

THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXIV, NO. 33, Issue 4327

\$ 2.00

The First English Language Armenian Weekly in the United States Since 1932

Post-Election Protests' Anniversary Marked By Opposition Rally

By Gohar Abrahamyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – The appeal by opposition Armenian National Congress (ANC) leader Levon Ter-Petrosian to Armenia's non-governing political forces for the formation of a common format has not yet elicited official responses, but members of the parties in question have expressed a mostly positive attitude towards such a possibility.

On March 1, the day marking the sixth anniversary of the 2008 post-election violence in which 10 people were killed, the ANC and its ally, People's Party of Armenia, held a rally. In his speech at the rally Ter-Petrosian praised the current parliamentary cooperation among the minority forces, including the ANC, the Prosperous Armenia Party (PAP), the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) and Heritage. He said that their future joint initiatives and actions could "dramatically change the balance of forces within the country, creating the basis for a radical transformation of the political system in Armenia."

Speaking to reporters on Monday, ANC parliamentary faction secretary Aram Manukyan said that Ter-Petrosian's speech clearly indicates that "we want to form a unified format, will wait for the reaction of political and civil forces and if there is a positive response we will continue that format."

During last month's convention of the PAP, a party that has declared itself to be

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Edgar Martirosyan, left, with Academy Awards host Ellen DeGeneres on Sunday

And the Oscar Goes to.... Armenian-Owned Los Angeles Pizza Chain

By Tiffany Hsu

LOS ANGELES (LA Times) – Burbank-based pizza chain Big Mama's & Papa's already held a modicum of fame before Sunday night's Oscar telecast as the home of the largest pizza commercially available worldwide.

But even a \$200, Guinness World Record-holding, 54-inch-squared pie couldn't hope to provide the surge of fame bestowed rather suddenly on the company mid-telecast by Academy Awards host Ellen DeGeneres.

Big Mama's & Papa's Oscar debut is by now well recounted: DeGeneres offered to buy pizzas for the assembled A-listers and then pulled a grinning deliveryman with a stack of three boxes onto the Dolby Theatre stage.

And grease stains on couture gowns and bespoke tuxes be darned. Bold-faced names such as Julia Roberts, Meryl Streep and Jennifer Lawrence chowed down at their seats.

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Razmik Panossian Brings Vision to Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

BELMONT, Mass. – Late last year, Dr. Razmik Panossian, the new head of the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Portugal, made waves by issuing a detailed five-year plan for the organization. The statement was noteworthy for many reasons, including emphasis on aiding the Armenian Diaspora in keeping Western Armenian alive through very specific actions.

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

During an interview before his scheduled lecture at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) on February 13, he spoke about the inception of the plan a year ago, its evolution and the initial stages of its execution.

His plan is clearly striking a chord with the community, as NAASR was packed on a night with very inclement weather.

The Armenian Communities division of the foundation has a budget of \$3.5 million annually.

"When I stated this job, one of the first things was my boss said we need a plan. He gave me some strategic guidelines but I said we need a real guideline here," he said.

The four main elements in his plan are language and culture, supporting youth and civil society in Armenia, Turkish-Armenian relations and preserving Armenian literary heritage.

"Western Armenian is going to disappear unless this generation does something about it," he said at the NAASR talk.

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Dr. Razmik Panossian

Azg Newspaper Resumes Publication

YEREVAN – Azg daily, the Armenian Mirror-Spectator's sister publication, which launched its first edition on February 16,



1991, was in print regularly for 23 years. However, financial problems caused a temporary interruption after the recent New Year break. The paper owed taxes to the government, and money to the printers and employee, despite generous contributions from Ara Abrahamian, its main benefactor.

While the paper was published daily, its existence was taken for granted, but its absence was felt throughout the media and many inquires were posted. Azg enjoys a global readership, thanks to its online edition. Its reappearance was a welcome relief for the general readership, diplomats, scholars and politicians, since the hallmark of the paper has been thoughtful, balanced and unbiased journalism, with a broad worldview.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Schiff Hosts Event Honoring Relief Efforts For Genocide Victims

WASHINGTON – On Monday, March 3, Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), a lead sponsor of the Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Resolution (H.Res.227), hosted a Capitol Hill event honoring America's relief efforts to the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

The spirit of American care and compassion for the victims of the Armenian Genocide is perhaps best symbolized by the Armenian Orphan Rug, a work of art crafted by young survivors and gifted to the White House by the Near East Relief.

Regrettably, this symbol of American generosity has yet to be released for display by the White House.

Attending were Armenian American community leaders and Members of Congress including Representatives Schiff, Anna Eshoo, Jackie Speier, Judy Chu, David Valadao, Frank Pallone, Brad Sherman, Dina Titus, Tony Cardenas, David Cicilline and Jim Costa. Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian delivered the keynote address.

South Dakota Rejects Anti-Armenian Measure

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. – The South Dakota House of Representatives tabled action on an anti-Armenian resolution initiated by Azerbaijan, reported Armenian National Committee of America – Western Region (ANCA-WR).

Sources from the State Capitol said that following a discussion in the House Republican Caucus on Monday, February 24, the sponsor of the resolution, state Rep. Lance Russell, agreed to defer and ultimately officially withdrew the measure.

"It's unfortunate this resolution made it this far in our process but the positive side of that is there are now 105 legislators in South Dakota who got a real earful on the plight of persecuted Armenian Christians," explained Rep. Steve Hickey (R-09).

"We are deeply gratified that the elected leaders of yet another US state have stood up to the oil-rich and corrupt President of Azerbaijan's efforts to export his hateful anti-Armenian campaign to the American heartland," said Elen Asatryan, ANCA-WR executive director.

In the days leading up to the vote, the ANCA-WR worked with local activists to alert state legislators about Azerbaijan's efforts to use the Khojalu issue to somehow enlist South Dakota in its increasingly virulent campaign against Armenia.

"Having found safety and the blessing of freedom here in South Dakota – after having been driven from my home by the Azerbaijani government's brutality – I am deeply thankful that my state legislators, today, took a principled stand against intolerance, lies and hatred," said Vazgen Mikhayelyan of Sioux Falls, who was among those opposing the measure, including Igor Avetisov and Bella Musayelyan.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Armenia Finance Ministry Hosts US Ambassador

YEREVAN (News.am) – Finance Minister Davit Sargsian and US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern met on Tuesday and conferred on the results of the session of the Armenian-American Intergovernmental Commission on Economic Issues, which was convened last year in Washington, DC.

The upcoming plans for the new year include cooperation on energy diversification and water resource management, and activities toward increasing bilateral trade and investment and improving the business climate, informs the Finance Ministry Information and Public Relations Department.

Armenia will continue its cooperation with the US government in the training and assistance programs.

Azerbaijan Returns Armenian Captive

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Mamikon Khojoyan, a citizen of Armenia who had been interned in Baku, Azerbaijan, returned to Armenia under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on March 4. The ICRC said that Khojoyan, 77, was placed in the care of Armenian officials on the road between the Azerbaijani town of Gazakh and the Armenian town of Ijevan, at the international border.

ICRC delegates had visited the man prior to his repatriation in order to assess the conditions in which he was being held and the treatment he received. Representatives of the organization had also been in contact with his family in Armenia. Acting as a neutral intermediary and in accordance with its mandate, the ICRC facilitated this repatriation in conjunction with the Azerbaijani and Armenian authorities. On the basis of its mandate under the Geneva Conventions, the ICRC has been working in the region since 1992 in connection with the Nagorno Karabagh conflict. An alarm was received on the disappearance of Karmiraghbyur resident, Khojoyan. He was last seen at an event in the village on January 28. He has three sons and three daughters but he lived alone despite health problems. He was registered in the last 2-3 years and was under the control of physicians. Azerbaijani APA News Agency on January 28 informed about the citizen who crossed the Armenian-Azerbaijani contact line who by the characterization of the press service of the Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan was “armed subversive.”

Secretary of the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons Shahin Sayilov noted that the residents of Ali Beil village, Tovuz region, noticed the Armenian citizen crossing the river and handed him to Azerbaijani servicemen.

Georgia's President Visits Echmiadzin and Old Army Friend

ECHMIADZIN (Armenpress) – Georgian President Giorgi Margvelashvili, who paid a two-day official visit to Armenia, visited Echmiadzin and met his friend from the army years, Robert Abrahamyan. Armenpress reports that the President inserted photos of the meeting in his official facebook page and wrote a note that he is very happy to meet his old and dear friend again.

Margvelashvili wrote that he got acquainted with Abrahamyan casually in the street at the course of serving in the military unit of Echmiadzin and they have been in friendly relations up till now. According to the President of Georgia he could not visit his old friend who took care of him in his own house for six months. He wrote on his page that the Armenian-Georgian relations are historical and the best reflection of those historical relations is their friendship.

Activists Protest Construction of Café Near only Pre-Christian-Era Temple

GARNI (ArmeniaNow) – Passions are heating up around controversial construction of a café in the territory of the Historical and Cultural Reserve-Museum in Garni, which is some 30 kilometers to the east of Yerevan.

On Sunday, a group of young people removed the sand and road-metal from what had been turned into a construction site near the Royal Bath area at Garni, the only preserved pre-Christian temple in Armenia. They brought a few sandbags to Yerevan and put them in front of the Ministry of Culture building as a sign of protest directed against Minister Hasmik Poghosyan, whom activists hold responsible for allowing the controversial construction.

The activists also warned that if the ministry fails to halt the construction in the territory of the unique monument, they would take more serious steps. They did not elaborate.

The Garni castle dates back to the 3rd-2nd centuries BC, and the Greek-Roman temple built in the first century BC, which is the compositional center of the castle constructions, is the only pagan temple to have been preserved in Armenia after the country adopted Christianity in 301 AD. It was razed in a 17th-century earthquake, but was restored during 1969-1975.

The Ministry of Culture explains the construction of a café near the monument by the need to develop tourism, at the same time giving assurances that the revenues made by the café will be directed at the repairs of the paved road leading to the ancient site.

“Today our cultural-historical and natural heritage should work for the benefit of tourism development, we have no other way,” said Poghosyan.

It is not only environmentalists that are opposing the project. Also against it are many in the community, its mayor, as well as a small group of Armenian pagans, who hold their rites and rituals inside this temple. These people point out that in accordance with the Armenian legislation, construction in the territories of historical-cultural monuments is prohibited. Besides the archaeological site has not been fully explored yet, and construction work could heavily damage the different cultural layers that are present there, they argue.

In response, representatives of the Ministry of Culture announced that no permanent construction was being carried out in that territory, while the café would be of a seasonal and portable nature, meaning that it would operate only from May to October. It stressed that the café construction project was, therefore, not illegal.

Director of the Historical-Cultural Reserve-Museum and Historical Environment Conservation Service state non-commercial organization Vladimir Poghosyan cited as more proof the findings of archeologists: “There are no remains of cultural layers and buildings in the area in question.”

Member of the Public Council, Director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Hayk Demoyan,

meanwhile, does not share this opinion.

“Even those who have superficial knowledge of archeology realize that the location chosen for the café is just eight meters away from the bath built in ancient times and will be built in an area that is four meters higher than the bath,” Demoyan wrote on his Facebook page. “It means that if the café is built, it will endanger the cultural layer relating to a period from the late Middle Ages to the Neolithic Era. Explanations about attracting tourists to the ancient site and getting some money from it are beneath criticism. Simple math calculations show that those who visit the Garni site during the tourist season ensure a daily revenue of \$1,000 to \$1,500, which is not a small sum and is quite sufficient for improving the area.”

Azg Resumes Publication

AZG, from page 1

After two months' interruption and more soul-searching, the paper's administration decided to return to publishing, but in a weekly format, with the first issue appearing on February 28.

Azg daily introduced many innovations into Armenia's news media, which remained entrenched in the backwardness of the Soviet era.

The ADL leadership in the US and Canada secured the necessary funds to introduce a modern approach to publishing, such as new computers and software specific to newspapers. They approached the newspaper as a business, a novelty in the entire Caucasus region.

Veteran journalist Hagop Avedikian, the former editor of Beirut's *Zartok* daily, moved to Yerevan and there he found a young and dynamic team of journalists. While introducing innovations in modern journalism, Azg became a virtual school for future journalists and diplomats, who today represent Armenia in diplomatic missions around the world or have risen to prominence in the news media in their own rights.

Azg can pride itself in heralding Western-style journalism in Armenia, single-handedly. Not only did its design and format reflect freshness, but also its content elevated the presentation of

news and analysis to a professional level. It also opened a window into world affairs and Diasporan life, areas that had been severely restricted during the Soviet period.

All these innovations skyrocketed its circulation to an unprecedented 40,000.

The daily used to contain eight pages. Today, the weekly will comprise 16 pages.

The change is necessitated not only by the scarcity of funds but also by the evolving technological changes in journalism. Media-savvy Armenian readers now feed on a diet of instant news. Fewer and fewer readers have the patience to wait for the news for 24 hours. No print media can claim a proprietary position in newsgathering and dissemination. Therefore, the editorial team has decided to render the publication into an analytical weekly, featuring its flagship cultural supplement and bringing the world affairs and Diaspora Armenian life into focus.

Unfortunately, the majority of publications in Armenia are restricted to a myopic view of the Armenian world, dedicated, most of the times to sensationalism and trivia.

Azg weekly retains its team of prominent and professional contributors, headed by the dean of Armenian journalists, Avedikian.

Post-Election Protests' Anniversary Marked By Opposition Rally

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an alternative to the current government, its leader Gagik Tsarukyan also called for political consolidation. Opposition Heritage Party leader Raffi Hovannisian also made a similar appeal recently.

PAP lawmaker, former foreign minister Vartan Oskanian commented on the March 1 rally on his Facebook account, writing that “the country is in a difficult situation and there is only one way out of this situation – it is the way of consolidation of the people, the active civil

society and political forces, and joint efforts.”

PAP faction secretary Naira Zohrabyan told Zham.am that a significant part of the emphases made in speeches at the rally were “consonant with the concerns voiced by PAP representatives, with problems raised and proposals made by them.” “And in this sense I see a wide field of cooperation at all levels,” she added.

Deputy head of the Heritage party Armen Martirosyan also positively assessed the call for unity.

“It is positive if we can develop a common agenda and a roadmap together. At this moment there are two important steps – one is a change of power and the other is agreement around further reforms,” Martirosyan said.

Dashnaksutyun representatives did not immediately comment on Ter-Petrosian's proposals.

Meanwhile, members of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) believe that the non-governing forces will never be able to unite as they have

different ideologies and principles.

Deputy speaker of parliament, RPA spokesman Eduard Sharmazanov once again called Ter-Petrosian a “political pensioner”, a reference to the fact that the former president refused to participate in the 2013 presidential race citing his age as the reason.

Armenian Center for National and International Studies expert Edgar Vardanyan believes that there is a fair chance of successful cooperation if the non-governing forces manage to find a format in which civil initiatives and political parties will be able to cooperate with each other with equal rights. Similarly, he said, if any of the forces tries to dictate to the rest, this cooperation will be in doubt.

“It is very important that the format is transparent, that it has accountability, that its decision-making process is presented to the public. If it is not like this, this cooperation will be very vague and will be limited only to interaction in parliament on one issue or another,” Vardanyan said.

Correction

An article about the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) incorrectly identified Dr. Garry Zamanigian as living in Chicago. Indeed, he and his wife live in Bloomfield Hills, Mich.



INTERNATIONAL

Turkey's Armenians in Crisis over Patriarch

By Orhan Kemal Cengiz

ISTANBUL (AI monitor) – Turkey's Armenian community is eagerly awaiting the outcome of a lawsuit at the Council of State, the country's top administrative court, that is likely to have a major impact on how the

Turkey's Armenian community exposes the Turkish state's political machinations in dealing with this minority.

In one headline, for instance, Agos depicts Aram Atesyan as patronizing and calls him "archbishop" to make clear it does not recognize him as acting patriarch. The article further underscores the paper's rejectionist position: "In an interview with the Jamanak

and the patriarchate's financial accounts are the latest example of his self-righteous attitude."

The newspaper Taraf has also reported on the community's objections to Atesyan. In a February 15 article, "Crisis in Patriarch's Election," Sebu Aslangil, one of the lawyers in charge of the lawsuit at the Council of State, is quoted as saying, "The Interior Ministry imposed on us a deputyship office and the patriarchate went along. ... Atesyan erred in not resisting the election of a deputy, something nonexistent in our traditions, and for having himself elected to the post." Another community member, Sahin Gezer, was reported as noting, "Aram Atesyan well could have rejected the post in the face of election demands."

So, the tragic illness of the elected patriarch, the ensuing failure of the Armenian community to reach a compromise and their decision to seek the state's arbitration – in addition to the government seeing the situation as a golden opportunity to control the patriarchate – have together created an acute crisis that may drag on for years.

The crisis demonstrates not only the Armenian community's problematic relationship with the state, but also the Turkish state's unchanging policy of meddling and manipulation vis-à-vis its minorities despite changing governments. It is a typical divide-and-rule tactic, which constitutes a flagrant breach of religious freedom and serves neither the Armenian community nor Turkish democracy.



Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's wife, Emine Erdogan (L), Recep Tayyip Erdogan (2nd L), Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew (C), Armenian Archbishop Aram Atesyan (2nd R) and Chief Rabbi Ishak Haleva (R) take their places during a dinner at the Archaeology Museum Garden in Istanbul, August 28, 2011. (photo by AFP/Getty Images/Bulent Kilic)

Armenian patriarchate of Constantinople's functioning in the future. The legal battle concerns who should elect the Armenian patriarch – a small group of clergy or the broader community.

A rift over the spiritual leadership of

newspaper, Archbishop Aram Atesyan has yet again made very controversial remarks. His comments on various issues, such as his bid for central civilian management, the irregularities in the foundation elections, the home he purchased in the [resort town of] Bodrum,

Crimea's Armenian Community Bracing for Tough Days Ahead

SIMFEROPOL, Crimea (PanARMENIAN.Net) – In the eighth century, Crimea was a part of Byzantium, with Armenians, as its subjects, moving here from various cities of the empire. The region's stability allowed them to achieve economic prosperity even in the face of Mongolian invasion.

Hardships in Armenia drove increasing number of Armenians to Crimea, with Armenians becoming the second biggest ethnic group after Crimean Tatars. In 1475, Crimea became part of the Ottoman Empire, with Christian persecutions starting. Despite the strengthening of Islam in the region, Armenian communities still existed in Kaffa, Karasubazar, Balaklava, Gezlev, Perekop and Surkhata. From 1778-1779, more than 22,000 Armenians were resettled in the Azov province.

In 1783, the Russian Empire conquered the Crimean khanate. Russian authorities encouraged the settlement of foreign colonists, including Armenians, into Crimea. This led to a fresh wave of Armenian immigrants, reviving former colonies. In 1913, their numbers totaled around 9,000 and 14,000-15,000 in 1914. The resettlement of Armenians to the peninsula lasted until World War I and the Armenian Genocide. The immigrants of the 19th and 20th centuries were largely from Western Armenia and the various regions of Ottoman Empire.

In 1944, the Commissar of Internal Affairs of the Soviet Union, Lavrentiy Beria, signed Directorate 5984 to deport 37,000 Bulgarians, Greeks and Armenians. The Armenians were deported to Perm Oblast (or administrative division), Sverdlovsk Oblast, Omsk Oblast, Kemerovo Oblast, Bashkortostan, Tatarstan and Kazakhstan.

In 1989, the communal life of the Crimea's Armenians was institutionalized with the formation of one of the peninsula's first national-cultural associ-

ations, the Armenian Luys (Light) society. Later, after re-registration in 1996, it was renamed the Crimean Armenian Society. At present, the Crimean Armenian Society consists of 14 regional offices, coordinated by the National Council of Crimean Armenians. The highest governing body is the National Congress, which convenes at least once every four years. Operational management of the society is carried out by the executive committee, which functions in the periods between meetings of the National Council. The society operates the Luys cultural and ethnographic center and publishes a monthly newspaper, Dove Masis. The one-hour Armenian-language program Barev airs twice a month on Crimean television, and radio broadcasts are made five times a week. There are Armenian churches in Yalta, Feodosiya and Evpatoria, while the first Armenian secondary school opened in 1998 in Simferopol.

Armenians living in the Crimea are currently concentrated in the cities of Armyansk, Simferopol, Evpatoria, Feodosiya, Kerch, Yalta, Sevastopol, Sudak. The Armenia Diaspora Encyclopedia indicates that there were 20,000 Armenians living in the region in 2003.

The Armenians were mostly adherents of the Armenian Apostolic Church. There were a number of churches built in Yalta, Feodosiya and Yevpatoria. Construction activity took place from the 14th century and according to one manuscript the monastery of Gamchak had been built by the 15th century in Kaffa.

In Kaffa, there were a number of Armenian schools, dozens of churches, banks, trading houses, caravanserais and craft shops. The town served as a spiritual center for the Crimean Armenians, and its stature grew so prominently that that in 1438 the Armenians of Kaffa were invited to send representatives to the Ferrara-Florence Cathedral (Florence ecumenical council).

The second largest Armenian population after Kaffa in the same period was Surkhata. The name of Surkhata is probably a distorted form of the name of the Armenian monastery Surb Khach (Holy Cross). There were many Armenian churches, schools and neighborhoods here as well. Other major settlements included Sudak, where until the last quarter of the 15th century and near the monastery Surb Khach there was a small Armenian town called Kazarat. Armenian princes kept the troops there and on a contractual basis to defend Kaffa.

The social life of the Crimean Armenians surged in the late 19th and 20th centuries. They organized themselves into community organizations. Wealthy patrons and the church offered help to the rest of the community for their betterment.

The church's role in the colonies was to some extent becoming secularized. In 1842, the Catholicos in Crimea lost his position to the Chief Guardian of the Crimean Armenian churches.

Surb Khach Monastery is a medieval Armenian monastery located on the Crimean peninsula near Staryi Krym and founded in 1358. It has been an Armenian spiritual center and a place of pilgrimage for centuries.

Crimea gave the world many outstanding Armenians, including world-renowned painter Hovhannes Aivazovsky, composers Alexander Spendiarov and Christopher Karaturza, artist Vardges Sureniants.

And it bears mention that Armenians contributed the largest share of sacrifice during World War II in stopping Hitler's advance at the Battle of Kerch.

At present, no outflow of Armenian population from Crimea has been noted, with Armenians safe here. However, considering the unpredictability of developments in Ukraine, a negative outcome may be possible.

A referendum on the status of the autonomous republic of Crimea is scheduled for March 30.

International News

Georgian Prime Minister Vows to Develop Javakhk

WASHINGTON – Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili pledged to develop all the regions of the republic equally, including the Armenian Javakhk (Samtskhe-Javakheti) region, during an address at the Atlantic Council held as part of his first official visit to the United States this week, reported the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

"We have a plan to develop all regions and without making any separations or any discrimination," explained Garibashvili. "Please be sure that I treat Samtskhe-Javakheti as any other region. Samtskhe-Javakheti is my region. I mean all the country is mine. I don't separate it from other regions."

The comment came in response to a question by ANCA's Lilit Gasparyan, who noted the poor economic situation in the region, prompted by past discriminatory practices. "To correct this, would you agree to have a portion of the international assistance, in this case US aid, be earmarked clearly for the socio-economic development of the Samtskhe-Javakheti region," asked Gasparyan.

"We welcome Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili's public affirmation, here in Washington, of his government's prioritization of economic development in Javakhk and all the regions of Georgia, and hope that this constructive commitment will translate into concrete action, including the acceptance of development assistance being offered by Armenian communities around the world," noted ANCA Executive Director Aram Hamparian.

During his visit, Garibashvili met with President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, prior to offering remarks on February 25 at Atlantic Council.

Ambassador, Lebanese PM Discuss Cooperation

BEIRUT (Armenpress) – The Ambassador of Armenia to Lebanon Ashot Kocharian met with Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam on March 3. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia said Kocharian passed to Tammam Salam congratulations from Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian on the occasion of the formation of the new government.

During the meeting, the two discussed issues related to the Armenian-Lebanese bilateral relations, the prospects of the cooperation expansion, particularly in the commercial, economic and tourism.

Paris Mayoral Candidate Seeks Genocide Recognition from Turkey

PARIS (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Anne Hidalgo, the Socialist candidate for mayor of Paris named Turkey's recognition of the Armenian Genocide as a precondition for Ankara's accession to the European Union (EU).

"The recognition will make Turkey stronger," Cihan Haber quoted her as saying.

Hidalgo further expressed support for adoption of the Genocide denial law, further referring to President Francois Hollande's pledge to work out a legal instrument that won't meet the ban of the Constitutional Court.

"Denial of tragic pages of history is what prevents building a new future," she said.

Hidalgo vowed to perpetuate the April 24 commemorative events if elected a mayor, with Paris Mayor's Office to extend financial support to the Genocide centennial events in 2015.

On January 23, 2012, the French Senate passed a bill making it a crime to deny the Armenian Genocide. However, the French Constitutional Council ruled the bill as anti-constitutional. In a statement the Council said the document represented an "unconstitutional breach of the practice of freedom of expression and communication.

Later, Hollande pledged to redraft the law criminalizing the Armenian Genocide denial in France, stressing the need to ensure the legal framework to avoid censorship by the Constitutional Council.

Community News

Lenten Program In Chelmsford Renamed in Memory Of V. Rev. Ghevont Samoorian

CHELMSFORD, Mass. – This year, on the one-year anniversary of the death of former pastor, the V. Rev. Ghevont Samoorian, the 45th Annual Lenten Program of Spiritual Renewal at Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church has been named in his memory.

The program was created by Samoorian in 1970 as six weekly gatherings of the parish family to learn about the church, and to identify those areas that might encourage spiritual examination, understanding, and renewal. At that time, such a program series was almost something new in the Parish, particularly on a weekday and by a member of the clergy with a command of the English language. What began as a simple presentation with a question-and-answer period after worship services on an old chalk board in the basement of the downtown Lowell church, slowly evolved into multi-media formats, a spectrum of religious topics, guest speakers and a Lenten meal.

“This Lenten Program provides an important and meaningful experience aimed at the spiritual and faith needs of our people,” explains current pastor, the Rev. Khachatur Kesablian. “We are blessed to have had Hayr Ghevont initiate it and utilize the period of Great Lent in teaching about the Church, and beginning a local custom in the parish 45 years ago that has been continuously carried on to today. From now on his name will be attached to this important annual program.”

According to Deacons Ara Jeknavorian and Jimmie Magarian, who have been stalwarts in keeping the program organized and continuing over the many years, together now with Kesablian, a balanced evening of worship, Lenten meal and informative/provocative program topics have been key. “Organizing the three elements has been rewarding. But preparing a Lenten meal for the six Fridays of Great Lent, has been challenging at times,” states Deacon Ara, “particularly when the number of participants are difficult to estimate. Fortunately, we’ve been blessed with a wonderful core of volunteer cooks for the specialized meals who sometimes generously donate all the ingredients.”

Each Friday evening (beginning March 7 this year) the faithful will gather at 6:30 p.m. to participate in the Peace and Rest Services, which feature eloquent penitential prayers and hymns. A Lenten meal and program follows at 7 p.m.

This first year of the program in memory of Fr. Ghevont is titled: “Origins of Faith: Jerusalem” in homage to his years as a seminarian, deacon and priest at the Apostolic Holy See of St. James in the Armenian Patriarchate there, and being a champion of the Brotherhood of St. James in Jerusalem.

“We’re fortunate to have both the resources and a number of speakers who can present the wealth of inspiration, history, and origins of faith that continue to be found in the Holy City,” said Deacon Jimmie Magarian, a former seminarian in Jerusalem. “In our area we have former seminarians, brotherhood members, pilgrims, and pilgrimage leaders who will be among the presenters over the six week program. Some highlights include video and previously unseen/unpublished photos of the Holy Places and the Armenian Quarter of Jerusalem.”



Gregory Ketabgian presents Armen Aroyan with a gift.

Tribute to Armen Aroyan Held at Ararat-Eskijian Museum

MISSION HILLS, Calif. – Armen Aroyan was honored for his achievements and dedication over the past 25 years, during which he has tailored more than 75 Armenian Heritage tours for more than 1,200 pilgrims to historic Armenia to show them the lands of their parents and grandparents. The tribute was organized and cosponsored by the Ararat-Eskijian Museum (AEM) and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). The program took place on February 9, at the Sheen Chapel on the grounds of the Ararat Home Nursing Facility in Mission Hills, followed by a dinner reception in the museum.

The master of ceremonies was Bruce Roat, Southern California board member of NAASR. He was introduced by Martin Eskijian, chairman of the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, who initially welcomed an audience of more than 220 enthusiastic attendees. The program started by the Ani String Quartet rendering selections from Komitas, Khatchaturian and Berberian, including Tzitzernak.

Prof. Richard Hovannisian reviewed the history of the confiscation and redistribution of Armenian properties during and after the deportations and massacres. He commented that the Armenian Genocide was unique among the 20th century genocides since its survivors were the only ones who could not return back to inhabit their historic homes. If they attempted, they were invariably arrested and sent back. Prior to the 1980s, by law no non-Muslim could venture to the interior of Turkey, even if they were Turkish citizens of Istanbul. Prof. Hovannisian gave examples of how difficult it was for Armenians to visit eastern Turkey in the early 1980s, when some travelers had their cameras and film as well as their luggage confiscated by Turkish security personnel, and they finally had to leave.

Aroyan’s first expedition into the interior of Turkey in 1987 was to Antep, his own ancestral land. He dealt in a low-key manner with the Turkish inhabitants and won them over with his smile while he searched for remnants of old Armenian homes and churches. From that point on, he extended his scope by discovering the small villages that his pilgrims yearned to visit. More than anything, he enjoyed seeing the joy and pleasure in the eyes of the people he took there, the descendants of the Genocide survivors, as they experienced the life-altering event of walking where their parents and grandparents had once walked. Hovannisian ended his talk by thanking Aroyan for having enriched so many people’s lives.

The next presentation was an extensive slide show by Roupén Berberian, a four-time traveler with Aroyan, of the groups he guided at numerous historic sites visited by the pilgrims. This was accompanied with historical commentary by Berberian. In addition, there was coverage of Aroyan’s genealogy, family influences, and education in Cairo, Egypt, and his immigration to Southern California where he furthered his education in electrical engineering at USC. He worked for McDonnell Douglas Aerospace for 25 years. Aroyan had guided many scholars, authors, religious leaders and documentarians from different countries on their trips to Turkey.

Anne Elizabeth Redgate, a historian from Newcastle University in England, made the long trip specifically to be present on this occasion. She had been with Aroyan on previous trips and commented on how he had been able to fulfill the realization of the pilgrims’ dreams by taking them safely to the heart of historic Armenia. She had studied Armenian history for a long time, but being given a chance to connect with the people and being “a beneficiary of Armen’s magic” had meant a great deal to her.

see AROYAN, page 7

Paros Foundations Announces Service-Armenia 2014 Program Dates

BERKELEY, Calif. – Applications are now available for the Paros Foundation’s Service Armenia 2014 Program. The program will run from June 23 to July 24, and will facilitate young people to travel and tour Armenia and Artsakh, while engaging in meaningful service projects benefiting Armenia and her people.

“I am looking forward to another successful program this summer,” said Peter Abajian, executive director of the Paros Foundation. “Our group last summer worked on the elementary school wing at the Hatsik village school and also helped distribute 50,000 pairs of shoes in rural villages in Armenia. This summer, our group will work on similar meaningful service projects.”

Throughout the program, participants will tour historic, religious and cultural sites throughout Armenia and Artsakh with experienced, English speaking staff and guides. Safe and well located accommodations and transportation combined with interesting cultural and educational activities will ensure all will have a terrific and memorable experience. The program is open to both Armenian and American young people wishing to participate in this once in a lifetime opportunity. Knowledge of the Armenian language is not required. Join us and create a lifetime of great memories and friends. The deadline to submit the completed application is April 1.

More information including photos and video, and the application form can be found at www.parosfoundation.org/servicearmenia2014

For more information, contact Peter Abajian via e-mail, peter@paros-foundation.org

Genocide Survivor Interviews at New York Armenian Home

FLUSHING, Queens, N.Y. – The three remaining Armenian Genocide survivors at the New York Armenian Home will be interviewed by the local New York media on Sunday, March 23.

Organized annually by the Knights of Vartan, the survivor interviews have brought eyewitness records to the forefront as victims have recalled their escape from the horrific death marches, which claimed the lives of their family members.

The New York Armenian Home, a non-profit residential facility, has long been a caretaker of Armenian Genocide survivors.

The 98th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, will be held in Times Square (43rd and Broadway) on Sun., April 27, from 2-4 p.m.



Armenian Genocide survivor Peruz Kalusdian speaking last year

COMMUNITY NEWS

Waters Stole \$4.2M to Fund 'Secret Double Life,' Prosecutor Says

By David Hanners

(Editor's Note: The Armenian Assembly and the Cafesjian Family Foundation have been locked in litigation over the fate of the National Bank building, bought by the Assembly, with the help of Gerard Cafesjian in the 1990s for eventual conversion into an Armenian Genocide Museum. Waters was Gerard Cafesjian's lieutenant in many of the dealings. He was fired from the foundation and eventually took the founder to court over unpaid monies, while Cafesjian brought charges of theft against Waters. That trial is currently underway in Minneapolis. In all these personal squabbles, the Armenian community is wondering what happened to the Genocide Museum on the even of the Centennial.)

MINNEAPOLIS (*Pioneer Press*) – The late Gerard "Gerry" Cafesjian was too shrewd a businessman – and kept too close an eye on his money – to let a trusted employee steal from him, the defense attorney for that employee told a jury Monday.

Cafesjian "watched his money like a hawk," defense attorney Reynaldo Aligada Jr. argued in the fraud trial of John Waters Jr. and the government's contention that Waters stole millions from the philanthropist "strains credulity."

"Do you think Mr. Cafesjian would miss \$1 million moving in one year from one account to another and not notice it?" Aligada asked during his final argument in Waters' trial in federal court in Minneapolis.

But in the government's closing argument, Assistant US Attorney William Otteson said there was a "mountain" of evidence that Waters – Cafesjian's right-hand man for several years – had stolen from his boss and lied about it to cover his tracks.

"The defendant cheated Gerry Cafesjian out of his money, and he cheated the government out of its tax money," Otteson told jurors.

"He stole to fund a secret double life ... a life that cost thousands of dollars each month," the prosecutor said of Waters, 57.

He said the \$4.2 million the government alleges Waters embezzled from Cafesjian went for shopping sprees for Waters' mistress at Ralph

Lauren shops, "spas, restaurants, trips, two mortgages, four car payments. And that was just for the secret life."

The final arguments came Monday, the sixth day of Waters' trial. The Eden Prairie man faces 15 counts of wire fraud, four counts of mail fraud and three counts each of income tax evasion and filing false tax returns.

Waters testified that the cash he withdrew from Cafesjian's accounts went for two purposes. It was either for Cafesjian himself to fund his voracious appetite to buy art and gems, or it was a loan against deferred compensation owed to Waters under terms of an employment agreement the two men had negotiated but never reduced to writing.

Cafesjian died in September at age 88, and Otteson scoffed at the notion that an experienced businessman like him – or even Waters – would not put such an agreement in writing.

"The modified employment agreement did not exist. There was no deferred compensation. There was no loan. He just stole the money," the prosecutor said.

"The defendant cheated Gerry Cafesjian out of his money, and he cheated the government out of its tax money," he said.

Cafesjian was an executive and shareholder at West Publishing in St. Paul. When the company was sold in 1996, his shares brought a fortune; Waters claimed in his testimony that he believed the man was worth about \$250 million.

The retired exec used that money to set up businesses and foundations, and hired Waters to run them. The two had worked together at West and, to hear Waters tell it on the witness stand, they were inseparable.

But Otteson said Waters gained Cafesjian's trust and then abused it by stealing from him.

"Gerry Cafesjian should never have trusted John Waters," the prosecutor said. "You, members of the jury, shouldn't trust him, either."

Waters had gone to work for Cafesjian's private interests in 1996, and they had a written employment agreement; it was introduced as evidence. But Waters testified that in 2000, the men orally revised the agreement so that some of Waters' pay would be in the form of deferred compensation, a move that carries certain tax advantages.

Waters also claimed that in 2005, the two men agreed – again, orally – that he would be able to borrow money against that deferred compensa-

Prof. Marie-Aude Baronian to Speak on Visual Representations within Armenian Diaspora

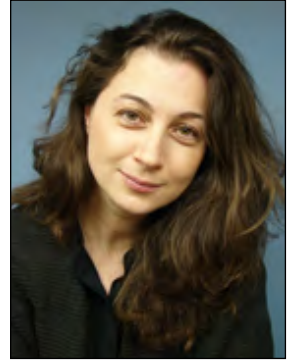
ANN ARBOR, Mich. – The University of Michigan's Armenian Studies Program will host Marie-Aude Baronian for the 2014 Berj H. Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lecture, titled "Missing Images: Textures of Memory in Diaspora," on Wednesday, March 12 at 7 p.m.

Baronian is the 2014 Manoogian Visiting Professor at the University of Michigan and an associate professor in film and visual culture at the University of Amsterdam. Her research focuses on various topics such as visual culture in the Armenian diaspora, ethics and aesthetics, archive, memory, and French thought. Her most recent books are *Mémoire et Image. Regards sur la Catastrophe arménienne* (2013) and *Cinéma et Mémoire. Sur Atom Egoyan* (2013). In the lecture, she will consider the relationship between images – particularly film – and memory in the context of the Armenian diaspora and the 1915 Genocide.

The Haidostian Annual Distinguished lectureship was established by the family of the late Dr. Berj Haidostian, a prominent and devoted physician in Michigan. The Haidostian family has a long and continuing relationship with the University of Michigan and the Armenian Studies Program. Every year, together with the Armenian Studies Program faculty they select a speaker from among internationally recognized experts on Armenia and Armenians. Recent Haidostian Distinguished Lecturers have included renowned playwright, novelist, and actor Eric Bogosian; famous director Atom Egoyan; Dr. Gerard Chaliand of Paris; Dr. Fiona Hill of the Brookings Institution; Thomas de Waal of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Dr. Vartan Gregorian of the Carnegie Foundation.

The lecture is open to the public and will be followed by a question-and-answer period, and will also be video recorded and posted on our website at ii.umich.edu/asp.

The lecture will take place at the Helmut Stern Auditorium, University of Michigan Museum of Art.



Prof. Marie-Aude Baronian

tion.

During his 41-minute summation, the prosecutor said the fact neither of the men reduced the alleged "modified" agreement to writing indicated only one thing: Waters had invented the story.

"Does it make sense this agreement was never in writing?" he asked. "Why wouldn't Mr. Cafesjian not want to document millions of dollars in loans he was making to an employee?"

"It just doesn't make sense," Otteson said.

But Aligada, who spoke for 50 minutes, said the government's case was based on a serious flaw: Cafesjian and Waters had a deep relationship of "trust, loyalty, secrecy," and prosecutors had "failed to understand that very important relationship."

The defense attorney argued that his client had the authority to make the withdrawals from Cafesjian's accounts and that he had his boss's permission to make them.

"He's wealthy and he pays attention to his money," Aligada said of Cafesjian.

"Mr. Waters did not defraud Mr. Cafesjian and did not steal from him," the defense lawyer told jurors.

He also said Waters lacked intent to defraud, a required element of mail or wire fraud. Similarly, Aligada said his client lacked a willfulness to cheat on his taxes, another element needed to convict him of the crime.

AIWA Scholarship Applications Available

WATERTOWN –The Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) has announced that Scholarship Application forms are now available for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Annually AIWA offers a number of scholarships, ranging in value from \$2,000 to \$500, to female students in all academic fields. The program was initiated with the Agnes K. Missirian Scholarship, which was established in memory of the professor of management at Bentley University who was a strong advocate for women's rights.

Also available are the Dr. Carolann S. Najarian scholarships, as well as awards in memory of Ethel Jafferian Duffett and Rose A. Hovannesian. The Lucy Kasparian Aharonian Scholarship, of \$1,000, is offered to students in the sciences.

AIWA scholarships are awarded annually to full-time female students of Armenian descent attending accredited colleges or universities. Students entering their junior or senior year in college, as well as graduate students, are eligible to apply for the awards, which are based on financial need and merit.

During the current academic year, AIWA has awarded over \$20,000 to 19 graduate and undergraduate students in fields ranging from pure mathematics and architecture to law, pharmacy, violin performance, and English.

Applications for all AIWA scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year can be downloaded from the AIWA website (www.aiwainternational.org) or can be requested by mail (65 Main St., #3A, Watertown, MA, 02472). The deadline for applications is April 16. Winners will be announced at the association's annual meeting, which is scheduled this year for June 21 in Boston.

In addition, students residing in California are eligible to apply for the Hasmik Mgrdichian Scholarships awarded by the AIWA/LA Affiliate. Four grants of \$2,500 each are available annually. Full information is available on the AIWA/LA website (www.aiwala.org).



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OBITUARY

Krikor Maserejian

WALTHAM, Mass. — Krikor Maserejian of Waltham died at home on February 7. He was 77. He was the son of the late Yacoub and Siranoush (Nersessian) Mahserejian.



Krikor Maserejian

He was the husband of Mary (Postaljian) Maserejian; father of Hagop and his wife Holly of Watertown, Vasken and his wife Arlene of Belmont and Shahe and his wife Arlene of Framingham; grandfather of Ariana, Gregory, Isabella, Sophia Lily and Shahe Andre Maserejian; brother of George and his wife Azniv of Arlington, Zareh and his wife Hasmig of Belmont, Souren and his wife Liza of Belmont and the late Samuel and his late wife Eugeny Maserejian.

He was a master autobody repair person and a licensed appraiser and owned his own auto body repair business in Belmont for more than 30 years. Many of his colleagues called on him for advice and help for complicated repairs and he always helped out.

He was a community leader in Aleppo, where he served many organizations and helped all in need of his help with no expectation. In Aleppo, where he lived most of his early life, his friends included high-ranking government officials, judges and military officials who through his intervention helped

many Armenians at times of need or faced with bureaucratic hurdles.

He was a graduate of the Giligian (Cilician) Armenian School in Aleppo. He was an active member of the Armenian Memorial Church of Aleppo where he served on the Board of Trustees. After immigrating to USA in 1977 he and the family were all members of the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown. He was active in many Armenian organizations and served them. In the mid 1970s he led a group of young Armenian athletes from Aleppo (HMM) to Yerevan for national athletic games. He was a

member of the HoMenMen Sports Organization for over 30 years, member of Armenian Henchag Party, the Armenian General Benevolent Union and the Boston Chapter of the Armenian Compatriotic Union of Aintab.

Funeral service was at the Armenian Memorial Church, Watertown, on February 10. Interment followed in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge. Expressions of sympathy may be made in his memory to the Armenian Memorial Church, 32 Bigelow Ave., Watertown, MA 02472.

Arrangements were made by the Giragosian Funeral Home.

Dr. Albert Kapikian Pioneering Medical Researcher

WASHINGTON — Albert Z. Kapikian, MD, a pioneering virologist at the National Institutes of Health who discovered norovirus and led a decades-long effort that resulted in the first licensed rotavirus vaccine, died on February 24. He was 83.

Kapikian was the former chief of the epidemiology section of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases at NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), a position he held for 45 years.

"Al Kapikian was a giant in the field of virology," said NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, MD. "His seminal basic and clinical research contributions to the study of viruses and to vaccine development have had an enormous global impact. Importantly, he was a warm-hearted, beloved, and widely respected human being. His many friends at NIAID and NIH mourn the loss of their esteemed colleague."

Kapikian often was called the father of human gastroenteritis virus research for his work on improving the understanding and prevention of viral diseases that affect the gastrointestinal tract. In 1972, he identified the first norovirus, initially called Norwalk virus. Noroviruses are now recognized as a major cause of epidemic diarrhea in adults worldwide.

In 1973, Kapikian and his colleagues identified the hepatitis A virus. He also was the first scientist in the United States to detect human rotavirus, which had been discovered by others in Australia. He dedicated himself to studying this leading cause of severe diarrhea in children, which accounts for more than 400,000 deaths annually, mostly in developing countries.

"Al was my hero," said Kathryn C. Zoon, PhD, director of the NIAID Division of Intramural Research. "He was a modest man who made many remarkable discoveries in virology and saved many lives through his vaccine development efforts. He will be missed by his NIAID family."

Kapikian and his research group defined the mode of transmission of rotavirus, identified

the viral proteins critical for triggering an immune response, and formulated a vaccine that targeted several important rotavirus strains. These efforts ultimately led to the development, testing and approval by the Food and Drug Administration in 1998 of the first rotavirus vaccine. Subsequently, Kapikian headed the development of second-generation



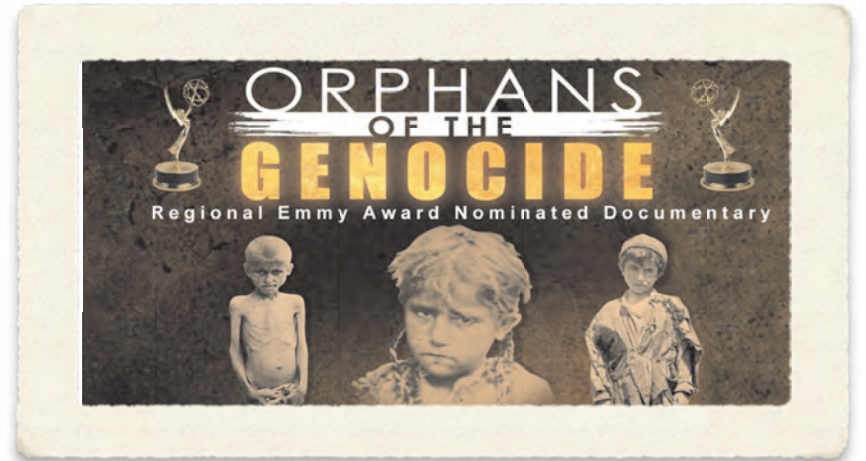
Dr. Albert Kapikian

rotavirus vaccines that have been licensed by pharmaceutical companies in Brazil, China, and India. He also contributed to ongoing efforts to improve rotavirus vaccines and expand their use in the developing world.

He received his medical degree from Cornell University Medical College in 1956 and joined NIAID in 1957. His numerous accomplishments earned him the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal, the Maurice Hilleman/Merck Award of the American Society for Microbiology and the Children's Vaccine Initiative Pasteur Award, among many other honors.



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Tribute to Armen Aroyan Held at Ararat-Eskijian Museum

AROYAN, from page 4

Bruce Roat acknowledged the many messages of congratulation that were received from pilgrims who were not able to travel to the tribute event. He read three testimonials, one by Lucille Hamparian, and another from Jack Bournazian, who compared the honoree to “an Armenian locksmith” who “came into our lives and fitted a personal key for each of

feel special and complete in their personal quests” and commented that her visit to Hussenig in historic Armenia was “one of the most memorable and emotional experiences in my life.”

Martin Eskijian presented Aroyan with an award of recognition from the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, a sculpture of an Armenian mother protecting her child during the deportation.

able to do it with his vans.”

He thanked all the organizers of the event and explained the “providential chain of events” that led to his passion for organizing tours through historic Armenia. He described some of the Armenians he had discovered still living in remote corners of historic Armenia. He was inspired by how they were initially reluctant but after relaxing were able to sing the sharagans, recite the Havadamk, the Armenian alphabet and so on. He explained what he calls the “King Arshak phenomenon,” the transformation process he has witnessed in pilgrims “reminiscent of the legend of the forlorn, depressed and subservient Armenian King Arshak II in captivity, who would miraculously regain his boldness and strength when he stepped on the soil brought from the homeland.” He also thanked all the pilgrims who had travelled with him and emphasized that he had learned much from them and their family histories. “The pilgrims,” he said, “gave me the opportunity to see our homeland through their eyes, with the very wonder and awe of the first time—every time. Together, we turned a haunted memory into a tangible reality.”

Aroyan explained the importance to him of

the poem “My Death” by Bedros Tourian and recited the last two lines: “When from the world my memory fades away / That is the time when I indeed shall die!”

He concluded: “First and foremost, last but not least, it is all about keeping the memory of our rich legacy alive and propagating it for future generations.”

Aroyan is in the process of publishing a two-volume collection of writings by and about his co-travelers and their experiences.

Rev. Kevork Terian of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena ended the program with the benediction and wished the honoree good health to “continue his sacred mission to create new memories for those yearning for their homeland which was so unjustly taken away from them.”

The reception, prepared by Maggie Mangassarian Goschin, the director of the Ararat-Eskijian Museum as well as one of Aroyan’s pilgrims, and Nora Nalbandian, was a veritable cornucopia of Armenian dishes representing the different regions of historic Armenia. A varied selection of wine was donated by Paul Kalemkarian of the Wine of the Month Club.



Program participants are, from left, Martin Eskijian, Gregory Ketabgian, Maggie Mangassarian Goschin, Roupén Berberian, Anne Elizabeth Redgate, Armen Aroyan, Richard Hovannisian and Bruce Roat.

us, unlocking the door to our personal pasts.” In a third testimonial, Nancy Kolligian, former Chairman of NAASR, who has worked closely with Aroyan and Hovannisian in organizing several NAASR Armenian Heritage Tours, commended Aroyan for “the importance you have always placed in making each traveler

The NAASR tribute was given by Southern California board member Dr. Gregory Ketabgian who presented Aroyan with a symbolic silver bowl designed by Michael Aram and representing Noah’s Ark resting on top of Mt. Ararat. He said “although British ships could not climb Mt. Ararat, Aroyan was symbolically



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AESA Elects New Board

GLENDALÉ — At its general membership meeting, the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) introduced its new council for the year 2014. The new executive council consists of the following: Vasken Yardemian, President, Marina Guevrekian Ph.D., Vice President, Razmik Gharakhanian, Vice President Elect, Mark Abajian, Executive Secretary and Armineh Khachatoorian as Treasurer. The Councilors in large are: Aram Setian, Arin Abed, Asbed Pogarian, Stepan Joulfayan, Argineh Shabandari, Talin Petrosian and Vazgen Ghoogassian.

The outgoing president, Mardy Kazarians, PhD, reported last year’s activities and achievements of the organization. AESA organized formal scientific lectures and workshop as well as the annual Science Olympiad competition which was held at Woodbury University. The competition, involving school-age children, was considered a great success. These activities were well organized and attended by the Armenian community. Kazarians mentioned that AESA had planning to offer both mentorship services and scholarship to Armenian college students. In addition, social activities such as mixers for the young professionals were held in conjunction with other organizations. Furthermore, AESA celebrated its 30th anniversary with an annual gala banquet where it honored all AESA past presidents for their services to the organization.

The incoming president, Vasken Yardemian, shared his plan and goals for the upcoming year. “We look forward for a successful year leading AESA to new levels of success” stated Yardemian. “The AESA continues to grow in strength and numbers. Our new governance and volunteer leadership structure will continue this path as we invite all engineers and scientists of Armenian descent to join AESA specially the younger generation”. The AESA continues to build and develop partnerships with other Armenian organizations to serve the Armenian community. In addition, the AESA is investing in new programs that will allow working with college and high school students as well as the American University of Armenia. Yardemian mentioned that the organization will implement the new scholarship program as well as mentoring activities for Armenian college students both undergraduate and graduate levels majoring in engineering and science. As a new project, the AESA has proposed to collaborate with the College of Science and Engineering of the American University of Armenia (AUA) by offering workshops, seminars and short term courses related to engineering and science. “Let’s make 2014 about creating a stronger and better organization. We look forward to working together so that each one of us feels proud to be part of the AESA,” concluded Yardemian. By the end of the meeting, there was a long discussion among its membership about the future of AESA.

AESA Science Olympiad Scheduled for March 23

NORTHRIDGE, Calif. — The Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) will hold the 13th AESA Science Olympiad at the Grand Salon of California State University Northridge (CSUN) on Sunday, March 23.

The committee is composed of volunteers, supporters, professional engineers, scientists, judges, mentors, community sponsors and endowment donors, all working together for the ultimate goal of increasing interest and passion in science and engineering among young Armenian students from Armenian, public and other private schools. The Olympiad provides interscholastic academic competition in the fields of physical sciences and life sciences for two grade levels, middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-12).

“We are actively seeking the community’s support in encouraging family members in grades 6 to 12 to participate with a prepared science project and spend a fun day of science with their peers” stated AESA President Vasken Yardemian. The Science Olympiad follows the California State Science Fair rules and regula-

tions. During the evaluation and interview process, the judges provide constructive feedback to all students for future improvements of their projects and presentation skills leading them to prepare for the county and state competitions. The Olympiad each year also invites a professional speaker to present a unique scientific topic exposing students and inspiring them to a variety of career path opportunities.

Cash prizes are also awarded, with 1st place winning \$500, 2nd Place winning \$250, 3rd Place \$100, and Honorable Mention \$50. In addition, each prize is accompanied with an obsidian medallion made in Armenia. The road to the 13th AESA Science Olympiad has three requirements: a filled out application by the deadline of March 14; a \$25 application fee per project to be included with the application (check to be written in order of AESA Science Olympiad); and the project poster is to be dropped off at a designated location no later than March 19, 2014. The application can be downloaded at www.aesa.org/Committees/ScienceOlympiad.



Armenian Assembly of America South Florida Regional Council



Friday, March 14

Welcome Reception

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Saturday, March 15

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9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Lunch 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM | \$45

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Photography By Levon

The Friends of HMADS at the Gala Dinner Dance 2013

Friends of HMADS Celebrates 20 Years of Service

By Arpi Arukian

BAYSIDE, N.Y. — This year marks a historic anniversary for the Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS) community. Its fundraising pillar, the Friends of HMADS committee, celebrates 20 years of benevolent service to the school. Established in 1994, the all-volunteer group of HMADS supporters, led by former school board chairman, Nurhan Adarian, set out to ensure the financial stability of their beloved institution. Little did they realize what an impact their ambition would have in the many years to follow.

Friends of HMADS is chaired by current

school board treasurer, Hovannes Malikyan, and comprises a group of supporters including board members, current and former parents and alumni. The committee's mission is to raise funds, consequently contributing to the economic growth of the school. Thanks to the efforts of Friends, the Day School is able to maintain an affordable tuition.

Throughout its 20-year history, Friends of HMADS has promoted Armenian performing arts groups, including Sayat Nova Music School from Yerevan and Navasart Dance Ensemble from France, as part of its fundraising efforts for the school. This past November, thanks to the efforts of Malikyan and his wife, Ellza, the committee introduced the HMADS community to the art of Flamenco song and dance from southern

Spain. Headed by guitarist Pedro Cortes, a talented Flamenco group mesmerized the packed church auditorium with their passionate performance.

Every fall, Friends of HMADS sponsors the Annual Telethon, one of its major fundraising events. Last year, once again, Berj Haroutunian of Vital Transportation kindly offered use of his company office and equipment to Telethon volunteers. Over the course of two evenings, the volunteers telephoned hundreds of local Armenian households to seek pledges to sustain their cherished school. The Friends committee would like to officially thank all HMADS supporters for their generous pledges.

The spring brings with it the most exciting Friends event of the school year: the annual

Gala Dinner Dance. On behalf of the entire Friends committee, I cordially invite you to join us for this special evening commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Friends committee. The event will take place on Saturday, May 3rd at Woodbury Country Club in Woodbury, Long Island. The evening's festivities will commence at 7:30pm with a lavish buffet and open bar, followed by a delicious multi-course dinner served at 9pm. Throughout the evening, musical entertainment will be provided by popular international singer Elie Berberian and his band.

For further information about this event, or to find out how to become a part of the Friends of HMADS, contact the school office.

Hamazkayin of New York Holds Its Third Annual Literary Event

NEW YORK — Two years have passed since the day the inaugural readings by contemporary Armenian authors took place at the Armenian Center in Queens. At the time, there were trepidations and hope that the event would earn the respectable annual title. There was much pride as well for the idea and the fact that four writers — all women to boot — read their works with admirable generosity toward the audience. No covert glances at their watches, no acceleration of the speed of reading... Just a marvelous disposition and honest sharing of their works, that is to say their thoughts and feelings with the audience. Here is an opportunity to thank again Nora Armani, Lucine Kasbarian, Lola Koundakjian and especially Aida Zilelian-Silak, who offered her assistance in the subsequent literary events.

Two years later, the Third Annual Readings, organized by the New York chapter of Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society, took place on February 22 at the cafe Waltz in Astoria. The participants were Maryam Dilakian, Aaron Poochigian, Meline Toumani and Aida Zilelian-Silak. Almost nothing ever goes as planned, and because "life happened" to the multitalented Arto Vaun, who was scheduled to be there.

The opening remarks were made by Dr. Ara Caprielian, one of the founding members of the New York chapter. In his brief outline of Hamazkayin's origin and history, he stated: "The Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society, is a major organization of the Armenian Diaspora, with a presence in every significant Armenian community worldwide. In addition to organizing cultural events, the Hamazkayin runs schools, publishes books through its printing press, maintains bookstores, publishes a literary magazine, Pakine, and organizes the Hamazkayin Forum in Armenia. It was founded on May 28, 1928, in Cairo, Egypt by a group of nine Armenian intellectuals, including the writer and educator Levon Shant; historian, critic, and first minister of Education of Armenia, Nigol Aghbalian; former Foreign minister of the Republic of

Armenia Dr. Hamo Ohanian; and stage director and art critic Kaspar Ipekian."

Caprielian introduced the master of ceremonies and one of the organizers of the evening, Zilelian-Silak.

The first reader was poet Aaron Poochigian, whose pensive and soulful poems captured the audience. He earned a PhD in Classics from the University of Minnesota in 2006 and now writes poetry full-time "in a state of non-romantic poverty," in his own words. His book of translations from Sappho, *Stung With Love*, was published by Penguin Classics in 2009 (with a preface by UK Poet Laureate Carol Anne Duffy). Penguin will publish his translation of the Greek epic *Jason and the Argonauts* later this year. For his work in translation he was awarded a 2010-2011 Grant in Translation by the National Endowment for the Arts. His first book of original poetry, *The Cosmic Purr* (Able Muse Press) was published in March of 2012, and several of the poems in it collectively won the New England Poetry Club's Daniel Varoujan Prize. His work has appeared in the *Financial Times*, *Poems Out Loud* and *Poetry* periodicals.

The second reader was Yerevan-born Dilakian. She received a Master of International Affairs degree at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University, focusing on international security policy and the domestic and foreign policies of post-Soviet states. She worked for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, chaired by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. She helped shape democratic development programs for Armenia, and worked with civic advocacy and election monitoring organizations in Central Asia, the Balkans and Africa. True to her upbringing in a humanitarian family and her natural inclinations, Dilakian left international political arena, and joined the New York City Teaching Fellows program. She holds a Master of Science in Education degree from The City College of New York, and is now in her seventh year as an English teacher for immigrant students. Her prose is gripping, emotion-

ally charged and often autobiographical. Her next book, *Meet Me in 412: Diaries of a New York City Teacher*, will be completed by the end of this year.

After a short intermission, Toumani took the stage. Her name and writing are familiar to those Armenians, who followed her reportage. Currently, she is based in New York City. She has written on diverse topics: foreign affairs, books and music for the *New York Times Sunday Magazine* and *Culture* pages, *The Nation*, *n+1*, *Salon.com*, the *Boston Globe*, *GlobalPost*, *The National*, and *Travel & Leisure*. Between 2003 and 2009 she spent much of her time working abroad, reporting from Armenia, Turkey, Russia and Georgia, and was a journalism fellow in residence at the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna in 2007. She graduated from U.C. Berkeley with high honors in English and public policy, and holds a master's degree in journalism from the Cultural Reporting and Criticism Program at NYU. Her first book, *There Was and There Was Not: Turkey, the Armenians*, and the *Story of a Never-Ending History*, will be published by Metropolitan Books in November 2014.

The fourth reader, Zilelian-Silak, is no stranger to the reading public. She has established herself as a serious writer, dedicated to her work. She is certainly a "raconteur" who can easily take you to the place she depicts, and make you walk with her willingly. Her astute observations and her subtle humor make her prose all the more enjoyable.

Zilelian-Silak is a New York City-based writer whose stories have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies such as *Wilderness House Literary Review*, *The Writer's Block*, *Ararat Magazine* and *Theurgy* (UK). She is the curator of the Boundless Tales reading series in Astoria. In 2011 her first novel, *The Hollowing Moon*, was one of the four semi-finalists of the



In the group photo: writers Aaron Poochigian (poet), Maryam Dilakian (prose), Aida Zilelian-Silak (prose), Meline Toumani (journalist).

Anderbo Novel Contest. The sequel, *The Legacy Of Lost Things*, was recently accepted for publication and is slated for release in July (Bleeding Hearts Publication).

For those who are not yet in the loop, her published works can be found at www.aidazilelian.com. The receptive audience and the forthcoming disposition of the readers had created an uncommonly warm atmosphere, so everyone lingered long after the program, despite the cafe manager's stern looks. Members of the current executive committee, Asdghig Sevag (vice-chair), Berjohie Yessayan and Hovhannes Yessayan, as well as Arevig Caprielian, a member of New York chapter and the Eastern Regional Executive Committee of Hamazkayin, were in the audience.

Get ready for the next year's reading, fellow Armenian Writer, because Hamazkayin of New York is determined to continue those annual events for as long as there are talented Armenian authors. Since there is multi-millennial evidence that Armenians never suffered from lack of brilliant writers, this annual event might go on for indefinitely long time.

— Arevig Caprielian

Arts & Living

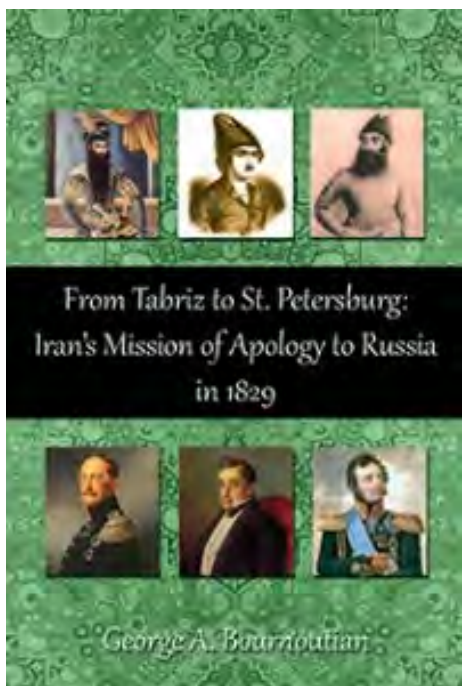
Mazda Press Releases New Book by Prof. Bournoutian

NEW YORK – Prof. George Bournoutian's new book, *From Tabriz to St. Petersburg: Iran's Mission of Apology to Russia in 1829*, has just been released by Mazda Academic Press.

This original volume, based solely on Persian and Russian primary sources, describes the yearlong journey of the Iranian delegation to Russia to apologize for the murder of the Russian ambassador and the massacre of the entire staff of the Russian embassy (save one) by an angry mob in Tehran in February 1829. The incident, which was sparked when an Armenian man and two Armenian women who sought refuge or who were brought to the Russian Embassy in Tehran, endangered the recent peace between Russia and Iran following the Second Russo-Iranian War of 1826-1828.

The Iranian representatives left Tabriz in two groups: the first in March and the second in May 1829. The first group went through Nakhichevan, Yerevan, Sardarabad, Echmiadzin, Gumri, Spitak and Stepanavan to Tiflis. The second group went through Karabagh and Ganja to Tiflis. From there the two groups united and went on to Moscow and from there to St. Petersburg, where they stayed for more than two months.

The mission, headed by Khosrow Mirza, the 16-year-old seventh son of Crown Prince Abbas Mirza, carried letters of apology and gifts to the Tsar. It returned on February 27, 1830, after successfully accomplishing its task. The young Prince had not only charmed the Tsar, the royal family and the nobility, but had also managed to reduce Iran's war indemnity payment to Russia. His skillful diplomacy saved Iran from Russian retaliation, strengthened Russo-Iranian ties, and lessened the British influence in Iran.



The present study, utilizing Persian and Russian contemporary accounts, is a detailed and daily account of the long journey and experiences of the Iranian delegation in Armenia and Georgia, its stay in the various Russian cities such as Vladikavkaz, Stavropol, Voronezh, Moscow, and especially its long stay in St. Petersburg. The Iranians met a number of Armenian officials in the service of Russia and visited the Lazarian Institute. It should serve as a primary source on Russo-Iranian relations in the first third of the 19th century.

The 360-page book contains eight special maps, photos, facsimiles of the original manuscripts and can be obtained from Mazda Academic Press.



Catholicos Gevorg V Sureniants at Echmiadzin with Armenian orphans

'The First Refuge and The Last Defense'

Major Exhibit Issued by ANI, AGMA, and Assembly Available Online

WASHINGTON – The Armenian National Institute (ANI), Armenian Genocide Museum of America (AGMA) and Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) jointly, and in cooperation with the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan and the Republic of Armenia National Archives, announced the release of a major exhibit consisting of 20 panels with over 150 historic photographs documenting the role of the Armenian Church during the Armenian Genocide.

Titled "The First Refuge and the Last Defense: The Armenian Church, Echmiadzin, and The Armenian Genocide," the exhibit explains the importance of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin during the Armenian Genocide. It also examines the vital leadership role played by the clergy during the Armenian Genocide, especially the all-important intervention of Catholicos Gevorg V Sureniants in alerting world leaders about the massacres, effectively issuing the first "early warning" of an impending genocide.

The sacrifices of the Armenian clergy are well documented. Thousands, among them several primates in Western Armenia and other parts of the Ottoman Empire, paid the price of martyrdom for their faith during the Armenian Genocide. Far less well known is the extent to which the Armenian Church in Eastern Armenia, then under Russian rule, came to the assistance of the Armenian people in its hour of plight.

The exhibit provides ample evidence of the aid extended by fellow Armenians to the refugees fleeing Ottoman Turkey as the Young Turk regime pursued its path toward the destruction of the Armenians. It is now almost forgotten that the first people to come to the aid of the fleeing and starving were Armenians across the Russian-Turkish border who welcomed their countrymen into their homes and threw open the doors to their schools, hospitals, and other facilities to house, care, and feed the hungry, the sick and the homeless.

At the epicenter of this outpouring of aid was Echmiadzin, the primary destination of the Armenians fleeing the massacres along the border regions of the Ottoman Empire, especially as a result of the great exodus of the Armenian population of Van. They had dared resist extermination only to find themselves abandoning their homeland, when the Russian forces that arrived to deliver them shortly thereafter retreated. After the slaughter of 55,000 Armenians in Van province alone in April 1915, the survivors, 100,000 in all, concentrated in the city of Van, were left with no choice other than exile. As armed Turkish and Kurdish bands pursued them every mile of their trek across the rugged landscape of mountains, valleys, and rivers cutting through gorges, the exodus turned into the road of massacres.

see EXHIBIT, page 11

Pianist Artun Miskciyan in Recital

DETROIT – Pianist Artun Miskciyan will give a concert on Saturday, March 29, at 7 p.m., at the Steinway Piano Gallery, 2700 E. Maple Road, Commerce Township.

Miskciyan was born in Turkey in 1995. He started playing the piano at age 6. In 2004 he was accepted to the Mimar Sinan State Conservatory and continued his piano education with Prof. Metin Ulku. In 2008, he participated in the Summer Sonata Program at the Cleveland Institute of Music, Ohio. There, he



Artun Miskciyan

took a master class from Dr. Sean Schultz. In April 2010, he participated at the Pera International Piano Competition and received the "Best Baroque Interpreter Prize." That same year, he participated in the National Chopin Piano Competition, which was held in Ankara, Turkey, and received the "Polish Embassy Special Prize". In 2011, he graduated from Mimar Sinan State Conservatory with honors. To continue his piano education he moved to Canada with his family in 2011. He currently attends the Etobicoke School of the Arts, and is continuing his piano study with Prof. Marietta Orlov at the Young Artists Performance Academy in the Royal Conservatory of Music.

The program will include pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Bartok and Khachaturian.

The concert is sponsored by the Metro Detroit Tekeyan Cultural Association and dedicated to Margaret Benian.

A reception will follow the concert.

Armenian Museum Presents 'Journey to Hayastan'

WATERTOWN – The Armenian Museum of America presents "Journey to Hayastan." This exhibition of paintings by award-winning artist Philip Hagopian runs March 16 through May 4.

An opening reception for the exhibition will be held on Sunday, March 16, from 3 to 5 p.m., attended by the artist. The opening reception is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be provided.

Hagopian is a member of the Artists' Union of Armenia and has exhibited both nationally and internationally. Born in 1959 in Massachusetts, Hagopian is a graduate of the Art Institute of Boston and studied with master painter Frank Mason in Stowe, Vt. His first solo exhibition was in 1980 at Earthlight Gallery in Boston and he has since exhibited throughout New England and New York.

Hagopian's artworks were exhibited in Armenia recently, with appearances at Tekeyan Cultural Center, Naregatsi Art Institute, Boyadjian Art Gallery and Artists' Union of Armenia.



One of the works by Philip Hagopian, which will be on display at the Armenian library



ARTS & LIVING

Major Exhibit Issued by ANI, AGMA, and Assembly Available Online

EXHIBIT, from page 10

With testimony from survivors and witnesses, the exhibit reconstructs this particular chapter of the Armenian Genocide, a chapter often overlooked in the context of the mass deportations of the Armenians from all across Ottoman Turkey to the interior of the Syrian desert where hundreds of thousands perished from hunger, thirst, and slaughter. The episode in Van was no less tragic as the death toll was no less ferocious even after thousands seemingly reached safety only to die of exhaustion, fright, starvation, and raging epidemics as the resources in Eastern Armenia were quickly overwhelmed and Echmiadzin transformed overnight into a vast and fetid refugee camp.

With three maps, 12 historic documents and news clippings, as well as 16 survivor testimonies specific to the details of the events documented with over 150 photographs, the exhibit reconstructs the Armenian Genocide in a single region of historic Armenia and reveals how the people of Eastern Armenia became aware of the policies of the Young Turks during World War I. The exhibit combines images retrieved from archives and repositories in Armenia and America and connects them together in this first extensive narrative exhibit on the Armenian Genocide.

These dramatic pictures highlight the role of the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin during the critical years of 1915 and 1916. They also explain the invaluable national role of Armenian church leaders as exemplified by four of its outstanding catholicoses, namely Mkrtych I Khrimian, Gevorg V Sureniants, Khoren I Muratbekian, and Garegin I Hovsepian, the first three, Catholicos of All Armenians and the fourth, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia.

The exhibit also explores the role of the laity in responding to the appeals of the Armenian Church and reveals how the Eastern Armenian intelligentsia, as represented by figures such as Hovhannes Tumanian, the most prominent writer of his era, and the famed artist Martiros Sarian, closely cooperated with the Mother See in order to assist the Western Armenian refugees.

Numerous other important figures are also represented through photographs and testimony in the exhibit, including United States President Woodrow Wilson, US Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, American mis-

sionary in Van Dr. Clarence D. Ussher, Prince Argoudinsky-Dolgoroukov, Komitas, Alexander Khatisian, Aghassi Khanjian and General Andranik Ozanian.

The central role of Near East Relief, the American philanthropic organization constituted in response to the spreading news of the desperate state of the Armenians during World War I, is a subject that has been widely explored due to the availability of extensive documentation and testimony. In comparison, because of the subsequent disasters that struck Eastern Armenia, the role of local Armenian philanthropic organizations operating in the Russian Caucasus that hastened to relieve the plight of the Armenian refugees has been overlooked by historians.

A variety of benevolent groups, local Red Cross committees, and, in particular, the Fraternal Aid Committee, authorized by the Catholicos Gevorg V Sureniants, led the initial responses to the Armenian Genocide. Months before any relief was delivered from overseas, fellow Armenians, medics, nurses, clergymen and countless volunteers hastened to Echmiadzin and nearby towns to assist the refugees. This heroic response within a matter of days to the crushing reality of tens of thousands of Armenians made homeless remains a neglected episode in Armenian history deserving greater attention. Certainly the photographic evidence gathered in this exhibit attests to the scale of the response and dedication of the Armenian volunteer aid organizations. They were the Transcaucasian counterpart to the Armenian General Benevolent Union operating out of Egypt at the time that reached out to fellow Armenians wherever it could deliver assistance in the Middle East.

The mass of evidence that was gathered for the exhibit required careful examination in order to establish the context of the photographs from that era. The effort to reconstruct this history relied upon historic sites well documented with imagery. For the purpose of this exhibit, these primary markers were the famous monastery and school of Varag near Van, where Khrimian *Hayrik* once presided as abbot; the American missionary station in Van, where Dr. Ussher and his family ministered to the educational, spiritual, and medical needs of Armenians and others who sought their services; the compound of the Mother See of Holy

Echmiadzin, at the time still a medieval fortress surrounded by bastions to protect Armenia's most sacred site from marauders; and the Gevorgian Academy at Echmiadzin, Armenia's premier educational institution soon converted into a hospital by Tumanian.

The evidence exhibited was collected from multiple sources including the United States National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Republic of Armenia National Archives, the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin Archives, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, Nubarian Library, Research on Armenian Architecture, and from many other helpful individuals and institutions in Armenia and in the Diaspora. A catalog identifying all the contents of the exhibit is in preparation.

"I am particularly proud to recognize the assistance provided by colleagues in Armenia," stated Dr. Rouben Adalian, ANI director who created the exhibit. "I take the occasion to thank them publicly, among them Dr. Hayk Demoyan, director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, Dr. Amatuni Virabian, director of the Republic of Armenia National Archives, Sonya Mirzoyan, director of the former State Historical Archives in Armenia, Dr. Harutyun Marutyan of the Institute of Archeology and Ethnography of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, Dr. Susanna Hovhannisyan of the Literature Institute of the Armenian Academy of Sciences, Samvel Karapetyan, director of Research on Armenian Architecture, and Dr. Petros Hovhannisyan, holder of the chair in Armenian history at the University of Yerevan."

"An exhibit of this size must rely upon the antecedent pioneering research of numerous scholars who have issued specialized publications on the Armenian Genocide and related subjects," added Adalian. "While the list is long, for the purposes of this particular exhibit, I need to recognize Dr. Dickran Kouymjian and his valuable works on the history of Van province; Rev. Dr. Zaven Arzoumanian who is the continuator of Malachia Ormanian with his contribution to *Azgapatum* (National [Church] History) covering the era of Catholicos Gevorg V Sureniants; Dr. Benedetta Guerzoni who has completed cutting-edge research on the Armenian Genocide era imagery as revealed with the recent release of her book; and Dr. Raymond Kevorkian for his monumental and

encyclopedic work on the Armenian Genocide. I also must recognize the invaluable support and participation of the staff of the Armenian Assembly, in particular Joe Piatt and Aline Maksoudian, whose technical skills forged the elements of the exhibit into this impressive presentation."

Adalian explained that the pictorial evidence supporting the story of the Armenian Genocide as documented at Echmiadzin coalesced with the identification of the exact location of a historic photograph taken of the medical volunteers assembled by Hovhannes Tumanian. Thereby the rest of the pictures from that era were assembled in a sequence consistent with the testimony of the refugees, volunteers, witnesses and other contemporaneous records.

"His Holiness Catholicos Karekin II and Archbishop Vicken Aykazian were invaluable in helping create this remarkable exhibit," added ANI Chairman Van Z. Krikorian. "The time to share important, and especially previously undisclosed, evidence on the Armenian Genocide, and the responses to it, is now. We really appreciate the help of the Catholicos, Vicken Srpazan, and other clergy in moving forward. This exhibit also reminds us of another lesson from the past. When so much crumbled in the face of the genocidal violence of the Young Turk government, our clergy and Echmiadzin served beyond their capacities as an indispensable stronghold of the Armenian people. That is something to be proud of, share openly, and emulate."

In December 1912, Catholicos Gevorg V Sureniants wrote: "The Armenian Question, which 34 years ago was raised in front of European diplomacy, remains unanswered to this day. If the Armenians are once again ignored, it would amount to delivering an entire people to final annihilation." It indeed remained for him to issue to the world the first ever genocide alert, in April 1915. With the Armenian communities across Ottoman Turkey utterly devastated and the survivors dispersed across the barren landscape of Syria, Iraq, Jordan and other places where they were left to die, as the Turkish armies advanced upon Eastern Armenia threatening the very extinction of the Armenian people, the great weight of the moment once again fell upon the shoulders of Catholicos Gevorg V Sureniants, whose defiance in May 1918, as the danger neared the very doorstep of Echmiadzin, inspired the remaining Armenians to rally for a last stand at Sardarapat.

It was also with the authorization of Catholicos Gevorg V that Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople Zaven Der-Yeghiayan established April 24 as a memorial day. The exhibit reproduces in translation the encyclical communicating the heartfelt blessings of this great churchman who witnessed so much destruction and continued to stand in defense of humanity and civilization.

"The First Refuge and the Last Defense" is also being issued in digital format for worldwide distribution free of charge as downloadable posters suitable for printing and display.

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Child's Tattered Dress Sheds Light on Armenian Genocide

MISSION HILLS, Calif. — Relics from the Armenian genocide will be unveiled during a conference focusing on the heroes and survivors of the genocide at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum on March 22.

Filmmaker Bared Maronian along with British journalist Robert Fisk, Prof. Vahakn Dadrian, Dr. Hayk Demoyan, Ayse Gunaysu, Missak Keleshian, Shant Mardirossian, Dr. Rubina Peroomian and Prof. Vahram Shemmassian will take part in the daylong conference honoring those who aided in the rescue of survivors of the genocide from 1915 through 1930.

While researching the stories of orphans of the Armenian genocide for his documentary, "Orphans of the Genocide," Maronian discovered information regarding a dress once owned by an orphan in Hadjin (now known as Saimbeyli), an Armenian town located roughly 125 miles north of Mersin in Turkey. After some time, he located the dress at the Bethel College Library in Mishawaka, Ind.

"The dress belonged to an orphan, who survived the Adana Massacre of 1909 and walked from Adana to Hadjin, roughly 75 miles," Maronian said. "She found refuge at the United Orphanage and Mission (UOM) in Hadjin run by a North American Mennonite congregation."

The UOM in Hadjin was subject to continuous threats and pressure by Ottoman authorities to cease operations. When World War I broke out, the missionaries were all called home.

According to Maronian, in 1914 Sister Dorinda Bowman packed the orphan dress along with an unfinished rug the orphan girls had been weaving.

"The dress, most likely worn by a 7-year-old orphan girl or a boy, is a significant tangible remnant of the Armenian Genocide," Maronian said. "A close look at the dress makes you wonder what the children of the Genocide went through and how only a handful resiliently survived, while most were butchered or faced death of starvation or disease."

Roughly 1.5 million Armenians were killed during WWI during the Ottoman Empire's reign over their homeland in what is modern day Turkey. The Adana massacre occurred in the Ottoman Empire province of Adana in 1909, which resulted in the deaths of as many as 30,000 Armenians in the course of a month.

The dress and rug are currently on loan by the Bethel College Library to the Ararat-Eskijian Museum for two years.



The Hadjin child's dress

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ARTS & LIVING

Ararat Center's Spirit Soars

NEW YORK – The Ararat Center's 10th anniversary celebration set sail on the Hudson River amidst the snowflakes on Saturday, December 14. Attendees traveled from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York – all braving the storm that battered the East Coast – and boarded the ship for its scheduled 7:30 departure. While the wintry weather dampened the highways, keeping some ticket holders at home, it did nothing to dampen the revelry on the yacht. Partygoers were warmed by hot hors d'oeuvres and spirits from the open bar, followed by a delicious meal on the lower deck.

As the ship rounded Liberty Island, guests were awe-struck by a view of the Statue of Liberty, majestically illuminated against the New York sky. "Look how far we've come since our grandparents first set eyes on the Statue of Liberty," said Ararat Center Board Chairman Thomas Ashbahian. "They came to this country with little but the clothes on their backs... they didn't know the language...they were unsure when their families would be reunited. Eighty-eight years later, a group of Armenians came together to cruise down the Hudson on a yacht

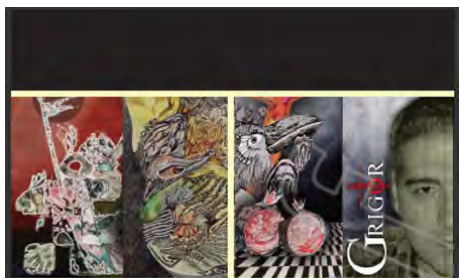


Board Chairman Thomas Ashbahian with Committee Members Rose Najarian Kedeshian and Karen Durgarian.

as we snapped photos of the Statue of Liberty with our iPhones. I've always believed that if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together. On Saturday, December 14 we went together in fellowship and to raise funds for a place we hold near and dear – the Ararat Center."

A festive mood was set with Armenian music provided by father and son Brian and David Ansbikian, along with George Terkanian and guest singer Steve Hovnanian, bringing attendees together on the dance floor. "I'm always inspired by the camaraderie created when fellow Armenians gather for a common cause," said Vice Chairman Andrea Karanian.

The Ararat Center Board thanks Kathryn Ashbahian; Becky Kapur; Karen Durgarian, Nicholas Durgarian, and Rose Najarian-Kedeshian for their help, as well as all the participants.



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CALENDAR

FLORIDA

MARCH 14-17 – Armenian Assembly Annual Trustees Meeting & Banquet, Boca Raton. Friday night, guests are invited to a welcome reception and on Saturday morning, the annual trustees meeting will take place. During and after lunch, guests will hear from author Dr. H. Martin Deranian, Near East Foundation Board Chairman Shant Mardirossian, and South Florida Filmmaker Bared Maronian. Saturday evening, the Assembly will honor Michael Haratunian at a special dinner banquet. A participant of the Airlie conferences that established the Assembly in 1972, Haratunian served as a member of the board of directors for several years including four years as chairman. All events will be held at the Marriott at Boca Center. Major donor packages are available at the following levels: Benefactor (\$1,000); Pillar (\$2,500); Torchbearer (\$5,000); and Guardian (\$10,000). Hotel arrangements can be made by calling 1-800-228-9290 to get the special Assembly room rate of only \$159.00. To RSVP contact Assembly FL Chair Carol Norigian at southflaaa@gmail.com.

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

MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

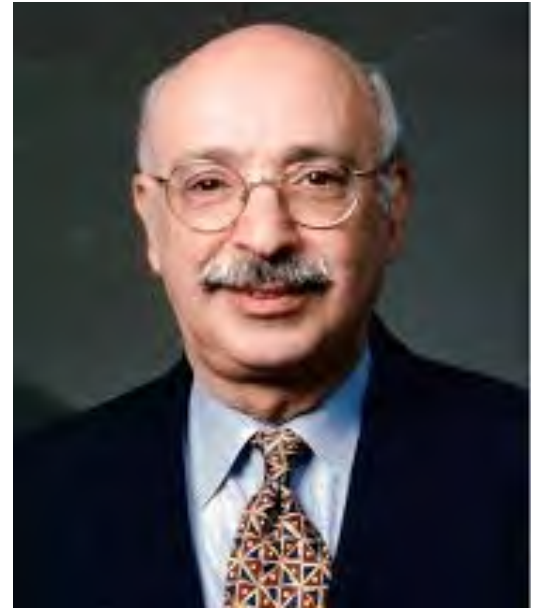
MARCH 20 – Documentary film "Dark Forest in the Mountains" by Roger Kupelian, shot on location in Nagorno-Karabagh tells the story of war in the early 1990s that claimed tens of thousands of lives. Also, a presentation by Dro Kanayan on the Armenian Genocide Education Committee and their efforts to teach about the Genocide in the public school system. Seating is limited, admission free. 6:30 - 8:45 p.m., Memorial Hall Library, 2 N. Main St., Andover. Co-sponsored by the Arakadz Lodge of the Knights of Vartan. For information email harry.alexanian@earthlink.net.

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

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

APRIL 10 – A Place Far Away – Book Talk with Author Vahan Zanoian, 7:30 p.m., Charles and Nevert Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. The Greater Boston area community is invited to a compelling book talk with Vahan Zanoian on his new novel, *A Place Far Away*, a powerful portrayal of the heart-breaking realities of human trafficking in Armenia. Reception to follow talk. Signed books will be available for purchase that evening. All proceeds from the sale of the book are being donated to organizations devoted to protecting children and fighting human trafficking. For further info, contact the church office, 617.354.0632, or email office@htaac.org.

APRIL 11 – The 99th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide will take place at the Massachusetts State House, House Chamber, 10:30 a.m. Keynote speaker, attorney Mark Geragos. The program will feature state Representatives



The Armenian Assembly Annual Trustees Meeting & Banquet will take place March 14-17, in Boca Raton. Friday night, guests are invited to a welcome reception and on Saturday morning, the annual trustees meeting will take place. During and after lunch, guests will hear from author Dr. H. Martin Deranian, Near East Foundation Board Chairman Shant Mardirossian, and South Florida Filmmaker Bared Maronian. Saturday evening, the Assembly will honor Michael Haratunian at a special dinner banquet. All events will be held at the Marriott at Boca Center. Hotel arrangements can be made by calling 1-800-228-9290 to get the special Assembly room rate of only \$159.00. To RSVP contact Assembly FL Chair Carol Norigian at southflaaa@gmail.com.

Jonathan Hecht, James Miceli, Lawn and David Rogers, Armenian members of the clergy, Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian. Children from the Armenian Sisters' Academy and St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School will sing America the Beautiful and the Armenian national anthem. A reception will follow in the Great Hall.

APRIL 26 – Unveiling of a new Genocide memorial by Lowell City Hall, sponsored by the Armenian Genocide Monument Committee of Merrimack Valley; 10 a.m., downtown procession, followed by program at City Hall and reception in St. Ann's Church Hall at noon. Main speaker, Margaret Ajemian Ahnert, author, "The Knock on the Door." Musical interlude by soloist Sevan Dulgarian; Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, MC.

APRIL 27 – Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley observance, 3 pm, North Andover High School, 430 Osgood St., Arev Armenian Folk Ensemble performing; joint requiem service by MV Armenian churches; reception to follow; complimentary admission.

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

MICHIGAN

MARCH 29 – Young Turkish-Armenian pianist Artun Miskciyan will perform at 7 p.m., Steinway Piano Gallery, 2700 E. Maple Road, Commerce Township. The program will include pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Bartok and Khachaturian. The concert is sponsored by the Metro Detroit Tekeyan Cultural Association and dedicated to Margaret Benian. RSVP Diana Alexanian 248-334-3636 Leslie Balian 248-303-4690 Nora Azadian 248-303-7171. Tickets are \$15 per person. A reception will follow the concert.



COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN
**Mirror
Spectator**



Established 1932

An ADL Publication

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The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is published weekly, except two weeks in July, by:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509
Telephone: 617-924-4420

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www.mirrorspectator.com

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U.S.A.	\$80 a year
Canada	\$125 a year
Other Countries	\$190 a year

© 2014 The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Boston, MA
and additional mailing offices.

ISSN 0004-234X

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, 755 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472

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COMMENTARY

History Will Repeat Itself

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Recent political developments in Armenia are overshadowed by events in Ukraine, which in their turn will certainly impact on relations with Russia's "near abroad." Armenia, being situated in that "near abroad," certainly will not remain immune to fallout from the standoff there.

Throughout this turmoil created by Ukrainian events, Armenia commemorated the anniversary of the March 1 2008 events which had claimed 10 victims, following President Serge Sargisian's election. To mark this occasion, the Armenian National Congress held a rally, with an ever-shrinking number of participants, where the first president of the republic, Levon Ter-Petrosian, gave a long-winded speech. That Ter-Petrosian is the most articulate political leader no one doubts. His analytical mind is precise, his eloquence is balanced and effective and his charisma remains undiminished. His speech as political analysis is worthy of being heard and dissected.

People continue to listen to him more than any other politician. But the Armenian National Congress, which he founded, was cut to size in the last parliamentary elections. Members of his opposition group are mostly hotheaded novices and no one has his political acumen or eloquence to replace him. Most are oppositionists who are like a black eye on his party. Had the movement enrolled politicians of Ter-Petrosian's caliber, the opposition could have gained more traction in the political life of the Armenian Republic. Lacking loyalty or a cohesive platform instead of simply opposition to the powers-that-be, most jumped ship when the movement suffered losses – and first to desert it was Ter-Petrosian's former foreign minister, Alex Arzoumanian, who later formed his own party, the Liberal Democrats.

In his long speech, Ter-Petrosian analyzed the political situation in Armenia. He dwelt at length on the 2008 events as well as the shocking slaughter in the Parliament in 1997, which has yet to be properly investigated and whose perpetrators have not yet been brought to justice. The first president could have reached a broader audience had he included among those traumatic events serving as blemishes on the face of modern Armenian history the political assassinations which took place on his watch (former KGB Chief Marius Yuzbashian, former Yerevan Mayor Hampartsoum Galestian, writer Vartkess Petrossyan, to name but a few), or the cases of diasporan investors who were ruffled or killed during his administration.

Of course, he has harsh words for the current administration for failing in the domestic and foreign arenas. His points are well taken, if one disregards the contexts under which those policies are formulated. Poverty, economic decline and depopulation are serious concerns that the former president dwells on. He specifically lashes out at the current president for making a U-turn on negotiations with the European Union and adhering to Russia's Customs Union. Yet, the current events in and around Ukraine fully explain why Armenia had no alternative but to cling on to Russia.

Focusing on parliamentary life, he expressed his satisfaction that for the first time, the Armenian Parliament has become a respect-

ed forum for serious political discourse and he credits the development to the leadership of the Armenian National Congress, with some lip service to the "wonderful quartet," meaning the Armenian National Congress, Heritage Party, Prosperous Armenia and the ARF.

He also finds positive trends in social movements which politicize bread-and-butter issues, such as the hike in bus fares and the new pension plan which the government has been trying to implement.

Of course, his ultimate conclusion is that Serge Sargisian has to resign to bring an end to his "oligarchic kleptocracy." As he said, "This is the only honorable outcome for him."

Ter-Petrosian is not the only politician advocating regime change. Large segments of people believe that their fortunes will take a turn for the better if a new leadership comes to power. But no one is able to announce how and under what conditions. Granted, the current administration failed to improve the economic well being of the people. Especially, it could not find a viable solution to curb the trend of depopulation, which is veering Armenia toward extinction. But all of these changes are conditioned by outside factors, over which Armenians do not have control. Depopulation is the direct result of economic strangulation.

Should new elections take place in Armenia, or should there be a violent takeover of power, the Turks and Azeris will not lift the blockade. Nor will they rush to trade with Armenia.

Pipelines, rail systems and roads are being designed in the Caucasus to stir economic development, but through Georgian collusion with Ankara and Baku, all are bypassing Armenia to isolate it even more economically.

The enemies are not waiting for a regime change to rescue Armenia from its economic predicament.

Ironically, all these hostile acts are taking place under the watchful eyes of our "strategic ally" Russia, which has yet to lift a finger.

Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly declared his policy of isolating and bankrupting Armenia, to see its population shrink to an unsustainable level. Nor will Azerbaijan tone down its bellicose rhetoric, which keeps Armenia on war footing.

Armenians are their own worst enemies. And if today's republic fails to survive, we do not need to blame any one but ourselves. The number of people who believe that Armenia's lot will be much better if a new government is brought to power is rising. But no one has yet addressed solving the outside factors which have led to the current situation. And no one can, in good conscience, attest that any former administration has been less corrupt, including that of Ter-Petrosian.

Armenians brought the fall of medieval city of Ani by infighting and handing the keys to the city to the Byzantine emperor. Also, because of the infighting of the princes and their treacherous scorched-earth policies, they weakened the Cilician Kingdom and thus it fell prey to the Mamluks in 1375. We can extend this self-destructive instinct all the way to the fall of the First Republic, when Armenians butchered each other until the beleaguered republic was absorbed into the Soviet Empire.

It looks like the trend is continuing and unless we heed our ancestors' warning, we are destined to allow history to repeat itself.

Joseph Berman Unqualified for Superior Court

By Joseph Dagdigian

As suburban Boston constituencies look on, Governor Deval Patrick is still insisting that the eight elected Governor's Councilors accept his nominee, attorney Joseph Berman, to be a Superior Court judge.

After Mr. Berman's first hearing on November 13, 2013, a majority of Councilors indicated that they would not vote in favor of Patrick's desired candidate.

Many of their reasons stem from issues of character. They included Mr. Berman's not being honest during sworn testimony when asked about his having

found acceptable what they at first did not. Now, Mr. Berman indicated he did not fully understand the questions previously asked about his lobbying efforts. Now, campaign contributions suddenly appeared reasonable, given that he, too, was a Democrat supporting his chosen political party members. Now, he was simply misunderstood when he had offered curt replies to questions. Now, since the first hearing, he's qualified since he read a book about drug addiction and gone to a drug court. Now, some Councilors felt

Armenian Genocide.

Once it was known that Mr. Berman was not supported by the majority, Governor Patrick postponed a vote and, instead, intensely politicked to urge Councilors to reverse their position. This culminated in Gov. Patrick's withdrawing the Berman nomination, only to resubmit it, and call for a second hearing for Mr. Berman, which was just held on February 26, 2014.

As an attendee at that hearing, it appeared to me that Councilors were bending to political pressure. I conclude this because when their formerly stated reasons for opposing

his nomination were inadequately readdressed on the floor, some Councilors surprisingly indicated that they now

found acceptable what they at first did not. Now, Mr. Berman indicated he did not fully understand the questions previously asked about his lobbying efforts. Now, campaign contributions suddenly appeared reasonable, given that he, too, was a Democrat supporting his chosen political party members. Now, he was simply misunderstood when he had offered curt replies to questions. Now, since the first hearing, he's qualified since he read a book about drug addiction and gone to a drug court. Now, some Councilors felt

that Mr. Berman should not be penalized for his shameful failure, as a National Commissioner of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), to take a moral stance against the ADL's siding with Turkey and lobbying to squash Armenian Genocide recognition resolutions in Congress. Genocide is an international crime, and the US is a signatory to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

To what do we owe this sudden tolerance and acceptance? How is it that some Councilors now seem willing to overlook Mr. Berman's character and professional deficits?

During the hearing's recess, Mr. Berman was seen outside the meeting hall "high-fiving" some of his colleagues, signaling his perception of an imminent victory. Is this the sort of sober comportment we want in a judge?

It appears as if Governor Patrick is helping Mr. Berman pursue a position for which he is ill-qualified to hold. Massachusetts citizens deserve a mature, reasoned and unbiased judge on the bench. Mr. Berman does not merit that distinction.

(Joseph Dagdigian is a resident of Harvard, Mass.)

OPINION



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Corruption Scandal May End Erdogan's Political Career

In a series of secretly recorded phone conversations revealed last week, Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan was heard instructing his son to hide from police tens of millions of dollars of cash stashed in his Istanbul house.

This shocking revelation generated widespread calls for Erdogan's resignation who claimed that the phone recordings are fake or edited. It appears, however, that the wiretapped conversations between the Prime Minister and his son are authentic, according to Guarded Risk, an American cyber company that conducted a comprehensive forensic analysis of the phone calls.

It is ironic that Erdogan who came to power as an Islamist with the declared aim of eliminating corruption from Turkish politics, has fallen victim to the dictum: "power corrupts; absolute power corrupts absolutely!"

The phone calls were secretly recorded on the day police raided the homes of several cabinet members, prominent businessmen, and the head of the state bank. They were all accused of involvement in bribery and other corrupt practices.

Translation of excerpts from Erdogan's five wiretapped conversations with his son, Bilal:

First phone call at 8: 02 am on Dec. 17, 2013:

Erdogan: ...Take everything you have out of your house, OK?
 Bilal: What would I have, dad? Your money is in the safe.
 Erdogan: That's what I am talking about...
 Bilal: What shall we do with it, daddy? Where shall we put it?
 Erdogan: In specific places, in some specific places... . Do it!

Second call at 11:17 am:

Bilal: ...My brother [in-law] Berat has another idea. He says we should give some of it to Faruk [Kalyoncu, president of a construction company] for the other job, so he can process them like the previous ones. Shall we do that? We can sort out a big amount of money that way.

Erdogan: Possibly.

Bilal: OK. For the other part, because we started a business partnership with Mehmet Gur [managing director of a construction group], we thought of giving it to him saying, 'keep it, you can use it as projects come up.' This way, we can reduce it and move the rest to somewhere else.

Erdogan: OK, fine, as long as you do it... It would be good if you do... If you can liquidate them all.

Bilal: Yes, we will liquidate them all today, God willing!

Third call at 3:39 pm:

Erdogan: Did you complete the tasks I gave you?

Bilal: We will finish them by this evening. We sorted some out; We sorted the Berat part, now we will first handle the part with Mehmet Gur, and the rest, we will do after dark...

Erdogan: What did Sumeyye [daughter] do?

Bilal: She took them out, brought them over, we spoke, etc.

Erdogan: Do not speak on the phone with each other.

Fourth call at 11:15 pm:

Bilal: Hi daddy, I am calling to... we did [it] mostly. Did you call me just now, daddy?

Erdogan: No I did not, you called me.

Bilal: I was called from a secret number.

Erdogan: When you say 'mostly,' did you fully liquidate it?

Bilal: It's not zero yet, daddy. Let me explain. We still have 30 million euros that we could not yet liquidate. Berat has an idea. There was an additional 25 million dollars Ahmet Calik [businessman] should receive. They say let's give this [to him]. When the money comes, we do [something], they say. And with the remaining money we can buy an apartment from Sehrizar, he says. What do you say, father?

Erdogan: Whatever, we will sort it out.

Bilal: Should we do it like this?

Erdogan: OK, do it.

Bilal: Do you want them all liquidated, father, or do you want some money for yourself?

Erdogan: No, it can't be left over, son. You could transfer it to the other, with Mehmet you could transfer it there.

Bilal: Yes, we gave it to them. We gave \$20 [million] to them.

Erdogan: For God's sake, first you should have transferred

it. Then you could have done it...

Bilal: We were able to give this much for now. It is hard already; it takes too much space. We are putting part of it somewhere else, we gave part of it to Tunc, and then...

Erdogan: Did you transfer all to Tunc?
 Bilal: They asked, I guess he said that he could only take 10 million euros.

Erdogan: Whatever! Don't talk on this [phone].

Bilal: OK, then, we will sort it.

Erdogan: OK, do it. I am not able to come tonight. I'm staying in Ankara.

Fifth call at 10:58 am on Dec. 18, 2013:

Erdogan: I decided to call to see if there is anything new.

Bilal: No, nothing. We finished the tasks you gave us, with God's help.

Erdogan: Has it been all liquidated?

Bilal: Completely! How should I put it? I had Samandira and Maltepe's money, 730,000 US Dollars and 300,000 Turkish Liras. I will handle these too. We owe 1 million Turkish Liras to Faruk sik [parliament member]; I will give it to him and tell him to transfer the rest to the academy.

Erdogan: Do not speak so openly!

Bilal: Shouldn't I?

Erdogan: Don't. OK?

Bilal: OK, daddy

Erdogan: I mean, do not keep anything on your person, whatever it is Samandira or whatever... Send it to where it needs to be, why do you keep it on you?

Bilal: OK, daddy, but I think currently we are under surveillance.

Erdogan: What have I been telling you since the very beginning!

Bilal: But is the security staff following us, father?

Erdogan: Son, you are being wiretapped.

Bilal: But they are also visually monitoring us.

Erdogan: That may be true. Now, we've just done some things at the Istanbul police headquarters.

Additional recordings have since surfaced in which Erdogan and his son talk about rejecting a \$10 million bribe offer from a Turkish businessman for being insufficient.

Erdogan could end up losing not only his current position and the chance of becoming President later this year, but may also face prosecution and a lengthy jail term for his alleged crimes.

145th Anniversary of Tumanian

PanARMENIAN.Net - Hovhannes Tumanian was born on February 19, 1869 in the village of Dsegh, Tiflis Governorate, Russian Empire (now Lori Province, Armenia.)

His father, Aslan (1839-1898), was the village priest known by the name Ter Tadevos. He was an offspring of an Armenian princely family of Tumanian, branch of the famous royal house of Mamikonian that settled in Lori in 10th-11th centuries from their original feudal fief of Taron.

His mother, Sona (1842-1936) was an avid storyteller with a particular interest in fables. Young Tumanian was the oldest of eight children; his siblings were Rostom (1871-1915), Osan (1874-1926), Iskuhi (1878-1943), Vahan (1881-1937), Astghik (1885-1953), Arshavir (1888-1921), Artashes (1892-1916).

From 1877-1979, Tumanian attended the parochial school of Dsegh. From 1879-1883 he went to a school in Jalaloghly. Tumanian moved to Tiflis in 1883, where he attended the Nersisyan School from 1883-1887. Tumanian's wrote his first poem at the age of 12, while studying in Jalaloghly school. He

Armenian Grief

Armenian grief is a sea,
 A fathomless, boundless main.
 In that dark expanse drifts my soul,
 Mournful, in mortal pain.
 Now furiously it rears
 And the azure coastline seeks,
 Now weary it disappears,
 Seeking peace in the deeps.
 But neither can it find the bottom,
 Nor can it reach the shore...
 In the sea of Armenian sorrows
 My soul languishes evermore.

1903
 Hovhannes Toumanian

1927), Arpik (1899-1981), Areg (1900-1939), Seda (1905-1988), Tamar (1907-1989).

In 1899, Tumanian came up with an idea of organizing meetings of Armenian intellectuals of the time at his house on 44

lived at the teacher's house for a while and was in love with teacher's daughter Vergine. Tumanian worked for Aghbyur, Murtch, Hasker and Horizon periodicals and also was engaged in public activism.

In 1888, at the age of 19, Hovhannes Tumanian got married to Olga Matchkalyan, 17. They had 10 children: Musegh (1889-1938), Ashkhen (1891-1968), Nvard (1892-1957), Artavazd (1894-1918), Hamlik (1896-1937), Anush (1898-



Hovhannes Tumanian at Vernatun

Bebutov Street in Tiflis (present-day Amaghleba 18, in Sololaki). Soon it became an influential literary group, which often gathered in the garret of Tumanian's house. Vernatun means garret in Armenian, which was the name the group was referred to.

Prominent members of the collective were Avetik Isahakyan, Derenik Demirchyan, Levon Shant, Ghazaros Aghayan, Perch Proshyan, Nikol Aghbalian, Alexander Shirvanzade, Nar-Dos, Vrtanes Papazyan, Vahan Terian, Leo, Stepan Lisitsyan, Mariam

Tumanian, Gevorg Bashinjagyan and many other significant Armenian figures of early 20th century. With some pauses, it existed until 1908.

In 1912 Tumanian was elected the president of the Company of Caucasus Armenian Writers.

In the fall of 1921, Tumanian went to Constantinople to find support for Armenian refugees. After months spent there, he returned ill. After surgery in 1922, he started to get better. But in September, Tumanian's disease started to progress again. He was transferred to a hospital in Moscow, where he died on March 23, 1923.

Tumanian's works range from fairy tales, ballads and poems to novels to include: Anush (1892), with Armen Tigranyan's opera based on the poem, Gikor, David of Sassoun, The Dog and the Cat (1886), Maro (1887), Akhtamar (1891), Davit of Sasun (1902), The Capture of Tmkaberb (1902), A Drop of Honey (1909), The End of Evil (1908), The Shah and the Peddler (1917).

Tumanian's house in Tbilisi, Vernatun, built in 1854, was bought out by the local Armenian community to be turned into a cultural center.

For many years, Yerevan has been honoring the great poet with Tumanian days, with the festive events annually lasting from April 4 to 11.

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 telephone number.

– Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is noon on the 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 M-S 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.



Razmik Panossian Brings Vision to Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation

PANOSSIAN, from page 1

In order to draw up his mission, he decided that “instead of sitting in Lisbon,” where the foundation is based, he should talk to “community leaders, see what needs are in the diaspora.”

Therefore, he went on a tour of France, England, Lebanon, Palestine, Israel, Canada, the US, Armenia and Turkey, met with Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II and Catholicos of the Great See of Cilicia Aram I, as well as with teachers and other community leaders.

“Some common themes emerged,” he said. Top among the concerns, he said, was the danger facing Western Armenian. “I did not know about the urgency.”

Connected to that is the issue with schools, he said. “When I went to Lebanon, I realized how difficult the situation of the Armenian schools is and it emerged as an important point,” he said.

“Good textbooks are one element, but not the solution,” he explained.

One issue facing the schools, both in the Middle Eastern Diasporas as well as in the West, is the lack of good Armenian teachers. With fewer students in Armenian schools, fewer people will go into teaching Armenian, he noted.

Training Armenian teachers in the Middle East and the West and rewarding top students are going to be priorities for the foundation. This segment of the plan will receive about \$1 million in funding.

Teachers need to be trained, he said, through scholarships, in fact creating a “cadre of intellectuals and teachers.”

“The cornerstone of the work of the foundation is to support the work of schools in the diaspora,” he explained. “We have usually sent a little money to a lot of schools. Realistically, what is \$5,000 to a school with a budget of half a million? Now we are going to give to fewer schools but larger amounts for specific projects,” Panossian said.

Schools in Lebanon are due to receive special attention because of the attrition of students there. According to him, from a high of 25,000,

the number of students in Armenian schools there has shrunk down to 8,000. He had commissioned a study there and intends to speak to all the responsible authorities there to implement steps to increase the number of pupils. Thus, the schools will receive bigger funds than previous years, but need to abide by the conditions and requirements of the foundation.

In general, Panossian said, the demographic trend in the Middle East indicates the rapid shrinking of Armenian and Christian populations. Only two and a half major Armenian centers remain in the east, he said: “Aleppo has disappeared. Lebanon remains and Istanbul is the half. We still expect [the region] to be the source of Western Armenian. The Armenian Diaspora in the US, in Los Angeles, are places where they may be able to produce Armenian-speaking intellectuals. Montreal [has already] created a generation of Armenian speakers.”

Those are cases of diasporan successes that he wants to study and replicate in the east, where in earlier times, keeping the mother tongue was effortless.

One practical problem facing the diaporas in the east and west, with regard to learning Western Armenian is that immersion in it is becoming harder and harder. “If you want to learn a language, where do you go to immerse yourself in it,” he asked. Another part of his agenda is to create a list of books that need to be available in Armenian, whether they were originally written in Armenian or not. He added that all aspects of the culture needs to be online so that major Armenian publications that do not have websites should be able to have access to one.

Panossian complained that Armenian seems to have acquired a second-class status with many young Armenian speakers. “It is the language of modern life versus the language of talking to your grandparents,” he said. Therefore, he explained, finding a way to bring Armenian into the language of computers and hand-held devices is one of the goals.

Armenia, Syria and Turkey

“The bulk of the work in the Armenia is first to support civil society, organizations, youth

And the Oscar Goes to.... Armenian-Owned Los Angeles Pizza Chain

PIZZA, from page 1

DeGeneres milked the gag further by soliciting tips from Harvey Weinstein. Best supporting actress Lupita Nyong'o pitched in some lip balm.

But Big Mama's & Papa's wants more out of the exposure than a few \$20s tossed into a hat.

The chain, which counts a Sunset Boulevard location blocks away from the awards site among its 20 units, is following up the Oscars with a publicity rampage. The chain, owned by Armenian-born Aro Agakhanyan, is now angling to also become the official pizza of the Oscars.

Consider that early estimates peg Oscar viewership at an average of 40.2 million people during prime time, a 9-percent boost over last year's preliminary numbers.

DeGeneres' stunt likely saved Big Mama's & Papa's a fortune in advertising: Kantar Media pegged the price of commercial slots during the ceremony at \$1.8 million for 30 seconds.

On the pizza company's website, a photo of DeGeneres in her white suit and scarf dominates the page. The deliveryman, who

is identified by the chain as Edgar Martirosyan and “not an actor,” is shown in a red hat and apron serving up a slice to Harrison Ford.

Big Mama's & Papa's Instagram page now features shots of Brad Pitt digging into a piece of pie by Angelina Jolie's side, a befuddled Dax Shepard, supporting-actor



Best Supporting Actor Jared Leto grabs a slice from Ellen DeGeneres and Edgar Martirosyan.

winner Jared Leto accepting pizza from DeGeneres and Kerry Washington with an entire box.

The company's Twitter account, where Kogi Taco Truck chef Roy Choi is one of more than 5,100 followers, noted that DeGeneres' talk show put in another order out of Big Mama's and Papa's Burbank location.

organizations,” among other goals.

On an academic level, he said, plans are underway to give scholarships to students there to go abroad to take part in scientific conferences, as well as working with the Ministry of Diaspora.

And, he noted, it is not only Western Armenian that is disappearing. “It is taking only one generation in Russia” to lose Armenian. In fact, he explained, Russia, home to one million Armenian expatriates, does not have a “single Armenian day school.”

Syria is facing altogether different issues. “When the civil war is over, we will contribute to the rebuilding.” The foundation is already helping Syrian-Armenian compatriots, by giving the largest single chunk of money last fiscal year – \$800,000 – to that country, through the AGBU and the See of Antelias.

The foundation, he said, does not have an office in Syria, instead choosing to send money there through other organizations in order not to duplicate labor. “We are open to work with anyone willing to work with us,” he said.

A presence in Turkey is “relatively new for us,” Panossian said. “We ought to encourage dialogue and [understanding of our] shared history.”

His fear, he said, is “waking up on April 25, 2015” and asking, “do we have an answer?”

Instead, he wants the foundation to focus on the future as part of “Armenians at 2115,” to study what changes are taking place in Turkey. “There is an excellent opportunity for us

Armenians to engage in. We cannot be naïve, but [instead] very nuanced.”

Part of that shared history, he explained, is the singular contribution of Armenians to the Ottoman Empire. “Very few historians are interested in these issues. We need to create dialog” through education, culture, civil societies, he said.

Calouste Gulbenkian, Panossian said, was always deeply involved and interested in the Armenian community. In fact, he said, one of the little-known facts about him is that he bought the town of Anjar in Lebanon for use by Armenians only.

Panossian was appointed to the post at Gulbenkian on January 24, 2013. He is the author of the critically-acclaimed book, *The Armenians: From Kings and Priests to Merchants and Commissars* (Columbia University Press, 2006) and various other academic publications on Armenian identity, politics and diaspora. He was the director of policy, programs, and planning at the Montreal-based International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (2004-10), and has worked for UNDP in New York as an international consultant (2011-12). He obtained his PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2000, where he also taught.

Since 2000, the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation has given away \$55 million in grants and scholarships.

Henrikh Mkhitaryan Named Best Player Of Week by Bundesliga.com

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Midfielder of the Armenian national football squad and Borussia Dortmund star Henrikh Mkhitaryan was recognized as the best football player of the week by the official website of the Bundesliga, summing up the 23rd round of the German Tournament.

He was praised for his goal against Nurnburg.

Mkhitaryan is Armenia's all-time top goal scorer, with 12 goals in 43 international matches since his debut in January 2007. His previous clubs include Pyunik Yerevan, Metalurh Donetsk, and Shakhtar Donetsk.

Mkhitaryan was chosen Armenian Footballer of the Year in 2009, 2011 and 2012. In 2012 he was voted as the best Shakhtar player of 2011-12 season by the fans, and Ukraine Premier League MVP. In 2012, Mkhitaryan was named among UEFA's Top 100 players by UEFA European Football Yearbook 2012-13. Mkhitaryan was voted the CIS Footballer of the Year for 2012, making him the first Armenian footballer to be named the best player from post-Soviet countries. Mkhitaryan received the nickname Heno from his fans in Armenia and has recently been nicknamed Micki by his Borussia Dortmund fans.

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