him as a “national hero” upon his arrival.

Armenian President Serge Sargsian announced the same day that Armenia suspended diplomatic relations with Hungary.

Community News

Hawaii Legislators Reject Azerbaijani Resolutions

HONOLULU, Hawaii – The Hawaii legislature publicly debated and then rejected a pair of Azerbaijan-initiated anti-Armenian measures, dealing a high-profile setback to Baku's well-funded effort to enlist US state legislatures in its increasingly aggressive campaign against Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.

"We want to thank Aloha State legislators, long known for their commitment to tolerance and human rights, for their wisdom in blocking Baku's efforts to manipulate Hawaii and take advantage of the good name of her citizens," said Executive Director of the Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region (ANCA-WR) Elen Asatryan. "Today's vote sends a powerful signal that Azerbaijan's corrupt and undemocratic President Ilham Aliyev – despite all the millions he's spending

Key Committee Blocks Baku's Bid to Secure Adoption of Anti-Armenian Measures

on 'caviar diplomacy' – doesn't get a vote here in America and certainly doesn't deserve the right to buy influence in the US government," added Asatryan.

The Hawaii House of Representatives Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts rejected the two anti-Armenian resolutions during their committee hearing earlier last week at the State Capitol, despite the ardent efforts of Committee Chairman Mark Takei, who was an author of the bills. Both biased and factually-flawed measures were reportedly introduced at the bequest of the Azerbaijani government, a major breach of diplomatic protocol, confirmed publicly by state Rep. Rida Cabanilla, who was quoted in *Civil Beat*, a Hawaii publication, as saying that: "The resolutions came from Elin Suleymanov, Azerbaijan's ambassador to the United States."

Civil Beat further reported that Hawaiians looking for the reasoning behind the introduction of such unlikely resolutions in the State of Hawaii may look trips taken to Baku last May by Representatives Cabanilla and Mark Takai, committee chairman, who joined more than 300 others from the US at the US-Azerbaijan Convention, courtesy of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which spent nearly \$8,000 for the two legislators' visit.

When he was questioned about the trip last summer, Takai said, "There's nothing in the Legislature now that would directly benefit Azerbaijan, so it passes the ethics concern." This contention was clearly unfounded, as the measures under consideration today clearly would have, if passed, directly benefited Azerbaijan.

Despite the resources expended on the measure by the Azerbaijani government, the most persuasive voices of the day belonged to three members of the local Armenian-American community, including: Arpine Philian Mar, an 82-year-old retiree, Arthur Martirosian and Ani Martirosian, an active community leader who was instrumental in organizing her fellow citizens to speak out on these measures.

Following the hearing, during which she had delivered a compelling, comprehensive, and persuasive argument before the Committee, Ani Martirosian said, "I'd like this to be an example for all Armenians – and other underrepresented groups – around the world that our voices do matter. We must stay vigilant to recognize the attempts made to falsify our history, and we need to then take peaceful and meaningful

see HAWAII, page 7



Mount Davidson Cross

Banquet Benefits San Francisco's Mount Davidson Cross

SAN FRANCISCO – The Council of Armenian American Organizations of Northern California (CAAONC), owner of the Mount Davidson cross in San Francisco, hosted a banquet on Saturday, February 1, at the Saroyan Hall. The purpose was to benefit the Mount Davidson Cross, the tallest Armenian Genocide Memorial in the world. CAAONC is comprised of all of the churches and organizations of Northern California and maintains, protects and preserves the Cross. The evening included a musical presentation by the Mazamian Family, a keynote speaker Prof. Ayda Erbal, Guest of Honor Archbishop Aris Shirvanyan, a silent auction and dinner.

The evening began with welcoming remarks from the chairman of the council, Chuck Paskerian. In his remarks were updates from the council regarding the website, a promotional video, a new partnership with San Francisco Travel, inclusion in tourist guidebooks, power considerations, and the recently added link on the website for online donations. Paskerian then introduced the banquet chair and MC for the evening Judy Jingirian. Jingirian graciously thanked all the individuals that were involved from the very beginning, the founding members, as well as other individuals that devoted their time to make the purchase of the Cross a reality.

The talented Mazamian Family Musical Ensemble captured the audience's attention with their delightful performance. Greg, Ida, Eddy and Rose played melodies from Anoush Opera, Dance of the Spirit, Fisherman of Sevan and Lezinga.

Erbal, adjunct professor at New York University, Department of Politics, who teaches Middle Eastern Politics, spoke about Turkey's ongoing denial of the

see CROSS, page 5



Prof. Ayda Erbal and Chuck Paskerian

Jewish University Program Highlights Armenian Genocide And Auschwitz

BEL AIR, Calif. – Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and in conjunction with the 44th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches, a special program, "Armenia, Auschwitz and Beyond," will be presented Monday, March 10, on the Familian Campus of the American Jewish University, 15600 Mulholland Drive.

The program begins at 7:30 p.m. and is open to the public, with the entire community invited. Admission is free but reservations are required.

The program will be held at the Gindi Auditorium in the Main Building.

The featured speakers are Richard Hovannisian (University of California, Los Angeles), Stephen Smith (University of Southern California) and Michael Berenbaum, (American Jewish University).

Hovannisian is Professor of Modern Armenian History, a past holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Chair at UCLA and currently Chancellor's Fellow at Chapman University in Orange County. The recent recipient of the UCLA Alumni Association's "Most Inspiring Teacher" award, he is internationally acclaimed for his advancement of Armenian Studies. His extensive scholarly publications have placed the Armenian Genocide into broader Near Eastern, European and Russian contexts.

Smith, is the executive director of the USC Shoah Foundation - The Institute for Visual History and Education, as well as the UNESCO Chair on Genocide Education. A theologian by training, he continues to be involved in memorial projects around the world and lectures widely on issues relating to the history and collective response to the Holocaust, genocide and crimes against humanity. He recently presented the keynote speech at the United Nations on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Berenbaum, a world authority on the history of the Holocaust, is professor of Jewish Studies at the American Jewish University and executive director of the Sigi Zering Institute, a think tank exploring the ethical and religious implications of the Holocaust. He was involved with the creation of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC and, as project director, played a major role in its permanent exhibit; he has subsequently consulted on and designed museums on three continents. He is also an award-winning producer and historical consultant for numerous acclaimed films on the Holocaust.

Founded by Franklin H. Littell and Hubert G. Locke in 1970, The Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches (<http://asconf.org/>) is an interdisciplinary, international, interfaith, intergenerational conference. It provides a forum for scholars to report the latest findings in Holocaust research, ensuring the valuable lessons of the Holocaust remain relevant for today's world.

The Conference is hosted by different educational institutions around the country. This year, the American Jewish University is the host Institution, with President Robert Wexler serving as the Honorary Chairman. Berenbaum is the 2014 conference chairman.

For more information, contact Marcia Sachs Littell, scholarsconf@aol.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Professional Society Celebrates New Board Installation

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — The Armenian Professional Society (APS) Los Angeles Chapter, installed its new Executive Board and presented a new array of events for 2014.

Stephan Bagboudarian, Roupen Berberian, Aspet Davidian, Richard Diradourian, Angelo Ghalian, Armen Hovannesian, Betty Jamgotchian, Nora Jamgotchian and Harry

Executive Board consists of Kazarians as president, Niyera Davoodian as vice president and Melania Palor as treasurer. The chairpersons are as follows: Event Coordinator Aleen Artinian, Banquet Chair Sarina Tounian, Membership Chair Renia Boudaghian, Scholarship Chair Seta Khajarian and Eddie Grigorian, Social Media Correspondent Janna Kasmanian, Web Developer Alina

Derovanessian and Mentorship Coordinator Talin Hovannesian.

In her presentation, she announced the tentative schedule of events for 2014, including professional networking mixers, an art exhibition, educational lectures, as well as traditional events such as the Hollywood Bowl night, Past Presidents' Appreciation night, and the Annual Professional of the Year Gala.



The new board of APS

The annual installation took place on Friday, February 7, at the rooftop lounge of The Redbury Hotel. Guests took in the scenic view of Hollywood while enjoying signature drinks and hors d'oeuvres with fellow guests including past presidents, members, friends and family.

Lily Kazarians, the new APS president-elect, began the evening with a quote to set off the theme of the year. Her goal was to implement change to the organization while maintaining the honor of traditions from past years and this installation event set the pace. Ms. Kazarians thanked and recognized past presidents in attendance for their continuing support and dedication throughout the years. Attending past presidents included Arthur Avazian,

Markarian.

Richard Diradourian, the 2013 Past President Council's President, presented the 2013 APS President, Taline Hanna Koulloukian, with the Past President's pin and hat. Koulloukian thanked the new and past board members. Lily Kazarians along with Eddie Grigorian then presented a plaque to commend her hard work in organizing and maintaining APS traditions of Armenian fellowship in its non-political, non-sectarian stance, and its support in fostering of higher education in young Armenians in 2013.

Kazarians then took center stage and announced the fresh faces of the 2014 executive board and chairpersons having the largest team the organization has seen in decades. The

Banquet Benefits San Francisco's Mount Davidson Cross

CROSS, from page 4

Genocide, the Turkish Intellectuals' "Apology" campaign, and the odd story of the life and death of a monument in Kars. Erbal set out the criteria for an apology: a clear explanation of offense, expression of shame, guilt, humility, sincerity, intention not to commit offense again and reparations to the offended party. The Turkish Intellectuals' apology met none of these criteria. She tied the apology campaign to contradictions in actions by the Turks, who on the one hand, built a monument to honor their (imaginary) genocide, on the other hand built a Friendship Monument, symbolizing friendship between Turks and Armenians, near the border of Armenia in Kars. The friendship monument was rightfully demolished as a result of internal Turkish politics. In conclusion, there must be a clear and proper apology to start the process of recognition.

Shirvanian, director of Ecumenical and Foreign Relations at the Armenian Patriarchate

sion, Margaret May Morgan, the first woman to sit on the SF Board of Supervisors, along with other members of the Easter Sunrise Committee, solicited \$1 contributions to build a concrete cross. On March 25, 1934, one week before Easter, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, pressed a golden telegraph key in Washington DC to light up the cross, where an audience 50,000 Bay Area residents were gathered to witness this historical event. The lights became a Christmas and Easter week tradition for the city of San Francisco for many years. In 1941, when attendance at Easter sunrise services had reached to over 75,000, the city of San Francisco purchased 38 acres surrounding the cross to form a public park. During the Korean War, a soldier wrote that his last view leaving the US, was the illuminated cross.

In 1991, several organizations sued San Francisco for having a cross standing on land owned by the city and several court battles ensued. Forced by the courts to either privatize

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Archbishop Aris Shirvanian and Chuck Paskerian

of Jerusalem, was instrumental in the purchase of the cross in 1997, during which time he served as pastor for St. John's Armenian Apostolic Church of San Francisco. In his message, he shared his experiences on how the Bay Area Armenian community jumped at the opportunity to purchase and save the historical cross and re-dedicate it as a memorial to the million and half victims of the Armenian Genocide. In Jerusalem, he has been working with the local Armenian community to press the Armenian Cause in Israel. Thanks to their efforts, last year almost all representatives of political parties in the Israeli Knesset unanimously condemned the Genocide of the Armenians, urging their government to officially recognize it. Echoing Erbal's message on proper elements of an apology, Shirvanian encouraged all Armenians to work together towards not only recognition, but also reparations.

History of Mount Davidson Cross

Set on the highest peak overlooking San Francisco, at 103 feet tall, Mount Davidson cross is visible to much of the city. The history of the cross goes back to 1923 when a small wooden cross was used on the site for Easter Sunrise services. In 1933, during the depres-

or remove the cross altogether, the city decided to put it up for auction. On July 12, 1997, CAAONC outbid other groups and purchased the cross. The purchase of the cross was unanimously approved by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. On November 4, 1997 more than 68 percent of San Francisco voters cast their ballots in favor of Proposition F, finalizing the sale to the CAAONC which became the legal owner. For over 90 years the Mount Davidson Cross has been a San Francisco Historical Landmark, and a symbol of unity of different faiths as they have gathered at Easter Sunrise services for 90 consecutive years. For Armenians, it memorializes the first Genocide of the 20th century, and the 1.5 million Armenians, living on their ancestral lands, who perished at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. The memorial also serves as a memorial to All Crimes against Humanity. The 103 foot cross is the tallest Armenian Genocide Memorial in the world. The CAAONC preserves, protects and maintains this site for all San Francisco Bay Area residents and its tourists. It is an oasis of open space, a forest in the middle of an urban environment of one of the densest cities in California. One can enjoy some of the best views of San Francisco from the top of Mount Davidson.

For more information about the commemoration, please visit
<http://kofv.org> and click April 24 or <http://www.facebook.com/events/TBD-in-2014>

To learn more about the Armenian Genocide, please visit
www.theforgotten.org, www.armenian-genocide.org, www.twentyvoices.com



OBITUARY

Joyce Ariyan

BASKING RIDGE, N.J. — Joyce S. Ariyan (nee Tarpinian) died on Saturday, February 8, surrounded by family, following a long and brave battle with cancer.

She leaves her three sons, their wives, 10 grandchildren, family, and many dear friends.

She and her late husband, Levon M. Ariyan, moved their family to Basking Ridge, NJ in 1972 where she remained a resident until 2011.

She was born in Detroit in 1938, to Manuel and Arshalous (Kassabian) Tarpinian, Armenian immigrants and Genocide survivors. Following her graduation from high school, she began a career in caring for others which spanned over 50 years. Initially, she became a registered nurse and then went on to teach nursing at Muhlenberg Hospital in New Jersey. She graduated with high honors from Drew University and earned her Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Fairleigh Dickinson University. The combination of a business education and strong medical knowledge led to a successful career in the pharmaceutical field, where she rose to a director position at the Ortho Pharmaceutical Division of Johnson & Johnson.

Following her retirement from Johnson & Johnson, she became the executive director of the Mind, Body, Medical Institute for Atlantic Health Systems of New Jersey. Thereafter, in her continuing passion to assist others, she volunteered with hospice care, the Visiting Nurses Association (VNA) and as a substitute nurse in the local elementary schools.

As a devout humanitarian and Christian, Ariyan's greatest passion was to help others. Throughout her life, she volunteered for many relief organizations and dedicated the majority of her time in the service of others. She gave service to people in the United States and around the world through the American Red Cross Disaster Relief and Habitat for Humanity, with mission trips to build homes for the needy in Mexico as well as her beloved ancestral homeland of Armenia. Without hesitation, she played a

key role in spearheading corporate pharmaceutical relief to Armenia after the devastating earthquake in 1988.

Following the unprecedented domestic destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, she spent weeks providing care and relief efforts in the most devastated area of the Gulf region. Even in her final weeks, she remained actively involved in organizations that upheld the Armenian-American virtues she held dear — family, faith and patriotism.

It was one day during her younger times as a nurse, that an elderly Armenian patient insisted on introducing her to a "nice, handsome, Armenian young man." She would ultimately marry that man, Levon Ariyan.

After a number of years, the couple settled in Basking Ridge NJ, and raised three sons. This active involvement was not limited to their local community, they also became leaders at St. Mary Armenian Church in Livingston. While at St. Mary, she was a volunteer in both the Sunday and Armenian schools, she was a member of the 3Ms, Young People's Auxiliary and sang in the choir.

She traveled on church missions in the US, as well as to Armenia and Jerusalem. In 1992, after 27 years of marriage, her husband died following a long illness. She spent years caring for him.

Only after helping each of her children launch their careers, did Joyce retire from corporate work.

She is survived by her sons, Joseph of Ramsey NJ, Haig of West Nyack, NY and Levon of Martinsville NJ, their wives, Susan, Nadine and Laura, respectively, as well as her 10 grandchildren. She is also survived by her dear friend, Joseph "Pappa Joe" McCulla of Pompano Beach, Fla.; a brother, Haig Tarpinian, and sister-in-law, Beverly Tarpinian, of Boca Raton, Fla., sister Dorothy Tarpinian of Detroit and brother and sister-in-law Zaven and Janet Ariyan of Westwood NJ.

Interment followed at Somerset Hills Memorial Park, Basking Ridge.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to the Armenian Church Endowment Fund, in memory of Joyce S. Ariyan.

Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian

DEARBORN, Mich. — Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Prelate, announced the death of Fr. Dr. Gorun Shrikian who died on February 11, here.

He leaves three children, Anie, Dirouhie and Movses, grandchildren, his brother Fr. Nareg Shrikian and his sister Sosy Bidanian. His wife, Arpine, predeceased him.

Shrikian (baptismal name Pailag) was born on January 28, 1929, in the village of Yoghoon-

the Catholicosate of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon, he was ordained a priest in 1956, and named Gorun. He continued his theological education at the seminary for two years while assuming teaching responsibilities.

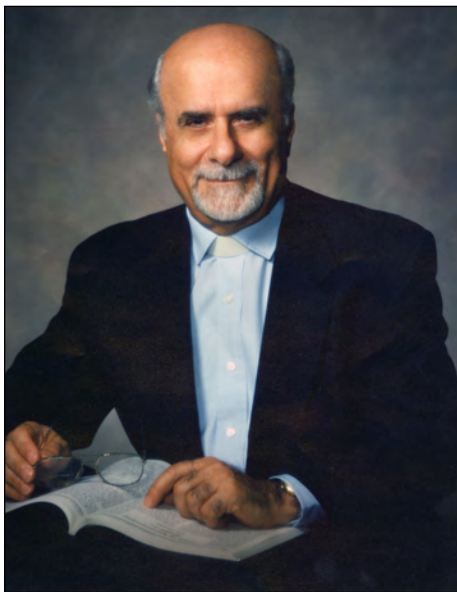
Shrikian and his family came to the United States in 1959 where he served as pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church in Granite City, Ill. In 1965 he was assigned to serve St. Sarkis Church in Dearborn, which he served for 33 years.

He continued his theological education at Concordia Seminary and received his Master of Arts in Religion (M.A.E.) degree in 1967. He then entered the doctoral program and earned his PhD. His doctoral thesis, Armenians under the Ottoman Empire and the American Missions' Influence on their Intellectual and Social Renaissance, was published three years ago.

He was a prolific writer and he developed educational materials for Armenian schools, Sunday schools, and adult education classes. He wrote many articles and books for the Prelacy, many of which are used to this day. His articles on timely topics appeared regularly in the Prelacy's monthly publication, Outreach. He served as chairman of the Prelacy's Religious Council and the Armenian Religious Education Council (AREC).

He retired in 1998, becoming pastor emeritus of St. Sarkis Church. He continued writing and lecturing and remained alert and actively involved to the end. He has left behind a rich and enduring heritage of scholarship and service.

The final consecration (Extreme Unction) service took place on Saturday, February 15, at St. Sarkis Church, with Archbishop Oshagan officiating. Interment followed at Oakland Hills Memorial Garden Cemetery in Novi.



Rev. Dr. Gorun Shrikian

Olouk, Musa Dagh to Archpriest Movses and Yeretzgin Nectar Shrikian. In 1939 the Shrikian family, along with many of their compatriots, established an all-Armenian town in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon known as Anjar, where he completed his primary education.

After attending the Theological Seminary of

Regina Ohanyan

RIVER EDGE, N.J. — Regina Ohayan, a longtime resident of River Edge, died on Sunday, February 9.

A born leader, she founded St. Leon Armenian Church's "Care and Share" parenting group, taught Sunday School and organized Spiritual Renewal and Retreat Programs both at the parish and Diocesan levels. She was founder of the New Jersey Interdisciplinary Organization for treatment of those with cerebral palsy and developmental disabilities and a volunteer for the Reading and Writing programs for the River Edge School District, organizing related events to broaden the horizons of students.

A speech pathologist, Ohayan held several positions in institutions throughout her professional career: speech and language clinician at the Matheny School and Hospital for Cerebral Palsied Children and a senior research associate for Cybernetics Research Institute in Washington, DC (a federally-funded program to develop communication programs for severely disabled children and adults).

She held a full-time faculty position in the Department of Speech and Language Pathology for the District of Columbia Teachers' College, and was its liaison to Capitol Hill. She was founder and director for the District of Columbia Preschool Speech and Language Screening Program as well as program director for United Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey.

She rendered her most rewarding service, however, as a volunteer in 1988 when a severe earthquake struck Spitak, Armenia.



Regina Ohanyan

As the child of survivors of the Genocide of 1915, she was galvanized by the suffering of her people. So outstanding was her volunteerism, that she was hired as director of the Office of Medical Relief Programs by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) where she secured surgical treatment at 29 US hospitals throughout 10 states for those injured in the earthquake. She established and monitored volunteer programs (over 1000 volunteers) to host patients and support their outpatient care. Additionally, she established a groundbreaking Western standard surgical center

see OHANIAN, page 7

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Congresswoman Speier Sleeps in a Homeless Shelter

By Kevin Fagan

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (*San Francisco Chronicle*) – Democratic Rep. Jackie Speier is gearing up for what she hopes is the next big fight in Congress – balancing out the growing economic inequality that has ravaged the middle class for years – so she reckoned she'd do a bit of ground-level research first.

And since you can't get much more ground level than a homeless shelter, that's where she went last Friday – to spend the night.

The Maple Street Shelter in Redwood City was the destination. Speier had actually been there a week before to chat with the residents, and the fact that a well-off Hillsborough member of the Washington power structure was hanging out with the penniless was lost on nobody, least of all the member herself. That was the point, she said.

"I'm still kind of reeling from the experience. Every member of Congress should be required to do what I did," Speier said this week. "It would help us appreciate who we are talking about. We rattle off numbers, but it doesn't speak about the people themselves."

This wasn't Speier's first run at experiencing life on the other end of the scale. She spent a week last year eating only what she could buy on food stamps – "Not a lot of fresh produce on that budget," she said – and when she was a

state legislator she bunked down for a night in the state women's prison in Chowchilla.

But now, with the most extreme split in generations between rich and poor in America, the issue of want and inequality is more urgent than it's been in a long time. Democrats have one way of approaching it, Republicans another. Speier thinks both sides of the aisle would find her experience at the Redwood City shelter instructive.

"I met one man who spent three months in a park I used to play in growing up in South San Francisco, and then he spent one month in a bus shelter near my old elementary school," Speier said. "He was sick. I met another man who was my age and had been in real estate for 30 years in the East Bay. He was a veteran – there were a lot of veterans there."

"One woman was working at Safeway, her spouse was working at OfficeMax, their son was working at jobs – and here they had to stay in the shelter to save up deposits to get an apartment."

The point, she said, is that there were a lot of working poor with nowhere else to go. You don't wind up in a homeless shelter because your life is humming along – plenty of homeless have mental, substance abuse or other troubles that threw them off line and need counseling to fix. But it seems an increasing number are landing in the street because, in this economy, they can't make enough money at their jobs to pay for their own place to live.

"It was such a profound experience to realize that we have just allowed our safety net to fray



Jackie Speier at the Maple Street Shelter in Redwood City on January 31. (Photo courtesy of Mila Zelkha)

to the extent that the people in poverty who are homeless are not all drunks on the street," Speier said. The stereotype was never accurate, she said, and it's less so now than ever.

Neel Kashkari, a Republican gubernatorial candidate, has also slept in a homeless shelter – in Oakland – so Speier wasn't the first one out

of the blocks on this research approach. But we're betting this won't become a trend. It takes a particular kind of person to spend significant time with the homeless, let alone sleep alongside them, and the elegantly suited folks who stroll the marbled halls of Congress don't usually fill the bill.

Speier stayed up chatting with the shelter staff and residents past 1 a.m. She drove herself solo to the shelter, brought a bunch of coats to donate, and when lights-out time came, Speier bunked down alone. No handlers in sight.

The fact that she trusted the scene enough to sleep by herself, made sure she wasn't taking a bed from someone who needed it, and slipped easily into conversation left a big impression. This was no stunt, shelter staffers said.

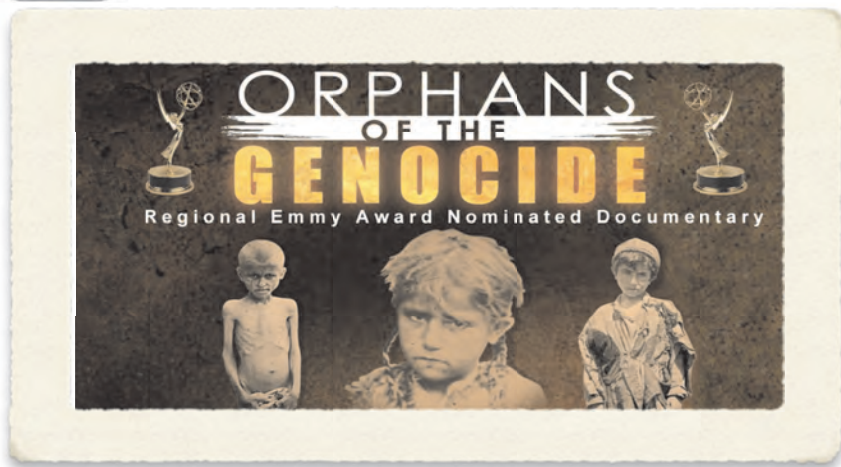
"Her entire demeanor was very unassuming," said Mila

Zelkha, director of strategic relations for InnVision Shelter Network, which runs Maple Street. "I mean, she is an elegant, graceful person in how she communicates, but she dials into important things right away, and she creates a space where people confide in her."

"She's straight up and real."



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Hawaii Legislators Reject Azerbaijani Resolutions

HAWAII, from page 4

action to counter with the truth. Today was a win for not only us Armenians, but others who are in the minority. For the people, by the people – this is the way our legislative process should work. Let the truth prevail."

They were joined by a self-identified neutral, Dr. Alexander Telnov. "The spirit of 'aloha' that we carry throughout the world is completely foreign to Azerbaijan," argued Telnov, who went on to detail the high levels of corruption within the Aliyev regime. Noting that the Azerbaijani government spends millions for political lobbying in the United States, while Armenia spends none, he went on to query, "Why do you need to spend so much money to prove your point? That's because your point is not credible. That's because the opinions Azerbaijan is trying to instill in the United States and other countries are distortions and untruths."

At the beginning of the hearing, Takai appeared confident about the passage of both resolutions. However, after the Committee members took a break to privately discuss the pending legislation, Takai conceded that H.R.

13 would be deferred (not passed). The committee chairman had unsuccessfully suggested to his fellow committee members that in light of the fact that Hawaii had adopted an Armenia-Hawaii friendship resolution in 2012 and an Armenian Genocide commemoration resolution in 2009, the pro-Azeri resolutions should also be adopted in order to be impartial. Moments later, the Chairman announced that they had also decided to defer H.R. 9.

ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian issued an open letter to all US state legislatures earlier this week urging them to take a stand against foreign interference in American civic life by Azerbaijani dictator Ilham Aliyev. "It is truly a tribute to our great American democratic tradition that even a regime as flagrantly corrupt as Ilham Aliyev's is allowed to operate freely within our open society," explained Hamparian. "But that does not mean that American citizens need to remain silent in the face of meddling by foreign leaders who neither respect our rights nor share our values – especially when they try to export their intolerance to our shores."

Regina Ohanyan

OHANIAN, from page 6

in Armenia in cooperation with Yale New Haven Hospital and arranged with Yale for surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses from Armenia to come to Yale for a year's hands-on training program. She also secured affiliation with George Washington Hospital Medical Center and arranged for rotating teams of US surgeons, nurses and administrators to partner efforts with the Yale-trained Armenian team at the AGBU Plastic and Reconstructive Surgical Center in Armenia. She secured funding through USAID and private foundations.

Her highly successful achievements soared from a deeply compassionate heart that was genuinely other-centered, touching minds and souls not only with her intelligence, but with her wisdom which radiated from a profound well of spirituality. She cultivated relationships that fostered positive attitudes and brought out the best in those with whom she engaged. Her friendships transcended generations and her legacy will resonate into posterity.

Ohanyan battled ovarian cancer for four

years. She faced her mortality, encouraged from her daily Bible readings and meditation. She gathered strength from Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Predeceased by her parents, Garabed and Dickranoochi Ekizian, and brother, Tommy, she is survived by her son, Peter, and his wife, Michelle; brother, Harry Ekizian, and his wife, Suzanne; sister, Marion E. Rejebian, and her husband, Dr. George Rejebian; niece, Andrea Ishkanian, and her husband, Dr. Gary Ishkanian; nephew, Gregory Ekizian, and his wife, Alysia; niece Vivian R. George and her husband Robert; nephew Gary Rejebian and his wife, Sona. She leaves behind many grandnieces and grandnephews: Ariana, Nicholas and Matthew Ishkanian; Melanie and Holly Ekizian; Robert and Natalie George and Nicholas and Andrew Rejebian.

Funeral Services took place on February 11 at St. Leon Armenian Church followed by interment at George Washington Memorial Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Leon Armenian Church, 12-61 Saddle River Road, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410 for the Regina Ohanyan Memorial Fund or to COAF (Children of Armenia Fund).

Reporter Wanted

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Nathan Kibarian

AGBU New England Presents a Sweet Program

WATERTOWN – In anticipation of Valentine's Day, on February 6, AGBU's New England District hosted its third cooking demonstration at the AGBU Center, featuring Boston Ritz Carlton Pastry Chef, Nathan Kibarian.

Kibarian demonstrated how chocolate bonbons and truffles are prepared. Among the bonbons made included one with a white chocolate apricot liquor crème filling shaped like a mountain and named, appropriately, Mt. Ararat, a bonbon made with pomegranate juice, a dark chocolate truffle flavored with Armenian cognac and many more.

Graduating at the top of his class at Johnson and Wales, he continues pursuing his true passion for baking and pastry arts.

With the donations of those who attended this event, the AGBU Center will host future events for the Greater Boston Armenian community. For future event information, email newenglandagbu@gmail.com.

– Lilith Kibarian

EVAN SAHAGIAN PHOTO



An intent audience listens to pastry chef Nathan Kibarian.

An Ideal(ist) Candidate for New York

KURZON, from page 1

Of course, this very stand may potentially hurt him when it comes to big money he will need for the elections. However, he hopes that through an intense grassroots efforts, crisscrossing the district and knocking on doors, he will make it to Washington, without having to sell out his values.

"It is difficult to be a candidate for public office, but if there is an open seat, it is a little less challenging," Kurzon said. "The biggest challenge is not to take PAC or lobbyist money."

Among the issues that are atop his list include public education, increasing the minimum wage and fighting for broad campaign finance reform.

The Seventh District cuts through portions of Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan, including the Queens neighborhoods of Ridgewood and Woodhaven, the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Bushwick, Red Hook, East New York, Brooklyn Heights, Sunset Park and Williamsburg and part of Manhattan's Lower East Side and East Village.

Kurzon is an attorney born and living the first few years of his life in Watertown, before the family moved to New Hampshire when he was 16.

"I have fond memories of living in Watertown," he said.

He moved to New York in 2002 as a summer intern first, and later in 2003 on a permanent basis.

His law firm handles small and medium enterprises. In addition, he has extensive litigation practice and has handled class-action suits and other disputes.

As Kurzon says, "three out of eight" of his great-grandparents are Armenian. "I am more Armenian than anything else," he said.

Kurzon visited Armenia on a trip with Virginia Davies, a supporter of the Tufenkian Foundation's efforts in Nagorno Karabagh and Armenia. While in Armenia, he said, he went camping for two weeks to really get a feel for the land. He loved Armenia, saying "it is a beautiful country and has great food." He met up with a French tour group to see the sites and said he was moved by the spiritual nature of the country and that he would love to go back.

While Kurzon praised Velazquez, with doing public service, he said she has been in office so long that she is out of touch. He added that most members of Congress take about 30 percent in PAC and lobbyist money. Velazquez, he noted, took about 70 percent in the 2012 election. In that election, he said, she raised \$900,000 to get 17,000 votes. There are 300,000 registered Democrats in the district, he said, though only 30,000 voted in the general election.

The Republicans need to worry, he said, because "their brand" is damaged as a result of the party's position on gun rights and opposition to same-sex marriage.

"Even if we assume that the Democrats are the good guys, we need to ask why only 10 percent are voting," he asked. "People become so cynical" because of the power and influence of entities like Goldman Sachs.

He added, "You have to ask what they are getting in return."

For Kurzon, campaign finance reform begins with curbing the power of PACs, whose power, he said, is pervasive and often destructive. He said just the night before he had read the details of the Affordable Care Act and one of the things that was glaring in the wording was that a provision had been inserted in the bill making it illegal for a

physician to ask whether the patient owns a gun and if he or she knew how to store them properly. The section, he said, came as a result of a push by the National Rifle Association (NRA), the powerful and wealthy gun lobby.

"Statistics show that you are actually less safe with a gun in your house. There are chances for accidents or self-harm. This is an example of how money and politics corrupt our system. The wealthiest hold sway over our politicians," he said.

Another area of interest to him is the carried interest loophole. That is when hedge funds, which make money off the massive amounts of other people's money in their control, pay a much lower tax rate on the money they make than they should.

"There are few politicians, whether Democrat or Republican, who talk about it. [Financial institutions] are the base of financial support from the wealthiest.

Such money power plays, he said, "are good for some, but bad for all."

"We just continue to get on the path that our country is own with infrastructure not updated, teachers not paid enough, growing inequality, lower corporate tax rates and all those loopholes," Kurzon said. "There is so much cash on the books."

Another item on his list of goals is providing jobs for the large number of unemployed in his district. "There is very high unemployment in my district," he said, with a certain percentage living below the poverty line. "People are struggling."

Bolstering the middle class and creating more public-sector jobs in the improvement of infrastructures and education for him are both vital.

Among the things his district needs is help

with sorting public housing. Much of the public housing in the district is mismanagement with one building covered with scaffolding for 14 years, or apartments plagued by mold or just remaining empty while there is a long waiting list for many.

The phrase "affordable housing" seems to a buzzword, but he said he preferred the idea of mixed housing. He noted that the rents were so high in the city that few indeed met the rule of thumb of spending one third of their income on housing.

"I can relate to this," he said.

Prices are very high, thanks to gentrification.

Kurzon explained that he is a wholehearted supporter of the efforts of Harvard's Prof. Lawrence Lessig to bring major electoral reform in the fundraising arena.

He held a march crossing New Hampshire this winter, in which Kurzon participated. "This is more and more something that people are discussing. This election is on whether or not we need to do something about big money and politics."

He added, "94 percent of the time, the candidate with the most money wins. It is absurd. The voters in my district are smart and just need to meet me. I am planning to walk around 10 miles a day starting in March," he noted. Once the weather is better, he intends to canvass his entire district door to door, harkening back to "an old fashioned grassroots" style of campaigning.

He said the process so far of reaching out to voters has energized him and that he is "really optimistic."

"This campaign is successful already. I plan to win but whether I win or lose," he said, he feels he is connecting with the people in the district.

"I enjoy helping people. It is the best part of the job," he said.

To find out more about him or to make a donation, visit <http://www.jeffkurzon.com/>



COMMUNITY NEWS

Wrestling Coach Chooljian Piles up State Titles

By Tom Vartabedian

PLAISTOW, N.H. — Sometimes, the best coaching talent isn't found in schools like Alabama and Duke.

More often than not, they are located in small, unnoted schools that are known only by the people who have heard about them.

Such a coach is Barry Chooljian, who is finishing his 31st year here as coach of Timberlane Regional High School, a small campus in Southern New Hampshire with a whopper of a wrestling program.

This season the Owls have gone 25-0 in what was supposed to be a rebuilding year — their first unbeaten campaign in school history against some of the better programs nationally.

The latest victory represented the 94th consecutive win against New Hampshire opponents, giving Timberlane an astonishing in-state 296-3 record over the past two decades.

Quiet, yet calibrated, Chooljian's answer to such success can be summed up rather succinctly, "They boys have had a great season." Nothing more, nothing less.

In the 25th victory, Chooljian's team was trailing 21-13 before storming back to take six of the last seven matches.

A 15th-consecutive Division 1 state championship would cap the perfect season. That would make 20 divisional titles in the last 21 years and last 10 Meet of Champions.

Under Chooljian's direction, Timberlane has a record of 10 New England titles, including a record of five in a row. Four other times, the school finished second while sending numerous kids to Division 1 wrestling schools in college.

Among them would be 2-time All-American Eric (Fundeklian) Bradley who arrived at Penn State on scholarship.

"We believe in all our kids," he points out. "All my athletes define success differently. For some, it's to become an All-American. Others are happy just to be involved as part of the team. We value every athlete no matter how proficient they may be. School sports are a great way to build self-esteem and confidence. You get them believing in themselves and it transmits to our program."

There's no better role model than a coach who works out with his athletes, stays on top of his game, teaches at the same school and sacrifices his own time to benefit others.

Much of his success comes from a middle school program run by alumni. The feeder system begins in the 6th grade and carries through. A former wrestler also runs an off-season club from his home.

Four years ago, Chooljian was selected as the National High School Coaching Association's Wrestling Coach of the Year. A month later, he was accorded similar honors by the National Federation High School Coaches Association.

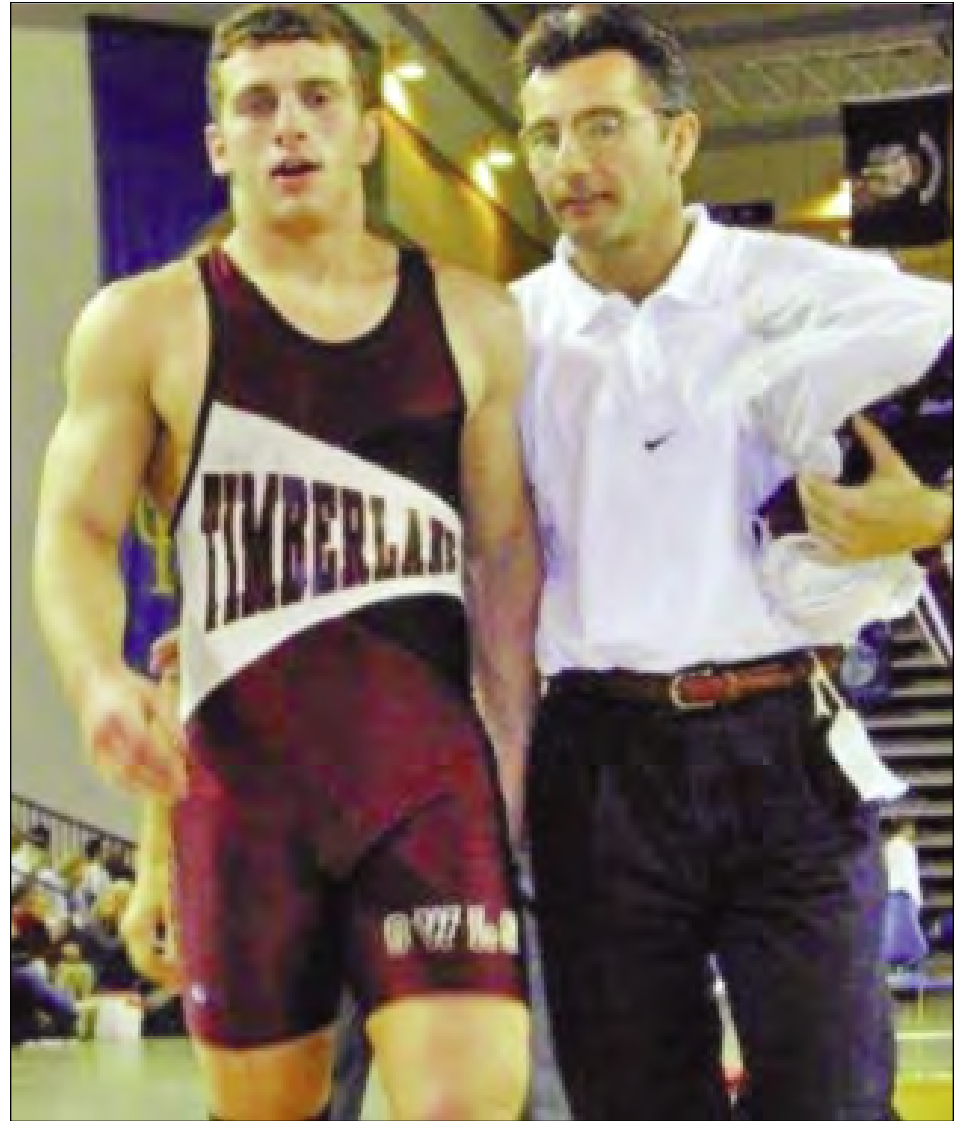
If that doesn't suffice, add the National Wrestling Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year and the fact that he was named USA Wrestling's New Hampshire Man of the Year.

No other coach on his level can boast of such a resume. As to his Armenian heritage, Chooljian presents every opportunity to promote it, thanks to his dad who has inculcated the spirit.

"Three decades later, I still look forward to coaching very day," he maintains. "I believe in helping young men with their growth and development. Wrestling provides me with a great vehicle for that."

As to the future, Chooljian has no plans to retire so long as the spirit is willing.

"It only gets better with time," he quips. "Every day represents a new challenge for me — and that's the way I like it."



With 496 victories to his credit, Barry Chooljian should reach a coveted milestone before long at Timberlane Regional High School, Plaistow, NH, where he has coached wrestling for 31 years.

Dr. Jack Keverian to Speak at St. James Men's Club

WATERTOWN — On Monday, March 3, Dr. Jack Keverian, professor emeritus at Drexel University in Philadelphia, will be the speaker at the dinner meeting of the St. James Armenian Church Men's Club. The topic will be "3 D Printing - A Technology Destined to Change Your Life, Our Economy and the World."

Keverian said that in the digital era, a person can design a part or an object using Computer Aided Design Software, instantly transmit that information anywhere in the world and convert those bits of information into plastic, metal or ceramic parts and, potentially into a human body part.

Another name for this exciting new technology is Additive Manufacturing. It is in the early stages but it has the potential to change the

economy.

This talk will describe the way this technology has evolved and highlight the opportunities that lie ahead.

Keverian has been associated with this technology from its inception and taught a graduate-level course at Drexel on it. He has also lectured on the subject in the US, China and Armenia.

Keverian graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a bachelor's, master's and doctorate in metallurgy. He has held many impressive positions in his career.

He has been an emeritus professor at Drexel since 1995. From 1983 to 1995, he was the chair of the Materials Engineering Department. He also was chair of the department for four years.

Keverian has also taken a leadership role in the community. He chaired the Armenia Earthquake Coalition of Greater Boston and took on several positions in Maryland, including leading the state's Chamber of Commerce and being a trustee of the South Baltimore General Hospital.

He has also been a member of a slew of professional groups related to his field as well as receiving myriad professional honors.

His community honors include a resolution in 1978 in the Maryland Senate, as well as Jack and Dorothy Keverian Day in Baltimore County in 1977.

Keverian assisted his brother, Massachusetts Speaker of the House George Keverian's first political campaign for Common Council in the City of Everett. Later, George Keverian was the only Speaker in the history of Massachusetts to defeat a sitting Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The social hour starts with mezza at 6:15 p.m. followed by a complete traditional dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$14 per person. The program will take place at the St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn St. Women are welcome.



Dr. Jack Keverian

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Arts & Living

Rated SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York Competition Slate Announced

NEW YORK —Rated SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York, a new non-profit film festival, will run March 14-20, at New York's Quad Cinema. Founded by award-winning actor, filmmaker and curator Nora Armani, the festival will showcase films with human interest stories and socially relevant themes as a response to the proliferation of violence and violent forms of storytelling. Rated SR aims to promote positive social change through the powerful medium of cinema.

Amy Goodman will deliver the festival's keynote address on Tuesday, March 18 and she will give out the "Rated SR Social Justice Award" for raising awareness to issues outside mainstream media. Such is the philosophy behind Democracy Now! Currently aired by more than 1,000 radio, television, satellite and cable TV networks in North America, and watched in dozens of countries via the Internet.

Over 30 narrative and documentary films will screen including 12 feature films which will compete for the Grand Prize, a week-long theatrical engagement at the Quad Cinema, courtesy of the QuadFlix Select Program, and 10 documentaries will compete for the documentary prize. The winner will receive a VOD DVD distribution deal courtesy of Cinema Libre Studio, a leader in the distribution of social issue documentaries and independent feature films.

Among the Feature Competition Narrative and Documentary films will be "Coney Island: Dreams for Sale," by Alessandra Giordano, USA, 81 min, 2013, documentary "Dovid Meyer, Moshe Mones," USA/Israel, 101 min, 2013, narrative "Flore, Jean-Albert Lievre," France, 2014, 85 min, documentary.

Other films in the category of Forward 13 include "Waking up the American Dream," Patrick Lovell, US, 2013, documentary "Full Circle," Zhang Yang, China, 2012, "If Only Everyone...", Natalia Belyauskene, Armenia, 2012, "Indian Summer," Simon Brook, France, 84, 2013, documentary, "My Love Awaits Me By The Sea" (Habibi Biyestannani and el Bahr), Mais Darwazah, Palestinian Territories, Qatar, Germany, Jordan, 80 min, 2013, documentary, "Offside Trap" (Abseitsfalle), Stefan Hering, Germany, 98 min, 2012, narrative, "Orphans of the Genocide," Bared Maronian, US, 91 min, 2013, documentary and "Small, Small Thing," Jessica Vale, US, 85min, 2013, documentary

Other films will include "Fred Ho's Last Year," Steven De Castro, US, 58 min, 2013, "From the Black You Make Color," Richie Sherman & Judy Maltz, US, Israel, 75 min, 2012, "Hamshen Community at the Crossroads of Past and Present," Lusine Sahakyan, Armenia, Turkey, 60 min, 2012 and "Not Who We Are," Carol Mansour, Lebanon, 72 min. 2013.

New-York based metalsmith designer Michael Aram has donated a special trophy to be awarded to the recognized Rated SR honoree. The festival awards the Vanya Exerjian award to a film that raises awareness to violence against women and girls, in commemoration of Armani's late cousin and uncle, victims of a violent hate crime.

Packages and discounted ticket options are now on sale at: www.ratedsrfilms.org. Individual tickets are sold through the Quad Cinema: www.quadcinema.com



Aurora Mardiganian in a scene from "Auction of Souls."

Aurora Mardiganian: Armenian Heroine Remembered, Honored

ARLINGTON, Mass. — Starving, tortured and enslaved, she endured the horrors of the Armenian Genocide. One among tens and thousands, only 15-years-old, she survived to tell the story of her people and ravished homeland to the civilized world.

On March 8 at 3 p.m. in an illustrated lecture and presentation in English, Dr. Hayk Demoyan, director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute (Tsitsernakaberd) in Yerevan, in light of newly discovered materials, will share for the first time with the Armenian American audience the story of Arshaluys Aurora Mardiganian.

Born Arshaluys Mardikian to the family of an Armenian financier in the ancient Armenian city of Chmshkadzag, named after the famous Byzantine Emperor John Tzimisces in 1901, is a symbol of survival of the Armenian people. She lived a tragic yet extraordinary life. Scarred both physically and emotionally, she mustered the courage and strength and persevered against all odds. Changing her name to Aurora Mardiganian to conceal her real identity and escape possible persecution by the Turks, she told her story and gave interviews. American papers wrote articles on her heart-wrenching odyssey, among them, *Life Magazine*, *New York American* and *Los Angeles Examiner* of the Hearst family newspapers, including 14 chapters from Sunday, August 18 to November 24, 1918.

Unlike many survivors of the Armenian Genocide who suppressed their memories, she was among the first to tell her story. *Ravished Armenia: the Christian Girl, Who Survived the Great Massacres*, based on the story of her life was published in 1918. It served as the basis of the script for the film "Auction of Souls" that was produced in 1919 and was first screened in London. Mardiganian not only shared her story with the world, but also courageously took a role in the movie, and even agreed to help promote the film at the expense of reliving the horrors of the Genocide. This took a toll on her which consumed her in the last years of her life.

Demoyan, director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, was born and raised in Gumri, Armenia. Demoyan studied history at Yerevan State University (YSU) from 1993 to 1998 with a concentration on ethnography. He received his master's degree in 2001. He has taught courses on the history of neighbor countries of Armenia and served in the Caucasian Media Institute as regional expert. Demoyan represented the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia during the trial (2004-2006) of slain Armenian army officer Gurgun Margarian in Budapest. In November 2006, by presidential decree, he was appointed the director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, a position which he holds to this day. In 2012 he received his doctorate from the Institute of Oriental Studies and Institute of

see MARDIGANIAN, page 13



Aurora Mardiganian

Conductor Tigran Arakelyan Will Present Concert in Washington State

LANGLEY, Wash. — Whidbey Island Orchestra will present its second concert under the direction of the newly-appointed Music Director Tigran Arakelyan, on March 14 at 7 p.m., at the Island Church of Whidbey, 503 Cascade Ave.

Pieces by Rossini, Beethoven, Alan Hovhannes and Ravel, among others, will be performed.

Arakelyan is also the assistant conductor of Whatcom Symphony Orchestra. He is a doctoral student and a teaching assistant at the University of Washington under the mentorship of Ludovic Morlot and Dr. David Alexander Rahbee. He is the recipient of the 2013 Armenian General Benevolent Union Performing Arts Fellowship.

Arakelyan held conducting positions with the California Philharmonic, Los Angeles Youth Orchestra, California State University Northridge, Discovery Players, Northridge Youth Philharmonic, Echo Youth Orchestra, and the Venicians One Theater (Los Angeles). He was the Founder Conductor and Artistic Director of Cadence Chamber Orchestra (Seattle), an innovative orchestra which premiered new works and played at unconventional venues. He has appeared with the Yakima Chamber Orchestra (WA), University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Philharmonia, Nimbus Ensemble (Los Angeles). More information on Tigran can be found on www.TigranArakelyan.com.

Arakelyan has upheld the promise he demonstrated during the audition. He is very efficient in use of the orchestra's time. He has clear ideas of what he wants to accomplish musically, has advanced the level of musical interpretation by greater development of nuance in tempo and dynamic variation. — James Lux, president Whidbey Island Orchestra.

Seattle Weekly described his interpretation of Beethoven's *Symphony I* as "lyrically phrased" and "excellent tempo."

The concert is free.

Berklee Presents Music of Armenia

BOSTON — The Signature Music Series at Berklee continues on March 3 with Berklee's sixth annual "Middle Eastern Festival: The Music of Armenia." The program will feature Perspectives Ensemble directed by flutist Sato Moughalian, presenting Dark Eyes/New Eyes, with a cappella folk trio Zulal and live painting by Kevork Mourad. Special guests include Ludo Mlado and folk singer Aleksan Harutyunyan.

The concert will also feature music from neighboring regions, including a set of Bulgarian music with Berklee's Pletenitsa Choir, the Ludo Mlado Dance Ensemble, the Sayat Nova Folk Dance Ensemble, and the Berklee World Strings directed by Eugene Friesen.

Berklee "Middle Eastern Festival: The Music of Armenia" takes place Monday, March 3, 8:15 p.m., at the Berklee Performance Center (BPC), 136 Massachusetts Ave., Boston. Reserved seating tickets are available for \$8 in advance, \$12 day of show at berklee.edu/bpc.



ARTS & LIVING

Helene Pilibosian's New Book of Poems Explores Fantasy-Reality Connection

WATERTOWN – CreateSpace has just published Helene Pilibosian's book of poems, *A New Orchid Myth*, a fantasy-reality tale that breaks with her usual ethnic subject matter. This series of poems explores the possibility of a different kind of civilization on another planet from which Mr. and Mrs. Everydream descend to Earth. They have much to do to get used to ways of life in New York City, where they have settled. However, extensive travel within the states gives them and the reader a broader landscape.

Sunflowers and orchids play an important part in this narrative. The sunflower seeds provide great nourishment here and in their home planet. Orchids also exist there but are wilted and becoming sterile as are the people. What is needed there is optimism, and the red on orchids seems to symbolize it.

The worry is that people from the home planet will kidnap their daughter Taralee to try to revitalize their own system. Eventually the Everydreams develop a plan to send orchids to the planet, plus saving it and themselves. Then forgiveness rules.

Poems describe the best attributes of many of the states, which they visit; these make the book truly American for subject and international for love of poetry. For comic relief, the characters Plastic and Polyester appear occasionally and either comment or run around New York City. Manhattan and California win for description of American places. And there



Helene Pilibosian

are a few Armenian characters in the background – Mr. and Mrs. Garmirian and Maral Laramian among them.

Optimism restores and boosts the morale of

the people in the book and the people who read the book. The work has the most appeal to parents, grandparents, adolescents, art lovers and residents of the many states described. It indirectly sends the messages of coexistence and understanding.

Poet Alan Semerdjian wrote of her work, "Marianne Moore is a good starting place for entering Pilibosian's work. Their writings share the same natural kind of prosaic structure, attention to sibilance and syntax, and transformative quality. Pilibosian, now at a different point in her life, places herself as a successor of modernist ideals and attentiveness to image."

Richard R. Blake, official reviewer for Amazon.com wrote, "The beauty of her choice of words brings to mind delicacies, rich, delicious tidbits of many flavors. Contemporary themes bring to light the tenor of the times, the pressures brought about by the turmoil and uncertainties of today."

Pilibosian's poems have appeared in many American literary journals and anthologies and also abroad.

Some of her poems were finalists in literary competitions or won first prizes and honorable mentions. She has published the books *Carvings from an Heirloom: Oral History*

Poems, the *Writer's Digest* award-winning *At Quarter Past Reality: New and Selected Poems* and *History's Twists: The Armenians* (honorable mention). Her early work has been cited in the *Greenwood Encyclopedia of Multiethnic American Literature*.

Formerly a writer/editor at the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, she now heads Ohan Press (<http://home.comcast.net/~hsarkiss>), a private bilingual micropress which has published 10 books of both prose and poetry, including her book *My Literary Profile: A Memoir*, awarded honorable mention by the New England Book Festival.

TCA of Los Angeles Hosts Presentation of Ara Aharonian Book

LOS ANGELES – On January 26, Ara Aharonian's latest books were presented at the Tekeyan Cultural Association's Beshgeturian Hall. Close to 150 guests were in attendance, including members of the clergy and community leaders. The event was attended by Diocesan Primate Archbishop Hovnan Derderian.

Vatche Semerdjian, the master of ceremonies, delivered the welcoming remarks.

The first book, titled *Hayastani Hanrabedutian Mardahravernere* (The Challenges of the Republic of Armenia), was presented by Dr. Minas Kojayan.

The cultural program included poetry recitation by Armine Shaklian as well as musical and vocal performances by Zvart Zulhaian and Khachig Nahabedian.

Aharonian's second book was the second in a series titled *Yeraghdavornero Ughin II* (The Path of the Grateful, Vol. II), presented by Kevork Keushkerian.

Commendations and congratulatory letters were presented to the author by California Assemblyman Adrin Nazarian (46th District), TCA of New York, Armenian Democratic Liberal Party of Armenia and the Ministry of Diaspora.

"Ara Aharonian's love for the motherland is undeniable and unquestionable. To him, Armenia is not only the source of our Christian identity but also the vision of our martyred ancestors. Indeed, as the author notes, our landlocked country is faced with challenges. However, it is our duty as sons and daughters of Armenia, to pray and to become the hands of God for our nation," said Derderian in his closing remarks.

He also thanked the organizers for the event and commended Aharonian's accomplishments in the literary arena.

Filmmakers Featured at Next Cape Ann Forum

GLOUCESTER, Mass. (Gloucester Times) – A father-daughter team of local filmmakers whose current work in progress documents their trip to Armenia and the 100th anniversary of the massacre of 1.5 million Armenians in Turkey will be the guest presenters for the first 2014 Cape Ann Forum, set for Sunday, February 23, at the Cape Ann Community Cinema.

Nubar and Abby Alexanian will be showcasing their documentary-in-progress "Journey to Armenia: Three Generations from Genocide," which is planned for release in 2015 to coincide with the anniversary of the 1915 massacre in Turkey.

The duo hopes the film will spark renewed conversation about the long-hidden past. The genocide is still denied by many countries, including Turkey and the United States.

Nubar Alexanian, who lives in West Gloucester with his wife Rebecca Koch, is a documentary photographer and filmmaker who has traveled to more than 30 countries and worked for the New York Times Magazine, Life, Fortune, Geo, Time, Newsweek, and National Geographic.

His films include "Flamenco Nuevo" (2007) and "Flamenco Shorts" (2004) shot in Spain and Canada for the Bose Corporation; "The

Professor of Swing" (1998), a cinematic portrait of Wynton Marsalis; and "The Clifford Ball" (1994) on the band Phish.

Abby Alexanian, Nubar Alexanian's daughter and co-producer, is a graduate of Vassar College and worked on many of her father's photography and film sets.

The Cape Ann Community Cinema event, like all presentation of the nonprofit Cape Ann Forum, is free and open to the public. For more information about this and other forums planned for 2014, as well as an annotated archive of previous forums, go to the Cape Ann Forum website at www.capeannforum.org.

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All the World Is Nancy Tutunjian's Stage

By Tom Vartabedian

WATERTOWN – The eclectic world of Nancy Tutunjian Burger is an entertaining one, often filled with the message of God, scripture and self-indulgence.

Whether it's as a singer, songwriter, inspirational speaker or stage actress, she always puts her best foot forward. Most assuredly, it's a world that has catered to audiences near and far, filled with applause, joy and gratitude.

And despite her vast resume – like the song – it's only just begun.

"It gets an Armenian name into the public and in some cases that is someone's first awareness of who we are," she says. "It gives us a presence and allows us to show our ingenuity and creative reservoirs. The Armenian people have a rich legacy of art and culture. I feel honored at perpetuating that legacy in some small way since my high school days."

Fresh off a starring role as Clairee in the hit production of "Steel Magnolias" with the Winthrop Playmakers, Tutunjian recreated the role originally brought to life by Olympia Dukakis. It brought a capacity crowd to tears of laughter.

"I somehow managed to stay in character during the whole episode," she noted. "People definitely were amused by the performance. The feedback was very positive."

Quite the contrast from her performance as Golde with "Fiddler on the Roof" when she coped with the shenanigans of husband Tevya with the Wellesley Players which also stole the show. Other leads include Lili in "Carnival," Sister Sarah in "Guys and Dolls" and Dolly Levi in "Hello Dolly."

Nothing would please Tutunjian more than to see an Armenian play develop in time for the centennial commemoration of the genocide. It is called "Women of Ararat" and it is a work in progress for playwright Judith Boyajian Strang-Waldau.

The theme depicts three generations of Armenian women and could be a show-stealer throughout the theater world when it finally hits the stage. Readings have taken place with much hype and panache.

Tutunjian was given the role of portraying her own grandmother, artfully laced with bits of typical Armenian humor.

"Judith has assured me that if this goes to Broadway, I'll go with it," she confirmed. "She's spoken to some repertory companies that have helped her shape the work,



Nancy Tutunjian Berger juggles an active role of singer, songwriter, speaker and stage actress with equal dexterity.

preparing it for full production. My own Armenian heritage has been a big help."

It is one thing performing for the American public and another when she bolsters her beloved First Armenian Church. A born-again Christian, Tutunjian gathered some folks together from her congregation and began staging jazz cabaret nights for charity seven years ago.

She mobilizes other musicians from both inside and outside the church to participate with tunes from the "Great American Songbook." Occasionally, some Armenian melodies sneak in.

Proceeds help sponsor up to 12 children in Armenia and the Middle East through the Armenian-American Missionary Association.

Aside from being a section leader with the choir, she teaches a Women's Bible Study. She and her husband, Richard, have been members and activists for 13 years.

Over the past several years, she's served as a guest speaker at conferences, retreats, workshops and other special events throughout the country, bringing the Christian message to the forefront with a nutmeg she calls "Paraclete," a Greek term meaning "holy spirit."

The result has been a number of Armenian and Christian American recordings, along with a book called *Shifting Sands*, which was inspired in some way by silent film star Rudolph Valentino. It's the story of an Arab sheik and an Armenian-American girl, set in the late 1940s, laced Armenian cultural and historical texture.

"We were vacationing in Maine and I came across a copy of E. M. Hull's *The Sheik* in the parlor," she said. "I started reading it and was disappointed. So I set out and wrote a version of my own, incorporating some Armenian elements into the plot. Hopefully, I can garner some interest with a publisher."

Much of Tutunjian's success can be attributed to the late Rouben Gregorian, her mentor and director when she sang solos with the Komitas Choral Society. Tutunjian sang every Sunday with the choir at St. Stephen's Armenian Church, which her parents, Ann and Ralph, attended.

Over the last 25 years, she has worked part-time inside the bursar's office at Northeastern University, allowing her the time to pursue her music/ministry work. It's been a perfect balance.

"Rouben once told me that anyone can sing, but the person who will get the job is the one with excellent musicianship. I've always heeded those words. With the help of God, my church and heritage, I will continue to be blessed with all the good to serve humanity," she said.

A Tribute to Sos Sarkisian

NEW YORK – Sos Sarkisian was one of the most beloved and appreciated stars of stage and screen within and outside of Armenia. It was, therefore, most appropriate for the New York Chapter of Hamazkayin to organize a program to honor Sarkisian's memory and to pay tribute to him on Friday, January 31, at the Armenian Center in Woodside.

Asdghig Sevag, the vice chairperson of the chapter, made opening remarks and invited Dr. Ara Caprielian to introduce the keynote speaker, actress and the executive producer of Voice Of Armenians TV (www.voiceofarmenians.com), Karine Kocharian.



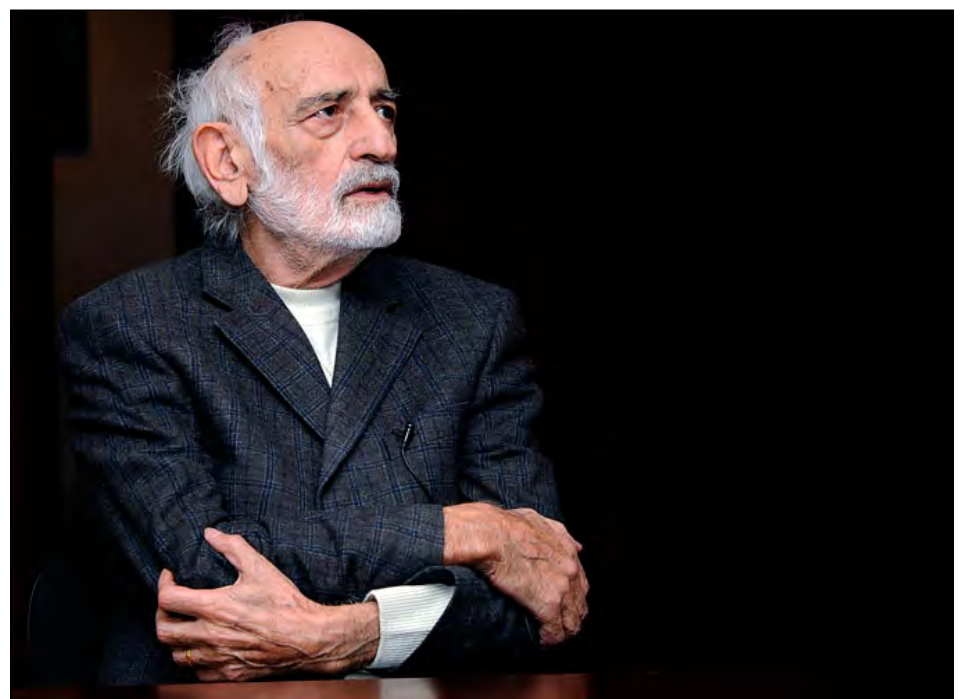
Dr. Ara Caprielian, left, and Asdghig Sevag



Karine Kocharian

The presentation began by the screening of an interesting and informative video prepared by Kocharian. The excellent montage of various interviews with Sarkisian revealed his views, beliefs and philosophical perceptions of life. It also highlighted his notable artistic career and gave the audience an opportunity to see and hear the beloved actor impart his stand on significant national issues.

The video was followed by Kocharian's oral presentation, consisting of four parts: Sarkisian as an actor; as a person; as a patriot, and as a political activist. Having shared the stage with Sarkisian at the Sundukian Theater, Kocharian had a panoply of personal memories and first-hand experiences to share with the audience. Sarkisian's multifaceted persona as an artist, concerned Armenian, a loyal and honest friend, a dedicated member of the ARF emerged through the oral and video presentations. It was interesting to hear Sos Sarkisian's com-



The late Sos Sarkisian

mentary on shortcomings in contemporary society in Armenia, his dismay at the less than stellar quality of television programs currently offered to the public, as well as his sharp criticism of the sub-standard colloquial language. Most of all, it was instructional and gratifying to see how Sarkisian endeavored to instill in the young generation patriotism and loving respect for our language. The presentation elicited a strong round of applause.

After the closing remarks, Sevag thanked Rev. Mesrob Lakissian, pastor of the St.

Illuminator's Armenian Apostolic Cathedral, for his support of Hamazkayin's activities. She also acknowledged the presence of Dr. Dikran Kazanjian, chairman of the Regional Executive of Hamazkayin, who was present, although he resides in Washington, DC.

The New York Hamazkayin chapter organized a program that created a warm atmosphere in which all present lingered long after the program ended, enjoying one another's company and the desserts, honoring the legacy of a unique artist.



ARTS & LIVING

Haroutiun Galentz: From Orphan to Modern Master Artist And National Treasure

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — On Sunday March 16, at 1 p.m., Saro Galentz, son of artist Haroutiun Galentz, will give a talk at the Fairmont Hotel here on the life of his father.

Saro Galentz, a resident of Armenia, an accomplished artist himself and now Professor at the Yerevan State Fine Arts Academy, will discuss the life and times of growing up Galentz. Haroutiun Galentz, an orphan, lived through the Genocide and became one of Armenia's most accomplished artists. Through his works, Haroutiun Galentz was able to express life as he saw it, on canvas and through color as a form.

The younger Galentz will show some of his father's paintings and will also bring 20 of his own pieces to sell, with all proceeds to benefit the Society for Orphaned Armenia Relief - Orange County Chapter (SOAR-OC) (www.soar-us.org). He said he feels that, because his father was an orphan, it is his privilege to help in this small way.

Attendees will have the opportunity to look into the life and times of Haroutiun as seen through his son's eyes. Most of Haroutiun Galentz's paintings are housed at the recently opened Galentz Museum (2010) in Yerevan, Armenia, at the Yerevan Modern Art Museum, Echmiadzin Art Gallery, Charentsavan Art Gallery, Vanadzor Museum, Kapan Modern Art Museum, and in various private collections throughout the world.

To attend, RSVP by email to orange-county@soar-us.org. Seating is limited.

— Ara Kasarian

Aurora Mardiganian, Armenian Heroine Remembered, Honored

MARDIGANIAN, from page 10

History of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences and wrote his thesis on "The Karabagh Conflict and Turkey: A Historical-Comparative Analysis."

He is a member of the Yerevan City Council and since 2011 has served as the secretary of the Armenian Genocide 100th Anniversary Commemoration Committee. Demoyan is the author of several books and numerous articles on such topics as the Armenian Genocide, Turkish foreign policy and its involvement in the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict (1991-1994).

Aurora Mardiganian is the personification of the horrors of the Armenian Genocide and what befell thousands of Armenian girls and women, in particular. An Armenian Anne Frank, she is the symbol of survival, resilience and perseverance of a nation, triumphing over death and evil. Her story is the story of thousands of orphaned Armenian girls upon whose shoulders an entire nation was resurrected from the ashes of the Genocide.

The event, open to the public, is organized by the Armenian Cultural Foundation and cosponsored by the National Armenian Association for Armenian Research and Armenian International Women's Association. It is in commemoration of the Women's History Month and International Women's Day.

A reception will follow the lecture.

Copies of *Ravished Armenia* published by the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute will be available for sale. For more details please contact the ACF office.



Dr. Hayk Demoyan

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH 1 — Poon Paregentan Dinner-Dance. Sts.Vartanantz Armenian Church, Chelmsford, Annual Poon Paregentan Dinner Dance will be held at the church's Kazanjian Ballroom, 180 Old Westford Rd. Chelmsford. Children's Activities, 5-6 p.m. Dinner, 6 p.m. Following dinner, non-stop Armenian and Middle East music provided by the Ani All-Stars featuring: Vocals and dumbeg, Jason Naroian; Joe Kouyoumjian, oud; Ara Jeknavorian, clarinet; and Kevin Magarian, guitar. Paid advance tickets (February 23) are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children (6-12), and 5 & under, free. At-the-door, \$35 for adults and \$15 for children. For reservations, contact Patty- 978-937-9379 or email pkcookie@comcast.net

MARCH 3 — St. James Armenian Church Men's Club will host Dr. Jack Keverian, professor emeritus, Drexel University, on "3D Printing - A Technology Destined to Change Your Life, Our Economy And The World." Losh Kebab and Kheyima Dinner Social Hour (mezza) 6:15 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. \$14 per person. St. James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural & Youth Center - Keljik Hall 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Ladies are welcome.

MARCH 8 — Revolt of February 18 anniversary by Lowell "Aharonian" Gomideh, 6:30, ARS Community Center, 142 Liberty St., Lowell. Buffet dinner and program, "More Unknown Sites of Armenia" by Joe Dagdigian. Admission, \$20 adults; \$10 students.

MARCH 8 — Remembering an Armenian Heroine: The Fate & Legacy of Aurora Mardiganian, An Illustrated Lecture and Presentation of Newly Discovered Documents. Speaker Dr. Hayk Demoyan, director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Organized by the Armenian Cultural Foundation and co-sponsored by National Association for Armenian Studies and Research and Armenian International Women's Association, 3 p.m., Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441 Mystic St., Arlington.Tel: (781)-646-3090.

MARCH 29 — Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Armenian Independent Broadcasting of Boston presents a Musical Evening featuring Janet Khalarian, with the participation of the Hamazkayin Erebuni Dance Ensemble, St. James Armenian Church, Mosesian Cultural Hall, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown. Donation \$20. For tickets, call (617) 926-6268 or Meri Memirjian at (781) 273-2770.

APRIL 10 — A Place Far Away – Book Talk with Author Vahan Zanoian, 7:30 p.m., Charles and Nevert Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. The Greater Boston area community is invited to a compelling book talk with Vahan Zanoian on his new novel, A Place Far



On Saturday, March 8, 3 p.m., the Armenian Cultural Foundation will host "Remembering an Armenian Heroine," an illustrated lecture and presentation based on newly-discovered documents on Aurora Mardiganian. Speaker will be Dr. Hayk Demoyan, director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute. The program is organized by the ACF, co-sponsored by National Association for Armenian Studies and Research and Armenian International Women's Association, 441 Mystic St., Arlington. (781) 646-3090.

Away, a powerful portrayal of the heart-breaking realities of human trafficking in Armenia. Reception to follow talk. Signed books will be available for purchase that evening. All proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated to organizations devoted to protecting children and fighting human trafficking. For further info, contact the church office, 617.354.0632, or email office@htaac.org.

MAY 21 —Chefs Party for Our Park! Benefit for the Armenian Heritage Park's Ongoing Care., Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Royal Sonesta Hotel Boston, Cambridge. Celebrate with Boston's Top Chefs presenting signature dishes inspired by parents, grandparents or mentors for you to taste while you mix, mingle and enjoy. and mingle. Advanced Reservations required. To receive the invite, email info@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

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COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Spanish Inquisition Revisited

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Spain is making amends to the Sephardic Jews expelled more than 500 years ago, during the height of the Spanish Inquisition. The Spanish parliament is about to approve a bill which will offer citizenship to anyone whose Sephardic origins can be verified.

The legislation was first presented in November 2012 by Spain's Foreign and Justice Ministries as a conciliatory gesture to Sephardic Jews whose ancestors were expelled from Spain in 1492. The year, of course, is also noted for the discovery of America. There is a reference to the expulsion edict in Christopher Columbus' diary which states that "In the same month, in which the Majesties [King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella] issued the edict that all the Jews should be driven out of the kingdom and its territories, they gave me the order to undertake, with sufficient men, my expedition of discovery to the Indies."

That was also the year Grenada was won back from the Moors, unifying the entire Spanish territory under the rule of Ferdinand and Isabella.

The expulsion of the Jews, instigated by the head of the Spanish Inquisition, Fr. Tomas de Torquemada, saw some 200,000 to 300,000 Jews loaded aboard ships and forced to roam the Mediterranean Sea. Some were dumped in the sea by ruthless ship captains, others landed on African shores, but the lucky found a new home in Turkey, where they were welcomed by Sultan Bajazet, who used to say, "How can you call Ferdinand of Aragon a wise king? He impoverished his own land and enriched ours."

Indeed, Jews had contributed to Spain, as they later did to the Ottoman Empire, much like the Armenians there.

The descendants of Sephardic Jews can receive Spanish citizenship without the stipulation of renouncing their current citizenship.

We have to remind our readers that on the 500th anniversary of the expulsion, King Juan Carlos officially apologized to the Jews whose ancestors were subjected to expropriation, torture and death at the orders of King Ferdinand.

A delegation of major American Jewish leaders recently visited Spain for high-level meetings, including with King Juan Carlos. On this occasion, Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice chairman of the Conference of Presidents of the American Jewish organizations has said, "The bill will help assure that history of the violence and exile will never be forgotten."

This statement is a telling lesson to some European quarters who pontificate that Armenians should forgive or forget the Genocide.

It is never too late to make amends, if the Turkish leaders could emulate the Spanish and the Germans before them, who not only apologized, but to this day have been compensating the Jewish state, which was not even in existence during the Holocaust.

Turkey's leaders are still in denial mode, offering blanket statements to the international community that their archives are open for any one to come and explore the facts of the "so-called Genocide," which Mr. Dogu Perinçek also labels as an "international lie."

Presidents Obama of the US and Hollande of France as well as Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany have directly appealed to Prime Minister Erdogan to make peace with Turkey's dark history, yet the Turkish government has moved only an iota to label the "deportations" as inhumane, through Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu. All the above indicates that there is no room to manoeuvre in Armenian-Turkish relations.

The much-maligned Turkish Armenian Reconciliation Commission (TARC) was doomed as were the Protocols. In each case, however, an incremental move was recorded. In the first case, the International Court for Transitional Justice approved that what is described as massacres was indeed a genocide, as defined by the United Nations. Unfortunately, this ruling could not convince the European Court of Human Rights in absolving Perinçek. In the second case, Turkey was censured diplomatically as former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton announced that the ball was in Turkey's court after Armenia's parliament approved the Protocols.

As Armenians face the wall of denial with the Turkish government, the only possible road to influence the Turkish side remains contacts between the two nations' civil societies.

The realistic approach teaches us that Armenians will never be able to convince the Turks of their past; only enlightened Turks can influence their fellow countrymen.

Many Turkish scholars have already published seminal works on the Armenian Genocide and the publication process is continuing.

Recently, the European Commission composed a consortium of four Armenian and four Turkish organizations to develop awareness among the Turkish public of Ottoman history.

Prime Minister Erdogan is under tremendous political pressure and his former allies have turned against him. His Ottomanist dreams are in jeopardy and even his political survival is in danger. To assuage his European counterparts, he may make a half-hearted statement, like he did in the case of the Dersim Kurdish massacres. Armenians have to be prepared for such a surprising turn of events.

Turks are well aware of internal chaos reigning among Armenians and they may further aggravate the situation by an unexpected move.

There is no national consensus among Armenians. Views are far apart on the spectrum of political demands. Some will not be satisfied with anything less than territorial annexation of lands outlined in the Treaty of Sevres, while others are willing to settle for far less. There are even people who will be satisfied with a simple apology from Ankara. Those who are assimilated or have let their identity or consciousness fade can be added to the Turkish side of the ledger. The main purpose of the Genocide was to wipe out a surviving Armenian national consciousness regarding their rights and their demands for justice.

There has to be a realistic national consensus to which all or most Armenians can subscribe. The Armenian government is the only legal guardian of our historic claims, but based on the relative political clouds of Turkey and Armenia, its leadership realizes that any territorial claim or even the quest for the revision of the Kars Treaty of 1923, which established the current border between the two countries, is tantamount to a declaration of war against a far more powerful enemy.

Although timid steps have been taken recently by the former Minister of Justice Aghvan Hovsepian, who made a reference to historic Armenia and the Minister of Education Armen Ashotyan, who proposed to the parliament to rename the country as the Republic of Eastern Armenia, which tacitly meant to rectify the issue of Western Armenia.

Normally, official channels in Turkey ignore statements by individuals and groups, but the claims originating in official Yerevan hit a raw nerve in Turkey and the government lodged protests in both cases.

The tenets of diplomatic negotiations require the parties to begin with maximalist demands and settle for minimal possible results.

Raffi Bedrosyan, in an interesting article, ("Dialogue Can Lead to Acknowledgment," *Mirror-Spectator*, February 1, 2014), has come up with seven different possibilities through which the Turkish government can right some historic wrongs. His first recommendation is to open the border. Interestingly, his second recommendation is exactly what the Spanish government is offering the Sephardic Jews: "Grant citizenship to all living descendants of the deported Ottoman Citizen Armenians," he writes. Although very few Armenians would be takers of that citizenship offer, always mindful that bloody coup perpetrator Kenan Evran is still alive and the "deep state" is still active.

His fifth option may satisfy some but not all Armenians. As he says, "5: Offer a symbolic but meaningful apology to the Armenian people for the crimes of 1915, by returning Mount Ararat and Ani to Armenia, perhaps as part of a territorial exchange based on equivalent land area."

Even if all seven proposals do not enjoy the support of the majority of Armenians, it is good to stimulate a national debate and formulate our maximum demands, meanwhile be prepared to settle for the minimum.

The international community opposes any territorial exchange but borders are being redrawn from the Balkans to the Caucasus, from East Timor to South Sudan and even Peru and Chile have begun negotiations on their hundred-year-old territorial claims.

There is no statute of limitation for crimes perpetrated against humanity. If attempts can be made to make right the wrongs of the Spanish Inquisition after 500 years, Armenian demands for justice from Turkey after only one century are hardly unusual.

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

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

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Armenia & Turkey Clash Over Genocide At UN Security Council

Foreshadowing next year's Centennial commemorative events, the Armenian Genocide issue was discussed for the first time at the UN Security Council on January 29.

Armenia's Ambassador Garen Nazarian, addressing the main topic of the Security Council session, "War, its Lessons, and the Search for a Permanent Peace," began his remarks with a subtle hint to Turkey on UN's peace-making role: "to forge a deeper reconciliation among peoples, based on a shared narrative and memory of a troubled past. Often this process entails more than simply adopting declarations and resolutions, visiting and laying down flowers at victims' memorials or signing agreements or protocols and shaking hands. To be lasting, reconciliation may require the settling of the past, recognition and acceptance of responsibility for committed crimes."

Regarding lessons learned from the Armenian Genocide, Ambassador Nazarian specifically mentioned that the "reconciliation process could be delayed for decades or even generations. This was the first modern genocide perpetrated under the cover of the First World

War." Armenia's representative went on to insist that "ending impunity for heinous mass atrocity crimes is vital for restoring justice and normalcy."

Ambassador Nazarian also outlined the steps necessary for proper reconciliation between nations: "Successfully reconciled societies and nations usually undergo an extensive process of restoring justice, including reparations to victims and their heirs in order to re-establish their national dignity and identity. It is also imperative to speak with one voice against the distortion of history, the denial of historical crimes and negationism."

In his response, Turkey's UN representative Halit Cevik, not surprisingly, focused on the future rather than his country's bloody past. Without realizing that he was condemning his own country, the Turkish delegate insisted that "those responsible for the most serious crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide, and war crimes, must be held accountable." Ambassador Cevik then went on to repeat his government's worn-out denials, claiming that "allegations of genocide regarding the 1915 events have never been legally or historically substantiated. In this same vein, there is neither political nor legal consensus as to the nature of those events.... We believe that deriving animosity from history by trying to imprint on others an incriminating and one-sided view of the past, and calling for selective compassion, is not the proper way of respecting the memory of many Turks, Armenians, and others who lost their lives during the First World War. It is therefore important to face history in its entirety, and through impartial scientific examination of historical records and archives, so that the right lessons may be drawn from history and the common fair memory can be reached."

Ambassador Nazarian, in his right of reply, expressed

deep regret to hear the Turkish representative's "distorted explanations about the undeniable fact of the Armenian Genocide which took the lives of 1.5 million Armenian children, women and men living in the Ottoman Empire during the regime of Young Turks.... It began on April 24, 1915, and went on until 1923 – the systematic and planned slaughter of the entire nation."

Describing in detail the deportations and massacres culminating in genocide, Ambassador Nazarian asserted that "this crime has been recognized by a number of [UN] member states and international organizations, including the United Nations and its subsidiary body – the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities."

In a second reply to Ambassador Nazarian, Turkey's representative became more subtle in his denialism: "We did not say that nothing happened in 1915. These events do not fit in the description of genocide which was defined in the [UN] Convention of 1948. Now, an Armenian delegation is raising that the 1915 events are genocide in the absence of any resolution or any decision of the International Court. So how do you expect us...." before he could finish his statement, his cell phone rang, interrupting him in mid-sentence.

It is very likely that more such confrontations will take place with Turkey leading up to the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. Turkish officials do not seem to realize that the more they deny and counter the Armenian activities, the more they help publicize the Genocide and the just demands of the Armenian people. Meanwhile, thanks to the Turkish delegation's two responses to Ambassador Nazarian statements, the Armenian Genocide was extensively discussed at the UN Security Council for the first time ever!

Open Letter to All Armenians

By Avedis Kevorkain

It could be that this Open Letter is not needed. I am referring to the fact that I have heard nothing about any meaningful – dare I say, "massive" – plans to mark the Centenary of the start of the Armenian Genocide, in 2015.

If the silence means that the Armenians have finally realized the folly of marking each April 24, just to satisfy the egos of some activists, then I shout a loud "Bravo!" and do not regret the fact that I have been thinking of suggesting just that – silence in 2015.

Why?

Let us face the truth. No one gives a damn about the Armenians. Except, possibly, the Turks. We will ignore the Azeris, because they are a Turkish problem.

April 24 Observances come and go, and still presidents (whether Dummocrat or Repugnant) give only lip service, and Members of Congress who have a few militant Armenians in their constituencies do nothing (except so-called speeches entered into the Congressional Record – and then distributed to sycophant Armenians who think that their members of Congress really give a damn – or they introduce meaningless Bills that get nowhere).

So, this is in support of the Armenians do something novel next year.

What am I suggesting? Do nothing! That's right – do nothing.

If anything really meaningful is to be done to mark the Centenary, work should have begun two or three years ago. Committees should have been formed; funds should have been procured; ideas from the Armenian public should have been solicited; historians should have been enlisted; major venues should have been nailed down. And, of course, everything should be aimed at the non-Armenian public. If no Armenian attends the Centenary events, no loss, as long as the meeting halls are full of non-Armenians.

"Ah," I hear you say, "but something is being planned, but we don't want the Turks to know what we are planning." If that is the case, it is a stupid response, so please do not so respond. If any Armenian thinks that the Turks have been sitting around waiting for Armenian plans to be announced before making their own plans, that Armenian should be put away somewhere safe from the public.

But, going on the assumption that no news means nothing is being planned, let me expound on my supporting

opinion to do nothing in 2015..

Just think of what it will do to the Turkish plans to counter the fuss they think the Armenians will make about 1915. Never mind their plans, think of what it will do to the Turkish officials. All the money spent with their lobbyists, hiring public-relations and advertising agencies, buying politicians, taking Members of Congress to Turkey, buying newspaper editors, buying television pundits – funds that could have been embezzled into the pockets of the Prime Minister and his coterie, apparently wasted.

But, more than that, think of what the Turks will think. "Why," they will ask themselves, "have the Armenians decided to do nothing for 2015? Do the Armenians have something sinister in mind?" "Ah," they will say to themselves, "the silence in 2015 is so they can mount a major campaign in 2016 claiming that the Genocide continued into 1916." That will throw them.

But, do nothing in 2016, as well. Then the Turks will wonder even more. And, they might think that the Armenians have given up universal Genocide recognition and are planning a long-term campaign to disrupt Turkey's own plans for a massive observance of its Centenary in 2023. "Ah," they will say to themselves, "that is what those nasty Armenians are planning." Think of the consternation as the Turks try to anticipate how the Armenians are planning to throw the proverbial monkey-wrench into the proverbial machinery.

But, what, you are asking, of the Armenians themselves.

Let us face the truth, here, also. The Armenians don't give a damn either. There are an estimated one million Armenians in this country. How many attend the April 24 Observance in their communities? Fifty? One hundred? What is the sum-total of the national attendees of the April 24 observances? One thousand? Two thousand? Has anyone asked "Why"?

It could be that the vast number of Armenians are at least a generation removed from having a family member actually remember the Genocide – much less be a survivor of as an infant. So, the attitude is, simply "It happened over there and a long time ago. I don't even know what my murdered relatives looked like."

And, besides, why ruin a good weekend by going to hear, yet again, about the Genocide.

So, I appeal to my fellow Armenians, enough is more than enough. Let us not waste time and effort to tell each other what happened 100 years ago.

Just think what this will do to the Turks.

(Avedis Kevorkian is a resident of Philadelphia.)

What was President Hollande Doing Visiting Turkey?

By Miran P. Sarkissian

French President Francois Hollande is not considered particularly successful in his domestic politics, but his diplomatic contacts transmit interesting messages, which is exactly what he did during his recent visit to Turkey. Moreover, it is well known that great powers, like France, have long term goals and stable foreign policy for decades.

During an official visit to Ankara, the French socialist president gave the impression that he is somehow removed from the anti-Turkish attitude of the predecessor conservative government. Sarkozy had made clear his opposition to Turkey's full membership in the European Union, and had been talking about establishing a "special relationship" instead.

Hollande shows that he is willing to discuss the possibility of Turkey's full integration into the European Union, but on one hard precondition. That the proposal is put for a vote in a referendum to the French people. All predictions indicate, however, that the French do not want Turkey and such a referendum would be rejected.

France seems to be verbally putting "water in its wine" as she feels losing ground in a large market like Turkey. Hollande's ambivalent statements of "we want you, but we may also not want you" are more aimed at opening the Turkish market to major French companies. Construction, heavy equipment, pharmaceuticals, a planned new airport and many other areas are of great interest to French exporters while Turkey, of course, exploits her demographic prowess of a large and youthful population wanting more western products and services.

For several decades now, both France and Germany have been trying to penetrate the Turkish market while doing everything possible to avoid Turkey's admission as a full member in the European Union. The two strongest members of Europe would not like a country like Turkey, with a population greater than their own, to become dominant in the European Parliament and other European institutions. It would mean that Europe would be at least directed, if not governed, by Turkey.

Furthermore, the French and German politicians have understood the negative effects of multiculturalism and do not want the free movement of Turkish Moslem workers in the European Union. Besides, Turkey represents instability and different faces for different occasions and Europeans fear the penetration of extreme Islam in Western Europe via Turkey.

However, we do have to admire President Hollande's political dexterity. In order to satisfy the French-Armenian

see HOLLANDE, page 16



Erdogan Struggles with Merkel's Skepticism on Turkish EU Bid

By Stephen Brown and Andreas Rinke

BERLIN (Reuters/Asbarez) — Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan urged Angela Merkel to throw Germany's full weight behind his country's bid to join the European Union but there was no sign the chancellor had been swayed from her skeptical stance on Turkish membership.

In a visit this month to Berlin overshadowed by EU concerns about his crackdown on the judiciary and police whom he accuses of forming part of a "parallel state," Erdogan complained that German support was "not currently adequate."

"We want to see more. I would like to remind you that the population of Turks in Germany

Erdogan did appear to have won a concession from Merkel on the unblocking of two crucial chapters in accession talks: Chapter 23 that deals with judiciary and fundamental rights and 24 on justice, freedom and security.

The European Commissioner in charge of enlargement, Stefan Fuele, has argued that opening up these chapters would be an effective way of tackling Turkey's poor human rights record.

Erdogan capped his day in Berlin with a spirited campaign rally in front of a capacity crowd of 4,000 cheering, flag-waving Turkish immigrants while another 3,000 watched on video screens set up outside. German TV broadcast his speech.



German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Turkey's Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan address the media after talks in Berlin February 4, 2014.

Erdogan ridiculed talk about corruption in Turkey by saying that his government was responsible for strong economic growth, 10,000 new roads, better schools and healthcare.

"Can you get that in a country with corruption?" he asked to cheers from the crowd. He added that there was no longer any torture at police stations. "Turkey is secure. Turkey is in strong hands. I want you to be proud of your country."

Ankara began negotiations to join the EU in 2005, 18 years after applying. But a series of political obstacles, notably over the divided island of Cyprus, and resistance to Turkish membership in Germany and France, have slowed progress.

European Commission President Jose Manuel

Barroso told Erdogan last week that respect for the rule of law and an independent judiciary were pre-conditions for EU membership. Erdogan argues he is only taking action against an attempt to subvert the rule of law.

A bill from Erdogan's ruling AK Party, which is on hold in parliament, would give the government greater control over the appointment of judges and prosecutors. The party argues it is needed to curb the influence of Fethullah Gulen, a US-based cleric and his former ally.

Aware of the EU's concerns, Erdogan — once considered a model of democracy for the Muslim world — said the corruption probe unfairly targeted his followers and was orchestrated by people who "wanted to change Turkey's direction."

As well as Berlin, Erdogan has visited Brussels and Paris in recent weeks in a bid to build momentum after the start of a new round of EU membership talks in November, the first in more than three years. Talks had been delayed by EU states over last summer's crackdown on anti-government demonstrations.

Asbarz newspaper of Los Angeles, translating a report from a Turkish-language version of Hurriyet on Thursday, said a tense exchange took place between the two leaders over the Armenian Genocide.

Erdogan warned Merkel and her ruling Christian Democratic Union party to be more cautious in addressing the upcoming centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

"We are aware that in the coming year there are budgetary allocations in your country for the 100th anniversary of 1915 event," Erdogan reportedly told Merkel.

"I recommend that you address this issue more carefully and caution your party about any allocations," added Erdogan.

In response, Merkel reportedly told the Turkish leader that Germany is a democratic country and that her government cannot intervene in decisions. Turkey must come to terms with its history. We cannot compare the Armenians living in Armenia with the Armenians who were forcibly dispersed around the world," said Merkel adding that those in Armenia are living under difficult circumstances and urged Erdogan to open the border.

alone is greater than the population of many European countries," he told the German Council on Foreign Relations before meeting Merkel.

Erdogan has purged thousands of police and sought tighter control of the courts since a corruption inquiry burst into the open in December, a scandal he has cast as an attempted "judicial coup" meant to undermine him ahead of elections.

In combination with his crackdown on last year's protests in Istanbul's Taksim Square, Erdogan's response has reinforced the view in Berlin and Brussels that Turkey's fragile democracy may not yet be ready for EU membership.

"I personally said that we are in a negotiation process that has certain outcome and no fixed time frame," Merkel told a news conference after their talks.

"It is no secret and nothing has changed in my view that I am skeptical about full membership for Turkey," Merkel said, adding that this should not prevent the talks from going ahead.

What was President Hollande Doing Visiting Turkey?

HOLLANDE, from page 15
electoral vote of more than 400,000 strong back home, he asked the Turks to recognize the Armenian Genocide although Turkish President Gül's answer was to politely defer that to historians, which has become the Turkish mantra of late and will probably be their position for the Genocide's Centennial in 2015.

So, a top-level diplomatic visit of Heads of State between France and Turkey was based on commercial interests for French companies laden with some clever electoral campaigning by President Hollande in his own country. There is an old Turkish saying (paray verel, doo-doo chalar) which in English translates as "if you pay the piper, the music will play". President Hollande has paid his diplomatic dues to Turkey; now let's see if Turkey will play.

Mass. Governor Re-nominates Joseph Berman for Judgeship

NOMINATION, from page 1
for more than four hours by the council in November.

"I've listened, and he's listened to some of the concerns that have been raised by councilors. And I think he has some responses they ought to hear. So I appreciate that they will have another hearing," Patrick told reporters after a council meeting Wednesday.

Patrick said, "I think he's eminently qualified. I appreciate the sensitivities that were raised about him, but I think he's ready to be a Superior Court judge, and I think he ought to have an opportunity to go right at some of the concerns that were raised and try to satisfy the councilors."

Berman has listened to the councilors' concerns, Patrick said, and is ready to give "better prepared and more responsive answers to their concerns."

Berman is a Weston resident who is a partner at the Boston law firm Looney & Grossman. He graduated from Dartmouth College and received his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. His practice focuses on commercial litigation.

In January, more than 100 attorneys wrote to the council urging them to approve Berman's nomination. Among the lawyers were former governor William Weld, former Attorney General Scott Harshbarger, and attorney general candidate Warren Tolman.

"The signers of this letter and many others throughout Massachusetts share a concern that some members of the Governor's Council have focused on the wrong issues in considering his nomination and have misstated the facts," the letter stated. "We believe that Mr. Berman is eminently qualified to be a Superior Court judge. He has practiced in the Commonwealth for twenty years and in Colorado for two years before that. He has substantial experience with both civil and criminal matters, including numerous trials. He knows the Superior Court, respects it and will do all in his power to protect it for the benefit of all in Massachusetts."

Patrick delayed a vote on Berman's nomination in November after a majority of the council said they would not vote for him. The Governor's Council vets and approves the governor's judicial nominees. When he delayed the vote, Patrick said he wanted more time to round up votes in Berman's favor.

The council's objection to Berman's nomination spurred some criticism of the council in newspaper editorials and other media outlets. Later, council members criticized the governor for postponing the vote, saying they had made up their minds.

On Wednesday, the council scheduled a hearing for February 26 at 1 p.m. without making any comments about Berman or the controversy that surrounded his nomination.

Warm Hearth: Another Year Of Love, Family and Home

By Natalie Bryant-Rizzieri

On my recent trip to Armenia, I celebrated Nor Dari (New Year) with the residents of Warm Hearth. We ate from a table full of festive food and the residents sang carol after carol to their hearts' content — and mine. They

Opinion recited poems, expressed their wishes for the coming year and spoke of treasured memories from the last.

As I soaked in the joy and love around me, I thought: This is why we do what we do. Because of Warm Hearth, these dear people can gather around a table, break bread and toast to another year, knowing love in their lives.

In Armenia, a former Soviet republic, orphans with disability and mental illness do not rejoin society when they become adults. Instead they are placed in psychiatric institutions, where conditions are desolate. We founded Warm Hearth in 2006 and welcomed its first eight residents who had been on the brink themselves of being sent to psychiatric institutions.

We now have 14 in our family. Supported by an Armenian nonprofit, Jermik Ankyun Foundation, and the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) (www.soar-us.org), we are building a network of support we hope can be replicated throughout the country.

My time in Armenia in January reinforced my belief that we are making progress.

Perhaps the sweetest part of our time together at Warm Hearth was that we were all gathered. Not one of the residents was missing.

Anna and Sassoon have been home for almost two years now, and the life has returned to them and filled them up. Their eyes dance when they smile. They have found a way, through practice and careful guidance from our amazing staff, to live peaceably with the other residents.

On this trip, I also met Warm Hearth's newest resident, Arsen. A gentle soul, quiet and reserved, Arsen is more recently orphaned. He experienced a lifetime of love from his mother and father. Though it is not the same as the love of a family, there is love at Warm Hearth and for him. But I imagine it is very hard to accept that one has to begin again.

Even so, we continue to do our best to be a family to our residents. My sister, who joined me on my recent trip along with my father, noticed a family tree in the hallway of our home. It includes a photo of each of our residents, along with the year they were born.

What a precious testament to what we are trying to do. I am grateful for the staff member who thought to do this — internalizing the true spirit of our work at Warm Hearth.

To all of those who have supported us in 2013, thank you. Thank you for your commitment. And thank you for making a difference to those 14 people who call Warm Hearth home.

(Friends of Warm Hearth and Jermik Ankyun Foundation is located in Sunnyside, NY and Yerevan. The organization provides holistic care for orphans with disabilities in Armenia. For more information visit www.friendsofwarmphearth.org.)