

ALMA to Host CYSCA Panel on Stone-Bronze Age Settlement

WATERTOWN – On Friday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m., Vladimir Tshagharyan, director of Yerevan's Shengavit Historical and Archaeological Culture Preserve, will present an illustrated talk about Shengavit at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA).

Tshagharyan will visit at the invitation of the Cambridge Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA). Two years ago CYSCA, with the support of donors, established a project to help with the preservation and renovation of the Shengavit site.

Tshagharyan will be joined in discussion by Dr. Mitchell Rothman, an archaeologist from Pennsylvania and head of Widener University's Anthropology Department. Rothman has spent three seasons excavating at Shengavit and plans to write a book on the subject.

Dr. Susan Pattie, anthropologist and director of ALMA, will moderate the discussion. Tshagharyan will speak in Armenian and his comments will be translated into English.

The site, across Yerevan Lake from the US Embassy, dates to the fourth millennium BCE and contains remains of dwellings, stone and metal implements, bones of



On site at Shengavit

domesticated animals and remnants of grains grown nearby.

The site also houses the tombs of Shengavit's early inhabitants. It is believed that the area was occupied for more than 1,500 years.

Researchers are currently studying Shengavit's evolution from tribal societies to more complex social structures, as well as its role in the development of the region-

al culture and the evolution of human society in the Caucasus and the Middle East.

Shengavit is also home to a small museum that displays some of the artifacts recovered from the excavations.

The Shengavit or Kura-Arax culture was established in the Ararat Valley with connections as far away as western Anatolia,

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Sargisian Signals Dialogue with Hovannisian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL and ArmeniaNow) – President Serge Sargisian has signaled his readiness for dialogue with his hunger-striking election challenger, Raffi Hovannisian.

The presidential press service made public a letter from Sargisian to Hovannisian on March 25.

He urged Hovannisian to stop his two-week-long hunger strike and engage in talks.

Sargisian's message was in response to a letter from Hovannisian on March 22.

The earlier letter had offered recognition of Sargisian's victory in the February 18 presidential poll in exchange for a promise that parliamentary elections would be held by the end of the year.

Hovannisian had also demanded elec-

toral reforms and the right to select officials for several key government positions.

Hovannisian had said he was ready to meet with him in Yerevan's Liberty Square or learn about further proposals from another letter.

Sargisian, in his reply to Hovannisian, described the latter's proposals concerning the holding of snap parliamentary elections and other serious government concessions as contradicting the "constitutional regulations," but still said they could become a basis for launching an "effective dialogue."

Hovannisian himself has not yet commented on the latest proposals from Sargisian. He told supporters that he was going to replay at another press conference in Liberty Square on Wednesday, March 27, after press time.



Arsen Demerjian

ADL, Tekeyan Activist Arsen Demerjian Dies

CHICAGO – Arsen Demerjian, an activist in the Chicago-Armenian community, succumbed to a heart attack on Tuesday, March 26, while visiting family in California.

He was the second child of Roupen Demerjian (Yergat), a community activist who had died early, leaving the care of his four children to his widow and brother-in-law, Yervant Fermanian.

All three Demerjian brothers – Arsen, Armen and Levon – were inspired by the commitment of their father's community spirit. They all attended the AGBU Hovagimian-Manoukian Secondary School in Beirut, whose first graduates became involved in leadership roles as educators, writers, editors or political party leaders in Lebanon and beyond.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Wrestling Champion Aleksanyan Honored

GUMRI (Armenpress) – Shirak Governor Felix Tsolakyan honored Greco-Roman wrestler and European champion, Artur Aleksanyan, on March 26.

Tsolakyan congratulated Aleksanyan on his victory and awarded him AMD 400,000.

That same day, Gumri Mayor Samuel Balasanyan, welcomed Aleksanyan to the city. Balasanyan offered the wrestler his congratulations and presented him with a land parcel located in the center of the city.

Azerbaijan Continues Arms Race

BAKU (PanArmenian.net) – According to an annual report of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Azerbaijan is the sole country in Eastern Europe to continuously increase the volume of arms imports. "Azerbaijan increased its arms imports by 155 percent in 2003-2012," noted SIPRI experts in the report, citing the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict as the chief reason for the increase.

"Along with Aerostar UAV and Hermes-450, Baku purchased Russian Mi-24 helicopters, as well as Matador and Marauder armored vehicles from South Africa built under license in Azerbaijan," read the report.

In the past 10 years, Azerbaijan advanced its positions from 48th to 35th in the world list of arms importers.

Meanwhile, the report indicates that Turkey also actively purchased new arms, though not at an increased rate.

Georgia and Azerbaijan signed a plan of defense cooperation in March.

Syrian-Armenian Killed In Damascus

DAMASCUS (PanArmenian.net) – According to a Facebook post by an Aleppo Armenian group, Vazgen Isahak Taghlian, an Armenian-born soldier serving in the Syrian army, was killed on March 15 during clashes with rebel forces in a Damascus suburb.

Taghlian's funeral was held at Surp Sarkis Cathedral on March 17.

Tankian to Perform in Two Concerts in Russia

MOSCOW (PanArmenian.net) – Armenian-American musician and lead vocalist of the band System of a Down, Serj Tankian, announced he will have two concerts in Russia.

The concerts are scheduled for September 27 in Moscow's Crocus City Hall and September 28 in St. Petersburg's Oktyabrskiy Big Concert Hall.

Tankian will perform songs from his "Orca" and "Elect the Dead albums."

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Armenian-Russian Friendship Statue Planned for Yerevan

YEREVAN (PanArmenian.net) – Yerevan Mayor Taron Margaryan signed a decree this week, allowing the installation of a statue of painter and sculptor Fridrikh Soghoian in the city center, symbolizing Armenian-Russian friendship.

According to the city's relations department, the installation process will begin in the upcoming weeks.

Sargisian Sends Novruz Greetings to Iranian President

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President Serge Sargisian sent congratulatory messages to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and spiritual leader Seyed Ali Khamenei on the occasion of the Iranian New Year, *Novruz*.

In his messages, Sargisian stated that he hopes for continued cooperation between Armenia and Iran, as well as strengthened political ties and stability in the region.

Tigranyan's Armenian-French Opera to Premiere April 26

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – Armen Tigranyan's opera titled, "Anoush," will premiere on April 26. The opera performance is a joint Armenian-French project implemented with the assistance of the culture ministries of both states.

Serge Avetikyan has adapted the libretto to stage and young composer Anahit Simonyan arranged the orchestration.

Avetikyan announced at a press conference this reimagining of "Anoush" will feature only five soloists, four dancers, 12 members of the known "Hover" choir and 15 musicians on the stage. He also noted that Armenian national musical instruments will be used in the opera for the first time.

The opera will be performed in Yerevan April 26-27, May 3-4 and then May 22-26 in France.

VivaCell-MTS is the sponsor of this joint arts project.

Foreign Ministers from Artsakh, Armenia Discuss Cooperation

STEPANAKERT (PanArmenian.net) – On March 25, Nagorno-Karabagh Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan met with an Armenian delegation headed Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Manasaryan.

The parties discussed various aspects of inter-ministerial cooperation and scheduled opportunities for further consultation in the upcoming months.

Abrahamian Hosts India's Ambassador to Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The chairman of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, Hovik Abrahamian, hosted the Indian ambassador to Armenia, Suresh Babu, during a recent visit.

Abrahamian spoke of the importance of friendly relations between the two nations and congratulated Babu on his appointment. Abrahamian also spoke of the considerable achievements he envisions regarding inter-parliamentary relations and the implementation of new joint programs. He added that cooperative efforts will be targeted in the areas of information technology, tourism, health care, agriculture, culture and education.

Thanking Abrahamian for the reception, Babu noted that he would make efforts to develop the Armenian-Indian political friendship and the activation of trade-economic relations.

AUA Partners with Mkhitar Sebastatsi School to Offer Environmental Courses to High School Students

YEREVAN – The American University of Armenia (AUA) and the Mkhitar Sebastatsi Educational Complex signed a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday, March 19, affirming their on-going relationship while charting the course forward for future collaboration in environmental education.

AUA President Dr. Bruce Boghosian led a delegation to the school that included Alen Amirkhanian, director of AUA's Acopian Center for the Environment (ACE), and Siranush Tumanyan, ACE's education outreach specialist who also teaches at the school. The director of Mkhitar Sebastatsi, Dr. Ashot Bleyan, led them on an extensive tour of the campus, alongside an enthusiastic group of students.

"At our school the doors are open to all students," explained Bleyan while leading the visiting delegation through the school. "Our principle is to equalize opportunities for everyone to achieve



Students from the Mkhitar Sebastatsi School

see the environment here, the pedagogy at work, the technology that's used, the laboratories," said Boghosian. Students from here will be coming to AUA soon for studying in our Bachelor's pro-

50 high school and middle school students. Through the program, Tumanyan has organized field trips to natural reserves across the country and eco-clubs through which students have translated books and prepared children's coloring books on the topic of ornithology.

These courses have introduced new ways for teaching environmental topics in Armenia. "One of our objectives was to improve the methodology of teaching biology and ecology at schools," said Tumanyan, adding that other teachers at Mkhitar Sebastatsi are now adopting the same teaching methodology.

Each student has a blog where they publish articles they write based on these field trips and classes. "What you see in these blogs are budding scientists and researchers," says Mr. Amirkhanian. "They are a delight to read. They are informative, insightful, and concise."

ACE is expanding this outreach program to other schools in Yerevan, with 15 students from Ayb High School participating in the program. "This expansion fits with our objectives of community outreach," said Amirkhanian. "We hope that over the coming year we will be able to secure the resources to include 2 more schools."



Dr. Ashot Bleyan, left, and Dr. Bruce Boghosian sign a memorandum of agreement.

the best of their potential."

During the tour, Boghosian and Amirkhanian visited a number of classrooms, as well as an audio-video studio, and theater. They also observed sports practices and chorus rehearsals.

"I think it's very important for us to

grams, so we do need to talk to each other, to work with each other, to learn about each other."

ACE and Mkhitar Sebastatsi have worked together for more than a year, offering ecology and ornithology courses taught by Tumanyan to more than

Tekeyan Centre Fund Sponsors Poetry Reading Festival

YEREVAN – The Vahan Tekeyan poetry reading festival/competition organized by Tekeyan Centre Fund on the occasion of the poet's 135th anniversary is still going on. The second phase of the competition was held at Yerevan Tekeyan School on March 2.

The 60 participants of the second phase were the winners of Tekeyan Schools in Yerevan, Gumri, Stepanavan, Karbi, Berdzor and of Yerevan Kilikian College/Armenians from Beirut. The jury consisted of some of the top Armenian actors and literary experts, including Prof. Samvel Muradyan, People's Artist Guzh Manukyan.

The official opening of the event started with placing flowers on the monument of the poet. The joyful atmosphere continued in the school hall where the Yerevan school principle Tsovinar Mardanyan welcomed the guests and the participants.

Among the guests speaking at the ceremony were David Ohanyan, the head of Malatia Sebastia administrative district; director of Tekeyan Centre Fund Armen Tsulikyan; the head of the Department of Public Education of the Ministry of Education and Science Narine Hovhannisyan; project overseer Marieta Makaryan and the principal of the Berdzor Tekeyan School Anahit Kosakyan. They all high-



The members of the jury and some of the speakers

ly appreciated the initiative of the Fund to implement such a project which contributes to Armenian education.

The chair of the jury Samvel Muradyan opened the competition with a speech on Tekeyan's life and literature. He emphasized the importance of the festival which was a great success and symbolized the ties between the Motherland and the Diaspora. And

Vahan Tekeyan who was associated with a live bridge, was considered as the last Western Armenian and the first Diaspora Armenian poet.

The competition continued with 60 participants performing Tekeyan's poems within a few hours. The jury chose only 22 finalists who would compete for prizes at Tekeyan Centre on April 4.



INTERNATIONAL

Turkey Presses for UN Resolution On Syria Humanitarian Aid

ISTANBUL (*Today's Zaman*) — Complaining about the political stalemate at the United Nations (UN) Security Council on the Syrian crisis, Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Besir Atalay pressed for a resolution to allow humanitarian aid to flow into the conflict-torn country.

"The UN Security Council is deadlocked regarding Syria. The council is unable to pass any resolution due to opposition from two permanent members, but there could at least be a resolution regarding humanitarian aid. Such a resolution should be passed," Atalay said during a joint news conference with UN Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos in Ankara. Atalay said such a resolution would help efforts to deliver humanitarian aid within Syria.

Amos reiterated that a political solution should be found to the

Syrian crisis, but until that solution is found, she said, the international community should spare no humanitarian effort to help the Syrians.

Some 70,000 people have been killed and four million of Syria's 22 million citizens have been forced from their homes, including two million who remain in Syria, according to UN officials. The UN said last week that the number of registered Syrian refugees jumped 10 percent in just one week to more than 1.1 million. Refugees fleeing the conflict are hosted in camps in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon.

Atalay said more than 187,000 Syrians are registered in camps in southern Turkey, while another 100,000 are staying outside the camps in rented houses. He complained about insufficient international aid, saying Turkey, which has spent \$600 million on the Syrians so far, has received only \$30 million from the UN. Ankara expects the UN to

send more money when it receives \$1.5 billion promised by donors at a conference in January in Kuwait.

Amos said the UN is still working with donor governments for the transfer of the money into the banks. The UN has recently said donor governments have sent only about one-fifth of the \$1.5 billion needed to help displaced Syrians for the first six months of this year.

In addition to the UN, Saudi Arabia has granted \$50 million to Turkey to share the burden, Atalay also said. "Other than that, we have been relying on our means and we are spending a significant amount financially," he said.

Before her talks in Ankara, Amos visited Syrian refugees in a camp in the southern province of Kilis at the start of a two-day trip to Turkey last Wednesday. The top UN humanitarian official also had talks with Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu last Thursday.

EU Funds Black Sea Silk Road Corridor Project

BUCHAREST, Romania (Hetq) — On January 7, the European Union (EU) through its Joint Managing Authority in the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism signed a contract with its partners in Greece, Turkey, Georgia and Armenia on the implementation of the Black Sea Silk Road Corridor project (BSSRC).

In Armenia, BSSRC is implemented by the Armenian Monuments Awareness Project (AMAP) and co-funded by the USAID Enterprise Development and Market Competitiveness (EDMC) Project.

The EU supports the project through its Black Sea Basin Joint Operational Program as part of the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument and the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance. The approximate

EU contribution for the project is EUR 802,243,000 for all four countries, out of which roughly EUR 399,658,000 is allocated to Armenia.

BSSRC aims at supporting cross-border partnerships for economic and social development based on combined resources of these four countries through creation of tourism networks and promotion of local rural services and traditional products. The project is expected to help alleviate rural isolation through the development of local communities, enhancement of visitors' experiences, as well as protection of cultural monuments and biodiversity.

For Armenia, the project has three main components.

From 2013 to 2015, 43 Armenian cultural-historical and natural sites will be marked with directional signs, information panels, trail markers and walking tour plaques, which will provide multilingual content about the site.

The second component involves creating a web portal to feature the virtual version of the trail, along with five smart-phone applications with social

media integration. An online directory will also provide an inclusive list of tourism service providers (lodging, food, local crafts, souvenirs, tour guides, etc.) at destination points.

The directory and the applications will be designed by Armenian IT engineers and used across all four countries. At least 100 local Armenian entrepreneurs will be registered in the online directory.

The third component calls for the organization of a number of local events and training courses for Armenian tourism service providers on the effective use of online opportunities granted by the web portal and the applications.

The lead beneficiary for the project is the AMAP NGO in Armenia. Other partners include the Economists' Association of Turkey, European Regional Framework for Cooperation Interregional Development Organization (ERFC) of Greece, the Tadzreli Foundation of Georgia and the Armenian Society for the Protection of Birds/BirdLife International Associate in Armenia (ASPB).

Armenian Ambassador Meets with Slovak President

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (PanArmenian.net) — On March 20, Armenian Ambassador to Slovakia Tigran Seyranyan presented his credentials to President Ivan Gasparovic.

Gasparovic spoke of the friendly relations between the two countries and said he hopes to collaborate with Seyranyan to further improve diplomatic cooperation.

Seyranyan, likewise, pledged to further develop Armenian-Slovakian relations and voiced his gratitude to Slovakian parliament for its recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Both parties also discussed Armenia's European integration process, diplomatic visits, Armenia-Slovakian political dialogue, bilateral economic cooperation, settlement of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict and regional issues during the meeting.

Armenia, Georgia and Moldova Qualify for Additional EU Funding

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — The European Commission has presented its annual European Neighborhood Package. The package will be a key factor in determining how what European Union (EU) funds will be granted to the individual member states later this year.

This year's report shows that Georgia, Moldova and Armenia have reformed the most in the recent year and will benefit from additional funds from Brussels.

European Neighborhood Package details political and economic development in its six eastern neighbors, as well as countries in the southern Mediterranean.

The commission has urged the Armenian government to step up its work to implement and enforce human rights legislation.

The report also underlined the need to address shortcomings in Armenia's

recent presidential elections. It stated that freedoms of assembly and expression were generally respected but media independence remained insufficient.

The report also noted Yerevan's efforts to reform its judiciary system and fight corruption.

On the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, the EU urged Armenia to intensify efforts with Azerbaijan to reach an agreement and ensure "unimpeded access" for EU representatives to the area and surrounding regions.

Stefan Fuele, the EU commissioner for enlargement and neighborhood policy, said that the EU needs to increase efforts to help the countries in the report meet goals to become members of the European Union.

Despite the criticism, the EU still said that Armenia qualifies for its "more for more" principle in which extra reforms lead to additional EU funds for the upcoming year.

International News

Politico's Charles Mahtesian to Speak at Australian Genocide Commemorative Event

SIDNEY (PanARMENIAN.Net) — The Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee (AGCC) has confirmed distinguished political commentator Charles Mahtesian as Australia's keynote guest for the 98th Anniversary of Armenian Genocide commemorative events this year.

Mahtesian is the national political editor for Politico, a leading Washington, DC-based online publication. He earned his law degree from American University.

Mahtesian, an expert on American politics, has served as an election night analyst for National Public Radio and appeared on numerous radio and television programs.

He has written for a variety of newspapers, journals, and magazines, including *The Washington Post*, *The Weekly Standard*, *National Journal*, *Congress Daily*, *Government Executive* and *Campaigns and Elections*.

Vache Kahramanian, a member of the AGCC, said: "We look forward to Charles Mahtesian joining us for the commemoration of the 98th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Mr. Mahtesian brings years of experience in the public arena, and will provide a unique American political insider's view of Armenian Genocide recognition within the United States and related matters."

UK House of Commons Hosts Karabagh Movement Roundtable

LONDON (Hetq) — A round-table discussion titled "The 25th anniversary of the Karabagh Movement: Struggle for Independence and Justice," was held at the UK House of Commons on March 25.

The event was organized by the British-Armenian All-Party Parliamentary Group and the Armenian Embassy in Great Britain.

The discussion was chaired by Vice President of the British-Armenian All-Party Parliamentary Group John Whittingdale, chairman of the House Committee on Press, Sport and Culture.

Member of the Armenian National Assembly Vahan Hovhannisyan, NKR Deputy Foreign Minister Felix Khachatryan and Director of the Regional Research Center Richard Giragosian delivered speeches on the 25th anniversary of the Artsakh Movement, the Sumgait massacres and the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict.

The meeting featured president of the British-Armenian All-Party Parliamentary Group, Baroness Caroline Cox, members of the House of Commons and the House of Lords, diplomats accredited to London, representatives of the Armenian community, analysts, historians and students.

Film on Parajanov May Get Screening at Cannes Festival

CANNES, France (Armenpress) — "Parajanov - Lover of Beauty," a feature film, has already been invited to show in three categories of the Cannes Film Festival. The producers of the movie also received invitation to discuss the issue of participation in Group A film festivals, including Venice, San Sebastian, Tokyo, Toronto, Montreal, Sao Paulo and many others. Ukraine, France, Georgia, and Armenia jointly shot the movie.

Filmmaker and actor Serge Avedikian said the decision regarding the acceptance of the movie in the festival will be announced on April 14-18.

Among other things the filmmaker noted: "In case of movie's acceptance in the Cannes Film Festival the movie will be premiered in Yerevan. If not we shall wait until it is included in the Locarno festival or any other film festival and then display it in Yerevan."



Community News

The Last of A Vanishing Breed

By Tom Vartabedian

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. — Nellie Nazarian, 101, has not only survived the ravages of time, the struggles of family and life, but the eclipse of entire generation.

She survived a genocide, one which wiped away 1.5 million Armenians from 1915-1923 and saw another million go into exile. Gone was half the Armenian population living in Turkey at the time, not to mention the churches and villages.

It is the week of April 24 in the Armenian community when they gather in their churches and public centers to pay tribute to these martyrs.

They will not only honor the dead but the living. They will pay special tribute to her for an obvious reason. She happens to be the only remaining Genocide survivor in Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire.

She lives in Methuen and once attended school in Haverhill.

As a survivor, Nazarian used to have company. When she began attending Genocide commemorations in Merrimack Valley, she was joined by 70 survivors. Slowly, those numbers began to dwindle.

Two years ago, this writer's mother was among the four who remained. They would attend the commemoration, health permitting, look around them and note the missing.

In a world bereft by tragedy, desecration, massacre and violence, a genocide that annihilated the Armenians back 98 years ago has almost been depleted from our history books. Very little mention is made of it, thanks to Turkish lobbying.



Centenarian Nellie Nazarian with great-grandson Noah Aznoian

And bitterly, thanks to the American government who refuses to recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Attempts to get a postage stamp minted by the US Postal Department have been another futile attempt.

Nazarian escaped the massacre in her native village of Chimigazag by taking refuge in the mountains with her family before immigrating to America in the early 1920s. At a time when decent jobs were at a premium, she became an entrepreneur.

Throughout her working life, she operated a jewelry store (Nazarian Jewelers) in downtown Lawrence with her husband, Stephen, also a survivor.

Together, they built a profitable venture through diligent work and sacrifice. Stephen died in 1965. She has four children, 16 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren by her side.

More often than not, such testaments are given posthumously when the see CENTENARIAN, page 7



CRD Bike-a-Thon 2012 riders from the US and Armenia at the starting line in front of Hotel Armenia in Stepanakert

CRD Annual Bike-a-Thon Raises Funds and Awareness for Armenia's Stellar Talent

SAN FRANCISCO and YEREVAN — Riders are welcomed to join the fourth annual CRD Bike-a-thon in Armenia from June 3 to 7, 2013. This Spectacular Armenia ride will start on Republic Square in Yerevan, take the riders through the majestic areas of Northern Armenia, returning back to Republic Square. There will be time for sightseeing during the ride and a celebration banquet at one of Cosmic Ray Division's (CRD) research stations on Mt. Aragats after the ride. Afterwards some riders will spend the night at the CRD research stations to climb one of the four peaks of Mt. Aragats. All interested parties can find further information on the www.crdfriends.org website. The bikers will be joined by the Armenian Cycling Team.

The previous three CRD Bike-a-thons have raised much awareness and more than \$30,000 to support the work of the scientists of the Cosmic Ray Division of the Yerevan Physics Institute. CRD's scientific projects conducted in Armenia are important and valuable aspect of international scientific cooperation. Its role in educating and retaining young Armenian scientists in Armenia is of crucial importance to Armenia.

A tradition, started by Vatche Soghomonian in 1999, called Ride for Hope for Armenia, has raised funds to support Armenian farmers under the umbrella of the Armenian Technology Group based in Fresno, Calif. for eight years, and for the Armenia Fund for three years. Four years ago, the riders turned their attention to another important aspect of Armenia's development: the scientists of the Cosmic Ray Division of Yerevan Physics Institute.

The first annual CRD Bike-a-thon in 2010 was a five-day grueling ride starting at Republic Square in Yerevan, reaching the Cosmic Ray research stations on Mt. Aragats at 10,000-foot elevation, then through the mountains of Dilijan, to the blue waters of Sevan and back to Yerevan's Republic Square. Vatche Soghomonian and Saro Hartunian raised more than \$11,000 for the CRD from that ride.

The second ride in 2011 was an easy stroll compared to the first, probably because the chair of the Support Committee for Armenia's Cosmic Ray Division, with Anahid Yeremian joining in. The scenic Chemain du Roi (Road of the King) from Montreal to Quebec City in Canada was enchanting and Yeremian proved to the men that she could do it.

The third annual CRD Bike-a-thon was a smashing success and it took the riders to Armenia again. The Capital-To-Capital ride commencing in Stepanakert's main square and terminating at Republic Square in Yerevan drew supporters and reporters from all over the world. Two strong new riders from California, Michael Kludjian and Philip Lavolenti, joined the group. Riders from Armenia, Martin Sharbatyan, Armen Boghosyan and Raffik Baghdasaryan, also participated. Champions from the Armenian Bicycle Team joined the group in Yerevan to make an impressive entry into Republic Square on the final day. About 100 people, among them television and newspaper reporters, the director of the Yerevan Physics Institute and head of the CRD Prof. Ashot Chilingarian, and CRD staff were all gathered in Republic Square to greet the arriving riders. Joining them were the group of international scientists who were in Armenia to teach at the Cosmic Ray Summer School on Mt. Aragats. The crowd in Republic Square greeted the tired riders who made a grand entry escorted by the Armenian traffic police and waving Armenian and Artsakh flags.

The bike-a-thon organizers thank the Diaspora Ministry and the Armenian Traffic Police departments for their support of these rides, as well as diasporan sponsors who helped raise \$30,000 during the past three years.

To participate or to get more information, visit <http://crdfriends.org/>.

Armenian Heritage Cruise XVI-2013 Casts its Spell

By Barbara Haroutunian

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Armenian Heritage Cruise XVI sponsored by the Armenian Cultural Association of America, Inc. (ACAA), sailed from Ft. Lauderdale for a week-long cruise January 12-19. There is no other cruise like this one; this was the cruise where magic happened with Armenian energy that filtered throughout the ship.

More than 900 Armenians boarded the MSC Poesia, and for one week everyone was immersed in pure luxury aboard this elegant ship with an Italian flavor. The destinations of the cruise included Cozumel, Mexico; Roatan, Honduras; Grand Cayman Islands; and Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The week was filled with a number of unique programs, Armenian music, dancing, movies and more.

There a fascinating mixture of Armenians from all over the world representing many countries such as Armenia, Australia, Canada, Italy, Lebanon, Syria and Venezuela. From Fresno to Philadelphia, from New York to Dallas, from Detroit to Miami almost every state in the United States was represented. Many people had tears in their eyes and smiles on their faces as they reunited with long lost relatives, friends and classmates aboard the cruise.

Each guest received an Armenian Heritage Cruise tote bag and a card holder as a gift from the ACAA and Travel Group International. The guests also were given a tri-color ACAA Heritage Cruise cabin key card; the card granted each guest entry into all the activities for the week. Every morning the daily activities were announced in Italian, French, German, English and Armenian.

Bishop Anoushavan Tanielian, Vicar General of the Eastern Prelacy, and Ambassador Armen Yeghanyan of the Republic of Armenia to Canada along with his wife Maria and their two sons were present for the trip.

Armenian Conversation classes were conducted by Ara and Arevig Caprielian. For those guests who needed a little help on the dance floor, Margo Kaftajian taught basic Armenian dances. Guests could register for a backgammon tournament under the direction of Antranig Boudakian and John Jerikian and belote tournament under the direction of George Basmajian and Ara Papazian. There was a special table set up for the Armenian Heritage Tour 2013 with Maro Asatoorian, the ACAA liaison, for a 15-day guided tour of St. Petersburg, Moscow and Armenia departing on September 3-17.

The days at sea could be spent poolside enjoying the tropical weather or taking advantage of all sports and leisure facilities the ship has to offer. One could have a quick workout in the gym, a traditional Balinese massage, a rejuvenating beauty treatment in the spa or just relax in the cabin watching two channels of 24-hour Armenian programs.

The evenings were filled with dancing and listening to great music by Khatchig Jingirian with the All-Star Band featuring Jim Kzirian, Aram Hovagimian, Armen Sevag and Tommy Gerjekian as well as Khoren Mouradian and "D-On-Knowns."

The first night there was a welcome reception hosted by Maria Tavitian and Shake Basmajian. The cruise ambassadors were introduced and highlights of the week's activities were announced. This was followed by a song and dance program.

Sunday there was a singles/mingles and cocktail party where 21-39-year-old Armenian singles could meet. On Tuesday there was five-minute Speed Dating, which gave the singles aboard an opportunity to spend time together and possibly find a match. That evening was the see CRUISE, page 6



COMMUNITY NEWS

Richard Hovannisian Receives Narekatsi Medal

GLENDALÉ — On Saturday, March 16, Prof. Richard Hovannisian was honored with the Narekatsi Medal of Achievement, conferred on him by the Friends of UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies. The award presentation took place during the Friends' 11th annual banquet, held at the Armenian Society of Los Angeles Hall.

More than 300 guests, representing a cross section of the Armenian community, attended the jubilant event, which celebrated the life and accomplishments of Richard Hovannisian as a teacher, historian, author and human-rights activist.

Remarks delivered by a distinguished roster of speakers, comprising scholars and community leaders, were interspersed with the screening of two short documentaries as well as musical performances. In addition, the honoree and guests were treated to a number of wonderful surprises, all of which made the celebration all the more memorable.

Dignitaries included Archbishop Hovnan Derderian; the Very Rev. Muron Aznikian, representing Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian; several representatives of the Armenian Educational Foundation, among them the current president, Hermineh Pakhanians; and Ara Khachatourian, editor of the English edition of *Asbarez*.

The event kicked off with a cocktail reception and book exhibit in the hall's foyer, where numerous works penned by Hovannisian were on display.

As dinner started, welcome remarks were delivered by Banquet co-chairs Ani Aivazian and Hilda Fidanian. Their addresses were followed by the opening remarks of Alice Petrossian, the evening's Mistress of Ceremonies, and Dr. Hasmig Baran, president of the Friends of UCLA Armenian Language and Culture Studies. The speakers reflected on the Friends' longstanding tradition of honoring extraordinary Armenian individuals with the Narekatsi Medal, and underscored the pan-Armenian significance of Professor



Prof. Richard Hovannisian receives the Narekatsi Medal from Dr. Hasmig Baran flanked, from left, by Gia Aivazian, Prof. Peter Cowe and Ani Aivazian.

Hovannisian's manifold accomplishments.

Many of those accomplishments were touched upon in a video documentary, titled *My Professor Hovannisian Moment*, which was shown while guests enjoyed dinner. The humorous, highly engaging documentary, produced by Ara Soghomonian, featured a fast-paced succession of testimonials by former students of the honoree.

Next to take the podium was the evening's keynote speaker, Prof. S. Peter Cowe, head of UCLA's Narekatsi Chair in Armenian Studies. Cowe described Hovannisian's crucial role in not only the establishment of Armenian Studies as an academic discipline in the US, but its growth as a dynamic, globally relevant hub for scholarly discourse and political action alike.

"From the outset, Richard Hovannisian understood that the challenge before him was not for the fainthearted, but for those fortified

with the proper formation, intellectual conviction, stamina, and discernment to perceive where the real struggle lies and not to be sidetracked by minutiae," Cowe said.

Cowe's address was followed by the screening of a second video documentary, a tribute to Hovannisian, produced by the honoree's daughter, Ani Hovannisian-Kevorkian.

The second half of the banquet's program featured a congratulatory message from Prof. David Myers of UCLA; violin performances by Mari Haig; a poignant speech by Armen Hovannisian, the honoree's son, and an onstage interview between Hovannisian and Khachatourian.

One of the evening's most surprises was when the honorees two young granddaughters took the stage to speak about their grandfather, sprinkling their talk with humorous comments and touching recollections.

As the banquet's culminating segment drew close, Professor Emeritus Speros Vryonis Jr. of UCLA introduced the honoree. In his remarks, Vryonis touched on certain political aspects and power struggles inherent in American academia, and praised Hovannisian for his central role in the evolution and burgeoning of the Armenian Studies program at UCLA despite enormous challenges.

At this, and to the standing ovation of the audi-

ence, Richard Hovannisian was invited to the stage, where Dr. Hasmig Baran, flanked by members of the Friends' Board members, formally presented the Narekatsi Medal to the honoree.

The Friends' Board members had no less than three surprises for the honoree. First, he was presented with a dossier of congratulatory letters from academic colleagues in Armenia. Second, he was given a dossier of letters from former students; on hand for this presentation were the honoree's former students, Professors Vahram Shemmashian (CSUN), Levon Marashlian (GCC), Garabet Moundjian and George Kooshian. And third, he was presented with a large photograph of himself signed by current UCLA students. The latter presentation was made by Armenian Studies graduate student Ara Soghomonian. Also on stage were Soghomonian's contemporaries in the Armenian Studies Program Shushan Karapetian, Danny Fittante, Xi Yang, and Ceyda Tinmaz; Sona Tajiryan from the History Program; Lilith Keshishian from Comparative Literature; and Anoush Suni from Anthropology.

The presentations were followed by an impassioned acceptance speech. After thanking the Armenian community, and the Friends in particular, for honoring him with the Narekatsi Medal, Hovannisian praised them for their steadfast support of the Armenian Studies Program at UCLA. He concluded his remarks by reiterating his abiding hope that a new cadre of students and scholars will continue to build on the successes of the program, through teaching, research, and political activism.

The program drew to a close with a toast to the honoree. Cowe delivered a charming finishing touch, inviting guests to retrieve and open the bottle of cognac tucked within the centerpiece of each table, and drink to Hovannisian's health. Everyone obliged.

Cowe also announced two milestones pertaining to the Armenian Studies program at UCLA: as a result of a joint application to the Dream Fund by the UCLA Department of Music and the Narekatsi Chair, he stated, Vatsche Barsoumian has been engaged as a visiting professor in Armenian music and will be teaching courses over the next two years; and recently, Cowe continued, a Research Program in Armenian Archaeology and Ethnography was established as a permanent component of the Cotsen Institute in Archaeology at UCLA, and Prof. Grigor Areshian has been appointed as the first director.

ALMA Hosts 'Genocide: A Joint Commemoration'

WATERTOWN — On Sunday April 21, at 2 p.m., the Armenian Museum of America (ALMA) will present a joint commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, the Cambodian Genocide and the ongoing Genocide in Darfur.

The Armenian Genocide provided a blueprint for many other genocides of the 20th century. Armenian-Americans understandably focus each April on commemorating the Armenian Genocide. Recognizing that their Genocide is a forerunner for countless other genocides, Armenians share the pain of all other genocides.

This year's joint commemoration will feature talks by Kowith Kret, a survivor of the Cambodian Genocide, Eric Cohen, president of the Massachusetts Coalition to Save Darfur and Prof. Armen Marsoobian of Southern Connecticut University who will discuss the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide.

An exhibition on the Cambodian Genocide will be on display in the Terjenian-Thomas Gallery on the third floor and an exhibit on the genocide in Darfur will be mounted in the Contemporary Art



"Anguish" by Krikor Khandjian (1926-2000)

Gallery on the same floor. The museum's permanent Armenian Genocide exhibition is on display on the second floor.

Admission is free and open to the public. ALMA is located at 65 Main St.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

John Airasian to Receive 2013 Charles Mosesian Award for Support of the Arts

WATERTOWN – Watertown business leader John Airasian will be honored as the recipient of the 2013 Charles Mosesian Award for Support of the Arts at the Arsenal Center for the Arts on Tuesday, April 9, 6–8:30 p.m.

The Charles Mosesian Award for Support of the Arts is presented annually to an individual who exemplifies the late namesake's commitment to the community, the arts and the Arsenal Center. Mosesian's \$1 million gift played a pivotal role in launching the center's building campaign and his leadership inspired others to lend their support to create what is now a flourishing arts center. The center's 380-seat theater is named in Mosesian's honor.

Long active in the Watertown community, Airasian has come to be known as "Mr. Watertown." Born and raised in Watertown, Airasian is the owner and president of Eastern Clothing of Watertown, a company founded in the early 1930s by his father, Peter, an Armenian immigrant. Peter played an active role in his adopted community, serving as

Trustee and Officer of St. James Armenian Church and a major employer of many Armenian immigrants throughout the 1940s and 1950s. He grew up in the family business; he also grew up loving the Watertown community and giving back.

Airasian has over the years played a major role in a wide range of community activities. He was the first president of the Watertown-Belmont Chamber of Commerce; a director, Watertown Boys and Girls Club; and president, Watertown Rotary Club. An overseer with both Mount Auburn Hospital and Perkins School for the Blind, he was a corporator and member of the Board of Trustees of Watertown Savings Bank for more than 40 years.

He has, in addition, been a driving force in the development of the Arsenal Center for the Arts. Chairman of the Arsenal re-use committee in the 1980s, he led the effort to secure \$100 million in federal and state funds to clean up the contaminated Arsenal property. In 1989, he chaired the Watertown Arsenal

Development Corp., a nonprofit charged with finding a developer to convert the 37-acre property to commercial and cultural uses. And when it came time to create an Arts Center, once again John Airasian played a leadership role. As cochairman of the Center's capital campaign committee, he spearheaded the fundraising effort that raised \$7.5 million to launch the Center, including the \$1 million gift from his long-time friend and like-minded community leader, Charles Mosesian. He later served as a founding member of the Center's Board of Directors.

The Arts Center celebration kicks off at 6 p.m. with the Mosesian award presentation to John Airasian and at 6:30 p.m., Jenny Dee and the Deelinquents take the stage. Jenny Dee, the 2010 Boston Music Awards Female Vocalist of the Year, has performed in a number of area venues with the Deelinquents, including most memorably at Fenway Park with Aerosmith and the J. Geils Band.

Tickets are \$75. Proceeds support the



John Airasian

Arsenal Center for the Arts and its programs. For tickets and more information, visit www.arsenalarts.org/music or call the box office at 617-923-8487.

Armenian Heritage Cruise XVI-2013 Casts its Spell

CRUISE, from page 4

ACAA Gala Cocktail Party sponsored by Travel Group International and the ACAA Armenian Heritage Cruise Committee.

An Armenian wedding ceremony was held on the MSC Poesia. Champagne was poured as the Blessing of the Rings took place for Zepure and Garabed Kurumlian from Boston. The couple got married on Friday, January 11, and held their wedding reception aboard the Armenian Heritage Cruise with more than 900 guests in attendance. Their evening started off with a cocktail hour, followed by the Blessing of the Rings by Tanielian.

That evening all eyes feasted and the palate savored an Armenian dinner serviced by the kitchen staff of the MSC Poesia along with complimentary wine from the AHC.

The mood was festive as everyone wished the bride and groom a life filled with good health and happiness. The couple, their family and friends danced the night away in a unique Armenian experience.

Early Friday morning, Barbara Haroutunian and her committee organized the Armenian Festival Day Pool Party; prizes were awarded for the best Armenian tri-color outfit. There was face painting of the young children. Margo Kaftajian's Armenian dance class performed two traditional Armenian dances. There was an Armenian dance contest. This has become an annual event and people came prepared with original design outfits and special dance steps to compete in the contest.

The first destination was Cozumel, Mexico where everyone explored the Mayan ruins. Our next stop was Roatan, Honduras, where giant iguanas move freely, or one could relax and enjoy the breathtaking ocean views. At Grand

Cayman, many shopped at the duty free shops or relaxed under the Caribbean sun or swam in the aqua blue waters of the famous Seven Mile Beach. The last stop was scenic Montego Bay, Jamaica where.

Each day there were speakers and programs about relevant Armenian subjects:

- "Armenian Architects in the Ottoman Empire" by Osep Sarafian, a well-known architect, presented The Legacy of the Armenian Architects in the Ottoman Empire.

- "The War Gods (The East of Byzantium)" by Roger Kupelian presented by Ayda Demejian.
- Visual effects and filmmaker Roger Kupelian, has captured the imagination again in this newly-released graphic novel in a Byzantine-era saga of bravery.

- Dr. Siobhan Nash-Marshall led a discussion titled "Lies, Damned Lies and Genocide."

- The Armenian Network of America hosted a Champagne reception.

- The Armenian National Committee of America hosted a tea reception and presentation, led by Ken Hachikian, ANCA chairman

- Book presentation by Italian-Armenian writer Antonia Arslan for her novel, *Skylark Farm*, presented by Dr. Siobhan Marshall.

Other programs included a performance by the Akhtamar Dane Ensemble, a panel discussion on dual citizenship and receptions by the Knights of Vartan and the Armenian Relief Society.

The Armenian Heritage Cruise is the only cruise in the world bringing Armenians together for a week of cultural, educational, religious and charitable organizations and activities on the national and international level for the betterment of the Armenian nation and people worldwide.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Daughters of Vartan Host Reception For Baroness Caroline Cox

DETROIT — The Detroit Chapter of the Daughters of Vartan is hosting a reception for Baroness Caroline Cox on Tuesday, April 30. It will take place in the Vartan Room at St. John Armenian Church from 5:30-7:30 p.m. It is open to the public.

Cox will be in the Detroit area on April 27, to give the Commencement Address for the School of Health Sciences and School of Nursing at Oakland University. She was awarded an honorary doctorate by Oakland University. Her global humanitarian efforts led Oakland University's School of Nursing's Research, Education and Advocacy for Children's Health (REACH) program to name an endowed chair in her honor. They are working to establish a partnership with the American University in Armenia to provide student-faculty exchanges.

Cox has made 78 trips to Nagorno-Karabagh and Armenia to bring humanitarian aid during the Nagorno-Karabagh turmoil risking her life for the Armenian people and later to build and outfit a rehabilitation center, The Lady Cox Rehabilitation Centre, in Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabagh. The rehabilitation center gives treatment to people with disabili-

ties, originally for those wounded in the war, more recently for people with a range of problems from children with cerebral palsy to elderly people suffering from strokes.

Cox was appointed a Life Peer of the British House of Lords by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in 1982 and served as deputy speaker of the House from 1985-2005. She is now chancellor of the Liverpool Hope University and vice president of the Royal College of Nursing.

She has become one of Britain's most outspoken activists for human rights. She is also the chief executive of Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust. She is also a strong supporter of self-determination for the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabagh. Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., the co-chairman of the US Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, paying tribute to Cox's dedication to the Armenian cause called her a "true Armenian nationalist who would give her life for Armenia and Karabagh." On February 15, 2006 she was awarded the Mkhitar Gosh Medal by the Armenia's President Robert Kocharian. The Daughters of Vartan awarded Cox their first Humanitarian of the Year Award in July 2009.

Judge Armand Arabian to Speak at St. James Men's Club

WATERTOWN — On Monday, December 3, Armand Arabian, former Associate Justice, California Supreme Court, will be the speaker at the dinner meeting of the St. James Armenian Church Men's Club. The topic will be his book, *Gravel to Gavel*.

Arabian, prior to becoming one of the most notable judges of the last 50 years in California, had been a driving force in organizing the California Armenian community behind governor, and then President Ronald Reagan; as well as attorney general and then Gov. George Deukmejian.

Arabian, the first-born son of Armenian immigrants who came to America after surviving the Armenian Genocide of 1915, was raised in New York. He completed his undergraduate studies at Boston University's College of Business Administration. Then, as an ROTC distinguished military graduate, he was commissioned as an Infantry Second Lieutenant and

served two years at Fort Benning, Ga. Elevated to the rank of first lieutenant, he served as a company commander and graduated from Airborne, Jumpmaster and Pathfinder schools.

Arabian returned to Massachusetts in 1958 and entered Boston University's School of Law, graduating in 1961 and elected president of his class. He then traveled west, becoming a deputy district attorney of Los Angeles County, and an attorney in private practice (1963-1972). In 1970, he received an LLM degree from the University of Southern California.

In 1972, Reagan appointed him judge of the Municipal Court and in 1973, to the Superior Court. In 1983, Deukmejian appointed him as an associate justice of the Court of Appeal and in 1990 as the 105th associate justice of the Supreme Court.

He authored 104 majority opinions and retired in 1996.

Armand then became president of ARMS



Some of the Hye Pointe parishioners and Sunday School students with the Easter baskets

Hye Pointe Sunday School Students Prepare Easter Baskets for Needy Kids

HAVERHILL, Mass. — As part of their quarterly community service project, the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe Sunday School students prepared Easter baskets to the disadvantaged families in the Haverhill MA area. The exercise was coordinated by Carole Hannedanian, one of the Sunday School teachers who is a case worker for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. In her position she sees first-hand the effects of need and neglect that children in the community are experiencing. The distribution of the Easter baskets to the children was well received and helped make their Easter special during Holy Week.

The true understanding of Lent rests on a sturdy tripod of prayer, abstinence, and charity to others less fortunate in the Armenian Church.

— Robert Serabian

Providers, Inc., engaged in alternative dispute resolution conducting arbitration and mediation in all areas of law. He was appointed trustee of Albert Einstein Correspondence Trust and supervised an international auction of his private papers.

In 1993, he became the only recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" given by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association for "Dispensing Justice Tempered With Mercy." In 2003, he provided funding for the restoration of the sixth-century monastery of St. Gayane in Armenia. She was the Mother Superior of nuns

who were protected by her against sexual assault. She and 26 others were tortured and killed for their resistance and faith.

In 2005, the Justice Armand Arabian Judicial Reception Hall was dedicated at the Constitutional Court in Yerevan, Armenia. Armand donated this modern, fully equipped facility that serves all visitors in the nation's highest court.

He also holds an extensive catalogue of published writings. Perhaps his most lasting legacy to our state and to our nation comes in the area of sexual assault reform.

The social hour starts with *mezza* at 6:15 p.m. following by a traditional Armenian meal at 7 p.m.

The dinner meeting will be at the St. James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall, 465 Mount Auburn St. Women are welcome.

The Last of A Vanishing Breed

CENTENARIAN, from page 4

deceased are not around to enjoy them. In this case, she is hoping to make an appearance at the Merrimack Valley observance in North Andover High on April 29 and see for herself her importance to the community.

If anything has impressed Nazarian about these observances, it is seeing the youth being honored for their essays and newer generations stepping forward to dance and sing and perpetuate the arts, a lifeline that has embodied Armenian culture over the centuries.

"God was with my family," she tells us. "We faced all those dangers. I consider myself very fortunate to have lived a good life and raised an excellent family. My heritage has always been important to me."

The April 29 commemoration at North Andover will begin at 3 p.m. and feature a musical interlude by noted Armenian soloists Knarik Nerkararyan, Victoria Avetisyan, Yeghishe Manucharyan, accompanied by pianist Levon Hovsepian.

Over the past 25 years, some \$70,000 in proceeds has gone to worthy causes in Armenia through the Armenian Genocide Committee of Merrimack Valley.

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New York METRO

Lenten Retreat Focuses on 'Living Gospel of Christ'

HUNTINGTON, N.Y. — Some 50 young people from parishes across the Eastern Diocese traveled here last weekend to take part in a Lenten Retreat focused on this year's Diocesan theme, "Living the Gospel of Christ." Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), presided over the activities on March 8-10.

"The Armenian Church is the stage upon which we can take up Christ's ministry," Archbishop Barsamian said. "Our pious ancestors have created such a rich, beautiful tapestry of traditions and experiences within our church. They created it so you could understand who Jesus Christ is; so you could follow him — and encourage others to do the same."

The young people at the retreat were all participants in past Diocesan programs for youth leaders, including the 2010 Leadership

empty tomb.

Through these experiences, the young people deepened their understanding of what it means to live the Gospel of Christ, and of how Jesus can guide each of our lives. They were also encouraged to consider how they can put their faith into action at their local parishes.

"I truly appreciate that each of us had these wonderful opportunities, like traveling to our Holy Land or participating in Leadership Conferences together," said Melissa Megrdichian of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church of Providence, RI. "We are learning to appreciate the small miracles, as well as the life-changing ones."

The Rev. Krikor Sabounjian, pastor of Holy Translators Church of Framingham, Mass., led the first two sessions, taking the young participants on a journey to the Sea of Galilee where they learned about Christ's call to his ministry.

Participants viewed a video clip by Rob Bell, a Michigan-based preacher, focusing on simple steps they can take — helping a neighbor shovel snow, for example — to bring change to their communities.

Continuing their journey along the Sea of Galilee, they read about the crowd gathered to hear Christ's message and the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Working in small groups, they discussed how faith, concentration, and love

can help open their hearts to God's call.

"These sessions have reminded me that we should always be listening in order to hear Christ's call," said Melissa Mardoian of Sts. Joachim and Anne Church of Palos Heights, Ill.

Next, the Rev. Stepanos Doudoukjian, pastor of St. Peter Church of Watervliet, NY, led the group to the Garden of Gethsemane, where



Participants pose for a group photo with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and Fr. Simeon Odabashian.



Fr. Krikor Sabounjian speaks about the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.

Conferences and the 2011 and 2012 Youth Pilgrimages to the Holy Land. This month's retreat gave them an opportunity to study key points of Jesus' ministry — his preaching at the Sea of Galilee, his feeding of the multitude, the Last Supper in the Upper Room, his night spent at the Garden of Gethsemane, his suffering on the cross, and his resurrection revealed at the

Christ went to pray with his disciples and was betrayed by Judas. They spoke about the importance of being vigilant in our faith despite the distractions and temptations of daily life.

The Very Rev. Simeon Odabashian, Diocesan Vicar, took the young people to the Upper Room, where Christ washed the feet of his disciples, expressing the true meaning of humility and leadership. They brainstormed ways they could take up leadership roles in their communities, including joining the Parish Council, organizing activities for children, and assisting with other parish events.

With the Rev. Mardiros Chevian, dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, the group relived the last moments of Christ's earthly ministry. They also viewed the 2004 film, "The Passion of the Christ."

Finally, the group joined the oil-bearing women at Christ's empty tomb, where they learned about his Glorious Resurrection. They reflected on their role as young leaders in car-

rying forward Christ's commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

"Christ himself will be the source of your strength and inspiration," Barsamian told the young people. "This weekend, in all those crucial locations, we stood with Jesus. But we should be aware that Jesus stood with us, also."

Participants said the retreat helped them strengthen their faith and develop new ideas for enriching life in their parishes.

"Having the opportunity to go on a Christian retreat with my peers was a true blessing," said Armen Kassabian of St. Gregory the Enlightener Church of White Plains, NY. "I find that studying the life of Christ with other young people allows me to see more clearly what kind of a role Christ plays in my life."

On Sunday morning, Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy, with young people assisting on the altar and singing in the choir. After the service, each of the participants approached the Primate to receive his blessing.

**98th ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATION
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**
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New York METRO

The Memories Are Starting to Fade, But the Pain Remains

By Taleen Babayan

FLUSHING, N.Y. — A vintage ornate silver frame encasing a black-and-white photo of Perouz Kalusdian on her wedding day hangs on her bedroom wall at the Armenian Home here.

Young, fresh-faced and draped in a wedding dress reminiscent of old Hollywood glamour, she is holding a rich bouquet of white roses, the lace and ribbon of the arrangement dripping down the length of her dress and sheer veil, which travels down to the floor.

One could easily mistake the striking Kalusdian for a carefree debutante on her wed-



Perouz Kalusdian

Genocide Survivors' Descendants Sought to Give Accounts of Family for New Book

NEW YORK — Libra-6 Productions, Inc. is announcing a new project which invites the descendants of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide to recount the stories of their ancestors for publication. The accounts must be true and will be published in a series of volumes, in English, as *Testimonies... Voices of the People*.

Libra-6 Productions, Inc. is a New York-based non-profit organization which pursues humanitarian values through theater, arts and culture. Dr. Herand Markarian, president of Libra-6, emphasized that "Every Armenian has a story about his or her ancestors' ordeals during the calamity that befell the Armenians living in Turkey during the early 20th century. We ask every Armenian to honor, preserve, share, and help to document the memories of the martyrs and survivors."

Testimonies will compile the true stories — up to now unknown to the general public — in several volumes, serving as a current addition to the accounts that have already been published, either as memoirs or recorded as oral histories. "But there will never be a full and complete documentation of the terrible ordeals of those who perished...and bringing these true, untold stories to life is the obligation of our generation," Markarian said. He also announced that a team of professional editors — Iris Chekenian, Iris Papazian, Raffi Setian and Tom Vartabedian — will review and edit the writings for publication.

The project will be an authentic attestation, adding an incontrovertible layer of facts before individuals and governments, on the eve of the 100-year observance of the 1915 calamity.

All accounts must contain actual names, dates, places and events. Each account should give (if possible) the number of massacred and survivors, their paths, destinations and the whereabouts of the descendants. The writings may be in English preferably, or Armenian, from 1 to 15 pages maximum, double-spaced and typed. Armenian texts will be translated at no charge. Pictures, maps and portraits are welcome. Submissions should include a short bio of the writer, date, name, address, email and telephone number. Submitted manuscripts will not be returned. Financial compensation will not be offered for submissions. The published volumes will be registered under US copyright laws. A complimentary copy of the printed book will be sent to the writer.

Send manuscripts to: Libra-6 Production, Inc. E-mail: libra6productions@gmail.com.

ding day. But the beauty of the Old World photo masks the agony that Kalusdian continues to carry to this day.

"It was very ugly," said Kalusdian, 103, her abundant black hair muted to grey but her youthful spirit remaining intact. She sits with her hands folded on her burgundy armchair, the sun peeking through the window shades behind her. "I hate to talk about it. They didn't want us to live our lives."

While she cannot recall every detail of her escape from her birthplace of Harput to New York City when the Young Turk government waged a full-scale genocide against the Armenians in 1915, there is a shade of sorrow on her face that is undeniable. It is the same anguish that has been shared by scores of other survivors around the world. While Kalusdian was able to physically escape the Genocide, she is still haunted by the horrific images she witnessed at the tender age of 6.

"They came and took my father and two uncles away," she said. "They tied them up two by two and threw them over the bridge into the Euphrates River."

For 101-year-old Charlotte Kechejian, a fellow resident at the Armenian Home, it has become increasingly difficult to retrieve memories of her childhood. But she has not forgotten that

her father was killed during the onset of the genocide and she was a victim of the deportations, walking miles through the desert to escape persecution.

"I remember feeling so tired and hungry," she said in a soft voice. "My mother kept telling me to walk just a little more."

Kechejian arrived in New York as a 10-year-old with her mother, who supported them as a seamstress. Kechejian earned her high school diploma and worked at various department stores before getting married and having three children.

Unlike millions of other Armenians, Kechejian was able to live a full life, but not without leaving a piece of her heart in her birthplace of Nikhda.

"I miss my father," she said shaking her head. "I miss him."

Kalusdian and Kechejian are two of the four Genocide survivors currently living in the Armenian Home, which once housed up to 21 survivors.

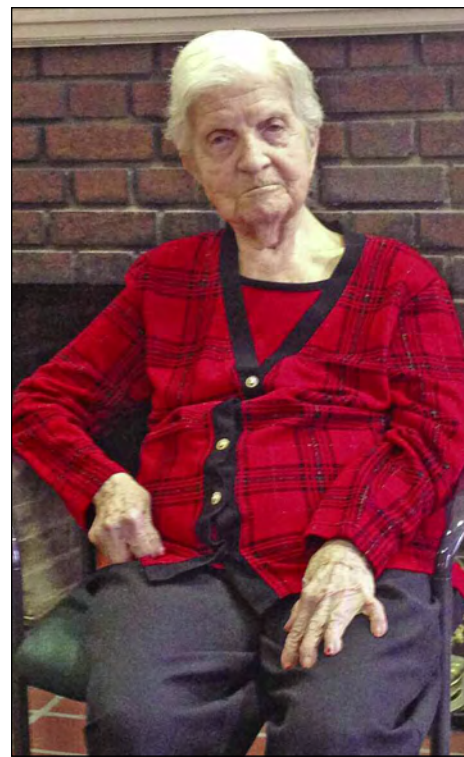
"I lost my grandparents in the Genocide, so I never had any," said Aggie Ellian, executive director of the Armenian Home for the past 17 years. "To me, the survivors here are my parents, grandparents, my children. They're our children."

The Armenian Home, nestled in a quiet street ten miles outside of Manhattan, was founded in 1948 by Sarah Sanossian and is an Armenian-only, private non-funded home for the elderly. Along with Associate Director Jenny Akopyan and a caring and dedicated staff, it provides around the clock care for residents in a culturally rich setting, in particular those who survived the atrocities of the genocide.

"The Armenian Genocide continues to be an 'alleged genocide,'" said Ellian. "But the survivors are still here to tell you it happened."

As the 100th anniversary of the Genocide approaches and the opportunity to hear the survivors' stories in person is quickly diminishing, it is the duty of the following generations to ensure that the survivors' voices do not disappear, and that their brave spirits are honored for years to come.

The 98th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, will be held in Times Square (46th St. and Broadway) on Sunday, April 21, from 2 to 4 p.m.



Charlotte Kechejian

Catholicos Karekin II Will Bestow Highest Church Honor on Nazar and Artemis Nazarian

NEW YORK — On Friday, May 10, Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, will honor two lifelong benefactors of the Armenian Church and the worldwide community.

The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) will co-sponsor the gala evening in honor of Nazar and Artemis Nazarian, at the Plaza Hotel.

Karekin II will preside over the occasion to personally bestow the "Knight of Holy Echmiadzin" Pontifical Medal on the honorees, in grateful recognition of their lifetime commitment, service, and philanthropy both in Armenia and the Diaspora.

The Nazarians' generosity has benefitted countless institutions across the globe, including Holy Echmiadzin, the AGBU and the Eastern Diocese. In addition, the Nazarians have sponsored numerous educational, cultural and religious programs, and have been

strong supporters of Armenia.

The Knight of Holy Echmiadzin Pontifical Medal is the highest lay honor of the Armenian Church, and has only been awarded to a very few recipients since its inception in 2011. Philanthropist Louise Manoogian Simone, past president of the AGBU, was the very first honoree.

"I wish to express my great joy that His Holiness has chosen Nazar and Artemis Nazarian to be in the distinguished company of those who have received this rare honor," said Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian. "The Nazarians are shining examples of our Armenian Christian heritage in action."

"The Nazarians have been noble, influential figures in the American and global Armenian communities," said AGBU President Berge Setrakian. "This event will be a memorable occasion to express our admiration and gratitude as a community in the presence of His Holiness."

Nila Festekjian has accepted the

invitation of Barsamian and Setrakian to chair the organizing committee.

Nazar and Artemis Nazarian are long-time members of the St. Thomas Armenian Church of Tenaflly, NJ, where Nazar Nazarian was among its founders and served on the Parish Council as a Diocesan delegate and on the Board of Trustees. He also served on the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary Board of Directors. The Nazarians have been contributors to both the parish and St. Nersess Seminary.

One of the original godfathers of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York City, Nazar Nazarian has always been supportive of major projects of the Eastern Diocese.

In anticipation of the 1,700th anniversary of Armenia's adopting Christianity, the Nazarians sponsored the construction of the Drtad Madour (Chapel) as part of the mammoth St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral in Yerevan.

They are also benefactors of the AGBU Nubar Nazarian building,

housing the Armenian Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, of the Yerevan State Medical School's Radiology Center and the AGBU headquarters building under construction in Yerevan.

The Nazarians have been active members of the AGBU, where Nazar Nazarian has served for more than 33 years on the Board of Directors as vice president and treasurer. There are Nazarian Halls in AGBU facilities in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Canoga Park, Calif. and Camp Nubar, Andes, NY. The Levon and Satenig Nazarian AGBU Day School in Beirut, Lebanon, was constructed by Nazar and his brothers in honor of their parents, as they have also established the AGBU Levon and Satenig Nazarian Fund.

Nazar and Artemis Nazarian have assisted countless students throughout the United States and in Armenian communities throughout the world.

For information about the banquet, contact the offices of the AGBU or the Diocese.



Arts & Living

AMAA and Lark Musical Society Present 'Music For the Soul'

LOS ANGELES – The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Lark Musical Society have a long history of collaboration bringing high-caliber sacred music concerts to the Armenian communities of Southern California.

These concerts usually take place during the Lenten season and this year was no exception. On March 2, the First United Methodist Church of Pasadena was filled with more than 500 people who were there to hear the sacred music program presented by the Lark Musical Society under the auspices of the AMAA.

The beautiful church with its grand architecture harkened back to the European cathedrals where the musical pieces in the program saw their world premieres centuries ago.

The program started with words of welcome by Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, chairman of the Concert Committee, followed by the invocation by Rev. Ron Tovmassian.

The first piece to be performed was by J.S. Bach, his *Toccata and Fugue in D Minor*, usually played on the organ, was instead performed by the members of the Satin Brass quintet, shedding an interesting and new light upon this epic work. This was followed by Bach's *Motet #5 (BWV. 229), Komm Jesu Komm*, an indescribably complex and awe-inspiring tour de force of counterpoint handled with great confidence and strength by conductor Vatsche Barsoumian and the singers who make up the Lark Geghart Choir.

Next on the program was Mozart's *Motet Exsultate, Jubilate KV 165*, written for soprano and orchestra, performed by the young soprano



Soprano Shoushik Barsoumian and the orchestra

Shoushik Barsoumian. Her performance was of the highest caliber. Her beautiful voice, exquisite coloratura, masterful technique and radiant presence mesmerized the audience, and the applause came long and hard.

Next came one of Bach's most famous concertos, the *Double Violin Concerto in D Minor* (BWV 1043). The soloists were none other than the world famous violinists, husband and wife duo, Movses Pogossian and Varty Manouelian, who were able to bring out all the melodic aspects of the concerto without sacrificing its deeper rhythm of devotion which permeates all of Bach's works.

After the intermission, the stage had been set for the piece that was surely the least known among those which had permeated the walls of the church earlier. Verdi's *Quattro Pezzi Sacri* (Four Sacred Pieces) filled the sacred space to its brink by the colossal set of singers and musicians guided by the able hands of Vatsche Barsoumian. Two of the pieces were sung a capella and even though these were subdued and humble pieces yet they were extremely beautiful. As for the *Stabat Mater* and the *Te Deum* they were accompanied with the large and powerful orchestra and one could easily identify in them Verdi the composer of grand opera. These were some very inspiring as well as uplifting sacred pieces that brought the audience to their feet and left them with an indelible impression.



Nune Melikian, left, and Narine Ojakhyan

New Artists to Participate in Musical Armenia Concert

NEW YORK – The annual, highly anticipated, Musical Armenia concert series presented by the Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Prelacy Ladies Guild, will take place Friday, April 19, at 8 p.m. in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. The high standards of professionalism represented by the roster of artists featured during the past years, continue with this celebratory anniversary concert. Two young musicians are being presented who have already established their presence on the American and international music scenes: Nune Melikian, violinist, born in Siberia, and Narine Ojakhyan, soprano, born in Yerevan.

By Lucy Ishkanian

Melikian, a child prodigy, began her musical studies with piano lessons at the age of 4 and at the age of 6 entered Grigoriy Freivert's violin class. One year later she made her orchestra debut in the Great Hall of the Philharmonic Society of Kazan.

Melikian, a child prodigy, began her musical studies with piano lessons at the age of 4 and at the age of 6 entered Grigoriy Freivert's violin class. One year later she made her orchestra debut in the Great Hall of the Philharmonic Society of Kazan.

Her talent continued to develop in the Central Music School in Moscow, the Gnessin Music College and later at the Moscow conservatory. She received a two-year scholarship to continue her studies at the University of Montreal in Canada with Prof. Vladimir Landsman, receiving her master's degree in 2011. Currently, she is studying with Prof. Albert Markov in New York.

She has performed as soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral violinist throughout Russia, Europe and Canada. She has received grants from the Vladimir Spivakov Musical Fund and the David Oistrakh Musical Fund. Melikian has also participated in music festivals and master classes including the "Stars of XXI century" with Vladimir Spivakov in Moscow Russia, Copenhagen, Denmark and Rome, Italy.

Ojakhyan, a graduate of the Yerevan State Conservatory in the studio of Marianna Harutiunyan, continued her education at the Royal Academy of Music in London and received her post graduate diploma in performance and Master's Degree from the opera program. She has also participated in many prestigious festivals. She has studied with Joy Mammen and Jonathan Papp at the Royal Academy and coached with renowned artists Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Fredrica Von Stade, Barbara Bonney and Dennis O'Neill.

In summer 2012, Ojakhyan was chosen to participate in the Caramoor festival. She has also participated in the Verbier Festival 2010 in Switzerland, performing the operatic roles of Mimi in "La Bohème," Susanna in "Le Nozze di Figaro" under the baton of Sir Colin Davis and John Copley and the title role in "Lucia di Lammermoor" for the Iford Arts in England. She is a winner of several competitions, including the Opera Rara Patric Schmid Bel Canto Prize in London and third-place winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (Western region) in 2010.

Tickets for the concert may be purchased through the Carnegie Hall Box Office or by calling the Prelacy.

St. John's to Host Bohjalian, Dual Remembrance

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – On April 24, St. John Armenian Church will commemorate the 98th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. At 7 p.m. a requiem service will be offered in memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished at the hands of the Ottoman government during 1915 and thereafter.

Survivors of the Genocide residing in the metro Detroit area and beyond will be honored. Following the requiem service, clergy, deacons, choristers and congregation will proceed outdoors for the wreath-laying ceremony by the survivors at the Martyrs' Monument on the church grounds.

The day will also include the dedication of the Baku-Sumgait Memorial Monument on the grounds adjacent to the Martyrs Monument. This new monument commemorates the countless Armenians who died during the Armenian Genocide and Pogroms in Azerbaijan that began 25 years ago in February 1988 in Sumgait and continued in Baku until 1990.

After two years of fundraising and planning, the community of St. John Armenian Church erected the memorial so that Armenians and non-Armenians alike will remember this modern-day Genocide and give it proper recognition and a place in history.

The granite memorial was designed by Arthur Lazaryan of Farmington Hills, Mich., carved in India and engraved in Vermont.

After the dedication service, the clergy will bless the madagh of lamb, and all will be invited to the cultural hall for the traditional madagh dinner in memory of martyrs. All are welcome to share in this complimentary memorial meal.

Author Chris Bohjalian will speak at 8 p.m. The grandson of Armenian survivors, Bohjalian will share his thoughts on this solemn occasion with



Author Chris Bohjalian

reflections on his book, *The Sandcastle Girls*. Bohjalian has based several of his best-selling books on his Armenian experience, including his most recent, *The Sandcastle Girls*, which was published in July 2012.

The book is a love story set in the midst of the Armenian Genocide. It debuted at number seven on the *New York Times* bestseller list. USA Today called it "stirring ... a deeply moving story of survival and enduring love."



ARTS & LIVING

French Art Historian's Taste for Art Influenced by Her Armenian Grandmother

PARIS – The following interview with French art historian Sarah Eftekharian-LaPorte was conducted by journalist and art critic Artsvi Bakhchinyan, who is based in Yerevan.

Bakhchinyan originally met Eftekharian-LaPorte last year in Venice, where she was attending the summer course of Armenian language and culture, organized by Ca' Foscari university. Her interest toward the Armenian culture is being explained not only her professional interests, but also her heritage...

A. B.: Dear Sarah, let's start traditionally: first introduce us please to our readers.

S. L.: I am a French citizen, married, born in 1959 in Teheran in a cosmopolitan family. In Paris, I finished my Master in English Literature and Civilization related in particular with European art of the 16th century in the University of Paris VIII. In the early 90's I left Paris for Brussels because my husband got a job in the European institutions. I finished my PhD in History of Art in the Free University of Brussels. I am now a researcher in CNRS, IHRIS in the University of Lille III, France, and meanwhile I am also collaborating with Prof. Catheline Périer-d'Ieteren (Royal Academy of Belgium) in Brussels for a project on Flemish painters.

A. B.: And the traditional question/ How your interest to the Armenian art begun?

S. L.: My interest for visual arts dates back to early ages, mostly when visiting historical monuments and museums with my mother. But I think that what awakened my interest for Armenian art was the discovery of New Julfa in 1968, at the age of 9, in a very short trip to Ispahan, Iran. Then the flame began burning again in my heart some decades later when I met Arpag Mekhitarian for some translations concerning pieces of art in a Belgian Museum. He knew that I was studying Flemish painting with Prof. Périer-d'Ieteren and Didier Martens at the Free University of Brussels where he had been teaching for a long time. Do you have Armenian among your family members, he asked me. Yes, my granny, I said. Then he showed me the book he had written with Sirarpie Der Nersessian and then the book by John Carswell on New Julfa churches. This book strongly revived my memories of childhood when visiting churches with my granny. Then he added: "Here is the subject of your theses, isn't it?" Now I can confirm!

A. B.: The art of New Julfa is quite specific. How do you determine it in the history of Armenian art?



Sarah Eftekharian-LaPorte

S. L.: There are several turning points in Armenian art which were not yet studied in depth. Most art historians treated this part of Armenian art as a hybrid production and felt that it should not be considered as Armenian because it looks like European art. But New Julfa is specific: with Master Minas, the wall painting tradition began to show its independence towards miniature painting. It is a fundamental break with medieval tradition and still some kind of transition to modernity. It is the cornerstone of modern Armenian art of the 19th century. So to speak, it is like a locomotive which cannot be stopped anymore. It is unique and shall be studied in all its aspects: iconography, influences and even technique whenever possible.

A. B.: It was so interesting to read about your discoveries on European origin of certain Armenian paintings from New Julfa.

S. L.: Western influence on the mural paintings in New Julfa had always been obvious and John Carswell has

done a great job. My contribution, I think, is the fact that I brought evidence for the exact sources and I discovered a lot of new ones, some of them quite "hidden" because they were combined or apparently very different from the painting. And what is interesting is the workshop of Minas, whose artistic skills were unique in his time. Only in the 19th century Armenian artists achieved the same level in mastering the technique of oil painting but this time not in mural painting but on canvas.

A. B.: Have you any contact with Armenian specialists?

S. L.: Of course, I have contacts with Armenian specialists. However I have no particular contacts with specialists in mural paintings and frescoes: in fact, most of my Armenian colleagues are historians or art historians for architecture or manuscripts. I participate regularly in international conferences on Armenian art and culture in Europe and elsewhere and I have mail and e-mail exchanges with them. Some of them visit me when coming in Paris or in Brussels.

A. B.: Tell us please about your Armenian grandmother.

S. L.: My grandmother Anahit was a very fascinating woman. Born in Saint Petersburg in an intellectual family and raised in Paris, she was a well-educated person, a polyglot and with a deep feeling for art. She met my grandfather in the French capital. At that time he was a wealthy merchant and globetrotter. I lost her in early ages because she was very old. But my childhood was full with Armenian stories, music and dance. She had a good knowledge of painting and she loved hearing Armenian and European classical music and as I spent much time with her, I think that my taste for paintings and music is coming from that time and also from my grandmother. Her story of Noah's arch on Ararat is whispering in my ears when I have difficulty in falling asleep.

A. B.: I know you have been in New Julfa, what about Armenia?

S. L.: I was twice in Armenia: once for working on Armenian manuscripts in Matenadaran in 2003 and the second time I was invited by the Ministry of Culture in June 2012 for participating in a conference where I gave a talk.

A. B.: Any new projects regarding Armenian art?

S. L.: Yes, I am writing a book about Armenian art of New Julfa and I hope it will be a starting point for dealing with these aspects of Armenian art as the Art historians did for manuscripts and architecture.

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Saturday, June 1 at 8:00 PM, Symphony Hall, Boston

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Photo Credit: Stu Rosner

Goolkasian Rahbee Works to Be Performed in Woburn, Watertown

WOBURN, Mass. – The *Piano Sonata No. 5, Op. 185 The Kiss of Peace* by composer Dianne Goolkasian Rahbee, commissioned by St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH in 2009, will be performed by pianist Kathryn Rosenbach in two concerts; one at First Baptist Church, 3 Winn St., Woburn, Mass. on Sunday, April 21 at 4 p.m. and the other on Sunday, April 28 at St. John's United Methodist Church, 80 Mt. Auburn St., in Watertown.

Kathryn Rosenbach is an active performer and chamber musician in the Boston area. She has performed throughout the US, Canada and Europe. Rosenbach teaches at the Powers Music School, where she is the chair of the Piano Department, the Lexington Music School and her private studio. She is known for her performances of contemporary music, having premiered works by Nancy Van de Vate, Yehudi Wyner, Lejarin Hiller and Marlos Nobre. Also active as a choir director, Rosenbach is music director at the First Baptist Church of Woburn.

On a program titled "Exploring the Sonata," Rosenbach will also perform three of greatest and most powerful sonatas in the piano repertoire, Mozart's *Sonata K. 576*, Beethoven's *Sonata Op. 31, No. 2 The Tempest* and *Sonata No. 2* by G. Bacewicz.

The message of Goolkasian Rahbee's *Sonata No. 5* is "Let there be Peace among men."

The main theme in the piece is from the Makar Ekmalian *Chant* from the Divine Liturgy

of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the *Kiss of Peace*. This beautiful chant is also used by Goolkasian Rahbee in her *Symphony No. 1*.

Being the fifth sonata written by this composer, the immediate association comes to mind of Beethoven's *Fifth Symphony* and the famous identifying motive which resembles the Ekmalian *Chant* rhythmically.



Dianne Goolkasian Rahbee

In this Sonata, Goolkasian Rahbee has deliberately used the motive to inspire her musical ideas.

Several of her visual art works "Abstract Improvisations" are now on display at the new "Touch" Art and Craft Gallery at 281 Concord Ave., Cambridge.



ARTS & LIVING

Nonny Hogrogian and David Kherdian at ALMA on April 7

WATERTOWN — Author and poet David Kherdian and author/illustrator Nonny Hogrogian are among the brightest stars in the contemporary Armenian firmament of artists, having achieved acclaim and multiple national awards. The opening of Hogrogian's exhibition at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) on April 7 will feature Kherdian reading from his poetry, followed by a dialogue between Kherdian and Hogrogian about their many collaborations and individual works.

A 2012 recipient of the Armenian Star Award, Kherdian's poetry explores emotional and intellectual development, an ever-evolving appreciation of his Armenian immigrant community and the attractions of Racine, Wis., Root River and the lore of fishing. His poetry, memoirs, fiction, biography and children's books include the celebrated *Road From Home: The Story of an Armenian Girl* (Newbery Honor book and other awards), *Asking the River*, *Homage to Adana*, *Letters to My Father*, *Gatherings* and *Forgotten Bread: First Generation Armenian-American Writers*.

One of the few illustrators to win the coveted Caldecott Medal twice, Hogrogian works in a variety of styles, from the stark simplicity of pen and ink to rich colors and intricate designs, the images full of character, warmth and humor. Her many books include *Always Room for One More*, *One Fine Day*, *The Contest*, *Cool Cat*, and one of many collaborations with David Kherdian, *The Golden Bracelet*. The exhibition will include new paintings as well as orig-



Nonny Hogrogian, *The Golden Bracelet*

inal illustrations from a range of Hogrogian's books and are available for purchase. Also for sale will be books by Kherdian and Hogrogian.

This event is co-sponsored by the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) with the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and the Armenian Cultural Foundation (ACF).

The event will take place at ALMA's second-floor gallery on April 7 at 5 p.m. Admission is free. Refreshments will follow the event.

ACF Releases *Astrologer of Karabagh*, A Novel by Platon P. Zubov

ARLINGTON, Mass. — The exotic and mysterious Caucasus has always captured the imagination of writers, artists and travelers. The Russian Empire's southward expansion "stimulated an incomparably rich body of literature and an exceptionally lively engagement with questions of Russian cultural identity."

story, it is based on historical developments in 18th-century Karabagh, which was engulfed in tumult and transformation. This is the first-ever English edition of Zubov's novel. It was previously only translated into Armenian in 1882 by the prominent 19th-century Armenian novelist, Raffi.

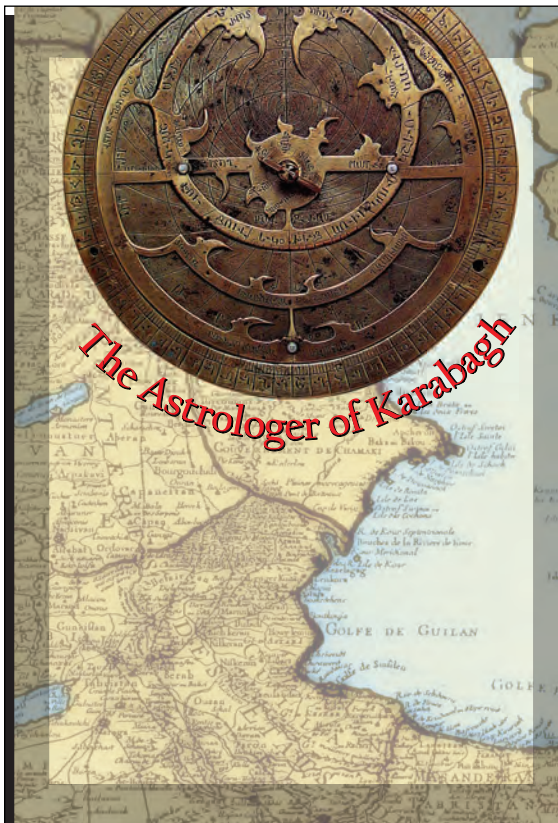
Zubov was born to one of the prominent families in Russia. His literary career, beginning in 1834, spans over two decades and includes 21 major pieces including poetry, songs, quatrains, novels as well as anthologies. *The Astrologer of Karabagh* is perhaps one of his best and yet least-known works.

"The historical novel portrays the historic life-experience of a people. It recounts within its limits how a people has lived and toiled. It highlights its customs, traditions and manners; its intellectual and moral characteristics. In other words, it personifies the man of times past in its original and primordial shape, which has evolved over time and become unrecognizable for the present generation. . . ." These words by the great Raffi (1835-1888) most accurately speak to the significance and role of historical facts in nurturing the mind and enrich the imagination of a novelist.

The Astrologer of Karabagh, though a work of fiction, reflects the realities of a stormy period in the Caucasus where new values and loyalties replaced the old ones and transformed the region forever. It provides food for thought on the power of history in shaping the present.

The Astrologer of Karabagh has been translated from the original Russian by Artashes Emin. With an introduction, annotations and bibliography of Zubov's major works, it is edited by Ara Ghazarians, the curator of the Armenian Cultural Foundation (ACF).

Copies of *The Astrologer of Karabagh* are available for sale at the ACF (acf.hmh@verizon.net) and major Armenian bookstores.



Poster for *Astrologer of Karabagh* by Platon Zubov

Alexander Pushkin's poem, "The Prisoner of the Caucasus," Leo Tolstoy's *Hadji Murat* and works of other Russian literary luminaries, such as Bestuzhev-Marlinsky, Mikhail Lermontov and others who dominated the literary Caucasus in the 1830 and 1840s are among some of the best known.

Written in 1834 by Platon P. Zubov (1796-1857), the early 19th-century Russian novelist, *The Astrologer of Karabagh* is a fascinating historical novel. Shrouded in a passionate love

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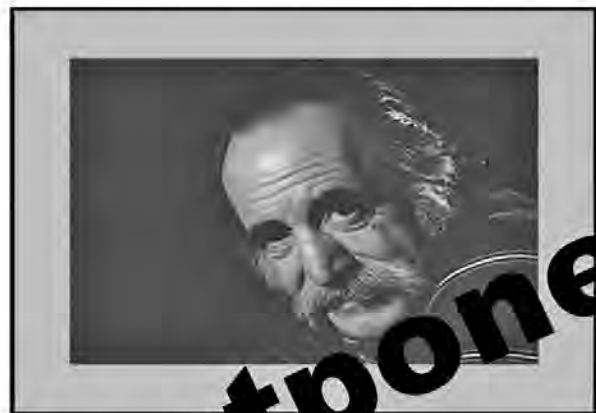
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Wine & Cheese Reception



ARTS & LIVING

Short Film 'Hove' Starring Olympia Dukakis, to Be Released on DVD

NEW YROK — "Hove (The Wind)" is a short film that tells the story of two modern Armenian women and how their lives are shaken by an unexpected encounter with the past, and the unresolved legacy of the Armenian Genocide. The film was selected for some of the most prestigious film festivals in the world including the Montreal, Los Angeles, Palm Springs, Cleveland and Boston World Film Festivals.

It is now released on DVD (available at hovethewind.com). "Hove (The Wind)" has been seen by thousands of people around the globe and I am excited that it is finally available on DVD with some great supporting extra features," said Alex Webb, the writer/director.

The DVD will include interviews with Oscar-winning actress Olympia Dukakis, Shirleyann Kaladjian, Webb and former American Ambassador to Armenia John Evans. The DVD



A poster of the film

of the short film and extras is available for \$10 at the website.

"John Evans was so eloquent in speaking about the legacy of the Armenian Genocide and the culture of denial that we are currently struggling with. It was a fascinating interview for me because the film addresses the current day consequences of this hundred year old genocide and here is this career diplomat sitting right in front of me, whose ambassadorship was effectively ended because he took a courageous stand against its denial," commented Webb.

Dukakis said, "'Hove' doesn't ask for sympathy. What it does do is give you the opportunity to feel deeply what the Genocide means in these people's lives — in all our lives."

C A L E N D A R

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

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 20 — Genocide commemoration and flag-raising, 10 a.m., Lowell City Hall, sponsored by the Armenian National Committee of Merrimack Valley; main speaker, Michelle Hagopian, executive director, Armenian National Committee of America Eastern Region. Please convene at 9:30 for a march downtown

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 Khatchikar in front of the church. A procession will form and march



On April 12, at 7:30 p.m. the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) will host a presentation by Vladimir Tshagharyan, director of above, Shengavit Archaeological Preserve, Dr. Mitchell Rothman, archaeologist, Widener University, Penn and Dr. Susan Pattie, ALMA director, titled "A Stone/ Bronze Age Settlement in Yerevan." Admission is free.

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 Ave., Watertown.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

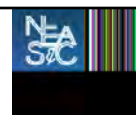
APRIL 6 — Spring Dance Featuring Armenian and American Music; 7-11 p.m. at the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church, 2 Salem St., Salem. All ages welcome. Tickets \$15, available at the door. For info, email janigian@comcast.net.

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.



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COMMENTARY

Erdogan and Oçalan: Odd Bedfellows

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Turkey's rise in power is inversely proportionate with Armenia's interest. And Turkey recently scored two breakthroughs which will enhance its position as a regional superpower. One achievement was on the domestic front and the other, in international relations.

Three decades of bloody conflict between Kurdish liberation forces and the government, which claimed 40,000 casualties – mostly on the Kurdish side – came to a halt with a unilateral cease-fire by the jailed Kurdish leader, Abdullah Oçalan, who is currently serving a life term as a “traitor.”

His organization, the Kurdish Workers' Party (its acronym, PKK in Kurdish) has also been labeled as a terrorist organization and is banned in Turkey. Anyone affiliated with the organization is considered a terrorist.

Basically, PKK has been a national liberation organization having the unique goal of upholding the human and ethnic rights of Turkey's 22-25 million Kurds who have been persecuted by successive Turkish regimes since World War I. The Treaty of Sevres in 1920 had promised freedom and autonomy to the Kurds, which did not materialize, just as the pledges made to the Armenians for an expanded homeland never materialized.

Ironically, Oçalan had anointed his organization as a Marxist movement – perhaps to please his Soviet supporters at that time – providing the excuse to the Turkish government to conveniently call it a terrorist organization and convince the European Union and US to list it with other terrorist organizations.

Although divided into many factions with different – and at times conflicting – goals and ideologies, their leaders have always tried to take advantage of shifting political alliances in the region. Their sustained struggle, at the risk of tremendous sacrifices, seems to be paying off with the creation of a Kurdish region in Northern Iraq, with the creation of an armed autonomous region in Northern Syria, and building pressure in Turkey where many surprising developments are transforming society.

Turkey's mercurial Prime Minister Erdogan reading correctly trends of history resorted to an unprecedented initiative by negotiating with Oçalan, still in prison in Imrali Island for the last 17 years. It looks like the negotiations have yielded some results that Mr. Oçalan issued a statement which was proclaimed on the Kurdish *Novruz* (new year) in Diyarbakir, the unofficial capital of Kurds in Turkey, to a cheering crowd.

Time will tell whether this development is a temporary respite or ruse until the Erdogan-Davutoglu team can achieve its immediate goals, or is a fundamental policy change in resolving Turkey's Kurdish problem.

Erdogan's immediate priority is the removal of one of the main hurdles to Turkey's admission in the European Union, as his government's cruel treatment of the Kurdish minority has given a black eye to his administration. The other goal is to win the support of Kurdish members of the parliament to change the current constitution – a relic from the 1980 military junta – to enhance the president's role and to pave his way for an ascendance to that position.

Last but not least, Turkey hopes to tone down Israel's encouragement of Kurdish aspirations in Iraq and consequently throughout Kurdish-populated regions.

After achieving these goals, Erdogan can deal a devastating blow to Kurdish aspirations from a position of power, or may come to an accommodation, taking into consideration political factors that will be present at the time.

It is not yet known what concession was promised to the Kurds, but one thing is certain, that it has infuriated the Turkish right, mostly represented by Nevlet Bahceli's Grey Wolves Party (*Milli Haraket*), which has accused Erdogan of endangering Turkey's future. In its statement, the party claims that whatever 30 years of Kurdish insurgency could not achieve, Erdogan presented to them on a silver platter: the prospect of Turkey's partition.

This brings us to the other breakthrough which will benefit Turkey, although the credit is given to President Obama. Indeed, minutes before he left Israel for Jordan, Obama mediated between Prime Ministers Erdogan and Netanyahu for the latter to apologize for the Israeli raid on the Turkish-owned and Gaza-bound Mavi Marmara flotilla, which killed nine people.

Israel also promised to compensate the families of two Turkish citizens who had lost their lives during the raid.

The third condition which was set by Turkey to restore relations with Tel Aviv was to ease the miserable conditions in Gaza. Israel made some vague promises to allow some food items and medicines to reach the suffering population of Gaza. That was more to appease the UN and outraged international community than Erdogan himself, although the Arab masses gave credit to the Turkish leader.

Although Tel Aviv and Ankara had been working through back channels for the last two years to restore broken diplomatic relations, the breakthrough was used as a feather in Mr. Obama's cap to add some drama to his trip to Israel, since he had been going to the region empty handed. His primary aim was to put to rest Israel's

reservations about his policies and above all to thank Prime Minister Netanyahu for refraining from meddling in the US presidential election, which could have cost Obama his second term.

Obama's trip was the straw that broke the camel's back in the Middle East peace process; until his trip the US official policy and the president's personal position was that Israeli settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem presented an impediment to the peace process. This time around, not only did he not renounce that policy, on the contrary, he advised Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to resume negotiations even though Israel may continue its policy of settlement expansion.

After Obama left Israel, Mark Ragen, Netanyahu's spokesman, bluntly announced, “Mr. Obama's visit has not shifted Israel's position.” In fact, Israel was thumbing its nose at both to Obama and Erdogan, but that charade had already inflamed the Palestinian and Arab imagination, crediting Erdogan as the champion of the Palestinian cause.

Yesterday's jailed terrorist in Turkey overnight became the interlocutor of the country's prime minister, who began his negotiations with the Kurdish leader through his internal security agency, MIT.

It is interesting that in his call for a cease fire, Oçalan, an avowed Marxist-atheist invokes the Muslim religion as a common bond between the Kurds and the Turks. He also refers to Fethullah Gulen, Erdogan's nominal opponent, who has been successful in running hundreds of charter schools throughout the US.

Oçalan's statement does not advocate a “farewell to arms.” It only proclaims a ceasefire, asking PKK militants to leave Turkish soil and wait for the government's corresponding steps. The PKK's military leaders have positively responded to Oçalan's call, effectively solidifying his position as their spokesman.

Erdogan's plans are anyone's guess. Among the many rumors are that Oçalan's life sentence may be commuted to house arrest, some cautious steps may be taken to demilitarize the Kurdish region, Kurdish schools and publications may be allowed without any autonomous local self-government, which may expedite the independence movement.

What do all these developments mean for Armenia and Armenians? To begin with, the Kurds – who seem to be apologetic for their ancestors' grisly role in executing the Genocide – will their apology translate into a territorial compromise with Armenia? Recently Ahmed Turk, a Kurdish member of the parliament in Turkey, had apologized for Kurdish participation in persecuting Armenians. It is very doubtful that should the Kurds achieve independence, they would be willing to cede an inch of their newly-liberated homeland, which squarely sits on historic Armenian territory, because Armenians have not played a significant role in their liberation. Perhaps some compromise may be reached in salvaging, preserving and rebuilding Armenian architectural monuments, deliberately destroyed by the Turkish government over a full century, or converted into mosques, movie theaters, jails and stables.

Erdogan's government will come out the winning party in all these developments, with enhanced prospects for joining the European Union, which has put on the back burner its earlier condition of Turkey's recognizing the Armenian Genocide.

After restoring relations with Israel, Turkey will become one of the two strongest pillars of US hegemony in the Middle East. Turkey was able to cripple Greece's economy with its unrelenting arms race, and these days, economic collapse also has been visiting Cyprus, a Turkish victim of aggression, losing its northern sector to that nation, where a sham republic has been set up. Therefore, coupled with a booming economy, Turkey will clamor for the role of regional super power, challenging any party that would ask its leadership to recognize the Armenian Genocide or lift the crippling blockade of Armenia. Turkey's status will further embolden President Ilham Aliyev in his belligerent rhetoric or even encourage him into an armed conflict with Armenia.

It is incumbent upon the Armenian leadership to have a sober assessment of these developments and put its house in order, rather than be carried away with internecine fights. The Turkish media and government agencies have been gleefully announcing that the “Arab Spring has jumped to Armenia.”

The Arab Spring – or rather the nightmare – has brought a continuing bloodbath to Iraq and Libya, has pushed Egypt to the brink of disintegration and has been knocking at the door in Damascus, with the same anticipated results. Meanwhile, despotic regimes in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Qatar – euphemistically called “moderate regimes” – are hard at work to destroy Arab sovereign governments and let their peoples fight each other and thus refrain from bothering Israel.

A conniving media is also at work, vilifying the people of these countries accusing them of not being able to govern themselves, oblivious to the fact that turmoil in those countries is often introduced – if not abetted – externally, with flagrant armed interventions, like Iraq and Libya yesterday, Syria today and perhaps Iran tomorrow.

Any kind of “spring” can promise mayhem to Armenia and comfort to Turkey.

As we can see, the “love affair” between two odd bedfellows has broader regional ramifications, with ominous fallout for Armenia.

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Experts Meet in Yerevan to Strategize For Armenian Genocide Centenary

More than 40 Armenian Genocide specialists from nine countries met in Yerevan March 22-23 to strategize on how to devise a legal framework to mitigate the consequences of the Genocide, counter Turkish denialism and organize genocide studies programs and museum exhibits. The conference was organized by the State Commission coordinating activities leading to the 100th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

In his message to the conference, President Serge Sargsian expressed regret that the Armenian Genocide has gone unpunished which paved the way for the Jewish Holocaust. He hoped that the 100th anniversary would be an occasion to demonstrate Armenian unity and resolve to alleviate the consequences of the Genocide, secure restorative justice, and pass on to the next generation new methods of struggle and survival. The president welcomed the fact that more conscientious elements of Turkish society are shattering the wall of silence and denialism, and reexamining the revisionist policies of their country. The President asked conference participants to recommend suggestions to the State Commission for the commemora-

tion of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Here is a summary of the comments made by some of the genocide experts participating in the March 22-23 conference:

Israeli scholar Yair Auron criticized the State of Israel for not recognizing the Armenian Genocide, pointing out, however, that a large segment of the Israeli public acknowledges it. Having experienced a similar tragic fate during the Holocaust, Israel should have been the first country to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, stated Professor Auron.

Historian Richard Hovannisian of Los Angeles urged the State Commission to plan artistic and cultural events rather than academic conferences to reach out to more people around the world. He suggested organizing a pan-Armenian philharmonic orchestra that would tour the world during the months leading to April 24, 2015. He also expressed the concern that the Turkish government is better prepared to counter the Centenary activities than Armenians are in planning them.

Hayk Demoyan, secretary of the State Commission and director of the Genocide Museum in Yerevan, presented to conference participants the plans for the expansion of the museum by 2015.

Prof. Vahakn Dadrian of New York commented that when a denialist country is weak, it accepts its crimes more easily. As long as Turkey remains a powerful country, it will not recognize the Armenian Genocide, Dadrian observed.

Researcher Mihran Minassian from Aleppo, Syria, suggested that commemorative events be jointly observed with Greeks and Assyrians. He pointed out that Turkish denialists had not accused members of these two ethnic groups of joining the Russian Army or forming armed bands, yet they too became victims of mass violence and genocide.

Prof. Nikolay Hovannisyan of Yerevan explained that contrary to popular belief, the Ottoman Empire, not Uruguay,

was the first country to recognize the Armenian Genocide through court verdicts in 1919-1926. Uruguay's Parliament recognized the Armenian Genocide in 1965.

Vladimir Vardanyan, Head of International Treaties Department of Armenia's Constitutional Court, stated that the concept of Crimes Against Humanity was first used on May 24, 1915 in a joint declaration issued by Britain, France and Russia, warning Turkish officials that they would be held responsible for the Armenian massacres. Similarly, after World War II, the Nuremberg Tribunal accused Nazi war criminals of committing Crimes Against Humanity rather than genocide. Vardanyan suggested that the Republic of Armenia set up a permanent state body that would research and develop the legal framework for the pursuit of genocide-related demands from Turkey in international courts.

Ragip Zarakolu, a prominent Turkish human rights activist from Istanbul who has been frequently jailed for publishing Armenian Genocide books, spoke about the "growing denial industry in Turkey." He suggested that denialism encouraged terrorism in Turkey.

As a participant in the Genocide conference, I spoke about the need to pursue "justice" rather than mere "genocide recognition," which has already been accomplished. The concept of justice comprises all Armenian demands from Turkey: moral, financial and territorial restitution.

I also suggested that before planning any specific activities for the Genocide Centenary, Armenians worldwide first develop a single message and agreed upon set of goals. Otherwise, they would be sending mixed messages to Turkey and the international community as to what they really want and seek to accomplish on April 24, 2015.

Finally, the pursuit of Armenian demands must not end in 2015. They should persist in seeking their just demands from Turkey until they accomplish "justice" for their cause!

THE EASTER MESSAGE OF ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN

Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

They had witnessed the resurrection of the Lord; received his triumphant assurance about mankind's salvation. Yet the disciples still did not understand that there was a further role for them to play. At their Master's urging they gathered on a mountaintop, and there listened to the last earthly words of Jesus Christ, before he ascended to his Father in heaven:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. For I, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20).

Christ's final command, known as the Great Commission, marked a turning point in the activity of the early Christians. Previously, Jesus and his followers had never ventured more than a hundred miles from the place of Christ's birth. But now the disciples were commanded to travel the world, spreading the Good News to all nations. The "disciples" — followers and students of Jesus — would become "apostles": teachers, advocates, and living examples who would bring Christ's message — and Christ himself — to the rest of the world.

What they carried with them in their missionary travels — which included travel to our homeland of Armenia — were their personal memories of living side-by-side with Jesus, throughout his earthly ministry. They forged the church as the vessel which would transmit the Gospel message down through the ages. And through it, we too have been given the opportunity to stand alongside those early followers of our Lord. In the mystical setting of the church, we can enter the Gospel stories at the crucial moments of our Lord's ministry. We can listen to him, and learn from him, as his disciples did.

This is especially true of the profound drama we enter every year during the church's sacred observance of Holy Week. From Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday, each service leads us, in heart and mind, to stand among Jesus and his disciples.

We stand with them in the Upper Room, where Christ taught the deepest meaning of leadership, when he washed the feet of his disciples as a humble servant. Christ asked them

to "do as I have done," and he asks the same of us. We are called to serve — and we must consider: How will we serve the Lord — not just today, but in the course of a lifetime?

We follow our Lord into the Garden, where he was abandoned, betrayed, and disappointed by those he loved. With his disciples, we hear

den of suffering has always been felt by God's people — as it was surely felt by our own Armenian ancestors. In their memory, we bear witness that we are called to be at the cross. And having stood in the cross' shadow, we must reflect on the meaning that Christ's crucifixion holds for us, as individuals and as a people.

Christ taught the deepest meaning of leadership, when he washed the feet of his disciples as a humble servant. Christ asked them to "do as I have done," and he asks the same of us. We are called to serve — and we must consider: How will we serve the Lord — not just today, but in the course of a lifetime?

his plea: "Stay here, and watch with me." And we learn that we are asked to stay with Christ — against the distractions, temptations, and opposition of the world. We must honestly ask ourselves: Have we lived up to his simple request?

We stand among the crowd at the Crucifixion, viewing with horror and pity our Lord's passion. We are reminded that the bur-

Finally, we stand at the Tomb — the one place where Jesus is not present. "He is not here; he is risen!" was the angel's amazing announcement to the women who arrived at the tomb early on the first Easter Sunday; and he followed it with these words: "Go and tell the others." At last we stand face-to-face with the miracle of Easter, and its lesson could hardly be more direct: we are commanded to go and tell.

This is the journey of the spirit we should embark upon, as a church, through Holy Week and Easter. It culminates in our proclamation of the Gospel: the Good News of Christ's victory over sin and death. In our own Diocese, throughout the coming months, we will strive to deepen our understanding of the Good News, and equip ourselves to share it with others — in word and deed — through this year's theme: "Living the Gospel of Christ."

In the most basic sense, to live the Gospel is to recognize that there is a further role for us to play in Christ's mission. He invites us to draw near to him as disciples, but he also sends us out as apostles. "Go forth and make new disciples..." said our Lord in the Great Commission. "Go and tell..." said the angel at the Empty Tomb. We are asked to take up this mission as believers who have stood with Jesus and accepted him into our hearts. And as we stand with him, we should be aware that Jesus stands with us, also. For did he not promise that "I am with you always — even unto the end of the world"?

That is the great lesson, the beautiful promise, which unfolds before us during Holy Week. It is the truth we should hold in our hearts this Easter Sunday, as we go forth into the world, fulfilling the angel's command with our joyous greeting:

**Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh harootiunun Krisdosee!
Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!**

(Easter 2013)

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 *MS* 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.



Armenian Heritage Foundation Launches 'I Care Campaign' for Endowment Fund

BOSTON – The Armenian Heritage Foundation, sponsor of the Armenian Heritage Park, has launched the "I Care" Endowed Fund Campaign. (See photo on page 1.)

Unfortunately, due to the poor investment climate, the foundation must again reach out to the community and our supporters who have given in the past to build the park, to now ask for their support for the park's annual care and maintenance.

The goal is to raise an additional \$1.25 million to build the fund to \$2 million, in order to generate the annual interest required to ensure the park's annual care and maintenance, with current estimates at \$82,000 annually.

To date, \$750,000 of the \$2 million has been raised.

As the park is a gift from the Massachusetts Armenian community to the City of Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, there remains the Foundation's responsibility for the annual care and maintenance of the Park in perpetuity.

After almost nine years in the making, the park exemplifies the perseverance and the generosity of the Armenian community.

The foundation acknowledges and appreciates the past support received from the Armenian community of Massachusetts and beyond, which made the creation of this park possible. The foundation could not have achieved its goals without the support of the community.

The park shall forever stand in tribute to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, and validate the courage of our ancestors, who were forced to leave their homeland, travel to these shores and begin life anew.

Everyone is encouraged to contribute. Those interested in contributing may either contribute on-line at the secure website, www.ArmenianHeritagePark.org or by sending a check, made payable to the Armenian Heritage Foundation, to Armenian Heritage Foundation, 25 Flanders Road, Belmont, MA 02478.

Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

To arrange a visit or for more information, call or email a member of the Committee: James Kalustian 617-899-4309 jkalu@comcast.net, Haig Deranian (617) 484-9456 hkd.deran@gmail.com, Charles Guleserian (617) 484.6100 mgmcos@msn.com, George Elanjian (781) 888-2227, cgelanjian@yahoo.com, Walter Nahabedian (781) 891-7249, wnaha@verizon.net or Barbara Tellalian (617) 332-1880, Barbara@Tellalian.com

For photos of the Park and information on programs, visit www.armenianheritagepark.org for photos and information on programs.

ALMA to Host CYSCA Panel on Stone-Bronze Age Settlement

CYSCA, from page 1

the northern Caucasus, southern Russia and northern Mesopotamia.

The earliest excavations were performed in 1936 by Joseph Orbelli (1887 -1961,) an expert on the history of the southern Caucasus, the director of Leningrad's Hermitage Museum from 1934 to 1951 and the first president of the Armenian Academy of Sciences.

Along with Orbelli, scholar Eugeni Bayburtian, participated in studying the site until he was declared "an enemy of the people" by Stalin's secret police. Bayburtian was arrested and never seen again.

Later Sandro Sardaryan and Yuri Tamanian studied the site. In 1967, Sardaryan published his English language study, "Primitive Society in Armenia." There are few other studies of this site in the English language.

The site is a 10-15 minute taxi drive from Yerevan.



Shengavit site with US Embassy in background

This event is part of CYSCA's participation in the Cambridge Science Festival. CYSCA is joined in this effort by ALMA and the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

ADL, Tekeyan Activist Arsen Demerjian Dies

DEMERJIAN, from page 1

After graduating from high school, Arsen Demerjian attended the American University of Beirut for two years before transferring to Fresno to attend college.

Eventually, he settled in Chicago and started Sayat Nova Armenian Restaurant on Ohio Street, off the Magnificent Mile.

He and his wife, Karen, had three sons, though tragically they lost one child to leukemia. Ruben and Gregory and their families were the center of the world of Arsen and Karen Demerjian.

Arsen Demerjian had boundless dedication to his Armenian heritage. He was wellread and appreciated and supported generously Armenian editors and writers, underwriting the cost of their books, especially volumes on history.

He was deeply interested in the Armenian daily *Azg* in Yerevan and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*. He was a one-man volunteer battalion to publicize the *Mirror-Spectator*, which he read religiously every week, offering his blunt opinions, both praise and criticism, whenever he deemed it necessary.

His restaurant also served as a political forum for Armenian leaders and major news media editors, with Demerjian speaking about history and the Genocide. Over time, several feature articles and editorials were published

in the *Chicago Tribune* on topical Armenian issues, inspired by Arsen.

He was active in his parish in Chicago and was one of the most dedicated members of the Tekeyan Cultural Association's Central Board and the ADL District Committee of the US and Canada.

Demerjian was a political icon nicknamed "Mr. ADL."

A few weeks before his passing, while attending an ADL District Committee meeting in Boston, he suddenly remembered that it was his birthday. Over dinner, candles were lit to celebrate his 80th birthday, surrounded by his beloved ADL family.

Over the years, he had survived a bout with cancer and other afflictions. Every time he was hospitalized and discharged, he would say, with his wry sense of humor, "These are the hazards of being born early."

And indeed, one of those hazards took him down the road of no return.

(The staff of the *Mirror-Spectator*, the Central Committee of the Tekeyan Cultural Association and the ADL District Committee extend their heartfelt condolences to his widow, Karen, his sons Ruben and Gregory and their families, and his brothers, Dr. Armen and Levon and their families and the family of his pre-deceased sister, Nver Tatouljan.)

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)