

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## Genocide Billboard Removed from MBTA Property in Cambridge

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Just about one week before the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Peace of Art was notified by Clear Channel that the Armenian Genocide commemorative billboard, which had been on display at Lechmere Station had to be removed. It seems that this year, an anonymous entity has deemed the message on the billboard, “Recognize the Crime of the Century, the Armenian Genocide,” to be political and thus required to be removed from the MBTA property. However, the 2013 message read “Honoring the memory of 1.5 million lives lost, Armenian Genocide. Recognition and condemnation” was displayed on the same location without incident, offered by the billboard company.

Peace of Art, Inc., is a non-profit educational organization registered with the Massachusetts Secretary of State, and tax exempt under section 501 (C) 3. One of its projects is to sponsor billboards to bring awareness to the Armenian Genocide. Since 2003 Peace of ART, Inc., has sponsored the Armenian Genocide commemorative billboards calling for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

Clear Channel, the billboard company, informed Peace of Art, Inc. that it classified the billboard message as a political awareness message, “one of two sides of an issue” and it was required to remove the billboard located at Lechmere Station and offered to place the billboard in one of two unsold locations in Cambridge. Therefore, for the remainder of the month of April, the Armenian Genocide commemorative billboard can be seen on the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Walden street in Cambridge.

Daniel Varoujan Hejiniyan, the president of Peace of Art, Inc., stated that the removal is unjust and unjustified. He further stated that “it doesn’t matter how many sides an issue has, the truth has only one side. The Armenian Genocide is recognized by 21 countries and 42 states including Massachusetts.”

## Koutoujian Delivers Personal Talk at Tufts

By Alin K. Gregorian  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

MEDFORD, Mass. – Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian delivered the address at the annual commemoration of the Armenian Genocide at Tufts University on April 16, at the university’s Goddard Chapel.

Koutoujian spoke from the heart about what it meant as a young man to become aware of his Armenian heritage and issued a call to action for the members of the Armenian-American community to become more involved with politics, starting at the local level, in order to get their voices heard.

The focus of his talk was *zartokn*, the reawakening of Armenian intellectuals in the 19th century, with a resurgence of literature and literary publications, as well as new translations of European literary masterpieces and a resulting quest for social justice in the Ottoman Empire.

see KOUTOUJIAN, page 16



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov with his Armenian counterpart, Eduard Nalbandian

## Nalbandian, Lavrov Meet in Moscow as Warlick Prays for Karabagh Settlement

MOSCOW (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian met in Moscow with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov to discuss Armenia’s joining the Customs Union and Common Economic Space, as well as the Eurasian Economic Union.

The ministers also touched upon a number of bilateral and international issues, including resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict.

Meanwhile, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group US Co-chair James Warlick tweeted: “What a wonderful Easter! My prayer is for a lasting settlement on #Nagorno-Karabakh. How can the US help? We must find a way.”

see MEETING, page 3

## Harvard to Host ‘Evening of Remembrance: Armenia, The Holocaust and Rwanda’

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – On Sunday, April 27, Harvard Kennedy School’s Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and the Harvard Foundation are cosponsoring “An Evening of Remembrance: Armenia, The Holocaust and Rwanda,” at the Harvard Science Center, Hall B, 6 to 8 p.m.

Documentary filmmaker Carla Garapedian will speak about the Armenian Genocide.

Garapedian directed the documentary “Screamers,” which was released in early 2007 on the Armenian Genocide. Also mentioned in the film are the Jewish Holocaust, the Rwandan Genocide and the genocide of the Darfur region. The movie examines the problem of why genocides repeat, with contributions from Pulitzer prize-winning author Samantha Power, now US ambassador to the United Nations.

In addition to speaking about the Armenian Genocide, she will be the event’s master of ceremonies.

Garapedian has worked with the University of Southern California-based Shoah Foundation Institute’s Visual History Archive, founded by filmmaker



Carla Garapedian

Steven Spielberg in 1994, to help digitize Armenian Genocide oral histories.

see HARVARD, page 16

## Suffolk Students Criticize Choice of Abraham Foxman for Commencement Speaker

By James Sullivan

BOSTON (*Boston Globe*) – Some students at Suffolk University are protesting the administration’s selection of Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), as

the law school’s commencement speaker.

The critics cite Foxman’s opposition to US congressional recognition of the 1915 massacre of Armenians as genocide and to the building of an Islamic community center and mosque near the World Trade Center site.

Students have launched an online see FOXMAN, page 16

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Heffern Says Obama’s April 24 Statement Will Be Forceful

YEREVEN (Armenpress) – US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern told journalists at a briefing on April 21 at the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute conference hall, marking the opening of the exhibition titled “The First World War: allies, characters, massacres,” that the US president will make strong statement on April 24.

“Secretary of State Kerry and President Obama are well aware of these events. There will be a very strong statement, admitting the fact that 1.5 million Armenians were massacred,” he added. (It has since been learned that Obama’s statement was a near-identical rehash of last year’s comment.) Speaking about the exhibition, he mentioned that the work led by the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute and its director Hayk Demoyan, helps to educate people: “This is the reason I’m here.”

### More Armenians Die in Aleppo

ALEPPO (Armenpress) – Several Armenians who had been injured during bombings or clashes with armed insurgents were laid to rest this week in Aleppo.

With the collaboration of the Armenian Apostolic, Catholic and Protestant communities on April 21, a funeral service was held at St. Mary’s Armenian Apostolic Church of Latakia for 24-year-old Gevorg Juryan and all the deceased Kessab-Armenians.

Former Aleppo resident Karo Manchikyan, who is now in Latakia, reported that on March 22 the militants dragged Juryan out of home and took him to an unknown destination. A few days ago information was released that he had been murdered. According to Manchikyan, because of negotiations with the militants, the boy’s uncles received his body. There is no further information about the murder.

The news of Juryan’s murder had given rise to various interpretations. The problem was that the family did not believe the news of his death. Juryan’s parents are in Latakia.

Another Armenian, Sargis Martirosyan, who was injured in Aleppo 10 days ago, died. Sources locally said that the funeral was held on April 22 at the Holy Virgin Church.

On April Martirosyan was injured by a bomb and missile fractions. He was taken to a hospital, but his condition was severe.

In Aleppo, on April 18, 22-year-old Baghtik Keshishian, who had been injured a few days earlier as a result of clashes with the armed radical opposition groups, died. He had volunteered to serve in the Syrian army.

According to the U.N. data, in the course of the three-year conflict in Syria, the number of the victims has exceeded 130,000. The number of Armenians killed is more than 80.

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## News From Armenia

### Prof. Says it Is Inevitable For Turkey to Face Past

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Turkey will have to meet with its past, and it should be done in three rounds. In an interview, reflecting on the Armenian-Turkish relations, expressed his opinion the lecturer of History Department of Istanbul's Bilgi University, Prof. Bulent Bilmez, who was present at the two-day conference on "The Caucasian Front of the First World War: Genocide, Refugees and Humanitarian Aid," held at the Armenian Genocide Museum -Institute.

"The first level of facing the historical fact of the Armenian Genocide is the government, the state, here it is important how they legally deal with the Genocide victims, and to consider the possibility of going to the Armenian settlements of Turkey as their homeland," he explained.

### President Issues Congratulatory Message To Yezidi Community

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President Serge Sargisian sent a congratulatory message to the Yezidi community of Armenia on the occasion of Malake Taus, or the Yezidi new year. The Mass Media and Public Relations Department of the President's Office informed The letter, addressed to the country's community, read, "I cordially congratulate you on the occasion of New Year – Malake Taus. For centuries, the Armenian and Yezidi peoples have been together both in times of happiness and troubles. Our predecessors have fortified this friendship on the battlefield as well. Today we Armenian citizens enjoy equal rights, build our country – our common home – and your patriotic contribution to that is considerable. May the New Year bring you and your families successes affording you an opportunity to develop and progress and let our peoples' unbreakable friendship be stronger."

### Catholicos Receives Ambassador of Iraq

ECHMIADZIN –Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, welcomed Ghazi Tahir Khaled, Ambassador of Iraq to Armenia at the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin this week.

During the meeting the catholicos reflected on the warm and friendly relations between the two countries. He said he was hopeful that through the efforts of the ambassador the current collaboration would further be expanded, entering into various new spheres of partnerships.

Karekin II and Tahir Khaled also discussed the state of the Armenian community in Iraq and the church life there, highlighting the importance of ecumenical dialogue.

The ambassador expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome at the Mother See, presenting to the Catholicos of All Armenians the plans for strengthening current relations between Iraq and Armenia.

### Armenia to Join Customs Union in May-June

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenian Economy Minister Vahram Avanesian says his country will sign an agreement on joining the Russia-led Customs Union in May or June.

Avanesian told journalists in Yerevan on April 18 that in Minsk on April 29 Yerevan will present a road-map for joining the union to the presidents of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan – the current members of the Customs Union – and will sign the agreement in May or June.

Media reports cited Avanesian on April 17 as saying that Armenia will sign the agreement on joining the union on April 29. But he said the next day that he had been misinterpreted.

Russian officials have tried to get other former Soviet republics into the union, saying that by 2015 it will become the Eurasian Economic Union and be modeled after the EU.

## Azeri Journalist Jailed on Charges of 'Spying for Armenia'

BAKU (RFE/RL) – An Azerbaijani journalist and political analyst has been deported from Turkey and arrested in Azerbaijan on charges of high treason reportedly stemming from his repeated trips to Armenia.

Rauf Mirkadyrov, a veteran columnist for the Baku-based newspaper *Zerkalo*, was put on a plane in Ankara over the weekend and flown to Baku, where he was immediately detained by officers of the Azerbaijani National Security Ministry. Mirkadyrov's lawyer told Azerbaijani media afterwards that his client has been charged with espionage.

Mirkadyrov was formally remanded in pre-trial custody on Monday. In a statement cited by local news agencies, Azerbaijan's Office of the Prosecutor-General claimed that Mirkadyrov was recruited by Armenian intelligence agents in 2008. It said he repeatedly met with them in Armenia, Georgia and Turkey in the following years to pass on "information about the political, social and military situation" in Azerbaijan that included state secrets.

"We are also told that he has visited Armenia and held a number of meetings there without the knowledge of official representatives of Azerbaijan's government," the APA news agency reported earlier in the day.

*Zerkalo* scoffed at the espionage accusation. "Any honest Azerbaijani journalist can only work for them [Armenians,] the Russian-language independent paper commented sarcastically on its website.

"Armenia occupied about 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory and the war between the two states is still not over. Therefore, negotiations can only be conducted by the two heads of state," Elchin Behbudov of the Azerbaijani Committee Against Torture was quoted by APA as saying in connection with the high-profile case.

Mirkadyrov's analytical articles writ-

ten for *Zerkalo* on an almost daily basis have generally focused on the unresolved Nagorno-Karabagh conflict and broader regional geopolitics. Since the late 1990s he has repeatedly visited Armenia for regional or Armenian-Azerbaijani forums sponsored by Western governments and private institutions. His most recent trip to Yerevan took place in December.

The Institute of Peace and Democracy (IPD), a Baku-based non-governmental organization that has long organized meetings with Armenian civil society members, condemned Mirkadyrov's arrest, saying that it heralds a government ban on people-to-people contacts with Azerbaijan's arch-foe.

"After President Ilham Aliyev came to power [in 2003] the conduct in Azerbaijan of conferences organized by NGOs with the participation of invited colleagues from Armenia became impossible," the IPD director, Leyla Yunus, said in a statement posted on the contact.az news portal. "For the past 10 years such joint meetings have been possible only outside Azerbaijan and in Armenia in particular."

Yunus argued that such Western-backed contacts are important for a resolution of the Karabagh conflict in the absence of progress in the long-running peace talks between the Armenian and Azerbaijani governments. She cited recent statements to that effect made by James Warlick, the US mediator in the Karabagh peace process. Mirkadyrov's arrest will preclude "further visits by Azerbaijani civil society activists to Armenia," added Yunus.

The Azerbaijani authorities reportedly attempted to officially ban any contact with Armenians not sanctioned by them with a bill that was submitted to parliament a year ago. The proposed legislation was dropped following a domestic and international uproar.

Mirkadyrov has lived in Turkey with his family for the past three years. He is said to have told a colleague shortly before his arrest that he got in trouble with the Turkish authorities immediately after Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's April 7 visit to Baku.

Another Azerbaijani journalist, Mahir Zeynalov, was deported from Turkey in February. He blamed the expulsion on his criticism of Erdogan's government.

According to the New York-based Committee to Project Journalists (CPJ), at least eight Azerbaijani reporters were in jail in relation to their work prior to Mirkadyrov's arrest. One of them, Tofiq Yaqublu, was sentenced to five years in prison last month for "organizing mass disturbances" in January 2013. The CPJ condemned the verdict as baseless and politically motivated.

### ONEArmenia Supports COAF in Expanding Cafeteria and Oral Health Stations

YEREVAN – ONEArmenia, a for-purpose platform based in Yerevan and New York City, launches a new campaign for Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) to bring a nutrition and hygiene program to 160 primary school children (ages 6-11) in the village of Aragatsavan located in the Aragatsotn province.

Recent surveys indicate that the majority of Armenian school children consistently skip breakfast and have poor eating habits. Despite the fact that fruits and vegetables are plentiful throughout the villages, children in rural Armenia have diets mostly consisting of foods high in fat and sugar. Extreme poverty in rural communities further complicates the problem, as parents often cannot afford food items necessary to maintain a balanced diet. Moreover, since a cafeteria system is not place in Armenian public schools, children often go hungry throughout the school day.

Proper oral and general hygiene is another big issue in rural Armenia due to such basic factors as the lack of dental health education and poor access to clean water. More than 98 percent of rural children suffer from tooth decay, as a result of not brushing teeth from an early age.

The campaign aims to raise \$26,000 to build a space where the primary school children can have well-balanced nutritious meals and brush their teeth every day. The oral hygiene component of the program will feature tooth brushing stations (called Brushadromes) built adjacent to the cafeterias to instill good dental hygiene habits among children. In addition, the program will include ongoing health education seminars to children and staff members.

Aragatsavan will be the fourth school to participate in the program. In 2013, COAF opened three cafeterias and tooth brushing stations benefiting more than 400 children in the villages of Karakert and Lernagog. The Nutrition and Hygiene Program has been one of COAF's most popular and effective projects, evoking enthusiasm and interest among parents and teachers. Many local farmers and parents have donated food items to the program in appreciation of their children being provided with free meals.

### Twitter Vice President Raffi Krikorian Takes Selfie with Armenia President

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President Serge Sargisian received the Vice President of Twitter social network Raffi Krikorian this week. Following the meeting in the presidential residence, Raffi Krikorian took a selfie with Sargisian. Arman Saghatelian, the press secretary of the president, posted the photo in his Twitter account. Also, Krikorian tweeted: "Need to get a Twitter account for him."

Tumo board member and Twitter Vice President Krikorian paid a visit to Armenia at the invitation of Tumo. During his weeklong visit, Krikorian led two computer programming workshops, gave a public lecture and met with representatives of the Armenian IT community and government.

Krikorian and his teams manage the core infrastructure of Twitter, including its databases, server clusters and software libraries. Prior to Twitter, Krikorian, a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, co-founded the personal energy management platform WattzOn, ran a consulting company, and taught at the New

York University Interactive Telecommunications Program.

Krikorian also accepted Karabagh Prime Minister Ara Harutyunyan's invitation to visit Artsakh. Artak Beglaryan, Harutyunyan's press secretary, wrote on Twitter: "Great: Twitter Vice President accepted Karabagh's



Twitter Vice President Raffi Krikorian, left, with President Serge Sargisian

Prime Minister's invitation to visit Artsakh during his next visit to Tumo Center."

In response to this invitation, Krikorian replied that he considered the invitation a great honor but that he had already left and has to visit during his next visit to Armenia.



## INTERNATIONAL

## Brazil Diocese Elects Very Rev. Dr. Nareg Berberian as New Primate

SAO PAULO – On Monday, March 31, the Armenian Diocese of Brazil held its Diocesan Assembly at the Diocesan Center here. Forty delegates and the Diocesan clergy participated at this Assembly. The meeting was opened by Archbishop Datev Karibian, Primate. The chairman of the Diocesan Council, Dr. Andre Kissajikian, presided over the meeting. Since it was an election year, it was reported that Karibian has chosen to retire as the Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Brazil.

Upon the recommendation of Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, three candidates from the Brotherhood of Holy Echmiadzin were presented as candidates for the position. The delegates unanimously elected the Vicar General of the Diocese, the Very Rev. Dr. Nareg Berberian to be the new Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Brazil. Upon his election, Berberian was invited to take part of Assembly. The chairman of the Diocesan Council, Dr. Andre Kissajikian informed Hayr Soorp about the result of the election and congratulated him for his new post. In his message Hayr Soorp stated: "Eight months ago, I came to Brazil from USA to serve God and the Armenian Community of Brazil. I was well received by all of you. The Brazilian Armenians are friendly and warm people. Today, you elected me as the primate of Brazil. A new era and history has been opened in front of me and you. I take this position very seriously and responsibly, which through your help, I intend to lead our Diocese to make it stronger and assemble our people to become closer to God. There are much work to be done to bring the community members into the life of the Armenian Church. There will be much more reli-



Very Rev. Dr. Nareg Berberian

gious, educational, cultural and social programs for all ages. I am so happy that our diocese has two active priests, who are very supportive of my vision. I thank His Eminence Archbishop Datev Karibian for his warm welcome for the past 7 months. Surpazan served this Diocese for 30 years with dedication and commitment and he deserves applaud by this assembly."

The clergy and the delegates congratulated Berberian for his new post wishing him much success.

Upon his election, the catholicos approved and confirmed the election of the new Primate by sending a congratulatory letter to him.

Berberian was born in Beirut, Lebanon, on October 28, 1967. His baptismal name was Vaskin Berberian, parents of Kevork and Nevart Berberian. He attended the Vahan Tekeyan School in Beirut and graduated in 1981. He studied at the Seminary of Holy Echmiadzin from 1981 to 1988, with the last year spent as the secretary to

Catholicos Vasken I. Fr. Nareg was ordained a deacon in 1986 in Echmiadzin by Archbishop Housig Santurian and graduated from the seminary in 1987. His graduating thesis was "The Commentary of Job," by St. Gregory of Datev.

In January 1988, Berberian began his studies at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in New York in conjunction with St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. He received a Master of Divinity degree and a Diploma in Armenian Studies Program from St. Nersess Seminary, on May 17, 1991. At the same time, he took private piano lessons at Concordia College in New York. While serving as an acting Grand Sacristan at St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City in 1991, he earned a second Master's Degree in Sacred Theology from the General Theological Seminary in New York, with a focus on biblical studies.

On July 26, 1992, Fr. Nareg was ordained as a celibate priest at St. Vartan Cathedral by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and became a member of the Brotherhood of Holy Echmiadzin.

In 1992, Fr. Nareg was appointed as the Assistant Pastor at St. Kevork Armenian Church in Houston, TX. In 1994, he was named the Pastor at St. James Church in Richmond, Va. The same year, he was elevated to the Rank of Vartabed (Doctor of the Church) by Archbishop Barsamian at St. James Church in Virginia.

On Sunday, April 27, he was officially installed as the new Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Brazil at St. Kevork Armenian Cathedral in Sao Paulo.

## Hundreds Sign AGBU Europe Petition in Recognition of the Armenian Genocide

PARIS – A petition initiated by AGBU Europe, DurDe, the European Grassroots Antiracist Movement (EGAM), and Insan Haklari Dernegi (iHD), calling for recognition of the Armenian Genocide, is drawing hundreds of signatures as this month's commemorative events approach.

The public appeal points to almost a century of denial of the genocide by the Turkish government, which has allowed for the continued marginalization and discrimination of Armenian and other minority groups across the country. At the same time, the petition encourages civil society organizations – in Turkey, Europe and around the world – to join together and demonstrate that such state policies do not reflect shifting public opinions.

It reads: "Our shared initiative is one for recognition, solidarity, justice, and democracy. It is an initiative for solidarity between all those who fight for the acceptance of history. The divide is not between the Turkish and Armenian people but between those who struggle for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide and those who promote denial. Quite simply, it is not a question of origins but of perspectives for the future."

To date, numerous public figures have signed the document, representing Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Rwanda, Serbia, and the UK.

The growing list of names includes: Charles Aznavour, the French-Armenian artist; Tahar Ben Jelloun, the award-win-

ning novelist; Dario Fo, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature; Caroline Fourest, the acclaimed feminist and journalist; and French intellectuals André Glucksmann and Bernard-Henri Lévy. Members of the European Parliament, Helsinki Committees and student groups have also showed their support.

Many of the signatories are schedule to join together in Istanbul and other Turkish cities on April 24, for commemorative events organized by DurDe, EGAM and iHD in partnership with AGBU Europe. It will mark the second year AGBU has joined forces with local human rights groups for this cause, forming an unprecedented international delegation. Thousands attended the activities in 2013, and the groups look forward to an even higher turnout this year.

AGBU Europe Director Nicolas Tavitian remarked, "We are pleased to collaborate once again with the human rights groups who face and overcome challenges on the ground in Turkey every day. Their grassroots approach is making a critical difference in the lives of countless people and we are confident that together we will continue to raise awareness, and affect positive social change, with our "Remember 24 April 1915" campaign."

To learn more about the commemorative events being planned in Turkey for April 24, 2014, email [contact@agbueurope.eu](mailto:contact@agbueurope.eu).

To sign the petition, visit [www.remember24april1915.eu](http://www.remember24april1915.eu).

## Nalbandian, Lavrov Meet in Moscow as Warlick Prays for Karabagh Settlement

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Warlick said last week that he is "deeply concerned over continued violence on the contact line of Azerbaijani and Armenian troops, and its potential to damage the peace process."

"All sides should focus on reducing violence and rhetoric in order to improve the atmosphere for negotiations. Recent deaths and injuries show this is a dangerous conflict with no winners," Warlick told Azerbaijan's Trend news agency. He said that OSCE and all of its insti-

tutions support the co-chairs' efforts to help the sides to reach a peaceful settlement of this conflict.

Warlick added that the events in the region have only underscored the urgency of this task.

"The sides should seize this moment to take bold steps to advance the peace process – whether it is implementing confidence building measures or people-to-people programs, eliminating the use of force as an option once and for all," he said.

### International News

#### Ethnic Armenian Elected Chairman of Turkish-American Chamber

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – A Turkish businessman of Armenian origin has been elected the new head of Turkish-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TACCI), which is based in New York, according to Hürriyet Daily News.

Aret Tashciyan, a veteran businessman who currently holds a position as the US representative of OMNI Limited, one of the major companies in marine transportation and insurance, was elected by a 12-7 vote during TACCI's latest general assembly.

He has long been a member of TACCI. The bilateral chamber was founded 10 years ago on the recommendation of the chairman of the Turkish Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges (TOBB) to foster trade between the two countries.

Among the clients of his marine insurance firm is Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's son Burak Erdogan, whose company is known to own six vessels.

#### Azerbaijan Violated Ceasefire Regime about 400 Times

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) – According to data provided by the Defense Army of Nagorno-Karabagh Republic, between the period of April 1 to 19, Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire regime 400 times along the line of contact. The Press Service of the Ministry of Defense of Nagorno Karabakh Republic announced that more than 3000 bullets were fired towards the Armenian troops during this period.

The Defense Army informs that the front units remained faithful to ceasefire regime and continued to carry out the defense of the military positions.

#### Melkumyan Takes Third Prize at Canberra Open

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian GM Hrant Melkumyan scored 7 points out of 9 and took the third prize at the open that was held in Canberra, Australia, reported the Chess Federation of Armenia.

Melkumyan was only half a point behind GMs Livi-Dieter Nisipeanu and Levente Vajda (Romania). By the tie-break, the winner of the tournament was Nisipeanu.

Melkumyan is an Armenian chess Grandmaster and was European Blitz Champion in 2011.

He won the international Internet championship organized by the ICC chess Internet portal. In 2006, he won the U18 silver medal at the World Youth Chess Championship. In 2009, he tied for 1st-5th with Sergey Volkov, Andrey Rychagov, Andrei Deviatkin and Zhou Weiqi in the Chigorin Memorial.

On the November 2011 FIDE World Rankings his Elo rating is 2615.

#### Armenia Provides Assistance to Batumi-Armenians

BATUMI, Georgia (Armenpress) – Holy Savior Church in Batumi on April 17 was the site for the second collaborative action to help needy families of Batumi-Armenians with charitable assistance by the "Georgia Is Our Home" community organization and Armenia's Consulate General in Batumi.

Ten Armenian families from the city received food packages. An earlier effort was held in March when the same families received clothing from Armenia's Consulate General.

In his brief speech Consul General of Armenia to Batumi Aram Grigoryan congratulated everyone on Easter and assured the participants that such assistance will be regularly provided to all those in need.

# Community News

## Winners Announced in Genocide Essay Contest Co-sponsored by Knights And Daughters of Vartan, Facing History and Ourselves

NEW YORK – High school and college students from around the globe were invited to address the question, “On the Threshold of the 100th Anniversary, How Should the World Recognize the Armenian Genocide?” for the seventh Annual Armenian Genocide Commemoration Essay Contest co-sponsored by Knights and Daughters of Vartan and Facing History and Ourselves. A panel of judges announced that the first place went to a Romanian citizen, 21-year-old Alina Toporas, an exchange student at Drexel University in Philadelphia, second place to Memphis, Tenn. resident 18-year-old Elizabeth Ray, a senior at St. Agnes Academy in Memphis, and third place to Little Neck, NY resident, 17-year-old Christopher Artun, a senior at Townsend Harris High School in Flushing, NY.

The essay winners will be recognized in the company of more than 2,000 supporters during the 99th Anniversary Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide to be held in Times Square (42nd/43rd Streets and Broadway) on Sunday, April 27, 2-4 pm. This historic event, held during Genocide Awareness Month, will pay tribute to the 1.5 million Armenians who were massacred by the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire and to the millions of victims of subsequent genocides worldwide. The theme of the Armenian Genocide Commemoration is “Turkey is Guilty of Genocide: Denying the Undeniable is a Crime.” The Commemoration is free and open to the public.

First place winner, Alina Toporas writes, “The Armenian Genocide is not over. Why is this so? Its recognition is currently being denied by the perpetrator and “denial is the final stage of genocide,” according to Genocide Watch. Thus, the Armenian Genocide is still happening through the continuous violence targeted at Armenians in Kesab and the demolition of churches by the rebels supported by Turkey. With the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, it is high time for the global community to take a stand and push for the recognition of the Genocide by punishing those guilty of violating human rights.”

Second place winner, Elizabeth Ray finds recognition to lie in “Knowledge Is Power.” She writes, “As it nears its 100th anniversary, the world should recognize those whose lives were torn apart by the cruelty that took place during the Armenian Genocide by incorporating an expansive education of the Genocide into the curriculum in schools everywhere.”

The family of third-place winner, Christopher Artun, fled their ancestral homes and like thousands of other Armenians escaping the Genocide, settled in foreign lands. He writes, “While nothing can undo the fateful events which occurred 99 years ago, Armenians have had no closure to comfort them. At this juncture in our efforts, recognition is vital to preserve Armenia’s autonomy.”

Commemoration participants will include Armenian Genocide Survivors (ages 99-104), elected officials and humanitarian, cultural, religious, educational and community leaders. Presenters will include Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee – Sen. Robert Menendez, (D-NJ), Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), New York City Council Member Paul Vallone (D-NY), Susan L. Rosenbluth, editor and publisher of The Jewish Voice and Opinion, Dennis R. Papazian, PhD, founding director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and others.

The 99th Commemoration is organized by the Mid-Atlantic chapters of the Knights & Daughters of Vartan. For more information, see CONTEST, page 8



Genocide survivors Perouz Kalousdian and Azniv Guiragossian at the New York Armenian Home

## The Pain Was Inflicted Long Ago

### But Aches Doesn't Leave Genocide Survivors

QUEENS, N.Y. – Azniv Guiragossian sat quietly in a wheelchair between her daughter, Arpi Nardone, and son, Shahen, in the living room of the New York Armenian Home on a recent warm spring afternoon. Dressed in a patterned blouse and a long black skirt, her tinsel colored hair tied back in a braid, Azniv turned to her son and grazed his cheek with her red painted nails as she whispered, “How lucky you are that you were raised by your mother.”

Although the words, spoken in Armenian, were made as an impromptu remark from a mother to a son, that simple phrase portrayed the ache still felt by Armenian Genocide survivor Guiragossian, a pain that has lasted almost a century.

Only 1-year-old when she lost both her parents, her father’s death resulting from the shock of a death sentence and her mother’s demise on the marches through Der Zor, Guiragossian was kidnapped by a Turkish family until her relatives were able to find her. Unable to care for her, however, they placed her and her sister in an orphanage in Aleppo.

“She never had her mother’s love,” said Nardone. “She was starving for her love.”

“She would always say how hungry and cold she was,” added Shane Guiragossian.

Through an arranged marriage, Guiragossian married an Armenian choral director and teacher who later became a priest. Following a move to Beirut, the family of six settled in New York City in 1950.

“My life was very bad,” said Azniv, 99, who was born in Urfa. “I was on the streets. But I stayed strong.”

Perouz Kalousdian is another Armenian Genocide survivor who was robbed of a childhood and saw the destruction of her family at a young age when Turkish soldiers tied all the males in her family two by two and threw them over the Euphrates River.

“They took my family,” said Kalousdian, born in 1909 in Harput. “They separated us and took them away. I never saw them again.”

Kalousdian, 6-years-old at the time, recalls being carried on her mother’s back during the death marches. Surviving the atrocities on the deportations, she and her mother arrived in Aleppo, Syria, where they stayed before leaving for the United States where they reunited with her father, who had fled the Genocide.

A third survivor who resides at the Armenian Home is Arsalos Dadir, who was born in 1913 in Shabin Karahisar. Her father and uncle were killed by the Young Turks, along with others in their village who were all tied up and shot. She remembers seeing hundreds of bodies piled on top of one another. Her family lost all of their wealth and land, but was able to settle in Constantinople where Dadir married and raised two children, moving to the US later in life.

The New York Armenian Home, founded by Sarah Sanossian in 1948, has long served as a residence for survivors of the Armenian Genocide. An Armenian-only, private, non-funded home for the elderly, led by Executive Director Aggie Ellian, provide around-the-clock care for residents in a culturally rich setting. The Armenian Home is the annual setting for the Armenian Genocide Media Day, organized by the Knights of Vartan, where local Armenian and non-Armenian media interview and record survivors accounts and testimonies from the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

The 99th anniversary commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, sponsored by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, will be held in Times Square (43rd St. and Broadway) on Sunday, April 27, from 2 to 4 p.m.

–Taleen Babayan

## Two Former Ambassadors Discuss Armenia, Karabagh and the UN

By Sarah Newell and Ivy Tran

BOSTON – On Wednesday, March 26, Rouben Shougarian and Armen Baibourtian, former ambassadors of Armenia, spoke at the Kenosian Chair Current Issues Series, “The United Nations, Armenia, and the Sovereignty of Nagorno Karabagh,” at Boston University’s Castle.

Prof. Simon Payaslian, Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University, invited these prominent figures in Armenian diplomacy to participate in the event, which was co-sponsored by the departments of History and International Relations at Boston University, as well as the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research. The speakers discussed the role of the United Nations in Armenia, Armenia’s foreign policy, and national sovereignty issues in the Nagorno Karabagh conflict, and related them to the current Crimean crisis.

Shougarian served as Armenia’s first ambassador to the United States (1993-1999), deputy foreign minister (1999-2005), and ambassador to Italy, Spain and Portugal (2005-2008). He also worked for the Armenian Parliament’s Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and acted as a senior foreign policy aide and spokesperson for President Levon Ter-Petrosian. Shougarian currently lectures at Tufts University’s Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He is the author of two books: *West of Eden, East of the Chessboard* (2010) and *The Politics of Immaculate Misconception: The Ides of the Post-Secular Age* (2013), in addition to numerous articles addressing conflict resolution and the Black Sea region’s geopolitical identity.

Shougarian began his speech by recognizing how “the last decade brought about tectonic geopolitical changes” for the region of Nagorno Karabagh and the impact of these changes on issues pertaining to national sovereignty. He went on to say that the region’s sovereignty, including definitions of border security and administration, as well as dealing with people displaced by regional conflicts, intertwine with problems facing other former Soviet territories. Further, Shougarian linked these problems to the current crisis in Crimea.

“The concept [of sovereignty] has to be redefined,” Shougarian stated. The issue requires rethinking the philosophy and changing our mindsets. The current definition of sovereignty, he argued, implies autonomy, but “no nation is autonomous.” Countries always depend on one another for support and security.

Sovereignty as it exists now is “as useless as a unicycle, one can ride on it, but not well,” he remarked. Therefore, we must rethink this definition in order to avoid double standards and to stop measuring ethno-territorial conflicts with the same yardstick. Instead, the international community should adopt the idea of what Shougarian called “remedial sovereignty,” which he defined in four ways: sovereignty yielded by the center to peripherals, sovereignty granted by an international body to an ethno-territorial unit, sovereignty earned and defended by the region itself, and sovereignty claimed by an intervening outside party.

Shougarian also acknowledged that a region’s sovereignty must first be achieved, granted or recognized in order to be remedied, an observation that certainly applies to the current Crimean crisis.

Baibourtian spoke next, expanding on the evening’s theme of national sovereignty. With PhDs in International Studies and Modern World History, Dr. Baibourtian currently teaches at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. He previously served as senior adviser

see PANEL, page 7



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## History of Armenian Repatriation Focus Of Talk at Zohrab Center

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK — World War II had ended, and Armenia, like the rest of the Soviet Union, had suffered terrible losses. In the Soviet Union overall, 25 million had perished, and in Armenia tens of thousands had died during the war.

With Soviet Armenia's prospects so reduced, a movement emerged under the rubric of "repatriation" — that is, a return to the homeland — which was devised by Soviet Armenian officials with the support of diasporan Armenian organizations like the AGBU, the Armenian Progressive League, and the Armenian National Council. The putative goal was to repopulate and revitalize Soviet Armenia. Similar repatriation plans were propagated in other Soviet republics. But the dreams of many "repatriates" were at odds with the reality awaiting them in the Soviet Union.

On Thursday, March 20, the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) sponsored a multimedia talk titled, "Repatriation and Deception: Post-World War II Repatriation to Soviet Armenia," featuring commentary, music, and images by Hazel Antaramian-Hofman, the daughter of repatriated parents.

In her presentation, Antaramian-Hofman detailed the experiences of repatriates who came to Armenia beginning in 1946. She revealed that during this period, more than 100,000 Armenians came by ship and plane from France, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Greece, Palestine, as well as the United States, to settle in Soviet Armenia. The repatriates from America proved to be "the least in number, but the most economically advanced."

The speaker told of one repatriate family's shattering experience in this new world. "On the evening of March 11, 1949, in Soviet Armenia," Antaramian-Hofman said, "in the presence of his wife and two young boys, Alexander Khatchig Phillian was arrested by the Soviet secret police. His son Crosby, at the time 15 years old, would always remember the night when the uniformed men announced his father's arrest, and his mother cried, 'Is this why we came to Armenia?'"

The life-altering experience gave the young former-New Yorker a mantra by which to live in his

newly adopted country: "Keep your mouth shut, and just survive," Antaramian-Hofman related. It was not until the early 1950s that the repression of the Armenian repatriates ended.

Antaramian-Hofman revealed that the number of repatriates was greater for Armenia than for the other Soviet republics. Memories of the Armenian Genocide and the idealistic hopes of Diaspora Armenians for a return to the historic Armenian lands of the former Ottoman empire, inspired many of the families to join the repatriation movement.

Calling the repatriation "a poorly constructed program," she said it was "the beginning of the cultural and economic disconnect for the former diasporans. Soviet Armenia was never really home for them, and they struggled to fit in." The speaker went on to describe how the repatriates were often shunned and ridiculed for their different dress, manners, and attitudes by the native population, and how their living quarters and food were far diminished from what they were accustomed to in their former countries.

In the discussion period, an audience member noted that this was a time of great deprivation for the native Armenians, who saw the newcomers as taking away available food and shelter. As the years advanced, the repatriates played an important role in the advancement of Armenia.

Antaramian-Hofman was born in Soviet Armenia, the daughter of a father born in America, and a mother born in France. Her parents repatriated to Armenia during the Stalin era, and after the thaw instituted by Khrushchev, Hazel at age five came to America with her parents, growing up in Wisconsin. Part of her art collection is included in the Armenian Museum at University of California, Fresno.

In 2010, Antaramian-Hofman began to document the repatriation to Soviet Armenia, interviewing surviving repatriates, scanning photos, and conducting archival research in the United States and Armenia. To date, she has given four lectures on this topic across the United States, and is now presenting talks in England. Currently, she is working on a brief narrative of her project to accompany a commissioned 2015 theatrical production of the "Great Repatriation" at Fresno State University, with playwright Richard Kalinoski, playwright of the Genocide play, "Beast on the Moon."



Some of the Sunday School students and teachers with their baskets

## Hye Pointe Sunday School Students Prepare Easter Baskets for Needy Children

HAVERHILL, Mass. — The Armenian Church at Hye Pointe Sunday School assembled 56 Easter Baskets for children in need. This is an annual community service project in which Sunday School students work together to help disadvantaged families in the Haverhill area.

Each spring, the Sunday School students collect donations and financial contributions from church parishioners and prepare baskets for children under 18 years of age. Baskets include candy, toys, toiletries, arts and crafts, etc., with the hope of bringing cheer to the children.

One of the parishioners, Carole Hanedanian, is a caseworker with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families and distributes the Easter baskets to children in the community.

— Julie Ballentine

## Dikran Kaligian, Marc Mamigonian to Discuss 'State of Denial' at NAASR

BELMONT, Mass. — Dikran Kaligian and Marc A. Mamigonian will give a joint lecture exploring the rhetoric and techniques of academic denial of the Armenian Genocide titled "The State of Denial: Manufacturing a Scholarly Controversy, Denying a Genocide," on Tuesday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave.

From its origins in the World War I era, denial of the Armenian Genocide emerged in American

universities during the Cold War. Bent on "dissipating the heavy cloud that blotted the reputation of the Turkish nation" (in the words of Richard Hovannissian), a cadre of academics in Turkish and Ottoman Studies ignored, minimized or denied the Armenian Genocide, a formative event in the shaping of modern Turkey. Today, however, a growing body of critical scholarship and documentation of the Armenian Genocide has rendered traditional strategies of silencing and denial increasingly untenable, thus necessitating new methods of denial.

Turkey and those who support its official narrative have responded with a multi-faceted effort to construct a legitimate scholarly controversy around "the events of 1915" — a controversy that can never, of course, be resolved in their opponents' favor. Such manufactured controversy is a time-tested strategy, long employed by entities from Big Tobacco to the so-called "skeptics" of global warming who seek to gain academic credibility for positions not otherwise supportable by scholarship.

In this joint presentation, Mamigonian will trace, briefly, the early development of Armenian Genocide denial but will focus on more recent refinements and the penetration of denial within American academia. Parallel examples of denialist rhetoric will be compared across genocides as well as in the natural sciences. Kaligian will focus on recent publications that have attempted to establish a widespread "Armenian rebellion" to which the "deportations" were a reasonable and justifiable response.

Dikran Kaligian is currently an instructor at Worcester State University. He has also taught at Clark University, Regis, Westfield State, and Wheaton colleges. He is past chairperson of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Eastern United States and managing editor of the *Armenian Review*. He received his PhD in history from Boston College and is the author of the book *Armenian Organization and Ideology under Ottoman Rule, 1908-1914*. Mamigonian is the director of academic affairs of NAASR. He is the editor of the publications *Rethinking Armenian Studies* and *The Armenians of New England* and the *Journal of Armenian Studies*.

Admission to the event is free (donations appreciated). The NAASR bookstore will open at 7 p.m.

More information about the lecture is available by e-mailing [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org), or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# A World of Music and Hope

NEW YORK – The grand re-opening of the Octet Music School on September 20, 2013, was an auspicious event for Armenia's second largest city, Gumri.

Present for the occasion were Armenia's President Serge Sargsyan, philanthropists Edward and Janet Mardigian, Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, and members of the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) board of directors. Standing out among the dignitaries was internationally renowned musician Ian Gillan, for whom the day represented the culmination of 20 years of intense humanitarian effort on behalf of the people of Armenia.

Gillan's Armenian odyssey began in the wake of the earthquake of 1988. As the lead singer of the British rock band Deep Purple, Ian had found himself deeply affected by the disaster that left many thousands dead and even greater numbers injured and homeless. To contribute to the relief effort, he led a constellation of British rock stars in a cover recording of Deep Purple's hit, Smoke on the Water.

"Rock Aid Armenia" was the brainchild of activist Jon Dee, who united a roster of "hall of fame" musicians around the project: Ian Gillan and Ritchie Blackmore from Deep Purple, Brian May and Roger Taylor from Queen, Tony Iommi from Black Sabbath, David Gilmour from Pink Floyd, Bruce Dickinson from Iron Maiden, Geoff Downes from Asia, Chris Squire from Yes, Keith Emerson from Emerson, Lake and Palmer, and others.

The recording was a great success, raising both funds and awareness for the plight of Armenia.

In 1990, Ian Gillan took his personal efforts a step further, when he announced that he would

give four concerts in Yerevan. At that time, though Armenia was moving steadily towards independence, it was still a part of the Soviet Union – where official opinion held rock music to be a dubious and unwelcome Western extravagance. Nevertheless, the concerts went forward at the Sports and Concert Complex in Armenia's capital city, and Armenian fans reveled in the music even as they saw that surrounding realities were changing.

Ian's visit to Armenia left a deep impression on him. During his visit to the city of Spitak, in the earthquake zone, he was approached by an elderly woman who showed him a photograph of her family: 28 people, including children, grandchildren and great grandchildren – all of whom had perished in the disaster.

"I was asked to tell about what I had seen," Gillan reported in an interview, "but I could not articulate a single word. I just sobbed."

As a musician, he perceived a subtle effect of the earthquake among the survivors. "Something seems to have stopped in Armenia," he said. In Spitak he had overheard one man confess that "after the earthquake, no music would ever be played at weddings."

But the man then added: "I believe this is wrong. We should remember what happened; but at some point the music should come back. When Armenians are ready to hear the music while still paying tribute to the past, that will be something to celebrate."

"When Armenians are ready to hear the music..." The phrase would resonate with Ian Gillan for 20 years – until he saw an opportunity to respond in kind.

It came in October 2009, when Ian Gillan,

Tony Iommi, and Geoff Downes were back in Armenia, visiting "Music School No. 6" in Gumri. The school had been destroyed in the earthquake, and had languished for two decades in a state of miserable disrepair, with students relegated to what were supposed to be "temporary" iron shelters. From its pre-earthquake height of around 500 students, the school now drew fewer than 200, and many of these from the most vulnerable strata of Gumri's society.

And yet, even in these dilapidated surroundings, Ian and his fellow visitors saw a spark of something special and beautiful in the young musicians, who delivered performances of classical, folk, and jazz music to the highest standards.

Listening to the children play, Gillan and Iommi decided that they would help rebuild the school. On the spot, Gillan agreed to appear in a series of charity concerts jointly with the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, starting in March of 2010. Proceeds from the concerts would be transferred in their entirety to the fund for the school's reconstruction.

The project eventually came into the orbit of the Fund for Armenian Relief, the humanitarian relief arm of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and a longstanding leader in economic and social development for the still-young Republic of Armenia. With a magnanimous donation from the Mardigian Family Foundation, the project advanced to completion – thus realizing the dream of a musician from the United Kingdom, and fulfilling the musical potential of countless young souls in the city of Gumri.

By the order of Armenia's president, Ian Gillan was awarded the country's "Medal of Honor,"



Ian Gillan

alongside Tony Iommi, Brian May, David Gilmour and Jon Dee. At the conferral ceremony, the prime minister recalled the sorrowful days of the earthquake and its terrible losses. At the same time, he went on, "we were full of powerful feelings for the people who came by our side at that time, when the world suddenly felt like a very small place. That is what brought you to us, and we want to express our gratitude to everyone who helped us."

For making the world a brighter place, filled with music and hope, the Diocese is proud to name Ian Gillan as its 2014 "Friend of the Armenians."

He will be presented with the award at the 112th Diocesan Assembly in New York. The presentation will be made during the assembly's gala banquet on Friday, May 2, starting at 7 p.m., at Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium of the Diocesan Complex.

## OBITUARY

### Dr. Robert Setrag Dorian

FAR HILLS, N.J. – Dr. Robert Setrag "Bob" Dorian, 59, of Far Hills, NJ, died on March 19, 2014.

He was the husband of Linda Terlecki Dorian and father of Rose Maryam and Zoe Linda Dorian and the son of Dr. Robert Varoujan and Mariam Berberian Dorian of Livingston. His sisters, Kim and her husband George Jamgochian

Center. He was an expert on the latest technology. His passion for photography, movies, magic and astronomy started at a young age and continued throughout his life. He also raced in many triathlons as well as the New York City Marathon. Music and particularly the piano played a big role in his life. He loved all music genres from Johnny Berberian on the oud to Aram Khachaturian and from Led Zeppelin to Beethoven.

Dorian graduated from Livingston High School, Tufts University, The New England Conservatory of Music and Rutgers Medical School. He was trained at New York Hospital-Cornell and Children's Hospital-Harvard Medical School.

He was an anesthesiologist at St. Barnabas Medical Center for almost 30 years and was the chairman of the Department for more than 10 years. He specialized in pediatric anesthesiology and pain medicine. He was also certified in medical acupuncture. He was a great teacher and guided countless people in their careers. He worked tirelessly on medical missions to the Philippines, Grenada, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

He loved his Armenian heritage. He was a member of St. Mary Armenian Church in Livingston, a graduate of their Sunday school, the Araratian Armenian School and president of the YPA at St. Mary Armenian Church for many years. He visited Armenia several times and made a pilgrimage to the Armenian Quarter in Jerusalem with Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. He often told the story that when his grandfather and namesake, Setrag Berberian, came to America to escape the Genocide, the first thing he did was join the AGBU and was a proud card carrying member of it. He was in the early stages of planning a medical mission to Armenia.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to St. Mary Armenian Church Endowment Fund, 200 W. Mt. Pleasant Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039; LIG Global, 11 Hillside Dr., East Hanover, NJ 07936 or St. Barnabas Medical Center Foundation for the Pediatric Conscious Sedation Unit (which will be dedicated in his name) 95 Old Short Hills Rd., West Orange, NJ 07052.



Dr. Robert S. Dorian

of Franklin Lakes, and MaryJan and her husband Michael Kelly of Wyckoff, also survive him. He also leaves many nieces, nephews and a large extended family.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Daniel and Satenig Kachadorian and Setrag and Pambook Berberian.

He lived life to the fullest and treated everyone with kindness, generosity and humor. He enjoyed speaking about many diverse topics and was a true Renaissance man. He had many loves in his life from his immediate family to his professional family at St. Barnabas Medical

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## COMMUNITY NEWS



The design for the Pasadena Genocide Memorial

## Ground to Be Consecrated April 27 For Pasadena Genocide Memorial

PASADENA, Calif. — The ground at the site for the Pasadena Armenian Genocide Memorial will be blessed Sunday, April 27, during a 6 p.m. public ceremony at Memorial Park.

Retired U.S. District Court Judge Dickran M. Tevzian will serve as master of ceremonies and the consecration will be performed by Hovnan Derderian, Archbishop of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church, and Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian of the Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Choirs from the Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian School in Altadena and the Armenian General Benevolent Union High School in Pasadena will sing.

"I encourage the greater Pasadena community to attend this important event," said former California Assemblyman Anthony Portantino, who serves on the Pasadena Armenian Genocide Committee. "This Memorial will offer a place for reflection, hope and inspiration."

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard and California Assemblyman Chris Holden will be among the elected officials at the event.

The memorial, approved by the Pasadena City Council in September 2013, will be completed and dedicated at the north side of Memorial Park in April 2015 to mark the 100th anniversary of the killing of 1.5 million Armenians over a three-year period beginning in 1915. It will commemorate the Armenian Genocide and condemn all crimes against humanity.

## Two Former Ambassadors Discuss Armenia, Karabagh and the UN

PANEL, from page 4

to the UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia where he developed and coordinated the UNDP "Global Armenia" program. Baibourtian also acted as deputy foreign minister of Armenia (1997-2000 and 2004-2008) and Armenia's chief negotiator with the European Union (2005-2006). He served as the first Armenian Ambassador to India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Indonesia (2000-2004) as well as Armenia's first Consul General in Los Angeles (1995-1997), Deputy Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations, and Foreign Policy Advisor to the Speaker of the Armenian Parliament (1991-1992).

"The UN is important to Armenia not only because of the scale or magnitude of its operations, but also for its targeted development policies in the country, its wider partnership approach in devising projects, and its functions of donor coordination," Baibourtian argued. He asserted that although the United Nations as a system planned to contribute a relatively small amount of \$72 million to Armenia through its UN Development Assistance Framework for 2000-2015, the UN programs are marked by their effectiveness and efficiency.

Describing the UN as a global network that applies in Armenia the "best practices in the existing world," the diplomat offered examples of the UN's aid in Armenia. The organization, he said giving various examples, works with the Armenian government to help college graduates find employment through placing them for internship and training in private and public companies, to develop proper mid- and long-term budgeting and to implement modern, secure integrated border management. Further, Baibourtian held that "the principle of UN's work in Armenia is not just cooperation, but forging partnerships" in addressing numerous challenges and, for instance, soft securities issues like the introduction of border management on its northern borders with Georgia.

According to Baibourtian, the UN does not have a presence in Nagorno Karabagh and is not able to assist in addressing the humanitarian needs of its population due to the politicization of the issue. Without the consent of Azerbaijan, the UN cannot extend its assistance to the people in need even during natural disasters. He mentioned that a consortium of five European NGOs implements EU-funded peace-building projects in Nagorno Karabagh to help build mutual trust across the dividing lines. He stressed that the unresolved conflict remains one of the world's "most dangerous."

This conflict invokes two major and contending principles of international law: self-

determination and territorial integrity. While this tension manifests itself in Nagorno Karabagh as Armenia invokes the principle of self-determination and Azerbaijan cites the principle of territorial integrity, Baibourtian reminded his audience that this ideological collision occurs repeatedly throughout history.

In the question and answer session, Payaslian asked what the long-term implications of the Crimean crisis would be for Armenia. Shougarian answered that in the worst-case scenario, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) would cease to exist, which, he warned, "should never be allowed to happen." More positively, a successful resolution could set an example of self-determination reached by national referendum for Nagorno Karabagh.

Either way, the situation is a "double-edged sword," according to Shougarian. While it could inspire self-determination, it could also give Azerbaijan a "green light" to use force in Nagorno Karabagh as Russia did in Crimea.

In response to an inquiry about how Armenia chooses to respond to Azerbaijani military build up, Baibourtian explained that there are two considerations that must be taken into account. First, the external security arrangement dimension and the way the international community perceives the issue. Second, improving the domestic defense capabilities, which is linked to economic advancement. These two main factors, along with others, condition the security of Nagorno Karabagh.

## Dr. Rojeh Melikian to Speak at St. James Men's Club Meeting

WATERTOWN — Dr. Rojeh Melikian, the chief resident of orthopedic surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital will speak at St. James Armenian Church's Men's Club dinner meeting on Monday, May 5. Melikian's topic will be "The Practice of Orthopedic Surgery: Overview and Surgical Examples."

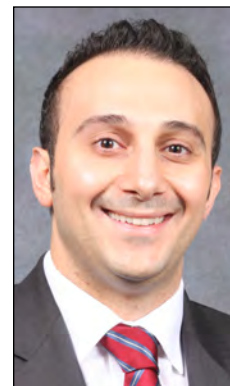
Melikian completed his medical school training at the University of Southern California where he was nominated to the membership of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society and graduated with the highest distinction. He was subsequently accepted into the prestigious Harvard Combined Orthopedic Surgery Residency Program, in which he excelled and was appointed as Chief Resident of Orthopedic Surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Melikian has authored numerous presentations, posters and journal articles on Orthopedic Surgery as well as Spine Surgery. While at MGH, he received the Partners in Excellence Award, for which his colleagues for exemplary performance and contributions "above and beyond the call of duty nominated him."

Melikian played a key role in the emergency operation of patients injured by the blasts in last year's Boston Marathon. Following residency, he will pursue subspecialty training in Spine Surgery at Emory University, widely regarded as one of the top Spine Surgery fellowships in the country.

The social hour starts at 6:15 p.m., followed by a complete *kheyma* and *losh kebab* dinner at 7 p.m. The dinner meeting will be at the St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center-Keljik Hall, 465 Mount Auburn St.

The program is open to the public-Ladies welcome.



Dr. Rojeh Melikian

## Never Again!



### 99th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

a program for Metro Detroit Armenians presented by The Detroit United Committee

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## Donation

Ross H. Zoll and Natalie Bandeian Zoll of Suffolk, Va., have donated \$75 to the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.



## New York METRO

# A Missionary For Our Time

NEW YORK – Dr. Raffy Hovanessian's ties to the Armenian Church formed early on, when he was a young boy growing up in the heart of Aleppo's Christian quarter.

"Religion has always been a part of our life," he said. "We cherished the idea of the church being a second home to us."

This spiritual upbringing would nourish the young man as he left his hometown for medical school in Beirut, and then took on the even bigger challenge of pursuing a career in the United States. As he went on to become a respected internist, establish his own practice, and raise a family, Dr. Hovanessian never forgot those early lessons learned in Aleppo.

"If you are firm in your faith, there's nothing you can't withstand," he said. "All my steps, I feel, have been guided by God."

Hovanessian will be honored as the 2014 "Armenian Church Member of the Year" by the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America at its 112th annual assembly in New York City. The award will be bestowed during the gala banquet on Friday evening, May 2, at Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium of the Diocesan Complex.

The oldest of six siblings, he was born to Arakel and Dirouhi Hovanessian, both survivors of the Armenian Genocide who had settled in Jerusalem. At the outset of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the family relocated to Aleppo, where the young Raffy attended Sunday School and went with his family to church on Sundays.

He describes his father as a pious and hard-working man, who having lost his family in the Genocide, had the courage to start anew in a foreign land. He ran a shoe-repair shop in Aleppo, while his wife worked as a nurse and midwife. His parents' quiet devotion gave rise to their son's love of heritage, and impressed on him the importance of helping others in need.

Hovanessian began to teach Sunday School in Aleppo, and attended college there before moving to Lebanon to begin medical studies at the American University of Beirut. His classes further encouraged his faith in God – "As you study the human body," he said, "you see the marvel that God has created" – and he dreamed of following in the footsteps of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the German physician and missionary whose writings about his work in Africa deeply inspired the young

student. Had circumstances unfolded in a different way, he would have become a missionary. Instead, that spirit of caring and service translated into a lifetime of work in the Armenian community and the broader society.

While still in medical school, Hovanessian noticed the absence of a student Christian association on campus. The problem irked him for some years and after graduation he approached a local clergyman about the possibility of establishing such an organization. The group – which was founded in 1963, and is active to this day – led to the beginning of a lifelong friendship between the young doctor and the priest who helped him, the Very Rev. Karekin Sarkissian – the future Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I.

"In 1995 when he became the Catholicos of All Armenians, we were all elated," Hovanessian recalled. "He was always a good teacher and I learned from him every moment that I spent with him."

Two years later, Sarkissian, then a bishop, officiated at his friend's wedding in Beirut.



Dr. Raffy and Vicki Hovanessian

Hovanessian met his future bride, Vicki Shoghag, at church on Sts. Vartanantz Day, and sensed in her the same drive to reach out to others that he felt in himself. The couple moved to the United States so that he could continue his medical education. Hovanessian began sub-specialization at Hackensack University Medical Center in New Jersey, and later continued his work at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Maryland.

Conflict in the Middle East prevented the Hovanessians from returning to Beirut, and they decided to settle permanently in the United States. But here, too, a crisis was brewing, and at the height of the Vietnam War, Hovanessian was drafted into the US Army, where he served as chief of the army hospital at Fort Knox, Ky.

Throughout their early years in the United States, the Hovanessians did their best to keep connected to their faith and culture. But it was not until they settled in northwest Indiana that the family became anchored in the local Armenian community – the Sts. Joachim and Anne Church of Palos Heights, Ill.

"The parishioners were very receptive and kind to us," Vicki Hovanessian recalled. "It was a small community, but everyone contributed."

At the time of their arrival, the parish was in

the process of building a new house of worship, and the Hovanessians were instrumental in the completion of the project. The newly-built Hovanessian Cultural Hall, named in their honor, was used for worship services until the sanctuary was completed and consecrated in 1983. That year, Sts. Joachim and Anne Church hosted the Diocesan Assembly and Raffy Hovanessian chaired the organizing committee. He also served as the Diocesan delegate from the parish for two decades.

As the decade progressed, the Hovanessians' service extended beyond the Midwest to aid the people of Armenia in the wake of the devastating earthquake that struck Spitak and Gumri. The couple still recalls hearing the terrible news on the radio as they drove home on the evening of December 7, 1988.

"Both of us are children of Genocide survivors. My family grew up poor, and I know what it means for people to be in need," he said. "There was no way we could sit on the sidelines and do nothing."

Mobilizing the Chicago-area relief effort, Vicki Hovanessian raised \$1.6 million through the Chicago chapter of the Armenian General Benevolent Union. In addition, she raised money for fuel and helped collect rice and bulgur to send to the homeland at the start of the Nagorno-Karabagh war, and shipped \$1 million in clothing to help struggling families.

An ardent art collector, she was also inspired to help Armenian artists. Impressed with their tenacity in the face of hardship, she has worked to promote their work abroad through shows and exhibitions. Her husband, meanwhile, organized medical help to the young republic, sending money and equipment and helping to bring Armenia's doctors to the United States for training.

In 1993, Catholicos Vasken I bestowed the "St. Nersess Shnorhali" medal on Raffy Hovanessian. The following year his story was entered into the Congressional Record by Rep. Peter Visclosky.

In 1995, and again in 1999, he traveled to Holy Echmiadzin, where he served as the vice chair of the National Ecclesiastical Council during the elections of Catholicos Karekin I and Catholicos Karekin II. "It was unbelievable to be part of those elections," he said. "It was doubly exciting because we had an independent Armenia, something we could not have imagined only a decade earlier."

## Winners Announced in Genocide Essay Contest

CONTEST, from page 4

Daughters of Vartan ([www.kofv.org](http://www.kofv.org)), an international Armenian fraternal organization headquartered in the United States, and co-sponsored by the Armenian General Benevolent Union ([www.agbu.org](http://www.agbu.org)), the Armenian Assembly of America ([www.aaainc.org](http://www.aaainc.org)), the Armenian National Committee of America ([www.anca.org](http://www.anca.org)), the Armenian Council of America and the Armenian Democratic League (Ramgavar Party).

Participating organizations include the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Catholic Eparchy for U.S. and

Canada, the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA), the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF-YOARF), several Armenian youth organizations, and university and college Armenian clubs.

Facing History and Ourselves was founded in 1976 by educators who believed that instilling intellectual vigor and curiosity goes hand-in-hand with teaching facts and figures. From the disturbing lessons of the Holocaust and other genocides to struggles for civil rights from Birmingham to South Africa, Facing History trusts each rising generation of students to wrestle with complex moments in history and works to help them understand the range of human behavior. These students learn to connect the dots between the ethical choices they will face in life and the positive outcomes they can create in their community and the world. For more information, visit [facinghistory.org](http://facinghistory.org)

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

**TIMES SQUARE**  
43<sup>rd</sup> Street & Broadway  
New York City  
**Sunday, April 27, 2014**  
**2:00-4:00 PM**

Sponsored by the Knights & Daughters of Vartan

Co-sponsored by AGBU, Armenian Assembly of America, Armenian National Committee of America, ADL-Ramgavars, and Armenian Council of America

With the participation of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Catholic Eparchy for US and Canada, Mid-Atlantic ACYOA, AYF-YOARF, Armenian Youth Organizations, and University Armenian Clubs

### FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION TO & FROM TIMES SQUARE

#### New Jersey Churches

Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church  
461 Bergen Blvd., Ridgefield, NJ  
Church Office (201) 943-2950  
Kostan Charkhutian (201) 741-9789

St. Thomas Armenian Church  
Highway 9 & E. Clinton Ave., Tenafly, NJ  
and

St. Leon Armenian Church  
12-61 Saddle River Rd., Fair Lawn, NJ  
Sona Manuclian (651) 427-8763

Armenian Presbyterian Church  
140 Forest Ave., Paramus, NJ  
Andrew Torigian (201) 368-2791

#### New York Churches

St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church  
38 65 234<sup>th</sup> St., Douglaston, NY  
Edward Barsamian (917) 885-9729

Armenian Church of the Holy Martyrs  
209 15 Horace Harding Expwy., Oakland Gardens, NY  
John Kasarjian (718) 631-2247

St. Vartan Cathedral  
630 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., New York, NY  
Church Office (212) 686-0710

#### Brooklyn

Chase Bank (@ Coney Island Ave.)  
1002 Brighton Beach Ave., Brooklyn, NY  
Tigran (718) 891-8486 (347) 291-7765

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

To learn more about the Armenian Genocide, please visit  
[www.theforgotten.org](http://www.theforgotten.org), [www.armenian-genocide.org](http://www.armenian-genocide.org), [www.twentyvoices.com](http://www.twentyvoices.com)





**New York**  
METRO

## UN Ambassador Garen Nazarian Honored by Armenian-American Organizations

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK – It was a bittersweet occasion as more than 200 invited friends, community leaders, and representatives of Armenian-American organizations came together to honor Armenia's outgoing ambassador to the United Nations, Garen Nazarian, and his wife Nana, on Friday, April 11.

The gathering in Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium of the Diocesan Center was organized by the Armenia Fund and sponsored and hosted by community benefactors Nazar and Artemis Nazarian.

Ambassador Nazarian, who has served as Armenia's permanent representative to the United Nations for some five years, is scheduled to move on to the homeland, where he will be taking up a high-level position in government service.

His term in the New York Mission to the UN has garnered the ambassador the utmost respect among his colleagues in the diplomatic community. At the same time, his warmth and accessibility have made him a warmly welcomed figure throughout the Armenian-American community.

Among the many dignitaries in attendance at the farewell gathering were Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian and Carnegie Foundation President Dr. Vartan Gregorian.

From the world of diplomacy were Dr. Moses Abelian (Armenia's former UN ambassador, who is currently the director of the UN Security Council); Armenia's military attaché Mesrob Nazarian; Nagorno-Karabagh representative Robert Avedissian; Armenia's former US ambassador Rouben Shougarian, and former UN ambassador Armen Baibourtian.

The evening's Master of Ceremonies, Khoren Bandazian, chair of Armenia Fund USA (East Coast), opened the program by relating that



Ambassador Garen Nazarian and his wife, Nana, with President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama at the United Nations

men. Ambassador Nazarian has served with honor, fulfilling his mission for five years; meeting with diplomats as well as the community; displaying his warm personality, skill, talent, and ability to connect."

"That ability to make connections can be a solution so many of the world's problems," Archbishop Barsamian said.

The Primate also pointed out the ambassador's great faith, and his frequent attendance at St. Vartan Cathedral services. Speaking

Bakratlater revealing to this writer that "the ambassador has loved Bakrat since he was a teenager."

Ambassador Garen Nazarian had an honor to present as well: the "Armenian Presidential Medallion," which he presented on behalf of the homeland to Khoren Bandazian, for his leadership of Armenia Fund USA. The ambassador thanked the organization for "reaching out to so many lives in Armenia."

He also expressed appreciation to Nazar and Artemis Nazarian; to the Armenian-American organizations; the staff of Armenia's Mission to the UN; and to his colleague diplomats from the Armenian consulates.

With visible emotion, he said: "I felt your support, devotion, and compassion in my work. It will always be embedded in my memory."

He also offered thanks to his wife, Nana, and their children Angelica and Eric.

The Armenian diplomat related that at the United Nations, "Armenia has always demonstrated our dedication and support for peace. We can't do this work alone. We need dedication and support from the community."

Archbishop Barsamian and Archbishop Choloyan joined Nana Nazarian in cutting a ceremonial cake donated by Dr. Levon and Anoush Nazarian, who also had contributed the lovely orchid flowers gracing each table.

The memorable evening closed with a prayer by Choloyan, after which the many guests surrounded the departing Nazarian to express their personal messages of good will.



Ambassador Nazarian with some of the female guests

though the community knows Ambassador Nazarian as a diplomat, he is also "special to all of us for his friendship."

"We will truly miss you," he said, addressing the ambassador directly. "On behalf of our community, we thank you for your unique qualities and your great friendship. You represent the future of the Armenian republic."

Following an opening prayer, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian noted that the event "is both a sad and happy occasion, because it gives us an opportunity to thank and express appreciation to Garen and Nana for their exemplary and noble service to Armenia. At the same time, their warm presence and friendship will be greatly missed."

The Primate continued: "We are blessed to have an independent and free homeland, which enjoys the wisdom of public servants of Ambassador Nazarian's calibre."

He recalled "the blessed day when the Armenian flag was raised" at the United Nations. "It signaled a new era in Armenia's history, and a great responsibility for her country-

directly to the honoree, he said: "You have always shown dignity and seriousness, approachability, and concern for others. Our homeland will grow strong with people like you."

AGBU president Berge Setrakian noted that every Armenian-American organization was present for the occasion. "Some people come and go," he said, "but we will never forget you. And we will meet again. I am sure of that."

Choloyan presented the ambassador with a gift of the Armenian Treasures of Cilicia catalog, and emphasized in his message that the Armenian diplomat had been "vigilant to protect Armenia" during his distinguished and admirable service at the United Nations. Choloyan thanked him for his "humanity and support of the community. With sadness we say farewell; but this is temporary."

On behalf of the community, Khoren Bandazian presented Ambassador Nazarian with an inscribed crystal plaque. And art collector Andreas Roubian presented the diplomat with a painting by celebrated Armenian artist



From left, Dr. Raffy and Vicki Hovanessian with Nana and Garen Nazarian



Garen and Nana Nazarian with Dr. Hagop Gulekjian and Hilda Adil

# Arts & Living

## 106th Anniversary of Famed Expressionist Arshile Gorky Marked On April 15

NEW YORK (PanARMENIAN.Net) – As a child, the artist survived the Genocide of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Turks. With his family displaced and dispersed en route to the Russian-controlled Armenia, his mother died of starvation in Gorky's arms in 1919. His father, however, had escaped the Turkish military draft by moving to the United States in 1910 and settling in Providence, RI. Gorky would join his father in 1920 at the age of 16 after leaving the war-ridden territory of the collapsed Russian Empire. The painful nostalgic sentiments for the lost homeland remained a prominent theme in Gorky's oeuvre, and manifested most prominently in the series of landscapes, such as "The Plough and the Song," "Garden in Sochi and The Sun," and in two figurative portraits of the artist as a child with his deceased mother.

Arshile Gorky remained largely a self-taught artist before his immigration to the United States. Here he enrolled in the New School of Design in Boston, which he attended from 1922 to 1924. The new land also provided for the artist's initial exposure to the modernist artistic discourse, for which the founding fathers, such as the French Post-Impressionist painter Paul Cézanne, would exercise a great deal of influence on Gorky's own work in this formative period. Around 1925 Gorky moved to New York where he swiftly penetrated the emerging artistic milieu and enjoyed an ever more expansive introduction to the current artistic trends, including the groundbreaking innovations of Pablo Picasso as well as the early work of Spanish Surrealist painter Joan Miró.

It was in New York where Gorky met and developed a personal and artistic friendship with such artists as Stuart Davis, John Graham and fellow émigré Willem de Kooning.

While in New York, Gorky enrolled at both the National Academy of Design and the Grand Central School of Art, where he also taught until 1931. It was also the time the artist changed his name, from Vosdanik Adoyan to Arshile Gorky, in order to divorce himself from the negative perception of the Armenian refugees in the United States. The change was also made to claim a certain connection to the Russian artistic milieu. For a while Gorky even claimed to be a relative of the prominent Soviet writer Maxim Gorky who enjoyed a considerable fame in the West.

The first five years that the artist spent in New York crystallized the core characteristics of his early style: from Cézanne-inspired landscapes and still-lives to a flatter and more experimental rendering of the surface influenced by the Synthetic Cubism of Picasso and his fellow artistic innovator Georges Braque.

In the 1930s Gorky's work began to enjoy public recognition. In 1930, he was included in the group show of the emerging artists assembled by Alfred Barr, the influential director of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The year 1931 marked the first solo exhibition of Gorky's paintings at the Mellon Galleries in Philadelphia. From 1935 to 1941, the artist worked under the WPA Federal Art Project alongside Willem de Kooning, a major government initiative to provide artists with work at the time of the Great Depression. One of the projects conceived by Gorky for the WPA was the murals at the Newark Airport in Newark, NJ. Also in 1935, four of Gorky's paintings were included in the famed exhibition mounted by The Whitney Museum of American Art titled "Abstract Painting in America," which attracted a growing attention to the artist from critics and public alike. In 1938 Gorky held his first solo show in New York at the Boyer Galleries.

see GORKY, page 13



At entrance of Babi Hovakim Kotcholosian's home, in Dzitogh, Erzerum

## Uncovering Traces

By Ani Hovannisian Kevorkian

LOS ANGELES – "Go to hell," was my gut, unuttered reaction when a man, who was surely a Turk, tried to make small talk with me while boarding an Istanbul-bound flight from New York's JFK airport in June 2012. I envisioned his grandfather murdering my people, though I suppose he could also have been one of those merciful ones who spared doomed Armenians by taking them in as servants or worse. It didn't matter that it happened almost 100 years ago. It felt like now.

I was embarking on my first voyage to the lands and stories I had heard about all my life, to the homes (or absence of) of Babi Kaspar and Grandma Siroon, of Babi Hovakim and Mami Chnkuhi, to the real-life remains of our age-old history that my father and mother, Doctors Richard and Vartiter K. Hovannisian, have breathed into us, since, well, ever since I can remember.

### Arrival

If one man's smile and hello and nonsense could affect me so, how, I wondered, would I face a million of them? Odd, though, it is, that I'm the girl who has always seen the humanity and "we're all the same" in people. That, too, has exceptions, and I was living that exception.

Arriving in Turkey, and walking along the pedestrian-only grand Beyoghlu-Istiklal Boulevard, overflowing with cosmopolitan stores and inviting restaurants and colorful markets and people, tens of thousands of them, I almost forgot where I was. Yet, I knew I was surrounded by Turks. My head was spinning as I looked at one, then another, and another. I was consumed by them, but realized that I was no one to them. I didn't exist. I've lived my entire life obsessed with the Genocide, with loss, with writhing feelings towards Turks, with the need to tell the world and somehow make it better. But here, I realized, we, the Armenians, didn't exist as even a passing thought to the endless stream of faces and bodies and laughter and conversation passing me by. These were families and friends and individuals living, as people do. I was invisible. We were invisible. Could I blame them?

I was glad to meet my fellow travelers, 24 in all, who, led by Armen Aroyan's see TRACES, page 12



The writer's father, Prof. Richard Hovannisian, and the writer in the rubble of Bazmashen, Kharpert... the village of Kaspar Hovannisian

## Applications Now Being Accepted for AGBU Musical Armenia Program

NEW YORK – The AGBU Performing Arts Department is now accepting applications to its flagship summer initiative, the Musical Armenia Program (MAP). This year, MAP is introducing three new program packages and is encouraging international artists of all backgrounds, in addition to Armenian musicians, to participate. The deadline to apply is May 15.

MAP offers a three-week cultural immersion experience and a comprehensive curriculum that connects aspiring and professional artists with Armenia's rich musical heritage. While living in Yerevan, participants take master classes and specialized lectures, train and network with top musicians, perform at local venues and attend concerts and festivals. They also tour the country, visiting historical landmarks and traveling to the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic on an optional trip.

Several past MAP participants have extended their stay in Armenia, taking advantage of the many opportunities the program presents. Violinist Wanes Moubayed is currently teaching at two music schools in Yerevan, collaborating with the Sistema Armenia Children's Orchestra, and studying at the Komitas State Conservatory. Arni Guiragossian is also studying at the Komitas State Conservatory and plays the flute in the State Youth Orchestra. While violinist Arpi Dekrmenjian is enrolled at Yerevan State University, pianist/singer Berna Karagulian is leading tours at the Matenadaran Museum of Ancient Manuscripts.

Shaghig Amy Kazandjian, a native Canadian and MAP 2013 participant, landed a contract with the Yerevan State Opera and Ballet Orchestra after meeting its director at a MAP event. She comments, "Through MAP, I was able to explore Armenia and embrace my culture, history and identity in ways I never could have imagined. Being able to play the French horn with the orchestra is a once in a lifetime opportunity that I know I will look back on years from now as one of the highlights of my career – thanks to AGBU."

In the three years since its launch, MAP has expanded and in summer 2014 applicants may choose from three new packages. The Full Immersion package is open to students ages 18 and older, who live with peers in an AGBU residence and enroll in all MAP courses and activities. The MAP Academy is open to students ages 15 and older who secure their own housing and enjoy all the benefits of the Full Immersion package. The MAP Lecture Series package also welcomes participants 15 and older who secure their own housing and enroll in 12 lectures exclusively on the history of Armenian music.

MAP applicants must have training in composition or conducting or as instrumentalists or vocalists. The program dates are July 14-August 3, and the application to apply for financial aid is June 5.

The AGBU Performing Arts Department can introduce prospective participants to MAP alumni to learn more about their experiences with the program. For more information, email [musicalarmenia@agbu.org](mailto:musicalarmenia@agbu.org).

To apply, visit [www.agbu.org/musicalarmenia](http://www.agbu.org/musicalarmenia).



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Lowell to Unveil Historic Genocide Memorial May 10

By Tom Vartabedian

LOWELL, Mass. — In what is believed to be an historic first — at least in America — a Genocide monument with an imposing cross will be unveiled by a municipal complex.

The event will take place Saturday, May 10, by Lowell City Hall, site of many an Armenian Genocide commemorations in the past by the Armenian National Committee of America.

The six-foot structure will take its place to the immediate right of the building's entrance by the flagpole as the Armenian tricolor is hoisted and national anthems are being sung in both Armenian and American during a prayer service.

It is the culmination of two years work by the Armenian Genocide Monument Committee of Merrimack Valley, capped by a \$35,000 fund-raising effort by members of surrounding churches and organizations.

A \$15,000 endowment is currently being raised for the perpetual care of the site, which was donated by the city.

Titled "A Mother's Hands," the unveiling coincides auspiciously with Mother's Day weekend, expecting to draw hundreds from around the state and New England.

"What was once a dream has become reality for Armenians throughout the Merrimack Valley and Southern New Hampshire," said Chairman Armen Jeknavorian. "The day will mark a very emotional and inspiring moment, not only for the 1.5 million victims of 1915, but for generations who've followed and established our different communities."

Among them, of course, is Lowell, a prominent mill city cultivated by immigrants who toiled the sweat shops and raised their families with resilience.

"We owe them all a debt of allegiance," added Jeknavorian. "This monument will remain a gesture of gratitude for all they've done to preserve and advance our precious history."

The project was launched by former Mayor James Milinazzo, now a City Councilor, who agreed to plans and even designated the spot inside an area known as Monument Park.

The Armenian memorial will take its place among other stones reflecting the homage of various other ethnic groups who inhabit the city.

The design is the brainchild of Chelmsford artist Daniel Varoujan Hejinian whose inscription of "A Mother's Hands" forms the base. Over the past 18 years, Hejinian has designed and financed the erection of three billboards commemorating the Armenian Genocide throughout Greater Boston and creat-

ed a number of religious icons in various churches.

A three-dimensional motif featuring a mother's hands crocheting lace protrudes from the khatchkar (cross stone) which serves as an immediate eye-catcher. The base stone measures six feet high and three feet wide and was constructed by Skylight Studios in Woburn.

"The delicacy of the crochet integrated into the cross stone

guard and the Knights of Vartan. Joining the entourage will be Sunday School children from the different Armenian churches holding banners.

Participants are asked to gather at 9:30 a.m. at the corner of Merrimack and John Streets near City Hall Plaza.

A monument dedication and flag-raising ceremony will take place at 10:30 on the steps of City Hall where national anthems



Members of the Armenian Genocide Monument Committee of Merrimack Valley gathered at Skylight Studio in Woburn to view the final touches to a genocide memorial being erected in Lowell. From left, Steve Dulgarian, Ara Jeknavorian, designer Daniel Varoujan Hejinian, George Simonian, chairman Armen Jeknavorian, Avedis Garavanian and Tom Vartabedian.

symbolizes the steadfast richness of the Armenian heritage that has sustained our ancient people for centuries," said Hejinian. "Knot by knot, the Armenian people everywhere weave their hopes and dreams as they grow and prosper. This expression of 'weaving' echoes the Armenian national theme."

The day will begin with a downtown procession starting at 10 a.m., led by the Lowell Armenian-American Veterans color

guard and the Knights of Vartan. Joining the entourage will be Sunday School children from the different Armenian churches holding banners.

A reception and program will follow across the way at St. Anne's Church featuring Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian as master of ceremonies. Koutoujian is honorary chairman of the project.

A special tribute will be paid to Nellie Nazarian, Merrimack Valley's lone Genocide survivor.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH AT 8:00 PM  
AT SYMPHONY HALL, BOSTON

## 63rd ARMENIAN NIGHT AT THE POPS

Friends of Armenian Culture Society

Featuring

Hayrapet Arakelyan  
Saxophone

Boston Pops Orchestra  
Keith Lockhart

Conductor

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## DVD: The Atom Egoyan Collection Enigmatic Armenian-Canadian Director's Best Work Boxed

LOS ANGELES (The Arts Desk) — Atom Egoyan's stock has dropped a bit in the 21st century. This box-set of his first seven films remains — along with his response to the Turkish genocide of Armenians, "Ararat" (2002) — the essence of his work to date.

These early films have as much personal character as his compatriot and mentor Cronenberg's. His feature debut "Next of Kin" (1984), in which a teenager escapes his loveless home by pretending to be a Toronto Armenian family's long-lost son, introduces several themes: carefully faked identities, and the erasable memories enabled by video-tape. "Family Viewing" (1988), "Speaking Parts" (1989) and "The Adjuster" (1991) elaborate these ideas with a deadpan comic edge, and a growing repertory company including his wife Arsinee Khanjian and Elias Koteas. "Calendar" (1993) stars Egoyan as a "nightmare" version of himself, filming in Armenia's hill-top churches and crumbling post-Soviet cities, bringing the autobiography scattered through his films to the fore.

In "Exotica" (1994), the characters' cool suppressions disintegrate in the hothouse of a tropically themed strip-club. The nature of the relationship between a schoolgirl-dressed stripper (Mia Kirshner, pictured right), an obsessed customer (Bruce Greenwood) and a child's murder

is unpicked in a film of interwoven secrets, two-way mirrors and voyeuristic alcoves. Sarah Polley, these days a fine director herself, joined Egoyan's regulars here. She then made her name in "The Sweet Hereafter" (1997), an adaptation of Russell Banks's novel about the aftermath of a small-town school-bus's fatal crash. Polley's piercing intelligence as a surviving, abused child matches Ian Holm as a fearsome, ambulance-chasing lawyer with a drug-addict daughter and devastated heart. Gratefully



Ian Holm and Sarah Polley in "The Sweet Hereafter"

helped by Banks's command of character, Egoyan's structuring of time achieves a potent grace. His rhythmic revealing of satisfying, deep mysteries peaks with these two films.

Extras include a thorough 1999 Egoyan interview, "Formulas for Seduction" and three early shorts, "Howard In Particular," "Peepshow" and "Open House."



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Uncovering Traces

TRACES, from page  
encyclopedic knowledge of the routes and their relevance, set out to discover what each of us had come in search of. Armen, with his unassuming mastery of the land and understanding of our need to find our place there, knew exactly where and how to go. He had already opened the door for more than 1,200 people, and by extension, their families, to a world that had been stripped away from them, almost a figment of their imagination, until he showed them that it was there and theirs to experience. And being with my father, who has walked this soil a thousand times over, if not physically, was the greatest treasure of all. On this trip, organized by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, rather than starting in the heart of Historic Western Armenia-Eastern Turkey, our group headed by van first toward Cilicia, along the south-west and central expanses of the country, where Armenian kingdoms had flourished from the 11th to 14th centuries.

## Stone Talk

En route, we stopped in several old Armenian towns that were never part of either Cilicia or Armenia proper. Bardizag, a hilltop village colored by flowers and trees and overlooking the Sea of Marmara, was known for its American Missionary Bythinia High School for Armenians, whose structure still stands. Fresh out of Istanbul, I found myself desperate to find signs of old Armenian life, albeit lost. It's as if seeing a trace of something Armenian would make me and us visible again. It would validate us, make our history real again, as much as we wish it wasn't. Armen took us to the location where he had last seen Armenian gravestones, but they were gone. Now, we had to find them. I, for one, could not leave this little, perhaps now insignificant, village without proving Armenians had been here. How I could rejoice when finally finding an uprooted, desecrated and dislocated Armenian tombstone in a nearby garden, and a piece of another, belonging to Ghazar, in a wall, I don't know. But, I did.

As we headed south, then east along the Mediterranean Sea, toward the lands of Armenian kingdoms and dynasties and castles and fortresses, the stones turned up without frugality. They almost took on a life of their own. There were no Armenians left to talk to, but there were the stones.

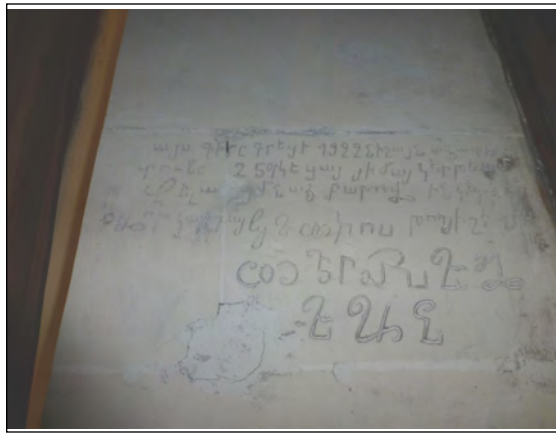
Izmit, Menemen, Izmir, Sis, Adana, Dort Yol, Zeitoun, Marash, Aintab, Urfa, the Euphrates River... the stones in them came to life. They took me to the stories and the people I knew and had heard of, to village orchards and city streets and church bells and schoolchildren and camaraderie, and then to deprivation and nothingness. I became accustomed to seeing churches converted into dirt mounds or mosques. I searched for, found, welcomed and mourned the Armenian inscriptions in beautiful Armenian homes-turned-Turkish taverns, cafes, and museums. I wondered whose gravestones and what khatchkars I saw woven into the walls of Kurdish and Turkish village dwellings. But, I knew, and I thought, they must know, that they had been ours.

## Haunting Inscription in Urfa

A breezy evening we spent at a rooftop restaurant and boutique-style hotel adjacent to the magnificent fortress of Urfa and across from a massive Armenian church-turned-mosque, has haunted me to this day. As I explored my surroundings, camera in hand, as I always do, I came across a note deeply carved into the wall of one of the guestrooms. I learned later that this had been the home of a wealthy Armenian before 1915 and a gathering place for Armenians seeking refuge and each other after the Genocide. While some Armenian residents escaped death and returned to their homes in Urfa, they were forced to depart, yet again and for good in 1922 as a result of Ataturk's and the Turkish nationalists' policy of expulsion.

The inscription, concealed behind a curtain, in Armenian, translated into: "I wrote these words in 1922, at this home of Nishan ... I came and stayed here for 25 days. I am leaving now. Farewell, my friends. May whoever reads this remember me."

All I could make out of his name engraved in



Inscription on the wall in Urfa

capital letters was the "IAN", until I later showed the photo to my young children, who gave identity back to this man. His name, they deciphered, appeared to be Bedros Der Mselian. Bedros, who 25 days later, left his mark, and fled yet again, to an unknown destiny.

## Baron Avedis Demirjian

Stones led to Armenians, in Musa Dagh. Discovering them and their simple existence was, for me, as miraculous as their legendary defense of their mountain and people almost 100 years earlier, which was made famous by Franz Werfel's novel, *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*. Vakif, the only remaining Armenian village on the proud mountain, and as far as I know, in all of Historic Armenia and present-day Turkey, is home to 140 Armenians, descendants of the defenders who ward off the Turks for more than 40 days in 1915, and returned to live on their native soils even after forced eviction. The people here speak Armenian, have a working church, a running stream, benches alive with conversation and tavloo matches, and a shop stocked with hand-made soaps and foods from Vakif's orchards.

Here, 99-year-old Avedis Demirjian lay on a cot on his front porch, with what looked like an olive branch resting on his torso. Here, I touched and kissed a living Armenian, blessed and cursed with the life and memory of our people. Physically feeble but strong of mind, Baron Avedis, as we called him, proudly recounted how he had been born on the great mountain, how there used to be six Armenian villages, how they fought to protect their villages against the Turks, how the Ottoman government pushed them out, and how this is the only Armenian village that remains. When I asked him whether the current residents of the other villages know whose houses they live in, he responded, "Of course they know. They came and settled in ready homes. Who made those homes? They know." He taught me that many of the hearths in the Armenian villages leading up to Vakif had been destroyed, but here, more than half had survived.

"Remember us," he said, "that there is such a village on Musa Ler. There is no other. We are all Armenians here." As I left reluctantly, Baron Avedis uttered words for me to carry and echo to the world beyond: "Armenians are becoming fewer and fewer." I finished his thought, "We must remain Armenian." His firm "Ayo" sealed our pact. I recently learned that Baron Avedis had passed away, but, the echo of his message did not.

## 'My Grandpa was Armenian'

Leaving Cilicia and heading toward the heart of historic Armenian lands, it had become normal to come face to face with the previously unfathomable. I walked down the murky streets of Dikranagerd with my adventurous co-travelers, Elaine and Claire. We had decided to use our hour of rest-time to explore the city streets alone, against the better judgment of Armen. Dikranagerd, he knew, was not a place for us to venture out on our own. But, we did.

Out of nowhere, a spirited girl with dark eyebrows and big brown eyes stopped us in the middle of the sidewalk, and asked, "Do you speak English?" "Yes," we answered. I asked what nationality she is. "My Grandpa," she said, "was Armenian." Startled, I responded, "We are Armenian." "We are sisters, then," she exclaimed. "Maybe we are a little bit Turkish, a little bit Kurdish, but we are the same." The chance meeting on the street led to a conversation over coffee in an open-air café inside the bazaar. Dilan's surprised parents, her mother, a Kurd, and her father, three-quarters Kurdish and one quarter Armenian, were unsuspecting participants in this encounter. I'm not sure they

would have chosen to join the exchange, but their daughter gave them little choice. As I asked questions which probably no one had ever asked them before, she turned to her parents for answers.

Dilan, 20, learned that day, as did we, that her great-grandfather Mustafa's Armenian name had been "Ardzou," perhaps "Ardziv." I thought. She learned that his father, mother, sister and uncle had been killed in Mush, and that he had escaped. He had "turned" from Christian to Muslim, from Ardzou to Mustafa, in order to survive. And so Dilan, with at least a branch of an Armenian bloodline, was born and grew up as a Muslim, a Kurd, as did how many others?

When I asked Dilan if and when she learned the word "genocide," she looked upward and thought for a moment, then responded, "Genocide. They don't say we did it, and we know they did. We don't talk about that, or our life will be hard. We live here. This is their country and their stage." As I told her that in Armenian, we say, "Menk Hai enk," she repeated those words meaning "We are Armenian." Bidding farewell, Dilan said, "I very love you, sisters." And so it goes, lost, found, and I can't help but believe, lost again.

Just when I thought that this was an extraordinary experience... the young man working at the hotel's front desk and then the bellman, everyone, it seemed, had an Armenian grandmother, grandfather, great-grandmother or father. This generation of youth seemed to hold a piece or two of the puzzle, just enough to not want to have or know more, just close enough to keep it far away. After less-than-comfortable prodding, the front desk clerk who described himself as "half Turkish, half Kurdish, we are in the middle," verbalized his internal conflict.

"I'm not curious about our history... These aren't sweet memories, in the way that I don't want to learn anything about it." When I asked what aren't sweet memories, he responded, "Many Armenian people killed by other people. I know that, and they fired Armenian people's homes. When I talk, I feel something different, in a way that I don't want to talk about it."

## 'Khateri Hamar'

I had asked if there were any full Armenians left. My encounters with the young led me to the oldest and one of the only living Armenians



Degeen Baydzar and Baron Sarkis, the oldest living Armenians in Dikranagerd

left in Dikranagerd. Early the next morning, before our group was to leave for Kharper, I and two others went in search of the Assyrian Church, where, I had been told, an Armenian lives. My knocks on the massive door to the church grounds were met by a small woman who welcomed us in, and called herself Baydzar Alata. She, and her husband, Sarkis, had been living in the courtyard of the Assyrian church for 25 years. When I saw her, it was as if I had found my grandmother. But, I had never lost my grandmother. She, on the other hand, had lost almost everything. In broken Armenian, she said that there is no one left to talk to, so she has forgotten much of the language. "The Turks did what they did," she said. She embraced us as her own, while the resident cat vied for her attention. Sitting in the shade of

the garden, and then taking us inside her humble abode, Baydzar shared what was left of her life and past; stories, a few photographs and shawls she had knitted, which she put on our shoulders with love, saying "Khateri hamar," as a remembrance. Degeen Baydzar also confirmed what I had already experienced. "There are many," she explained, "whose parents and grandparents were Armenian, but they died, were killed, forgot. Now, their children have turned into Turks. There are very many like that." I wasn't ready to leave, but had to. "Parov yezer ek, parov katseek, Ghourban eh," were Degeen Baydzar's parting words of goodwill. So I left Degeen Baydzar and Dikranagerd, with yet another layer of understanding, pain and unanswerable questions.

## Babi and Mami

Here is where I had planned to start this entry, as I set foot on the soil I had heard about all my life, Babi Kaspar's Bazmashen and Grandma Siroon's Kesserig in Kharper, Babi Hovakim's Dzitogh in Erzerum and Mami Chnkuhi's Ordu on the Black Sea. I thought I'd write about the devastation that overcame me when I laid eyes on the flattened village of Bazmashen, now an empty field with a pile of rubble where Sourp (Saint) Mariam Asdvadzadzin Church used to stand, and a lone



Photo is with Avedis Demirjian, the 99-year-old (who has since died), a resident of the Armenian Vakif village in Musa Dagh.

donkey and a covered woman who appeared out of nowhere and told me that Armenians used to live here, as she led me to the outdoor fountain of her house in "New Bazmashen," saying, "This is left from the Armenians." I thought I would write of the moment when my father, walking 10 feet in front of me, bent over and picked up a rock, and signaled to me that we were standing in front of Babi Hovakim's house in Dzitogh, the village he had left as a teenager to avoid conscription into the Ottoman Army and had returned to as an Armenian defense volunteer with Generals Antranig and Keri, as had Babi Kaspar, to find that no one remained in his village, none of the 3,000 residents, none of his eight siblings, parents... I thought I'd write about Grandma Siroon's Kesserig, where I saw my shadow on the empty plot where the church used to stand, and where I searched for the legendary cabbage she used to speak of, but which I never found. I thought I would write of Mami Chnkuhi's Ordu overlooking the Black Sea, the most picturesque of all the towns, where I couldn't contain myself as I stood under a tree, gazing at the stately three-storied stone building that used to be a thriving Armenian school before it was turned into the orphanage where my beautiful Mami, who had lost from her childhood and family, lived as a 7-year-old girl. These stories, these people, my grandparents, have no beginning and no end. So, I neither begin nor end with their stories. They live in me, in their children, 22 grandchildren, 62 great-grandchildren, five great-great grandchildren, and in those who chose to remember.

(Producer, director, and writer, Ani Hovannisian Kevorkian has traveled the globe documenting stories and turning them into award-winning videos and television shows. She graduated Summa Cum Laude from UCLA with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in mass communications, and from USC with a Master of Arts in broadcast journalism. She is an active member of the Directors Guild of America, the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, and the International Documentary Association. The Fresno native lives in Los Angeles with her husband and children.)



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Grateful appreciation to the Royal Sonesta  
Hotel and the Chefs for hosting the Benefit



Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway  
Boston, Massachusetts

# CALENDAR

## CALIFORNIA

**MAY 4 – Sunday, Armenia Tree Project 20th Anniversary Celebration** at the historic Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Reception to star at 6 p.m.; Dinner at 7 p.m. For further information contact: Maral Habeshian, [maral@armeniatree.org](mailto:maral@armeniatree.org), (818) 913-2563, visit [www.ArmeniaTree.org](http://www.ArmeniaTree.org).

## MASSACHUSETTS

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

**APRIL 27 – The Armenian Museum of America, Inc., will present "Genocide: A Joint Commemoration," on the Armenian Genocide, the Tibetan Genocide and the Genocide in the Democratic Republic of Congo.** Sunday, 2 p.m., Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main St., Watertown, 3rd Floor Gallery. Admission: Free and open to the public. Reception following program.

**APRIL 27 – "Make it Count" Luncheon, book talk and signing with Celtics' great Jojo White**, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, noon, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Luncheon donation: \$12 for adults and \$8 for children under 12. RSVP required by April 23 to Church office, 617-354-0632 or email [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org)

**MAY 1 – Avak luncheon, noon, St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church**, 158 Main St., North Andover, MA. Speaker, Tom Vartabedian, A 50-year Retrospective on Armenian-American Journalism, with stories and photos.

**MAY 2 – St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School will host its 28th annual bazaar**, noon to 9 p.m. There will be carnival games for children, 3 to 7 p.m. Beef, losh and chicken kebab dinners will be served with rice and salad. Also, cheese boregs and gourmet pastries will be available. Foods will be available on site or to go. Armenian Cultural and Educational Center, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown.

**MAY 3 – Spring Food Festival, Armenian Church at Hye Pointe**, 110 Main St., Haverhill. Dinner served noon to 7 p.m., choice of losh or Kheyima with pilaf, salad and bread. Adults \$15, children \$7. String cheese, choreg, cheers boereg, spinach pie, Armenian pastries and more for sale. For information, call the church at (978) 372-9227.

**MAY 5 – St. James Men's Club, Monday, Speaker: Dr. Rojeh Melikian**, chief resident in orthopedic surgery, Mass. General Hospital, Topic: "The Practice of Orthopedic Surgery: Overview And Surgical Examples." Losh Kebab and Kheyima Dinner Social Hour (mezza) 6:15 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. \$14 per person. St. James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural & Youth Center - Keljik Hall 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Ladies welcome.

**MAY 8 – Cocktails and Conversation, sponsored by Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives**, 6:30 p.m., Karoun Restaurant, 839 Washington St., Newton, complimentary mezza & cash bar; free and open to the public; prelude to 40th anniversary next year.

**MAY 10 – The Armenian Churches of Worcester County (Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic, Armenian Church of Our Saviour and Soorp Asdvadzadin)** present the Third annual benefit dance, 7 p.m. to midnight, Armenian Church of Our

Saviour Cultural Center, 34 Boynton St., Worcester. Live music featuring Der Muqratchian Ensemble with special guest appearance by Miss Massachusetts Outstanding Teen Kristina Ayanian. Music, Mezza, cash bar, raffle. Donation \$30, students \$25. All proceeds to Mrgashen Village School, Akhourian Mother and Child Clinic and Armenians in Syria. For tickets contact Dr. Robert Babigian (508) 842-7231.

**MAY 10 – Unveiling of a new genocide memorial by Lowell City Hall**, sponsored by the Armenian Genocide Monument Committee of Merrimack Valley; 10 a.m., downtown procession, followed by program at City Hall and reception in St. Ann's Church Hall at noon. Musical interlude by soloist Sevan Dulgarian; Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, MC.

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

**MAY 24 – 96th anniversary celebration of Armenian Independence** sponsored by Lowell "Aharonian" ARF, 6 p.m., St. Gregory Church, 158 Main St., North Andover; dinner, entertainment and speaker, Baku pogrom survivor Anna Turcotte, author, Nowhere, a Story of Exile. \$20 adults, \$10 students.

**SEPTEMBER 26, 27 – Armenians and Progressive Politics Conference** returns to Boston. Keynote speaker will be Noam Chomsky. Details to follow.

## MICHIGAN

**APRIL 27 – The 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide** will be commemorated at a program for Metro Detroit Armenians, titled "Never Again!" and presented by the Detroit United Committee, composed of the Armenian Assembly, ADL-Ramgavar Party, AGBU, Armenian Research Center, U of M Dearborn, CSAI, Detroit Armenian Womens Club, Daughters of Vartan, Knights of Vartan, Nareg Shavarshan Lodge, Tekeyan Cultural Association, Wayne State University Society of Armenian Students. Keynote speaker will be Raffi Bedrosyan of Toronto, a prominent columnist and advisor to the Zoryan Institute. Program starts at 2 p.m., AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. A reception will follow.

## RHODE ISLAND

**APRIL 26 – Saturday, 7 p.m. Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church, Dedicated to the 99th anniversary of the Genocide, Solemn Memorial Service and Concert** in Church Sanctuary, performed by the Armenian Chorale of Rhode Island, directed by conductor Konstantin Petrossian, and Genocide Art Exhibition by Artist Mner Khachatryan (NJ) in Hanoian Hall. Blessing of Madagh and Fellowship in Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson St., Providence.

**APRIL 27 – The Armenian Martyr's Memorial Committee of RI observe the 99th Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.** Starting at 12:45 p.m. at the North Burial Ground, Branch Ave. Providence. Requiem service with the three Armenian churches and clergy followed by remarks from Congressional adhrb 78nd State officials. Keynote speaker of the day is Sheriff Peter I. Koutoujian of Middlesex County, and former State Representative from Massachusetts. The public is invited.

## 106th Anniversary of Famed Expressionist Arshile Gorky Marked

GORKY, from page 10

By the 1940's Gorky would move into an entirely new direction in his painting: his mature style would exhibit a paramount dependence on Surrealist conceptual and aesthetic framework imported from Europe as well as an innovative technique of paint application which anticipated, if not inspired, the Action Painting method of the Abstract Expressionist painters of the following decade.

In 1941 Gorky married Agnes Magruder, who was 20 years his junior and the couple would have two daughters. Unfortunately, the marriage was marred by tragedy. In January 1946, Gorky's studio, set up on his wife's property in Connecticut, burned to the

ground, destroying most of the artist's work. A month later, the artist was diagnosed with colon cancer, eventually undergoing a colostomy, which devastated his physical and emotional well being. It was soon discovered that Agnes was involved in an affair with Gorky's friend and fellow artist, Roberto Matta, which led to the couple's subsequent breakup and Agnes moving away with the children. Shortly after, Gorky was involved in a car accident that exacerbated his deteriorating health. The conflation of these tragic circumstances led the artist to commit suicide on July 21, 1948 by hanging himself in his Connecticut house.

Arshile Gorky remains an American Modernist artist of paramount importance.

He is considered as one of the major forces behind the emergence of the Abstract Expressionist movement, which established New York an important arts center, and, by extension, the United States as the cultural capital of the post-war world.

Gorky's paintings exhibit a fiery talent for innovation, intellectual awareness of the contemporaneous artistic discourses, and a deep personal involvement in the work. His artworks can be found in most major American museums, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The MOMA, The Whitney Museum of American Art, and The Guggenheim. About three hundred and seventy oil paintings by Arshile Gorky are known today.

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## COMMENTARY

## COMMENTARY

## Focus on the Caucasus

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The April 19 issue of London's *Economist* weekly features on its cover Russia's map in the shape of a bear reaching out to Ukraine to swallow it, having already digested Crimea. The cartoon is titled, "Insatiable."

The crisis in Ukraine has global and regional implications. The West had pledged not to expand NATO by absorbing former satellite nations of Eastern Europe but it has been moving inexorably to encircle Russia, fueling a new Cold War.

On the other hand, Russia, under Vladimir Putin, is in a revanchist mood to restore Moscow's old glory. Mr. Putin has stated that the collapse of the Soviet Union was the most catastrophic event of the 20th century. The political atmosphere is somewhat similar to Germany after World War I, when a humiliated country was clamoring to revive and take its revenge. For that reason, the population was ready to go to any lengths to restore what it saw as its national dignity.

Crimea's takeover and Moscow's aggressive posture on Ukraine's border have boosted Putin's popularity domestically to 80 percent, despite the country's economic woes.

This is the picture on the global plane. But Russia's newly-acquired assertive policies impact heavily the neighboring regions, where Armenia happens to be located.

By necessity, Armenia chose to join the Customs Union led by Moscow, to be followed by the Eurasia Union, which aspires to become the eastern counterpart of the European Union.

By switching its allegiance towards Russia, Armenia has alienated the West and the fallout from that decision may show up in time gradually.

But Russia has already taken Armenia for granted and has been treating Yerevan in a cavalier fashion – not the behavior of a strategic partner.

With all the external changes in the region, Armenia has undertaken restructuring its government. Tigran Sargsian, a respected economist, resigned his post as prime minister recently, to be replaced by Hovik Abrahamyan, the former speaker of the parliament, a reliable partner for Armenia's oligarchs.

After the final reshuffling of the entire cabinet, some facts may emerge to demonstrate how much of the changes were owed to Moscow's manipulations.

For the first time, there was consolidation within the ranks of the opposition parties in Armenia, giving rise to the expectations that the ruling Republican party may be loosening its grip on power.

One thing that is becoming obvious is that Armenia will be receiving the short shrift in the emerging developments of the Caucasus. By betting its future on the Russia, it is destined to fare on some rough seas.

We read in the same issue of the *Economist*, "He [Putin] has claimed a duty to intervene to protect Russian speakers wherever they are. ... That might be in Transnistria, a slice of Moldova that has hosted Russian troops since the early 1990s. Or Kazakhstan, which has a large Russian population in the north. Or even the Baltic states, two of which have large Russian-speaking minorities and all of them depend on Russian gas."

The West has been watching with alarm Russia's ambitions and will be resorting to countermeasures to contain the awakening Russian bear. In the process, many countries' destinies will be at risk in the ebb and flow of this new Cold War.

Armenia is safely in Russia's court, for better or worse. Thus far, Russia has remained insensitive to its strategic partner's priorities, rendering that alliance into a one-way street.

Instead of showcasing its allies as prosperous countries benefiting from their dependence on Moscow, Russia has been treating them recklessly. Georgia took advantage of its dependence on the West by improving its economy, curbing corruption, albeit at a scandalous cost, thereby discouraging emigration and recently had a peaceful transfer of power. Had former president Mikhail Saakashvili acted more prudently, the country would also have avoided a territorial amputation.

During a recent TV interview, Mr. Putin angrily chastised

Transnistria's neighbors, Moldova and Ukraine, which have been blockading that slice of territory of great interest to Moscow.

Conversely, Moscow has yet to utter a word against Turkey and Azerbaijan, which have been blockading Armenia for the last two decades, with devastating effects. On the contrary, Moscow has been arming Azerbaijan at an alarming rate, allowing President Ilham Aliyev to claim not only Karabagh, but all of Armenia itself as historic Azeri land.

The Stockholm International Peace Institute reported recently that between 2004 and 2014, Azerbaijan's military spending increased 493 percent. Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has announced that Russia has already sold to Azerbaijan more weapons than any other country, including Turkey. This confirms President Aliyev's statement last August that Russian-Azerbaijani defense contracts are "measured at \$4 billion and tend to grow."

Why is Azerbaijan being armed at this rate and at whom are those weapons pointed?

On the one hand, Baku is buying Israel's drones and cooperating with the West to contain Iran and on the other hand, Russia is spoiling Baku's leadership to control that country's energy resources and to keep it on a short leash politically.

Within this scenario, the Russian military base in Armenia receives academic significance as much as its defense is concerned. And there has never been an ironclad public pronouncement about its use to defend Armenia and Karabagh. It becomes more and more apparent that the base is more of a tool to sustain Moscow's regional policies rather than protect Armenia.

We have yet to analyze and digest a statement by the Russian Ambassador to Armenia Ivan Volynkin at the seventh Forum of Russian Compatriots in Armenia on April 12: "Russia will prevent any aggressive intervention in the internal affairs of friendly countries made under the pretext of planting ideas alien to our minds and hearts."

Russia's bear hug of Armenia is becoming more and more stifling. A reporter at the news site ArmeniaNow, Naira Hayrumyan, writes in her column on April 20, "The Russian leadership does not hide any longer its intentions to completely absorb Armenia. One of the instruments of this absorption may become the new Russian law simplifying the granting of Russian passports to Russian-speaking citizens of other states. As a condition for receiving a passport within three months, the naturalized Russians have to renounce their original citizenship. In Armenia there is already concern that migrant workers in Russia will start giving up Armenian citizenship and acquire Russian citizenship en masse. There is the same concern in relation to the Armenian-populated Georgian region of Javakhk, where Russia is also handing out passports."

Incidentally, Javakhk has been attracting some political attention recently. Britain's ambassadors to Armenia and Georgia have travelled together to the territory to gauge the mood of local Armenians. Such attention has been necessitated by the rumors that Russia is planning to establish a land bridge connecting to Armenia and Iran over Javakhk.

Moscow intends to resolve the Ukraine crisis by neutralizing it politically and federalizing it internally. Now the same intentions are apparently aimed at Georgia. Moscow already controls South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Should a separatist movement take root in Javakhk, Russia can extend its savior's hands to Georgia, forcing it to adopt a federal constitution to reabsorb the regions lost to Russia.

It is a farfetched scenario, which could have been achieved when Aslan Abashidze in Ajaria challenged Saakashvili's central authority in Tbilisi and Moscow defused the standoff by flying Abashidze to Moscow to gain favors with Saakashvili, to no avail. At that time, the Russians liquidated their military base in Javakhk, denying physical and economic security for Armenians in that region.

As we can see, the Caucasus is a political puzzle whose pieces are not yet all in place. US Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Morningstar's recent announcement to resolve the Karabagh crisis by asking Armenia to return seven adjacent regions to Azerbaijan is another indication of the new dynamism introduced in the region by outside forces.

It remains for the leadership of Armenia to navigate prudently through all these choppy waters to assure a stable future for the country.

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror Spectator



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## COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Turkey Still Haunted by Genocide A Hundred Years Later

Every time that the Armenian Genocide is mentioned anywhere in the world, Turkish officials protest hysterically like children caught with the hand in the cookie jar.

The Turkish leaders' psychotic behavior could be explained by their guilty conscience, despite public protestations of innocence, knowing full well that their ancestors did indeed commit one of the most heinous crimes in the annals of history – genocide.

Last week, the world witnessed yet another manifestation of Turkish temper tantrums when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, despite heavy-handed pressure from the Ankara regime and its highly-compensated lobbying firms, adopted Resolution 410 on the Armenian Genocide with a 12 to 5 vote. This is the first time in a quarter century that this body has approved such a resolution.

Even though the Turkish government is amid all sorts of turmoil at home and abroad, officials in Ankara made the Senate Genocide Resolution their top priority. For a few days, Prime Minister Erdogan set aside his despotic moves against facebook, YouTube and Twitter to hide his and several ministers' multi-million dollar money laundering and bribery schemes. He also ignored revelations of secretly-taped conversations during which Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and other high ranking officials were plotting to orchestrate attacks on Turkey from across the border,

which would then be used as a pretext to attack Syria in support of jihadist terrorists who are unsuccessfully battling the Assad regime.

The Turkish diatribe against the Senate action included Davutoglu's warning that "Turkey would not remain silent" if the Armenian Genocide Resolution goes from Committee to the full Senate. The Turkish Foreign Ministry issued an even harsher reaction, accusing the Committee of "exceeding its authority and responsibility." Davutoglu rushed to call Secretary of State John Kerry urging him to prevent passage of the Resolution.

Also getting into the act was Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek, calling the Armenian issue a "burden" in American-Turkish relations. A commentator for the widely circulated Hurriyet newspaper noted that the Genocide Resolution would raise the blood pressure in Ankara. Former Turkish Ambassador Omer Engin Lutem chimed in acknowledging that Turkey is "forced to expand a great deal of effort in order to prevent the passing of such Resolutions," not to mention the millions of dollars spent on lobbying firms each year.

Pro-Erdogan newspapers even resorted to publishing falsehoods about the Genocide Resolution by claiming that the measure is no longer valid since it was not adopted by the full Senate before April 24 or that the Resolution was meaningless because House Speaker John Boehner announced in Ankara that he would not allow the House version to come to the floor. Of course, both these claims are false, as the House and Senate versions are not part of a joint Resolution and can be adopted separately by either chamber later in the year.

Armenian-American voters should do everything possible to prevent the re-election of Cong. Boehner in November. Similarly, the Armenian community should oppose those Senators who shamefully voted against this resolution, even after Senator Menendez removed several clauses to accommodate the opponents. The five Republican Senators who voted against are: John Barrasso (WY), Bob

Corker (TN), Jeff Flake (AZ), Ron Johnson (WI), and James Risch (ID). On the other hand, Armenian-Americans should strongly support the 12 Senators who voted in favor of the Armenian Genocide Resolution: Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Benjamin Cardin (D-MD), Christopher Coons (D-DE), Richard Durbin (D-IL), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Edward Markey (D-MA), John McCain (R-AZ), Chris Murphy (D-CT), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Tom Udall (D-NM).

One of the unexpected consequences of the Resolution was the deepening rift between two formidable forces in Turkey – Prime Minister Erdogan and the influential Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen. Erdogan accused Gulen supporters of siding with "the Armenian lobby" by contributing close to \$10,000 to Senator Menendez's campaign. The Turkic American Alliance (TAA) refuted Erdogan's accusations, stating that the group has "always expressed its displeasure to Menendez over resolutions that upset Turks and Azerbaijanis." TAA officials promised to sue Turkish journalists for claiming that their organization supported the Armenian Resolution.

A final thought: contrary to public impression, the primary objective of introducing Armenian Genocide resolutions is not to attain genocide recognition which has already been accomplished several times: US government's official report to the World Court in 1951, President Reagan's 1981 Proclamation, and House Resolutions in 1975 and 1984. These Resolutions simply serve as a convenient tool to keep the Armenian Genocide a burning issue and focus media attention on the Armenian Cause. Furthermore, the Resolutions routinely create total panic in Ankara due to Turkish officials' hysterical reaction. The Turkish government also wastes tens of millions of dollars each year to counter Resolutions which merely express the "sense of Congress."

Armenian efforts to pass such Resolutions are a form of retribution against successive Turkish governments for not coming to terms with the skeletons in their closet.

## Suffolk University: Partner in Armenian Genocide Denial?

By Heidi Boghosian

Students at Suffolk University Law School in Boston have launched an online petition urging the school's president to withdraw its invitation to Armenian Genocide denier Abraham Foxman to speak at their commencement and receive an honorary degree. Foxman, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) director, drew harsh public criticism in 2007 for opposing a congressional resolution acknowledging the 1915 extermination of approximately 1.5 million Armenians. Since the 15th century, Armenians had been treated as second-class citizens under Ottoman rule. In honoring Foxman, Suffolk University sends a message that politics are more important than acknowledging crimes against humanity.

The denial of genocide is an integral, and final, part of the genocidal process, as Genocide Watch founder Gregory Stanton has written. Despite a well-documented body of eyewitness accounts and other evidence chronicling the 20th century's very first genocide (scholar and lawyer Raphael Lemkin coined the word genocide in 1943 with the extermination of the Armenians in mind), the Turkish government continues to mount a campaign of denial through inaccurate scholarship, propaganda, aggressive lobbying and even a law which forbids mention of the word genocide. In 2005, Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk was prosecuted for "insulting Turkishness," as was Armenian-Turkish journalist Hrant Dink who was subsequently assassinated in 2007 by a young Turkish nationalist. U.S. political and partisan allegiances with Turkey enable a range of repugnant human rights transgressions, old and new.

My grandmother Baidzar was born in Giresun, a village on the Black Sea, to parents who owned almond and filbert orchards and were active in working for protection of the Armenian minority. Baidzar remembered that men would come to their house in the middle of the night and have secret, whispered meetings upstairs, because it was against the law for minorities to assemble. The father of the poet Silva Gaboudegian was one of those men. Many years and many worlds later, an older cousin would tell my grandmother that those men were members of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation. Baidzar remembered her mother falling to her knees crying before

two officers, a Turk and a German, who came to their home on horseback, begging them to spare her family. Baidzar later watched her parents and siblings being slaughtered before escaping to an orphanage and making a treacherous passage to the United States as a mail-order bride.

Around the world, on April 24, just weeks before Suffolk's commencement, and 99 years after the mass murders, families with stories just like my grandmother's will mark the day of observance of the genocide. It is widely considered to be the starting date of a systematic and well-documented plan to eliminate the Armenians. On that day in 1915, the Interior Minister of the Ottoman Empire, Talaat Pasha, ordered the arrest and hangings of Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. The killings were gruesome and included beheadings of groups of babies, dismemberments, mass burnings and drownings, use of toxic gas, lethal injections of morphine or with the blood of typhoid fever patients.

Although there has been much academic recognition of the Armenian Genocide, this has rarely been followed by governmental recognition. Turkey swiftly condemned a US Senate committee resolution adopted on April 10, 2014 by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations labeling as genocide the massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces and warned Congress against taking steps that would tarnish Turkish-American ties. Similar resolutions under past presidential administrations have also failed.

The Turkish people have been taught for decades that there was no genocide, with the result that most believe their country is being treated unfairly when genocide resolutions are raised. Continued failure to acknowledge the Genocide in our history books is a disservice not only to survivors of the genocide, but also to those Turks who tried to stop it then and who face imprisonment today for publicly acknowledging the genocide.

Suffolk University should listen to its students. It has the chance to take a step forward in rectifying decades of injustice by reversing its decision to honor Abraham Foxman with an honorary law degree at its 2014 commencement. Tolerance of those who deny the Armenian genocide may be politically expedient, but it is nonetheless morally indefensible.

(Heidi Boghosian is the Executive Director of the National Lawyer's Guild.)

## Ninety Nine Years of Denial

April 24, 2014 will mark the 99th anniversary of one of the most ruthless chapters in the history of civilization, the Armenian Genocide of 1915 perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire, under cover of the unfolding First World War. Beginning on that date, some one and a half million men, women and children were barbarically murdered, sent on death marches or deliberately starved in full view of the entire world.

Besides the enormity and scope of the savagery itself, the most amazing thing about the Genocide is that the successor government continues to deny that it took place. This, despite the outrage expressed at the time by virtually all of the civilized world, the ongoing contemporaneous reporting of the killings by unimpeachable sources such as the New York Times and

eyewitness accounts submitted by United States statesmen such as the US Ambassador to the Ottoman

By Harry N. Mazadoorian

Empire Henry Morgenthau and US Consul Leslie Davis. Moreover, there exist mountains of undisputed photographic evidence of the savagery as well as a large and credible corps of international genocide scholars attesting to the first genocide of the 20th century. So great was the sympathy and outrage that a relief effort of unparalleled proportions was undertaken in the United States and elsewhere by a wide spectrum of people from all walks of life. The names of Americans providing humanitarian relief and expressing support for the victims ranged from a virtual who's who of American politics, arts, academia and philanthropy to ordinary citizens, all outraged by the atrocities.

The ensuing decades, however, saw a softening of the outrage. While the events themselves continued to evoke humanitarian indignation, a sense of resignation, sometimes even drifting into indifference, gradually set in. The United States was forced to focus on ever-changing hotspots around the world, not the least of which was the turbulent Middle East. The government of Turkey established itself as a needed American ally in the shifting alliances in that part of the world: it loudly protested any thought of US recognition of the Genocide.

Eventually, despite the early American condemnation of the Genocide and its perpetrators, the United States retreated from its resolve. As time passed, it became a problem "from long ago." The danger of offending a unique ally became a risk too high.

And after all, what good would recognition do, some asked.

It is incredible that that question could even be asked. Subsequent history and world events demonstrated that forgetting events so horrific would only embolden those bent on repeating outrageous conduct in the future. Indeed, the first genocide of the twentieth century was by no means the last. The Holocaust can only be described as unimaginable in its scope and devastation. Cambodia, Rwanda...the list goes on and on.

see DENIAL, page 16



## Suffolk Students Criticize Choice of Abraham Foxman for Commencement Speaker

FOXMAN, from page 1

petition urging the university to reconsider the choice of Foxman, who is also scheduled to receive an honorary degree at the ceremonies May 17.

Foxman's stance on official recognition for the Armenian genocide is deeply upsetting to the Armenian community, said Amy Willis, president of the Suffolk Law's chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

"We have students of Armenian descent," she said.

The petition to reconsider Foxman as speaker, which Willis wrote, also cites Foxman's tacit approval of the practice of racial profiling of Muslims in the United States.

"Suffolk claims to embody diversity and be a place for all people, but this clearly is a speaker who does not embody those values," Willis said.

Foxman, who was traveling in Israel, could not immediately be reached for comment.

The ADL said in 2007 that it opposed the congressional resolution because the measure was "a counterproductive diversion and will not

foster reconciliation between Turks and Armenians."

"ADL has never denied the tragic and painful events perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenians," Foxman wrote the following year. "All of ADL's anti-hate programs classify genocide as the ultimate crime against humanity."

Regarding the New York City mosque, Foxman has written, "In our judgment, building an Islamic center in the shadow of the World Trade Center would unnecessarily cause some victims more pain."

The administration of Suffolk president James McCarthy, responding to a request from the Globe, issued a statement praising "the valuable work of the ADL and [Foxman's] contributions to the organization for nearly 50 years.

"We value the views of all of our community members, and have examined the concerns which have been raised," the statement said. "Mr. Foxman's body of work is well deserving of recognition. . . . It is our hope that Mr. Foxman's

personal story as a Holocaust survivor and attorney who has dedicated his life to public service will inspire our graduates as they embark on their professional careers."

Sammy Nabulsi, president of the Student Bar Association, has written a second letter to the college's administration opposing the choice of Foxman.

While Nabulsi is Muslim-American, he said he is speaking out on behalf of the student body as a whole.

"My concern is there's a very dangerous conversation happening among the graduating class," he said. "This is a divisive issue."

While the protesters are calling for Foxman to be replaced, other students argue that signing the petition is an act of anti-Semitism, he said. "There's harsh rhetoric taking place," he said.

Nabulsi stressed that he believes Foxman has done good work in the fight against discrimination.

He suggested that Foxman would be more appropriate as a guest speaker or in a debate on campus than an honorary degree recipient.

"This is not the kind of conversation you want to be having among the graduating class, when we've worked so hard together," Nabulsi said.

## Harvard to Host 'Evening of Remembrance: Armenia, The Holocaust and Rwanda'

HARVARD, from page 1

A native of Los Angeles, Garapedian worked as a producer, director and correspondent for BBC in London after earning a PhD in international relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is the recipient of the Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award and was recently given the Clara Barton Medal of Gratitude from the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute.

Speaking on the Holocaust will be Anna Ornstein, a professor of child psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, a professor emeritus of child psychiatry at the University of Cincinnati, and a survivor of Auschwitz. She is the author of *My Mother's Eyes: Holocaust Memories of a Young Girl*. Drs. Anna and Paul Ornstein were among the pioneers of self-psychology, one of the first psychotherapy movements to emphasize listening to patients and entering their inner world, as treatment.

Aliza Luft is a doctoral candidate in sociology at University of Wisconsin-Madison and currently a visiting research scholar at CUNY Graduate Center in New York. Her research examines what motivates individuals to support or resist violent state regimes. Her current project analyzes how French Bishops during the Holocaust defected from the episcopate to help save Jews. All four of Luft's grandparents are Holocaust survivors.

Filmmaker Ken Burns will present the class-

room version of a new film that he will feature on PBS next year, called "The Sharps' War," about two Americans who plunged into Europe in 1939 and 1940 to assist people fleeing the Nazis. He will join the panelists that evening for 10-15 minutes after the film via Skype.

Finally, Zachary Kaufman is a legal academic, political scientist, and social entrepreneur. He is currently a lecturer in Yale's Political Science Department, a visiting fellow at Yale (at the Law School, the School of Management's Program on Social Enterprise, and the Genocide Studies Program), a visiting researcher at Harvard Law School, and a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is the author of two books: *After Genocide: Transitional Justice, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, and Reconciliation in Rwanda and Beyond* and *Social Entrepreneurship in the Age of Atrocities: Changing Our World*. Kaufman has worked on transitional justice issues for the US Departments of State and Justice, the UN International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and for the Former Yugoslavia, and the International Criminal Court.

The speaker on the Rwandan genocide will be announced closer to the date of the program.

The Harvard Science Center is located at 1 Oxford St.

For more information, visit [www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/carr](http://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/carr)

## Koutoujian Delivers Personal Talk at Tufts

KOUTOUJIAN, from page 1

The members and leaders of the Armenian community, he said, were on the outside looking in and "politically disconnected."

Then, as in now, "we are materially wealthy and connected. [Yet] we are in the position of standing around the table rather than having a seat at that table," he said.

He stressed, "We in the Armenian community can find the best champion for justice by looking in the mirror. Being in political power is necessary."

Koutoujian lamented that pursuit of political office is not something stressed in the community.

"We must experience a 21st century *zartonk* so that justice is in our own hands and not at the mercy of others," he said. "We also need to support our non-Armenian friends. It is time for a new chapter."

He reflected on his run last year for a House seat, saying that even though he did not win, he was able to bring in and interest many people in the political process, adding that he was heartened to hear that several of the volunteers and young staffers on his campaign were working on other political campaigns now.

Saying, "my family history is not very different from others," he spoke about his grandfather and grandmother, survivors of the Armenian Genocide who hailed from Marash and eventually made their way to the US. They fled Marash separately, with his grandfather following the French cavalry in the snow, with his very young sister in his arms.

"Veronica [his great-aunt] simply wanted to die. My grandfather would not let this happen. He would shake her and make her stay awake," he recalled. They made it to the US in 1920.

His grandmother ended up in Aleppo. Through a Red Cross family-finder program, his grandparents found each other and settled in Boston.

"We don't know if they had children back at home. After fleeing, they did not want to speak

about what they saw," Koutoujian said.

"This was just two generations ago," he said, bringing the horrors that much closer to the audience.



Peter Koutoujian

He spoke about his first campaign for state representative against an incumbent, in which he eventually defeated him by a large margin. He said he saw his position as one that was "a reflection on the Armenian community. I took up that mantle. It is something I embraced."

Koutoujian said that of the many things he has achieved during his years in office, he has been proudest of championing and bringing to life the Armenian Heritage Park, crediting Gov. Deval Patrick for his help.

The program was sponsored by Tufts University, the Darakjian-Jafarian Chair in Armenian History, the Department of History, the Armenian Club at Tufts University and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

The evening was hosted by Ina Baghdiantz McCabe, Professor of History and Darakjian-Jafarian Chair of Armenian History at Tufts University.

## Ninety Nine Years of Denial

DENIAL, from page 15

Even now, credible news comes of vicious attacks of Armenian concentrations across the Turkish border in Kessab, Syria, which several US members of Congress condemned and referred to as "far too reminiscent of the early days of the Armenian Genocide."

We have all read that "those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it." But even worse, those who fail to learn and speak out against past ignominies are actually encouraging future oppression.

Have 99 years taught us nothing? Can't governments see that silence will only be interpreted as indifference? Or worse yet, condoning what went before. If ever there were a moral imperative, this is it.

The United States Congress has timidly turned away from numerous efforts to pass a symbolic resolution to recognize the Genocide over the past several years. Many rationales have been offered for this failure, ranging from fear of offending a needed ally to the fact that it was long ago and could not do any good.

But glimmers of hope persist. Recently, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved S. Resolution 410 recognizing the Genocide.

While passage by both houses continues to be an uphill battle, it is a battle which must be pursued.

As the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide approaches, the devastating events of those years must be recognized for what they were – not only to honor the memory of the million and one half who perished but also to safe keep those throughout the world who are and will be in danger of persecution in the future. While it was a long time ago and nearly annihilated a sometimes little known people, it is of monumental significance to the world and all who care for freedom and treasure human rights.

The silence has persisted for 99 years.

It cannot be allowed to continue for 100 years.

(This opinion piece originally appeared in the New Britain Herald, Conn. Harry Mazadoorian is an attorney and arbitrator/mediator in Connecticut and a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Quinnipiac University School of Law Center on Dispute Resolution. He is the son of Genocide survivors Yegsa Aharonian Mazadoorian and Nigoghos Mazadoorian.)

## Archive Director Says Material Loss as Result of Genocide Should Be Stressed

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – According to the director of the Armenian National Archive, beginning with Thursday's 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, society must demonstrate that not only was the Armenian population physically destroyed, but also suffered the loss of its cultural heritage, churches and great material wealth.

During a press conference on Tuesday, National Archive director Armatuni Virabyan said that the archive's challenge is to show the Armenian society what and how events took place starting from April, 1915 till the end of that same year in the Ottoman Empire.

"First of all we must publish the scientifically edited documents that we possess. It's been 10 years we are realizing this work. In 2012 a three-volume book was published in Armenian and one volume in English, which included 45 percent of the documents.

"We are also interested in creating a glossary of victim information, which is a very complicated procedure, because it was so long ago, some residential areas weren't preserved at all; we only know that Armenians used to live there, none of whom survived. This is not a task of one or two years, and it has to be done on a regular basis," Virabyan said.

According to him, there are nearly 12,000 documents and the numbers continues to grow. Detailed information exists for about 750 residential areas, as of the day the killings started.

"If this work had been realized in the 1920s we would have had enormous materials, but even already in 1926 the [Communist] government had forbidden us to ring the church bells on April 24," said Virabyan.

Giro Manoyan, leading the Armenian Revolutionary Federation Dashnaksutyun's Armenian Cause office in Yerevan, also stressed raising Genocide awareness and said that a centenary shouldn't be considered the end to something, but rather a beginning of a process.