

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

In Our 80th Year

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## Genocide Commemoration at State House Takes Place April 20

BOSTON – Each April members of the Armenian community fill the State House to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. This year's event will take place on Friday, April 20, at 10:30 a.m.

The event is both solemn and celebratory.

Delivering the keynote address will be Khatchig Mouradian, the editor of the *Armenian Weekly* newspaper and a PhD candidate at Clark University.

Joint House/Senate Resolutions will be awarded to playwright Joyce Van

Dyke, whose recent play, "Deported/A Dream Play," is the story of her own grandmother, and to former state Sen. Steven Tolman. Performers include students of the Armenian Sisters' Academy and St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School, and Haig Hovsepian on violin accompanied by Ani Hovsepian.

Coordinating the event is Tsolean Sarian, working with state Rep. Jonathan Hecht (D-Watertown), state Rep. John Lawn (D-Watertown) and state Sen. William Brownsberger (D-Belmont) who

host the day.

"The energy put into this event demonstrates the devotion of the entire Armenian-American community, and the many friends of that community, to the commemoration and recognition of the Genocide," said Brownsberger.

A light reception will follow the program. Buses to the State House will leave at 9 a.m. from St. James and St. Stephen's Churches. The bus service is donated by the Knights of Vartan, Ararat Lodge No. 1, and is free.

## Frank Pallone Remains Steadfast Force behind Armenian Caucus

By Aram Arkun  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WASHINGTON – Next year Frank Pallone Jr. will mark his 25th anniversary as a congressman. As the representative of central New Jersey, he made his mark on environmental and health issues. He is a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the highest-ranking Democrat on the latter's Subcommittee on Health. He is a member of some 45 House member caucuses dealing with a range of matters. Armenians know him best as a strong and active voice on Armenian issues in Congress, primarily through the vehicle of the Armenian Caucus.



Rep. Frank Pallone

Pallone related recently in an interview that when he was younger he sometimes would go to Armenian picnics and visit St. Stepanos Armenian Church in Elberon, NJ. He said, "I was always familiar with the Armenian community." In fact, at present, he can see St. Stepanos when he looks out of the window of his home, but despite his physical proximity to an Armenian church, there are not that many Armenians in his Congressional district (the sixth).

It appears that it was luck and the efforts of a particular tenacious Armenian-American that turned the congressman into the staunch defender of Armenians' rights that he is today. He happened to inherit the office manager of his predecessor, a woman named see PALLONE, page 12

## Russia, Armenia Oppose Military Action against Iran

By Tigran Avetisian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Russia and Armenia spoke out on Monday against pos-

sible Western military action against Iran, with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warning of "very serious" consequences for regional security during a visit here.

Speaking after talks with his Armenian counterpart Eduard Nalbandian, Lavrov said attempts to end the West's nuclear standoff with Tehran by force would destabilize not only the Middle East but also the South Caucasus.

"It is hard to predict consequences [of military action] but they would obviously be very serious and negative," he told a joint news conference. "It would affect the security of not only Armenia but also Azerbaijan given the fact see IRAN, page 2



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, with Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian.

## Armenians Participate in NYC Greek Independence Day Parade



Young girls were having a good time participating in the Greek Independence Day parade. See more photos and story on page 11.

## Kuwaiti Notable Endorses Armenian Church Demands

KUWAIT (Kuwait Times) – Sheikha Fariha Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah announced that she will continue supporting efforts of the Armenian community here to have a piece of land licensed for building an Armenian Apostolic Church.

Al-Sabah, who is the chairperson of the Kuwait Society for Ideal Family, announced her endorsement during a ceremony held in her honor at the Sheraton Hotel following her visit to the prelaty of the Armenian Orthodox in Salmiya last week.

Describing her as a "role model in modesty," Bishop Shahi Banossian said that the visit of Al-Sabah is an "important occasion we thank God for."

Armenian Ambassador to Kuwait Fadey Charchoghlyan expressed his gratitude to Al-Sabah for her "distinguished and historic" visit.

Al-Sabah is the sister of the emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad.

## Troy to Get Genocide Memorial in Summer

TROY, N.Y. – The Knights and Daughters of Vartan here announce the upcoming Armenian Heritage Memorial along the banks of the Hudson River. The memorial will be installed as soon as the city completes renovations to its popular park along the Hudson River this summer. The monument inscription will read: "Dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and their descendants who settled in and around the City of Troy."

The site of the memorial was consecrated on December 9, 2011. Clergy from the three local Armenian churches, as well as political leaders, including former Armenian Troy Mayor Harry Tutunjian, along with Knights, Daughters and area residents, attended this event.

According to Tutunjian, Troy was home to the second Armenian Church in the country and many Armenians settled in the area in the late 1800s. Members of Davros Lodge and Shakeh Otyag have been working on this project for many years.

The Knights and Daughters of Vartan are asking for the financial support of all Armenians in this undertaking, by establishing an Armenian Heritage Memorial Endowment Fund. Those interested in making a donation may send a check, payable to "Knights of Vartan, Davros Lodge Memorial Fund," and send it to Philip Natcharian, Treasurer, 6 Dyke Road, Latham, New York 12110.

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### Artist in Charge

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Benefactor Donates Apartment to Homeless Family in Gumri

GUMRI, Armenia (Tert.am) – The Avetisiayn family, who were living without a roof in the second largest city, received a three-room apartment from an unknown benefactor after a video about their plight appeared on the Internet.

The 11-member family had been earlier offered a two-room apartment, but only one of the brothers moved there with his family.

Six other members continue to live in a shack.

According to the Gumri-based Shirak, the unknown benefactor donated the new apartment a month after the video appeared online.

## Armavia to Launch Direct Flights to Milan

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armavia Air Company will launch new direct flights to Milan, Italy.

The flights will run from April 5 to October 25, on Thursdays, the company reported.

Armenia's national carrier weekly operates more than 100 flights to over 40 destinations in 20 countries. Its fleet comprises Airbus, CRJ, Boeing as well as Sukhoi Superjet Russian aircrafts.

## Birds Registered in Red Book Are on Sale in Yerevan Pet Market

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – Despite environmentalists' protests, several birds registered in the Red Book detailing endangered native birds in Armenia, are on sale in pet stores.

The head of the Center for Bird Lovers NGO, Silva Adamyan, said there is no control over these sales. Notwithstanding the application to the Armenian Ministry of Nature Protection, the efforts of the environmentalists to resolve this problem have proven futile.

She added that the rare species are also illegally sold abroad, as these birds are worth more there, Adamyan said. She pointed out that a peregrine costs 50,000 euros abroad.

## WB and IMF to Provide Armenia with \$200 Million

YEREVAN (VestnikKavkaza.net) – Armenia may receive \$150 million from the World Bank (WB), Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian said, according to News Armenia.

Armenia has increased its position by six points in the Doing Business rating, ranking in 55th place.

Armenia joined the WB in 1992 and the World Development Association in 1993. It has received \$1.6 billion.

The prime minister said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded monitoring programs for expanded financing and crediting. The IMF will provide Armenia with a tranche of \$56 million by late May for the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the Extended Credit Facility (ECF). The IMF will provide a total of \$279 million.

Sargsian said that the Asian Development Bank has given Armenia \$500 million for the North-South Road construction.

## Fifty-One Percent of Refugees in Armenia Are Women

YEREVAN (Hetq) – According to a report released by the Women's Resource Center, 51 percent of those registered as refugees in Armenia are women.

The center held a discussion, titled "Refugee Women," on March 14.

# Armenian, Bulgarian Premiers Say New Page to Open in Relations between Two States

YEREVAN (Times.am) – Republic of Armenia Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian hosted Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov this week.

"The historic and fraternal relations between our countries have deep roots. It's our duty to expand and reinforce those relations. We are confident that your visit will give new impetus to the reinforcement of our ties," Sargsian said.

Borisov stressed the valuable role played by the Armenian community of Bulgaria in the development of relations between the two countries.

The parties noted that the current \$60 million in trade between the two countries does not correspond to the high level of bilateral friendly relations. Thus, they stressed the importance of establishing business ties and agreed to organize a business forum in Bulgaria.

Touching upon the process of Armenia's European integration, Sargsian noted that Bulgaria's experience is important and useful on the path of implementation of large-scale reforms in Armenia.



Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov, left, with Armenia Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian

An agreement on cooperation in the social sphere was signed between the two countries. Also, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the State Pedagogic University of Armenia

and the Sofia University.

Borisov also visited the Tzitzernakaberd Genocide Memorial Complex, where he laid a memorial wreath and planted a fir tree.

## PM Sargsian Proposes to Draft Program Encouraging Reading

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – A consultation on the development of the field of literature was held in March in the newly-opened Zangak literary center, chaired by Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian.

Culture Minister Hasmik Poghosian, Finance Minister Vache Gabrielian, Deputy Finance Minister Suren Karayan, Deputy Minister of Education and Science Manuk Mkrtchian, Chairman of Armenian

Writers Union Levon Ananyan, heads of large publishing houses, book-selling companies and other representatives working in the field of publishing participated in the event.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the prime minister for responding to the latest developments over the rise of book prices. "Our major goal is that Armenia's society again begins reading books," said Sargsian. "If we manage to solve this issue, as a state we will have a future."

He proposed to draft a national reading program and to set up a public group which will work out the steps and activities directed toward the development of this area.

Sargsian noted: "I am happy that this event takes place on the birthday of Armenian distinguished poet Yeghishe Charents. We are obliged to encourage reading, so that Armenian citizens see their lives in the world of books. It will give them an opportunity to be correctly orientated in the non-stop changing modern world. This will not allow people to lose their moral compass. The best way for people to live is with and through books, Sargsian said.

## Two Organizations Join Forces to Aid Rural Development in Tatev

TATEV, Armenia (ArmeniaNow) – Rural communities in Armenia's southern Syunik province will receive major assistance as part of a long-term program by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Armenia and the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia (NCFA).

The two organizations signed a Memorandum of Agreement this week to join efforts and raise funds for the program.

Earlier this year the two organizations jointly elaborated a four-year community development program for Tatev's rural communities. The program comprises 13 sub-projects, focusing on community and tourism

infrastructure development and income generation. Tatev is one of Armenia's key tourist attraction sites, with its ninth-century monastery (the first structure dates back to fourth century) and beautiful natural surroundings. However, the isolation and lack of infrastructure make life in rural communities challenging.

Arman Khachatryan, CEO of NCFA, says the program budget is \$1.6 million, 20 percent of which will be funded by the UN. UNDP and NCFA plan to organize a fundraising event this month to attract investments from international organizations, representatives of private and public sectors, as well as other sources.

## Russia, Armenia Oppose Military Action against Iran

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that there are three times as many ethnic Azerbaijanis in Iran as in Azerbaijan."

"It's hard to predict how the Iranian Azerbaijanis would react to the use of military force against their country," Lavrov said. "But if, God forbid, that happens, then there will undoubtedly be large inflows of refugees and a large part of those refugees will end up in Russia given the existence of a large Azerbaijani diaspora there."

Moscow has strongly opposed use of force by the United States, other Western nations and Israel ever since Iran embarked on a controversial nuclear program. Lavrov reaffirmed the Russian position that it would run counter to international law.

Nalbandian indicated that Armenia is

also against air strikes and other military operations against Iranian nuclear facilities. "Iran is Armenia's neighbor and we are interested in solutions to problems concerning Iran achieved through dialogue and negotiations, rather than use of force," he said.

The Iran standoff as well as the situation in Syria were apparently on the agenda of the two ministers' talks which Nalbandian said testify to a "high level of political dialogue" between Moscow and Yerevan. A statement by the Armenian Foreign Ministry said they discussed "ongoing developments in the Middle East" and agreed on "the need to solve problems through dialogue."

According to the statement, Lavrov and Nalbandian also had a "detailed discussion" on international efforts to end

the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict. Nalbandian was quoted as praising Russia for its active involvement in the negotiating process.

Speaking at the news conference, Lavrov said that both Armenia and Azerbaijan are his country's "strategic partners" and that Moscow will carry on with its Karabagh mediation. He also defended the work of the OSCE Minsk Group co-chaired by Russia, the United States and France.

Lavrov met with Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian later in the day. An Armenian government statement said the meeting focused on economic issues.

"Russia is our strategic partner and we must expand and strengthen bilateral relations," Sargsian told the Russian minister.



## INTERNATIONAL

## The Armenian Library and Archive in Germany: Meeting Challenges of the 21st Century

FLensburg, Germany (Hetq) – This year the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared Yerevan the World Book Capital, based on its 500-year anniversary of Armenian printing (1512-2012). Meanwhile, the German-Armenians' Central Council announced 2012 as the year to establish an Armenian library and archive in Germany. Thus, Armenian communities and organizations will organize various events in honor of the jubilee year.

The first program, which took place, was the Hamburg-based Kilikia Youth Union, which presented a literary evening dedicated to Armenian poet Paruyr Sevak in Leipzig on March 10. The KiliKia Youth Union initiated the event in 2010 and first presented this two-hour literature evening in the Hamburg-based Armenian Union. In March 2011, due to the three-day invitation by the Union of the Armenian Academics-1860 (AAV-1860), Kilikia presented the program in Bochum, Ruhr.

A member of the Kilikia Youth Union and the initiator of the project dedicated to Sevak, Ani Margkaryan said, "Our primary goal is to introduce the Armenian poet and his activities to the youth living in Germany as well as evoke love and interest towards the Armenian culture, which at some level we managed to do." One of the leaders of the Leipzig-based Armenian community, Anahid Babayan, said, "It is symbolic that the Leipzig-based Armenian community was the first to realize a cultural event from the series of programs in honor of the Armenian Library and Archive year in Germany as it

was here that the first Armenian scientific-cultural center, the Union of the Armenian Academics, was founded in 1860. So, let it [be] also in the case of the library, the sun of the Armenian community rise in the most eastern Armenian community of Germany."

The president of the German-Armenians' Central Council, Azat Ordukhanyan, said regarding the event: "Such programs contribute to the strengthening of the inter-community communication and create a mutual understanding between the Armenians living in different cities, provide opportunity to exchange experience, which is strictly necessary in the diaspora."

Through the efforts of the Kilikia Youth Union and the Leipzig-based Armenian community, all proceeds from the evening went toward an Armenian library and archive in Germany. The idea of establishing an Armenian library and archive in Germany had been presented by the Union of the Armenian Academics-1860 for years. It was presented to the

German-Armenians' Central Council so as to be realized by all the Armenian communities and unions in Germany. Since 2011, the German-Armenians' Central Council has started a large-scale action to this end by sending the program to about 6,000 Armenian addresses and organizing telethons in September-October, which will continue this year. In addition to the cultural programs within the framework of the jubilee year, the organization of telethons has resulted in the German-Armenians' Central Council to seek donors for this project. Ordukhanyan said: "For the Armenian community of about 65,000 in Germany it is of great importance to have a library as apart from the daily use, the establishment of the library and archive is also in line with the German-Armenians' Central Council's strategy which is to restore the image of the Armenians as the nation of science and culture."

A plan to build an Armenian library and archive has not yet been drawn.

– Ofelya Sargsyan

## Zarakolu, Eranli Face Terrorism Charges in KCK Indictment

ISTANBUL (*Today's Zaman*) – Publisher Ragip Zarakolu and Prof. Büsra Eranli are facing lengthy prison terms on charges of leading and aiding a terrorist organization, according to an indictment sent to a court on Friday.

Eranli, who was a member of the pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party's (BDP) constitutional commission, faces up to 22.5 years in jail for leading a terrorist organization, while the prosecutor is seeking up to 15 years for Zarakolu on charges of aiding a terrorist group.

Eranli and Zarakolu were arrested in November on terrorism charges as part of an investigation into the Kurdish Communities Union (KCK), an umbrella group that allegedly encompasses the terrorist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and its affiliated organizations.

Specially authorized Istanbul Public Prosecutor Adnan Çimen, who is in charge of the investigation, sent the

2,400-page long indictment on the case to the 15th Istanbul High Criminal Court on Monday. The court is set to announce its decision on the admissibility of the indictment soon. A total of 147 out of 193 suspects who stand accused in the KCK indictment are currently behind bars.

Amnesty International sent a letter to Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Besir Atalay last December calling for the release of Eranli and Zarakolu. Amnesty called on the authorities to prevent unfair prosecutions under anti-terrorism legislation by bringing the definition of terrorism in line with international standards and norms.

The indictment mentions incidents involving Molotov Cocktail attacks during campaigns for the June 12 parliamentary election. The chief defendant in the KCK trial is Kudbettin Yazbasi, who stands accused of being a leading figure in the organization.

## SIPRI: Azerbaijan Ranks 38th in Purchase of Arms Globally

STOCKHOLM (Arminfo) – The volume of Azerbaijan's imports of major conventional weapons increased by 164 percent between 2002-2006 and 2007-2011, making it the 38th largest importer of weapons, according to new data on international arms transfers published on March 19 by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

According to the report, "Although Armenia dropped from being the 71st largest recipient to 84th place between 2007-2011 and 2002-2006, the Armenian Government has declared that it will procure arms in response to Azerbaijan's arms acquisitions."

Russia is the main supplier of arms to both states: in 2007-2011 it provided 55 percent of Azerbaijan's arms imports and a whopping 96 percent of Armenia's arms imports, SIPRI reports.

The SIPRI Arms Transfers Database now contains information on all international transfers of major conventional weapons from 1950 to the end of 2011. It is the only publicly available resource providing consistent data on international arms transfers for this length of time. This fact sheet describes the trends in international arms transfers that are revealed by the new data. It lists the main suppliers and recipients for the period 2007-11 and describes the changes in regional trends. Azerbaijan's defense budget for 2012 is 1.381 million mantas or \$1.77 million, which is by some 1.2 percent more than in 2011. Defense expenditure for 2012 make up 14.8 percent of total expenditures.

During the last few years, Azerbaijan's military budget has grown 20-fold.

## Akçam Speaks about Turkish Reactions To Khojaly Rally in Taksim Square

ISTANBUL (Tert.am) – In an interview with the Turkish *Taraf* daily, historian and sociologist Taner Akçam commented on a rally in central Istanbul's Taksim Square to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre.

The participants were crying out fascist slogans and holding posters with similar calls. According to Akçam, Turks should face their own history, particularly the events involving Christians. Otherwise, he said, Turkey will never become a true democracy.

The 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide is approaching, he added, and the ruling Justice and Development Party is showing it is capable of applying racist principles. "If you try to press me, I will make use of the Khojaly and Azerbaijan problems. This is the message," Akçam said.

His advice is that Turkey looks back at the past before it mentions Khojaly.

"First, a citizen named Hrant Dink was murdered in that country. The government defended the persons suspected of masterminding his murder," Akçam said. Ten days before the rally, with the municipality's sponsorship, posters reading "do

not believe Armenian lies" were put up, he added.

Also, a statement was made at the rally, with the participation of the minister of the interior. "We are Ogun Samast, where are the ones crying out 'We are all Hrant Dink?' Now I would like to ask Prime Minister Recep Erdogan: if posters reading 'do not be deceived by Turkish lies' were put up in Berlin or ones reading 'do not believe Muslim lies' were put up in New York, what would he do?" Akçam said.

Support for pan-Turkism and hate for Armenians has never been so obvious in Turkey before, Akçam says.

It was for the first time that "we are Ogun Samast" slogans were cried out since Hrant Dink's murder. That is not a good sign. On the other hand, it is good that racism and nationalism are obviously seen, Akçam said.

As to the importance of the rally, Akçam said that it showed that Armenian citizens are not secure in Turkey, when the minister of the interior, who is also responsible for Armenian citizens' security, takes part in a rally where statements like "the spilled blood will not remain on the ground."

## International News

### Non-Recognition of Assyrian Genocide Shocks French Group

PARIS – After the refusal of the Armenian parliament to discuss the recognition of the Assyrian genocide, several French-Armenian associations expressed their shock.

The Armenians of France, who spearheaded the recognition of the Armenian Genocide, cannot understand the decision of the Armenian parliament to stop a legitimate request.

With this decision, in the words of philosopher Bernard-Henri Levy "solidarity of the cast-aways" loses all meaning some say.

Several communities in France have recognized the Assyrian Genocide. Assyrians from France will participate in the commemorations of the Armenian Genocide on April 24. (Jean Eckian)

### Armenian Scientist Speaks at Swiss Science Biennial

LUCERNE, Switzerland (news.am) – The ninth Swiss Biennial on science, technology and aesthetics, titled "The Large, the Small and the Human Mind," was held here on March 31 and April 1.

This year's event was devoted to neurology and astronomy. The two keynote speakers on the study of the universe were Sir Roger Penrose of Oxford University and Vahagn Gurzadyan, of the Center for Cosmology and Astrophysics, National Laboratory of Armenia and Yerevan State University.

The deliberations closed with roundtable discussions moderated by Sir Malcolm Longair of the University of Cambridge.

### Swiss Drop Probe into Genocide Denialist Comments

ZURICH (Reuters) – Swiss prosecutors will drop a criminal probe against Turkey's European Union affairs minister, instigated after he denied Ottoman Turks committed genocide against Armenians nearly 100 years ago, because he is protected by diplomatic immunity.

Zurich prosecutors began investigating Egemen Bagis after comments he made at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January and also at a concert in Zurich. Swiss anti-racism legislation outlawed genocide denial.

Turkey summoned the Swiss ambassador in Ankara to complain after the investigation was launched.

"After consulting with the Swiss foreign ministry, the prosecutor has concluded that criminal charges against Egemen Bagis cannot be pursued because, as a Turkish EU minister, he enjoyed immunity during his entire stay in Switzerland," the prosecutor said in a statement on Monday.

Swiss authorities have taken legal action against several people who have denied the Armenian Genocide. The most prominent case is the conviction of Turkish politician Dogu Perincek, who was fined 3,000 Swiss francs in 2007.

### Armenia, Singapore to Boost Cooperation

SINGAPORE (neurope.eu) – During an official visit to Singapore, Armenia's Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian was welcomed by Singapore's president, Tony Tan Keng Yam. During the meeting, Yam said that the people of Armenia have left a deep impression in the history of Singapore and contributed to the country's development. In turn, Nalbandian said that Singaporean Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew's visit to Armenia in 2009 opened a new chapter in relations between the two countries. Nalbandian expressed hope that President Serge Sargsian's upcoming visit to Singapore will also give new impetus to improving cooperation between the two countries.



ARMENIA

# ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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## TURKEY IS GUILTY OF GENOCIDE

### DENYING THE UNDENIABLE IS A CRIME

Sponsored by the Knights & Daughters of Vartan, Co-sponsored by AGBU, Armenian Assembly of America, Armenian National Committee of America, ADL-Ramgavars and Armenian Council of America, with the participation of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America, Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Catholic Eparchy for US and Canada, Mid-Atlantic ACYOA, AYF, Armenian Youth Organizations, and University Armenian Clubs

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# Community News

## Dickranian School's 31st Annual Dinner Dance Raises More Than \$25,000 for Scholarship Funds

LOS ANGELES – On Friday, March 16, parents, teachers, students, supporters and guests of Tekeyan Cultural Association's (TCA) Arshag Dickranian School (ADS) gathered at the Taglyan Cultural Complex to enjoy the school's 31st Annual Dinner Dance, organized by the Parent-Teacher Organization and catered by Divine Catering.

Among the guests attending the event were Vardan and Kristina Mkryan, the guests of honor of the event, benefactor Dr. Petros Taglyan, benefactor Hmayak Baltayan and school board members.

The celebration started with welcoming remarks by Hourii Taglyan-Kourouyan, the incoming chairperson of the Parent-Teacher Organization who greeted Rev. Manoug Markarian and guests to the event.

Singer Gagik Badalyan entertained the guests with Armenian folksongs, which was followed by Armenian and foreign dance music provided by DJ Switch.

The guests of honor were invited to cut the cake which was provided in celebration of the 31st anniversary of the school, after which Taglyan-Kourouyan presented a blooming tree which symbolized the "Tree of Life" of ADS, inviting Principal Vartkes Kourouyan to call upon those who wished to hang tokens that represented their contribution to the school. Individuals who donated to the school were: Vardan and Kristina Mkryan \$6,000; Arthur and Lusine Nalbandyan \$1,000; Hmayak Baltayan \$1,000; the Shishikyan brothers \$1,000; Dr. Missak and Armine Kltchian \$1,000; Slavik and Taguhi Agekyan \$1,000; Mike and Elmira Nadjarian \$1,000; Armen and Nuritsa Mkhisian in memory of Levon Mkhisian \$1,000; Rev. Archpriest Manoug Markarian \$750; the Yerelek family \$500; Lucy Taglyan in memory of her late husband, Dr. Yeghia Taglyan, \$200, student Zaven Nalbandyan \$200; student Harout Bogosyan \$200; Armani Sarkissian \$100; student Alec Kourouyan \$100; Hovsep and Irina Karadjian \$100; Tigran Hekimyan \$100; George Nalbandyan \$100; Harout Boyadjian \$100; Avetik Agekyan \$100; Harout Bambalyan \$100; Hagop Shishikyan \$100; Jack Mkrtychyan \$100; Luiza Hekimyan \$100 and Lucy Bambalyan \$100. Other donors who made contributions for this occasion but were not present were 12th graders Arthur Karapetyan \$75 and Shant Ogtanyan \$50, 11th graders

se ADS, page 8



Chairperson Hourii Taglyan-Kourouyan welcomes the guests.



AGBU MDS Decathlon participants taking a super quiz

## AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School Students Compete in Academic Decathlon

CANOGA PARK, Calif. – Competing against hundreds of local peers, 25 students from the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Manoogian-Demirdjian School (MDS) here won a total of 26 medals, 10 of which were gold medals, at the Southern California Private School Academic Decathlon on February 5.

Even though MDS had the smallest enrollment of any school in the competition, it fielded the largest team, competed in 10 categories and was the only school to enter in three of the four categories. Normally, smaller schools confine their students to the small school Division 4 category, but AGBU MDS put its best students in the highly-competitive Division 2 category, which is usually reserved for much larger schools. "We went up against Mater Dei and Notre Dame, schools that have over 2,000 students, and we still won more than our fair share of medals," said MDS decathlon coach Peter Strouse. "I



AGBU MDS Decathlon team members with their coach, Jason Strouse

think our ability to not only compete with these schools, but to compete with success, shows that AGBU MDS is one of the top private schools in Southern California." Also, while the other schools practiced every day after school for as long as 10 months, the AGBU MDS team had only two weeks to prepare for the decathlon. "My team is able to get an extraordinary amount of work done in a very short period of time."

In the essay competition, the AGBU MDS students competed against nearly 200 students and won five of the nine gold medals. Gold medal essay winners included seniors Arno Ekmekji, Gary Vartanian (who also won a gold medal in mathematics) and Nicole Yeghiazarian, and juniors Patrick Galoostian and Alina Sargsyan. Senior Alex Yeghiazarian won two gold medals – in literature and science, and gold medals were also awarded to Melkon Makerian in mathematics and Anais Zarifian in science. "The students' success at the decathlon, especially in the writing competition, was one of the highlights of my career," Strouse added. "It's an honor to call myself their teacher."

## NAASR Lecture by Ugur Üngör on Armenian Genocide in Context of Population and Territory

BELMONT, Mass. – Historian Ugur Üngör will give a lecture titled "Race and Space: The Armenian Genocide in the Context of Population and Territory," on Thursday, April 26, at 8 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave.

The eastern provinces of the Ottoman Empire used to be a multi-ethnic region where Armenians, Kurds, Syrians, Turks and Arabs lived together in the same villages and cities. From 1913 to 1950, successive Turkish regimes subjected this region to a thorough policy of ethnic homogenization.

Based on a decade of research on a range of unexamined records, Üngör demonstrates that the Armenian Genocide was part and parcel of this wider

process. He will offer insights into the economic ramifications of the genocide and describe how the plunder was organized on the ground. He will conclude that this violent process not only



Ugur Üngör

destroyed historical regions and emptied multicultural cities, but also cleared the way for the modern Turkish nation state.

Üngör is assistant professor at the Department of History of Utrecht University and the Institute for War and Genocide Studies in Amsterdam. He specializes in genocide, mass violence and ethnic conflict. His recent publications include *Confiscation and Destruction: The Young Turk Seizure of Armenian Property* (Continuum, 2011) and *The Making of Modern Turkey: Nation and State in Eastern Anatolia, 1913-1950* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

*The Making of Modern Turkey*, newly published in paperback, will be available for purchase and signing the night of the lecture.

More information about Üngör's lecture may be had by e-mailing [hq@naasr.org](mailto:hq@naasr.org).

## Armenian History Timeline Quiz Bowl

LOS ANGELES – Eight-grade students at the Armenian day schools in the greater Los Angeles area are preparing to take part in the Annual Armenian History Time Line Quiz Bowl, to be held on Sunday, April 29, at Deukmejian Hall in the Ararat Home.

The students compete by answering a host of questions on Armenian history and culture based on the book, *Armenian history Timeline* by Hagop and Marilyn Arshagouni. In previous years, the students impressed many spectators with their breadth of knowledge and enthusiasm.

Teams compete for monetary prizes, which go toward scholarship funds in their respective schools. These awards are made possible by the support of the Ararat Home of Los Angeles.

The Quiz Bowl will start at 1 p.m. and will conclude at approximately 3 p.m.

The community is invited to attend. Admission is free.

For information, contact [board-bea@ararathome.org](mailto:board-bea@ararathome.org).



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# AGBU University Outreach Visits Schools on the East and West Coasts

NEW YORK and LOS ANGELES – Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) University Outreach has been on a mini-tour recently, making visits to various schools on both the east and west coast, as well as Canada, for hundreds of youth. Each school's Armenian club helped organize presentations given by University Outreach coordinator Dan Antreasyan, at which students learned about various AGBU programs. The presentations included a brief introduction to AGBU and the University Outreach Program, its goals and mission, as well as information on the AGBU Summer Intern Programs in New York, Yerevan and Moscow, the scholarship programs, the Young Professionals network, Armenian Virtual College and Camp Nubar.

The first stop was at Queens College in New York on February 8, with a presentation paired with a career development workshop given by Arda Haratunian, a professor at the college and a member of the AGBU board. Haratunian discussed the importance of basic skills in the work place such as communication, public speaking, effective interviewing and resume and cover letter writing.

Next up was the University of California, Los Angeles on February 9, where members of the Young Professionals (YP) of Los Angeles group participated in a panel discussion about their educational and professional backgrounds, involvement in the Armenian community and advice for students. Guest speakers included TV host and entertainment journalist Jill Simonian, Pasadena Sgt. Vasken Gourdikian, OB/GYN Dr. Vicken Sepilian and marriage and family therapist Cristina Mardirossian.

On February 13, a visit was made to the University of California, Irvine, followed by a trip to University of California, San Diego the next day, where students had the opportunity to hear a talk on leadership in the workplace. The lecture was given by John Ohanian, who has been involved with AGBU for many years, including serving as director at AGBU Camp Nubar in 2007. Ohanian is the current CEO of



John Ohanian (second from right) with the UCSD ASA executive committee and AGBU University Outreach coordinator Dan Antreasyan (left) following his February 14 lecture at the University of California, San Diego

a large non-profit organization in the San Diego area and has a great deal of experience in leading companies and managing teams of employees. Back on the east coast on February 17, Antreasyan was invited to speak about AGBU opportunities for students at Fordham University's second annual Mentoring Program for Armenian College Students and Young Professionals event.

College students from the Toronto area gathered

at the local AGBU center on March 30 to learn more about the programs AGBU offers around the world for youth and university students.

Visit University Outreach's Facebook page for upcoming events, [www.facebook.com/agbuunioutreach](http://www.facebook.com/agbuunioutreach).

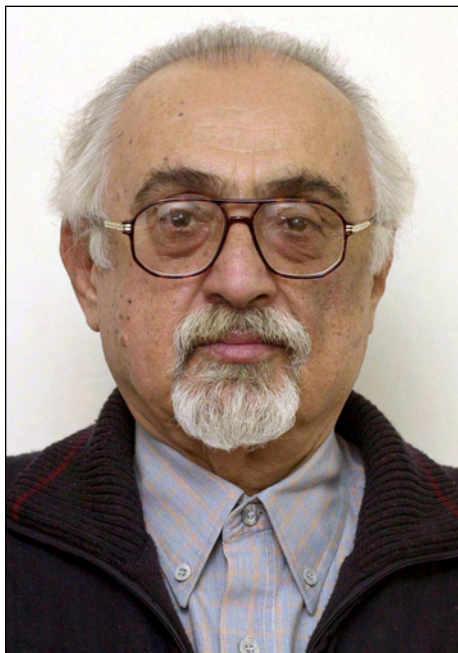
## OBITUARY

### Joseph Panossian

Correspondent for Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) – Joseph Panossian, a longtime Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press who covered transformative events from the Lebanese civil war to the US invasion of Iraq, died on March 13 in Armenia, his family said. He was 74.

Panossian, who was undergoing chemotherapy for lung cancer, had been living in Armenia for the past three years, said his wife, Annie



Joseph Panossian

Panossian.

Colleagues described him as someone who was always ready with a joke to defuse the region's stressful and often dangerous news events.

Panossian retired from the AP in 2007 after 45 years.

"Joe was by far the best Arabic linguist and translator on the staff," said Robert H. Reid, AP's Middle East regional editor. "He was devoted to the AP and never would let illness, errands or, during the civil war, shell fire keep him from coming to work and doing the best possible job."

Born in 1937 in Jaffa, in British-mandate Palestine, Panossian was displaced to east Jerusalem following the creation of Israel in 1948. He moved to Lebanon in 1951.

"His dream was that one day he would take me to Jaffa to show me the place where he was born," his wife said. Jaffa is now part of the Israeli city of Tel Aviv.

Panossian joined the AP in Beirut in the early 1960s and moved to the Mediterranean island of Cyprus in 1976. He was based in Cyprus for 21 years, covering events including the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and the 1985 killing of three Israeli citizens in the coastal city of Larnaca.

He returned to Beirut in 1997, and over the next decade he witnessed the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000 after an 18-year occupation, the 2005 assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and the departure of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

At the start of the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, Panossian spent time in Qatar helping monitor Arabic media, using his knowledge of local Arabic dialects.

"He loved his career," Annie Panossian said.

Joseph Panossian was also the editor of an Arabic-language bimonthly AP cultural bulletin that had subscribers throughout the Arab world.

In 2009, he moved to Armenia with his wife to be close to their children.

Panossian is survived by his wife, two sons and four grandchildren. He was buried in Yerevan.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## AGBU YP Northern California 13th Annual Winter Gala Weekend Raises \$8,500 for AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers in Armenia

SAN FRANCISCO – Hundreds of Armenian young professionals from across North America converged President's Day weekend here for the 13th annual Young Professionals Northern California (YPNC) Winter Gala. Representing the largest gala in recent years, \$8,500 was raised for the AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers in Armenia, which provide prenatal care and education to women in Talin, Vanadzor and Yeghvard. "The success of this year's Gala exceeded our expectations and we are proud to support such a worthy cause as AGBU Hye Geen," said Steven Cherezian, YPNC chairman and Winter Gala 2012 chairman. "Thank you to all of our attendees and donors; they are the reason the weekend was so enjoyable and successful." Since its inception, YPNC has donated more than \$67,000 to programs locally and in Armenia.

The sold-out weekend began Friday, February 17, with a welcome reception at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in Union Square, followed by dancing and mingling at Monroe Night Club where DJ Raffy and DJ Tigran entertained a crowd of 300 young professionals. Stepping out Saturday morning, out-of-towners and locals alike were treated to a free walking tour of the city by



YPNC guests enjoy a tour of the Turnbull Wine Cellars on the day trip to wine country.

YPNC Treasurer Greg Nemet.

Later that evening, the signature "Sweet Escape" Winter Gala Dinner took place in the Green Room at the San Francisco War Memorial & Performing Arts Center. More than 250 attendees enjoyed dinner and Armenian dancing to the sounds of DJ Raffy, which was then followed by an after party at Morracc with

DJ Tigran. Sunday afternoon brought the newest addition to the Winter Gala line-up – a tour of leading wineries in Napa Valley with YPNC leadership, including Marketing and Publicity Director David Ojakian, serving as guides for 120 guests. The 14th annual Winter Gala is already scheduled for President's Day Weekend, February 15-18, 2013.

## Dance to Benefit Mer Doon Home for Young Women in Armenia

WATERTOWN – A gala dance will be held to benefit Mer Doon ("Our Home"), a residence for young women in Armenia who have outgrown their childhood homes in Armenian orphanages or who come from seriously disadvantaged lifestyles. The event will be held on Saturday, November 10, starting at 7:30 p.m., at the St. James Charles Mosesian Cultural & Youth Center, 465 Mount Auburn St. The evening will feature two popular Armenian bands including the Richard Hagopian ensemble, dancing, mezza, refreshments and more.

A donation of \$50 per person is requested. Ticket reservations may be made and additional information obtained by calling the church.

Established in 2006 in Echmiadzin, Armenia, Mer Doon provides a home and family environment for up to 14 young women at a time. Each young woman living at Mer Doon is required to further her education and pursue a skill or vocation that will enable her to enter the work force. In addition, residents receive religious education, learn French, Russian and English languages and are trained by staff in personal and social skills.

"It is essential that we continue to support and fund the important work of Mer Doon in Armenia," said event Co-chairs Mark Kashgegian and Peter Babigian. "The need for Mer Doon grows greater every day."

The dance is being sponsored by Our Home-Mer Doon, Inc., the US-based fund raising organization for Mer Doon, which is a non-governmental organization and is dependent on outside contributions.

For additional information about Mer Doon, visit [www.mer-doon.com](http://www.mer-doon.com).

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For information and registration materials, please contact:

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[sonyabekarian@aol.com](mailto:sonyabekarian@aol.com)

*You can also contact your local parish pastor for information on the trip and the application packet. Space is limited; the deposit and application form must be received no later June 1, 2012.*



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## San Francisco AIWA Supporters Gather to Celebrate the Formation Of New AIWA Affiliate

SAN FRANCISCO – More than 40 Bay Area supporters of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) gathered at the home of Gregory Matsoyan and Elena Sagayan in Pleasanton on Sunday, March 18 to celebrate completion of the initial steps in the formation of the AIWA San Francisco affiliate. The event was attended by Armenian and non-Armenian supporters, who had the opportunity to learn about AIWA and the work of the organization in pursuit of the empowerment of Armenian women worldwide.

AIWA San Francisco President Gaiane Khachatryan opened the event with an expression of gratitude to the hosts: "Gregory and Elena have always been active participants in Bay Area Armenian community affairs and their generous act today is once again a testimony to the great level of their commitment to supporting Armenia."

The program included the presentation of two projects selected to be the focus of the San Francisco AIWA affiliate over the next few years to improve the economic and social advancement of women in Armenia. Vice President Lusine Yeghazarian and Trustee Susanna Cogswell summarized plans to provide micro-loans to socially vulnerable, talented, motivated young female entrepreneurs in Armenia. Khachatryan noted that numerous studies have documented how access to financial services improves the status of women within the family and the community, making them more assertive and confident. Dr. Elena Sagayan introduced the formative steps underway to pursue a second project that will focus on the reproductive health care of women in the rural areas of Armenia.

Guests responded enthusiastically to invitations to join the affiliate and to donate to help the organization carry out its mission to build a positive, productive and peaceful environment to enable women in Armenia to thrive.

AIWA members and supporters enjoyed a musical program of selections from several operas and performances of Tsitsernak and Erebuni/Yerevan. All expressed their appreciation for an informative and fulfilling event.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Armenian Nursing and Rehab Center Residents Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

JAMAICA PLAIN, Mass. — On Sunday, March 18, the Board of Directors of the Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA) hosted a St. Patrick's party for the residents of the Armenian Nursing & Rehabilitation Center (ANRC).

Elaina and Jake Vratos, accompanied by an audience of residents and family members, provided a stirring set of traditional Irish folk

music as entertainment. Following the performance, the audience and staff enjoyed refreshments and lively conversation. The ANRC, a premiere 83-bed facility owned and operated by the AWWA, is the only Armenian nursing home in New England and enjoys a five-star rating from the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Visit [www.ArmenianHome.org](http://www.ArmenianHome.org) for more information.



Mary Hunt, who will celebrate her 100th birthday next month, enjoys traditional tunes from her Irish heritage.

## Dickranian School Raises More than \$25,000 for Scholarships

ADS, from page 5

Aram Ekimyan \$150 and Lucy Tekneyan \$50 and the Seropyan Family \$50.

"I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Vardan and Kristina Mkryan and all our supporters and donors for their contributions," said Taglyan-Kourouyan. "I would also like to thank the PTO members for their selfless devotion and diligence in preparing this event. Thank you all for such a successful event." She then stated that

Garen Taglyan, manager of the Taglyan Cultural Complex and an alumnus of Arshag Dickranian School, had given a substantial discount in availing the premises for the event. She noted that the proceeds of the banquet support the school's scholarship funds.

Finally, the guests took to the dance floor until the early hours of the morning.

For more information visit the school website at [www.dickranianschool.org](http://www.dickranianschool.org).



Guests of honor Vardan and Kristina Mkryan cut the cake.


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### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATION TIMES SQUARE

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"I should like to see any power of the world destroy this race, this small tribe of unimportant people, whose wars have all been fought and whose structures have crumbled, literature is unread, music is unheard, and prayers are no more answered. Go ahead, destroy Armenia, as you can do it. Send them into the desert with bread and water. Burn their homes and churches. Then see if they will not laugh, sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a new Armenia."

*William Saroyan*

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### The Detroit United Armenian Committee for the commemoration of the 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armenian Genocide presents a panel discussion

*"When and how the government of Turkey may recognize the Armenian Genocide."*

Edmond Azadian, Moderator with distinguished panel....



**Professor Gerard J. Libaridian** teaches in the History Department at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and holds the Alex Manoogian Chair in Modern Armenian History. He is also Director of the Armenian Studies Program.

Dr. Libaridian was co-founder of the Zoryan Institute for Contemporary Armenian Research in Cambridge, Mass., and director from 1982-90, and editor of the *Armenian Review* (1983-88). From 1991-97, Dr. Libaridian served as adviser, and senior adviser (foreign and security policies) to the former President of Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrosian,

as well as First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (1993-94) of the newly independent republic. He has lectured extensively worldwide and his works have been published in many languages. The French edition of his most recent work, *Modern Armenia. People, Nation, State*, (2004) was published in Paris in 2006. Libaridian is now completing two new studies, *In Search of the Savior: Armenian Liberation Ideology from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries* and *Anatomy of Conflict. Nagorno Karabagh and the New World Order*.

**Mr. Turgut Kerem Tuncel**

Turgut, born in Ankara, Turkey, is a PhD. candidate in Sociology in the University of Trento, Italy. He holds a BA in Psychology with a minor degree in Sociology and a MA in Political Science. His research interests are diasporas and transnational communities, collective memory and identity, and the Caucasus. In his dissertation, Turgut focuses on the Armenia-Armenian diaspora relations and the perceptions of homeland among the Armenians in diaspora.

**Manoogian Simone Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellow, Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.**



**Dr. Ara Sanjian** is Associate Professor of Armenian and Middle Eastern History and the Director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, he received his education there. He received his master's degree in history at Yerevan State University. He received his PhD in modern history of the Middle East at the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London. From 1996-2005 he was Chairman of the Department of Armenian Studies, History and Political Science at Haigazian University, Beirut. In 2003, he was the Henry S. Khazandian Kazan Visiting Professor in Armenian Studies, California State University, Fresno. His research interests focus on the post-World War I history of Armenia, Turkey and the Arab states of Western Asia.

He is the author of *Turkey and Her Arab Neighbors, 1953-1958: A Study in the Origins and Failure of the Baghdad Pact* (2001), as well as a monograph and a number of scholarly articles. He is currently working on a book-length project on the Armenian quest for Mountainous Karabagh under Soviet rule in 1923-1987.

**Join us on Sunday, April 22 at the AGBU Manoogian School Multipurpose Room • 1:00 Reception • 1:30—3:30 Program**

2012 Participating Organizations: Tekeyan Cultural Association, ADL Detroit Chobanian Chapter, Knights of Vartan, Nareg Shashavan Lodge, Daughters of Vartan, Wayne State University Armenian Studies Program, Detroit Armenian Women's Club, Armenian Research Center U of M Dearborn, Detroit Armenian Genocide Committee, AGBU, Armenian Assembly of America.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Across the Diocese, Women's Guilds Honor Sainly Women's Day

NEW YORK — Women's Guild chapters throughout the Eastern Diocese observed Sainly Women's Day on Saturday, March 10, with special services and programs commemorating the lives of Mary and Martha — the sisters of Lazarus who have become enduring symbols of discipleship.

Regional commemorations were hosted by the Church of the Holy Martyrs in Bayside, NY; St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church in Wynnewood, Penn.; Sts. Joachim and Anne Church in Palos Heights, Ill.; Armenian Church at Hye Pointe in Haverhill, Mass., and St. Paul Church in Syracuse, NY.

At each of the gatherings, the participants discussed how the lives of women saints can inform present-day life in the Armenian Church.

In the New York metro area, Holy Martyrs Church hosted participants from Manhattan's Holy Cross Church of Armenia and the St. Gregory the Enlightener Church of White Plains, NY.

The day began with a worship service led by the Rev. Bedros Kadehjian, interim parish pastor. Kadehjian was assisted by the Rev. Arakel Vardazarian, who is serving as an intern priest at St. Gregory the Enlightener Church, and Deacon Krikor Anoushian of Holy Cross Church. Members of the Holy Martyrs Women's Guild took part in the service by reading the biographies of Mary and Martha in English and Armenian.

Following the service, a Lenten luncheon was held in the parish's Kalustyan Hall. Guest speaker Elise Antreassian, the Diocese's coordinator of Christian Education, gave a talk, titled "Mary and Martha: Looking Back/Moving Forward." She reviewed their discipleship as "the total package, the yin and yang of ministry, expressing together and separately all the teachings of Jesus wrapped up in two people, and women at that, in a world of men."

She concluded by hoping that Sainly Women's Day might be consecrated to more than just remembering these saints and that it serve as an occasion for women to become a serious force of revitalization in the church today. Citing the story of Peter's desire to walk

on water, she challenged church women everywhere: "If we want to experience miracles, we have to step out of the boat."

An interlude of dance selections by the Holy Martyrs Hye Bar Dance Group concluded the afternoon's activities.

St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church in Wynnewood hosted some 80 people from Philadelphia-area churches. The Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgulian led the service in the church sanctuary.

During the luncheon that followed, two local women spoke about the lives of Mary and Martha. Therese Voskerdjian spoke about the two saintly women in Armenian. Her daughter, Arpy Minassian, gave a presentation in English. The church's junior choir sang a selection of hymns.

The Women's Guild of Sts. Joachim and Anne Church of Palos Heights, Ill., hosted participants from St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Chicago, Ill.; St. James Church of Evanston, Ill.; St. George Church of Waukegan, Ill.; St. John the Baptist Church of Greenfield, Wis.; St. Mesrob Church of Racine, Wis., and Holy Resurrection Church of South Milwaukee, Wis.

The day began with a worship service led by the parish pastors. Alice Madanyan read the Armenian language biographies of Mary and Martha, and Dr. Susan Mardoian read the texts in English. A translation of the hymn *Sainly Mariam* was read by Michelle Babigian.

Following the service, a Lenten luncheon was served. Liz Sahagian, who chaired the local commemoration, welcomed guests and thanked those who helped organize the day's program.

Guest speaker Dr. Hripsime Haroutunian, a lecturer in the University of Chicago's Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Department who teaches Armenian language, history and culture, gave a presentation on the history of Armenian wedding traditions.

At the conclusion of the day's program, the Very Rev. Aren Jebejian, pastor of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, led participants in prayer. The Women's Guild of Sts. Joachim and Anne Church then presented

each participating Women's Guild with an Armenian-themed apron.

The Armenian Church at Hye Pointe welcomed more than 100 participants from sister parishes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The program began with a welcoming reception in the church's Derderian Hall followed by a worship service led by the Rev. Vart Gyoazian, parish pastor. Clergy from the local parishes, along with the deacons and choir of Hye Pointe Church, participated in the worship service.

A traditional Lenten meal was served later in the afternoon. Guest speaker Susan Hriczo, a physical massage therapist at Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital of Bradford, Mass., spoke about the benefits of massage therapy and described various approaches to pain management.

Sylvia Tavitian, outgoing chair of the parish Women's Guild, served as mistress of ceremonies. The Very Rev. Ghevont Samoorian gave the invocation. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Melanee Naroian, the guild's newly-elected chair. Nancy Kassabian, a representative of the Women's Guild Central Council, delivered a message on behalf of the board.

In Syracuse, NY, the commemoration was held on Sunday, March 11, at St. Paul Church. The Rev. Daniel Karadjian, parish pastor, celebrated the Divine Liturgy and led the worship service commemorating Mary and Martha.

At a potluck-style Lenten luncheon, guest speaker Natalia Zharsky of St. John Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Johnson City, NY, discussed the iconography of Orthodox churches and highlighted depictions of Mary and Martha in church icons.

Some 60 people, including members of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Binghamton, NY, took part in the program. Yn. Mariam Karadjian chaired the local Sainly Women's Day commemoration committee.

St. Mary Church of Livingston, NJ, is planning to hold a special program on saintly women for New Jersey-area churches in the autumn.

— Robert Serabian, Sylvia Tavitian, Mary Selvinazian and Liz Sahagian

## Heifer International Project Aims to Revitalize Armenia's Farms

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Heifer International Armenia is distributing agricultural equipment to small farmers, giving them the means to stay on their land and improve their livelihoods. It is the first part of the Community Agricultural Resource Management and Competitiveness (CARMAC) project, a partnership with the World Bank and Armenia's Ministry of Agriculture.

CARMAC's objective is to reverse environmental damage caused by unsustainable grazing, increase the economic viability of small farms through infrastructure improvements and increase productivity to gain access to more markets. The \$22.7-million project aims to assist 78,000 people. CARMAC has a \$10.1-million agricultural component, with Heifer providing \$3.7 million. Heifer International Armenia has already distributed three tractors and five balers to several farming cooperatives, enabling the farmers to make the best use of their land and provide better fodder for livestock.

Heifer International Armenia has worked with more than 8,000 Armenian families in the past 11 years, building up family farms through gifts of cattle, buffalos, pigs, chickens, rabbits, sheep, bees, worms, tree seedlings and organic produce. The projects first create food security for the participating families and then surplus product is sold to earn money for education, medical care and other necessities.

Gagik Khachatryan, director of the Agriculture Project Implementation Unit at the Armenian Ministry of Agriculture, presented the baling equipment. Khachatryan said that without Heifer's contribution, it would have been impossible to ensure rural community engagement and successfully realize the CARMAC project.

By the end of the project, about 200 pieces of agricultural equipment are expected to be placed within 55 rural communities in Armenia. The modern equipment, along with more careful use of pastures, will boost overall productivity and efficiency of small livestock farms. This will help position local producers to fill Armenia's growing domestic dairy need and to become more competitive regionally.

As the project work begins, its significance for rural communities is increasingly evident. During previous decades, rural unemployment in Armenia has forced many people (mostly men) to leave the country to find jobs abroad. CARMAC is designed to bring back hope to farming communities, providing rural families with a chance to stay together and build their future in their homeland.

Heifer's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the earth. Since 1944, Heifer International has provided livestock and environmentally-sound agricultural training to improve the lives of those who struggle daily for reliable sources of food and income. For more information, visit [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org).

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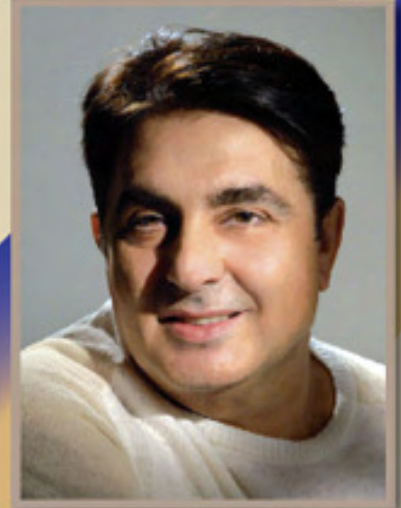
COMMUNITY NEWS

# REBIRTH



**Kaufman  
Center  
New York  
April 28, 2012**

DEDICATED TO THE DUAL 20TH ANNIVERSARIES  
OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARMENIAN ARMED FORCES



PERFORMERS

RAYSA MEGERDCHIAN & RUBEN MATEVOSYAN  
AREVIK GHARIBYAN & JOHNNY ROUBIAN  
FROM YEREVAN

YEGHISHE MANOUCHARYAN  
TENOR OF METROPOLITAN OPERA

VICTORIA AVETISYAN  
MEZZO SOPRANO OF THE BOSTON OPERA

VICKEN TARPINIAN  
POPULAR SINGER FROM FRANCE

THE PHILHARMONIC COMMUNITY SYMPHONY  
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THE ARMENIAN RELIEF SOCIETY  
KNIGHTS AND DAUGHTERS OF VARTAN





## New York METRO

# Young and Inventive Minds Come Together at HMADS

OAKLAND GARDENS, N.Y. — The Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS) held its 24th Annual Science Fair March 12-16. The week was filled with science projects in zoology and biology, chemistry, geology and the plant kingdom. The purpose of the exhibit was to challenge students from an early age and inspire them to one day become involved in a career in science.

Zarminé Boghosian, principal and founder of the Science Fair, has brought science to life. Her passion for science and dedication towards educating future citizens of the world is well known.

During Science Week, the auditorium was transformed to a science museum where innovative ideas were shared and young inventors presented their work. The teachers at HMADS present science as a state of mind. Each one of them instills in their students critical thinking and the ability to assess, which ideas are reasonable and which are not. This is how students perceive their projects as part of a dynamic process of discovery. This was apparent during their class presentations, Science Trivia Questions, Armenian and English scientific vocabulary, Invention Center and facts about different scientists and inventors.

Students from the nursery through the sixth grade displayed an impressive exhibition and won the hearts of the audience.

The highlights of the week were presentations by special speakers about various topics, including, Ted Guekjian, a pharmacist who shared his

hobby: "The Science or the Chemistry of Soap Making." The second speaker, Deborah Lutz, was from the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, and she spoke about design. The third guest speaker was one of HMADS alumni, Class

Raymond Vahan Damadian, Marie Curie, Thomas Edison, Einstein, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. The nursery students presented a song about the four seasons as the parade of scientists came to a conclusion.



Dr. Edmond Demirdjian, DDS (HMADS-Class of 1983), with the class of 2012

of 1983, Dr. Edmond Demirdjian, DDS, who spoke about oral hygiene.

On the second day of the Science Fair, HMADS classrooms and hallways were transformed to meeting places of scientists and inventors, as students were dressed as notable innovators such as, Hovannes Adamian, Victor Hampartsoomian, Dr.

The members of the Armenian Engineers & Scientists of America paid a special visit to the students. By the end of the week, students and guest scientists gathered around a cake dedicated to the inventor of the MRI, Damadian, singing him Happy Birthday (He was born on March 16).

## Prof. of Armenian Art to Lecture at Columbia

NEW YORK — Thomas F. Mathews, John Langeloth Loeb Professor Emeritus in the History of Art, New York University, will give an illustrated lecture on "Armenian Art on the International Stage," at Columbia University on Tuesday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Armenian Center at Columbia University and the Department of Art History and Archaeology in association with the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). The talk will take place on the Columbia campus in room 612 of Schermerhorn Hall, 1190 Amsterdam Ave. The lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception in the Judith Lee Stronach Center Lounge of Schermerhorn Hall. The talk is part of an ongoing series of events sponsored by the Armenian Center.

In his lecture Mathews will explain how recent scholarship on Armenian art is re-positioning the subject in the grand "Christian Crescent," which stretched from Alexandria around Palestine and Syria to Constantinople. On this cosmopolitan international stage Armenia kept pace with the latest developments in architectural design, manuscript painting, church decoration and the art of icons. The image theory developed by Vrtanes of Dvin was well in advance of theorizing of the Greek theologians Leontius of Neapolis and John of Damascus. Armenian art must be studied as part of this broader scene.

Mathews is an acknowledged expert in his field of Early Christian and Medieval religious art with a specialty in Armenian church architecture and manuscript illumination. He has held many prestigious fellowships and honors (e.g., Guggenheim, National Endowment for the Humanities, Samuel H. Kress, J. Paul Getty Museum, Institute for Advanced Study Princeton).

Mathews is the author of numerous books on Byzantine art, including *The Clash of Gods* and *The Byzantine Churches of Istanbul*. Earlier he curated a magnificent exhibition spanning the whole medieval Armenian tradition of manuscript illumination under the title "Treasures in Heaven" at the Pierpont Morgan Library, with accompanying catalog and collected essays published as *Treasures in Heaven*. His most recent book, *Byzantium: From Antiquity to the Renaissance*, was published by Yale University Press in 2010.

For information about the talk and directions, email: eag43@columbia.edu.

## Seminary's Annual Walk for Faith Offers New Incentives to Participants

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. — The fourth annual Walk for Faith to benefit St. Nersess Armenian Seminary's youth and vocations programs, will be held Sunday, April 15.

"This has become a much anticipated, fun and faith-filled event for families," said Very Rev. Daniel Findkiyan, seminary dean. "This year, we expect even more walkers in support of our beloved seminary as we continue to commemorate 50 years of St. Nersess serving the Armenian Church and people in North America."

To once again help make this year's event successful, the participants of the Mid-Atlantic regional ACYOA Junior Retreat will conclude their weekend by joining in the afternoon stroll at St. Nersess.

However, the Walk for Faith is not limited to

just youth. All are welcome to participate in this three-kilometer walk throughout the neighboring streets of the seminary. The event will begin at the seminary with a light lunch and prayer at 1 p.m., followed by the walk at 2 p.m.

Additionally, Armenian Churches throughout the country are encouraged to organize walks around their parish neighborhoods after church services on this same day in support of the Seminary.

"We look forward to the Walk for Faith every year because it rallies our friends to raise funds for St. Nersess by asking even non-Armenian friends and neighbors to make a modest gift to the seminary of \$5 or \$10," Findkiyan said.

As an incentive, the walker who collects the highest amount of sponsorships will win a brand new Apple iPad, which has been donated

by an anonymous friend of the seminary.

The financial objective for this upcoming event is to raise a minimum of \$25,000. "I have no doubt that we can realize this goal through our motivated youth and supporters of St. Nersess who have benefited from all that the seminary has given to them through the years," stated Seminary Board treasurer, Steve Mekenian.

The proceeds raised through the Walk for Faith will continue to help build youth-related programs offered by the seminary.

To participate, visit [www.stnersess.edu](http://www.stnersess.edu) to download a sponsorship registration form. To support the 3K Walk for Faith, send a tax-deductible donation directly to St. Nersess Armenian Seminary at 150 Stratton Road, New Rochelle, NY 10804 or make a secure, online donation at [www.stnersess.edu](http://www.stnersess.edu).

## Armenians Participate In Greek Independence Day Parade

NEW YORK — On Sunday, March 25, the Greek Independence Day Parade took place along Fifth Avenue, in which a large Armenian contingency participated. This group was led by the Knights of Vartan. The Akhtamar Dance Ensemble also participated in this year's parade with their instructor, Silva Asadourian. The Knights of Vartan started participating in this parade more than 20 years ago under the leadership of the late Samuel Azadian. Over the years, under the leadership of Hrant Gulian and Edward Boladian, the tradition has continued.

Armenian participation in this parade helps fortify relations with the Greek community with which it has much in common and helps Armenian-Americans reach a much-larger audience.

At the parade Armenian participants had posters, signs and informational flyers about the Time's Square Commemoration, which will be held on Sunday, April 22 this year at 2 p.m.

— Ohannes Tercan



Young marchers held a sign proclaiming their support of the Greek-American community.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Frank Pallone Remains Steadfast Force behind Armenian Caucus

PALLONE, from page 1

Rosalie Chorbajian. Chorbajian, Pallone said, “maintained all kinds of information, worked with the [Armenian] embassy and made contacts with different members of Congress who were pro-Armenian. She suggested to me that we start a caucus.” Pallone and Rep. John Porter, a Republican, founded the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues in the beginning of 1995.

Pallone said, “The main thing was to make people aware of the US-Armenia relationship and support Armenia’s efforts, whether to achieve Genocide recognition, get funding for assistance to Armenia and Karabagh or pass Section 907. The list is a long one.” He added that it served “to be protective of Armenia, given all the threats that it faces.” Without such a group focusing attention on Armenia, its issues would tend to get lost in the multitude of issues Congress faces. Indeed, the Armenian Caucus and the Armenian lobby have been considered to be among the most effective of the ethnic lobbies in the US.

Armenia, along with India and Israel, ended up as Pallone’s primary focus in foreign affairs in Congress. He became a founder of the Caucus on India and Indian Americans, and the Congressional Caucus on Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan Americans, of which he is still co-chair. Though he spends most of his time on domestic issues, Pallone said he has always been interested in foreign affairs and has a master’s degree in international relations from Tufts University.

Obtaining aid for Armenia and Karabagh is perhaps the most difficult task of the Armenian Caucus. Pallone said, “It is always hard to get support for anything involving a dollar amount. You have to take it away from something or somebody else. There are many members [of Congress] who don’t want to advocate adding money for anything.”

Though the Armenian Caucus succeeded in obtaining much aid for Armenia and Karabagh over the years, the actual amount of aid has annually been decreasing recently. This is, of course, in part due to the general trend of reducing US expenditures on foreign relations and the decreased sense of urgency as time has passed from the period of the Armenian earthquake, fighting in Karabagh, and the struggles for Armenian independence. In addition to this, the State Department always tries to reduce aid to Armenia and Karabagh, and Congress then chooses to increase it to a certain degree. Pallone does not feel that this is done as part of a ritual. He exclaimed, “No, I don’t buy that. The State Department does not prioritize Armenia. Its effort is to give less than what Congress does. It does not think that Congress will put money back [each time].”

The State Department also does not spend all the money allocated for the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh [NKR] annually. Pallone explained that although money can be appropriated for a specific purpose by Congress, Congress cannot necessarily require it to be spent. He said, “It is hard because the State Department does not want to recognize it [NKR]. We have to remind it that this money should be spent for certain purposes.”

On the other hand, the State Department wants to provide military support to Azerbaijan, though the Karabagh issue has not yet been resolved. Section 907 of the United States Freedom Support Act of 1992 prohibits any type of direct aid to the Azerbaijani government, but since the end of 2001 the US president has been able to apply for an annual waiver and indeed has done so. Pallone felt that considering Azerbaijan’s record of aggression, military buildup and bellicose statements, not to mention the continuing blockade of Armenia, the law can still call attention to this dangerous situation.

As seen above, Congress and the State

Department frequently are at odds on issues concerning aid to Armenia, resolutions pertaining to the Armenian Genocide and other Armenian topics. Pallone feels the reason is that “Congress is much more oriented in doing what is right from a human rights and international law point of view, while the State Department is much more realpolitik. They are looking at things from their perceived notion of Turkey being very important from a strategic defense and economic point of view. I dispute that because I don’t think Turkey is as important as the State Department says. It downplays human rights and rule of law.” The only way to change this situation, since the State Department is basically an entrenched bureaucracy, said Pallone, is to have “a president come in and say we don’t do this anymore. However most presidents are not familiar with Armenia and so they tend to defer to the State Department.”

Barring such a radical change, a constant barrage from the Armenian Caucus and Armenian organizations like the Armenian Assembly or the Armenian National Committee can at least serve as a reminder to the administration of what the right thing to do is.

Another issue on which lobbying can be important is the Armenia-Turkey Protocol. Pallone said, “President Obama and the Secretary of State felt this was the way to get Turkey to open its borders and resolve the conflict, settle the NK conflict, promote trade and lift the blockade. They put a lot of eggs in that basket, hoping the protocol would be ratified, but it didn’t happen. They have to be realistic, and now that it didn’t happen – the fault being with the Turkish government since Armenian did all it could to promote the protocol – push Turkey and call it to task. They should demand the recognition of genocide, opening borders, and coming to the table. Turkey can play a major role in convincing Azerbaijan to come to an agreement on NKR.”

The US administration is still, however, talking about the protocols as if they were not defunct. Pallone said, “They are being very unrealistic. ... I’ve made the point many times to the administration to forget about the protocols and find another strategy. They took so much pride in it at the time that they are reluctant to admit it is dead.”

Meanwhile, after frequent Congressional attempts over the decades to pass resolutions enjoining recognition of the Armenian Genocide in one form or another, recently a resolution passed the House urging the return of Christian church property in Turkey. Pallone commented: “I do believe that compensation is important. It is not just an issue of recognizing the Genocide but also of paying compensation to the victims and their descendants.” He did not necessarily think that such bills were harder to pass than ones calling for recognition, since the compensation would come from Turkey and not the US, but was not sure that there would be a shift predominantly to this type of Congressional action. He said that “the issue of when to move depends on what we can get the votes for...It is hard to say what makes a resolution passable.”

One of the forces often opposing Armenian interests is the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans, established in 2001. It has rapidly increased its membership, roughly reaching parity with the Armenian Caucus with 134 members in February. It frequently cooperates with the even younger Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus (founded in 2004), which this March had 45 members. “They have been spending a lot of money, hiring lobbyists. Their efforts have stepped up quite a bit in the last few years. I haven’t seen it causing problems yet for the Armenian Caucus,” Pallone noted.

He did feel that Armenian organizations would be stronger if united. He stressed, “Members of

Congress need to hear united voices.” Thus, Pallone attempts to bring groups together and “in cases of rivalry between Armenian organizations I refuse to take sides.” He did not see any significant disagreements between the Diasporan-Armenian organizations and the government of the Republic of Armenia.

The congressman said that there is also room for constructive criticism of Armenia. For example, “one of the values I think is very important is separation of church and state. That is enshrined in our constitution. I often remind Armenian leaders that this is important. ... There shouldn’t be a state religion. This is a uniquely American point of view.”

When asked about his opinion on the record of President Obama and the potential Republican presidential candidates for this year’s elections, Pallone on the one hand said, “Obviously I would like him [Obama] to do more – recognize the Genocide, give more aid to Armenia and put more pressure on Turkey to resolve a lot of the problems that we have. I would like to see a settlement of the NKR conflict and the US to play a greater role there.” However, he concluded, “I still think President Obama is more likely to be supportive of Armenia than any of the Republicans. I think he is familiar with Armenia and we have gotten the Administration over the past few years to provide a certain level of funding. I know he does not recognize the Genocide in his annual statement but he comes close to it.”

Pallone said that in the forthcoming con-

gressional elections, Armenian Caucus members have been in certain cases pitted against one another due to redistricting, which will in general lead to new members of Congress. He urged Armenian Americans to become involved early in the process, before the elections, so that new members of Congress will already have some familiarity with Armenian issues and thus be ready to join the Armenian Caucus. They can meet with candidates and members and use the media. Pallone stressed that basically this should be happening at all times, no matter what the specific circumstance: “Many Armenians feel this does not accomplish anything, but if nobody does it, there will be no voice for Armenia. They have to keep it up whether or not they think they are winning or losing at the time. If you don’t keep up, you will lose. It is constant effort. If you are not there, Armenia loses.”

In summing up his philosophy, Pallone said, “I really think that it is important for American foreign policy to continue to stress our values, democracy, rule of law and human rights. To the extent that we do that, it benefits Armenia. Armenia is on the right side. It broke away from the Soviet Union and the Karabagh war resulted from the principle of self-determination of peoples, the right to determine their own fate. Armenia is very conscious of rule of law and it is a democracy. And it has a market economy. I would like our foreign policy to reflect that. When it doesn’t we become less supportive of Armenia.”

## State House Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

10:30 a.m.

**Friday, April 20**

Proclamations for  
Former State Sen. Steven Tolman and  
Playwright Joyce Van Dyke

Marking the 97<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Genocide

Keynote Speaker  
**Khatchig Mouradian**

Hosted by State Rep. Jonathan Hecht  
State Rep. John Lawn  
State Sen. William Brownsberger

Free buses will leave St. James and St. Stephen’s  
Churches at  
9 a.m.

(Courtesy of Knights of Vartan)



# Arts & Living

## Turkey Seeking Return of Artifacts From American Museums

By Jason Felch

LOS ANGELES (*Los Angeles Times*) – The government of Turkey is asking American museums to return dozens of artifacts that were allegedly looted from the country's archaeological sites, opening a new front in the search for antiquities smuggled out of their original countries through an illicit trade.

The J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Cleveland Museum of Art and Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection are among the institutions that the Turkish government has contacted, officials say.

Turkey believes the antiquities were illegally excavated and smuggled out of the country after the passage of a 1906 law that gave the state ownership of antiquities in the ground.

Inspired by the success of its Mediterranean neighbors Italy and Greece, Turkey is taking a more aggressive stance toward its claims, many of which were first made decades ago.

"Turkey is not trying to start a fight," said Murat Suslu, Turkey's director general for cultural heritage and museums. "We are trying to develop ... cooperation and we hope these museums will also understand our point of view."

Turkey is presenting the museums with supporting evidence and has threatened to halt all loans of art to those institutions until they respond to the claims. Loans have already been denied to the Met, a Turkish official said.

American museums' antiquities collections have been the subject of scrutiny in recent years as evidence emerged of their ties to an illicit trade in artifacts found in archaeological sites around the world.

Confronted with that evidence, the Getty, the Met, the Cleveland, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and the Princeton University Art Museum returned more than 100 looted objects to Italy and Greece, changed their acquisition policies and formed collaboration agreements that allow for loans to replace acquisitions of suspect material.

But new evidence continues to emerge, underscoring that the scope of the problem is far wider. In January, Italy announced that it had recovered an additional 200 objects and fragments from the Met and Princeton after they were tied to an ongoing criminal investigation of Italian antiquities dealer, Edoardo Almagia, and Princeton antiquities curator, Michael Padgett.

None of the museums facing requests from Turkey would release a list of the contested objects in their collections, but the *Los Angeles Times* obtained a partial list from Turkish officials of what the country is asking for. Judging from publicly-available records, most of the objects were acquired by the museums since the 1960s and have little or no documented ownership history before that, suggesting they could have come from illicit excavations.

The 10 Getty objects sought by Turkey were acquired from dealers, auction houses or collectors for more than \$1 million between 1968 and 1994 and include four marble muses now on display in the Getty Villa's Basilica gallery. According to ownership histories provided by the Getty in accordance with its reformed antiquities policy, several originated with Elie Borowski or Nicolas Koutoulakis, two antiquities dealers known to have ties to the illicit trade.

The 18 contested objects at the Met are all from the private collection of Norbert Schimmel, a longtime Met trustee who died in 1990. The museum acquired the Schimmel collection in 1989, and several of the contested objects are now highlights of the museum's Ancient Near East Galleries.

see ARTIFACTS, page 16



Artist Alexandra Manukyan

## Artist Alexandra Manukyan's Surrealist Paintings Put Women in Control

PASADENA, Calif. (*Pasadena Weekly*) – While honing her skills in art school at age 11, Alexandra Manukyan had no idea she would eventually open her own studio, teach art, freelance for the fashion industry, participate in a group show for famous tattoo artist Kat Von D's Wonderland Gallery, have a solo show at Last Rites Gallery in New York and paint full time.

In her edgy, deeply psychological paintings – which have appeared in solo and group exhibitions in America and abroad – Manukyan explores the idea that interpersonal interactions disguise a deeper, subconscious play of carnal desires. Manukyan combines traditional oil painting with surrealism and, through images of powerful females set against these backdrops, communicates the impact of technology, not just on individuals, but specifically women.

The subtle yet powerful symbols illustrated by images of gas masks, armor and powerful body positions convey the artist's themes and sets a magical, yet eerie tone.

Manukyan was born and raised in Armenia and graduated from Terlemezian Fine Arts College in Armenia in 1982. In 1990, she graduated from the State Pedagogical University, where she majored in teaching fine arts.

That same year, Manukyan immigrated to the US with her husband and son. She soon realized it was going to be very hard for an artist to earn a living and so decided to attend Fashion Design School at LA Trade Tech.

After working for many years as a fashion designer, Manukyan took courses at UCLA, UCLA Extension and additional private classes in graphic design. She eventually became proficient in graphic design and started freelancing for different entertainment agencies, designing movie posters. Today, she freelances for the fashion industry, paints full time and teaches at her own art studio in Glendale.

Currently, Manukyan is represented by Silvana Gallery in Glendale and the La Luz de Jesus Gallery in Los Angeles. Later this year, her paintings will be shown in a solo exhibition at Last Rites Gallery in New York.

Manukyan claims that thinking through and preparing for the compositions in her paintings is an elaborate process, one that sometimes takes months before she even begins to paint. Manukyan sketches out her ideas in order to have a solid understanding of the images she wants to depict, as well as which models she is going to hire. Most of the time, her models will inspire the entire series as it forms in her mind. The models will act as a muse for Manukyan's imagination as she

see MANUKYAN, page 14

## Filmmaker Carla Garapedian to Lecture On Preserving Genocide Testimonies

NEW YORK – The late Dr. J. Michael Hagopian's award-winning documentary film, "The River Ran Red," will be screened at the United Nations during a symposium on April 12 on preventing genocide. The honorary chairs of the symposium are Eugene-Richard Gasana, Rwandan ambassador to the UN, and Garen Nazarian, Armenia's ambassador to the UN.

Carla Garapedian, a filmmaker and member of the Armenian Film Foundation board of directors, will speak after the screening at the UN on the topic of "Acknowledging the Genocide of Armenians."

Hagopian's wife, Toni, and daughter, Joanne, will also attend the screening.

The following day, Garapedian will present a lecture, titled "The Digital Revolution: Armenian Genocide testimonials and the Shoah Visual History Archive," at the National Association of Armenian Studies and Research in Belmont, Mass. Her April 13 lecture will be in honor of Hagopian, the founder of the Armenian Film Foundation and NAASR's first board member for California (1959-65).

Garapedian will discuss the new ways Armenian Genocide survivor and witness testimonies are being made available to universities around the world via the USC Shoah Foundation Institute's Visual History Archive. Founded by filmmaker Steven Spielberg in 1994, the Shoah Foundation has 52,000 Holocaust survivor video interviews and is now adding testimonies from other genocides, including the massacre of Armenians in 1915. Hagopian's 400 filmed survivor and eyewitness testimonies will be the first of the Armenian Genocide interviews to be included in this digital collection.

During her talk, Garapedian, the project leader for the Armenian Film Foundation's digitization effort, will give a demonstration of Shoah's powerful search engine and discuss the challenges of presenting survivor information via the Internet.

Garapedian is the director of the film "Screamers," which was widely credited with helping to change the public debate on recognition of the Armenian Genocide in 2006 and 2007. A native of Los Angeles, Garapedian worked as a producer, director and correspondent for BBC in London after earning a PhD in international relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

She is the recipient of the Armin T. Wegner Humanitarian Award and was recently given the Clara Barton Medal of Gratitude from the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute. She worked closely with Hagopian on his "Witnesses" trilogy of documentary films on the Armenian Genocide. "The River Ran Red" is the third film in the trilogy.

The April 13 lecture begins at 8 p.m. at the NAASR Center, 395 Concord Ave. in Belmont.



The late J. Michael Hagopian and Carla Garapedian



## ARTS &amp; LIVING



Gary Lind-Sinianian, ALMA curator (center), with Howayda Abu Affan, ALMA assistant curator, and Catheline Van den Branden, president and executive director of the French Cultural Center

## Soirée Celebrates French-Armenian Cultural Bonds

BOSTON – More than 150 people attended the Armenian soirée, a sold-out joint event at the French Cultural Center (FCC), in collaboration with the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) on March 21. The event was part of 2012's Francophone Celebration in New England and featured "The Art of Yousuf Karsh in the Francophone World," a photographs exhibit from the FCC's collection and "Armenie, Mon Amie: The French-Armenian Connection," featuring artifacts and prints from ALMA.

Catheline van den Branden, president and executive director of the FCC, welcomed the guests, including Estrellita Karsh and playwright Joyce Van Dyke. Armenian food and wine was provided by Eastern Lamejun and ALMA Curator Gary Lind-Sinianian. Musaner performed Armenian folk jazz music.

## Artist Alexandra Manukyan's Surrealist Paintings Put Women in Control

MANUKYAN, from page 13

creates a storyline for the next series of her work. Her process involves choosing models who inspire a story. "Like a writer, a narrative comes to me and I must paint that story," she says.

Manukyan says she understands the reality of the times she was born into and the fact that she had to work to move forward in her career as an artist and as a person. But at the same time, she was trying to balance her career with motherhood, which she admits was really hard to do.

Although Manukyan admits she was tired at times, she never felt defeated, because she knew she had a purpose – to provide for her family. Even when these struggles were at times a strain on her marriage, Manukyan says she and her husband overcame them, making their relationship even stronger.

"Samvel, my husband, is an amazing person, my supporter, my friend, and we have been married and in love for 30 years. He's the kind of man I would wish any woman could be lucky enough to have. It's not just the love. I knew when I married this person, that I wanted to have kids who would have qualities just like him."

Even though it was hard to make it all work and maintain a career, Manukyan feels fulfilled and accomplished by what she has done in her life. And as amazing as the women she depicts seem to be, Manukyan makes one thing clear: she is not the women she paints.

"I depict somebody else's life. Perhaps it is a life I was trying to stay away from, maybe a life I understood or agreed with, or maybe I didn't. But regardless, it is what I see around myself," she says.

"It is what I see in life or in relationships of my friends or close people around me. I don't judge, but I realize that the way these interactions unfolded was in a way that maybe (they) shouldn't have."

The heroines in her art convey the impact of the technological revolution on women's psyches and personal lives. According to Manukyan, the fast-paced environment of today has made women react so unnaturally to things that happen on a psychological level. As a result, women are becoming less emotionally attached in their relationships and their relationships have changed.

"As women, we want to be like a man but treated as a woman," she says.

"We want to play around like men, but we don't realize we get pregnant, our bodies are invaded, our hearts hurt when we get in these relationships, and men can just walk away. As a woman, my heart hurts when I see confused women in our society. Don't get me wrong; I love freedom. I feel free when I am painting, but with everything, freedom must be in balance."

Manukyan also believes women must protect themselves, which is why female figures are shown armored in her paintings. In the painting "Broken Music," the women are protecting their heads, hearts and psyches. But protection is not simply shielding oneself, explains the artist.

"I want to make this clear. This is not all

women and not in all cases, but in my paintings, these wounded women have finally got the upper hand, they are in control, they finally get it. They are in a state of epiphany," she says.

Manukyan believes some people, even in the Armenian community, do not understand her paintings. Those individuals usually find her art to be too harsh, too open and too exposed.

Feeling her messages were misunderstood, Manukyan found that her need to control the ideas and depictions in her artwork became more and more overwhelming. She finally realized that only in fine art could she be absolutely free to express these ideas and still be in absolute control of her creativity. She wants viewers to understand that she intuitively feels these things and wants to convey the realities of life, which can sometimes be disturbing.

"So I paint," she says. "And in my paintings, these women are in a situation of strength and control and feeling like in their lives they are accomplished. Women in society don't have to be a mother or married, but whatever you are, be at peace and know yourself. And whatever you want to accomplish, you just have to go for it."

The Alexandra Manukyan Art Studio, located at 3523 N. Verdugo Road, Glendale, teaches classes in fine art and the fundamentals of painting as well as drawing in classical, academic and traditional styles. Visit alexandramanukyan.com for more information.



"Breathe Again" by Alexandra Manukyan

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## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Exhibit at Harvard Commemorates 500th Anniversary of First Armenian Book

CAMBRIDGE — “The Armenians and the Book,” an exhibit commemorating the 500th anniversary of the first printed book in Armenian, will be open to the Harvard community on the third floor of Lamont Library, April 9 to 25.

The Armenian alphabet was invented at the beginning of the fifth century AD; and the exhibit, drawn from collections of the Harvard Libraries, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), the Armenian Library and Museum of America, the Armenian Cultural Foundation and the private collection of Dr. James R. Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard, features an array of documents — Armenian prayer scrolls, prayer books and magical manuscripts, a facsimile of the first Armenian printed book, the first Armenian printed Bible, illustrated editions of Classical Armenian texts and translations and rare, fine literary works from the era of the Armenian Genocide and the Soviet

Armenian republic, as well as conversation manuals, cook books and printed ephemera reflecting the Armenian immigrant experience in America.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Mashtots Chair in Armenian Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard and the above-mentioned organizations, with the support and collaboration of Professors Christina Maranci and Simon Payaslian and the Armenian programs of Boston University and Tufts University, and of Marc Mamigonian of NAASR. The chief designer of the exhibition is Mark Mckertich, with artistic contributions also by Russell.

With its particular stress on the heritage of the Armenians of New England and the treasures of local collections, the exhibit celebrates the legacy of Armenian studies at Harvard and looks to its future growth and enrichment.

For more information, contact Russell at russell@fas.harvard.edu.

## Peter Balakian to Speak in Fresno

FRESNO — Peter Balakian, the 2012 recipient of the Alice and Clifford Spendlove Prize in Social Justice, Diplomacy and Tolerance, awarded by the University of California, Merced, will be honored in Fresno at a special lecture and reception on Friday, April 13.

The Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State and the University of California, Merced, are co-hosting Balakian's visit, which begins at 6:15 p.m. with a talk by Balakian, followed by a reception at 7 p.m. The event will take place at the UC Merced, Fresno Center, 550 East Shaw Ave., Fresno.

The Spendlove Prize was established through a gift to the university from Sherrie Spendlove in honor of her parents, lifelong Merced residents Alice and Clifford Spendlove. Every year the prize honors an individual who exemplifies the delivery of social justice, diplomacy and tolerance in his or her work.

Balakian is the author of the memoir *Black Dog of Fate*, winner of the PEN/Albrand Prize

for memoir and a *New York Times* Notable Book. In *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, Balakian chronicles the massacres of the Armenians in the 1890s and the Genocide in 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks.

The book won the 2005 Raphael Lemkin Prize and was a *New York Times* Notable Book and a *New York Times* bestseller.

Balakian, the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the department of English at Colgate University, is the recipient of many awards and prizes and civic citations.

The Spendlove Prize Selection Committee is chaired by Aldenderfer and includes a representative from the Spendlove family or a designee, an undergraduate student, a graduate student, a faculty member and representatives from the UC Merced community.

RSVP by sending an email to chowe2@ucmerced.edu.

## TCA Arshag Dickranian School's Fashion Show Dedicated to Mother's Day

LOS ANGELES — In celebration of Mother's Day, students of TCA Arshag Dickranian School will be acting as models in staging a fashion show on Sunday, May 6, which will be held at the Taglyan Cultural Complex at 12 p.m., traditionally organized by the school's Parent Teacher Organization.

Every year, the students model attire made by various designers. The May 6 event will begin with a lunch served by Divine Catering while the theme of the event will be springtime. Students ranging from Pre-K through 12th

grade will walk down the runway showcasing the work of designer Eva Mejl. Students will also perform in various activities such as poetry recitations, skits and folk dance to entertain parents and guests. Vendors will be present at the event, selling apparel and accessories.

Donation tickets are \$60 for adults and \$40 for students, the proceeds of which will benefit the school's extracurricular activities. Tickets may be acquired by contacting Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Vice Chair Armine Gasparyan.

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## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Alina and Zareh Tjeknavorian to Discuss Film, 'Credo,' Based on Classic, 'Ravished Armenia'

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. — Filmmakers Alina and Zareh Tjeknavorian will give the 2012 Alice K. Norian Lecture at the Zachs Community Room, at the University of Connecticut School of Social Work, 6-9 p.m., on Monday, April 16.

The school is located at 1798 Asylum Ave.

The event is co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

The evening will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. The Tjeknavorians will show and discuss their film "Credo," which they assembled from remnants of the legendary 1919 silent film, "Ravished Armenia," and set to a soundtrack by Zareh Tjeknavorian's father, Loris Tjeknavorian. The program will also include a performance of music for piano and voice of selected Armenian folksongs interspersed with *Armenian Sketches for Piano for My Son Zareh Shahan* by Loris

Tjeknavorian, which will be performed by soprano Anna Hayrapetyan and pianist Irma Vallecillo, of UConn's Department of Music.

Zareh Tjeknavorian has made a number of films that explore aspects of Armenian history and culture. His most widely-known film, the documentary, "Enemy of the People," explored Stalinist oppression in Armenia, which was narrated by Eric Bogosian.

He, along with his wife, Alina, have gone on to make a number of Armenian-themed films, including, a short lyrical film exploring their interests in prehistoric Armenian monuments, "Embers of the Sun" (2001) and "Tigranakert: An Armenian Odyssey," about the discovery of an ancient city in Artsakh. Their most recent film project focuses on the work of Near East Relief, an American organization that worked tirelessly to aid all victims of World War I and its

aftermath in the Ottoman Empire, Middle East and the Caucasus. The survival and eventual resettlement of many Armenian victims of the Genocide would not have occurred without the efforts of Near East Relief.

The Norian Lecture is supported by a bequest from Alice K. Norian to the University of Connecticut to establish an endowment to be used to educate students and the general public about Armenian culture and history and to gather Armenian-Americans for both these purposes. The Norian endowment supports three primary initiatives at the UConn: the annual Alice K. Norian Lecture; the Summer Field School in Armenian Prehistory and student and faculty exchange programs through the School of Social Work at UConn and the Social Work Program at Yerevan State University.



Alina and Zareh Tjeknavorian

## Turkey Seeking Return of Artifacts From American Museums

ARTIFACTS, from page 13

Harold Holzer, a spokesman for the Met, initially denied the museum had received a request for specific objects. He later acknowledged in a statement that Turkey had requested information about the 18 objects in September, adding that the museum is "in the process of providing" that information. Turkish officials say the Met's only response has been to write a letter to the Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

At Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC, ancient silver plates and other decorative objects known as the Sion Treasure are among the items Turkey is seeking to recover. The treasure was reportedly found in the early 1960s in an ancient burial mound in Kumluca, Turkey. It was acquired by the museum in 1966 from a private collector who bought them that same year from George Zakos, an antiquities dealer with documented ties to the illicit trade.

Turkey has been asking for the return of the treasure since 1968, hoping to reunite the objects with the rest of the treasure, which is in a museum in Antalya, on Turkey's southwest coast.

Twenty-one objects are being sought from the Cleveland Museum, which Turkish officials say has not responded to their inquiries. A museum spokeswoman declined to comment or release a list of contested objects.

## CALENDAR

### FLORIDA

**APRIL 21-22 — Armenian Food and Music Fest - 2012.** Saturday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday, 12-5 p.m. Armenian food, pastries, including Mediterranean specialties. Arts and crafts vendors and music, Kids Fun Zone, bounce houses, face painting, games and fun surprises. St. Mary Armenian Church, 4050 NW 100 Ave., Cooper City. Festival Hotline: (954) 450-5578. For information, e-mail stmaryfl@aol.com.

### MASSACHUSETTS

**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 newspaper's national policy editor, Washington, DC. For information, call (617) 359-0413.

### MICHIGAN

**APRIL 14 — Tekeyan Cultural Association and ADL present Annual Gourmet Dinner Dance and Program,** celebrating 20 years of Tekeyan's cultural and educational mission in Armenia. Honoring Man of the Year Mihran Hovkimian. Entertainment by violinist Harry Hovkimian and his ensemble. 7 p.m. Open bar, mezza and gourmet dinner, \$75/person. For tickets, call: Ara Belian (248) 200-8030, Diana Alexanian (248) 334-3636 or Pam Coultis (248) 646-7847. At St. John's Armenian Church Cultural Hall, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. To benefit Komitas Choir of St. John's Armenian Church, Tekeyan Sponsor a Teacher Program and the Orphans' Higher Education Fund in Armenia.

### 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 22 — "Turkey is Guilty of Genocide, Denying the Undeniable is A Crime," Armenian Genocide Commemoration at Times Square.** 2 p.m., 43rd and Broadway, New York City. Sponsored by Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Inc. Co-sponsored by AGBU, Armenian Assembly of America, Armenian National Committee of America, ADL-Ramgavars, Armenian Council of America with the participation of: Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), Prelacy of the Armenian Church of America



**The Tekeyan Cultural Association and ADL organized an Annual Gourmet Dinner Dance and Program fundraiser, celebrating their 20th anniversary, where they will honor man of the year, Mihran Hovkimian, with entertainment by violinist Harry Hovkimian, pictured here, and his ensemble on April 14, 7 p.m. at St. John's Armenian Church Cultural Hall, 22001 Northwestern Highway, Southfield. For tickets, call: Ara Belian (248) 200-8030, Diana Alexanian (248) 334-3636 or Pam Coultis (248) 646-7847.**

(Eastern), Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Catholic Eparchy for US and Canada, ACYOA, AYF, Armenian youth organizations, Armenian university and college clubs. For free bus transportation to and from Times Square, call: Diocese (212) 686-0710; Prelacy (212) 689-7810, NJ; Sona (551) 427-8763; Holy Martyrs, John, (718) 631-2247; St. Sarkis, Eddy, (917) 885-9729; St. Vartanantz, NJ, Kostan, (201) 741-9789; Paramus, Andy (201) 368-2791; Holy Cross, NJ, Very Rev. Vazken Karayan (201) 865-2790, Queens Armenian Center, Sako, (516) 805-5816 and Brooklyn, Tigran, (374) 291-7765 or visit [www.knightsofvartan.org](http://www.knightsofvartan.org), click April 24, <http://april24nyc.com>, [www.armenianradionj.com](http://www.armenianradionj.com) or [www.theforgotten.org](http://www.theforgotten.org).

**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.

**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.

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## COMMENTARY

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## COMMENTARY

## Hannibal at the Gates

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The Latin expression, "Hannibal ante portas" (Hannibal at the Gates), was a warning to each citizen of the Roman Republic, from child to senator, inducing fear and anxiety. Hannibal was a Carthaginian general (247-182/3 BC) who waged the second Punic War against Rome, occupied many of its territories and remained a constant threat to the Romans for many decades, as his armies closed in the city of Rome itself, although never able to destroy it. As his armies camped on Roman territories, the Romans were under constant fear of a final assault, and they expressed their fear to each other by warning that "Hannibal [is] at the Gates." He was one of the greatest generals and strategists of the ancient world to be ranked with Alexander the Great and Julius Cesar. (Incidentally, he was at one point in Armenia advising one of Artaxias kings).

Hannibal's comparison with Armenia's archenemy, Azeri President Ilham Aliyev, is not very adequate but the fear induced by the latter into the lives of Armenia's citizens is very much in synch. It is incumbent upon Armenia's citizens to sound the alarm at every waking hour that Hannibal is at the gates, that Azeris are before the gates, arming themselves at an alarming rate.

Indeed, the Stockholm-based International Peace Institute (SIPRI) reports that "Azerbaijan's imports of major conventional weapons increased by 164 percent between 2002-6 and 2007-11, making it the 38th largest importer of weapons." Azerbaijan's military budget in 2012 is \$1.77 billion, 15 percent more than last year.

Oil-rich Azerbaijan is investing its wealth in armaments, leaving 700,000 internal refugees in squalid quarters to beg for international charity.

Azerbaijan was beaten once in Karabagh by the Armenians, but the military equation is changing in the region.

The Azeri government – and Aliyev himself – has not been making any secret that the arms build-up has targeted Armenia. Even if the major powers do not tolerate another war in the Caucasus, the arms race, in the long run, may squeeze Armenia out of existence.

Azeri belligerence is boosted by neighboring Turkey, which besides armaments, is providing technical know-how to the Azeri army.

In recent years, the situation has been further complicated with the strategic interjection of Israel in the complex relationship of the regional nations.

Certainly the Israeli government does not harbor any hostile intentions against Armenia, nor does it have any reason to, but its alliance with Azerbaijan and the arms procurement may eventually translate into the loss of Armenian lives.

Azerbaijan uses Israel to settle scores with Armenia and Israel uses Azerbaijan to neutralize "Iran as a major, even existential security threat." Israel buys 30 percent of the Azeri oil, contributing to the latter's war chest. According to President Aliyev, his country's relationship with Israel is "nine-tenths...below the surface."

Whatever is "above the surface" is enough to threaten Armenia. Thus, in 2008, Azerbaijan signed an agreement worth hundreds of millions of dollars with three Israeli companies to buy mortars, ammunitions, rocket artillery and radio equipment. The cooperation will also help the Baku government to upgrade Soviet SU-25 Scorpion aircraft. To top it all, Israel will help Azerbaijan to manufacture 60 drones, in addition to the supply of weapons to the tune of \$1.6 billion.

To reciprocate this massive assistance of weapons, the Baku government has offered its military airfields to Israel to launch an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Of course, the Azeri army is no match for Iran, therefore, its military might is directed toward Armenia.

One wonders at Tehran's neutral stand on the Karabagh issue and its insistence on Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, when the latter is threatening its own territorial integrity.

No one has proven yet that Iran has produced – or intends to produce – nuclear weapons. Also no one pays any attention to Iran's counter proposal that the entire region of the Middle East needs to be converted into a nuclear free zone, hinting at Israel's 200-300 nuclear warheads.

Israeli meddling in the Caucasus region poses two major threats to Armenia: if Iran is attacked, one of Armenia's lifelines with the outside world will be disrupted for a long period, with tremendous economic loss, since Iran has become a major trading partner for Armenia. The second threat will come from a fully-armed Azerbaijan.

Russia is the major power in the region, but its intentions are not clear if and when Israel attacks Iran. It seems that Moscow will be satisfied with some harsh rhetoric as long as its vital interests in the region are not touched.

Although Russia has a base agreement with Armenia, a nation that Russian leaders call a "strategic ally," but it is one of the arms suppliers to Azerbaijan, also. We have learned a long time ago that concepts of morality and justice have nothing in common with the political interests of major countries.

The recently-published book by David Phillips, *Unsilencing the Past*, quotes a very ominous statement by President Aliyev. He says that Azerbaijan's economy is booming, and its population is growing. Armenia, on the other hand, is losing its population and pretty soon will be reduced down to 1 million, and then we will take over. Like the French saying goes, nothing hurts more than the truth. It is an honest, albeit painful prediction from a determined enemy "at the gates."

There is very little that the diaspora can do to reverse the trend. The government and the opposition in Armenia have to take this threat very seriously and make a priority to retain and increase Armenia's population. Oligarchs may tame their opulent and arrogant lifestyle and the opposition may soften its stand to a more realistic level to save the most essential prize; Armenia's population.

All the diaspora can do is to warn Armenia that "Aliyev [is] at the gates."

## LETTERS

## Dollar Figures for ATP Are Incorrect

To The Editor:

We appreciate your coverage of environmental issues and especially the work of Armenia Tree Project, which is dedicated to addressing the issue of deforestation. The amount of damage reported by Armenia's Hayantar forestry service that was caused by cases of illegal logging in 2011 was approximately \$340,000 rather than \$33,000 noted in your March 17 article. It was likely an error in converting the currency but nevertheless worth clarifying.

ATP recognizes the seriousness and magnitude of the deforestation issue. In addition

to planting hundreds of thousands of trees every year, ATP has made environmental education a core part of our programs so we can

teach young generations of Armenians about the importance of trees and environmental stewardship.

We have also been advancing programs to work at the community level on sustainable forest management. The sustainable use of forests recognizes the need for local residents to use wood for cooking and heating in the absence of alternative fuels, while at the same time introducing planning that will allow this natural resource to regenerate. This serves to maximize the value of the forest, preserve the environment, and meet the needs of local residents.

We are grateful for the support of the diaspora in this endeavor and hope to see continued support for this approach from official agencies

in Armenia. This is even more necessary if the illegal logging is going to be stopped. It is the responsibility of the government to follow through on this commitment, particularly since Article 10 of Armenia's Constitution stipulates that "The State shall ensure the preservation and restoration of the environment as well as the rational utilization of natural resources" (Source: www.President.am).

Thank you again for your coverage and we will continue to keep your readers apprised of our plans for the coming year.

Jeff Masarjian, Director  
Jason Sohigian, Deputy Director  
Armenia Tree Project

### Notice to Contributors

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

– All articles submitted should be typed, double (or triple) spaced and printed in a type size large enough to be clearly legible

(10 point or larger). Submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be assigned lowest priority.

– Articles sent by fax are acceptable, and e-mail submissions are encouraged.

– All submissions should include the name of a contact person and a daytime telephone number.

– Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is noon on the Monday of the week of publication.

– Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art direc-

tor. 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.



## COMMENTARY

# The Azerbaijan Dilemma

**W**ho would be Azerbaijan? The Caucasian country has just joined the UN Security Council, and it is wealthy as never before, its state coffers overflowing with oil and gas revenues. But its position in the world is barely easier than it was twenty years ago.

Relations with Western countries could be described as transactional, dependent on energy supplies and the country's status as a transit route to Afghanistan. The Azerbaijanis blame a fairly difficult relationship with Washington on the success of the Armenian lobby in Congress in blocking the reconfirmation of Matt Bryza as US ambassador, leaving the State Department again without an envoy in Baku. American officials say that the relationship is not bad but will not be better as long as Azerbaijan is so far from being a democracy.

**By Thomas de Waal**

Azerbaijan has tricky relationships with all of its neighbors. The surrounding landscape offers suspended conflict with Armenia, simmering tensions with Iran and Turkmenistan, friendship masking perpetual suspicion with Russia and constant misunderstandings with its supposedly close Turkic cousin Turkey.

Even the relationship with the closest neighbor, Georgia, is not trouble free. Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili talked up Azerbaijani-Georgian friendship on a visit to Baku in early March and even proposed that the two countries should make a joint bid to host the 2016 European soccer championship. But Saakashvili caused his hosts headaches in a speech to the Azerbaijani parliament, telling his audience (in the Russian language) that Moscow's foreign policy "has many names, but only one meaning for all of us, the neighbors of the Russian Federation: the end of our freedom and our independence, the end of the dream of Rasulzade and many others of our ancestors."

The speech raised the ire of some Azerbaijani parliamentarians. They felt the Georgian president had offended protocol by using their parliament to attack a neighboring state with whom they try to maintain good relations. Saakashvili's many references to Mammad Amin Rasulzade, whose famous phrase "The flag once raised will never fall" he used to conclude his speech, also went down badly. Rasulzade was the founder of the first Azerbaijani independent republic of 1918 and leader of the Musavat Party, now the leading opposition group to the government. He is a historical figure the current Azerbaijani governing elite prefers not to glorify in public.

Israel is another high-maintenance ally. The two countries have a strong commercial and political partnership with both stressing their pro-Western foreign-policy orientation and resistance to radical Islam. But being Israel's best friend in this neighborhood comes at a cost. Unhelpfully for the Azerbaijani government, the Israeli media recently leaked the story of an arms deal worth \$1.6 billion between Israel and Azerbaijan. The relationship causes friction with Turkey-the Turkish ambassador to Baku complained last year that the Azerbaijanis should support Ankara in its row with Israel, just as Turkey supported Azerbaijan in its conflict with Armenia. And, of course, it draws hostile attention from Iran.

Azerbaijan joined the UN Security Council in January. That is both a mark of respect and a big responsibility. As one Western diplomat in Baku put it to me, "You can hide in the UN General Assembly, you can't hide in the Security Council." The Azerbaijanis now have to take a line on issues such as Syria where they might have preferred to keep silent before.

As Turkey is finding on an even larger scale, it is easier to declare big foreign-policy ambitions than to realize them. Capacity is stretched. There are plenty of people in the new Azerbaijan who are good at making money and doing deals but a limited few who bear the burden of making a coordinated foreign policy.

At the same time, the government in oil-rich Baku is increasingly opaque. Foreign visitors and diplomats complain that they find it harder to gain access to the government officials making decisions and struggle to understand what government strategy is. This is the context in which Azerbaijan faces what could be its biggest foreign-policy test since the war with the Armenians ended in 1994: how to handle a looming crisis with Iran, a near neighbor, fellow Shiite state and strong ideological adversary.

The working presumption has always been that because both countries have the ability to hurt each other badly, they refrain from doing anything that drags them into full-scale confrontation. Iran has influence over dozens of mosques and tens of thousands of Islamists in Azerbaijan who could rattle the Azerbaijani state. It also provides an economic and energy lifeline for the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhichevan. Azerbaijan has the capacity to stir up parts of Iran's huge Azeri minority if it wanted to.

# Remembering a Friend

**By Gerard Libaridian**

With deep sadness and a sense of great personal and professional loss I would like to inform you that Irving Louis Horowitz, Hannah Arendt Emeritus Professor of Sociology at Rutgers University, passed away last Wednesday, March 21, 2012, following an emergency heart surgery in February.

Along with his illustrious teaching career, Professor Horowitz was the founder (fifty years ago), Chairman of the Board and Editorial Director of Transaction Publications, the largest independent publisher in the US of works in the social sciences and humanities.

For over five decades Irving was one of the most respected public intellectuals in national and international affairs, serving as a moral compass for many of us: understanding of circumstances but uncompromising on values.

Despite his wide areas of interests, Irving paid particular attention to the Armenian Genocide as an integral part of the human experience. Irving has been at the forefront of genocide studies, beginning with his pioneering work, "Taking Lives." Under his leadership Transaction Publications has released some 17 volumes on Armenian studies, many on genocide related topics. These works have included major authors in the field such as Vahagn Dadrian, Richard Hovannisian, Taner Akcam, Yair Auron, Samuel Totten, Jacques Derogy, and others. In the last few years Transaction released works by newer scholars such as Fuat Dundar, Dikran Kaligian, Lisa Khachatryan and Seta Dadoyan.

Although he did not know me then, Irving accepted my invitation to the first ever academic conference on the Armenian Genocide, organized at the Armenian American International College at La Verne University in 1980. Similarly, he was an active participant in the international conference marking the 80th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Yerevan, in 1995, sponsored by the State Commission on the Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

In the last few years I have had the privilege of working with Irving more closely as special editor for the Armenian Studies series at Transaction and, in the past two years as a member of the Board of Directors of Transaction Publications.

Irving had faith in the value and in the power of the word but he also respected its use. We will miss his intellectual vigor, his unrelenting struggle for the respect of human life, his respect for knowledge, and his scholarly discipline and, above all, his rare ability to create a world that integrates these values.

With critical support from Mary Curtis Horowitz, long time President of Transaction Publications, Irving Horowitz managed the changes and crises in the publishing industry of the last few years. In addition to my deepest sympathy, Mary Curtis Horowitz will have my full collaboration as special series editor and as a member of the Board of Directors of Transaction Publications. We owe much to Irving Louis Horowitz.

(Gerard Libaridian is the Alex Manoogian Chair in modern Armenian History and Director of the , Armenian Studies Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.)

# Life Hereafter and Life Here and Now

**By Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian**

The inevitability of death is a universal human experience. The one thing that all human beings know about their existence is that no one ever gets out of it alive! But people differ about their views of death.

Some believe that there is nothing after death. They claim that at death we cease to exist; we pass into oblivion. Others believe in the immortality of the soul. They believe our bodies are a prison, and death marks the point at which our souls, which were previously held in captivity, are finally released. Still others believe in reincarnation; they believe that an individual soul passes through a succession of lives.

The Christian faith is concerned not with the mere immortality of the soul, not with reincarnation, but with the resurrection of the dead. As far as the New Testament is concerned, this means that the raising of the whole person from the dead, not just the soul but also the body. According to the Christian faith, eternal life is God's gift, not an inherent attribute. Only those who accept that gift can possess it. That is a vital theological truth, opposed to the theory of a natural immortal soul.

St. Paul, the greatest Christian theologian of all times, believes that without Christ's resurrection there is no after life. He invokes two archetypal figures to illustrate the means by which human death and its opposite, eternal life, entered the world. Citing the Genesis account, Paul maintains that "the first man," Adam (God's first earthly son) brought death to the human race, but Christ (Adam's "heavenly" counterpart) brings life. He writes, "As in Adam all men die, so in Christ all will be brought to life" (I Corinthians 15:22). Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection. It is an affirmation about life after death – an assurance of eternal life with God. It is also a statement

about a quality life here on earth – an assurance of a better life here and now.

Undoubtedly, Easter is a unique historical event which affirms Jesus' victory over death. That event, however, becomes real, relevant and meaningful to those who bind their lives with the triumphant Lord. Only after the encounter with the risen Lord, Easter receives a new meaning. That is what happened to the disciples of Jesus. Although Christ had risen from the dead on Sunday following his crucifixion, they had a hard time at first to believe in the news of his resurrection. It was not until each in turn had experienced, in his or her own way, the undeniable presence of the living Christ that they were convinced. Each had a so-called "eastering event" in his or her own life. John's and Peter's eastering happened when they saw the shroud-littered empty tomb of Jesus. Mary found her eastering event when Jesus spoke to her in the garden. The doubting Thomas had his eastering event when Jesus showed him the marks of his wounds.

Once the early followers of Jesus experienced the risen Lord in their lives, then that little band of demoralized, fearful and scattered people, within a few weeks, was fearlessly declaring the Gospel of the risen Christ and began what became a successful challenge to the Roman Empire.

As in the past, today people can also experience the eastering event of the new life in Christ if they accept him as Lord and Savior of their lives. Following that a marvelous transformation takes place in their lives. That decisive encounter will give them a new perspective. It will fill their lives with peace, purpose and power. It will give them faith, hope and spiritual strength to push aside the stone of self-defeat. They will no more be afraid of dying, nor will they be afraid of living. They will be able to declare with conviction; "Christ has risen from the dead!"

(Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian is the executive director of the Armenian Evangelical World Council.)

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## COMMENTARY



## My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Turks and Azeris Alarmed that Tuvalu May Recognize Republic of Artsakh

March 16, 2012 was like any other day at the United Nations, when the representatives of Armenia and Tuvalu signed a joint declaration establishing diplomatic relations. Tuvalu is a tiny state in the South Pacific, much smaller than Manhattan, with a population barely over 10,000! Who would have thought that such a routine announcement would alarm Turkey and Azerbaijan?

This news item would have been ignored by the world media were it not for the “acute” eyes of Ugur Ergan, the “astute” reporter of the Turkish Hurriyet newspaper. He brought Tuvalu out of its obscurity for a short while, making it the most talked about country in Turkish and Azerbaijani circles. Ergan quoted unnamed Ankara officials as stating that Armenia had established diplomatic relations and offered tons of money to Tuvalu, so that it would be the first country to recognize Artsakh (Nagorno Karabagh) as an independent state!

Ergan further disclosed that Ankara is “disturbed” by Tuvalu’s possible recognition of Artsakh, suspecting that Armenia would do what Turkish officials have done for decades – buying political favors in return for lucrative gifts. They attribute to others what they routinely practice

themselves. As the Holy Bible states, they see the splinter in someone else’s eye, but fail to notice the beam in their own eye!

Even more alarmed were Azerbaijan’s officials who assumed that Tuvalu would shortly recognize Artsakh. Aydin Mirzazade, a parliamentarian from the ruling New Azerbaijan Party, in an interview with reporter I. Isabalayeva, ridiculed Tuvalu’s readiness “to recognize any state, even a non-existent country, for a small amount of money.” Mirzazade understands well the practice of buying favors. It has been widely reported that Azerbaijan’s Foreign Minister put his country’s immense petrodollars to “good use” last year by providing generous financial inducements to poor nations in exchange for their votes for a UN Security Council seat.

Azerbaijan was following its elder brother’s, Turkey’s, footsteps at vote buying at the UN. Gareth Jenkins reported in the Eurasian Daily Monitor that the Turkish government had enticed to Istanbul the leaders of Tuvalu, Tonga, Nauru, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Palau, Fiji, Micronesia and Samoa to secure their votes for Turkey’s membership in the UN Security Council. Those who have never heard of these Pacific islands should not feel embarrassed. Turkey’s former Deputy Prime Minister Abdullatif Shener had the honesty to confess: “I had never heard of the names of some of them before, but they all have a vote at the UN.” Turkey’s scheme succeeded. It gained a seat on the UN Security Council in 2008 by offering tens of millions of dollars to dozens of little-known countries in far-flung corners of the world.

Yilmaz Ozdil, a more forthright commentator for Hurriyet, boldly countered Ergan’s report, confirming that Turkey was the first to offer “bribes” to Tuvalu and many others. Ozdil disclosed that, to obtain a seat on the UN Security Council, Turkey provided as kickbacks:

– medicines to Angola, Ethiopia, Gambia, Sudan and the

Comoros;

- trade center to Zimbabwe;
- stables to Mauritania;
- drinking water network to Niger;
- water wells to Ethiopia;
- school kits to Ghana;
- field hospital to Sudan;
- cattle-breeding technology to Mozambique and Mauritania;
- electric grid to Benin;
- smelting house to Gambia;
- training schools to Eritrea, Togo, Lesotho and Uganda;
- police training to Guinea;
- vaccines to Mali;
- humanitarian assistance to Tanzania and Chad;
- school to Congo;
- sewer system to Liberia and Sierra Leone;
- VIP minibus to Palau;
- computers to Antigua;
- wine and dine visiting Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, stuffed his pocket with gifts and placed a private jet at his disposal to fly to Izmir and
- donated soccer balls and pumps to Tuvalu.

Another Turkish commentator, Deniz Zeyrek, wrote a hilarious column in the newspaper Radikal, headlined: “Tuvalu: give our soccer balls back.” To buy votes at the UN, Zeyrek reported that Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu asked the visiting Tuvalu Prime Minister if his country needed anything. Tuvalu officials made a surprising request – that their children liked to play soccer, but had no balls. Turkey immediately dispatched to Tuvalu hundreds of soccer balls along with pumps. Tuvalu then complied with Turkey’s demand, supporting its bid to join the UN Security Council.

Zeyrek concluded his article with the following sarcastic question: “Will Turkey now ask for its balls back, if Tuvalu recognizes Karabagh’s independence?”

# THE EASTER MESSAGE OF ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN

PRIMATE OF THE EASTERN DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

## While It Was Still Dark

Jesus said to her, “...Go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her. (St. John 20:17-18)

It was still dark, early in the morning of the first day of the week: a Sunday, close to 2,000 years ago. To most of the world, the sun would rise on a day no different from any other. Only a handful of people would later realize that something of importance had occurred. But those few people understood that overnight, the world had changed.

Three pious women rose early to bear spices and burial ointments to the grave of their departed teacher and friend. But approaching the tomb, they sensed that something was wrong. The grave was open: its sealing-stone pushed away. And inside the tomb they found, not a dead body, but a mysterious figure – an angel – who beckoned them to draw closer. Here is how St. Matthew tells the story:

The angel said to the women: “Do not be afraid. For I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here. He has risen – just as he said! Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He is risen from the dead...’” (Mt 28:5-7).

Some 2,000 years later, we use the very same words to remember the miracle of that Sunday morning: Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Christ is risen from the dead! And as Christians we celebrate Easter to mark the most important, most joyous, most glorious day in all of human history.

But think again of what it must have been like on that first Easter Sunday. In the darkness before dawn, when the pious oil-bearing women set off on their journey to our Lord’s tomb, things must have looked very different.

Two nights earlier, the women had watched in horror as Jesus endured the torments of crucifixion. They had stood in silent witness, as his lifeless body was brought down from the cross, wrapped in a burial shroud and placed in a tomb. All their hopes and dreams had come to ruin. Their Master was dead. His mission was over. The salvation of mankind had failed. The women approached the tomb that morning, fully expecting to find Jesus buried within.

But, he was not there.

Instead, the women discovered that their greatest hope had come to pass: “Christ is risen from the dead!” Just as he had promised.

Imagine the overwhelming joy, the incredible sense of hope, the feeling of limitless possibility that swept over the women at that moment. They must have been bursting with excitement – eager to share this news with others.

And indeed it was these women – the first witnesses to the resurrection – who brought the Good News to the disciples. Through them, the Gospel mission began: they were the first link in a great chain of evangelism that would eventually encompass the world and

transform our own homeland with its message of love, hope and victory over sin and death.

A beautiful service of the Armenian Church shows how very close we still are to these events, despite the obvious gulfs of time and space. Taking place in the early hours of Easter Sunday, the service is dedicated to the oil-bearing women: the “Myrophores” in Greek, or “Yughaperitz Ganaykh” in our own tongue. The Yughaperitz service culminates in a reading from the Gospel of St. John (Jn 20:1-18), which begins “Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark...” and ends with Mary Magdalene’s ecstatic announcement to the disciples: “I have seen the Lord!”

And here is the astonishing thing: History indicates that this service originated in the early centuries of the Christian movement, in Jerusalem itself – perhaps at the very site of

Christ’s tomb – where the celebrants would gather at dawn, just as the women had done, to re-enact their world-changing discovery. Through this beautiful ritual, preserved over many centuries by the Armenian Church, the voices from that original Easter Sunday echo down to us, as if for the first time.

It is surely significant that the oil-bearing women held no exalted or privileged status in the world of their day. Indeed, even the disciples refused to believe them when they came to the upper room, breathless, to relate what they had witnessed. Yet it proved that these women, even from their humble station, were the ones who had seen the truth with clear eyes. Certainly it was their humility, their willingness to rise before dawn to perform a ministry of love and respect at a friend’s grave that placed them in the right place to receive this truth. Perhaps it was the same attitude of humble ministry to our Lord, which prepared their minds to believe in it, and prepared their hearts to share it.

Armenian history is filled with similar stories of people – often from the most powerless and marginalized stations of their surrounding societies – who saw and heard, who believed and shared and ultimately who transformed their worlds from within. That is the power and the promise that genuine Christian ministry – the “Ministry of the Faithful,” as we have been calling it in our Diocese this year – can bring to our churches and communities, to our families and our individual lives. It starts with those simple announcements of joy and amazement: “He is not here; he has risen!” “I have seen the Lord!” Or in the words of our beautiful Easter greeting:

Krisdos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnyal eh harootiunun Krisdosee!

Christ is risen from the dead! Blessed is the resurrection of Christ!

This Easter, let us proclaim those words loudly, with conviction – to everyone we meet. Even “while it is still dark,” let us pierce the darkness with our song of joy. And through it, may our Risen Lord draw forth the transformative ministry that truly brings Light to the world.

(Archbishop Khajag Barsamian is Primate of the American Diocese of the Armenian Church.)





# The Armenian Mirror-Spectator

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