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Switzerland Appeals ECHR Ruling

BERN, Switzerland – The Swiss government announced this week it would appeal the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) on December 17, 2013, which had overturned the conviction of Dogu Perinçek for denying the Armenian Genocide.

The decision was made by the Swiss Federal Office of Justice to ask the ECHR's Grand Chamber to review the ruling in order to clarify the scope available to Swiss authorities in applying the Swiss Criminal Code to combat racism. The anti-racism law was created in 1995 in order to comply with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. (The press release of the Swiss Federal Office of Justice is at <https://www.bj.admin.ch/content/bj/en/home/dokumentation/medi-informationen/2014/2014-03-11.html>)

In 2007, Perinçek was convicted under the Swiss anti-racism law for publicly denying the Armenian Genocide. He failed to win two appeals in Swiss courts, then

appealed to the ECHR. On December 17, 2013, the ECHR overturned this conviction on the grounds of freedom of speech.

The International Association of Genocide and Human Rights Studies (IIGHRS), a division of the Zoryan Institute, and the Switzerland-Armenia Association (SAA) have worked together since December, along with a team of scholars and experts in international human rights law, major Armenian organizations and individuals, as a strategic team to inform and educate Swiss public opinion.

Le Temps (Geneva), in covering this story, wrote, "Armenian associations in Switzerland are highly mobilized in collaboration with The International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, which took a full-page advertisement in newspapers, including *Le Temps*. A petition that has more than 10,000 signatures was also sent to the Minister of Justice and Police, Simonetta Sommaruga, for Switzerland to appeal."

Governor's Council Rejects Superior Court Pick Berman

By Colleen Quinn

BOSTON (State House News Service) – Joseph Berman, Gov. Deval Patrick's controversial pick for a seat on the Superior Court, was rejected Wednesday, March 5, in a 4-4 vote of the Governor's Council.

Despite an outpouring of support from prominent attorneys including a former Massachusetts governor, Joseph Berman, Gov. Deval Patrick's contro-



"...because the reasons expressed previously for your opposition are, in my view, unprecedented and I think unfair, I want to express for the record my disappointment with today's vote"

–Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick

versial pick for a seat on the Superior Court, was rejected Wednesday in a 4-4 vote of the Governor's Council.

Councilors Robert Jubinville, Marilyn Devaney, Jennie Caissie and Oliver Cipollini voted against Berman. Councilors Terrence Kennedy, Eileen Duff, Christopher Iannella and Michael Albano voted for him. Patrick presided at the meeting. Without a lieutenant governor - Tim Murray stepped down last year to run the Worcester Chamber of Commerce - Patrick was unable to break the tie in Berman's favor.

A Weston resident, Berman is a partner at the Boston law firm Looney & Grossman. He graduated from see BERMAN, page 7

NEWS IN BRIEF

Petition Underway to Nominate Writer Akram Aylisli for Nobel

BAKU (Armenpress) – A number of international public figures and university professors have signed a petition nominating Azerbaijani writer Akram Aylisli for the 2014 Peace Nobel Prize, in recognition of his "amazing courage in overcoming the hostility between the peoples of Azerbaijan and Armenia."

"Only the voices of famous people can encourage the two nations to embolden each other and finally to bring to an agreement. Mr. Aylisli was brave enough to do that step the first and stretch hand to the Armenians," the Nobel petition read.

Naibov, better known by his pen name Akram Aylisli, is a former member of parliament. His works have been translated into a number of languages in the former Soviet Union and around the world. He was decorated by the president of Azerbaijan with the Istiglal (2002) and Shokhrat orders. In 2013, after the publication of *Stone Dreams*, which depicted the pogroms carried out by Azerbaijanis against the Armenians in Sumgait and Baku and presented Armenians in sympathetic light, President Ilham Aliyev signed a presidential decree that stripped Aylisli of the title of People's Writer and the presidential pension. His books were burnt and a "bounty" of some \$13,000 was promised for cutting the writer's ear off.

Armenia and Serbia Seek Closer Ties

YEREVAN (Armenpress, Public Radio of Armenia) – Armenian and Serbian businessmen met this week to discuss developing bilateral cooperation at the Armenian-Serbian business forum held on March 11. Representatives of nine companies in the fields of construction, food processing, woodworking, engineering, advertising and design, as well as tourism had arrived in Armenia from Serbia.

The Serbian businessmen met their Armenian partners in the corresponding fields. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia Ivan Mrkic stated that notwithstanding the close historical and cultural relations, the Armenian-Serbian economic relations are far from implementing their entire potential. "Serbia is interested in the increasing of the volumes of the trade turnover with Armenia and expanding the products in it," said Mrkic.

President Serge Sargsisyan met with Mrkic. He stressed the importance of his visit in terms of continuing the Armenian-Serbian high-level political dialogue and promoting the cooperation agenda. According to the president, the Armenian people gratefully remember the seven Serbian pilots who died when approaching Yerevan while they were delivering aid of Armenia during the days after the 1988 earthquake. Every year, at the anniversary of the earthquake, a tribute is paid at the memorial dedicated to their memory.

Nancy Najarian Eyes Virginia House Seat

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff



MCLEAN, Va. – Community activist Nancy Najarian, a woman with deep ties to Massachusetts and its Armenian community, has set her sights on the US House seat which will soon be vacant when its current occupant, veteran US Rep. Jim Moran Jr. (D-Va), retires in the fall.

Najarian is the daughter and stepdaughter, respectively, of K. George and Dr. Carolann Najarian, formerly of Massachusetts and currently of Washington, DC, and resides in northern Virginia with her family.

During an interview this week, Najarian said that she has been a longtime campaigner for and supporter of Democratic candidates, both locally and nationally.

With Moran's decision not to see another term, Najarian said, it seemed like the time was right to take a chance.

"As I am getting older, I am thinking of ways that I could make an impact in see NAJARIAN, page 6

Members of Congress Commemorate 1988 Pogroms in Azerbaijan

WASHINGTON – In the last few weeks, a dozen Members of Congress released statements and made speeches on the House floor in commemoration of the 26th anniversary of the anti-Armenian pogroms in Sumgait, Kirovabad and Baku, Azerbaijan.

"On this tragic anniversary, when we mourn the loss of those innocent lives, we are mindful of the ongoing conflict in Nagorno Karabagh and recurrent incidents of inciting rhetoric by Azeri political leaders and continued military clash-

es along the border," stated House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA). "It is critical that Azerbaijan's leaders refrain from provocative statements and commit to fruitful negotiations for a lasting peace in Nagorno Karabagh," he added.

Beginning in Sumgait in 1988, and spreading to the cities of Kirovabad in 1989 and Baku and 1990, armed mobs of Azerbaijani citizens took to the streets targeting Armenian residences and destroying Armenian-owned businesses while

Azerbaijan security services stood by. As a result, thousands of Armenians were injured and countless more fled their homes, effectively cleansing Azerbaijan of its Christian Armenian minority.

As a wave of pro-Azerbaijan lawmakers has tried to bolster the autocratic regime in recent years, the Armenian Assembly of America has been working to educate Members of Congress and the public about the Armenian pogroms that took place.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Armenian Parliament Hosts Pupils

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Within the framework of Open Doors Program, the National Assembly hosted the pupils of the Elite Experimental Secondary School on March 11. The Department for Mass Media and Public Relations of the National Assembly informed Armenpress that the Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Science, Education, Youth and Sport Artak Davtyan conducted the open lesson. Davtyan presented the legislative and representation activities of the National Assembly and the formation of the Standing Committees.

During the question-and-answer session they asked questions related to reforms in the educational system, the international system, the international schools, emigration and unemployment.

Youth Orchestra Performs with Noted Violinist

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, led by Sergey Smbatyan, performed jointly with world-renowned violinist Dmitry Sitkovetsky on March 13 at the Spondiaryan National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre. The official website of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia reported that during the concert the pieces they played were the Violin Concerto by Johannes Brahms and Symphony No. 6, by Beethoven. Sitkovetsky has performed as a soloist with many of the world's leading orchestras. He has performed at a number of high-profile festivals. In 2003, Sitkovetsky was appointed music director of the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra.

Catholicos Receives Chess Championship Participants

ECHMIADZIN – On March 9, in the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, welcomed players participating in the 15th European Individual Chess Championship. Present at the meeting were Bishop Hovnan Hakobyan, Grant Sacristan of the Mother See and Bishop Bagrat Galstanyan, director of the Office on Ecclesiastical Liturgical Issues of the Mother See.

Smbat Lputyan, president and founder of the Chess Academy of Armenia and an international grandmaster, introduced the championship participants to Karekin II and presented the final results of the tournament.

The catholicos welcomed the visit of the chess players to Holy Echmiadzin, expressing joy that various international cultural, educational and also sports events are being held in Armenia. Noting that chess is favored by the Armenian people, he remarked that chess is a noble game with an important mission in people's lives, contributing to mutual understanding between nations and cultures with its spirit.

780 Students Get Tuition Refund

YEREVAN (Armenian Public Radio) – Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian attended an Armenia Youth Foundation-hosted scholarship awards ceremony at Yerevan State Medical University this week. There he said that 780 students in public universities have received tuition refunds based on their grades.

Congratulating the winners, Sargsian stated in part, "I get a little bit excited every time I meet you for I remember my college years. Of course, such an atmosphere is a unique opportunity to get an extra charge of energy. Whatever we do for you is not enough as you are worth getting much more from the State. One of my government's most important tasks is to make you feel happy in Motherland so that you would associate your future plans with the homeland."

Armenian Scientists: Web Based Cooperation Transcends Borders

YEREVAN – The Yerevan Physics Institute (YerPhi), together with its Cosmic Ray Division (CRD), is establishing an international partnership for analysis of scientific data stored at some of the world's largest scientific installations. The CRD's part of this project, entitled "Web-Based Data Analysis Platform for Space Weather Observations," will develop a sophisticated web based application for collaborative analysis and research of complex data. The data will originate from multiple research laboratories both at CRD's facilities in Armenia and from distant sources. The system is currently operational at CRD's site and its further development is supported within the framework of the Vaporciyan Multivariate Analysis and Visualization (VMAV) project.

Data in a wide range of formats will be analyzed. When completed, the system will allow space weather and geophysical data from around the world to be analyzed by CRD's scientists as well as placing data collected at CRD's facilities at the disposal of the international scientific community.

YerPhi is in the process of upgrading its networking servers to facilitate the analysis of the vast amounts of data collected worldwide from some of the world's largest particle accelerators. On many of the world's most complex and expensive scientific instruments, large teams of international researchers per-



Japan Tsunami Remembered

YEREVAN – The victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan were remembered here on March 11, on the third anniversary of the tragedy, which claimed more than 15,000 lives.

form the analysis on huge quantities of collected data. In many instances the amount of data collected is so large that it is estimated that only 30-40% of the data actually gets analyzed. International scientific collaborators often access remote data via the Internet from thousands of miles away. Astrophysical observations similarly gather huge amounts of data that need analysis.

To enlist expertise in networking and knowledge management, CRD's director and the head of its Cosmic Ray Division, Prof. Ashot Chilingarian, recently visited several European research centers to discuss the establishment of this Armenian-European project. At DESY, the German physics center, Dr. Zaven Akopov, head of DESY's Knowledge Management project at the X-Ray Laser Project Center,

will participate in YerPhi's project. Also in Germany, Dr. Gevorg Poghosian, head of the simulation laboratory for astro-particle physics at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology's Steinbuch Center will join this effort. Working on the Large Scale Data Management and Analysis Project, former YerPhi staffer Arsen Hairepetyan, and data processing expert at the Institute of Data Processing and Electronics, Dr. Suren Chilingaryan, all expressed their eagerness to work collaboratively with their colleagues in Armenia over high speed Internet links. This project will allow Armenia's scientists to collaborate with their international colleagues on some of the most challenging projects of the 21st century.

The VMAV project was established in memory of the late Kirakos Vaporciyan by the Vaporciyan family of Michigan.

Francophonie Season Kicks off in Armenia

By Gohar Abrahamyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – As French singer Patricia Kaas performed French legend Edith Piaf's songs on Yerevan stage last Sunday, a two-month Francophonie season kicked off in Armenia. The period from March 9 to May 12 in Armenia will see more than

to the Francophone family values.

And Kaas herself stated that she would like to come to Armenia again in the future.

"Every time I get emotional on stage despite being on stage for a long time, artists will understand me. And yesterday, too, I was so excited, I felt anxious because I was performing here for the first time. I had long wanted to give a concert in Armenia. Yesterday the hall

customary language. Armenia, which has a large Diaspora in France, acquired an observer status at the organization in 2004. Four years later it was already an associate member, while in 2012 Armenia became Francophonie's 54th full member. At present, the organization has 57 states as members.

"The two-month Francophonie season is another opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the Francophone values. It is testimony to the importance that Armenia attaches to its belonging to the Francophone area that is an efficient environment for dialogue and cooperation and provides an opportunity to act more systematically in the international arena," said Armenia's Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian.

Many politicians, as well as ambassadors of France to Armenia have repeatedly stated that the Armenian-French relations are at the highest level both in the political and economic spheres. Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of France were established in 1992, soon after Armenia became independent. Various sources put the number of Armenians living in France to between 450,000 to 700,000.

French language specialist Diana Aghbalyan, 24, says that even though she graduated from a higher educational institution with honors, she is having problems with finding a job today, as French is not as required in Armenia as English.

"French is needed when you work at a translation center, and even then not so much as English. Some formal steps are being taken to introduce French in everyday life, but I don't think they have any significance," Aghbalyan says.



French singer Patricia Kaas, fresh off her concert the previous night, at a press conference in Yerevan

400 cultural, artistic, educational and university events related to Francophonie.

French Ambassador to Armenia Henri Reynaud on Monday described the opening of the Season with Kaas' concert as a magnificent start, saying that Armenia, as a member of the organization of French-speaking nations, has once again proved its commitment

was crowded, and judging by the audience reaction, I think their expectations were met, and my expectations have also been met," she said.

The Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, known informally and more commonly as Francophonie, was set up in 1970. It is an international organization representing countries and regions where French is the first or



INTERNATIONAL

Catherine Ashton Visits Armenian Cathedral in New Julfa, Iran

ISFAHAN, Iran (Armenpress) – The European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton visited Holy Savior Armenian Cathedral in New Julfa on March 10. The official website of the Prelacy of New Julfa, the dean of the Shahin Shahr community Archimandrite Anania Gujanian, along with the representatives of parliament, diocesan, religious and other bodies, welcomed the delegation led by Ashton and the Prelate of the Armenian Diocese of Isfahan Bishop Babgen Charian.

The members of the delegation first paid a visit to 350-year old St. Joseph of Arimathea Chapel of the Holy Savior Cathedral, which is famous for its spectacular frescoes. In addition, the Komitas choir performed hymns conducted by Armen Amirkhanian. Ashton and the other members of the delegation listened to the hymns and looked at the fres-



European Union (EU) High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton and Archimandrite Anania Gujanian look at the frescoes.

cos of the church, which tell the whole history of the Old and New Testaments, commandments, the passions of St. Gregory the Illuminator, as well as Paradise and Hell.

UNICEF Recognizes Syria as Most Dangerous Place for Children

UNITED NATIONS – As the conflict in Syria approaches another somber milestone, more than twice as many children are now affected compared to 12 months ago, says a new report by UNICEF published this week. Particularly hard hit are up to a million children who are trapped in areas of Syria that are under siege or that are hard to reach with humanitarian assistance due to continued violence.

The report details the devastating impact on children in the three years of conflict in Syria impacting 5.5 million children and calls for an immediate end to the violence and increased support for those affected.

The report includes the accounts of children whose lives have been devas-

tated by the war, and highlights the profound traumas many have experienced. Children such as 4-year-old Adnan, who fled with his family to Lebanon, suffered facial scarring when his home was bombed and still suffers from emotional distress. “He cries all night,” his mother is quoted as saying. “He is scared of everything and is afraid when we leave him, even for a second.” UNICEF estimates that there are 2 million children like Adnan in need of psychological support or treatment.

“For Syria’s children, the past three years have been the longest of their lives. Must they endure another year of suffering?” said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake.

The report warns that the future of 5.5 million children inside Syria and living as refugees in neighboring countries hangs in the balance as violence, the collapse of health and education services, severe psychological distress and the worsening economic impact on families combine to devastate a generation. The report draws attention to the suffering experienced by children and their families who have been trapped in areas under siege for many months. Cut off from aid, living in rubble and struggling to find food, many Syrian children have been left without protection, medical care or psychological support, and have little or no access to education. In the very worst cases children and pregnant women have been deliberately wounded or killed by snipers. In host countries, 1.2 million Syrian children are now refugees living in camps and overwhelmed host communities, and have limited access to clean water, nutritious food or learning opportunities. The report says that three years on, Syrian children have been forced to grow up faster than any child should. UNICEF estimates that 1 in 10 refugee children is now working and 1 in every 5 Syrian girls in Jordan is forced into early marriage.

The report calls on the global community to undertake six critical steps: End the cycle of violence in Syria now, Grant immediate access to the under-reached 1 million children inside Syria, Create an environment where children are protected from exploitation and harm, Invest in children’s education, Help children’s inner healing through psychological care and support and Provide support to host communities and governments to mitigate the social and economic impact of the conflict on families.

“This war has to end so that children can return to their homes to rebuild their lives in safety with their family and friends. This third devastating year for Syrian children must be the last,” said Lake.

Turkey Found Guilty in Case of Two Journalists

STRASBOURG (*Hurriyet*) – The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled Turkey breached the right to a fair hearing and freedom of expression in the cases of two journalists, Hasan Karakaya and Abdurrahman Dilipak.

The case concerned a judgment against Karakaya and Dilipak for writing articles that were considered offensive toward a high-ranking army official.

“The Court found that Dilipak and Karakaya had not been given the opportunity to participate in the civil proceedings against them or to defend their interests,” the decision read. It observed that the articles in question were part of a debate on the political role of the army and the remarks from the two journalists clearly fell within a matter of general interest. Lastly, the particularly significant award of damages against the two journalists was a sanction that would be likely to have a chilling effect, not only on the appli-

cants themselves, but on all journalists.”

Dilipak and Karakaya, who were both working at the Islamist daily newspaper Akit in June 2000, wrote separate articles criticizing Admiral Güven Erkaya, former Commander-in-Chief of the Navy and member of the National Security Council, following his death.

In September 2000, the deceased’s family brought civil proceedings to obtain damages from the two journalists. On Jan. 21, 2003, the court delivered a judgment in the absence of the defendants, who had never appeared at the hearings. They were ordered jointly to pay 30,000 Turkish Liras plus default interest for non-pecuniary damage. The court found that the applicants had overstepped the limits of criticism by personally attacking the deceased on account of his public duties. Dilipak and Karakaya appealed the decision, but their appeals were dismissed.

International News

Crimea May Become Tempting Precedent in Karabagh Issue: expert

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The head of Alte et Certe analytical center believes that the situation in Crimea may be used as a precedent in the attempt to resolve the Karabagh issue.

“The whole Western legislation system is built on the rule of precedents,” Andrey Yepifantsev said. As he further noted, should Crimea get annexed to Russia, the fact might become a strong precedent, with Yerevan and Stepanakert tempted to follow the suit in resolving the Karabagh issue.

“The annexation, should it come to pass, will lead to serious alteration of the post-Yalta system of the international law, based on the inviolability of borders. A party initiating the move would become an object of serious pressure from those interested in preservation of the existing order. In the present case, Russia won’t be vulnerable in the face of pressure - with no military resistance expected, the suggested economic sanctions more harmful to those who imposed them and political ostracizing of no particular concern to Moscow,” the expert said.

As he noted, Russia has the capability of breaking the system. “What about Armenia? Does it feel invulnerable enough to stand the pressure of the world powers? Are its citizens ready to suffer from the deteriorating economy brought over by sanctions? Are they ready for a war with Azerbaijan? Only Armenia can answer those questions,” the Russian analyst concluded.

The parliament of Crimea, a majority ethnic Russian region within Ukraine, declared independence on Tuesday, March 11, ahead of a popular vote on secession and annexation by Russia.

The declaration comes as the latest attempt to shore up the legal basis of the upcoming referendum, which is scheduled for Sunday but has been declared unconstitutional by the country’s central leadership in Kyiv.

Crimean Tatars Ask for Azeri Help from Aliyev

BAKU (EurasiaNet.org) – Four days after Crimean Tatars sent an SOS to Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev, nothing has been heard from Baku but silence. For all its grievances with Moscow, chances are slim that Azerbaijan, the Tatars’ rich South-Caucasus cousin, will stick its neck out over Crimea.

But Crimean Tatar community leader Mustafa Dzhemilyev, a Ukrainian parliamentarian, gave it his best shot in a March 6 interview with the news site Haqqin. “Do not leave your Crimean brothers and sisters at this difficult time,” Dzhemilyev implored Aliyev.

Recalling repressions by Tsarist and Soviet Russia, he underlined that the Tatars will never put up with a Russian takeover of the Crimean peninsula, and asked Aliyev to use his influence with Russian President Vladimir Putin to prevent such an event.

The request was cc-ed to Turkish President Abdullah Gul and another Turkic leader, Kazakhstani President Nursultan Nazarbayev.

Turkey has so far weighed in the strongest on the issue, while Aliyev and Nazarbayev have been slow to provide even a non-binding, thinking-of-you response.

Azerbaijani officials routinely emphasize Azerbaijan’s emergence as a regional power, but don’t expect Aliyev to snap his fingers in Putin’s face over Crimea. Through its economic and political involvement in the region and its many conflicts, Nagorno-Karabagh included, Russia could hurt Azerbaijan.

But not everyone in Azerbaijan is willing to sit back. On March 9, two senior members of Azerbaijan’s opposition Musavat Party, Arif Gadjiyev and Gulaga Aslanly, were detained in Makhachkala, in Russia’s North Caucasus, while traveling by train to Ukraine. The party has been outspokenly critical of Russia’s Ukraine policy, and, apparently, somebody had an eye out for any whistle-stop tours to Kyiv. Local police on March 10 claimed that the two were sent back home, APA reported.

Community News

U.S. Senator Slams Azerbaijan's Threats against Armenia, Karabagh

WASHINGTON — Illinois Republican Sen. Mark Kirk "strongly condemned" Azerbaijan's ongoing threats and violence against Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh, in a powerfully worded statement marking the 26th anniversary of Azerbaijan's anti-Armenian massacres in Sumgait, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

"We join with Armenian Americans, here in Illinois and across America, in thanking Senator Kirk for his principled and powerful stand for peace," said ANCA Chairman Ken Hachikian, of Lake Forest, Illinois. "Senator Kirk, who is a senior senate appropriator, began his remarks spotlighting Azerbaijani hate-crimes against Armenians in Sumgait from February 26 to 28, 1988, stating, 'I join my Armenian-American constituents in Illinois in commemorating the memory of those who perished in anti-Armenian violence in Sumgait, Soviet Azerbaijan twenty-six years ago. Dozens of people were killed and hundreds injured during three days of horrific violence. The entire Armenian population of Sumgait fled as a result. The perpetrators of these heinous acts have never been brought to justice.'"



Sen. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.)

The senator then turned to Azerbaijan's ongoing aggression against Armenia and Artsakh, noting, "As we remember the Sumgait victims, I call on the current Government of Azerbaijan to immediately halt its campaign of incitement and hatred against Armenia that threatens to de-stabilize the region. It is deplorable that the President of Azerbaijan would pardon and glorify the convicted murderer Ramil Safarov, who killed a sleeping Armenian soldier while both were on a NATO Partnership for Peace program. I strongly condemn repeated statements from Azerbaijani officials that threaten violence against Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh."

Over the past week, Kirk was joined by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce (R-CA), fellow Committee colleagues Brad Sherman (D-CA) and David Cicilline (D-RI), Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and Representatives Adam Schiff (D-CA), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), Katherine Clark (D-MA), Judy Chu (D-CA), Gary Peters (D-MI) and Linda Sanchez (D-CA) in issuing similar statements condemning the Sumgait, Baku and Kirovabad pogroms and calling on Azerbaijan to end its aggression against Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh.



Dr. Rafi Avitsian explaining a procedure in Armenia, during one of his regular trips there.

Faith and Perseverance Guide Career of Pioneering Doctor

CLEVELAND — What strikes one most when speaking with Dr. Rafi Avitsian is not his impressive, "American Dream" success story, but his remarkable humility and unshakable faith.

By Serena Hajjar
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

"All of the things that have happened to me are not all my doing; they're because of God [and] my family's support...I don't want to take any credit for any of it."

Born in Tabriz, Iran, Avitsian grew up in an Armenian household with both parents involved in the medical profession: his father was a physician while his mother was a nurse and midwife. He attended an Armenian school until the start of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, when he temporarily relocated to England for a year. Upon his return to Iran, Avitsian was told that young men could no longer leave the country as the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988) had just erupted. Avitsian returned to his Armenian school, completing middle and high school during a period of great turmoil and uncertainty.

"I remember when I was a kid, every night, we would wait for the air raids to be done, to see whether or not we were going to live to eat dinner," Avitsian recalled.

Upon graduating high school, Avitsian, like every Iranian male at the time, was given the option to either attend university or enlist in the military. (Iran has for decades enforced a mandatory two-year military service for men over 18 who are not enrolled at a university.) For him, the choice was easy. However, when it came time to choose his university path, he debated between engineering and medicine.

"[Growing up,] I was able to see the lifestyle of a physician and how they help the patients and people...On the other hand, I really liked engineering: I liked fixing things and making things," Avitsian said.

Although he initially chose engineering, Avitsian was persuaded by his father to try medicine. In the end, he stuck with the latter. After passing the entrance exams, Avitsian was confronted with the second component of his college admissions: evaluation of his moral character.

"It wasn't enough at that time — and I think it still isn't — to be a good student academically in order to be able to enter university. Your moral values and character were under very careful scrutiny," Avitsian recalled.

A representative from Tehran University came to Tabriz to inquire about Avitsian, and after a glowing recommendation from his local grocer, Avitsian was admitted.

"I imagine I entered the university because that grocery store man put in a good word for me," Avitsian joked.

He spent the next seven years studying to become a physician. It was during that time that he met his wife, Suzelle, at an Armenian cultural club.

"That was the best thing I can remember from Iran," Avitsian said.

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Dr. Rafi Avitsian

Waters Found Guilty Of Embezzling from Late Boss, Cafesjian

By David Hanners

MINNEAPOLIS (*Pioneer Press*) — A savvy businessman doesn't show his hand if he doesn't have to, and John Waters Jr. is nothing if not savvy.

So his face showed no emotion Wednesday in Minneapolis as a federal court clerk read the word "guilty" 25 times, indicating a jury had found he'd spent years embezzling from his boss, the late philanthropist and art collector Gerard "Gerry" Cafesjian and then lied about it on his taxes.

But after the judge had excused the jury, Waters removed his glasses and seemed to wipe at his eyes with his fingers.

Although a federal prosecutor asked US District Judge Ann Montgomery to have Waters jailed while he awaits sentencing, the judge said that while it wasn't an easy decision to allow him to remain free, she was going to do it.

"You've dug yourself a very deep hole," Montgomery told the 57-year-old Eden Prairie man, then warned him there'd be dire consequences if he tried to flee.

No sentencing date has been set. Each of the fraud counts carries a maximum of 20 years in prison, while the maximum on the tax evasion counts is six years. Filing a false tax return carries up to three years in prison.

Defense attorney Reynaldo Aligada Jr. said neither he nor his client would comment. Assistant US Attorney William Otteson called the verdicts "a just result."

"We're glad that justice was done," he said.

Cafesjian's daughter, Kathleen Baradaran of North Oaks, also declined to comment. She had sat through much of the trial and had testified for the prosecution.

Over the course of the five-day trial, Otteson and colleague Sarah Hudleston presented 13 witnesses and introduced nearly 250 exhibits in their case. Aligada and co-counsel Kirstin Kanski offered about 60 exhibits but just one witness: Waters.

The jury of seven women and five men deliberated nearly 12 hours over two days. As they filed into the courtroom to deliver their decision, not one looked in the direction of the defense table.

They found Waters guilty of 15 counts of wire fraud, four counts of mail fraud, three counts of income-tax evasion and three counts of filing false tax returns.

The prosecution's case was that Waters embezzled \$4.2 million from Cafesjian by withdrawing large sums of cash from the philanthropist's bank account and hiding it in accounts he controlled.

Waters testified the money wasn't stolen. He said Cafesjian approved the withdrawals and that the money went either to Cafesjian to fund his habit of buying art, gems and jewelry, or it was a loan Waters was taking against deferred compensation he was owed.

The Brooklyn, N.Y.-born Cafesjian had been an executive and shareholder at West Publishing in St. Paul. When the company was sold in 1996, he became a wealthy man.

Just how wealthy is something few people, even Cafesjian, knew. The executive's heart was in art — he amassed a world-class collection and his mistress of 35 years was an artist — and he could be nonchalant or even uncaring about money.

Asked in a 2012 deposition in a civil case how much he made when West was sold, he replied: "I think it was \$200-and-something million."

Other estimates put the figure at \$250 million.

Cafesjian funded a variety of philanthropic pursuits. Many of them were in his parents' homeland of Armenia, but some were closer to home. He led the initiative to preserve the Minnesota State Fair's 1914 merry-go-round. Renamed the Cafesjian Carousel, it now spins in a special pavilion in St. Paul's Como Park.

see EMBEZZLEMENT, page 7



COMMUNITY NEWS

Faith and Perseverance Guide Career of Pioneering Doctor

PIONEER, from page 4

After graduating from university – and getting married – Avitsian was required to partake in two years of mandatory military service like his fellow male graduates. However, his father's illness made him the primary breadwinner of his family and thus excused him from military duty. Instead, Avitsian was sent to serve as a doctor in rural regions of Iran for the next two years. As chief of healthcare at a clinic north of Tehran, he would return home to visit his family every now and then. Soon, his first daughter, Anna, was born.

Meanwhile, his wife was pursuing her degree in translation while working as a secretary. She learned about immigration to Canada, and they decided to apply. In 1996, the family immigrated to Canada.

"In Canada, the healthcare system is all government-based and it's very difficult if you're an international graduate. I tried finding some jobs until I could pass the entrance exams to get into a residency for a specialty in Canada. It wasn't easy," Avitsian said.

Despite the initial difficulty of finding a temporary job to support his family while studying, Avitsian eventually met fellow Armenians, one of whom offered him a job at his Subway sandwich store. Avitsian worked the night shifts while studying for his exams and took care of his daughter during the day as his wife took college courses and worked at the same time.

Numerous friends encouraged Avitsian to take the American exams as well. After passing these, Avitsian applied for an internship and residency in the United States.

"I was with some other foreign and international graduates, and we were looking at the residency programs and the hospitals in the US. When we came down to Cleveland Clinic on the list, someone said, 'Oh, Cleveland Clinic, that's a reputable place. They're not going to take us. It's probably a waste of time to apply.' I agreed, but when I came back home, I saw that I still had some extra applications, so I thought, 'Well, I've been sending them so many places, why not just send one more to Cleveland Clinic?'"

As it turned out, Cleveland Clinic was the first hospital to ask him for an interview. Avitsian hopped on the next Greyhound bus and made his first entry into the United States, in 1998.

The following day, Avitsian interviewed with one of the physicians at Cleveland Clinic. By the end of the day, the program director had already offered Avitsian a head position at the presti-

gious hospital. After several more interviews with other institutions, Avitsian decided to accept the position at Cleveland Clinic.

A few months later, in November 1999, Avitsian moved to the US, along with his family. He began as an intern in internal medicine. A year later, his second daughter, Taleen, was born.

After graduating from the residency program, Avitsian chose to study neurosurgical anesthesiology for a year. He was soon hired as an associate, and eventually a member of the full staff, at Cleveland Clinic. He is now an associate professor of anesthesiology at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. He is also the section head for the Neurosurgical Anesthesiology Section, where he oversees all procedures related to neurosurgery and the anesthesiology involved. As program director of the Neurosurgical Anesthesiology Fellowship Program, he trains two fellows every year to become neurosurgical anesthesiologists. He is also a member of the Board of Director of the Society for Neuroanesthesia and Critical Care and currently a candidate for the chair of the Department of General Anesthesiology.

Avitsian has traveled extensively to give lectures and edits a variety of scientific journals. He is also involved in the innovation of medical devices. One of his first patents was the Central Line Catheter, which is inserted into the vascular system of a patient to direct fluid flow.

"When I was a kid, I liked to mend and fix things and make things and design things, and now I'm doing it in medicine. Cleveland Clinic has a whole building just for inventors and inventions, so it is a very helpful resource," he added.

Avitsian strives to keep the Armenian spirit alive with his family, speaking Armenian to his children and teaching them to read and write in the language. In the medical field, he has seized many opportunities to give back. He got involved in the Armenian Medical Society in Armenia and quickly established a rapport with Dr. Gohar Kyalyan, dean of the Yerevan State Medical University, whose strategy was to build a relationship with Armenian physicians in the diaspora. Avitsian now regularly attends medical conferences in Armenia and Karabagh.

"When I lecture, I lecture in Armenian, as it's easier for the physicians to understand. And when I return to the US, I sometimes do lectures online, using Skype," Avitsian said.

Avitsian also joined the Center for International Medical Education in Cleveland Clinic, which attracts physicians from other countries for observation. He has arranged for many physicians from the Yerevan State Medical University to come and train in Cleveland for a few months.

"It's not only the practice of anesthesia or any kind of medical specialty. It's also about how a hospital is run. In the US, the day starts very early and we work a lot. In Armenia, the system is different. They start much later in the day, so there was a lot that the Armenian physicians could learn from the US," Avitsian said.

For some physicians, Avitsian noted, the allure of the US – with its comparatively bountiful opportunities – is overpowering.

"Nothing is perfect, and one of the problems that we have faced is that those physicians who come here, they're coming out from a country which doesn't promise as great a future as the US does to its medical graduates – and this does not only apply to Armenia. So some of the visiting physicians try to go into residency and stay here and not return, which is natural. For everything that you do, there are some sacrifices that you have to endure. But again some of them do go back, and they become very successful physicians, and I'm still in contact with them," Avitsian explained.

His latest project is to implement a stroke program in Armenia.

"Stroke is a disease that not only kills, but also disables people, and those people become a burden on the whole economy of the country. So we're trying to see whether we can decrease stroke or treat it fast enough that they won't become disabled. I cannot say enough about how much Dr. Gevorg Yaghjian has been influencing this: he is one of the most active people I've seen in my life. He has the best networking; every opportunity he gets, he talks to Armenian doctors. Many times he could have lived in the US – he had the opportunity – but he is patriotic enough to go back and continue his work there while collaborating with us here," Avitsian said.

Along with his extensive work in the medical field, Avitsian remains an active member of his local Armenian community, specifically St. Gregory of Narek Church in Cleveland. He sings in the choir and occasionally acts as sub-deacon. Avitsian says that his faith remains a central piece of his identity.

"I cannot thank my mother enough, who early

in my childhood gave me the *Bible* to read...I believe you cannot just close your eyes and believe the faith. You have to read and compare, and I was in a country which was religious, even though I wasn't of the same religion. But I actually was brought up in a faith-filled environment, and that helped me to read more and more and then decide for myself," he said.

Although Avitsian has served on the parish council, his role in the church now revolves more around keeping the Armenian spirit and identity alive in the community.

"If you compare the US to other countries, the environment is more conducive to losing your cultural identity. We're always thankful to the US for accepting us, but we still think that keeping your identity is an important thing," he said.

Despite his achievements, Avitsian remains incredibly humble. When asked about his greatest pride, he shies away.

"Honestly, I don't want to be proud. Everything that I have done, I don't see as my own accomplishment: I see it as doing a duty from God and walking in the path that I was supposed to walk," he said.

He recalls one night, when he was mopping floors at Subway, his brother-in-law came in to see him.

"I could see tears in his eyes. He said, 'Rafi, what were you doing back home? You were a doctor. And what are you doing now? What are you doing, washing floors?' It was humbling, and now I don't look down on anyone because of their work, because I've been there," he recalled.

Avitsian credits this experience with keeping everything in perspective.

"When you are faced with obstacles and you conquer them and you don't lose your hope and your faith and then you achieve [your goals], that is when you become humble. That is when you look at other people, whatever their job or calling, and you think, 'Maybe that's another doctor, maybe that's another angel.' Out of the difficulties that someone goes through, they can either become aggressive and lose hope and just let go, or they can keep their hope and be humble and continue knowing it's going to get better," he said.

Prof. James Russell to Speak on 'Armenian Eccentric Kara Darvish'

FRESNO – Dr. James Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University, will speak on "An Armenian Eccentric: The Life and Times of Kara Darvish" at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is part of the Armenian Studies Program Spring Lecture Series and is co-sponsored by the Armenian Students Organization at Fresno State and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research. The Spring Lecture Series is funded through the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

Kara Darvish (Hakob Genjian) was an Armenian Futurist poet who lived and worked mainly in Tiflis (Tbilisi), Georgia, before and after World War I. He wrote several novels and manifestoes, but is best known for the "post-card" poems he distributed at cafés and outside cinemas which proclaim his cosmopolitan and revolutionary credo and experiment with odd typefaces and experiment with incantatory nonsense words in Armenian, dipping also into the Armenian mythological past. (His Russian Futurist colleagues named this technique *zaum'*, i.e., transrational language.) Among his friends and associates were the poets Osip Mandelstam and Yeghishe Charents; and Kostan Zarian evokes the poet and his turbulent surroundings in the novel *Nave Ieran vra* ("The Ship upon the Mountain").

Russell has written more than 100 scholarly articles, many of which have been collected in his *Armenian and Iranian Studies* (2004). He is most recently the author of a study on and translation of the collected poems of Bedros Tourian, titled *Bosphorus Nights* (2006).

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Committed to Changing Lives

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – On December 12, at the Rhodes on the Pawtuxet, Thomas "Terry" Pitts and Sondra Ahlijian Pitts were awarded the distinction as Community Champions by the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) Foundation at the Gala Changing Lives. Sondra Pitts, who was part of the first graduating class at CCRI in 1966, and Thomas Pitts' support and involvement at CCRI has continued throughout these years. She is a member and past president of the CCRI Alumni Association, and he assists CCRI as an adviser to the president and serves on the Board of Trustees of the Community Preparatory School in Providence, which educates third-through eighth-graders of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The couple has served their church, Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, and Armenian community in Rhode Island throughout their married life. Thomas Pitts has been a Parish Council member and his wife served on various committees and dedicated many years to the Armenian school as a teacher and as principal from 1999-2004 as well as chairing the Armenian School committee from 1981-84.

In attendance at the gala affair were the pastor of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Church, Fr. Shnorh Souin, his wife Yn. Julie and many friends and family members.



Thomas and Sondra Pitts with Community College of Rhode Island President Ray Di Pasquale, left



COMMUNITY NEWS

Nancy Najarian Eyes Virginia House Seat

NAJARIAN, from page 1
significant ways," she said, by way of explaining why she would seek the House seat.

"This is a very, very safe Democratic seat. There is a good chance that there won't be another chance like this," she explained.

"I did some due diligence and talked" to various members of congress and friends in politics as well as her friends and family to make up her mind. "I decided to go for it," she said.

She is kicking off her campaign this week, meeting with locals and making phone calls in this very short and intense campaign. The primary will take place on June 10, with the election in November.

"I need to become a very well supported candidate in an extremely short amount of time because it is a crowded race," she said. The first goal, she said, is to raise a lot of cash for the campaign to pay for ads "in the very expensive DC media market."

Najarian is a veteran when it comes for working for Democratic candidates nationally. "I have worked on canvassing, phone banking, etc. for the presidential elections in the last 12 years," she said. In addition, she has helped in other races, including Massachusetts' Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Ma) and Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian's bid to become a member of the House last year.

Nancy Najarian was born in Boston, baptized in St. Stephen's Armenian Church in Watertown and raised in Belmont.

Being a part of the Armenian community comes naturally to Najarian. "I come from a family that has done quite a bit of work in the Armenian-American community and Armenia itself," she said. "I am sharing my candidacy with the Armenian-American community."

She was a charter member of the Cambridge Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA) in the 1980s and traveled with her family and the group to Moscow and Yerevan in 1988 prior to the break up of the Soviet Union and the independence of Armenia. After receiving her master's degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, she volunteered at the new Armenian Embassy in Washington before heading to Armenia in 1993 to live there.

In Yerevan, Najarian taught English to students who wanted to attend MBA programs. She also founded a non-profit there, Technical Assistance for the Republic of Armenia (TARA, Inc.), which aimed to help nascent Armenian entrepreneurs start new businesses in Armenia and bring diasporan Armenians to teach Western approaches to management and

finance.

She was also a board member of the Armenian Assembly of America's ARAMAC (Armenian American Action Committee), working to raise awareness in the US about newly-independent Armenia's plight as a result of the energy blockade.

There are several issues that are close to her heart. "I have both advocated for, and helped educate others about, renewable energy and its significance in relation to insuring a healthy, and livable world now and in the future," she said. "I care very much about leaving a world for our children where not only do they have a voice in their government and the ability to support themselves and their families, but also where they can live and have the natural resources that allow for a long and healthy existence. That translates into awareness of how our climate is changing, and what each of us as individuals and collectively as countries can do to mitigate the negative climate changes we are experiencing presently."

There are many areas around the world engulfed in conflict on in a post-conflict state, which need the help of the US, she said. "I will strive to support and ... give people a chance to get back on their feet," she said. "People should have a right to a voice."

Other issues she wants to focus on if elected to the House include women's rights and reproductive rights.

She added, "Human trafficking is becoming more and more of an issue. It's horrible."

In addition, she said she is "very, very interested in issues that affect Armenia as well as Armenian-Americans."

In addition, she said she would try to increase US trade with Armenia.

The current plight of Syrian-Armenians, she noted, needs to be addressed and their suffering alleviated.

Najarian said that as a small business owner, she knows how to handle money, meet a payroll, handle insurance needs and balance her



Nancy Najarian and her family, husband Michael Stimson and children George and Serine

family and work life. Her manufacturing firm, Clip-It Systems, sells a patented means of securing grape vines in vineyards of optimal growth.

Najarian lives in northern Virginia with her husband, Michael Stimson, and children George, 13, and Serine, 7. She has been a Sunday school teacher at St. Mary's Armenian Apostolic Church in Washington and has par-

ticipated in many events hosted both by the Armenian Assembly of America and the Armenian National Committee of America.

She noted, "It would be pretty exciting to have someone with an Armenian last name in Congress in 2015."

For more information on Najarian, visit <http://www.najarianforcongress.com/>

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OBITUARY

Mary Ann Tatoian

ENFIELD, Conn. — Mary Ann (Mugar) Tatoian, 101, died at home on Monday, March 3, surrounded by her family.

She was born June 3, 1912 in Boston, daughter



Mary Ann Tatoian

She was employed by the Daggett Chocolate Company as a bookkeeper.

In 1932 she married Dr. James A. Tatoian and the couple resided in Enfield. She was a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church of Enfield, a 50-year member of the Enfield Women's Club and was also a 50-year member of The Order of Eastern Star, Ionic Chapter.

She was a wonderful cook and enjoyed making many Armenian recipes for her family.

She leaves behind a son, Dr. James A. Tatoian, Jr. and his wife, Dianne, of Haverford, Penn.; a grandson, Dr. Frederick S. Jones III and his wife, Michelle, of Cardiff-by-the-Sea, Calif.; four great-grandchildren, Calder, Chloe, Lucia and Zaiden Jones; and a sister Beatrice Fye and her husband David of Wayland, Mass. She also leaves several nieces and nephews, and sister-in-law Evelyn H. Tatoian of Enfield.

She was predeceased by her husband and a daughter, Sona Tatoian Jones, a brother, John Mugar, and a sister, Irene Pike.

Funeral services were held on Friday, March 7, with burial at Enfield St. Cemetery.

In Lieu of flowers, donations in Mary's memory may be made to Calvary Presbyterian Church, 1518 King St., Enfield, CT 06082 and to Home and Community Health Services Hospice, 101 Phoenix Ave., Enfield, CT 06082.

of the late Martin and Anna (Chooljian) Mugar. She was raised in Cambridge, Mass., and graduated from Cambridge High and Latin in 1929.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Governor's Council Rejects Superior Court Pick Berman

BERMAN, from page 1

Dartmouth College and received his law degree from the University of Michigan Law School. His practice focuses on commercial litigation - another sticking point for council members who expressed concerns about his lack of criminal experience.

After his nominee was rejected, Patrick read a lengthy statement he had written, saying he felt compelled to address some of the concerns raised about Berman. The council usually approves Patrick's judicial nominees, but has rejected a few lately.

Berman was criticized by council members for his hefty campaign contributions, for representing a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay detention camp, and for his leadership role in the Anti-Defamation League - an organization that refused to recognize the Armenian genocide.

"Joseph Berman is well qualified in learning, experience and temperament to sit on the Superior Court," Patrick said. "What is done is done. But because the reasons expressed previously for your opposition are, in my view, unprecedented and I think unfair, I want to express for the record my disappointment with today's vote, no disrespect to any member, please."

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

Patrick said council members' criticism about Berman's ADL leadership role was "misplaced," and said it was wrong to hold the campaign contributions against Berman when considering his qualifications to become a judge.

"Political contributions have never had any bearing on my nominations and I have never given you a basis to think otherwise," Patrick said. "Readiness is readiness. It doesn't turn into something else because the nominee exercised his or her First Amendment right to be an

engaged citizen."

The governor said Berman's charitable contributions averaged three times more than the amount he gave to politicians.

In respect to the ADL, Patrick said the Armenian Genocide is a matter of historical fact. "Mr. Berman acknowledges that fact now and in the past. That needs to be clear to everyone on the council, as well as in the Armenian and larger community," he said.

Patrick said the Armenian Genocide must never be forgotten, nor denied. "But the regional ADL has done too much good work for human rights in our community and beyond to cast every supporter aside," he said. "We can be rigorous about evaluating prospective judges without attributing to them personally every view of a group to which they belong."

Caissie said she voted against Berman because she had "serious reservations about his truthfulness," citing his comments that he led an "insurrection" to change the stance of the ADL on the Armenian genocide, and his comments that representing a prisoner at Guantanamo was one of the things he was most proud of in his career.

"In my opinion, it was simply done to pad his resume," she said. "With respect to the ADL that is relevant to his truthfulness as well." Caissie said. Berman could not produce any letters or documents to back up his claim that he worked to change ADL positions.

Some council members questioned Berman's pro bono work for a prisoner at Guantanamo Bay, a client who refused to meet with him and was eventually released after not being charged with a crime.

The law includes the right of access to competent counsel, "even for the outcast," Patrick said.

"The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed this principle. The commonwealth's own John Adams, in the famous case of the Boston Massacre, is a shining example of that principle in action," Patrick said.

"With due respect to all of you, a council

charged with the duty to uphold the constitution should not disqualify a candidate because one of his clients was unpopular," Patrick said.

Patrick said he has no personal relationship with Berman, and did not know him before he was nominated, but has since been impressed with his level of experience in both criminal and civil work.

"It is no surprise he has been named by his peers as one of the top 100 lawyers in New England," Patrick said. "He has extensive civil and criminal litigation experience in the Massachusetts trial courts."

Patrick said Berman has no less experience, and in many cases greater experience, than many Superior Court judges the council has voted to confirm.

Berman was first interviewed in November, and when it appeared the council was poised to reject him, Patrick pulled back his nomination and mounted an effort to build support for the nominee. The governor resubmitted the nomination in February to give Berman another shot at convincing council members he would make a good judge. He had a second, more cordial hearing last week.

Devaney said Wednesday she has received numerous "hate mail" letters, and threats that she will be defeated in her bid for re-election in November because of Berman's nomination.

Along with the New England ADL's stance on the Armenian Genocide, Devaney said she voted against Berman because of his political contributions.

"I cannot dismiss the contributions that he gave," she said. "... I don't want to condone someone who is trying to buy his way in. In addition to all his contributions, he gave almost \$17,000 to the Democratic State Committee. Anyone who's political knows what that means."

Devaney later said she wanted to make clear that she voted against Berman because she does not believe he answered certain questions truthfully during his confirmation hearing.

Devaney, who previously expressed concerns about the nominee's membership in the Anti-Defamation League, did not cite it as the reason why she voted against Berman on Wednesday.

"I am voting against Mr. Berman because he

lied, and nothing else counts," she said.

Devaney told the News Service all other factors in considering the nominee were secondary to her concerns about his truthfulness. Devaney specifically questioned Berman's statements about whether he called any elected officials to speak on behalf of his nomination.

During the second hearing, Berman apologized for some impressions he may have left with council members during his initial vetting.

"I am grateful for today's second chance to show you who I am, what drives me, and how I have taken your concerns to heart," Berman said last week.

After the vote, Albano called it a sad day for the council. Albano said if Berman was not a member of the ADL, or did not contribute to campaigns, he would be a Superior Court judge.

"Mr. Berman in my view would have been an outstanding justice," Albano said. "If he didn't have these issues, he would have been confirmed."

Iannella said he was troubled by council members weighing Berman's campaign contributions in their decision. Iannella argued that people have a right to contribute to the political process, without it being a strike against them.

"That fact that he gave \$100,000, you know he is a really, really, wealthy man, that should not bar him from being on the Superior Court," Iannella said. "I hope all types of people apply for judgeships, poor people, rich people, everyone should be able to apply. And just because he contributed a lot of money, that should not be a reason why we voted against, or we should have voted against, Mr. Berman."

Kennedy said the suggestion that Berman tried to buy a judgeship was offensive.

"There's no question, every single person in this room would say based on his legal background, he is qualified to be on the Superior Court," he said. "I respect other reasons people are voting against him, but to attack his integrity I think is inappropriate. He is a very honest person."

"There is no question in my mind that when he sat in that chair he answered every question honestly," Kennedy added.

Waters Found Guilty Of Embezzlement

EMBEZZLEMENT, from page 4

Cafesjian hired Waters to run his businesses and charitable foundations. The two had worked together at West, and there was a time when each expressed great admiration for the other.

In a 2012 deposition in another civil case, Cafesjian said Waters had "tremendous horizons" and "was up for forming a bank or an insurance company or a sculpture garden. You name it, he didn't think it was very difficult to do."

Asked if Waters was creative, Cafesjian replied that "he has creativity with some things, yeah. Some legal, some not."

When Aligada asked Waters on the stand if he'd been Cafesjian's right-hand man, Waters replied: "I was his right hand, and at times his left, his eyes, his ears." He had even negotiated many of Cafesjian's business deals.

By March 2009, the two men had a falling out, and Waters quit.

Waters told jurors that he and Cafesjian negotiated a written compensation agreement in 1996. He said they modified it in 2000 so some of Waters' compensation would be deferred, a tactic carrying certain tax advantages.

He said that in 2005 they modified it again to allow Waters to borrow money from the deferred compensation he had accrued. Waters told jurors the 2000 and 2005 modifications were oral and had not been put in writing.

Cafesjian died in September at the age of 88, five months after his wife of 65 years, Cleo Cafesjian, 87.

Prosecutors contended it was ludicrous to think a shrewd businessman like Cafesjian would renegotiate his top aide's compensation - twice - without putting it in writing.

Similarly, the defense maintained that a shrewd businessman like Cafesjian would quickly spot millions of missing dollars from his bank account and that he wouldn't wait two years to find out where the money went.

In fact, Cafesjian had been on the record and under oath about both matters, but jurors never heard his words. Waters sued his former boss in 2012, claiming he was owed \$5 million in back pay, and he took Cafesjian's sworn deposition.

The former exec had said that although he wasn't keen on accounting (he wasn't into the "green eyeshade thing," he said), he considered the money "stolen."

He called Waters' claim of a modified compensation agreement "the craziest thing I ever heard in my life."

"A string of total lies," he said of Waters' claims.

Otteson had wanted jurors to hear that. But before the trial, Montgomery ruled the civil deposition was inadmissible. She said allowing it as testimony would deprive Waters of his right to confront his accuser.

After the verdict, Otteson said Cafesjian's testimony "would've made it a different case, but we were still able to present a pretty powerful circumstantial case."

Testimony showed the stolen funds wound up in a variety of bank accounts Waters controlled. Some went into accounts for his two daughters, and nearly \$750,000 went into an account for his then-mistress. The two later married.

Aside from a possible prison sentence, Waters faces a civil lawsuit filed by Cafesjian. When he sued his former boss in 2012, Cafesjian responded by filing a counter-claim. In it, he accused Waters of theft.

Last year, US District Judge Richard Kyle threw out Waters' claim, leaving only Cafesjian's countersuit. Proceedings in that case were placed on hold until Waters' criminal case was finished.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

DEPOP Research Group Concludes International Speaking Tour

AGBU-Organized Events Reveal New Trends in Armenia's Emigration

NEW YORK — The DEPOP Research Group, in partnership with AGBU and the Kololian Foundation, has just concluded a worldwide tour to present its report, "The Depopulation Crisis in Armenia." Drawing hundreds of attendees in Beirut, Paris, Toronto, New York and Los Angeles, the events sparked a new dialogue about emigration, demographic and socioeconomic challenges in Armenia today and possibilities for building a stronger future for the republic.

The report, which was first introduced at a United Nations Population Fund conference in Yerevan in October 2013, is based on extensive fieldwork conducted across Armenia. For more than a year, four independent research teams, selected by the International Center for Human Development in Yerevan on behalf of the Kololian Foundation, gathered data on the ground.

The researchers include Dr. Khatchik Der Ghougassian of the Hrayr Maroukian Foundation; Veronica Aghajanyan, Ani Avetisyan, Tatevik Hovhannisyian, Elena Kozhemyakina, Elena Muradyan and Elina Sahakyan of the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University; Kristine Antonyan, Karlen Khachatryan and Haik Sargsyan of Yerevan State University; and independent researchers Arshak Balayan, Armen Gakavian and Avetik Mejlumyan.

The DEPOP teams' focus groups, interviews, media monitoring and surveys



Ani Avetisyan discusses the fieldwork conducted across Armenia for the DEPOP research project in New York.

revealed startling statistics: a near 20-percent drop in Armenia's population over the past two decades. Their research shows that although those numbers were initially tied to a lack of economic opportunities, in recent

years, families with higher earnings are even more likely to leave the country.

In light of these findings, the DEPOP group proposed recommendations, which they shared at each stop on their global tour. Vahan

Kololian, co-founder of the Toronto-based think tank, the Mosaic Institute, and the sponsor of the DEPOP project, pointed to the need for the Armenian diaspora to help reverse these demographic trends.

In his address to guests at the AGBU Central Office in New York, Kololian remarked that "the Armenian people have a history of uniting in the face of crisis. The country's readily-declining population is yet another crisis that we must resolve together, whether it is by investing in local businesses and micro-lending or by engaging with the Ministry of Diaspora to support civic projects

that lead to greater citizen involvement." The first step to bringing about meaningful change, he continued, is to organize robust public debates and discussions.

The DEPOP group also stressed the importance of strengthening civic institutions across

"[Armenia's] readily-declining population is yet another crisis that we must resolve together..."

Armenia. Kamo Mailyan, the editor of www.depop.am, shared, "We believe that the development of economic, education and judicial systems, as well as civil society, will bring positive change in Armenia. By building the capacity of those institutions, we can strengthen the democratic process and create a prosperous future for our country and our people."

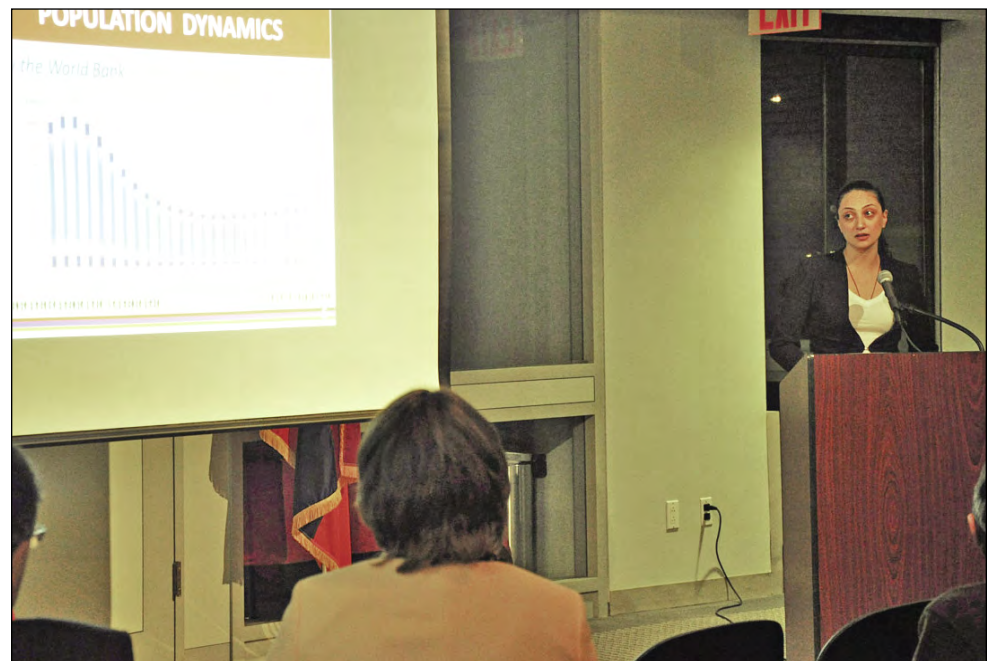
With its first international tour complete, the DEPOP Research Group is now seeking to partner with local civic groups to encourage transparency and participatory decision-making and to empower Armenian youth countrywide.



Vahan Kololian, sponsor of the DEPOP research initiative, takes questions from the audience at the AGBU Central Office in New York.



AGBU Lebanon presents an award to DEPOP editor Kamo Mailyan (second from right). Mailyan is joined by Hampig Mardirossian, chief editor of Khosnag Monthly (far left); Vartan Atamian, First Secretary of the Armenia Embassy in Lebanon; and Anita Lebiar, executive director of AGBU Lebanon.



DEPOP Group research coordinator Elena Muradyan reviews findings from the report "The Depopulation Crisis in Armenia" in New York.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Orphans Giving Back in Armenia

By Christine Parseghian

Empathy, charity and generosity. They're virtues we all admire but don't expect from those who are needy themselves. That's why Tigranoohi Karapetyan, who oversees Mer Doon, a home for girls in Armenia who age out of their orphanages, was so surprised when the orphans in the home wanted to donate whatever they could to help a woman whose needs were even greater than theirs.

The girls saw on Armenian TV a very poor woman named Karine whose life is hard beyond comprehension. Karine digs wells and holes for toilets in the village of Gavar for 500 dram to support her four children, her sister's two orphaned children and her elderly mother. Living in a crumbling house with no gas, water or light, Karine is determined to keep her sister's orphaned children with her rather than send them to an orphanage. She wants them to grow up knowing a family's love, regardless of how meager a life she is able to offer.

The Mer Doon girls saw Karine saying through tears on TV, "I'll work hard and keep them next to me, but I would never give them to the orphanage."

Knowing the hardships of being orphans themselves, the Mer Doon girls were inspired to help this woman who, against all odds, was determined to raise the children in her care so they would have a family, something the Mer Doon girls never had.

They got to work gathering clothes and toys to give. One of them, Hasmik Gurjinyan, gave money she earns from selling her needlework saying she wanted Karine's family to afford to buy bread. When Hasmik offered this, the caregivers at Mer Doon were touched by this act of generosity.

"We cried. We were happy and sad," said Karapetyan. "We were happy because at last we can see the results of our work," she added. "Many children from orphanages think that everybody must help them. We are trying to pull out this wrong opinion that they have. We are trying to teach them that they must help poor and needy people



Some of the Mer Doon girls, staff and supporters, with Karine, in center

as much as it is possible. We were sad how many Karines there are in our country. She is fighting. She doesn't expect anything from anyone. She holds the hardness of her family on her shoulders and she carries her cross because she believes in God."

Gurjinyan wrote to Karine to accompany the monetary donation. In it she said, "I want to hug and kiss you that you didn't give your sister's two children to the orphanage. I lived in the orphanage, didn't feel the warmth of my mother and sweet family relations. I would like to live with my mother to feel my mother's love and hugs. I would like that she kept me next to her as you keep your children not giving them to the orphanage. I know that my little donation is nothing but my prayers will be always with you. Let God bless you. You are a Mother, a Woman and a Creator."

Karapetyan met with Karine to give her

the orphan's gifts and Karine cried, saying she couldn't take money from an orphan. She thanked Mer Doon and eventually accepted the gifts.

"Karine with her sad eyes said goodbye to us and her look stays in my heart," says Karapetyan. "At the end, we went to the church and we lit candles for Karine and her family."

Mer Doon opened its doors in Echmiadzin in 2006 to girls who have outgrown their orphanages. Since orphans are turned out of the orphanages at age 18, many are at risk of falling prey to the evils of the streets, including human trafficking and forced prostitution. The girls who come to Mer Doon are given a chance to prepare for a life of dignity and promise.

The mission of Mer Doon is to break the cycle of dependency for impoverished young women by providing education, job training,

a family environment, instilling leadership skills and teaching self-sufficiency. Mer Doon provides a modest residence with 24 hour adult supervision for 14 young women living in a family atmosphere where the girls study, play music, learn computer skills. The young women who have lived at Mer Doon have pursued professional careers, they have married and have started families of their own.

Mer Doon was co-founded by founded by Julie Ashekian of Connecticut, who was the national coordinator for Children of Armenia Sponsorship Program (CASP) and by Tigranuhi Karapetian. For many of the orphans, Mer Doon is the first family they have ever known.

For more information about Mer Doon and the girls who live there, visit www.mer-doon.com on the web or find Mer Doon on Facebook. Information on how to support Mer Doon can be found on the webpage.

Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2014



Since its inception in 2001, TCA's 'Sponsor a Teacher' program has raised over \$563,000 and reached out to 4,464 teachers and school workers in Armenia and Karabagh.



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

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

Name _____

Address _____

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Tel: _____

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Mail your check with this form to:

TCA Sponsor a Teacher
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Your donation is Tax Deductible.

Armenian Women's Educational Club Announces Scholarships

BOSTON – The Armenian Women's Educational Club is announcing four \$1,000 scholarships and is now accepting applications from high school senior boys and girls entering a four-year college in fall 2014.

Applicants may be male or female, must be of Armenian descent and be accepted at a four-year college or university for the current year. They must be seniors at a greater Boston high school who are United States citizens or hold a resident alien card. Winners of the \$1,000 scholarships will be selected on the basis of their academic record and financial need.

Students may request scholarship application forms by calling Araxie Manjikian at 781-937-0515. Applications are due by April 30 and the scholarships will be awarded in June.

The Armenian Women's Educational Club was founded some 75 years ago for the purpose of providing scholarships to college students, first in the Middle East and for the past 30 years in the United States. Started by a group of Armenian immigrant women, who wanted to support education, the club has awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships.

Arts & Living

The Unexpected Darling

By Aileen Agopian

MIAMI (*Forbes Middle East*) – Each December art patrons, collectors, curators, artists and visitors are compelled to descend upon Miami, a meeting point where the realms of art, fashion and design collide for Art Basel Miami Beach, coined the art world's party capital. Yet, despite the glitz and the glamour, the fair remains grounded by its creation of a series of superb educational forums and talks on modern art.

Focusing on a plethora of topics from the collection and exhibition of art, to the understanding of contemporary art from a geographical and historical perspective, the impressive program attracted artists, gallerists, curators, museum directors and major collectors from around the world. Partaking in panel discussions, book signings and interviews, this year, the talks were open to all to those who attended. These events are absolutely essential to providing an overall understanding of the contemporary art world, giving art lovers a true vision of the commercial and philosophical significance and to not only think in terms of the market, but to grasp the contemporary world as a whole.

This year, top collectors thronged to Art Basel Miami Beach, including Eli Broad, who recently unveiled plans for his new Los Angeles museum, as well as artists Jeff Koons, Damien Hirst and Tracey Emin to name just a few. Celebrities were also in abundance, from music mogul Sean P. Diddy Combs to actor Leonardo DiCaprio, supermodel Elle Macpherson and baseball star Alex Rodriguez. Each were seen



One of the works of art at Art Basel Miami

carefully scanning the galleries for the most appealing works by both new and established artists to add to their personal art collections.

Established 12 years ago Art Basel Miami Beach has managed to significantly elevate the art fair experience with its progressive cultural programming, informative panels and intriguing lectures by luminaries from the museum, gallery and collecting worlds. This year's fair yet again lived up to expectations. Over 75,000 art lovers descended to see premier artwork from over 250 of the world's leading galleries from 31 countries worldwide. Ranging from the great Post-War masters to the latest generation of emerging starts, Art Basel Miami presented a selection of the most influential artists from across the globe, with a particular focus on painting this year.

Given the geographic location of the fair, there was a strong contingent of galleries, artists and collectors from Latin America. While there were sadly no galleries from the Middle East participating, there were a number of phenomenal artists from the region taking part, their works proving quite popular during the VIP opening of the art fair. Aggressively sought after and very much in demand, see MIAMI, page 13



The Yessayan family, with Zabel (2nd from right), husband Hrnt (back row, 2nd from left), and children Sophie and Hrnt

Newly Translated Books by Zabel Yessayan to Be Presented at AIWA Program

ARLINGTON, Mass. – Zabel Yessayan is one of the most talented and prolific Western-Armenian writers of the modern era. Yet few of her works have been translated into Western languages, and even fewer into English.

In order to introduce the English-language reader to the diverse output of this outstanding author, the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) has arranged the translation of select works and will release two books of Yessayan's writings at a publication party on Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m. at the Armenian Cultural Foundation.

The first book by Yessayan, *The Gardens of Silihdar*, offers a charming account of the author's childhood in Istanbul as well as insights into Armenian life in the Ottoman capital in the late 19th century. Jennifer Manoukian, of Columbia University, translated the book and added copious notes to explain the people, places and events chronicled there.

The second book, *My Soul in Exile*, is a novel depicting the dilemma of the artist in society and also analyzes the psychological effects of the rootlessness experienced by diasporan Armenians. The setting is the critical period in Turkey following the Adana massacres of 1909 and preceding the outbreak of World War I. The novel is translated by G. M. Goshgarian, and the book includes essays and other short works by Yessayan.

The team of AIWA members who conceived the project, arranged for the translations and edited the selections – Judith A. Saryan, Barbara Merguerian, Danila Terpanjian and Joy Renjilian-Burgy – will present the books and read brief passages. Translator Manoukian will also participate in the program.

Yessayan (1878-1943) was one of the most prominent Armenian intellectuals of her lifetime. Her works in a variety of genres (short stories, essays, novels, travelogs) reflect the cataclysmic events experienced by the Armenians during those years and enjoyed great popularity when they were published. Today they are almost forgotten.

A native of Istanbul, Yessayan graduated from the Holy Cross Armenian School and became one of the first Ottoman Armenian women to study abroad when she went to Paris and enrolled in the Sorbonne. She married the painter Dickran Yessayan and had two children, Sophie and Hrnt. Her first novel, *The Waiting Room*, published in 1903, takes place in Paris and explores themes that were to become central to her work – exile and alienation.

In 1909 she was appointed member of an Armenian fact-finding delegation to Adana, where she witnessed the aftermath of the bloody massacres of the Armenian population there. Her account of this experience, published as *Among the Ruins*, is regarded as one of her best works.

The only woman on the "black list" of the Armenian intellectuals arrested on the night of April 24, 1915, Yessayan managed to elude the police and escape to Bulgaria. The end of the war found her working in the Near East, organizing the relocation of refugees and orphans. In the 1920s, Yessayan visited Soviet Armenia and decided to move there in 1933, becoming a teacher of literature at Yerevan State University and continuing her writing. A victim of Stalin's purges, she was exiled in 1937 and died, in unknown circumstances, probably in 1943.

Yessayan's voice speaks to a diverse audience – young and old, Armenian and non-Armenian, male and female. AIWA notes that these publications will be of great interest to Armenians both in the homeland and diaspora, and also to a broader audience see YESSAYAN, page 11

Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge Performs Second Annual Play In Celebration of Vartanatz Day

WASHINGTON – Last month, the Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge #21 and Daughters of Vartan Dikranouhi Otyag held two special events to mark the annual Vartanantz Day celebration. On Sunday, February 9, the Hamasdegh School at Soorp Khatch Armenian Church hosted the Knights and Daughters of Vartan for the first performance of a play on the historic Battle of Avarayr. The following Sunday, February 16, the Shnorhali School at St. Mary Armenian Church hosted the second performance of the play. The Dikranouhi Otyag hosted the receptions at both churches and provided gifts for the school children.

The play featured Richard Vann as Persian King Hazgert II, Ani Lodge Commander Jake Bournazian as Prince Vassag of Syunik, Taniel Koushakjian as Armenian Army General Vartan Mamigonian, Ara Avedisian as Ghevont Yeret and Seda Gelenian as Shushanik Mamigonian the Narrator. Around 200 people attended the performances, including the school children, which were excited to see one of their Armenian history book stories come to life.

Armenians frequently come to the public eye as victims: of genocide, an earthquake, and most recently, as refugees from Syria. Making a character like Vartan Mamigonian come alive on stage teaches people, especially the youth, that Armenians are not passive victims and that they have an enduring faith and culture. As Vartan says in the play: "Our religion is not like a garment that we might change according to the circumstances; it is part and parcel of our bones, our blood and personality."

"The Knights of Vartan have a special role in educating each generation of Armenians about the courage and sacrifice of Christian Armenians who fought and died against overwhelming odds in the Battle of Avarayr so that today Armenians can worship and live as a free and independent people," said Ani Lodge commander Jake Bournazian.

The performances were so successful that the Ani Lodge continues to enhance the production and dialogue and present it every year in celebration of Vartanantz Day, this being the second annual performance.

The Knights and Daughters were especially pleased by the hospitable receptions displayed by the leadership and parishioners at both Soorp Khatch and St. Mary Armenian Churches.



The Cast of the 2014 Vartanantz Day Play: Top Row, from left, Richard Vann, Ara Avedisian, Jake Bournazian; Bottom Row, from left, David Bournazian, Seda Gelenian and Taniel Koushakjian



ARTS & LIVING

Chefs Party for Our Park! Benefit to Raise Funds for Park Upkeep

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Boston's top chefs will participate in the Chefs Party for Our Park! A Benefit for Armenian Heritage Park's Ongoing Care, on Wednesday, May 21, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel.

The star-studded culinary lineup includes Chefs Ana Sortun (Oleana, Sofra and Sarma), Andrew Hebert (Trade), Andrew Yeo and Nathan Kibarian (The Ritz-Carlton), Brian Dandro (ArtBar and Royal Sonesta Hotel), Brian Poe (Poe's Kitchen at the Rattlesnake, Tip Tap Room and Estelle's), Dante de Magistris (il Casale and Dante), Gerard Tice (Parkers, Omni Parker House), Jeffrey P. Fournier (51 Lincoln and Waban Kitchen), Jody Adams (Rialto and Trade), Julia Brant (North 26, Millennium Bostonian Hotel), Seta Dakessian (Seta's) and Vicki Lee Boyajian and Jason Reed (Vicki Lee's).

In keeping with a key theme of the park to celebrate the immigrant experience, the evening showcases our collective culinary heritage. Each chef will prepare and present a signature dish inspired by a parent, grandparent or mentor.

The benefit brings together supporters and friends of Armenian



Jeffrey Fournier



Brian Dandro



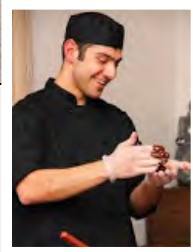
Andrew Yeo



Dante de Magistris



Seta Dakessian



Nathan Kibarian



Ana Sortun



Andrew Hebert



Heritage Park to meet, mingle, and enjoy delicious tastings and wine to the music of the John Baboian Trio.

Boston celebrity Bob Lobel will be master of ceremonies.

The benefit is made possible with thanks to the generosity and commitment of the Royal Sonesta Hotel, each chef and the Benefit Committee dedicated to the park.

One of the desserts will be in tribute to M. Sanzian, the Armenian-French chef who, in 1856, on the occasion of the opening of the Parker House, created the Boston Crème Pie, now recognized as Massachusetts' official dessert.

In late March, the Abstract Sculpture, the split dodecahedron, will reconfigure at Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway in celebration of the immigrant experience and in commemoration of all who were pulled away from their country of origin and came to these shores, establishing themselves in new and different ways and making contributions to American life and culture. This evening is in tribute to that.

To receive an invitation to the Chefs Party for Our Park, email info@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

Ararat-Eskijian Museum Presents Robert Fisk Lecture

MISSION HILLS, Calif. – On Friday, March 21, renowned journalist Robert Fisk will give a lecture at Ararat-Eskijian Museum-Sheen Chapel at 8 p.m.

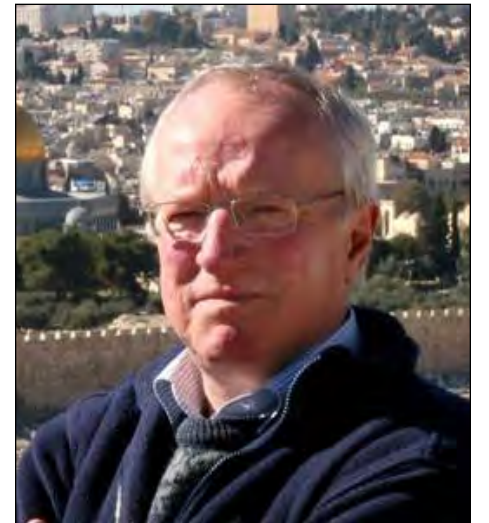
He writes in the *Independent*, the newspaper for which he is the Middle East correspondent, "Nearly a century after the Armenian Genocide, these people are still being slaughtered in Syria. ... And now, almost unmentioned in the media, their holy places are also being desecrated..."

these ghastly killing fields have become the killing fields of a new war. Upon the bones of the dead Armenians, the Syrian conflict is being fought. And the descendants of the Armenian Christian survivors who found sanctuary in the old Syrian lands have been forced to flee again."

Fisk, 66, has reported from the world's crisis regions, including Northern Ireland, Portugal during the Carnation Revolution and

Afghanistan, for more than 30 years. Since 1976, he has been reporting on the Middle East from his home in Beirut. Fisk speaks Arabic and is one of the few western journalists to have interviewed Osama bin Laden. He has won several journalism prizes for his work. He has published a number of books and reported on several wars and armed conflicts.

For more information contact the Ararat-Eskijian Museum or Maggie Mangassarian-



Robert Fisk

Goschin, e-mail ararat-eskijian-museum@netzero.net

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Newly Translated Books by Zabel Yessayan to Be Presented at AIWA Program

see YESSAYAN, page 10 of readers and literary critics of Western literature. Yessayan's works are relevant to those interested in Armenian studies, in women's history, and in the multicultural society of the late Ottoman Empire.

The Yessayan books are parts of AIWA's Treasury of Armenian Women's Literature series, which focus on the pioneering female Armenian-language writers. Many of these authors (for example Srpuhi Dussap, Sibyl, Zaruhi Kalemkarian) are virtually unknown today, even among Armenian-educated readers, and their works – many published in small editions or in rare periodicals – are difficult to locate.

The public is invited to attend the publication party on March 23. A reception and book sale will follow a brief program. For further information email info@aiwainternational.org.



ARTS & LIVING

'I Came to Die in Turkey, My Homeland,' Says Armenian Actor

ISTANBUL (*Today's Zaman*) – Kevork Malikyan is a humble and sincere actor. He has an extraordinary story which started in Diyarbakir and later continued in Istanbul and London.

Malikyan is now back in Turkey, his homeland. Since his return two years ago, he has been involved in three major film projects. His filmography is fairly extensive and rich and includes movies in which he worked with famous directors such as Steven Spielberg and Ridley Scott and with popular actors such as Dustin Hoffman and Christian Bale.

Malikyan's story is an unusual one. An archbishop decided to open a religious seminary in Üsküdar, Istanbul, with the intention of taking in the poor children of Armenian parents from various parts of Turkey and raising them as priests. Malikyan was questioned by a priest who wanted to determine whether or not he was a good candidate for the priesthood. His father told him to go to the seminary because he couldn't afford to give him an education. He was just 10. Though he was worried because he had no friends in Istanbul and he had to leave his parents behind, Malikyan traveled to the city to become a priest.

He was sent to the Karagözyan Orphanage in Sisli where he spent two years before attending the religious seminary in Üsküdar. In the seminary, there was a small stage where the students acted in Turkish and Armenian. When he was 16, an Anglican priest was invited to the school to teach them English. He was an Oxford graduate who wrote history books. He was fond of acting and had prepared "Richard III" by Shakespeare in English wherein Malikyan played Richard. The priest must have liked Malikyan's acting because he told the headmaster of the school that Malikyan should become an actor rather than a priest. The patriarch asked Malikyan his opinion on this matter but Malikyan was unsure because of financial concerns. Father Harding, a British priest, found him a scholarship in Britain.

His parents did not object to his decision to go to the UK. The last time Malikyan saw his father was in 1961. After graduating, he did not have time to visit his parents. Malikyan left Istanbul

By Kursat Bayhan, Ayhan Hulagu

on a ship and first arrived in Marseilles before heading to London by train. He did not know any English. Malikyan stayed with a British family that Father Harding knew. He continued to write letters to his father, who told him that they would meet some day. After completing his studies at a drama school, he bought a house to bring his parents over. However, his father died in 1974; Malikyan was unable to even attend his funeral. His brothers later moved to Germany and 10 years later, his mother died. Malikyan took care of her funeral arrangements.

In London, auditions were arranged in three different schools. The director at Rose Bruford College made Malikyan promise that he would attend Rosa Bruford College and not audition at the two other schools. He agreed but his English was poor. He took English lessons three days a week, all paid for by the school, which was affiliated with the University of Kent. Malikyan later received diplomas for acting and teaching from the school.

Malikyan taught diction courses for a while but later started acting. He was lucky because he found a job just two days after graduating, a role in "Macbeth." Then he took parts in TV series and acted in plays where he generally played a foreigner (Italian or French). But he was unable to obtain lead roles in British plays. Some 15 to 20 years later, he told his manager that he wanted to get parts in theater rather than TV series. Malikyan signed a contract with the Royal Shakespeare Company while acting in series by TV stations, like the BBC. He played different roles and then moved on to the Royal National Theater. Malikyan also played in Shakespeare's theater, the Globe, for three years where he was in plays such as "King Lear," "Henry IV" and "Front Line."

Malikyan met Spielberg and Scott via his manager. His manager had called and told him that Spielberg had wanted to see him. Spielberg told Malikyan that even though he did some excellent work, he wanted to know more about his work, which was known in the US. Malikyan

referred to "Midnight Express," where he played an American in jail, a performance which Spielberg remembered. Malikyan later waited for a few months. Eventually, Spielberg called him up and Malikyan got a part in "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade."

Malikyan also worked with Scott recently. His manager sent him a script of the movie and Malikyan made a tape in Istanbul and sent it

be a festival at the Globe with the participation of actors from 38 different countries who would play 38 Shakespeare plays. He asked the creative director of the theater if they were inviting Turkey and Armenia. The director asked Malikyan if there was a theater in these countries. Malikyan remembered Haluk Bilginer; they had met on the set of a play, "Half Moon Street," in the late 1970s. Malikyan later watched their play in Turkey and Bilginer asked him to be part of the play. Malikyan decided to play a brief role and as a result, he moved to Turkey.

(PHOTO: KÜR AT BAYHAN, SUNDAY'S ZAMAN)



Kevork Malikyan

back. He got the part and is now in the movie "Exodus."

Malikyan decided to move back to his home country because he felt lonely. In addition, his parents' graves are in Turkey. Two of his brothers died in Germany in different cities while his sister is in France. He thought at least one of them should be in Turkey. His wife moved to Cyprus and his daughter to Tunisia. This left him alone in London. He initially thought he would be buried in a British cemetery when he died but eventually decided to move to Turkey because he wanted to die here.

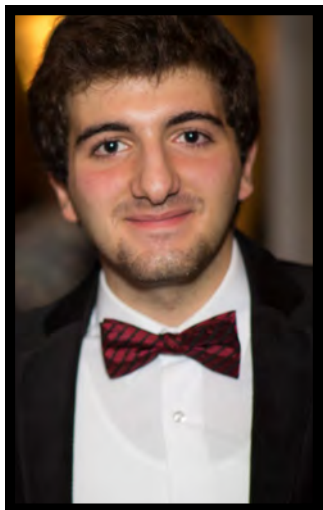
Five years ago, he noticed there was going to

He spent many years in Britain and speaks English fluently. He is able to speak Kurdish due to his childhood in Diyarbakir. In the beginning, he was worried while working on his earlier projects because of his strong accent. Directors even warned him about this problem sometimes. Regardless of the language problems, Malikyan feels he belongs here because of the cultural affinity and closeness.

He is also teaching at the moment. Bilginer recommended that Malikyan teach since he has a diploma in teaching. He now teaches at Kadir Has University once a week on Shakespeare and his contemporaries.



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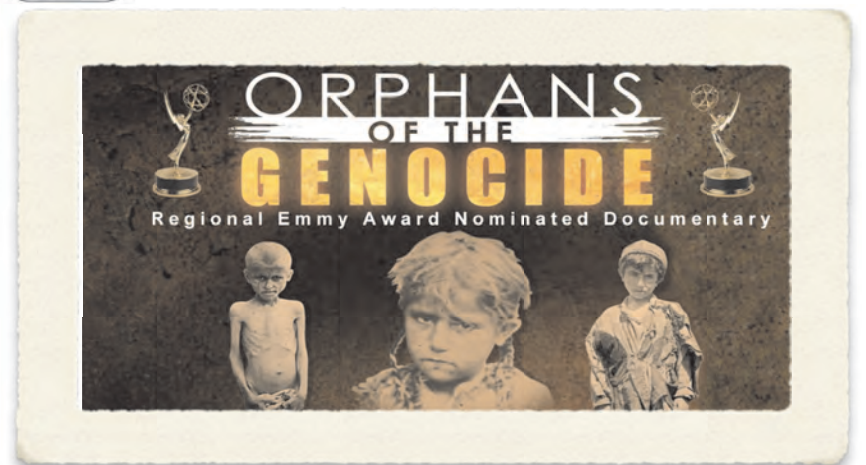
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ARTS & LIVING

The Unexpected Darling

MIAMI, from page 13

international art dealers were unanimous in exclaiming that interest for Middle Eastern artists is very deep and extends across all international collecting communities.

Iraqi artist Hayv Kahraman's ethereal painting "Distorted Octahedron of 2013" at Jack Shainman Gallery, New York, sold within seconds of the fair's opening. The incredible canvas perfectly captures Kahraman's obsession with the complex relationships between gender and identity constructs. Similarly, at Galerie Eva Presenhuber of Zurich, Latifa Echakhch, the Moroccan artist and the recent winner of the 2013 Marcel Duchamp Prize, also immediately sold. Another major sculpture by Echakhch was also for sale at Galerie Kamel Mennour of Paris. Titled "Mer d'encre," 2012, the installation consisted of 24 bowler hats filled with Indian ink.

Among the other standout works by MENA region artists, were a number of powerful sculptures by Lebanese Mona Hatoum. A powerful and commandeering sculpture by the French Algerian Kader Attia also drew interest from the crowds, as well as Lebanese artist Nabil Nahas. Finally, the wonderful discovery of Lebanese Mathieu Malouf's work was a highlight of the event.

The determining factor behind the success of this year's fair lay solely with the caliber of works on display – it was quite simply a far superior offering than previous years. The dealers had truly stretched themselves, challenging visitors with top examples and enticing the collecting crowd with the very best works of art. The result was a palpable dynamism and pace to the audience's mission to move from one booth to the next, perusing the art with intent.

As with all art fairs, there were particular standout booths. Of note was Gladstone Gallery of New York, which showcased – and immediately sold – a masterpiece painting by Jim Hodges, titled then and then and then... (for Sufjan), 2013. Created from numerous individual pieces of cut denim, the entire work is composed of found, donated and purchased swatches of the fabric in every shade on the spectrum, on which Hodges infused an intricate, natural pattern made entirely of 24K gold. The result was a creation pulsating with sheer power. The painting emanated emotion and narrative, creating a poignant study based on Hodge's obsession with ideas relating to temporality, life and love.

The other showstopper, at Gagosian Gallery, was Jeff Koons' "Baroque Egg With Bow" in shimmering turquoise and hot pink (1994-2008). At David Zwirner Gallery Koons also featured prominently, with his mirror-polished stainless steel sculpture Elephant, 2003 in pride of place. On the opening day Zwirner's booth also highlighted a stand-out and desirable grouping of Yayoi Kusama paintings and a pumpkin sculpture that quickly sold within seconds of the fair's opening.

A visit to Miami Basel is not complete without a tour of the art collections that are on public view which truly make Miami what it is. The Rubell Family Collection exhibition, "28 Chinese," is the culmination of the Rubells' six research trips to China between 2001-2012, where they visited 100 artists' studios in Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Xi'an and acquired artwork from 28 artists. At the De La Cruz Collection Contemporary Art Space, their show "Looking at Process" highlighted artists from the collection who focused on patterns and laying bare their processes.

MOCA North Miami unveiled Tracey Emin's first American museum exhibition to focus on her neons, titled "Tracey Emin: Angel Without You." And finally, the talk of the entire week and the not-to-be-missed opening was the new (PAMM) Perez Art Museum Miami's new Herzog and de Meuron building. The \$131 million building is a public-private partnership, part of a \$220 million overall project funded by private donors and \$100 million in voter-approved bonds. PAMM

CALENDAR

FLORIDA

MARCH 14-17 — Armenian Assembly Annual Trustees Meeting & Banquet, Boca Raton. Friday night, guests are invited to a welcome reception and on Saturday morning, the annual trustees meeting will take place. During and after lunch, guests will hear from author Dr. H. Martin Deranian, Near East Foundation Board Chairman Shant Mardirossian, and South Florida Filmmaker Bared Maronian. Saturday evening, the Assembly will honor Michael Haratunian at a special dinner banquet. A participant of the Airlie conferences that established the Assembly in 1972, Haratunian served as a member of the board of directors for several years including four years as chairman. All events will be held at the Marriott at Boca Center. Major donor packages are available at the following levels: Benefactor (\$1,000); Pillar (\$2,500); Torchbearer (\$5,000); and Guardian (\$10,000). Hotel arrangements can be made by calling 1-800-228-9290 to get the special Assembly room rate of only \$159.00. To RSVP contact Assembly FL Chair Carol Norigian at southflaaa@gmail.com.

Armenian Heritage Cruise XVIII 2015. A 7-day Caribbean Cruise aboard the Luxurious MSC DIVINA from January 17-24, 2015. Traveling to; Falmouth, Jamaica / Georgetown, Cayman Islands / Cozumel, Mexico and Great Stirrup Cay, Bahamas. Cabin rates from \$849.00 double occupancy, taxes and port charges included. Armenian Entertainment, Armenian Cultural Presentations, Tavlou & Belote Tournaments and much more. Call TRAVEL-GROUP INTERNATIONAL 1-866-447-0750 Ext 103. Ask for Faye.

MASSACHUSETTS

March 20 — 6:30 - 8:45 p.m., Documentary "Dark Forest in the Mountains" by Roger Kupelian, shot on location in Nagorno-Karabagh and uses a mix of digital animation, live footage and interviews to tell the story of war in the early 1990s that claimed tens of thousands of lives. Also, a presentation by Dro Kanayan on the Armenian Genocide Education Committee and their efforts to teach about the Genocide in the public school system. Seating is limited, admission free. Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Co-sponsored by the Arakadz Lodge of the Knights of Vartan. For information email arakadzlodge35@gmail.com.

MARCH 23 — Publication party, Armenian International Women's Association celebrates release of two books by Zabel Yessayan newly translated into English: *The Gardens of Silindar* and *My Soul in Exile and Other Writings*. 2 p.m. Armenian Cultural Foundation, Arlington. Open to the public, free of charge. For info, info@aiwainternational.org or 617-926-0171.

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 7 — St. James Men's Club, Monday, Speaker Jacqueline Karaaslanian, executive director of Luys Educational Foundation, speaking on "Luys Empowers Transformation in Armenia." Vosbov Kheyra & Imam Bayeldi 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 welcome.

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 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.

APRIL 11 — Beginning at 10:30 a.m., the annual commemoration of the Armenian Genocide will take place at the Massachusetts State House, at the House Chamber. Keynote speaker will be attorney Mark Geragos. A joint resolution will be



Jacqueline Karaaslanian, executive director of Luys Educational Foundation, will be the featured speaker of St. James Men's Club, Monday, April 7, St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Watertown. A special Lenten Vosbov Kheyra and Imam Bayeldi Dinner will be served. Social Hour (mezza) begins at 6:15 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$14 per person. Ladies are welcome.

given to architect Donald Tellalian, who designed the abstract sculpture at the Armenian Heritage Park. In addition, Anahis Kechejian will help lead young people remembering their ancestors who are genocide victims, as part of Stand up for Your Survivor. Also, children from St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School and the Armenian Sisters' Academy will sing America the Beautiful and the Armenian National Anthem. The program will end at 11:30 a.m., followed by a reception in the Great Hall. For information, call Lalig Musserian at 617-319-2651.

APRIL 27 — Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley observance, 3 pm, North Andover High School, 430 Osgood St., Arev Armenian Folk Ensemble performing; joint requiem service by MV Armenian churches; reception to follow; complimentary admission.

MAY 10 — Third Annual Benefit Dance with ALL proceeds being donated to the following Armenian Charities: Mrgashen Village School, Akhourian Mother and Child Clinic and Armenians in Syria. 7 p.m. to Midnight, Armenian Church of Our Saviour Cultural Center, 34 Boynton St., Worcester. Der Mugrditchian Ensemble to perform. Donation, \$30 (\$25 Students), music, mezza, cash bar, raffle, surprises.

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

MICHIGAN

MARCH 29 — Young Turkish-Armenian pianist Artun Miskciyan will perform at 7 p.m., Steinway Piano Gallery, 2700 E. Maple Road, Commerce Township. The program will include pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Bartok and Khachaturian. The concert is sponsored by the Metro Detroit Tekeyan Cultural Association and dedicated to Margaret Benian. RSVP Diana Alexanian 248-334-3636 Leslie Balian 248-303-4690 Nora Azadian 248-303-7171. Tickets are \$15 per person. A reception will follow the concert.

astounded every visitor and each and every one who attended gasped at the breathtaking architecture of the building.

There is a tremendous amount to absorb at

Miami Basel, openings, collection visits and museums. For those however, who are passionate, it was certainly an inspiring time and more importantly, a supremely educational

experience for all who attended.

(Aileen Agopian is Sotheby's Senior Vice President, Senior International Specialist of Contemporary Art.)



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

When Ideology Meets Reality

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Armenian political thought has always been in flux, and remains so even after independence and perhaps even because of it.

The Armenian political parties, which were created in the late 19th century, were fashioned after the European and Russian ideological movements, sometimes incongruent with the situation on the ground. Such a contrast has given birth to a masterpiece in Armenian satirical literature, Yervant Odian's *Comrade Panchooni*, a novel based on the clash of lofty socialistic ideals with the reality of a primitive life, resulting in hilarious situations.

Because the majority of the Armenian masses lived under the tyrannical yoke of the Ottoman sultans, emancipated Armenian liberal youth could only express themselves freely outside the Ottoman borders. That is why by necessity, the political parties came into being in capitals far from the Armenian population centers.

The Hunchak Party was formed in Geneva, Switzerland in 1887 and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnag) Party was formed in Tiflis (Tbilisi), Georgia in 1890. The only party which was founded in the Armenian heartland – Van – was the Armenagan Party in 1885, the forerunner of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL).

The political challenges were the same for all the parties, but their ideologies differed in large measure in their approach to meeting those challenges.

All the parties, along with the masses, had to fight the tyrannical rule of the sultan, either striving to liberate Armenia or to create tolerable human conditions for survival within the empire. The Armenagan Party did not subscribe to any foreign ideologies which were popular at the time in Europe and Russia. They were nationalists to the core and they believed in discreet preparation for self-defense. Their policy was vindicated twice in history during the defense of Van in 1896 and 1915.

The ARF adhered to the credo of international socialism. To this day, the party is a member of the International Socialist Movement.

The Social Democratic Hunchak Party was modeled on the principles of Russian Marxist Socialist movements.

It is ironic that these parties were denied venues to serve their people along the lines of their ideologies, but they served as role models to the Ittihadist Party, which overthrew the sultan and declared the 1908 constitution, whereby all citizens of the Ottoman Empire were granted equality.

Initially, the Ittihadists lured the Armenian political parties to their movement and actually allowed Armenians to be elected to the parliament. No leader or party was able to suspect the conniving nature of the Turkish leadership, when they laid their arms and mobilization down, leading to the tragedy of 1915.

Jeffersonian democracy was far removed from the political philosophy of the Armenian leadership. He writes that in a democracy "the national government is a dangerous necessity to be instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation or community; it should be watched closely and circumscribed in its powers."

The Genocide dispersed Armenians around the world and the ideologies of the political parties became irrelevant, because the first challenge was to survive and get organized. In addition, the corresponding venue to implement these ideologies was lost.

Licking their wounds, Armenians were engaged in reorganizing their communities around the world.

The time for truth came in 1991 when Armenia became independent once again. The parties entered the Armenian political scene with a variety of approaches, some hoping to serve their

homeland modestly, while others with a Messianic zeal. That is where ideology met reality. Armenia, long dominated by Soviet totalitarian rule, needed a long time to be reared in the idea of self-government.

The ADL (Ramgavar) Party believed that since democracy was the antithesis of the totalitarian ideology naturally emancipated citizens of Armenia would gravitate toward the party. One of the leaders, Hampartzoum Berberian, even claimed that the ADL had hit the jackpot and the party had to move to Yerevan to cash in. And indeed, the ADL became the largest political faction in the first parliament.

During the 70 years of Soviet rule, the government in Armenia never missed an opportunity to bash the ARF, and ironically, that is how the party became imbued with mythical powers of salvaging post-Soviet Armenia in the imagination of the people.

But the traditional parties were soon demystified and they were cut to size, as the ratio has demonstrated in the current parliament in Armenia.

Armenia has yet to develop as a mature democracy. At this stage, ideologies don't count. Only the wealth of some patron oligarchs defines the size and the power of the existing parties.

During the last elections, more than 100 parties were counted, with the ones advocating abstract ideologies marginalized. Former speaker of the parliament, Khosrov Harutunyan, is the head of the Christian Democrats who were not able to gain popularity. The National Self-Determination Party of Paruyr Hayrikyan similarly lost miserably. Despite huge rallies, the Armenian National Congress barely made a dent.

Some parties are not treated in reference to their ideology or bankrollers; the Heritage Party of Raffi Hovannisian and the ARF are considered transplants from the diaspora and they will always be discriminated against, albeit tacitly.

The recent news is that Armenia's government is already planning to reduce the number of the political parties in the country. The Justice Ministry has tasked a group of lawyers to draft a new law for political parties. It looks like in the first phase, the number of parties may be limited to 10, which eventually will be reduced further to five or six. Under the 2002 law pertaining to political parties, any party could be legally registered if it counted 200 members and retained local structures on one third of the republic's territory. The new law will be more restrictive: within six months of application, the party has to prove that it has 2,000 adherents and in each district, through the country, at least 100 members. Thus, very few parties will be able to meet that threshold.

After the new law goes into effect, only the following parties may survive: the Republican, Prosperous Armenia, Land of Laws, Armenian National Congress (ANC), Heritage and the ARF.

None of the parties have defined ideologies, with the ruling Republican Party being most devoid of any political philosophy. Sometimes, on official occasions, Garegin Nejdéh's name is exhorted, whereas Nejdéh, although a national hero, advocated a race-based ideology (tseghagron), too toxic in today's world. Even the ARF is completely divorced from its socialist ideology and practices an issue-oriented policy.

The ANC thus far has demonstrated a negative policy. It is against anything that Sargisian's Republican Party does or believes in.

Unfortunately, two decades of independence has not been enough to eradicate the political mayhem that Soviet rule has left as a legacy. For the foreseeable future, oligarchs will continue dominating the political landscape, buying and selling political parties and voters.

Armenia will attain political maturity when the ideologies of its political parties match their performances.

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Indispensible Papazian 'Triumvirate' from Gesaria

By Max M. Boudakian, PhD

Toward the end of the 19th century, three unrelated Armenians with the common surname "Papazian" emerged from the village of Belegesi in Caesarea (Armenian, "Gesaria," Turkish, "Kayseri"). Their names were Kerovpe, Garabed and Kapriel Papazian.

Each Papazian made notable contributions as Armenians struggled to emerge from many centuries of Ottoman domination. Kerovpe Papazian exemplified a "Profile in Courage" as he spoke eloquently before an 1893 Turkish tribunal in Ankara. A contemporary, Garabed Papazian, was the beneficiary of a Harvard education and made notable contributions in journalism, literary translations and as a political activist. The last of the Papazian Triumvirate, Kapriel, was noted as an editor,

political activist and author of several English-language books relating to Armenian issues.

Variants of the village name also include: Belegasi; Balagesi; Belehesi; Balages; Balakas; and, Balagues. Its population was around 1000. The village no longer exists. It was destroyed during the Armenian Genocide of 1915. Belegesi was located in the environs of Caesarea. This region was known in the Bible as Cappadocia. (Its original name was Mazaca or Mayaca.) The city and region of Cappadocia was renamed Caesarea around 10 B.C. The first Crusaders from Europe (1197 A.D.) found so many Armenians living in this region that they called it Hermoniorium terra ("Land of the Armenians").

The origin of the village name, Belegesi, is the subject of speculation. The term, Gesi or Gasi could be related to the Armenian name, Gaiser, meaning "Emperor." Hence, Bala-Gesi (or variant) could be a contraction of Balad

Gaiser or "Emperor's Palace." This interpretation has been either accepted or challenged by several sources.

Information on Belegesi history and traditions can be found in Arshag Alboyadjian's monumental two-volume treatise, *Batmutiun Hye Gesario* ("History of Armenian Gesaria").

Kerovpe Papazian
(? - 1893)

One is held in awe on the story of Kerovpe Papazian. Arshag Alboyadjian's treatise described the courageous Kerovpe Papazian in almost reverential terms during the latter's testimony before a 1893 Turkish tribunal in Ankara: "A person of very strong character, made of steel, whose name the Armenian nation should not forget." Alboyadjian's source

continued on next page



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Shifting Inter-Relationships Between Armenia and Diaspora

The Diaspora Ministry of the Republic of Armenia invited a small group of scholars and analysts to Yerevan last December to discuss the Diaspora's changing role in relation to the homeland. The participants in the "Changing Diaspora in an Ever-changing World" roundtable had come from Argentina, Armenia, Germany, Lebanon, Russia, Ukraine and the United States.

The discussion centered on the formation of the Diaspora, current challenges, Armenia-Diaspora collaboration, improved links for closer cooperation between Armenia and Diaspora, and the quest for new working mechanisms and perspectives.

Here are excerpts from my presentation at the meeting:

The Diaspora encountered a completely new set of circumstances after Armenia's independence. The sudden realization of the long-cherished dream of free Armenia caught many Diasporans by surprise. New words appeared in their vocabulary: Artsakh (Karabagh), earthquake, blockade, protocol, opposition, coalition government, regime change.

Most Diasporans had a hard time distinguishing between

the actions of an individual, group or organization and the rights and obligations of a state. At the same time, Armenia's new leaders could not fully comprehend the patriotic sentiments, wishes and desires of Diasporan Armenians, causing a disconcerting rift between the two sides.

Complicating matters, the Diaspora is not a monolithic group, but is composed of distinct subsets, having taken shape at different times in foreign lands under various cultural and linguistic influences.

When asked by journalists in Armenia about Diaspora's views on a particular issue, I have difficulty answering such a question. How can anyone encapsulate the diverse views of seven million Diasporans? To reflect the opinion of the majority of the Diaspora, one would need to form a pan-Armenian body, either by expanding the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's functions beyond fundraising or creating a brand new structure that would represent Armenians worldwide, except those in Armenia and Artsakh, based on the principle of 'one man, one vote.' The elected representatives would have the right to speak in the name of all Diaspora Armenians and meet periodically with the leadership of Armenia and Artsakh to consult and coordinate their priorities on pan-Armenian issues.

Leaders of all three wings of the Armenian nation (Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora) can then discuss their respective positions, and agree on the role each would play. Such a division of labor is preferable over unending internal feuds and conflicts that sometimes take place, as was the case during the signing of the Armenia-Turkey Protocols.

It is incumbent upon Armenia's leadership to be more sensitive on issues that are important for Diaspora Armenians and consult with them before taking final deci-

sions.

Understandably, Armenia's leaders are not obliged to take orders from anyone outside the country's borders. While having the final say over all matters, they nevertheless have the moral duty and obligation to consider the views of key Diasporan organizations, in the absence of a Diaspora-wide elected body. In any case, Armenia's authorities are responsible before the nation for their actions. They are praised when taking the right decisions and criticized when they do not.

It must be stated that an elective Diaspora-wide structure, no matter how difficult to establish, would be far more inclusive and representative than appointed leaders — despite their devoted efforts — who merely represent their respective members. It is imperative to include large segments of our people in all activities, so that we become more effective in our endeavors, particularly at a time when Azerbaijan and Turkey are organizing their Diasporas and spending tens of millions of dollars to undermine our just demands on the eve of the Genocide Centennial.

As we often state: "Azerbaijan has oil, Georgia has a sea, and Armenia has a diaspora." However, a disorganized and dwindling diaspora would be of little value for our national cause. It can neither preserve itself nor be of any assistance to the homeland.

We must do everything possible to have a powerful homeland and a strong Diaspora. The survival of each is dependent on the vitality of the other. Despite the valiant efforts of the Diaspora Ministry, we must realize that the magnitude of what needs to be done is so enormous that it exceeds the capabilities of any one ministry. There is a clear need for the concerted efforts of Armenia's entire leadership to make Diaspora Armenians feel welcome and at home.

from previous page

was *The Memoirs of Daniel Vartabed, Abbot of Derevank* (near Talas, also in Gesaria), one of Papazian's co-defendants.

In early 1893, Yaftas (manifestoes or seditious placards) were posted throughout Anatolia including Caesarea, denouncing Sultan Abdul Hamid II. Details of a Yafta have been described by Alboyadjian. The Turkish government's response was to jail hundreds of Armenians suspected as political agitators or seditious rioters. Tribunals were then held.

One hearing in May 1893 involved three Armenian defendants in Ankara before Governor Abeddin Pasha. The group consisted of the aforementioned Daniel Vartabed, a Hunchak activist, Anton Rushduni, also a Hunchak leader, and, Kerovpe Papazian. Alboyadjian described the circumstances leading to Papazian's imprisonment: "The police surrounded his home in Beleges, beat him to a half-dead condition, and then transferred him to a jail in Gesaria."

Papazian recovered his strength to make a major impact at the hearing. As described by Alboyadjian: "A name surfaced during the interrogation... This unknown person from the village of Beleges in Gesaria, armed with a strong mastery of the Turkish language, was the intellectual, Kerovpe Papazian." (Ref. 2b). Papazian's defense was hailed as "...a masterpiece."

Abeddin Pasha inquired of the defendants: "Armenians, what do you want from our King (i.e. Sultan Abdul Hamid II)?" Papazian stepped forward without giving his fellow defendants a chance to speak. He gave a list of grievances and demands, backed up by dates and other documentation which are listed in Daniel Vartabed's *Memoirs*. Papazian forcefully stated: "We do not want either your kingdom or authority; you possess these. We demand humane treatment, fairness in the courts and the end of bribery, robbery, killing and rape. If these things continue, within 50 years the glory of this kingdom will disappear."

Papazian concluded his stout defense: "I have said what I have to say. The bribe taker is the Turk; the violent one is the Turk; the murderer is the Turk; the robber is the Turk. It is the Turk who grabs his share from the poor; that person of unspeakable lechery, the rapist, is the Turk. Show me one Christian who has been found guilty of these crimes. You know the reason for this. The 'King' in our kingdom (i.e. Turkey) rules by religion and race, not by democratic rule. I have informed you of our demands. We will continue to demand and will not stop. We will talk and shout. You rulers will arrest us, put us in jail, hang us, torture us, throw us to the bottom of the sea. The fish will

eat us but you will not be able to finish us. We will land on this earth as locusts and you will kill these locusts. However, the locusts' eggs will be buried in this land; they will rise from the earth."

Alboyadjian stated that beatings and torture did not have any effect on Papazian, described as a "mystical man." Before Papazian concluded his impassioned testimony, Abeddin Pasha inquired: "What is your name? What is your vocation?" The defendant responded: "My name is Kerovpe Papazian. My vocation is to read the Hunchak newspaper, to preach its message, to motivate revolt."

At this point the interrogation was suspended. The examining magistrate had a conference with Governor Abeddin Pasha. The latter ordered that Papazian not be prosecuted but sent to Bolis (Constantinople).

On the next day, the Governor's Greek physician examined Papazian and reported that the prisoner suffered from a mental illness. That same night, the police took him from the prison; the other prisoners heard his screams and protests.

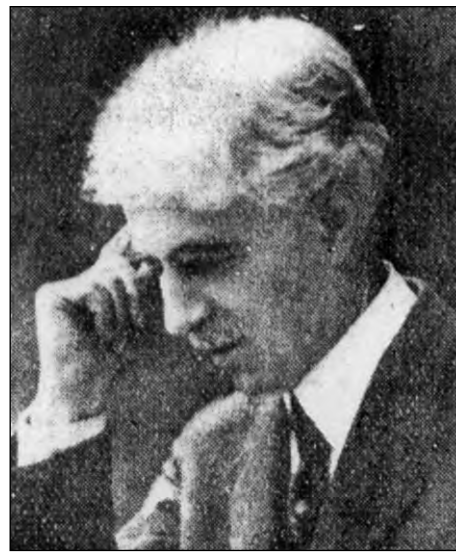
As described in Daniel Vartabed's *Memoirs*: "That night, they put him (Papazian) on a train for Bolis and was placed in the Galata Seraye madhouse for the mentally unstable. This is what we had heard. Who knows what terrible tortures that finally killed him? It is known that his name did not appear on the list of condemned prisoners from the Ankara trials."

What was the fate of Papzian's co-defendants? Daniel Vartabed was condemned to death but saved from the gallows due to British intervention. Rushduni may have been given a short sentence or released since he later surfaced in Athens (1895) and London (1896).

Garabed H. Papazian (1860 - 1929)

Kerovpe Papazian's contemporary, Garabed H. Papazian, had a wide-ranging career. Son of Rev. Hovhannes Keshishian from Beleges, Garabed attended the prestigious Soorp Garabed Monastery in nearby Efkere, followed by further studies at the American School in Bardizag. After graduation, he taught at Bardizag (1883 - 1885) and supplemented his income by translating articles for the Armenian newspaper, *Avedaper*.

In 1886, Papazian enrolled at Harvard University to study history, philosophy and comparative religions for his master's degree. He became acquainted with New England intellectuals and made them aware of the ancient heritage of Armenians.



Garabed Papazian

In 1890, Garabed Papazian wrote two articles for the Boston-based Unitarian publication, *The Christian Register*. The editor, Rev. Samuel J. Barrows, and his wife, Dr. Isabel Barrows, became active in the Friends of Armenia movement formed during the Hamidian Massacres.

In his first article, (February 1890), "The Armenians," Papazian "...gave a condensed account of the history, literature and religious character of the Armenians to whose elevation the present writer has consecrated his humble service." In the second article (May 1890), "Foreign Missions in Armenia," Papazian concluded with noble objectives for his life's mission: "Now it is the earnest desire of this writer to devote himself to the furtherance of this progressive movement, which he firmly believes to be the most efficient factor of national culture and vital piety. As a means to this end, he intends to establish a monthly magazine in Constantinople as an organ of rational Christianity and liberal education."

Papazian's plans for a Constantinople-based cultural magazine never materialized. Perhaps the havoc rendered by Sultan Abdul Hamid II during the 1894-1896 period dissuaded him from carrying out his homeland-based literary vision. Nevertheless, Garabed Papazian continued to lead a useful life.

Papazian's connections with other New England intellectuals included Alice Stone Blackwell, co-founder of Friends of Armenia (with Ohannes Chatschumian). She was editor-in-chief of the influential *Women's Journal* which gave considerable coverage to Armenian issues. Blackwell's *Armenian Poems: Rendered in English Verse* (1896; 1918) gratefully acknowledged the assistance of Garabed

Papazian. Prof. Peter Balakian reviewed Blackwell's *Diary for 1895* (at the Library of Congress) and found that Armenian names such as (Garabed) Papazian "...floated through her daily register; she is meeting with them for tea or dinner, or going to a play or party."

Papazian also became involved in the Hunchak political party. In 1898, he went to Egypt for an International Assembly and was elected to the Verakazmial Hunchakian (Reformed Hunchak Central Committee). He also served as editor of the Boston-based *Tsayn Hayrenatz* (Voice of the Fatherland).

Papazian's role during the Armenian Genocide of 1915 can be gleaned from two examples. He provided strong encouragement to his wife, Bertha Sullivan Papazian, for her timely book (1918), *The Tragedy of Armenia: A Brief Study and Interpretation*.

Papazian's masterful English translation of the haunting prayer-prose-poem, "A Handful of Earth," by the late Prof. Donabed Luejian (Euphrates College, Harput) describes the hell witnessed during the 1915 Genocide. (Ref. 8) The following excerpts reflect the power of Papazian's frequently-reprinted translation: "At last a handful of earth for these slain bodies, for those without bones! A handful of earth at least, for these unclaimed dead! ... These are our women with breasts uncovered and limbs bear a handful of earth to cover them! ... A handful of earth God! ... Sprinkle a handful of earth ... Give, God, the handful of earth requested of Thee!"

Garabed Papazian maintained an active Armenian community life after World War I. In 1921, he participated in the International Assembly held in Constantinople leading to the merger of several political parties to form Ramgavar Azadagan Gusaktsoutian (Armenian Democratic Liberal Party or ADL). He wrote articles for numerous Armenian publications: *Azk*, *Azk-Bahag*, *Baikar* and *Hayastani Gotchnag*. Papazian did not forget his Beleges roots: he served as Secretary of the New York-based Beleges Compatriotic Society during the 1920s.

Kapriel S. Papazian (1887 - 1949)

The last of the "Papazian Triumvirate," Kapriel Papazian, was recognized as "... a prominent Armenian-American leader during the first half of the twentieth century."

Papazian, born to Serop and Gulhatir Papazian, was well-educated. He graduated from the American School in nearby Talas, see PAPA ZIAN, page 16



Members of Congress Commemorate 1988 Pogroms in Azerbaijan

SUMGAIT, from page 1

The Assembly distributed its report "Sumgait: The Public Record" to Congress and continues to work with the Armenian Caucus on this issue.

Drawing parallels between events from 25 years ago, Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) recounted that "This month also marked the 10th anniversary of the heinous murder of

Armenian Army Lieutenant Gurgen Margaryan at a NATO training camp in Budapest, by Ramil Safarov, a Lieutenant of the Azerbaijani Army."

"Safarov used an axe to hack Margaryan to death while he was sleeping," Sherman said, and "after being convicted of murder by Hungarian courts, he was transferred to Azerbaijan where he was immediately pardoned and given a hero's welcome." According to

Sherman's statement, "Several Azerbaijan government officials have hailed Safarov's actions as patriotism. This is unacceptable, and the international community should hold Azerbaijan accountable for this," he said, illustrating how Azerbaijan's leaders have pushed a discriminatory and intolerant agenda toward their Armenian neighbors.

"On behalf of the entire Armenian American

community, I thank Senator Kirk and Representatives Royce, Schiff, Sherman, Pallone, Eshoo, Clark, Cicilline, Cardenas, Chu, Sanchez, and Peters for their principled stand on human rights issues and for sending a strong message to Azerbaijan about its anti-Armenian policies," stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.

Death of Boy Triggers Further Unrest

ISTANBUL/ANKARA (Reuters) – Protesters clashed with police in cities across Turkey on Tuesday after the death of a 15-year-old boy who was hit in the head by a tear-gas canister during anti-government demonstrations last summer.

Police fired water cannon and tear gas at thousands of demonstrators, another pre-election headache for Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, already battling a graft scandal.

Berkin Elvan, then 14, got caught up in street battles in Istanbul between police and protesters on June 16 while going to buy bread for his family. He slipped into a coma and became a rallying point for government opponents.

On Tuesday evening, police fired water cannon and tear gas in Ankara's Kizilay square to scatter several thousand protesters who chanted: "Government of Erdogan, government of corruption, resign." The police pursued the protesters into side streets.

There was similar police intervention against thousands of protesters in Istanbul's Istiklal Street.

In Adana, protesters threw stones aimed fireworks at police lines as water cannon vehicles advanced against them, spraying water. Large numbers also protested in the western cities of Izmir and Eskisehir in the most extensive protests since last summer's unrest.

Residents in some Istanbul districts banged pots and pans with spoons from the windows of their apartment blocks, reviving a form of protest popular during the summer.

Istanbul and Ankara have both seen protests in recent weeks against what demonstrators regard as Erdogan's authoritarian reaction to the graft scandal, which has included new laws tightening Internet controls and handing government greater influence over the appointment of judges and prosecutors.

Crowds chanted "murderer Erdogan" and "the murderer state will be brought to account" as mourners carried Elvan's coffin, wrapped in red cloth and strewn with red carnations, to a "cemevi," an Alevi place of worship, in central Istanbul.

Alevi is a religious minority in mainly Sunni Muslim Turkey who espouse a liberal version of Islam and have often been at odds with Erdogan's Islamist-rooted government.

President Abdullah Gul, the first senior figure to publicly comment on Elvan's death, sent his condolences to the family.

In the Aegean city of Izmir, school children and university students staged sit-ins. The Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions (DISK) said it would join Elvan's funeral in Istanbul on Wednesday.

Indispensible Papazian

PAPAZIAN, from page 15

studied at the American Anatolia College in Marsovan (1906 – 1911) and taught there from 1911 – 1914. He pursued graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin. "It had been Papazian's wish to return to his homeland so as to devote himself to the education of Armenian youth." However, World War I and the Armenian Genocide of 1915 did not permit him to carry out his long-range plans.

Instead, Papazian turned his attention to journalism and Armenian politics. From 1918 to 1920, he was editor-in-chief of the Boston-based newspaper, *Azk* (later known as *Baikar*). He was a rising star within the Armenian-American community. At the age of 32, he was included in M. Vartan Malcolm's 1919 book, *The Armenians in America*.

Papazian was also a delegate to the aforementioned 1921 International Assembly in Constantinople which led to the amalgamation of several Armenian political parties to form the Ramgavar Azadagan Gusaktsoutiun (Armenian Democratic Liberal Party or ADL). In 1932, he was one of the "Four Visionaries" who helped found the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

Other accomplishments in Kapriel Papazian's career include two books in English: *Patriotism Perverted* (1934), dealing with contemporary Armenian political issues, *Merchants from Ararat* (1979), a survey focusing on Armenian achievements in world commerce through the ages.

It is remarkable that this "Triumvirate," each



Kapriel Papazian

with the common surname "Papazian," all from a small village, "Belegesi," made noteworthy contributions during a critical period of Armenian history.

(Acknowledgement: The critical assistance of Very Rev. Kegham Zakarian and Vincent Lima in the English translation of selected sections from Arshag Alboyadjian's "Gesaria" treatise is deeply appreciated.)

– Max M. Boudakian, PhD has published several articles in *Ararat Quarterly* and *Ararat Magazine*.

**99th ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**
ՀԱՅԿԱԿԱՆ ՑԵՂԱՍՊԱՆՈՒԹՅՈՒՆ
TURKEY IS GUILTY OF GENOCIDE • DENYING THE UNDENIABLE IS A CRIME

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