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Manougian Aims to Bolster Jerusalem Patriarchate

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN – Jerusalem Patriarch Nourhan Manougian visited the area this week after picking up an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, the General Theological Seminary, in New York.

Manougian, 65, was born in Aleppo, Syria. He entered the Theological Seminary in Antelias, Lebanon, in 1961, where, incidentally, he was a classmate of Catholicos Aram I of the Catholicosate of the Great



Jerusalem Patriarch Nourhan Manougian

House of Cilicia. After being ordained as a celibate priest, he served in Switzerland first, then Israel, before coming to New York at the invitation of Archbishop Tor Kom Manougian, who later became the

Jerusalem Patriarch. He served in Springfield, Mass. And Houston, Texas, before returning to Jerusalem as a bishop in 1999.

He was elected patriarch of Jerusalem last year.

During an interview at St. James Armenian Church on Monday, Manougian discussed his plans for the patriarchate, noting that it needed more investments and more Armenian visitors. He also spoke about specific plans with which the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) will provide help.

"I am using the opportunity to visit with Armenian organizations, such as the

ADL and the AGBU," he said.

The AGBU has agreed to launch a new center for the Genocide archives in Jerusalem, some of which were shipped there for safekeeping from the Patriarchate of Constantinople during the Armenian Genocide.

"We want to have a new place. Mr. Berge Setrakian [president of the AGBU] said that he would donate \$200,000 for

the new center," he noted.

Manougian added Setrakian and the AGBU had also offered to help the Patriarchate in the form of legal and administrative aid in taking care of its real estate holdings. Manougian said managing the Patriarchate's real estate holdings is under control now, but like many entities, it is in need of more money. "The annual income see JERUSALEM, page 16

Armenian Primate of Damascus on US Visit Meets with Elected Officials

LOS ANGELES – On an official visit to the United States, Bishop Armash

Nalbandian, Primate of the Armenian Church of Damascus, along with other Syrian Christian officials, met with several Armenian American leaders and elected officials in Southern California, to discuss the plight of Syria's Christians in light of the recent political uprisings.



Bishop Armash Nalbandian at the Los Angeles City Council meeting

Nalbandian participated in a lecture on February 10, organized by the Executive Committee of the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund (SARF), under the auspicious of Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America, provided an opportunity for the public to learn in detail about the dire situation facing Syrian Armenians. The program at the Western Diocese Kalaydjian Hall in Burbank, moved so many hearts that over \$30,000 was raised.

see DELEGATION, page 9

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greek Dignitaries Visit Genocide Monument

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The delegation of Greece led by the Parliament Speaker of Greece Evangelos Meimarakis on February 25 visited Tsitsernakaberd, the memorial of the Armenian Genocide victims. Accompanied by Deputy Chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Eduard Sharmazanov, Evangelos Meimarakis laid a wreath at the memorial of the Armenian Genocide victims.

Meimarakis and the members of the delegation accompanying him laid a wreath at the Eternal flame and honored the memory of innocent victims by one minute silence. The members of the delegation toured in the Memory Park and Meimarakis planted a silvery fir tree.

The Parliament of Greece passed a resolution on the recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide on April 25 1996.

Deputy Speaker Meets PRC Ambassador

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Hermine Naghdalyan met with Tian Changchun, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Armenia. Tian expressed satisfaction on the occasion of the visit of the delegation of the Communist Party of China to Armenia on February 14-16. He has noted that the Armenian-Chinese relations have many years of history and harmonically develop in all spheres. He highlighted the implementation of a number of draft laws.

Catholicos Condemns European Court Ruling

ECHMIADZIN – Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, wrote a letter to Swiss President Didier Burkhalter condemning the recent ruling of the European Court of Human Rights which struck down a Swiss law against Armenian Genocide denial.

In his letter, the catholicos noted that the court's decision threatens to thwart efforts to seek justice for crimes against humanity and undermines peaceful dialogue among nations. He urged the Swiss government to appeal the ruling.

He also wrote to Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, in which he encouraged WCC members to condemn the ruling and to press for an appeal. A third letter was dispatched to Bishop Markus Büchel, president of the Conference of Bishops of Switzerland.

According to the December 2013 ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, it is not a criminal offense to deny that the events of 1915 constitute a genocide, and thus the Swiss law against Armenian Genocide denial violates freedom of expression. Switzerland has until mid-March to file an appeal.

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A Cultural Capital of the Diaspora in Berlin

Muriel Mirak-Weissbach
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

d'art displayed, perhaps all created by one person in a solo exhibition, or perhaps the work of a large number of artists, as is currently the case in a show centered

on the theme of "The Nude as a Guest." Though the themes and the exhibitors change, one feature remains constant: a generously scripted phrase in German painted in elegant cursive letters on the wall just above the entrance door. Translated, it reads: "Tradition is not to worship the ashes but to pass on the flame, keep the fire burning." A quotation from the famous composer Gustav Mahler, it stands as the motto of Galentz's place.

"Armenians always want to export their past," he quipped. "We want to communicate art now. Culture is something that comes into being." Thus the quote from Mahler. InteriorDasein is the name of the gallery, itself a play on words in German see BERLIN, page 11



Archi Galentz in his atelier in Berlin

BERLIN – When you walk into the spacious locale of Archi Galentz's atelier in the Wedding district of Berlin, and move from one room to the next, you see paintings, drawings and objets

Benefactress Eleanor Dickranian Dies

LOS ANGELES – Eleanor Dickranian, a longtime supporter of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA), and was a benefactor of the school named after her husband, Arshag Dickranian, died on February 16. She was 101.

Dickranian was born on February 17, 1912, in Selma, Calif. Two years after graduating from Selma Union High School, she met Archie (Arshag) Dickranian, whom she married in November 1932. The couple first lived in Los Angeles and soon moved their business and home to Beverly Hills.

see DICKRANIAN, page 16



Eleanor Dickranian



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

About 270 players to Attend Euro Individual Chess Championship

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The 15th European Individual Chess Championship will be held here March 2-15. The championship is dedicated to the memory of the late grandmaster Tigran Petrosian, whose 85th birthday is being marked this year. The Armenian Chess Federation reported that the opening ceremony will be held on March 2, at 9 p.m. at the Spendiarian Armenian National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet.

The championship is an 11-round Swiss-style tournament. Games will take place from March 3 till 15, starting at the Elite Plaza Business Centre.

About 270 chess players from 27 countries are going to take part in the championship. Among them there are about 130 grandmasters and more than 200 chess players with international titles. The biggest delegations are from Armenia (about 80 participants), Russia (53), Georgia (17), Israel (17), Ukraine (13) and Turkey (10).

Rochebloine Urges Karabagh Sides to Take Realistic Steps

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The members of the France-Karabagh friendship group are interested in the process of establishment of peace in the South Caucasus and call on the sides of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict to take realistic and pragmatic steps, according to the French newspaper Le Monde, quoting François Rochebloine, a member of the National Assembly of France as well as the France-Armenia Parliamentary group and France-Karabagh Friendship group. He urged the sides to refrain from the threats, bellicose rhetoric and actions.

He stressed, “If the war is over, then it’s apparent that peace is yet to be established. The absence of common dialogue and agreement on understanding between the sides make the ceasefire more than dangerous.”

In addition, Rochebloine noted that the present facts must be accepted and a constructive and transparent dialogue must be started to establish peace. Expression of comprehensive opinions and democratic approach is essential for the dialogue. “We see that Nagorno Karabagh recorded a true progress and we are glad to know that Nagorno Karabagh was placed among ‘partially free’ countries in the Freedom House NGO’s index,” he noted.

General Andranik Museum Organizes Events on 149th Anniversary

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The 149th anniversary of the birth of the symbol of the Armenian liberation movement Andranik Ozanian was celebrated on February 25. The Ministry of Culture reported that the staff of the General Andranik Museum organized a visit to Yerablur and visited his final resting place. Then, the group held a theatrical-musical event with the participation of schoolchildren.

Ozanian was an Armenian military commander, fedayee leader and a key figure of the Armenian national movement in late 19th and early 20th centuries. He joined the fedayee movement in late 1880s, first fighting against the Turks and Kurds in ranks of Hunchaks, later as a member of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. His revolutionary activities lasted until 1904, when he left the Ottoman Empire. In 1907 he left the ARF. In 1912–1913, together with Garegin Nzhdeh, he led the Armenian company of the Macedonian-Adrianopolitan Volunteer Corps against the Ottomans during the First Balkan War.

Former President Kocharian Speaks on Armenia’s Customs Union Accession

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Former president Robert Kocharian believes Armenia should not have engaged in pursuing an Association Agreement with the European Union in the company of GUAM (Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Moldova) states and especially with “obtrusive PR.”

“It gave the process an excessive geopolitical coloring. Russia’s response was quite predictable,” Kocharian commented in an interview with his unofficial website, 2rd.am, on Monday.

“Anyway, this is what we have now. One would desire that the accession to the Customs Union itself be taking place calmly, with minimum geopolitics and with maximum consideration of long-term interests of the country’s economy. Any miscalculations will negatively affect all residents of Armenia,” he added, expressing his opinion on Armenia’s decision to join the trade block currently comprising Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Kocharian made a comparative analysis of approaches to the customs policy pursued in Russia and Armenia after the breakup of the USSR, concluding that by force of objective circumstances Russia and Armenia have implemented different approaches in their customs policies, dictated by the realities of their

own economies.

“As the Customs Code of the Russian Federation underlies the approaches of the Customs Union, a question arises: what issue of its economy does Armenia address by raising its customs duties up to the Russian ones and will Armenia manage to painlessly reverse its approaches,” asked Kocharian.

“I don’t share the optimism of our officials on this matter as the economy is inertial and sharp turns are harmful. People build their businesses according to the current rules over a long period of time, and time is needed for readjustments. Obviously, some businesses will improve their positions while others will suffer, still others will simply cease to exist. An in-depth and open analysis of the Customs Union countries’ markets in all the groups of commodities is needed to forecast possible outcomes. Businessmen and farmers should know in which fields to expect problems and, conversely, in which fields they may grow their opportunities. It will also help banks and credit organizations manage their financial resources more effectively and with lower risks,” said the former leader.

Kocharian emphasized that the EU will most probably revise its generalized

system of preferences (GSP+) in trade with Armenia, noting that the EU ambassadors already imply it.

“Problems will also arise within the framework of the WTO in case of changing the already mentioned customs duties and it can hardly be unavoidable. That will entail retaliatory measures toward our goods. It is hard to evaluate how it will impact Armenia’s economy and its long-term investment attractiveness,” Kocharian said.

Among other problems singled out by the ex-president is the rise in prices for imports from the countries outside the Customs Union area. “Taking into account the domination of such goods on the consumer market and the level of Armenia’s trade balance deficit, the matter concerns quite a substantial volume,” Kocharian said. “Restraining significant growth in prices will only be possible by introducing a very impressive list of exemptions and its synchronization with the gradual reduction of customs duties as part of Russia’s obligations to the WTO. And it depends on the results of the working negotiations with all the Customs Union countries that will set forward their counter demands. It is a laborious process of coordinating interests and any haste may lead to undesirable outcomes

President Attends Requiem Service for Grigor Gurzadyan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President Serge Sargsisian attended this week the requiem service for renowned astrophysicist, academician of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia Grigor Gurzadyan. He had died on February 22.

Grigor Aram Gurzadyan was born on October 15, 1922 in Baghdad (Iraq) to parents who had fled from Western Armenia in 1915. In 1944 he graduated from the Hydrotechnical and Constructional Departments of Yerevan Polytechnic Institute. The same year he became the post-graduate of academician Viktor Ambartsumian, and in 1948 at the age of 26, he defended his thesis on the topic “The Radiation Balance of Interstellar Gas Matter” in Moscow State University. In essence Gurzadyan was one of the main scientists of the founding team of the B y u r a k a n

Astrophysical Observatory. In 1955 (at the age of 33) he defended his doctoral thesis. In 1950-1966 Gurzadyan was the Head of the Department of Physics of Stars and Nebulae of the Byurakan Observatory, in 1967-1973 he headed the branch of space researches, in 1973-1978 he headed Garni Astronomy Laboratory, in 1978-1992 he was the Head of Extra-atmospheric Astronomy Laboratory of the Byurakan Observatory, in 1992-2004 he was the Head of Garni Space Astronomy Institute. Since 1979 he was the Head of the Chair of Space Instrument-Making of Yerevan Polytechnic Institute as well. For decades he lectured on theoretical astrophysics at Yerevan State

University and precise mechanics at the Yerevan Polytechnical Institute. In 1962 he was awarded a professorship, in 1965 he was elected a corresponding member of Armenian SSR Academy of Sciences, in 1986 a full member.

Gurzadyan’s works refer to the problems of radiation equilibrium of interstellar space, the morphological and kinematical investigations of stellar associations, diffuse and planetary



Grigor Gurzadyan

nebulae, space instrument-making. He worked out the theory of formation of double-envelope nebulae, investigated the meaning of the magnetic field in formation of planetary nebulae forms, worked out a theory of star flares based on non-thermal phenomena occurring in them. Gurzadyan created a number of scientific devices and optical systems as well. The formation of automatic operation method, of the principle of optical system work of Orion Space Observatory is connected with his name. In 1990s he worked out the theories of common chromospheres (round chromes) of close binary stars and of evolution of binary globular clusters.

Parliament Chairman Attends Reception Dedicated to 35th Anniversary of Islamic Revolution

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – On February 10 the chairman of the National Assembly, Hovik Abrahamyan, took part in the official reception dedicated to the 35th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

He said, in his comments, “On behalf of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and on my own behalf I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Ambassador, and in your person, the friendly people of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.”

He referred to the long history between the two nations. “The relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Islamic Republic of Iran date back to ancient times and have a rich history. The friendship between Armenia and Iran serves as an exemplary relationship of the peoples and countries that is determined not only by our immediate neighborhood, but also mutual trust between our peoples that allow easier and warm contacts at different levels. Our friendship has withstood the trial of time and many challenges dictated by events,” he said.

“Today, we may say without hesitation that Armenian-Iranian relationship is at a high level and continues to develop in the atmosphere of mutual trust, thus not only promoting bilateral relations, but fostering regional stability as well,” he said.



INTERNATIONAL

Montreal Exhibit Recalls Armenian Genocide

By Janice Arnold

MONTREAL (*Canadian Jewish News*) – A photo exhibition currently on display in the foyer of Federation CJA recognizes the deaths of up to 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire during World War I as a genocide perpetrated by the Turks.

The exhibit, which continues until May 16, is jointly presented by the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC) and the local Armenian community to mark the 95th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian massacre and the 65th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust.

Although they may seem like natural partners, this is the first formal collaboration between the MHMC and Armenian Montrealers. What brought them together is a man regarded as a hero by both communities.

Armin T. Wegner, who took the gruesome pictures of dead, starving and homeless men, women and children that haunt the federation hall, was not Armenian or Jewish. He was a German who served as a nurse in the German army during World War I.

He took numerous photos and kept diaries of the persecution, deportation and murder of the Armenians, a Christian minority. According to the exhibition, there were just under two million Armenians scattered from Constantinople to the Persian border before 1915.

Wegner, a writer and journalist, hoped the photos would alert the world to what was happening. He even pleaded for intervention in a letter to then-US president Woodrow Wilson, to no avail.

In the 1930s, when the Nazi persecution of Jews began, Wegner was one of the few voices speaking out against it. He even dared write an open letter to Hitler. He was imprisoned, and according to his son, Michele Wegner, who came in from Rome for the opening of the exhibition, he was tortured and bore the psychological scars until the end of his life in exile in 1978.

Wegner was recognized as one of the Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem in 1968, and, in 1996, after an independent Armenia was established, his ashes were re-interred in the new state.

The exhibition has been organized by the Armin T. Wegner Society in the United States, which was founded seven years ago to make his courageous efforts better known. The exhibit's title is "The Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust: One Man Takes a Stand."

MHMC president Susyn Borer, in her remarks, emphasized that both genocides "did take place," and she spoke of Jews' and Armenians' "shared sense of memory" and the responsibility to bear witness.



Liana Fisher, a Holocaust survivor, views the exhibit "The Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust: One Man Takes a Stand," now on display in the Federation CJA lobby.

"The purpose is not only to learn about history, but first of all to confront history," she said.

Varante Yapoudjian, a vice-president of the exhibition's co-sponsor, the United Committee for the Commemoration of the 95th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, was more blunt.

"No sum of money that the Turkish government spends in its ongoing campaign of denial can counter the proof provided in the photos on view," he said.

"Young Armenians of my generation are not only here to remember, but to say to the deniers, 'We are here to defend the truth.'"

Wegner said that in the 1960s, when the Armenian community began asking him about his father's long-forgotten photos, he was threatened by Turks. "They said, 'Destroy those pictures, otherwise we will come to your home and do it,'" said the younger Wegner.

Canada recognized the Armenian genocide in 2004. Quebec had done the same the year before. The province has an active Armenian community of about 25,000.

The United States has not extended official recognition, nor has Israel.

Some in the Jewish community have also been reluctant to draw comparisons between the Armenian and Jewish tragedies, feeling it might detract from the Holocaust. This exhibit brings to mind Holocaust scenes, with its corpses, emaciated, terrorized victims and camps.

Holocaust survivor Joseph Fishman, however, welcomed the attention to the Armenian Genocide.

"It's a marvelous thing. Thank God, 95 years later, we finally know about this and are talking about it." He thinks the Turks should follow the example of

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who recognized the massacre of thousands of Poles at Katyn.

A native of Hungary who was deported to Auschwitz, Fishman recalls as a youngster his parents talking about a report in the papers just before World War II that Hitler told his army commanders that Germany could get away with exterminating the Jews because, "Who remembers the Armenians?"

Egyptian-born Aida Karibian, looking at the photos, said, "I have never been to these places, but is almost as if I lived it because I grew up with it. What happened was described to me day after day. I'm very, very happy that the Jewish community is hosting this commemoration side by side with us."

The exhibition has multiple meanings for Israeli-Canadian artist Esti Mayer, some of whose works have Holocaust themes. Her great-grandfather in western Turkey, was executed for his attempt to aid the Armenians in his village.

David Gormezano witnessed the rounding up of his Armenian neighbours and their mass murder in a ravine, the bodies burned. The Turks came for him a few days later, and threw him alive into a pit of lye, his wife and two children surviving him, although one would later die of starvation.

Mayer, whose father was Israeli consul general in Montreal in the 1980s, said she is "embarrassed" by the Israeli government's refusal to recognize the genocide.

"Whatever the relationship Israel has with Turkey, whatever the realpolitik, the truth deserves to be spoken. The Armenian tragedy legitimated what subsequently happened to the Jewish people. Eventually, I think the right thing will be done."

Charles Aznavour Attends Program Dedicated to Resistance Hero Manouchian

PARIS (*Armenpress*) – Charles Aznavour attended a program dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the execution of French Resistance legend Missak Manouchian. The legendary singer posted photos of the events in his facebook page and wrote a note saying how he was proud to participate in the events dedicated to French-Armenian activist Manouchian.

Previously it was reported that a commemorative ceremony dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the execution of Manouchian and his companions by

Nazis was held at Fort Mont-Valérien fortress in the outskirts Paris. French President François Hollande laid a wreath at the memorial in honor of Manouchian and his companions and later gave a speech.

Speaking about Manouchian, Hollande said: "He was one of those survivors of the Armenian Genocide, who settled in France and joined its struggle for liberation. Manouchian was not the only Armenian to sacrifice his life for the freedom of the country."

He led a group of underground French

Resistance forces working against the Nazi occupiers of France, carrying out operations to save persecuted minorities. Manouchian was captured, along with 68 of his comrades. He and 21 of his companions were shot on February 21, 1944, at Fort Mont-Valérien, where Friday's ceremony took place.

Attending the ceremony were members of the French government, the Senate and the National Assembly, politicians and public figures, Aznavour, and representatives of Armenian organizations in France.

International News

Medvedev Meets Armenian PM in Sochi

SOCHI (RFE/RL) – Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev and Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian met in Russia's Black Sea resort city of Sochi to discuss bilateral ties on February 24.

The two leaders discussed Armenia's road map to join a Russian-led Customs Union and efforts to secure new financial assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Armenia announced its intention to join the Customs Union, which also includes Belarus and Kazakhstan, in September.

On February 23, Sargsian said Armenia had implemented about half of the measures needed to join the Customs Union.

He said remaining issues include the Custom Union's tariffs on some goods, the protection of intellectual property, and some technical regulations.

Armenian Businessman Killed in Crimea

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (*Armenpress*) – After an armed attack, the owner of the Malibu Hotel complex, Stepan Chorokhyan, died in the Crimean city of Simferopol on February 24. The Ukrainian Crimean: Comments website reported that Chorokhyan's body was discovered at the entrance of the block of flats where he lived.

Chorokhyan, who had been both shot and stabbed, died before help arrived.

The website reports that a large sum of money, an expensive cell phone and gold jewelry on him were not taken, thus concluding that robbery was not the motive.

Nazarian Appointed to Lebanese Cabinet

BEIRUT (*Armenpress*) – Arthur Nazarian has been appointed the Minister of Energy and Water of Lebanon, *Azduk* daily reported. "Armenpress" about this.

Lebanon announced that it has formed a government on Saturday after more than 330 days of deadlock between the various political blocs.

The announcement was made by Secretary General of the Council of Ministers Suheil Nouji in the afternoon after a meeting was conducted between Prime Minister-designate Tammam Salam with Lebanese President Michel Sleiman and other officials at the Baabda Presidential Palace outside of Beirut.

South Americans Meet With Swiss Reps

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (*Agencia Prensa*) – The Armenian National Committee (CNA) of South America held a series of meetings with Swiss representatives of Argentina and Uruguay to express the concern of the community regarding the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the case "Perincek vs Switzerland." The CNA handed a letter to every Swiss representative stressing the "damaging consequences that could bring this ruling, not only for the fight for recognition and reparations of the Armenian Genocide, but also for the whole rules and principles of the international laws regarding Human Rights." That is why we respectfully ask, through you, the Swiss State to appeal the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights," added the letter.

On February 13, the CNA of Uruguay met with the Swiss ambassador in Uruguay Didier Pflirter, who was aware of the Armenian issue and the rights and claims of the Armenian people.

On February 14, the CNA of Buenos Aires handed the letter to the Swiss Ambassador Johannes Matyassy, and on 20 February the CNA of Córdoba, province of Argentina, met with the Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Cordoba Dr. Ricardo J. Rysler, handed the letter and also the interview that *Prensa Armenia* conducted to Dr. Sévane Garibian.

Community News

Assembly Annual Trustees Meeting and Banquet to Honor Michael Haratunian

WASHINGTON –The Armenian Assembly of America South Florida Regional Council (SFRC) announced that the annual trustees meeting and banquet will be held at the Marriott at Boca Center in Boca Raton, Florida March 14-17.

Members, supporters and friends are all invited to a weekend retreat packed with a lineup of events with past and present leaders of the Assembly and the greater Armenian-American community.

A welcome reception will be held Friday, bringing together members and friends from across the country. Later, guests are invited to “Kef Night Boca,” an evening of fun, dancing and entertainment presented by local Florida Armenians.

On Saturday, March 15, the Assembly’s annual trustees meeting and luncheon will be held 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Following lunch, the Assembly will present three Armenian-American community leaders.

From Worcester, Dr. H. Martin Deranian, author of *President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug*, will discuss his recent book and community efforts to have the Coolidge Rug released and displayed in Washington, DC. Chairman of the board of

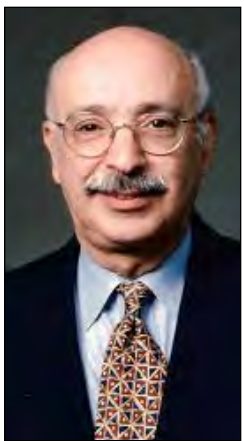
Program to Feature Dr. H. Martin Deranian, Shant Mardirossian, South Florida Filmmaker Bared Maronian

directors of the Near East Foundation (NEF), Shant Mardirossian, will deliver a compelling presentation on the Armenian Genocide and efforts of the NEF to help save the survivors. Local South Florida filmmaker, Bared Maronian, will provide a presentation and clips of his award-winning film, “Orphans of the Genocide,” which has been broadcast by Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) in several states and featured in Armenian communities across the globe.

South Florida is home to some of the Genocide survivors featured in the film.

The Assembly will present this diverse panel of speakers to the south Florida community. Presentations will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

Saturday evening, members, supporters and friends are all invited to the Assembly’s annual



Michael Haratunian

dinner and banquet, where former chairman of the board, Michael Haratunian, will be officially honored. A participant of the Airlie conferences that established the Armenian Assembly of America in 1972, Haratunian served as a member of the board of directors for several years including four years as chairman. See Michael’s full

biography here. The dinner and banquet will feature remarks from Assembly board members, executive director Bryan Ardouny and community leaders.

Members are also invited to the 22nd annual St. David Armenian Church charity golf tournament at the Via Mizner golf and country club in Boca Raton on Monday, March 17. For more information on the golf tournament call St. David Armenian Church.

All Assembly events will be held at the Marriott at Boca Center.



Actress Nora Armani recites poetry at the luncheon.

Diocese Honors Legacy Of Archbishop Torkom Manoogian

NEW YORK – Sunday, February 9, was a day of remembrance and celebration, as the life and legacy of Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, the late Jerusalem Patriarch and Diocesan Primate, was honored through a special requiem service at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, and at a luncheon in the Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium.

By Florence Avakian

“Today is a day to reflect on a single man’s life, spent in humble, devoted service to our church and our people; to Armenia, America and Jerusalem; and to our risen Lord,” said Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, in his homily during an uplifting Divine Liturgy celebration.

He recalled that Manoogian was born in the deserts of Baghdad and Christened Avedis, and was bestowed with the priestly name Torkom in honor of his teacher and mentor, Patriarch Torkom Koushagian.

Barsamian remembered Manoogian as “part of a remarkable generation of church leaders” that included patriarchs Tiran Nersoyan, Karekin Khatchadourian, Shnork Kalustian, Yeghishe Derderian and Catholicos Vasken I – “leading spiritual leaders of the 20th century. As survivors of the Genocide, they had suffered like the rest of our people; but a greater power inspired them to lead,” the archbishop said.

Archbishop Manoogian was “not only a talented priest, energetic Primate, or distinguished Patriarch,” continued Barsamian, “but also one of the very few churchmen of his generation to carry the weight of our church on his shoulders. During his ministry, he often was the solitary voice of our community to the outside world. He always considered Jerusalem his home and finally returned as the 96th Armenian Patriarch.”

The Primate added that the assembled were privileged to have Archbishop Torkom Manoogian’s successor as patriarch, Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, present at the service, “bringing the spirit of Jerusalem to us. We will best honor Archbishop Torkom’s life by continuing his mission ourselves today,” he noted.

The church service was attended by several high-ranking members of the clergy, including Diocesan Ecumenical Director Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, Primate of the United Kingdom Bishop Vahan Hovannessian, parish priests and seminarians from St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. The Divine Liturgy was sung by the St. Vartan Cathedral Choir, accompanied by organist Florence Avakian, under the direction of conductor Khoren Mekanejian.

At the tribute luncheon which followed the program, at the Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium, Master of Ceremonies Dr. Tavit Najarian, who also chaired the tribute organizing committee, warmly welcomed the more than 250 guests.

An invocation by Archbishop Vicken Aykazian began the gathering.

“We are here to celebrate the legacy of Archbishop Torkom, one of the most dedicated princes of our church, and a true Renaissance Man of our time,” said Dr.



Master of Ceremonies Dr. Tavit Najarian, who chaired the tribute organizing committee, opens the afternoon’s program.

FAR Contributes to Better Healthcare in Armenia

NEW YORK – Proper health care is the key to a self-sustainable and successful Armenia. As a nation at a very crucial point in its development, bolstering Armenia will strengthen the health of our citizens and our motherland as a collective whole.

Armenia’s physicians are dedicated and resourceful, however, many doctors practicing in the rural regions do not have the opportunity to learn about the latest methods and technologies in a field that advances at a rapid pace. Due to high cost and inaccessibility of certification programs, doctors are often unable to refresh their medical skills. Plus, many have only antiquated equipment to work with. Because they lack any kind of connection to other physicians at more advanced medical centers in Yerevan these provincial doctors often work in these conditions in isolation.

Building on the Fund for Armenian Relief’s (FAR) successful medical education programs of the 1990s, the FAR Continuing Medical Education Program (CME) for the past seven years has given Armenia’s doctors the opportunity to change the face of healthcare. This program makes it possible for physicians from Armenia’s rural regions to spend one month in Yerevan and work with leading experts at top medical centers. There, they are given access to the best resources available in the country and they are exposed to new skills and methodologies. They are connected with the latest medical journals and research, and are given the opportunity to attend seminars and lectures, the most recent of which were FAR-supported workshops on pediatric intensive care, neuro-anesthesiology, and a congress on stroke treatment. All of them were organized and led by an impressive group of doctors from leading medical schools and hospitals in the US and Canada. These forums give doctors in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh an opportunity to become better professionals and make lasting changes within their own communities by not only providing better care to their hometown populations, but by also passing along this new knowledge to the physicians they work with.

CME was created in 2005 by FAR and the FAR Fellowship Alumni Association. In 2011 it was expanded to reach doctors in Nagorno-Karabagh through the great support of the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO). CME is now one of FAR’s most extensive and effective programs and it has touched thousands of Armenian lives. More than 450 doctors from Armenian provinces and Nagorno Karabagh have completed the CME program. CME helps to create ripples of change throughout Armenia and Karabagh, which add up to large-scale, concrete transformations.

This powerful program is supported by the FAR Board of Directors and friends. In 2013, Dr. Gary Zamanigian from Bloomfield Hills, Mich., made a significant contribution to the



Dr. and Mrs. Gary and Mariann Zamanigian

program, which will allow FAR to help even more people who need proper healthcare to improve their quality of life.

By providing opportunity and education to physicians, the broader effect is immense – healthy and empowered Armenians and a stronger Armenia.

see LEGACY, page 5



COMMUNITY NEWS

Diocese Honors Legacy of Archbishop Torkom Manoogian

LEGACY, from page 4

Najarian. "His presence commanded respect, and was noted in both the Armenian and American communities. Archbishop Torkom was dedicated to his vocation, and inspired a whole generation of clergy who now lead our community."

Among those priests present at the luncheon were the Fathers Mardiros Chevian, Karekin Kasparian, Untzag Nalbandian and Aved Terzian. Fathers Tateos Abdalian, Yerpem Kelegian and Garabed Kochakian had written messages printed in the program booklet.

Armenia's ambassador to the United Nations, Garen Nazarian, was among the other guests present, many of whom had known and worked with the late patriarch.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, one of many priests inspired by the late archbishop, recalled his fatherly guidance and influence. "He was our confidant and guide, the figure of authority who shaped us, gave us discipline and encouragement — not only for the priests he ordained, but also for those who came from overseas, like myself and Archbishop Nourhan. To be asked by Torkom Srpazan to come to this Diocese was one of the highest honors for a young priest. It was a sign that he recognized the talent and potential in you, and made you to work harder and aspire higher to justify his good opinion of you."

The Primate related that he learned from Manoogian about being a priest, primate, and public figure. "Part of his genius was to recognize the best that the East and West had to offer and to embrace them. Most of all, he loved being part of the ancient Armenian Church heritage, and felt the church was the stage on which a human



Archbishop Nourhan Manougian (fourth from left), Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, in prayer with other clergy and seminarians.

being could live a full life."

He concluded: "It was towards a greater sense of hope that Torkom Srpazan always drew our attention as a community. And it is that same hope that we will always remember today and in the future."

To the delight of the audience, a musical interlude was presented by soprano Solange Merdinian, accompanied by pianist Sofya Melikyan, offering soulful renderings of *Hovin Yerk* by Berberian, and *Shogher Jan, Oror, Chinar Es* and *Hoy Nazan* by Komitas Vartabed — the musician whom

Archbishop Torkom admired so deeply.

Writing under the pen name "Shen Mah," Archbishop Torkom was noted for his poetry and translations of various anthologies, including the sonnets of Shakespeare. Well-known actress Nora Armani recited one of Shen Mah's powerful translations of St. Francis of Assisi, and the poem "How Do I Love Thee?" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

Archbishop Nourhan Manougian, the 97th Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, who a few days earlier had received an Honorary Doctor of

Divinity degree from General Theological Seminary in New York, related how the late Patriarch Torkom "rose from the simplest of beginnings to the fulfillment of a great destiny in 1990." He possessed a "sense of discipline, and exceptional ability. But first and foremost, and what gave him the most joy, was being a simple priest."

"He never expected more of others than he demanded of himself," noted Patriarch Manougian, adding that his late predecessor had possessed "that artistic soul of a musician and a poet."

A Strong Voice

When he was the Primate, the Eastern Diocese "flourished under his guidance," continued Manougian. "He always was a strong voice for Genocide recognition, and placed great value on education. A faithful friend, he was a father to the young, and a compassionate son of the old. After 24 years as Primate, he became at age 71, the 96th Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, nurturing a whole generation of priests in the Patriarchal Seminary."

He ended by lamenting that "We have lost an exemplary clergyman, poet, musician and friend."

The formal program concluded with an inspiring video presentation of Archbishop Torkom Manoogian's legacy, titled, "Patriarch, Primate, Poet," produced by Artur Petrosyan, Karine Abalyan, and Christopher Zakian of the Diocesan Communications department.

To close the memorable event, Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian delivered a benediction and led the crowd in the singing of Komitas Vartabed's setting of *Hayr Mer* — as the late Archbishop Torkom Manoogian always did during his ministry.

99th Anniversary Commemoration of Genocide to Be Held at Times Square, April 27

Holocaust Remembrance Day Also to Be Honored

NEW YORK — On Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 4 p.m., thousands of Armenian-Americans and their friends and supporters will gather in Times Square (43rd St. and Broadway) to commemorate the Armenian Genocide (Medz Yeghern). In recognition of Genocide Awareness Month (April), Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) will also be commemorated, as well as other genocides that have occurred since then.

The theme of the commemoration is

"Turkey is Guilty of Genocide: Denying the Undeniable Is a Crime." This historic event will pay tribute to the 1.5 million Armenians who were annihilated by the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire and to the millions of victims of subsequent genocides worldwide. Speakers will include civic, religious, humanitarian, educational, cultural leaders, as well as performing artists. This event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Mary A. Papazian, president of Southern Connecticut State University, and attorney R. Armen McOmber will preside over the ceremonies.

Dennis R. Papazian, PhD, past National

Grand Commander of Knights of Vartan and founding director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn discusses the Armenian Genocide. "These killings, which were labeled crimes against humanity and civilization at the time, exactly fit the definition of the word genocide, which was coined by Raphael Lemkin, a Polish-Jewish lawyer in 1943," comments Papazian. "It is only proper to bring the terminology up to date and apply the international laws for genocide to the Armenian case."

Dennis Papazian headed the Armenian Assembly of America in 1975, when a non-binding resolution recognizing the mass killings was

genocide, passed through Congress. On April 22, 1981, then-President Ronald Reagan issued Proclamation #4838 that summoned Americans to commemorate the anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi death camps. The proclamation stated, "Like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it — and like too many other persecutions of too many other peoples — the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten."

Papazian further discusses that President Barack Obama used the Armenian phrase Medz Yeghern, which is the equivalent of the phrase genocide in the Armenian language, in a statement issued to commemorate Armenian Remembrance Day on April 24, 2013. "But still the US position is still kept ambiguous about using the word genocide because our country fears alienating Turkey, an important country in the Middle East," he adds.

"In the long run, Turkish recognition of the Armenian Genocide is critical, since Turkey is the responsible successive government of the Ottoman Empire," stresses Papazian. "In recent years there have been some positive developments among progressive Turkish intellectuals, including the grandson of one of the chief perpetrators; therefore, it is within the realm of possibility that Turkey itself will recognize the Armenian Genocide on the one hundredth anniversary of its beginning," he concludes.

The 99th commemoration is organized by the Mid-Atlantic chapters of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, and co-sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian National Committee of America, the Armenian Council of America and the Armenian Democratic League (Ramgavar Party).

Participating organizations include the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Catholic Eparchy for U.S. and Canada, the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA), the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF-YOARF), several Armenian youth organizations, and university and college Armenian clubs.

For more information visit, www.kofv.org, www.april24nyc.org, www.armenianradio.net, www.theforgotten.org, www.armenian-genocide.org, www.twentyvoices.com.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Merrimack Valley Students Learn about Genocide

By Tom Vartabedian

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. – In an era marked by violence and chaos throughout the world, more and more schools throughout the Merrimack Valley are being approached to learn about the Armenian Genocide.

Whether it is in the form of a classroom presentation or panel discussion on human rights, schools are looking for answers to help curb dissonance and turmoil among their fellow man.

Members of the Armenian Genocide Education Committee of Merrimack Valley have embraced a more active stand in what has become their seventh year of activity inside public high schools and colleges.

Joining the group is Dr. Ara Jeknavorian, an ANC activist and church deacon, replacing Albert S. Movsesian, a longtime presenter who retired due to health reasons.

"Ara's presence on this committee adds a new dimension," said Chairman Dro Kanayan.

the students during her introduction. "You need to be up-standers, not bystanders."

Jeknavorian presented an overview of Armenian history, covering the turbulent years while leading into the immigration process and current status. He, too, made the talk personal.

"It's inconceivable for me to see my own children ever facing such a horror," he lamented. "During an actual genocide, don't assume that some guardian angel will come to the rescue. It just won't happen. We need an action plan to stop it. We need to remain vigilant. Make your voices be heard among deniers."

He was joined by Helman and Azem Dervisevic (Bosnian Genocide).

The programs have drawn press coverage from local papers as well as administrative support. In all, a dozen schools will hear the Armenian Genocide message, including a double session at Northern Essex Community College. Two Greater Boston schools have also joined the curriculum, Melrose and Newton South. A North Shore home schooling consortium also welcomed Armenian Genocide education.



Participants in a human rights forum at Pentucket Regional High School, West Newbury, were, from left, students Alyson Ruzycy and Cody Sedler; George Aghjayan (Armenian Genocide), Dr. Ivy Helman (Jewish Holocaust), Claude Kaitare (Rwandan Genocide), and instructor JC Honer.

"His knowledge of world history and genocidal studies makes him an important teaching tool in our schools."

A number of schools have already been approached this year, joined by newcomer Pentucket Regional High School, West Newbury. Four separate classrooms were exposed to Armenian Genocide education, numbering some 100 students.

More than twice that number attended an assembly on human rights titled, "The Causes and Legacies of Genocide." Among the speakers was George Aghjayan, a historian, writer and political activist.

Aghjayan drew from his own family accounts, including a grandmother who escaped brutality by becoming a slave.

"Prejudices still exist," he said. "We've become children of the sword. Desecration is still taking place in Turkey with no admission of guilt. It behooves us all to approach the United States government and demand recognition. I hope to see the day when Armenians will have their land restored."

Aghjayan was joined by Dr. Ivy Helman (Jewish Holocaust) and Claude Kaitare (Rwandan Genocide).

Among the questions posed to Aghjayan was this: "Your impressions of why the Turkish government is not recognizing the Genocide?"

"I think it's coming," answered Aghjayan, "whether to join the European Union or to avoid greater embarrassment. It's been tremendously harmful to the Turks. Just look at all the money they're spending to deny the genocide."

At Chelmsford High School, students held up signs commemorating the Armenian Genocide, joined by their instructor, JJ Doak, a long-time catalyst toward genocide studies at this school.

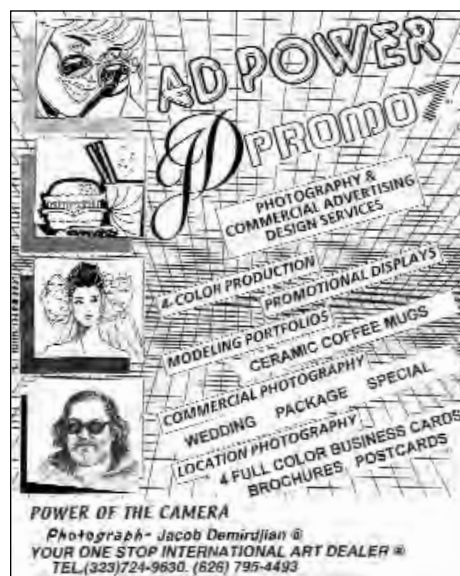
"As young adults, make yourselves aware when you see violence in the world," she told

Additional support is being rendered through "Facing History and Ourselves."

This April, a delegation of students and instructors from Wilmington High will be recognized during a commemoration at the Massachusetts State House for their proactive role as lobbyists.

With next year's centennial approaching, efforts are being made to reach out to the private school sector as well, along with major programs at the college level.

"Many of the students who have learned from this platform have turned into ambassadors for Armenian issues," added Kanayan. "They're writing their political constituents and federal authorizes, demanding justice for the Armenians. We've mobilized teachers in these schools to play an assertive role. We've gotten the point across and intend to continue with our mission."



Conference Pays Tribute to Genocide Rescuers

MISSION HILLS, Calif. – The Patrons of the Ararat Eskijian Museum present a conference titled "Honoring Those Who Helped Rescue a Generation of Armenian Survivors (1915-1930)." The conference will feature guest speaker and seven-time International Journalist of the year, Robert Fisk, from *The Independent* newspaper. Fisk is the author of the award-winning book, *The Great War for Civilization*. Other leading scholars from around the world will also be present to discuss the manner in which the international community, including the American Red Cross, Near East relief, and the League of Nations, participated in the first major humanitarian effort of the 20th century.



Robert Fisk

As part of the program, diplomatic representatives have been invited from more than 20 countries that took part in the rescue efforts. Special guest and former California governor, George Deukmejian, will present the representatives of these countries with a "Service to Humanity" award represented by a replica of the Mother Armenia statue.

The program will take place on March 22, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Deukmejian Hall of Ararat Home, 15105 Mission Hills Road.

To learn more about this conference, contact Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin, chairperson, mgoschin@socal.rr.com

Reporter Wanted

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Hye Sea Adventures with Armenian Heritage Cruise

By Barbara Haroutunian

MIAMI – Armenian Heritage Cruise XVII, sponsored by the Armenian Cultural Association of America, Inc. sailed on January 18-25. While most of the United States was covered in snow and ice and subzero temperatures, almost 1,000 Armenians boarded the MSC Divina and for one week, were immersed in luxury (and heat) in the Caribbean. The destinations were St. Maarten, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Stirrup Cay Island in the Bahamas.

The week was filled with unique programs, Armenian music, dancing and more. In the spirit of Armenian and Italian hospitality, the week left a lasting array of memories. Fellow Armenians represented many countries such as the United States, Armenia, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Egypt, England, France, Germany and Lebanon. Each guest received an AHC tri-color tote bag and a cardholder as a gift from the ACAA and Travel Group International. They were also given a tri-color ACAA Heritage Cruise cabin key card; the card granted each guest entry into all the activities for the week.

Archbishop Yeprem Tabakian from the Western Prelacy each morning conducted church service. Every morning Armenian Conversation Classes were conducted by Ara and Arevig Caprielian. For those guests who needed a little help on the dance floor, Margo Kaftajian taught basic Armenian dances. Guests could register for Backgammon and Belote Tournaments under the direction of Antranik Boudakian. There was a special table set up for the Armenian Heritage Tour 2014 for a 15-day guided tour of Athens, Armenia and Karabagh departing on September 13-26, 2014. Maro Asatoorian is the ACAA Tour Director. The ACAA Hospitality desk was open to assist passengers with all of their needs.

As the sun set and when the stars came out the fun didn't stop. The evenings were filled with dancing and listening to great music by Onnik Dinkjian, John Berberian, Steve Vosbikian and Kevo Artinian and his Band. The first night there was a Welcome Reception hosted by Marie Tavitian and Margo Kaftajian. AHC Club 39 was where a Singles/Mingle Cocktail Party was held. This was a reception and Speed Dating Event where singles from ages 21 to 40 had an opportunity to mingle and meet.

The first two days were at sea spent poolside enjoying the tropical weather. For the first time ever on the AHC there was a poolside resort wear fashion show by Le Soleil of Miami.

Wednesday evening there was the annual ACAA Gala



Fun aboard the Armenian Heritage Cruise XVII

Cocktail Party sponsored by Travel Group International and the ACAA Armenian Heritage Cruise committee. The next morning Barbara Haroutunian and her committee organized the Armenian Festival Day Pool Party. Prizes were awarded for the best Armenian tri-color outfit. Along with face painting, Kaftajian's dance class performed the Shourch Bar. There was a dance contest with prizes for the best Armenian traditional dance.

The first stop was Philipsburg, St. Maarten. The next stop was San Juan, Puerto Rico, a bustling city with a contrast from all the different architecture to a modern city with high-rise condos and luxurious resort hotels and casinos. The last stop was Great Stirrup Cay Island, Bahamas.

Each day there were speeches and programs about relevant Armenian topics. Doctors from all over the world attend-

ed a medical conference on the MSC Divina. Participants included Dr. Kim Hekimian, Maro Matosian and Dr. Haig Minassian. Many other programs and lectures were given. Mourad Topalian gave a lively talk on "American Ideals, Values and the Armenian Cause." Acclaimed author Chris Bohjalian led a book discussion about his New York Times, bestselling novel, *The Sandcastle Girls*. Ken Hachikian, Chairman of the Armenian National Committee of America gave a talk, and comedian Vahe Berberian entertained the crowd.

The Armenian Heritage cruise has continued to maintain its mission to bring Armenians together for a week of cultural, educational, religious and charitable organizations and activities on the national and international level for the betterment of the Armenian nation and people worldwide.

Reception Held in Honor of Jerusalem Patriarch in New York

ENGLEWOOD, N.J. – Archbishop Nourhan Manougian recently visited several communities and familiarized them with the current issues facing the Patriarchate of Jerusalem. This visit gave way to special meetings that created enthusiasm in the US community.

One of those meetings was organized on Wednesday, February 19, at the home of the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York chairman, Hagop Vartivarian, and his wife, Maria, who hosted a reception in his honor.

Despite the harsh winter weather, many people from New York and New Jersey braved the elements to meet Patriarch Nourhan Manougian.

The reception was attended by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, St. Thomas Armenian Church priest Very Rev. Papken Anoushian and Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgulian. Also present were Armenia's representative to the United Nations Garen and his wife, Nana, Nazarian, Edward and Carmen Gulbenkian, the past Chief



Some of the attendees seated in front from left: Rev. Papken Anoushian, Ambassador Garen Nazarian, Arch. Nourhan Manougian, Arch. Khajag Barsamian and Dr. Edgar Housepian



ADL members with the guest patriarch from left: Haig Vartivarian, Diana Mkhitarian, Norair Megerdichian, Irma Der Stepanian, Arch. Nourhan Manougian, Dr. Edgar Housepian (New York ADL Chapter named after his father Dr. Movses Hovsepien), Haroutioun Diratzouian, Shoghig Chalian, Silva Der Stepanian, Dr. Vaghenag Tarpinian, Dr. Hagop Gulekjian, Hagop Vartivarian, Ambassador Garen Nazarian and Papken Megerian

of Columbia Presbyterian University hospital Dr. Edgar Hovsepien, Diocesan delegate Dr. Raffi and Shoghag Hovanessian and the Tekeyan Cultural Association Central Committee member, Papken Megerian from Philadelphia.

Those assembled questioned Manougian about the needs of the Jerusalem Patriarchate, eagerly listening to the answers.

After the welcoming words of the host, the patriarch blessed the table, after the dinner, Barsamian, who had been jointly anointed with the patriarch, introduced him to the assembled.

Subsequently, some issues of the present situation in Jerusalem were discussed, including the Patriarchate's educational and religious

needs, as well as its position with regard to the political situation in the region. Another issue was the much-needed repairs to the Patriarchate, especially for its historic value and discussed the importance of the Pilgrimage visits. He spoke about the need for cultivating the youth to visit, as well as the protection of Armenian rights in the Old City.

In reflection of the link of the Patriarchate with the Holy Mother See of Echmiadzin, the patriarch said that Holy Echmiadzin remains the Armenian Church's supreme center and that he prays for its continued strength.

Later, Nazarian gave his welcome speech and wished a safe return and well wishes to the patriarch.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Primate of Damascus on US Visit Meets with Elected Officials

DELEGATION, from page 1

On Saturday, February 15, Nalbandian took part in the opening ceremony of a cultural exhibit titled "A Country Called Syria." The exhibit was presented by the El Pueblo Historical Monument, in collaboration with Syrian American Mothers and the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission at the Pico House Gallery at El Pueblo Historical Monument in Los Angeles. The exhibit provided insight and context to the rich history and timeless allure of this ancient Middle Eastern land. The bishop was introduced by Joumana Silyan-Saba, senior policy analyst for the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission. The bishop expressed his happiness that such an exhibit was being presented to the public, stressing that Syria has a vast array of diverse cultures and ethnicities which must be preserved through these turbulent times. He also thanked the organizers of the exhibit, as well as Silyan-Saba and City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission who have strived to bring awareness to human suffering and facilitating dialogue between peoples.

On Monday, February 17, members of the Central Committee of the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party (SDHP), along with members of the SDHP Executive Committee Western USA Region, Armenian Council of America (ACA), Armenian Educational Benevolent Union, Armenian Athletic Association (Homenmen), Nor Serout (New Generation) Cultural Association, Gaidz Youth Organization, civic leaders and guests hosted Bishop Nalbandian at a dinner reception at the

Armenian Educational Benevolent Union center in Pasadena. The Bishop reiterated his gratitude for medical, educational, and financial assistance being provided by Armenian American organizations worldwide to the Syrian Armenian communities. The Bishop personally thanked the SDHP and its affiliates conveying his confidence that they will continue supporting the Armenian communities of Syria.

On Tuesday, February 18, the Bishop, along with members of the Armenian Council of America, met with Representative Judy Chu (D-Pasadena). Bishop Nalbandian gave a general overview of the current situation and the medical, educational, and financial assistance being provided and the need for a peaceful diplomatic resolution to the Syrian conflict. Congresswoman Chu praised the bishop for his work and thanked him for bringing awareness to the Syrian cause. She also thanked the Armenian Council of America for coordinating the meeting enabling her to better understand the situation on the ground pledging her support to provide humanitarian aid to Syria.

Also on Tuesday, the ACA along with the Bishop met with California State Assembly member Adrin Nazarian (D-Sherman Oaks). Nazarian stressed the importance of the worldwide Armenian community in their involvement in local government which will enable them to bring change to government policies they are so adamant about. The Assemblymember also pledged to bring awareness to the suffering of the Syrian Christians in the region and congratulated the Bishop's efforts and all the hard work that he is doing in Syria.



Bishop Armash Nalbandian with Rep. Judy Chu (D-Calif.)

On Thursday, February 20, Nalbandian along with the ACA delegation met with Los Angeles City Council Member Paul Krekorian at City Hall where the two discussed at length the situation in Syria. Councilmember Krekorian thanked the Armenian Council of America for bringing together this meeting, and stressed how sometimes there are various aspects of stories that are not covered by the media adding to the importance of hearing about first-hand accounts of the turmoil in Syria directly from the bishop.

Also on Thursday, Nalbandian met with Rt. Rev. Alexei Smith who serves as vice president of the Catholic Association of Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers. Smith stated the importance of Christian to be aware of the suffering of fellow Christians in all parts of the world. He expressed his commitment to Nalbandian in finding ways to support civilians in Syria through charitable humanitarian aid.

On Friday, February 21, Nalbandian was welcomed to the Los Angeles City Council Chambers by Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell and the Los Angeles City Council. After a brief introduction by Councilmember O'Farrell, the Bishop addressed the City Council on the plight of the declining Christian population of Syria due to the civil war there and requested support to bring peace to the country and its people. The Bishop, emphasizing the importance

for the international community to realize that Syria is not just a Muslim country and that not all Muslims are terrorists, the vast majority of the Syrian people adhere to peace and that any resolution to the conflict should be done so through peaceful diplomatic means.

Lastly, the bishop along with the ACA delegation met with Assembly member Mike Gatto (D-Los Angeles). Gatto stressed the need for the local Armenian American communities to engage their elected officials and convey their concerns regarding Syria. The Assembly member also expressed his gratitude towards the Bishop and all his efforts, reiterating his support to find specific methods in providing financial relief to Syrian civilians, specifically Christians who have been persecuted as a result of the conflict.

The bishop thanked the Armenian Council of America and its members for their hard work in organizing the meetings with a large array of elected officials in a substantially short period of time. He expressed his assurance that the ACA will continue championing efforts that will not only help the Armenian communities of Syria, but also other Christian and non-Christians alike.

"The ACA strongly felt that it was crucial to have Bishop Nalbandian meet with key leaders in the community who will, in turn, convey his message to the communities that they represent, as well as their fellow colleagues," said ACA Board Member Garry Sinanian. "The meetings were extremely productive and I am confident that more will be done in the future to help our brothers and sisters in Syria who are living in dire conditions at the moment. We applaud Bishop Nalbandian for his courageous efforts."

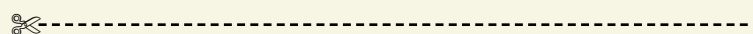


Bishop Armash Nalbandian with members of the Central Committee of the Social Democrat Hunchakian Party

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Arts & Living

Participants in CYSCA Program to Discuss 'Women in Politics and Government' at NAASR

BELMONT, Mass. — The public is invited to a panel discussion on "Women in Politics and Government: Issues in Armenia and the US," with the participation of five women from Armenia's government and political organizations, on Friday, March 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), 395 Concord Avenue.

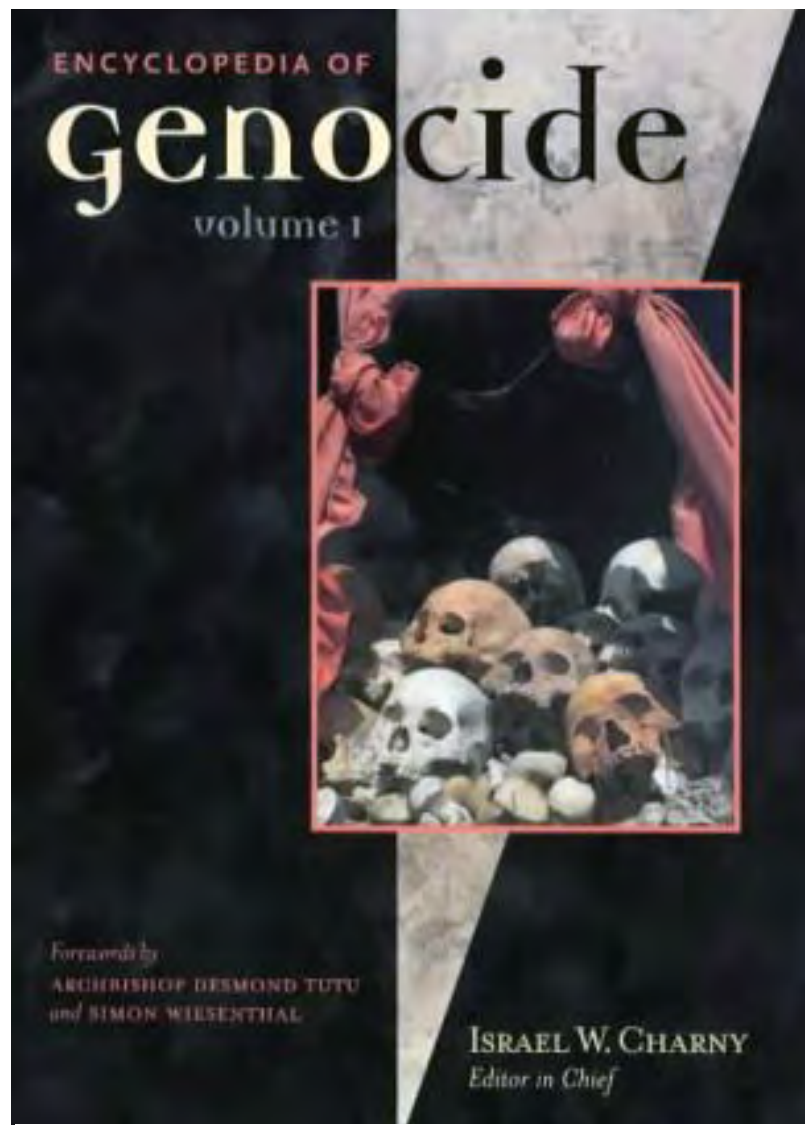
The lecture is co-sponsored by the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA), the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA), and NAASR.

The five women will be in Greater Boston March 8-16, to participate in a grant program focused on women in politics and government hosted by CYSCA and with funding from the US government's "Open World" (OW) program, which aims to give the participants first-hand exposure to democracy and free-market system. A key goal of the program is to develop leadership capability of young women in government and political organizations. Few Armenian women are in leadership positions in politics and even government. Only 14 of 131 Parliament members are women.

In addition to the panelists from Armenia, the evening will feature two guests, Massachusetts Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rachel Kaprielian and state Rep. Marjorie Decker. Kaprielian is a former state representative (1995-2008) and registrar of the Department of Motor Vehicles (2008-2014). She represented portions of Cambridge and Watertown in the Massachusetts House of Representatives from 1995 to 2008. Decker represents the 25th Middlesex district and has served on the Cambridge City Council since 1999.

CYSCA has designed a program of visits/meetings with various organizations/individuals in the Greater Boston area, including Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, University of Massachusetts' Boston Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, Massachusetts League of Women Voters, Massachusetts Caucus of Women Legislators, State Senate and House women leaders, Armenian International Women's Association and other organizations and individuals.

The program includes Anahit Beglaryan, attorney in the Chamber of Advocates of Armenia, defending human rights; Violetta Hovhannisyanyan, expert on the Armenian Parliament committee on integration of the Republic of Armenia laws with European laws; Sona Minasyan, head of the Free Democratic Political party in Kapan; Nune Sakanyan, head of international investment programs of the city of Yerevan; Lilit Seyranyan, attorney, chief specialist in children's rights department at Yerevan city hall; and Anna Shanazaryan, facilitator for the group, currently external relations coordinator for Yerevan-based Civilitas Foundation.



Genocide Encyclopedias and The Armenian Genocide

The two key human rights concepts of "crimes against humanity" and "genocide" have their roots in the response to the Young Turk mass deportations and massacres of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire during World War I. Following the April 24, 1915 mass arrests of hundreds of Armenian political, religious and community leaders of Constantinople and their subsequent exile and deaths and the massacres of multitudes of other Armenian civilians, the Entente allied powers of England, France and Russia warned on May 24, 1915 that the Young Turk dictatorship would be held accountable for the massacres and the "new crimes of Turkey against humanity and civilization."

In 1921 Soghomon Tehlirian was put on trial in Germany for having assassinated Mehmet Talaat, one of the key Young Turk triumvirate members responsible for the deportations and massacres of Armenians. Raphael Lemkin, a young Polish university student, who would later become a lawyer, wondered why there existed domestic laws to deal with the murder of one person, but no international law to punish those responsible for the mass killing of a million or more persons. During the 1930s, Lemkin suggested the twin concepts of "vandalism" and "barbarism" to deal with such crimes. The former dealt with the destruction of cultural artifacts, while the latter related to acts of violence against defenseless groups. By 1944, these twin concepts had merged into his proposed new international term: "genocide." The new concept, along with "crimes against humanity," would become a key pillar of international law.

With the introduction of the two crucial legal concepts of "crimes against humanity" and "genocide," it remained for scholars and prosecutors alike to apply these principles to specific cases. Over time, increasingly there emerged the need to compare different historical and contemporary examples. Pioneering analytical and comparative books such as Irving Horowitz's *Genocide* (New Brunswick, Transaction Books, 1976) and Leo Kuper's *Genocide* (Harmondsworth, Penguin Books, 1981) were penned in this regard. Before long, the field of genocide studies emerged and was formalized with the birth of the International Association of Genocide Studies in 1994. However, a challenge familiar to many in comparative politics arose. Given that most individuals and scholars lack the global expertise to know sufficient detail about all of the major case studies, there was an urgent need for encyclopedias and dictionaries on genocide.

Drawing intellectual inspiration and editorial guidance from Israel Charny, a pioneering project was launched. In 1999, the two-volume *Encyclopedia of Genocide*, (Santa Barbara, ABC-CLIO, 1999) was published. With substantial input by Rouben Adalian, the encyclopedia included two-dozen entries about the Armenian Genocide and the Ottoman Young Turk regime. The encyclopedia also contained several thematic entries that cited reference to the Armenian case. Adalian led the way with 17 entries that he penned on topics such as the Hamidian Massacres, Adana, Musa

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Dr. Deranian Discusses Orphan Rug at Armenian Museum

WATERTOWN, Mass. — The Armenian Orphan Rug... "still remains orphaned," as Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian said during his presentation at the opening of the Armenian Museum of America's latest exhibit on Sunday, February 17 of several of those "Orphan Rugs." He said he was hopeful, though, that the rug would eventually find its rightful place on display at the White House.

As the story goes, the rug was woven in the 1920s by Armenian orphans of Ghazir Orphanage, in Lebanon, run by the Near East Foundation. It was presented to President Calvin Coolidge in 1925 as expression of the orphans' gratitude for the United States' assistance through the Near East Foundation in the aftermath of the Genocide. In 1929 the rug was removed from the White House by Coolidge. It was returned many years later, but still remains under lock and key of the White House, not on display nor available for outside showings.

Deranian's book, *President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug*, sheds light on the facts surrounding the orphanage in Ghazir, the history behind the making of those rugs and the remarkable



Dr. H. Martin Deranian

story of one particular rug which made its way to the White House and remains to be one of its truly well guarded treasures.

Deranian's lecture on Sunday served as an informative yet emotional preamble to the exhibit of the five "orphan rugs." Touching one of those rugs is "like getting in touch with our history," Deranian said during the tour of the museum's second-floor gallery, where the rugs are displayed. There is so much history, mystery, and poise in each of them. Each of them is unique in its color and design, yet they are all tied together by the same history of making. Gary and Susan Lind-Sinanian joined Deranian in guiding the tour and providing remarks on the items of the exhibit.

In the row of displayed rugs, an empty spot on the wall was saved for the White House rug which the museum management was hoping to obtain. The request was rejected by the White House.

The exhibit will remain until May 25.

— Ani Hovsepian



President Coolidge, left, with the rug



ARTS & LIVING

A Cultural Capital of the Diaspora in Berlin

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between “design” and “Dasein,” the latter term used by the philosopher Heidegger, meaning existence, being, consciousness.

Clearly, this is no ordinary art gallery. Rather, as Galentz explained to me during my recent visit there, it is an artist-run space, and an independent civil society platform, a workshop and exhibition room, a place for artists to meet, discuss and work together. It houses his collection of works by 30 artists from various cultural circles, with focus on Armenian contemporary art, but it also collaborates with other non-Armenian initiatives, among them Kolonie Wedding, and numerous nearby art galleries.

“We cooperate with the Art and Culture Studies Laboratory (ACSL), and the Naregatsi Art Institute in the US, Armenia and Karabagh,” he said, adding that InteriorDasein also works with a group called Underconstruction, co-founded by Silvina Der-Meguerditchian, a Buenos Aires-born artist in Berlin. What unites these various groups is a commitment to forge an identity for diaspora artists, mainly but not only Armenians, and not through ethnicity but through aesthetics, as he put it.

From Moscow to America, Yerevan to Berlin

Why this is the case becomes clear from his own personal biography. Archi Galentz was born in 1971 in Moscow and grew up there, living with his parents, a younger sister and his maternal grandparents, a family of artists. At the “No. 20 Special School” he attended in Moscow, pupils enjoyed instruction in small classes and English was featured. The school’s theatre work was well known, as were its music classes that offered instruction in many instruments. Galentz was not the only Armenian pupil, but the only one who knew Armenian. In an audition for a program, he recited nursery rhymes in Armenian and expressed such pathos in his delivery that the grown-ups in the jury were overwhelmed. His proficiency in English helped him in his first experiences abroad, but it was his knowledge of Armenian that was more important. At that time in Moscow pupils could study many foreign languages, like English, Spanish, French, Hindu or Chinese, but not “national languages” of peoples in the

Soviet Union.

In 1986, he was selected to participate in the Peace Child International program, a unique initiative founded in the early 1980s at the height of the Cold War to empower youth in society. Inspired by the “Peace Book” by Bernard Benson, a work about Papua New Guinea tribes who had a tradition of peacemaking through exchange of children, the Peace Child International composed a musical incorporating this theme, and performed it in New York and Boston (later also Moscow, Yerevan and dozens of other cities). The channels of communication thus created made it possible even in times of strained Washington-Moscow relations to launch a cultural exchange between the two. Galentz was part of this landmark initiative and his group met at Emerson College. The play they presented in there, in New York and Washington, was about an American girl who goes to Moscow and falls in love with a Russian boy. Galentz played an Armenian painter who does a portrait of the girl. When the Russian boy comes by, he makes a joke in a thick Armenian accent. Given the situation in the USSR, people found this unexpected and enjoyed it. While in the US, he did a painting which would later be on exhibit in Cologne. At that point, he did not know yet whether he wanted to become a comedian or an artist.

The exchange program gave him not only his first international experience but also his name. Since the Americans in the play had difficulty pronouncing his name, Harutyun, they called him Archi – and that stuck.

After returning home and graduating from school, he studied in Yerevan to improve his



“Atelier with maps”

Armenian before entering the State University of Arts and Theatre there in 1989, where he studied design, painting and calligraphy. While at Yerevan University, he took part in a student exchange with West Berlin for six days. This was his first contact with Germany, and in Berlin what fascinated him were the museums. This was 1991, just after reunification, and one could visit the magnificent museums of both the former East and West sectors. Theologian Prof. Erdmann who had invited him to Berlin was vice president of the Academy of Arts. After a stint as a guest student, Galentz competed to become a normal student. He knew no German and the professor he had knew no English but they managed. He completed his studies in 1997 and the following year got his master’s degree under Prof. Fussmann.

Already at this stage of his development, the identity issue for him, an Armenian artist from Moscow living in Berlin, was central. The first work that he had taken to Berlin was an oil painting of a stealth bomber in foreground against a backdrop fabric of Tao characters: this depicted Armenia, stranded between East and West. He had also produced posters of a political nature, one of which, showed Armenia and Karabagh, with a quote from Mikhail Gorbachev in Russian. This and another were purchased by the Ethnographic Institute of Sardarabad.

The independent Republic of Armenia needed appropriate symbols for its new status, a coat of arms and a national flag. For the latter, the old 1918 flag was revived. His proposal for a coat of arms featured an eagle and cross. In conceptualizing these national symbols, Galentz reflected on the fact that the name Hayastan actually had Turkish elements in the “stan,” and developed the idea of HAYK, made up of four letters. This meant Armenia not as a geographical entity but as a culture, Hayk as the Ur-father, Hayk as the people. He continued developing this idea in Berlin for the following year.

The work he prepared for his master’s degree involved a series of lithographs, with imaginary maps, representing lands in wartime, for example, treating themes of the 30 Years War and Byzantium. Here he used color as a means of division and difference, distinguishing between foreground, middle ground and background, for example.

Again, he was addressing the theme of conflict and identity, using maps of land areas and cultural spaces, thus raising the question of the relationship of national identity to territory. He treated the historical map from the time of the Berlin Congress from the standpoint of the later genocide.

In 2000, the Armenian Ambassador to Germany Dr. Voskanyan proposed that, for the upcoming Hannover World Fair, a series of



Newlyweds Archi (Harutyun) and Armine Galentz in front of picture of his grandparents, also named Harutyun and Armine, who had married 70 years before.

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maps be exhibited in form of a big cross, in commemoration of the anniversary (in 2001) of Christianity in Armenia. Later the delegation from Armenia travelled to Hannover for the event, bringing with them exhibits of Noah’s ark, lavash, cognac and other national symbols. Galentz’s contribution was a video he produced, with his own maps of Karabagh during the war – not the maps as a cross – the only political theme at the show.

He had gone to Berlin with a task from the family, to learn restoration and museum management, and to take these skills back to Yerevan and Moscow. He always had a Russian passport and always returned when he felt he was needed. Since 2003 in Berlin he has built up a network of diaspora artists who have had shows in Moscow, Buenos Aires, Tallin and France. At the same time he has been active in Bonn and Berlin with the Institute for Foreign Relations (IFA), supported by the German

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Foreign Ministry. The IFA organizes travelling exhibits every year for Germans abroad and for foreign artists in Germany, as many as 20 exhibits in 10 cities for example.

In 2003 the IFA hosted the first Armenian Diaspora exhibit, titled, "Getting Closer. For Armenians Looking for a Way Out." In 2004, when he was invited by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Skopje to exhibit, he decided to present not his own works but those of a group of Armenian artists. That same year he and Silvina Der-Meguerditchian set up the website www.underconstructionhome.net and in 2007 for the first time they held a parallel exhibit at the Venice Biennale as Armenian Diaspora artists. In 2008 he opened InteriorDasein, with the contacts he had been putting together since 2003.

Therefore, his focus has been on collaborating with diaspora artists in a cultural exchange process oriented to defining a new identity. As he wrote in 2008, "We developed as artists in a belief that contemporary art is a universal language. And the early hope of our Underconstruction group was to integrate disperse artists of Armenian descent and, importantly, to activate Armenian communities, making them interested in us as artists performing modern concepts of identity."

Not Victims, but Experts in Survival...

Galentz and his colleagues developed these "modern concepts of identity" in an extended discussion process over years, and in connection with exhibits. In 2008, for example, while meeting with a group of Armenian and Estonian artists to discuss a show planned for Tallinn, the first idea the organizers came up with for a working title was "displaced persons." As he recalled in an article for the show's catalogue, the organizers meant it "in a positive sense, referring to two small nations with many historical and current parallel issues, including those of diaspora, minorities, immigration, being a 'toy ball' of larger geopolitical interests, and so on."

But then Galentz and his colleagues rejected the concept on grounds it communicated a stereotype of the "victim." Instead, they adopted the title "thisPLACEd" – which Silvina Der-Meguerditchian suggested. With this approach, they deliberately avoided artistic clichés associated with the victim image. The basic concept behind the Berlin IFA gallery exhibition, "Getting Closer," "was the decision not to show predictable images intended to arouse in viewers what one might call 'social-pornographic' feelings. For instance, there were no sentimental, black and white photos of the regions that suffered from the 1988 earthquake, no defenseless refugees, no 'clochards' and other victims of a failed 'communist utopia.' And still it was a very Armenian show, or maybe it is better to say 'diasporic' show in its best way – a collaboration based on trust, respect for and real interest in every artist and every piece."

This last point about trust, self- and mutual recognition was to become an explicit aim of the Underconstruction initiative, which seeks to build "a personal and group conscience" an identity, and to do so "through a visual dialogue and the linking together of artists from different backgrounds and with diverse philosophies."

Throughout their activities he and his colleagues have emphasized what is positive in diversity. As he put it in the same article, "Being as we are transnational, or multi-geographed, we have an opportunity to avoid falling into the role of the 'victim': in fact, we are survival experts. We have arrived at this position of stressing the positive aspects of being different, alone, geographically dispersed and un-integrated: we should take the next logical step and realize that we will probably always keep one foot out of the contemporary art system."

A Family of Artists

Although he does not have any children yet (he married just last year), it is fair to assume that if he does, they would be artists. Art is a family tradition that goes back three genera-

tions. His paternal grandfather (and namesake), Harutyun Galentz, was born in 1910 in Kyurin in modern-day Turkey, and escaped with his mother and three brothers to Aleppo, after Turkish soldiers had abducted his father. Following his mother's death, the boys grew up in an orphanage where Harutyun first started painting. He studied art there and later in Lebanon, in Tripoli and at the Beirut Academy of Fine Arts. Soon he was receiving awards for his work, from New York and Lebanon. In 1943 he married Armine Paronyan, who had been his apprentice and went on to become a famous artist in her own right. In 1946 they moved from Lebanon to Yerevan, where they worked and exhibited, and earned further recognition.



"Self-portrait as a volunteer," by Archi Galentz

Archi Galentz recalled that grandmother Armine did not regret leaving for Yerevan, because in the USSR she was emancipated as a woman, an artist and an Armenian. She spoke many languages (Armenian, French, Italian, Russian and English) and held several exhibits, including in the US (in 1991-3, and again in 1994-5). She died in Yerevan in 2007.

After Harutyun's death in 1967 the city council decided to build a museum out of his atelier, which was in the house where the family lived. But nothing came of the project and his works were hanging in the Museum for Contemporary Art, but in poor condition. His son, Saro, Archi's father and a professor at the Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts, then made it his life's work to build the museum, and in the course of 20 years, he did so, erecting a building of three stories.

Harutyun was also honored by having a street named after him. It is the first private museum in Armenia, and receives some state support.

Archi's maternal grandfather, Nikolai Nikogosyan, is also an artist, now 95 and active in his museum/home in Moscow. Born in Mets Shagrir (present day Nalbandyan) about 30 miles from Yerevan, he was the son of a farmer and clothier, later active in the construction sector in Yerevan. In 1934 Nikogosyan entered ballet school and danced for two years in the corps de ballet. Though his mother supported his artistic endeavors, his father did not. After seeing his son perform in one piece, he told him he should either stop his "monkey-dancing" or leave home – which the young Nikolai did. In Leningrad (today St. Petersburg) he entered Art School, and in 1940 attended the Sculpture Faculty of the Arts Academy. His artistic education continued in Moscow at the Surikov Art Institute and he worked there as a painter, graphic artist and sculptor, portraying many famous personalities, among them Aram Khachaturyan.

Though his travel was limited during the Cold War, he visited some European cities and later toured and exhibited extensively abroad. He has created hundreds of busts, portraits, paintings and drawings, and is still active, living in his four-story house which has ample space to display his sculptures. Since the 1970s he has received many, many prizes and awards including highest membership in the Russian Academy of Arts.

Archi's mother, Nazelie, the daughter of Nikolai, is also an accomplished artist who was

active until recent years. She is the daughter of Tamara Aslamazyan, Nikolai's first wife, a construction engineer and architect. There is a museum in Gumri dedicated to the works of Tamara's sisters, Maryam and Yeranouie, who were painters and ceramic artists.

With this family history, it is no wonder that Archi Galentz discovered his talent for art and the theatre very young. He noted that, contrary to ideas left over from the Cold War, it is not true that all art in Russia, even in the Soviet years, was merely propaganda, or that artists either worshipped Stalin or were sent to Siberia for doing anti-Stalinist caricatures. His father, for example, was a surrealist. Most important for his future development was the fact that art was part of everyday life for children of his generation. It was normal in the USSR for children to draw and paint, as artistic activity was seen as a means of development.

It is also a family tradition to collect art works, a tradition he has continued quite successfully. In 2004, he described his collection in an article: "The collection itself consists of my works, even more so of works of my friends acquired over the last 10 years, exchanged, presented to me as gifts or lent to me. These are works of art surrounding me in my private, everyday life.... Some of their authors I did not know personally, I became acquainted with them after having acquired their works. This coexistence of art and artists is not about personal competition.... These works represent little doors which permit us to enter the worlds of their authors, helping us experience those persons in their entirety and thus communicating directly with them...."

At present, his collection housed in InteriorDasein includes 50 small- to medium-sized pieces of art, by more than 30 artists, mainly from the post-Soviet period and Armenian artists from the avant-garde tradition developed in the 1990s. They are artists living in different parts of the world, from Los Angeles to Sweden, France, Russia, Berlin and Armenia, all different but belonging to the same landscape. Each piece, whether a painting or drawing, an object or a photo, has been individually framed by Galentz, who had researched historical framing in the context of his restoration studies. Periodically, as just recently, many of these artists come to Berlin to put their works on display at his atelier, which has become a kind of cultural center for the diaspora. Archi Galentz summed it up this way: "Today, three-quarters of the Armenian

nation lives outside their historic territories. In spite of [and because of] several very old and often contradictory cultural traditions, the question of preservation of national identity should be turned from having a maintaining-conserving character to a constituting-adapting one. It is vital to emphasize the role of art as a way of creating an identity as well as the fact that this creativity is very close to religiousness. By means of critical vigilance in the face of a transcultural 'Zeitgeist' aestheticism. By means of creating a counterproposal to the misuse of power in the global art business that offers the high ideals of a 'free art creativity,' strangely enough always presented alike. By means of a continuation of current cultural life as a dynamic exchange, those are the only reliable bearers of nationality...."

"Armenians have been subjected to being in a 'globalized' condition for nearly 100 years, well over three generations. But even centuries before a diaspora-fatherland relationship came into existence, there were several cultural centers. A real interest in one another and active endeavors on various levels of communication should become civil duties to guarantee the nation's survival in a 'post-national' era.... In the long run neither religion, language, nor a suffered genocide trauma can create and preserve an identity. This task belongs to culture and art."

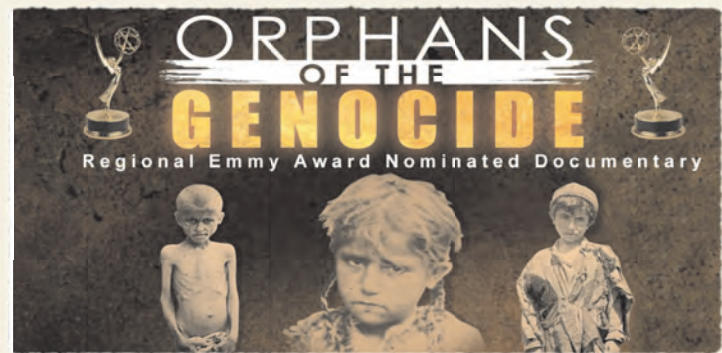
Among the 80 shows displaying his works, Galentz has held solo exhibits in Berlin, Yerevan and several German cities. He was invited in 2010 by the Hayastan Foundation to present a solo in Erlangen, and the proceeds went to the orphanage in Vanadzor. In a 2012 solo exhibit at the Society for the Protection of Human Dignity, he received the Arshile Gorky award from Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan.

He has participated in group shows at the Venice Biennale, in Berlin, Gorni Milanovac (Serbia), Tallinn, Yerevan, Buenos Aires, Paris, Görlitz, Manila, Skopje (Macedonia), Belgrade, Helsinki, Medellin, Moscow, Leipzig, Hannover, Gumri, Falun (Sweden) and Sardarabad.

His works are on display in public collections, among others, in the Ethnological Museum in Sardarabad, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Skopje, the Tetovo Museum in Macedonia, the Museums for Contemporary Art in Belgrade and Medellin, the Rare Books Collection in the State Library in Berlin, the German National Library in Leipzig and the National Library of Armenia in Yerevan.



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ARTS & LIVING

Genocide Encyclopedias And the Genocide

ENCYCLOPEDIAS, from page 10

Dagh, Young Turks, Woodrow Wilson and Henry Morgenthau Sr. Other prominent authors included Vahagn Dadrian (Armenian Genocide documentation and Courts Martial), Roger Smith (Armenian Genocide denial), Robert Melson (comparison of the Armenian Genocide and the Holocaust), Samuel Totten (genocide films and literature), Peter Balakian (poetry on the Armenian Genocide), Sybil Milton (Armin T. Wegner) and Steve Jacobs (Raphael Lemkin). The two volumes were not only pioneering, they remain quite useful, even to this day. This is a testament to their strong scholarship and the continued importance of the topic. Adalian's entries stand up well and many still appear on-line at the ANI web site.

Soon after the appearance of the English-language, two-volume *Encyclopedia of Genocide*, a French language one-volume version appeared: Israel Charny, ed., *Le Livre noir de l'humanité: Encyclopédie mondiale des génocides* (Toulouse, Editions Privat, 2001). For the most part, the entries on the Armenian Genocide and other genocides were the same, but there were a few additions and deletions in the French edition. Overall, students of the Armenian Genocide were exceptionally well-served by the two editions.

The three-volume set edited by Dinah Shelton, *Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity*, (Detroit, Thomson Gale, 2005) provides extensive material on the Holocaust, attempted to be more inclusive of other genocides and offered a number of thematic entries. However, the coverage on the Armenian Genocide (with under 10 full entries) was less in this three-volume account than in the earlier and smaller English and French *Encyclopedia of Genocide*. Nevertheless, the entries were written by prominent figures: Vahagn Dadrian (Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, Talaat), Dennis Papazian (Armenians in Russia and the USSR), Michael Hagopian (Armenian Genocide documentary films), Atom Egoyan (Armenian Genocide feature films) and Peter Balakian (Genocide poetry, including a section on the Armenian Genocide). The cluster of entries was stronger on the arts angle of the Armenian Genocide than the history or sociology. For example, Henry Morgenthau Jr. addressing the Holocaust was listed, but not Henry Morgenthau Sr. on the Armenian Genocide. The entry on Benjamin Whitaker was an important one, but remained silent on the Turkish government's powerful efforts to thwart the UN's *Whitaker Report*, which contained an important historical reference to the Armenian Genocide. The *Encyclopedia* did, however, include an entry by Christopher Simpson on German missionary Johannes Lepsius and his brave report during WW I on the Armenian massacres. On another positive note, some of the thematic entries provided references to the Armenian Genocide.

The one-volume account edited by Leslie Horvitz and Christopher Catherwood, *Encyclopedia of War Crimes and Genocide*, (New York, Facts on File, 2006) contained only one main entry on the Armenian Genocide and one partial reference in the entry on "crimes against humanity." This was inadequate coverage of one of the major genocides of the 20th century. It seemed that the pattern had become one of declining coverage. That was about to change.

The two-volume collection co-edited and co-authored by Samuel Totten and Paul Bartrop (with some assistance from Steve Jacobs), *Dictionary of Genocide* (Westport, Greenwood, 2008) saw a return to more comprehensive coverage. While no Armenian Genocide specialist authors were listed as contributors, the volumes included at least 40 entries on the Armenian Genocide and a wide range of topics covered. Entries dealt with the key perpetrators (Abdul Hamid II, Committee of Union and Progress/CUP, Ahmed Djemal, Ismail Enver, Mehmed Talaat, Mehmed Nazim), famous places and incidents (Adana, Deir ez Zor, Forty Days of Musa Dagh), key humanitarian figures (Johannes Lepsius, British Viscount James Bryce, US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, German military medic Armin T. Wegner), international reaction (British and the Bryce Report on the "Treatment of the Armenians

in the Ottoman Empire," American including the formation of the "Armenian Atrocities Committee"), films ("Ararat," "Voices From the Lake" and "Armenia: The Betrayed"), genocide centers (Armenian Genocide Institute Museum, Zoryan Institute), Armenian Genocide denialist authors (Bernard Lewis, Justin McCarthy), links to related Ottoman genocides (Assyrians, Pontic Greeks) and the Holocaust. It is a highly readable set of volumes that provides useful summary information about the Armenian Genocide. However, some readers would want more detailed entries and that was about to appear.

In an Internet age, it was inevitable that an on-line encyclopedia of genocide would eventually emerge. The American educational publisher ABC-CLIO recently created a large database on genocide that was primarily intended for high school students and teachers, but would also be valuable to university students and professors. Entitled "Modern Genocide: Understanding Causes and Consequences," it is available for an annual subscription fee. Developed in consultation with an advisory board of Paul Bartrop,

Steven Jacobs and Suzanne Ransleben, the database continues to grow and be updated. At the current time, it contains seven main entries on the Armenian Genocide (Overview, Causes, Consequences, Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders, International Reaction) by Alan Whitehorn. There are also several discussion essays by various authors (including Colin Tatz and Henry Theriault) on Armenian Genocide recognition and how well the genocide has been known, and about 70 individual subject entries. Entries include pieces done by Rouben Adalian, Paul Bartrop, Zaven Khatchaturian, Robert Melson, Khatchig Mouradian, Rubina Perroomian, George Shirinian, Roger Smith, and others. However, not as many Armenian Genocide specialists have contributed as one might have expected. In addition to the encyclopedia entries and genocide timeline, there are some primary source documents and photos. The online database provides useful insight on the Armenian Genocide. It also suggests what might be possible if all of the entries were to be gathered together into a separate encyclopedic volume that is focused on the Armenian Genocide. Unfortunately, this is something

that to date has not yet been done, but which one hopes will occur before 2015.

Quite significantly, all of the genocide encyclopedias together show that the Armenian Genocide constitutes an important case study that is included in each and every genocide encyclopedia from the first to the most recent. This reflects academic consensus amongst genocide scholars that the mass deportations and killings of Armenians constitute genocide. These important scholarly reference works thus provide significant academic documentation that can serve to repudiate the Turkish state's repeated polemical denials of the Armenian Genocide. Accordingly, these genocide encyclopedias ought to be cited by scholars, jurists and citizens alike. The European Court of Human Rights, in its recent (December 17, 2013) flawed decision on Armenian Genocide denial, should have been aware of such key academic reference works. If they had, their reasoning, in all likelihood, would have been different. Without a doubt, these encyclopedias' coverage of the Armenian Genocide remind us that time is long overdue for the Turkish government and its citizens to face the dark pages of their history.

CALENDAR

FLORIDA

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

MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

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

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

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

APRIL 10 — A Place Far Away – Book Talk with Author Vahan Zanyan, 7:30 p.m., Charles and Nevert Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. The Greater Boston area community is invited to a compelling book talk with Vahan Zanyan on his new novel, *A Place Far Away*, a powerful portrayal of the heart-breaking realities of human trafficking in Armenia. Reception to follow talk. Signed



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

books will be available for purchase that evening. All proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated to organizations devoted to protecting children and fighting human trafficking. For further info, contact the church office, 617.354.0632, or email office@htaac.org.

APRIL 11 — The 99th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide will take place at the Massachusetts State House, House Chamber, 10:30 a.m. Keynote speaker, attorney Mark Geragos. The program will feature state Representatives Jonathan Hecht, James Miceli, Lawn and David Rogers, Armenian members of the clergy, Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian. Children from the Armenian Sisters' Academy and St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School will sing America the Beautiful and the Armenian national anthem. A reception will follow in the Great Hall.

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



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Will Yerevan Emulate Kiev?

By Edmond Y. Azadian

If anyone tries to convince you that the Cold War is over, take that statement with a grain of salt. The Cold War is continuing, if not intensifying.

After the collapse of the Soviet Empire, the West rushed in to fill the power vacuum left in the absence of a central Soviet regime, by engaging the newly-emancipated Eastern European countries into the European Union and NATO structures. It even drew the line in the sand for Russia after dismembering former Yugoslavia.

In 2008, Moscow drew its own line in the sand by attacking and "liberating" parts of Georgia. Ukraine remained the center of a tug-of-war between Russia and the West, shifting allegiance at least three times.

The Orange Revolution of 2004 brought to power Victor Yushchenko and Yulia Timoshenko, which nudged the country toward the West. By 2010, the erstwhile allies had become bitter enemies and during a three-way presidential election, former Prime Minister Victor Yanukovich won, shifting the country back towards Moscow.

Thus the country teetered between the two tectonic centers of power until the recent revolt emerged at Kiev's Maidan, which brought down Yanukovich's administration.

He had just struck a deal with the opposition, with the blessing of the foreign ministers of France, the UK and Poland. The agreement called for the revival of the 2004 constitution limiting the presidential powers and setting a December date for the election. The Maidan protestors, however, did not heed the agreement and the government fell. Yanukovich was deposed by the Ukrainian Rada (Parliament), which appointed Alexander Turchinov as interim president.

Naturally, these developments were filtered through different and opposing lenses; for the West, the will of the Ukrainian people had won, while for the Russians, street gangs and thugs had usurped power through violence.

A pivotal role was played in this transition by Arsen Avakov, minister of the interior, an ethnic Armenian.

There is no doubt that the tug-of-war will continue. Susan Rice, President Obama's national security chief, has warned Moscow against any military intervention.

Ukraine is a vast country with a population of 46 million. Seventy percent of its trade is with Russia. There is a precedent that Moscow has interrupted the flow of gas to Ukraine when things did not go to its liking.

The eastern regions of the country are the most industrialized and are populated by Russian-speaking and Russophile Ukrainians, who have already been agitating. The Crimean peninsula, birthplace of Hovhannes Aivazovsky, by the way, is predominantly populated by Russians. Incidentally, while former Politburo member Heydar Aliyev accused any Armenian who sought the return of Karabagh and Nakhichevan as reactionary and nationalist, Nikita Khrushchov, an ethnic Ukrainian, annexed Crimea to Ukraine in 1954 and no one accused him of nationalism. Of course, at that time, border adjustments within the Soviet Union did not have the same political significance as they will have today because the Russian Black Sea fleet is based in Crimea.

A hostile neighbor with a potential of joining NATO will certainly irritate policy planners in Moscow, compelling them to take reme-

dial action now before any further deterioration of the situation. That reaction may lead the country into a partition.

Political analyst Igor Muradian believes that "there will be actual federalization while maintaining Ukraine as a single internationally-recognized state and at the same time, the issue of the state budget, utilities and mobility of the people, foreign relations, army and law enforcement agencies will be addressed. At the same time, the process of separating Crimea from Ukraine will begin, which is apparently inevitable."

There are striking parallels between Ukraine and Armenia, especially since both made their U-turn to join Russia's Customs Union, at the same time interrupting their negotiations with the EU, ostensibly under Russian pressure.

Before these events, Moscow had pledged \$15 billion worth of aid to Ukraine. Now the new leaders believe that Ukraine needs \$60-70 billion to avoid an economic collapse, it is doubtful if Moscow will abide by its early pledge. The US and EU have made some vague promises, which may or may not meet the expectations of the new leaders.

In Armenia, there is no love lost for the Russians who are increasingly treating the country in a cavalier manner. Armenian political groups organized a solidarity unit with Maidan and even travelled to Kiev to support the protestors.

Political pundits are comparing the March 1, 2008 Armenian demonstrations which claimed 10 lives with Kiev's Maidan.

All opposition parties are wishing and trying to enact the repeat performance of Maidan in Armenia. Fortunately, or unfortunately, the opposition is so splintered that no two groups can agree on any common ground. The well-oiled media is entirely financed by foreign governments and agencies and they are trying hard to incite anti-Russian sentiments. Armenia's well-being is the least of their worries. They finance the media for their own selfish purposes. Many starving journalists are serving these foreign agencies for their own survival, oblivious of their cumulative impact on the fate of the country.

Any veteran or novice in politics there begins his rhetoric with calls for regime change. But modern history has demonstrated time and again that any change will only rout one set of oligarchs and bring new ones to power.

Corruption is endemic in all former Soviet republics. No country in the region can remain sanitized as long as they continue their former economic and business relations with each other.

Georgia, the most Western-oriented state in the Caucasus, had trumpeted loudly that it had eradicated corruption under Mikheil Saakashvili, that the rule of law had become paramount. Former Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili's Georgian Dream Party rose to power, and last week former Prime Minister Ivane Merabishvili was sentenced to a five-year prison term for corruption.

The Orange Revolution had catapulted Yulia Timoshenko to power in Ukraine and she landed in jail for corruption. Even Greece, the cradle of democracy and civilization, and a member of the European Union, is plagued with corruption. This means that association with Europe alone is not a panacea.

Corruption is a genuine cause for concern in Armenia. It has to be criticized. It has to be eradicated, but only for its own sake so that the lives of its people improve and not in order to feed the agenda of foreign powers who have a vested interest in Armenia without a strong central government.

Events in Ukraine shook the world and its echoes reverberate more in Armenia, having the same predicament. But a repeat performance of Maidan will only bring chaos.

LETTERS

Marilyn Devaney Is Setting the Record Straight

(The following letter by Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney originally appeared in the Weston Town Crier Newspaper last week. She is a member of the Governor's Council, which is tasked, among other things, with recording consent and advice on judicial nominees.)

To The Editor:

As Governor's Councilor, I must address some very misleading information concerning Joseph Berman's nomination for Superior Court judgeship. I take no joy in this.

Following Mr. Berman's Nov. 13 hearing, five of eight councilors advised Gov. Deval Patrick in writing that we would vote against Mr. Berman's nomination. The governor has not allowed the vote to be taken for three months now.

Councilor Robert Jubinville asked Mr. Berman, who was under oath, whether he had contacted any official or candidate to lobby the Councilors on his behalf, including anyone

on his \$110,000 political donor list. He replied "no." The question was asked again. Mr. Berman replied, "Absolutely not."

When questioned again by Councilor Jen Caissie, Mr. Berman replied, "Oh, I didn't know you meant today." He admitted calling Congressional candidate Katherine Clark that very morning to call Councilors Michael Albano and Jubinville. Why the lies? Honesty is paramount for a judge. Mr. Berman has contributed \$3,600 to Ms. Clark. Mr. Berman stated Sen. Clark agreed to make calls.

After Mr. Berman was not approved for a District Court judgeship by the Judicial Nominating Commission in 2004, he gave \$110,000 in campaign contributions to state and federal candidates, in addition to fundraising right up to the present application for Superior Court. The timing and size of these contributions have understandably created a public perception of improper influence in his pursuit of a judgeship.

Mr. Berman lacks criminal trial experience in Superior Court. He has done nothing to educate himself on criminal law, as he admitted. Councilor Jubinville asked how many trials he has had in District Court. He replied, "I think I had one or two."

The majority of Councilors believe Mr. Berman's deportment at the hearing was unacceptable for a judge.

Councilor Jubinville asked Mr. Berman, "In your opinion, is drug addiction medical or criminal?" Mr. Berman shot back sarcastically, "I'm not a doctor," and added, "No one in my family is drug addicted." Respectful demeanor and composed temperament on the bench are essential. Mr. Berman's lack of knowledge and experience in this crucial legal area is of significant concern to council majority.

When nominees appear before the council, their presentation concerns their qualification to be a judge. Mr. Berman is the only nominee see LETTER, page 15

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Senator McCain Offends Visiting Syrian Church Leaders

Sen. John McCain is a prime example of how US officials so often have misjudged overseas crises, believing that the best way to bring democracy to a country is through massive US bombing and invasion.

The Arizona Senator has been highly critical of President Obama's "arm the rebels strategy," urging a more direct US military intervention in Syria. Senator McCain does not seem to understand that toppling President Bashar Al-Assad would result in more deaths and destruction, and turn Syria into a major hub of international terrorism. Over 30,000 Islamic Jihadists from dozens of countries currently are fighting the Syrian government and each another – surely, not to bring democracy to Syria!

In fact, the former Republican presidential candidate is so obsessed with beating the drums of war that reportedly he behaved in an ill-tempered and discourteous manner with a group of high-ranking Christian Syrian leaders, just because they were not advocating violent regime change. The church delegation had come to Washington last month seeking a peaceful resolution to the Syrian conflict and protection for Christians numbering around two million – 10 percent of the country's population.

The visiting church leaders included Bishop Armash Nalbandian, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Damascus, and representatives of the Presbyterian, Evangelical, Syrian Orthodox and Greek Orthodox churches of Syria. The delegation met with members of Congress, State Department officials, NGO's, academics, religious leaders and members of the media.

The Syrian clergymen were gratified with their Washington visit, except for their unpleasant encounter with Senator McCain, as described by Judicial Watch:

"Hell-bent on arming opposition forces in Syria – despite strong evidence that they're run by Islamic terrorists – John McCain displayed behavior unbecoming of a United States Senator during a recent meeting with Syrian Christian leaders touring Capitol Hill.... Senator McCain, an Arizona Republican, evidently doesn't want to hear negative stories about the rebels he's working to arm. So he stormed out of a closed-door meeting with the Syrian clergy officials last week.... McCain marched into the committee room yelling, according to a high-level source that attended the meeting, and quickly stormed out. 'He was incredibly rude,' the source told Judicial Watch.... Following the shameful tantrum, McCain reentered the room and sat briefly, but refused to make eye contact with the participants, instead ignoring them by looking down at what appeared to be random papers."

During their meetings in Washington, the Syrian Christian leaders informed US officials about the unfolding massive human tragedy in their country and the precarious situation of Christian communities; kidnapping of Christian Bishops, priests, nuns and parishioners; attacks on Christian villages; desecration of churches and holy sites; and violations of religious freedom by armed Islamists.

Given the escalating bloodshed in Syria, the Church leaders asked the United States to:

- End all military and financial aid to armed rebels;
- Demand from US allies – Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey – not to support the terrorists;
- Ask that all sides of the conflict stop the violence, including bombings and terrorism;
- Resolve the conflict through dialogue, not military action;
- Ensure the Syrian people's security;
- Protect the Christian minorities;
- Protect the churches and mosques;
- Protect religious, historical, and cultural monuments;
- Assist in the distribution of humanitarian aid in Syria.

The website of the Syrian Armenian Committee for Urgent Relief and Rehabilitation (SACURR) – www.syriashdab.com – reported that as of September 30, 2013, the war caused serious harm to the Armenian community: 64 civilians murdered, 172 injured, 110 kidnapped and 15 soldiers killed in action. Moreover, various Armenian institutions were damaged: seven Apostolic and three Catholic churches; 13 schools and 10 community centers. Close to half of 65,000 Syrian-Armenian population has fled to Armenia, Lebanon and elsewhere.

SACURR, composed of nine major Armenian social, religious and political organizations in Syria, reported that by the end of September it had received \$1.7 million from overseas Armenian entities. Even though this is a small fraction of the amount needed, SACURR has been able to provide food, shelter, security, and medical and educational assistance to Syrian Armenians, including \$500,000 in tuition aid to 6,436 students in 38 schools.

Sen. McCain and other foolhardy US officials would do well to heed the wise counsel of the visiting Syrian Christian leaders. Dispatching more weapons to Syria would only exacerbate the fighting, resulting in endless bloodshed.

Marilyn Devaney Is Setting The Record Straight

LETTER, from page 14

who boasted about his political organizational skills. He spoke about running offices of candidates, organizing fundraising, organizing workers, "strategizing with people."

Are political skills a quality to look for in a judge? Mr. Berman has definitely proven his political skills in his ongoing politicking for this judgeship. I know of people he has lobbied. However, solid and relevant legal experience, not campaign experience, is what the public and Governor's Councilors expect in a judge.

Regarding National Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and Armenian Genocide recognition, I fault Mr. Berman, 19-year member of the ADL New England and national commissioner, for never publicly speaking out against the national ADL's direct collaboration with the Turkish government against genocide recognition long before, during and after the issue broke in 2007, as he acknowledged at his hearing.

On August 14, 2007, after learning of ADL's years of successful lobbying in defeating Congressional resolutions recognizing the Armenian Genocide, I authored a proclamation to withdraw Watertown from the ADL's "No Place for Hate" program. I won the support of many communities that also withdrew, including Newton. Mayor David Cohen publicly spoke out strongly against the ADL's discrimination against the Armenians.

Mr. Berman neither spoke out publicly nor resigned. New England ADL Director Andrew Tarsy spoke out publicly and honestly and as a result was fired. By contrast, Mr. Berman received leadership awards from the ADL.

In 2007, prominent ADL members resigned, including Stewart L. Cohen and Boston City Councilor Mike Ross, whose father survived concentration camps in the Holocaust. Many principled Jewish Americans (including rabbis) spoke out publicly as well. I stated that if I was a member of an organization that opposed a Holocaust resolution and did not recognize it as a holocaust I would resign.

The national ADL has still not unambiguously acknowledged the Armenian Genocide. New England ADL Director Derek Shulman said in 2012 that the ADL will not support a Congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide.

Finally, some media took my comment about the ADL out of context. Please listen to the tape of the hearing at the Governor's Council office. At the conclusion of the hearing, I stated that though I have a "bias" against the ADL for depriving the Armenians of their history, I would have an "open mind regarding Mr. Berman."

I am proud of the unbiased attention and respect that Councilors and I have for nominees such as Mr. Berman. Thank you.

– Marilyn M. Petitto Devaney
Governor's Council

A Tempest Of Fear in Turkey

By Elif Shafak

Although the word turbulence doesn't exist in Turkish, it is probably the best description of the state of politics in Turkey these days. But we have other words, many of them, that denote "tension," "masculinity" and "polarization," all of which afflict the Turkish state.

Turkey is a liquid country, a watercourse of conflicts and contradictions. The mood changes weekly, sometimes daily. Until recently the country was seen as a successful combination of Islam and Western democracy, a power broker in the Middle East. That view is rapidly fading, and the river that is Turkey is running faster than ever.

With local, presidential and general elections coming, this is a year of loud polemics and quiet concerns. Citizens glance through websites dozens of times daily to see what else has happened. During a vote that gave the government greater control over the judiciary, members of Parliament exchanged blows; a bloody nose was a testament to our bruised democracy.

Nothing reflects the tempest better than the recent proliferation of conspiracy theories.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan repeatedly accused outsiders of being behind the protests in Gezi Park last summer, which left six people dead and 8,000 injured. Several government officials insinuated that dark forces were operating behind the scenes, including the Jewish diaspora, the CIA, the BBC, CNN and the interest-rate lobby, a term for a cabal of domestic and foreign banks that officials believe want to harm Turkey to further their own interests. A Turkish BBC reporter was openly accused of being a foreign spy. Protesters in Taksim Square were called terrorists. The German airline Lufthansa, it was suggested, was trying to scuttle an important new airport for Istanbul.

On social media there are endless rumors about "deep state within deep state." Gradually, Turkey is turning into a nation in the grip of paranoia.

Nobody takes anything at face value anymore. There is a growing public suspicion that the news is filtered, if not manipulated. Recently leaked tape recordings revealed that opinion polls published in a major newspaper might have

been tampered with to please the government. Journalists have marched to protest curbs on press freedom.

In a country where freedom of expression is curtailed and media diversity has shriveled, social media is the only alternative platform of communication, information and misinformation. A new Internet law passed by Parliament further threatens freedom of opinion, though President Abdullah Gul, who said he would approve it, has conceded that parts are problematic.

If the Gezi riots fueled conspiracy theories, the recent corruption investigation fanned the flames. Government officials talk constantly about foreign plots. Turkey has done too well, they say, and now hidden actors want to stop it from growing. These accusations resonate with some segments of society.

Why are we so in need of contriving conspiracy theories?

Part of the answer lies in the fact that Turkey is still not a mature democracy and its politics are masculinist, aggressive and polarized. Turkey's polarization affects every layer of social, cultural and economic life. When checks and balances, separation of powers and media diversity are all at risk, those in power become too powerful.

Continue reading the main story

And part of the answer lies in old fears that go back to our upbringing. One of the songs from my childhood went: "One, two, three ... long live the Turks ... four, five, six, Poland plummeted ... seven, eight, nine, Russians are traitors ... " We children merrily sang this song on the streets, declaring that the

Italians were cunning, the Germans pigs. We grew up believing that Turkey was surrounded on three sides by water and on four sides by enemies. The Greeks aspired to reconquer

Istanbul and make it Constantinopolis. The Arabs were untrustworthy. The Russians plotted to seize the Bosphorus. Everybody wanted a piece of Anatolia, our land, and a Turk's only friend was another Turk.

In the past, one of the strengths of Mr. Erdogan's party, Justice and Development, was a foreign policy of "zero problems with neighbors." That policy has not been sustained.

This government, which liberal intellectuals once supported in the hope that it would push Turkey to join the European Union, restrict the role of the military and enact democratic reforms, is nowadays reviving overused rhetoric.

When Mr. Erdogan speaks he addresses the nation's subconscious. He speaks to our primordial fears and xenophobia. And without realizing, we, millions of us, become children again, waiting in the school courtyard for the headmaster, the baba, to tell us how ill-intentioned every foreigner is and how united we must stand against the world.

Yet, at the same time, this warped mentality no longer entices. Times have changed. The youth are far more open to the world than the previous generations, and the people are ahead of their politicians.

As much as we tend to buy into conspiracy theories, we Turks have also grown very, very tired of them.

(Elif Shafak is the author of nine novels, including *The Bastard of Istanbul* and *The Forty Rules of Love*. A version of this op-ed appears in print on February 25, 2014, in *The International New York Times*.)

OPINION



Manougian Aims to Bolster Jerusalem Patriarchate

JERUSALEM, from page 1

hardly covers the expenses," he said. "During the past 30 years or more, we have not received donations from overseas."

Manougian said that the Patriarchate is playing a skilled political balancing act between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority. Relations with both sides, he said, are "cordial."

He added, "There are challenges but you just have to keep the peace in the communities in the first place," referring to the sporadic fight the Armenian Church faces against the Greek Orthodox and Catholic churches, as well as the smaller Syrian or Coptic churches.

"Once in a while things get wild. They are temporary and we don't dwell on them," he noted, referring to the annual Holy Sepulchre cleaning ritual.

"The Greek Orthodox Church thinks they are the owners and that we are the users. [However] what you see on TV only happens once or twice," he said.

"We are trying to find a happy medium at the end, and solve them," he added.

He said that steps are being taken to appeal to the Palestinian Authority for their intervention in order for a definitive and peaceful solution.

Manougian stressed that the Patriarchate needs many priests.

"In Jerusalem we need at least 35 priests. We have to take care of the sanctuary, principal and vice principal of Sts. Tarkmanchats school, the seminary, offices, finances, real estate, etc.," he explained.

He also pleaded for more donations and more visitors.

"There is a fallacy that money that goes to Jerusalem disappears, somehow," he said. "To get rid of that fallacy, I tell those that are interested that we have several specific projects that they can come and finish. We don't need them to give money."

He did add, however, that just recently two Russian-Armenians who had come to Jerusalem for baptisms, donated a combined total of \$400,000 to the Patriarchate.

He added, "We need the fresh breath of Armenian pilgrims. It means something for the Israeli government because they think Armenians are very small in terms of population. When they see Armenians in big numbers in Jerusalem, it is going to change that attitude," the patriarch explained.

Just recently, the Israeli Interior Ministry agreed to waive visa requirements for visitors from Armenia. It has not gone into effect yet, however.

Along the same line, he continued that to make the visit better for the Armenian pilgrims, the Armenian Quarter needs a hotel. "All the Armenian tourists say they prefer to stay within the compound of the Armenian Patriarchate. We need a hotel of maybe 60-70 rooms," he said. "People feel at ease and we want to encourage the closeness of the Patriarchate compound."

He suggested that the hotel could be built on land belonging to the patriarchate. "They can come and build a hotel. They will profit and the pilgrims will profit," he said.

Manougian expressed pride not only in the Armenian Quarter, but also in the legacy of Jerusalem itself. "Everything started in Jerusalem. Christ comes from there and died there. If it wasn't for Jerusalem, there wouldn't be Christianity in Armenia," he said.

He said it is amazing that Armenians, which only number 10 million worldwide, control – and will continue to control – one sixth of the Old City of Jerusalem, along with the Catholics with a worldwide population of 1 billion and the Orthodox with almost 600 million. "That should say something," about Armenian character, he said.

Currently, in all of Israel, including Jerusalem, there are 3,000 Armenians. At its height, in the 1950s, the population was 30,000.

"If God is with us, nobody can go against us," he said. "God will help us."

(Anyone interested in finishing a project at the patriarchate or making a donation, can contact the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Eastern, in New York City.)

Benefactress Eleanor Dickranian Dies

DICKRANIAN, from page 1

Frequent vacations to Yosemite fostered her appreciation of nature which became a lifelong interest, mainly in the form of her love of flowers and gardening. Eleanor and Archie were active in establishing and developing Los Angeles' Armenian community, especially embracing projects focusing on education, the arts and the church.

She was always supportive of her husband's leadership role in many local Beverly Hills organizations. Eleanor passed away one day shy of her 102nd birthday, in her own home, in her sleep.

She is survived by her two daughters, Cynthia (Ken) Norian and Laurel (Walter) Karabian; five grandchildren, Tom, Tim, John and Cate Norian and Madeline Karabian; six great-grandchildren Kasey, Nick, Clay, Kelly, Jack and Alex Norian; and her two sisters, Isabelle Kershner and

Evelyn Oakes.

She was pre-deceased by her husband and her sister, Louise Hairibedian.

A Vesper Service was held on Sunday, February 23. The Funeral Service was held on Monday, February 24. Both services were held at St. James Armenian Apostolic Church. Officiating at the funeral were Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Western), Archbishop Vatche Hovsepian, Rev. Arshag Khatchadourian and Rev. Haroutioun Tachejian. The two archbishops eulogized her as well.

Interment followed in Inglewood Park Cemetery, where she was laid to rest next to her late husband.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to TCA Arshag Dickranian Armenian School, 1200 N. Cahuenga Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90038.

Rated SR Socially Relevant Film Festival To Feature Several Armenian Films

NEW YORK – Rated SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York, a new non-profit film festival that will run March 14-20, 2014 at New York's Quad Cinema, will feature a total of six films and documentaries revolving around Armenian-themed issues.

Founded by award-winning actor, filmmaker and curator Nora Armani, the festival will showcase films with human interest stories and socially relevant themes as a response to the proliferation of violence and violent forms of storytelling.

Feature films include "If Only Everyone," a narrative by Natalia Belyauskene which focuses on a young woman's search for her soldier father's grave who perished in the Karabagh war and "Orphans of the Genocide," a documentary by Bared Maronian, which takes the viewer on an emotional journey through never-before-seen archival footage and discovered memoirs of orphans.

The hour-long documentary by Lucine Sahakyan, "Hamshen Community at the Crossroads of Past and Present," traces the past and present lives of today's Hamshen Armenians who were Islamized, and the short "Bavakan" by Adrineh Gregorian, which reports on sex-selective abortions in Armenia, will also be shown. Two other Armenian-centric films include "Armenian Activists Now!" by Robert Davidian a documentary about the current socio-political climate in Armenia, and "Later than Usual," a narrative short by David Hovan.

Each of these films sheds light on significant historical events in Armenia's past or controversial issues the country faces today.

"Orphans of the Genocide" deals with a tragic Armenian experience, but in many ways these experiences were of universal proportions," said Maronian, whose inspiration for the film came from an article by Robert Fisk titled "Living Proof of the Armenian Genocide." "After all, children of all genocides went through the same horrific experiences that scarred them for life. Orphans of the Rwandan Genocide, orphans of the Holocaust and orphans of the Armenian

Genocide were left parentless and were subjected to all imaginable human indignities."

Director Lusine Sahakyan researched the Hamshen Armenians and filmed their way of life, recording events and conversations.

"Both sorrowful and inspiring feelings accompanied me incessantly when I walked in the almost inaccessible pastures and villages, hidden in the dense woodlands of Rize, Ardvin and Erzurum Provinces," said Sahakyan, whose film won the Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award at the ARPA International Film Festival in Los Angeles in 2012. "It is painful to see people, estranged from their roots, their history and national identity." Sahakyan notes, however, that Hamshenians of today have been able to retain their local ethnographic identity within a Turkish atmosphere.

The tragedies resulting from the Karabagh War will also be expressed at the film festival through Natalia Belyauskene's "If Only Everyone," which was produced by Michael Pogonian, who also starred in the film.

"War, on either side, has suffering and death and my main aim was to capture the fact that people anywhere experience the same feelings when it happens," said Belyauskene, who directed the story of a young woman who goes to Armenia to plant a shrub where her father was killed while in combat. "We wanted our movie to make the beautiful land of Karabagh a more peaceful place after all the years since this terrible conflict."

Over 40 narrative and documentary films will be screened, including 10 feature films which will compete for the Grand Prize.

"I am delighted that my film is a part of the official selection of the Rated SR film festival," said Maronian. "I believe that Rated SR is that crucial missing link needed to complete the circle of the many film festivals fulfilling their missions. Rated SR however, has the most noble mission of all, which is promoting socially relevant films."

For more information or tickets, visit www.ratedsrfilms.org.

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

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Child Mortality Levels 'Still too High.' Save the Children

LONDON (Armenpress) – Despite progress against child mortality, every day more than 18,000 children under five still die from preventable causes, according to a report from Save the Children. The lives of two million newborn children could be saved by provision of better basic healthcare, the charity says.

Globally in 2012, an estimated 40 million women gave birth without the presence of midwives or qualified health workers. In sub-Saharan Africa, this amounts to 51 percent of all children born, compared with 41 percent in South East Asia. Research from a US team in 2012 highlighted infectious diseases – and pneumonia – as the leading cause of death among infants and children. Just 2 percent of children in South Sudan aged 12-23 months

are immunized, according to a 2012 report from UNICEF. More must be done to prevent stillbirths or the death of babies during labor, Save the Children says.

In 2012, some 1.2 million babies died during labor, while UN figures suggest that, although maternal death rates have halved since 1990, every day some 800 women die during childbirth.

Regional data compiled by the World Health Organization highlights the scale of child mortality in Africa and the "Eastern Mediterranean Region", which includes countries such as Afghanistan, Sudan and Syria. Save the Children suggests that an increase in health expenditure by just \$5 per person per year could prevent 147 million child deaths and 32 million stillbirths.

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

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