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Armenian Modern Art Great Hakob Hakobian Dies

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) — Renowned Armenian painter Hakob Hakobian died on March 9 of a heart attack. He was 89.

Born in Egypt, Hakobian repatriated to Soviet Armenia in 1962, where he later earned a “People’s artist” title.

“A Woman Frying Fish,” “Spring,” “The Village of

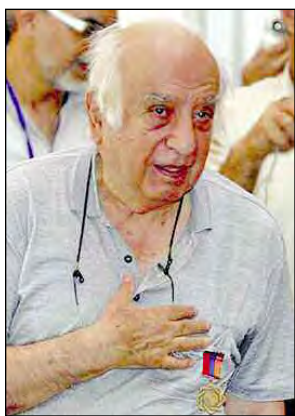
Malishka” are among his best-known paintings.

Hakobian was laid to rest on Tuesday, March 12. A government commission headed by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian was appointed to organize the artist’s funeral.

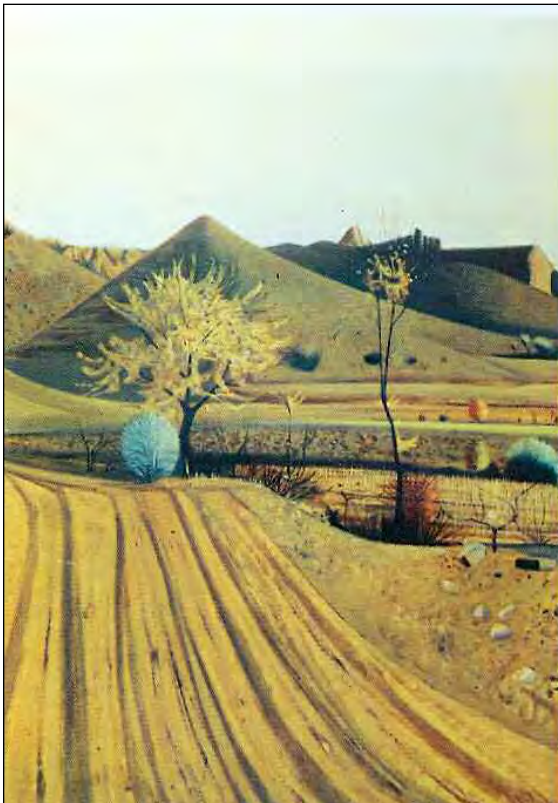
President Serge Sargsian issued a letter of condolence on the death of Hakobian, who had received the title of People’s Artist of Armenia.

“Hakob Hakobian’s death is a major loss for Armenia’s artistic life. As a unique artist and exemplary citizen he arrived in his homeland as a well-known artist with a recognizable style. He came here to reveal a new Armenia and secured a permanent place in the history of his country’s art,” President Sargsian said in his letter, further commiserating with the artist’s family and admirers.

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Hakob Hakobian



“Vaiodzor,” 1970, now in Armenian State Gallery

Nova Southeastern University Actively Fundraising for Armenian Genocide Studies

By **Aram Arkun**
Mirror-Spectator Staff

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Armenian Studies is a small field, with a small number of academic specialists. The number of academic specialists on the Armenian Genocide is even smaller, and there are very few positions for them at universities in the United States. While this situation is unlike-

ly to change drastically, occasionally efforts are made to initiate new academic programs and positions. Nova Southeastern University appears on the verge of making such an effort, if sufficient support and funding are found.

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) is a relatively young university, founded in 1964, but it already is fairly large, with more than 28,000 students. Dr. Susanne Marshall, senior associate dean of operations and student services at NSU, explained that the university has had graduate programs in conflict resolution for many years. There are more than 800 students enrolled in them now. The focus of these programs has been on the international and governmental level. A few years ago, NSU hired a young faculty member,

Jason J. Campbell, as a professor in these programs. Campbell had already founded a non-profit activist organization, the Institute for Genocide Awareness and Applied Research, in 2009. His research happened to focus on genocide and he suggested that it needed to be a more defined curricular focus. NSU agreed. (Despite repeated efforts to contact him, Campbell was unavailable to be interviewed for this article.)

It was already necessary to provide historical and sociopolitical backgrounds for analysis in the multidisciplinary field of conflict analysis, so genocide studies fit in well here, but the university wishes to expand its offerings further. Marshall said, “We would like to have a more independent

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Nazar and Artemis Nazarian to Be Honored in New York

NEW YORK — On Friday, May 10, Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, will honor lifelong benefactors Nazar and Artemis Nazarian.

The Eastern Diocese and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) are co-sponsoring the evening, which will be held at the Plaza Hotel in Manhattan.



Nazar Nazarian with Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II

Armenia’s Sargsian Pays First Foreign Visit to Russia after Reelection

MOSCOW (ArmeniaNow) — Armenian President Serge Sargsian met with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Tuesday — on the second and last day of what has been his first trip to a foreign country after last month’s reelection.

“This is natural that my first foreign trip is to Moscow. Russia is our strategic partner, our ally and that says everything,” stressed Sargsian, as quoted by Putin’s press office.

Putin, for his part, congratulated Sargsian on his “convincing” victory, stressing “special” relations with Armenia that he said have been developing well on the whole.

Sargsian reportedly repeated his invitation to the Russian leader to pay a state visit to Armenia.



Top World Chess Player Praises Aronian ahead Of Tournament

LONDON (ArmeniaNow) — International Chess Federation (FIDE) current number top player Magnus Carlsen sees Armenia’s Levon Aronian as his main rival at a Chess Candidates Tournament to be open in London later this week, according to The Guardian.

“He has supreme confidence and belief in himself, is very well prepared, can evaluate non-standard positions very well and never backs down,” said the Norwegian of Aronian, who is ranked third by FIDE.

Aronian and Carlsen square off in the opening round of the competition to be held in the British capital from March 15 to April 1.

UK Backs OSCE Minsk Group’s Efforts in Karabagh Settlement

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian met the Permanent Under Secretary in the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Simon Fraser on Monday, March 11.

Nalbandian hailed the UK’s assistance to reforms in Armenia.

Nalbandian briefed the UK official on the progress in the settlement of Karabagh issue, with Fraser stressing UK’s adherence to peaceful solution of the conflict and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group’s mediatory efforts.

Oklahoma, Texas Mark ‘Khojaly Massacre’

BAKU (Combined sources) — Azeri news sources reported that in March the state Senate in Oklahoma and the state House in Texas have both passed resolutions “recognizing the Khojaly Massacre” in Artsakh 21 years ago, which they claim was committed by Armenian forces.

“The document highlights the Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the occupation of Khojaly by Armenian armed forces with the help of motor-infantry regiment of former USSR and the killing of over 600 innocent people of Khojaly, AzerTAG reported,” according to Trend Azeri news agency.

According to the report, the Oklahoma Senate is sending the document to the US Congress and the State Department. The resolution was introduced by Oklahoma state Sen. Tom Ivester.

The Texas House of Representatives adopted a similar resolution introduced by Rep. Hubert Vo.

In the last month, New Mexico and Arkansas also passed measures supporting the Azeri version of events.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Brazil Seeks to Expand Ties with Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Foreign Affairs Minister Eduard Nalbandian received Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Brazil Vera Machado, who paid an official visit to Yerevan on March 11. As the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Armenia announced to the media, Nalbandian welcomed Machado and said Armenia is happy to develop closer relations with Brazil and voiced hope that thanks to the joint efforts it would become possible to use the potential of bilateral relations more efficiently.

Nalbandian noted that the two countries have to strengthen the legal contractual field, deepen trade economical cooperation, and intensify the cooperation in the frames of the international organizations.

Machado expressed her gratitude for the reception and noted that Brazil seeks to deepen ties with Armenia in various spheres and that her visit serves to that aim.

British Documentary on Azeri Human Rights Shocks Audiences

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – British filmmaker Liz Mermin has shot a one-hour movie about the disastrous situation of human rights in Azerbaijan titled “Amazing Azerbaijan”. Film has been already presented in 9 European countries, including “One World” documentary film festival in Prague, Czech Republic.

Mermin said in an interview with “Independence” radio station that after watching the film, the audience was shocked by the disastrous situation of human rights in Azerbaijan.

“People were surprised how little they knew about Azerbaijan. Only after watching the film they found out that European countries, especially Great Britain, had great investments in a country with such violations of human rights. We hope that the film will promote the elimination of unawareness,” she said.

It is noted in the film that expensive events organized in Azerbaijan create a wrong impression, as human rights are severely violated in the country.

Minas Mural Is Hostage To Acrimony

YEREVAN (ArmInfo) – Bureaucratic acrimony has stalled the renovation of a mural in Vahramaberd village, Shirak region. The well-known artist, Minas Avetisyan, painted it in 1973 on the wall of the Cultural Palace. After the quake in 1988, the building collapsed almost completely, and later the mural, which miraculously escaped damage, was put into a protective box. The Minas Foundation has repeatedly raised the issue of the necessity to restore the mural, however, the community was against taking the mural out of Vahramaberd. A new House of Culture should have become the new shelter for the work, they said. During the move, the mural was damaged in several places. In addition, the builders poured concrete on the mural.

Arman Avetisyan, Minas’ son and the head of the Minas Foundation, said though the mural is in terrible condition, its restoration has not started yet. Earlier the Minas Foundation, which has been cooperating with Palazzo Spinelli Institute of Art Restoration (Florence), controlled the restoration of the artist’s murals. However, the Agency for Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Armenian Culture Ministry interfered with the issue. Avetisyan says that now the Agency does not allow the Foundation to participate in the restoration of the mural without a relevant license.

The situation is complicated further by the fact that the Italian specialists refuse to work with anyone, except the Minas Foundation. Thus, the issue of the mural restoration has reached a deadlock, as the Agency itself has no specialists in art restoration.

“The mural suffers in this situation; it needs to be restored urgently,” he said.

American University of Armenia to Expand Reach in Rural Armenia

Turpanjian Family Educational Foundation Pledges \$750,000

YEREVAN – The American University of Armenia (AUA) is establishing a Continuing Education Program (CEP) to curtail rural-urban migration in Armenia. The CEP is funded through a generous multi-year pledge of \$750,000 from the



From left, Gerald H. Turpanjian, AUA Trustee and president of the Turpanjian Family Educational Foundation with AUA President Dr. Bruce Boghosian

Turpanjian Family Educational Foundation.

“AUA is a small institution that’s a kaleidoscope of Armenia,” remarked Gerald H. Turpanjian, AUA Trustee and president of the Turpanjian Family Educational Foundation. “We are pleased to increase our support to allow AUA to expand its reach.”

The program, to be implemented by AUA Extension, will offer a tailored curriculum to develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the local workforce in rural communities. The ultimate aim is to increase local employment and stimulate stagnant rural economies.

“We are keenly aware that rural-urban migration is a serious problem in Armenia, as it is in many developing countries throughout the world,” said AUA president Dr. Bruce Boghosian. “Thanks to the vision and philanthropic leadership of Mr. Turpanjian and the Turpanjian Family Educational Foundation, AUA will offer high-quality Extension courses for professional development in Armenia’s rural areas, playing an important role in mitigating this problem.”

The CEP will initially be launched in Shirak and Tavush in the first year, expanding to two other regions in the following year. Courses offered will specialize in business management, tourism, and hospitality management, as well as career development, and professional training.

“Improving human capital in rural Armenia is essential to creating new opportunities that will eliminate the need to migrate,” explained AUA Extension Director Dr. Arpie Balian. “The courses offered through these programs will address the respective labor markets and the demand for different

skills and competencies.”

AUA Extension’s mission is to expand Armenia’s academic, industrial, and technological development by fostering growth through accessible, high-quality education, adult training and lifelong learning opportunities. For more information on AUA Extension, visit: <http://extension.aua.am/>.

Hartashen Village Mayor Gets 8 Years For Rape of 14-Year-Old Girl

YEREVAN (Hetq) – Azat Ghukasyan, mayor of the Syunik village of Hartashen, has been sentenced to eight years for the rape of a 14-year-old girl.

The girl was a student in Ghukasyan’s gym class at the local school. He was arrested last March for ordering the mentally-challenged student into the gym and violating her sexually.

The state prosecutor had motioned the court to cut the sentence down to seven years. The attorney representing the girl asked for 25 years.

Hetq broke the story in February 2012 when the girl’s family went to the police to report their allegations.

When Hetq contacted the police, all they could say was that a criminal investigation had been launched as to whether immoral acts had been committed against a minor.

At first, a criminal investigation based on Article 142 (Lecherous Acts) of the Republic of Armenia Criminal Code had been launched. Soon after, the charge was changed to Article 138 (Rape).

When the trail got underway, Hetq learnt that this wasn’t the first time that Azat Ghukasyan has been implicated in such a case.

Hetq tracked down a 21-year-old woman named Anna Mkrtchyan who publicly stated that she had killed her baby, born out of a relationship of fear and intimidation with Azat Ghukasyan.

Mkrtchyan made the same allegation on August 23, 2012 at the trial of Ghukasyan involving the rape of the 14-year-old girl.

Mkrtchyan testified that her troubles started when she was in the ninth grade and was suspected of robbing a neighbor’s house. She claimed that Ghukasyan called her into his office and promised to help her. He then invited the girl to the police station where they would write her side of the story. Anna says that’s when their relationship began.

The young woman says that Ghukasyan always threatened her not to tell anyone of their meetings, otherwise he would see that she was jailed for the robbery.

Ghukasyan was never implicated in the killing of the child. As to the charges of forcing Anna, a minor at the time, to have sexual relations, they were dropped by the judge under the terms of an amnesty.

Karen Mezhlumyan, who is representing the 14-year-old girl, says he demanded 25 years for Azat Ghukasyan because there had been three instances of rape, not one.

“There hasn’t been just the one crime committed, but three. The punishment must be cumulative,” said Mezhlumyan.

Mezhlumyan also said that Ghukasyan never admitted his guilt or expressed regret for what he had done.

He says that he will appeal the eight year sentence.

Hovannisian on Hunger Strike

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Authorities have denied opposition leader and defeated presidential candidate Raffi Hovannisian’s request to put up a tent in Liberty Square, where Hovannisian is on a hunger strike in protest of the February 18 presidential election outcome in which he finished second in the official ballot.

Hovannisian, founder of the Heritage party, started his strike Sunday, and has vowed to go without food until April 9 – inauguration day – unless President Serge Sargsian concedes to Hovannisian’s claim that he is the rightful winner.

Heritage Party Vice President Armen Martirosyan said that the second night of the hunger strike was peaceful despite the rainy weather at night in the capital.

Martirosyan submitted two petitions to the city hall asking for permission to put out a tent and an umbrella in Liberty Square, but the tent was refused.

“By some government decree the area adjacent to the Opera House has been recognized as cultural-historical heritage, and accordingly the asphalt at Liberty Square is historical-cultural heritage too. On that basis it is forbidden to put out a tent on it,” says Martirosyan, adding that although the city hall licensed the installation of an umbrella, now the police won’t let it.

“The police have some measurement criteria on what’s considered to be rain, and what’s not. I guess they view it as rain, when, as people say, water is pouring from the sky like from buckets, and in all other cases it’s not rain, hence the drops don’t make anyone wet,” says Martirosyan.

Armenia’s first foreign minister, 53-

year-old Hovannisian had similar issues two years ago during his other hunger strike when the police didn’t allow him to put out a tent. Hovannisian’s supporters installed one, but police removed it.

On Tuesday the opposition leader set limitations to his communication with the media and said he would meet the press once a day at 5 p.m.

Hovannisian has declined Sargsian’s invitation for a meeting to discuss the post-election developments, a spokesperson for the head of state told a news website.

“The head of the presidential staff called Mr. Hovannisian yesterday to convey the official invitation for a meeting. We regret to note that Mr. Hovannisian refused to meet [with the president] to discuss comprehensively all the existing questions,” Armen Arzumanyan told Panorama.am on Monday.

“We remain hopeful that Mr. Hovannisian has properly evaluated the situation and is sober enough to realize the threats of the de-facto rejection,” the spokesman added.

Speaking to media Hovannisian, denied receiving any invitation from the presidential administration. At the same time, he reiterated that he was ready to meet with the current head of state – like a man with a man – in Yerevan’s Liberty Square, where he is currently conducting his hunger strike, to discuss ways out of the current post-election crisis.

Hovannisian, who met with Sargsian at the presidential compound on February 21 but reported no progress made at the talks afterwards, made it clear on Sunday that he no longer was seeking a meeting with Sargsian or other officials in their offices, but was ready to meet them in the square.



INTERNATIONAL

Turkey Is Economic Winner of Iraq War

By Daniel Dombey

ISTANBUL (*Financial Times*) – The Americans won the war, the Iranians won the peace and the Turks won the contracts.

Turkey, which blocked the deployment of US troops through its territory during the 2003 invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein, is emerging 10 years on as one of the prime beneficiaries of the battle for the Iraqi market.

Although Turkey's relations with Baghdad are increasingly bitter, its exports to Iraq have in the past decade soared by more than 25 percent a year, reaching \$10.8 billion in 2012, making Iraq Ankara's second-most valuable export market after Germany.

Ozgur Altug, an economist at BGC Partners in Istanbul, predicts that as Iraq grows richer because of its oil reserves, demand for Turkish goods will keep climbing – by more than \$2 billion a year. Turkish contractors have also been doing rich business, working on about \$3.5 billion of construction projects last year, according to businessmen and officials.

One company, Calik Energy, boasts that it is building the two biggest projects in the Iraqi power sector, two gas turbine plants in the Mosul and Karbala regions, earning more than \$800 million from the Iraqi government in the process.

While Iran is seen as the most influential outside power in Iraq today, on Baghdad's streets Turkey's presence is more visible than that of any other country, with everything from malls to furniture stores to pavement bricks bearing a Turkish trademark.

But it is the Kurdish-governed north that accounts for the bulk of Turkey's business, absorbing about 70 percent of Turkey's exports to Iraq. In contrast, Ankara's relationship with the rest of the country is becoming more poisonous, with political disputes leading Baghdad to hold back on giving new government contracts to Turkish groups.

As Ankara's economic and diplomat-

ic ties with the Kurdish government expand, about 1,000 Turkish businesses are working in the north, including some of Turkey's best known banks, retailers and hotels.

Hundreds of trucks a day clog up the land border between northern Iraq and Turkey as a flow of goods makes the journey to Kurdish markets. Turkish products dominate the regional capital of Irbil, from the old covered souk to modern showrooms in residential neighborhoods.

Less obtrusively, other groups are carving out markets for themselves. From his base in the southern Turkish city of Gaziantep, Adnan Altunkaya says his family-owned company commands two-thirds of the Iraqi diaper sector.

Sales to the country account for 90 percent of the Altunkaya group's annual \$400 million exports and have been rising by 50 to 60 percent a year for the past two years. It has also just taken the leading position in the Iraqi olive market.

"Our business with Iraq is increasing constantly," he says. "But of course it is affected by political tension."

In large part, the success story represents Turkey's return to its natural market, from which it was shut out since the 1980s by war, sanctions and instability. As a neighboring state with an industrial base, rich agricultural heartlands and businessmen undaunted by challenging environments, Turkey has advantages others find hard to match.

"I have sold Turkish goods around the world and the easiest market is Iraq," says Serif Egeli, a prominent Turkish businessman who has been traveling to the country for 40 years. "We have the same tastes: In other countries you have to make goods to local standards, but in Iraq you just label them in Arabic and they sell immediately. And logistically no one can compete with us."

With Iraq's Kurdish region seeking to reduce its dependence on Baghdad, the relationship with Turkey may soon move to another level – but one that is hardly immune to risk.

Turkey has been negotiating a deal

with the Kurdish Regional Government to take a stake in the region's oil and gas fields despite furious protests from Baghdad. It is an agreement Ankara hopes will help satisfy its growing hunger for energy and knit the two territories closer together, a prospect that enthruses some analysts.

The booming economic ties between Iraq and Turkey, however, have a difficult political subtext. After the US pull-out from Iraq in December 2011, relations between Ankara and Baghdad have sharply deteriorated, with Nouri al-Maliki, the Iraqi prime minister, pronouncing Turkey a "hostile state." Iraqi officials say Ankara has been meddling in their affairs, tightening its relations with the Kurds and the minority Sunni populations in an effort to undermine the Shia-led government in Baghdad.

Turkey in turn accuses Maliki of sectarianism. Maliki's government has moved to bar Turkish companies from further large contracts with Iraqi authorities. TPAO, the Turkish state oil company, was last year expelled from an exploration deal in the south of the country.

"It is a kind of hidden boycott," says Egeli, while noting that Maliki's writ does not run in northern Iraq.

Some exporters worry that Turkish goods could also be affected – for now perhaps a third of Turkey's exports to the Kurdish north are sold on to the rest of Iraq, and many Turkish companies have their eyes on the Iraqi market as a whole.

"There will be less construction and fewer exports this year," says Ercument Aksoy, chairman of the Turkish-Iraqi Business Council. He argues that now there is a rare opportunity for Turkey, since if the country becomes more stable competitors from around the world will flood in.

"Turks are used to risky situations," Aksoy says. "But when it becomes a normal country without security issues, the U.K. will be there, the Dutch will be there and our figures will go down again."

At present, however, tensions are increasing over Turkey's plans to invest in the northern Iraqi energy sector. Maliki says such an agreement would be unconstitutional. The United States warns that a deal in defiance of Baghdad could further splinter Iraq, push Maliki closer to Iran and shut off Turkish companies from 80 percent of Iraq's markets.

As Francis Ricciardone, US ambassador to Ankara, told Turkish media recently: "If I was a Turkish producer... I certainly wouldn't want to jeopardize my access to those consumers."

(Funja Guler in Ankara contributed to this report.)

More than 40,000 Visit Ani in 2012

ISTANBUL (Heta) – A *Hurriyet* news article reports that 43,657 visitors travelled to the ancient Armenian city of Ani, almost double the number that visited in 2011, 23,400.

Kars Culture and Tourism Manager Hakan Doganay said there were a total of 21 main cultural treasures in Ani. "In fact, we call Ani an iceberg because we know there is a lot to discover and excavate at Ani," he said.

Doganay added that if excavations are completed at the site, it could become one of Turkey's top tourism sites.

International News

Iran Reaffirms Willingness to Promote Peaceful NKR Settlement

TEHRAN (Armenpress) – Iran is willing to support the settlement of Karabagh conflict through diplomatic channels, said Iranian Ambassador to Armenia Mohammad Raeesi in an interview with Mehr News.

"If the countries involved in the conflict make a request, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to help resolve it peacefully," Ambassador Mohammad Raeesi told the Persian service of the Mehr News Agency in an interview published on Monday. He also stressed that the Karabagh conflict is of a complicated nature, though it is resolvable.

"Iran is always for the peaceful resolutions of conflicts and regional disputable issues and finds that all regional issues can be resolved through negotiations and cooperation," Raeesi said.

According to him Armenia and Iran have friendly relations.

Two Armenians Wounded in Bomb Explosion in Damascus

DAMASCUS, Syria (Armenpress) – Two Armenians have been wounded in a result of bomb explosion in Christian district of Damascus on March 11. Damascus resident Nazaret Elmadjianj said that fortunately, the two wounded Armenians, with the last names Mirzakhanian and Husikian, did not suffer serious injuries. They have already been discharged from the hospital.

Two mortar shells fell on Monday in Bab Sharqi area in Damascus, causing the death and injury of several Syrian citizens.

A source at the Damascus Police Command told SANA Syrian news agency that a mortar shell fell behind the shops on the way to al-Dweilaa and killed three citizens and injured 28.

Another mortar shell fell in Tishreen Stadium during a football match, causing the injury of a number of players and administrative staff.

ANCA Protests Azeri Ambassador's Anti-Armenian Remark at AIPAC Conference

WASHINGTON – The Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) officially registered a protest earlier this month with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) regarding remarks by Azerbaijan's Ambassador to the United States Elin Suleymanov, at the organization's recently concluded annual conference.

According to news reports, Suleymanov, during a breakout session at the AIPAC Policy conference titled "New Allies: Israel and the Caucasus Region," warned supporters of Israel not to "fall under the influence of pro-Armenian lobby groups."

In the March 7 letter, ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian explained, "Strengthening the relationship between the United States and Israel need not involve support for dictatorial regimes. Nor should supporting Israel require providing a platform for those, like Ambassador Suleymanov, who engage in the very sort of hateful, conspiratorial rants that have, for far too long, been used to demonize Israel and her supporters worldwide."

Hamparian asked AIPAC to "reevaluate the moral and practical dimensions of your organization's association with Azerbaijan's war-mongering President, Ilham Aliyev, a dictator who, echoing the venomous Holocaust-era rants of Adolf Hitler against Jews, has announced openly that, 'all the Armenians of the world' are his enemies."

He added that Aliyev, by saying that "Armenia as a country is of no value... it is actually a colony, an outpost run from abroad, a territory artificially created on ancient Azerbaijani lands," was "attacking Armenia's very right to exist in language chillingly similar to those who seek to destroy Israel."

TCA London Chapter Hosts Discussion On 'Who Is an Armenian'

LONDON – The Kensington Library central hall was packed on February 22, with British-Armenians who had come from all over England and Wales, to attend the Panel Discussion on "Who Is an Armenian."

The chairperson of the Tekeyan Cultural Association, Dr. Hratch Kouyoumjian, in his introductory remarks, focused on two episodes in Armenian history that could shed some light on "Armenianness:" the words uttered by King Tigranes the Great when facing the Roman legions, and David of Sassoun when confronting the enemy king of Misr in battle. Kouyoumjian asked, "Do arrogance, haughtiness and fair play, reflect traits in the Armenian character?"

The first panelist was Prof. Bert Vaux of King's College, Cambridge, a specialist on the Armenian language and its many dialects. He gave a Power Point presentation of the conceptual and empirical view of the issues that define ones ethnicity and origins.

This was followed by a presentation by the Primate of the Armenians in the UK and Ireland Bishop Vahan Hovhanessian, who presented the Armenian Church's point of view. He said Armenians have been almost defined by their Church and Christianity for the past 1,500 years. The third speaker was Ambassador Manuel Hassassian of the Palestinian Authority. He talked about the perception of Armenians in the Middle East. He stressed the importance of Armenians in the societies they live in and that through their involvement in politics, sciences and trades are well known to the peoples of the region.

Finally, Hovan Simonian of the University of Southern California discussed the evolving perception of the "Armenian" from Ottoman to present times. He discussed identity as defined by language or religion and said the fact that many Hamshens, for example, kept their identity unlike other communities because they were relatively isolated even though they had converted to Islam.

The task of moderating was handled ably by Prof. Sossi Kasbarian of Lancaster University. She periodically summed up what had been discussed and ensured a smooth transition from one speaker to the next. A question-and-answer session followed the panel discussion.



Community News

St. John's Armenian Church Celebrates 90th Birthday of Fr. Diran Papazian

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — An upbeat throng of almost 400 well-wishers crowded the Cultural Hall of St. John's Armenian Church, for a festive four-hour celebration of the 90th birthday of Fr. Diran Papazian, pastor emeritus, following church services on Sunday, February 17.

The party was organized by Diran Papazian's daughter, Elise, with the support of his son and daughter-in-law, Garo and Donna Papazian, of Holden, Mass., his brother and sister-in-law, Drs. Dennis and Mary Papazian, of Woodbridge, Conn., his niece and her husband, Louise and Dr. Haig Yardumian of St. Petersburg, Fla., Fr. Garabed Kochakian, pastor of St. John's, and a host of parishioners and former parishioners from near and far.

The *badarak* was celebrated by the Rev. Hratch Sargsyan, pastor of St. Gregory of Nareg Armenian Church of Cleveland, Ohio, a parish which Fr. Diran Papazian served for several years while on leave from St. John's. Sargsyan's firstborn, Mare, is the honoree's goddaughter.

Large arrangements of flowers for the occasion were sent by the Oulubegian/Nahabedian families of Arizona and the Saints Joachim and



Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian

Anne Armenian Church of Palos Heights, Ill., which Papazian also served for many years.

Fr. Diran Papazian's daughter, Elise, arranged for a continuing pictures slideshow that was projected on the big screen, illustrating many aspects of his life, which included his wife, Yeretgin Rosalie, his son, Garo, his daughter, Elise, and numerous in-laws and friends.

Entertainment was provided by violinists Harry Hovakemian, who played Armenian melodies. The honoree, himself, sang an emotional rendition of *Eem Yerke* (My Song), when he spoke, which brought tears to many eyes.

The Primate of the Diocese, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, sent a message in which he

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Rev. Diran Papazian, left, and Elise Papazian



The Goris Project completed.

LCO Renovates 16th-Century Shikahogh Village Church

PASADENA, Calif. — On February 15-17, the Union International de Organisations Terre et Culture (UIOTC)/ Land and Culture Organization (LCO) chapters from France, the United States, Armenia and the United Kingdom held this year's annual meeting at the Armenian Center of Sourp Hagop Church in Geneva, Switzerland. The board discussed the successful completion of its 2012 projects and plans for the upcoming 2013 campaigns. Also during the weekend, members of the Swiss-Armenian community attended a fundraising dinner and cultural program at the Armenian Center for a presentation about the OTC/LCO mission and its projects.

During the 2012 summer campaign, more than 50 volunteers from Armenia, Canada, England, France and Nagorno Karabagh worked on two sites. One group went north to the Shirakamut village, near the epicenter of the 1988 earthquake, to work on the renovation of the historic seventh century Tchitchkhanavank Monastery, and another group went south to finalize work on the 1771 Sourp Astvatsatzin Church near the pagan-era caves in Old Goris as part of the Goris-Vienne sister city project which started in 2009.

This summer LCO will launch a new project in the village of Shikahogh (sheg hokh/red soil) in the southern Syunik region near the city of Kapan and near the Armenian-Azeri border. It is located by the dense Shikahogh State Reserve, Armenia's second largest forest reserve. Volunteers will live in the village while renovating the 16th-century Sourp Stepanos Nakhvegah Church which has inscriptions from the 13th century. The church is in a state of collapse from years of neglect during the Soviet era. Work will also continue at the Tchitchkhanavank site.

This summer's campaign dates will be July 22 to August 18. As LCO volunteers experience first-hand living in a rural Armenian village setting, they work on the historical restoration project during the week and discover historical Armenian sites on the weekends.



Goris' Sourp Astvatsatzin Church Pre LCO Renovation

Saintly Women's Day Observed in Massachusetts

CHELMSFORD, Mass. — Sts. Vartanantz Church of Chelmsford hosted a statewide Saintly Women's Day observance earlier this month, with a service and program commemorating the oil-bearing women at Jesus's tomb. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), presided over the day's activities.

Following a service in the sanctuary on Saturday, March 2, some 100 guests gathered for a dinner and program organized by the Chelmsford Women's Guild. Participants included clergy and Women's Guild members from the following Massachusetts churches: Holy Trinity Church of Cambridge, St. James Church of Watertown, Church of Our Saviour of Worcester and the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe of Haverhill. In addition, Women's Guild members from Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church of Providence, RI, and the pastor of Holy Translators Church of Framingham, Mass., took part in the commemoration.

Keynote speaker Mary Anne Sahagian, Essex Probate and Family Court First Justice and a Sts. Vartanantz Church parishioner, reflected on how her faith had guided her throughout her career and how it helped her handle difficult cases surrounding children and families.

Sahagian also spoke of her grandmother's influence on her as a child, and described per-



From left: Milka Jeknavorian, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Judge Mary Anne Sahagian, and Rev. Khachatur Kesablian.

sonal faith experiences. She added that women play an important role in carrying forward the mission of the Armenian Church and serve as role models for their families.

Remarks were also made by Milka Jeknavorian, chair of the Chelmsford Women's Guild chapter; Parish Council Chair Carol Hildebrand; and Zita Butler, vice chair of the Women's Guild Central Council.

"It is inspiring to see women of faith from our parishes come together in prayer and fellowship," said the Rev. Khachatur Kesablian. "We not only learn from the example of the pious women at Christ's tomb, but also from the many dedicated servants of the Lord among us today."

Barsamian expressed his gratitude to the Chelmsford Women's Guild for organizing Saturday's commemoration (the luncheon was served by the Men's Club). "May God continue to strengthen our Women's Guild chapters across the Diocese," he said. "Following in the example of the oil bearing women, they bring the light of Christ into our homes and communities."

On Saturday evening, the Primate met with members of the Parish Council and Diocesan delegates to review recent and upcoming parish activities. Barsamian also outlined resources available from the Diocese for the parish's various ministries.

On Sunday, March 3, Kesablian celebrated the Divine Liturgy, with Barsamian presiding. A 40th-day requiem service, or karasoonk, in memory of the Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian followed services.

In his sermon, Barsamian spoke about the period of Great Lent, emphasizing

see WOMEN, page 5



COMMUNITY NEWS

Los Angeles Armenian Community Prepares to Honor Richard Hovannisian at March 16 Banquet

LOS ANGELES — The Friends of the UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies this week announced the program details of its upcoming annual banquet on March 16, at the Armenian Society of Los Angeles Hall, at which Prof. Richard Hovannisian will be honored with the Narekatsi Medal of Achievement.

In the run-up to the banquet, the Friends held a champagne brunch in appreciation of donors who have supported the UCLA Armenian-Studies program. During the brunch, which was held on March 3 at the residence of

Foundation, including the current president, Hermineh Pakhanians.

One of the world's most renowned Armenian scholars, Hovannisian will receive the Narekatsi Medal in recognition of his outstanding achievements as a historian, teacher and defender of the Armenian cause.

Dignitaries and community leaders participating in the event will include, among others, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Western Diocese; a representative of Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate of

Los Angeles County Commission for Women; several representatives of the Armenian Educational Foundation; and Ara Khachatourian, editor of the English edition of Asbarez.

“For the past several months, the Friends of the UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies have gone to great lengths to organize an extraordinary banquet program, one which promises to stand out with its prestigious roster of speakers and memorable presentations,” said Prof. S. Peter Cowe, head of UCLA’s Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies. “The program will also comprise some surprises which are certain to delight the attendees. In short, I think this eagerly awaited event has all the makings of a truly magnificent and unique celebration.”

The banquet will kick off with a reception and book exhibit, beginning at 6 p.m. in the foyer of the dining hall. The exhibit will feature Hovannisian’s many publications, including The Republic of Armenia series and the proceedings of the landmark “Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces” project.

The main program will start at 7 p.m., when banquet co-chairs Ani Aivazian and Hilda Fidaniyan will introduce the evening’s mistress of ceremonies, Alice Petrossian.

Following the dinner, which will commence with the blessings of a representative from the Western Prelacy, remarks will be delivered by Petrossian; Hasmig Baran, president of the Friends of the UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies; and Cowe.

Later in the program, a short video documentary on the life and achievements of Hovannisian will be shown, and congratulatory remarks by Prof. David Myers, chairperson of the UCLA History Department, will be conveyed.

One of the highlights of the event will be an onstage interview between the honoree and Khachatourian. Subsequently there will be an artistic interlude, featuring a violin performance by Mari Haig, with piano accompaniment.

Next to take the podium will be Armen Hovannisian, the honoree’s son, who will speak about “Hovannisian the Man.” The younger Hovannisian’s address will lead into the award

ceremony.

After Speros Vryonis, UCLA professor emeritus of history, introduces Hovannisian, the Narekatsi Medal will be presented to the honoree, who will then deliver his acceptance remarks.

The evening will conclude with the blessings of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian.

At press time, a limited number of tickets to the banquet were still available, the Friends of the UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies said.



Supporters and Friends of the UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies at the March 3 champagne brunch.

Missak and Nairie Balian in Altadena, the attendees learned of the fast growth in the number of undergraduate and graduate students seeking to specialize in Armenian Studies at UCLA, and, accordingly, the ongoing need to support the expansion of the curriculum and faculty. Among supporters attending the brunch were representatives of the Armenian Educational

the Western Prelacy; Armen Hovannisian, vice chair of the Armenian Bar Association; Alice Petrossian, former president of the Association of California School Administrators, chief academic officer-deputy superintendent of the Pasadena Unified School District, assistant superintendent of the Glendale Unified School District, and currently a commissioner on the

High School Students' Scholarships Available

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 the fall of 2013.

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 \$1000 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 to young people of Armenian heritage.

Saintly Women’s Day Observed in Massachusetts

WOMEN, from page 4

the parable of the Unjust Steward, which was observed on March 3.

He reminded the faithful to be good stewards of the church.

The Primate also spoke about the life of the late Samoorian and the special role he played in the Chelmsford parish.

“Fr. Ghevont was one of the earliest American-born Armenians to enter the priesthood of our church,” Barsamian said. “In many ways he showed that a new generation of our people, born in a new land, could indeed feel at home in an ancient heritage. Through his efforts, he even managed to bring that heritage to others — as he did most visibly through this church, Sts. Vartanantz Church in Chelmsford, which he affectionately called ‘Little Ani.’”

Later on Sunday, Barsamian joined a group of ACYOA Juniors, led by Kesablian, on a visit to the parish’s most senior member. The group surprised Tatios Tom Magarian with a cake and birthday wishes on his 99th birthday.

Barsamian said a prayer for Magarian and blessed him on this special occasion.


The visit was organized by Kesablian as part of the ACYOA’s ongoing effort to visit elderly parishioners.

“Our visit with Mr. Magarian was a touching ending to an enriching weekend,” said Kesablian.

“The Primate’s visit always injects our community with new energy. It is in this spirit of renewal that we look forward to the Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord.”




The Saintly Women’s Day service at Sts. Vartanantz Church in Chelmsford.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Service Armenia Announces Summer Program

BERKELEY, Calif. — The Paros Foundation's Service Armenia Program has announced their April 1 application deadline for participation in the 2013 program. The program will run from June 24 to July 23 and will facilitate young people to travel and tour Armenia and Artsakh, while engaging in service projects benefiting Armenia and its people.

"Following the successes we experienced in 2012 with both groups of Armenian and American young people working on service projects in both Yerevan and in the regions, we look forward to summer 2013. Participants will be working on renovating school classrooms and distributing shoes and other humanitarian

aid," Said Peter Abajian, executive director of the Paros Foundation.

Throughout the program, participants will tour historic, religious and cultural sites throughout Armenia and Artsakh with experienced, English-speaking staff and guides. Safe accommodations and transportation combined with cultural and educational activities will be provided. The program is open to both Armenian and American young people wishing to participate in this program. Knowledge of the Armenian language is not required. Join us and create a lifetime of great memories and friends.

More information including photos, video

and the application form can be found at www.paros-foundation.org/armenia2013. For more information, contact Peter Abajian at peter@paros-foundation.org.



The 2012 Service Project participants and children following a shoe distribution in the Armavir Region

OBITUARY

Hasmig Goulian

NEW YORK — Hasmig Goulian was born on June 6, 1934 in the Havlabar section of Tbilisi, Georgia.

She was born to parents who were orphaned by the Armenian Genocide.

Life was difficult for the poor in Tbilisi and things got progressively worse as World War II loomed. After the war, life was even more



Hasmig Goulian

oppressive. In effect, their mother raised Goulian and her siblings because the father would be gone for long stretches of time with his work as a military policeman.

She helped her mother and older brother to make some extra income by sewing and rolling cig-

arettes for sale and helped raise her younger sister.

She excelled in school and in her studies. She was accepted to the university and subsequently moved to Armenia to continue her higher education. She had a clear and powerful singing voice and at one point, even considered a career as a singer.

She loved to perform and often gave lectures about Armenian poets and artists. She was highly proficient in Armenian and Russian and translated short stories, poems and a novel titled Elfi. She wrote and left behind countless notebooks and papers filled with her thoughts and musings.

She was a regular contributor to local publications and was passionate about literature and books, writing for *Nor Or* and *Baïkar*. She was also a member of the Executive Committee of the ADL New York-New Jersey Armenagan-Hovspeian Chapter.

She worked as a librarian, where her enthusiasm for all things intellectual was fully used.

She was an educator.

She immigrated to America in 1970 with her husband, two children and her in-laws. In the aftermath of a divorce, she raised her two small children while working. She taught at the Los Angeles Public School System in the late 1970s and quickly moved into private Armenian schools.

This past summer she was invited to an invitation-only teachers' conference in Armenia. There, she was recognized for her dedication and knowledge, by Armenia's representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Garen Nazarian.

Funeral services were held on February 23 at St. Vartan Cathedral.

Azadouhi (Katcharian) Boyamian

WATERTOWN — Azadouhi (Katcharian) Boyamian died on March 5. She was the wife of the late Stephan Boyamian.

Azadouhi Boyamian was born in Aleppo, Syria. Her parents, Kevork and Seroun, were from Zeytoun. Instead of submitting to Turkish authorities during the Armenian Genocide, they enlisted as Fedayees (Tchetchen) and fought their way to Aleppo under the leadership of Aram Pasha. Like her parents, she and her husband Stephan regularly attended the Karasoun Manook church in Aleppo and supported it in multiple ways. They passed that heritage down to their children.

The Boyamian family followed a similar path to that of many Armenians of the Middle East: a gradual movement to the West. First they moved to Lebanon, where they lived for a decade. After the loss of her husband, Azadouhi permanently moved to Watertown. She developed a circle of friends, regularly attended St. James and volunteered in the kitchen.

She leaves her children, Iskobie Boyamian-Beshlian of Winchester, Avedis Boyamian and his wife Houry of Winchester, Mary Goudsouzian and her husband Dr. Nishan of Winchester, Sossy Derian and her husband Arman of Lexington and Hagop Boyamian and his wife Araxie of California; 12 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Services were held at St. James Armenian



Azadouhi (Katcharian) Boyamian

Church, Watertown, on Saturday, March 9. Interment was in Wildwood Cemetery, Winchester.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mount Auburn St., or St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School, 46 Elton Ave., Watertown, MA 02472.

For more information or to light a candle in her memory, visit www.giragosianfuneralhome.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS

St. John's Armenian Church Celebrates 90th Birthday of Fr. Diran Papazian

PAPAZIAN, from page 4

observed that to have lived for nine decades is a great milestone, but in Papazian's case, it has an added significance since he is truly a living part of Armenian church history in America.

In those formative years, the Primate contin-



Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian and Fr. Garabed Kochakian

ued, serving the Armenian Church was not always easy for the pastors and their families. Yet, exemplary clergyman like Papazian and his devoted spouse rose above the obstacles and blazed a worthy trail for others to follow.

He sent a special blessing on the late Yeretzgin.

Messages were read by MC Gregory Jamian from son, Garo, brother-in-law Dr. Dennis R Papazian, granddaughter Nicole Papazian, who wrote a poem, the pastor and parish Council of St. Gregory of Nareg Armenian Church, and a proclamation from the Mayor of Southfield, the Hon. Brenda Lawrence.

Speakers included Sargsyan, Kochakian and Elise Papazian, who wrote and read the following short poem:

Strength of the solid mountains
calmness of the quiet seas,
True wisdom from the many ages,
all the patients of eternity.

Song sung with sincerity,
Genuine humor full of spice,
Tender talks with loyal personality,
A comforting soul, with kind twinkling eyes.

Fr. Diran Papazian made the final remarks. With his own, and inimitable humor, he said "I have awaited this day with impatient impatience, excited excitement, eager eagerness, and with anticipated anticipation for almost a whole lifetime, a period of 90 years, counting from the very moment of my birth, when I opened my eyes to the light of God's wonderful world."

"I didn't want to miss this moment and then regret it . . . Time which passes can never

return. I want to honestly say that today has been one of the great highlights of my life, an experience worthy to be treasured and remembered, in the company of all my loving friends from multiple generations. Thank you for being here and thank you for your love and eagerness to participate."

He closed the festivities with an Armenian song regarding the meaning of life.

The festivities continued for another hour with the many guests, a multitude of generations touched by Papazian's ministry, lining up to share stories, express their love, and offer a special hug to the honoree.

As Dr. Dennis Papazian said in his remarks, "I'm sure that God looks down upon this gathering today and says, 'Well done my good and faithful servant, I am proud of you.'"

Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge Performs Play for Vartanantz Day

WASHINGTON – Last month, the Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge #21 and Daughters of Vartan Dikranouhi Otyag held two events to mark the annual Vartanantz Day celebration. On Sunday, February 3, 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 10, 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.

"It was a great educational opportunity for our Shnorhali school children to see an important part of Armenian history presented in an entertaining way with great taste and enthusiasm," stated Rev. Hovsep Karapetian, pastor of St. Mary Armenian Church. "The history and events surrounding the Vartanantz battle has inspired many generations to keep the spirit of Armenian patriotism and treasures of our Apostolic faith unshaken and alive."

The play featured brother Nishan Dulgerian as Persian King Hazgert II, Ani Lodge Commander Jake Bournazian as Prince Vassag of Syunik, Taniel Koushakjian as Armenian Army General Vartan

Mamigonian, Richard Vann as Ghevont Yeretz and sister Seda Gelenian as the narrator. More than 150 people attended the performances, including the school children.

"The Knights of Vartan have a special role in educating each generation of Armenians about the courage and sacrifice of the 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



Persian King Hazgert II receives Armenian Princes Vartan and Vassag.

people," Bournazian said.

Armenians commemorate Vartan Mamigonian's legacy, who died in the Battle of Avarayr on May 26, 451 AD on the Avarayr plain in Vaspurakan. 66,000 Armenian rebel soldiers, driven by a desire to save their religion, Armenian culture and their way of life, fought against 260,000 Persian soldiers.

Although the Persians were victorious on the battlefield, the Armenian soldiers inflicted heavy casualties on the Persians.

In the Battle of Avarayr, 38,000 Armenian soldiers were killed and 1,036 captured, and 130,000 Persian. Armenian resistance continued in the decades following the battle, led by Vartan's successor and nephew Vahan Mamigonian. The Armenians were eventually guaranteed religious freedom by Shah Peroz I in 484 AD.



From left, Lucy Merzian, Dr. Harry Kezelian, Souren Gozamanian, Margaret Gozmanian, Rev. Fr. Diran Papazian, Gary Gozmanian and Dyana Kezelian

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New York METRO

25th Anniversary of Azeri Pogroms in Sumgait Commemorated at Diocese

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK — On the 25th anniversary of the Azerbaijani massacres of Armenians in Sumgait, Kirovabad and Baku, a solemn memorial service was held for the Armenian victims at St. Vartan Cathedral. It was followed by a commemorative program in Kavookjian Auditorium, with Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presiding. The program was sponsored by the St. Gregory the Illuminator Mission Parish of Brooklyn, where many of its members are Armenians from Azerbaijan.

The morning Divine Liturgy had been celebrated by the St. Vartan Cathedral dean, the Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian. A memorial service was conducted by the Primate at a special altar as the congregants held lighted candles in memory of the brave victims. The soulful Lenten *Badarak* chants were sung by the Cathedral choir under the direction of Khoren Mekanejian, with organ accompaniment by Florence Avakian.

Following the church service, the program in Kavookjian Auditorium commenced with prayers by Barsamian, and opening remarks by the event's organizer, Dr. Svetlana Amirkhanian, who spoke of the gravity of the occasion, and the need for remembrance, so that such horrors can be prevented. "The doors are still closed, but maybe one day the families of the victims will be able to put flowers on their graves," she said with obvious emotion.

A documentary film detailing the brutal horrors with graphic pictures of the mutilated and dying Armenians in Sumgait and Baku was shown. It related how organized Azeri mobs had received the addresses of the Armenians, and yelling "Death to Armenians," went on rampages from door to door with axes, machetes and guns, stabbing, raping, shooting and muti-

lating Armenians, stealing their possessions and burning their apartments on February 27, 1988, as Azeri police stood by and did nothing.

Many in the international and Soviet media called the atrocities a genocide. Electricity and telephone service had purposely been cut off. It was a planned and organized massacre, and

need for a cultural center in the community here so that "our children from the Russian and Azeri areas can stay Armenian. Let us unite, and help our children stay Armenian," she again repeated with passion.

The cultural part of the program provided solace and delight from the gravity of the event.



Pianist Diana Vasilyan and young violinists perform

Russian troops and doctors had been told not to intervene. Several Russian soldiers fainted after witnessing the brutalities. Finally, a day later, Soviet President Gorbachev sent tanks and armored vehicles to stop the unspeakable atrocities. But thousands of Armenians had already been killed.

Andrei Sakharov, the human rights activist who had been a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, stated, "After the massacres in Sumgait, no one can dispute that Nagorno Karabagh is not Armenian."

In a soul-searing account, Juletta Grigorian, speaking in Armenian, related the testimony of a Baku witness. "Girls were raped as fathers were forced to watch. In Kirovabad, Armenians were herded into churches which were set on fire. And in Sumgait, babies were thrown out of windows." To the rapt audience, she urged the

With great feeling, poet Hripsime Harutyunyan, in Armenian, recited her own works, "You have asked a Question," "The Armenians who have been Massacred," "The Spirits of the Killed have come to Judge" and "Truth."

Several of Komitas' compositions were shared. Pianist Diana Vasilyan played *Dzirani Dzar*, and directed eight young violinists who delighted the audience with *Hoy Nazan*. The soulful *Giligia* and *Groong* were offered by Jenny Sarian and Margarita Tersyan, respectively, both of whom had also sung the American and Armenian national anthems, accompanied on the piano by Vagharshag Ohanian, at the start of the program.

Keynote speaker Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian related that 25 years ago, following peaceful and constitutional pleas by the Armenians of Karabagh,

Azeri mobs started pogroms against the defenseless Armenians in Sumgait, Kirovabad and Baku. "These barbaric pogroms were similar to the ethnic cleansing of one and a half million Armenians in 1915. The result was that in the early 1990s Armenia's entire border became a battlefield with the destruction of schools, homes and hospitals."

At the United Nations and with the Minsk Group, Armenia continues to work for its rights, he stated. "Azerbaijan should be prosecuted for its war crimes against human rights. And the United Nations should also make sure that such crimes do not happen in other parts of the world." He revealed that in New York and Washington, DC, Azeri groups have been posting propaganda advertisements with their well-known lies on Khojaly and the 1915 Genocide. "This breeds xenophobia. It is necessary that we are united to discourage such propaganda. The interests of Armenia and the diaspora are intertwined. We have to inspire each other so the world will know the true story."

Before giving the benediction, Barsamian, in his closing remarks, referred to the symbolism of the Prodigal Son who became depraved through free will. "Such atrocities come from free will," he said. "We remember our brave martyrs and we pray that people with this kind of brutal behavior will return to God, like the Prodigal Son, so that it does not happen." Addressing the Armenians from Azerbaijan, he said, "We feel your pain because we are members of the same home."

The Primate remembered the thousands of Armenians who came to the United States after the Genocide, made homes, raised families, and built St. Vartan Cathedral. "This church is for all people from different parts of the world. Armenians have to show their strength in Armenia, Artsakh and the diaspora," the Primate stressed. "Our voices will be heard if we stay strong. Let us go forward to justice and unity."

98th Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

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At noon, participants are invited to march to the Armenian Heritage Park for additional remarks, music and a brown bag lunch.

For more information contact:

Senator Will Brownsberger 617-722-1280
Representative Jon Hecht 617-722-2140
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Buses will be leaving at 9:00 am from St. James and St. Stephen's Churches (Buses generously provided by the Knights of Vartan)

**New York
METRO**

Holy Martyrs Church Hosts Literary Evening

BAYSIDE, N.Y. — On Saturday, February 23, the Church of the Holy Martyrs of Bayside, NY, hosted a literary evening honoring longtime educator and author Vosgi Dagdelen. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), presided over the gathering, which drew 240 people.

The program featured readings from Dagdelen's recently published book, *Yerazanke Baher Gyankees Dareeneren* (Periods of Dreams from the Years of My Life) — a collection of essays about her life as a teacher in Istanbul and New York.



Vosgi Dagdelen is presented with a surprise birthday cake in celebration of her 90th birthday.

spoke about Dagdelen's contributions to Armenian learning.

"Her essays are full of good counsel and philosophical thought," Balikjian said. "She has a positive outlook on life and she strives to be optimistic in the face of challenges."

Born in Sepastia not long after the Armenian Genocide, Dagdelen moved with her family to Istanbul as a child. She attended both the Esayan and Getronagan Armenian schools, and later studied French at a local university. While still pursuing her studies at the university, she began her teaching career at the Esayan School, where she went on to serve as a teacher and administrator for 35 years.

In 1955, she married Dr. Vahrij Dagdelen and the couple had a daughter, Aghavni Rita. They moved to New York in 1979, where Dagdelen taught at the Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School, and gave regular talks at various Diocesan parishes.

Her essays and articles have appeared in *Marmara* and *Arev Daily*, among other publications. *Yerazanke Baher Gyankees Dareeneren* is her first book. When it was published in Istanbul in 2012, a celebratory event was organized by the Esayan and Getronagan schools there. A video of that gathering was

shown at the February 23 evening in Bayside.

Other program highlights included a piano performance by Artur Ipek and a surprise birthday cake for Dagdelen's 90th birthday. Fr. Abraham Malkhasyan, parish pastor, congratulated Dagdelen.

Archbishop Barsamian presented the hon-



Vosgi Dagdelen poses for a group photo with guests.

oree with an Armenian alphabet carpet crafted in Armenia. Remarks were also made by Mrs. Dagdelen's daughter, Rita Aghavni. Mrs. Dagdelen expressed her gratitude to her family and to the community for their support of her work, and presented guests with signed copies of her book.

The evening was organized and sponsored by

the Esayan-Getronagan Alumni of New York. Collaborating organizations include the Constantinople Armenian Relief Society, the New York chapters of the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society and the Tekeyan Cultural Association, Hye-Doon, Armenian-American Support and Educational Center and Tibrevank Alumni.

VOATV Holds Second Anniversary Fundraising Gala Honoring Three Armenian Cultural Icons

NEW YORK — The Board of Directors of the Voice of Armenians TV NY's (VOATV NY) held its second anniversary fundraiser and gala, on March 2, at The Palisadium in Cliffside Park, NJ, drawing more than 300 guests. The atmosphere was joyous, festive, elegant and warm.

Since its debut in 2011, under the direction of executive producer and host Karine Kocharyan, and co-producer Haik Kocharian, VOATV NY has provided informative political, educational, and cultural news and programs about the lives of Armenian Diaspora in the New York Tri-state area. VOATV also created and continue to build an online video archive documenting the diverse activities of our community.

In addition, VOATV NY reaches global audiences in Armenia, Russia, Europe and the Middle East, among others, via its Internet streaming technology and partnerships with leading television stations in Armenia.

Karine was elated and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the first Chair Levon Temiz, and the current chair Dr. Aram Cazazian and the able Planning Committee members that worked tirelessly for almost a year, to all those who supported the VOATV, to those who donated items for the auction (which was a huge success, and all 24 valuable and unique items were sold), to Sunset Florist for donating the flower arrangements that dressed each table so tastefully, to Keremo Bakery for their delicious anniversary

cake, to all those who attend the banquet, to Dr. Raffy and Shoghag Hovanessian for their continued support, and all the viewers in the United States and around the world, and last but not least she expressed especial gratitude to Kocharian for his volunteer commitment.

VOATV NY's Second Anniversary Fundraiser and Gala honored intellectual and cultural figures from our community including Zarminé Boghosian, the principal of Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School, an educator, writer, community leader and Armenian Radio contributor; Dr. Herand Markarian, a playwright, director and actor; Harut Sassounian, a writer, public activist and the Publisher of the *California Courier*.

Musical entertainment was provided by Elie Berberian and his Band from Canada. Elie and his band were exceptional in their passion, talent and creativity. The audience danced the night away admiring Elie's penetrating voice and talent of Armenian traditional as well as modern songs.

Special gratitude to the Board of VOATV-NY: Cazazian (chair), Hagop Vartivarian and Alex Sarafian (VP), Margaret Ghazarian (secretary), and members of the board Alice Movsesian, Dr. Ani Kalayjian, George Khorozian, Lucyn Jamgotchian, Yelena Nersesyan, Haiguhi Megerian, Anna Bruno-Loshigian, Maggie Hajjar, Karine Abrahamyan, Louisa Kubikian and MaryLynda Bozian.



Karine Kocharyan, center, with the celebratory cake and guests.

PAN ARMENIAN YOUTH ALLIANCE PRESENTS
SYRIAN-ARMENIAN BENEFIT CONCERT
 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF AMERICA & DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH

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 Remarks by: Garbis Kazanjian
 Poetry Recitation by: Karine Kocharyan

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ALSO PARTICIPATING
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Arts & Living

Armenian in America Book of Photographs to Be Presented in Boston

BOSTON — Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society and Tekeyan Cultural Association Boston chapters present “Armenian American Contributions to Humanity After the Genocide” and “The Armenian in America,” a photographic journey through the Armenian-American landscape of the 21st century by Stepan Partamian. The presentation will take place Thursday, April 18, 8 p.m. at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown. Admission is free and open to the general public.

The Armenian in America, a volume of photographs documenting Armenian identity across the United States, was published in Los Angeles.

Featuring close to 600 photographs with captions, *The Armenian in America* has been in the making for the past four years. The volume is the work of Partamian, who traveled throughout America in search of Armenian landmarks and establishments, as well as public signs containing Armenian references.

Starting in 2009, when the project was announced, Partamian meticulously researched the destinations he was to document and embarked on successive road trips which encompassed most of the continental United States. In addition to his preliminary research, the author met with members of the Armenian communities in various states, both to gain fresh insight into local histories and gather further information on Armenian landmarks worthy of inclusion in the book.

Partamian ended up taking thousands of photographs of Armenian sites and signs, which were eventually distilled into *The Armenian in America* — a full-color, 184-page volume.

“The main reason that this project came about is that I’m not interested in the mere preservation of Armenian culture, but rather believe in nurturing and celebrating its creative energies, its wonderful potential,” Partamian said. “While we Armenian-Americans claim to be proud of our long history in America, most of us don’t know the first thing about Armenian communities beyond the cities or counties in which we live, let alone communities in far-flung states. As I discovered in the past four years, there is a breathtaking diversity of Armenian life in the United States.”

“I sought to document the dazzling tapestry of Armenian-American culture not only given the fact that, amazingly, no one had yet attempted a project of this type, but because I wanted to share the multifaceted nature of our cultural footprint with fellow Armenians, the young generation in particular,” Partamian continued. “Collectively, Armenians suffer from either the superiority complex of a glorious past, or the inferiority complex of a victimized nation. My hope is that, through an initiative like *The Armenian in America*, our compatriots will form a clearer idea of the extent of our presence and accomplishments in this land, and rightfully feel a sense of shared achievement.”

The Armenian in America comprises photographs of Armenian institutions and establishments such as churches, schools, community centers, and businesses; landmarks such as statues, khachkars (stone crosses), Genocide monuments, war-veteran memorials, and various memorial plaques; and public signs such as Armenian street and highway names; and even Armenian flags placed in front of public buildings.

Partamian’s photographs reveal a wealth of factoids about Armenian-American history. In Ocala, Fla., for instance, the author came across two Armenian churches facing each other, one affiliated with the See of Antelias and one with the See of Echmiadzin. Although the two churches remain Armenian-community-owned, both are rented to non-Armenian congregations, indicating that Armenian church services are no longer held in these houses of worship. In California, Partamian came across the town of Yettam, the only one in the United

see PRESENTATION, page 11



Author Zaven Khanjian at The book signing

TCA Hosts Book Dedication Of Zaven Khanjian’s Book On Aleppo

GLENDALÉ —The dedication of the book *Haleb, Arachin Gayaran* (Aleppo, the First Station) by Zaven Khanjian was held on March 3, by the Tekeyan Cultural Association’s Los Angeles Chapter with a capacity crowd at the Armenian Society of Los Angeles Center.



Vache Semerdjian, emcee

The program was emceed by Vache Semerdjian of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA), who explained that the reason that the association published Khanjian’s book was due to the candor as well as dynamic style of writing, which captivates the reader. During the program, Semerdjian read excerpts of letters by admirers of Khanjian’s books from different parts of the world.

Architect and musicologist Hrant Agabian, who is currently working on ceramic sculptures, presented Khanjian’s biography in English with a refreshing style. He admitted that even though they went to the same schools, although at different times, they had the same teachers, he couldn’t compare his Armenian with Khanjian’s. Agabian said that Khanjian had graduated from the American University in Beirut with a degree in business administration. He had met his wife, Sona, during a Chanits youth group conference in Kessab, moved to the United States in 1979 and set up a broker-realtor office in 1987. Agabian summed up that Khanjian “as a man who breathes and lives as one devoted to his people.”

Lena Bozoyan, chairperson of the Armenian Relief Society of Western USA (ARS) Regional Executive, started by saying that today we are all “Halebtsis.” She provided insights on Khanjian’s leadership style describing him as cautious yet bold, balanced, impartial and wise, and a leader who inspires hope, and calms nerves when confronting challenges.

Bozoyan explained the role of the ARS ahead of the formation of the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund (SARF), and praised Khanjian’s role in leading as chairman of the Executive Committee (since August 2012). Even though she is from Lebanon, her mother is from Kessab, so she spent many summers in Kessab. When she read the book, particularly about Kessab, she was truly moved, and would understand why those who are from Aleppo are so excited about the genuinely connecting to the stories in the book.

Accompanied by pianist Ruzanna Vanessian, tenor Raffi Kerbabian’s voice resonated in the hall as he sang three favorites, the last one being Tercheyie Mdkov Doon (metaphysically flying home), which rang true about the rush of memories, which were being evoked by Khanjian’s writings.

He was followed by Sona Khanjian, the author’s wife. Her presentation was the highlight of the evening, as she read the “Homenetmen Vasbouragan” chapter in a lively, descriptive and musical style.

Archbishop Mousheg Mardirossian, Prelate of the Western Prelacy, recalled that with his experience on the Armenia Fund board, where Khanjian had served, he knew that the latter was suited for the top SARF job, particularly since the author was so concerned about the situation in Syria. Mardirossian quoted the Bible verse “Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in

see ALEPPO, page 12

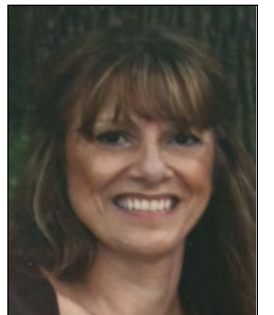
AIWA Presents Reading from New Play for Women’s History Month Program

BOSTON — For its annual commemoration of Women’s History Month in March, the Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA) will present a dramatic reading from a new play, “Women of Ararat.”

A drama set between 1965 and 1975, “Women of Ararat” relates the stories of a multi-generational family of Armenian women who survived the Armenian Genocide, came to America and lived outside of Boston.

“Although sad in content, the play is also humorous and lighthearted in the way the ‘Women’ relate to one another,” commented playwright Judith Boyajian Strang-Waldau.

Written to commemorate the Genocide’s upcoming 100th anniversary in 2015, the play is designed to educate those who may not know of this period in history and also to make viewers more mindful and responsive to those around the globe who are or have been victims of political injustice.



Judith Boyajian Strang-Waldau

The story is based on the author’s family history and spotlights the multiple effects of the Armenian Genocide on its survivors, children, and grandchildren living in the United States.

The reading, to be followed by a discussion, will take place on Sunday, March 24, at 3 p.m. at the Armenian Cultural Foundation in Arlington. The talented cast includes Nancy Tutunjian Berger, June Murphy Katz, Judy Davis, Jennifer Guzelian Flanagan, Joy Renjilian Burgy and Sofie Refejo.

“Recently we’ve seen a number of Armenian women authors who have written dramas about various aspects of the Armenian Genocide and its aftermath,” commented Barbara Merguerian, director of AIWA’s Archives and Women’s Information Center, the sponsor of the reading. She cited Joyce Van Dyke’s “Deported/a dream play,” Adriana Sevahn Nichols’ “Night Over Erzanga” and Bianca Bagatourian’s “March,” among others.

“Drama provides unique perspectives for exploring the many facets of genocide, and has the potential to reach large audiences who might not otherwise be receptive,” she observed.

“Women of Ararat” is first play by Judith Boyajian Strang-Waldau. The recipient of degrees in piano and vocal performance as well as in arts management, she has served in the marketing and development departments of the Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall, Circle in the Square Theatre in New York, Olympia Dukakis’s Whole Theatre in Montclair, NJ, and most recently the New England Conservatory.

With a studio of 40 piano and voice students, Strang-Waldau currently chairs the Harvard Musical Association’s High School Achievement Awards scholarship program. She has one daughter, Victoria, and lives in Sherborn with her husband, Paul, dogs Rosie and Atticus Finch and her cat Pavlova.

The public is invited to attend the reading of “Women of Ararat” free of charge. Further information about the play or about AIWA’s programs to increase the visibility of Armenian women is available by contacting the AIWA office at 65 Main St., Watertown, MA 02472; email: aiwainc@aol.com.



ARTS & LIVING

Zoryan Has Productive 2012, with Multiple Books and Programs

TORONTO — This past year was a productive one for the Zoryan Institute. With the publication of five books in three languages as well as two academic journals, the running of its 11th annual Genocide and Human Rights University Program with participants more than 10 countries, and co-sponsoring an insightful lecture on the essential rights of children in Armenia, the Institute continued its systematic efforts to promote truth and human rights internationally.

- A new Italian language edition of Samuel Shahmuratian's *The Sumgait Tragedy: Pogroms against Armenians in Soviet Azerbaijan. Volume I: Eyewitness Accounts*. The edition was prepared by Pietro Kuciukian and published by Guerini e Associati of Milan and marks the ninth language that Zoryan's work has been published in. For three days in February 1988, the Azerbaijani city of Sumgait became the arena of pogroms against the Armenians. The Sumgait tragedy was a brutal, organized attempt to block a political solution to the peaceful demands of the Armenians of Mountainous Karabagh for self-determination. These events marked the beginning of a premeditated plan to depopulate Azerbaijan of Armenians, and eventually of Russians and Jews.

The book is a compilation of interviews conducted by Armenian journalist Samuel Shahmuratian with Sumgait survivors immediately after events in February 1988, while the memory was fresh. The Italian version provides the reader with an abridged version of the interviews, making it an excellent text for Italian readers. This new version also arranges the interviews into thematic chapters, making them easy to navigate and providing those who are new to the subject with more context. This edition includes the preface from the English edition by human rights activist Yelena Bonner, and from the French edition by human rights activist, French politician and co-founder of Médecins Sans Frontières, Bernard Kouchner.

- *The Asia Minor Catastrophe and the Ottoman Greek Genocide: Essays on Asia Minor, Pontos, and Eastern Thrace, 1913-1923* is a compilation of innovative papers given by distinguished scholars at two academic conferences organized by the Asia Minor and Pontos Hellenic Research Center in Chicago, edited by George N. Shirinian, Zoryan's executive director. This book and its careful treatment of the Greek experience within the broader genocide of the Christian minorities in the Ottoman Empire aims to fill a gap in the scholarly literature on the Greek Genocide and is one of the first to treat the genocidal experiences of the Armenians, Assyrians, and Greeks in a comparative manner and as an

integrated history. As Prof. Roger W. Smith, chair of Zoryan's Academic Board, has written, "Only the comparative approach can yield carefully delimited generalizations about the nature and mechanics of genocide as a general problem of humanity."

- Earlier in 2012, the translation and publication of a new book by noted author Rifat Bali was accomplished. *Model Citizens of the State: The Jews of Turkey during the Multi-Party Period* provides an exposé of the treatment of the Jewish community in Turkey from 1950 to the present, their fight against anti-Semitism, the struggle for their constitutional rights, and the attitude of the Turkish state and society towards these problems. The author describes it as an attempt at uncovering the truth behind "the rosy narrative that was repeated over and over by the leaders of the Turkish Jewish community, as well as by Turkish intellectuals, politicians and historians." The book describes how, during the first four decades of the Republic of Turkey's existence, the Jewish community had similar problems, fears and reactions as the Armenian and Greek minorities. There was a marked shift in the 1970s, however, as successive Turkish governments obtained the cooperation of Turkish Jews to convince American Jewish lobbies to actively support pro-Turkish measures, including fighting against Armenian Genocide resolutions in the US Congress, excluding the Armenian Genocide from the Holocaust Museums in Washington and Los Angeles, prohibiting papers on the Genocide from being presented at Israeli Holocaust conferences, etc. This book serves as a valuable case study of how Realpolitik distorts the truth and how coercion by the powerful contributes to the violation of collective human rights.

- Ragıp Zarakolu, a distinguished publisher in Istanbul and a renowned champion of human rights, has collaborated with the Zoryan Institute to lay down one more building block on the foundation of a common body of knowledge for Turks and Armenians. Zarakolu, despite being jailed by the Turkish government in October 2011, has continued his efforts to bring out the historical truth about the Armenian Genocide. In January, Belge Yayinlari, Zarakolu's publishing house, released the Turkish edition of *The Armenian Genocide 1915-16: Documents from the Political Archives of the German Foreign Office*, compiled and edited by Wolfgang Gust and published originally in German. The original book was the product of some ten years of devoted research, editing and translating overseen by Wolfgang and Sigrid Gust. It is an extensive selection of some 218 telegrams, letters and

reports from German consular officials in the Ottoman Empire to the Foreign Office in Berlin describing in sometimes graphic detail the unfolding genocide of the Armenians and is a devastating indictment of both German and Turkish behavior.

The late Mehmet Ali Birand, a respected Turkish journalist, had this to say, "Its message is, 'Since the Turks won't do it, let us do it.' They should see these documents and understand the facts we have. They should be convinced that we are not acting as their enemies, but trying to explain an incident." It has been translated into an extremely comprehensible and beautiful Turkish by Belge Publishing House. Obviously it has taken years. It is an extremely important and expensive study...Without going into detail, if you read the book and look at the documents, if you are a person who is introduced to the subject through this book, then there is no way that you would not believe in the genocide and justify the Armenians. Even if you are an expert on the subject, or have researched what went on from the Turkish side, again, you will be confused. You will have many questions." We at the Institute appreciate this recognition from a well-respected Turkish journalist and hope that more dialogue between our two cultures can be opened in this civil and informed manner.

- Nearly 11 years in the making, *Judgment at Istanbul: The Armenian Genocide Trials* is a study of the Armenian Genocide as documented through the Ottoman Special Military Tribunal. This is the first joint publication by the two most internationally renowned scholars on the Armenian Genocide — Professors Vahakn N. Dadrian, an Armenian, and Taner Akçam, a Turk. It is the first time the complete known documentation of the trial proceedings is being provided in English and the first time information from the Ottoman newspapers of the era have been utilized to reconstruct these proceedings. Judgment at Istanbul adds a new perspective to the historical and moral studies of the Genocide and serves as a legal case study of the Armenian Genocide.

In the fields of Diaspora Studies and Genocide Prevention, the Zoryan Institute continued the publication of its two journals, *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* and *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal*, three issues per annum.

- In November, Zoryan co-sponsored a public lecture by Armine Hovannisian, JD (UCLA School of Law), executive director of Junior Achievements of Armenia and founder of the NGO Orran, titled "Poverty and the Rights of Children in Armenia". The lecture took place at

Boston University and was co-sponsored with the Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research. Armenia has signed laws and treaties on the rights of children and education, including the 1989 UN Convention on Rights of the Child, but implementation has proven more difficult. Hovannisian gave the example that by law, children with disabilities are supposed to be regarded equally, but in practice many disabled children are institutionalized and kept away from their homes and families. She noted that a conservative estimate of poverty levels experienced by Armenian children puts 26 percent below the poverty line. Hovannisian explained that while there are an adequate number of kindergartens and schools, most are neglected and poorly funded. She illustrated the desperate situation of many families in Armenia, where husbands are forced to leave the country to find work and mothers struggle to feed and clothe their children, sometimes requiring them to put a child into a boarding school away from their family. The lecture concluded with a question and answer segment and calls for members of the Armenian Diaspora to aid their countrymen in the homeland.

- In August, 22 students from Armenia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Turkey, and the US completed the 11th annual Genocide and Human Rights University Program, run by the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (A Division of the Zoryan Institute) in partnership with the University of Toronto. Prof. Joyce Apsel is the new course director and there are three new scholars on the faculty this year: Dr. Shaké Toukmanian of York University, who covered the psychological trauma of genocide; Dr. Israel Charny of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide (Jerusalem), a leading expert on genocide denial; and Dr. Maja Catič of the Canadian Forces College, specialist in genocide in the Former Yugoslavia.

To order a Zoryan publication, write to zoryan@zoryaninstitute.org.

The Armenian in America Book to Be Presented in Boston

PRESENTATION, from page 10

States with an Armenian name. In Connecticut, he photographed a sign of the Antranig Ozanian Memorial Highway, as well as the memorial stone of Haroutune Daghljan, a physicist with the Manhattan Project who had accidentally irradiated himself in 1945. While in Virginia, Partamian searched for the grave or a memorial of Martin the Armenian, one of the first settlers of the Jamestown Colony. As the author's search turned up nothing, he looked for and found an extraordinary-looking tree and dedicated it to Martin the Armenian, commenting that, just like the Armenian people, the tree would grow and wither, but certainly give rise to new shoots.

The publication of *The Armenian in America* comes on the heels of a series of books by Partamian documenting the contributions of Armenians to American Civilization. In *Yes, We Have* and its sequel, *Yes, We Have Too* as well as an Armenian version, titled *Ayo, Menk enk*, Partamian has documented the contributions of hundreds of Armenian-Americans to their adopted homeland, in fields ranging from science, technology, and literature to politics, journalism, and sports.

Partamian said that just as proceeds from the sale of the *Yes, We Have* series have helped fund the publication of *The Armenian in America*, proceeds from the sale of the latter volume will benefit his next major project, the making and publication of *The Armenian in the World*.

A sweeping photographic survey of Armenian institutions, landmarks, and signs across the entire globe, *The Armenian in the World* will be published just before April 2015, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The *Armenian in America*, priced at \$40, will be available for purchase at Armenian bookstores and online at TheArmenian.com.

98th Armenian Genocide Commemoration
Sunday, April 21, 2013
Times Square
1:30 pm

Free buses from all NY & NJ churches



ARTS & LIVING

TCA Hosts Book Dedication

ALEPPO, from page 10
whom is no guile!” (John 1:47) and described Khanjian, who puts forth is best abilities as an archetypal Christian Armenian “in whom is no guile.” The Prelate wished for the return of peace to Aleppo.

Historian Dr. Vahram Shemmassian presented Haleb, Arachin Gayaran, discussing the many important aspects of the book, highlighting customs, traditions and culture in Armenian life in Aleppo in the era covered: life near the “Gare de Baghdad” station, the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel school that the author attended, the special figures such as the Arab ice cream vendor, and the way the local Arabs treated the Armenians. Of special importance was how the author’s father, Vazken Khanjian, a custom furniture builder, treated books and periodicals with such reverence that wrinkling an issue was reason for punishment.

Shemmassian covered different aspects of life in Aleppo the family traditions where children sat with adults around the heaters listening to their stories. He noted that many of these precious traditions and customs have been regrettably discarded in today’s society and called to revive them.

The professor also noted that Arab characters are presented in a positive way and that the book covers commentary about the political life, such as upheavals of the 1960s, when Armenians, particularly ARF leaders, were prosecuted, jailed and killed in Syria. He considered the 226-page book one worthy to be translated into Arabic and English, congratulated the author and wished that he continue to publish new works.

Fr. Hovsep Hagopian, who was representing Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Western, congratulated the author for doing everything with faith and love, and read the Western Diocese Primate’s congratulatory letter. Arch. Derderian wrote that the book portrays the author’s religious and national feelings, and urges all of us to continuously apply our actions as application of our nationalistic convictions.

Zaven Khanjian, the author, said that he was humbled by all the presentations, and all the talk was about a place, where people were born and grew up and the credit belongs to that place called Aleppo. He had a long list of people whom he thanked for their various contributions including providing the hall; publishing, editing, formatting and presenting the book; and the audience. He thanked his wife, Sona, for being so supportive and all the sacrifices that she continues to make for him. Khanjian wrapped up his message by reciting a poetic description of what

Aleppo represents.
The program ended with Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian’s prayers. About 350 people who were in attendance had a chance to obtain autographed copies of the book.
The following churches, charities and organizations came together to form the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund: Armenian Catholic Eparchy in North America; Armenian Evangelical Union of North America; Western Diocese of the Armenian Church; Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America; Armenian General Benevolent Union; Armenian Missionary Association of America; Armenian Relief Society of Western U.S.A.; Armenian Democratic Liberal Party; Armenian Revolutionary Federation-Western U.S.A.; and Social Democrat Hunchakian Party-Western U.S.A. The web site address follows: www.SyrianArmenianReliefFund.org.



From left, Vatche Semerdjian, Hrant Agbabian, Sona Khanjian, Zaven Khanjian, Lena Bozoyan and Zaven Khamjian

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH 16 — Clarinetist Narek Arutyunian, the young clarinetist who dazzled the audiences last year at the Armenian Night at the Pops, returns to Boston next weekend for a special concert with the Longwood Symphony, performing Carl Maria von Weber’s thrilling Clarinet Concerto No. 2, 8 p.m., Jordan Hall of the New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston. Tickets and information: www.longwoodsymphony.org, or call (617) 987-0100.

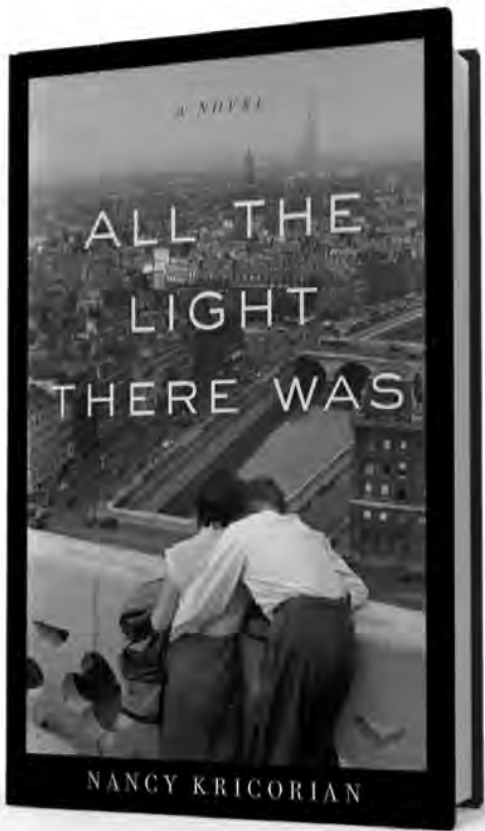
APRIL 19 — Armenian Genocide Commemoration at the State House, 10 a.m., House of Representatives Chamber, Massachusetts State House. At noon, participants are invited to march from the State House to the Armenian Heritage Park for additional remarks, music and a brown-bag lunch. Keynote speaker will be former US ambassador to Armenia, John Evans. Donald Tellalian, architect of the Armenian Heritage Park, will receive a joint Senate/House resolution thanking him for his efforts. Free buses will leave at 9 a.m. from St. James and St. Stephen’s Armenian Churches in Watertown, courtesy of the Knights of Vartan. For more information, contact coordinator Lalg Musserian at (617) 319-2651.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

APRIL 6 — Spring Dance Featuring Armenian and American Music; 7-11 p.m. at the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church, 2 Salem St., Salem. All ages welcome. Tickets \$15, available at the door. For info, email janigian@comcast.net.



Clarinetist Narek Arutyunian, who dazzled the audiences last year at the Armenian Night at the Pops, returns to Boston next weekend for a special concert with the Longwood Symphony, performing Carl Maria von Weber’s Clarinet Concerto No. 2, 8 p.m., Jordan Hall of the New England Conservatory, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston. Tickets and information: www.longwoodsymphony.org, or call (617) 987-0100



“Nancy Kricorian is a gem, her work subtle and nuanced and moving. *All the Light There Was* brings Nazi-occupied Paris vividly, tragically, and heroically to life.”

—Chris Bohjalian, author of *The Sandcastle Girls* and *Midwives*

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COMMENTARY

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COMMENTARY

The Demise of a Cultural Icon

By Edmond Y. Azadian

When an artist attains a ripe age and continues to create and to surprise his fans, people forget their mortality for a moment and begin to believe that the artist in question is there forever, he or she is the journeyman of the eternal, of course, until he or she faces the inevitable.

I had that feeling when I heard Picasso had died. I thought eternity had collapsed and destroyed the traveler of that unending journey.

I experienced the very same feeling upon hearing about the loss of painter Hakob Hakobian (Hagopian), who at the threshold of 90, still surprised his fans with a new and refreshing phases of his art. I was also overcome with intense emotions as he was very much a part of my life. While still in Egypt, he had shared many collective art shows with my wife, Nora, and we had come to treasure his friendship, his art, his wisdom and his inexorable quest about the destiny of the Armenian people and Armenia.

I will never forget one evening in 1962, his grueling questions on life in Armenia, as I had just returned from Yerevan, after my first trip there, with mixed feelings. We were walking for miles along Cairo streets and I was trying to convey my reservations about the limitations of artistic freedom behind the Iron Curtain, trying to tread on a fine line, mindful of my principles of supporting Armenia under any condition.

Hakobian was already an upcoming artist with a solid reputation and his wife, Marie, was the foremost dress designer in Egypt. They both had opportunities to settle in Europe or North America.

As we parted late that night, I was convinced that he had understood my subtle message that Armenia was not yet for him.

Little did I know that soon he was moving his family to Armenia. "After all, it is our homeland," he said, "no individual, no matter how talented, can be greater than his nation. We are destined to share the fate of our homeland."

Hakobian, an unassuming person and the personification of humility, never expected rewards and glory as he settled in Armenia, first in the city of Gumri (Leninakan), where he was inspired to create immortal landscapes. Later, he moved to the capital, Yerevan.

Hakobian's art radiates a universal sadness. He was a meditative artist and he was first misunderstood in Armenia. One of his early paintings featured a poor neighborhood in Gumri, where chickens were roaming free and colorful laundry was hanging to dry. The critics in Armenia jumped on him as a result, to force on the artist the straightjacket of "socialist realism," interpreting that the artist was sad and despondent under capitalist rule, and now that he had arrived at the "socialist paradise," he opted for brighter colors and an optimistic outlook on life.

Hakobian remained true to himself and continued his trademark philosophical concept of art and, indeed, he achieved fame and recognition. In 1986, he was awarded the coveted prize of the Artist of the Soviet Union and in 1988, he was invited to join the USSR Academy of Fine Arts. Later on, he was twice awarded the prize of Artist of the Republic of Armenia. Although he was fond of subdued colors, Hakobian became the rainbow bridging the diaspora to Armenia. He was among the constellation of Egyptian-Armenian artists who repatriated to Armenia, at great personal risk, to contribute to the development of artistic life in Armenia. The other members of that group were world-renowned coloratura Gohar Gasprarian, opera singers Mihran Yergat, Armineh Tutunjian and Anna Nishanian, artist Arakel Badrik, intellectuals Hagop Aramian, Hagop Triantz, Garnik Stepanian and others.

Hakobian had a characteristic style with a penchant for economy of colors. His monochromatic landscapes hide so many hues that the painting begins to "speak." Dead tree trunks emerge from nowhere like skeletons to tell the stories of the centuries.

Hakobian has always reminded me of the French expressionist painter Bernard Buffet, without the latter's bitterness and sarcasm. Clearly cynicism and sarcasm in Buffet ran deep, even-

tually causing him to commit suicide in 1999. On the contrary, Hakobian's pessimism has a submissive fatalism, accepting the realities of life as they are, as desolate as they may be.

The material Hakobian's soul was made of was derived from the historic land of Armenia, yet somewhere in the philosophical eternity, his soul meets that of Georgia O'Keefe, because both are the masters of extracting so much emotion, so much brooding out of isolated desert landscapes.

Hakobian's art has relentlessly undergone development; he always has been on the threshold of a new vision, a daring jump into unexplored vistas.

His early depictions of ordinary people gradually gave way to his experiment with tailors' dummies, which were humanized to express love, sadness, dancing, remembering, etc. His paintings also depicted simple instruments, ordinary objects with powerful messages. His fragile eggs against the threatening teeth of pliers depict the frail feature of human lives versus iron logic of destiny. His headless crowds feature another message about horrors of the nuclear age.

Hakobian was a gentle person and an even gentler artist, yet he could tear your heart apart with his symbolism on Armenian history; his painting depicting a herd of sheep, heads against a wall in the summer heat, while one slaughtered sheep hangs on a pole. The herd is "sheepishly" resigned to its destiny.

The last stage of Hakobian's art was to move from the canvas to metals to animate simple instruments. After painting instruments with loud human messages, he actually resorted to working with the metals themselves, which he collected from junkyards and turned into tiny sculptures, each one with an artistic expression. He then would cast those molds into large and impressive sculptures. The last time I visited his studio, he had already 300 tiny sculptures. It is ironic that he was planning his first large-scale sculpture exhibition for March 19 in Yerevan.

He was not only an artist, but an articulate writer. He published many essays which appeared in a voluminous book in 2006. They feature his observations, sharp criticism and questions about Armenian history, as well as artistic life in Armenia and in the diaspora. He would lash out against ugly developments of Armenian life with a sharpness no one would else would dare to express.

He was tormented about the destiny of the Armenian people. "What happened to us, where are our traditional values?" he would ask almost in tears. He would satirize, sometimes the political immaturity of our leaders and everyone accepted his comments with reverence, knowing they came from inner torment and introspection, rather than personal motives.

The economic conditions in Armenia bothered him tremendously. "My paintings are selling well and I have a comfortable life. But I am embarrassed to go into the street and look into the eyes of the ordinary people who are miserable in rampant poverty."

During my last visit, he showed a large painting depicting a forest of Armenian skulls, his grandparents included. Right in the middle of the painting is Ataturk's notorious racist motto: "Happy is the person who claims to be a Turk," in Turkish.

"I would like to donate this painting to a museum," he said. "This is my message to my people and this is my message to humankind. Let everybody know that this is the only contribution of Turks to human civilization."

Last November, as I took my leave from his studio, Hakobian, accompanied by his wife, walked me to the door, saying, "Don't forget to visit us the next time you are in Armenia." I replied, "How could I forget since every visit to you is a pilgrimage for me, when I get to enjoy intellectual discourse and artistic novelty?"

I did not know that this was to be my last pilgrimage to Hakobian.

The artist was a man of dignity and humility. He was extremely modest. He never clamored for fame and celebrity status. Yet, his humility propelled him to the peak of fame. The Armenian government has decided to bury Hakobian's remains in the National Pantheon. He will be in good company, with Aram Khachatourian, Martiros Saryan, Minas Avetisian, William Saroyan Paruyr Sevak, Silva Kapoutikian and the other creative minds of the Armenia nation. May his tormented soul rest in peace.

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COMMENTARY

Former Karabagh Government-in-Exile Foreign Minister Speaks on 25th Anniversary of Artsakh Liberation Movement

By Maj. Gen. Hayk Kotanjan

As a participant of the political process related to the Karabagh national-liberation movement since February 1988, I consider it my duty as a politician, military diplomat and political scientist to speak of the anniversary of the Karabagh national-liberation movement, having overcome the colonial stranglehold of the Soviet and post-Soviet Azerbaijan over the rights and freedoms of the Artsakh Armenians, who at present are successfully building their democratic state.

Peaceful civil movement for the protection of the Artsakh Armenians' rights in the process of Perestroika and Glasnost became a challenge to the inertia of the Stalinist system not recognizing the priority of individual and collective human rights, ignoring the aspirations of ethnic minorities which were arbitrarily driven by the will of the "father of peoples" to the mini-empires of the Soviet Azerbaijan type. The Armenians responded to the pogroms – following the democratic expression of will of the Artsakh people – organized by the Azerbaijani authorities in Sumgait, Kirovabad and Baku with a law-governed referendum in Artsakh that recorded the adamant will of its people to freedom. In the political-legal sense, the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic is established as a result of the referendum on the basis of the USSR Law of the Perestroika period "On Procedures for Regulation of Issues Related to Separation from USSR Republics" during its effectiveness – before signing the Alma-Ata Declaration on the official dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Another feature of the Karabagh referendum is that the Azeri minority in compliance with the aforementioned USSR Law was involved in the preparation of the referendum, although consequently boycotted it on the orders of the Baku authorities. This is evidenced by the saved documents of the Referendum Commission. The establishment of the legitimate Artsakh Republic as a result of areferendum held in accordance with the USSR legislation during Perestroika became a milestone in the fight of the international community against colonialism, and the forerunner of the process of law- conforming implementation of the right to free self-determination of the peoples in East Timor, Montenegro, Kosovo and the South Sudan. World practice shows that in this way – without intervention of the metropolis – the right of peoples to self-determination of Bangladesh, Eritrea, East Timor, Montenegro, and now also in the South Sudan were implemented through the expression of free will at referendums exactly among the self-determining peoples, and not the population in their former metropolises represented by Pakistan, Ethiopia, Indonesia or Yugoslavia – Serbia and Sudan.

Over the past years, a new generation has grown up in the democratic and independent Artsakh Republic, born in a free country indivisibly linked with a thousand-year-old national historical and cultural heritage, and integrated into the world community of free nations.

From the height of the independence of Artsakh, achieved through heroic political struggle, and then through the feat of the repulsion of colonial Azerbaijan's aggression, a number of figures emerge who have made a special contribution to the national-democratic liberation of Karabagh and the protection of its sovereignty. I consider it my duty to note among them the first flagship-leaders of the struggle for freedom of Karabagh Genrikh Poghosyan (head of the Nagorno-Karabagh Autonomous Oblast and the first popularly elected Soviet party leader, by whose efforts the Oblast petitioned the Kremlin to withdraw from Azerbaijan SSR in 1988), Arcady Manucharov (chairman of the Krunk Committee), Vachagan Gabrielyan (chairman of the Nagorno-Karabagh Autonomous Oblast National Council) and Artur Mkrtchyan (the first speaker of the Parliament of Artsakh – chairman of the Supreme Council of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic).

The role of the spiritual leaders of the Artsakh national-liberation movement is invaluable, represented by the Catholicos of All Armenians Vazgen I, intellectuals Abel Aghanbekyan, Viktor Hambardzumyan, Henrik Igityan, Zori Balayan, Silva Kaputikyan, Sergei Hambartsumyan, Sergo Mikoyan, Andrei Sakharov, Galina Starovoitova, Lyudmila Harutyunyan, Rafael Ishkhanyan, Hrachik Simonyan, Rafael Ghazaryan, Rafael Papayan, Konstantin Khudaverdyan, Lendrush Khurshudyan, Razmik Navasardyan, Karen Yuzbashyan and the leader of Artsakh Diocese Archbishop Pargév Martirosian and others who crafted the value and philosophical foundation of the future Nagorno-Karabagh Republic.

The activity of such heralds of mass peaceful democratic actions as Igor Muradyan and Zhanna Galstyan in consolidation of the Armenians in Artsakh and Armenia around the Karabagh movement is of great importance. The services of Robert Kocharian, Serge Sargisian, Arkady Ghukasyan and Bako Sahakyan in the state-building of Artsakh democracy are extremely significant. With all the contradictions of some political steps taken by the authorities of the first Republic of Armenia on the threshold of a complex and largely unexpected challenge of reestablishment of the independent Armenian statehood, the contribution of Levon Ter-Petrosian, Vazgen Manukyan, Babken Ararktsyan, Ashot Manucharyan and others to the Karabagh national-liberation movement should be noted.

Justice should be done to the contribution to the national self-determination dissident movement represented by Paruyr Hayrikyan and Ashot Navasardyan, as well as the Karabagh underground which was forced to wage a national-liberation struggle under the military dictatorship regime established by Baku and Moscow authorities in Karabagh after the anti-Armenian pogroms and the punishment of pogrom-makers in Baku in January 1990. It is hard to overestimate the political-diplomatic, political- intelligence role of the Nagorno-Karabagh Government-in-exile acting in Moscow in 1991 during the failure of Perestroika and the loss of the USSR control over its own territory and monstrous in its disruptiveness combined might of the superpower. In 1991, the government-in-exile functioning in Moscow in strictest secrecy rendered invaluable services to Armenia and Artsakh to be promptly warned of impending internal and external threats to their existence. Here it is appropriate to emphasize the merits of April-December 1991 Minister of National Security of the Government-in- exile Marius Yuzbashyan and Minister of Justice Yuri Barsegov in protecting the security interests of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic and Armenia.

The role of the last Communist leaders of Armenia, Vladimir Movsesyan, Stepan Poghosyan, Aram Sargisian and Sergei Badalyan in ensuring a bloodless handover of power was vital.

The repulsion of external military aggression of Azerbaijan against the self-determined Artsakh highlighted the constellation of brilliant commanders who punished the aggressor by creating the Defense Army of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic and built a system of military security of the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia. Among them the names of Vazgen Sargisian, Serge Sargisian, Vazgen Manukyan and Vahan Shirkhanyan, Generals Norat Ter-Grigoryants, Gurgen Dalibaltayan, Christopher Ivanyan, Hratch Andreasyan, Anatoly Zinevich should be mentioned. In the battles for freedom of Artsakh Generals Samvel Babayan, Seyran Ohanyan, Arkady Ter-Tadevosov, Yuri Khachaturov, Artyusha Harutyunyan, Mikayel Harutyunyan, Leonid Martirosov, Vitaly Balasanyan, Manvel Grigoryan, Movses Hakobyan and others are distinguished in conducting the defense. The hero of the Karabagh national-liberation movement Leonid Azgaldyan became notable in the transition stage from fedayeen national resistance to the creation of combat units of special mission unit type under the auspices of the Army of Independence established by him. The significant role of the Armenian Diaspora representatives such as Monte Melkonyan, Zhirayr Sefilyan and others should be mentioned in repelling the aggression.

The fundamental divergence of principles and trends of formation of the political cultures of the Republic of Artsakh and Republic of Azerbaijan requires attention. In the case of Artsakh, it is the targeted promotion of democratic statehood preparing itself for integration into the family of democratic entities of international law. In the case of Azerbaijan, it is the formation of an anti-democratic dynastic dictatorship propagating in the society the cult of personality of the Aliyev family, and a systemic fascist Armenophobia with the falsification of the region's history aimed at territorial claims and justification of future aggression against its neighbors. The symptoms of hyper-chauvinism of the Aliyev regime is expressed in the glorification of Ramil Safarov – who murdered a sleeping colleague – an Armenian officer at the NATO international training program. This provocation by the Azerbaijani authorities aimed at undermining the participation of the three permanent members of the UN Security Council – Russia, the US and France – in the format of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs in the peaceful resolution of the Karabagh conflict – has been condemned by the authorities of all the three co-chair countries.

The mentality continues, with the persecution and public mass burning of books by Azerbaijani writer Akram Aylisli. In his novel Aylisli dared to truthfully describe along with the peace and good neighborliness of the Armenians and Caucasian Tartars in the Nakhichevan city of Agulis also the cruelty of Turkish and Caucasian Tartars against the peaceful Armenian population of Nakhichevan and Baku. The official reaction accusing him of treachery was like the worst traditions of Nazi Germany. The parallels between the fires of the books by Heine, Mann, Freud, and Remarque burned by the Nazis of Hitler's Germany and the publications of the people's writer and honored artist of Azerbaijan are obvious.

The policy of fomenting anti-Armenian sentiment currently is not limited only to fooling the Azerbaijani people, but also is exported to the international community. The denunciation of xenophobia against the Armenians – with the attempts of manipulatively involving the Jewish Diaspora in negative anti-Armenian sentiments, nurtured by the head of the neighboring state – is symptomatic. It is his decree on the establishment of the genocide memorial complex that actually canonized the untested version of the perpetrators of the mass death of people buried in the excavated graves in North Azerbaijan and their national and religious affiliation. The colleagues from Israel and the Jewish Diaspora are resentful that the head of Azerbaijan includes in the state protocol the visits of the Jewish organizations leaders to the memorial built allegedly on the remains of the Jews killed by the Armenians, but in fact – on the graves of the Armenians killed in expeditionary raid into the North Azerbaijan in 1918 by the

Caucasian Islamic army led by Turkish General Khalil Pasha and Caucasian Tartar gangs.

This fact is symptomatic as it reflects the essence of the policy of destructing the trust between the peoples as a fundamental basis of conflict resolution and lasting peace between the Azerbaijani and Armenian peoples. Baku authorities attach special importance to the distortion of the information on the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire. The state propaganda of disrespect to the memory of 1.5 million slaughtered Armenians is beyond the framework of separate publications. We can exemplify as a case of rude falsification of the history of the Eastern Transcaucasia the efforts of political "balancing" the genocidal crimes against the Armenian population in the early 20th century with the non-existent "genocide against the Azerbaijanis." In 1998 a decree by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the genocide against the Azerbaijanis" was issued on the basis of these falsifications. The representatives of Baku intellectuals themselves in the narrow circle of trust speak ironically of this disgraceful and dangerous way of political "consolidation of the Azerbaijani people" against the Armenian and Russian peoples. They know that in the early 20th century there actually were massacres of the Armenians in Transcaucasia committed by the expeditionary corps of the Ottoman Turkey and its henchmen in the region represented by the Transcaucasia Tartars, and the resistance by the Armenians as well in the future – in response to the pogroms of the Armenian civilian population in Sumgait in 1988, and in Baku in 1990.

An example of fooling its own people and attempts of misinforming the political circles of the world community is the generously financed campaign of Baku regime falsifying authorship of mockery of the corpses of victims of the Khojaly tragedy. The details of this provocation as a tool of political struggle for power in Baku were freshly stated in the famous interview of the Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov to the Czech journalist Dana Mazalova. The Armenian side has all the evidence that the corpses were in the vicinity of the city of Agdam, which then was in the area of responsibility of the Azerbaijani authorities, under the control of their military forces, and the physical contact of the Armenians with the dead bodies in order to mutilate them was not possible.

The international community focuses on the frequent criticism of the Azerbaijani authorities in connection with the connivance of the legislation and the practice of bribing the foreign public officials and international organizations engaged in the settlement of the Karabagh conflict and demonstrating tolerance to the facts of such political corruption.

What are the guidelines for the peaceful resolution of the Karabagh conflict?

Appreciating the importance of the OSCE Minsk Group activity co-chaired by the three permanent members of the UN Security Council – the RF, the US and France – in preventing a new war in Karabagh we should draw the attention of all the stakeholders to the path of realistic policy, which can lead to a lasting peace between Armenia, Nagorno Karabagh and Azerbaijan. It passes through the recognition of the legitimacy of 1991 referendum and independence of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic by Azerbaijan. The participants of the confidential negotiations based on the results of the Karabagh war of 1992-1994 witnessed that the former President of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev with his Armenian counterparts was also inclined to the possibility of such an effective resolution of the conflict.

The preparation of the Azerbaijani, Armenian and Nagorno-Karabagh populations for the recognition of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic, as well as for parallel negotiations among the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic and the Republic of Armenia on the status of some territories of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic's security zone – to guarantee the security of the population and sustainable development of all the three independent States – could be a factor in the establishment of lasting peace and security in the South Caucasus and its integration into the international community. The key to the efficient use of the "smart power" in the Karabagh conflict resolution first can become the re-orientation of the Azerbaijani leadership's position from the arms race and territorial claims to the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic and Armenia – based on the falsification of the history of indigenous peoples of the South Caucasus, and manipulation of the certain norms of international law – to a realistic compromise for a comprehensive resolution of the conflict in the interests of peace between the Armenian and Azerbaijani peoples.

The success of such "reset" will be conditioned by increasing security cooperation among Russia, the US and France, as well as between them and all the three parties to the Karabagh conflict – the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic and the Republic of Armenia, which share the responsibility before their peoples and the international community for the security and sustainable democratic development of the South Caucasus.

The key to the readiness of the Armenian party for the peaceful resolution of the conflict is the recent reelection of Serge Sargisian, who is experienced in balanced cooperation with all the main actors interested in peace and security building in the South Caucasus.

continued on next page



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Bizarre Court Verdict: French-Armenian Guilty of Defaming a Turkish Denialist!

The Empire Strikes Back, not in a science fiction movie, but in a French court!

For several years, the French-Armenian community has been trying to pass a law to penalize Armenian Genocide denial, similar to the law that sanctions Holocaust denial. Even though the French Parliament and Senate have approved such a law, and both President Hollande and former President Sarkozy have supported it, the Armenian efforts have been aborted by powerful Turkish political and economic circles.

Turning the proposed law on its head, Sirma Oran-Martiz, a French citizen of Turkish origin, had filed a lawsuit in France against Laurent Leylekian, a French-Armenian, for defamation of character. Leylekian, former editor of *France-Armenie* magazine and former executive director of the European-Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy, had written a sarcastic editorial titled, “Martiz Attack” in the magazine’s website, denouncing attempts to transplant Turkish denialism to French soil. Ironically, Oran-Martiz is daughter of Prof. Baskin Oran who resides

in Turkey and acknowledges the facts of the Armenian Genocide without using that term because Turkish law penalizes those who recognize the Genocide.

In a shocking verdict last month, the court found Leylekian guilty, ordering him to pay a total of 7,500 euros (\$10,000): 4,000 euros to Oran-Martiz for moral damages, and 3,500 euros for court costs, despite her evasive and irrational testimony during the proceedings. She had lost an earlier court case after suing Jean-Paul Bret, the mayor of Villeurbanne, who had requested that she acknowledge the Armenian Genocide before agreeing to include her in his party’s candidate list. She refused and withdrew from the race. In that verdict, the court referred to the Turkish state’s “vast program of denialism – powerful, perverse and sophisticated” – a sentence later quoted by Leylekian in his editorial.

Three prominent individuals testified in court on Leylekian’s behalf: Francois Rochebloine, a French Parliamentarian; Yves Ternon, renowned expert on genocide and denial; and Hilda Tchoboian, former chairwoman of the European-Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy. Oran-Martiz was accused by Leylekian of taking part in a protest by the Turkish extremist Grey Wolves group against an Armenian Genocide Monument in Lyon, France, and signing a petition against the law on genocide denial. Testifying on behalf of Oran-Martiz were: Murat Erpuyan, director of Paris-based ATA Turquie Association; Maxime Gauin, a French researcher working at a denialist think tank in Ankara; Alain Mascarou, a retired French teacher who knew the plaintiff in Ankara and her husband, Jean-Patrick Martiz.

Hopefully, Leylekian would be vindicated when he appeals this outrageous verdict. Clearly, the judge has made a mockery of French justice by siding with a genocide denialist, while punishing a descendant of Armenian

Genocide victims. By condemning Leylekian for ostensibly defaming Oran-Martiz in an editorial, the judge has chosen to deny him free speech, especially a journalist’s right to express his views in an opinion column. Surely, the French judge knows the difference between an opinion piece and a news item. Furthermore, the judge ignored the public prosecutor’s request not to file criminal charges against Leylekian and to refrain from sentencing him.

It is ironic that while the French-Armenian community is trying to penalize genocide deniers, an Armenian is being sued by a denialist Turk. This topsy-turvy state of affairs makes the best case as to why the French government should pass a law banning genocide denial.

While Oran-Martiz gave incoherent answers in court, frequently irritating the judge, Leylekian provided clear, concise and convincing arguments in his defense. This is why his guilty verdict was completely unexpected. Could it be that the long arm of Turkish influence-peddling has reached into the French judicial system?

After losing her first lawsuit against the mayor of Villeurbanne three years ago, Oran-Martiz vowed to continue her legal battle by announcing that this was “only the first round.” It is imperative that the verdict against Leylekian be reversed through an appeal filed by a competent, high-powered lawyer in order to right this miscarriage of justice and put a stop to more anti-Armenian lawsuits by Turkish denialists.

The French-Armenian community should not remain silent, but express its outrage in the strongest possible terms against this unjust verdict and demand that the judge be disciplined for violating French laws and insulting the memory of Genocide victims.

It is high time Armenians show some resolve to defend their rights in France and elsewhere, particularly on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide!

Albert Sharuryan: A Genuine Scientist and Human Being

By Aram Yelahyan

Maybe his ancestral roots caused Albert Sharuryan to choose the sphere of the Western Armenian literature and to serve it during his for half a century. His parents were orphans who immigrated in 1915 from the villages Narek and Paykhner on the southern bank of lake Van, famous for the Narek Moanstery, home of the tomb of St. Grigor Naregatsi and his prayer-place. Maybe he inherited kindness and decency from this saintly place. Sharuryan was one of those persons in whom genuine scientist and decency are joined: unfortunately, such couplings are rare nowadays.

Albert Sharuryan was born in the year of 1931. He would have been 82 on March 10.

The name Albert was chosen by his father, who thought that the name in Armenian means red fortress. The son was hardly 10-years-old when together with his studies at school he started to help his father in transporting the materials and selling wooden things in order to earn the daily bread for the family. The years of World War II were especially hard when the care of the family was on his shoulders because his father was in the battlefield. From those times Sharuryan remembers the tragedy when a boy of his age trying to run away with the stolen piece of bread in his hand had fallen under the wheels of the tram.

During the years at school Albert Sharuryan already chose his specialty and in 1949 went to the philological faculty at the Yerevan State University. The years at the university as it was typical for the people of his generation passed in self-sacrifice and sometimes he and his friends wounded their fingers and put some salt on the wounds in order to stay awake and study the whole night.

The first years after his study was devoted to journalism and from 1962 till his death Sharuryan turned to literary activity and teaching, being a professor at Yerevan State University.

The literary heritage of Albert Sharuryan is notable: he is the author of a wide range of books and texts, including volumes on Srбуhi Tyusab, Petros Duryan, Misak Mesarents, Daniel Varujan and Grikor Zohrab.

In 1996 Sharuryan published the scientific and investigative huge work titled *The Chronology of Grikor Zohrab's Life and Literary Activity*, thanks to the encouragement of Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I.

His Holiness was acquainted with Sharuryan’s works from the Catholicosate of Antelias and in 1995 in Echmiadzin he got to know him personally. Sharuryan spoke about his first meeting with the Catholicos in the Veharan. His Holiness had asked him if he had visited the Mother Cathedral that day and getting an affirmative answer went on asking if he had prayed. Sharuryan had replied: “Your Holiness, I don’t know how to pray but I asked God first of all to guide my children and grandchildren in their hardships, then to help those who are in need, and then at the very end if he wishes to assist me.”

“That is the utmost right prayer,” was the reply of the Catholicos of blessed memory.

The publishing house of Holy Echmiadzin also published *Grikor Zohrab, Pages from the Diary of a Traveler*.

In 1994 Sharuryan’s monographic work titled *From the Pages of Grikor Zohrab's Life and Literary Heritage* received Hamazkayin Award and was published in Beirut.

In 2001-2004 was published the *Full Collection of Grikor Zohrab's Works*. This book was highly evaluated. The six volumes of about 3500 was a great performance in the Armenian literary world, where one can discover another Zohrab – the national promoter and statesman, publicist, intellectual, husband and friend. In a word we see the whole face and merit of

Grikor Zohrab in these pages.

The next and the last work by Sharuryan was *Grikor Zohrab in the Memoirs and Statements of the Contemporaries*, published in 2006.

Sharuryan is also the author of other works and translations and more than 200 articles.

“The Luminous Man from Yerevan” is the title of the article about Sharuryan printed by reporter and publicist Sergey Bablunyan in his book titled *Far and Near*. There he writes: “The beginning of the '90s of the last century Yerevan was noticeable also for one thing, that, it was easy to get acquainted with the professors in the queues for bread where everybody was equal but not alike each other. The extraordinary personality and decency of Sharuryan was expressed even here, in this limited area for the daily bread. And while he appears as if out of nowhere and unexpectedly rose the atmosphere of mutual compromise and understanding. At first I thought that the reason was only in the fact that Sharuryan was known in that block of houses.

Sharuryan had no special demands for his own benefit and lived modestly. He had his own system of evaluation and was indifferent to high positions. Sharuryan was one of those rare intellectuals whose lectures were attended by the students of other specialties as well as from other universities as they were getting not only scientific information but also cordiality and love. This writer is one of those lucky students.

By some providence during his lifetime Sharuryan in the status of a friend, schoolmate or colleague was in touch with many people well-known to all us who had left and are still leaving their traces in the national, culture and scientific life, are participating in writing of the contemporary history. And I think there is no need to innumerate their names here but I am sure that Albert Sharuryan has given a part, let it be a small part from his illumination to those people due to which their deeds have become kinder or at least less evil.

Sharuryan was a happy man. He was thankful to God for having a good family and beloved work. “A human needs these two things to be happy,” he used to say. The only thing which he wished and could never realize was to see all his grandchildren together which were impossible as his elder daughter lived far abroad.

Later after his death this wish was fulfilled in an artificial way: when looking closely at the family photo one can notice that the photo of the elder granddaughter is added later.

Albert Sharuryan died on January 22, 2007 at one of the hospitals in Yerevan after undergoing surgery. His life was protracted for four days with the help of medical equipment. The doctors were amazed. By staying alive he only wanted to make possible the already scheduled visit of his son with his elder daughter.

May be one day Albert Sharuryan’s the only unfulfilled dream will become true in a natural way also, and when all his grandchildren will manage to gather together – he will surely visit them from Heaven.

Karabagh Minister Speaks on Anniversary of Artsakh Liberation Movement

from previous page

(Maj. Gen. Hayk Kotanjian, is a former government minister, and holds a doctorate in political science. Twenty five years ago, having returned from the long-term mission to the Afghan war as a Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia, he was on the scene of the Sumgait pogroms, conduct talks with the Azerbaijani side and organized a voluntary exchange of 3,000 Baku Armenians with 3,000 Azerbaijanis – the residents of Armenia’s Hrazdan Region – providing property rights of the contingents being exchanged. Kotanjian as an Inspector under the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Armenia during Perestroika coordinated political analysis and elaborations on the Karabagh movement. He is the author of Ethnic Politics of Conflict and Consensus: Civilization Aspect of National Security and Guidelines on

Developing Armenian National Security Strategy in the Context of Regional Security Architecture of the South Caucasus monographs developed correspondingly under the auspices of the Center for Methodology in International Relations Research of the Diplomatic Academy, MFA, USSR-RF (1990-92) and the Institute for National Strategic Studies of the US National Defense University (2003-2004). Doctor Kotanjian was a Visiting Scholar at Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (US, 2010) and a distinguished Visiting Professor at the Institute for National Strategic Studies (US, 2011). General Kotanjian is a Member of the CSTO Academic-Expert Council. From April to December 1991, on the threshold of the collapse of the USSR, Kotanjian was the acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabagh Government-in-exile in Moscow. This article originally appeared in Azg.)

Armenian Modern Art Great Hakob Hakobian Dies

HAKOBIAN, from page 1

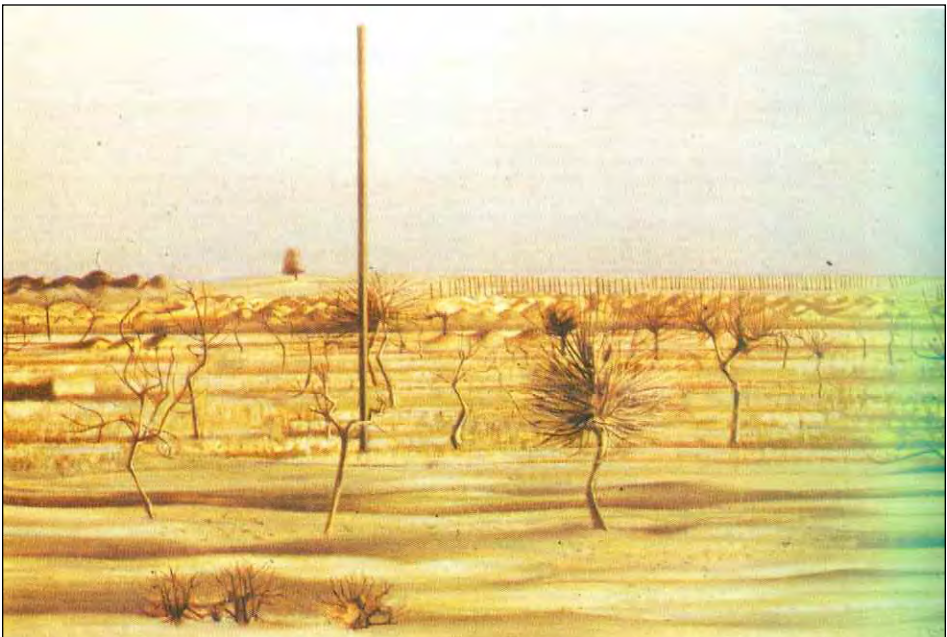
Hakobian was born in Egypt to parents who had fled the Armenian Genocide. He was educated at the Melkonian Educational Institute in Cyprus. He left Egypt for Soviet Armenia in 1962, staying there until his death.

His art is currently part of a new exhibition of Soviet and contemporary art from Central Asia and the Caucasus that opened just four days before his death at the Sotheby's auction house in London called "At The Crossroads: Contemporary Art From The Caucasus And Central Asia."

Henrik Igityan, founder of the first Museum of Modern Art in the USSR once described Hakobian's art "quite accesible, while demanding deep penetration and complexity," according to Sotheby's catalogue notes on Hakobian written by Sabina Sadova. "Hakobyan introduced a new facet to Armenian art, a facet that makes him powerful from colorists."

More from Sotheby's catalogue notes:

"His palette is calm and dominated by muted ochres and brown hues. His linear, mostly vertical calculated compositions convey feelings of displacement, nostalgia and muteness. Hakobyan's motifs contain none of the traditional Armenian elements as established by Saryan,



"The Road to Echmiadzin," 1970, Museum of Modern Art, Yerevan

though the feelings expressed by his works intimately reflect the feelings of Armenians towards their land and their turbulent past. His works

exude a very contemporary feel." "...there is a language of symbols that the artist develops in order to construct his own

version of Armenian national identity. The road is a symbol that carries a special meaning to the Armenian people. It illustrates the history of frequent and forced resettlement that shaped Armenian identity. The mathematical precision of Hakobian's art is perhaps as important for its understanding as the symbols he uses. The road and the pole are present in most of Hakobian's landscapes in both his early and late periods."

Hakobian was also featured in the 2009 film "Armenian Exile" by Canadian-Armenian Hagop Goudsouzian. "I also don't know what Armenian means," he tells the camera, "yet I am Armenian. It wasn't my decision. It's nature's decision, a decision that took thousands of years."

The analysis also states, "The horizontal flatness and openness of the space of landscape reveals an almost Renaissance mathematical study of perspective mixed with Japanese elements in the construction of depth. Space in Hakobian's works appears as a vacuum, a sharp contrast to the sunlit expanses and fresh air of Saryan's works. This vacuum is perhaps one of the most important features of Hakobian's art."

(Reports from ArmeniaNow, Ianyan Magazine, Sotheby's and PanArmenian.net were used in this story.)

New Board Installation and Initiatives for 2013 Announced at APS Meeting

STUDIO CITY, Calif. – The Armenian Professional Society (APS) Los Angeles, installed its new Executive Board and announced events for 2013. The annual installation event was held on Friday, February 1 at the Bistro Garden. Guests included past presidents, supporting and new members, as well as family and friends of the Executive Board.

Angelo Ghailian, 2012 APS president, started the evening's program stating the mission statement of the APS and its outlook for growth in 2013 and the coming years. Ghailian welcomed the supporters, thanking them for their continued support and recognized the past presidents who were in attendance. A number of past presidents were in attendance such as Shahan Minassian, Robert Matigan, Betty Jamgotchian, Haig Minassian, Harry Markarian, Garo Minassian and Dr. Vaughn Gregor, the founder of the APS.

Ghailian recognized his board and thanked them for all their support and for leading a successful year in 2012. Then, Ghailian recapped the year's events marked by a well-attended Professional of the Year banquet, joined by the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America in November, honoring Dr. Vaughn Gregor with the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Victor Hambartsumian Award. He also highlighted other sold-out events such as the quarterly networking mixers in Downtown,

Hollywood and Glendale. Other events included an exclusive art show in the studio of world-renowned artist Yuroz that included a private tour of his artwork and studio. He encouraged growth within the organization through continued support and member initiatives and concluded by introducing the 2013 president, Taline Hanna.

Hanna, who had been serving on the Executive Board for two years, took the podium as the president. She recognized the new members of the APS and thanked the past presidents and returning members for their attendance at the installation dinner. Hanna announced the newly added chair positions which are the Banquet Committee chair led by Natalie Panossian and the Event-Coordinating chair led by Eddie Grigorian.

Hanna congratulated the candidates for the Executive Board of 2013. Each member's outstanding accomplishments in their academic achievements and professional careers were outlined as cheers rang from guests. The Executive Board of 2013, who were nominated by the Council and approved in accordance with the APS by-laws, comprise of Hanna as president, Lily Kazarians as the first vice president, Ani Petrossian as the second vice president, and Antreas Hindoyan as the Treasurer. Dr. Seta Khajarian was selected as a returning Scholarship Chair.

Hanna officially accepted to serve as the President for 2013 and promised to maintain APS traditions of Armenian fellowship in its non-political, non-sectarian stance, and its support in fostering of higher education in young Armenians. Hanna also thanked the new board members and shared her excitement of candidates!.

guest indulged in conversation over coffee and dessert, Hanna outlined the initiatives of enhancing the APS and offered a tentative schedule of events for the upcoming year. The schedule included multiple networking opportunities, educational lectures during dinner parties, community service at Armenian institutions, the traditional events of the APS such as the past Presidents luau and the famous fireworks finale at the Hollywood Bowl, and the annual Professional of the Year Banquet.

The APS will also focus its efforts to coordinate with the other Armenian organizations in order to develop stronger ties with the community in pursuit of increased visibility and esteem. The APS will concentrate on a mentoring program that will be instrumental in fostering young college graduates with contacts and skills sets to excel in their desired professions.

The evening came to a close by Robert

Matigan, president in 2006, who introduced Vram Gorjian and honored him on behalf of the Past Presidents Council as an honorary past president for his years of work supporting the organization and committee. Although not officially a past president of the organization, he has been the treasurer of the Past Presidents Council for many years. He was awarded the Past President's pin. Matigan also

recognized Richard Diradourian as the new 2013 Past President's Chairman.

The evening concluded with heartfelt wishes from a dedicated pool of guests who were encouraged to continue their support as mentors, leaders, and dignitaries of the APS.

Additional information about The Armenian Professional Society and upcoming events is available at apsla@apsla.org, www.apsla.org.

Deukmejian Honored at Ethics Seminar

LONG BEACH, Calif. (Gazettes.com) – Former Governor George Deukemejian was honored earlier in March by the Ukleja Center for Ethical Leadership during a recent seminar at the Hyatt Long Beach.

Deukmejian received the 2013 Nell and John Wooden Ethics in Leadership Award at the seminar entitled "Leading the Ethical Organization" which featured Deukmejian as the keynote speaker.

In addition to the award, Deukmejian received a check for \$10,000.

"George Deukmejian epitomizes the spirit of the Nell and John Wooden Ethics in Leadership Award," said Louise Ukleja, chair of the Ukleja Center's advisor board in a release. "Like the Woodens, the Governor has chosen to lead a purposeful life guided by principles of integrity, respect and trust."

Deukmejian, a long-time resident of Long Beach served as Governor from 1983 to 1991, having previously served as attorney general, senator, and in the California State Assembly. He has his B.A. from Siena College and JD degree from St. John's University Law School.

Nova Southeastern University Actively Fundraising For Armenian Genocide Studies

FUNDRAISING, from page 1

framework for genocide studies and genocide prevention, and establish a separate degree program, or at least a concentration in master's and doctoral programs. We are not quite there yet."

The interest in Armenia came about through research into modern genocide. Marshall points out that "as Dr. Campbell demonstrates in his research, the Armenian Genocide is a blueprint for the genocides of the 20th and 21st centuries. You see all the factors here mirrored in later genocides, so you can learn a lot about prediction and prevention by studying this genocide." In this sense, Marshall said, in-depth studies of the factors leading up to the Armenian Genocide can be quite useful. The approach at NSU is an activist one, so graduate students want to learn what can be done for prevention.

At the moment, the Armenian Genocide is a component of the courses on genocide being offered. It does not have a faculty member whose research specifically has been on the Armenian Genocide and does not offer Armenian language classes, but it has hosted relevant guest speakers and lectures. For example, author Margaret Ajemian Ahnert, author of the memoir A Knock at the Door, spoke there in 2008.

Not only does NSU want to expand its genocide studies programs, but it also wants to expand their Armenian component. At the moment, Marshall said, "A lecture series on issues connected to the Armenian Genocide or the early modern genocides is something we are considering. We could bring in people without making a faculty line available. We would like to make more resources specific to the Armenian Genocide available to our students." However, due to financial difficulties, she stated that "whether we could get a full faculty position without additional funding available is unclear."

Marshall added, "We are actively seeking funding. It would be a dream to be able to hire someone whose specific academic background is in Armenian Studies."

Armenian language courses would be possible too, if funding was sufficient to hire an independent faculty member for this.

Marshall is not worried about any potential interference from the Turkish government. She said, "It is hard to envision resistance from a foreign government reaching what we are doing here at Nova SU in the curricular area, though I know it can happen. In any case, we are poised to move ahead at this point."

NSU has a grant proposal pending with one Armenian foundation, and is looking at other grant sources as well as private donor funding. The university has a definite time frame in mind. Marshall explained that "the firm curricular framework that I would like to establish should really be announced at the one hundredth anniversary of the Genocide. That would be the most appropriate time for a new outreach program or a firm faculty member."

There is at least one prominent Armenian-American already involved with NSU who would be supportive of such programs. Marta T. Batmasian is a member of the Board of Governors of the H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship at Nova Southeastern. Furthermore, she and her husband in the past donated a large memorial to the Armenian Genocide, which stands at the entrance of the school.

Marshall concluded, "We are an attractive host for this sort of thing. We have a working program already. Our program in conflict resolution is available fully on line. The university is young and is able to move in the direction of where there is a need for learning. We have identified the Armenian Genocide and genocide in general as an area of critical importance to learn about."