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Menendez And Kirk to Introduce Genocide Resolution

WASHINGTON – Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), a long-time champion of Armenian issues, along with Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL), who had previously served as co-chair of the Armenian Caucus during his tenure in the House of Representatives (House), urged their colleagues to cosponsor a new Armenian Genocide Resolution.

“In the face of Turkey’s ongoing denial of the Armenian Genocide, we commend Senator Menendez for his unbreakable commitment to reaffirm the incontestable fact of the Armenian Genocide,” said Armenian Assembly of America Executive



Sen. Robert Menendez

Director Bryan Ardouny. “We also commend Senator Kirk for his ongoing efforts to ensure that the proud chapter in US history to help save the survivors of this terrible

crime against humanity is not forgotten.”

The Senate Armenian Genocide Resolution, which will be officially introduced later this month, is similar to the House version, and adds a key finding from the 1951 US filing before the International Court of Justice concerning the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Specifically, the document highlighted the fact that “the Roman persecution of the Christians, the Turkish see RESOLUTION, page 4



Dr. Myron Allukian shares memories with Dr. Martin Deranian.

Inspiration for ‘Deported:’

Dr. Martin Deranian Honored at 90th Birthday Celebration

ARLINGTON, Mass. – Dr. Martin Deranian was lauded on his 90th birthday by friends and family for his intelligence, generosity of spirit, personal and professional accomplishments and contributions in providing historical and personal background information used in “Deported/a dream play,”

By Nancy Kalajian

written by Joyce Van Dyke, at a reception at the Armenian Cultural Foundation on March 4.

see DERANIAN, page 14

Clinton Clarifies Remarks on Armenian Genocide, Does Not Use ‘G’ Word

WASHINGTON – US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton clarified, this week, comments she made on the Armenian Genocide during a Town Hall meeting on January 26. Writing in response to the Armenian Assembly’s letter to President Barack Obama, Clinton invoked Obama’s statement from last April, which “memorialized the 1.5 million Armenians who, in 1915,

were massacred or marched to their death,” reported the Armenian Assembly of America.

Clinton stated that the issue raised by the Assembly “is a serious one” and recounted her 2010 visit at the Armenian Genocide Memorial (Tsitsernakaberd) in Yerevan, Armenia as a “sign of respect for see CLINTON, page 4

USC Armenian Studies Gala to Salute Shoah Foundation

Tribute Honors Shoah for Armenian Genocide Digitization Project

LOS ANGELES – The University of Southern California (USC) Institute of Armenian Studies’ Leadership Council will honor the USC Shoah Foundation Institute for championing the Armenian Genocide Digitization Project at a gala banquet to be held on April 15, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

The Shoah Foundation Institute, established by Steven Spielberg in 1994, has been part of the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences since 2006. Its Visual History Archive contains nearly 52,000 video testimonies of survivors and other witnesses of the Holocaust; it is one of the largest archives of its kind in the world.

The goal of the USC Institute of Armenian Studies’ Leadership Council is to bring together digital copies of all of the collections of interviews with Armenian Genocide survivors and eyewitnesses, essentially creating what may become the largest archive of Genocide eyewitness interviews. With the USC Shoah Foundation Institute’s support of the Armenian Genocide Digitization Project, the interviews will be indexed, preserved and made available to scholars, students and researchers via the institute’s Visual History Archive. The J. Michael Hagopian/Armenian Film Foundation archive of nearly 400 filmed eyewitness testimonies will be the first collection in the Armenian Genocide Digitization Project.

In addition to honoring the USC Shoah Foundation Institute on April 15, the USC see USC, page 16



Steven Spielberg, left, and Carla Garapedian

NEWS IN BRIEF

Airport, Armavia Reach Agreement on Debts

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The March 13 meeting of representatives of Armavia airlines and Zvartnots airport ended with positive results. Spokesperson of the Civil Aviation Department Nelly Cherchinyan said Zvartnots officials agreed to work out a timetable for the airline to pay off its debts.

Armavia went on strike on March 6, saying the tariffs at Zvartnots are too high. However, the operator of the airport suggested that Armavia already had gotten special discounts.

Armavia has been prohibited from entering Russian air space because of debts.

French President Awards Armenian Veteran Medal

PARIS (news.am) – This week French President Nicolas Sarkozy paid tribute to Arsene Tchakarian, 95, the last survivor of the Manouchian group, who was a member of the French Resistance during World War II.

Sarkozy gave to Tchakarian the Cross of the Officer of the Legion of Honor Order before a large audience of French Armenians, veterans and elected representatives of the republic, including Valerie Boyer.

Sarkozy and Hollande Reiterate Pledges for New Genocide Bill

PARIS (Armenpress) – At a meeting with representatives of the French-Armenian community at the Elysee Palace on March 7, President Nicolas Sarkozy confirmed he would present a new draft of a law criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide, reported journalist Jean Eckian.

The French Constitutional Council ruled as unconstitutional a bill approved by both houses of the French legislature that criminalizes the denial of the Armenian Genocide. Sarkozy and his main opponent, Socialist candidate Francois Hollande, both pledged to re-introduce a similar bill after the elections.

“Of course, a new draft proposal will come about, but we are now entering the process of elections. We are going to pick up our righteous struggle where we left off after the elections,” said Garo Yalick, adviser to Valerie Boyer, the French parliament member who had drafted the original bill.

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Kalaydjian Tribute

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Celebrating 80 Years and Beyond

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



News From Armenia

Damage from Illegal Tree Cutting Exceeds 130 Million Drams

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – In 2011, the damage caused by illegal tree cutting totaled 131.9 million drams (\$33,000), director of Hayantar company, Ruben Petrosyan, said at a press conference on Tuesday.

He said 136 violations were registered during 2011.

In response to questions of punitive measures against the guilty parties, Petrosyan said their job is simply to report violations, while the environmental protection authorities are responsible for punishing them.

According to GIZ, forests cover just 11.1 percent of Armenia's territory or 332 hectares. US experts say that by 2020, the country may be left without forests and may face droughts and landslides. Environmentalists believe illegal tree cutting is the primary cause of this problem.

Exhibition of Armenian Books In Romania

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosian this week received Romanian Ambassador to Armenia Krina Rodika Prunariu, and told her about the program her ministry is organized in Romania, as well as the participation of Romanian publishers in Armenia's book expo, scheduled for April.

Minister Hasmik Poghosyan told the ambassador that within the frameworks of the events on 500th anniversary of Armenian Book Printing, an exhibition of Armenian early printed books will be organized in 2013 in Romania.

The two referred to the scientific conference conducted this year in Romania, which is dedicated to presentation of local Armenian cultural heritage, study and scientific assessment of that heritage.

Yeghishe Charents 115th Anniversary Marked

YEREVAN (Hetq) – March 13 marked the 115th anniversary of the birth of Armenian poet, writer and public activist Yeghishe Charents.

A series of commemorative events were kicked off with a march from the Charents House-Museum towards the Charents memorial.

An exhibition of portraits of the writer, accompanied by music and recitations, opened at the Writers House in Yerevan this week.

Charents was born Yeghishe Soghomonyan in Kars (then a part of the Russian Empire) in 1897.

Armenia Boycotts Eurovision in Azerbaijan

YEREVAN (AFP) – Armenia has pulled out of the 2012 Eurovision song contest that will be hosted by the country's bitter enemy Azerbaijan, its state broadcaster said on Wednesday.

"Despite the fact that the Azerbaijani authorities have given security guarantees to all participating countries, several days ago the Azerbaijani president made a statement that enemy number one for Azerbaijan was Armenians," Armenia's Public Television station said in a statement.

"There is no logic to sending a participant to a country where he will be met as an enemy," the statement said.

The organizer of the pop extravaganza, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), expressed disappointment over the "unfortunate" decision.

"We are truly disappointed by the broadcaster's decision to withdraw from this year's Eurovision Song Contest," the contest's executive supervisor, Jon Ola Sand, said on the EBU's website.

A senior Azerbaijani politician reacted by saying that Armenia had no reason to boycott the competition.

"The Armenian refusal to take part in such a respected contest will cause even further damage to the already-damaged image of Armenia," the executive secretary of the governing party, Ali Ahmedov, told journalists.

President Delivers Address at Republican Party Convention

Aims to Inspire, Unify and Energy to Win

YEREVAN – The president of the Republic of Armenia, president of the Republican Party of Armenia, Serge Sargsian, participated, on March 10, in the 13th Convention of the Republican Party of Armenia at the Garen Demirdjian Sports and Concert Center and delivered the following address, shortened for space purposes:

Conventions of the Republican Party of Armenia have long ago become one of the most significant events in the social and political life of our country arising as a unique quintessence of our maturing statehood and embodiment of new traditions. And that is quite natural.

The Republican Party has been our country's leading political force for the major part of Armenia's independent existence and along with its partners it has been able to sustain the country's advancement regardless of all internal and external tumults, regardless of the hurdles blocking our way and pernicious currents. Much has changed along the way: the presidents, the entire social and economic milieu, foreign and internal challenges, problems and people have also changed. But the party has been carrying on with its noiseless, serious work, steering away from the roads to abyss and temptations to reach the sun flying on wax wings.

The Republicans are everywhere: in all areas of our social life and in every corner of our country, and as such, it's been able with its own authority to thwart any dangerous sway, to level fluctuations; through the same authority it maintains a steady speed and overcomes impediments, thus making our country move forward. The party makes a formidable bond, linking our present to our future and it is ready to rise against intolerance or domestic split, stagnation or levity, against a foreign foe or internal despondency.

In the upcoming parliamentary elections, we will present ourselves to our people as a team of like-minded individuals, which has set a goal to win the people's vote of confidence and form a government.

We are a national conservative party, which stands for the implementation of each individual's rights and for bringing to life our common national aspirations.

We believe that each person is born free and must have the opportunity to live free and develop, pursuing his or her own personal, familial, public and national goals.

All mentioned levels are important and interrelated. A person cannot be honest and virtuous on one level at the expense of other levels. A person cannot be honest and virtuous in his or her family at the public's and the nation's expense. A person cannot build his or her own personal and family happiness, robbing and depriving the public and the nation; stealing from the public and the nation means stealing from oneself, from one's own family.

We believe that our society should develop in an environment of a free competition. However, free competition must not translate into advantage for big money as it cannot translate into an opportunity for the very same big money to suppress and consume other competitors.

We also believe that family is the foremost and the strongest citadel, which safeguards our national existence: it is our traditional and conservative family where the young respect and listen to the elderly, whose pillars are the wife and the mother. However, "listen" doesn't mean to be a hostage to the will of the elderly and "the pillar of the family" doesn't mean a prisoner of the kitchen. And it is best proved by the increasing presence of women and young people in the ranks of the Party. Compared to our previous conventions, there are more women and young people in this hall. And we will do our best to preserve and develop this tendency of their increased participation. We will combine the experience and knowledge of the elder with the vigor and enthusiasm of the young, with the dedication and traditionalism of the women, and together we will build a new Armenia – for us all and for each one of us.

We also believe that our public is much more than a simple mechanical gathering of people. We believe that a nation is much more than the people of a common character bonded by a social contract. We believe that that social contract is more based on the spirit of the nation rather than on the letter of the contract.

My reference to these pillars of our ideology is not accidental. It is no secret that there are some that have made the defamation of the Republican Party the main topic of their so-called high society conversations, discussions and writings.

Yes, we are the governing Party, which has consciously and willingly assumed responsibility for leading a popular movement aimed at the resolution of the problems existing in our country. Mistakes of those who work can be mended, and these mistakes, even as such are much more valuable than empty and barren, seemingly correct statements of those who do nothing.

Today, the Republican Party of Armenia unites the like-minded individuals who are striving for practical results. Today, all those who want to change something in our motherland and are ready to work toward that end day and night are with us. And we have never said that we are know-alls and we have constantly been inviting to cooperate all forces

and individuals that are ready to do so.

Currently, our party unites different people, from every possible area. A worker and a peasant, a businessman and a lecturer, a scientist and a civil servant – each on his/her own place and within his/her capacities is with us, ready to assist in the strengthening of the Armenian state and society.

We have preserved stability in this country during several crises and have laid solid foundation for the future development.

We have opened up the political system and rejected the dictate and attempts to monopolize by the cult of personality-type leadership as well as by the big money.

We have changed years-long stereotypes regarding criticism, rejected total intolerance towards dissent and reestablished the right of the opposition to have decent goals and honest intentions.

We have refused public affront as a political phenomenon and stood against the disgusting practice of using violence, especially brutal physical force, against the freedom of speech and in particular towards journalists.

All these factors and our work of the past years allow us to take pride in our work, to take pride in it and once again invite all patriotic forces and individuals to join their efforts with ours.

In 2007, the Republican Party of Armenia once again won the parliamentary elections led by "For you, Armenia" motto. The "For you, Armenia" motto has been leading us in our interaction with the outer world too. Yes, the foreign policy of Armenia is characterized by its logical permanence, precision and readiness to come up with new initiatives. We have always been a responsible and predictable member of the international community, which has been implementing the international commitments it undertook with dignity and in good faith.

At the same time, we clearly understand that the world around us is not static; it changes. In our tough region, or to be more precise, at this intricate crossroad of several regions, changes can be swift. For that very reason, we develop our abilities to adapt and respond adequately to the new challenges and opportunities. Moreover, it is very important to constantly come up with our own initiatives lest we are perceived as a responding party only. As a full member of the international community, we should make our input in the shaping of the regional and international agenda.

Such an example was our initiative on the normalization of the relations between Armenia and Turkey, which from the outset had two ways to progress. It is true that the initiative didn't develop in the way desirable for Armenia and the international community; the Armenian-Turkish border still remains closed. However, the second way which the initiative went on was also important, because:

First, as recent developments have clearly shown, it has solidified the process of the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide;

Second, the entire world came to see that the only obstacle for the establishment of the relations between Armenia and Turkey rest with Ankara and another capital, which acts as a busy-body, but in no way or shape with Yerevan;

And third, that Turkey was compelled by that initiative to sign an international document, which rules out any precondition for the establishment of the relations.

I will not go into details regarding the precondition; we all know it very well.

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ARMENIA

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This example comes to prove that Armenia's foreign policy course has been remarkably principled and calculated. In the future too, we will adhere to that course. We will fulfill in good faith our alliance commitments and international obligations, using each opportunity to advance our national goals through international engagement.

The process of the international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide goes on through the joint efforts of Armenia and Diaspora. We have a clear-cut message to all states and nations of the world: denial of the Genocide perpetrated in the beginning of the last century constitutes the prolongation of that crime. This crime committed against the Armenian nation continues even today, right now, it goes on through the denial of the obvious fact. The Armenian nation and the entire humanity have to bring to an end that crime that is being perpetrated every day, every moment, right before our eyes.

We will not lessen our vigilance in the Nagorno Karabagh peace process. Artsakh has been and will continue to be Armenian. The Republic of Armenia has provided and will continue to provide all-inclusive assistance to Artsakh's political and economic development. International recognition of the right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination will be the foundation for the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh problem. We will continue our works in the ongoing negotiations aimed at the engagement of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic as a full-fledged party in these negotiations. Efforts of Armenia, Artsakh and diaspora will be aimed at the adoption in the international organizations of the decisions, which preclude military option for the resolution of the conflict.

It is quite understandable that in order to thwart hostile encroachments diplomatic efforts only are not enough. In the process, we have strengthened our defense capability. We have installed both foreign and domestically produced armaments and military hardware. Without going into details, I would like to state that today we have adequate means and power to deter the potential adversary.

We will continue to bring our defense potential in compliance with the modern standards of professionalism, discipline, transparency and control. The army will become exemplary also for our society. All current tendencies testify that we will reach these standards shortly.

Reform of the judicial and legal field is no less important. Results in this area are already observable. And it is not only about the volume of the institutional and legislative changes conducted in a relatively short period of time, or positive response of the international structures to the undertaken measures, which, as it seems, is becoming quite customary. The creation of the atmosphere, which is conducive for the alteration of the practices in the police, prosecutor's office, other law enforcement bodies and courts and establishment of a new culture are much more important.

Without a doubt, this is the most important, however, an intermediate result since in the short-time perspective activities of the Police, Prosecutor's Office and the courts must be called upon to provide for a comprehensive protection of each individual's rights and interests, guaranteed access to justice for every member of the society and fair resolution of every dispute.

It is no secret that since 2007 our Party has been accused of all possible sins. First, we were "selling" Karabagh, remember? This seems to be gone. Then we were disregarding the Genocide – this topic faded away too.

Delivering the country from the clutches of a precarious crisis without social upheavals had a price to pay, and we had paid that price. We paid it in the first, purely financial phase of the crisis, swallowing quietly all the accusations which at times where getting to cursing, lest to become a tool in the ad campaign on the unavoidability of collapse. As a result, we blocked every avenue, which was leading to the collapse of the financial and banking system otherwise we all would be buried under its debris.

We also paid during the economic phase of the crisis, when we were designing bailout programs for each enterprise and were getting money for the social programs dram by dram. That was our job and our responsibility.

We withstood a tough challenge and in the process strengthened yet more the immune system of our state. We also registered some results, which is also worth something.

In 2011, GDP per capita made almost \$3,174, while in 2006 it was \$1,982. For me, this figure is not satisfactory. It is even shameful figure since today in civilized countries per capita GDP ranges from \$30,000 to \$50,000. But, as we have always said and agreed upon that all figures should be put into comparison because otherwise the question arises – who are the judges?

We were able to restore the number of jobs lost to the crisis and move forward. Besides recovering the losses, we also succeeded in this period of time in increasing the number of employed people by almost 18,000.

In the last five years, average nominal wages have increased by 1.8, while in real terms that number is 40.4 percent, which means that from 63,900 drams it became 115,300 drams.

Export of goods and services in 2011 compared to 2006 increased by 1.6 and reached \$2.4 billion. For comparison, it is more than the GDP, i.e. total of goods and services produced in the Republic of Armenia in 2002.

In the same five years, deposits on the saving accounts of the population and businesses have almost tripled, reaching 983 billion drams. In addition, the number of customers increased by 595,000, 565,000 of which are physical persons, our citizens.

From 9.2 percent in 2006, as of end of 2011 the volume of the loans provided to the economy reached 32.9 percent of GDP. Again for comparison, it is more than Armenia's entire GDP in 2001.

In 2011, the tax revenues-GDP ratio reached 20.1 percent of GDP, improving the situation in five years by 3 percent points. It is a serious figure indeed. In the absolute value of the last year's indicators, it is almost 116 billion drams. At the same time, we have also provided considerable incentives to the businesses, particularly for the development of small and medium enterprises, whose, so to speak, "budget price" only in 2011 made almost 60 billion drams. These two absolute numbers testify to one thing only; it has become possible to take hundreds of billions of drams worth economic activity out of shadow economy.

In the same period of time, social expenses increased by 1.9; as for pensions, they were increased by 2.2. As a result, average and basic levels of pensions increased 2.5 times, average social benefits were raised by 79 percent, childcare allowances – seven times and benefits for the third and each subsequent child – 12 times.

Resources channeled into the areas of health care and education grew 1.5 times. Step by step, we succeeded in bringing premium health care services to the regions of Armenia, and will continue to do so.

In 2007-2011, investments in industry reached 226.7 billion drams, and already in 2011 the annual increase of industrial output twice surpassed the average indicator for the CIS countries.

Production in the area of Information Technologies compared to 2007 increased by 2.5 and made \$205 million. The number of companies working in the area has grown by 82 percent, coming close to 300 in 2011 and creating almost 7,000 jobs.

In 2007-2011, in the framework of state assistance programs, the small and medium enterprises in the Republic of Armenia received 1.5 times more funds than in 2002-2006. The development index of the small and medium enterprises in Armenia compared to 2002 has grown ten fold.

Also in 2011, the number of tourists visiting Armenia doubled compared to 2006 and crossed the threshold of 750,000.

Our Party has assumed a historic mission of spearheading Armenia's reforms. We are a large party; tens of thousands are among our ranks.

As a strong, large and people's party, we must accept these challenges, must accept easily into our economic agenda any new initiative, if it stems from our national interests, responds to the current problems and needs of our people and our citizens. That's our Party's present task.

This is an enduring country whose historical and cultural heritage is priceless. This is a country every square inch of which was salvaged by the Armenian blood. This is a country, whose people gave up their lives to save books.

This is a country, which fought quantity with quality, which put morals before petrodollars, and which won right before our eyes.

This is a country, which is reckoned with and spoken of with esteem. This is a country which is missed and whose soil is kissed. This is a country which implements the most profound reforms and which despite every possible obstacle is moving forward. This is a country where talented and hardworking people live. When necessary, they were able to start from the scratch and achieve unbelievable results.

Who said we can discredit our country, flagellate ourselves?

Our grandparents, who survived heroically, when the entire world thought that the Armenians were done with? Or our children in the frontier villages, who go to school and excel in their studies? Who will dare to look into those children's eyes and say, "This is no country at all?"

I say, this is an enduring country, which has a formidable backbone – its heritage and has bright eyes looking into the future. This is the most beautiful country in the world, and it will be even better.

Before he founded the Republican Party of Armenia, Ashot Navasardian was three times put in prison and sent to exile to be able to say just one thing – this is an enduring country. And today we, as a political force have come forward for that very reason.

Ashot had faith. We must believe to be able to change.

We must continue to work to strengthen Armenia's standing and prestige in the region and in the world, must strive to achieve a greater political weight.

To do that, we need to move forward every day in accordance with the adopted course. We will accelerate our speed regardless of how strong the resistance will be. It is obvious that such resistance exists, when momentary gains are deemed to be more important than our goals. But we will overcome that resistance because we are plenty and we are strong, and it is difficult to come up openly against our truly national goals.

A greater respect of the foreigners toward Armenia and its citizens is conditioned first of all by us, by our own respect toward our state, our laws and our citizens. If we neglect this simple truth, we will achieve nothing, while keeping it in mind and using it, we will reform our country. Moreover, we will do it so quickly that it will cause our own surprise and admiration.

We must defeat tumor which overwhelmed our society and which is called corruption

Toward that end both surgical and all other legal measures will be applied.

It is not difficult to see that the mentioned goals, including Armenia's economic development, are closely interrelated. They are extensions and in the end of the day they are different facets of the same goal. Much has already been done and is being done on that path; however we haven't reached the desirable level yet.

An historic opportunity to create Armenia's new appearance and image is in our hands, literally in the hands of each of us. And we will do it.

Normal elections are essential but not sufficient for fundamental reforms. I would like to repeat: other objectives, which we pursue as a nation and as a state, are more critical. Political and economic liberties on one hand, discipline and exactingness on the other will provide new opportunities for our comprehensive development. It is our resource.

There is yet another goal which I would like to speak about.

Nowadays, a full-fledged propaganda war is being waged against Armenia and the Armenians dispersed around the globe. That war becomes particularly vicious when we achieve success in different areas or register developments in the process of the international recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide. We don't conduct any campaign against any country or a nation but we face waves of hostility. In the contemporary world, only a democratic Armenia can withstand these waves. Against these waves we must bring out Armenia's new image – the image of a more liberal and thus of a stronger Armenia. How can one admire French democracy, if he/she himself/herself does not have similar goals, if he/she himself/herself does not share same values or does not fight for them?

The moment in history has come, when the people of Armenia, all of us, should prove in practice what's more dear to us – wicked habits inherited from the past, whose inertia is still present in our lives, or achievements of modern civilization? A civilization whose roots and twigs were cultivated also by our greats. Personally I have made my choice. I have no doubt: only this way we will prevail and multiply the number of our friends all over the world.

Let us believe so that to be able to change us and our country, to be able to change our mentality and attitude toward the state of Armenia. Let us change our behavior on the streets, at the working place, in the university. Let us change people who are not on their places. Let us change the laws if they are far from being perfect. Let us change the culture of internal political struggle. Let us change to be able to trust people and the law. Let us change so that streets, ministries, universities, villages and towns, parliament and backyard become ours, become better. As long as we don't change and don't believe, they do not belong to us, to us all.

If you don't trust your member of parliament, it means you don't have one; if you don't trust your judge, it means you don't have one; if you don't believe in your country, it means you don't have one. Through this self-negation we have inflicted great damage on our own home. This will takes us nowhere. We must believe to be able to change.

But trust also needs constant nourishment. Each new change has great potential for strengthening trust. Trust and change: these are mutually determined and mutually fortifying phenomena. So, let us change to trust. Let us nourish our trust with concrete work.

Let us change the appearance of our country to a degree that a person, who left Armenia years ago, doesn't recognize it on his next visit, and is pleasantly surprised.

There are numerous negative phenomena in our country and our society that were inherited from the past and which go on by inertia. To change first of all means to break that inertia and implant new traditions. It is true for every area of our activities – from traffic on the streets to the elections. We have to conduct good elections regardless of the fact that today some others are getting ready not for the elections but are developing technical capability to present them flawed. All generations living in Armenia – young and old, have an historic obligation to implant new traditions, which befit a civilized person of the 21st century.

There are many among us, who have visited abroad and drew comparison with Armenia, looked with admiring envy at good and nice things observed there. Also felt pain that the same is not present in Armenia. Why can't we change it? Are we second to anyone?

Let us change so as to trust our abilities and our possibilities. Let's change so that a civil servant and a citizen have self-respect. The new Armenia starts from the dignified posture of each of us.

Paryur Sevak used to say, "We have no right to miss the train or airplane of history." Today, it is obvious for me: if we do not change, we will miss it, we will be late as a nation and as a state.

Those who brought us the Vehamayr Gospel manuscript (named after the mother of Catholicos Vazgen of All Armenians, who donated it to Matenadaran) through the depth of times had faith. I was sworn in on that Bible. I believe in what we do and even more in what we will do.

Thus, let us believe in change. Big and small, a worker and a scientist, a successful person and the one who is still in search – let us believe in the ability to change.

Thank you.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Turkey Court Releases Journalists in Conspiracy Case

ISTANBUL (Reuters) – A Turkish court released four journalists on Monday pending trial on accusations they were part of a conspiracy to overthrow the government, in a case that has become a focus for criticism of Turkey's record on media freedom.

Among the four released were, Nedim Sener and Ahmet Sik, two well-known investigative reporters held for just over a year in a top-security prison outside Istanbul. Six other defendants, mostly journalists, were still in custody.

Relatives, friends and colleagues of the freed journalists shouted for joy outside the court and some cried and hugged each other on hearing the news.

"Ahmet and Nedim are free," people shouted, shocked at the decision. "At last."

Sik's brother, Bulent Sik, said, "Today's decision was a surprise for Ahmet and Nedim. They didn't expect it either."

The defendants are accused of belonging to Ergenekon, an alleged ultra-nationalist group accused by prosecutors of being behind multiple conspiracies against Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's AK Party government.

Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc welcomed the decision.

Turkish MFA Denies Sarkozy Was Left out of Friends of Syria Meeting

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Turkey will host the second gathering of the Friends of Syria group here this month to discuss the current situation in Syria, with the participation of foreign ministers representing the group's member countries.

According to Hürriyet Daily News, Turkish Foreign Ministry officials denied reports that French President Nicolas Sarkozy was deliberately not invited to the Istanbul meeting, pointing out that the gathering is intended for foreign ministers.

Turkey has not ruled out inviting French Foreign Minister Alain Juppé to the meeting, despite the political strain between two countries due to the Armenian Genocide denial bill.

The group's third meeting is planned to convene in France later, with the likely participation of heads of state, if the Friends of Syria group decides to do so at the Istanbul meeting, the source added.

Turkey Reaffirms Karabagh Precondition

BAKU (RFE/RL) – Turkey remains adamant in making the normalization of its relations with Armenia conditional on a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict acceptable to Azerbaijan, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag said on Tuesday.

"Nagorno-Karabagh is a Muslim, Azerbaijani and Turkic land occupied by Armenia," Bozdag told journalists during a visit to Baku. "The Nagorno-Karabagh conflict is our common problem."

"Until Armenia pulls out of Nagorno-Karabagh, until the rights of Azerbaijanis of that region are restored Turkish-Armenian relations will not be normalized," he said, according to the Trend news agency.

Ankara has followed this line even after signing in 2009 protocols with Yerevan that committed the two sides to establish diplomatic relations and open the Turkish-Armenian border. Turkish leaders have repeatedly said that the protocols will not be ratified by Turkey's parliament before a breakthrough in the international efforts to broker an Armenian-Azerbaijani peace deal on Karabagh.

The Armenian side rejects this precondition, accusing the Turks of acting against the letter and spirit of the Western-backed protocols. Turkey has stood by the Karabagh linkage despite pressure from the United States. Visiting Ankara in December, US Vice President Joe Biden expressed hope that the Turkish parliament will ratify the protocols "in the months ahead."

Israel Helped Russia Hack Georgian Drones – WikiLeaks

MOSCOW (RIA Novosti) – A swap deal between Russia and Israel in 2008 provided the Russian military with secret codes for Georgian drones, while Jerusalem obtained access to information on Iranian missile systems, according to fresh publications by Wikileaks.

Georgia purchases its unmanned aerial vehicles from Israel, which later gave Moscow the "data link" code in exchange for codes for Tor-M1 missile complexes that Russia sold to Iran, said a leaked letter attributed to Strategic Forecasting, Inc. (Stratfor), a private intelligence company.

Whistleblowing site Wikileaks announced on Sunday that it started to publish some 5 million e-mails by Stratfor, a Texas-based intelligence company founded in 1996 and referred to by the media as the "shadow CIA."

Stratfor said that at least some e-

mails could be authentic but did not elaborate. The company's website was hacked in 2011 by a group of politicized hackers known as the Anonymous.

Stratfor's alleged e-mail on the Russian-Israeli swap cited an unnamed source described as a "former Mexican cop, Latam military analyst."

Georgia tried to purchase new drones from a private defense contractor in Mexico in hopes of replacing those compromised in July 2008, a month before its five-day war with Russia over the breakaway province of South Ossetia, in which Russia emerged victorious.

Georgian officials also sought to purchase additional ammunition and helicopters, but the deal fell through because the supplier, Idra, was "advised that it would raise a lot of political complications between Mexico and Russia," the

source said.

"The Georgians were pretty much looking for anyone who would sell to them and were willing to pay top dollar," the letter said, adding in parentheses: (This shows how frantic the Georgians were in July knowing that war is coming.)

Tbilisi later tried to sell the compromised drones to neighboring Azerbaijan, but it remains unclear whether the deal was completed, the source said.

No governments implicated in the deal have commented on the leak as of the afternoon of Wednesday, February 29.

Stratfor's alleged emails disclosed earlier also named Russian Prosecutor General Yury Chaika as an informant of the company, saying he supplied it with data on turf wars in the Kremlin. Chaika's office dismissed the report as "provocation."

Ad Blitz Aimed at Lifting Azerbaijan Aid Ban

By Kevin Bogardus

WASHINGTON (*The Hill*) – A group advocating for Azerbaijan is banking

Menendez And Kirk to Introduce Genocide Resolution

RESOLUTION, from page 1
massacre of Armenians, the extermination of millions of Jews and Poles by the Nazis are outstanding examples of the crime of genocide."

The Senate action comes as Secretary Hillary Clinton last week clarified her remarks on the Armenian Genocide and also as Senators Scott Brown, Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Kirk introduced legislation, S.Res.392, on the protection of religious property and minorities in Turkey. Their effort builds on last year's successful House passage of similar legislation.

"Genocide affirmation and education are the keys to prevention," stated Ardouny. "We urge all anti-genocide activists and people of good will to contact their Senators to cosponsor this important human rights legislation," Ardouny added.

Menendez said: "Only when history's darkest hours are acknowledged and understood can we truly learn from the lessons of the past and build a peaceful future. With the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide approaching in 2015 and few survivors remaining, we must strengthen our resolve to unequivocally affirm the Armenian Genocide."

on a new advertising campaign to convince Washington policymakers that it is time to lift the ban on direct foreign aid to the country.

The Azerbaijan America Alliance is directing the advertisement blitz mostly at Washington and New York, with fliers, ads in subway systems and full-page newspaper spreads. The campaign also includes an online video that features members of Congress, including Representatives Corrine Brown (D-Fla.), Randy Hultgren (R-Ill.) and Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.).

The \$500,000-advertisement buy (not including production expenses) is set to run for roughly 10 days and commemorates the February 26, 1992, massacre of Azeris in the village of Khojaly during the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabagh, an unrecognized territory in western Azerbaijan. Both sides have disputed the events of that day, but the date has special significance for Azerbaijan, which has a memorial to the dead in its capital, Baku.

The advertisement direct readers to the Alliance website, where they are encouraged to ask Congress to end the ban on direct aid to Azerbaijan and ask President Barack Obama to engage more in diplomacy between Armenia

and Azerbaijan. Tensions linger between the two nations over the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

"Click here to learn about our campaign to urge Congress to rescind the unfair, irrational ban on direct aid to the government of Azerbaijan," the group's website says. "You can also ask President Obama and Secretary [of State Hillary] Clinton to play a much more active role in resolving to the Nagorno Karabagh conflict [sic]."

Armenian-American groups are bristling at the ads. Aram Hamparian, executive director of the Armenian National Committee of America, said the ads were "misleading" and intended to buy US public opinion.

"Advocates of improved US-Azerbaijani relations should spend less money placing ads, and more time asking officials back in Baku to respect human rights, stop their arms buildup and cease-fire violations and commit to a peaceful resolution of regional conflicts," Hamparian said in a statement.

The Alliance was formed last year and hired lobby firm Fabiani & Co. under a \$2.4 million, yearlong contract, according to Justice Department records. The firm has earned more than \$1.9 million from the contract so far.

Clinton Clarifies Remarks On Armenian Genocide

CLINTON, from page 1
those who lost their lives..." Clinton also repeated Obama's call: "Only by working together to address these horrific events" can "a full, frank and just acknowledgment of the facts" be achieved.

Members of Congress have also weighed in on Clinton's remarks and sent a bipartisan letter urging her to disavow her mischaracterization of the Armenian Genocide. A response to this letter, which was spearheaded by Representatives Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Robert Dold (R-IL), is expected shortly.

In addition to the Congressional letter, Schiff pressed Clinton on this issue last month when she testified before the House

Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs on the president's 2013 budget proposal. During the Subcommittee hearing, Schiff recalled the voluminous US record on the Armenian Genocide, as well as the secretary's statements during her tenure as senator.

Schiff then asked Clinton directly if she had changed her views. She explained that her comments were in reference to the French Parliament's recent legislation on the Armenian Genocide and should be viewed in that context. Clinton then went on to restate Obama's policy as articulated in his annual April 24 statements.

Community News

Apstel Appointed Course Director of Zoryan's Genocide and Human Rights University Program

TORONTO – Prof. Joyce Apstel has been appointed course director of the Genocide and Human Rights University Program (GHRUP) by the Program Development Committee. The program is held annually in partnership by the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies (IIGHRS) (a Division of the Zoryan Institute) and the University of Toronto. Greg Sarkissian, president of the Academic Board of the IIGHRS and director of the program made the announcement, explaining, “Dr. Apstel is a distinguished scholar, a master teacher and brings tremendous experience to overseeing the implementation of the course in the classroom.”

Apstel teaches Humanities in the Liberal Studies Program of the College of Arts & Sciences at New York University, where she has taught a series of seminars on Genocide and Human Rights over the last decade. She is a recipient of the NYU Distinguished Teaching Award (2008-2009). She is currently president of the Institute for the Study of Genocide and a past president of the International Association of Genocide Scholars. She is also director of RightsWorks International, established in 1999 to promote peace, human rights and genocide education around the world.

In reflecting on her new role, Apstel said, “For the past 10 years, Roger Smith has served as a model teacher, director of the GHRUP and on-site summer course director. Hence, with my appointment as course director of the 2012 GHRUP, I plan to build on his example and foundation by continuing his engaged pedagogy, weaving together disparate themes and case studies, as well as



Dr. Joyce Apstel

integrating guest lecturers and students to create a meaningful dialogue and learning environment. For the last eight years, I have participated in the GHRUP summer program as a specialist teaching sections about the history and complexity of human rights and humanitarianism and links with genocide, as well as an earlier module on teaching about genocide.

“The program provides a unique curriculum opportunity for students and reflects the continuing need to write into the curriculum events that have all too long been ignored or diminished and still may be denied. In this respect, study of the Armenian Genocide and its denial provides a powerful example. As new archives open up worldwide and new research is carried out, careful examination of issues of genocide and human rights provides a crucial lens to understand mass atrocities and to develop strategies toward prevention and rebuilding communities in the aftermath of severe human rights violations. I am pleased to have the opportunity to be on-site course director of the 2012 GHRUP summer program and welcome students of different backgrounds, training and voices to apply and become part of this unique learning experience.

“The Genocide and Human Rights University Program reflects my own commitment to the importance of education and research on these important themes,” she said.

The GHRUP combines theory with a look at specific case studies and explores major themes, allowing students to not only learn about the intricacies of genocide studies, but also to begin recognizing patterns as preventable stages of genocide. The comparative nature of the program encourages students to draw their own parallels between the various cases and fosters stimulating classroom discussion. University credit is available.



The late Ara Kalaydjian

Community Pays Last Respects to Late *Mirror* Editor Ara Kalaydjian

WATERTOWN, Mass. – On March 2, friends, family members and community members gathered at St. James Armenian Church to pay their final respects to Ara Kalaydjian, former editor of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, who had passed away on February 26, after a long illness.

Very Rev. Krikor Maksoudian, Rev. Arakel Aljalian, Rev. Dajad Davidian, Very Rev. Raphael Andonian, Avak Deacon Armen Dilan and Rev. Karekin Bedourian officiated at the service. Eulogies were delivered by Maksoudian and Ara Kalaydjian's younger brother, Arek Kalaydjian.

After the funeral service, the interment took place in Grove Hill Cemetery in Waltham. A *hokejash* was served in the Tarvezian Hall of St. James Church.

The younger Kalaydjian's touching eulogy, remembering the late editor as a brother as well as an intellectual powerhouse in the community, is printed below:

“A public servant or *hasaragagan kordzich* in Armenian is someone who selflessly devotes himself to the good of his community and his nation. He is not driven by the pursuit of fame, money, or self-promotion. My brother Ara was for most of his life the consummate public servant of his people and the Armenian Cause. His dedication and focus on preserving the Armenian literary heritage were unwavering.

I'm sure that he could have chosen a different and successful career in another field. Yet influences at home and growing up in Jerusalem had determined his path. I believe he had absorbed the often-repeated message of the writer and teacher Teotik, who in the years following the Genocide would gather together the Armenian orphans on the island of Corfu and try to instill the importance of education, remembering their Armenian identity, staying strong and passing on the torch. As if to seal the pact they would end each session by confirming their bond as Armenian Christians, reciting together the *Hayr Mer* (Lord's Prayer). This story was often told in our family, as my father had been one of those young orphans privileged to be addressed by Teotik.

Ara was born and grew up in Jerusalem a little over two decades after the horrors of the Genocide. He was schooled at the local St. Tarkmanchatz, then at the Mekhitarists' school in Lebanon and subsequently graduated from the Melkonian Educational Institution in Cyprus. The mission of all these institutions was very important: clergy and laity alike had the monumental task to educate these children, the first generation born after the Genocide. The Armenian nation was shaken to its core, its future uncertain. The students had to be given a sense of normalcy, strength, and the will to persevere.

Ara went on to become a teacher, writer and editor devoted to the often-thankless task of preserving Armenian literature. Here in Boston he was the editor and wrote editorials for the ADL publications *Baika Weekly* and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*. For years he wrote a weekly column, *Ore Orin* (Day by Day), which chronicled the daily ebb and flow of life in the diaspora. He organized the archives of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. From the materials he found he edited and published the poems and letters of poet Bedros Tourian. He also edited and printed the letters of Patriarch Gregory the Chainbearer (Shikhtayagir). He compiled a comprehensive list of the earliest printed books in the library. He edited and printed Teotik's book, *Golgotha of the Armenian Clergy and Their Flocks in Historic Armenia*: the latter three were printed but sadly waiting to be bound and distributed.

see KALAYDJIAN, page 6

Birthright Armenia Volunteers Give – and Receive – in Armenia

By Lisa Manookian

PHILADELPHIA – A new wave of benevolence is being driven by young Armenian adults who have recently traveled to Armenia via Birthright Armenia, the vehicle through which many arrive in their quest to serve the homeland and her people. More than 90 volunteers have participated in 2011, serving in both the public and private sectors and taking advantage of all their cultural inheritance has to offer. So moved are they by their experiences that several have extended their initial internships beyond the minimum two-month stay.

Why did they decide to take the time to volunteer in a foreign country, why Armenia, and why now? What did they discover about our homeland and her people? And what impact does that have on their personal desires and ambitions?

Allegra Garabedian was planning a visit for some time. Growing up in Portland, Maine, she didn't speak Armenian, knew little of her culture and felt much like an outsider. Having studied abroad, she knew she loved traveling, experiencing foreign cultures and learning new languages. Yet, despite her heritage, Armenia was the most foreign of all places she visited. She arrived in May 2011 with no Armenian language skills, no knowledge of Armenia's political history and no concrete expectations. Aside from a handful of her grandmother's Armenian delicacies, the culture was new to her as to any tourist. Therefore, traveling to Armenia was a completely new experience for Garabedian and she chose to do so because she wanted to push herself in a way that was not possible in the academic world. She was the first person in her family to go back to Armenia since her great-grandparents left during the Genocide. Initially signed up for a six-month internship, Garabedian decided to stay an additional six months.

Garabedian was assigned to a small NGO in Gumri called Historic Armenian Houses. She transcribed interviews and worked on several projects to promote tourism in Gumri, taking photos to turn into postcards, assisting with the start-up of a bed and breakfast service with several local families and helping write brochures and organizing tours for tourists staying in Gumri. She also tutored French twice a week. Currently, she is working three days a week at the Manana Youth Center, an after-school program for children interested in studying photography, filmmaking, animation and journalism. She teaches English there twice a week and edits grants, grant-reports, the English language section of their newsletter and anything else that they need help with. She also spends a lot of time scanning and archiving film for the photography department.

In addition to her work with Manana, Garabedian spends one day a week see BIRTHRIGHT, page 7



COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Pays Last Respects to Late *Mirror* Editor Ara Kalaydjian

KALAYDJIAN, from page 5

Ara also served as head of the seminary and secretary to the patriarch. Most importantly, he was instrumental in bringing numerous young boys from the Turkish interior and elsewhere to study at the seminary, among them our Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and *Der Arakel* Aljalian. He was deeply concerned for these young boys and their well being, as he understood from his own experience the trauma of being away from home and family in a foreign place.

Ara was 12 years my senior and as our eldest brother, Antranik was away in Germany, the role of big brother fell squarely on his shoulders. He was the go-to guy, highly respected by all of us. He was loyal and selfless in his devotion to family. He took a real interest in my education, opening up his vast library to me and introducing me to the British classics he so loved. He was, to be sure, a demanding and uncompromising mentor. When my boyish pranks and rowdiness had finally gotten out of hand, he read me the riot act, pulled me out of the comfortable Tarkmanchatz Armenian School and enrolled me in the strict, no-nonsense – and costly – French Catholic school. And I didn't even know French! It took two

years for them to straighten me out with Ara contributing to my tuition and keeping an eye on my report cards the whole time.

As capable as he was with a pen, Ara was totally out of his element when it came to tools and machinery.

One memory of Ara that puzzles me still concerns the start of the Six Day War in 1967. My father, Ara and I started heading home as the war had just begun suddenly, mid-morning, on that Monday, June 6. An Armenian acquaintance heading the opposite way warned us not to proceed. The Jordanian Army had a truck that was being filled with men and boys. They were being handed World War I-issue carbines and shipped to the front. My father shepherded us through alternate routes via the narrow alleys of the Old City to the safety of our home, all along the way Ara offering colorful commentary on the absurdity of the situation. I still wonder, had we been picked up, what would Ara have done with that carbine? I am sure, though, the experience would have given him plenty to write about.

The writer, the fiery public speaker, the torch-bearer of the Armenian cause, Ara devoted his life to these pursuits until his illness took away his pen and silenced his voice. During the

course of his long struggle with Alzheimer's I often wondered how much he could understand and how much he could feel. Just a few Sundays ago, my sister-in-law Shoushan was playing a recording of the *Badarak* (Divine Liturgy) for him at his bedside. He was listening on and off, until the part where the *Hayr Mer* is chanted. He reacted to it in one of the few ways left to him: he started crying, eventually sobbing.

I ask you not to take this as a sad story of defeat, but one of triumph. For as much as the disease had battered and ravaged his body and especially his mind, it could not extricate the *Hayr Mer*, that essence of Armenian identity, from his being, from his very soul.

Sirelee yeghpayrus, Ara, vartzkut gadar. I will miss you, and until we meet again on the other side, may you rest in peace.

Condolences and Donations

A group of supporters of the *Mirror-Spectator*, express their heartfelt condolences to Shoushan Kalayjian, Ara Kalaydjian's wife, and to his brothers, Antranig, Alex and Arek, and to the Hovsepian family, as well as to the staff of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*. In memory of Ara Kalaydjian, they made donations to the newspaper he led from 1987 to 1997. They remember him as an honest intellectual dedicated to the Armenian Church, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Tekeyan Cultural Association, the Ramgavar Party and the Armenian press.

Sirop and Maro Bedrosian, Houston, TX \$500
Edmond and Nora Azadian, Southfield, MI \$200
Hagop and Maria Vartivarian, Englewood, NJ \$200
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ADL Friends of New Britain, CT \$150
Dr. Haroutiun and Sima Arzoumanian, Montreal, Canada \$100
Arsen and Karen Demirdjian, Skokie, IL \$100
Hovhannes and Shoushig Meguerian, Phoenixville, PA \$100
Apet Torosian, Watertown, MA \$50
Mardiros and Bedros Chinchinian, Toronto, Canada \$50
Kevork Tutundjian, Toronto, Canada \$50

Scholarships Available from Armenian Women's Educational Club

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 2012.

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

Students may request scholarship application forms by calling Araxie Manjikian at 781-937-0515. Applications are due by April 30; 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.

OBITUARY

Teriz 'Terry' Malootian Hagopian

ANDOVER, Mass. – Teriz ("Terry") Malootian Hagopian, 92, died on March 10, in her home. Her husband was the late Peter B. Hagopian, MD, former superintendent of Danvers State Hospital.

Born in Lawrence and raised in Methuen, she was the daughter of the late Gabriel Malootian and Zabel (Moomjian) Malootian. She attended Methuen public schools and graduated from Boston University.

She also studied dance with Hanya Holm, Martha Graham in New York City and Jan Veen in Boston.

A born teacher, she taught at Middlebury College, Wheaton College, Boston University and McLean Hospital in Belmont before marrying Hagopian. She was also a member of the Danvers Historical Society, Andover Historical Society, Women's Guild of the former Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church in Lawrence and Essex South Medical Auxiliary of the American Medical Association, serving on its board.

She gave annually to many charities, particularly those supporting children, the homeless and medical research.

Following her husband's death, she became an avid tennis player in her 60s, and in later years, bridge player (both contract and duplicate), was adept at water color and wrote whimsical verses for the enjoyment of her friends.

She is survived by her children, Calder, a physician in Alameda, Calif., Debby Ury and her husband Frederic Ury, Esq. of Westport, Conn. and Justin St. James, Esq. of Andover; grandchildren, Jennifer Gornbein and her husband, Jeff Gornbein, of Manhattan Beach, Calif., Robert Ury of Norwalk, Conn., and her sister Ida (Malootian) Boodakian and her husband, Michael Boodakian of Winchester, Mass.



Teriz Malootian Hagopian

Arrangements were by the Dewhirst Andover Funeral Home, 33 Pearson St., Andover. Services were held at Free Christian Church in Andover with burial at Spring Grove Cemetery, Andover.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to: The Armenian Children's Milk Fund, c/o Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc., 31 West Century Road, Paramus, N.J. 07652, or, Armenia Tree Project, 65 Main St., Watertown, MA 02472, www.armeniatree.org.

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ADVERTISE IN THE MIRROR



COMMUNITY NEWS

Birtright Armenia Volunteers Give – and Receive – in Armenia

BIRTHRIGHT, from page 5

assisting Birtright Armenia with social media and another day doing transcriptions for Historic Armenian Houses. Still in the middle of her internship, she plans to begin meetings for an English language club for a new organization.

Garabedian says that the one thing she has taken from this experience is a sense of humility for how little she knew about how people live – outside of the United States and outside of her home. “Seeing the struggles of the people here, and realizing how completely impossible it would be for me to even try to understand them, has given me that.”

For Sanan Shirinian, Armenia is not a foreign country. Having volunteered twice before, she says, “it is my homeland, therefore it is my responsibility and my honor to volunteer and serve here.” She feels the time she is serving is a much more rewarding experience than spending time as a tourist and decided to postpone graduate school for one year to allow herself some quality time to truly get to know Armenia.

Shirinian is in the fifth month of her internship, working with the Hrayr Maroukhian Foundation, a policy institute that works to find social-democratic party solutions for various



From right, Sanan Shirinian, Greg Bilazarian and Allegra Garabedian.

issues in Armenia. From the onset, she was given the project of producing a six-part mini series about women in Armenia. Her daily tasks ranged from researching topics to covering 40-minute segments, arranging meetings with women who were needed for the show and interviewing different women throughout the city about the challenges they faced and their

achievements in the country. She has also organized a social-democracy training seminar and a conference to present policy papers about social reforms in Armenia.

Shirinian believes in the importance of young diasporans seeing the country as much more than a summer getaway and during her year-long stay is seeking avenues which will allow her to make a difference. The timing was perfect because she recently graduated college and did not have any other commitments. Though she is still in the midst of evaluating her journey, living life day-to-day and integrating with society as much as possible, she is certain that her future will involve Armenia.

The idea to stop working and put on hold a professional and personal life back in the states, came to Nicholas Avedisian-Cohen, because of Birtright Armenia. “I was going through a stretch of unemployment and not excited about the job prospects on the horizon. Independent of that, and of the fact of my Armenian heritage, I found the prospect of coming to Armenia in particular to be interesting and meaningful. I imagined that a lot of important work could be done to make a difference here because the country and its institutions are so young and because people live in real need. This was all part of my thinking at the time of applying to Birtright Armenia and deciding on a longer term stay.” Avedisian-Cohen wanted to give himself enough time to experience different facets of life in Armenia and make a connection to the people and the place. He was also interested in meeting other young diasporans because he was not raised in an Armenian community and did not have a strong sense of diasporan culture.

Having recently returned from six months in Armenia, Avedisian-Cohen was exposed to much of the culture and character of the people there and got a sense of the critical issues facing the country. Along the way, he met many people whose resilience and personal strength he came to admire as well as making friendships. “One thing I was happy to discover is how easy it was to put myself out there and make these connections in Armenia. The people I worked with, lived with and encountered daily, all had a generosity of spirit and an eagerness to work with and get to know me. On the whole, people were extremely accessible. This was heartening as a diasporan who had never been here before. But there were also things it was difficult and important to see as a diasporan. I found Armenia to be a society with many identity issues. I am not simply referring to the

very real East/West, developed/developing world complex, but more generally to the idea that Armenians express themselves as feeling constrained by their circumstances frequently. They are, of course, but Armenia also has every path open to it as a nation. It is so young and changing so quickly. And it has been exposed to everything over the course of history. Living here, I came to feel this sense of momentousness, despite complacency, disenfranchisement and sense of hopelessness that I sometimes encountered.”

Avedisian-Cohen came away with a much greater sense of himself as a diasporan and as a social creature, with a land and a people. “I’ve gotten some good experience as an educator, as well, and been encouraged that I can still learn languages, myself. I don’t know what is next for me now that service is over, but I am happy that I’ve come away certain that my connections with Armenia personally, professionally, and civically are real and lasting.”

Greg Bilazarian was at a point in his life where he was fairly certain of the next step but wanted an international experience first. Life felt slow and boring and he needed something new. The truth is, “I chose Armenia because of Birtright Armenia. I wanted an experience with any developing country but Birtright Armenia’s financial and on-the-ground assistance swayed me to Armenia. I also had been fairly out of touch with my Armenian heritage since I went to college 10 years ago and I was excited to get another chance. It’s weird, for some people the perfect time to come is when they are 20 or 21 and still in their undergraduate years. For me, the perfect time was at 27, when I was in a life/career transition and it has been perfect so far.”

Bilazarian did not grow up “very Armenian.” His mother is not Armenian and during his first few months in the homeland, he basically enjoyed the country with no allegiances. But that has all changed. Though he initially signed up for a two-month internship, the Civilitas Foundation knew they couldn’t let him go and extended him a contract. Having been there for eight months, he will be there until at least the end of June 2012. At Civilitas, he produces/manages the television arm of Civilitas called Civilnet.TV. In this position, he works with a large number of young Armenians, many of whom have lived and worked outside of Armenia, including America. “I’ve discovered there are extremely talented young people who simply do not have the opportunities, in many cases, to stay into their mid-late 20s and be part of the country’s growth. Many of them are seeking options outside the US with many saying they will come back but no guarantees they actually will. As for me, I plan to stay here for a while before likely coming back to the United States to gain skills and maybe some more schooling. Long-term, I will return to Armenia and set up businesses likely in the tech sector designed to move the country forward.”

Since its inception in 2004, more than 600 young adults from 26 countries have experienced growth and helped sow seeds of success for others in Armenia through Birtright Armenia. A majority of Birtright Armenia’s alumni have returned to Armenia for various projects, or undertaken other Armenian initiatives in various countries.

For more information, or to make an online donation, visit www.birtrightarmenia.org.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenia Tree Project Hosts Community-Wide Events in Los Angeles Area

PASADENA, Calif. – On February 7, Armenia Tree Project (ATP) hosted a reception at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum in Mission Hills as part of a three-day visit by ATP Director Jeff Masarjian and Forestry Director Zack Parisa. This first event was an update on ATP's program accomplishments and plans for 2012. The intimate affair allowed long-time supporters and those not so familiar with ATP to learn about the organization and its work.

The following evening, ATP joined forces with the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) to co-host a panel discussion on "Armenia's Environmental Challenges in the 21st Century" at Parsons in Pasadena. The AGBU Young Professionals and Armenian Environmental Network (AEN) were also part of the evening.

Presenters included Varouj Abkian, assistant director with the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation; Robert Kurkjian, principal scientist, Tetratich and international environmental consultant Zack Parisa, in addition to Masarjian. The topics discussed at the panel included "Environmental Issues Related to Waste Water and Waste Management," "Water: Armenia's Abundant Resource," "Surface Mining: Pathways of Toxicity" and "Building Resilient Forests and Communities: An Armenian Experience."

"This was the first of what I hope will be many collaborative efforts on the part of Armenian organizations to inform the diaspora of critical threats to Armenia's environmental integrity. We are at a crucial tipping point in history, and the choices made today will have

long-term consequences on the quality of air, land, water and public health in Armenia for generations to come," noted Masarjian.

organize events such as the one held at Parsons in different areas around Southern California." Masarjian and Parisa also joined Anahit



Armenia Tree Project and the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America co-hosted a panel in Pasadena in association with the AGBU Young Professionals and Armenian Environmental Network on "Armenia's Environmental Challenges in the 21st Century." Speakers included Jeff Masarjian, Zachary Parisa, Robert Kurkjian, Areg Gharabegian and Varouj Abkian.

500th Anniversary of Armenian Printing Celebrated by TCA

By Kevork Keushkerian

ALTADENA, Calif. – The Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Pasadena-Glendale Chapter hosted a lecture on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Armenian printing. It took place on Sunday, March 4, at the Beshgeturian Center. Rev. Dr. Zaven Arzoumanian was the guest lecturer. Very Rev. Kegham Zakarian and George Mandossian, vice president of TCA's Central Board of Directors, were among the attendees.

Kevork Keushkerian, who made the opening remarks, noted that a unique exhibition dedicated to the 500th anniversary of the first Armenian printed book will be held in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC for three months, starting in April. He then introduced Arzoumanian, who spoke next.

Arzoumanian was born in Cairo, Egypt. In 1949, he went to the seminary of Antelias in Lebanon and was ordained a celibate priest in 1954. After serving in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, for two years as the parish priest of the Armenian Church there, he went to London to further his studies.

Arzoumanian came to the United States in 1962 and served as parish priest in the Eastern Diocese for 40 years – first in Philadelphia and then in Boca Raton, Fla. He was then invited to the Western Diocese, where he served as the parish priest of St. Gregory Armenian Church in Pasadena for three years. He is now retired and lives with his wife, Joyce, in Glendale.

Arzoumanian received his doctorate in eastern languages and history from Columbia University in 1983. He is well known for pub-

lishing the *History of the Armenian Church from 1900 to 1995*. This is considered to be the continuation of Patriarch Malachia Ormanian's famous *Azkabadoum*.

Arzoumanian began his lecture by discussing the origin of Armenian printing. The first Armenian book was printed in 1512 in Venice, Italy, by Hagop Meghabard. It was a secular book called *Ourpatakeerk*. This was followed by five other books, including the *Liturgical Book*, which is placed on the altar and used by the priest during Divine Liturgy. Arzoumanian noted that Venice should not be confused with the Mkhitarian Monastery on St. Lazarus Island, which came into existence some 200 years later.

The first Armenian *Bible* was printed in Amsterdam, Holland, exactly 150 years after the printing of the first Armenian book in Venice. It was printed by Vosgan Vartabed Yerevantsi and commissioned by the Holy See of Echmiadzin.

After Amsterdam, the printing of Armenian books continued in Istanbul, Turkey, before a print shop was established in the Holy See of Echmiadzin. Arzoumanian concluded his lecture with a short question-and-answer session.

Afterwards, Keushkerian recited related sections from a poem dedicated to Mesrob Mashdots by Siamanto. Khatchig Nahabedian then performed a song dedicated to the Armenian language. The evening ended with a light reception for the audience.

TCA Pasadena-Glendale chapter's next event will be the commemoration of the Armenian troubadour Sayat Nova's 300th birthday. It will be held on Sunday, May 20, at the Beshgeturian Center; guest lecturer will be musicologist-conductor Vatsche Barsoumian, the director of Lark Musical Society.



The audience and speakers at the TCA program in Beshgeturian Center

"In addition to educating the Southern California community on ATP's activities in Pasadena, we wanted to raise awareness about Armenia's current environmental situation," said Hermine Mahmoudzian, Southern California development director. "We hope to

Gharibyan, assistant to the development director at the Ararat Charter School (ACS) for a meeting with educators to speak on a continued relationship between the ACS and ATP as part of the Building Bridges environmental education program.



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COMMUNITY NEWS



The kindergartners with teach Anahid Avanesian (left), fire fighters and Tamara Nahapetyan

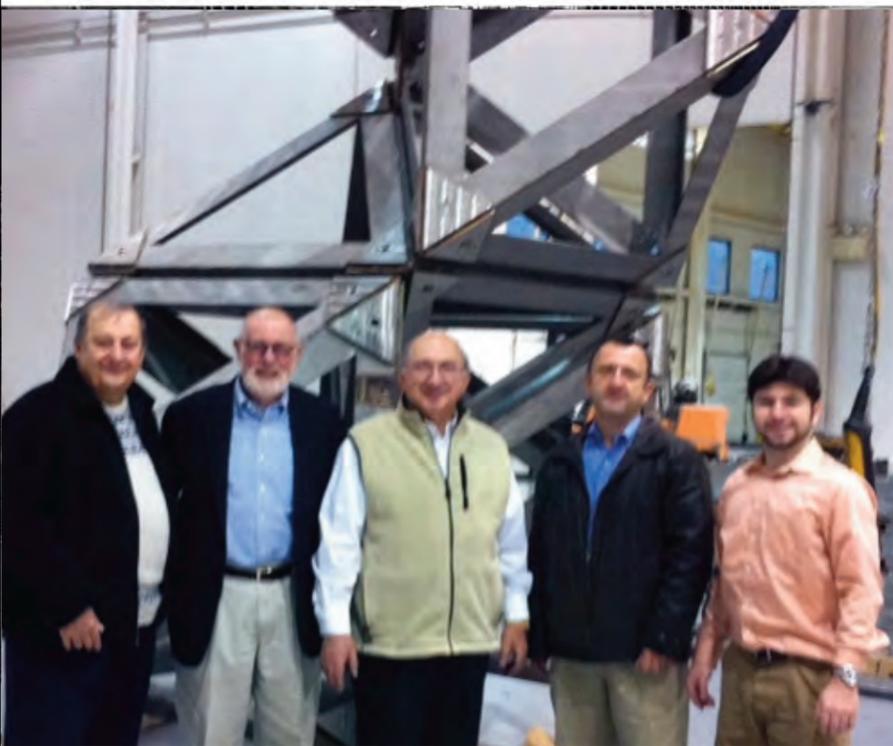
TCA Arshag Dickranian School's Kindergartners Visit Local Fire Station

LOS ANGELES – The kindergarten students of the Tekeyan Cultural Association's Arshag Dickranian School on Wednesday, February 22 paid a visit to the local fire station, Fire Station #27, at 1237 Cole Ave., accompanied by their teacher Anahid Avanesian and her assistant Tamara Nahapetyan.

At the station, the students were greeted by friendly firefighters who gave them a tour, helped them climb into the fire trucks and showed them how they put on their protective gear such as the knee-length coats, boots, gloves, helmets and masks. The firefighters also showed the students some of the tools that they use during fires in car accidents or other natural hazards like the power saw, bolt cutter, axe, hammer and oxygen tank, among others. The students also took turns pumping water through a giant hose. After visiting the kitchen and the lunch area, the kindergartners thanked the firefighters and walked back to school.

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Ex-Navy Secretary Paul R. Ignatius To Speak in Washington, DC

WASHINGTON – Former Secretary of the Navy Paul R. Ignatius will speak at St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, 4125 Fessenden St., NW, on Thursday, March 29, at 7 p.m., in connection with his memoir, *Now I Know in Part*. The talk will be co-sponsored by St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, the Knights of Vartan-Ani Lodge, Washington, DC, and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

Ignatius' *Now I Know in Part*, a revised and expanded edition of a memoir that was first published privately in 2000, was issued in late 2011 by NAASR's Armenian Heritage Press. The book will be available for purchase and signing by the author.

A descendant of Armenian parents from the Kharpert region of Historic Armenia, Ignatius is a native of Glendale, Calif., and a graduate of the University of Southern California. He earned an MBA from Harvard University after serving as a naval officer in World War II. He is also the author of *On Board: My Life in the Navy, Government, and Business* (Naval Institute Press, 2006).

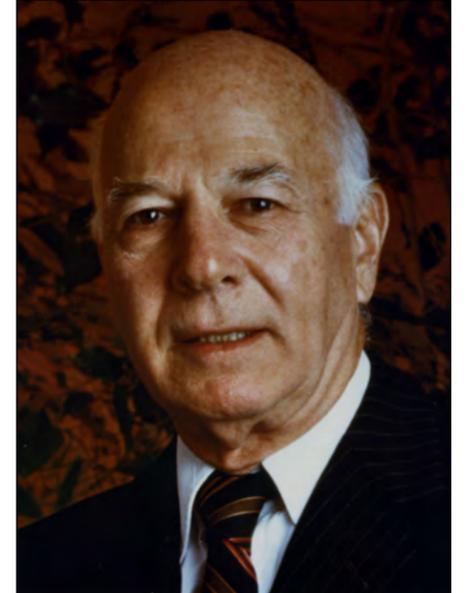
Ignatius served for eight years in the administrations of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, first as an assistant secretary of the army, then as under secretary of the Army and assistant secretary of defense, and finally in 1967, as secretary of the navy. Following his government service, he was president of the *Washington Post* for two years and president of the Air Transport Association for 15 years.

He is the recipient of the Army Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award and the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Award.

In the book's foreword, Ignatius writes that, "There is quite a lot in these stories about Armenia and my parents' Armenian friends. I never thought much about all this when I was growing up, probably because it would make me seem to be different from my schoolmates, and I wanted to be just like everyone else. Now I look with a different eye on my heritage. I have come to believe that I am a more interesting person, to myself and to others, because of

this background."

Also, he adds, he enjoyed telling "stories about the old days, about growing up in California with parents of Armenian heritage



Paul Ignatius

and getting to know a lot of characters, mostly Armenian, who came to our house in Glendale. I would acquaint them with William Saroyan's Uncle Aram, who told jokes in crazy ethnic dialects, and with Levon Agha and Armenag Effendi Kurkjian, and how my brother and I did the wash in the old Maytag and invented silly languages in our shared bedroom before going to sleep."

Chapters newly added for this second edition include: reminiscences of Ignatius' former boss, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, during a difficult time in US history, and two homecomings of a sort: one to Hoover High School in Glendale and the other a visit to ancestral lands in Historic Armenia.

For more information contact NAASR at hq@naasr.org or St. Mary Armenian Church.

Armenian Council of Armenia Meets With California Rep. Judy Chu

PASADENA, Calif. – On March 4, the Armenian Council of America (ACA) welcomed Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA) to the Armenian Educational Benevolent Union (AEBU) Soghanalian Hall to meet with ACA members, community leaders, youth members and activists.

"We were honored to have Congresswoman Chu take out the time to speak to us about issues that are important to us as constituents and as members of the international community," said ACA chairman, Sevak Khatchadorian. "Her enthusiasm, dedication to improving the community through the economy and her concern about international issues are admirable qualities of a great leader worthy of support."

Mistress of Ceremonies Christine Aghakhanian introduced Chu as she detailed her past achievements and future goals before Chu took the stage to begin her presentation. She provided a synopsis on her three-decade-long history in public service in the San Gabriel Valley and stated that a focus of her as the next representative of the 27th Congressional District is to help small businesses grow. She also discussed international topics such as her support for aid to Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh and her commitment to advance recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Chu encouraged participation of Armenian-Americans in grassroots activism. She mentioned how decisions are often made in Washington with disregard to Armenian-American communities due to a lack of political involvement in regions of the country, with smaller populations of Armenian-Americans.

The program concluded with a question-and-answer session where Chu further pledged her support for Armenian-American causes and issues.

Chu is currently representing the 35th congressional district. Because of re-districting, she is running for the 27th Congressional District historically represented by long-time friend of the Armenian-American community, Rep. Adam Schiff. The 27th Congressional includes the areas of Alhambra, Altadena, Arcadia, Glendora, Monterey Park, Pasadena, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena, Sierra Madre and Temple City, and parts of Claremont, Monrovia and Upland.

The ACA is a grassroots organization dedicated to work with all political leaders, offering Armenian-related news, analysis and resources for policymakers, media, students and activists, advocating issues important to Armenian Americans.



Rep. Judy Chu



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Bar Association Lauds Rep. Schiff And Glendale City Councillor Manoukian

GLENDAL, Calif. — Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Glendale City Council Member Rafi Manoukian were honored by the Armenian Bar Association (ArmenBar) for their principled and effective advocacy of critical causes to Armenian-Americans in California and across the United States.

The program was a showcase of appreciation for those who have demonstrated a proven track record in advancing the rights of the Armenian community on local and national levels. Both Schiff and Manoukian were noted for their stellar support of issues of long-standing and current significance, beginning with the seminal priority of Genocide recognition and education, to overcoming recent legal challenges affecting the ability to pursue life insurers which have wrongfully denied the claims of the survivors and those of their families.

While the tone of the evening was about celebrating the successes that have been achieved through the work of Schiff and Manoukian, the recent decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in the *Movsesian vs. Versicherung*, which frustrates the ability of Armenian-Americans from obtaining the return of insurance assets from the Armenian Genocide-era, was fresh on the minds of many attendees.

Edvin Minassian, the chairman of the Armenian Bar Association, expressed sentiments of praise and urgency as part of his welcoming speech to the attendees. He stated, "We will look toward our national government . . . our representatives in Washington . . . to be more vigilant and more courageous when it comes to issues involving the Armenian Cause." He then spoke directly to Schiff as he avowed that the Armenian Bar Association and Armenian-Americans across the country, would look to him to be the leader in the cause of justice related to the Genocide.

Schiff was introduced by Walter Karabian, who moved the audience to laughter with his inimitable wit and then to studious appreciation of his institutional knowledge of California politics. Since leaving the California legislature in the 1970s, after having served as its majority leader, Karabian has been a leader of many Armenian commu-



Armenian Bar Board members with the honorees and guests

Commission, explained that the "facts of the events of the Armenian Genocide in 1915 have properly been declared by historians, journalists and indeed countless nations and the citizenry of conscientious countries in Europe and around the world." However, rather than viewing the setback as the end of the fight to seek justice for those Armenians who were harmed in the Genocide, Ghazarian noted that the ruling of the Ninth Circuit was an indication that more work is needed. "We are empowered by the problematic decision in the *Movsesian* case . . . we rededicate our efforts in light of the court's unfortunate holding," Ghazarian said.

in California and across the United States." Boyadjian also stated that their efforts "have helped to generate greater interest in Armenian issues and to encourage others to learn more about the Armenian community within the United States."

A highlight of the evening came when a

coaches, attorney Ani Papirian, English teacher William Bassett and parents were commended for their leadership, commitment and devotion to inspiring young students.

In attendance was a full roster of judicial leaders and law enforcement brass on both the federal and state levels, elected officials,



ArmenBar Vice Chairman Garo Ghazarian, Glendale Councilman Rafi Manoukian and Chairman Edvin Minassian



From left, ArmenBar Vice Chairman Garo Ghazarian, Rep. Adam Schiff and Chairman Edvin Minassian

nity initiatives and a mentor to many young professionals.

Garo Ghazarian, the vice chairman of ArmenBar, Dean of Peoples College of Law and a member of the Glendale Civil Service

ArmenBar Executive Director Jacklin Boyadjian succinctly stated why Schiff and Manoukian were being honored: "Both of these men have been forces for shining a light on the concerns of Armenian-Americans

group of seventh- and eighth-grade students from the Armenian Sisters' Academy was recognized by the association for its outstanding performance in the middle school division of the Constitutional Rights Foundation's Mock Trial Program. Thirty-six schools participated in the competition, with the Sisters' Academy being the only Armenian school in the division. After only its third year in the competition, the Sisters' Academy reached the playoffs and placed in the top six of 36 schools. Principal Sister Lucia Al-Haik,

as well as a wide spectrum of leaders and representatives from the Armenian community, including Los Angeles County Sheriff Leroy Baca and Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, both of whom addressed the guests, as well as US Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Chooljian. Los Angeles County Superior Court Judges in attendance included Site Supervising Judge of Los Angeles County Superior Court in the city of Glendale, Fred Rotenberg and ArmenBar past Chairman Zaven Sinanian.

**New York
METRO**

Lay Ministry a Focus of ACYOA Lenten Retreat

By Adrienne Ashbahian

BAYSIDE, N.Y. — Close to 30 young adults gathered for a Lenten retreat sponsored by the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) Central Council at Holy Martyrs Church on Saturday, March 3.

The day focused on understanding lay ministry and participants explored this topic through Bible study, discussion and reflection. In addition to young adults from local parishes of the Eastern Diocese, the program drew young representatives from the Coptic Orthodox Church, who were led by their pastor, Rev. Michael Sorial of St. Mary and St. Antonios Church of Ridgewood.

ACYOA Executive Secretary Nancy Basmajian started the day's sessions by defining lay ministry as a call from God to use one's individual talents in the service of others. In a session, titled "Follow Me," participants read passages from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and discussed how they respond to Christ's call to follow him and the obstacles they face in their spiritual journeys.

The Rev. Bedros Kadehjian, interim pastor at Holy Martyrs Church, led a session, titled "Who Am I and What Am I Here For?" Kadehjian stressed that life is a gift from God and reminded the young people that they are called to share God's love with others. Participants also discussed their personal relationship with God, and brainstormed ways they could strengthen that bond.

"The importance of exposing young people to lay ministry is to help them understand that we must live out our faith," Kadehjian said. "This



Retreat participants pose for a group photo at Holy Martyrs Church in Bayside, NY.

means incorporating the teachings of Christ into all aspects of our lives."

Later in the afternoon, Elise Antreassian, the Diocese's Christian Education coordinator, elaborated on this concept in a session on "What are the Habits of a Disciple?" She spoke about the importance of discipline in daily life and went on to outline four "habits" that place one on the path to discipleship: reading the *Bible*, prayer and worship, service and fellowship through the church.

In a session titled "Why the Church?," Basmajian explained that the church represents the body of Christ. Participants read about early Christian communities and spoke about how the work of those communities inspires the ACYOA's mission of worship, education, fellowship and service.

Olivia Derderian, ACYOA Central Council program coordinator, concluded the afternoon by encouraging participants to identify which gifts they possess and to think about ways they might use these gifts to help others.

"It is important to me during Lent to focus on and improve my relationship with God," said ACYOA Central Council member Adrienne Ashbahian. "The fact that this retreat allowed me to draw strength from my fellow Christians during this season is the ultimate joy."

Other participants added that the opportunity to bond with youth from the Coptic Church was beneficial.

"It's a great opportunity and a blessing for sister churches to unite in service and share the Word of God," said Morcos Hanna of the Coptic Church.

Hovnanian Enterprises' 1st-Quarter Preliminary Net Contracts Rise 27 Percent

RED BANK, N.J. (AP) — Homebuilder Hovnanian Enterprises Inc. said last week that first-quarter preliminary net contracts climbed 27 percent, with the strength continuing into February.

Contract signings typically indicate where the housing market is headed. There is a one- to two-month lag between a signed contract and a completed deal.

Hovnanian's stock rose 14 cents, or 4.7 percent, to \$3.10 in pre-market trading.

Hovnanian's announcement comes one day after the National Association of Realtors said that the number of Americans who signed contracts to buy homes rose in January to the highest level in nearly two years. This supports the view that the housing market is making a gradual comeback. The group reported that its index of sales agreements rose 2 percent last month to a reading of 97. That is the highest reading since April 2010, the last month that buyers could qualify for a federal home-buying tax credit and the last time the reading was above 100.

A reading of 100 is considered healthy.

Hovnanian said preliminary net contracts for the three months, which ended January 31, were 1,079 homes, up from 850 homes in the prior-year period. The figures include unconsolidated joint ventures.

Hovnanian said there were 220 active selling communities, including unconsolidated joint ventures, at the quarter's end. This compares with 201 active selling communities a year ago.

The company plans to report its fiscal first-quarter financial results on March 7. It has operations in 16 states and Washington, DC.



A small-group discussion during last Saturday's retreat

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Arts & Living

Kansas City Symphony Names Aram Demirjian New Assistant Conductor

By Robert Trussell

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (*Kansas City Star*) – The Kansas City Symphony has named 25-year-old Aram Demirjian of Boston its new assistant conductor.

Demirjian, who will assume his conducting duties at the beginning of the 2012-2013 season, was chosen after an intense audition process in which six invited candidates competed to succeed associate conductor, Steven Jarvi.

Jarvi will leave the symphony after this, his fourth season here, to devote more time to an active schedule as a guest conductor for operas and concerts around the country. It has also been reported that Jarvi is one of eight finalists vying to become music director of the Windsor, Ont. Symphony Orchestra in Canada.

The assistant conductor plays a crucial role. Demirjian will conduct pops concerts, children's recitals and educational performances as well as all of the symphony's outdoor appearances, including the annual Symphony in the Flint Hills concert.

He will also conduct the annual performances of Handel's *Messiah* and the Christmas Festival. In addition, Demirjian will serve as the



Aram Demirjian

orchestra's "cover conductor" – in essence a permanent understudy – who can take the podium should music director Michael Stern or a guest conductor be unable to conduct.

"We were actually looking for the complete package, but it has to begin and end, I suppose, with what is shown on the podium," Stern said. "We expect a lot from them, and they end up doing a lot. We set the bar pretty high. We've had some terrific people come through as assistant conductors."

The symphony put its candidates through a gauntlet of conducting challenging compositions with the orchestra and one rehearsal with the Kansas City Symphony Chorus. The candidates even had to prepare mock speeches so the audition committee could judge their manner addressing an audience. The six candidates were winnowed to three finalists before a final selection was made.

Auditioning a musician, Stern said, is based on a player's ability with his or her chosen instrument. Auditioning conductors is more complicated.

"A conductor has no instrument, and it's as much the chemistry and the contact they have with the musicians in front of them as it is their innate talent," he said.

see CONDUCTOR, page 15



Not just hitting the books at MIT (Arsen Mamikonyan photo)

MIT Armenian Society Sponsors Armenian Social Networking Event

CAMBRIDGE – "Are you here for the Armenian party? It's down there!" A helpful student pointed towards a graffiti-covered door prominently emblazoned with the word "SEX." But opening it and descending the stairs revealed something even better: the Greater Boston Area Armenian Social, hosted on February 25 in the Bexley Hall dormitory of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

By Katie Van Adzin

The social, sponsored and organized by the MIT Armenian Society, attracted over 90 young Armenians from the Boston area. The event was publicized by Armenian student organizations at Harvard, Wellesley, Boston University, Tufts and Boston College. Some guests came from as far away as Columbia, Brown and Yale, with the ages of attendees ranging from 18 to 40. The majority of guests were undergraduate students at Boston-area colleges, but there were young professionals in attendance as well.

see MIT, page 13



Armenian dancing ensues whenever young Armenians gather, it seems. (Arsen Mamikonyan photo)

Interactive Komitas and Khachaturian Subject of Talk at ACF

ARLINGTON, Mass. – The legacy of two musical giants in Armenia, Komitas and Aram Khachaturian, will be the subject of an interactive visual presentation by Garegin Chookaszian, at the Armenian Cultural Foundation (ACF) on Sunday, April 1, at 3 p.m.

The legacy of composer, ethnographer, folklorist and musicologist Komitas Vardapet (né Soghomon Soghomonian, 1869-1935) has been the subject of numerous volumes and recordings. For the first time, his life in letters, music, archival documents and memories of contemporaries, as well as recordings, have been compiled in an audio-visual format for the public. Nearly 500 photographs, 100 video clips as well as 550 musical pieces are included in the multimedia CD-ROM, produced in Armenia by Chookaszian who provides the audience an opportunity to further explore the life of the father of modern Armenian music in a new format.

The life and works of Khachaturian (1903-1978) will be introduced through his letters, archival documents, memories of contemporaries, more than 400 photographs, video materials, as well as 35 musical fragments. This DVD was recognized for innovation by the World Summit Award 2005 Grand Jury as the world's best cultural CD/DVD multimedia product of 2005.

As an entrepreneur, intellectual, scientist and educator, Chookaszian is involved in government, business, civil society and academic circles in Armenia and abroad.

He is a member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee on the Media and New Communication Services of the Council of Europe, a member of the panel of advisors of the United Nations Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development and a member of the Presidential IT Development Support Council of Armenia, under the chairmanship of the prime minister.

He is the co-founder and executive director of Information Technology Foundation (ITF), Yerevan. ITF has organized the Global e-Content Summit and the Pan-European Forum on Human Rights in the Information Society in Yerevan in 2006, as well as three all-Armenian e-content contests (2005-2006). He has been active in multimedia productions for the last 15 years, managing projects including the first webcast of the World Chess Olympiad in 1996 and the World Summit Award winning titles in 2005.

Chookaszian is also co-founder and the president of Information Technologies Education JSC, Yerevan. He has made major contributions to the development and advancement of new technologies and cultural projects in Armenia and implemented a number of important socio-economic programs.

The presentation in English and Armenian will be followed by a reception. Both DVDs presented will be available for sale. For more information, contact the ACF office, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



ARTS & LIVING

ASA Students Use Cutting Edge Software to Compose and Perform Music with Children in Armenia

LEXINGTON, Mass. — Children from the Armenian Sisters' Academy (ASA) of Lexington and the elementary school of the village of Gargar, in the Lori region of Armenia, recently completed participation in a collaborative music composition program developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab. Children from the two schools used an innovative software program, called Hyperscore, to compose original pieces of music that were performed at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall in Yerevan on Saturday, February 25, by the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra and the Armenian rock band, Dogma. The concert, "A to A: The World in Harmony," was part of the yearlong celebrations on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the republic's independence.

Beginning in January, the fifth graders at the ASA and children of similar ages from the Gargar Village school started composing original music using Hyperscore (www.hyperscore.com), a software developed at MIT by inventor and composer Prof. Tod Machover. Designed to open the world of music composition to all people, even those with no formal musical training, the program has two main objectives, namely to allow people greater access to music composition as a means for self-expression and to enable creative collaboration across distances. Hyperscore is in use in schools around the world where children undertake similar cross-border music composition. The participation of the Gargar students was made possible by the support of the Luys Foundation (www.luys.am) and the United States Embassy in Yerevan.

"It was interesting and fun to visit MIT's Media Lab and I learned a lot about composing music," stated Garen Meguerditchian, a fifth grader at the ASA. As part of their visits, ASA students experienced first-hand the futuristic technology and communication tools developed and tested at the MIT Media Lab.



ASA students working with Hyperscore software at the MIT Media Lab

ASA's vice principal, Mayda Melkonian, noted, "Participation in a program such as Hyperscore and working sessions at a leading institution such as MIT expands our students' learning beyond the classroom, inspiring them to think about the broad range of opportunities ahead of them." Melkonian represented the teaching staff and administration during the working sessions at MIT and in communication with the Armenia-based project participants.

The eight-week program involved both in-school working sessions, where students composed individual pieces in the ASA's computer center, as well as two trips to the MIT Media Lab

for Skype sessions with their musical partners in Gargar. During one of these sessions Machover coached the children in both countries in creating a collaborative piece, which was then further developed by each group of students and performed as the concert finale. Through this experience, students found they had much in common, both as children of the same age, and as members of the Armenian nation.

The Armenian Sisters' Academy students were brought into the program by Dan Teager and Sylvie Zakarian, both Boston-based musi-

cians. Teager, founder of the Black Sea Salsa Band, mentored them on music composition and the use of Hyperscore. "They are a bright and creative group of young people. I was constantly impressed by the original musical ideas they were trying to express, and found myself caught up in the exuberance of their creativity," he stated.

Musical works created by the ASA and Gargar Village students as part of this program and the "A to A" concert can be accessed at the following link: www.luys.am/hyperscore.



ASA students at MIT Media Lab listen to Dr. Tod Machover.

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MUSICAL ARMENIA
CONCERT

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WEILL RECITAL HALL AT CARNEGIE HALL
57th STREET & SEVENTH AVENUE NEW YORK CITY

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MIT Armenian Society Sponsors Armenian Social Networking Event

MIT, from page 12

The guests congregated in the basement of the building, where large speakers played energetic Middle Eastern dance music that immediately had people doing Armenian line dances at varying levels of skill. Attendees enthusiastically showed one another the steps to various traditional dances as everyone laughed and clapped along. Others played pool and beer pong, while some socialized in a quieter adjoining room.

Sarine Shahmirian of MIT and Knar Bedian of Tufts were the chief organizers of the event, the planning of which began roughly three months ago. The two met for the first time through their efforts to plan the social. Bedian has maintained a connection to her Armenian heritage through her involvement in the diaspora community, attending Armenian school and membership in the Armenian Youth Federation, through which she hopes to get an internship in Armenia in the future. Shahmirian's family is from Iran, but she has relatives in Armenia. She returns to visit Armenia every two years and has done volun-

teer work in the villages of Khor Virap and Garni.

When asked about the feedback she had received from guests of the event, Shahmirian described it as "highly positive. This kind of thing just hasn't been done, at least in a while, and people were very excited to see a big bunch of Armenians dancing, laughing, having a good time. We are definitely throwing another party this year, if not by the end of this semester." The organizers characterized their event as somewhat different from similar events held within the community by larger organizations, in that it was organized entirely by students and had no ties to any particular group.

Bedian described the purpose of the event as "both social and cultural. Basically, we just wanted to get the Armenian clubs together — to get people to meet each other, to have a night of Armenian dancing, to see old friends and make new connections. I think a lot of people appreciated the effort to get everyone together, I spoke with some people who were really interested in attending future similar events."



ARTS & LIVING

Dr. Martin Deranian Honored at 90th Birthday Celebration

DERANIAN, from page 1

Master of ceremonies, Paul T. Boghosian, established the theme of the afternoon by stating that, "We are gathered here to honor two treasures who have provided so much to the cultural landscape of our community: Dr. Martin Deranian as he celebrates his 90th year and Joyce Van Dyke on the eve of what promises to be a great success and important work for the Armenian community, her play, 'Deported.'"

One of the benefits of the reception was the closing of a budget gap of \$10,000 in support of the production; many people at the reception made donations in honor of Deranian for being the inspiration behind the play.

"The reception was a double-header," Jack Medzorjian remarked, "as we came together to honor Dr. Martin Deranian for his outstanding community service achievements as well as paying tribute to playwright, Joyce Van Dyke. It was only today that we learned that Martin played such a vital role and provided the inspiration for Joyce to write what promises to be another one of her award-winning plays."

"Deported," produced through the Boston Playwrights' Theatre, premiered at the Modern Theatre in the Theatre District on March 8 and will be performed until April 1. "Deported" features the true story of Deranian's mother and playwright Joyce Van Dyke's grandmother.

The reception was organized by the Friends of Deported Committee Co-chairs Boghosian and Haig Deranian and Committee members Donna Deranian and Lena Nargozian. Boghosian acknowledged the reception's sponsorship by the Friends of Deported Committee in association with the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA), the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), the Council of Armenian Executives, the Armenian Medical Association and the Armenian Dental Association.

Many members of the Daughters of Vartan were present. Nargozian, Dirouhie of the Daughters of Vartan, was instrumental in organizing the reception. Van Dyke complimented her for her excellent dialect coaching of the actors in "Deported."

Agnes Sahagian, Avak Dirouhie of the Daughters of Vartan, gave greetings from the



From left, Fr. Dajad Davidian, Dr. Martin Deranian, Virginia Deranian and Paul Boghosian stand before the birthday cake.

Many of Deranian's admirers were delighted to share their recollections of him. Haig Deranian spoke of the strong influence his cousin has had on him during different stages in his life, even encouraging the young Haig to attend college. "Give back to the Armenian

the-century dental museum.

"I have not known a man more willing to share of himself and provide selfless and dedicated service to the Armenian-American communities as does Dr. Martin Deranian," shared Harry Parsekian. "It was remarkable learning

the topics of numerous articles he has researched and written are one about a rug made by Armenian orphans that was presented to President Calvin Coolidge and another on Moses Gulesian who saved the USS Constitution.

Dr. Myron Allukian, a dental colleague, described Deranian as a "renaissance man, a man for all seasons" highlighting his accomplishments in the dental field including decades ago as the first president of the Armenian American Dental Society. The doctor has also kept watch on scholarships for students of Armenian descent at Mt. Holyoke College and Wilson College, established through funds of the late Hagop Bogigian, his great-uncle who had a rug shop on Boston's Beacon Hill and was friends with the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Virginia, Martin Deranian's wife, was recognized for her support.

Kate Snodgrass, artistic director of the Boston Playwrights' Theatre, spoke about the talents of Van Dyke and noted how more of her plays had been produced there than any other playwright's. "She writes the truth... it's thrilling," remarked Snodgrass who encouraged all to come and see 'Deported' and spread the word. "It's an artist's right to tell the truth," reiterated Snodgrass in discussing the play and its many facets, including Armenian dancing choreographed by Apo Ashjian of the Sayat Nova Dance Company.

In 2008, Van Dyke received the Eliot Norton Award for Best Play for "The Oil Thief." Boghosian said, "Joyce has the remarkable ability to capture the truth of a character's action and bring these characters to life through incisive and crisp dialogue."

Describing Deranian as the "godfather of this play," Van Dyke shared her family's background, describing her grandparents of Kharperetsi descent, how they met in Providence in 1920, wed in 1921 and had one daughter Vartouhi (Rose). Van Dyke is Vartouhi's daughter. In his youth, Martin Deranian and Rose played together.

Van Dyke described how the script was developed and said that Deranian was persistent over many years in keeping in touch with her and sharing information involving her grandmother (Elmas) and his mother (Varter). In his own style, he was hinting and encouraging her to write a play that connected the two women. "Your grandmother and my mother were best friends," he said. Both had been deported together from Mezireh. The turning point that got Van Dyke finally hooked on writing the script came after Martin Deranian shared with her a translation of a crucial interview that took place decades ago in California.

Sharing some of the play's history with the guests, the playwright said that "Deported" has been in development since 2007 under the direction of Judy Braha. Five of its seven original actors are still in the play. The main characters are Varter and Victoria. Van Dyke changed Elmas' name to Victoria to create an emotional separation and chose the name Victoria in honor of her friendship with Victoria Boghosian, emcee Boghosian's mother, a Genocide survivor who died last year at age 100.

"It's universal...a struggle, (about) going on living... a message of hope and moving into the future," remarked Van Dyke of "Deported." "It's an emotionally intense play; it's about cultural resilience."

Van Dyke also spoke of her collaboration with Ruth Thomasian of Project SAVE on a display of historic photos, specifically connected to the characters in the play and historic period of time, which will be displayed in the theatre lobby.

At the program's conclusion, Deranian spoke eloquently to the guests. Born in the US, he reflected on his life and the importance of "Deported" to the community. "It fell on me to remember my six brothers and sisters, to bear witness and heal," he shared of the loss of his siblings during the Genocide. Growing up in Worcester, his mom died at 43 when he was just 7. He revealed that his real name is Hagop, named after his great-uncle Hagop Bogigian,

continued on next page



Committee members and friends enjoying the special event

Worcester area where Dr. Deranian lives and keeps his dental practice.

Boghosian further mentioned that the production was initiated by Boston University's Boston Playwrights' Theatre organization and by Suffolk University. It was not selected because of its potential appeal to Armenian audiences in the greater Boston area but because it is a superior play written by an established playwright that has universal themes and characters.

community to honor our parents," Haig Deranian recalled his cousin saying, adding that this statement impacted his involvement in the Armenian community.

Attending Clark University in Worcester and the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Martin Deranian taught for decades at Tufts Dental School in Boston, has a dental practice in Worcester and even donated antique dental artifacts and equipment, which is now housed at the Tufts Dental School as a turn-of-

from Joyce that her grandmother and Dr. Deranian's mother were friends who survived the Genocide together. 'Deported' really captures the extraordinary qualities of their friendship that endured the suffering and death of the Genocide."

Deranian's attention to detail is evident in three books he authored: *The Village of Hussenig*, *Worcester is America* and *Miracle Man of the Western Front: Dr. Varaztad H. Kazanjian, Pioneer Plastic Surgeon*. Among



ARTS & LIVING



Dr. H. Martin Deranian with Joyce Van Dyke, playwright of "Deported"

from previous page

and that this birthday is being celebrated a bit before his actual birth date.

Touched by the afternoon's reception and the kind words of the presenters, Deranian expressed great appreciation for all involved in its planning and with the exceptional work that went into the "Deported." "May we meet again in 2017 when the dreams and promises in the play have been fulfilled...It is incumbent on us to support this production," he said.

Boghosian further reinforced Deranian's comments by stating, "This is a magic moment for our community. We have a work of great artistic achievement that tells the Genocide

story in real human terms with people that all ethnic groups can relate to and that contains the truth of the period but also contains the music, art, food and cultural symbols that mark who we are as Armenians. This is an opportunity for us to take non-Armenians, work associates, neighbors and friends to see a first-rate play that both explains and honors who we are as a people and contributor to the greater American society."

After the formal program, all gathered to sing *Happy Birthday* to the evening's honoree, partake of a huge celebratory cake and offer congratulations to Martin Deranian and Van Dyke.



From left, Haig Deranian, Fr. Dajad Davidian hugging Dr. Martin Deranian, Virginia Deranian and Paul Boghosian before birthday-cake celebration

Kansas City Symphony Names Aram Demirjian New Assistant Conductor

CONDUCTOR, from page 12

The audition committee consisted of Stern, executive director Frank Byrne, members of the orchestra and staff.

"At the end of the day Aram was the unanimous choice," Byrne said. "There was a lot of consensus about this, and that made the decision really gratifying."

Demirjian earned a bachelor's degree in music and government from Harvard University in 2008 and at one point considered a career on Capitol Hill. But Demirjian, a cellist and singer, said his love of music and interest in conducting sealed his fate.

He earned a master of music degree in conducting from the New England Conservatory of Music, graduating just last May. His resume also includes conducting the Harvard Bach Society Orchestra, serving as co-conductor of the New England Conservatory Laboratory Orchestra and winning the Robert J. Harth conducting prize at the Aspen Music Festival.

Demirjian said he knew little about Kansas

City before auditioning and was pleasantly surprised to find a community dedicated to the arts.

"To be honest, I had no idea how much artistic depth there is in Kansas City," he said. "I feel a little bit embarrassed about that now that I've been exposed. ... I couldn't be more excited to be moving to a community that has such an honest and obvious love for the arts. The first day I was in Kansas City for the audition I took about a two-hour walk and there was something very organic about the city. The city just felt very real, like there was a strong sense of identity. I think the city and I are just going to be so compatible."

Demirjian also felt grateful to the symphony musicians.

"Not just how superb musically they were but how welcoming and open they were to working with me," he said. "That may be what I'm most excited about – working with such a phenomenal group of players. They were really who I interacted with most in this entire process."

REVIEW:

'Deported /A Dream Play' By Joyce Van Dyke Opens

BOSTON – Lace, quilts, veils and scarves – symbols of family memory – are key elements that tie characters and scenes together in "Deported/ a dream play," by Joyce Van Dyke, now playing at the Modern Theatre at Suffolk University in the Theatre District. Making these detailed adornments by hand takes patience and a vision with hopes for more to come, yet hidden actions and feelings might eventually be unmasked for those that are open to the experience. Threads of permanence in an imperfect world, these textiles tell tales and lessons in the dreams and hope of its characters. A veil may try to cover up damage and loss of dignity or life but its "knots can never be undone."

By Nancy Kalajian

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Using many flashbacks to provide historical information, the compelling play was inspired by the true stories of two of its main characters – the playwright's grandmother, Elmas Sarajian Boyajian who is called "Victoria" in the play, and her best friend, Varter Nazarian Deranian, the mother of Dr. H. Martin Deranian of Worcester (see his story on these pages).

With lively, convincing portrayals of three engaging central characters, Varter, Victoria and Harry, the action zooms in on three settings: 1938 Providence, 1978 Los Angeles and a dream spot sometime after 2015, with the significance of this date coming more than 100 years after the Armenian Genocide.

This play should be understood within its historical context. In the summer of 1915, during the Armenian Genocide, Varter and Elmas were among those deported with their children from the city of Mezireh, in what is now Elazig, Turkey. Elmas had three children. Varter had six, with another born to her while on the deportation route. All 10 children died during the deportation march. Their mothers eventually reached Aleppo, where they remained until 1920 and then boarded a ship together heading for the United States. In America, each woman remarried and had another child. Elmas and Varter continued their close friendship until Varter's premature death in 1929. Elmas died in her sleep in 1977.

The playwright's research into the women's lives becomes clear when experiencing the play. From the gardens they had in the old country to the clothing they wore, this reviewer was able to get a sense of their environs and an essence into their lives.

The acting in "Deported/a dream play" was topnotch, with some of the actors playing more than one role. Ken Baltin briefly played a Gendarme and the Vali but will likely be most remembered for his terrific acting as Harry, Victoria's husband. His expectation that an Armenian wife obeys with "silence and obedience" may seem old-fashioned in contemporary society. Though rough, impatient and trying to be in control of his wife, he came across in a more likeable manner when he shared some jokes and funny stories. The banter between Victoria and Harry, who were married for decades, seemed real, similar to others who have also been united in long-term relationships.

Harry, Victoria and Varter each seemed to be on journey through different stages of their lives, often intersecting with one another. As Victoria ages, we see the strength of her character and sense the pain she has endured. Played by Bobbie Steinbach, her Victoria is very convincing.

The intensity and fast pace of the production was maintained because there was no intermission. However, audiences may benefit from a break in the play to allow for reflection and conversation on what was being seen and felt. When experiencing plays that integrate spiritual life with reality, it is important to be attentive to the action on the stage to fully appreciate the intent of the playwright. After all, this is a "dream" play.

Judy Braha, the award-winning director, did a fine job directing "Deported/a dream play." Using the six "dreamers" or dancers as stagehands made for an attention-grabbing technique as they changed the scenes and moods in the play. The sets were simple but effective.

On a few occasions, cast members moved through the audience and onto the stage and this made for a somewhat immersive experience as the audience felt more linked to the action. Armenian words, phrases and expressions interspersed here and there were easily understood by Armenians, making an instant connection with what seemed like a mostly-Armenian audience on the night I viewed the play.

The struggles and ghosts that affect Genocide survivors and their descendants seem unresolved whether in the past or in the future but the play left viewers with a glimpse of potential hope for gathering together those interested in reconciliation in the future.

With expressive acting and the power of the narrative, theatre-goers will likely want to experience "Deported/a dream play" with performances being held until April 1.

Not to be missed in the theatre lobby is a beautifully mounted Project SAVE exhibit. Many of the black and white photographs are connected to the family members portrayed in the play. When you first enter the lobby, well-written historical information is displayed in a beautiful format on a huge panel. Catching the eyes of audience members before and after the play, it showed the interest of those in attendance to gather as much information on the history of the Armenians as they could.

There are going to be several events preceding the play (without extra fee).

- March 17, 7-7:30 p.m., "Educating Upstanders: What can we learn from the past about creating a more positive future?" With Adam Strom, Director of Content, Innovation and Research at Facing History and Ourselves, and author of Facing History's *Crimes Against Humanity and Civilization: The Genocide of the Armenians*

- March 23, 7-7:30 p.m., "Coming to terms with your past: how do countries, and individuals, respond to genocide?" With Prof. Nir Eisikovits, director, Graduate Program in Ethics and Public Policy, Suffolk University, and the Rev. Pamela L. Wertz, rector of Emmanuel Church, Boston. Moderated by Kate Snodgrass, artistic director, Boston Playwrights' Theatre.

- March 25, post-show talk with the playwright and director
- March 29, post-show talk: "One by One: Dialogue among Descendants of Genocide Survivors, Perpetrators, Bystanders and Resisters," with Dr. Wilma Busse, director of the Counseling Center, Suffolk University. Moderated by Paula Parnagian, president, World View Services.

- March 30, 7-7:30 p.m., "The next generation: Turks and Armenians talk about the future," with: AySe Deniz Lokmanoglu, master's candidate in Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University; Tsoleon Sarian; Nareg Seferian, master's degree candidate in politics and international affairs, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy; Ahmet Selim Tekelioglu, PhD candidate in political science, Boston University. Moderated by Cynthia Cohen, PhD, director of the program in Peacebuilding and the Arts, Brandeis University.

The Modern Theatre is located at 525 Washington St. Performances begin at 8 p.m.



ARTS & LIVING

Zhirayr Agavelyan Exhibits Photo Collages In Center Makor Boston Russian Center

BRIGHTON, Mass. – Center Makor is holding an exhibition of photo collages by photographer and filmmaker Zherar Agavelyan, which will run through April 15.

Agavelyan was born in Armenia. He is a graduate of the Institute of Culture, majoring in cinematography, in St. Petersburg, Russia. He worked in the Yerevan Council Television H1 station as a director for many years. He has lived in the US since 1991.

He has directed several documentaries which have received awards in international festivals: “Komitas” (1980), “Vardanank” (1984), “Who is Edward Ghazarian?” (1985), “Stone Symphony” (1987), “Lavash” (1988), “Everlasting Wanderer” (1989), “Forgiveness for My Sins” (1991) and “Armenian Struggle for Survival” (1933).

The “99 Pleasant” exhibition of photographs by Agavelyan was opened in Armenia

in 2011. He dedicated this exhibition to the 20th anniversary of Armenia’s independence. In addition to his photographs, a slide film of art and documentary photos and photo collages were also shown. Agavelyan composed the music for one of them, “Jupiter.” His poems were also displayed, which helped the viewer better understand the essence of the photographer’s work. His work had various themes, some of which included well-known Renaissance paintings, while others captured nature and war heroes.

Agavelyan is not just a filmmaker, but also a photographer. His photos and photo collages provoke thought. They can be characterized as poetic realism, full of feeling, life and a love for nature. The vivid use of color in his photos and photo collages helps to appreciate the dreamy, emotional



“Untitled”

nature of his work. He creates a beautiful, transparent, decorative tonality where the colors form a harmony. The light as a notion plays a considerable role in Agavelyan’s art. Light in his photos and photo collages is a symbol of life, hope, faith and the token of eternity.

Center Makor is located at 1845 Commonwealth Ave., Brighton. It is a non-profit organization created for charitable purposes by Russian-speaking immigrants from the former USSR now residing in Massachusetts.



“Untitled”



Zhirayr Agavelyan

Lenten Recipes:

Broiled Fish Kebob (Khorovadz Tsoog)

MARINADE

- 1 onion, finely chopped
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt or to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon crushed dried, or 2 tablespoons minced fresh dill
- 2 pounds fish, filleted and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 4 tablespoons olive oil or melted margarine
- Sesame seeds, optional

PREPARATION

1. Blend marinade ingredients into a bowl. Add fish cubes and stir until well coated. Marinate one to two hours, turning fish occasionally.
2. Thread fish cubes onto skewers. Place skewers across a broiling pan, brush with the oil or margarine and broil about five minutes or until fish is golden brown. Turn skewers and brush fish again with margarine, broil additional five minutes or longer, sprinkling sesame seeds over fish the last few minutes, if desired. (Spoon any leftover marinade into the broiling pan to cook along with the fish.)
3. When fish is done, serve immediately, spooning the cooked marinade over the fish. Yields four servings.

Note: Fish should be firm-fleshed such as swordfish, halibut, cod or haddock.

USC Institute of Armenian Studies Gala Event to Salute USC

USC, from page 1

Institute of Armenian Studies’ Leadership Council also will salute the late humanitarian Armin T. Wegner and the late Armenian Film Foundation founder and documentary filmmaker J. Michael Hagopian.

A German with a doctorate in law, Wegner served as a volunteer nurse during World War I. Witnessing the massacre of Armenians in 1915, he took the haunting photographs that today stand as a reminder of the heinous crimes of the Ottoman Turks. His work documenting the horrors of the Armenian Genocide and, subsequently, his open letter to Adolf Hitler denouncing the persecution of the Jews has made him a human rights hero.

Hagopian’s first filmed interview with a witness to the Armenian Genocide was with Wegner, in 1966.

With the attempted annihilation of the Armenian people being the first major genocide of the 20th century, the Armenian survivor and eyewitness interviews are significant to the scope of the USC Shoah Foundation Institute’s Visual History Archive. The USC Shoah Foundation Institute is beginning to work with partners around the world to expand its archive



J. Michael Hagopian

with existing and new testimony collections from survivors and witnesses of other genocides, including the genocides in Rwanda and Cambodia.

Born in Kharpert-Mezreh, Hagopian survived the Turkish extermination of 1.5 million Armenians in 1915 and dedicated his life to the visual documentation of the Armenian Genocide. In all, his work encompasses nearly 400 interviews of survivors of and witnesses to the Armenian Genocide and 40 years of research. He was the catalyst for the establishment of the Armenian Film Foundation in 1979.



ARTS & LIVING

Prof. Sergio La Porta To Speak on Armenian Reaction to Latin Missionaries in the 14th Century

FRESNO – Dr. Sergio La Porta, holder of the Haig and Isabel Berberian Chair of Armenian Studies at Fresno State, will speak on “Knowledge, Heresy, and Inquisition: The Armenian Reaction to Latin Missionaries in the 14th century,” at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

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

In the first quarter of the 14th century, Latin missionaries began to penetrate areas of Greater Armenia. Along with these missionaries came a repository of Latin books. Soon after their arrival, these books were translated into Armenian and an intense intellectual dialogue ensued between Armenians and Latins as well as amongst the Armenians themselves. Some Armenians accepted Roman Catholicism, others fought hard to prevent Armenians from leaving the Apostolic Church. One of the main reasons for the attraction of Armenians to Roman Catholicism was intellectual, in particular, the availability of new Aristotelian works. For the rest of the century, pro- and anti-Latin Armenian factions battled to control the future of Armenia’s intellectual tradition. While this struggle was sometimes violent and deadly, it also helped shape a period of intellectual dynamism and innovation.

La Porta is Berberian Professor of Armenian Studies at Fresno State and teaches a variety of Armenian Studies courses. He earned his PhD from Harvard University and wrote his thesis on the third volume of Grigor Tat’ewac’i’s *Book of Questions*. His most recent publications include a three-volume study of the earliest Armenian commentaries on the *Heavenly Hierarchy* attributed to Dionysius the Areopagite (Peeters, 2008); a volume co-edited with Professor Shulman on *The Poetics of Grammar and the Metaphysics of Sound and Sign* (Brill, 2007) and several articles on medieval Armenian political, religious and intellectual history. His current areas of interest include apocalyptic literature in the Armenian tradition; the history of Greater Armenia between the Seljuk and Mongol invasions and the influence of the works attributed to Dionysius the Areopagite on Armenian spirituality and theology.

ALMA to Host New England Rug Society Illustrated Lecture on Central Asian Traditions



San Francisco rug scholar Peter Poullada

WATERTOWN – On Friday, March 23, the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) will host a lecture by Peter Poullada, a collector and independent scholar specializing in the Turkmen and their weaving, who will present, “Lebab Turkmen and Their Interaction with the Local Uzbeks.” The Lebab (from Persian, “edge of the water,” i.e., “riverside”) live in the Middle Amu Darya region. Poullada’s talk will challenge common assumptions about their weaving and will include photographic images of their life and its “Bukharan” milieu – a mixture of Lebab, Uzbek and “Sart” cultural and social traditions relating most directly to the world of women.

Poullada has collected Central Asian weaving since the 1960s. He lived in Afghanistan and Iran in the 1960s and ’70s and in Turkey in the ’80s. He holds a bachelor’s from Princeton in Near Eastern languages and history; pursued graduate study at the University of California, Berkeley and has published articles in *Hali*, a major publication on Oriental carpets, and the *Journal of the Royal Society of Asian Affairs*.

New England Society members are encouraged to bring Turkmen rugs, bags and trappings – so-called Ersari and Beshir examples – and any others they wish Poullada to discuss – as well as Uzbek pieces in their collections

ALMA is located at 65 Main St., Watertown.



Turkmen woman spinning

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

MICHIGAN

APRIL 14 – Tekeyan Cultural Association and ADL present Annual Gourmet Dinner Dance and Program, celebrating 20 years of Tekeyan’s cultural and educational mission in Armenia. Honoring Man of the Year Mihran Hovlamazian. Entertainment by violinist Harry Hovkimian and his ensemble. 7 p.m. Open bar, mezza and gourmet dinner, \$75/person. For tickets, call: Ara Belian (248) 200-8030, Diana Alexanian (248) 334-3636 or Pam Coultis (248) 646-7847. At St. John’s Armenian Church Cultural Hall, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. To benefit Komitas Choir of St. John’s Armenian Church, Tekeyan Sponsor a Teacher Program and the Orphans’ Higher Education Fund in Armenia.

NEW JERSEY

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

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

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



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

NEW YORK

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

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COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

The Profile of Parliamentary Elections in Armenia

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The parliamentary election campaign is in full swing in Armenia. The ruling and the opposition parties, as well as the electorate, anticipate changes in the May 6 elections, each to justify its own expectations. The heat of the ongoing debates, shifting alliances and the news coverage are nary a blip on the diaspora's radar, whereas for Armenians in the homeland, the elections will determine the future course of the country, its foreign policy, the prospects of the economy and the ratings of the elections by world organizations, which will in turn affect the quantity and quality of help Armenia may expect from the outside world.

Democratic elections are new for Armenia, and ever since independence, every election has come to be viewed as the measure of the country's maturity in the democratic process.

The passive stance or indifference in the diaspora may be attributed to the complex nature of the political scene in Armenia, beginning with the real challenge of deciphering the acronyms of the political parties involved in order to understand their philosophies or political platforms and form an educated opinion on the overall situation. Also, shifting alliances make it even harder to follow the flow of news and the shape of the electoral campaign.

There are 131 seats in the parliament. Forty-one members are elected through a majority vote, running on an individual basis. The remaining 90 seats are filled by deputies elected on party slates.

Since the last election, the ruling coalition comprised President Serge Sargisian's Republican Party, Gagik Zoroukian's Prosperous Armenia Party, Arthur Baghdassaryan's Country of Laws Party and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) (Dashnag party). The latter split from the coalition and claimed to be in the opposition, which the radical opposition HAK (its acronym in Armenian, which translates into Armenian National Congress) never believed nor acknowledged.

The ARF and Raffi Hovannisian's Heritage Party tried to maneuver at the last minute to amend the constitution and adopt one system of election — by party slates, a move that was defeated by the ruling coalition.

Today, during the current election, the major players are six parties: Republican, Prosperous Armenia, Land of Laws, ARF, HAK (Armenian National Congress) and the Heritage Party, recently reinforced by Free Democrats, which split from HAK.

As far as the ideologies of these parties are concerned, there are no clear-cut platforms. That is why a political analyst in *Aravot Daily*, Aram Aprahamian, defined those ideologies as “fuzzy.” Because those parties either pursue special interests or are based on a single oligarch's wealth. He went on with his typical sarcasm to add: “The Republican party claims to be conservative nationalist imbued with our national hero Njdej's ideas. I can't make heads nor tails.”

On the other hand, he found out that the Opposition HAK does not need any ideology per se until it “destroys” the current administration of “bandits” (per Levon Zourabian) and it replaces it with a “legitimate” rule; then it can begin to look for an ideology.

Prosperous Armenia represents its founders' interests, namely oligarch Gagik Zoroukian, and it entertains one “fuzzy” goal of bringing back former President Robert Kocharian.

The Country of Laws (Orinatz) party does not have a political leg to stand on. Its leader, Arthur Baghdassaryan, managed last time to be appointed as the national security secretary by hanging on the coat-tails of the Republican Party.

The only party which exercises Western-style parliamentarianism, is Hovannisian's Heritage Party, which counts eight members in the parliament, almost all of them professionals and intellectuals. They propose draft laws, they come up with innovative ideas and they stand up and fight for their positions diligently, regardless of whether they win or lose.

More recently, they projected an enhanced profile and there was also some talk to align with the Prosperous Armenia Party. But the party had a “marriage of convenience” with the ARF, as it lacks a broad-based, grassroots support and it intends to compensate that void with ARF's grassroots. But they had an actual marriage with Free Democrats (most prominent among them former Foreign Minister Alik Arzoumanyan), whose godmother is believed to be the former US ambassador to Armenia Marie Yovanovitch.

During its recent convention, the Heritage Party released its platform where there is criticism to the extension of Armenia's military pact with Russia; that already indicates where the party is coming from.

The Free Democrats split from Levon Ter-Petrosian's Radical Opposition Group HAK, which lost some steam during the last few years. Some groups were disillusioned because Ter-Petrosian did not put his money where his mouth was; after delivering fiery speeches at rallies to “deconstruct” or to “dismantle” kleptocracy, he opted for a more moderate course and he even tried to enter into negotiations with the ruling coalition without any success. Other groups, like the Free Democrats, defected because they blamed HAK for having too much of an authoritarian decision-making process within the organization. And that was proven to be true when it was revealed that Ter-Petrosian will form the election slate single handedly. HAK is composed of 18 parties and associations; four of them have already decided not to be featured on the election slate.

One unsolved mystery keeps fueling speculations in the media: the relationship between coalition partners. Indeed the Republican Party and the Prosperous Armenia Party had signed an official pact to participate together in the elections. Some friction between them surfaced in recent months, encouraging different parties to woo the Prosperous Armenia Party. Even opposition leader Levon Ter-Petrosian extended the olive branch to Zoroukian, who, to this day, remains uncommitted and does not try to dispel rumors about the collapse of the coalition, on the other hand avoiding any bait extended to him.

Former President Robert Kocharian's shadow looms behind the mystery.

The big question remains: is there an understanding, or a pact, between Presidents Kocharian and Serge Sargisian to swap positions during the next presidential elections, similar to the Putin-Medvedev pact which brought back Vladimir Putin to the presidential office? Or was there a commitment by President Sargisian to offer the office of the prime minister to Kocharian?

And if there were such agreements and President Sargisian has changed the rules of the game midstream, then rumors of frictions or conflicts between the coalition partners can be explained. Zoroukian's group insists that Kocharian's shadow must not be sought behind the party.

Some other media pundits believe that there is a ploy to air agreed disagreements between the parties to disorient the public and especially the opposition. Whatever the game or the mystery, it will come out during — or even before — the elections.

Pollsters predict that ARF may again pass the bar of 5 percent and send the same number of members to the parliament. The 5-percent ratio is also cited in the case of Armenian National Congress. That way the former President Levon Ter-Petrosian will have a more comfortable forum to deliver his lectures to his followers, rather than freezing them in Opera Square.

An election scenario emerges where almost all parties are set up against the ruling Republican Party, but they lack coordination to make an impact.

The profile in the next parliament predicts some chipping of power from the Republican Party. Once in the parliament, the opposition, in its turn, cannot continually threaten “to dismantle” the administration. The opposition has set its goal higher and believes that the upcoming parliamentary elections will also determine the outcome of next year's presidential election.

Thus the road will be paved for the other parties to maneuver between the two blocks, somehow creating some checks and balances at the executive level.

Recently, a mayoral election took place in the city of Hrazdan, where the popular opposition candidate Sassoun Mikaelian lost by a narrow margin. He refused to contest the election results, and the European observers considered the election to be fair and democratic. That seems to have served as a weathervane for the upcoming parliamentary elections. This, of course, does not mean that bribing and ballot stuffing will be eliminated entirely, but they will be limited to a certain degree, and the games will be played in a more sophisticated manner. After all the starving electorate there expects such things to happen.

However, the president assured his audience during the Republican Party Convention that the government is planning to organize clean elections.

Even if far from perfection, Armenia is moving forward its democratic exercise, albeit at a snail's pace.

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EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

PRODUCTION

Dilani Yogaratanam

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:

Edmond Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

Florence Avakian, Elizabeth Aprahamian, Daphne Abeel, Dr. Haroutiune Arzoumanian, Taleen Babayan, Prof. Vahakn N. Dadrian, Diana Der Hovannessian, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Sonia Kailian-Placido, Harut Sassounian, Mary Terzian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian

CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian
Boston - Nancy Kalajian
Philadelphia - Lisa Manookian

Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair Hovsepian

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Clinton Should Resign for Making Offensive Remarks on Armenian Genocide

How many times can Secretary of State Hillary Clinton break her pledge and make insulting remarks on the Armenian Genocide before she is called a liar and forced to resign?

Armenian-Americans are fed up with Mrs. Clinton and her boss, Barack Obama, who also has not kept his promises on the Armenian Genocide. And the problem transcends their views on the Armenian Genocide. The Obama Administration has failed the Armenian-American community on many issues, including cutting foreign aid to Armenia, not backing Artsakh's right to self determination and pressuring Armenia to sign a treaty with Turkey that runs counter to its national interests.

In this column, we shall focus on Secretary Clinton, and address our displeasure with President Obama policies later, in the context of the upcoming presidential elections.

As US Senator, Mrs. Clinton co-sponsored a resolution calling for recognition of the Armenian Genocide. In 2006 and 2008, joining then Senator Obama, she sent letters to President George W. Bush, describing the Armenian Genocide as a "systematic and deliberate campaign of geno-

cide perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire in 1915.... The victims of the Genocide deserve our remembrance and their rightful place in history."

On January 24, 2008, as a presidential candidate, Mrs. Clinton declared in a written statement that the "horrible events perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against Armenians constituted a clear case of genocide. ...Our common morality and our nation's credibility as a voice for human rights challenge us to ensure that the Armenian Genocide be recognized and remembered by the Congress and the President of the United States."

After becoming Secretary of State, Mrs. Clinton must have suffered a bout of total amnesia. During a January 26, 2012 Town Hall meeting at the State Department, she reversed her earlier characterization of "clear case of genocide," to "a matter of historical debate." While the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide remain unchanged, what must have changed is Secretary Clinton's moral fortitude to tell the truth!

Clinton's distorted moral compass outraged the Armenian-American community. The Armenian Assembly of America sent a letter to President Obama complaining about Mrs. Clinton's "untenable" statement, and the Armenian National Committee of America asked the Secretary to retract her deeply offensive position, parroting Turkey's revisionist view of the Armenian Genocide.

On February 28, over 60 House members from both parties sent a joint letter to Mrs. Clinton, expressing their "deeply-held concerns" regarding her January 26 statement "mischaracterizing the Armenian Genocide." They urged the Secretary to disavow her "ill-considered statement" and reaffirm her previous commitment to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

On February 29, Rep. Adam Schiff confronted the Secretary of State during her testimony before the House Appropriations Subcommittee. Recalling her ear-

lier truthful statements on the Armenian Genocide, the Congressman bluntly asked: "Is there any question that you have that the facts of that tragic period between 1915 and 1923 constitute genocide? Do you have any different view on the subject now than you did as a US Senator?" When Secretary Clinton responded with evasive and euphemistic answers, Schiff chided her: "This is, tragically, very much the line of the Turkish government!"

In her March 1 response to the letters from the Armenian Assembly and ANCA, the Secretary once again used euphemisms to avoid the term Armenian Genocide and urged "Armenia and Turkey to work together to address their shared history." This is as morally repugnant as avoiding the term Holocaust and urging Jews to work out their differences with neo-Nazis!

Mrs. Clinton's March 1 letter also describes her 2010 visit to "the memorial at Tsitsernakaberd" in Armenia "as a sign of respect for those who lost their lives during this tragedy." There are two misrepresentations in this single sentence: she refers to the Genocide as "tragedy," and avoids calling the "Armenian Genocide Monument" by its proper name. Furthermore, the Secretary did not invite the international media to cover her "low profile" visit to the Armenian Genocide Monument, not to upset the "delicate feelings" of Turkish denialists; and to completely downplay the significance of the visit, the US Embassy in Yerevan issued an imprudent press release, describing her brief stop at the "memorial" as "a private," not official visit.

If Secretary Clinton had made similarly offensive comments on the Holocaust, she would have been dismissed from her job on the same day. Armenian-Americans should demand no less. Fortunately, Mrs. Clinton has announced that she will be retiring at the end of this year. We say goodbye and good riddance.

LETTERS

Azadian's Column on 'Disorder' Is Right on Target

To the Editor:

Edmond Azadian's commentary, titled "The New World Disorder," (February 11 issue) was a masterpiece that every Armenian activist should read and share with the uninformed. I have known Mr. Azadian for many years and always admired the journalistic talent that he possesses.

His analysis on our "world in disorder" and the fate of Armenia shows an exceptionally keen observance and political intellect. Azadian leaves no stones unturned in pointing the finger of guilt at the responsible parties and nations.

Every Armenian who believes in the cause for justice in a world of disorder can learn from Azadian's column. Armenians who question why we still pursue the call for justice for the 1915 massacres will be enriched by this editorial, as we approach the 100th anniversary of the Turkish genocide of our ancestors in historical Turkish-held Armenia.

The role of the Armenian press is vital to informing our community about the Armenian cause.

Thank you, Mr. Azadian, for your powerful, thought-provoking commentary.

— Mitch Kehetian
Allen Park, Mich.

Govern, Do Not Rule

By Nubar Dorian

"How broad is the ocean and how right is the sky? Best describes the disappointment, pain, even anger, in witnessing, hearing and reading the sorry state of affairs in Armenia. Armenians remember how deep was their gratitude when providence gave us the gift of independence. Diaspora Armenians, as well, were delighted to have finally an independent Armenia and were determined to offer and treasure time and talent to help homeland Armenians. Their determination and love was deep and true. They thanked God that homeland Armenians woke up every morning and would go to bed at night under the sunrise and sunset of the Armenian sun over their land.

The great promise of independence, security and happy expectations disappeared within a matter of two decades. More than a dozen political parties, each vying for power and influence, created discord, disunity, poverty and untold misdeeds. Armenia, unfortunately, became a land with no direction, destroyed all hope, crushed vision and dreams. The Homeland became a land of nihilists. How can Diaspora Armenians blame a tragic number of homeland Armenians who left the land they passionately loved in order to seek comfort and refuge in other lands to become Diaspora Armenians?

Unfortunately, this chaotic situation also gave rise to a dozen or more individuals, who with their ill-begotten billions of dollars, became power seekers. They bribed, spread lawlessness, blackmailed innocents, corrupted officials and made them their lackeys. Their ugly and unholy activities and their craving for power and influence had only one aim; to turn "masters" of the land. They are indeed "monsters" and aim to rule Armenia at any cost. The elected presidents and most government officials were either unwilling or unable to punish these "monsters." This group of cretins wanted to rule, instead of governing Armenia.

Most of our Diaspora Armenians' mistakes to date have been to

accept that proposition that 20-plus years will not be enough time to create a good government in Armenia. So many of us claim that we should not be critical of the present situation in the Homeland. We should collectively accept that fact that it does not take 20 years to have unity of mind and purpose. It does not take 20 years to govern instead of rule. It does not take 20 years to punish criminals and monsters.

It is time for the Homeland not to take the diaspora for granted. Diaspora Armenia is still steady and firm in its love for the Homeland, but it no longer accepts hearing bad news every week. After extending so much help to the Homeland, the diaspora wants to hear good news to lift up their spirits. It is time for Armenia to stop disunity and bridge the chasm. Obviously, it is

"It is time for the Homeland not to take the diaspora for granted. Diaspora Armenia is still steady and firm in its love for the Homeland, but it no longer accepts hearing bad news every week."

time to punish the "monsters" who are nothing more than traitors.

Let the homeland know that from babyhood to old age, Diaspora Armenians have learned to love the saintly mystery of Echmiadzin, the winds that sweep the majestic Ararat mountains, the broken clouds and the glimpse of Armenian sunshine. The diaspora sings and will continue to sing the tragic sad songs, as well as dance happily to make certain Turkey does not us off the surface of the earth. Happy news will make the diaspora more united in love, thought and action, but Armenia must start governing, instead of ruling.

History does not permit us the luxury of time. It starts with blank pages to be filled. History at last gave Armenia independence, along with its blank pages. In all the volumes of books of all libraries in the universe, besides our Genocide, there are no pages written by independent Armenia when almost 2 million Armenians left their beloved country to seek sustenance in other lands. In short, the present government and all governments to come, must govern, not rule.

(Nubar Dorian is a resident of Cliffside Park, NJ. He is active in the community, including as a Diocesan Delegate.)



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