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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mass. State House Holds Commemoration of Genocide

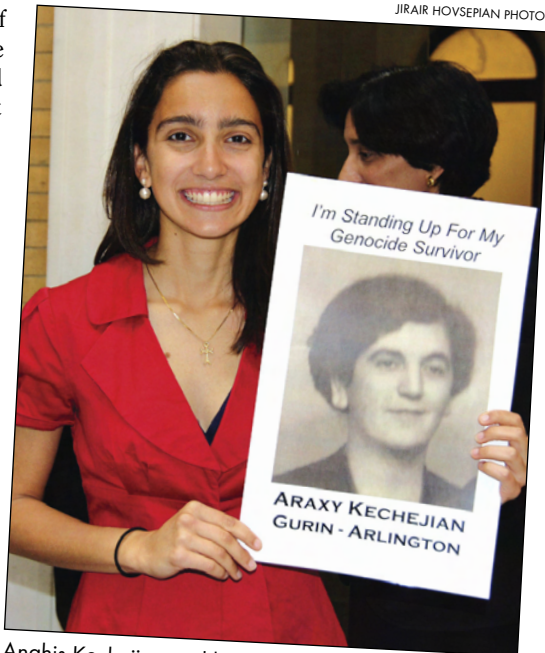
By Aaron Dentel-Post
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BOSTON – A commemoration of the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide was held on Friday, April 20, in the House Chamber in the State House. Speakers ranging from politicians to humanitarian activists remembered and paid tribute to the 1.5 million victims of the Armenian Genocide at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

“We will never forget the million and a half Armenians killed, and we must never allow the world to forget,” said Robert DeLeo, speaker of the House of Representatives.

The large Armenian population in Massachusetts and especially Watertown, Mass., give the remembrance special significance in the Commonwealth. The ceremony also included resolutions to recognize the achievements of former state Senator Steven A. Tolman and the Armenian-American playwright Joyce Van Dyke, whose work, “Deported/a dream play,” is a tribute to her grandmother’s life during and after the Genocide.

Khatchig Mouradian, editor of the *Armenian Weekly* and program director of the Armenian Genocide Program at the Center for the Study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights at Rutgers University, gave the keynote address. see **COMMEMORATION**, page 8



Anahis Kechejian and her “survivor,” Araxy Kechejian

Genocide Symposium At United Nations Is Greeted by Turkish Diplomatic Corps’ Ire

By Florence Avakian
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. – Possibly speaking for all Genocide victims, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide once said, “I am somebody, but I am nobody.”

On Thursday, April 12, a symposium, titled “Toward Preventing Genocide: Nations Acknowledging their Dark History: Psychosocial, Economic and Cultural Perspectives,” took place at the UN, attended by close to 50 diplomatic, educational and Armenian community members.

The event began with a moment of silence for the victims of all genocides and was opened by Armenia’s Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian, who reminded the audience that this marked the 62nd anniversary of the UN Human Rights Declaration outlawing genocide. He stated that many countries, as well as scholars, including Turkish intellectuals, have already recognized the Genocide of the Armenians by Ottoman Turkey. He paid tribute to the memory and the 160th birthday of the Norwegian humanitarian Fridtjof Nansen, who “gave support to the fragile fragments of the Genocide,” and issued the Nansen Passport for the stateless Armenian survivors.

see **UNITED NATIONS**, page 7



Armenia’s UN Ambassador Garen Nazarian

Preserving Armenian Stories Top on Agenda of Filmmaker Garapedian

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

BELMONT, Mass. – Filmmaker Dr. Carla Garapedian is hopeful that the new agreement on the digitization of the archives of the late Dr. J. Michael Hagopian by the University of Southern California Shoah Foundation Institute will preserve the interviews captured by Hagopian in perpetuity.

During a talk at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

(NAASR), Garapedian explained how the Armenian Film Foundation, which was founded by Hagopian, and on whose board she serves, is collaborating with the Shoah Foundation to preserve the 400 survivor testimonies that Hagopian recorded.

The Shoah Foundation Institute, now part of the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, will digitize the Armenian oral histories, making that collection one of the largest of Holocaust and Genocide testimonials. The aim is to add similar testimonials from other countries, including Cambodia and Rwanda.

Basically, the Armenian collection will be shared with Shoah, “without losing ownership.”

Garapedian spoke about the Shoah Foundation, which was started by director Steven Spielberg after he completed the movie, “Schindler’s List,” about the horrors of the Holocaust (incidentally with a screenplay by Steve Zaillian). “A number of survivors contacted him and said ‘get my story,’” Garapedian said.

The foundation’s aim is to record as many oral histories of Holocaust survivors as possible, much see **FILMS**, page 6



Carla Garapedian, flanked by NAASR’s Marc Mamigonian and NAASR board member Shushan Teager

Armenian Nuclear Plant Operations Officially Extended

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The Armenian government formally decided last week to extend operations at the Metsamor nuclear power plant, a move reflecting the apparent delay in its planned replacement by a new and more modern facility.

“Taking into account possible time frames for the launch of the new atomic energy block in the Republic of Armenia and the need to maintain the country’s energy security and independence during that period, it is necessary to extend the exploitation period of the Power Block No. 2,” Energy Minister Armen Movisian said at a cabinet meeting that approved the measure.

The government assigned the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources to draw up by May next year a program of measures to ensure Metsamor’s longer-than-planned operations and their safety. The program will have to be submitted to the government for approval by September 2013.

Metsamor was due to be decommissioned by September 2016 in accordance with the 30-year design life span of its sole function see **NUCLEAR**, page 2

Sargisian Attends Events Dedicated to Printing Anniversary

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – On April 23, President Serge Sargisian participated in the unveiling of the “Vark Haverzhats” statue, dedicated to 500th anniversary of Armenian printing. The sculpture has been installed near the intersection of Moskovyan and Teryan streets. The France-based sculptor, Davit Yerevantsi, created the work, which symbolizes the saving of the largest manuscript of the Matenadaran, *Msho Chantir*.

Sargisian attended another event dedicated to the anniversary, the opening of the “Perpetuity of Writing” exhibition at the History Museum of Armenia. Four museums, including the History Museum of Armenia, the museums of Holy Echmiadzin and Matenadaran and the National Library of Armenia, have made joint efforts to present the best works representing Armenian publishing.

At the National Gallery of Armenia, Sargisian saw the “Retrospective Glance” series of paintings by contemporary artist Arevik Petrosyan.

Obama Stresses Teaching Future Generations about Man’s Inhumanity to Man

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama, speaking at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum as part of the nation’s Days of Remembrance activities, stressed the importance of teaching future generations about the horrors of man’s inhumanity to man and the need for genocide prevention, reported the Armenian Assembly of America (AAA).

“As we mark the anniversary of the Holocaust, the Armenian Assembly of America stands in solidarity with the Jewish people by remembering the victims, paying tribute to the survivors and rededicating ourselves to genocide affirmation, education and prevention,” said Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.

Introduced by Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, Obama highlighted the fact that “preventing mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest and a core moral responsibility of the United States,” and that awareness without action changes nothing. Wiesel, who has also consistently recognized the Armenian Genocide, reiterated the importance of prevention, and stated that one of the greatest tragedies of the Holocaust was that it was preventable.

The event took place one day before April 24, the Armenian Genocide commemoration anniversary. His statement on the Genocide will be in next week’s edition.

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Balakian Awarded

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Street Light Problem Solved by Public, Private Investment

GORIS (Armenpress) – Authorities in the past month have been working on changing street lights in Goris. They are expected to complete the task in May. Currently, the city has 420 street lights, far fewer than needed. The suburban districts are left with insufficient lights, though during the last three years the number of street lights has increased by 70 to 90.

Goris City Hall Information and Public Relations Department head Anna Davtyan said, in Syunik, the funds allocated by the community budget is 14.5 million drams, and the lighting problem will be solved in six districts of the city. Zangezur Copper Molybdenum Combine CJSC provided 16.5 million drams, which will be sufficient to implement the reconstruction work in five districts.

Overall, a total of 103 new street lights are scheduled to be installed in the city.

French Ambassador Says 2012 Francophonie Days Has Record Turnout

YEREVAN (news.am) – France's Ambassador to Armenia Henri Reynaud called the 2012 Francophonie Days a record in terms of length and turnout.

Speaking at a press conference last week, Reynaud said the celebrations contribute to the development of bilateral relations.

The ambassador said, within the framework of Francophonie Days, he had visited the cities of Vanadzor and Goris. He pointed out developing ties between Armenia's regions and the departments of France.

The Francophonie Days opened in Armenia with the staging of the opera "Carmen" in Yerevan. Concerts, screenings of films, French poetry and music, festivals of fairy tales and other events were held throughout Armenia.

On March 20, the French page of the National Assembly's website was officially presented.

The International Organization of Francophonie brings together 75 nations, 56 of which are members of the organization, and 19 have an observer status.

Ter-Petrosian again Deplores 'Western Support' for Sargisian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – President Serge Sargisian has managed to hold on to power because of securing strong Western support in return for major Armenian concessions to Azerbaijan and Turkey, opposition leader Levon Ter-Petrosian said last week.

"The West needs the kind of weak and thieving regime in Armenia that has been created by Serge Sargisian and Robert Kocharian because it's easier to control them, because they will execute its every wish," Ter-Petrosian said at an election campaign rally held by his Armenian National Congress (HAK) in Masis, a small town 20 kilometers south of Yerevan.

Ter-Petrosian claimed that Sargisian promised to pursue a rapprochement with Turkey and agree to what the HAK leader called a pro-Azerbaijani solution to the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict even before becoming president in 2008.

"This regime is not independent, not sovereign and dependent on external forces ... They have agreed to all these things under Western pressure in order to easily falsify elections, to plunder the people and to lose the money stolen from you at Monte Carlo and Baden-Baden casinos," he said.

Ter-Petrosian, who was Armenia's first president, has repeatedly accused the West of being too lenient towards the authorities in Yerevan since the 2008 election and a deadly government crackdown on his supporters that followed the vote. He has said that the United States and other Western powers are turning a blind eye to human rights abuses in the country for "geopolitical reasons" such as the normalization of Turkish-Armenian relations and a Karabagh settlement.

Armenian Opposition Promises Massive Pay Rises

By Naira Bulghadarian, Karlen Aslanian, Tigran Avetisian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – There may be little love lost between Armenia's leading opposition forces but they are unanimous in promising massive increases in government spending on social programs in the ongoing parliamentary race.

The Armenian National Congress (HAK), the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun) and the Zharangutyun (Heritage) party claim that the state budget, projected at 1.04 trillion drams (\$2.7 billion) this year, can at least be doubled quickly through a genuine crackdown on tax evasion and business monopolies. That, they say, should translate into corresponding rises in public-sector salaries, pensions and other benefits.

President Serge Sargisian has already responded by urging voters not to buy into drastic pay rises promised by the opposition. Speaking on the campaign trail, Sargisian has dismissed them as unrealistic.

"According to very serious estimates by international experts, Armenia's budget should have been worth \$7.5 billion," HAK leader Levon Ter-Petrosian said on Saturday at a campaign rally in Garni, a large village in the central Kotayk province.

"This means that Serge Sargisian, [Prime Minister] Tigran Sargisian and, before them, Robert Kocharian, and the whole government pyramid steal \$5 billion from you every year," Ter-Petrosian alleged.

Vahagn Khachatryan, an economist and senior HAK member, insisted on Monday that the Armenian government can at least double its tax revenues if it cracks down hard on the sizable informal sector of the economy. He said de facto business cartels operated by gov-

ernment-linked entrepreneurs are a key source of widespread tax evasion in Armenia.

"We can do that only when competi-



Protests took place in Armavir on April 17.

tion is restored in Armenia's economy, when we get rid of this monopoly-based economy," Khachatryan said.

Arsen Hambardzumian, a senior member of Dashnaktsutyun who served as labor and social affairs minister in 2007, likewise claimed that the Armenian budget can be tripled in case of "radical changes" in the government's economic policies. He said the government should not only improve tax collection but also support domestic manufacturers and small and medium-sized businesses.

Accordingly, Dashnaktsutyun's electoral manifesto commits the party to doubling the average amount of pensions to 63,000 drams (\$160). It says the minimum monthly wage in the country should also be raised to that level.

Zharangutyun goes further in its campaign platform, promising an average pension of 80,000 drams a month. It also pledges to ensure that the average monthly wage in the country rises from the current 115,000 drams to 200,000 drams within months.

"The state does have the resources to

do this now," Zharangutyun spokesman Hovsep Khurshudian said. "They are simply being misappropriated in the form of unpaid taxes and stolen budgetary resources."

Armenia has long had one of the lowest rates of tax collection in the former Soviet Union. The authorities in Yerevan claim to have improved tax administration in recent years and say it will become even more efficient in the near future.

Speaking at a pre-election congress of his Republican Party of Armenia (HHK) last month, Sargisian said the ratio of tax revenue to Gross Domestic Product rose from roughly 17 percent in 2007 to 20 percent in 2011. The president also strongly defended his administration's broader socioeconomic record against opposition criticism.

New Book Contains 700 Testimonies Of Armenian Genocide Survivors

By Gayane Mkrtychyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – The author of the newly-published *The Armenian Genocide: Testimonies of the Eyewitness Survivors*, says that it can serve as a proof at the international court "if there is an Armenian Nuremberg."

"If any crime is wanted to be revealed then first of all witnesses' testimonies are taken into account. Here, too, it is necessary to be based on eyewitnesses' testimonies; each of them has evidential value," says the author of the book, 78-year-old Verzhine Svazlyan.

Since 1955, Svazlyan has met survivors, who had migrated to Soviet Armenia during 1946 to 1948, and she wrote down their stories. Svazlyan also met eyewitness survivors who resided in different Armenian-Diasporan communities in Greece, France, Italy, Germany, the United States, Canada, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Turkey.

There are 700 testimonies in Armenian and English versions of the book. There were plans to publish the book in Turkish, too, by the Turkish intellectual and publisher Ragip Zarakolu's Belge publication. However, the Turkish government arrested Zarakolu in October; therefore the publication of the book in Turkish has been

postponed.

"Ragip Zarakolu was released only a week ago, and he told me that he would start publishing the book soon. According to him, it will be a real landmark in Turkey," Svazlyan says.

The author in the first chapter of the book described the whole process of the Armenian Genocide, from the Hamidian massacres to the Karabagh War, being based on eyewitness survivors' testimonies.



Verzhine Svazlyan with her new book

"The Armenian Genocide is unprecedented with all its features. As compared to the Holocaust it is more villainous. [Adolf] Hitler gave Jews three years to leave Germany, those who left survived; the rest were smothered in gas chambers. In the Armenian Genocide the sufferings were more intense – people's finger nails were torn out, people's skin was being removed, they were shod like horses and young women were crucified," Svazlyan said.

Armenian Nuclear Plant Operations Officially Extended

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ing reactor that generates about 40 percent of the country's electricity. President Serge Sargisian said in December that it will operate longer, in case of a delay in the construction of a new Armenian nuclear plant. Movsisian said shortly afterwards that the construction will likely start in 2013.

"Our actions in this area are extremely transparent," Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian told ministers. "We have publicly asked the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to assist us in extending the existing nuclear plant's operations and building a new nuclear power-generating block."

The IAEA director general, Yukiya Amano, discussed the matter with Sargisian and Movsisian last week on the first day of a visit to Armenia. According to the Armenian premier, Amano voiced "full support" for Yerevan's intentions and actions related to nuclear energy.

Amano met with President Sargisian on Thursday. The presidential press office quoted him as saying that the IAEA and Armenia agree on the need for further safety measures at Metsamor and plan to "closely cooperate" on the new plant's construction.

Sargisian, for his part, told the IAEA chief that continued reliance on atomic energy is "vital" for his country.



ARMENIA

Of Australian Sylphs and Blithe Spirits

By Arthur Hagopian

EASTWOOD, Australia – It is one of Sydney's more sedate northern suburbs, languishing in the shadow of a batch of more glamorous suburbs, basking in its modest fame as the birthplace of Australia's Granny Smith apple.

Like the ancient city of Bethlehem and the phantasmagorical Scottish highlands town of Brigadoon that come to light only once a year at Christmas and at the turn of a century, Eastwood comes to life at the Granny Smith festival.

The name evokes tenuous images of sylphs and wood spirits, roaming blithe and free.

Only a generation ago, the perception might have been true: trees blanketed this little town to Sydney's north and the hand of man, with its cumbersome implements, had not yet descended upon the land to ravage its pristine purity.

As the years rolled by, it was inevitable that the trees of Eastwood – there was no Lorax to speak for them – would give way to the onslaught of man.



Students enjoying a show

The woods have accepted the encroachment docilely: but what of the sylphs and blithe spirits?

One would like to think they would have migrated to the safest haven they could find, within the enclaves of the tall, imposing edifice, known as the Eastwood Primary School.

All 700 of them.

The school dates its beginnings back to the 1880s, its enrolment mushrooming over the years to top the 700 mark, of whom more than 90 percent hark from non-English-speaking backgrounds.

Among the rich mix of Chinese, Korean, Indian, Japanese, Macedonian, et. al., is a scattering of Armenians.

This is not the suburb's sole Armenian connection: the mayor of Ryde, which embraces Eastwood, also happens to be Armenian: Artin Etmekjian, whose popularity has won him two consecutive terms running on a Liberal ticket, has the distinction of being the first Armenian in Australia to hold such a position.

Listening to their little children chattering away in Strine both among themselves and with their schoolmates, arouses mixed feelings in Armenian parents, but the fluidity and dexterity with which the children manipulate the adopted language, assuages their feeling of guilt at the inevitability of assimilation.

Armenians account for a minuscule section of the multicultural spectrum of this "lucky country" – there are only some 40,000 of them, more than a quarter children – a paltry amount com-

pared to North America where estimates put their number between 200,000 and 2,000,000.

The over-riding majority of Armenians in Australia have trekked from the trouble spots of the Middle East lugging, along with their suitcases, painful and desperate memories of the past and hopeful dreams for the future.

Australia, this land of promise, has been drawing a steady stream of Armenian immigrants for over 50 years now, and with few exceptions, they have settled here harmoniously and have done well.

They may still yearn for home in Jerusalem, Beirut, Aleppo, Baghdad, Cairo or Amman, and still adhere to their age-old way of life, but for their Aussie-born offspring, that is "far out:" no Armenian seriously doubts that in another generation or two, the number left speaking their mother tongue is bound to dwindle sharply.

Where both parents are Armenian – and this could become a rarity in time – the children will have the benefit of an Armenian home and all that entails: language, cuisine, traditions, mores. But if one parent is an "odar," (non-Armenian) then the children have little hope of a

inspiring the children, driven by the vision of the soft-spoken, charismatic principal, Luke Whitney and his staff of 40.

Whitney, who has been manning the helm at Eastwood for the past 16 years, likes to take a hands-on, personal interest in the running of the school and the welfare of his charges. When, out of the blue, one of the Grade 5 children developed juvenile diabetes, Whitney was the first to offer to look after the child's needs and administer the insulin injections the boy started taking.

A world-traveler, Whitney never tires of inculcating into his student's subconscious the need to respect both themselves and others.

"Eastwood, the school and wider community, is a wonderful example of difference being appreciated with the end result being an enriched and dynamic environment to live and learn," he said.

Whitney considers it fundamentally important to cater to the considerations and expectations of the various ethnic groupings at school by making it possible for them to preserve, and express, their ethnic identity while absorbing the elements of Aussie culture, and facilitating the assimilation process.

"I believe that literacy – in as many languages as possible, physical activity and music are keys in providing the fertile field for ongoing quality learning and education," he said.

The addition of six new classrooms, and the installation of interactive hi-tech aids, under a countrywide Australian Labor Federal government initiative, has immeasurably enhanced the quality of life for the students.

There is always something to do at school. If it is not an Easter parade, it is a presentation, or a sports event.

And when spring comes hopping in, around September in Australia, there is the prospect of engaging in one of the most successful and enjoyable experiments at school, and at home: breeding silkworms. The tiny creatures subsist solely on mulberry leaves, and when the search for sufficient quantities to last through the season heats up, it is every man for himself with only a handful of the trees around and scores of children clamoring for the leaves.

As the silkworms, now transformed into moths, start emerging from the cocoons they have been painstakingly building, the glow of delight and wonder in the eyes of the children, fills the heart with joy.

Armenian Church Wins Lawsuit Against Istanbul City Hall

ISTANBUL (news.am) – A Turkish court ruled in favor of a claim filed by a foundation for the St. Nigoghayos Armenian Church, of Beykoz district, against City Hall. The foundation's claim demanded that the Istanbul City Hall return the 37,500-meter area belonging to the church.

The foundation's chairman, Varujan Maghatyan, said they awaited the court's decision for many years, according to Sabah daily.

"The Istanbul City Hall will appeal this court verdict, but we believe the appellate decision will again be in our favor," Maghatyan said.

International News

Istanbul Armenians Launch Campaign Against Turkish Daily

ISTANBUL (news.am) – Istanbul-Armenians Nadya Uygun and Sarkis Adam launched a campaign to protest against the daily, *Hurriyet*, since they suggest it spreads hostility against Armenians, Kurds and other Turkish national minorities.

Despite numerous warnings, *Hurriyet* continues to use the most trivial news as a tool to sow hatred and discrimination, according to the protesters' statement on Facebook.

"To date, *Hurriyet's* publications prepare grounds for attacks against [and] killings of numerous people. Let us not read *Hurriyet!* This call of ours is directed at the good people who respect human rights, believe in the freedom of peoples and religions. We do not read *Hurriyet* for a better world, a better Turkey," the statement reads.

Jerusalem Univ. Hosts Symposium on Genocide

JERUSALEM (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The chair of Armenian Studies of Jerusalem University hosted a symposium and commemoration of victims of Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire on April 22.

The event started with *Bible* reading from *Ezekiel* in Hebrew and Armenian. Then, Archbishop Aris Shirvanyan of Jerusalem's Armenian Patriarchate, gave a welcoming speech.

Tsolag Momjian, consul of the Republic of Armenia in Jerusalem, presented his "Genocide, Minorities and Memories" report. The head of the desk of Minority Affairs department at the Ministry of Public Security, Mordechai Zaken, spoke on "The Armenian Orphan Rug."

Momjian also briefed the participants on the Knesset Educational Committee Hearing on Armenian Genocide Recognition.

Yael Stein and Tamar Pileggi of the Jerusalem Center for Genocide Prevention presented a report titled "Combating Genocide: What we do Today to Prevent It."

Armenian Composer's Symphony to Be Performed at International Festival

MOSCOW (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The Festival of the World's Symphonic Orchestras, to be held June 1-21, will feature Armenian composer Avet Terteryan's *Fifth Symphony*, performed by the Yaroslavl Academic Symphonic Orchestra.

Armenian kamancha player Hakob Khalatyan will participate in the performance as soloist, by invitation of the orchestra's artistic director and conductor, Murad Annamamedov, and with the support of the Armenian Ministry of Culture.

Terteryan's son, Ruben Terteryan, will also attend the festival as musical consultant.

Book on Armenian Family Achieving Royal Power in Egypt

CAIRO, Egypt (news.am) – A book, titled *Hekayat Osra Aremenia* (Stories of an Armenian Family), by Nabil Hefny Mahmoud, depicting a famous Armenian family in Egypt, which achieved royal power, was published here, Ahran Online reports.

According to the researcher, the history of Armenians in Egypt dates back to the Roman Empire. However, the era when Armenians started flooding into Egypt, forming their own quarters, schools and churches, was the Fatimid Islamic period, starting in the 10th century.

A primary figure in the book, Abul-Farag Bin Nekula, was the Armenian father of a family that gained much power, including family members who reached high positions in Egyptian civil service and even ruled Egypt for some time. Nekula started as a banker and later became a minister.



INTERNATIONAL

Turkey Rejects Israeli Participation In NATO Summit

By Zvi Bar'el

ISTANBUL (*Ha'aretz*) – Turkey has refused to allow Israel to participate in a NATO conference set to take place in Chicago on May 20, because the Israel has not apologized for the 2010 killing of Turkish activists in a raid on a ship taking aid to Palestinians, a Turkish official said on Monday.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu commented on the possible Israeli presence at the conference. "There will be no Israeli presence at the NATO meeting unless they issue a formal apology and pay compensation for the Turkish citizens their commandos killed in international waters," said Davutoglu last week at a NATO conference in Brussels, according to the Turkish newspaper *Hurriyet Daily News*.

Turkish opposition is similar to a veto, and is binding for all NATO member nations. Many member nations, including France, the U.S., as well as Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Secretary General, demanded that Turkey reverse its position on Israeli participation in the conference, and even threatened to oppose the participation of Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Algiera, other non-member nations invited to take part in the NATO

"Mediterranean Dialogue" group.

Turkey, however, abrogated any possibility of a reversing its stance on the issue. "The army of a country which you call a partner killed our citizens with a political order given by its administration. We do not call this kind of country a partner," said Davutoglu.

"I promise that Turkey will be the first to defend citizens of NATO countries in any similar situation. I believe in the principle of solidarity among NATO member nations much more than the principle of discrimination, practiced by some of you," Davutoglu fired back at his critics.

This is not the first time Turkey has acted against Israeli participation with NATO. Take for example the Turkish opposition to the Israeli request to participate in the Mediterranean Dialogue group, affiliated with NATO, in Brussels.

Turkey also vetoed Israeli participation in the yearly "Active Endeavor" naval maneuver, in which four naval vessels from four different, non-member nations participate.

Turkey has also stated that Israel will not receive any information from NATO radar systems installed in Turkey, meant to provide warning of an Iranian missile attack.

Next month will mark two years since the Israeli raid on the Mavi Marmara, which led to the unprecedented decline in relations

between Israel and Turkey. Efforts to assuage the conflict, including the UN investigation, which suggested that Israel apologize and compensate victim's families, have not made any changes in the Israeli stance on the issue.

According to Turkish sources, the two sides reached an agreement on the wording of an apology and payment of reparations, however due to political pressure in Israel, especially from Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, Israel decided to call off the deal. Last year, US President Barack Obama pressured Turkey to reach an understanding with Israel, but Turkey stated that without an official, public apology, no progress can be made.

US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland commented on the poor relations between the two countries. "For quite some time now we have been continuing to talk to both our ally Turkey and our ally Israel about the relationship that they have with each other to encourage them to continue to get back to a place where they can have conversation with each other," said Nuland.

Commenting on the Chicago summit, Nuland added, "With regard to arrangements for the NATO summit and partnership events, as you know, Israel is one of NATO's partners in the Mediterranean dialogue. Those discussions are continuing as we head towards the May summit in Chicago."

Meanwhile, Turkish international political standing has improved, due largely to Turkish opposition to the rule of Bashar Assad in Syria, Turkey's role in renewing nuclear talks between Iran and the west, and strengthening ties with Arab nations that have undergone revolutions.

Two years ago, diplomats and analysts were wondering which country had the most to lose from the rift in relations. Today, there is no longer any doubt that Israel is the loser in this very important struggle. Turkey is no longer in need of Israeli intervention with the US, Turkey's economic situation is among the best in Europe, and Turkey has become a central diplomatic channel for solving regional conflicts.

Israel, it seems, has accepted its loss of relations with Turkey, even though senior Turkish officials believe diplomatic efforts to improve relations would be worthwhile.

(Natasha Mozgovaya contributed to this report.)

Rouben Gregorian Commemorated In Iran

TEHRAN (*Tehran Times*) – Tehran's Armenian Hur Translation and Research Institute held a commemoration ceremony for composer Rouben Gregorian during a ceremony last week.

The event was organized to discuss Gregorian's role in Persian folk music.

Armenian Ambassador Grigor Arakelyan attended the ceremony, which was held at the Ararat Armenian Cultural Organization.

The ceremony began with the screening of a short film on the life of Gregorian.

One of Gregorian's disciples, Amir-Ashraf Aryanpur, who is a music researcher, spoke about the life and artistic characteristics of his mentor.

Music researcher Farid Dehdazi was the next speaker who reviewed the style and melodies composed by Gregorian.

Afterward, a choral group conducted by Razmik Ohanian performed 10 folk songs composed by Gregorian.

Born in Tbilisi in 1915, Rouben Gregorian moved to Tabriz with his parents when he was 1. The young Rouben received his musical education under the auspices of his father, Levon Gregorian, a renowned musician, conductor and educator.

He played an instrumental role in the development of the Tehran Conservatory of Music, where he served as its director. He was later the music director and conductor of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra. His role in the collection and documentation of Iranian folk tunes remains unmatched yet has failed to be fully recognized. From 1949 to 1951, he headed the musical section of the Iranian National Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

He died in the US in 1991.



Rouben Gregorian

Drills Test Russian Base in Armenia

By Aris Ghazinyan

YEREVAN (*ArmeniaNow*) – Rocket force and artillery subdivisions of Russian military base #102 stationed in Armenia are currently at the Alagyaz educational-training complex where drills are being conducted on the missile strike management.

More than 400 servicemen are taking part in the drills with around 100 artillery armory units, as well as military and special equipment.

The final stage of the large-scale drills coincides with the joint session of the Armenian and Russian units of Intergovernmental Commission for Military-Economic Cooperation of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) held in Yerevan.

A top-ranking delegation has arrived in the Armenian capital from Russia, including CSTO Deputy Secretary General Valery Semerikov.

Last month CSTO Secretary General

Nikolay Bordyuzha made a number of important statements, in particular, that strikes at Iran would shock the region in a number of ways – starting with politics and ending with economy.

He also stated that CSTO is closely watching the situation and that "Armenia will receive whatever assistance it needs in case of a crisis in the Karabagh conflict zone."

"We have a big potential in terms of the application of forces or operational counteraction subdivisions. But I cannot say today what kind of assistance will be shown, as it can be said only based on a definite situation. Nonetheless, I repeat that Armenia will receive all the assistance it needs as a full-rights CSTO member," said Bordyuzha.

The military drills of CSTO's operative forces will be conducted in Armenia next fall. The details of the drills were discussed both during the session and at the National Security Council of Armenia (NSCA).

"Armenia is doing its best not to allow a shift in the balance of forces in the region," said NSCA Secretary Artur Baghdasaryan on April 12, while commenting on the possible change in the layout of forces in the region as a result of Azerbaijan's military build-up.

He stressed that according to NSCA's state-approved plan for 2011-2015, Armenia, too, is purchasing modern armory and, despite Azerbaijan's growing military budget, Armenia is taking all possible measures to maintain the balance of forces.

It has become known that Armenia and Russia will be signing a new agreement on military-technical cooperation.

Baghdasaryan stressed that the new agreement would help to overcome the existing obstacles, which would allow military-industrial enterprises to communicate directly. Also, it would allow for considerably better cooperation.

During the joint session, issues were discussed also on creating repair and technical assistance centers for military machinery in Armenia; there are currently seven joint Armenian-Russian military-industrial enterprises in the region.

Dmitry Medvedev Bestows Order of Honor on Aghvan Hovsepyan

MOSCOW (*Panorama.am*) – Under Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's decree, dated April 14, Armenian Prosecutor General Aghvan Hovsepyan has been awarded the Order of Honor.

"Aghvan Hovsepyan has been honored with the Order of Honor for his great contribution to expansion of Armenian-Russian cooperation in law and order as well as in the strengthening of legality," the prosecutor general's office said in a report last week.

Turkish President Photographed against Aivazovsky's Canvases on Eve of 97th Anniversary of the Genocide

ANKARA (*Armenpress*) – Turkish President Abdullah Gul was photographed along with the children of army veterans and military personnel who died in battle, against a background of canvases of Armenian seascape painter, Ivan (Hovhannes) Aivazovsky, on the eve of the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

According to the press service of the Turkish president, Gul received the children in his residence of Çankaya, where they were photographed before Aivazovsky's paintings.

April 23 is Turkey National Sovereignty and Children's Day.



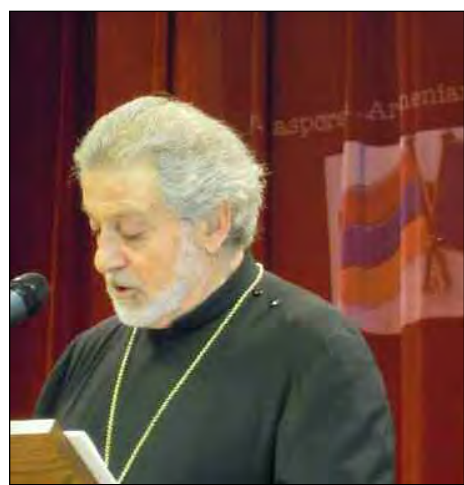
President Abdullah Gul with the children before paintings by Aivazovsky

Community News

Marashtsis Commemorate Anniversary of Heroic Defense

BELMONT, Mass. — Continuing in their tradition, the Union of Marash Armenians, Watertown Chapter, celebrated the 92nd anniversary of the heroic defense of Marash, on Sunday, February 5, at the Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church. After the requiem mass held in memory of the martyrs, more than 150 guests gathered in the church hall for the traditional luncheon and cultural program.

The ceremonies began with the singing of the Marash anthem, followed by welcoming remarks by Nevart Kouyoumjian, the president of the group, who reminded everyone that the union is dedicated to continuously supporting educational and cultural development in the diaspora. In line with this approach, proceeds from events are being donated to St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School in Watertown and the Armenian Sisters' Academy in Lexington. After the welcoming remarks, Very

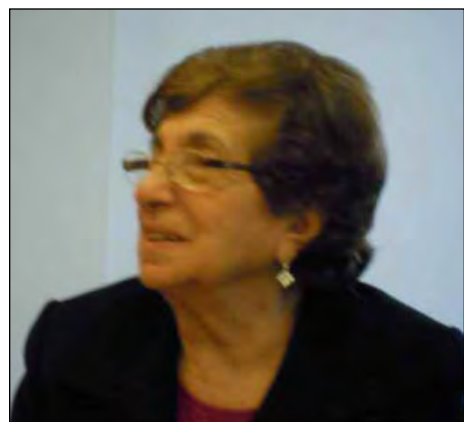


Very Rev. Raphael Andonian

Rev. Raphael Andonian blessed the food. The luncheon, featuring traditional Marash food, *Keshkek* with zucchini and *Kheyra*, was prepared and served by the committee members and volunteers.

Following the lunch, master of ceremonies, Lalig Musserian, invited Andonian, also the guest speaker, to the podium. He presented a vivid description of Marash, its rich culture and history, up to the days preceding the Genocide. A short documentary, prepared by Sebouh Arakelian, was presented, featuring the renovation of Medz Mantashi Mangabardez in the village of Mantash.

The cultural program continued with Mary Bertizlian playing the *kanon*, and Berje Chekijian reciting poems written in the original dialect of Marash. Mary Hayrabedian charmed the audience with her voice, while Amilia Petrosyan and Adelaida Belangyozyan moved the audience with their poetry recitation. The cultural program concluded with piano recitals by two young performers, Shant Der Torossian and William Musserian.



Nevart Kouyoumjian



Greater Haverhill residents gather with Mayor James Fiorentini and Rev. Vart Gyozyalian for a proclamation signing to commemorate the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Haverhill Turns Ecumenical In Commemorating Genocide

By Tom Vartabedian

Haverhill, Mass. — Rev. Vart Gyozyalian, the new pastor of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, has hit upon the perfect way to drawing out-

side attention to the Armenian Genocide: Invite pastors of neighboring churches to become involved in the 97th anniversary commemoration and get the word out to other congregations.

One by one, visiting clergy stepped before a Genocide memorial outside his church and pondered man's inhumanity toward man. They spoke about the evils of genocide and lauded the Armenian nation for its resilience and character in the face of adversity.

Not only that, but more than one promised to bring the message about the Armenian tragedy to the members of their own congregations.

"Much too often, we preach to our own people who've heard the stories time and again," said Gyozyalian. "We're all brothers in Christ, regardless of our Christian affiliations. Sharing this history with others who may be less familiar with it is extremely important. We learn from one another."

The clergy also took part in a proclamation signing and reception inside the mayor's office following the religious service. Also attending the ceremony was Haverhill City Councilor Sven Amirian, grandson of Genocide survivors.

"To see these outside pastors sharing in our history is really a moving experience," he said. "Other ethnic groups have faced similar persecutions and join us in the fight toward world peace and understanding."

Mayor James Fiorentini praised Haverhill Armenians for being a vital part of his community. He paid particular note to a 97-year quest toward recognition and the manner in which Armenians have clung tenaciously to their heritage and culture.

"We owe a debt of gratitude to those who gave their lives in the cause of religious freedom and those who survived the massacres for paving the way toward a better society," said Fiorentini. "The commemoration of this terrible plight on humanity at the hands of the Ottoman Empire must never be forgotten."

The proclamation was read at a City Council meeting. The Armenian tricolor was to be flown at the City Hall on April 24 when Armenian Martyrs' Day is officially observed throughout the world.

—Rev. Vart Gyozyalian

"Sharing this history with others who may be less familiar with it is extremely important. We learn from one another."

Dr. Armen Orujyan Joins UN Broadband Commission

LOS ANGELES — Armen Orujyan, PhD, founder and CEO of Athgo Corporation, has joined the United Nations' Broadband Commission for Digital Development as a commissioner.

The commission, founded by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), comprises a select group of top CEOs and industry leaders, senior policy-makers and government representatives, international agencies and organizations. It is concerned with boosting the importance of broadband on the international policy agenda and expanding broadband access in every country by 2015. The efforts are led by Carlos Slim of Grupo Carso (co-chair), President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda (co-chair), Dr. Hamadoun Touré, secretary-general of the ITU, Irina Bokova, director-general of UNESCO, Sir Richard Branson of Virgin Group and John Chambers of Cisco, among others.

With Orujyan's appointment to the commission, Co-vice Chair Touré asserted, "I am pleased to welcome Dr. Armen Orujyan as a member of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development. For over a decade, Armen has been pioneering work in the area of social entrepreneurship with a particular focus on creating opportunities for young people. Armen has been engaged in concrete work in this area with pilot initiatives around the world and I look forward to having him on board as we explore possibilities for harnessing the potential of broadband technologies to add value to his work. Broadband presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for addressing some of our most pressing social challenges, and I welcome Dr. Orujyan's input to the work of this commission."

Leaders in their respective fields, each commissioner offers rich insight and experience toward deploying and using broadband networks and services to the benefit of communities and end-users. Orujyan has focused his work around building and championing programs, initiatives that enable young people around the globe to team up and build projects and businesses using Information Communication Technology (ICT).

In this spirit, Bokova acknowledged, "The Broadband Commission for Digital Development starts from the principle that infrastructure/connectivity alone is insufficient for accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. What is just as important are the applications and services that will be able to run over such networks, allowing rich and relevant content to reach those who need it most. Young people have an acute understanding of the potential of these technologies and can quickly identify ways in which they can be used for the good of all societies and their members. I welcome the work that Dr. Orujyan is conducting in this regard through its young innovators forum and other initiatives, and I look forward to cooperating with him on the Broadband Commission for Digital Development."

Orujyan is the chairman of Athgo International, a non-profit organization based in Los Angeles and co-chairman of UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development. He frequently presents at international conferences about mechanisms for individual and professional success, ICT's role in entrepreneurship, gender equality and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG). He earned his bachelor of arts degree with honors in political science from the University of California Los Angeles and received his master of arts degree as well as PhD from the School of Politics and Economics at Claremont Graduate University.



Dr. Armen Orujyan



COMMUNITY NEWS

Marilyn Arshagouni Scholarships Available

NORTHBRIDGE, Calif. – The Arshagouni Family Trust announces the second annual Marilyn Arshagouni Scholarship.

The scholarship is a lasting tribute to a woman who has devoted her life to education and Armenian causes. Her legacy has been passed on to generations of students who attended Holy Martyrs Ferrahian Armenian High School in her 28 years of teaching there.

To underscore her interests in the humanities and the arts as well as her association with Ferrahian High School, the Marilyn Arshagouni Scholarship of up to \$2,000 is

presented annually to a qualifying graduate of Ferrahian who has achieved junior status at an accredited four-year college or university in the United States with a minimum GPA of 3.3. Preference will be given to students interested in pursuing careers in the humanities, fine and performing arts, social sciences and education.

Applications may be requested by e-mail at marshschol@gmail.com after May 15. The deadline for submission is July 15. Announcement of the scholarship recipient will be made in August.

Preserving Armenian Stories

FILMS, from page 1

like what Hagopian started with the Armenians. There are currently 52,000 testimonials on film. The interviews were originally kept in Spielberg's office on the Universal Studios lot, but then he started to worry about properly housing them so that they do not deteriorate. As a result, he started working with USC.

"He thought the best place for the collection was at a university so that they can try to understand and analyze" the testimonials, she explained. One advantage of USC was that it had "major grants coming in for digital technologies," she explained.

To complete the work within the next year, the Armenian Film Foundation needs about \$400,000; the rest of the \$1.5 million cost for the Armenian testimonials' digitization will be absorbed by the Shoah Foundation.

"The number one issue is preservation. Second, let's say we preserve. Then what? How do we see them? We have to go to Toronto to see them."

Efforts are being made to keyword every minute of every interview. Challenges include the different names of the cities and towns, whether Armenian or the new Turkish names, as well as variations of spelling. Eventually, the goal is that anyone interested in very specific searches, such as one for a woman from Kharpert, can execute such a search. Prof. Richard Hovannisian will be advising the group on the indexing.

Garapedian called Hagopian a "friend, mentor and colleague," whom she first met while she was in London as a graduate student at the London School of Economics and Politics, and later, a BBC newsreader.

At that point, Hagopian was deeply involved with trying to interview all the survivors he could. "He was in a race against time to record their stories on film," she said.

Garapedian said one reason she admired him so much was that "he started the Witnesses Project really seriously when he was 72 years old." When Hagopian died at age 97 in 2010, she said, he was in the planning stages of a trip to India for a follow-up interview.

"To his dying day, not only was he working, but he was looking forward to his next project," she said.

In the 1970s, Armin T. Wegner had sought Hagopian out, she said, to show him a box of photos from the Genocide era, photos that have since become defining images of the Genocide. "Michael interviewed him. He became the first witness," ironically. "There were a number of German medical officers" who took photos during the Genocide, and all the photos were in Wegner's collection.

In addition to Hagopian's work, there are 800 testimonies from the Zoryan Institute on videotape. There are also survivor material on VHS and audiotape at ALMA and UCLA.

"The idea was to get all the stories for posterity," she said.

"When you see and hear a survivor, it's not just the factual information. They impact, apart from that, on a human level," Garapedian said. "They [the viewers] get the feeling of the person's experience."

Currently, about 1,000 interviews from the Shoah archives can be seen by the public at <http://dornsife.usc.edu/vhi/clipviewer/>. The rest are available only to those using the university Internet.

Armenians and Progressive Politics Conference Returns

NEW YORK – The Armenians and Progressive Politics conference will return to New York City this fall. The fourth in a series of lectures and discussions that examine Armenian issues from a left perspective, the conference will be held on September 28 and 29 at Columbia University.

This year's meeting, titled "Armenia at 21," will evaluate the first 21 years of Armenian independence. A Friday night plenary session will consider the Occupy and Arab Spring movements and their relevance for Armenia.

Panel discussions on Saturday include the 21-year trajectory of Armenia's statehood, economy and society; rule of law, corruption and elections; development of civil society; Armenian-Turkish relations; foreign policy and natural resources policy.

Speakers for this year's gathering, co-sponsored by the Armenian Society of Columbia University and the ARF Western Region, will be announced shortly. Past conferences have featured Noam Chomsky, Robert Fisk and Tariq Ali.

"The Armenians and Progressive Politics conference is not simply an academic forum," said Dikran Kaligian, chairman of the organizing committee. "Our goal is to bring together like-minded activists, intellectuals and community members to foster critical engagement with Armenian issues and society."

The conference will travel to Los Angeles on October 6 and 7; details about both the East and West Coast sessions will follow.

For information on past Armenians and Progressive Politics conferences, visit <http://www.armenianprogressive.com>.

NAASR's 58th Annual Assembly on May 19 to Highlight Young Scholars

BELMONT, Mass. – The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will hold its 58th Annual Assembly of Members on Saturday, May 19, at the NAASR building, 395 Concord Ave. The assembly will convene at noon and lunch will be served at 12:15 p.m.

Following lunch, there will be presentations by three doctoral students in Armenian Studies based in the greater Boston area: Christian Millian of Harvard University, Khatchig Mouradian of Clark University and Ümit Kurt of Clark University. Each will discuss the focus of his research. They will be introduced by their respective advisors, Prof. James R. Russell, Mashtots Chair of Armenian Studies at Harvard, and Prof. Taner Akçam, Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen and Marian Mugar Chair of Modern Armenian History and Genocide Studies at Clark.

Following the luncheon and lecture, those attending the 58th Assembly of Members will

be informed about NAASR's ongoing efforts to further Armenian studies, research and publication. Reports will be presented by the Board of Directors on organizational, informational, academic and financial matters, and the election of directors will be held. In addition, there will be reports by the assembly's special committees on Nominations, Constitution and Rules, New Business and Resolutions and Auditing.

The assembly will be chaired by NAASR Board Chairman Raffi P. Yeghiayan, of Lexington, and Stephen Kurkjian, of Manomet, will serve as secretary of the assembly.

Sessions are open to all NAASR members in good standing, who "have the right to attend, be heard and vote." Non-members may attend as observers.

The luncheon and subsequent program are open to the general public. However, luncheon reservations should be made by May 15 at \$15 per person by calling or e-mailing NAASR.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Hirant Gulian

Diocese to Honor Hirant Gulian

NEW YORK – On April 12 Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, announced that a tribute banquet will be held in honor of Hirant Gulian on Friday, October 5, under the chairmanship of Harry and Suzanne Toufayan. The banquet will be held at St. Leon Armenian Church, Abajian Hall, Fair Lawn, NJ.

“We feel privileged to be part of a program in honor of a good friend, a patriotic Armenian and a man who has done so much for so many Armenian religious, cultural and educational institutions. We owe Hirant a deep debt of gratitude for his boundless generosity towards Armenian causes. We are confident that many friends of Hirant will join us in our efforts and make the celebration a memorable one,” Harry Toufayan explained.

For many years Gulian served as chairman of the Knights of Vartan, April 24 Times Square Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee. For many decades he dedicated

and volunteered his efforts to the Diocese of the Armenian Church, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Knights of Vartan, Hye Doon, Hovnanian School and numerous other organizations of the metropolitan New York New Jersey area. Gulian's efforts have also benefited Armenia and Karabagh.

To share a story of a memorable experience or photo to help make this tribute to Gulian a special event, send items to HirantGulianTribute@gmail.com.



Suzanne and Harry Toufayan

Genocide Symposium At United Nations Is Greeted by Turkish Diplomatic Corps' Ire

UNITED NATIONS, from page 1

Before the program even began, two members of the Turkish Mission to the United Nations unsuccessfully tried to disrupt the event with loud protests, an action they again attempted at the conclusion. Chairperson of the event, Dr. Ani Kalayjian, president of the Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention (ATOP) and the Armenian-American Society for Studies on Stress and Genocide (AASSSG), did not permit the Turkish outburst to continue.

Harrowing Testimonies

The highlight of the event was the screening of the film, “The River Ran Red,” by the late Dr. Michael Hagopian, whose wife and daughter were present. An account of the Armenian Genocide, the documentary is a compilation of harrowing testimonies and archival photos. “We were lying in blood in a forest. By day, we saw the dead,” said one survivor. “The Turks forced children in a Turkish orphanage to dig up the dead Armenian clerics and urinate on them,” said another, adding, “I saw a hundred children thrown into the Euphrates River so the Turks could spare their bullets.” Babies were buried in the desert with only their heads above ground, which were then crushed under the hooves of

running horses, recalled another survivor.

In the film, the missionary, Mary Louise Graffam, reported from Malatya that “the valley was full of corpses.” And US Consul Jesse B. Jackson related seeing 500 emaciated women and children from Sivas after they reached Aleppo, Syria, following a 1,000-mile march. In one of the scenes, a Turk who brought fruit to Fr. Krikor Guerguerian (a.k.a. Krieger), asked the Armenian priest for forgiveness for killing the priest's father and three brothers and con-



Carla Garapedian

fiscating the house's garden.

His nephew, Dr. Edmund Gergerian, has established the annual Krieger monetary Award for high school and college students who write the best essays on “What the Legacy of Genocide Means to Me.” At the symposium, four high school students who read their writing were honored with the award.

Carla Garabedian, director of the Armenian Film Foundation who received the AASSSG's 2011 Outstanding Achievement Award, spoke about “future legal proceedings concerning monetary compensation” for the Genocide, a subject of fear for Turkey. “But how do you calculate such a figure. The International Criminal Court should decide the amount,” she said and reported that Turkish historian Taner Akcam and other Turkish scholars have already revealed that “Armenian assets were transferred into private and public hands.” Under international law, there is no statute of limitations on suing for stolen goods, she said, adding that Germany, since 1952 has paid Holocaust victims \$60 billion. She concluded by noting that Turkey would benefit by freeing itself of Genocide denial, and save millions, which it currently spends on its denial propaganda. “Turks should know and be able to discuss their own history.”

Evolution of Genocide

Prof. Ervin Staub of the University of Massachusetts focused on the evolution of genocide – “a gradual process, which begins with discrimination and some violence, then results in institutional and people changes, which can be reversed but rarely happens. The passivity by the bystanders encourages violence. It is crucial that bystanders actively resist but it must start early,” he said, adding that genocide takes place in economically and psychologically difficult times. “Turks who were called the ‘sick man of Europe’ were already down, plus Armenians were in the way of Pan Turkism.

“Denial becomes part of the identity of both perpetrators and victims. They see the world as dangerous. What is needed is acknowledgment of the pain and reconciliation,” he said, then advised that Armenians should concentrate on the US denial, because constantly pointing out the Turkish denial does not allow Turkey to acknowledge the crime.

Dr. Dennis Papazian, professor emeritus at the University of Michigan, in a report, concentrated on the “Causes and Cures of Genocide,” which involves the “concept of sovereignty” (complete power over life and death). “Thus, until the signing of the Genocide Convention, the killing of one individual was considered murder and thus punishable by the state, while the killing of thousands and even millions by the state had no name and went unpunished.

“State sovereignty must be limited if we are to end genocide. In modern times, nationalism, pre-nationalism and religious exclusiveness have been some of the drivers of genocide, as well as language, and racism,” he said, adding that “by the time of the Armenian Genocide, the concept of ‘us’ and ‘them’ was developing.”

Calling the 19th century the century of imperialism which “was not so much an economic system inspired by the capitalist, as much as an extension of the medieval concept held by the ruling aristocracies that the more territory owned, the greater the prestige and glory. It was in this lethal environment that the Armenian Genocide occurred.” The Ottoman government “looking for an internal scapegoat to deflect attention from their own military ineptness, turned on the unarmed Armenians,” he added.

In conclusion, Papazian stated that it is “humanism, the understanding that we all – black, white, yellow, rich, poor, educated, uneducated, Armenians, Turks and all others – are actually one people with one destiny on this frail earth which holds the key to ending genocide. Thus, intellectual freedom is an absolute necessity for settling issues like the Armenian Genocide and preventing other such atrocities.”

The co-sponsors of the event included the Permanent Mission of Armenia to the United Nations, ATOP, AASSSG, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Meaningfulworld.com, the Tekeyan Cultural Association, the Armenian Constitutional Rights Protective Centre of Armenia and Voices for Freedom.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Boston State House Holds Commemoration of Genocide

COMMEMORATION, from page 1

Mouradian, who has lectured extensively on the Armenian Genocide, said that it was still affecting people today.

“Much of what transpired decades ago, is still very much with us now,” he said. “Not only in survivors and the descendants of survivors, but also in societies of the descendants of the perpetrators and the governments.”

He said that two years ago, on the April 24 Genocide Remembrance Day, he had delivered a talk in Istanbul, Turkey, commemorating the Armenian Genocide.

“I made a point that day to leave one seat at the front vacant,” Mouradian said. The vacant chair was to remind the audience of the assassinated Armenian journalist Hrant Dink. He said that chair was a reminder of the responsibility of standing up as heirs to victims and survivors.

Mouradian said it was always easier to put off standing up for a cause and wait for more favorable circumstances, but that this generation owes it to survivors to remember their struggle. He said the pain of being a survivor was in part reliving their experiences over the intervening years.

Several years ago, he was at a ceremony to again commemorate April 24, said Mouradian. A survivor, who had been asked to recall her experiences during the Genocide again and again over the years, told her story.

“What distinguished her, in my experience, was that while she was telling the story, she would pause, she would start laughing,” said Mouradian. “Then she would apologize and continue the story.”

This happened over and over again while the survivor was recounting her experiences.

“At the end, she said ‘I’m really sorry for laughing, but I’ve run out of tears,’” he recalled.

Many students held up pictures of Genocide survivors from their families, as part of a program suggested by Anahis Kechejian of Arlington, titled “Stand Up for Your Survivor.”

Children from the two area Armenian schools, the Armenian Sisters’ Academy and St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School, sang.

Violinist Haig Hovsepian of Belmont, accompanied by his mother, Ani Hovsepian, performed *Armenian Sketches* by Yervant Sardarian, its US premiere.

A light luncheon was served in the State House after the program.



All members of the clergy assembled at the State House



From left, state Sen. William Brownsberger, Rev. Gregory Haroutunian and state Rep. Jonathan Hecht

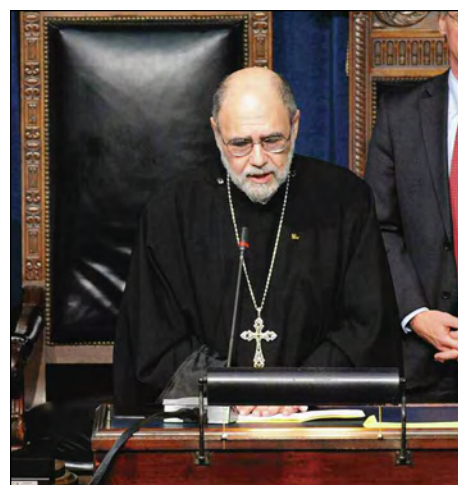


State Rep. Jonathan Hecht

(All photos by Jirair Hovsepian)



Sheriff Peter Koutoujian



Rev. Antranig Baljian



Khatchig Moudarian was the keynote speaker.



Ani Hovsepian on piano and Haig Hovsepian on violin



COMMUNITY NEWS

Mihran Hoplamazian Named Man of the Year of Armenian Community of Detroit

By Pam Coultis

DETROIT – On Saturday, April 14, the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) and the Armenian Democratic Liberal party (ADL) Detroit Chapters hosted their annual fundraiser at the St. John Armenian Church Cultural Hall. The theme for this year was two-fold: celebrating 20 years of Tekeyan's cultural and educational mission in Armenia and honoring as "Man of the Year" Mihran Hoplamazian for his steadfast support of the



Hagop Alexanian and Edmond Azadian

Armenian Church, the AGBU School and numerous educational and cultural programs.

The evening began with cocktails and mezza. Spirits were high as guests mingled and congratulated Hoplamazian, his wife, Gayle, and their children.



Edmond Azadian and Mihran Hoplamazian with the Man of the Year award

Dinner began with an opening prayer by Rev. Garabed Kochakian. Music by violinist Harry Hovagimian accompanied dinner and had many guests humming along with the familiar Armenian melodies sweetly resonating throughout the hall.

The program began with opening remarks by Doug Smith including a brief history of the TCA. Edmond Azadian followed with a moving tribute to Hoplamazian, acknowledging his years of service to the metro-Detroit Armenian community. Ending the program, Hoplamazian thanked everyone present for attending and Tekeyan for the tribute. He spoke of his father and mother's great love for this country, their devotion to family and how their example set the course for his life.



Marie Azadian, Mihran Hoplamazian, Gail Hoplamazian and Megerditch Azadian



Committee members, standing, from left, Diana Alexanian, Hagop Alexanian, Levon Nazoyan, Suzanne Nazoyan, Hovsep Koundakdjian, Garine Koundakdjian and Doug Smith; seated, Edmond and Nora Azadian



Chairman Hagop Alexanian opened the event.



Mihran Hoplamazian and Edmond Azadian



Nora Azadian and Hasmig Shirvanyan



From left, Greg Jamian, Rick Santourian and Carmen Santourian

A musical interlude by vocalist (and deacon) Rubik Mailian, accompanied on the piano by Margaret Lafian, included Armenian folk and patriotic songs bringing guests to their feet with applause.

Event co-chair and ADL chair, Hagop Alexanian, took a moment to thank the committee for their hard work and their continuing commitment to all things Armenian.

These fundraisers provide funds to support four schools in Armenia and one in Karabagh for its "Sponsor a Teacher" program as well support for the Orphans Higher Education Fund. In keeping with their cultural mission, this year a part of the proceeds were earmarked for the St. John Armenian Church Gomidas Choir.

The 2012 Tekeyan/ADL Committee members are Nora Azadian, Edmond Azadian, Ara Belian, Hagop Alexanian, Diana Alexanian, Mike Arzoumanian, Sebouh Avedikian, Zabel Belian, Barbara Haroutunian, Karen Koundjakian, Suzanne Nazoyan, Marina Papasian, Hagop Minassian and Dr. Gary Zamanigian.

Arts & Living

Egoyan Revisits 'Ararat' at Univ. Of Michigan

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Award-winning director, producer and screen playwright Atom Egoyan discussed his film, "Ararat" on March 19, at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, at the invitation of the Armenian Studies Program at that university. Egoyan was the designated 2012 Dr. Berj H. Haidostian Annual Distinguished Lecturer, on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the release of that film.

With 14 films and related projects to his credit, Egoyan has won numerous internationally-recognized awards including five prizes at the Cannes Film Festival, two Academy award nominations, eight Genie Awards as well as awards at film festivals in Hamburg, Tokyo, Jerusalem, Reykjavik, Las Palmas, Hong Kong, Cairo and Athens. In 2010 Egoyan had a retrospective of his films at the Filmoteca Espagnol in Madrid, following similar events in previous years in Paris and New York.

In this lecture, titled "Ararat-10 Years After," Egoyan discussed the genesis of the idea for that work, the challenges he faced when making it and the various and conflicting responses he received following the release of "Ararat."

Egoyan's thought-provoking lecture, attended by a large and diverse public and web cast live, was followed by an extended period of questions and answers. The session will be made available on the program's website, (www.ii.umich.edu/asp/events/video).

The family of the late Dr. Berj H. Haidostian, a prominent and devoted physician, established the lecture series in honor of his long relationship with the University of Michigan and the Armenian Studies Program. Recent Haidostian Distinguished Lecturers have included Dr. Gerard Chaliand of Paris, Dr. Fiona Hill of the Brookings Institution, Thomas de Waal of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Dr. Vartan Gregorian of the Carnegie Foundation, Armenia's former Ambassador to the US Arman Kirakosian and former US Ambassador to Armenia John Evans.

Egoyan's lecture highlighted a year rich with public lectures, marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History and the Armenian Studies Program itself.

In addition to events related to the 30th anniversary, the fall 2011 schedule included lectures by Professors Kevork Bardakjian, "How to Petition for Poetic Grace?: Kostandin Erznkac'i's 'Strange' Vision-poem," Ronald Suny, "The New Turkey and the Issue of Genocide: Armenians in a Progressive Imagination" and Gerard Libaridian, "From Historian to Accidental Diplomat: The Writing of History Before & After Participating in its Making," of the University of Michigan; Prof. Azat Yeghiazaryan, Yerevan, "Charents and Revolution" and Prof. Artin Aslanian of Maris College, New York, "The British Imperial Ethos: Britain & Transcaucasia, 1917-1920."

The public lectures in the Winter 2012 semester included Dr. Hikmet Hadjy-Zadeh, Baku, "Azerbaijan: 20 Years of Independence," and Manoogian Simone Post-doctoral Fellows Dr. Levon Petrosyan, "Gregory of Narek and the Narekian Fathers: The Mystery of Love from the *Commentary of Song of Songs to the Book of Lamentations*" and Dr. Arsen Saparov "Why Autonomy? The Making of Nagorno-Karabagh 1918-1925."

Videos of these lectures are available at <http://www.ii.umich.edu/asp/events/video>.



Peter Balakian addresses the audience.

Balakian Is Seventh Recipient of Spendlove Prize for Social Justice

MERCED, Calif. — Peter Balakian became the seventh recipient of the Spendlove Prize for Social Justice, Tolerance and Diplomacy on Thursday, April 12. The ceremony was held in the Kolligian Library on the University of California, Merced, campus. The prize, endowed by Dr. Sherrie Spendlove in honor of her parents, Alice and Clifford Spendlove, has been awarded to distinguished figures including President Jimmy Carter; Charles J. Ogletree Jr., director of the Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard University; and Sara O'Meara and Yvonne Fedderson, founders of Childhelp.

In her introduction, Spendlove said: "You may know that President Jimmy Carter was our fifth prize recipient two years ago. No less important to the Spendlove Prize is our seventh prize recipient, Peter Balakian, 'the American conscience of the Armenian Genocide.' As the template for 20th century genocide, including the Holocaust, Poland, Rwanda, Cambodia and Darfur to mention only some, it is especially important that the Armenian Genocide be restored to our national and international history and social conscience. Peter Balakian's work is helping to bring this important and tragic story to the forefront to affect a healing process necessary for survivors and perpetrators alike and the descendants of both. Knowledge and understanding of how genocide happens can help prevent future genocide."

Spendlove also paid tribute to the contributions of Armenians as she noted that "Turkey's loss has been our gain both in our region and in our nation as so many see BALAKIAN, page 12



Peter Balakian, second from left, with donor Sherrie Spendlove, Prof. Eric Camfield and UC Regent, Frederick Ruiz

'Here': Directed by Braden King

By Christopher Atamian

LOS ANGELES (moviefone.com) — Braden King's recently-released feature film, "Here," reminds us of cinema's magical, almost limitless narrative and aesthetic possibilities. Shot entirely on location in the Republic of Armenia,

Movie Review

"Here" is a metaphysical, philosophical road film, a love

story and travelogue, a meditation on technology's effects on contemporary society and much more, a study on love, loss and the human condition that leaves the viewer at once emotionally spent and renewed, as paradoxical as this may sound.

Red haired, unshaven, rugged loner and American cartographer Will (Ben Foster) has been hired by local Armenian businessmen (read: mafiosi) to chart the Republic of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. Fiercely independent and unwilling to bow to Armenian dictates about women's proper roles in society, photographer Gadariné (Lubna Azabal of "Incendies" fame) plays the role of a prodigal daughter who has returned home, if briefly, after a successful Parisian opening. Will and Gadariné meet by chance and more or less instantly fall in love, though King has the cinematic foresight to draw their courtship out for close to an hour as the Armenian countryside unravels before their



Lubna Azabal and Ben Foster in a scene from "Here"

and the audience's eyes. Braden's Armenia is all mountains and valleys, running rivers and country villages, a charming if wild and rough-hewn sort of place. When the two lovers stop near the Karabagh border to enjoy a hot spring that Gadariné remembers from her childhood, the camera and action are so realistic and still, the acting so true to life that one almost feels as if one were swimming alongside the two actors — a lovely instance of participatory cinematic voyeurism. Using Google Maps a bit farther on, Will shows one of Gadariné's friends the exact location of his house in San Francisco and in the process reveals the existentially remarkable changes that technology has wrought on our sense of place and scale: What does it mean to be able to show your home on a map to someone 3,000 miles away, and what does it really change to our daily lives? Does it bring us closer, or as King perhaps is unconsciously suggesting here, does it further alienate us by giving us an impression of closeness and proximity that is in the end all but illusory? (One wonders what Baudrillard would have thought of Google maps!)

King bookends and intercuts "Here" with stunning visual effects: dark screens dotted with lights, celestial maps that mirror the ones see HERE, page 13



ARTS & LIVING

Benefit Concert Brings in \$60,000 to Support Youth Programs in Boston Community

BOSTON – On Saturday, March 31, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) New England District, with the support of the AGBU New York Special Events Committee (NYSEC), transformed the Harvard Club into a concert hall for an evening full of classical and traditional Armenian music. Performances by recipients of the AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship, who are among the 500 students supported annually by the organization's Scholarship Program, helped raise close to \$60,000, which will benefit the district's youth initiatives.

The success of the event, which featured the work of composers Aram Khachaturian, Felix Mendelssohn and Sergei Rachmaninoff, among others, was celebrated both on and off the stage by its award-winning artists and guests. Conductor Aram Demirjian, who led a range of ensembles with mezzo-soprano Solange Merdinian, said, "I was honored to be asked to be involved in my second AGBU Performing Artists Concert. Those featured on the program are not only some of my favorite artists to work

with, but some of my favorite people to be around in the profession, and I am proud to be able to call them my colleagues and friends."

Those friends included cellist Ani Kalayjian, violinist Henrik Karapetyan, marimba soloist Sylvie Zakarian, soprano singer Knarik Nerkararyan and pianists Karen Hakobyan and Sofya Melikyan.

The alumni's talents attracted both music lovers and public figures alike, notably Frederic Lefebvre, France's minister of trade. Lefebvre joined AGBU patrons for a post-concert reception, where he discussed France's commitment to the Armenian community and reaffirmed President Nicolas Sarkozy's efforts to criminalize the denial of the Armenian Genocide. He also took time to meet personally with performers and audience members.

Concert Committee Chair Salpie Takadjian noted the overwhelmingly positive response she received from many of the 150 guests throughout the night, prompting her to begin planning events of the same caliber. She congratulated the performers, commenting, "shar-



Artists supported by AGBU's Scholarship Program perform classical and traditional Armenian music at the Boston fundraiser.



Ara Balikian, on the left, AGBU New England District chair, with AGBU Performing Arts Fellowship recipients at the Harvard Club of Boston and on the right, Salpie Takadjian, concert committee chair

ing the talents of these young musicians with the audience was a pleasure, working with them was a privilege and listening to them was inspiring."


District Chair Ara Balikian echoed those sentiments while noting that with the performance, the new Executive Committee of the New England district provided a cultural experience for the New England community. The committee, formed in fall 2011, is off to a promising start, and as Balikian added, "under the new direction of the AGBU New England District, we are proud to offer events such as this magnificent concert, along with the variety of functions we are holding at our center, to promote and preserve our culture."

With proceeds from the concert, the concept for which was originated by NYSEC, even more AGBU initiatives will be made possible. In addition to under-

writing programs for youth and university students, the donations will be used to renovate the center's facilities, creating a hub of activity for AGBU volunteers and supporters.





Frederic Lefebvre, France's minister of trade (right), listens to words of appreciation from Ara Balikian, AGBU New England District chair.



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Job Opening

Visitor Services Associate

The Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) is seeking a Visitor Services Associate. This position calls for an individual who enjoys working with the public and has an appreciation for the fine arts. The Visitor Services Associate will be responsible for handling the front desk and the gift shop during the museum's open hours: Wed, Sat, Sun: 12-6 pm, Thurs & Fri: 12-8pm; greeting museum visitors and tour groups in a friendly and positive manner, coordinating membership sign-ups and renewals, ensuring that the appearance of the gallery and gift shop is well maintained, preparing weekly visitor and gift shop reports, and performing other duties as assigned.

Qualifications: Good communication skills, basic computer skills, and a professional appearance and mannerism required. The ability to work during all or most of the museum's open hours. Knowledge of Armenian culture and history a plus. Hourly rate commensurate with experience.

Please send letter of interest and resume to: Search Committee, ALMA, 65 Main street, Watertown, MA 02472, or via e-mail hr@almainc.org - No phone inquiries please.



ARTS & LIVING

Melikian Hayes Awarded Gold Medal for Religious Painting

NEW YORK – On March 9, Mary Melikian Hayes was awarded the gold medal for a pastel on papyrus work, titled “Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego” (the three), during the 113th annual exhibition of artists of the National Arts Club.

Haynes’ painting depicts the story of three persons in the Old Testament known for their exclusive love of God and how they emerged unscathed from a pyre in which they were to be burned alive.



“The Three” by Mary Melikian Hayes



“Eden” by Mary Melikian Hayes

Balakian Is Seventh Recipient of Spendlove Prize for Social Justice

BALAKIAN, from page 10

Armenian-American children of survivors have become distinguished in their chosen fields and have thus moved the consciousness of our civilization forward. The descendants of the Armenian Genocide have not just survived, but thrived. Armenians have flourished and blossomed wherever they have been planted. As you do today, your forbears before you distinguished themselves and added to the commu-

nities and nations within which they found themselves.

“In spite of this fact, present-day Turkey bears a heavy karmic debt which can only be discharged with amends made with an open heart and mind. The recognition of the Armenian Genocide is essential for the healing of survivors and perpetrators alike, their descendents and observers then as well as now. What happens to one of us, happens to us all. Genocide

in any part of the world in any epoch is an affront to humanity everywhere in every time.”

In his acceptance speech, Balakian noted: “While I’m happy and honored to be accepting this prize today, I accept the prize with many others in mind who are working for social justice around the world and often giving their lives for ethical commitments and causes, and with all those who have made such essential contributions to the scholarly

study of the Armenian Genocide. I also feel that as you honor me, more importantly, you honor the issue of the Armenian Genocide as an ongoing history that embodies various and profound dimensions of tragedy, human survival, resilience and affirmation; a history that carries with it an open wound that still haunts its legacy because of the Turkish government’s continued, multimillion-dollar campaign of denial.”

Balakian went on to discuss the need for bystanders to act. “I hope all of us here and on your campus and in all our communities, make a lifelong pledge to step up, step in, act – when you see a circumstance of cruelty, injustice or abuses of power happening. We can all be active bystanders whether it’s standing up to governments that deny responsibility for human rights crimes or to individuals who are abusing or bullying innocent people in our own daily lives. It makes a difference if we all get involved as citizens in social justice issues in one’s community, state, nation, or wider world. Action guided by knowledge and conscience is a powerful thing.”

Balakian gave two lectures at UC Merced and then completed the prize ceremonies on Friday, April 13 at Fresno State University, where he gave two more lectures and was hosted by Professors Barlow der Mugrdechian and Sergio La Porta, Iberian Chair in Armenian Studies; and Fresno community leader Larry Balakian.

Peter Balakian is the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the department of English at Colgate University and the author of many books including *Black Dog of Fate*, winner of the PEN/Albrand Prize, *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America’s Response*, which won the Raphael Lemkin Prize, and six books of poems, most recently, *Ziggurat*.

ARMENIANS IN THE NEWS

Watertown usually takes second billing to Boston as a place for fun tourist attractions. However, this month’s issue of *AAA Southern New England* lists highlights tourist attractions located in the town just six miles from Boston, in an article by **Sandra Narinian**. Among that list is the **Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA)**, which is said to hold items dating back 3,000 years, including manuscripts, tapestries and artifacts.

When one thinks jazz, Ethiopia might not spring to mind. However, for Russ Gershon, a Grammy-nominated arranger of music, he recently became aware of Ethiopia’s contributions to jazz when he received a CD, titled “Ethiopian Groove: The Golden Seventies.” Jazz was big in

Ethiopia until the time Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie was deposed. February’s issue of *Boston Magazine* notes that Gershon performed his Ethiopia-influenced work at the Institute for Contemporary Art, featuring selections from rarely-heard pieces by **Nerses Nalbandian**, the music director of the Haile Selassie National Theatre during the 1950s and 1960s.

In the March 18 issue of the *Boston Globe*, staff photographer **Aram Boghosian** is given credit for his photograph of Salma Hayek and Kevin James in a scene from the film, “Here Comes the Boom.”

In this month’s issue of the *Ladies Home Journal*, **Anna A. Varjian** appears on the masthead for her position as editorial business analyst.



Kev Orkian

In a recent issue of the *Improper Bostonian*, comedian/actor/musician **Kev Orkian** appears on the “Improper Sightings” page playfully holding a copy of the magazine to his lips.



ARTS & LIVING

Maryland Museum Wins Grant to Digitize Medieval Books

BALTIMORE (AP) — The National Endowment for the Humanities is awarding the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore a \$265,000 grant to digitize, catalog and distribute 113 medieval Flemish manuscripts, including a collection of prayer books adorned with gold.

The three-year grant announced late last month will digitize 45,000 pages of text and more than 3,000 pages of illumination from the 13th through 16th centuries in present-day France and Belgium.

The museum says a highlight will be the digitization of 80 *Books of Hours*, which were prayer books that were best sellers in the Middle Ages.

This is the third digitization grant for the museum since 2008. At that time, the museum was awarded \$307,000 to digitize Islamic manuscripts. The work continues with a \$315,000 grant to digitize Armenian, Byzantine, Dutch, English, Ethiopian and German manuscripts.

'Here': Directed By Braden King

HERE, from page 10

that Will is trying to map, as Peter Coyote's sultry voice-overs lull one into a semi-meditative state. King also intercuts the narrative with experimental films by directors such as Gariné Torossian. "Here" is a particularly rich film because the director is able to successfully explore theoretical and structural issues as well as tell a story, exposing us to narrative film, experimental film and video art all at once.

As the road, seemingly unending, continues to wind, we slowly learn about Will and Gadariné's inner lives, as well as the similarities that draw them together: both are fiercely independent, both in love with adventure. And Lol Crowley's cinematography is simply stunning at times, all about the play of light against dark. The portraits that he and Braden draw of local Armenians torn apart by war, distance and simply old age, are also remarkably touching.

If you want to be reminded of film's ability to transport the viewer to a different, parallel reality, then "Here" is a must-see. The pace is slow at times, but it is the same slowness that leads a mountain spring down a hill or the human heart back home.

("Here" has opened in New York and Los Angeles.)

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Islamic and Indian Treasures

By Margaret Studer

LONDON (*Wall Street Journal*) — Auctions of art from India and the Islamic world are among my favorites. So many objects are exquisitely made, bursting with color and historically compelling. These regions will lead at London auction houses next week as painting, calligraphy, pottery, metalwork, glass, ornate weapons, textiles, jewelry and coins go under the hammer.

Morton & Eden, in association with Sotheby's, will hold a 164-lot sale of Islamic coins on Monday.

The auction will be headed by a gold dinar dating back to 708 AD that is expected to fetch £800,000-£1 million. The coin is believed to have been struck from gold produced from the Mine of the Commander of the Faithful, a legendary site northwest of Mecca. In April of last year, a gold coin from the same mine was sold for £3.72 million, the highest price ever paid for a coin at a European auction. "The sale attracted tremendous interest," says specialist Tom Eden.

Bonhams will follow on Tuesday with a general sale that includes delightful 16th- and 17th-century Iznik pottery from Turkey and 17th- and 19th-century Indian miniatures. "The Turkish and Indian markets are extremely strong," says Bonhams specialist Alice Bailey. An Iznik dish from circa 1750, decorated with cobalt-blue peonies, is expected to fetch £50,000-£70,000; and an Indian miniature from circa 1840 featuring the Maharaja of Jodhpur talking to a prince on a palace terrace, both dressed in fiery orange robes, a more moderate £3,000-£4,000.

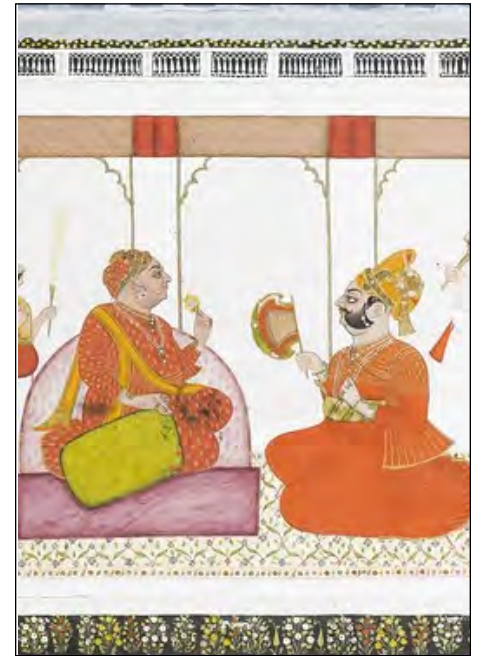
Tuesday through Thursday, Sotheby's will hold a series of sales covering Classical to contemporary art and objects. For the first time, Sotheby's will include an Orientalist auction in its Islamic week. Up until now, this sector—primarily consisting of works by 19th-century Western artists visiting North African and Middle Eastern countries—was embedded in sales of 19th-century European art. "Orientalist art has traditionally attracted a great number of 19th-century collectors. Then, in the early 21st century, there was a rise in interest from the regions where the paintings were made. Now there are synergies with Islamic sales," notes Sotheby's specialist Claude Piening.

The most highly estimated work in Sotheby's 33-lot "Masterpiece" Orientalist sale is "The Scholar" (1878) by Turkish artist Osman Hamdi Bey, included because he was the first Turkish artist to use a European painting style. In this captivating work, a man lies in an elaborately decorated corner of a mosque reading a book (estimate: £3 million-£5 million).

Another top lot will be Ivan Aivazovsky's breathtaking "View of Constantinople and the Bosphorus" (1856), estimated at £1.2 million-£1.8 million. Fascinated by the Orient, the Russian artist of Armenian descent became a court painter to Ottoman sultans.

Sotheby's general sale will also have a superb weapons section, headed by a 17th-century Ottoman dagger of gold and jade, estimated at £400,000-£600,000.

Christie's will hold a number of sales during the week. On Thursday, a private collection of works on paper, donated to benefit the University of Oxford, will be spearheaded by a 13th-century example of "mufradat" by Islam's most famous calligrapher, Yaqut Al-Musta'simi. (Mufradat demonstrate the perfect way to com-



This Indian miniature of the Maharaja of Jodhpur in discussion with a prince on a palace terrace (circa 1840) is estimated at £3,000-£4,000.

bine letters). "It is absolutely gorgeous," says Christie's specialist William Robinson (estimate: £800,000-£1.2 million).

Another gem will be a 16th-century *Quran*, written entirely in gold (estimate: £200,000-£300,000).

On the same day, Christie's general 373-lot sale will include highlights such as a 13th-century glass bottle from Syria, decorated with Arabic and Greek Byzantine inscriptions and small animals (estimate: £600,000-£800,000).

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

APRIL 28 — Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Armenian International Women's Association, speaker Judy Norsigian, executive director, Boston Women's Health Book Collective. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Winchester Country Club. Members, \$35; non-members, \$45. Info and reservations, (617) 926-0171, aiwainc@aol.com or www.aiwainc.org.

MAY 24 — Celebrating 80 years and beyond, Benefit Gala of the Armenian Mirror-Spectator. Thursday, reception, 6:30 p.m.; dinner 7:30 p.m., Boston Royal Sonesta, Cambridge. Keynote speaker, Vigen Sargsyan, chief of staff of the President of the Republic of Armenia. 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award will be bestowed upon Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, chancellor and president emeritus of Bentley University; 2012 Award of Excellence will be bestowed upon Janet Shamalian, national correspondent for "NBC News" from Texas, and Charles Mahtesian, Politico national policy editor, Washington, DC. For information, call (617) 359-0413.

NEW JERSEY

MAY 19, 2012 — HMADS Gala Dinner Dance. Details to follow, June 25. HMADS 30th Commencement Exercise at 8 p.m., Kalustyan Hall.

OCTOBER 28 — Save the date. The Armenian American Support and Educational Center, Hye Doon, celebrates its 35th anniversary. Felician College, Lodi. With the participation of Akh'tamar Dance Ensemble and other talented guest performances. Details to follow.

NEW YORK

APRIL 28 — Rebirth Concert: dedicated to the 20th anniversary of both the Armenian National Military and Armenia's membership to the United Nations. Organized by the Tekeyan Cultural Association of NY/NJ. With the participation of renowned artists from Armenia and the Philharmonic Symphonic Orchestra of Rhode Island, to take place at 8 p.m.; the Merkin Concert Hall of Kaufman center, 129 West 67th St., New York City. Save the date. Details to follow.



On May 12, Shushi Dance Ensemble, pictured above, will host a dinner-dance in celebration of both the 20th anniversary of Shushi's liberation, as well as Mother's Day, at Kavookjian Hall, 630 Second Ave., New York City.

MAY 12 — Shushi hosts a Gala Dinner Dance for an evening of "Celebration," 20th anniversary of Shushi's liberation, Mother's Day. Anniversary of Shushi Dance Ensemble, Kavookjian Hall, 630 Second Ave., New York City. Details to follow.

SEPTEMBER 29 — Save the date. Armenia Fund 20th Anniversary Gala, 7 p.m. at Gotham Hall in New York City.



COMMENTARY

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COMMENTARY

A Million Person March on Washington

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Judge Lisa Asadoorian is one of many prominent young judges in Michigan. Although she is not actively involved in any particular Armenian organization, her heart is in the right place. She cares about her own people, both in the diaspora and Armenia.

Last Sunday, when she was attending a panel discussion on the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, she came up with the idea of 1 million people (both Armenian and non-Armenian) marching on Washington and demanding Genocide recognition. She believes that neither the government nor the media can remain indifferent. There will be some positive reactions and certainly media coverage to mark the centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

Any mention of a million-person march on Washington brings back the memory of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who broadcast to the world that he had "a dream," a dream for African-Americans and a dream for America.

Any person who entertains such an all-encompassing dream must be ready to sacrifice his or her life no matter how peaceful the dream may be. Socrates had a dream, Christ had a dream, leaders of the French and Bolshevik revolutions had dreams and they all paid for their dreams with their lives. Dr. King was cognizant of the perils of entertaining such a monumental dream, and he was ready to pay the ultimate price, which unfortunately for all humankind, he did. He sacrificed his life, but his dream continued marching and gradually transforming the country into a more tolerant society, with a stronger sense of social justice.

Judge Asadoorian may be a naïve person, unaware of the potentials of our community, or she may be a visionary. That remains to be seen in the years to come when the entire community gears up to make an impact on the consciences of the politicians.

We are being warned that the Turks are preparing their preemptive strike, even before the Armenians make the first. They have the resources and friends in higher positions to achieve their goals.

Armenians are slumbering and no major idea or project seems to be on the drawing boards to mark the centennial. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to bounce this million-person idea with our public, and find out how receptive the public is to the idea. If nothing else, such a massive show of force will certainly help generate new ideas and prospects for ourselves.

Some caveats are warranted here. In the first place we do not have a million bodies to lead them on a march to Washington.

Second, it is doubtful whether a considerable number of non-Armenians could be interested enough to march in Washington. We claim to represent a force of one million Armenians in the US. Some of them aren't even aware that they are being counted in that million. Others may be cruising the oceans leisurely, the Genocide being the last things on their minds. Still others are incarcerated in California jails for petty thefts and a large number may be chasing the American Dream rather than Martin Luther King's dream. Our computation fails here. It fails unfortunately because we cannot count how many Armenians are left with a dream and how many can take the trouble and expense to show up in Washington.

However, if a million march catches the imagination of all or most of the Armenian organizations, they can pool together enough resources and people to deliver an impressive march, all dressed in black and with the slogan "Genocide recognition now."

In that case, some politicians may be ready to pay the Armenians lip service, their next election on their minds. President Harry Truman had a scathing definition for politicians; he said in his youth he aspired to become either a piano player in a whorehouse or a politician, and concluded that there isn't too much difference between the two.

As to the role of the media, we are not very certain if they would be willing to give full coverage, because we have seen in the past thousands of people rallying in Washington in support of a legitimate cause, but cynically, little or no coverage has been given, because the media moguls did not have any interest in the cause.

A gay-rights parade or a politicized shooting of a young man may enjoy better media coverage, than, let us say, the fate of 4,500 members of the armed forces killed in Iraq or the 50,000 maimed soldiers. Media networks have their own priorities, which are not based on justice only, but on what sells products.

Rupert Murdoch's media empire is crumbling under its own weight in the United Kingdom, because it has been trampling upon its advocated set of values, principles and codes of conduct.

We are not privy yet to plans for a mass action to mark the Genocide centennial. A million-strong march may be an option, no matter what. Even if it only proves to ourselves that we do have the political will and we can mobilize masses for a cause.

A million-person march can be achieved through community-wide cooperation, unity of purpose and action. Before marching to Washington we have to explore and discover whether we possess the necessary tools for the project.

First we have to define for ourselves why Genocide recognition is relevant after 97 years and also, what to anticipate after its centennial is marked.

If it were a moral or emotional issue it would have been forgotten a long time ago. There are certain underlying principles that should not go away even after one century from the event. The recognition of the Genocide is still relevant for the following reasons: To bring closure to the loss and the memory of 1.5 million innocent victims; to restore justice between the two nations – a justice that the international community dispenses selectively to achieve some self-serving goals and to set the stage for future political settlement between the two nations.

The fact that Turkey is still so irritable and overreacts every time a country intends or attempts to recognize the Armenian Genocide, Armenia and its political claims, means that they constitute an existential threat for Turkey, which was the original cause of the Genocide. Even Turkey has to gradually face the issue of recognizing the Genocide. As long as the recognition issue remains alive, every civilized political act becomes relevant and necessary.

We need a dream to march in Washington. Perhaps a fragment of that dream concludes the million-strong march at the gates of the Armenian Genocide Museum on its dedication day.

The Chinese have a saying: A 10,000-mile march begins with the first step.

Are we ready to take that first step?

Jews Becoming Increasingly Aware of Armenian Genocide and its Commemoration

By Adam Taxin

Spurred in part by the current Recep Tayyip Erdogan-led Turkish government's increasing tilt toward Iran and hostility toward Israel, members of local Jewish communities are paying more, some might say overdue attention to the Armenian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire during World War I, as well as to the Turkish government's continuing minimization of the numbers and nature of the massacres that occurred.

In April 1915, with World War I underway, the Turkish-dominated government of the Ottoman Empire systematically and quite horrifically murdered somewhere between 1 and 1.5 million of its Armenian (Christian) citizens, in the event that has become known as the Armenian Genocide.

The massacres have been recognized as a

"genocide" by 22 countries, including Uruguay (the first to do so, in 1965), Canada, Argentina, Sweden, Vatican City, Russia, Germany, Venezuela and Lebanon but not the United States or Israel. Forty-three individual US states – Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware all included – have recognized the massacres as a "genocide."

The official Turkish position, in place since the Young Turks' reform government took power shortly after World War I, states there was no will by the Ottoman government to exterminate the Armenian population and that the 1915 massacres were simply the consequences of war. Last year, around this time, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu condemned President Barack Obama's statement marking the 96th anniversary of the 1915 events (which stopped short of recognizing the events as a "genocide"). Mentioning his wish that President Obama would share Turks' pain from the World War I era,

Davutoglu also added that "a one-sided statement is not sufficient from the viewpoint of understanding historical events."

Israel's position on this issue has been complicated by the fact that Turkey was, in 1949, the first Muslim state to recognize Israel. Israel has had a much more cooperative relationship for decades with Turkey than with other neighboring Muslim countries, although this relationship has lately been in a state of deterioration. Most notably, this deterioration became obvious in late May 2010, when Israeli forces raided a Turkish aid flotilla aiming to violate Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, claiming nine lives. The Turkish government has described this event as an act of "state terror" on Israel's part.

Pro-Israel and Jewish organizations, if not necessarily Jewish religious groups, have in the past been active in working against efforts to label the massacres of 1915 a "genocide." In see AWARENESS, page 15



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Armenian-Americans Preparing Special Welcome for Pres. Aliyev in New York

How could the warmongering President of Azerbaijan chair next month the UN Security Council, the prestigious body that is supposed to promote peace and security in the world? Unfortunately, such an outrage is possible simply because it is Azerbaijan's turn to take over the rotating chairmanship of the Security Council during the month of May.

Given Ilham Aliyev's daily anti-Armenian rhetoric, no one should be surprised that he will try to transform that august body's podium into a new battlefield. Fortunately, his military has neither the training nor the motivation to use the highly sophisticated weapons, including the ones Baku purchased recently from Israel for \$1.6 billion. Given Azerbaijan's inability to unleash an actual war against Artsakh (Karabagh), and fearing that such a military confrontation may end with the loss of more territories and devastate his country's petroleum industry and oil pipelines, Aliyev is trying to distract his destitute people's attention by issuing threats and engaging in a war of words with Armenians.

The problem is that Azeris at home won't be the only ones listening to Aliyev's hostile words. Taking special note of his saber-rattling at the UN will be the countries bor-

dering Azerbaijan — Iran, Turkey and Russia. For them, Azerbaijan acting as a surrogate for Israel in their backyard is an alarming development. Should Israel attack Iran by using Azerbaijan's air bases, Iran may retaliate by annexing Azerbaijan, since there are many more Azeris in Northern Iran than in all of Azerbaijan.

Aliyev's UN diatribe will probably include some of the same hostile words that he has used recently in Baku: He called Armenians "fascists" and described them as the number-one enemy of Azerbaijan. He then blamed "the Armenian lobby" for being his "number-one enemy." Using language borrowed from anti-Semites, and substituting "Armenians" for "Jews," Aliyev made the following racist accusation: "The scope of their influence is quite broad. They [Armenians] are represented in the leading print media outlets of various countries. Sometimes they go under different names and hide their ethnic origin." Aliyev's on-going hate-filled speeches provide the best evidence as to why Artsakh Armenians can never again live under his despotic regime.

Aliyev also criticized Armenians for calling Azerbaijan "backward and undemocratic." These terms accurately describe his country's dismal human rights record. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the European Parliament, the State Department and the Western media have repeatedly criticized Azerbaijan for violating the rights of countless journalists, bloggers, dissidents and opposition members.

Eduard Sharmazanov, deputy speaker of the Armenian Parliament, gave an adequate response to Aliyev last week, when the latter bragged that "the day will come when the Azerbaijani flag will fly in Khankendi (Stepanakert) and Shusha (Shushi)." Sharmazanov quipped that only when Azerbaijan recognizes the independence of the Republic of Artsakh and establishes diplomatic relations with it, only then can the Azeri flag fly in Artsakh, at its embassy!

To counter Aliyev's war of words against Armenia, Artsakh and the Diaspora, Armenian-Americans, along

with human rights activists and Azeri dissidents will raise their voices in protest in front of the UN headquarters at the beginning of May, as Azerbaijan's president is spewing his usual anti-Armenian venom inside.

It is too bad that Aliyev is not planning on coming to the West Coast where the large Armenian community would have welcomed him with massive protests against his hate-filled speeches and appearances.

Nevertheless, the California-Armenian community could take advantage of Aliyev's US visit by urging the State legislature to adopt Assembly Concurrent Resolution 96 that commemorates the massacres of Armenians in Sumgait, Kirovabad and Baku.

Violating US laws and established diplomatic protocol, the Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Los Angeles has sent a lengthy letter to all members of the California State Assembly urging them not to support this bill. The letter, signed by Ramil Gurbanov, acting consul general of Azerbaijan, is obviously written by one of the multi-million-dollar lobbying firms hired by that country. The letter contains many ridiculous statements, but that is not the concern of the "hired guns." They will do anything to keep their Azeri paymasters happy, as long as they are compensated handsomely for their dirty work.

Armenian-Americans on the West Coast should contact their State Assemblymen, as well as Assembly members Felipe Fuentes, Katcho Achadjian and Mike Gatto, co-authors of Resolution 96, to urge them to bring this bill to a vote on the occasion of President Aliyev's arrival on US soil. Meanwhile, Armenian-Americans on the East Coast should turn out in large numbers in front of the UN building in early May to protest President Aliyev's racist remarks as "Chairman" of the UN Security Council!

The Armenian community should also complain to Federal and State authorities about the Azerbaijani Consulate's illegal interference in domestic US matters and demand the expulsion of Ramil Gurbanov from the US as a "persona non grata."

Jews Becoming Increasingly Aware of Armenian Genocide and its Commemoration

AWARENESS, from page 14

An August 2007 statement, Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), while mentioning that "the painful events of 1915-1918 perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenians [were] massacres and atrocities," stated that "[the ADL continues] to firmly believe that a Congressional resolution on such matters is a counterproductive diversion and will not foster reconciliation between Turks and Armenians and may put at risk the Turkish Jewish community and the important multilateral relationship between Turkey, Israel and the United States."

As described in a June 2010 *Washington Times* article, titled "American Jewish community ends support of Turkish interests on Hill," pro-Israel groups have changed their tune considerably toward Turkish interests in general in the last two years or so. In October 2000, for example, the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) was directly involved in providing grassroots support, with the help of the State Department, in lobbying President Bill Clinton to write to then-House Speaker Dennis Hastert to say that bringing a vote on commemorating the Armenian Genocide would cause strategic damage to the US's strategic relationship with a crucial NATO ally.

This coming Saturday, April 28, hundreds of Philadelphia-area residents are expected to attend the annual Philadelphia Armenian Genocide Walk for Justice. The date of the event was selected to correspond to the week of the 97th anniversary of the beginning of the Genocide, in the form of the April 24, 1915 round-up and massacre in Constantinople (now Istanbul) of hundreds of Armenian poets, musicians, publicists, editors, lawyers, doctors, deputies and other intellectuals.

The event on Saturday will consist of a two-mile walk commencing at the Philadelphia Art Museum, followed by a cultural performance and remarks from political and civic leaders.

Starting at noon, hundreds will gather at the Mher Statue by the Philadelphia Museum of Art and will walk through the streets of Philadelphia to rally and bring exposure to the cause. At the conclusion of the walk, a program will be held on the lawn of the Independence Visitor Center featuring Turkish scholar, Dr. Taner Akcam as keynote speaker.

Dr. Akcam is a Turkish historian and professor who is considered one of the leading international experts on the Armenian Genocide. Autographed copies of his new book, *The Young Turks' Crime Against Humanity: The Armenian Genocide and Ethnic Cleansing in the Ottoman Empire*, will be available for purchase at a discounted price the day of the event.

The program will also include performances by Jampa Band and Hamazkayin Meghry Dance Group and closing remarks by Dr. Ara Chalian, Armenian National Committee Pennsylvania chairman.

Last year, the event was keynoted by a speech by Armenian-American Los Angeles attorney Mark Geragos, who brought a landmark case to court against the New York Life Insurance Company, which sought payment for life insurance policies of Armenian families victimized during the Genocide. The case settled with over \$20 million in disbursements.

Lance Silver of South Jersey attended the Philadelphia event in April 2010 but regretted that Passover prevented him from doing so again last year. Asked what motivates him as a Jew to support the cause of commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, Silver replied, "To show support and talk to Armenians whose families experienced their Genocide and to sympathize with them because of what happened to us."

Although he had not done so previously, Rabbi Albert Gabbai, of the Center City's Congregation Mikveh Israel, brought up the Armenian Genocide during *shabbas* morning services last year, which happened the *shabbas* before Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day). On one level, Rabbi Gabbai feels a certain responsibility to the numerous Armenian friends he had attending Catholic school while growing up in Cairo, Egypt. Beyond that, however, he expresses a certain duty as a rabbi "to increase awareness of what happened. Many people are simply not aware of this massacre. Our own people having gone through the Holocaust, we know what it means to be persecuted. We have to be able to say that what happened in the 1910s in Turkey was a massacre which occurred because they were Armenians and Christians."

Rabbi Gabbai also last year wrote an op-ed on the subject, titled "It's About Time to Recognize

the Armenian Genocide," which was published last year in the Philadelphia area's *Jewish Exponent* weekly newspaper.

Along similar lines, Rabbi Eliezer Hirsch, of the Congregation Mekor Hebracha in Center City, brought up the topic last year around this time. Rabbi Hirsch takes note of how the book, *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*, considered the leading classic literary novel of the Armenian Genocide, was written by a Viennese Jew, Franz Werfel (for whom there now exists a memorial in the Armenian capital of Yerevan). Rabbi Hirsch points out that "that novel was a particular source of inspiration to many Jews who fought the Nazis in the ghettos during World War II, against all odds." Furthermore, he notes that "the Nazi government banned that book and denied the Armenian Holocaust."

Mildred Weinstock, a 95-year-old former history teacher living in the Art Museum neighborhood, finds the whole issue of Turkish denial of the Armenian Genocide somewhat perplexing. Having attended West Philadelphia High School in the 1930s, she had numerous Armenian friends whose parents were refugees. She notes that the Armenian students tended to be "quiet about what had happened, and they weren't interested in complaining about things. They did very well in school." (According to her, her late husband, former LaBrum & Doak partner Lewis Weinstock, finished second in their class to a first-generation Armenian.) At the same time, she points out that the Armenian Genocide was something she never learned about in school herself or even was part of the history curriculum she taught in the Philadelphia public school system.

Mark Geragos, the keynote speaker at last year's Philadelphia Armenian Genocide Walk, notes why Jews should be particularly sensitive to the memory of the Armenian Genocide: "I think the pre-Holocaust comment by Adolf Hitler of 'Who today still speaks of the massacre of the Armenians?' is enough to show the thread that runs between the two events. And Germany's complicity with the Ottoman Empire [as a World War I ally] was well-documented. The Armenians were kind of a dry run for what later became the Holocaust."

Geragos, while careful not to minimize the Holocaust at all, notes that there actually a "dis-similarity" between the role of the Holocaust in the lives of Jewish-Americans and that of the Armenian Genocide to Armenian-Americans. According to him, "As opposed to the Jewish community, virtually every single Armenian-American has a close relative who survived the Genocide. It was a universal event in the lives of just about every Armenian. I can't think of another parallel to it with any other ethnic group."

On that note, Albert Momjian, an Armenian-American long-time chair of the Family Law Department at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis in Philadelphia, emphasizes that his heritage may make him particularly appreciative of the significance of being a grandparent: "I never had a grand-dad or grand-mom myself. They were all killed in the Genocide. Very few of us had grandparents."

(Adam Taxin is a three-time winner on "Jeopardy," a writer and a lawyer. This commentary originally appeared in the *Philadelphia Examiner* on April 23.)

Notice to Contributors

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

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

tact person and a daytime telephone number.

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



The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

Celebrating 80 Years & Beyond



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MAY 24, 2012

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RECEPTION 6:30 PM • DINNER 7:30 PM



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