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President Sargisian, Catholicos Attend Pope Francis Inauguration

VATICAN CITY (ArmeniaNow) — Armenian President Serge Sargisian attended the inauguration of Pope Francis I in the Vatican on Tuesday, March 19. Leaders and senior representatives of dozens of states as well as hundreds of thousands of faithful gathered in and around St. Peter's Square for a mass that



Pope Francis and Armenian President Serge Sargisian speak after inauguration mass

installed the former Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina as the new leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

According to his press office, Sargisian congratulated the new Bishop of Rome, Francis I, on becoming the spiritual leader of the worldwide Catholic Church.

He stressed that the event had a special symbolism and meaning for the Armenian people which was the first to officially adopt Christianity back in 301.

The president was reportedly happy to state that the Holy See of the Saint Peter is now led by a friend of the Armenian people who is "well aware of our culture and history which he had many times stated during his activities in Argentina."

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II also reportedly attended the ceremony.

Davit Safaryan Wins European Wrestling Championship

TBILISI (PanArmenian.net) — Armenian wrestler, Davit Safaryan (66 kg,) took home the European Championships' gold medal. Safaryan beat out Turkish contender, Yakup Gor, in the finals.

Mihran Jaburyan (55 kg), and Narek Sanoyan (60 kg) also represented Armenia in the tournament.



Davit Safaryan

Rediscovering Franz Werfel

Potsdam Conference Analyzes Life of Brave Humanitarian

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the *Mirror-Spectator*

POTSDAM, Germany — Among the required reading for most Armenians is the novel *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh* by Franz Werfel, and the author is thus known among Armenians mainly — if not exclusively — for this monumental work. But, as a conference held on March 10-12 in Potsdam, Germany documented, Werfel's literary accomplishments include a large number of other significant works which deal with a vast array of issues. The title of the three-day conference cosponsored by the Lepsius House and the Moses Mendelssohn Center in Potsdam already gives a sense of the scope of his activity which has been the subject of extensive research: "Genocide and Literature: Franz Werfel in an Armenian-Jewish-Turkish-German Perspective." In the course of the speeches and concluding round table discussion, speakers from Germany, France, Austria and the United States shed new light on the many facets of this extraordinarily complex figure.

Peter Stephan Jungk, who has written a Werfel biography, introduced the author with an overview of his life and works, and remarked that doing research for the book took him on a journey through the first half of the 20th century. In fact, see WERFEL, page 12



Franz Werfel

St. Vartan Cathedral Celebrates Holy Week

NEW YORK — St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral will observe Holy Week, March 24 through March 30, with a series of special services, culminating in the Easter Sunday celebration on March 31.

Palm Sunday, which commemorates Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, falls on March 24. Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian (dean of St. Vartan Cathedral) will be the celebrant for the services, which will begin with a morning service at 9:30 a.m., and will continue with the Divine Liturgy at 10:30 a.m. The Turun-patzek or "Door-Opening" Service will be held after the Divine Liturgy.

On March 28, the church will celebrate Great and Holy Thursday, and the day's services will memorialize the Last Supper, Jesus' vigil in the Garden of Gethsemane and his arrest and trial. Two separate services will be celebrated on this day. In the morning, the Divine Liturgy will begin at 11 a.m. This will be followed by a luncheon.

In the evening, the "Washing of the Feet" ceremony will start at 7 p.m., with the Khavaroom or Vigil Service following at 8:30 p.m. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese, will officiate. During the Washing of Feet ceremony, twelve individuals will serve as surrogates for the apostles.

The crucifixion and death of Christ will be observed on Holy Friday, March 29, and again two services will occur. The Order of see DIOCESE, page 16

Former MS Reporter Daphne Abeel Dies

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Daphne Abeel, 75, a writer and editor, died suddenly on March 2, in Portland, Ore., while visiting her younger brother, Neilson Abeel, and his wife, Tori Bryer.



Daphne Abeel

She was a member of the staff of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* for more than 10 years, starting in 2000. After leaving the staff, she continued contributing book reviews regularly.

Having inherited her father's literary

gene, Abeel had a long career in trade publishing. She started with Holt Reinhart and Winston in New York and was for 20 years an editor at Houghton Mifflin. She later worked at Crown Publishers. Her authors included Arthur Ashe, Robert Stone and Sen. Jacob Javits. Her interest in politics led her to work for Massachusetts State Representative Lida Harkins. She co-founded Abeel & Leet Publishers with Judith Leet in 1995. Later she turned to newspaper work as editor of the Needham Chronicle and assistant editor of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*. She was an associate member of the Signet Society at Harvard and the Cambridge Tennis Club.

see ABEEL, page 16

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hakobyan Hosts Lebanese Chargé D'Affaires Khachaturian

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Armenian Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan hosted Lebanese Chargé d'Affaires in Armenia Ara Khachaturian. Hakobyan greeting Khachaturian, said, "I am proud of [a] young Armenian man who has the trust of the Lebanese government and occupies such a position."

Khachaturian will soon head to South Africa, where there is a population of about 35,000 Lebanese, including 300 Lebanese Armenians.

Khachaturian expressed gratitude for the reception.

A number of issues involving Syrian Armenians were reportedly discussed during the meeting.

Author Hasan Cemal Fired from *Milliyet* Newspaper

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) — Author of the book, *1915: Armenian Genocide*, journalist and writer, Hasan Cemal, was fired this week from the *Milliyet* newspaper, where he had worked since 1998.

According to Turkish press reports, Cemal was fired after the newspaper refused to publish the veteran journalist's latest column. Cemal's last piece was published on March 2, voicing support for the paper's decision to publish the meeting minutes from a second parliamentary visit to the jailed leader of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK,) Abdullah Öcalan.

Cemal wrote his last column after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticized the newspaper, saying the principle of press freedom does not give the media the right to "act against the national interest of a country." Erdogan directed his criticism towards Cemal, saying, "down with your journalism, if this is the journalism you will conduct."

Cemal, who had criticized Erdogan in the column, was removed, but the editor who published the article and the other journalists involved were not fired.

Cemal, the grandson of Young Turk Party leader Cemal Pasha, will present his new book *1915: Armenian Genocide* on April 15 at St. Thomas Armenian Church in Tenafly, NJ.

The book, which has become a bestseller in Turkey, presents factual information about the Armenian Genocide and speaks about Cemal's personal transformation — from someone who once denied the Armenian Genocide to someone who not only recognizes it, but is willing to risk publishing a book on his findings.

Cemal visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial in Yerevan five years ago and wrote in his book, "To deny the Genocide would mean to be an accomplice in this crime against humanity."

INSIDE

Happy 25, NKR

Page 7

INDEX

Arts and Living	10
Armenia	2
Community News.	4
Editorial	14
International	3



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Gainful Employment in Households Declining

YEREVAN (Arminfo) — Gainful employment of Armenia's households is declining, the results of the Caucasus Barometer 2012 survey say. The survey was conducted by the Caucasus Research Resource Centers (CRRC) and Eurasia Partnership Foundation.

In 2010, 61 percent of Armenia's households had gainful employment, in 2011 this index dropped to 59 percent, and in 2012, to 58 percent. In 2010, 26 percent of the households wanted to move to another country for permanent residence, in 2011 – 23 percent. In 2012, this index rose to the level of 2010. In the meantime, 59 percent of the households would have moved to another country for temporary residence in 2010, 56 percent in 2011 and 54 percent in 2012.

US Intelligence Service Concerned with NKR

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — The US National Intelligence Service has published a report highlighting that Nagorno-Karabagh conflict continues to pose serious risks to international safety.

During special hearings in the US Senate, Head of National Intelligence Service James Clapper presented the document, "Report of US Intelligence Services on Worldwide Threat Assessment."

"Conflict remains to be a possible heart of the outbreak. Mutual distrust between Armenia and Azerbaijan and regularly repetitive violence in the contact line increase the possibility of [incorrect] calculations which may cause the tension of the situation," said Clapper, quoting from the report regarding Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh.

According to the predictions of the US National Intelligence Service, increasing social discontent in Russia will also cause noticeable political tensions there.

The report also touched on recent events in Georgia, especially the victory of Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili and his party in the parliamentary elections, as well as the Syrian conflict.

Constitutional Court Rejects Applications of Hovannisian, Ghukasyan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — The Constitutional Court of Armenia rejected the applications of former presidential candidates Raffi Hovannisian and Andrias Ghukasyan disputing "Decision N62: On Election of the President of Armenian Republic."

President of Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunyan read the verdict. "[In the] decision by [the] Constitutional Court, only [an] assessment of combining legal facts of evidential significance may be considered as legal basis," Harutyunyan said.

Reviews of both applications were completed by the court on March 13.

Vardan Sedrakyan to Remain in Jail

YEREVAN (Arminfo) — On March 18, the Armenian Court of Appeal rejected lawyer Alexander Sirunyan's motion to change the terms of detention restraint against former presidential candidate Vardan Sedrakyan.

On March 5, the court of general jurisdiction of Kentron and Nork Marash administrative districts had sought to imprison him for two months, pending formal charges..

On January 31, fellow candidate Paruyr Hayrikyan was the subject of an assassination attempt. A criminal case was instituted under Article 34-305 of the Criminal Code. On February 7 Khachatur Poghosyan and Samvel Haroutyunyan were detained on charge of the assassination attempt against Hayrikyan. Both confessed about their roles, however, the reasons are not known yet. Later, former presidential candidate Vardan Sedrakyan confirmed the information that he knew the detainees as they had worked on his house.

Some Syrian-Armenian Families Find Advantages to Settling in Karabagh

By Gayane Mkrtychyan

STEPANAKERT (ArmeniaNow) — Numerous Syrian-Armenians have moved to Armenia because of the war in Syria, many among them further moved and have settled in Nagorno Karabagh Republic's Kashatagh region.

This southwestern part of Karabagh has now 23 Syrian families totaling 71 people. The first family moved there much earlier, in 2008, even before the war broke out. The majority of families migrated from northeastern Syrian Qamishli city on the border with Turkey.

Vardan Poghosyan's family is one of them. He moved to Kashatagh together with his wife and 18-month-old daughter. They live in the region's capital, Berdzor. Both are accountants and have jobs, and soon will be allotted an apartment.

"It was my decision to come directly to Karabagh. Rather than going to Europe or America, why not come and live in our homeland. Of course, there are many difficulties, but we have to endure. After all, we have lived in a foreign country more than enough," Vardan Poghosyan, 29, said in an interview, adding that following their example, his brother, Serob, has moved there with his family, in-laws and relatives.

Some of the Syrian-Armenian families live in Kovsakan, the second largest city, and Ishkanadzor of Kashatagh region. Robert Matevosyan, head of the re-settlement department of Kashatagh administrative district, says the first families who had moved to Kovsakan now have private houses, for the others a multi-story building has been renovated and apartments have been allotted.

"In Berdzor they still live in the guesthouse, soon will have their own



Vardan Poghosyan and his wife

apartments provided to them free of charge with an ownership right. Those families that will adapt and stay, will later be given the property ownership certificate," Matevosyan said. "People with professions are now employed, rural families have been given land lots. The state has granted agricultural loans with zero interest rate. People have sown wheat, oats, and will return the money when they harvest the crops."

In 1992 (during the war) Armenian forces took control over Berdzor (Lachin) and the Lachin corridor, which was also called the "road of life," since it was the only land communication between Karabagh and Armenia. Zangelan, Kubatlu and part of Lachin (which are among the seven disputed regions around former Autonomous Republic of Nagorno Karabagh have been re-arranged into Kashatagh region with 3,376 sq.km total area, and the re-settlement of this area is of strategic importance. By the 2011 data of the NKR Labor and Social Affairs Ministry,

8,500 people reside in Kashatagh.

Matevosyan says they are expecting another wave of people to relocate to Kashatagh.

"We got the applications a while ago. About four to five families have come to inquire about the terms. In any case we are ready to accept everybody. We continue building new houses and repairing the old ones. They adapt, live overcoming the challenges. There are language issues, but they are being overcome as well," said Matevosyan.

The Syrian-Armenians have the support and encouragement not only of the NKR authorities, but also the Kashatagh authorities, the Tufenkian Foundation and Assistance to Self-Determined Artsakh charitable foundations, as well as the Help Your Brother relief initiative for Syrian-Armenians.

According to the Diaspora Ministry data, some 6,000 families have moved to Armenia forced out by the military actions in Syria, 300 among them reside in the provinces of Armenia.

Sport, Concert Complex to Host Presidential Inauguration

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) — The National Assembly voted 66 to 6, with 25 abstentions, to approve holding a special meeting at the Karen Demirchyan Sport and Concert Complex on April 9.

It is expected that incumbent President Serge Sargsian's inauguration for the second five-year term, will also be held that day at the complex following the meeting.

The development confirms earlier reports that Sargsian would avoid having an inauguration in the Opera House, where he was sworn in for his first presidential stint, in view of the continuing hunger strike of opposition leader, Raffi Hovannisian, in the adjacent square.

Before starting his hunger strike on March 10, Hovannisian warned that if Sargsian decides to go ahead with the swearing-in ceremony, he will be inaugurated over his [Hovannisian's] "dead body."

Hovannisian, disputing the official election results, promised on Tuesday during his meeting with the press to present clear-cut suggestions to Sargsian, "for the solution of this unprecedented pan-national fundamental issue before April 9."

Late afternoon on Monday, Sargsian told a group of media representatives that until now, he did not know "what demands Raffi Hovannisian is making by his hunger strike."

"If there is a concrete suggestion, I

will give concrete answers. One cannot lead a dialogue alone. One cannot negotiate by himself. You have to have a partner. If your suggestions are not accepted you should listen to what suggestions are made to you rather than say 'If Serge Sargsian is a man, he must resign.' I can voice formulations, too," said Sargsian, explaining to the reporters that he had sent a document with suggestions to Hovannisian, but that "a cross was drawn on the document" and sent back.

Hovannisian said he welcomed the fact that Sargsian had disclosed the "confidential document" and said that he would send his two suggestions — one about the resignation, the other related to a pan-national complex alternative — during a rally this week.

"Whatever happens after that and before April 9, will be open, transparent, so that people can witness; even if there is a meeting it will be open for the press, or will at least be live broadcast," said Hovannisian, on his 10th day of hunger strike at Liberty Square.

Speaking about the document Sargsian had sent to him, Hovannisian said that the envelope [with an inscription "National Assembly"] was given to him by Heritage Party representative Armen Martirosyan by way of Parliament Speaker Hovik Abrahamian. Hovannisian stressed that the document was "a mockery and a crumb," and that he put an "x" on the document pages, and in no way a cross "because

the cross is a holy symbol."

"See, it was March 16 and the document was dated March 5 — a memorandum signed by the National Assembly to be signed between Sargsian and Hovannisian and referring to the idea of creating some kind of constitutional commission, council and preparing a referendum in some 2-3 years. It's a mockery, a crumb by its substance, but the bigger irony is in the fact that this is the option Abrahamian had suggested during the non-official discussions and was rejected by our faction leader Ruben Hakobyan," Hovannisian told the press.

Hovannisian also addressed Sargsian's statements, in particular, Hovannisian stressed he feels neither hunger, nor bitterness with the world, as the incumbent president claimed. Sargsian had also said he disagreed with Hovannisian's claims that "the people are at the square" and pointed out that only some 3,000 people go to the rallies.

"I believe it's not worth descending to be among those 3,000. What is Sargsian saying by that? If we rally 100,000 people, he would go to the trouble to come to negotiate or come and visit? Is that it? He wants us to prove to him that we can rally a hundred thousand people at this square to impress him? Is that what he is saying? I hope not, because the victory of the Armenian people has besieged Baghramyan 26 [presidential residence] and Mr. Sargsian," said Hovannisian.



INTERNATIONAL

AGBU Delegation Visits Ukraine to Lay Groundwork for New Chapter

KIEV — Plans for a new Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Chapter in the Ukraine are now underway following a trip from Friday, February 22 to Sunday, February 24, by an AGBU delegation, who met with political and community leaders in Kiev and Odessa to discuss the place and contributions of Armenians in Ukraine and ways in which a future AGBU Chapter can further strengthen them. The 300-500,000 strong Ukrainian-Armenian community is one of the oldest in Europe, tracing its roots to the beginning of the last millennium.

Ukraine Parliament member Arsen Avakov and his adviser Tigran Avagyan accompanied the AGBU representatives, comprised of AGBU Central Board members Vasken Yacoubian and Yervant Zorian, AGBU Europe board member Nicolas Tavitian and AGBU Strategic Advisory Council member Guy



From left, AGBU Central Board members Yervant Zorian and Vasken Yacoubian, Ukraine Parliament member Arsen Avakov, AGBU Strategic Advisory Council member Guy Markarian and Avakov's adviser Tigran Avagyan discuss plans for establishing a new AGBU Chapter in the Ukraine.



At a cultural center in Odessa, Ukraine, AGBU delegates enjoy performances organized in honor of their visit.

Markarian, throughout the trip. Together, they launched the weekend in the capital, where they met with the Parliament Speaker Volodymyr Rybak and members of Parliament Mher Mkhitaryan and Vilen Shatvoryan, as well as heads of several Parliament committees. Bringing the first day to a close, AGBU Europe Central Board member Gor Abgaryan joined the AGBU delegates, as well as Avakov and Avagyan, for further talks.

Continuing to Odessa, the AGBU leadership got a glimpse of the vibrant Armenian diaspora communities that have shaped the country's social fabric. On Saturday, February 23, upon arriving in the city, they were welcomed by key community leaders from across Ukraine. In addition to meeting with the city's Consul General of the Republic of Armenia Georgiy Muradyan, Archbishop Grigoris Buniatyan, Primate of the Ukrainian Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, and Odessa Armenian Community Chair Samvel Tigranyan, they paid their respects to the local Soviet World War II hero Marshal Hamazasp Babajanian during a memorial ceremony. At the nearby cultural center, they enjoyed a performance, including dance and opera pieces, organized in honor of their visit.

During a final meeting the following day, the delegation outlined concrete steps toward establishing the new AGBU Chapter, and ways to begin integrating the Ukraine's Armenian diaspora into the organization's global network. Alongside Avakov, his colleagues Tigran Avagyan, Artyom Karadjian and Alexander Avakov, they discussed initiating AGBU Young Professionals Groups and establishing AGBU Armenian Virtual College Labs in major Armenian communities within the country. Also on the agenda were plans to send students from the Ukraine to Armenia through AGBU youth programs such as Camp Antranik, Discover Armenia, the Musical Armenia Program and the Yerevan Summer

Internship Program.

As the weekend came to a close, Yacoubian said, "The Armenian community in Ukraine is a very important part of the Armenian world, and I am delighted that AGBU will be working here. We received a magnificent welcome, and could see how much potential there is; the onus is now also on AGBU to find the best ways to contribute for the benefit of the community here and the Armenian nation as a whole." His remarks underscore the great strides AGBU is making in expanding its global reach, fostering a deep sense of Armenian national identity that transcends borders.

Greece Accuses Turkey of Violating International Law in Aegean Row

ATHENS (*Today's Zaman*) — Greece has accused Turkey of violating international law in a row over contested waters in the Aegean and the east Mediterranean, stepping up its criticism amid growing tensions over the decades-old dispute between the two neighbors.

Turkey and Greece have been locked in a dispute for decades over territorial rights in the Aegean and the east Mediterranean.

Despite major political rapprochement since the late 1990s and growing cooperation, tension over the disputed waters has been brewing lately as economic crisis-hit Greece hopes to find oil and gas reserves in the east Mediterranean. Turkey also wants to conduct exploration in the disputed region and says the state-owned oil company TPAO is legally authorized to do so.

In a statement last week, the Greek Foreign Ministry claimed that Turkey's stance is in violation of Article 121 of the United Nations (UN) Law of the Sea Convention, which supports the Greek position that islands are taken into consideration in the delimitation of sea borders. Turkey, on the other hand, insists the continental mainland, not the islands off the Turkish coasts, should be taken into consideration while determining the boundaries in the Aegean because otherwise the Aegean Sea could be claimed as a Greek lake, leaving Turkey with no territorial rights.

Turkey has not signed the Law of the Sea Convention, meaning that it is not bound by it. However, the Greek Foreign Ministry statement argued otherwise, saying Turkey is still bound by the treaty because, having been signed by 164 countries, the treaty has the sta-

tus of customary international law and is binding on every state.

The two countries have also taken their dispute to the UN recently. On February 20, Greece sent a diplomatic note to the UN outlining its opposition to Turkey's licensing the TPAO for hydrocarbon exploration in the east Mediterranean, saying the area where TPAO exploration is set to take place overlaps with Greece's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the continental shelf.

Turkey denied the Greek claims in a subsequent note to the UN and said the licenses granted to TPAO since 2007 are confined to the areas that are within the Turkish EEZ and continental shelf.

"By rejecting the Greek islands' right to delineate their continental shelf and the EEZ, Turkey is violating Article 121 of the Law of the Sea Convention, which has customary law status and is thus binding on all nations," the Greek Foreign Ministry said in its statement, according to the Anatolia news agency that reported it in Turkish. It also vowed to defend its rights stemming from international law.

The disputed area in the east Mediterranean is believed to have hydrocarbon reserves worth \$130 billion, a significant amount certain to ease Greece's debt burden, according to a Wall Street Journal article earlier this month.

Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras, accompanied by several ministers from his cabinet, visited Turkey this month. Taking place against the backdrop of the Aegean row, the visit ended with promises to increase trade and work together to resolve the Cyprus dispute.

International News

Italy Ambassador Meets With Diplomatic Protocol Chief

ROME (Armenpress) — Newly-appointed Armenian Ambassador to Italy Sargis Ghazaryan met with Stefano Ronca, chief of the Diplomatic Protocol of Italy. During the meeting, both parties stressed the Armenian-Italian historical ties, warm and friendly traditional relations between the two states, as well as importance of deepening and strengthening their relations.

Ghazaryan underlined the importance of reforms implemented in Armenia within the European Union framework.

Ghazaryan also spoke of regional developments and said that Armenia is interested in regional cooperation, stability and security.

At Ronca's request, Ghazaryan presented Armenia's official position regarding the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

Prelacy Postpones Elections in Tehran

TEHRAN (Combined sources) — According to the Tehran's Armenian Prelacy Assembly's previous announcement, a meeting which was scheduled to be held on March 3, concluded before its full agenda was covered, so that more people from different segments of the population can gather to secure a more balanced view.

This announcement was made by Prelate Sebouh Sargisian.

The meeting was supposed to start at 6.30 p.m. at the Prelacy's headquarters. The majority of the delegates were gathered, where a representative of the Iranian minister of interior affairs was also present to supervise the elections to the Assembly, however around 7 p.m., the representative left and the elections were postponed until April 15-20.

Sargisian said. "Our wish is for all the different segments of the community to be part of the meeting and that is why the elections are being postponed,"

He asked the members of the press not to ascribe any inaccurate reasons for the postponement.

An editorial in Tehran's *Arax* weekly praised Sargisian's concern and expressed a wish for a more balanced Prelacy Council. "In our opinion, when different ideologies are ignored, the National Assembly is equivalent to the political party and the community will rot and thus it will drown in indifference," the editorial added.

The last elections were held on November 16, with the ARF winning 59 percent of the vote and the remaining parties splitting the rest of the vote.

Georgian President, PM Spar on Armenian Language Demands

TBILISI (PanArmenian.net) — The Georgian government is facing a new bout of political tensions amid Georgian Armenians' demands for urgent ratification of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

President Mikheil Saakashvili, who has strained relations with Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili, took a hostile stance on the demand, citing a threat to national security. He further accused his opponents of fostering Armenian nationalism.

The charter ratification urge was voiced in Samtskhe Javakheti's Akhalkalaki region, home to a predominantly Armenian population.

"We insist that the parliament ratify the charter which Georgia [agreed to] in 1999," the head of local parliament, Hamlet Movsisyan, stressed. The initiative was authored by the members of Ivanishvili's Georgian Dream coalition.

As the state minister for reintegration noted, in 1999, Saakashvili was the one who lobbied Georgia's ratification of the document. "Saakashvili explained his actions by the intention to expedite Georgia's accession to the Council of Europe. He was so set on overtaking Armenia and Azerbaijan that he never thought of repercussions," Paata Zakareishvili said.

Community News

Armenian Sentenced to Prison for Health Care Fraud Conspiracy

BRUNSWICK, Georgia — Khoren Gasparian, 30, an Armenian national, was sentenced last Friday by Chief United States District Court Judge Lisa Godbey Wood to 41 months in prison for his role in a conspiracy to defraud Medicare through phony medical businesses in Savannah, Georgia.

Gasparian, who at the time of these offenses was in the US on an expired visa from Armenia, previously pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to defraud Medicare. According to the evidence presented at Gasparian's sentencing hearings, from 2008 through 2010, Gasparian and others opened medical equipment companies known as Healthy Family, SOJ Group and Savana Medical. Once opened, Gasparian and his cohorts stole the identities of hundreds of Medicare beneficiaries, stole the identities of dozens of doctors and used this stolen information to submit hundreds of thousands of dollars in phony claims to Medicare for health care services that were never provided.

Gasparian and others used the stolen identities of doctors and patients from multiple different states, including Alaska, California, New York and Ohio and even submitted claims for people that were dead at the time they were alleged to have been provided medical equipment. Gasparian was also connected with at least two other phony health care businesses located in California and New Mexico. He was responsible for approximately \$1 million worth of fraudulent claims submitted to Medicare.

US attorney Edward J. Tarver said, "Medicare fraud affects every American taxpayer. The United States Attorney's Office has aggressively pursued healthcare fraudsters from around the world who've attempted to set up shop here in the Southern District of Georgia. The risk of detection is high for those who submit fraudulent claims to Medicare and the penalty will be substantial."

"Criminals who steal from federal health care programs and taxpayers will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," said Derrick L. Jackson, special agent in charge of the US Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General for the Atlanta region. "The Office of Inspector General and our law enforcement partners will continue to aggressively pursue these thieves to ensure they are held accountable."

Mark F. Giuliano, special agent in charge for the FBI Atlanta Field Office, stated, "The FBI will continue to work with its various law enforcement partners to identify, investigate, and bring forward for prosecution those individuals such as Gasparian who would steal funds from much needed federal programs such as Medicare."

In addition to being sentenced to 41 months in prison, Gasparian was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$182,735 and to serve three years of supervised release upon completion of his prison sentence. There is no parole in the federal system.

At the time of his guilty plea in Georgia, Gasparian was serving a prison sentence based on his guilty plea to a health care fraud offense in the US District Court for the district of New Mexico. After Gasparian finishes serving his prison sentences, he will face immigration proceedings that will likely result in his deportation to Armenia.

In addition to the Southern District of Georgia, numerous charges were filed in New York, Los Angeles, Cleveland and Albuquerque.

The investigation in the Southern District of Georgia was the result of a multi-agency team of federal, state and local agents, led by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of Health and Human Services-Office of the Inspector General (HHS/OIG) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE,) working together to combat health care fraud.

Assistant US Attorney Brian T. Rafferty prosecuted the case on behalf of the US government.



An antique poster from the White Star Line

Built During the Hamidian Massacres, Sunk During The Genocide

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The fact that SS Armenian once sailed the high seas and worked the cargo routes of the North Atlantic is news to most people, including Armenians.

Built as a freighter, the SS Armenian was a valuable transportation vessel in the profitable cargo service that existed between Great Britain and North America at the turn of the 20th century. The exact location of its final resting place remained a mystery until 2008, when its wreck was discovered off the western coast of England and it was seen

By Tigran Kalaydjian

for the first time since World War I.

For a ship born during the Hamidian massacres, it was perhaps inevitable that it would meet its doom in that darkest of years — 1915 — at the same time as the people with whom she shared her name were being slaughtered.

The SS Armenian was built in 1895 by Harland & Wolff, the Belfast shipyard that would later become famous for making the legendary trio Titanic, Olympic and Britannic. The vessel was 156 meters long and had a displacement of 8,825 tons.

The ship was launched on November 25, 1895 as the SS Indian for Frederick Leyland & Co, but wasn't delivered until September of the following year, by which time it had been renamed the SS Armenian.

With very little contact between Great Britain and a nation called Armenia, the clue behind the sudden name change lies in the events inundating the British press throughout 1895. During this time, the sultan and the ruling elite of the Ottoman Empire were diligently putting into action their final solution to the 'Armenian Question,' a solution which required the destruction of the empire's Armenian minority as a cohesive unit and its dispersal throughout the country.

This policy involved forced assimilation, the settling of Turks in Armenian-populated regions, the incitement of Moslem fanatics and Kurdish militias to commit atrocities against unarmed Armenians and a plan of organized, indiscriminate killing of men, women and children by the sultan's military.

Starting in the late summer of 1894, the massacres of Armenians had gradually grown in scale and reach, eventually encompassing several large provinces in the east of the empire.

In October 1895, reports of the slaughter of hundreds of Armenian men in the town of Erzurum provoked shock and indignation across the world. Newspaper articles regularly depicted the sultan as a bloodthirsty tyrant, a butcher of women and children, and sympathy for the Armenians was widespread. Leading

see SHIP, page 5

CYSCA Hosts NGO Leaders From Armenia

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Five delegates from various regions of Armenia will be arriving in Boston on March 27, to participate in the Open World program of the US Library of Congress, hosted by the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA). This program is managed by the Open World Leadership Center, a support agency of the Library of Congress to enhance understanding and cooperation between the US and the countries of Eurasia.

During their stay in Greater Boston, the delegates will be engaged in a series of meetings organized under an Open World grant to CYSCA, covering the topic "NGO Management and Civic Participation." The five delegates are young NGO leaders, all women of average age 30. They will be accompanied by a facilitator. The program includes visits with federal, state and local legislators and their staff to learn about the US legislative process and especially how NGOs can get involved to further the interests/issues of their organization. Under a recently-enacted law in Armenia, citizens are permitted to participate in community council meetings and submit resolutions for consideration, but few citizens are aware of the procedures for availing themselves of these rights.

The group includes five NGO managers: Siranoush Hovakimyan of Yerevan, "The Future is Yours" NGO, youth organization; Gayane Mheryan of Sevan, "Technodrome" NGO, development of citizen's education; Ruzan Mkrtchyan of Hrazdan, "Burning Star" NGO, engaged in environmental issues; Ruzanna Sargsyan of Meghri, Women's Resource Center" NGO, involved in women's issues; and Narina Tahmazyan of Echmiadzin, "Cross of Armenian Unity" NGO, assistance to orphans, vulnerable and underprivileged children. Also joining the group is the facilitator Aleksandr Shagafyan of Yerevan, a university social studies teacher and director of "Civitas" NGO, a center for democratic education.

The delegates will meet with US Rep. Edward Markey and or his local staff, US Sen. Elizabeth Warren and or her staff, state Rep. Jonathan Hecht and other state officials, and Cambridge Mayor Henrietta Davis and City Council members. Also, there are scheduled meetings at the Harvard University Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation and the Hauser Center of Harvard's JFK School of Government on topics pertaining to NGOs, civil society and anti-corruption. They will also meet with various NGOs and civic organizations such as the Cambridge Community Foundation, Cambridge Peace Commission, Armenian General Benevolent Union Young Professionals (AGBU-YP), Armenian Business Network (ABN), Boston Foundation, City of Cambridge Human Services Department, Third Sector New England, Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

CYSCA has recruited host families to provide housing and meals for the delegates as well as first-hand interaction with American family life. The delegates will have the opportunity to enjoy Easter Church services and family dinners with their host families. In addition, CYSCA has organized cultural activities for the delegates during their free time on the weekend, touring Boston's historic sites, museums, and the Armenian Heritage Tribute and Genocide Memorial on Boston's Rose Kennedy Greenway.

There are also scheduled evening events with the AGBU Young Professionals, as well as a panel discussion with AIWA members.

CYSCA program director Jack Medzorjian commented, "We are excited about the opportunity to host these young leaders from Armenia. We have designed a program to give them a better understanding of their American

see CYSCA, page 7



COMMUNITY NEWS

Built During the Hamidian Massacres, Sunk During the Genocide

SHIP, from page 4

newspapers such as the *Times*, *Morning Post*, *Daily News*, *New York Times* and *Le Petit Parisien* published articles and editorials by prominent public figures condemning the Turkish crimes.

Eyewitness accounts brought home the magnitude of the massacres, filling the public both in Europe and America with disgust and anger.

One account sent by a Catholic prelate stationed in Western Armenia described a typical scene: “Over the whole province the work of destruction has been pursued, every town, every hamlet having been given over to pillage and murder. The inhabitants who have been spared have been stripped of everything of use or value. Those who fled from the doomed districts were pursued and cut down mercilessly, without regard to age or sex, by the barbarous Turks. The bodies of many children and young girls lie under the charred debris of the ruined homes.”

By 1896, close to 300,000 innocent lives had been lost throughout the Armenian highlands.

In a speech delivered in Liverpool that year, former UK Prime Minister William Gladstone protested vehemently against the atrocities and called for resolute action by the European powers against the Turks. Against this background, there is little doubt that the unrelenting suffering of the Armenians would have been ingrained in the consciousness of the wider British public.

With the constant flow of news reports causing outrage and clamors for justice, it is understandable why the people behind the building of the SS *Armenian* would choose to rename the vessel. It may have been a small but significant gesture, an expression of solidarity with the Armenian people in their hour of torment and agony.

Fitted out with stables to transport horses, the SS *Armenian* commenced its maiden voyage from Liverpool to Boston on September 28, 1896. Three years later the ship was contracted

by the British authorities to serve as a transport in the Boer War, and in 1901, it was used to transport 963 Boer prisoners of war to Bermuda.

After the war, in March 1903, the ship’s management was taken over by the White Star Line – the same company that would come to operate the RMS *Titanic* just a few years later – and it resumed its cargo service between Liverpool

US to Bristol, England. The animals were intended as replacements for the horses that had been lost in the fighting in France.

At around 6:30 p.m. on June 28, while heading northeast off Trevose Head, Cornwall, a watchman on the *Armenian* sighted a German submarine. In what proved to be an erroneous decision, Captain James Trickey ordered the ship ahead full-steam in an attempt to outrun

Americans lost their lives, the sinking of the *Armenian* caused a second crisis between Germany and the US, as the majority of the men who died were again American. Much was made in the press of this fact, with both the British and French papers doing their best to fan the flames of anti-German sentiment in the US, with the hope of drawing America into the war.

While the propaganda war raged in the newspapers, President Woodrow Wilson considered the *Armenian* incident before making any official pronouncements, preferring to wait until the investigation was over. His procrastination proved expedient. The ship was undeniably engaged in the transportation of contraband to England – work animals destined for the Allied armies fighting in France – and this made it a legitimate target according to most experts.

Even though the accepted rules of engagement regarding the sinking of merchant ships in wartime required a ‘stop and search’ approach, it was established that not all U-boat commanders obeyed these rules. However, the investigation found that Rudolf Schneider had indeed tried to stop the ship before opening fire with the deck gun. It is likely that had Trickey complied with the

order to stop, the SS *Armenian* would have been spared.

The furor caused by the sinking of the *Armenian* eventually abated because of the circumstances surrounding the event, and the US did not declare war on Germany until April 1917.

In 2002, amateur divers claimed they had discovered the wreck of the SS *Armenian*, but their claim was proven incorrect (the wreck was of the auxiliary cruiser HMS *Patia*.)

The SS *Armenian* was finally located and identified by wreck hunter and archaeologist Innes McCartney in 2008. The discovery was featured on the History Channel in an episode of *Deep Wreck Mysteries* titled, “Search for the Bone Wreck.”

The ship sits upright in 95 meters of water, 45 miles from the reported location given by the British crew at the time of the sinking. A mass of animal bones was found inside the ship, a testament to the hundreds of animals whose deaths were but a minor statistic in a global conflagration that claimed millions of lives and provided ideal cover for the commission of one of mankind’s greatest ever crimes – the Armenian Genocide.

(Tigran Kalaydjian is the author of *Sentinel of Truth: Gourgen Yanikian and the Struggle Against the Denial of the Armenian Genocide* [2012].)



The SS *Armenian*

and New York.

In 1910, it was repainted in the distinctive Leyland insignia – a pink funnel with a black top.

The *Armenian* completed its peacetime assignment in March 1914, before being briefly laid up prior to its deployment as a horse transport during World War I. Although not fitted as a passenger vessel, it was used to transport the Grenadier Guards, an infantry regiment of the British armed forces, to Belgium on the October 7, 1914.

The SS *Armenian* began its final voyage in June 1915 with 175 men onboard. It was chartered to carry a cargo of 1,422 mules from the

the U-boat, which turned out to be the U-24. The captain was signaled to stop and surrender after two shots were fired across the ship’s bow, but he refused. The U-boat’s commander, Rudolf Schneider, then opened fire with the deck gun, scoring several hits on the *Armenian*, one shot taking out the Marconi room.

After more than a dozen men lay dead or injured on the deck, Trickey finally agreed to surrender. Much to his surprise, he and the crew were treated well by the Germans from that point on. With several lifeboats damaged from the shelling, they were allowed to take the remaining boats and make for the Cornish coast. The *Armenian* was then sunk by two torpedoes fired into its stern. It went down in minutes.

The survivors were picked up the following day by the Belgian steam trawler *President Stevens*. Four of the injured died before they could be rescued.

29 men lost their lives, including 19 Americans. The *Armenian* needed hands to tend to the mules, so many of the 175 men onboard were muleteers who had been hired at Newport News, Virginia, before sailing. Of the 29 fatalities, 12 were muleteers who refused to abandon the animals and preferred to go down with the ship. Most of the victims were African Americans.

Following the sinking of the RMS *Lusitania* 52 days earlier, in which more than 100

Pasadena Community Foundation Provides Grant for Genocide Memorial

PASADENA, Calif. – The Pasadena Community Foundation (PCF) has approved a \$5,000 grant to fund the Armenian Genocide Memorial Project to remember the 1.5 million people who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide.

“This memorial will serve as a reminder of the most devastating event in the history of the Armenian people,” stated Pasadena Community Foundation board member Margaret Mgrublian. “It is important that it be recognized. Understanding each of our unique backgrounds is the single most important aspect of living together as a community.”

PCF Executive Director Jennifer DeVoll added, “This grant supports an important cultural project within the Armenian community, honoring their heritage.”

The Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial Committee (PASAGMC) recently selected a design for the memorial by Art Center College of Design student Catherine Menard. The central feature in Menard’s minimalist design is a single droplet of water that will fall from the highest point every three sec-

onds. Each “teardrop” will represent a life lost that was lost during the Armenian Genocide.

Beginning with the Pashgian Family, who opened a rug business on Colorado Boulevard in the late 1800s, Armenian-Americans have been an integral part of the Pasadena community for more than 100 years. The committee hopes to raise more than \$100,000 to build the memorial with an official groundbreaking anticipated for 2014 and the dedication of the completed memorial planned for April 24, 2015, marking the 100th anniversary of the Genocide.

PCF, established in 1953, will celebrate 60 years of service to Pasadena this year with an event scheduled for October at the Langham. PCF raises and manages charitable endowments to provide funding to six targeted areas, each representing resources that merit support in the Pasadena community. These include: arts and culture, education, environment, health, human services and youth.

For more information on the Pasadena Community Foundation, visit www.pasadenacf.org.

Armenian Sisters' Academy

Annual Bazaar

Saturday, March 23rd
11am-8pm

Fun For The Entire Family!

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Bring Home Some of our Mantle, Choereg, Kadayif, Tahini Bread, Pastries & More

Bake Sale!

Shopping! A Dazzling Array of Unique, Quality Items from our Country Store & Vendor Booths

Children's Entertainment from 2-4pm

Book Fair!

Bring The Kids!

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For more info, please call (781) 863-2303
Or visit us at www.alexandriaarmenians.org



COMMUNITY NEWS

Pharmacist, Physician to Be Honored at April 6 Program

WATERTOWN — On a regular basis, the Armenian American Pharmacists Association and the Armenian American Medical Association collaborate and host an event, usually to honor one of their own. This year such a tribute will take place again, on April 6, at the Oakley Country Club. The honorees are pharmacist Harold Partamian and Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian.

Partamian is devoted to his profession, community, family and friends. His professional career began in 1957, when he obtained his degree of bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and became staff pharmacist for local pharmacies and Massachusetts General Hospital. He served in the US Army National Guard Medical Corps and as Staff Sergeant Specialist. He was the



Harold Partamian

sole proprietor of his own pharmacy, Rawson Pharmacy, in Arlington, from 1967 to 1980. He was then hired by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy as a Board Special Agent/Inspector from 1980 to 1987. Partamian was appointed as executive secretary/director of the Board of Registration in Pharmacy from 1987 to 1994. After retiring from the board, he became adjunct faculty assistant director of continuing education and adjunct instructor in pharmacy law for Northeastern University's Bouve School of Pharmacy. He later became staff pharmacist for the Veteran's Administration Hospital, until his retirement in 2000. During this time, he also founded and was the first president of the Armenian American Pharmacists Association, which has been in operation for more than 30 years.

He serves on the Board of Directors of the Armenian Heritage Foundation, is a member of the Knights of Vartan, Armenian Business Network, Armenian Assembly of America and much more.

He and his wife, Gladys, have been married for 54 years and both are active in the St. James Armenian Church.

Goudsouzian, a highly respected physician, was born in Cairo, Egypt and attended the Mkhitarist School and LaSalle College, and obtained his medical degree from Cairo University. He then immigrated to the United States and enrolled at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia for a master's degree in physiology.

Goudsouzian did his residency and fellowship training in anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital. He served in the US Army as a major. Following his honorable discharge, he rejoined the staff of Massachusetts General Hospital as a pediatric anesthesiologist, where he currently



Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian

Laboratory at MGH.

Goudsouzian and his wife of 45 years, Mary, have been active in St. James Armenian Church for 40 years. He is active in several other organizations such as the Armenian General Benevolent Union, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, the Friends of Armenian Culture Society, the Armenian Cultural Foundation and the Armenian American Medical Association. The Goudsouzians have received the St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal from the Catholicos of all Armenians.

Furthermore, Armenia has a special place in the heart of the Goudsouzians. Twice he went with Project Hope, the first time to organize bringing earthquake victims to the United States, and the second time to establish a rehabilitation unit. He has been sending large shipments of medical supplies every two to three months through the United Armenia Fund and the Knights of Vartan for the last 20 years.

He has also volunteered his time in providing anesthesia for handicapped children on the Mercy Ship in Port Antonio, Jamaica.

Goudsouzian, being the foremost expert on muscle relaxants in children and a distinguished leader in the field of pediatric anesthesia, was honored with the Robert M. Smith Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics last year and received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

The program honoring the two men will take place on April 6 at the Oakley Country Club starting at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails. The John Boboian Quartet and special guest Steve Marvin will present a musical tribute to Frank Sinatra. Reservations may be made through www.aapha.org.

For Felix Gregorian, Military Service Comes Before Self

By Tom Vartabedian

CHELMSFORD, Mass. — When Felix Gregorian decided to make the military his career, he did not realize that in time he would be deployed four times to a hostile land and be promoted to the rank of major.

But that is the fate of this soldier as he continues to give his time and energy to the country he loves.

As conditions continue to remain hostile in Afghanistan, Gregorian bides his time fulfilling his mission while two sons, both in the military, and a wife named Candace, await his safe return.

"My family is very special to me," said Gregorian. "They went to St. Gregory's Armenian Church for years and, now, in their adult years, the spirit continues."

His son, Greg, wrote about the Armenian cause while attending West Point. A second son, Dro, wore the colors of Annapolis and topped his class at Navy Squadron School in Colorado and is currently serving as a carrier pilot. He, too, has kept his Armenian heritage intact. The boys were honor students and athletes at Chelmsford High.

"I have sacrificed my personal time to look after my family," he added. "Just like anything else, it does make a difference. Hopefully, our experiences have set an example for the children."

In a letter sent to friends at St. Gregory Church in North Andover, Gregorian said he was doing well in Afghanistan, despite the deployments. Gregorian works with Afghan security forces and sometimes interfaces with Armenian contingents at camp.

"I speak Armenian, Farsi and English in the course of a few minutes," he noted. "Time goes

by quickly. I am grateful for all your care packages."

During a previous return home following a year's tour, Gregorian thanked God and his family for his safety.

"As a soldier, you're prepared to lose your life for a cause," he had said. "I could have been taken out by the bad guys at any time. God is watching over me."

Gregorian had undergone embedded tactical training with the Afghanistan National Army while assigned with the Army Reserve 108th Institutional Training Division. His job was teaching allied forces medical procedures.



Army Major Felix Gregorian

He has spent 20 years with the military and hopes to continue his service with no specific timetable. He works as a respiratory therapist in civilian life and has volunteered as part of a medical team that treats children needing cardiac care in Africa.

Gregory Arabian, commander of Belmont American Veterans (AMVETS) Post, lauded his peer for his vast contributions to military service. Gregorian is a charter member

of the post.

"This major promotion comes after his fourth tour of duty in Afghanistan, where he is training Afghan security forces to take over the security mission of that distant country," said Arabian. "Felix has a long and enviable record, both as a civilian and as a military officer."

Gregorian immigrated to the US from Iran and quickly developed a love and loyalty for his adopted land. He worked diligently in his military pursuits, rising from the enlisted ranks to an officer.

"Not only did he excel personally," said Arabian, "he supported and encouraged his two children to serve the military. He has proven himself to be a model citizen, an outstanding member of the community."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

US Congressmen Celebrate 25th Anniversary of Artsakh Independence

New Chair for Armenian Caucus Named

WASHINGTON – Members of Congress, the diplomatic corps, and Armenian community leaders and activists marked the 25th anniversary of Artsakh's freedom movement during a March 13th Congressional event on Capitol Hill, reported the Armenian Assembly.

Hosted by the Congressional Caucus on

Armenian Issues, participated in the event while Representatives Anna Eshoo (D-CA) and Jackie Speier (D-CA) provided written statements. Also, Representative Grimm announced that he was honored to assume the role of Armenian Caucus Co-Chair and looked forward to working with his colleagues and the community on these important issues.

Both Royce and Schiff expressed their strong concerns about the Azerbaijani pardon last September of Ramil Safarov, who was convict-

Azerbaijan in freeing Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani soldier who brutally murdered an unarmed Armenian soldier during a NATO-sponsored training program in Hungary...These are not the actions of a government that is dedicated to justice and peace. Unfortunately, the actions taken by Azerbaijan only further confirm their desire to facilitate and condone violence against Armenia and its people." In addition, the National Security Council issued a statement highlighting President Barack Obama's deep concerns and noted that "this action is contrary to ongoing efforts to reduce regional tensions and promote reconciliation."

The evening also featured remarks by Tatoul Markarian, Armenia's ambassador to the United States, Artsakh's Minister of Youth and Culture Narine Aghabalyan as well as by NKR Representative in the US Robert Avetisyan.

Markarian in his remarks reflected that "Artsakh's history over the past quarter century has been one of democratic triumph over intolerance, violence, war, and blockade. The people of this ancient Christian land have, with the generous support of the American people, overcome Azerbaijani aggression, and – against all odds and in the face of ongoing attacks – built a free and democratic society and a market-oriented economy. Meanwhile, what we celebrate today is not limited solely to Karabagh's aspiration and struggle. It surely obtained much broader meaning. It marked the beginning of enormous transformations, which in fact, started by this very movement, that in many ways inspired the liberation process throughout the Soviet Space, bringing eventually an end to the Cold War."

Aghabalyan emphasized that "the Nagorno Karabagh Republic is a legal state, which was created through the free expression of the democratic will of the people of Karabagh, and it is, in fact, the non-recognition of this state that contradicts international laws and norms." Aghabalyan also stated that "the Karabagh movement started at the end of 1980s. It was the period of Gorbachev's Perestroika, a new approach was initiated in the Soviet Union. It gave people a hope for democratic change and inspired them to speak out about problems that had existed in the Soviet Union for decades, but were subjected to a 'symbolic silence' under the Communist regime. The Karabagh issue was one of those problems, and, I am proud to say, we were the first to break the silence."

Underscoring the importance of the democratic will of the people, Aghabalyan invoked a quote by Thomas Jefferson: "Everything is changeable in the world except the natural



Former Assembly Intern Alissa Tabirian, Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY) and Bryan Ardouny



Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), NKR Minister Narine Aghabalyan, Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny and NKR Representative Robert Avetisyan

Armenian Issues, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Edward Royce (R-CA), Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA), newly minted Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Michael Grimm (R-NY) and Armenian Caucus Co-Chair Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) spoke about the importance of Karabagh's right to self-determination and the importance of a peaceful resolution to the NK conflict. Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) also par-

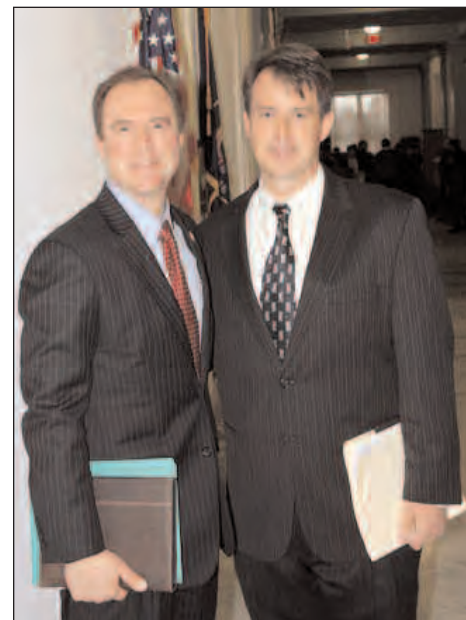
ed of brutally murdering an Armenian officer, Gurgen Margaryan, with an axe while the latter was sleeping. Both officers were participating in a NATO Partnership for Peace training program in 2004 in Hungary.

The Azeri pardon was also roundly condemned by Caucus Co-Chair Pallone last year stating at that time: "I am outraged by the reckless actions taken by the government of

rights of people."

Avetisyan expressed appreciation for the support they felt from the very beginning 25 years ago, and that they feel today. Avetisyan was optimistic about the future and hoped that Congress and American people will continue to support human rights and freedoms throughout the world, including the people of Artsakh in particular.

"Nagorno Karabagh is all about freedom. Freedom was the inspiration for the Nagorno Karabagh democracy movement back in 1988. Freedom has been the cornerstone of this



Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) and Bryan Ardouny

proud Republic's remarkable growth over the past quarter century. And, today, 25 years later, freedom remains the key to finding a peaceful and democratic way to finally bring an end to Azerbaijan's aggression," said Armenian National Committee of America Executive Director Aram Hamparian.

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CYSCA Hosts NGO Leaders From Armenia

CYSCA, from page 4 counterparts in civic programs and especially for them to have the chance to engage in fruitful discussions with youthful leaders in the American community on civil society and democratic governance". The delegates will encourage return visits to Armenia by persons they contact to continue dialogue and establish cooperation on joint programs of mutual interest.

The Open World program currently operates exchanges for political and civic leaders from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

CYSCA was organized in 1987 to foster exchanges between citizens of Cambridge, MA and Yerevan, Armenia on cultural, civic, professional, educational, environmental and business themes. For more information see www.CYSCA.org, or contact CYSCA Program director, Jack Medzorian at jmedzorian@aol.com or Project Manager Alisa Stepanian at asteonian@aol.com.



New York METRO

HMADS Gala Dinner Dance to Take Place in June

BAYSIDE, N.Y. — In 1994, almost 20 years ago, an ambitious group of Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS) supporters gathered together to establish an all-volunteer fundraising committee known as Friends of HMADS. Under the leadership of then school Board Chairman Nurhan Adarian, they strived to carry out their mission to become the financial pillar of the school. Little did they realize what an impact their service to HMADS would have in the years to follow.

By Arpi Arukian

Surpassing mandated New York State education standards, HMADS supplements its curriculum with daily lessons in Armenian language, history and culture. Class sizes are small, allowing for a more personal and nurturing environment, and the overall experience at the school helps not only to enhance knowledge but also to develop a strong character. The school is unique in that the members of its community are regarded as family, and its strength lies in their cooperative spirit and unified efforts to achieve a common goal.

Friends of HMADS, chaired by Board Treasurer Hovannes Malikyan, is a dedicated group comprising school supporters (board members, current and former parents, alumni, etc.) whose goal is to raise funds, consequently contributing to the economic growth of the school. Year after year, the committee provides the school with a balanced budget and financial stability. Thanks to the efforts of Friends, HMADS is able to maintain affordable tuitions.

The Friends committee meets semi-monthly at the school to create, discuss and plan social and cultural events that, in addition to raising funds, will also benefit the Armenian community as a whole. Every fall, it sponsors the Annual Telethon, one of its major fundraising events. For several years, Berj Haroutunian of Vital Transportation has offered use of his company office and equipment to Telethon volunteers who, over the course of two evenings, call hundreds of local Armenian households to seek pledges supporting the school.

The most anticipated Friends event of the year is the annual Gala Dinner Dance held in the spring. Looking up to the high standards in community service set by honorary booklet co-chairs Noubar and Ann Mahdessian, members of Friends of HMADS and school supporters will once again turn this important fundraiser into a success. All the members of the community are invited to attend this celebration on Saturday, June 8 at the Garden City Country Club in Long Island. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. with a cocktail hour followed by dinner at 9 p.m. Musical entertainment will be provided by Montreal's Kevork Artinian and his band.

For more information about supporting the school or attending the event, contact the school office.



The Friends of HMADS

98th Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

Friday, April 19, 2013, 10:30 am

House of Representatives Chamber • Massachusetts State House



Keynote Speech
Ambassador John Evans



**Joint Senate/House
Resolution Recipient:**

Donald Tellalian
Architect of the
Armenian Heritage Park



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

For more information contact:

Senator Will Brownsberger 617-722-1280
Representative Jon Hecht 617-722-2140
Representative Dave Rogers 617-722-2400
Representative John Lawn 617-722-2304
Lalig Musserian, Coordinator 617-319-2651

Buses will be leaving at 9:00 am from St. James and St. Stephen's Churches (Buses generously provided by the Knights of Vartan)

HMADS Celebrates 25 Years of Young Scientists and Inventors

By Kristen Reed

OAKLAND GARDENS, N.Y. – The 25th Anniversary of Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS) Science Fair took place March 12 to 15. Students from each grade made excellent presentations and celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Invention Center. Guest speakers taught the students and audience new facts and some interesting science experiments took place.

Nursery students did a presentation about “The Solar System.” “The Life-Giving Seed” was planted by the Kindergarten students. The first grade jumped into “Oceans of Fun”

and learned about some of the creatures that live there. The second grade traveled back in time to explore and learn about some “Dino-Mite Dinosaurs” that once roamed the earth. The third grade learned about different “Weather and Natural Disasters” that can affect people all around the Earth. The fourth grade learned about three types of energy, “Heat, Light and Sound,” and performed experiments displaying their properties. The fifth grade students focused on “Geology,” displaying different types of rocks. And lastly, the sixth grade presented “Experimenting with Liquids.”

A few of the students got creative this year and had more than one invention. All the inventions were well thought out with pur-



The kindergarten students with their teacher and Principal Zarmine Boghosian



Young scientists in grades 4-6 with the panel of judges

pose; all were well put together and were well displayed. Special guests from the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA): Vahan Tanal, Aram Setian, Savid Michaelian and Hovhannes Mardirossian. The guests were also the judges for the invention center. Not only were they the judges, but they also taught us about their organization which originated in Glendale, and is fairly new to the New York/New Jersey area, but is surely growing and expanding. Based on the engineers’ grading the Invention Center winners were: First prize, Anoush Bezjian, sixth grade; second prize, Danielle Ashbahian, sixth grade; third place, Michelle Ashbahian, fourth grade; fourth prize, Margaret Sakar, fifth grade.

Janet Marcarian taught the students about their genetic makeup and DNA, teaching why we have the traits that we do, such as eye color, hair color, skin color, height, etc., with a presentation of the Punnett Square. Dr. Nayat Bostanci, DDS, focused on oral hygiene.

Third grader Olivia Nercessian presented us with an erupting volcano and Olivia Abajian created a tornado; from Fourth grade: Emma showed us how insulators work; Haig showed us how reflection and refraction play with our eyes; and Michelle displayed to us different sounds. From Sixth grade, all the students presented different experiments with liquids. A few of the experiments included: Aline creating frost and Ani fog; Melanie showed us density and Edward pressure.

After three days, the students were split into two teams, yellow and green, and played Trivia. Questions were created by each of the teachers based on the knowledge of their students and what they learned during the Science Fair - from the presentations, to the guest speakers, and the experiments, both in English and in Armenian.

Special thanks go to Karin  Kocharyan from VOA Armenian TV for allowing students to present the Science Fair outside the walls of Holy Martyrs.

Hasan Cemal to Be Honored by Knights and Daughters of Vartan

TENAFLY, N.J. – The Knights and Daughters of Vartan will honor Hasan Cemal, grandson of Young Turk Leader Jemal Pasha, on Saturday, April 13, at St. Thomas Armenian Church.

Cemal, a journalist, scholar and author, will be presented with the National Award Banquet. The evening will also serve as an opportunity to introduce the honoree’s new book, titled *1915: Armenian Genocide*.

The book, which has become a bestseller in Turkey, presents factual information about the Armenian Genocide and speaks about Cemal’s personal journey from someone who denied the Armenian Genocide to someone who not only recognizes it, but is willing to come forth and publish a book on his findings.

of almost two million Armenians and even visited the Armenian Genocide memorial in Yerevan five years ago. He writes in his book: “To deny the Genocide would mean to be an accomplice in this crime against humanity.”



Hasan Cemal

In addition to evidence and his personal story, passages from Cemal’s grandfather, Jemal Pasha, one of the masterminds behind the Armenian Genocide, are also quoted from his own memoirs dated from 1919.

Although Turkey continues to deny the Genocide, Cemal acknowledges the massacres

The banquet will take place in Saddler Hall of St. Thomas Armenian Church, starting with a cocktail hour at 7 p.m., followed by dinner at 8 p.m. Donation is \$125 per person. Limited seating is available. For reservations, call the church.

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ALSO PARTICIPATING



Arts & Living

'Légion Arménienne' Exhibit Opening at French Cultural Center on April 4

BOSTON — The French Cultural Center in Boston will host a public reception on April 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. to mark the official opening of an exhibit about the Armenian Legion in World War I. Developed by the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in Watertown, this traveling exhibit offers a glimpse into the formation, training, military action and postwar activities of the Armenian Legion volunteers, who fought with the Allies to victory in the Middle East during the Great War, and risked all in defense of human rights.

The story of the Armenian Legion forms a chapter in the long history of relations between the French and Armenian peoples. The Legion was formed during the darkest days of WWI, when the Allies (France, England and Russia) were deadlocked in a military stalemate on both the European and Middle Eastern fronts against the combined forces of Germany, Austria and Turkey. Leaders of the Armenian Diaspora determined to raise a volunteer fighting force to support the Allies. In October 1916, an agreement was reached in London between the Armenian representative Boghos Nubar Pasha and the governments of France and Great Britain to form an Armenian Legion, made up of volunteers who were to be organized, trained and led by French officers.

Consisting of a force of more than 4,000 Armenians from all parts of the world, the



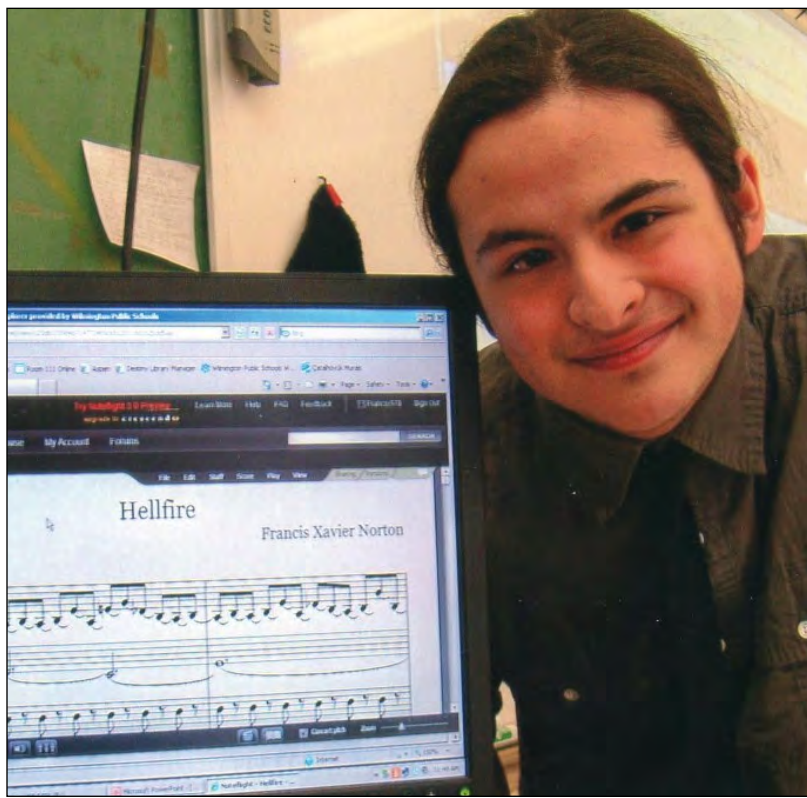
Armenian Legionnaires from the US, training in Cyprus in 1916

Legionnaires were trained in Cyprus and then joined the Allied forces on the Palestine front, under the overall command of the British General Edmund Allenby. Allenby's brilliant military strategy soon forced Turkey to withdraw from the war. The Armenian Legion served as the advance guard as the Allied forces moved into the Cilician region of Turkey, occupying Adana, Aintab, Marash and Urfa, and other centers. Political conditions following the Great War impelled the Allies to withdraw their forces from Turkish territory and the Legion was disbanded.

The story of the Armenian Legion, told in this exhibit through photographs and narratives, reflects the community's attempts to come to grips with the destruction and devastation following the Armenian Genocide. It also represents the successful efforts of Armenians from different social, economic and political backgrounds to work together for a common cause.

ALMA's traveling exhibit about the Armenian Legion has been exhibited in several venues, from California State University, Fresno, to the University of Michigan-Dearborn and Whitinsville (MA) Town Hall.

The opening is free and open to the public. The exhibit will be on display from April 3 through May 1. The French Cultural Center is located at 53 Marlborough St. For times and further details, visit <http://www.frenchculturalcenter.org/>.



Wilmington High School senior Francis Norton with his symphony composition

Wilmington Student Composes Armenian Symphony for Martyrs

WILMINGTON, Mass. — After learning about the Armenian Genocide for the very first time, Francis Norton was looking for an outlet for the emotions the tragedy inspired.

The Wilmington High School senior harnessed these emotions in order to compose an Armenian symphony he aptly named *Hellfire*.

Norton debuted the piece in his Facing History and Ourselves Genocide Studies course taught by Lisa Joy Desberg and Maura Tucker.

The two-minute piece contains a movement done with cello, violin, piano and brass in multiple key and tempo changes, much like the early work by Alan Hovhannes.

One might find the piece eerie at first, but that is exactly the atmosphere the composer says he hopes to convey.

By Tom Vartabedian

when I thought about the torment and depression this nation faced. I felt the pain of the victims."

Members of the Armenian Genocide Education Committee of Merrimack Valley have made repeated visits to the school each semester, as well as other communities throughout Greater Boston and Merrimack Valley.

While student essays on the subject of the Armenian Genocide are not unusual, the involvement of non-Armenian students in these activities and the use of music composition as a form of expressing outrage is perhaps a new trend.

"They have a sincere desire to learn from outsiders who've approached our school with such motivation as the Armenians," Desberg pointed out. "They want to be students who make a big difference in the world."

Norton's symphony will be performed during a Merrimack Valley Genocide presentation at local churches.

"I told them to pick their means of expression," said Tucker. "Never did I expect a musical interlude on genocide."

Other mediums for this class assignment included a poem accompanied by Armenian *khatchkar* done and performed by students Michelle Soel and Katie Finn. The following is an excerpt from the poem:

Giving justice where it's due,
Honoring angels in our sky,
So many will not soon forget
The once-forgotten Genocide.

Another student creation was an Armenian tricolor flag and with a sunflower sprouting from the ground. The Armenian word for freedom (*azadoutoun*) was etched on the side.

Likewise, students Allie Silva and Danielle O'Brien created an Armenian tri-colored poster board with the following inscription: "The Genocide was an awful thing. Who knew what misery it would bring? Throughout the struggles of many, there remained hope. Thoughts of lost family members, Armenians had to cope. Never forgetting the lives that were lost. They all came at such a great cost."

A collage by Mary Torres and Alana Madore depicted turmoil and unrest. They said, "It is easy to learn about genocide in black and white through facts and numbers, but they cannot account for the unique life of each individual who was sacrificed."

see SYMPHONY, page 11

Pinajian's Paintings Reportedly Worth Millions

By Dominic Gover

NEW YORK (*International Business Times*) — A collection of paintings by an artist who died in obscurity are expected to fetch up to \$30 million at auction in New York.

Arthur Pinajian devoted his life to art but never won acclaim for his work. He spent years toiling away on canvases and relying upon his sister for financial support.

The pair lived together and dreamed that he would attain notoriety, but these dreams were never realized. Pinajian grew increasingly frustrated and eventually withdrew from the world to devote himself to painting.

One of Pinajian's final wishes when he died in 1999 at the age of 85 was for his art to be thrown into a bonfire. But even this wish was ignored.

Now a collection of his work, unearthed in a rundown cottage in Long Island, could net the owners a large sum of money.

That is because, as with Vincent Van Gogh, Pinajian has found posthumous acclaim after enduring a lifetime of critical and public failure.

His paintings are currently hanging in New York galleries and commanding prices of \$87,000 each. A total of 3,000 images, including abstract expressionist



Discovering Pinajian's paintings in Long Island cottage

paintings, World War II sketches and illustrations have also been salvaged.

The collection was purchased by Thomas Schultz and his friend Larry Joseph when he bought a dilapidated bungalow in the hope of renovating it. When they realized the house came with paintings, they upped their offer by \$2,500.

Pinajian's cousin, John Aramian, said, "He thought he was going to be the next Picasso. He believed he would become famous and this would all pay off one day, but it just never happened."

"So he became frustrated and withdrew from everything and just painted."

Pinajian was praised for his dogged devotion to art by American art historian William Innes Homer, who died last year.

"[He was a] lone researcher in a laboratory pursuing knowledge for its own sake," Homer had said of Pinajian.

"He pursued his goals in isolation with the single-minded focus of a Gauguin or Cézanne, refusing to give up in the face of public indifference."

"He was passionate and unequivocally committed. Ultimately, Pinajian's work reflects the soul of a flawed, yet brilliant, artistic genius. When he hits the mark, especially in his abstractions, he can be ranked among the best artists of his era," said Homer.



ARTS & LIVING

Children's Author Lucine Kasbarian and Editor Wilda Williams to Hold 'Conversation' at ALMA

WATERTOWN — On Tuesday, April 2, International Children's Book Day, author Lucine Kasbarian will be "In Conversation" with senior book review editor Wilda Williams of *Library Journal* at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA). Kasbarian and Williams will discuss the challenges and benefits of producing material in this field, including insights from their work inside publishing. They will talk about new directions in today's book publishing area, diversity in children's books, literacy issues and Armenian-Americans publishing their own writings, among other topics. The audience is encouraged to take part in the conversation.



Children's author Lucine Kasbarian

Kasbarian is author of *Armenia: A Rugged Land, an Enduring People* (a 1998 Bank Street "Best Books of the Year" Selection) and *The Greedy Sparrow* (an Honor Book in the 2012 Storytelling World Resources Awards).

Kasbarian's website (lucinekasbarian.com) demonstrates how one story can act as a resource to teach about cultures on multiple levels, providing study guides, creative ideas and activities. In addition to writing, Kasbarian has worked as an in-house publicist for major publishing companies and her own concern, Progressive Book Publicity. She is also a political cartoonist.

Wilda Williams has been an editor and reviewer of many genres of books at *Library Journal* for nearly 25 years. She also writes her own blog, WildaBookBeast (<http://willywaldo.tumblr.com>)

International Children's Book Day has been celebrated since 1967 on the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen.

The event will take place at ALMA's 3rd Floor Gallery at 7:30 p.m. A light reception will follow the event. Books by Kasbarian will be available for purchase and signing by the author.



Editor Wilda Williams

Mark Geragos Book Signing Tour to Benefit SOAR

PHILADELPHIA — A longtime supporter of the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR), attorney Mark Geragos and co-author Pat Harris are launching a book-signing tour in April, with proceeds to benefit SOAR.

In *Mistrial: An Inside Look at the How the Criminal Justice System Works . . . and Sometimes Doesn't*, Geragos and Harris, two of America's leading criminal defense attorneys, take readers inside the most compelling and sensational trials of the past 20 years. They have worked on cases that involved celebrities (Michael Jackson, Chris Brown, Winona Ryder and Mike Tyson) and on cases that have made ordinary people into celebrities (Susan McDougal, Scott Peterson and Gary Conduit).

Going behind the scenes, the authors assess the dramatic changes that have occurred in the judicial system, making it heavily weighted toward the prosecution. They examine how politics shifted the balance, the strategies that fed misconceptions that courts were soft on crime, why the OJ Simpson trial spiraled out of control, and the deep influence of media coverage. Zeroing in on the error, Geragos and Harris scrutinize defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, jurors, clients, police and the media, and the roles they play in changing your perception of the truth.

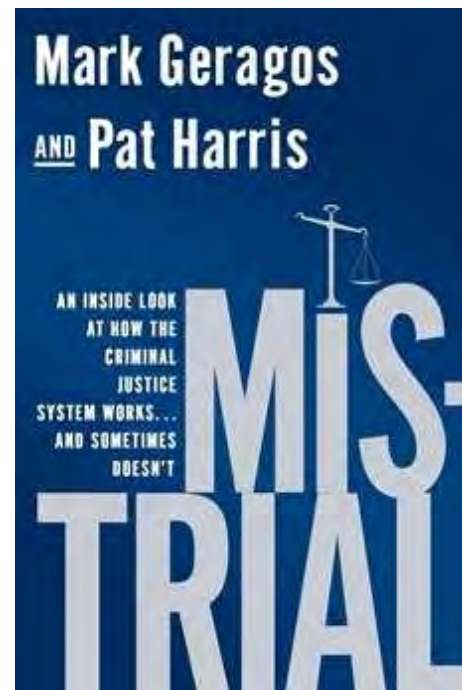
Geragos and Harris will appear in Philadelphia, Chicago, New Jersey, Providence, Boston, Detroit and Coral Gables, Fla.

• Philadelphia, April 14: Armenian Sisters Academy, 440 Upper Gulph Road, Radnor, Penn., 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Contact George S. Yacoubian Jr. at gyacoubian@soar-us.org.

• Chicago, April 27: Mike Ditka's Restaurant, The Tremont Hotel, 100 East Chestnut, Chicago, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Contact Anne Galovich at soarchicago@gmail.com.

• New York, May 4: The Hovnanian School, 817 River Road, New Milford, NJ, 1 to 4 p.m. Contact Katie Kashmanian at kkashmanian@ridgewood.k12.nj.us.

• Providence, May 5: La Cucina Restaurant, 266 Putnam Pike, Smithfield, RI, 2 to 5 p.m. Contact Michael Hagopian at michael@hagopianlaw.com.



• Boston, May 6: St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA, 6 to 9 p.m. Contact Garo Arakelian at leapfrogreality@gmail.com.

• Detroit, May 8: TBD. Contact Drew Zarmanigian at drewg29@gmail.com.

• Coral Gables: TBD. Contact Jennifer Terzian Goldstein at jgoldstein@condenastamericas.com.

SOAR, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was established in fall 2005 to provide humanitarian relief to orphaned Armenian children. It has 32 chapters and more than 150 volunteers worldwide and supports 21 facilities in Armenia, two Armenian orphanages in Artsakh, an Armenian orphan day camp in Javakhk, Georgia, four Armenian orphanages in Lebanon, and one Armenian orphanage in Syria.

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Wilmington Student Composes Armenian Symphony for Martyrs

SYMPHONY, from page 10

Students Chris Palmerino, Patrick O'Connell and Mitchell Goulet designed their own interpretation of the Armenian Heritage Park Memorial at the Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston, done in the form of a labyrinth. A global configuration with a dove flying in its midst bears the words, "Give peace a chance."

"We are all deeply touched by this tragedy," said Desberg and Tucker. "A lot of us are offended by the fact that Turkey still denies their guilt. We think it is very important that more people learn about what Armenians had to go through and respect the deaths of so many innocent victims. It also helps to hear about the story from someone who can relate to it so much."

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ARTS & LIVING

Rediscovering Franz Werfel

WERFEL, from page 1

Werfel had experienced World War I first-hand and suffered persecution under the Nazi regime prior to World War II. Although he was born in 1890 in Prague to Jewish parents, as a youth Franz did not receive formal religious instruction and became in fact enamored of Christian culture. This was due to a close relationship he had with governess Barbara Simunkova, a Catholic who took him to mass and taught him prayers. His early exposure to both religious cultures was the source of a theme that was to become a leitmotif in his thoughts and works. At 12, a passionate opera goer and Verdi fan (he wrote *Verdi: Novel of the Opera*, 1924), Franz started composing poetry at 16 and his first volume of verse published in 1911, *Der Weltfreund* (Friend of the World), was a best-seller. Other works in drama and fiction followed, many crowned with success. *Musa Dagh*, which appeared in 1933, was acclaimed and rightly seen as a foreboding to Jews in Germany. When, in May 1933, his book was publicly burned along with others by the Nazis, Werfel's persecution began. He had to flee Vienna after

vivors of the Armenians massacred by the Turks, and that no one was caring for them. As Prof. Andreas Meier from Wuppertal recalled, Werfel could not get their images out of his mind and the idea for the book "became virulent."

The Werfels were not the only author couple travelling in the region at that time, Meier said. There was also Armin Wegner and his wife, and he too set out to write about the Armenian Genocide. The story of how the two men approached the subject and how a literary controversy ensued was treated by several speakers in Potsdam.

Dr. Rolf Hosfeld, director of the Lepsius House, focused on the historical facts behind Werfel's novel, identifying the real-life figures who inspired the leading protagonists in the novel: priest Dikran Andreasian (Aram Tomasian) and Moses Der-Kaloustian (Gabriel Bagradian), the former military officer who led the resistance.

In his summary of the account, Hosfeld distinguished fact from fiction: in addition to the two historical personalities, the story of the flight up the mountain was true, as were the descriptions of the three Turkish attacks, the signs calling for help, the altar the resisters built and the fire which alerted the French ship Guichon and led to their rescue. The dramatic encounter between the German humanitarian Dr. Johannes Lepsius and Young Turk War Minister Enver Pasha also corresponds to reality, as recorded by Lepsius himself in his report.

The rest, as Prof. Martin Tamke from Gottingen detailed, was fiction. Herein lies the main difference between the approaches taken by Wegner and Werfel. When Wegner read in a newspaper in 1933 that Werfel was touring to present his new book, he was shocked and accused the author of having taken his material. Wegner, who had witnessed the Genocide as a medic in the German army, had documented the atrocities in photographs, and later also interviewed survivors, visiting

them in camps, could not believe that Werfel could have written such a book without having had this first-hand knowledge. In their correspondence on the controversy, Werfel expressed his respect for Wegner's eyewitness experience, but could not acknowledge him as a source. He also specified that he had isolated a single episode for his novel, whereas Wegner, in his diary, had been compiling material for a historical account. For Werfel, Tamke said, the aim was not to write an eyewitness report but poetry, a work of art.

In addition to researching the saga of the resistance, Werfel also drew on his extensive knowledge about the Armenian church, or, better, churches. As Prof. Hacik Gazer from Erlangen explained, Werfel was familiar with the Armenian churches and cloisters in Venice and Vienna, and the documents in the Mkhitarist archives there which provided him with valuable source material.

Through his contact with art historian Josef Strzygowsky, he learned about Armenian church architecture. Significantly, his references in the novel are not limited to the Armenian Apostolic Church, but include several figures from the Protestant churches and missionaries, thus expressing an "ecumenical" approach. Gazer also noted that Lepsius, before his encounter with Enver, had met with the Patriarch Zaven, and that the fictional figure, Juliette (Bagradian's wife) converts from Catholicism to the Apostolic Church.

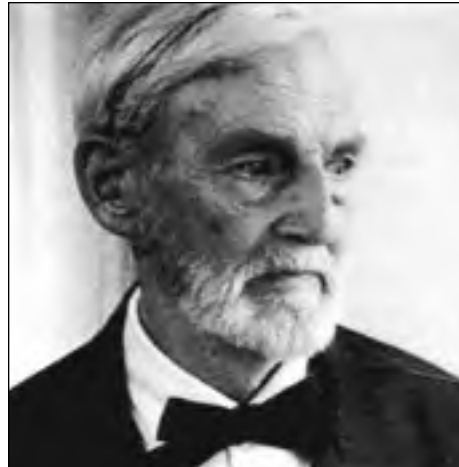
The Forty Days of Musa Dagh made history, not only as a work of art, but as a political message. Prof. Rubina Perroomian, an expert on Genocide literature from Los Angeles, cited several ways it has been honored. There is the new English translation by David R. Godine which represents a complete and accurate rendition of the German original. Werfel, "a virtual Armenian saint" and a "national hero," was honored with his wife in New York City in 1935

by the Armenian community. A plaque in Toulon plays tribute to the sailors who rescued the Armenians and carries Werfel's name. The survivors of Musa Dagh and their descendants, though scattered through the world, have an association and members meet every year in September to celebrate their victory. Perroomian also reported on how an Armenian translation had been smuggled into Soviet

novel publicly burned. With the aid of projections of actual documents from the Nazi era, Tress showed how one after the other, political and literary organizations issued black lists of publications considered "damaging" and "undesirable," and therefore banned. Werfel's name features prominently in all the documents, sometimes with several works listed by title, other times, with "complete works." On one black list put out by the Bavarian Political Police, among the 15 books by Werfel, there is a "+" mark added to *Musa Dagh*. This sign meant that if that book were found in the possession of private persons, in house searches, it would be confiscated and the owners put under pressure. Publishers and distributors were ordered not to deliver the book and customs officials stopped any copies coming across the border into Germany.

Even long after the defeat of Nazi Germany and in faraway America, Werfel's monumental work has continued to spark hefty political controversy. Most clamorous was the fight around a film version of *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*. Planned by MGM in Hollywood in 1935, the original production never made it into movie theatres, due to insistent, heavy-handed intimidation by Turkish authorities. As Dr. Raffi Kantian from Hannover related, the Turkish government made known through diplomatic channels that it wanted to stop the project, which, if completed, would "harm" Armenians in Turkey. Other pressure consisted of threats to ban all MGM films in Turkey, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Greece, while rumors circulated that it was a "Jewish-Armenian plot," etc.

The political impact of Werfel's work is still felt today, in the form of the continuing strife around Turkish recognition of the past. In a concluding roundtable discussion addressing the issue in the context of European integration, Markus Merkel, a Social Democrat who introduced a resolution on the Armenian Genocide into the German Bundestag in 2005, called for an official exhibit to be organized in Berlin in 2015. He expressed his hope that the Armenian Diaspora would wield its influence to promote democratization in Armenia as well as in Turkey, lending support to the expanding debate in Turkish civil society around the genocide.



Armin Wegner

Armenia in 1935, and later in the 1960s inspired dissidents and a nationalist revival. In 1988, as the political climate changed, it was republished. Now there is a memorial plaque dedicated to Werfel at the Armenian Genocide monument in Tsitsernakaberd alongside those commemorating Lepsius, Wegner and others.

But if the novel has brought Werfel recognition and praise, it has also been slandered, suppressed and officially banned. Dr. Werner Tress of Potsdam reported that, although Werfel's earlier works had made him famous by 1933, after the Nazis took power he was persecuted, expelled from a writers' association, and his



Peter Stephan Jungk

the 1938 Nazi invasion, and, after the Nazis entered Paris, he fled Zurich via France for the US, where he settled in California.

Who was Franz Werfel really? As Prof. Hans Dieter Zimmermann of Berlin put it, there were three souls in the author — a German, a Czech and a Jewish soul. A member of the celebrated Prague circle along with Max Brod, Franz Kafka and others, Werfel was a German-speaking Jew like the majority of his intellectual companions, but they were a tiny minority in Czechoslovakia. Politically they stood apart from the other German-speakers, the Sudetendland Germans in Bohemia, who were pro-Nazis. Forced by political developments to move from place to place, Werfel often asked himself where his "homeland" really was.

Werfel also had a Christian soul, to be precise, as Viennese scholar Dr. Olga Koller put it, a Catholic soul. In his works, he "lived between two religions" and "felt at home in both." Thus, *Paul Among the Jews: A Tragedy* (1926) and his novel, *Jeremiah: Listen to the Voice* (1937), which dealt with Jewish figures, came from the same pen that wrote *Barbara oder die Frommigkeit* (Barbara, or Piety, 1929), *Der veruntreute Himmel* (Embezzled Heaven, 1939) which relates the tale of a woman seeking assurances of entering heaven, as well as *The Song of Bernadette* (1941), featuring the young girl and her vision at Lourdes. If Martin Buber reacted to his Christian writings with accusations of "betrayal," his wife, Alma Mahler, pressured him to renounce Judaism.

His commitment to the Armenian cause was unequivocal. It was during his second trip through the Middle East in 1930, which took him and his wife through Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon, that he came face to face with the issue. In Damascus he saw groups of abandoned, dirty, hungry children, whose huge dark eyes haunted him. When he asked who they were, he learned that they were the sur-


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Wine & Cheese Reception

Young Clarinet Virtuoso Returns To Boston

By Ani Hovsepiian

BOSTON – On Saturday, March 16, Narek Arutyunian, clarinetist, performed with the Longwood Symphony Orchestra in Jordan Hall, under the direction of Ronald Feldman. This was another triumph for Arutyunian, 20, who is in his second year at Juilliard.

He presented the audience with a musically and technically impeccable performance of *Weber's Clarinet Concerto No. 2 in E-flat*

JIRAIR HOVSEPIAN PHOTO



Narek Arutyunian performs with the Longwood Symphony Orchestra in Boston.

Major. His emotionally rich and exuberant interpretation was disarmingly genuine and vibrant, his talent and burst of enormous musical energy uncanny, completely surprising and disarming the unsuspecting audience. The response was unanimous and instant: a long, standing ovation.

Arutyunian was the soloist for the Armenian Night at the Pops 2012, where he also received a standing ovation at the sold out Symphony Hall.



NEW YORK — *The Book of Meetings 5 (Hantiboomner-5)*, by Hagop Vartivarian, is a collection of personal interviews with benefactors, writers, politicians and members of clergy from all over the Armenian Diaspora and Armenia. Among them are, Nazar Nazarian, Arshavir Gundjian, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian, Hagop Avedikian, Catholicos Aram I, George Mandossian and others. The interviews were conducted over the last several years, but Vartivarian, who conducted those interviews, has added some more recent information about each subject. To obtain a copy of the book, contact Tekeyan@aol.com.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

APRIL 17 — Chapman University hosts “Genocide & the Obligation to Remember: Elie Wiesel and Richard Hovannisian,” 7 p.m., at the Wallace All Faiths Chapel. The event will focus on genocide and the obligation to remember, including preservation of memory, advantages and disadvantages of comparative approaches and relevance to today’s students and youth. The dialogue will draw on the life experiences of the two writers. Admission is free and open to the public, but tickets and ID are required for entry. Limited tickets are still available at www.chapman.edu/wiesel-events. Chapman University is located 1 University Drive, Orange.

MASSACHUSETTS

MARCH 28 — Kim Kashkashian, New England Conservatory faculty violist and Grammy Award winner, is joined by her frequent recital partner, pianist Lydia Artymiw, for a program of Shostakovich and Schumann, at NEC’s Jordan Hall. Schumann’s *Fantasiestücke* and Shostakovich’s *Sonata for Viola and Piano, Opus 147* will be performed. 8 p.m., free.

APRIL 12 — “A Stone/ Bronze Age Settlement in Yerevan,” 7:30 p.m. presentation by Vladimir Tshagharyan, director of Shengavit Archaeological Preserve; Dr. Mitchell Rothman, archaeologist, Widener University, Penn; and Dr. Susan Pattie, director of Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) Sponsored by Cambridge Yerevan Sister City Association as part of the Cambridge Science Festival in cooperation with ALMA and the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR); hosted at ALMA, 65 Main St., Watertown. Admission is free.

APRIL 19 — Armenian Genocide Commemoration at the State House, 10:30 a.m., House of Representatives Chamber, Massachusetts State House. At noon, participants are invited to march from the State House to the Armenian Heritage Park for additional remarks, music and a brown-bag lunch. Keynote speaker will be former US ambassador to Armenia, John Evans. Donald Tellalian, architect of the Armenian Heritage Park, will receive a joint Senate/House resolution thanking him for his efforts. Free buses will leave at 9 a.m. from St. James and St. Stephen’s Armenian Churches in Watertown, courtesy of the Knights of Vartan. For more information, contact coordinator Lalig Musserian at (617) 319-2651.

APRIL 24 — St. James and St. Stephen’s Armenian Apostolic Churches together with the Armenian Cultural and Education Center (ACEC) will host a **Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide** on April 24, 6 p.m. The event will begin at St. James for a requiem service, followed by the laying of the wreath at the



On April 17, Chapman University in Orange, Calif., will host “Genocide the Obligation to Remember: Elie Wiesel and Richard Hovannisian,” 7 p.m., at the Wallace All Faiths Chapel.

Khatchikar in front of the church. A procession will form and march to St. Stephen’s where another wreath will be laid before continuing on to the ACEC where the commemorative program will begin. The keynote speaker will be Garen Nazarian, Armenia’s ambassador to the United Nations. There will also be a musical interlude. ACEC is located 47 Nichols Avenue, Watertown.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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

Free Calendar Submissions

Beginning in March, the *Mirror-Spectator* accepts calendar submissions free of charge. Calendar entries of a maximum of five lines can be submitted to mirrorads@aol.com; entries exceeding five lines will be subject to charge. We encourage readers and community members to submit their events so that we may provide readers with a comprehensive calendar of events.

98th Armenian Genocide Commemoration

Sunday, April 21, 2013

Times Square

1:30 pm

Free buses from all NY & NJ churches



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Will Pope Francis Repeat Cardinal Bergoglio's Words on the Genocide?

Shortly after Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Pope Francis I, Armenian and Turkish media outlets rushed to inform their audiences that the Argentinean Archbishop had acknowledged the Armenian Genocide on a number of occasions.

When Catholicos Karekin II visited Buenos Aires on April 23, 2004, Cardinal Bergoglio joined him in an ecumenical liturgy and spoke during the commemoration of the victims of the Armenian Genocide. The Cardinal stated: "We are united in grief over a genocide – the first of the 20th century – a genocide that powerful empires seek to silence and cover up by all means."

Last week, in his congratulatory letter to Pope Francis I, Karekin II "fondly remembered" their joint meetings and prayers in Argentina and praised the Catholic Pontiff "as a courageous, wise and righteous shepherd." The Catholicos recalled Cardinal Bergoglio's "sincere affection toward the Armenian people," adding: "We gladly confirm that the historical relationship between our churches is marked by fra-

ternal warmth. We greatly value the progress registered by our churches as a result of collaborative efforts undertaken during the pontificates of ourselves and our predecessors. This has been manifested during mutual visits and elaborated through a multitude of educational and charitable programs."

On April 22, 2006, during a program commemorating the 91st anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Buenos Aires, Cardinal Bergoglio urged Turkey to unconditionally recognize the Armenian Genocide as the "gravest crime of Ottoman Turkey against the Armenian people and the entire humanity."

More recently, in 2011, after an Argentinean Federal Court found Turkey guilty of committing genocide against Armenians in response to a lawsuit filed by survivor Krikor Hairabedian, Cardinal Bergoglio issued a statement condemning "the abominable crime of genocide that the Turkish state committed against the Armenian people between 1915 and 1923."

Both Armenians and Turks are now wondering if in his new capacity Pope Francis I will repeat the words he uttered as Cardinal Bergoglio. Armenians are delighted that a close friend of their community in Argentina has been elected to lead the Catholic Church. Meanwhile, the Turkish press has expressed great concern that "the new Pope could be influenced by [Armenian] lobbying groups."

Now that he has ascended to the highest office of the Roman Church, no one really knows what position Pope Francis would take on Armenian issues. One must remember that the Pontiff has two distinct functions as head of the Catholic Church and the sovereign city-state of Vatican. In other words, he is both a spiritual leader and head of state. Hence, depending on the issue, he may not necessarily express the views he held as Cardinal Bergoglio. At

times, he may assume positions on political matters that diverge from his personal views and coincide with Vatican's more worldly interests. As head of the Vatican, the Pope may be forced to act as any other politician, such as President Obama, who said one thing before the election and changed his tune afterward. However, as the spiritual leader of the Catholic Church and a man of strong moral values, the Pope cannot simply ignore or contradict his deeply-held convictions.

Realizing that all Popes are not alike, it may be useful to review recent papal pronouncements on the Armenian Genocide. Pope John Paul II, on two occasions, used the term Armenian Genocide – on November 9, 2000 and September 27, 2001. However, unlike his predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI refrained from using that term, preferring to qualify the Genocide as "martyrdom" and "unspeakable suffering."

In the case of Pope Francis I, there is no need for Armenians to insist that he use the term Armenian Genocide; as the Vatican has twice acknowledged the Armenian Genocide. Thus, no purpose is served by demanding that every new Pope reaffirm the facts of the Armenian Genocide all over again. It is important, however, that Pope Francis I not retreat from his earlier position on the Armenian Genocide; substitutes and euphemisms would not be appropriate.

Given the Vatican's positive record on the Armenian Genocide, it would be best to go beyond this issue and look for other areas in which the Pontiff could be supportive, such as pressing for the security of Armenians and other Christians in Syria. Efforts should also be made to strengthen the existing amicable ties between the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic churches, and friendly relations between the Vatican State and the Republic of Armenia.

In Memory of Yerezgin Varteni Barsamian

By Diana Kasarjian Topjian

I have known Rev. Arsen Barsamian and family for nearly 25 years, and our friendship grew, especially after my husband John's death several years ago. Der Dajad married John and me, and Der Arsen was our best man or gunkehayr.

Each of us has special and meaningful memories of Yerezgin that will remain in our hearts always.

The following are some of the memories that will remain in my heart,

What is a lady? A lady is defined as a woman who is refined, proper, polite and considerate to all regardless of social position or wealth. Yerezgin exhibited all these qualities and more.

Yerezgin was an outgoing person who loved to be with people. You could call her a 'social butterfly.' She was a lady in every sense of the word, but she had her own identity. When she believed in a cause, she voiced her opinion and stood her ground. In many ways, she was ahead of her time.

You could also define Yerezgin as being generous. She made one feel as if they were the most important person in her presence. In addition to being gracious and generous with people, she was generous with gifts. If you did a simple deed or showed a bit of kindness to her, she could not do enough to show her appreciation.

Yerezgin always wanted to reciprocate. She was a truly giving person through her actions and deeds. She could never just say "thank you," she was always giving.

Yerezgin wanted to be as independent and self-sufficient as she could be. Never did she

want you to do anything to help her, such as getting in and out of a car with her walker. She would always say, "I can do it" and she did.

Yerezgin wanted to be as independent and self-sufficient as she could. Never did she want you to do anything to help her, such as getting in and out of a car with her walker. She would always say, "I can do it," and she did!

When you entered her home, she was always gracious and hospitable, offering you food or dessert. She was an excellent cook and baker and would offer you something to eat/ Even if you had just had a full meal and couldn't eat another morsel, she would still coax you to have something and say, "This is different (darp-er eh.) Try it portzeh." You felt you had to take it and eat it. Of course, it was always delicious. We know that food is an expression of love, especially in Armenian homes.

Yerezgin and I would go to lunch and clothes shopping on occasion. One time we went to Gloucester. She loved to be near the ocean, which reminded her of Athens. She enjoyed dining on seafood and also like going to the Aegean restaurant in Watertown, speaking Greek to the staff. It seemed everyone knew her there.

As a matter of fact, Yerezgin spoke several languages, but she was always eager to learn more. She would ask me to correct her English grammar if she spoke incorrectly. I think that happened only once because she had mastered the language quite well.

While lunching, we would chat about our childhood and how are dads were extremely strict, particularly when it came to meeting boys and/ or men. Since Yerezgin was the only girl amongst two brothers, and I was an only child, we shared common frustrations. It made life on the social circuit difficult and almost nonexistent. But, as you can see, she made out

very well marrying Der Arsen. They had over 50 years of love and devotion and were blessed with three children.

One of her favorite things to do was going shopping at Lord and Taylor at the Burlington Mall. She always bought something for Lucy and Der Arsen as well. Again, she was always giving and thinking of others.

As you know, she always "dressed to the

Yerezgin wanted to be as independent and self-sufficient as she could. Never did she want you to do anything to help her, such as getting in and out of a car with her walker. She would always say, "I can do it," and she did!

nines" and loved fashion. We even went for a couple of manis and pedis. Going to Dunkin Donuts was something she looked forward to on Tuesday mornings at the Arsenal Mall in Watertown with friends and parishioners.

In addition to being a good cook and baker, she had a green thumb. Everything she planted or repotted flourished. Last November, when I stopped at her home, I noticed a huge geranium plant with many orange/red blossoms still in full bloom on the balcony. It was like seeing a plant blossoming at the peak of summer. Watching plants grow, develop and change pleased her. Indeed, seeing plants grow, develop and change is a miracle.

Yerezgin took pride in her home and each item seemed to have a history. She was sentimental and spoke of her dear mother lovingly, often quoting her.

Holidays were special times for Yerezgin, too.

She loved decorating her home for Halloween, Christmas, Easter and other holidays.

This past Christmas was particularly difficult because of her weakened condition and being in constant pain, but she was determined to decorate her home but not to her standards of the past. She placed large ornaments on a huge green plant in the living room, as well as a few other meaningful decorations.

She continued to be productive, but in a limited sense, until a few weeks ago.

Der Arsen; her children, Lucy, Steven and Raffi; her daughters-in-law, Lilil and Dorian; her son-in-law, George; her grandchildren, Lucine and Drew, along with her extended family were the most important people in her life.

The second important part of her life was her St. James family and friends, whom she loved to see and socialize with.

Being homebound for more than a year, not participating in church activities and praying in church each Sunday was difficult and frustrating for her.

During the past years, Fr. Arsen and Yerezgin Varteni had rather serious health issues. Lucy was the caring and devoted daughter who took care of her parents' needs lovingly. Though Steven and Raffi lived miles away, they visited their parents often. Yerezgin loved all her children dearly. Truly, they are a devoted family who support one another.

When Yerezgin was hospitalized with pneumonia, I was fortunate to have visited her at the hospital. When I visited her a second time, she managed to look at me and say, "Thank you for being my friend" in her weakened voice. Until the end, she was kind, gracious, giving and appreciative.

I feel, friendship is truly a blessing, and I was blessed to have Yerezgin in my life. I feel friends are the family we choose for ourselves. Yerezgin Varteni will remain in my heart always.

Notice to Contributors

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* welcomes articles, commentaries and community news from our readers. In order to assure the accurate and timely publication of articles submitted, please note the following policies:

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

phone number.

- Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is 12 noon on Monday of the week of publication.
- Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director. Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.
- The *AMS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.
- Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases, but should be reserved for calendar listings and advertisements.

US Congress Members Reaffirm Bonds with Turkey

ISTANBUL (*Today's Zaman*) – Dozens of members of the US Congress reaffirmed strong ties and a growing friendship between Turkey and the US in an annual convention.

Organized by the Turkic American Alliance (TAA) and the Turkish Confederation of Businessmen and Industrialists (TUSKON,) which represent six regional federations and more than 200 community associations, cultural centers, business associations and educational institutions in the US, the closing gala of the third annual Turkic American Convention boasted more than 700 attendees, including 47 members of Congress, eight of whom were senators.

Many politicians, academics and businessmen from the US, Turkey and the Turkic republics gathered at the closing ceremony. US House of Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Turkish Ambassador to the US Namik Tan, the ambassadors of the Turkic republics, Justice and Development Party (AK Party) Deputy Chairman Ekrem Erdem, main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) Deputy Chairman Bülent Tezcan, 13 Turkish deputies, members of parliament from the Turkic republics, Trabzon Governor Recep Kizilcik, Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas and Antalya Mayor Mustafa Akaydin were among the participants.

Tan thanked the TAA for organizing such an event and hailed it the event as a “noteworthy success.” Tan said Turkey’s relations with the US are based on three principles: mutual trust, unity of vision and close and effective cooperation. Tan said both countries trust each other, adding that the troops of both countries have fought together in countries like South Korea, Afghanistan and Somalia.

Tan also noted that Ankara and Washington share a common vision to promote peace, democracy, freedom and prosperity and that the two NATO members both have well-functioning market economies.

Tan said the US and Turkey are working together on a range of issues, from the fight against terrorism to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons.

Tan also added that the administrations of both countries have developed a sincere, effective and results-focused dialogue on both the political and administrative level and added that US Secretary of State John Kerry’s first visit to a Muslim-majority country was to Turkey.

In terms of Turkey’s integration with the rest

of the world, Dr. Bülent Kenes, the editor-in-chief of Today’s Zaman, pointed out the impact of the Gülen Movement. “The role played by the Hizmet movement, which takes its inspiration from the ideas of Turkish-Islamic scholar Fethullah Gülen and has led to Turkey’s active presence in more than 150 different countries around the world – notably in the areas of education and cultural activities –cannot be denied,” Kenes commented.

In their remarks, Topbas invited the participants to visit Istanbul, while Kizilcik expressed his gratitude to the organization.

Congress members stressed the strong ties between Turkey, the Turkic republics and Washington in their speeches and urged the parties to advance relations further.

Sen. Bob Casey said relations between Turkey and the US have never been so strong and that he was very pleased when he visited Turkey in 2009. Casey added that he will go back to Turkey this year and visit Istanbul and Ankara again.

US Rep. Jim Moran underlined the necessity for a free trade agreement between Turkey and the US.

Responding to questions from reporters, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee from Texas said there are powerful bonds between the Turkish community in Texas and Turkey and congratulated them for organizing such an event.

Noting that the Turkish community in Texas is very active, Lee said it is important to increase cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Rep. Rush Holt of New Jersey said he was pleased to see that the TAA is growing bigger every year. Saying that Turkey has an important role as a mediator for peace in international politics, Holt noted that Turkey is a significant partner for the US in solving problems in the region. He added that Turkey will have great contributions to offer Washington for its policies in Turkey’s region.

Speaking about Syria, Holt said Turkey is taking on an important burden and he said he wants to see the violence end in Turkey’s neighbor to the south. Recalling the dire consequences of the Iraq war, Holt said the aim was to topple a dictator in Iraq, but everyone witnessed how difficult it is to do that from afar.

Rep. Charlie Dent said he was proud to be at the event and he was very impressed during his visit to Turkey. He underlined the need to

improve trade relations between Turkey and the US.

Dent, who visited Gaziantep recently, said there is only 100 kilometers between Gaziantep and Syria and that Turkey needs US help dealing with the violence in Syria.

“We are concerned about Turkey regarding Syria,” Dent added.

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert Blake said the TAA is contributing a lot to improving US relations not just with Turkey, but also other Turkic republics.

Sen. Roger Wicker said he was excited to be among the participants, recalling the nation’s 20-year friendship with the Turkic republics. He

added that Washington is working with those republics to improve national security, economic and democratic reforms. “We attach importance to events like this. We are hopeful for democratization in the entire world now that the Cold War has ended. This type of event plays an important role in the process, and I thank the TAA for organizing it,” Wicker stated.

Rep. Bill Foster said Washington’s cooperation with the countries of the region is very important for world security and that there are many issues to work on with respect to Afghanistan. “We have to keep working together,” he added.

Richard Lui from MSNBC was the emcee for the gala.

St. Vartan Cathedral Celebrates Holy Week

DIOCESE, from page 1

the Crucifixion of Christ will begin at noon. This will be a short service enabling working people in Manhattan to attend, and it will be followed by a luncheon in the Diocesan Complex’s Yerevan Room.

That same evening, at 7:30 p.m., the Order of the Entombment of the Lord, or Taghoom Service, will take place.

On Great and Holy Saturday, March 30, the Divine Liturgy will be preceded by a scripture-reading ceremony at 5:30 p.m. Easter Eve Liturgy will begin at 6:30 p.m., celebrated by Kiledjian. The St. Vartan Cathedral Adult and Youth Choir, under the direction of Maestro Khoren Mekanejian, will sing the liturgy. Students of the Diocesan Khrimian Lyceum will provide the scripture readings. A reception will follow the services.

Holy Week will culminate on Easter Sunday, March 31. Easter is the central holy day of the Christian calendar, and commemorates the discovery of Christ’s empty tomb and the news of his glorious Resurrection. Matins will begin at

9:30 a.m. The Divine Liturgy will begin at 10:30 a.m. Barsamian will celebrate the liturgy and deliver the homily. The St. Vartan Cathedral Choir will sing the Divine Liturgy under the direction of Mekanejian. Florence Avakian will accompany on the organ.

Immediately following the service, the Release of Doves ceremony will take place on the cathedral plaza. This year, Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian will serve as the “godfather” of the doves ceremony.

Some traditional children’s Easter activities will also take place.

An Easter Sunday reception and program will follow the services in the Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium. The reception will include a home-blessing service, and the recognition of the various names associated with the holiday. The reception is free and open to the public.

For information on these observances, visit www.armenianchurch-ed.net. St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral is located at 630 Second Avenue (corner of 34th Street.)

Former MS Reporter Daphne Abeel Dies

ABEEL, from page 1

Daphne Abeel was born October 23, 1937 in Morristown, NJ to Elizabeth Stackpole and Neilson Abeel. She was the granddaughter of Neilson and Nina Jackson Abeel of Newark, NJ, and J. Lewis and Katherine Whiteside Brown Stackpole of Boston and Mattapoisett, Mass. All were the descendants of early 17th-century immigrants to the New World.

She graduated from The Peck School,

Morristown, NJ, in 1951; Milton Academy, Milton, Mass., in 1955. She entered Radcliffe College in the Class of 1959 and transferred to Barnard College for her BA in 1959. She earned her MA in Comparative Literature from Columbia University in 1964.

Greatly gifted, she was a skilled and dedicated pianist who played in a chamber music group for many years. An ardent linguist, reader, traveler, horseback rider, cat lover and tennis player; in later years she took up watercolor painting.

Her two marriages ended in divorce. She had a longtime relationship with William P. Homans Jr., a prominent criminal defense lawyer in Massachusetts.

In addition to her brother, Neilson, and Tori Bryer, she is survived by her youngest brother, James Stackpole Abeel of Ajijic, Mexico; her nephew, Neilson Abeel Jr.; her niece, Maud A. Abeel, and partner Stuart R. Knoop and their two sons, Otis and Jasper, all of Brooklyn, NY. Two first cousins, Lewis Stackpole and Cecily Billings Stack and second cousin Elizabeth Anne Maury. She was predeceased by first cousin Alice Stackpole Fry and second cousins Brinley Maury and Tedo Francis.

She will be remembered and missed by all who knew her. An appreciation of her will appear in an upcoming issue.

Foreign Ministers of Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan to Meet in Batumi

BATUMI, Georgia (Armenpress) – The foreign ministers of Turkey, Georgia and Azerbaijan, Ahmed Davutoglu, Maia Panjikidze and Elmar Mammadyarov, will meet on March 28.

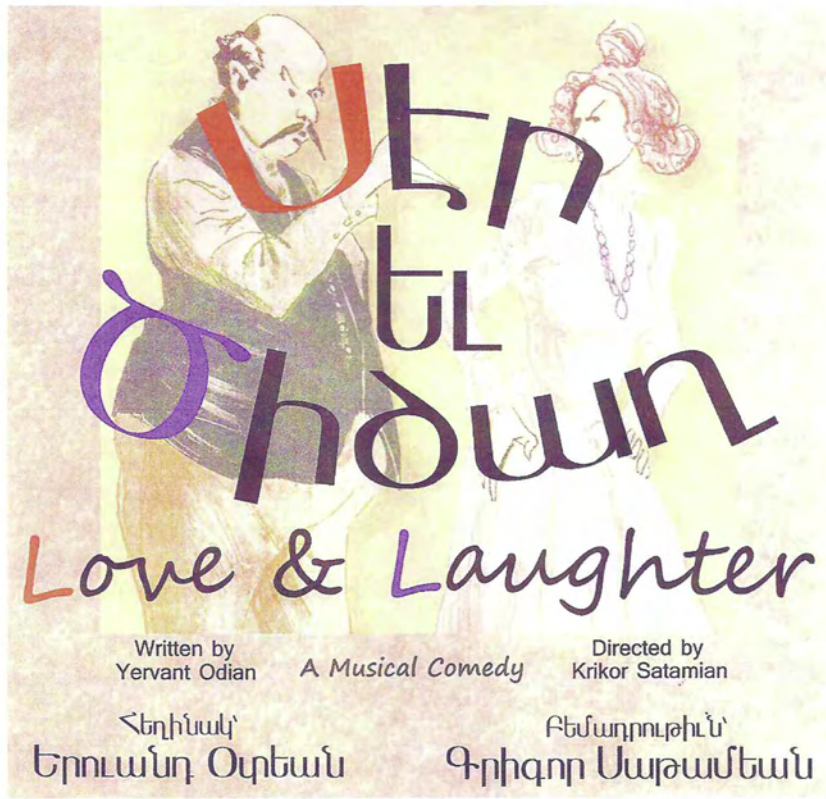
Azerbaijan’s Mammadyarov announced this scheduled meeting during a press conference after meeting with his Georgian counterpart.

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