



Administration Slashes Aid to Armenia

Military Parity Kept With Azerbaijan

WASHINGTON — The Obama Administration released its proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2014, which maintained military parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but continued the overall downward trend in assistance to Eurasia and Central Asia countries, reported the Armenian Assembly of America.

Consistent with the levels provided in FY 2013, the Administration's budget called for \$2.7 million in Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and \$600,000 in International Military Education Training (IMET) for Armenia and Azerbaijan, and thus maintained military parity with respect to these accounts.

In its FY 2014 testimony to the House, State Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee last month, the Assembly called for at least \$2.7 million in FMF and

\$600,000 in IMET funding for Armenia. Additionally, the Assembly's testimony highlighted the inexplicable pardon of an Azeri officer who brutally murdered an Armenian officer at a NATO partnership for peace training exercise and urged that the Subcommittee "cease military assistance to Azerbaijan."

In addition to FMF and IMET assistance, the administration's FY 2014 budget also recommended that Armenia see AID, page 16

Police Continue Investigation Into Marathon Bombs

Local Runner Sarkis Chekijian Finishes Race Safely

BOSTON (Combined sources) — President Barack Obama called the Boston Marathon bombings an "act of terror" on Tuesday and investigators said no additional explosive devices have been found other than two that detonated near the finish line, a development that could complicate the case.

Law enforcement officials, who asked the public to turn over any photos or video of Monday's marathon and the blasts, did not disclose any possible leads in the investigation. No one has been arrested, police said.

Current and former counter-terrorism officials said that the Boston bombs were built using pressure cookers as the superstructure, black powder or gunpowder as the explosive and ball bearings as additional shrapnel. The officials said that instructions on how to design such bombs are available on the Internet.

Obama, in an appearance in the White House briefing room, said it was not yet clear who carried out Monday's twin blasts

that killed three people and sent 176 to hospitals with injuries, 17 critical.

"Any time bombs are used to target innocent civilians, it is an act of terror," Obama said. "What we don't yet know, however, is who carried out this attack or why, whether it was planned and executed by a terrorist organization — foreign or domestic — or was the act of a malevolent individual."

Dispelling earlier reports of as many as seven devices being found around Boston, Gene Marquez, assistant special agent in charge for the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said authorities had determined that the only bombs deployed in the attack were the two that detonated shortly before 3 p.m. EDT (1900 GMT) on Monday.

Any unexploded device might have provided a clearer picture of what materials were used and how the bomb was assembled, furnishing leads in the case.

Meanwhile, a stretch of Boylston Street near the race's finish line, where the blasts occurred, and the blocks around it were closed to traffic as police searched for evidence.

see MARATHON, page 16

Local Observances Honor Victims of Armenian Genocide

WATERTOWN — On April 24, the global Armenian community will unite to commemorate the 98th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. The following is a list of church services and coordinated events in the local Massachusetts community. For full event details and more events in your area, check the Calendar section on page 12.

• Boston, April 19 — 10:30 a.m., Armenian Genocide Commemoration at the State House, House of Representatives Chamber, Massachusetts State House, with keynote speech by former US Ambassador to Armenia John Evans. Donald Tellalian will receive a proclamation. Buses provided by the Knights of Vartan leave St. James and St. Stephen's Churches in Watertown at 9 a.m.

• Lowell, April 20 — 10 a.m., Genocide commemoration and flag-raising, Lowell City Hall, sponsored by the Armenian National Committee of Merrimack Valley. Please convene at 9:30 a.m. for a march downtown.

• Cambridge, April 21 — 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church will hold the 98th Anniversary Commemoration of Armenian Genocide, church Sanctuary and Armenian Martyrs' Monument; 145 Brattle St.

• Worcester, April 21, 12 p.m. Armenian Church of Our Savior will host a special Hokehankisd honoring those lost in the Armenian Genocide; program, question and answer, blessing of the Madagh. Honored guest Vahe Tachjian, historian.

• Worcester, April 23 — 7 p.m., City Hall, 3rd floor council chambers, City proclamation, Armenian youth to address the council.

• Watertown, April 24 — 6 p.m., St. James Armenian Apostolic Church and St. Stephen's Armenian Apostolic Church together with the Armenian Cultural and Education Center (ACEC) will host a commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. The event will begin at St. James for a requiem service, followed by the laying of the wreath at the *Khatchkar*. A procession will march to St. Stephen's where another wreath will be laid before continuing to the ACEC for a commemorative program with speaker Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian.

• Chelmsford, April 24 — Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church will hold a requiem service at Martyrs' Memorial, followed by a viewing of a short video, "The Hidden Armenians." For official start time, contact the church office; 80 Old Westford Road.



French Armenians Criticize Hollande

PARIS (PanArmenian.net) — Charles Aznavour urged French President Francois Hollande to reaffirm his commitment to Armenian issues.

Aznavour expressed his disappointment with the president's Socialist party for its recent votes against pro-Armenian laws.

Aznavour reminded the press that it was the Socialist party that initiated the failed bill on criminalization of the Armenian Genocide in France.

The Hayastan cultural union of France has also begun a signature campaign, urging Hollande to keep his election promise and adopt the bill criminalizing the Armenian Genocide denial. Hundreds of citizens have joined the initiative in Valence, with the campaign continuing in Paris, Lyon and Marseille.

"The adoption of the Genocide denial bill is one of the French president's election pledges. Hollande earlier expressed commitment to the criminalization of the denial of the crime; 600,000 French Armenians and their friends are now waiting for his statement," read a statement from a Hayastan representative.

The Hayastan Union plans to present the letter at the Élysée Palace on April 24.

Rabbi Calls for Genocide Recognition

YEREVAN (Arminfo) — In a recent article in the Huffington Post, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach denounced President Barack Obama's recent appeasement of Turkey.

"If Obama were true to his word as a presidential candidate in 2008 and interested in a significant success in the Middle East, he should have pushed Erdogan to reciprocate and apologize to the long-suffering Armenians for this first genocide in modern history," said Boteach.

He added, "To win support from Armenians while running for office, Obama said on January 19, 2008, 'Two years ago, I criticized the firing of US Ambassador to Armenia John Evans after he properly used the term genocide to describe Turkey's slaughter of thousands of Armenians starting in 1915. The Armenian Genocide is not an allegation ... but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence. ... As president I will recognize the Armenian Genocide.'"

Boteach concluding, "But instead of working to fulfill his promise, President Obama and his administration repeatedly have avoided the term 'genocide,' and worked behind the scenes to prevent Congress from recognizing it. More than 20 countries and 42 US states already have recognized the events of 1915 as genocide. As Obama seeks to shape his Middle East policy and consider his legacy over the next four years, he should consider the promises he made as a young candidate and recognize a massacre that never should be forgotten."

INSIDE

'Tezeta' Film

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LOS ANGELES — Vatche Semerdjian, above right, was recently honored for dedicating more than 50 years of his life to serve Armenian communities worldwide. Above, he is with Glendale Mayor Frank Quintero, who gave him a proclamation at the program. See full story and more photographs on page 9.



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Armenia Celebrates Police Day

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – On April 16, Armenian local authorities and armed forces celebrated Police Day.

A performance of the Armenian national anthem was followed by congratulatory speeches by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian, Secretary of National Security Council Artur Baghdasaryan, Chief of Police Vladimir Gasparyan, Director of National Security Service Gorik Hakobyan, Armenian Minister of Justice Hrayr Tovmasyan and Minister of Emergency Situations Armen Eritsyan.

The following is an excerpt from President Serge Sargsian's address to the police and armed forces, delivered by the president's chief of staff, Vigen Sargsyan: "Distinguished members and veterans of the Police Force, I congratulate you on the occasion of Police Day. It is obvious that reforms, which have been implemented in recent years in the police system, have yielded positive results. Today, the protection of the rights and property of the citizens and particularly of the public order have been elevated to a more secure level. It is a fact and this achievement results from the activities carried out by you."

Armenia Awaits New Governmental Appointments

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Yerevan-based media outlets continue to speculate possible administrative appointments that President Serge Sargsian is likely to make in his second term.

Under the Armenian Constitution, the newly inaugurated president must appoint a prime minister within 10 days and a new government must be formed within the next 20 days.

Analysts say it is unlikely that permanent appointments of ministers will take place before May 5, which is the day of municipal elections in Yerevan.

Sargsian and senior members of his Republican Party have repeatedly hinted that no major changes would be made in the composition of the next government. 18 members of the president's cabinet will continue to work as acting ministers until new ministers are appointed.

Local media has speculated in recent days that Finance Minister Vache Gabrielian will resign from his position and that Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian will be replaced by Arkady Ghukasyan, former president of Karabagh.

Permanent Water Supply Planned for Stepanakert

STEPANAKERT (PanArmenian.net) – Nagorno Karabagh Minister of Industrial Infrastructures Levon Mnatsakanyan announced plans to form a permanent, regular water supply in the city by 2014.

Mnatsakanyan said the financial cost of water in the region is high and plans to solve the water crisis are in development.

Armenian Opposition Leader Visits Moscow

MOSCOW (RFE/RL) – Raffi Hovannisian, the main challenger to Armenian President Serge Sargsian in the election in February, visited Moscow on April 12.

Hovannisian's spokesperson, Ovsep Hurshudian, did not rule out that the Heritage Party leader would be holding official meetings before returning to Yerevan later.

Hovannisian, who officially lost to Sargsian by roughly 20 points, has disputed the election results.

Hovannisian and opposition supporters on April 9 held an "alternative inauguration" as a counterpart to Sargsian's official swearing-in for a second term in office.

AUA Study: Mining in Armenia Creates Poverty, Income Inequality

YEREVAN – Mining contributed to economic growth in Armenia between 2000 and 2010 while simultaneously creating income inequality and poverty. This is according to a recent study by the American University of Armenia (AUA) Acopian Center for the Environment conducted in cooperation with the AUA College of Business and Economics.

Mining contributed to economic growth in Armenia between 2004-2010 while also creating income inequality and poverty, according to a recent economic study of that six-year period by the AUA Acopian Center for the Environment conducted in cooperation with the AUA College of Business and Economics.

The study's principal researcher and author, Dr. Aleksandr Grigoryan, looks at regional-level data and reports that mining does have some positive impact on the growth of the economy.

"This supports the claim often repeated by proponents of mining that it is needed for Armenia's economic growth," says Dr. Grigoryan, an assistant professor of economics at AUA.

Grigoryan's analysis, however, also shows that mining contributes to higher poverty and greater income inequality. "Our analysis shows that the mining sector is likely to increase income inequality and deepen poverty in the regions of Armenia in which it operates," states Grigoryan.

This runs counter to claims by mining proponents that the sector creates jobs that will have medium- to long-

An increase in poverty is another observed effect of mining, a relationship that Dr. Grigoryan says needs to be studied further.

Other research on the impact of mining conducted by the AUA School of Public Health and AUA Acopian Center

raise the standard of living for a vast majority of their populations because they devised and implemented good public policy," stresses Amirkhanian, who organized an international conference last November on the topic.

Without proper policies designed to



Mine workers at the Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum processing plant in Kajaran handling toxic heavy metals without breathing protection.

reports some residents claiming that property owners are forced to sell their properties at very low prices. Such occurrences, if they have taken place, would deprive villagers of an asset critical to wealth creation, according to Dr. Grigoryan.

Moreover, workers in the mining or mineral processing industries are not provided health insurance, a fact that

regulate and leverage mining, Armenia will continue on a path that follows mining models that enrich a few while depriving larger numbers of current and future generations of opportunities to benefit from their patrimony, states Amirkhanian.

According to the Armenian Statistical Service, in 2011, Armenia's mining industry employed 15,500 workers or about 1 percent of the country's total employment and contributed to about 3 percent of the its GDP.

AUA is organizing another international scientific conference on the subject, titled "Emerging Issues in Environmental and Occupational Health." The conference, set for April 22-23, will bring leading experts from around the world to Yerevan to explore the impact of mining and construction in transition economies such as Armenia. The research they present will provide solutions to the occupational and environmental health problems facing workers, communities and children and help craft public policy to address these issues.

The Acopian Center promotes the protection and restoration of the natural environment through research, education, and community outreach. AUA ACE's focus areas include sustainable natural resource management, biodiversity and conservation, greening the built environment, clean energy and energy efficiency, as well as information technology and the environment.

The College of Business and Economics (CBE) at the American University of Armenia (AUA) is the leading business school in the region, promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and ethical leadership. CBE has catered to Armenian and international students, corporations, and communities for the past 20 years.



A young man in a hospital bed with his wife. He has a stomach ulcer and believes it is from working at the mine.

term development impact on the regions and the country.

These conflicting realities can be explained by a number of factors prevalent in Armenia's economy, according to Grigoryan.

"Mining has been growing as a share of the Armenian economy for several years now but with the economic crisis and increase in world metal prices, mining took on a more significant role in our GDP growth," he explains, noting that this trend is expected to continue if no other sector of the economy picks up steam.

may burden families with health costs or lower productivity.

"If we are to make mining a key sector in the Armenian economy, we also have to develop the right socio-economic policies where the immediate communities and the country benefits maximally," says Alen Amirkhanian, director of the AUA Acopian Center.

Mining and extractive industries have played a significant role in ensuring long-term and equitable growth for several countries, particularly Norway, Australia, and Botswana. "These countries have successfully used mining to



Cow drinking water from tailing ponds from the Zangezur Copper-Molybdenum mine in Kajaran.



INTERNATIONAL

Erdogan Says Definition of Citizenship to Include 'Turkish Nation' in New Constitution

ANKARA (*Today's Zaman*) – Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has ruled out claims that the definition of citizenship in the new constitution will not have any reference to Turkishness, saying that all the people living in the country will be referred to as the "Turkish nation."

"The notion of the Turkish nation does not define a race or ethnicity. In our proposal for the new constitution we say the 'Turkish nation,' but we are using this as a definition of citizenship," Erdogan said on Monday at his ruling Justice and Development Party's (AK Party) Central Executive Board (MYK) meeting.

The definition of citizenship is one of the thornier issues being dealt with by the Parliamentary Reconciliation Commission, which was set up to draft Turkey's new constitution. The pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party (BDP) demands that the issue should be settled by a formula based on citizenship of the Turkish Republic, and that citizens of the country should not be described as "Turkish" in the charter. The BDP is against terms such as "Turkish nation" or "Turkish" appearing in the new charter.

The Republican People's Party (CHP) and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) strongly oppose the BDP's proposal. "Turkish nation" should remain in the Constitution so as to maintain the unity of the nation, they emphasize, also

noting that a nation is not the same as an ethnic identity, considering that a nation is usually made up of various ethnic groups.

At Monday's meeting, Erdogan also called on his party's youth and women branches to go into the field to promote the ongoing settlement process with the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Erdogan wants these branches to knock on the people's doors – canvassing just like during election campaigns – and inform the public about the settlement process, which aims to resolve Turkey's long-standing Kurdish and terrorism problems.

"The process is going better than we expected," Erdogan reportedly told his party's members at the meeting, which lasted for five-and-a-half hours.

The prime minister also asked his party's members not to allow those who are disturbed by the process to sabotage it.

"Use careful language. The public leg of this business is very important. We should explain this process correctly," he said.

PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, imprisoned on the island of Imrali in the Sea of Marmara, and National Intelligence Organization (MIT) officials have been engaged in negotiations since October of last year. The negotiations have come to be called the "peace process" or the "set-

tlement process." In a historic letter in March that was read by BDP deputies at a Nevruz celebration, Öcalan ordered his organization's militants to pull out from Turkey as part of a new "era of peace" in which no guns or violence will be used to pursue the Kurdish cause.

Kılıçdaroglu to travel to Brussels to explain party's ire with settlement process
CHP leader Kemal Kılıçdaroglu will travel to Brussels in May in order to discuss his party's objection to the settlement process with the PKK.

The CHP will first send letters to officials at the European Parliament, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) and the embassies of various countries to explain the party's stance on the settlement process and emphasize that the CHP is not against peace.

In this letter, the party will reportedly voice its complaints about the "ambiguity" of the process and "government failure to inform the opposition" about the process.

Kılıçdaroglu's visit to Brussels, where he will meet with EU officials, is expected to take place in mid-May.

The CHP was supportive of the settlement process at the beginning; however, the party later withdrew its support, claiming that the government was not sufficiently informing the opposition about the course of the process.

Turkish Pianist Convicted for Tweets Mocking Islam

ANKARA (AP) – A Turkish court on Monday convicted top Turkish pianist and composer Fazil Say of denigrating religion through comments he made on Twitter, giving him a 10-month suspended prison sentence.

The 43-year-old musician who has played with the New York Philharmonic, the Berlin Symphony and other world orchestras was on trial for sending tweets last year, including one that joked about a religious leader and some Islamic practices.

He is the latest in a series of intellectuals and artists to be prosecuted in Turkey for expressing their opinions and his case has raised further concern over rights and freedoms in the country, a democracy with a mostly Muslim population that seeks membership in the European Union.

Say has also been a strong critic of the Islamic-rooted government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, a devout Muslim who expounds conservative values, alarming some secular Turks who fear the government plans to make reli-



Fazil Say

gion part of their lifestyle.

In one tweet, Say joked about a call to prayer that he said lasted only 22 seconds. Say tweeted, "Why such haste? Have you got a mistress waiting or a raki on the table?" Raki is a traditional alcoholic drink made with aniseed. Islam forbids alcohol and many Islamists consider the remarks unacceptable.

The charges against Say also cited other tweets he sent, including one – based on a verse attributed to famous medieval poet Omar Khayyam – that

questioned whether heaven was a tavern or a brothel, because of the promises that wine will flow and each believer will be greeted by virgins.

Emre Bukagili, a citizen who filed the initial complaint against Say, said in an emailed statement that the musician had used "a disrespectful, offensive and impertinent tone toward religious concepts such as heaven and the call to prayer."

Lawyer Meltem Akyol said the pianist's sentence has been suspended for five years, which means he would have to serve the sentence if he re-offends in that time.

The lawyer said Say has not yet decided whether to appeal the verdict. He has closed his Twitter account, however.

In a statement, Say called the verdict "a sad one for Turkey."

"The fact that I was given a sentence despite my innocence is cause for concern with regard freedoms of expression and belief," he said.

The government meanwhile, appeared to distance itself from the verdict.

"I would not wish anyone to be put on trial for words that have been expressed. This is especially true of artists and cultural figures," Culture and Tourism Minister Omer Celik said. "But... this is a judicial decision."

Sevim Dagdelen, a German lawmaker who has campaigned for Say, called his conviction "a scandal," and said that Turkey's attempts to join the EU should be frozen. She also accused the court of making an example of Say to silence critics of the government.

Turkey has a history of prosecuting its artists and writers.

Turkish Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk was prosecuted for his comments about the mass killings of Armenians under a law that made it a crime to insult the Turkish identity before the government eased that law in an amendment in 2008.

In 2007, Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, who received death threats because of his comments about the killings of Armenians by Turks in 1915, was shot dead outside his office in Istanbul.

International News

Wrestler Prepares for World Championship

KRASNODAR, Russia (PanArmenian.net) – Armenian freestyle wrestler and European Champion, David Safaryan, is currently training for the World Universiade championship in Kazan, Tatarstan in July.

Speaking about his performance in the European World Championships, Safaryan said, "I'm happy that I won gold for my country. I know that it was Martin Berberyan that last managed to bring victory to Armenia."

Akopian Finishes 10th at Dubai Chess Tournament

DUBAI (PanArmenian.net) – Armenia's Vladimir Akopian finished in 10th place during the 15th annual Dubai Open Chess Championship Sheikh Rashid Bin Hamdan Al Maktoum Cup. Akopian tied in the final round against India's Abhishek Gupta.

Meanwhile, Gabriel Sargissian tied in a game against Ukraine's Mikhaile Oleksienko to finish in 13th place.

Armenian Gymnasts Medal in Belarus

MINSK (Armenpress) – A team of Armenian gymnasts were awarded medals during an annual international tournament.

Armenia was represented in the tournament by athletes from the Gumri Gymnasts Sports School, including: Gayane Kocharyan, Hasmik Simonyan, Christine Shimalyan, Armen Simonyan, Gohar Karapetyan, Gohar Grigoryan and Anahit Ginosyan. The gymnasts were accompanied by trainer, Armine Hovsepyan.

More than 200 gymnasts from six countries competed in the tournament.

Aeroflot, Siberia Airlines Reduce Ticket Prices

MOSCOW – Aeroflot and Siberia Airlines have reduced their airline ticket prices on flights to Yerevan after the bankruptcy of national carrier, Armavia.

The website of the General Department of Civil Aviation of Armenia said that ticket prices on Yerevan-Moscow Aeroflot flights have dropped in price by 21.4 percent, from 203,292 drams (\$486.79) per ticket to 159,860 drams (\$382.79) as of April 9. It is worth noting that Aeroflot had increased the prices by about 14 percent immediately following the bankruptcy announcement.

Siberia Airlines' prices on Yerevan-Moscow flights have reportedly dropped by 15.7 percent.

The press service of the General Department of Civil Aviation offered no explanation for the price reduction.

Armavia had flights to 28 destinations, as well as sole jurisdiction over several routes.

Iran Asks Armenia to Condemn Chemical Warfare in Syria

TEHRAN (PanArmenian.net) – Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi called on Armenia to condemn the recent use of chemical weapons by terrorists against the Syrian nation.

Earlier this month, terrorists fired a rocket containing chemical substances in the Khan al-Assal area of rural Aleppo. Reports indicated that 25 people were killed, most of them civilians.

Salehi made this statement in a message to his Armenian counterpart, Eduard Nalbandian on April 1.

"As one of the main victims of such weapons, the Islamic Republic calls on Armenia to spare no effort to prevent the repetition of similar incidents in future," Salehi said.

Iranian Ambassador to Yerevan Mohammad Rayeesi conveyed the message to Nalbandian on behalf of Salehi.

Mihranyan Says Russia Is Armenia's Only Strategic Partner

YEREVAN (Radiolur) – "It would be incorrect to say that Russia is Armenia's only ally in the region, but Russia is the only strategic partner of Armenia," Director of the New York based Institute for Democracy and Cooperation, political scientist Andranik Mihranyan, told reporters this week. According to him, Armenia is trying to cooperate with both Russia and the United States.

Asked which direction Armenia will chose – the Customs Union or the European direction – Mihranyan said, "Armenia should conduct a flexible policy" and voiced hope that the country will find a formula to maintain close ties with the European Union and not spoil the relations with Russia.

As for the Karabagh conflict, the political scientist said its settlement is possible only when the superpowers reach an agreement.

Speaking about the Armenian-Turkish relations, Mihranyan reminded that he was one member of the reconciliation committee and contacts between Armenians and Turks seemed ridiculous at the time. "However, today's situation shows that the picture has changed," he said.

Touching upon the recent presidential elections in Armenia, the political scientist said "it was the first presidential election to receive a positive assessment by all countries."



Community News

Kolligian Distinguished Speaker Series Presents CNN National Security Analyst Peter Bergen on May 7, at Holy Trinity

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston presents, through The Dr. Michael and Joyce Kolligian Distinguished Speaker Series, CNN National Security Analyst Peter Bergen, best-selling author of *Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for Osama bin Laden – From 9/11 to Abbottabad*. His talk, “The Awakening: The Remaking of the Middle East,” will be held on Tuesday, May 7, at 7 p.m., in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall at 145 Brattle St.

One of the few Westerners to interview Osama bin Laden, Bergen is an authority on foreign policy, national security and the new generation of terrorism. In addition to serving as CNN’s terrorism analyst, he is the *New York Times* best-selling author of *Holy War, Inc.*, which was translated into 18 languages. Bergen serves as the director of the national security studies program at the New America Foundation in Washington, DC, where he leads the foundation’s analysis of terrorism, counterinsurgency, South Asia’s geopolitics and other national security concerns.

His latest book, *Manhunt*, was released in May 2012.

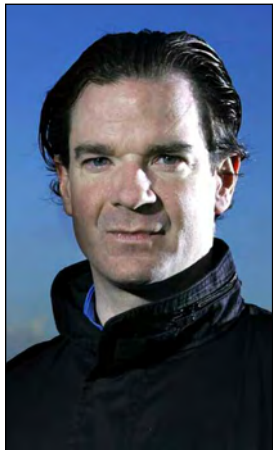
In 1997, as a producer for CNN, Bergen produced bin Laden’s first television interview in which he declared war against the United States for the first time to a Western audience. Bergen has traveled repeatedly to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia to report on bin Laden and al Qaeda. In his 2011 National Geographic Channel documentary, “Last Days of Osama bin Laden,” Bergen obtained rare access to interview former CIA agents, Navy SEAL operatives and a Black Hawk pilot who revealed how the US gathered the intelligence needed to pull off the surprise attack.

The Dr. Michael and Joyce Kolligian Distinguished Speaker Series was established in 2000, by Joyce Kolligian of Belmont, and her family, in memory of her husband, Dr. Michael Kolligian, with the purpose of providing high-quality educational and cultural programs to enhance knowledge and provide enjoyment to the members of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church, as well as to the community at large.

Dr. Kolligian practiced dentistry in Medford for 30 years. In 1971, he joined Distributor Corporation of New England, serving as treasurer and later as president.

The previous programs in the series have featured Dr. Bob Arnot, “On the Front Line of Terror,” in 2004; Immaculée Ilibagiza, survivor and author of *Left to Tell, Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust*, in 2007; and Mia Farrow, “With Knowledge Comes Responsibility: The Darfur Crisis,” in 2010.

Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, pastor of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church, invites the Greater Boston area community to join him on May 7. A reception and book signing will follow the program that is open to the public and a gift to the community. For further information, contact the Holy Trinity Armenian Church office, office@htaac.org or visit the parish website at www.htaac.org.



Peter Bergen



From left, YP Northern California Co-Chairs Greg Nemet and Steven Cherezian spoke at the signature Winter Gala on Saturday, February 16 at the San Francisco War Memorial Performing Arts Center.

AGBU YP Northern California’s Holds 14th Annual Winter Gala Weekend

SAN FRANCISCO — The Armenian General Benevolent Union Young Professionals of Northern California’s (AGBU-YPNC) held its 14th annual San Francisco Winter Gala Weekend, which garnered support for Armenians both in war-torn Syria and the border village of Barekamavan, Armenia. From Friday, February 15 to Sunday, February 17, 300 young professionals gathered in the city for a weekend of fundraising and social events that raised \$4,000 for humanitarian initiatives abroad.

On Friday, a meet-and-greet was held at the host hotel, downtown’s Sir Francis Drake. Nearly 250 participants headed to the SoMa District later that evening for the annual Club Night. This year, YPNC also introduced a new activity — a Sunday tour on San Francisco’s cable cars, which took guests to a variety of tourist attractions — from Fisherman’s Wharf to the Golden Gate Bridge and past the “Painted Ladies,” the 19th century Victorian homes that have come to define the city.

The Winter Gala weekend provided participants with the opportunity to connect with one another and to aid Armenians at risk overseas, such as in Syria, where the conflict rages on, and in Barekamavan, where poverty is widespread. The weekend’s signature event, the Saturday night gala at the San Francisco War Memorial Performing Arts Center, featured journalist Lara Setrakian as the keynote speaker, who discussed the plight of Syrian Armenians.

Setrakian, who has been working in the Middle East as a Bloomberg Television correspondent and ABC News reporter, described the daily struggles for families in Aleppo, Damascus, Kamishly and across the country and the region. She remarked, “The Syrian civil war — their war — is one of the defining events of our time. It defines their fate. It defines the future of the Middle East. It defines what it means to be Armenian in our generation — whether we step up and take care of each other in an hour of desperate need,” issuing an appeal to support AGBU’s relief efforts on the ground.

Funds raised throughout the weekend will aid AGBU in meeting the urgent needs of thousands of Armenian families in Syria, as well as those who have been displaced to Armenia and Lebanon. The funds will also support the AGBU YP network to implement phase two of its “Go Green” campaign, the Pan-YP Greenhouse Project in rural Barekamavan.

YPNC and Gala Co-Chair Steven Cherezian remarked on the event’s impact, saying, “The success of the weekend is a testament to the hard work of our committee, and it truly paid off as we were able to bring hundreds of young professionals together to contribute to two deserving charities.” The contributions to the YP Greenhouse Project will help bring fresh crops and sustainable development to the struggling Barekamavan community. Conceived, funded and developed entirely by YP Groups around the world, the “Go Green” initiative has its roots in the 2009 AGBU Young Professionals Biennial Assembly in Chicago. In 2010-11, more than a dozen international YP Groups collaborated during phase one to build a new park in the border village of Khachik.

AGBU-YP will reconvene in August for the AGBU FOCUS (www.agbufocus.org), the four-day biennial affair for Armenian young professionals. YPNC and Gala Co-Chair Greg Nemet commented, “We are thrilled with the success of this year’s Gala and were happy to host many new faces...we accomplished what we set out to do — bringing the YP network together for an amazing weekend and raising funds for two important charities. Now we move forward with planning for FOCUS 2013.”

For more information about the AGBU Young Professionals, visit www.agbu.org/yp. To make a contribution to the AGBU Humanitarian Emergency Relief Fund in support of Syrian Armenians, visit <https://donate.agbu.org/agbu-urgent-appeal>.

USC to Host Academic Conference on Armenian Diaspora

LOS ANGELES — An international academic conference titled “Independence and Beyond: In Search of a New Armenian Diaspora after 1991,” will take place at the University of Southern California on April 27.

The one-day conference has been organized by the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Western US Central Committee, in collaboration with the University of Southern California Institute of Armenian Studies and the Armenian Review. It will take place at the Davidson Conference Center of the USC.

Through its various presentations and discussions, the conference seeks to examine the impact of the independence of Armenia and subsequent processes of nation-building there, as well as various facets of diaspora life, such as political ideologies and cultural narratives. Other topics will include linguistic and literary production, organizations and institutions, economic investment and hybrid identity formation.

The four thematic panels will feature leading scholars of Armenian, diaspora and transnational studies. Using their expertise in fields that range from political science and history to literature and journalism, the conference participants will work towards creating new frameworks and definitions for conceptualizing “diaspora” in the Armenian context.

Traditional paper presentations will be given in panels titled, “Revisions of the Narrative of Return” and “Cultural Narratives and Language in and Evolving Diaspora,” while thematic conversations will be held in discussion panels titled, “New Definitions of Diaspora and Nationalism” and “Online Space and the Politics of Information Exchange.”

The event is free and open to the public.

Diocesan Women’s Guild to Hold Annual Assembly

BOCA RATON, Fla. — Concurrent with the 111th Assembly of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) being held May 2 through 5 at the Marriott-Boca Center Hotel, the Diocesan Women’s Guild is holding its 27th Annual Assembly.

The week of activities is being hosted by St. David Armenian Church of Boca Raton.

One of the highlights is the fourth Annual WOW (Women of Wonder) Appreciation Luncheon at the Marriott. Those being honored this year for their outstanding service and dedication to the Armenian Church, Diocese and community are Carol Norigian, who is also chairing the committee for the entire weekend of events, Nina Stapan, Claudette Sarian and Rose Kazanjian of St. David Armenian Church and Naomi Davitian of St. Mary’s Armenian Church of Hollywood, Fla.

On Sunday, May 5, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at St. David Armenian Church by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, assisted by the Very Rev. Dr. Nareg Berberian, pastor.

A farewell brunch will follow.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Hamazkayin Eastern USA
3rd Annual Pan Gathering
Dedicated to the 300th
Birthday of Armenian
Master Troubadour
Sayat Nova



Please join us for an evening of fine dining
and cultural celebrations

Saturday, May 4, 2013, at 7:00PM Hovnanian Hall
Armenian Cultural and Educational Center
47 Nichols Avenue, Watertown, MA

Keynote Speaker

Thomas Samuelian, J.D., Ph.D.
Dean of Law School American University of Armenia

The Role of Diaspora-based Armenian Cultural Organizations in Nurturing
our Cultural Heritage and National Identity in the 21st Century

Special Guest

Eric Nazarian
Filmmaker

Musical Performance

Mayilyan Vocal Trio
Anna Mayilyan, Artistic Director and vocals
Armine Khachatryan, vocals
Yeva Yeganyan, vocals
Lusine Grigoryan, piano

All proceeds from the event to benefit the educational and cultural
initiatives of Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society

Ticket Price: \$100 per person
To reserve, please visit www.itsmyseat.com/pangathering
or call 617.331.0426

Zdegn, Boston - Los Angeles Photo by Shahen Znookian, Yerevan 2008

Mark Geragos, Pat Harris to Speak at St. James Armenian Church Men's Club

WATERTOWN — Noted criminal defense attorney from Los Angeles, Mark Geragos, will speak at the St. James Armenian Church Men's Club Dinner Meeting on Monday, May 6.

Geragos will discuss his distinguished book with Pat Harris, *Mistrial: An Inside Look at How the Criminal Justice System Works... And Sometimes Doesn't*.

As the principal with the internationally known firm of Geragos & Geragos, Mark Geragos cemented his national reputation as a trial lawyer a dozen years ago with back-to-back state and federal acquittals for Whitewater figure Susan McDougal, later securing a presidential pardon for her for a conviction sustained prior to his representation of her.

During the last decade, Geragos has won two consecutive dismissals of murder charges against clients by proving flawed eyewitness identification.

One of those clients later won a \$1.7 million settlement when the Geragos firm sued the City of Glendale for their false arrest of that client. In another 12-week murder trial where the victim was the defendant's 4-year-old daughter, Geragos was the lead lawyer where the jury did not convict his client. He convinced a San Mateo Superior Court Judge to grant probation in a weapons and drug case brought against Victor Willis, former Village People frontman, and was the attorney who successfully represented Chris Brown last year.

Geragos was one of the lead lawyers in a pair of groundbreaking Federal Class Action Lawsuits against New York Life Insurance and AXA Corporation for insurance policies issued in the early 20th century during the genocide of over 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Turk Regime, eventually settling these two cases for more than \$37.5 million. He is currently suing the government of Turkey for reparations arising out of the Armenian Genocide.

Geragos is the only lawyer besides Johnnie Cochran ever named "Lawyer of the Year" in both criminal and civil arenas. *California Law Business Magazine* named Geragos "One of the 100 Most Influential Attorneys in California" three years in a row, and Geragos has repeatedly been voted by his peers as one of Los Angeles' SuperLawyers. His \$59 million jury verdict in a trade secrets case against pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Corporation was voted both "Top Ten Verdicts in 2008 in California" by the *Daily Journal*, as well as "Top Fifty Verdicts in the United States" by the *National Law Journal*.

Geragos has represented former Congressman Gary Condit, President Clinton's brother, Roger Clinton, Academy Award-nominated actress Winona Ryder, pop star Michael Jackson, Nicole Ritchie, singer Chris Brown, hip hop stars Nathaniel "Nate Dogg" Hale and Sean "Diddy" Combs (aka Puff Daddy), international arms dealer Sarkis Soghanalian, and the Sarkisyan family, whose 17-year-old daughter died when Cigna Corporation refused to authorize a liver transplant. For the last several years, Geragos has represented Barry Bonds' personal trainer, Greg Anderson, in his matter relating to the federal investigation into steroid use.

Geragos has regularly appeared as both guest and legal commentator on the "Today Show," "Good Morning America," "Dateline NBC," "Larry King Live," "Anderson Cooper 360," "Greta Van Susteren's On the Record," "60 Minutes" and "48 hours," and has lectured extensively and authored numerous articles and Law Review publications on the subject of media and the law.

Geragos attended Haverford College in Pennsylvania as an undergraduate, and later earned his JD from Loyola Law School. He was born in Los Angeles.

Harris is one of the firm's primary trial

lawyers, specializing in both felony criminal trials and major civil litigation, including civil rights' violations, wrongful death actions and malicious prosecution cases. His trial successes in the past year alone have included three jury verdicts in excess of \$2.5 million, as well as serving as co-counsel with Mark Geragos on a case in Santa Clara County that resulted in their client receiving a verdict of over \$37 million against the pharmaceutical company, Pfizer.

Over the course of his 13 years practicing law at Geragos & Geragos, Harris has also served as co-counsel with Mark Geragos on numerous other high-profile matters. Working on the Susan McDougal case led Harris to write a book titled *Susan McDougal: The Woman Who Wouldn't Talk*. The book spent four weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list and was praised by the *New York Times* book review as being "moving and compelling, composed... with dignity and compassion." Former President Bill Clinton wrote, "Every American who loves our Constitution... should read this book."

Harris was born in Clarksville, Ark. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa and was a state finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship.

Before attending law school, Harris started his career as one of two legislative assistants for former Rep. Bill Alexander (D-AR) in Washington, DC. After leaving Washington, he served for a number of years as vice president of real estate development for Madison Financial Corporation in Little Rock. Mr. Harris grew proficient in the financial aspect of real estate development while acting as a liaison between the financial organization and the development corporation for several real estate projects.

After working for a number of years, Harris went to law school and earned his JD from the University of Michigan Law School in Ann Arbor. He began his legal career in the Davidson County Public Defender's Office in Nashville, Tenn., before moving to California



Pat Harris

and beginning work with Geragos & Geragos in 1997, where he focused his practice on criminal law.

His numerous victories include successfully representing a high school principal charged criminally with hate crimes, and then winning a countersuit on the

principal's behalf for malicious prosecution for \$600,000. Since 2008, Harris has begun trying cases in civil court with great success. In January 2009, he won a \$1.3-million jury trial verdict for a client who had been falsely accused of murder. He followed up on that triumph with a \$1.2-million jury trial verdict against a truck hauling company and the City of Los Angeles for negligence in destroying the property of a Los Angeles resident. Most recently, Harris won a \$350,000 jury trial verdict against Bank of America for wrongly seizing \$140,000 from a customer's account.

While Harris' practice is largely based on courtroom trials, he has also been successful outside the courtroom, working with clients on cases ranging from sexual harassment to wrongful death. In the past two years alone, he has helped achieve client settlements in excess of \$10 million.

The social hour starts with *mezza* at 6:15 p.m., followed by a complete Armenian dinner at 7 p.m., \$12 per person. The dinner meeting will be at the St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn St. Reservations are encouraged. The event is open to the public and ladies are welcome.

Book signing proceeds to benefit Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR).

The Detroit United Committee presents the

98th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

Special Keynote Speaker

Dr. Susan Karamanian
International Law Expert

Saturday, April 20, 2013

AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School
7 pm

Emcee Judge Lisa Asadoorian

Please join us for this commemoration event as we honor our ancestors and seek justice for the loss of 1.5 million Armenians at the hand of the Ottoman Turks in 1915-1923. We welcome as our keynote speaker, Dr. Susan Karamanian, a leading expert on international law who serves as Associate Dean for International and Comparative Legal Studies at George Washington University's Law School. Dr. Karamanian will explore the possibilities for Armenians to pursue justice through the U.N. International Courts for Human Rights and the International and Criminal court, both located at the Hague.

Program will include a presentation by the Alex & Marie Manoogian
AGBU High School students.

Everybody is cordially invited - Reception to follow

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CSAI, Detroit Armenian Women's Club,
Knights of Vartan, Daughters of Vartan, Tekeyan Cultural Association



OBITUARY

Tatios Nazareth 'Tom' Magarian, Survivor of Armenian Genocide

TYNGSBOROUGH, Mass. — Born in 1914 to parents Nazareth and Dikranouhi (Chilingirian) in the town of Gurin in the region of Sepastia (Sivas), Tatios would only know the hometown of his family and forbearers for a year or two. In 1915 and 1916, the 10 members of his family would feel the pain of genocide.

At that time, the men of Gurin were gathered and removed by the Turks and never seen again. Those remaining were told they would be deported, and the Magarians sold/traded their household goods and belongings to get three donkeys, upon which they put the younger children. The women and children, along with elderly men, were forced to march by caravan southward. They would continue on foot through Kasaria, Albiston, Zeitun and Aintab. Then, in Ghatma, they were put on a train to Aleppo, Syria.

By now the family of 10 numbered five — two girls, Khungaper and Armenouhi, and three boys, Khatchadour, Magar and Tatios — and staying in newly-constructed gender-separated tent orphanages in open fields in Aleppo. Day by day the number of orphans increased. At some point, the middle brother, Magar, boarded a train heading back toward Aintab and was never seen again.

Later, the remaining four Magarians were separated again, with the two girls heading to Constantinople via Sis, and the two boys remaining in an orphanage in the Jebeil section of Beirut.

After years of turmoil, fear, death and uncertainty, there seemed some stability to life.

The eldest girl, Khungaper, would marry Harry Dadourian from Boston, Mass., and later send for her sister and two brothers and bring them to America. By 1924 a new life had begun for them all in a new land.

Tatios took on the name Thomas, and was known outside family circles as "Tom." He attended school in Bronx, New York, and took part-time jobs at grocery and fruit stores in the neighborhood while living with his older brother, Khatchadour. He made many good friends and played baseball, and talked of the good-times watching Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig at Yankee Stadium in the late 1920s.

In Boston, his eldest sister Khungaper's husband had an accident at work that left him paralyzed. Tatios Magarian was asked to come and help the family make ends meet during the difficult times of the Great Depression. He was a



Tatios Nazareth 'Tom' Magarian in 2007

senior in high school in 1931 when he had to leave school to help the family. He headed to Boston and started a food business on Commonwealth Avenue.

For the next 58 years, he developed his successful food business and moved it from Boston to Nashua, NH. "Tom's Delicatessen" introduced the local New Hampshire citizenry to homemade New York-style delicatessen meats and salads, as well as a sampling of Armenian foods.

On July 4, 1942, Tatios Magarian married Virginia Tomasian of Washington, DC, at Holy Cross Armenian Church in New York City — the mid-way point for the Boston and Washington families.

By 1945, Tatios Magarian found himself in the small town of Tyngsborough, Mass., and owner of an orchard with hundreds of fruit trees. He loved the spring blossoms of the peach, cherry, plum and many varieties of apple. Many years later, when translating from Armenian to English the memoirs of his older brother, he rediscovered that his father's land in Gurin also had orchards with blossoming fruit trees. He marveled at the connection with a father he never knew.

He called Tyngsborough home for 53 years, and also be a faithful servant of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church of Lowell and then Chelmsford, serving on various committees and as Parish Council chair during the transition

years to new facilities. At the consecration of the new sanctuary in Chelmsford, Magarian served as Godfather to the Pillar of St. Thaddeus (Tatios) the Apostle. He was also a long time member of the Nashua Club of Kiwanis International, where he served as treasurer and president.

Perhaps the last of the Gurentzis born before the Genocide, he celebrated his 99th birthday on March 4, 2013, when he received a surprise visit. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian accompanied by his pastor, the Rev. Khachatur Kesablian and a group of ACYOA members brought birthday cake and warm wishes. When Kesablian asked him what message he might give to the young people visiting that day, he paused and said: "Choose a vocation you can continue doing what you have to do to bring the Armenians forward." The archbishop offered special prayers and blessings to Magarian and led the group in the singing of the *Hayr Mer* — the Lord's Prayer. It proved to be the last song that Tatios would sing as one week later on March 11, he passed away.

Tatios "Tom" Magarian was the beloved husband of 47 years to the late Virginia (Tomasian) Magarian; devoted father of Kenneth Magar and his wife Jane (Wrinkle) of Westfield, MA, Deacon James Khachadour and his wife Cynthia (Seferian) of Tyngsborough, MA, and the late Thomas Nazareth Jr.; nephews Robert and Richard Ovagimian, and the late Vahe, Ara and Sarkis Dadourian, Ronald Ovagimian and Nazareth Magarian; nieces Dorothy Magarian Bahtiarian, Charlotte Ovagimian Donabedian, Madeline Dadourian Koumjian and Sona Dadourian Kapilian and the late Anne Dadourian Haroutunian. He was also the grandfather of five grandchildren and two great-



Working at the Elm Street store in Nashua in 1981

grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church in Chelmsford. Expressions of sympathy and memorial donations in lieu of flowers may be made in his memory to Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church. The Giragosian Funeral Home prepared funeral arrangements. To sign the guest book and view photos, visit www.giragosianfuneralhome.com.

A 40th Day Requiem Service (Karasoonk) will be offered on Sunday, April 28, in Chelmsford.

— JKM

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The Greater Boston Committee to Commemorate the Armenian Genocide

To be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2013

-6:00 PM Requiem service at St. James Armenian Church
465 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, MA

-7:00 PM Public event at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center
(ACEC), 47 Nichols Ave. Watertown, MA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Armenia's Permanent Representative to the UN
H.E. Mr. Garen NAZARIAN

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Տեղի կ'ունենայ Զորեքշաբթի, Ապրիլ 24, 2013-ին

Երեկոյան ժամը 6:00 -ին Հոգեհանգստեան Արարողություն
Ուրբերթաունի Ս. Յակոբ Եկեղեցւոյ մէջ:

Երեկոյան ժամը 7:00 -ին Ժողովրդային Հաւաք
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New York METRO

St. Thomas Church Celebrates 48th Anniversary with Palm Sunday Banquet

By Madlen E. Setian

TENAFLY, N.J. — On Palm Sunday, March 24, the St. Thomas Armenian Church celebrated the 48th anniversary of its consecration, honored by the presence of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern), who delivered the homily and presided over the Divine Liturgy and celebratory dinner.

The banquet began with the procession led by the parish council escorting the Primate, parish pastor the Very Rev. Papken Anoushian, and honorees Berch and Nishan Turpanjian, recipients of the 2013 “St.

Garipian had donated the banquet.

Barsamian delivered the invocation, followed by a welcoming toast by Parish Council Chair Dr. Levon Capan. Capan thanked the banquet chairs for their hard work and donations, chef Andy Ouzoonian and his team, and the ACYOA Juniors who served the banquet.

Master of Ceremonies Hagop Vartivarian noted the excellence of St. Thomas’ Kirikian Armenian School, congratulating principal Ani Capan for her leadership.

The entertainment portion of the program featured a recitation in Armenian by Nairi Arslan, who recited “Lousavorichi Ganteghuh” by Hovhannes Toumaian. A classical guitar performance by the talented Cindy Mutafoğlu followed.



ACYO Juniors Talar Arslanian and Anabelle Cruickshank with Fr. Papken Anoushian



Seated, from left: Hagop Vartivarian, Dr. Levon Capan, Fr. Papken Anoushian, and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Standing Berch Turpanjian (left) and Nishan Turpanjian.

Thomas Award.”

Before the proceedings began, Anoushian offered a hokehankisd prayer for the souls of Mateos Barsamian, Gulperi Alaca, Krikor Alaca and Mariam Garipian, in whose memory, Haci and Nadya Garipian and Karnig and Ipek

The presentation of the “St. Thomas Award” was the high point of the banquet. Anoushian warmly described the devotion and dedication of Berch and Nishan Turpanjian, noting the strong faith, prayerfulness and religiosity of both brothers; their weekly presence singing

in the choir; and their tireless volunteering on behalf of the church.

Berch and Nishan both extended their appreciation for the award and thanked Fr. Anoushian for helping them to learn and understand the Bible. They presented the pastor with an exquisite hand cross, which clearly touched Anoushian, who said he would anoint and bless the cross on Easter.

Palm Sunday is designated as ACYOA Day in the Eastern Diocese, and members of the St. Thomas ACYOA Juniors helped serve at the banquet. Juniors Anabelle Cruickshank and Talar Arslanian presented Anoushian with a \$1,000 donation for St. Thomas.

Anoushian thanked Alex and Talar Sarafian for being chairs of the Palm Sunday Cake Sale, to benefit the church and its organizations.

He also thanked Vartivarian, Lucy Pilgian and Capan — all distinguished intellectuals and artists of the parish community. He thanked chefs Andy Ouzoonian, Milt Palakian and Shahe Jebejian for preparing the dinner, and conveyed appreciation to Haci and Nadya

Garipian and Karnig and Ipek Garipian for once again underwriting the expenses of the Palm Sunday banquet. Finally, he thanked Ani Capan for her help organizing the dinner, and Ipek Garipian, Yeghsa Bestepe and Ani Hamparsumian for baking hundreds of choregs to raise funds for the church.

In closing remarks, Barsamian said he was happy to join the parish once again on the day of the celebration of its consecration. He noted that award recipient Berch Turpanjian was born in Dikranagerd, which the Primate had visited in the fall while on pilgrimage to historic Armenia. The Primate said that he had prayed for the resurrection of the Armenian people while in the ancient churches of the Armenian homeland, and added that the presence of the youth and young leadership in the church is an assurance of this resurrection.

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New York METRO

Knights and Daughters of Vartan March in Greek Independence Parade

NEW YORK — The Knights and Daughters of Vartan once again arranged for their members, and the Armenian community at large, to march in solidarity with the Greeks on April 7. This is the 20th year in which the Knights have participated in the Greek Independence Day parade.

Greece was one of the few countries who opened their doors to the Armenians when they fled from persecution by the Turks in 1915. In fact, the Ottoman Turks massacred some 750,000 to 900,000 Greeks living in Anatolia as well as the Armenians and Assyrians.

Our contingent marched to clapping and rallying cries from the Greek spectators — “we support you,” “long live the Armenians (yasou Armenaki),” “welcome and thank you for being here” were commonly shouted by the Greek on-lookers.

Greece has also recognized the Armenian Genocide and Armenia’s second independence on September 21, 1991. Joining with the Knights and Daughters, to march from 63rd



The Armenian group carried Armenian, American and Greek flags.

Street on Fifth Avenue, were also members of the Homenetmen and Aghtamar Dance Group. We carried four full size flags — United States, Greek, Armenian and Homenetmen.

The Armenian float was proudly displayed with the tri colors of the Armenian flag and the Aghtamar dance group, fresh from their performance the previous night at the Syrian Armenian relief concert, riding atop the float while wearing traditional dance costumes.



A float carried members of the Aghtamar Armenian Dance Group, as well as scouts from Homenetmen.

The Knights are going to sponsor a march on Sunday, April 21, to commemorate the 98th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, at Times Square, from 2 to 4 p.m.

FAR Honors ANSEF Founder Dr. Yervant Terzian

NEW YORK — Dr. Yervant Terzian, the Tisch Distinguished University Professor of Cornell University’s Department of Astronomy and one of the world’s leading astronomers, was honored earlier this month by the Board of Directors of the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) at the Diocesan Center of the Armenian Church.

Terzian is the founder and chairman of FAR’s Armenian National Science and Education Fund (ANSEF).

During the celebration, Armenia’s Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian presented Terzian with the Armenian State Award, the Anania Shirakatsi Medal, on behalf of the president of the Republic of Armenia. The ambassador praised Terzian’s leadership in supporting the collaboration of Armenian astrophysicists with renowned scientists around the world in the peaceful exploration of space science.

Dr. Tavit Najarian, ANSEF co-founder and Board member, acted as master of ceremonies.

Members of FAR’s Board of Directors and ANSEF’s Board of Directors and founders, including Carnegie Corporation President Vartan Gregorian; Aram Chobanian, president emeritus of Boston University and FAR founder and Columbia University neurosurgeon Dr. Edgar Housepian, Dr. Raffi Hovanesian, Dr. John Nercessian and Anahid Longobardo, also attended. All speakers thanked the benefactors of ANSEF who make this program possible: the Avanesians Family Foundation, the Dadourian Family Foundation, the TF Educational Foundation and Dr. Sarkis Kechejian.

Over the past 13 years, Terzian, a passionate advocate of the ANSEF program, has developed an impressive group of the world’s leading scientists who have been reviewing the proposals submitted by dozens of Armenian scientists every year. His personal investment in maintaining the integrity of Armenia’s scientific, technological and scholarly research communities through ANSEF is evident in his oft-expressed pride in his fellow Armenians. “I hope you feel as proud of these fellow Armenians as I do,” said Terzian.

“Professor Terzian overcame all hurdles with enviable efficiency, passion and meticulousness to get the job done,” said Najarian. “ANSEF

would not be where it is today — one of the most valued organizations in scientific research — without his tireless effort and vigilance.”

Lee Corbin was one of the speakers of the evening, who shared a 35-year friendship with Terzian and numerous trips around the world.

Chobanian emphasized Terzian’s thirst for scientific knowledge and his unique ability to find time to do many things each day, including his unprecedented leadership at ANSEF. In addition to being one of the most acclaimed teachers and scientists in astrophysics and radio astronomy, Terzian has written more than 220 scientific publications and has been the editor of six books,



Armenia’s Ambassador to the United Nations Karen Nazarian (right) presented Dr. Yervant Terzian with the Anania Shirakatsi Medal, on behalf of the President.

including Carl Sagan’s *Universe*.

Since the late 1990s, ANSEF has aimed to advance intellectual leaders and educate a new generation of scientists who could contribute to innovation in Armenia. For the past 13 years ANSEF has filled a gap by providing research grants of \$5,000 to Armenia’s scholars and graduate students — a total of 281 awards equaling about \$1.5 million.

Friends of Armenian Culture Society, Inc.

62nd Annual Armenian Night at the Pops

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

featuring

Emmanuel Tjeknavorian, violin
Boston Pops Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, conductor

For tickets and information, please visit www.FACSBoston.org

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Join the author and his partner as they steer their auto-rickshaw across India in a competitive road rally. This non-fiction account is described as a cross between Cannonball Run, Amazing Race, and Midnight Express, and in the book Rie Gazarian, the author, recounts the challenges — from mundane to potentially life threatening — that his team faced racing through this foreign land.

Hit The Road India is Gazarian's second 8.5x11, hard cover book and includes more than 100 color photos. It is also available in an E-book format.

And please check out our website!

Photo Credit: Rie Gazarian

TRIBUTE

Vatche Semerdjian Honored for 50 Years of Community Service

By Kevork Keushkerian

LOS ANGELES — Editor, author, educator and community activist Vatche Semerdjian received the St. Sahag-St. Mesrob Medal, as a result of an Encyclical by Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians.

Semerdjian was honored for dedicating more than 50 years of his life to the service of Armenian communities in Lebanon, Cyprus, Ethiopia, England and the United States of America.

The ceremony began on Sunday morning, April 7, at the St. Leon Cathedral in Burbank. During the Divine Liturgy, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, the Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, decorated his chest with the medal, after the reading of the Encyclical. He then praised the recipient for a life long



Parsegh Kartalian

dedication to the Armenian community.

The Primate compared Semerdjian to the moon, which captures the light from the sun and reflects it onto the earth at night. Metaphorically, he continued, Semerdjian uses his God-given talents to the service of his community. In that way, the Primate added, he is a good role model not only for his immediate family, but for the entire community.

After the church services, Semerdjian's family, friends and colleagues were invited to the Phoenicia Restaurant in Glendale. Parsegh Kartalian served as the Master of Ceremonies. He first invited Rev. Dr. Zaven Arzoumanian to bless the food. Present were Archbishop Vatche Hovsepien, the former Primate of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, Very Rev. Baret Yeretsian, Edmond Y. Azadian from Detroit, Hagop Vartivarian from New Jersey and Frank Quintero, the mayor of Glendale, who gave the honoree a commendation from the City of Glendale.

There were several remarks made by close friends, col-



From left, Parsegh Kartalian, Ara Aharonian and Vatche Semerdjian



Edmond Azadian

Adrin Nazarian.

Azadian took to the podium and mentioned that his friendship with Semerdjian extended over half a century, originating when they both started to contribute and edit Zartonk Sport, a weekly publication of the Zartonk daily newspaper in Lebanon. Azadian is one of the two vice presidents of Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Central Board of Directors of the United States and Canada.

Azadian called Semerdjian a renaissance man, further noting that the honoree had a keen sense of humor, was honest, friendly and most importantly, a free thinker. Their



Laura Kuyumjian

nization.

Laura Kuyumjian dwelled upon fun memories extracted from a threefold relationship over 25 years with the honoree. First, when she was teaching at TCA Arshag Dickranian School, Semerdjian was a member of the Education Committee. Then, when she joined TCA Los Angeles Chapter, he was the chairman. And finally, they both became colleagues at TCA Arshag Dickranian School, teaching Armenian language and literature.

Two of Semerdjian's former students recalled memorable moments from their experience at the Dickranian



From left, Hasmik Mandossian, George Mandossian, Edmond Azadian, Laura Kuyumjian, Sossi Semerdjian, Mrs. Kartalian, Vatche Semerdjian, Baydzig Kalayjian, Hagop Vartivarian and Parsegh Kartalia

leagues and elected officials. Ara Aharonian noted that this was the 55th anniversary of Semerdjian's community service, briefly mentioned his literary achievements and then presented the honoree with a commendation from the County of Los Angeles, signed by Mike Antonovich, Supervisor 5th District, and a Certificate of Recognition from the State of California, signed by Assemblyman

relationship, Azadian continued, was based on mutual admiration and respect. Independent thinkers are often criticized, he went on, and as examples he mentioned Socrates, Jesus Christ and Hagop Baronian, among many.

Baydzig Kalayjian, on behalf of the Tekeyan Cultural Association's Central Committee, delivered a statement praising his long association and dedication to the orga-



A former student delivers words of appreciation.

School. Other remarks were made by George Mandossian, chairman of TCA Arshag Dickranian School's Board of Directors, Vartivarian, Chairman of TCA New York Chapter, Sarkis Vahakn and Hagop Mardirossian, editor of Nor Or Weekly.

Musical selections were rendered by Salpi Kerkonian, on the clarinet, and Sossy Kerkonian, on the harp. Vocal selections were rendered by tenor Artashes Hayryan.

Finally, the honoree took to the podium and thanked members of the organizing committee, then his wife and children, the many speakers for their kind words and memorable experiences. Finally, he thanked the audience at large for taking the time to share his happiness with him.



Arts & Living

Filmmaker Eric Nazarian to Speak at NAASR, Show Short Film, 'Bolis'

BELMONT, Mass. — Acclaimed filmmaker Eric Nazarian will give a lecture titled "Shattered Screens: Can Cinema Break Taboos About the Armenian Genocide?" and show his short film "Bolis," on Thursday, May 2, at 8 p.m. at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), 395 Concord Ave.

Nazarian's 20-minute-long film "Bolis" (2010) tells the story of an Armenian oud musician returning to Istanbul to find his grandfather's oud shop and a family heirloom that disappeared during the Armenian Genocide. "Bolis" was the recipient of the Best Short Film Award at the 14th Arpa International Film Festival in 2011. It has been shown in numerous film festivals, including in Armenia, Istanbul, Sarajevo and Dubai.

In 2012, Nazarian wrote and directed "Occupied Tears," a 3D- and 2D-animation music video for Serj Tankian about children in war and the Middle East. He is a fellow of the inaugural cycle of the Fox Writers Intensive at 20th Century Fox Studios and is currently adapting Chris Bohjalian's acclaimed novel, *The Sandcastle Girls*, for the big screen.

Nazarian is a screenwriter, filmmaker and photojournalist. Born in Armenia, he



Eric Nazarian

grew up in Los Angeles, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in film production from the University of Southern California's (USC) School of Cinematic Arts. During his student years, he was a freelance photojournalist covering stories in Southern California and Armenia/Nagorno-Karabagh.

In 2007, Nazarian wrote and directed "The Blue Hour," his first feature film that premiered in competition at the 55th San Sebastian International Film Festival, going on to win six international awards.

In 2008, he received the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting for his original screenplay, "Giants." In 2010, he was invited to participate in "Do Not Forget Me Istanbul," an omnibus film being produced as part of the European Capital of Culture's Istanbul 2010 program.

More information about this program may be had by e-mailing hq@naasr.org.



Director Aramazt Kalayjian (center) with Alemeyahu Eshete, the "Elvis of Ethiopia" and the production crew at Ras Hotel

Filmmaker Aramazt Kalayjian Brings 'Tezeta' to Life

WATERTOWN — *Tezeta* is a word of great significance in Ethiopia. In Amharic (Semitic language spoken in Ethiopia), it means memory, nostalgia or longing. It is also the name of a type of Ethiopian jazz and ballads in that style that have been sung by countless Ethiopian singers. More recently, it has served as the linguistic inspiration for "Tezeta [The Ethiopian Armenians]," a documentary by Armenian-American filmmaker, Aramazt Kalayjian.

The film, currently in production, explores the historic connection between Armenians and Ethiopians, with music serving as the main cultural bridge between the communities. Through the film, its creators hope to preserve the culture legacy of the small, relatively unheard of Armenian community in Ethiopia. "From 40 Armenian orphans adopted by Emperor Haile Selassie after the Genocide to perform as the first imperial orchestra of Ethiopia in 1924, to Alemayhu Eshete, the 'Elvis' of Ethiopia, Armenians have left their imprint on the cultural and musical landscape of Ethiopian society," said, Kalayjian, creator and director of the project.

Kalayjian explained, "I chose [Tezeta] as the title for our documentary because of its connection to the music as well as the implied sentiment. 'Tezeta,' memory, nostalgia, these are what people describe when thinking about the connection between Armenians and Ethiopians." He added, "Music has been the main cultural vein by which Armenians were able to sustain a connection and impart their musical craft to Ethiopian society. Through the stories and people I mentioned previously, they were able to elevate the level and quality of music performance, composition and appreciation in Ethiopia."

Kalayjian first heard of the Ethiopian-Armenian community as a small child, growing up in the Hudson River Valley of New York. "As a child, my father had always told me stories of how many places we had Armenian communities. Poland, Uruguay, Australia, India and this also included Ethiopia. He had told me about an Ethiopian classmate he had at the now-closed Melkonian Boarding School." But Kalayjian didn't begin to fully explore his father's tales of little-known Armenian communities until years later while he was living in Harlem, New York.

Kalayjian had taken an interest in the arts from an early age. He attended the Pratt Institute where he graduated with a degree in communications design. While attending a 10-week documentary filmmaking collaborative at the Maysles Institute in Harlem, Kalayjian explored the art of writing a treatment, budgeting, story-telling through video and what it takes to make a documentary film.

One day while visiting the Schoenberg Library of African Studies in Harlem, Kalayjian recalled his father's stories and decided to ask if there were any materials

see FILM, page 12

Armenian Genocide Digital Poster Exhibit Sponsored Jointly

Armenian Assembly, Armenian National Institute, Genocide Museum Take Part

WASHINGTON — The Armenian National Institute (ANI), the Armenian Genocide Museum of America (AGMA) and the Armenian Assembly of America (AAA) issued a joint statement upon the release of "Witness to the Armenian Genocide: Photographs by the Perpetrators' German and Austro-Hungarian Allies," a digital exhibit that the three organizations are making available for display without charge.

The newly-created digital display instructional posters are being released in time for April as a public service to educational institutions and the worldwide Armenian community. The poster set may be downloaded from the ANI, AGMA, and AAA websites and printed in any size suitable for instructional, exhibit, classroom, and public education purposes. Designed to be printed in a full-size poster format of 24" by 36" or bigger, the publication is also legible and usable at the 8.5" by 11" standard letter-size format in booklet or flyer mode.

The 10-poster set includes an introductory page, a detailed timeline, a color-coded map geographically matching the photographs with their location, and seven pages displaying 34 captioned historic photographs. The color-coded map in the exhibit is based on the previously-published ANI map of the 1915 Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire illustrating the three prevailing aspects of the Genocide: the deportations, the massacres and the concentration camps.

Photographic evidence on the Armenian Genocide is extremely rare. Although Imperial Germany and the Ottoman Empire were military allies during World War I, the Ottoman Turkish authorities responsible for the Armenian Genocide prohibited taking pictures and closely watched anyone suspected of owning a camera. Despite the threat of a court martial, several German civilians and other German military officials assigned to the Ottoman Empire during the war disregarded the ban and secretly photographed the mistreatment of the Armenian population.

see POSTERS, 11

Hamazkayin Eastern USA Third Annual Pan-Gathering in Boston

WATERTOWN — Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society of Eastern United States will hold its third annual Pan-Gathering on Saturday, May 4, at 7 p.m., at the Hovnanian Hall of the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC), 47 Nichols Ave.

Dedicated to the 300th birthday of Armenian troubadour Sayat Nova, this event will feature a keynote address by Dr. Thomas Samuelian, dean of the Law School at the American University of Armenia, with filmmaker Eric Nazarian as special guest. The musical program will mark the US debut of the Mayilyan Vocal Trio from Armenia under the artistic directorship of mezzo-soprano Anna Mayilyan, with Armine Khachatryan, Yeva Yeganyan and Lusine Grigoryan.

All proceeds from the event are to benefit the educational and cultural initiatives of Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society.

This event is the highlight of the third annual Pan Gathering, a reunion of all eight chapters of the Hamazkayin Eastern US, taking place in Boston for the first time.

Tickets to the event can be purchased online at www.itsmyseat.com/pangathering.



ARTS & LIVING

Filmmaker Aramazt Kalayjian Brings 'Tezeta' to Life

FILM, from page 10

that showed a historical connection between Armenia and Africa. The librarian — who Kalayjian noted happened to be half-Armenian — brought forth two books that described the trading patterns and goods between Armenians and Ethiopia during the 14th century. “I was enthused. It was magical, almost like discovering a secret treasure that had been hidden,” said of his discovery. The next day, Kalayjian met with his friend and musicologist, Miles McNulty, who introduced him to a series of Ethiopian music produced by Francis Falceto called “Éthiopiennes.” While browsing the multi-disc collection, Kalayjian happened to find an Armenian name in the credits — Nerses Nalbandian. “After hearing this, and after some research, I learned about an orchestral group of 40 orphans of the Armenian Genocide from Jerusalem who were adopted by Emperor Haile Selassie I to serve as Ethiopia’s first imperial orchestra. I was hooked, I realized that there was a profound story whose surface I just began to touch.”

While planning his move from New York to Armenia, Kalayjian and his wife, Ani Jilozian, decided to visit Ethiopia in order to collect sto-

ries and began research on what he calls, “the Ethiopian-Armenian cultural and musical romance.”

Kalayjian explained that many people are aware of the story of the 40 Armenian orphans who served in the Ethiopian orchestral band and of their bandleader, Kevork Nalbandian, who wrote Ethiopia’s first national anthem. “What people don’t know about,” Kalayjian said, “are the others who worked to elevate Ethiopia’s level of music. Sona Stordio who taught piano lessons to many in Ethiopia. Ashkhen Avakian, who served on the board of Ethiopia’s only university-level music school, Yared School. Haig Manougian, who served as leader of the Police Academy Band for 10 years and spent six years translating Ethiopian church music from the traditional St. Yared



An old photograph of the Armenian community in Ethiopia during the rule of Emperor Menelik II

musical notation to European musical notation,” and countless others. “The depth of which the Armenians helped to nurture the musical craft in Ethiopia is truly unknown.”

Kalayjian said that the response of both the Armenian-Ethiopian community, and the larger Ethiopian community has been amazing.

“Once people heard that I was making a documentary about their story through the narrative of music they were enthused and offered photographs, stories and the vulnerability of being on-camera, which is a huge gift of access and priceless to a documentary filmmaker.” He added, “It’s as much an Ethiopian story as it is an Armenian story because many Armenians here were adopted as Ethiopians. There was one gravestone of an Armenian doctor that I visited in the Armenian cemetery that speaks volumes, ‘Born in Ethiopia, Lived for Ethiopia, Died for Ethiopia.’”

“Tezeta [The Ethiopian Armenians]” is slated for release later this year. Recent and ongoing fundraising campaigns are aimed at supporting the completion of the project, with hundreds of hours of footage already filmed.

“We recently raised funds for the final leg of production and post-production of our film. Even though we didn’t raise our goal, we con-

sider it a success and will help us complete collecting materials here in Ethiopia,” said Kalayjian.

“We are pursuing different grant-making organizations [Armenian, Ethiopian and international] to fund post-production [video editing, sound engineering, color correction, DVD mastering] as well as a concert to be held in Yerevan with an Ethiopian band and Ethiopia’s last performing pop star, Vahe Tilbian. We’re consciously hopeful that we will be successful



“Tezeta [The Ethiopian Armenians]” film poster

in bringing this great musical culmination to stage in Armenia,” he said.

The film’s producers also hope to have the film tour festivals worldwide and say that plans for a museum in Ethiopia are also in the works.

Kalayjian’s dedication to the project is in part due to the uniqueness and strength of the Ethiopian-Armenian community itself. “Their common religious foundation gave them a bridge into the hearts and minds of Ethiopia’s royalty and people. This created a bond of trust allowed Armenians to thrive and help thrive with a great gift of commonality among Ethiopian society,” he said referring to the fact that both Ethiopian and Armenian Apostolic Churches are members of the Oriental Orthodox communion of churches. There are also similarities between the Ethiopian and Armenian alphabets.

As production moves forward, Kalayjian said he hopes “to educate an international audience of the huge contribution afforded Ethiopia by Armenians and the cultural and musical romance they shared. If I can inspire others to desire to know more, I would feel like I have succeeded. The importance lies in the fact that many Armenians and Ethiopians don’t know Armenians were or are here.”

For more information on “Tezeta [The Ethiopian Armenians],” the history of the Ethiopian-Armenian community or to donate to the film’s production, visit <http://tezeta.tumblr.com/>.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE

To honor the 1.5 million martyred Armenians.

Blessing of Madagh and Requiem Services followed by fellowship.

Guest speaker

Dr. Mary Papazian, Ph. D.,

President of Southern Connecticut State University.

Piano Selections by Vahe Hovhannisyan

Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection,
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April 24, at 7:00 pm**

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**The Armenian
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ARTS & LIVING

Armenian Genocide
Digital Poster Exhibit
Sponsored Jointly

POSTERS, from page 10

“Every year, we look for new ways to educate the public and policy makers on the history and legacy of the Armenian Genocide. This poster exhibit available at no charge at the ANI and Armenian Assembly websites has generated a terrific response so far with so many taking advantage of the download and exhibiting the series this April in universities, schools, and other public locations. Last year, the exhibit was featured in Washington, DC. This year with the free on line feature running, it is not only being printed and exhibited all over the United States, but also in other countries in English and in native languages as we have given selective permission to translate the series. We look forward to expanding the series in the near future as well,” said Van Z. Krikorian, chairman of ANI.

The exhibit is the product of years of research in European archives conducted by Dr. Hilmar Kaiser. Many of the photographs in the exhibit were uncovered for the first time after decades of neglect. The photographs showing Armenian deportees are matched with diary entries, reports, and memoirs of the photographers and in so doing documenting their authenticity. The photographers represented include Hellmuth von Mücke at Der Zor, Victor Pietschmann who witnessed the deportation of Armenians from Sushehri, Max Erwin von Scheubner-Richter, the German Vice-Consul in Erzerum, and Armin T. Wegner in Aleppo and surrounding refugee camps.

As part of their ongoing program to promote the teaching of genocide and human rights and the lessons of the Armenian Genocide, ANI and AGMA recommend utilizing the poster set in conjunction with the recently-released fourth edition of Centuries of Genocide: Essays and Eyewitness Accounts, by Samuel Totten and William S. Parsons, a textbook widely used in college and high school courses, that includes an extensive chapter on the Armenian Genocide.

As part of its continuing service to educators and to coincide with the release of the poster set and Centuries of Genocide, ANI previously announced the launch of its expanded Resource Guide and other sections of the Education component of the ANI website. Dozens of resources selected for their instructional value are listed for the benefit of students and teachers. Educators interested in teaching about the role of American humanitarianism and involvement in responding to the Armenian crisis can also benefit from the recently issued fact sheet summarizing the United States Record on the Armenian Genocide: A Proud Chapter in American History, prepared by the Armenian Assembly of America.

As a preview to the digital exhibit, the introduction to the posters is reproduced below:

The German military mission to the Ottoman Empire was established in 1913. German officers served on the Ottoman General Staff in Constantinople, and some were in leading positions with the Ottoman armies on various fronts during World War I. These men became eye-witnesses to the Armenian Genocide.

As a rule, German officers followed a policy of non-interference in what was claimed to be an internal affair of the Ottoman Empire. On the other hand, numerous officers tried to mitigate Ottoman policies and a few, in defiance of military regulations, even took part in clandestine activities to help the victims. Together, these officers, German consular staff, missionaries, and administrators of the Deutsche Bank-owned Anatolian and Baghdad Railways played a critical role in the creation of a humanitarian resistance network that included American missionaries and diplomats, surviving Armenians, and even some Ottoman officials.

Ottoman Martial Law prohibited taking photographs of the Armenian deportees. Thus, documenting the crime by photographing the reality of the deportations became an act of resistance. Many photographs were lost due to the interception of Ottoman intelligence services at the time and later destruction in Germany during World War II. Many of these photographs

CALENDAR

CONNECTICUT

APRIL 24 — Armenian Genocide Commemoration, 7 p.m., at the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection, 1910 Stanley St., services will be held in remembrance of and to honor the 1.5 million martyred Armenians. Guest speaker will be Dr. Mary Papazian, president of Southern Connecticut State University. The program also includes piano selections by Vahe Hovhannisyan. There will be Blessing of Madagh and Requiem Services followed by fellowship. All are invited to attend.

MASSACHUSETTS

APRIL 21 — Genocide Joint Commemoration: Armenia, Cambodia, Darfur, 2 p.m., Talks by Kowith Kret, survivor of the Cambodian Genocide by the Khmer Rouge, Eric Cohen, president of the Mass. Coalition to Save Darfur and Prof. Armen Marsoobian of Southern Connecticut University on the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide. ALMA, 65 Main St., Watertown. Free admission.

APRIL 24 — St. James and St. Stephen’s Armenian Apostolic Churches together with the Armenian Cultural and Education Center (ACEC) will host a **Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide** on April 24, 6 p.m. The event will begin at St. James for a requiem service, followed by the laying of the wreath at the Khatchikar in front of the church. A procession will form and march to St. Stephen’s where another wreath will be laid before continuing on to the ACEC where the commemorative program will begin. The keynote speaker will be Garen Nazarian, Armenia’s ambassador to the United Nations. There will also be a musical interlude. ACEC is located 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown.

APRIL 28 — The Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley 98th observance, 3 p.m., North Andover High School; musical performance by soloists Knarik Nerkararyan, Victoria Avetisyan and Yeghishe Manucharyan, accompanied by pianist Levon Hovsepyan; complimentary admission; reception to follow.

MAY 3 — St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School’s 27th Annual Bazaar, at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, Watertown. From noon to 9:30 p.m., offering Armenian foods and pastries all day. Take out available. Carnival and games for kids.


MAY 7 — Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston presents The Dr. Michael and Joyce Kolligian Distinguished Speaker Series, Peter Bergen, CNN National Security Analyst, “The Awakening: The Remaking of the Middle East,” 7 p.m., Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Reception and book signing follows talk; open and free to the public.

MAY 12 — Book Presentation, The Immortals: A Pictorial Anthology of Historiographic Works by Alice Navasargian, 2:30 p.m. Free event co-sponsored by ALMA, NAASR and the Armenian International Women’s Association (AIWA). ALMA Contemporary Arts Gallery, 65 Main St., Watertown.

MAY 18 — Hoy Lari in concert to benefit Armenian Children’s Milk Fund. Returning to Boston by popular demand, Janet and Paola will entertain kids of all ages with songs in Armenian and English. Details to follow.

JUNE 13 — St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church of Merrimack Valley Men’s Club Fourth Annual Cigar Night & Dinner, in memory of Fr. Vartan Kassabian; surf & turf dinner, open bar, cigars, live & silent auctions, raffles; tickets \$150, contact Greg Minasian @gminasian@verizon.net, or 978-470-3075; 158 Main Street, No. Andover, 01845.

JUNE 17 — The Gregory Hintlian Memorial Golf Tournament,



On April 21, at 2 p.m., ALMA will host Genocide Joint Commemoration: Armenia, Cambodia, Darfur. Talks by Kowith Kret, survivor of the Cambodian Genocide by the Khmer Rouge, Eric Cohen, president of the Mass. Coalition to Save Darfur and Prof. Armen Marsoobian of Southern Connecticut University (above) on the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide. 65 Main St., Watertown. Free admission.

this year remembering Dan Dorian, sponsored by Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Marlborough Country Club, Marlborough.

NEW JERSEY

MAY 18 — Annual Meeting & Luncheon, Armenian International Women’s Association. Sheraton Lincoln Harbor Hotel, Weehawken, NJ. Meeting, 9 :30 a.m. ; Luncheon, 12 :30 p.m. Luncheon Speaker: Dr. Mary A. Papazian, President, Southern Connecticut State University : “The Empowerment of Women through Education.” Special guest, Maro Matossian, Director, Women’s Support Center, Yerevan ; Woman of Achievement Award : Ruth Bedevian. Annual meeting free to members & friends ; Luncheon \$55. Info, reservations : 617-926-0171 or aiwainc@aol.com.

PENNSYLVANIA

MAY 18 — Mer Doon Armenian Dance, 8 p.m., Santerian Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, 101 Ashmead Road, Cheltenham. Sponsored by the Knights of Vartan Ardashad Lodge. All proceeds will support the Mer Doon home in Echmiadzin, which provides women over 18 years of age a loving home and a solid education. Advance tickets are \$15. For tickets or info, call Vick Bazarbashian, 610-389-4633.

Free Calendar Submissions

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

had been forgotten for decades and remained hidden in dusty drawers, files, and private collections.

The Armenian Genocide was a planned campaign by the Young Turk government to annihilate the Christian Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire. Embarked upon in 1915, during WWI, the deportation and decimation of the Armenians across Anatolia, modern-day Turkey, continued until 1923. The campaign resulted in the complete destruction of Armenian society across the region and in the greater part of its historic homeland.

Founded in 1997, the Armenian National Institute (ANI) is a 501(c)(3) educational charity based in Washington, DC, and is dedicated to the study, research, and affirmation of the Armenian Genocide.



Deportees in cattle cars, one of the many photos available in the virtual exhibit



COMMENTARY

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COMMENTARY

Are We Ready?

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The centennial of the Armenian Genocide is around the corner. Only two years are left to prepare a commemoration commensurate with the magnitude of that colossal tragedy, which not only cost 1.5 million lives, but also a 3000-year-old homeland. Assimilated generations of Armenians or masses alienated from their roots must be added in the loss ledge of the martyrs.

Once in a while we come across some Armenian media statements to the effect of a tsunami in 2015, which will scare the Turks and turn a new page in our struggle to promote the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Yes, indeed, there are some preparations in Armenia and we learn about the centennial commemoration committees being formed in many communities throughout the Diaspora. However, no major earth-shaking event seems to be in the offing. It would be a shame if the centennial commemoration also turns out to be a run-of-the-mill program, akin to those which we organize every year in Armenia and in active Armenian communities around the globe. Any impressive commemorative event will take more than two years to organize.

There seem to be no major undertakings to celebrate the survival of the Armenian people by gathering world-class artists and celebrities of Armenian extraction in an impressive venue in New York, Paris, Moscow or Yerevan. That certainly would entail tremendous resources, which no benefactor, foundation or organization seems ready to undertake, let alone initiate.

Monuments have been erected in many capitals of the world, sometimes compromising the location, depending on the clout of the respective Armenian community.

The most impressive and eloquent monument would have been the Genocide Museum at the heart of our nation's capital. In addition to its symbolism, the museum by itself could make a political statement. It is almost tragic that two years shy of the centennial, the museum is still a hostage to the dispute of opposing parties. One is certainly justified to begin to believe that the project is already a victim of a political conspiracy. The government of Turkey would have given an arm and a leg to have the museum disappear from that conspicuous location in Washington, DC. But that wish thus far is being offered for free by internecine warfare.

One area where we have recorded strides is the academic sphere and that is where the battle is shaping up between victims of the Genocide and the descendants of the perpetrators. One hundred and twenty world-renowned genocide scholars have signed a powerful statement in the New York Times, leaving no room for any rebuttal. However, the Turkish government is buying corrupt scholars to promote their line of denial.

In the production of academic volumes, the Armenian case has enjoyed the support of world-class non-Armenian scholars otherwise the dispute would have been reduced to the level of he said-she said, which still remains the goal of Turkish authorities.

Yet one phenomenal development is that respected Turkish scholars have also joined the fray.

From time to time, Turkish leaders float trial balloons to dupe the international media. They propose to form a joint committee of scholars to "research both sides of the argument," while there is no other side in this case. It is unthinkable in any other context. For example, no one has proposed

to form scholarly committees to study "conflicting" views on the Jewish Holocaust.

While Turkish authorities propose the formation of joint committees, they already know the conclusion; indeed, Prime Minister Erdogan, on the one hand proposes the idea of the joint committee, yet in the same breath, he emphatically declares that there has never been a genocide in Turkish or Ottoman history.

Fortunately thus far, there have been no takers of that offer from the Armenian side — neither the Armenian government nor any party in the Diaspora.

But the growing clout of Turkey on the international political scene has been influencing government positions in countries where Armenian lobbying groups have been active. President Obama has retreated on his pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide; his annual April 24 statements are testimony to that cowardice.

Many Armenians who believed in President Obama's moral fabric, have come to the realization that like his advisor, Samantha Power, and other statesmen, he is caught in the gears of political power to forgo morality. No Armenian still entertains any hope that he will come up with a statement using the word genocide this year, next year or in 2015.

The dramatic 40-percent drop in US aid to a starving Armenia is an indirect contribution to the Turkish-Azeri efforts to squeeze Armenia out of existence.

Adding insult to injury, the president has kept parity in military aid to Armenia and Azerbaijan, bypassing again Article 9 of the Freedom Support Act, to deny Azerbaijan any military assistance in view of the Baku government's belligerence.

Unfortunately, we have also retreated in France despite the valiant campaign of the French-Armenian community. President Francois Hollande had promised to pass the resolution in the French Parliament crafting iron-tight legal language to withstand the Supreme Court arguments. After some reassurances, his foreign minister has quietly dropped the case, arguing that the Supreme Court had already issued its verdict.

Our strategic ally, Russia, is in no better position. Its bilateral trade with Turkey is approaching an annual figure of \$100 billion, which no side is willing to compromise, despite the fact that political divisions keep them apart. For example, Russia is arming the Assad regime in Syria while Turkey is arming mercenaries on the border to overthrow the Syrian government. Recent political contacts between Ankara and Moscow indicate nothing but rapprochement between the two parties. Although Russia has recognized the Armenian Genocide, Mr. Putin does not seem to have the appetite to help Genocide recognition worldwide.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev has targeted the diasporan Armenians. He has reiterated recently his statement that Baku's number one enemy is the Armenian Diaspora. When we see the enemies intention to turn diasporan Armenians against the homeland, it behooves us to close ranks facing that enemy. But what are we doing instead? Confined to our narrow corners and unable to read the tides of world powers, we are jeopardizing Armenia's existence and future, under the pretense of supporting democracy there. If Armenia's existence is compromised, democracy can only be an exercise in futility.

The Genocide centennial is around the corner yet the prospects of a powerful show of force seem to be remote. Turkey has been using all its political and financial resources to prevent any waves on the international scene. No matter how much we may court optimism, the facts of life still remain against us.

In this kind of atmosphere, no tsunami appears on the horizon; perhaps just a breeze to soothe our burning hearts.

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 *MS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.
- Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases.

First Meetings

Turkish-Armenian relations have “complicated” written all over them. For starters, I must say that I am careful about choosing which nationality to begin with when I use Armenian and Turkish in the same breath. Should I say Armenian-Turkish, Turkish-Armenian, Armeno-Turkish?

I remember dealing with this conundrum six years ago while assisting with a particular rapprochement among the two communities led by a third party. I recall that some participants were uneasy about the sequencing of nationalities.

By **Gonca Sönmez-Poole**

But fast-forward a few years: when I picked the acronym TAWA (Turkish-Armenian Women’s Alliance) several months ago for the women’s group I started, there wasn’t a peep from anyone. Maybe because I told them it was a play on the word tava (Turkish for “pan”), and because we have more than a few foodies in the group, TAWA was easy to swallow. Or maybe, just maybe these relations I’m referring to have been changing for the better, thanks to a new wave of thinkers and doers, leading the way for a starkly different and more positive future.

That said, a solid future can be built only on the shared trust of those who strive for it. And trust is not easy to come by in the sphere of Armenian-Turkish relations. Having dealt with the issue of trust in my earlier efforts within the Armenian and Turkish communities, I decided to inquire about the TAWA women’s first encounter with an Armenian or a Turkish person.

Here is a sample of their answers:

Ay e Kaya Firat said, “There was this micro-economy class that I was taking, and during the first class I had this lady sitting next to me ... and we had this real nice connection from the beginning, and when in the first class our professor told us that he wanted a group project, she was the only person that I knew in the class, and I thought of her right away...when we came to the second class in the same week, we started talking more about ourselves, obviously, and I remember the time she learned about me and my nationality, that was the last time she spoke to me in class; she said ‘I’m American-Armenian,’ and I said ‘I’m Turkish,’ and I thought it would go beyond that and we would ask other questions, but her facial expression was so different than I ever imagined – I had a hard time to understand what was going on...I asked a few questions, she didn’t respond; she just sat and then left the classroom afterwards...[it was a] striking experience.”

Tsoleen Sarian said, “I went to Merrimack College and I played volleyball; one of the basketball players was a Turkish boy from Turkey...so I hadn’t really talked to him, so I emailed him, and I was like ‘Oh hi, I’m Armenian,’ and he just had this awful response... basically it was like ‘This Turkish-Armenian question is all propaganda,’ and I was like... ‘Okay...just saying hi, but okay’...It was sad...and you know it was such an Irish Catholic school, so to have someone that’s not Irish and not Catholic and, you know, a little exotic – it wasn’t like I had gone to a very diverse school, so I wanted to have this conversation, and he just wasn’t interested.”

Zeren Earls said, “This began at a cocktail party. The conference – I don’t know what it was about, but it had nothing to do with Turks and Armenians. I was just wearing a nametag. A young woman came, saw my tag, and said, ‘What kind of a name is that?’

and I said ‘Turkish,’ so that opened the floodgates and I said, ‘Hold it, why are you attacking me for something that happened so many years ago? I wasn’t even around.’ He said, ‘Look at the Jews: they make sure that the Holocaust is never forgotten’... so I have these stories, you know; I don’t sit and dwell on them, but that’s what has made me cautious.”

Laura Bilazarian-Purutyan, who grew up in central Massachusetts, said she had never met a Turkish person until her college roommate from Switzerland mentioned a girl she knew named Dilek, a common Turkish name. Laura went on to say, “This Swiss girl, who knew that if [Dilek is] Turkish and I’m Armenian maybe we’re gonna have an issue here she told me, ‘Dilek is really worried that you’ll hate her.’ I probably regret not having confronted or engaged [Dilek] – I should say on some meaningful level – ‘cause the interesting thing was that it was up to me. It was up to me to do it, and I didn’t do it and it didn’t get done.”

Picking up on that last point of “getting it done,” I think that we, as the women of TAWA, have actually started to get it done. The question is, what is “it”? If it means engaging with each other, we certainly have started that. If it means finding a definable shared purpose and working on a collaborative project, we’re not quite there yet. And if it means agreeing on certain basic facts about our shared history, that’s a bit trickier.

It needs to be handled gingerly, with both eyes open and away from the shenanigans of doom-saying, hate-mongering and knee-jerking of all sorts and sizes. If we can avoid falling victim to such trappings, I believe we can find ways to make small yet substantial inroads into what those naysayers keep calling an “intractable” conflict.

(A graduate of the Fletcher school’s mid-career MA program, Gonca Sönmez-Poole is TV producer, filmmaker and writer. She has spent two decades working for WCVB-TV’s “Chronicle” program, followed by 13 years managing her own non-profit organization, Mediation Way, Inc. For the past seven years, she has dedicated her free time to Armenian-Turkish dialogue around Boston.)

LETTERS

Turkey Needs to Put Its History in Accurate Geographical Context

To the Editor:

I read the article “Turkey and Armenia at Loggerheads” by David L. Phillips, originally in the Huffington Post and reprinted in your issue of April 8. I feel sure that many readers will agree that the establishment of normal cross-border relations between Turkey and Armenia would be good for all concerned. However the author showed that he is unwilling to question some misconceptions, and these need to be challenged.

In the first place, there is the idea put out by the Turks that 1915, the year of the Armenian Genocide, represented a time of “shared suffering.” This is dishonest, sentimental, made-up drivel. It’s the sort of smooth fancy rhetoric you find among those unwilling to confront the terrible truths of history, but who seek instead to mash them into some sort of easy, relaxing verbiage to comfort (and control) the average non-committed person watching evening TV. The words “shared suffering” reek of a notion put out by an expensive PR firm (paid probably, indirectly, through US taxpayers.)

Nineteen fifteen (1915) was a political event and a political genocide of the Armenian people, executed by adepts of the ruling party in Ottoman Turkey, the Committee of Union and Progress. Unless you search out the policies and actions of the leading members of that political grouping, you won’t understand anything. Certainly a large number of non-Armenians died in the genocidal process, and these naturally were Muslim neighbors of the Armenians.

But most of them were Kurds, rather than Turks; and they died on account of the appalling sanitary conditions that prevailed throughout Anatolia and Turkish Armenia in that ghastly time. Armenian bodies were left unburied; so it is not surprising that there was a massive epidemic of typhus. And all this was due to the original genocidal policies of the Committee of Union and Progress, seen in their observed actions in April-June 1915 and recorded in dispatches like that of the German Ambassador of June 30, 1916.

Secondly, we would all like to see the bridge across the Akhurian River restored and in use. But the idea that this bridge represents “the connection between Armenian civilization and the Anatolian plain” is ludicrous. It’s like saying that a bridge over the Charles River connects Boston with Canada. Kars (which I have visited), in Turkey today, was actually part of Armenia until 1920; and the lands a good few hundred miles further west were traditionally known as Turkish Armenia – a mountainous area, physically different from the Anatolian plain, which is situated yet further west. Van and Bitlis are not on the Anatolian plain.

Until people can face the facts of history and place them in a truthful geographical context, there will be no success in bringing about any sort of reconciliation, however desperately needed, between Turkey and Armenia.

– Christopher J. Walker
London, England

A Sacrifice by the Armenians

To the Editor:

Every year around April 24 one of the most asked questions by Armenians is “Why did God punish us?” Having heard the horrific stories of the Genocide all of my life, I too, have asked the same question until I came to the realization that there is a significant difference between punishment and sacrifice.

Perhaps it is a rationalization on my part in an effort to explain why the Genocide happened, but possibly in the same way that God chose Jesus – his

only begotten son – to suffer and die on the cross for the sins of humanity, the Armenians, as the first Christian nation, were therefore the first people of the 20th century chosen by God to be sacrificed.

Possibly, what we perceive to be man’s inhumanity to man, is in reality, sacrifice for the sins of mankind.

Therefore, are Armenians, in reality, the chosen people? This is just a theory open for debate.

– Adrienne Alexanian
New York, NY

An Open Letter to Armenian-Americans

By **Stepan Partamian**

As the 98th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide draws nearer, the Armenian Arts Fund has launched a nationwide campaign to help educate elected officials about the Armenian-American community’s contributions to American civilization.

Toward this goal, the Armenian Arts Fund will present a package of three important books by April 24 to members of the US Congress, as well as elected officials at the city, state and federal levels across the US. The package consists of the volumes Yes, We Have, a compendium of Armenian-American contributions to American civilization, the follow-up Yes, We Have Too and The Armenian in America, a photographic treasury of Armenian institutions and landmarks throughout the US.

Today we are asking you to help us carry out this campaign by sponsoring packages of the aforementioned three volumes, so that we can mail them to as many elected officials as possible before April 24.

The Armenian Arts Fund itself is contributing to this campaign by offering each sponsorship package at \$40. The Fund is also assuming all shipping costs.

To sponsor as many packages as you wish, visit LetUsEducate.com.

The aim of this campaign is to make our elected officials aware of the fact that official US recognition of the Armenian Genocide is, first and foremost, an American issue, since it is not only a matter of moral obligation on the part of the US government and the American people, but pertains to the rights of Americans of Armenian descent.

In short, by educating our elected officials about the outstanding contributions of Armenians to American civilization, we would be reminding legislators that we, as Americans of Armenian descent, continue to play an instrumental role in the greatness of American civilization, and that our voice needs to be heard at all levels of government.

Thank you for your generous support.

(Stepan Partamian is a writer living in Los Angeles.)



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Remember, Remind and Reclaim: Guidelines for the Genocide Centennial

Armenian communities around the world are gearing up for the Centennial of the Genocide on April 24, 2015, by coordinating their commemorative plans at the local, regional and international levels.

A Pan-Armenian Centennial Committee was established in Armenia two years ago consisting of the leadership of the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh (Karabagh), heads of religious denominations and representatives of major Armenian political, charitable and cultural organizations. Local committees have also been formed throughout the Diaspora. As reported earlier, the international committee of Armenian Genocide experts met in Yerevan last month to recommend specific projects to be adopted by the Pan-Armenian Centennial Committee during its May 30 meeting.

On April 6, the Centennial Committees of eight Middle Eastern countries (Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, the United Arab Emirates and Iran represented by committees in Tehran, Esfahan and Tabriz,) met in Beirut to coordinate their plans on a regional basis. Also attend-

ing was Hayk Demoyan, secretary of the Pan-Armenian Centennial Committee in Armenia.

His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of Cilicia, presided over the meeting and gave a timely keynote address outlining the principles that should guide the regional committees in planning for the Centennial. Aram Vehapar succinctly formulated the objectives in three key Armenian words: “Hishel, Hishetsnel, yev Bahanchel” [To Remember, To Remind and To Reclaim].

His Holiness went on to explain: “for 100 years, we stressed the remembrance of the Genocide. We lit candles, organized commemorative evenings and published books. These important activities will imbue our youth with the sacred testament and souls of our martyrs. Yet, we should not singly focus on this subject. For 100 years, we reminded people through demonstrations, lobbying and raising our voices. We aim to continue these activities with different approaches. However, it is imperative that we stress our demands for restitution.”

The Vehapar reminded the attendees about the international conference organized by the Catholicosate of Cilicia a year ago with the theme: “From Recognition to Restitution,” with the participation of international legal experts. “We need legal experts in order to present, defend and pursue our claims appropriately in international courts,” the Catholicos stated.

Aram I went on to suggest a division of labor between the Republic of Armenia and the Diaspora: “We should work in unison. Our approaches and emphasis could be different from one another; and sometimes they must be different! Let’s not forget that Armenia is a state and the Diaspora is a diaspora. Neither the state nor the diaspora can speak on each other’s behalf. Each has its own unique voice and function. But, there should be intra-Armenian

harmony and coordination. In other words, we should plan and work with a common purpose, holding on firmly to our demands for restitution.”

The Catholicos then urged Armenians to include the far-flung regions of Africa, the Far East and South America within the scope of the Centennial activities. Turning to the Middle East, Aram I made three important points:

1) The pursuit of the Armenian Cause in the Islamic world requires a special approach, because Turkey is a Muslim state.

2) Turkey’s ever-increasing and penetrating influence in the region is a serious problem. “In my meetings with leaders of countries in the region, I always tell them: ‘you have kept your doors very wide open in front of Turkey. The day will come when you will recognize your mistake. Turkey uses different masks.’ Therefore, we must be alert as the genocidaire is closely following our steps. We will not retreat and will not weaken in the face of Turkish meddling.”

3) Genocide is not an event that belongs to the past. The Diaspora is a consequence of the Genocide and in a sense, it is still continuing.

Catholicos Aram I concluded by categorizing the Armenian efforts for recognition and restitution into three dimensions: historical, political and legal. “The time has come, without ignoring the first two, to place a clear priority on the legal aspect. In this regard, we have a massive amount of work to accomplish,” he stated.

Significantly, Hayk Demoyan, also speaking at the regional meeting in Beirut, noted: “We know that we cannot undo some of the consequences of the Armenian Genocide, such as the lost lives and destroyed churches, nevertheless, the major consequence is the loss of the territories.”

‘We Are still the Mountain’

By Chris Bohjalian

In the coming days, Armenians around the world will come together to acknowledge what I have come to call “The Slaughter You Know Next to Nothing About.” April 24 marks the 98th anniversary of the night the Armenian religious and intellectual leaders were rounded up in Constantinople – and the start of the Armenian genocide.

And yet most of North America probably can’t find Armenia on a map. Certainly only a few of us could pinpoint the mountain of Musa Dagh. Yet Musa Dagh has become for me – an American who is half-Armenian and half-Swedish – the story that brings the Armenian Genocide to life.

In the summer of 1915, roughly 4,000 Armenians from six villages in southeast Turkey refused to be marched from their homes by Turkish soldiers and gendarmes into the Syrian desert to die. Roughly 1.5 million of the two million Armenians in Turkey would perish in the First World War, many of them by starvation, dehydration, and disease in the unforgiving Syrian sands.

But not those 4,000. They climbed Musa Dagh, at the edge of the Mediterranean Sea, and used rifles and a few captured cannons to hold off the Turkish army for nearly two months. The women sewed a flag with a red cross on it and dangled it over the side of the cliff that faced the sea, and eventually a French battleship saw it and rescued the Armenians.

If anyone knows bits and pieces of this story, it is likely through German writer Franz Werfel’s magisterial 1933 novel, “The Forty Days of Musa Dagh.” The novel was an international bestseller when it was published, though it was loathed early on by the Nazis. When the Germans were mercilessly putting down the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in 1944, the soldiers were surprised by how many copies of the novel they found among the dead Jewish fighters. It was my Swedish mother who gave me a copy when I was teenager.

Last year I saw that hand-sewn Red Cross flag. I held one of the rifles the Armenians had used from atop Musa Dagh. The flag and the artifacts sit in a community room beside the school and church in Anjar, the Lebanese town where the French eventually settled the survivors of Musa Dagh. Outside the building is a massive statue that looks at first glance like a sword with its blade in the earth, but on second becomes a cross. And on a mural inside that community room is a summit with an inscription that reads, “Let them come again. We are still the mountain.”

I journeyed to Anjar, as well as to Beirut and Yerevan and the “Bird’s Nest” orphanage in Byblos – where Danish missionary Maria Jacobsen saved the lives of thousands of Armenian orphans – for a lot of reasons.

First, there was my novel, *The Sandcastle Girls*. It’s a love story set in the midst of the Armenian genocide in the First World War. Every day that I was writing the book I felt a tug: I needed to view the bones that were pulled from the sands of Der-el-Zor. I needed to pause before the statues of Saroyan and Mother Armenia that anchor Yerevan’s streets and parks. And I needed to walk the grounds of the monastery at Khor Virap and gaze across the Turkish border at Mount Ararat.

There is, of course, an irony here. Ararat, the majestic 17,000-foot massif that dominates the western vista from Yerevan and symbolizes our heritage, isn’t even inside the country’s borders: It’s across the guard posts and fencing in Turkey. So, of course, is Musa Dagh.

Another reason for my journey was my father, an Armenian-American who died just as I was finishing the novel, and his parents, Armenian immigrants –

see BOHJALIAN, page 16

Is Another March in Order for Centennial?

By Tom Vartabedian

The thoughts are gushing forth like a fountain with no shutoff valve.

What to do for the 2015 centennial? By now, you may have heard a surge of recommendations. Or perhaps none at all. But let’s face it. With the centennial barely two years away, some statement should be made.

Please, not a mundane lecture. Certainly not another concert. We could post a billboard campaign throughout the country. But how many motorists really look at a billboard and how would it impact them?

An Armenian activist telephoned me the other day to report a novel idea. Collect 1,000 old, worn shoes and dump them at midnight on April 24 in front of the Turkish Embassy in Washington, DC, signifying the remnants of a death march on Deir Zor.

Another activist proposed this outlandish thought. Let’s dump gallons of red paint into out notable tributaries to signify the River Arax flowing with the blood of our 1,500 victims.

I don’t think such nonsensical acts would create an impression other than give us a bad name. Let’s settle down and become a bit more rational, folks. I’m suggesting none of those ideas because they will do nothing to perpetuate our cause.

Of course, we could all gather in Washington or New York and preach to our own choirs. One day later, where will it get us as a civilization? What we need, folks, is to bolster our own ranks, put our own house in order before moving elsewhere.

My suggestion is rather complex but workable. It costs no money, very little time and initiative, yet has good potential. Let each of us who might be involved in our Armenian community lure at least one passive member into our midst.

Go out and recruit an inactive Armenian to join our churches and organizations. We would double our growth and inculcate new leadership in our ranks. Greater resources, too.

Not long ago, I was scheduled to present a class on the Armenian Genocide at a small high school north of Boston. It would be my first visit to this particular school and I was expecting to turn a new leaf in human rights education.

Rather than go alone, I usually take it upon myself to invite a member of this community to join me in class. It puts a more local spin on the presentation.

In this particular case, I chose an Armenian

totally removed from the community. In 40 years, I had never seen this man at any genocide commemoration or church. He was totally immersed in the American mainstream, having dedicated his life to teaching and coaching. He was now in his mid-80s and retired from education.

I called him one night out of sheer impulse and asked him to join me. Only then did I learn his father was a Genocide survivor.

He met me the next day at the school, dressed in a suit and tie with mixed reservations about the whole matter.

“I don’t know what I can contribute to this,” he told me. “I don’t know much about Armenian history and the genocide. Maybe I should have stayed home.”

As the discussion gained momentum, I decided to take a break and introduced my guest. He rose from his seat, told the students that he lived his entire life in this town and taught school for 50 years, even after he formally retired.

He recalled how his dad escaped the Genocide in Turkey while living in Van and how he became assimilated as an Armenian. The man broke down as he spoke, sobbing to gain composure. The subject of genocide held a powerful grip.

The sentiment grew even more profound. I pulled out an interview I had done with my Armenian School students which is just as relevant today as it was 35 years ago when I conducted it.

The subject? “If you lived in Armenia today and were told your village was going to be invaded by Turkey, what single prized possession would you take while fleeing?”

By sheer coincidence, his two nieces happened to be in this class and responded to the question. One ultimately operated a restaurant while the other became a schoolteacher.

“My Armenian cross and books,” said one niece. “Because it would possibly give me and my family good luck.”

“I would make sure my family was out of the house,” said the other. “I wouldn’t care about anything else.”

My guest had become instantly transposed into a new life, even at this late age. He felt a sudden urge to return to his roots and live out the rest of his life inside his abandoned heritage.

As we were leaving the school, he proposed a humble request.

“If you’re going to the Armenian Church Sunday, do you suppose we could sit together? I’d like to join you.”

(Tom Vartabedian is a frequent contributor to Armenian newspapers.)

Local Runner Sarkis Chekijian Finishes Race Safely

MARATHON, from page 1

A banner that had marked the finish line still hung over the deserted street.

Trauma surgeons at several Boston hospitals said at press briefings the majority of victims suffered lower-body injuries, and several had a range of metallic shrapnel material removed during surgery, including pellets and what appeared to be carpenter nails.

“The vast majority of the injuries were to lower extremities, including some victims who had parts of their legs blown off,” said Dr. Tracey Dechert, a trauma surgeon at Boston Medical Center, which treated 23 people and performed amputations on five of them.

The inclusion of material such as nails in the device would be reminiscent of the 1996 bombing at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, which killed two people and injured about 150 others. Anti-abortion activist Eric Rudolph, who eluded capture for years, pleaded guilty to the attack and is currently serving consecutive life sentences.

An 8-year-old boy was among the dead. He was identified as Martin Richard in a statement issued by his father, Bill Richard.

This year, as in the past couple of years, Armenians paid close attention to the Boston Marathon, as one local runner, Sarkis Chekijian, ran to raise funds for Dana-Farber, partnering with Gabriel Aljalian, a young cancer survivor.

“I want to take this opportunity to thank

all of the people who helped make yesterday a great success. I say success because even though the horrific events of the afternoon are taking all of our attention, I want to focus on the positive. With the help of many people generously donating, my efforts this year raised over \$24,000 for Dana-Farber. This is a great success. All of this was done in honor of Gabriel Aljalian who had a wonderful day cheering on runners as he waited for me to run by. To know that this day and our partnership have brightened the spirits of that little boy, that is a success.

The explosion missed Chekijian narrowly. “My heart is heavy from what happened [Monday]. I was on Boylston Street two blocks away when the bombs exploded. My family and loved ones were standing in the spot where the second bomb went off not 10 minutes prior. Gabriel, Yeretzgin Natasha and Der Arakel [Aljalian] were on their way there but never made it. To think, had I been slower and the timeline had been shifted what could have been. Thank God that wasn’t the case. Thank God all of us were spared the horror of injury. I was caught in the chaos of it all for about a few hours, not knowing what was going on and desperately trying to get off the streets. It was a frightening time, needless to say. I am desperately sad for those who were not as lucky as my family and my prayers go out to them.” He was optimistic about the race next year. He said, “I cannot wait to get back on this



Runner Sarkis Chekijian

course and run Boston 2014. If anything this tragedy has strengthened my resolve. I will run again and I will do it as a member of the Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge team. I will run in honor of Gabriel and in memory of my grandfathers. I will raise money for cancer research. And I will be successful in doing so.”

President Serge Sargisian issued a letter of condolence to Obama. He condemned the crime and offered deep condolences to

Obama, the families of those killed and the American people in general, wishing speedy recovery to those injured, the presidential press services reported.

(Reporting from Alin K. Gregorian as well as Reuters and PanArmenian.net were used in compiling this story.)

‘We Are still the Mountain’

BOHJALIAN, from page 15

and genocide survivors. These are the sorts of subterranean emotional currents that can inspire a novel

and draw a person at mid-life to the Middle East and a small, landlocked country in the Caucasus Mountains. And Armenia is small. Barely three million Armenians live there, compared to approximately seven million outside the country. That’s how big the Armenian Diaspora is: 70 percent of Armenians don’t live in their homeland. And yet, we have retained a national identity: Our sense of a shared history and our sense of place.

Which brings me back to that community room in Anjar and the mural. My sense is that whoever wrote on the wall there, “We are still the mountain,” wanted the sentence to be interpreted two ways. Certainly he meant Musa Dagh: Attack again if you want, we are still those warriors. But he also meant Ararat: Even here in Lebanon, we are still Armenians.

Most of the time when I was in Armenia, clouds masked the summit of Ararat, even when I was at Khor Virap. Around 6 a.m. on my last morning, however, soon after I had climbed into a cab for the airport, I was greeted with a sign that the cosmos is not completely detached: The peak of Mount Ararat, snow-covered even in May. I asked the driver to stop. And there, against a sky that grew from agate to cerulean, I watched the nearly full moon set over the mountain. It was a poignant, powerful, and perfect way to remember that while April 24 is about mourning the dead, it is also about the triumph of the living – and how, indeed, we are still the mountain.

(Chris Bohjalian’s 14th novel, *The Sandcastle Girls*, will be published in paperback this week. This commentary appeared in the April 14 edition of the *Boston Globe*.)

Administration Slashes Aid to Armenia

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receive \$24.7 million in Economic Support Funds (compared to the FY 2013 request of \$27.2 million), and \$2.8 million in International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (same as the FY 2013 request). In total, the FY 2014 budget provides \$30.843 million in US assistance to Armenia, which is a \$5 million reduction when compared to the Administration’s FY 2013 request of \$35.843 million.

If approved by Congress, the budget would reduce US assistance to Armenia to its lowest level since the 1988 earthquake, reported the Armenian National Committee of America.

Combining all the FY14 appropriated assistance to Armenia that the president is proposing, including economic, military, law enforcement and health, his current request represents

a 14-percent reduction of his last request of Congress, as part of his FY13 budget.

The Assembly’s testimony requested not less than \$50 million in aid to Armenia, which is consistent with the request of the Armenian Caucus co-chairs – Representatives Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) and Michael Grimm (R-NY) – who are currently circulating a Dear Colleague letter urging support for key funding and policy priorities for Armenia and Artsakh.

While the administration’s budget did not specifically note funding levels for Artsakh, the Armenian Caucus and the Assembly are calling for at least \$5 million in assistance for this fledgling democracy.

“Given Turkey’s ongoing blockade of Armenia and the security threat in the region due to Azerbaijan’s ongoing war rhetoric

against Armenia and Artsakh, coupled with the unconscionable pardon by Azerbaijan of a convicted axe murderer, the Assembly urges Congress to take these matters into account and allocate at least \$50 million for Armenia,” stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.

“President Obama, who came into office pledging to maintain aid to Armenia and increase bilateral trade and investment, has consistently cut Armenian assistance programs, while failing to take any meaningful steps to promote the growth of economic relations through investment treaties, tax accords, trade missions, or other commonly utilized policies and practices,” said Armenian National Committee of America Executive Director Aram Hamparian.

Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2013



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Film about Armenian Genocide to Be Shown In Russia

MOSCOW (Armenpress) – The documentary film “With all Your heart” will be shown for the first time shown on April 22 on the Russian channel, “Culture.” The film is about the 500th anniversary of Armenian typography and the Armenian Genocide committed by Ottoman Turkey.

A newspaper report published in Russia indicated that Andrey Kurenkov is the filmmaker. The movie present the long and arduous way Armenian books have come to be, from manuscripts to the first printed book.

The producer and director of the film has shown the significance of books and that it has been the reflection of the mind, traditions and the talent of Armenian nation for centuries. The film also highlights books and literature as a unifying bridge during the Armenian Genocide.

Sculptor Robert Askaryan, Matenadaran Director Hrachya Tamrazayan, Armenian Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan, President of Writers’ Union Levon Ananyan, Director of National Library Tigran Zargaryan, Archbishop Pargev, tourist guide Elena Ananyan, Director of Echmiadzin Library Azat Bozoyan and Head of Shushi Museum Department Ashot Harutyunyan all appear in the film.