

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXIV, NO. 44, Issue 4338

\$ 2.00

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

## Post-Foxman Suffolk Controversy, ADL Restates Position on Armenian Genocide

BOSTON – This week, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) issued another statement attempting to clarify its position on the Armenian Genocide in the wake of the renewed attention on the ADL's silence on or opposition to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide in the US Congress.

"Because questions continue to be raised about the Anti-Defamation League's position on the Armenian genocide, we want to make clear that as we said in August 2008, ADL recognizes the Armenian Genocide," read a statement on the ADL website's Europe section. This new statement then recycles a 2008 ADL statement on the Armenian Genocide.



Abraham Foxman

However, a 2007 statement from ADL-National Director Abraham Foxman refrains from using the proper term: Armenian Genocide. The "consequences of those actions were indeed tantamount to genocide," stated Foxman. Furthermore, "we continue to firmly believe that a Congressional resolution on such matters is a counterproductive diversion and will not foster reconciliation between Turks and Armenians and may put at risk the Turkish Jewish community and the important multilateral relationship between Turkey, Israel and the United States," Foxman's 2007 statement said.

The most recent ADL statement came in advance of Foxman's appearance at the Suffolk University Law School graduation on May 17. Suffolk University's choice of Foxman as the 2014 commencement speaker had stirred controversy within the school's student body, as well as from Armenian American organizations, who urged the university to reconsider. "Suffolk claims to embody diversity and be a place for all people, but this clearly is a speaker who does not embody those values," Amy Willis, president of the university's National Lawyers Guild chapter, told the *Boston Globe*.

A protest action took place outside the Citi Wang Performing Arts Center Saturday, in which those against ADL's actions and statements on the Armenian Genocide handed out leaflets.

The ADL's restatement comes on the heels of the American Jewish Committee's (AJC) statement on April 23 whereupon they call on the Turkish Government to "address the realities" of the Armenian Genocide.

see FOXMAN, page 16



The proposed design

## Genocide Monument to Be Built On Campus of Fresno State

FRESNO – Fresno's Armenian Community has come together to form the Armenian Genocide Centennial Committee (AGCC), an umbrella association established to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide throughout this year and 2015. Working under the theme "Commemoration, Education, Inspiration", the committee is made-up of representatives from the community's religious, educational, social and political organizations.

"The commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide is clearly a significant moment for Armenians all around the world," said AGCC chairman and Professor of Armenian Studies at California State University Fresno Sergio La Porta. "As Fresno is one of the largest and most active Armenian communities in the Western Hemisphere, I think it resonates particularly strongly here. It is home to a proud and resilient Armenian community and is an especially poignant place to commemorate those who died in the Genocide and those who toiled afterwards to insure that we would have a much better world to live in."

see FRESNO, page 16

## Schiff Presses Erdogan, Gul on Armenian Genocide, Blockade of Armenia, Kessab

WASHINGTON – As part of a Congressional Delegation to the Middle East and Asia focused on terrorism, homeland security and the war in Syria, Representative Adam Schiff (D-CA) had separate meetings with Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, President Abdullah Gul and other Turkish high government officials last week.

In his meeting with Erdogan, Schiff challenged the notion expressed by the prime minister in a recent interview that because there are Armenian survivors still living in Turkey, there could have been no genocide. This is the equivalent, Schiff argued, of saying that because some Jews in Europe escaped death, there was no Holocaust. Schiff also questioned whether it was possible to have the open discourse in Turkey about the events of 1915-1923 that

Erdogan called for in his statement of April 23rd, if Turkish professors, historians, journalists and ordinary citizens still faced demotion, intimidation, potential prosecution or violence for expressing the conviction that the Armenian Genocide is a historic fact.

In his meeting with Gul, Schiff said that he wanted to speak for the many tens of thousands of his constituents of Armenian descent who may never get the chance to address the president directly.

"You will not find one of my 80,000 Armenian constituents untouched by the Genocide," he said. "Each of them has lost a parent or grandparent, their cousins, brothers or sisters, or their entire family. Their pain is real, their wounds are open, this is no distant relic of the past. To say, as

see SCHIFF, page 16

## Armenische Waisenteppich Issued in German

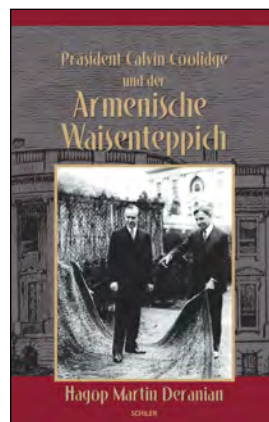
By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach  
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN – A little book which has fuelled a lively debate in the United States about the Armenian Genocide is now available to German readers. As readers of the *Mirror-Spectator* have followed over the past

weeks, the book, written by Dr. Hagop Martin Deranian, *President Calvin Coolidge and the Armenian Orphan Rug*, has just appeared in a second edition in English, while discussion is rife about the possibility that

the White House may acquiesce to public pressure and finally put the historic rug on display. (See *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, May 10, 2014) Now the same volume has been published in German by Verlag Hans Schiler in Berlin.

I had read about the rug controversy in the *Mirror-Spectator*, and was happily surprised to see TRANSLATION, page 13



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### One Armenian Killed, Another Injured in Aleppo

ALEPPO, Syria (Armenpress) – An Armenian man, Raffi Hekimian, was killed here on April 29, according to sources here. Additional information about his death has not been made available yet.

The source also informed that on April 30, Armenian Khajak Zhamkochian was injured after his residence sustained damage from rockets. He is a student at Karen Jeppe national college.

### Syrian Christians Face 'New Wave of Exodus': Armenian Prelate

ALEPPO (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Syrian rebels are besieging Aleppo, the nation's largest city, leading to "a new wave of the exodus of Christians," a local prelate said, according to Catholic Culture.

"The families waited for high school to end, then they took their luggage, closed their homes and fled to the coast and to Lebanon, using the only road link with the outside world still viable," said Armenian Catholic Archbishop Boutros Marayati of Aleppo. "Maybe they will come back in four months. Perhaps they will never come back again."

"The areas where there are large power stations and water supply lines are all in the hands of the rebels, that open and close the valves to force the regime to negotiate," Marayati told the Fides news agency. "We do not know what these negotiations aim to reach. We are with the people, and we do not understand very well what is going on around us."

At least 150,000 people have been killed in Syria's three-year-old civil war, a third of them civilians, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Before the civil war, Syria was home to 80000 Armenians. At present, about 20,000 left the country, mainly for Armenia, Lebanon and the US. About 100 Armenians have died in Syria during three years of war.

### Heffern to Travel to US To Meet with Potential Partners for Armenia

YEREVAN – On May 17, US Ambassador John Heffern traveled to the US to meet with a series of potential partners in several cities. During his trip, Heffern wants to speak with various partners on cultural tourism/preservation, as well as science, technology and innovation issues. His meetings will be followed by consultations in Washington, DC. Heffern will return to Armenia on June 12.

## INSIDE

### Major Miner

Page 5

#### INDEX

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Arts and Living | 11 |
| Armenia         | 2  |
| Community News  | 4  |
| Editorial       | 14 |
| International   | 3  |



## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Yerevan's Landmark Sport and Concert Complex in Foreclosure

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The Karen Demirchyan Sport and Concert Complex (SCC), one of Yerevan's architectural landmarks, is on the market as it is being foreclosed, according to the official website of Armenia's Ministry of Justice.

The bidding price for the complex built in 1983 was set at 19,350,000,000 drams (around \$47 million). According to the website, the auction closes on May 29.

The description of the auction lot says that the complex, situated in Yerevan's Kentron district, is a seven-storied building with a total area of 46335 square meters and other auxiliary structures and territories. It says that the building was an object of mortgage, Armenia Now reported.

The SCC owners had reportedly taken out a \$20-million loan secured on 75 percent of the Complex.

## EP Deputies Urge Azeris To Call Back Snipers

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – On the 20th anniversary of the ceasefire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan, several members of the European Parliament urged Azerbaijan to withdraw its snipers from the contact line.

The European Parliament members were Eleni Theodorou, Frank Engel, Tatiana Zhdakova, Ewald Shtadler, Iñaki Irazabal Beyta, Michelle Rivaz, as well as the member of the Parliament of Spain John Iñárritu. In their statement they also said that the fragile peace has led to lives being saved as well as providing a chance to search for peaceful means to the end of the conflict.

"Unfortunately, despite all the efforts, the 20 – years of ceasefire did not turn into a lasting and sustainable peace. From time to time we still receive alarming news about the incidents taking place regularly in the contact line. These incidents cause loss of young soldiers on both sides and can lead to the resumption of hostilities," the statement added.

## Syrian-Armenians Create, Sell Original Art

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Syrian-Armenians who settled in their homeland because of the Syrian war and try to earn their own livelihood by participating in an exhibition organized by the Armenian Red Cross. Charles Aznavour square was more crowded than usual and the mood was festive full of the performances of "Sasun" song-dance ensemble. The Syrian-Armenians living in Armenia showed and sold different works.

The Chairman of the Red Cross Armenian Company Mkhitar Mnatsakanyan noted in a conversation with the journalists that the Syrian-Armenians have said many times that they need assistance not by goods and food but by corresponding tools as to be able to get their daily bread by themselves.

## Armenia Plans 5-Percent Annual Tourism Growth

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenia's government is hoping that by implementing a series of measures, it would increase the country's attractiveness to tourists, bringing in at least 5 percent annual growth in the industry through implementing the projects of the tourism policy objectives and measures to increase competitiveness in the global tourism market. This program was approved at the special session of the executive body on May 19.

A Tourism Development Fund is planned.

Various events will be held in the communities aimed at tourism development, rehabilitation of local traditions, discovery of tourism potential, tourism product diversification, development of Jointly with Iran and Georgia a regional tourism product will be formed, which will be presented to the global market.

## Armenia's Defense Ministry Launches New Scholarship Program with AGBU and American University of Armenia

YEREVAN – AGBU, the American University of Armenia (AUA) and Armenia's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces have launched a new scholarship program that will serve soldiers and representatives of the military.

The initiative was officially announced at a recent meeting attended by AGBU Central Board member

Vasken Yacoubian, Armenia's Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian and AUA President Dr. Bruce Boghosian. Together at the ministry, they signed an agreement detailing the different courses and activities that will be funded by AGBU and implemented by AUA.

The program will provide new educational opportunities to service members at every phase of their military career. It will include trainings for the ministry's English-language teachers; classes for soldiers completing their last six months of service; scholarships for ministry representatives enrolled in AUA's

pride and confidence for Armenians everywhere. We believe that this new program will further strengthen its efficiency and capabilities while continuing to produce highly qualified officers and professionals. AGBU is very proud to play a role in it working alongside the ministry and AUA."

These plans build on a longtime partnership between AGBU, AUA and the Ministry of Defense. A number of ministry members are already enrolled in courses at the AUA Extension Program, among them a master's degree candidate who is receiving full funding from



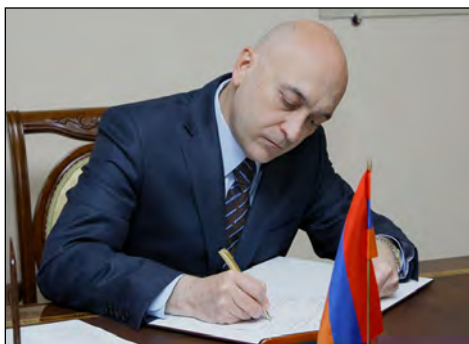
Representatives of Armenia's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces discuss the new courses and activities that the American University of Armenia will offer to service members with funding from AGBU.



From left to right: AGBU Central Board member Vasken Yacoubian, American University of Armenia president Dr. Bruce Boghosian and Armenia's Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian officially launch a new scholarship program that will serve the Defense Ministry's soldiers and staff.

undergraduate and graduate schools; as well as professional development courses for military staff.

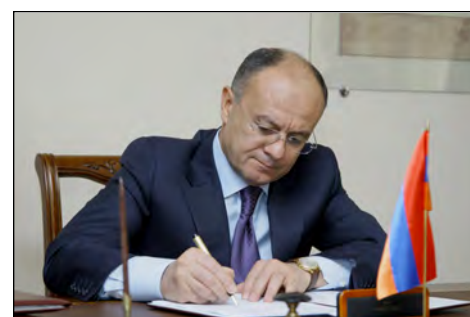
Small classroom sizes and an individualized approach will give each partici-



AGBU Central Board member Vasken Yacoubian signs an agreement for the new scholarship program developed with Armenia's Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces. The program will be financed by AGBU and implemented by the American University of Armenia.

pant the attention they need. Enrollment will be no more than 18 students per course, and one-on-one mentoring will be incorporated into the curricula. Classes focused on the GMAT, GRE, LSAT and TOEFL iBT exams will help prepare those pursuing higher education either at AUA or international universities.

Yacoubian praised the venture, stating, "The Armed Forces is one of our nation's key pillars and a source of



Armenia's Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian adds his signature to the agreement for the AGBU-supported scholarship program.

## Karabagh: Minsk Group Sum up Regional Tour

STEPANAKERT (ArmeniaNow) – The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has issued a statement summing up the results of the latest regional tour of the troika of international mediators advancing a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

The three co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Ambassadors Igor Popov of the Russian Federation, Jacques Faure of France, and James Warlick of the United States of America) and the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, travelled to the region May 16-19. They were joined by Ambassador Pierre Andrieu, who will take over as French Co-Chair in June, during the tour that included stops in Armenia, Karabagh and Azerbaijan.

Below is the text of the statement published on the OSCE's official website:

"The main objective of their visit was to review the situation in Nagorno-Karabagh, Kelbajar, and Lachin, in accordance with their mandate. In travelling through these areas, they saw signs of improvements in infrastructure, but could not observe any indications that the size of the population had changed in recent years.

"They also visited the Sarsang reservoir, and discussed its status and operations with managers of the facility. They expressed their hope that the sides will reach an agreement to jointly manage these water resources to the benefit of the region.

"On May 19, the Co-Chairs crossed the Line of Contact near Terter. They expressed regret for the continued ceasefire violations and consequent casualties. The absence of a mechanism for investigating these ceasefire violations allows the sides to put the blame on each other.

"In the course of the visit, the Co-Chairs paid courtesy calls on senior officials in Yerevan and Baku as well as the de facto authorities and representatives of local administrations in Nagorno-Karabagh and Kelbajar and visited Lachin. They also met with representatives of the Azerbaijani Community of Nagorno-Karabagh in Baku. In their meetings, they discussed elements of the peace process, and stressed that the basis of a lasting settlement remains those elements outlined in statements by the Presidents of the co-chair countries from 2009 to 2013."



## INTERNATIONAL

## First Liturgy in 50 Years at Sourp Asdvadzadzin Church in Turkish-Occupied Portion of Cyprus

NICOSIA, Cyprus (*Cyprus Mail*) – A Divine Liturgy was carried out for the first time in 50 years in the Turkish-occupied Armenian Church of Virgin Mary on May 11.

The Liturgy was carried out by the Armenian Archbishop Varoujan Hergelian and was also attended by many ambassadors, representatives of different religious denominations, other official guests and hundreds of Armenian Community members who had come from all over Cyprus and abroad.

The church provided shelter for thousands who fled the Armenians Genocide between 1915-1923.

Before 1964, the church complex, also housed the Armenian Prelacy, the Melikian-Ouzounian elementary school, a kindergarten and the Armenian Genocide Monument.

The complex which was in a very bad condition was restored between 2009-2012 by UNDP-ACT and USAID funding and in close co-operation with the Armenian Representative and the Armenian Prelacy of Cyprus.

The last wedding in Sourp Asdvadzadzin church in Turkish-occupied northern Nicosia, took place 51 years ago on December 22, 1963. That couple, Antranik and Alice Naltchadjian, was back for the service.

The church was originally built in 1116 by the King of Jerusalem, Baldwin de Buillon, while after the Siege of Jerusalem in 1187 it was used to house the administration of various religious orders. A few years after the start of the Frankish Era (1192), it became an abbey for the Carthusian nuns. Gradually, the Carthusians disappeared, but the Benedictines remained and were divided into two sub-orders, de Tyre and de Tortosa; eventually, the Tyre nuns declined and they either left or joined the Tortosa ones, which is why this Gothic church is known either as Notre Dame de Tyre or as Notre Dame de Tortosa.

It is unclear exactly when and how the compound came to the hands of the Armenian Orthodox Church, however – judging by the accounts of chroniclers Leontios Makhairas and George Boustronius – this is more likely to have happened during the late 15th century. Architectural and documentary evidence suggests that this probably took place after the destructive 1491 earthquake and, at any rate, certainly before 1504, at which time the church was already Armenian. This should not come as a surprise, as it is well-known that many Benedictine nuns came from Cilician-Armenian families, such as Abbess Fimie (†1308), daughter of King Hethoum II. The small canopy under the eastern arch of the cloister used to contain the coat of arms and sarcophagus of Lady Eschive de Dampierre (†1340), perhaps the convent's most famous abbess.

Immediately after the conquest of Nicosia in September 1570, the Ottomans used the church as a salt store. However, it was returned to the Armenians by a firman in May 1571, issued by the Kadi of Nicosia. The Armenians were also granted the keeping of Paphos Gate, a privilege which they made use of only for a short time, due to the large expenditure required. A second dictate formalized the church's Armenian ownership in May 1614.

In the over 400 years that it served the small yet prosperous Armenian community of Nicosia, the church underwent various changes: it was restored in 1688, 1884 and 1904, its baptistry was built in 1788, the buttresses supporting the northern porch were erected in

1858, the belfry was built in 1860 (one of the first in Ottoman Cyprus) and the choir gallery was constructed in 1945. In 1950 the belfry was restored, while between 1960-1961 the Antiquities

of Nicosia's Armenians used to live and work until the inter-communal troubles of 1963-1964, when Turkish-Cypriot extremists forced them to abandon their ancient quarter.



The ceremony included Archbishop Varoujan Hergelian, the Armenian Representative in the Cyprus Parliament Vartkes Mahdessian as well as Armenian Church Committee Chairman Sebouh Tavitian.

Department removed some of the medieval tombstones from the floor and placed new flooring. The church had stained glass windows and beautiful old icons.

Between 1915-1923, the church received numerous persecuted Armenian Genocide refugees from Asia Minor and Cilicia, some of whom temporarily resided under its arches upon arriving in Nicosia. Within the Armenian compound there was also the Armenian Prelature, the Melikian-Ouzounian School and the kindergarten, the Armenian Genocide Monument and other auxiliary buildings, as well as the Melikian Mansion - believed to be the original monastery building and home to the Prelature until the late 18th century. Surrounding the compound was the Armenian Quarter, where the majority

Between 1964-1998, the compound was used as barracks for the Turkish-Cypriot militia and the Turkish soldiers. In 1998 an earthquake partly damaged the porch. After that, it was abandoned by the military and until late 2006/early 2007 the compound was used to house families of illegal Anatolian settlers.

In 2005, following a recommendation from the Nicosia Master Plan regarding the revitalization of the buffer zone area, UNDP-ACT carried out a preliminary study for the potential restoration of the complex, while in 2007 it conducted a feasibility study. The restoration project finally began in October 2009, in close co-operation with the Office of the Armenian Representative, Vartkes Mahdessian, and the Armenian Prelacy of Cyprus. The restoration works were completed in November 2012.

## Galust Sahakyan Receives Polish Ambassador

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Speaker of the Armenian Parliament Galust Sahakyan, on May 20, received the ambassador of Poland to Armenia, Zdzislaw Raczynski. The meeting was attended by the Head of the Armenia-Poland friendship group Hovhannes Sahakyan.

Raczynski congratulated Sahakyan on his election as the Speaker of the National Assembly and conveyed to him the best wishes of the chairmen of the Polish Sejm and the Senate, as well as

the official invitation for the participation in the celebrations dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the first free elections in Poland, to be held on June 4, in Warsaw.

Expressing his gratitude for the congratulations and invitation, the Speaker of the

Said Sahakyan, "The friendship and cooperation between the Armenian and Polish peoples have a long history, which creates a good basis for the development of today's interstate relations."

## International News

### Athens Holds Panel on Criminalization of Genocide Denial

ATHENS (Armenpress) – The Journalists' Union Hall in Athens on May 17 held a meeting titled "Barbarity is forbidden" devoted to the criminalization issue of genocide denial.

Armenpress reports that the representatives of the co-organizer organizations, Araksi Abelian from the Armenian National Committee of Greece, Chairman of the Assyrian union in Greece Kyriakos Batsaras and others made a welcoming speech.

The main speakers were the director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute Hayk Demoyan, the Head of the Department of the Greek-Armenian friendship union, public figure and lecturer Nikos Ligheros and the member of the Genocide Scholars international association Vasileos Mikhanetsidis.

### Armenian Fine Arts Popular in Germany

HALLE, Germany (Armenpress) – The Moritzburg-Saxony-Anhalt region of Germany's Stiftung Moritzburg museum recently hosted the exhibit "Minas and Narek Avetisyan. Modernity and vanguard in Armenia."

During the exhibition the audience enjoyed 19 works by Minas Avetisyan and nine works by the son of the painter Narek Avetisyan. Besides the exhibition, the German people were given opportunity to watch two Armenian films.

At the course of a press conference devoted to the end of the exhibition, the painter Narek Avetisyan underscored that the exhibition had great popularity among the German visitors. "The interest was great, many visitors attended. People also wrote about their impressions. I think that especially Minas Avetisyan was a discovery for the German society since by means of him they were able to imagine the Armenian art and rebellious spirit during the years of the Soviet Union," Narek Avetisyan said.

### Putin Discusses Ukraine, Customs Union With CIS Leaders

MOSCOW (RFE/RL) – The Kremlin says Ukraine's crisis and "collective security" will be the focus of talks in Moscow on May 8 between Russian President Vladimir Putin and the presidents of Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

But resistance of some countries to join a Russian-led Customs Union also reportedly is on the agenda of some of the visiting leaders' talks with Putin.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the visiting presidents would have an informal meeting together with Putin, but also would each meet separately with the Russian president to discuss "bilateral relations."

He said they also plan to attend what the Kremlin is describing as a training exercise for Russian military forces.

The gathering comes a day after Putin called on pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine to postpone referendums on self-determination scheduled for May 11.

Putin also described a planned May 25 presidential election in Ukraine – previously condemned by the Kremlin – as a "move in the right direction."

In Washington, the White House responded to Putin's statement by saying the local referendums should be canceled, not just postponed.

The office of Kyrgyzstan's President Almazbek Atambaev, who arrived in Moscow on May 7, says Atambaev was likely to discuss Kyrgyzstan's prospects of joining a Russian-led Customs Union during his bilateral meeting with the Russian president.

Atambaev's aide, Sapar Isakov said "consultations" over Kyrgyzstan's potential accession to the group have been under way for five days, and that the details "are now being elaborated."

# Community News

## South Florida Community Commemorates Armenian Genocide

BOCA RATON, Fla. – Last month, hundreds of members, friends, academics, clergy and human rights activists from the South Florida Armenian American community gathered at St. David Armenian Church to commemorate the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Boca Raton City Councilman Mike Mullaugh attended the commemorative service and read a proclamation from Susan Haynie, mayor of Boca Raton, which announced April 24, 2014 as Armenian Martyrs' Day. The proclamation called upon the citizens of Boca Raton "to join all Armenians worldwide to observe the 99th commemoration of Martyrs' Day in the hope that these days of infamy will never be forgotten."

As the Armenian community commemorated 99 years of a genocide unrecognized by its perpetrators, the focus of the program echoed a growing shift. Instead of looking to the past, the evening highlighted the survival of the Armenian people and looked to the future, through artistic expression. Taniel Koushadjian, communications director of the Armenian Assembly of America, served as master of ceremonies and took the crowd through the evening's events. The program included several artistic performances by local Armenians. Some read poetry, others played the piano or violin, while still others danced or sang.

Fr. Galstyan of St. David Armenian Church and Fr. Joulfayan of St. Mary Armenian Church offered the memorial service for the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Fr. Saba of Saint George Cathedral, Rabbi Rosenkranz of Congregation B'nai Israel, Rev. Endruschat of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Fr. Leondis and Fr. Klund of St. Mark Greek Orthodox Church, Archpriest Gvosdev of St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Fr. Marashlian and Fr. Jebejian were also in attendance.

This year's commemoration followed on the heels of the April 12 Walk Against Genocide in Mizner Park, a walkathon organized to raise funds for genocide awareness, community outreach and advocacy for more comprehensive genocide education in Florida public schools.

David Silvers, Candidate for Florida House District 89, addressed the crowd of over 250 walkathon participants that day: "The actions of the Ottoman Empire perpetrated on the Armenian people was and is an affront to all of humanity. I strongly believe that politics shouldn't get in the way of facts. It's a fact 1.5 million Armenians died as a result of this genocide. It's a fact that national, state, and local governments all over the world have recognized this genocide. It's a fact that all of the lives lost mattered and refusing acknowledgment of this genocide is the type of political gamesmanship that's beneath the American people."

Both program were organized by the Armenian Genocide Commemoration (AGC) Inc., a nonprofit organization comprised of representatives from various Armenian American organizations and churches in South Florida.



Avedisian School students gaze at the prototype of their new school building now under construction

## Building for the Future

### AMAA's Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center to Be Dedicated in October

LEXINGTON, Mass. and YEREVAN – It started as a simple gesture in August of 1994 on the occasion of my mother Shooshanig's 90th birthday. She didn't really want a party, but, since the family was going to go ahead with one anyway, her requests were to make it simple and to have no gifts because "I have everything I need and I could pass away tomorrow." My siblings Paramaz, Zvart, Paul and I

**By Edward Avedisian**

spent much time discussing the matter and reminiscing over her life to try to find some way to honor her life that would truly make her happy.

Both of our parents placed an extremely high value on education, what with our father's early training for the priesthood and mother's fond memories of her education in the German Missionary Orphanage in Kharpert, where she met so many of the friends with whom she would remain in contact for the rest of her life. Could we make an exceptional education and the opportunity to form lasting friendships a possibility for those who had little to look forward to? If we could make this happen, it would surely please her and us as well.

The celebration of Shooshanig's 90th birthday was truly a momentous occasion, with over 100 people in attendance, including long-time friends from near and far. A representative from the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was also in attendance to help share the news of how we were going to honor her life and remember our late father, Khoren, both of whom, in spite of limited means, had given us so much for which to be thankful. And so the idea for the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School was born. It would, we hoped, open soon in a poor neighborhood in Armenia, conforming to the standard of education as set forth by the Armenian Ministry of Education and operated by the AMAA.

The word "soon" took on a truly Armenian connotation as a protracted search for a suitable building ensued. We had looked long and hard in many areas when I got a call that the Malatya-Sepastya District (located about 15 miles southwest of Yerevan) would give us a free-use, 99-year lease on a Soviet-style building which had housed a kindergarten. It was pointed out that it was in a very poor, rough and tough neighborhood; without hesitation I replied, "Great, that's exactly where the school should be." The building had been closed for some years and was extremely dilapidated. After necessary repairs were made in order to get the school up and running, finally, after five years, on September 20, 1999, the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School opened with a kindergarten of 75 students – 25 each of 3-, 4- and 5-year olds. Yes, the school was now open; but the question was did it have a future?

The AMAA had hired a young and energetic principal, Melanya Geghamyan, who espoused the highest standards of education. My wife Pamela and I met her the day before the school opened and she was more than just excited as something she had dreamt was about to become a reality. It was soon very clear that the school was gaining a reputation for excellence, as people were coming from all around the area to have their children enrolled in the school. However, the school was meant for the children in the depressed area in which it was put; and space was extremely limited.

As each year a new grade was being added on so that the students could continue their education, it became obvious that we would soon be out of space. With that I invited my good friend and colleague at the American University of Armenia, Dr. Mihran Agbabian, who was an engineer, to come and inspect the building. After a thorough inspection, I asked what needed to be done to both get the

see SCHOOL, page 7

## A Time to Celebrate: ATP Los Angeles Gala Marks 20 Years of Greening Armenia

LOS ANGELES – Armenia Tree Project officially began its 20th anniversary celebrations with what can only be called a bustling outdoor gathering amid the lush gardens of the Huntington Library, Art Collection, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California. Longtime supporters and new friends joined founder Carolyn Mugar to celebrate two decades of planting and greening all corners of Armenia and promoting environmental consciousness throughout the country.

After cocktails on the Art Gallery Loggia and dinner at the South Terrace of what was once the Huntington family residence, senior Obama administration official Matt Bogoshian began the program as Master of Ceremonies. "Organizations like ATP are creating jobs, and doing it in a way that is good for the planet. It's all a part of the 'triple bottom line,'" he explained, alluding to the importance of people, profit, and the planet.

Bogoshian, who promotes sustainability initiatives and develops policy on pollution prevention in the Obama Administration, addressed the role ATP plays in reducing global climate change: "By planting trees, ATP is actually at the cutting edge on this issue. Your work can be used as a model to show other countries how to do reforestation and introduce solutions to this global crisis. ATP can set an example to save the world."

In his keynote address, Matthew Karanian, author of *Armenia and Karabakh: The Stone Garden Travel Guide*, spoke about the positive ecological and economic impact ATP has on Armenia. "Reforestation is not as simple as planting trees. Once a forest has been lost to clear cutting, its biological diversity cannot easily be replaced," Karanian explained. "The Tree Project recognizes this, and this is why ATP does more than plant trees. It also educates about the need to save, and manage, and conserve the trees we already have."

Special guests who joined ATP to celebrate the milestone included former Secretary of the US Navy and Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Ignatius and award-winning journalist and author Mark Arax.

Introduced as a leader with a long resume of effecting social change and a committed citizen changing the world, founder Carolyn Mugar addressed the human face of ATP. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the thousands of friends who have helped ATP fight poverty and unemployment in rural villages by establishing tree nurseries, community planting sites, and fruit orchards. "This project is you all, and our people in Armenia," she said. "You won't believe how much of 'a village' it takes to do all of this."

She invited guests to visit ATP's various projects and sites. "See it for yourself. See the nurseries, education centers, and planting sites, and meet the people that are doing this work in communities all over Armenia and Artsakh. Please call us if you plan to go because everyone should do it."

In closing, Mugar amusingly added, "ATP is not an NGO, a non-governmental organization, we are an NGU, meaning Never Give Up!"



ATP founder Carolyn Mugar, West Coast Building Bridges Manager Anahit Gharibyan and Flora Dunaians



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Miner Is Winner of National Heisman Award

PROVIDENCE (*Providence Journal*) – It is three days of treating several outstanding

By John Gillooly

American high school student-athletes like rock stars, and East Greenwich High's Andrew Miner was named one of the stars of the show.

This past December, Miner, the school's star quarterback and baseball standout, was named the male winner of the 2013 Wendy's high school Heisman Award, the top prize in the national high school awards program that recognizes outstanding athletic, academic and community involvement by senior high school students.

The announcement of the two national award winners, one male and one female, is the culmination of a program that starts in the early fall with 46,000 applicants from high schools throughout the country. The female winner was Emily Granger of Saints Peter & Paul High School in Easton, Md.

Miner, the son of Dr. Thomas Miner and Dr. Rosemary (Boghosian) Miner, who set virtually every East Greenwich High passing record over the last three years, is the first Rhode Island student-athlete to win the national award.

The selection process leading up to the national winners' selections begins with state winners being named from the individual high school nominees followed by regional winner selections. Then 12 national finalists (six males, six females) are selected and brought to New York for a weekend

of activities coinciding with the national collegiate Heisman Award program.

Last month Miner joined former Hendricken track star, and current Harvard student, Ryan Meehan as the only Rhode Islanders who had been selected national finalists in the 20-year history of the high school Heisman award.

"It's incredible what Wendy's does for the finalists in New York. The whole weekend is amazing," said Miner early Saturday morning before he headed out with the other national finalists for a boat tour around New York City.

One of the weekend activities is a Friday night dinner honoring the high school award finalists, which is also attended by the finalists for the collegiate Heisman award.

"I sat with Jameis Winston," said Miner of the Florida State star freshman quarterback. "I picked his brain about quarterbacking. We talked about his chances of winning the Heisman, about him playing in the NFL and about his recruiting experience when he was in high school."

"He's so affable, so easy to talk to, and he's funny. He said the national title game is on his birthday so there's no way [Florida State] is going to lose."

Then, at the Best Buy Theater in Times Square, the national winners were announced in a pre-recorded show for ESPN2, similar to the format used in the collegiate Heisman announcement program.

"I was on autopilot when I walked up to the stage to accept the award," said Miner. "I couldn't believe it."

"Last month I was telling my friends, I couldn't believe I was one of the national finalists; now this. It's amazing. I never thought it would get this far," Miner continued.

"I don't know how I won. My athletic accomplishment don't compare to some of the other finalists," said Miner, who passed for 1,762 yards this fall.

But while the collegiate Heisman is based on a single-season football performance, the high school Heisman is awarded for a combination of achievements, and Miner has a complete package of high school accomplishments.

In addition to his school record-setting football



Andrew Miner

performance, he was named an academic National Merit semifinalist in his junior year.

East Greenwich doesn't academically rank its students, but Miner definitely is one of the top students in the Class of 2014. He was the recipient of his class' Harvard Book Award, as well as the East Greenwich 2013 Excellence in English Award.

An outstanding musician, he is a member of the Rhode Island All-State Band and the Junior All-State Jazz and Concert Band. He was the winner of the Berklee Jazz Festival Outstanding Musician and Judge's Choice Award. He also has won several writing awards.

He has been class president at East Greenwich since his sophomore year. He has organized food and coat drives for the needy, as well as a school supplies drive for Hurricane Sandy victims. He's also captain of both the East Greenwich football and baseball teams and a member of the school's drama club.

Miner and Granger, along with the other 10 national finalists, were scheduled to be at the collegiate Heisman Trophy presentation program on Saturday night. After the Heisman winner deliv-

ered his acceptance speech, Miner and Granger, were scheduled to be introduced on the nationally televised program.

On Sunday morning, Miner will have more media interviews before heading back to Rhode Island so he can be in class at East Greenwich on Monday morning.

"Winning the award is an incredible honor," said Miner, the son of Tom and Rosemary Miner. "I really want to thank the entire community of East Greenwich. The support I have received from my teammates, classmates, teachers, coaches, friends and family in the worst of times and the best of times is what made this achievement possible."

Each of the two national winners receives a \$10,000 award from Wendy's donated to their high school in their name.

"The road to excellence is one I walk best when I walk with my teammates," said Miner after being named one of the 12 national finalists last month.

Miner is the grandson of Hagop and Mary Boghosian of Narragansett.

He will attend Harvard this fall.



Andrew Miner and his mother, Dr. Rosemary (Boghosian) Miner



*Tekeyan Cultural Association*

*Requests the honor of your presence*

*at a*

*Tribute Dinner*

*Honoring*

*Hagop Vartivarian*

*on his 45th Anniversary  
of Service to the Armenian Culture & Heritage*

*Under the Auspices of  
H.E. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian  
Primate of the Armenian Church Eastern Diocese*

*Saturday, the Twenty First of June  
Two Thousand and Fourteen*

*The Clinton Inn  
145 Dean Drive, Tenafly, New Jersey*

*RSVP by June 10, 2014  
Helen Misk (917) 589-4749 hmisk@nyc.rr.com*

*Cocktails at 6:30pm  
Dinner at 7:30pm*

*Donation: \$125.00 per person  
Formal Attire*



**TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION  
OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA**

**33rd ANNUAL CONVENTION**

*Hosted by TCA Greater New York Chapter*

**SOCIAL GATHERING**  
Friday, June 20, 2014 at 8pm  
TCA Center, 560 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ

**MEETING SESSIONS**  
Saturday, June 21, 2014 at 10am  
TCA Center, Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ

**TRIBUTE DINNER HONORING  
HAGOP VARTIVARIAN**  
Under the Auspices of  
**H.E. ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN**  
Saturday, June 21, 2014, cocktail at 6:30pm, Dinner at 7:30pm  
Clinton Inn Hotel, 145 Dean Drive, Tenafly, NJ

**REQUIEM SERVICES IN MEMORY OF  
VAHAN TEKEYAN AND LATE TCA FOUNDERS**  
St Thomas Armenian Church, 9W & East Clinton Ave., Tenafly, NJ

For information contact:  
Helen Misk: 917-589-4749 – hmisk@nyc.rr.com  
Shoghig Chalian: 201-803-0240 – shchalian@yahoo.com



## OBITUARY

## Dr. Shahan Vartivarian

HOUSTON, Texas – Born in Beirut, Lebanon on October 28, 1982, Dr. Shahan Vartivarian always joked that he was “a jack of all trades, master of none.”

From bringing a crowd to tears with his powerful delivery of “Gyank Bidi Linenk” at the age of 4, to performing with the Houston Boys’ Choir to becoming a doctor, Shahan Vartivarian

was truly gifted. He moved to Houston, Texas with his mother, brother and grandmother during the summer of 1988. Passionate about his Armenian roots, he was active in the Armenian community in Houston, serving as an altar boy to St. Kevork’s Armenian Church as well as participating in the Armenian Youth Federation. He spent countless Saturdays in the classroom

and on the playground at St. Kevork’s Armenian Church Saturday School. It was on these fields that he formed several of his long lasting friendships and gained the love and respect of the entire Armenian community.

Although proud of his Armenian heritage, he was also a true Texan with a love for country music, steak and football. An avid fan of the Houston Texans, his loyalty never faltered even as he moved to San Francisco after his graduation from the University of Houston with a bachelor’s in biology.

While in San Francisco, he attended the California School of Podiatric Medicine at Samuel Merritt University where he earned his doctorate in podiatric medicine (DPM) and the official title of “Doctor.” After his graduation in 2009, he completed a three year surgical residency at St. Mary’s Medical Center in San Francisco. He then went on to become a fellow at the Broadlawn Medical Center where he specialized in foot and ankle trauma and reconstructive surgery.

During his fellowship, he was diagnosed with an aggressive form of brain cancer. However, he refused to let the illness prevent him from pursuing his passion for medicine and helping care for others. Within a couple months of undergoing brain surgery and subsequent treatment, he completed his fellowship and began teaching podiatry at Samuel Merritt University. Although he faced and fought his illness with strength and courage, he lost his battle with cancer on March 15, 2014 at the age of 31.

He is survived by his mother, brother and grandmother. To honor his memory, the family



Dr. Shahan Vartivarian

## Anoosh (Babikian) Giragosian

SALEM, N.H. – Anoosh (Babikian) Giragosian, 85, of Salem, NH died suddenly on May 16. She was predeceased by her parents, Haroutiun and Vartouhi (Pavlossian) Babikian, and brother, Gregory H. Babikian.

She was born in Dorchester, Mass., on September 2, 1928.

She attended public school, graduated from Dorchester High School, and went on to graduate from Fisher Junior College with a secretarial degree in 1946.

She met her future husband, Anthony Giragosian, in 1947, and they married in 1949. They raised four children in Methuen. Once all were enrolled in school, she became the first full-time teacher aide in the Methuen School System until retiring in 1981.

She was always involved in her church, the former Holy Cross Armenian Apostolic Church of Lawrence, where she was a member of the Women’s Guild and the Mr. & Mrs. Club. She was also a member of the Daughters of Vartan, Tzouig Otyag.

The Giragosians built a home in Salem, NH and moved there in 1989. They both enjoyed retirement, seeing their grandchildren, as well as traveling extensively until Anthony Giragosian’s death in 2003.

She is survived by four children and 10 grandchildren: Andrea and her husband Robert Korbey of Windham, NH and their children Cassandra and Ashley; Anthony Giragosian, Jr. and his wife Kathleen of Atkinson, NH and their children Anthony III, Andrew, Aaron, and Noelle; Ann and her husband Thomas Daw of Crompond, NY and their children Adrena and Emma; and Adrienne and her husband Gregory



Boghigian of Windham, NH and their children Gregory and Jonathan. She also leaves several grandchildren and cousins.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, May 22 at the Goundrey Dewhurst Funeral Home. Burial followed in Pine Grove Cemetery in Salem.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to either: The Hye Point Building Fund, P.O. Box 8069 Ward Hill, MA 01835, or Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford, MA 01824-1251. To leave an online condolence, visit [www.goundreydewhurstfuneral.com](http://www.goundreydewhurstfuneral.com).

## Carol Virginia Casparian

RYE BROOK, N.Y. – Carol Virginia Casparian of Rye Brook, formerly of Cranston, died on Tuesday, May 6.

Born in Providence, she was the daughter of Gloria (Bedrosian) Casparian and the late Chief



Public Defender for the state of Rhode Island, Richard M. Casparian. Carol was the granddaughter of the late Joseph and Virginia Casparian and the late Harry and Alice Bedrosian. She will be missed by uncles,

aunts, cousins and friends.

She was a professional sales consultant in the real estate industry.

She graduated from Cranston West High School, Skidmore College in Saratoga

Springs, NY, attended the Sorbonne University in Paris during her junior year, and spent a summer studying at Berklee College of Music in Boston. She enjoyed music, art and sports. She was a parishioner at St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church in White Plains, NY where she was an alternate member of the Parish Council; a member of the Women’s Guild and Cultural Committee.

The funeral service was on Monday, May 12 in Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, Providence, followed by burial at Swan Point Cemetery, Providence.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Church, 70 Jefferson St., Providence, RI 02908 or St. Gregory the Enlightener Church, 1131 North Street, White Plains, NY 10605.

Arrangements were made by the Nardolillo Funeral Home.

## Dr. Ara Tachjian to Speak at St. James Men’s Club

WATERTOWN – Dr. Ara Tachjian, a senior resident in internal medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital will speak at the St. James Armenian Church Men’s Club dinner meeting on Monday June 2, 2014. Tachjian’s topic will be “Stroke and Common Heart Conditions.”

Tachjian graduated as the valedictorian of his class at the Faculty of Medicine of Kuwait University in 2008. He received several honors, including the Amir’s Outstanding Students Award and Minister

of Health Valedictorian Award in Kuwait.

Tachjian has authored articles and posters related to cardiology including a paper in the Journal of American College of Cardiology, discussing the safety of herbal remedies and their potential and sometimes life-threatening interactions with cardiac medications, particularly among seniors.

After Beth Israel Deaconess, he will be a cardiology fellow at University of Massachusetts Medical School starting in July.

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

Telephone (617) 924-7400

## Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET  
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN  
PAUL BEDROSIAN  
LARRY BEDROSIAN

Edward D. Jamakordzian, Jr. d/b/a

## Edward D. Jamie, Jr. Funeral Chapel

Serving the entire Armenian Community

Any Hour • Any Distance • Any Location

Call (718) 224-2390 Toll Free (888) 224-6088

Bus. Reg. 189-06 Liberty Ave., Hollis, NY 11412

Consultation Office: 217-04 Northern Blvd., (Suite 23), Bayside, NY 11361



## Giragosian

FUNERAL HOME

James “Jack” Giragosian, CPC  
Mark J. Giragosian  
Funeral Counselors

576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606  
[www.giragosianfuneralhome.com](http://www.giragosianfuneralhome.com)

## Donation

On the occasion of the tragic passing of their nephew, Dr. Shahan Vartivarian, Mr. and Mrs. Hagop Vartivarian donate \$100 to the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

## DENNIS M. DEVENEY & SONS

Cemetery Monuments

Specializing in  
Armenian Designs and Lettering

701 Moody St. Waltham, MA 02543  
(781) 891-9876 [www.NEMonuments.com](http://www.NEMonuments.com)



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# AMAA's Avedisian School and Community Center to Be Dedicated in October

SCHOOL, from page 4

building in shape and to expand it. His remark in a word was "a bulldozer." It was clear that a new facility would be needed soon and that was ten years ago. So off we went again, looking for land in the area.

Meanwhile, the school was continuing to gain in reputation, and was awarded a Gold Medal for the best administered school in all of Armenia by the Ministry of Education. This award is given only once every five years and was quite an honor for this young institution. In addition the school's Russian Language Team took first prize two years in a row in country-wide competition. The French Language Team, the Math Team and the Dramatic Arts Group have also taken first prizes over the years.

It wasn't until 2009 that a suitable piece of land was found and purchased for the school. By 2011 the school was bursting at the seams and every available inch of space was being utilized, to the point where, after the 9th grade, the students were parceled out to other high schools.

We had set out originally to have a first-class building and we had the plans drawn up for it. However, after some discussion with architect Ronald Altoon, Dr. Kenell Touryan and Richard Youatt, my accountant for the project, I concluded that given the success we had building the state-of-the-art Paramaz Avedisian Building at the American University of Armenia (AUA), we should continue and expand on those elements of sustainable design. With that, an international certification from LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) became our goal. Earlier, Jeanmarie Papelian had introduced me to the Armenian Ambassador to the United Nations, Garen Nazarian. He was very interested in the idea and said he would help by arranging a meeting at the United Nations with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in hopes of garnering their support for the project. It turned out that the UNDP was more than just interested and gave us a grant for \$50,000. They also funded a trip to Copenhagen, Denmark, for me and Dr. Armen Gharibyan, our engineer and licensed LEED expert. The point of the visit was to see their new UN City Building which was close to completion. In inspecting it we would have the advantage of seeing how this new LEED building was being constructed and gain further knowledge for our own project.

However, going for LEED Certification didn't

come free as this added to the cost of the project; and it became very difficult to convince the AMAA Board to approve it. In addition to helping sustain the environment, the main advantage of LEED was the many thousands of dollars it would save the organization in annual operational expenses. The bottom line was that the added construction costs would be paid back in 5-7 years, but huge savings would continue to go forward every year. That feature carried the day and funding was approved; hence, this school will now become the first LEED-certified building, not only in Armenia, but in the entire region.

Cihan Sultanoglu, the UNDP assistant director for Europe and the CIS States, became more than just interested when she asked if there was an auditorium in the building and what its seating capacity was. When I told her that we would have an auditorium that seated 250 she quickly asked, "Can the UNDP hold its biennial regional meeting there?" I told her yes, that it would be an honor to have her and the entire regional delegation in our building for their meeting, the delegates of which come from countries extending from Portugal to Japan. As she explained, she wanted all the representatives to come, see, feel and move around in the reality of sustainable design, a low-carbon footprint and low-cost building. This AMAA Avedisian School would serve as the ideal model.

Putting this project together was possible because of the "dream team" committee that we have had. Most of this committee had experience working together in constructing the Paramaz Avedisian Building at AUA; and it didn't take much to convince them to take on a new task. When I approached Faraj Yeretsyan to be our project manager, he emailed the following: "we confirm our commitment to excellence on the Avedisian School project; and as I have mentioned many times before, this project is our baby."

The professional expertise and personal interest of Charles Bilezikian has been something none of us could duplicate. I met "Chuck" at an AMAA Board Meeting. I observed him sitting there with his arms folded across his chest, expressionless. It became quite apparent when he started speaking, that he had been listening intently. He was always soft spoken and would start by saying, "This is what I am hearing," and would continue on with solutions to problems that were analytical, thorough and to the point.

A major development in this project has been

the gift of the Krikor and Beatrice Bilezikian Building by Chuck in honor of his parents, which will house grades K-4 of the Avedisian School. With this addition, the Avedisian High School grew into the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center. The complex is now complete with seven interconnected.

In addition to Faraj and Chuck, our committee has been blessed with our Senior Advisor Ronald Altoon, Jeanmarie Papelian, our expert in many areas, Dr. Kenell Touryan in Conservation, and Richard Youatt, our Project Accountant. I would like to again mention Dr. Armen Gharibyan, who, although not on the committee, is certainly part of the dream team. What most don't know is that Dr. Gharibyan was an AMAA and AGBU Scholarship student at AUA. He is one of those young and bright lights in Armenia that no one ever hears about but he is carrying an extremely heavy load in getting us to a LEED Silver Certificate. He has designed a unique solar system that will provide heat, hot water and power for the air conditioning. Nowhere in the world have all three been combined successfully. Last, but certainly not least, are the workers at the construction site, who feel that this is their building and continue to work each day with a dedication and expertise that is really something to experience. Hats off and kudos go to each of the above.

So what's in the future for these poor students? Does education stop with a high school diploma? Thankfully not, because, if a student wishes, he or she can continue on to the American University of Armenia, tuition-free, as long as the entrance exam is passed. As a trustee of AUA, I look forward with pleasure, to the day when I can put a diploma in the hand of an Avedisian School student as he/she crosses the stage to graduate from AUA. Well done, Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian!



Full view of the future Avedisian School and Community Center campus

(The Avedisian family pledged \$5 million towards this project. Please help the AMAA reach its goal of matching the Avedisian family's pledge. Additional information about Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center can be found at [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org).)

## AMAA's Avedisian School Of Yerevan Wins National Debate Competition

PARAMUS, N.J. and YEREVAN – A team of students from the AMAA's Avedisian School in Yerevan beat out 111 other schools on April 4 to take first place in a debate competition sponsored by the Jinishian Memorial Fund. This success is the latest of many awards and competitions won by students in the Avedisian School's 15-year history.

While the academic aspects of the School are tremendously successful, the present physical location leaves much to be desired. The building is structurally unsound and cannot be repaired. In addition, the building has no room for students beyond the ninth grade.

The Avedisian family, in conjunction with the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and many generous donors, is building a new state of the art campus which will house students from preschool through twelfth grade. The building, which will open its doors on September 1, 2014, will be the first LEED certified building in Armenia, setting the standard for all countries in the region. When fully operational, the new campus will serve 750 students, and be open daily from 8 am to 9 pm. In addition to continuing to offer first-class education for children from the economically disadvantaged neighborhood of Malatia-Sebastia, it will serve as a community center where civic groups can meet, athletic teams can practice and courses will be offered for adults to develop employment skills. In time, colleges and universities will be invited to offer courses for credit during the summer.

The Avedisian family has pledged \$5 million dollars toward this project. Please help the AMAA reach its goal of matching the Avedisian family's pledge. For additional information about the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center, visit AMAA's website at [amaa.org](http://amaa.org)



Members of the Avedisian School's winning debate team after taking first place in the final round of competition.

## Finding solutions to your legal needs can be challenging

With over 90 attorneys serving our clients needs, the McLane Law Firm has the depth and experience in a variety of practice areas:

Commercial Litigation  
Corporate Law  
Domestic & Family Law  
Employment Law  
Intellectual Property Law  
Real Estate & Land Use Law  
Tax Law



TradeCenter 128 Woburn, Massachusetts 781.904.2700

For more information, please contact  
Jeanmarie Papelian at 781.904.2700 or  
[jeanmarie.papelian@mclane.com](mailto:jeanmarie.papelian@mclane.com)





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Two Luminaries Honored at Diocesan Assembly

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK — It was an evening of appreciation and celebration, as two deserving and much admired individuals — church leader and benefactor Dr. Raffy Hovanesian, and famed rock star and benefactor of Armenia Ian Gillan — were honored at the 2014 Diocesan Assembly Banquet, on Friday, May 2. The banquet was the culmination of the 112th Diocesan Assembly, which took place at the Diocesan Center.

The nearly 400 guests in attendance entered a visually transformed Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium, with shafts of violet light illuminating the columns, gorgeously decorated tables, and two mammoth projection screens announcing the Diocesan Assembly theme: “Living the Gospel of Christ.”

A lovely square-bound booklet, as well as a gift basket featuring a Michael Aram ornament, topped every seat.

Assembly Committee co-chairs George and Lorraine Marootian — for whom the banquet was the culmination of some two years of effort organizing the 112th Diocesan Assembly — began the evening with a warm welcome, noting that “it is so beautiful to recognize two individuals who are truly ‘Living the Gospel of Christ.’”

Following the invocation by Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian, and the singing of the American and Armenian national anthems, mistress of ceremonies Sandra Shahinian Leitner pointed out that the large number of guests pre-



Archbishop Barsamian and James Kalustian (right) present the “Armenian of the Year” award to Dr. Raffy Hovanesian (center).

return trip to Armenia some 20 years later, he saw the dilapidated corrugated-metal shelters that were still being used as classrooms for the extraordinarily gifted young music students of Gumri’s Octet School.

Gillan and some fellow musicians vowed to help them, and the project to rebuild the school

community,” said Gillan with obvious emotion. “Your aspirations are easily expressed and understood.”

The program turned to honoring the lifelong devotion of Dr. Raffy Hovanesian to the Armenian church, community and nation.

It began with a second video: an interview with Hovanesian himself. With his warmth, candor and enthusiasm, he described his early life in Aleppo, his days in Beirut where he began his medical studies, and his childhood dream of following in the footsteps of the legendary humanitarian and missionary, Dr. Albert Schweitzer.

In a series of touching, philosophical, and often amusing stories, Hovanesian described the Vartanantz Day service where he met his future wife and life partner, Vicki Shoghag Hovanesian; the impact his parents had on his life; and his enduring friendship with the late Catholicos of All Armenians, Karekin I. A thematic thread throughout the video (produced by the Diocesan Communications department) was the way his faith in Christ guided him to help his church, homeland and fellow countrymen, and how it informed his profession as a physician.

Following the presentation to Hovanesian, a table of young priests spontaneously burst into song, singing with gusto the Armenian favorite,

sult each other. She has always been there beside me, behind me, and most of the time ahead of me. She deserves this credit as much as I do,” he said.

He also praised his three children and seven grandchildren, his brother and sisters, and paid homage to his parents, orphans of the Genocide who “overcame the perpetrators by bringing into the world six children, 12 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.” He reserved special thanks for his mother-in-law Araxie Varjabedian, visitors Alex and Arda Yemenidjian, “my bosom buddy Nazar Nazarian, who has called and encouraged me every day — and everyone who has been with me in all my efforts and endeavors.”

In an unscheduled tribute, Armenian artist Rudik Petrosyan presented a painted portrait to Hovanesian.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian — newly elected that day to a seventh term as Diocesan Primate — arose to express his gratitude for the “opportunity to serve the Armenian Church,” and thanked all who had contributed to week-long series of meetings, which included the annual Clergy Conference and Women’s Guild Assembly, as well as the Diocesan Assembly. The Primate also thanked the Diocesan Council, Diocesan staff, Assembly co-chairs George and Lorraine Marootian, and banquet organizer Gregory Manuelian.

“Tonight we have traveled on a journey with two individuals who exemplify, in their different ways, the Gospel in action,” the Primate stated in his personal tribute to the two honorees. “And both men stand as a testament to the fact that such actions can truly make a difference in the world.”

That spirit “compelled Ian Gillan to reach out to others half way around the world, in Armenia, at a time of great desperation and need. And 20 years later, he was inspired again to return and help a new generation rediscover the artistic riches of the Armenian heritage,” he said.

Calling Gillan an “ambassador of hope,” Barsamian said it was a “great privilege” to be present for the opening of the new music school last year with Gillan, Armenian government leaders, FAR Board members, and the Mardigian family.

The Primate turned to Hovanesian, noting that the honoree is “admired by our people throughout the world. He feels the church at the ‘molecular level’ and cares deeply about people — as shown in his profession as a healer, and the way he lives his life.” Above all, he said, Hovanesian is “a man of God.”

Paying tribute to Shoghag Hovanesian, the



Archbishop Barsamian and Randy Sapah-Gulian (right) present the “Friend of the Armenians” award to rock musician Ian Gillan (center).

sent was a testimony to the high regard and respect the two honorees have inspired in the community.

The Shushi Dance Ensemble, clad in beautiful Armenian costumes, delighted the audience with several traditional Armenian dances — all choreographed by the ensemble’s director, Seta Kantarjian, and executed with precision and grace by the young women onstage.

Diocesan Council Chair James Kalustian spoke of the “significant contributions both honorees have made to the worldwide Armenian community, and introduced two entertaining videos that illustrated the efforts that made the two honorees stand apart as worthy of recognition.

In the case of Gillan, the video documented his 20-year relationship with Armenia, which began in the aftermath of the 1988 earthquake, and reached its apex last year with the grand opening of a rebuilt Octet Music School in Gumri, Armenia.

The lead singer of the British band Deep Purple, Gillan had been deeply affected by the earthquake’s devastation and loss of life, and recorded songs and performed concerts to raise funds and awareness for the disaster. On a

was taken up by the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), the humanitarian relief arm of the Eastern Diocese. With a donation by the Mardigian Family Foundation, the school was completely rebuilt, and opened last autumn. Dignitaries including President Serge Sargisian joined Gillan, the Mardigians, Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, and members of the FAR board at the opening.

At the May 2 awards banquet, Randy Sapah-Gulian, chair of the FAR board, presented the 2014 “Friend of the Armenians Award” to Gillan. “This world-famous rock star needs no introduction,” said Sapah-Gulian, who in his exuberant style sang a few bars of his favorite Deep Purple song. “Ian got the ball rolling in rebuilding this music school, and the Fund for Armenian Relief was drawn into the vortex.”

Gillan, in a generous message of appreciation, told of his childhood “growing up in a family filled with music. I wept when I heard stories of the Armenian earthquake,” he said, recalling that many people in the Soviet Union learned English by listening to rock music.

“It’s easy to be friends with Armenians and their strong spirit. It’s a bond we have with the



Assembly Committee co-chairs George and Lorraine Marootian welcome guests.

Azg Parabantz, as the rest of the audience joined in.

In his own words of appreciation, Hovanesian noted that he has always been attached to the church. “This honor brings on the responsibility to do more in my capacity to serve the church and the Diocese.” He paid heartfelt tribute to his wife, “who has been a full partner in all our endeavors. We always con-

Primate noted that the couple worked together to help the earthquake victims, St. Nersess Seminary, their home parish (the Sts. Joachim and Anne Church, of Palos Heights, Ill.) and individuals and families in need.

He concluded by stating that the Armenian people “are fortunate to have such dedicated individuals as Ian Gillan and Dr. and Mrs. Hovanesian among us.”





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Archbishop Barsamian Re-elected As Primate

NEW YORK – The quadrennial election for the office of Diocesan Primate – held on May 2 as part of the 112th Assembly of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America – was one for the history books, for two reasons.

First, the presiding Primate, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, was elected to an unprecedented seventh term of office, making him the longest-serving Diocesan Primate on record.

Second, it took five ballots to arrive at that result.

The delegates of the 112th assembly, representing clergy and lay leaders from every parish of the Eastern Diocese, were obliged to cast their votes five separate times, to break a deadlock between the two leading candidates: Archbishop Barsamian and Archbishop Vicken Aykazian.

Aykazian is the ecumenical director of the Eastern Diocese, and a former president of the National Council of Church of Christ in the USA.

A third candidate in the election, the Very Rev. Sooren Chinchinian, was eliminated after the first ballot.

The Diocesan Bylaws stipulate that every four years, the Diocesan Council must submit a slate of three candidates for an election to fill the office of Primate. The bylaws further direct that if no single candidate for the office receives a majority of the vote, the low vote getter is dropped from consideration, and a run-off is held between the remaining two candidates.

However, there is no provision in the Bylaws for breaking a continuing deadlock between two candidates. As a result, the Assembly delegates had to cast votes in a series of run-offs in the hope that enough votes would be changed to shift the balance one way or the other.

It was a far cry from the experience of recent elections, which have been conclusive on the first ballot. And the run-offs had repercussions for the rest of the Assembly. Plans for the Friday afternoon session – calling for delegates to break up into smaller discussion groups – had to be scrapped by the Assembly chairman, Raffi Balian, until a decisive result could be reached in the election.

Fewer than 200 people cast ballots to determine the Primate of the Eastern Diocese. At this year's Diocesan Assembly, 157 delegates were registered, representing parish pastors and retired clergy, parish council chairs, and delegates elected by each local parish in proportion to its membership. A simple majority of 79 votes (half the number of registered delegates, plus one) was needed by either candidate to win the election. For each ballot, the delegates made their selection in secret on a paper ballot form; then each had the ballot collected as his or her name was read out from the dais by Nubar Kupelian, a long-serving and distin-



Diana Burggraf (at right) was honored for her lifelong dedicated service to the Women's Guild and the Armenian Church.

## Women's Guild Presents 'Woman of Wonder' Award

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK – Under a huge tent on the St. Vartan Cathedral plaza, decorated with palm plants, a special luncheon was held on Saturday afternoon, May 3, honoring 91-year-old Diana Burggraf for her lifelong service to the Women's Guild, her parish of the Holy Cross Armenian Church in Union City, NJ, and the Diocese of the Armenian Church.

The occasion marked the 5th annual "Woman of Wonder" event organized by the Diocesan Women's Guild Central Council (WGCC).

Following an opening prayer by the Very Rev. Simeon Odabashian, and a warm welcome by WGCC chair Charlotte Sevazlian, the Very Rev. Vasken Karayan, pastor of the Holy Cross Church, poetically noted that "decades ago, with deep faith and humility, women with oil lamps lit the Armenian Church which kept the church functioning. Those who have departed now celebrate with us, and are present in spirit."

He went on to express the gratitude of the church's parish council and membership for selecting "our pioneer Diana" for this honor. "Her contributions are beyond words."

Burggraf's son, Gary, spoke of his mother's passion for her church and family. Her sister, Juliet Borgersen, related that the church "was always the backbone of our family. The church was most important in Diana's life. The church has given her life," she said and revealed that under Diana's leadership, the Holy Cross church raised \$500,000 through flea markets, luncheons, bazaars and many other events.

Thirteen-year-old granddaughter Samantha Burggraf noted that her grandmother has "always taught by example. From the earth to the sky, nothing matches the love of a grandmother. You've been the 'woman of wonder' every day and year for us," she

recounted with emotion, and adding that her grandmother is also "an amazing cook."

Diana Burggraf emphasized that her family and church always come first. "I am still driving without glasses," she said to sustained applause. "I never believed I would get this award, or that anyone knew me. No one expects to be honored for what they do. They do it because they want to do it."

"I have not accomplished things alone. We have done them together," she said to a standing ovation.

In presenting the gift of a framed painting from Armenia of the Last Supper to the honoree, Nancy Kassabian paid tribute to her humility and dedicated work.

Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian expressed gratitude to the WGCC for choosing Burggraf for this honor. "Diana asked, Who knows her? Well, I know her. My parents knew her. We know that the church has been your life. You truly represent 'Living Gospel of Christ,' and you are a role model for the young generation," he declared.

"You are young in spirit and mind. Your family and your devotion to our church are the good fruits of your life, and set a wonderful example for others to follow. God grant you and your family many years," the Primate said.

Burggraf's service to the Armenian Church and community has spanned many decades, including 33 years as an executive board member in many capacities of her parish Women's Guild. She is currently its chairperson. In her earlier years, she sang in the church choir, was a parish council member serving as its chair for several years, as well as a charter member of the ACYOA.

In 1995, she was honored as the "Woman of the Year" by the Holy Cross Church of Union City, NJ. In addition to her church service, she has also been involved in the AGAU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund, and was honored in 2003 as their "Woman of the Year." She truly represents a "Woman of Wonder" in the community.



gished staff member of the Diocesan Center.

In keeping with his longstanding custom, Barsamian departed from the Assembly just prior to the initial balloting and did not take part in the voting, although he was eligible to cast a ballot.

After four inconclusive votes on Friday afternoon, a fifth ballot returned with a majority for the incumbent. The news was announced in the sanctuary of St. Vartan Cathedral, where the delegates had reconvened after departing Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium, which had to be prepared for the

annual awards banquet scheduled for later that evening.

Shortly after the announcement of a winner, the clergy of the Diocese escorted Barsamian into the sanctuary with the traditional welcoming hymn. The Primate thanked the delegates for the privilege to continue his service to the Eastern Diocese and its people.

Aykazian also gave some brief, gracious remarks by way of concession.

When his current term expires in 2018, Archbishop Barsamian will have served as leader of the Eastern Diocese for 28 years – surpassing the previous record for continuous service in that role held by the late Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, who won six elections and served as Primate for 24 years (from 1966 to 1990), before departing the Diocese to become the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem.

LEFT: Diocesan Council Chair James Kalustian congratulates Archbishop Khajag Barsamian on his reelection.

# Arts & Living

## Bitlis Explored At Fresno State Program

By Denise Altounian

FRESNO (*Hye Sharzhoom*) – For many Armenians in Fresno, the city of Bitlis holds a special place in their hearts. Not only was it the birthplace of the family of noted Fresno native William Saroyan, but also the birthplace to many of the Armenians who settled in Fresno in the years following the Armenian Genocide.

For much of its history, including the Ottoman period, Bitlis flourished as a center of Armenian culture and tradition. Much of this legacy has almost vanished in the nearly hundred years following the Genocide of 1915.

However, in recent months there has been an attempt to shed light on the history of the city and the impact Armenians had there. Ara Sarafian, director of the Gomidas Institute in London, England, returned to Fresno State to discuss his most recent endeavor, a “bridge-building initiative” which was started in June 2013 to build contacts between Armenians, Turks, and Kurds.

On Sunday, March 30, Fresno State students, faculty and the community were invited to the opening of a new exhibit, “Remembering the Armenians of Bitlis,” on display at the Henry Madden Library for the month of April. The exhibit was organized by Sarafian, with the support of Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian and the Armenian Studies Program, to highlight some of the new documentation on Bitlis and to show never before seen photographs of Bitlis.



From left, Fresno State Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Ara Sarafian of the Gomidas Institute and Dr. Sergio La Porta.

“This initiative is an important step in the process of recovering so much of Armenian culture lost as a result of the Genocide,” stated Der Mugrdchian, director of the Armenian Studies Program. “It is also a way to build bridges between people.”

Sarafian was on hand in Fresno to open the exhibit and to give a talk “Down and About Bitlis: An Exhibition on Bitlis Armenians on the Shores of Lake Van.”

Sarafian initiated contacts with residents of Bitlis last year, and the exhibit was a culmination of extensive research in Russian, Ottoman and Armenian archives to examine the number and role of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire, especially the eastern region. This culminated in an exhibition, “The Armenians of Bitlis” (Bitlis Ermenileri), that first debuted on March 1-2, in Tatvan, Turkey, located on the shores of Lake Van.

As Sarafian explained, some people were doubtful that it would be possible to display data that directly contradicts the Turkish government position on the Genocide. However this project represents a new opportunity for scholarship in the area. The display consisted of ethnographic maps and photographs of Armenians living in Bitlis, documenting the historic presence of Armenians there. The exhibit were based on research at the ABCFM Archives

see BITLIS, page 11



Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian talks with 102-year-old Nellie Nazarian by A Mother's Hands Memorial after unveiling. Nellie is the lone remaining genocide survivor in Merrimack Valley.

## Lowell Genocide Memorial Is Unveiled

By Tom Vartabedian

LOWELL, Mass. – Knot by knot, a mother's hands weave the history of her people.

These hands performed another ritual May 10 when they welcomed a crowd of more than 300 people to their side at Lowell City Hall.

At long last – three years in the making – this unique genocide memorial stands proudly at City Hall Plaza – the first time such a monument finds itself on municipal land in America.

While other monument unveilings went through some tenuous moments in other parts of the world, this one was dedicated and blessed with obvious fanfare as different churches and organizations staged a united stand behind a group called the Merrimack Valley Armenian Monument Committee.

The stone exceeds six feet in length and takes its place in Monument Park where other ethnic groups are represented. Due to its conspicuous site, anyone entering or leaving the building is bound to take notice.

The mother's hands juts out over a khatchkar (cross stone) wrapped around an elaborate border with an emotional message below. At the base, an inscription reads “In Memory” and “E Hesh-a-dag” in both languages.

“There are approximately 230 monuments dedicated to the Armenian Genocide in 42 countries around the world,” said designer Daniel Varoujan Hejinian. “Most of these monuments are located in land belonging to Armenian churches and organizations. What's so special about this is the fact it is a first in the Diaspora – an Armenian Genocide memorial in front of a government building.”

Combined with bronze and granite, the stone shows a mother's weaving hands sculptured in clay, then refined through an elaborate process to create a three-dimensional effect.

As a model, the artist used his sister Lena's hands. Buried into the foundation of the stone was an actual piece of crochet done by Hejinian's mother as a symbolic gesture of his family history and all the qualities that enhanced the concept.

“In spite of the pain and horror of our genocide, the Armenian people everywhere cast their hopes and dreams – knot by knot – as they bloom and prosper,” added Hejinian, who has personally erected over 50 genocide billboards around Greater Boston the past 18 years.

“Our mothers were dream weavers,” he added. “They worked the mills in Lowell, holding down nearly two-thirds of all textile jobs in this city. They came here to weave the fabric of our culture and we owe them all a debt of gratitude.”

Ironic that the unveiling took place on the eve of Mother's Day after an earlier see LOWELL, page 11

## Chobanian Conducts Parma Symphony

BEREA, Ohio – Baldwin Wallace University Professor Emeritus and Composer-in-Residence Loris Ohannes Chobanian conducted the Parma Symphony Orchestra, on May 4. He conducted his composition *Tango Fantasy For Guitar and Orchestra*, with Marija Temo, flamenco/classical guitar.

The near capacity audience in the Valley Forge High School auditorium responded to the performance with appreciative enthusiasm.

Temo is considered one of the world's greatest guitarists who could excel equally well in flamenco and classical guitar renditions. There are very few who could match her interpretations and technical dexterity. Chobanian was Temo's first guitar teacher and composed *Tango Fantasy* especially for her. Another composition the composer wrote for her was the flamenco inspired guitar concerto *Concierto Del Fuego*, which Temo premiered with the BW Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dwight Oltman.

According to the program notes, “*Tango Fantasy* combines the characteristic qualities of both the Argentinean Tango and the Flamenco Tango of Andalusia. Over the years, continents apart, these two dances by the same name have pursued their own individual paths and have developed their own distinct personalities. However, there are noticeable characteristics that hint at their common ancestry. In both dances, for example, we witness a compulsive need for the phrases to end in resolute and excited pulsation.”

In February 2007, the composer and his wife, Deanna, visited many cities in Andalusia, Spain and heard numerous excellent performances of flamenco music. The idea of composing *Tango Fantasy* germinated during that time in Spain. Melodic patterns of flamenco music have often been influenced by those of the Middle East, especially in the vocal renditions of flamenco. *Tango Fantasy* uses Middle Eastern melodies. Years ago, when flamenco guitarist Carlos Montoya heard that the composer had lived in Baghdad, he said: “You have come from the land of my ancestors.”

Another work Chobanian conducted on the program was *Emmanuel* for Orchestra by Chobanian's student Randy Rivera. The message of *Emmanuel* is “Hope to the world, God is with us.” The audience expressed special appreciation for the lyrical qualities of the composition.

The second half of the concert was conducted by the orchestra's music director, Dr. Randolph P. Laycock, who presented excellent renditions of *Espana* by Meyerbeer and the Second Movement of Mahler's *First Symphony*.

Since his retirement in 2010 Chobanian has been very active composing and conducting. During the 2013-2014 academic year, he has had eight world premieres of new compositions. He conducted the premiere of *Bouquet – Four Armenian Melodies for Symphonic Wind Ensemble* in Virginia, where he was guest composer at Christopher Newport University.

On January 17, *The Soldier Returns* was premiered by Louise Zeitlin, viola, professor of viola at Baldwin Wallace University and James Howsmon, professor of piano at Oberlin Conservatory. The composition was also performed at the Cleveland Composer's Guild concert with Jeffrey Irvine, viola and Javier Gonzales, piano. *The Soldier Returns* makes a strong statement against senseless and unnecessary wars that are often perpetrated by self indulging egomaniacs who want to prove their importance and acquire a place in history.

On January 25, *Vocalise* was premiered by two sopranos, BW Professors Tracy Grady and Cynthia O'Connell. They were accompanied by Bryan Reichert, guitar. *Vocalise* could be performed either by a choir of two high female see CHOBANIAN, page 12



# Lowell Genocide Memorial Is Unveiled

LOWELL, from page 10

date had to be postponed due to a conflict. The fact it rained did little to deter the crowd.

Chairman Armen Jeknavorian found a prominent Mother's Day saying in capturing the moment, "The earth's warmth is in the mother's hands."

He, too, looked to the mills for a symbolic connection to the memorial. Like his parents before him, they coped with difficult times in bringing homage to the community.

"The Armenian population in Lowell during the early 1930s was significant," he noted. "They built and consecrated their own church in 1916. Our history remains proud with prosperity."

A procession in the downtown sector was led by members of the Sam Manoian Post, Armenian-American Veterans, led by Commander Richard Juknavorian.

A torch bearing an eternal flame made its way to the entourage, led by youth activists Garo Tashjian and Mgo Kassabian. It originated

in Armenia, making its first stop here, then proceeds through communities across America before winding up in Historic Armenia next April.

Children from different church schools held banners and marched with their elder counterparts amid a police escort. Umbrellas were the order of the day before it finally cleared for the dedication ceremony shortly thereafter.

In attendance was Nellie Nazarian, the lone Genocide survivor in Merrimack Valley, joined by her family. The 102-year-old was embraced by Armenians and Americans alike for her resilience as she posed for photographs before the stone.

In a special certificate from US Rep. Niki Tsongas (D-Mass.), she applauded the courageous Armenian men and women who have thrived to become a vital part of her community.

"This first monument of its kind in Lowell stands as a testament to Armenians throughout history," she pointed out. "While we remember

the deceased, we also celebrate those who survived, worked the mills and raised their families with dignity."

US Rep. John Tierney (D-Mass.), another strong advocate on Armenian issues, described the monument as a symbol of this community's strength and resilience in the face of adversity.

"Rest assured that I will continue my efforts to address core humanitarian and economic difficulties that face the Armenian population," he confirmed.

Other proclamations and remarks were issued by state Sen. Eileen Donoghue, state Rep. David Nangle, Mayor Rodney Elliott, City Manager Kevin Murphy, City Councilor Rita Mercier, a former ANCA Freedom Award winner, and City Councilor James Milinazzo, who embraced the monument idea and selected the site as former mayor.

Youth of the community presided over a flag-raising ceremony following the monument blessing.

An ambitious fund-raising effort launched a year ago brought in the \$35,000 needed by Skylight Studios of Woburn for construction. Another \$15,000 is being used for its perpetual care. Contributions poured in from around the country from donors who found the concept both eclectic and ingenious.

A reception followed at Lowell High School where miniaturized replicas of the memorial were presented to Hejinian by committee members as a gesture of gratitude.

A cultural interlude was provided by soloist Sevan Dulgarian.

Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian spoke both at the unveiling and the luncheon.

He served as honorary chairman of the project.

"The memorial represents the true Armenian-American dream – an opportunity for us to show the public who we are and what we teach," he stressed. "The more we teach, the sooner people will realize the truth about our genocide. Your effort here is compatible with



Replica of A Mother's Hands memorial is presented to designer Daniel Varoujan Hejinian, center, by Merrimack Valley Armenian Monument Committee. Making the presentation were Chairman Armen Jeknavorian, left, and Dr. Ara Jeknavorian.

## Bitlis Explored at Fresno State Program

BITLIS, from page 10

(Houghton Library, Harvard University), Mt. Holyoke College Archives (Mass.), AGBU Nubarian archives (Paris), and the Ottoman Prime Ministry Archives (Istanbul).

The photographs represented a milestone, because many people in Eastern Turkey had never actually seen an Armenian face before. The photos showed the daily lives of the Armenians, their schools, churches and more.

The maps, based on demographic research from Russian and Turkish sources, displayed the ethnic composition of the Ottoman Empire. The research indicates that Armenians and Kurds in the Bitlis and Van provinces actually made up the majority of the population, with few Turks in the region. The Turkish government has deliberately argued that Armenians and Kurds were not in the majority.

One outcome of the initiative was the immense support and interest in the project shown by the Kurdish population of Bitlis. Many Kurdish youth acknowledge the Armenian Genocide and want to know what role they can play in moving forward. Several Kurdish politicians and prominent attorneys attended the debut of the exhibit in Tatvan. According to Sarafian, as many as one in six Kurds in these areas may have Armenian ancestors.

This exhibit was a significant step forward in the future of Armenian Studies in Turkey. It is important that projects like these continue to record history before it is lost. Many Armenian landmarks still exist in Turkey and any attempt to falsify history can never eliminate local memories. The Armenian issue is far from closed and it is up to the new generation to continue scholarship in the area.

what was accomplished at Armenian Heritage Park in Boston. Heart. Commitment. Energy. All the qualities go into it."

Three students were called upon to read their winning essays on a theme that reflected the monument. They were: Anna Shahtanian and Matthew Kochakian, both of St. Gregory Church, North Andover, and Isabelle Kapoian, Sts. Vartanantz Church, Chelmsford.

The event was televised by Haykaram Nahapetyan, representing public television of Armenia H1 and also received front-page coverage in the local press.

Serving as master of ceremonies throughout the day was Dr. Ara Jeknavorian, committee activist and co-chairman, Armenian National Committee of Merrimack Valley.

ԹԵՔԵՅԱՆ Մշակութային Միություն, Մեծազոյն Կիւ Երրրի Մասնաճիւղ  
Tekeyan Cultural Association of Greater New York

# ՀԱՅՈՒՆՎՈՐ

# 90

**Համերգ Ազնավուրը Հայերեն**  
Նուիրուած Շարլ Ազնավուրի 90ամեակին  
Երգերու հայերեն թարգմանութիւն եւ կատարում  
**ՊԵՐՃ ԹԻՐԱՊԵԱՆ**  
Նաեւ՝  
**ԱՐՄԵՆԻԱ ՍԱՐԳԻՍԵԱՆ**  
(Հրաւիրուած Թորոնթոյէն)

**Concert**  
**Charles AZNAVOUR in ARMENIAN**  
Dedicated to Aznavour's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday  
Translated and performed by  
**BERGE TURABIAN**  
&  
**ARMENIA SARKISSIAN**  
(Guest singer from Toronto)

**Friday, May 30, 2014**  
**Ուրբաթ, Մայիս 30, 2014**  
St. Thomas Armenian Church  
Corner of E. Clinton Ave. & Rt. 9W  
Tenafly, NJ 07670

Wine and appetizers will be served from 8:00pm Գինի եւ խորտիկներ  
Concert starts at 9:00pm Համերգի սկիզբ  
**Tickets \$35**  
**Contact** Shoghig Chalian: 201.803.0240 | Vaghenag Tarpinian: 610.823.8611  
Anahit: 646.339.6869 anahitdt@gmail.com

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

# 63rd

## ARMENIAN NIGHT AT THE POPS

*Friends of Armenian Culture Society*

*Featuring*  
**Hayrapet Arakelyan**  
*Saxophone*

**Boston Pops Orchestra**  
**Keith Lockhart**  
*Conductor*

**FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:**  
**WWW.FACSBOSTON.ORG**



## Chobanian Conducts Parma Symphony Orchestra

CHOBANIAN, from page 10  
voices or by two female soloists. The voices in *Vocalise* are accompanied by the classical guitar, an instrument that sounds an octave below its written notes and because of its low range becomes an ideal instrument to support and highlight the higher overtones of the female voice.

On January 31, *Fantasia For Two Saxophones and Piano* was premiered by the Trio Bel Canto ensemble, Patrick Meighan, alto sax from Florida State University, John Moore, tenor sax from Indiana Southeast University and Krista Wallace, piano from University of Louisville. They were accompanied by the BW Symphonic Wind Ensemble conducted by Dwight Oltman. The composition was later per-



The three members of the Trio Bel Canto ensemble with the conductor Dwight Oltman and composer Loris Chobanian

formed at the North American Saxophone Alliance Conference in University of Illinois.

On March 2, BW Professor of Piano Robert Mayerovitch premiered the *Mayerovitch Piano Sonata*. A long time colleague and friend of the composer, Mayerovitch had premiered many of his piano compositions. The sonata uses themes derived from his name. Similar to the techniques of Soggetto Cavato used by the Renaissance composers, pitches have been extracted by matching the letters of the name Mayerovitch to a continuously recurring chromatic scale. The four movements of the sonata are characterized by contrasting textures. Because of their complex and intricate construction most of the vertical sonorities are introduced in an arpeggiated fashion.

On April 14, Prof. Regina Mushabac, cello and William Shaffer, piano, presented the world

premiere of *Rhapsodic Variations for Cello and Piano*. The complex variations were performed brilliantly. Several melodic ideas are individually varied and transformed creating an intricate interplay as each unit develops. The piano part creates further intricacy by introducing unexpected rhythmic contradictions.

On May 1, the BW String faculty Professors Julian Ross and Samuel Rotberg, together with four students, presented the world premiere of *Just Violins for Six Violins*. The composition explores the brilliant potential qualities of the violin creating textures that highlight individual instruments as well as those of the entire ensemble. Extreme contrasts are achieved by diversifying of the textures. There are many passages where bowings of arco and pizzicato alternate.

On May 18, *Variations On An Israeli Theme For Two Guitars* was premiered by two of the composer's former guitar students, Bryan Reichert and Christopher Ellicott. The Israeli theme *Erev Shel Shoshanim* (Evening of Roses) by Yosef Hadar has become very popular in the Middle East, and the song has been translated to Armenian.

The theme is not stated at the beginning of the composition and is introduced gradually. The last 18 measures of the composition evolve into a gentle presence. *Variations on an Israeli Theme* is dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The premiere was presented at the BW International Guitar Festival. This year the successful festival featured artist guitarists such as Vladimir Gorbach from Russia and Gohar Vardanyan from Armenia.

Chobanian's *Requiem April 24* performed by the BW Chorus and Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Dirk Garner, can be heard on YouTube. The composition uses Haigouhi Seropian's powerful Armenian text, which makes a compelling statement against the historic persecution of Armenians. The composer's parents were victims of the Armenian Genocide. Chobanian is making his score available to all Armenian choruses and university ensembles in order to perform *Requiem April 24* during the centennial year of April 24, 1915.



Carla Garapedian and Kim Kardashian

## Kim Kardashian Shows Support for Armenian Genocide Films at USC Shoah Banquet

LOS ANGELES – While President Barack Obama was the honored guest at the USC Shoah Foundation's Ambassadors for Humanity banquet on May 7 in Century City, Los Angeles, the 90-plus Armenians who attended the event were more interested in Kim Kardashian and the 100-year-old Armenian Genocide survivor, Yevnige Salibian, who were seated at the same table.

The banquet marked the 20th anniversary of the Shoah Foundation. Now housed in the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, the USC Shoah Foundation has expanded to include testimonies from genocides of other peoples, including the Rwandan, Cambodian and the Armenian genocides. The Armenian Genocide Testimonies Collection, filmed by the Armenian Film Foundation, was recognized at the banquet amongst other collections in the Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive.

Documentary filmmaker Carla Garapedian is leading the Armenian Film Foundation's project to preserve and integrate Hagopian's collection into the Visual History Archive. The goal is to begin making the testimonies available to watch and search in the VHA in 2015, the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Salibian, a survivor from Aintab, is one of the last survivors to be filmed for the Armenian Film Foundation's collection. The collection was largely filmed by the late J. Michael Hagopian, whose wife, Antoinette Hagopian, was also present at the banquet. The Armenian Film Foundation recently provided digital copies of the 400 interviews to the USC Shoah Foundation for inclusion in Shoah's Visual History Archive, while retaining the original interviews on 16mm film.

"IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!"

NEW YORK ARMENIAN HOME

ANNUAL PICNIC

137-31 45th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2014

1 PM TO 6 PM



• MUSIC PROVIDED BY TARPINIAN ENSEMBLE  
featuring vocalists Lisa Tarpinian & Michael Gostanian

• MAGICIAN AND CLOWN

• FREE PARKING & SHUTTLE SERVICE  
TO AND FROM THE HOME

Telephone: (718) 461-1504

Fax: (718) 461-3079

e-mail: nyhyehome@nyc.rr.com



TCA MHER MEGERDCHIAN THEATRICAL GROUP  
ՄՅԵՐ ՄԿՐՏՉԵԱՆ ԹԱՏԵՐԱԽՈՒՄ



JUSTICE WILL BE SERVED

OCTOBER 2014



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Hovannisian to Speak About Gesaria at Armenian Museum

WATERTOWN – The Armenian Museum of America on Saturday, June 14, presents “The Armenians of Gesaria: From Evkere and Talas to Mount Arkeos, Chomakhlu and Evereg,” a lecture by Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian. Hovannisian was the UCLA Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History and Distinguished Chancellor’s Fellow at Chapman University, Orange County. He is a Guggenheim Fellow and has received many honors for his scholarship, civic activities, and advancement of Armenian studies, including election to the Armenian National Academy of Sciences.

Drawing on his research for contribution to the 12th in a series of volumes on historic Armenian cities and provinces, Armenian Kesaria/ Kayseri and Cappadocia, Hovannisian will give a presentation and selected film shorts of the region’s Armenian history and the significant roles played by Armenians, both in urban and rural Gesaria.

The Armenian presence in Cappadocia and Gesaria/Kesaria dates back to the times of Tigran the Great and Gregory the Illuminator. Down through the centuries, Armenian communities in the area grew in number and size.

This event begins at 7 p.m., and is free and open to the public.

## Armenische Waisenteppich Issued in German

TRANSLATION, from page 1

learn that the publisher was the Armenian Cultural Foundation, which our family has been closely associated with. After I read a copy sent me by Ara Ghazarians, the foundation’s curator and editor of the book, it occurred to me that it might be of interest to a German reading public. Schiler-Verlag, which has published several books related to Armenian issues (including mine), was immediately interested. Within weeks, the parties signed a contract and Ortrun Cramer, a professional translator who has dealt with similar themes, set to work on a German version. The new Armenian ambassador in Berlin, Dr. Vahan Hovhannesian, was well informed about the controversy around the rug in the US, and was eager to support efforts to make the book known here as well. The embassy plans to host a presentation of the work.

Verlag Hans Schiler is a relatively small publishing company which features books about the Middle East and Caucasus, both fiction and non-fiction, historical studies on the culture and religion of the regions as well as poetry and prose, often in bilingual editions; in a related enterprise, it sells Arabic-language books online. The announcement of the new book came in a release on its website [www.schiler.de](http://www.schiler.de) with a description excerpted from the Foreword by Ghazarians: “Near East Relief was the successor to the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, established in 1915 in response to urgent pleas from Henry Morgenthau, the American Ambassador to Turkey. As such the Near East Relief embarked on a herculean task of saving the lives of over 1,000,000 refugees, including over 100,000 Armenian orphans scattered throughout the Middle East and the Caucasus in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide.”

The release goes on to quote: “The history of this period is replete with untold stories of heroism and sacrifice – a testimony to the triumph of the human spirit over adversity. One little known anecdote is the Near East Relief’s orphanage in Ghazir, Lebanon, then Syria, and its rug factory. Administered by Swiss missionary Jakob ‘Papa’ Künzler, known as the ‘father of the Armenian orphans’ and his wife, Elizabeth ‘Mama’ Künzler, over 1,400 orphan girls, mostly Armenian, were sheltered as early as 1922. In the mid-1920s the Künzlers decided to have a rug woven by the orphan Armenian girls and presented to President Calvin Coolidge in the White House as an expression of the profound gratitude to the American people and government on behalf of the Armenian

people.”

A short biographical sketch is provided of author Deranian, whose mother had been among those saved by Künzler. It was this never-forgotten link that drove him to write the story.

In an epilogue written specially for the new translation, Ghazarians recounted the curious fate of the rug since the English book had appeared last autumn: from requests to have it exhibited to refusals by the White House and heated debate in the media. “As the German edition goes to press,” he wrote, “the issue is still unresolved and remains mired in controversy.” In fact, at the Armenian Museum of America exhibit of rugs by orphans and widows that began on February 17 of this year, “Dr. Deranian did participate in the opening,” he reported, but “visitors could see an empty place on the wall reserved for the Ghazir rug.” He cited press

accounts to the effect that public pressure may have been behind it, “because its public display would raise questions about the Armenian genocide.”

Now, of course, the appearance of the book in Germany will also raise those same questions, and in a country with the largest population of Turks outside Turkey.

The timing is particularly sensitive, considering recent political developments in Turkey. If the statements made by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu about the Genocide have unleashed a new round of debate around the government’s unwillingness to recognize it, the level of anger against Erdogan in particular, has reached new heights following the coal mine disaster in Soma.

To give a sense of how controversial Erdogan has become in Germany, suffice it to cite the banner headlines of the May 18 Sunday edition

of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, the journal of record nationally. It read “Erdogan nicht willkommen” (Erdogan not welcome) and detailed the remarks of leading politicians protesting Erdogan’s plan to speak at a rally in Cologne later in May.

In light of the “brutal treatment of the Turkish government against demonstrators in Soma,” the article opened, many considered it unwise for him to make such a public appearance in Germany.

Both on the regional level and in Berlin, several political figures across party lines explicitly recommended that he cancel or postpone his visit. Scheduled for May 24, it would be one day before the European parliament elections, and is also seen as a campaign event for Erdogan in his bid to win Turkish voters for his presidential candidacy in summer. If the event takes place as planned, it will be greeted by demonstrations.

# CALENDAR

## MASSACHUSETTS

**MAY 29 – Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club Spring Dinner and Drawing**, 6:30 p.m., Charles and Nevert Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Everyone is invited to a losh kebab and pilaf dinner followed by the monthly drawing at 8 p.m., plus five additional cash prizes. “One-time” numbers will be sold the night of the dinner. Special offer: purchase five “One-time” numbers for \$20 and save \$5. Chance to win a One-Year 1000 Club Membership for those attending dinner. Dinner tickets on sale at the door; donation, \$7.99. For further information, contact the Church Office at 617.354.0632, or email [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).

**JUNE 2 – St. James Men’s Club features speaker Dr. Ara Tachjian**, senior resident – internal medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital. Topic: “Stroke & Common Heart Conditions.” Losh Kebab and Kheyma Dinner. Social Hour (mezza) 6:15 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. \$14 per person, St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural & Youth Center - Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Ladies welcome.

**JUNE 5 – Avak luncheon**, noon, St. Gregory Armenian Church, 158 Main St., North Andover, MA; speaker, US Army Major Felix Gregorian, “To America With Love,” on his pending fifth deployment to the Middle East.

**JUNE 6, 7 – Armenian Memorial Church Annual Fair**, open Friday from 5 to 8 p.m., serving kebab meals, entire fair open Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Armenian meals served all day. Armenian delicacies bake sale, silent auction, craft fair, indoor yard sale. Armenian Memorial Church, 32 Bigelow Ave., Watertown, wheelchair accessible. Admission free. For information, call 617-923-0498.

**JUNE 12 – “Finding Zabel Yessayan,”** the documentary that inspired the translation of two books by groundbreaking Ottoman Armenian author, Zabel Yessayan, will be shown at the Watertown Public Library, 123 Main St., 7 p.m. For more information, contact [info@aiwainternational.org](mailto:info@aiwainternational.org) or call 617-926-0171.

**JUNE 14 – The Armenian Museum of America presents “The Armenians of Gesaria: From Evkere and Talas to Mount Arkeos, Chomakhlu and Evereg”** by Dr. Richard G. Hovannisian, UCLA Armenian Educational Foundation Chair in Modern Armenian History and Distinguished Chancellor’s Fellow at Chapman University, Orange County, California. He will give a Power Point presentation and selected film shorts of the region’s Armenian history and the significant roles played by Armenians, both in urban and rural Gesaria. The Armenian presence in Cappadocia and Gesaria/Kesaria dates back to the times of Tigran the Great and Gregory the Illuminator. 65 Main St., 7 p.m. Free and open to the public

**JUNE 16 – The Gregory Hintlian Memorial Golf Tournament** sponsored by Holy Trinity Armenian Church at Marlborough Country Club, Marlborough; 9:30 a.m., registration; 11 a.m., “Shot Gun.” Join us for a day of golf - player’s fee: \$175 (includes hospitality, lunch, dinner, green & cart fees, prizes and gifts) or just dinner and a social evening (\$50 per person). Limited to 128 players. Tournament and tee sponsorships available. RSVP deadline, June 9. To register or for further information, contact the Holy Trinity Church Office, 617.354.0632, or email [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org)

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



**The documentary “Finding Zabel Yessayan” will be shown at the Watertown Public Library, 123 Main St., at 7 p.m. on June 12. The film inspired the translation of two books by the groundbreaking author, the only woman who was rounded up on April 24, 1915, along with fellow intellectuals. For more information, call the Armenian International Women’s Association at 617-926-0171 or contact them at their email address, [info@aiwainternational.org](mailto:info@aiwainternational.org)**

**NOVEMBER 8 – Armenia Tree Project’s 20th Anniversary Celebration.** Reception and dinner at the Grand Atrium of the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse overlooking the Boston Harbor. Reserve the date, additional details to follow. For information about ATP’s programs, visit [www.ArmeniaTree.org](http://www.ArmeniaTree.org)

## RHODE ISLAND

**JUNE 13 – 100 Anniversary of the Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church**, under the auspices of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), 7 p.m. Concert in celebration of a century of faith, hope and faith, featuring soloists from Armenia, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, the Amrenian Chorale and Orchestra of Rhode Island, under the direction of Maestro Konstantin Petrossian at the new Saint Mary and Saint Mena Coptic Orthodox Cathedral, 2433 Scituate Ave., Cranston. Spiritual and traditional Armenian music, also, premier of songs composed especially for this event. Free and open to the public.



## COMMENTARY

# Mirror Spectator



Established 1932  
An ADL Publication

## EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR  
Gabriella Gage

ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR  
Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:  
Edmond Azadian

## CONTRIBUTORS:

Florence Avakian, Dr. Haroutiune Arzoumanian, Taleen Babayan, Prof. Vahakn N. Dadrian, Diana Der Hovanesian, Philip Ketchian, Kevork Keushkerian, Sonia Kailian-Placido, Harut Sassounian, Mary Terzian, Hagop Vartivarian, Naomi Zeytoonian

## CORRESPONDENTS:

Armenia - Hagop Avedikian  
Boston - Nancy Kalajian  
Philadelphia - Lisa Manookian  
Berlin - Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

## Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair Hovsepian

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is published weekly, except two weeks in July and the first week of the year, by:

## Baikar Association, Inc.

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

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

Other than the editorial, views and opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily reflect the policies of the publisher.

Copying for other than personal use or internal reference is prohibited without express permission of the copyright owner. Address requests for reprints or back issues to:

Baikar Association, Inc.

755 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472-1509

## COMMENTARY

## Beware the Hornet's Nest

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Armenian-Jewish relations have a very special significance and are expressed in a variety of dimensions. The basic tenet that binds the two groups is falling victim to mass murder. The two groups understand each other and they are poised better than other groups to empathize with each other, having experienced the horrors of ethnic cleansing or extermination.

However, those relations may manifest in many different ways when political considerations weigh in. The fact that the state of Israel is not among the 20-some nations that have recognized the Armenian Genocide is a sore point in those relations. But the saving grace is that bona fide scholars and legislators in Israel articulate better than any other group Israel's moral obligation to recognize the Armenian Genocide in the face of political expediency.

It does not take a conspiratorial mind to observe the influence of Israel and its lobbying arm in the US and in this country's legislature. Therefore, as the Armenians take up the challenge of extracting Genocide recognition from the US government, first and foremost, they have to capitalize on the sympathies of these lobbying groups.

Also, it is an important factor to harmonize and coordinate Armenian interests with the political interests of those groups. Working at cross-purposes guarantees defeat.

In recent years, a controversy has been introduced in these delicate relations, that of the Armenian Genocide policy of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), reflected mainly in the actions and words of its national director, Abraham Foxman.

A vigorous campaign was conducted mostly in New England and to a smaller extent, nationally, to expose the ADL's active participation with Turkey in defeating all resolutions in the US Congress recognizing the Armenian Genocide. That campaign yielded some positive results, especially in discrediting the ADL's anti-bias program, No Place for Hate, as a hypocritical façade for the organization's disingenuous and active campaign against other human rights causes, including the Armenian Genocide.

Certainly it was an indirect victory when on the eve of the 2014 Genocide memorial day, the American Jewish Committee released an unequivocal statement of support, which said, in part, "In a month of solemn remembrance of the atrocities of the last century – from the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide to the annual commemoration in Israel and the Untied States of the Holocaust – we pause in mournful tribute to the memories of the estimated 1.5 million victims of the Medz Yeghern, the genocide of the Armenians, committed in the final years of the Ottoman Empire."

We may also consider partial victory in defeating the nomination of Joseph Berman by Gov. Deval Patrick to the Massachusetts Superior Court as a result of a sustained and well-orchestrated campaign, although Mr. Berman's case was only tangentially germane to the Genocide issue. A number of negative factors were used against his nomination: his lack of criminal experience, slight knowledge of drug issues, his attempts to buy political influence through hefty campaign contributions and his representation of a Guantanamo inmate. Perhaps his affiliation with the ADL was the straw that broke the camel's back.

The campaign against the ADL and its leader, Foxman, has not abated for the last few years. On the contrary, it has been gaining momentum, which culminated in the confrontation between the Ad Hoc Greater Boston Committee for Human Rights and the Suffolk University Administration. Mr. Foxman was invited to deliver the commencement address at Suffolk Law School graduation. The protest against Mr. Foxman's presence began in April by Suffolk's student chapter of the National Lawyers' Guild. The main reason for the initiative was Mr. Foxman's and the ADL's long-standing collusion with Turkey, a major human rights violator, in campaigning to defeat US congressional resolutions on the Armenian Genocide.

Anti-Foxman actions also included a call to Sen. Edward Markey (D-Ma), another invitee to the Suffolk ceremony, to boycott the affair.

It was a valiant campaign and an effective exercise of political activism, which unfortunately did not achieve its intended results. Mr. Foxman delivered his commencement address, and was awarded an honorary Juris Doctor degree. And in the melee, he also referenced the Armenian Genocide.

But the defeat will be more instructive if we are prepared to study its lessons. Mr. Foxman would not have stood behind the podium had the Suffolk administration not felt strong on its grounds. It looks also as if this campaign has reached its point of saturation. In economics and in politics, there is something called a law of diminished returns, which warns us

not to overstep our boundaries. The fact that some Jews have also joined the anti-ADL and anti-Foxman campaign indicates that some internal policy issues or personal quarrels are involved, which may entangle the Armenians unnecessarily.

Mr. Foxman is a power broker in Washington and the ADL is equally powerful and no Armenian organization can match their influence should push come to shove.

The writing is already on the wall; on May 13, 2014, the ADL issued a statement trying to clarify its position on the Armenian Genocide. However, the angry tone of the statement is more of a warning than an apology or clarification. By reiterating its statement of August 22, 2008, the new statement says, "We are deeply concerned by ongoing questions about our organization's position with regard to the Armenian Genocide. The ADL has never denied the tragic and painful events perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against the Armenians and we have referred to those massacres as genocide. All of the ADL's anti-hate programs classify genocide as the ultimate crime against humanity."

Although there is an explicit acknowledgment of the Armenian Genocide, there is no denial of Mr. Foxman's or the ADL's active role against Armenian Genocide resolutions in Congress. Instead, there is a stern warning which should be taken very seriously: "There is simply no basis for the false accusation that we engage in any form of denial and we believe this characterization of the ADL crosses the boundary of acceptable criticism into the category of demonization."

A more ominous echo comes all the way from Jerusalem. Normally the press in Israel is very favorable to the Armenian cause but an article published in the *Jerusalem Post* on May 18 by a novice called Tal Buenos is vitriolic. Under the title of "Abraham Foxman's Good Name," the writer not only defends his mentor but also attacks virulently the basic facts of the Armenian Genocide, generously borrowing words and statements from the official Turkish denialist lexicon.

One of the writer's laughable statements goes like this: "Foxman is not a denier. He has never refused to recognize existing facts about the Armenian tragedy of World War I. On the contrary, he has expressed genuine interest in learning more facts about what has happened."

If Mr. Foxman has yet to learn the facts about the Armenian Genocide after 126 Holocaust and Genocide scholars affirmed the incontrovertible fact of the Armenian Genocide on June 6, 2007, it is too late for him to catch up. Besides, if he does not have all the facts about the issue, why is he campaigning against a cause that he does not know enough about?

It is very difficult to isolate a single quote statement from Mr. Buenos' article, because he offers many gems. The following statement seems to have been borrowed from Prof. Ahmet Davutoglu's history lessons: "It is only through the study of authentic documents that one may formulate an informed opinion on whether the Ottoman government acted with the intention to destroy the Armenian people – as the genocide label would warrant – or in consideration of wartime necessities to clear vulnerable areas within its territory of a population whose leaders were colluding with the enemy."

Mr. Buenos, as a PhD candidate in political science, does not have enough sense that his same argument may turn against him and may be used by unscrupulous people in the Holocaust narrative.

One scathing view is the following: "In a dramatic twist, the term genocide has become a burden on the memory of the Holocaust."

Then he continues his denials by upholding the uniqueness of the Holocaust and accuses the Armenians of the very sin that he is in the process of committing: that the Armenians are politicizing the Genocide agenda.

Ironically, there is not much about Mr. Foxman in the entire article, which seems to have been ordered by the Turkish Foreign Ministry.

With Israel's participation, the confrontation has been turning very ugly and certainly counterproductive. The debate must not pit Jews against Armenians, genocide against the Holocaust, because then we will be the certain losers.

Spearheading a political movement is healthy. The fact that we do not generate enough mobilization undermines the strength of the leaders. Comparing and contrasting the Genocide and the Holocaust is a dangerous game. Each case should be analyzed based on their own circumstances. Otherwise, the exercise undermines the moral foundation of each case. Both have to be elevated to a universal realm in order to uphold their lessons for a global audience.

There is an old saying in Armenian which is still topical: Sahman kachats zenen yurians, in the classical Armenian, which literally means, the boundary of the valiants is the extent of their weapons. Interpreted, it says that overextension may be counterproductive but above all, let's not stir the hornet's nest.



## COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Turkey Becomes a Rogue State By Rejecting European Court's Verdict

The European Court on Human Rights (ECHR) issued on May 12 its largest judgment ever against any country, ruling that Turkey had to pay \$123 million as compensation to relatives of missing Greek Cypriots and residents of a Greek enclave in Northern Cyprus.

The Cyprus vs. Turkey lawsuit was filed in 1999, 25 years after the Turkish occupation of Northern Cyprus. In 2001, after ruling that the Turkish government had violated numerous articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, ECHR postponed making a determination of the penalty to be assessed to Turkey.

That decision came earlier this month, when the 17 judges of ECHR's Grand Chamber issued their final judgment. By a vote of 16 to 1 (the Armenian and Cypriot judges voted with the majority, while the Turkish judge was the lone dissenter), ECHR ruled that the intervening 13 years had not invalidated the court's 2001 judgment, as claimed by Turkey. By a vote of 15 to 2, ECHR held that the Turkish government had

to pay \$41 million, plus any tax and interest (if not paid within three months) for 1,456 Greek Cypriots missing as a result of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus in 1974. By another 15 to 2 votes, ECHR judges decided that Turkey had to pay an additional \$82 million plus any tax and interest (if not paid within three months) for damages suffered by residents of the Greek Cypriot enclave of Karpas peninsula in Turkish-occupied Northern Cyprus.

Right before the court's judgment, Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu made a vain attempt to derail ECHR's anticipated negative decision by warning that a ruling against Turkey would undermine the ongoing negotiations to reach a settlement on the Cyprus conflict. The court rightfully ignored Davutoglu's threat and went on to issue its firm judgment in favor of Cyprus.

Having failed to bully the judges, Davutoglu disdainfully declared that Turkey rejects the verdict of Europe's top human rights court and boasted that his country will refuse to pay the \$123 million in damages.

Davutoglu should be reminded that ECHR's "Grand Chamber judgments are final" – not subject to appeal – and "all final judgments are transmitted to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe for supervision of their execution," according to the court's records.

Turkish Foreign Minister's arrogant declaration will certainly come back to haunt his government in the not too distant future. All members of the Council of Europe, without exception, are obligated to comply with ECHR's rulings. The court's judgments are binding on all member states. During the past several decades, Turkey has lost hundreds of judgments in the European Court and has paid, whether it liked it or not, countless millions of dollars in penalties. Turkey has no other choice, if it wants to

remain a member of the Council of Europe. There have been some ECHR cases where Turkish officials had initially vowed that they would not pay the assessed penalties, but eventually fully paid the required compensation plus interest.

If the Turkish government sticks with Davutoglu's boastful rejection, not only Turkey could be stripped of its membership in the Council of Europe, but also forfeit its slim chance of joining the European Union!

Member states of the Council of Europe do not have the right to decide whether they are willing to abide by ECHR's judgments. Otherwise, why would 47 European countries collectively spend almost \$100 million a year to maintain a court if its judgments are meaningless or subject to voluntary compliance?

Recently, Turkish leaders have gone on a rampage flaunting domestic and international laws, by jailing a record number of journalists, firing on peaceful demonstrators in Gezi Park, beating family members of a mine explosion victims, making anti-Semitic statements, threatening to expel the US Ambassador, and waving a finger at Pres. Obama in the White House!

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers should not tolerate a rogue member state which is a major violator of human rights. The Council should put Turkey on notice that unless it makes immediate arrangements to pay the \$123 million penalty, it would be expelled from the Council of Europe and have its assets in third countries seized to enforce the court's judgment.

Europe should take a firm stand on this judgment, as there will be many more such verdicts against Turkey on Cyprus and possibly someday on Armenian restitutorial and territorial demands...

# Tourism Is Armenia's Future Economic Solution

By Miran P. Sarkissian

Reading about the new appointments in the reshuffled Armenian government since the new prime minister's arrival, I was looking to see who the new government official would be responsible for tourism. Shame on me, of course, for not knowing that tourism is a small department of the Ministry of Economics which does have a new Minister but no new deputy minister responsible for tourism.

Why is that important, you ask?

Well, simply because since Armenia is not known for her great manufacturing base with lots of products to export except for pomegranate wine and quince jam, the intelligent action to take for a country like Armenia in order to create employment, investments and income, would be tourist development, wouldn't it?

Let us quickly assess the world situation today. People continue to look for vacation places with some interesting offers, whether that may be the sun and the sea like in Mediterranean countries or mountain and natural beauties like in Central Europe, but also destinations of historical and cultural importance like Egypt, Greece, Israel and Italy. In the meantime, however, political events are making previously desirable destinations difficult to choose as in the cases of Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey as well as the recent civil turmoil in Thailand.

Younger people from Europe are today looking for destinations where they can get the biggest bang for their Euro, have physical experiences like biking, hiking, rock climbing or rafting and kayaking while being close for relaxation in modern night spots with lots of drinks and modern music.

CNN Europe has seen its TV stations inundated with commercials by Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and other Eastern countries.

Tourism in Armenia has traditionally been based on Diaspora Armenians visiting their homeland with neighboring Russians and other CIS country citizens visiting spas and interesting spots like Lake Sevan. The latest statistics showed that tourists visiting Armenia increased from 280,000 in 2011 to 678,000 in the first nine months of 2013. What we are not sure of, however, is whether this increase also includes Armenian who left their country to seek employment in Russia or the Ukraine and have come back to visit their families during these years thus making it difficult to count pure tourists who visit and spend on hotels, tours,

food and souvenirs.

On the other hand, it is officially reported that some 3,000,000 Armenians visited Georgia in 2013 while visitors to Ani have reached some 125,000 with some 20,000 from Armenia herself.

So, the obvious question is what is Armenia's plan to attract tourists?

First and foremost, the current infrastructure in Armenia does not meet the rudimentary requirements of quick and safe transportation. Highways connecting Yerevan to, say Gumri, oblige potential visitors spend at least half a day to visit there. A trip to Sardarabad will take an entire day. An excursion to Lake Sevan will probably take close to another half day. So, first step is to fix the roads.

Secondly, hotels are totally inadequate to accommodate large numbers of visitors year round. Are there enough hotel rooms to accommodate large professional conventions?

There are thousands of Armenians trained in the medical profession and its corollaries. Relatively modern hospitals built with donations from Diaspora Armenian doctors are available in Yerevan today and up-to-date equipment for various specific fields like ophthalmology has been supplied and operating in various medical centers in the capital city. Why not, therefore, promote "specialized medical tourism" in Armenia to attract patients from the region or the Middle East?

In sports tourism, a Yerevan Marathon, for example, could be held this year with some 5,000 runners and grow to 10 or 15 thousand such participants from around the world attracting the world's attention to the country. Rafting and kayaking on Armenian rivers and lakes could entice such enthusiasts to try Armenia as an "exotic" adventure compared to their well-known and already used European or North American routes.

Hiking for young and middle age tourists can attract middle income and retiree groups from around the world. European retirees from Central European countries like Germany and Austria with high pensions and a love for nature could find Armenia's forests and natural beauty highly interesting, I am sure.

Boating on Lake Sevan with small craft competitions could definitely attract such enthusiasts who are constantly looking for new water bodies to sail and conquer. Biking trails in the Armenian countryside could become highly interesting experiences for the biking enthusiasts of the flat countries of Europe (Belgium, Netherlands, and Scandinavians) whereas a

"Tour d'Armenie" to copy the Tour de France or the Giro d'Italia could become a major event on a global basis and brings thousands of enthusiastic participants and their followers to spend money in Armenia and her villages.

In addition, religious tours specializing on monasteries and churches or art tours specializing on museums and art galleries could also be a cultural jewel offered by Armenia to the world. Other thematic tours to be offered could be for tourists to be directed to Armenia's vineyards or Armenian villages concentrating in the production of special fruits like pomegranates or quince and their derivative products.

The new wing of the Yerevan airport by benefactor Eduardo Eurnekian is adequate to accommodate many more tourists flying into the country than ever before. The question is whether there are enough airlines flying into Armenia from an adequate or increasing number of destinations in Europe, the CIS or the Middle East and Asia. The immediate answer is that flying into Yerevan as a final destination is more of a challenge than people think. Do the responsible people in Armenia know TUI of Germany or Club Med of France and other major travel agencies which organize and handle millions of tourists every year?

Recently, Armenia has participated in some major tourist exhibitions around the world but given the competition for tourist monies, have they spent enough to create a memorable enough impression to end up with contracts of tourist operators who will create the demand of potential holiday makers wanting to visit Armenia? The answer is no. The Armenian government voted to spend 75,000,000 drams for tourism development in 2014 – exactly \$182,038. How can you promote an entire country to the world with that amount?

In addition, Armenia's direct promotional efforts have not necessarily met with great success. Only recently did we hear that the Armenian government hired a branding company out of Toronto, Canada, to develop Armenia's image and create a plan for tourist development.

The only successful efforts in promoting Armenia have been executed by NGOs on an individual basis with programs like Birthright Armenia. I am, here, advocating a planned campaign directed to the Diaspora Armenians with messages such as "Come home and bring a friend!"

Just as a matter of comparison, Turkey with some 23 million tourists in 2013 announced their development plan till 2025 included a

third major airport just outside Istanbul and hotel and resort development to accommodate 40 million tourists by the end of 2025. On the other hand, Greece with a population of no more than 11 million hit 18 million tourist arrivals in 2013 and is looking at some 20 million for 2014.

Comparatively speaking, for a country like Armenia with less than 3 million people, we should be seeing more than 5 million tourists every year. That would mean a tenfold increase from 2013 to 2025.

Tourist development in Armenia will bring immediate employment opportunities in many segments of the economy and if the Plan is creative and imaginative as well as funded properly to produce a 25% annual increase of high dollar or high Euro and Ruble spending visitors, we shall see a renaissance of the Armenian hospitality spirit unequalled in the world.

Will it happen? We shall see.

## LETTERS

## In Appreciation of Azadian, *Mirror*

To the Editor:

I would like to express my great satisfaction for the editorials in your newspaper written by Edmond Azadian. The last three have been of special interest because of their focus on events of relevance to Armenia in the context of Ukrainian-Russian events. Azadian's editorials reveal a highly informative and illuminating mind at work, which provides perspective and clarity to these potentially dangerous developments. Please convey my gratitude to him and to you for publishing them.

An additional observation: A few years back, when I was invited by the Armenian Foreign Ministry to serve as an advisor, a senior official told me: "The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* is the best and most highly valued Armenian newspaper published abroad that we receive."

Edward Alexander  
Washington, DC  
Retired US Diplomat



## Genocide Monument to Be Built on Campus of Fresno State

FRESNO, from page 1

The centerpiece of the AGCC's efforts will be the monument that will be constructed on the Fresno State campus. Designed by Fresno architect Paul Halajian, the structure will embody symbols of cultural meaning to the Armenian people. Built from béton brut and Tufa stones, its principal components will be nine columns arranged in a circular pattern and angled inwards, reminiscent of the Tsitsernakabert monument in Armenia. The nine pillars represent the six provinces of historic Armenia, Cilicia, the Diaspora, and the Republic of Armenia. The columns will gradually descend in height around the circle, with the first measuring 19 feet high and the last 15 to underscore the significance of the year 1915. An incomplete halo will be set above the columns, symbolizing both the fracture left by the Genocide and the unity of the Armenian people.

In keeping with the group's mission to educate, the AGCC plans several endeavors to reach out to the broader Central Valley to raise awareness about the Armenian Genocide. A San Joaquin Town Hall event titled "Man's Inhumanity To Man—The Last Hundred Years" will be held on March 18, 2015 at the Saroyan Theatre, and a dramatic play about the Genocide is in the works, scheduled to open at Fresno State on May 1, 2015.

The committee also plans to offer workshops

for secondary teachers of the Fresno and Clovis Unified School districts as well as other area districts to inform them how best to educate their students about the Armenian Genocide. The proposed lesson plans not only address the Armenian Genocide in particular, but also place Armenia's tragedy within the larger historical context of Man's Inhumanity to Man, including the treatment of Native Americans, the Holocaust, and the more recent state-sponsored ethnic cleansings in Rwanda and the Balkans. The committee stresses that though the Genocide occurred a century ago, the crime is still very much a modern human rights issue — especially in light of the maneuverings of the Republic of Turkey to deny or revise this historical fact.

In conjunction with the Fresno Philharmonic, the committee will host a concert to be held on April 25th at the Saroyan Theatre. The AGCC hopes that the evening's program — which will include sacred, classical, and new pieces — will celebrate the spirit of the Armenian people even in the wake of the Genocide. Also as part of the centennial's musical events will be a performance by the Khachaturian Trio for clarinet, violin, and piano at Fresno State on November 14, 2014.

These and other events and activities will supplement the Fresno Community's traditional roster of commemorative gatherings, including the religious ceremony of the local church-

es, the Raising of US and Armenian flags on the steps of Fresno City Hall, the commemoration at the Ararat Cemetery, and the Fresno State remembrance in the university's Free Speech Area.

The following organizations comprise Fresno's AGCC: First Armenian Presbyterian Church, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church, Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, St. Gregory Armenian Church, St. Mary's Armenian Church, St. Paul Armenian Church, St. Sahag Mesrob Armenian Church, Ani Guild, Ararat Armenian Cemetery Association, Armenian General Benevolent Union, Armenian Museum of Fresno, Armenian National Committee (Central California), Armenian Relief Society (Mother Chapter and Sophia Chapter), Fresno State Armenian Studies Program, Fresno State Armenian Students Organization, Armenian Technology Group, Inc., Armenian Youth Federation (Kevork Chavush Chapter), California Armenian Home, Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School, Hamazkayin Educational and Cultural Association, Homenetmen Scouts, Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Tekeyan Cultural Association, Triple X Fraternity (Fresno Chapter and Selma Chapter).

For more information about the groups and to keep posted of its upcoming events, check out the AGCC website at [www.agcfresno.org/](http://www.agcfresno.org/)

## Post-Foxman Suffolk Controversy, ADL Restates Position on Armenian Genocide

FOXMAN, from page 1

"This is the beginning of a process to better understand if Mr. Foxman and the National ADL are sincere in turning towards a new and clear course on Armenian Genocide affirmation," stated Armenian Assembly of America Board Member Anthony Barsamian. "As a graduate of Suffolk University Law School, this issue becomes ever more personal as the Armenian community of Massachusetts remains skeptical of Mr. Foxman's position on the Armenian Genocide and efforts in Congress. Actions speak louder than words, however, given the university's decision to proceed with Foxman, and the recent ADL statement, he now has a unique opportunity to address and make clear his organization's position on the Armenian Genocide," Barsamian said.

## Schiff Presses Erdogan, Gul on Armenian Genocide, Blockade Of Armenia, Kessab

SCHIFF, from page 1

you and the Prime Minister have, that yes, Armenians suffered but so too did Turks during World War I, is akin to saying that the Germans also suffered during World War II. It is true that many German civilians died, many noncombatants, but that does not negate the Holocaust any more than the fact that many Turks died could negate the Genocide. To propose, as you have, that a historic commission be established to ascertain the facts of the Genocide is not unlike suggesting that a commission needs to be established to determine whether the Holocaust took place."

Schiff also raised the issue of Kessab, and his concern over the forced evacuation of the historic Armenian community there and the wellbeing of those residents who are now refugees in Turkey. He also urged Turkey to decouple the blockade of Armenia from resolution of the issues concerning Nagorno Karabagh, so that we can bring about an end to Armenia's economic isolation and a normalization of trade relations.

Schiff represents California's 28th district.

**A SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGE TO  
HISTORIC ARMENIA**

DISCOVER YOUR ARMENIAN CHRISTIAN ROOTS **September 3 to 15, 2014**

The cost of \$3,910 per person includes:

**Airfare:** NYC – Istanbul – Van – Caesarea – Istanbul – NYC

**Accommodations** at minimum 4-star hotels in double occupancy (single supplement + \$745; extra bed + \$730)

**Transportation** with new air-conditioned coaches throughout the complete program

Professional **English-language guide**

**Entrance fees** for museums; three meals daily

*Not included: Tips to driver and guide; beverage with meals; entrance visa to Turkey; excess airline baggage fee (two suitcases 50 lbs./person and one carry-on 18 lbs./person).*

**A precious opportunity to visit the cities and villages of your ancestors:** Istanbul, Van (Aghtamar), Mush, Bingol, Dikranagert (Diyarbakir), Kharpert (Elazig), Arabkir, Malatya, Sepastia (Sivas), Yozgat, Caesarea (Kayseri), and Cappadocia.

**Experience an unforgettable Divine Liturgy** at the *Sourp Khatch* (Holy Cross) Church of Aghtamar (Van), and worship in prayer services at the St. Guiragos Church of Dikranagert, and the St. Gregory Church of Caesarea.

For information and registration materials, please contact:

Sonya Bekarian  
Club America Travel, N.J. Branch  
(201) 313-1285 (business) / (201) 315-5916 (cell)  
[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; those interested should send the application form and deposit as soon as possible. The last payment is due at the end of June 2014.*

Առաջնորդութիւն Քայլոց Ամերիկայի Արեւելեան Թեմի  
Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)  
630 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10016  
[www.armenianchurch-ed.net](http://www.armenianchurch-ed.net)

CELEBRATE THE BADARAK AT  
**AGHTAMAR**

839 Washington Street  
Newtonville, MA 02160  
(617) 964-3400

**KAROUN**  
Restaurant  
Armenian Mid-Eastern Cuisine

Entertainment Fridays  
and Saturdays

Eurdolian Family