

Concord Officer and Dog Keep Town Safe

By Gabriella Gage
Mirror-Spectator Staff

CONCORD, Mass. — In 1999, Concord Police officer Sylvia Toumayan found a way to combine her passion for canine training with her dedication to helping fellow citizens as an officer of the law.

For years, Toumayan had dreamt of starting Concord's first K-9 program because of the potential benefits she envisioned to the department and community. "I always had the golden aspiration of being a K-9 officer," said Toumayan.

Toumayan single-handedly founded the program after training and preparing the first K-9 named, Pativ, which in Armenian means "honor."

Years later, the K-9 unit of the Concord Police has proven to be a huge success and has inspired other local communities to work with K-9s.

Toumayan, a native of Lexington and current Chelmsford resident, has served



Officer Sylvia Toumayan and K-9 Charik, photo from Concord Patch

on the Concord force for 15 years. "I joined the force because it was pretty exciting to have the opportunity to help people and make a difference," said Toumayan.

Toumayan, a dog lover by nature, was passionate about *Schutzhund*, a dog sport developed in Germany that tests the breed suitability for German Shepherds. The practice involves training a dog in tracking, obedience and protection.

Pativ had a dramatic impact on the department. Before his death in 2007 after struggling with illness, Pativ was instrumental in the apprehension of more than 34 missing or wanted individuals, as well as more than 40 drug seizures. Pativ was also described as "friend, co-worker, see K-9, page 16



Opening Ceremony for Expanded Tekeyan Center in New Jersey

ORADELL, N.J. — On Friday, May 17, the official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the expanded offices of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) New York/New Jersey chapter took place with the participation of Primate Khajag Barsamian, Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian, benefactor Nazar Nazarian, TCA Central Board of Directors Secretary Dr. Nubar Berberian and members of the association and other Armenian organizations. Above, Nazar Nazarian, Dr. Nubar Berberian, ADL District Committee Co-Chairman Papken Megerian and Assistant Executive Secretary Baydzig Kalajjian cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Pictured, at right, from left, Harut Chatmadjian (TCA New York/New Jersey co-chair), Hagop Vartivarian, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Dr. Vaghenag Tarpinian (TCA New York/New Jersey co-chair) and Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian. A full story will appear next week.



From Commanding the Space Station To Being Unfit to Drive a Car

LONGUEUIL, Que. (McLean) — Until a few days ago, Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield was responsible for making sure the International Space Station stayed on course.

Now that he's back on Earth, he can't

"Right after I landed, I could feel the weight of my lips and tongue and I had to change how I was talking," Hadfield told reporters during a video news conference from Houston.

"I hadn't realized that I learned to talk with a weightless tongue."

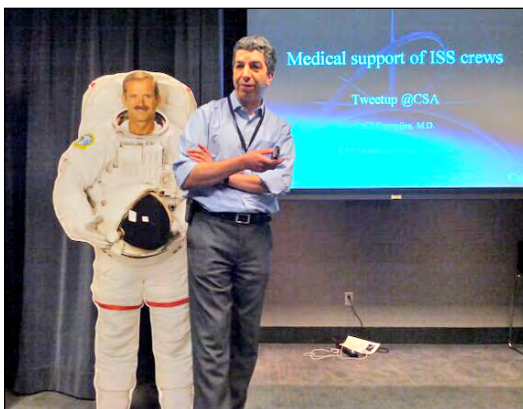
The latest health update by Raffi Kuyumjian, his flight surgeon, said Thursday that the three-time space visitor was starting to show noticeable improvement in his walk and equilibrium.

Kuyumjian is the Canadian Space Agency's chief medical officer.

But Hadfield was not ready to put the pedal to the metal. Kuyumjian said it usually takes about three weeks before a returning astronaut can drive a car again.

When Hadfield spoke to reporters, he said his body felt confused and banged-up by the effects of gravity after his long duration visit.

He said he had to make a conscious effort to keep his head aloft. That he was dizzy. And because the callouses were gone see ASTRONAUT, page 16



Dr. Raffi Kuyumjian in front of a cutout of astronaut Chris Hadfield

even drive a car for the next few weeks.

It's been an intense adjustment period for the 53-year-old astronaut who described Thursday how, after months of floating in weightlessness, he's suddenly grappling with the painful effects of gravity.

Court Rules Dink Murder Was 'Organized' Crime

ISTANBUL (Hetq) — Turkey's Supreme Court of Appeals this week overruled previous decisions absolving suspects in the Hrant Dink murder case of any connection to armed criminal organizations, according to *Hürriyet Daily News*.

The ruling states that the suspects are members of such groups and thus it opens the way to their retrial on charges related to the formation of an armed terror organization.

The court stated that the "organization" was formed "with the purpose of committing a crime."

But Dink's legal team will object to the decision that defines the current formation as "an organization formed to commit crimes" instead of an armed terrorist organization, according to lawyer Bahri Belen, who told *Hürriyet* that the Supreme Court decision failed to note the suspects' political involvement.

"The Supreme Court says there is an organization, but not of a political nature," Belen said. "It is important to define the organization. The legal definition is wrong, since this is an act of terror, committed not by an ordinary criminal organization, but by a political organization."

President Sargisian Sends Condolences to Oklahoma Victims

YEREVAN (PanArmenian.net) — President Serge Sargisian addressed a letter of condolence to President Barack Obama this week, after the destruction caused by the Oklahoma City tornado.

Sargisian offered his support to the families of victims and the US in general, wishing all those affected patience and endurance.

Turkish Channel Broadcasts Western Armenian Song

ISTANBUL (ArmeniaNow) — A Western Armenian music video has been aired for the first time in the history of the state-owned TRT TV channel.

The song, *Tzyuni Patil* (Snow Flake), by musician Erlin Tomaoglu, tells the story of a snowflake dreaming of melting into water and flowing from mountains and waterfalls.

Tomaoglu thanked TRT for broadcasting the video, giving Turkish audiences a chance to see it.

A few years ago, TRT broadcast another Armenian music video, but it was in the Eastern Armenian dialect.

Tomaoglu, a music teacher at a historic Armenian school in Istanbul, said she began listening to Western Armenian songs with tapes from abroad during her childhood.

INSIDE

Nazarian Tribute

Pages 8-9

INDEX

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



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Bastard of Istanbul Translated into Armenian

YEREVAN — The Armenian translation of *The Bastard of Istanbul*, a book by Turkish writer Elif Shafak, will be published on May 30.

The book was translated from the English by American-Armenian literary critic Maro Madoyan-Alajanyan.

She said, “Elif Shafak must be known by Armenian society. Her novel is dedicated to the consequences of the Genocide.”

Shafak no longer lives in Turkey because of various legal measures taken against her as a result of her outspokenness. Born in 1971 in Strasbourg, France, she is one of the most distinctive voices in contemporary literature in both Turkish and English. Her books have been translated into more than 30 languages. She received the Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters in France. She has published 12 books, including eight novels.

The Bastard of Istanbul was originally published in 2006 and tells the story of an Armenian and Turkish family through the eyes of the various women in the families. The novel resulted in Shafak being charged with “insulting Turkishness,” but the charges were eventually dropped.

Armenia Participates in Night at Museum Project

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) — This year 88 museums — 26 more than last year — in Armenia joined the Night at the Museum project held worldwide.

Since 2005, Night at the Museum, an initiative of the Culture and Communications Ministry of France, has been held on the Saturday after the International Museum Day, celebrated since 1977. This year both events were marked on May 18.

Deputy Culture Minister of Armenia Arev Samuelyan said this week that Armenia is participating with “Museum as an informal learning facility” slogan; also this year Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin Museum, “Matenadaran” Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts and five museums in Nagorno Karabagh also joined the cultural event.

“The purpose is to let people learn the way things work at museums, give a fresh perspective of the treasures and cultural heritage kept there and do that in a free of charge, cozy night atmosphere,” said Samuelyan.

Samuelyan said in 2005 Armenia took part with only nine museums, in 2010 their number reached 40, in 2012 it was 62, and now, in 2013, it was 88.

Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin Museum Director Father Ashoghik Karapetyan said in addition to the four museums in Echmiadzin, they had decided to open up the Echmiadzin Cathedral’s treasury.

New Zealand Appoints First Ambassador to Armenia

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) — The new New Zealand ambassador to Armenia, Hamish Cooper, presented his credentials to Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Manasaryan this week.

Manasaryan congratulated the ambassador on his appointment and said that he hopes Cooper will contribute to relation between the two countries as the first ambassador of New Zealand to Armenia.

Cooper noted, in turn, that he would spare no effort for the development of bilateral relations and cooperation. He stressed the importance of Minister Eduard Nalbandian’s visit to New Zealand last year and the agreements reached within that framework.

During the meeting they discussed a cooperation between the two countries within the framework of international organizations, the development of trade-economic relations and expansion of the legal framework.

Both parties stated that the Armenian community of New Zealand was an important link between the two countries.

ATP Celebrates Earth Day

YEREVAN — What started in 1970 as a teach-in about the environment has expanded year by year to include more than 1 billion people in some 192 countries, according to the Earth Day Network.

Celebrating Earth Day has been an annual tradition for the Armenia Tree Project (ATP), with tree plantings in public spaces across the country. Two community events were organized this year where more than 800 new trees were planted by volunteers and ATP partners.

The first tree-planting day was organized on April 16 in the Avan community of Yerevan. More than 420 trees were planted by representatives of the United Nations Office in Armenia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the local government and other international embassies.

The planting was initiated by the UN and ATP to celebrate Earth Day within the framework of the International Year of Water Cooperation. The trees and planting equipment were donated by ATP.

Among the distinguished guests, Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Nalbandian participated in the planting. He highlighted that Armenia’s government pays special attention to the protection of forests, the greening of cities and villages and the preservation of natural resources through the broader



US Ambassador John Heffern plants with ATP.

involvement of local communities. He stressed that together, they work “to strengthen the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.” He called on each citizen to plant at least one tree every year, thus personally contributing to restoration of parks and forests.

After planting his first tree in Armenia, UN Resident Coordinator Bradley Busetto said, “Every citizen has a right to live in a safe and healthy environment, and it is our obligation to protect it. That is why protection and sustainable use of natural resources is



Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian joined a tree-planting event in Yerevan in partnership with ATP, the United Nations Office in Armenia, the local government, international embassies and the Earth Day Network.

absolutely vital, and a focus of the UN here in Armenia. I am happy to join this tradition, introduced by our Armenian partners, and plant trees, thus contributing personally to the restoration of the green areas in this beautiful country.”

“There is no more important work than cooperating with the Armenian government, its agencies and the UN on projects dedicated to improving Armenia’s environment,” commented ATP Managing Director Tom Garabedian. “The planting of these trees reinforces ATP’s commitment to the well-being of Armenia’s citizens and to the protection of the environment.”

Another Earth Day planting was organized on April 22 in Jrahovit, a town in the Ararat region. The US Embassy in Yerevan joined ATP in planting more than 400 trees at the backyard of the Jrahovit secondary school. “This year the Embassy plants 400 trees — one for each member of the US Embassy staff,” said John Heffern, the ambassador to Armenia.

Volunteers from the Armenian Volunteer Corps (AVC) and schoolchildren from Jrahovit were also actively engaged in the planting. Principal Artak Babayan expressed his appreciation for the initiative and said he was grateful that the area around the school will

soon be in bloom and totally greened.

After the planting, Heffern talked with the schoolchildren about the importance of nature protection and a clean environment. ATP is planning to provide environmental education training for teachers at the school and will host the students at one of its nurseries and education centers in the coming months.

“We are thankful to the US Embassy in Armenia and the Armenian Volunteer Corps for their active participation in this Earth Day event,” stated Community Tree Planting program manager Arthur Harutyunyan. “These tree planting events contribute to our greening mission and help us raise awareness of the urgent issue of desertification.”

“ATP has been planting trees throughout Armenia and Artsakh for nearly 20 years now. Each planting for us is a celebration of the earth and nature,” continued Harutyunyan. “And April is a special month for ATP since we begin spring planting and collaborate with partners to plant trees of hope to celebrate Earth Day with hundreds of thousands of people around the world,” he added.

ATP’s mission is to assist the Armenian people in using trees to improve their standard of living and protect the environment, guided by the desire to promote self-sufficiency, aid those with the fewest resources first, and conserve the indigenous ecosystem. ATP’s three major programs are tree-planting, environmental education and sustainable development initiatives. For more information, visit www.armenia-tree.org.

Philanthropic Support Fuels Growth for AUA Undergraduate Program

YEREVAN — The American University of Armenia (AUA) continues to garner strong philanthropic support for its new undergraduate program, set to launch in the Fall of 2013.

Recently, AUA received \$50,000 from Dr. and Mrs. Noubar Ouzounian of California and \$25,000 from the San Francisco Armenian Professional Society.

AUA will utilize the generous commitment of \$50,000 by the Ouzounians to build a strong foundation for the new Bachelor’s program.

“It is our intention to provide young Armenians the opportunity to obtain a world-class education that will prepare them to compete on a global level and build for themselves and their country a brighter future,” said Dr. Ouzounian.

“It was through my education at the American University of Beirut that I was able to elevate myself and have a higher standard of living. I would like to provide students in Armenia with the same opportunity through the American University of Armenia.”

The donation of \$25,000 from the San Francisco Armenian Professional Society will enable AUA to outfit five mobile audio-visual carts to enhance undergraduate classes, lectures, and workshops.

“We believe in what AUA stands for and will continue to support its mission for education and professionalism,” said Dr. Agheg Yenikomshian, president of the San Francisco Armenian Professional Society. “Our donation will make a positive difference in supporting

the development of higher education in Armenia.”

The new undergraduate program is an unprecedented expansion that will quadruple AUA’s student body over the next five years.

“The university is proud to have supporters such as Dr. and Mrs. Ouzounian and the San Francisco Armenian Professional Society,” said AUA President Dr. Bruce Boghosian. “These gifts will allow AUA to further its mission of providing accessible, high-quality education for the next generation of Armenian professionals while making AUA a destination for international students.”

To support the American University of Armenia with a donation, visit its website.



INTERNATIONAL

Koutoujian Addresses Pontian Greek Genocide

ATHENS – Massachusetts' Middlesex County Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian was a featured speaker on Sunday, May 19, at the Pontian Greek Genocide Remembrance Day gathering. Koutoujian was invited to speak in Athens' Syntagma Square by the Pan-Pontian Federation of Greece.

Koutoujian spoke about the shared history of the Pontian Greeks and the Armenians, both of whom suffered genocides during the Ottoman Empire's rule in the early 20th century. He spoke about how those events brought the two groups together and bound them in history, while also underscoring the importance of coming together as a community to remember and honor those who perished as well as the survivors.

"Because my grandfather did not give up hope when he fled Turkey – didn't give up on humanity or the capacity of the human spirit – I am able to speak to you today as the descendant of a survivor," Koutoujian said. "And I am not



Peter J. Koutoujian (second from left) and other dignitaries at the Pontian Greek Genocide Remembrance Day events in Athens

the only one; there are millions of us. That is why today is so important. We are maintaining a legacy for those who perished, but also for those who survived."

Koutoujian, whose paternal grandparents fled Marash, Turkey, to escape the Armenian Genocide, has been a vocal leader in bringing recognition to the Armenian Genocide.

Armenia Begins Council of Europe Chairmanship

By Naira Hayrumyan

STRASBOURG, France (ArmeniaNow) – This week at the 123rd session of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers attended by delegations from 47 countries, Armenia assumed its first-ever six-month rotating chairmanship of the organization.

Although this chairmanship has been granted alphabetically (taken over from Andorra and to be passed on to Austria, with a further relay to Azerbaijan), observers say it represents a major landmark on Armenia's path to European integration.

Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, who attended the session, presented the goals and priorities of Armenia during its chairmanship. It will, in particular, include "combating racism and xenophobia in Europe, promoting European values through intercultural dialogue, strengthening European standards on human rights and on the rule of law, fostering democratic societies and reinforcing the role of the Council of

Europe in the European architecture."

Remarkably, in November, when Armenia's presidency will come to an end, the South Caucasus nation is due to initial an association agreement and an agreement on the establishment of a deep and comprehensive free trade area with the European Union. Armenia is likely to use its chairmanship of the important European structure in order to become, at the Vilnius Eastern Partnership summit later this year, the first "exemplary post-Soviet country" to put signature to a key agreement with the European Union.

The next six months are largely expected to be defining in terms of Armenia's foreign-policy orientation. Armenian Prime Minister Tigran Sargsian on Thursday made an announcement taken by many as a historic 'breakthrough.' It concerned the issuance of bonds of Armenia that will be taken to the international market. Bonds are debt obligations, and Armenia, in fact, takes its debts to the Western market.

The head of the Armenian government emphasized that this would allow Armenia to repay its debt to Russia, which was taken by many experts as the

ultimate decision to change the foreign-policy priorities – from post-Soviet to European ones, especially since debts are considered as one of the main factors of independence. In fact, a country depends more on the centers to which it owes more. Now Armenia is, in fact, changing its main creditor.

Nevertheless, experts also see some risks in the expedited course of Armenia's 'Westernization' and in this view they call for the development of protective mechanisms. They, in particular, point out that even though a full liberalization of the market may have a positive impact on raising economic standards in Armenia, it may also jeopardize the domestic producer.

It is also interesting that in their latest op-ed on the Armenian economy Mark Horton, the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) mission chief for Armenia, and Guillermo Tolosa, IMF resident representative in Armenia, reiterated the argument that Armenia should seek to offset its "isolated geographical situation" with better governance and a more favorable business environment, in particular. They also called for an accelerated pace of reforms. "We think the gradualist approach has run its course. Unless changes are deep and swift, the positive results that Armenians desire will also be gradual in coming, if they come at all," the IMF representatives warned.

Armenian-Cypriots Visit Sourp Magar Monastery

NICOSIA, Cyprus (PanArmenian.net) – Representative of the Armenian community, Vartkes Mahdessian, in cooperation with the Armenian Prelacy of Cyprus, organized the sixth visit-pilgrimage to the Sourp Magar Monastery on May 19.

Around 150 Armenian Cypriots visited the monastery, many from abroad.

The monastery was founded by Copts around 1000 AD and in 1425 it was inherited by the Armenians.

It is dedicated to Saint Makarios the Hermit of Alexandria and it is located in the eastern part of the Turkish-occupied Pendadhaktylos mountain at an altitude of 530 meters and a small distance from Halevga, within the Plataniotissa Forest.

The vast land of the monastery, which is about 8,500 donums and includes 30,000 olive and carob trees, extends up to the sea. From the monastery, visitors can view the Taurus mountain range in Cilicia.

The Armenian monastery had been for centuries a popular pilgrimage for Armenians and non-Armenians and a place of recuperation for Catholicos (patriarchs) and other Armenian clergy-

men from Cilicia and Jerusalem, as well as a popular center for local and foreign travelers and for pilgrims en route to the Holy Land.

Furthermore, the monastery was used as a summer resort, where Armenian scouts and students would camp, including students of the Melkonian Educational Institute, many of whom were orphans of the Armenian Genocide.

A large number of exquisite and priceless manuscripts, dating back to 1202, as well as other valuable ecclesiastical relics were housed there.

Fortunately, in 1947 some of them were saved when they were transferred to the "Cilicia" Museum of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia.

The Magaravank is the only Armenian monastery in Cyprus and together with the church of the Virgin Mary in occupied Nicosia, are the most important Armenian monuments on the island.

It was occupied in August 1974 during the Turkish invasion and ever since it remains at the mercy of nature, silent, ruined, desecrated and deserted, awaiting for its rightful owners to return.

Nagorno Karabagh Film Presented at Cannes

CANNES, France – Four film projects, including Jeff Galustian's "Florist," were showcased at the Russian Pavilion during the Cannes Film Festival.

Filmed by Maria Sahakyan, "Florist" is a story about a carnations grower who lives in Nagorno Karabagh. War between Armenia and Azerbaijan turns the life of Vardan, the 60-year-old florist, upside-down. One of his sons goes missing during a battle. Vardan finds a wounded Azeri soldier in his garden and keeps him with the hope of exchanging him for his son.

"The Karabagh conflict has not been resolved [and its been] 15 years and war can be launched at any moment, We want to grab the attention of society [and allow them] to see this geographic point and its [place] in human history," said Sahakyan.

International News

RFE/RL Reporter Detained Covering Azerbaijani Protest

BAKU (RFE/RL) – An RFE/RL correspondent has been detained in Azerbaijan while reporting on a land dispute protest by villagers in the Imisli district near the border with Iran.

RFE/RL's Azerbaijani Service correspondent Azer Eli was recording video of the villagers as they tried to herd about 150 of their cattle in front of the district governor's office.

The protesters say a pasture belonging to them was seized by residents of a nearby village.

Police dispersed the demonstrators before they reached the governor's office.

Eli was released pending an appearance in court on May 11.

He was told by police he would be charged with organizing an unapproved demonstration.

Vuqar Qadirov, an activist from the opposition Azerbaijan Popular Front Party, was also detained along with several other demonstrators. They were released later without charge.

Chanel Sweatshop Dismantled in Russia

MOSCOW (Hetq) – Russian interior ministry officers busted an underground sweatshop where more than 100 Chinese citizens produced counterfeit Chanel shoes in deplorable conditions.

The sweatshop, allegedly operated by an Armenian crime group, was located in the Sverdlovsk region near Yekaterinburg, in central Russia. Health and safety standards as well as working conditions were all below legal standards. The factory reeked of chemicals and chemical waste was allegedly dumped directly into a nearby river. The workers lived in an on-site barracks and their actions and movements were watched and controlled.

During the raid on the premises, authorities recovered more than 3,600 pairs of counterfeit shoes branded as Chanel footwear. Chanel has been contacted by authorities and samples of the counterfeits have been sent for comparison and analysis.

According to Chanel, the original shoes retail for around \$800, meaning the counterfeits discovered during the raid alone could have cost the company as much \$280,000 dollars in lost revenue.

Funds Allocated for New Road to Mor Gabriel Monastery

ISTANBUL (Today's Zaman) – The local governor of the Midyat district of Mardin, Oguzhan Bingol, has said that the Ministry of Finance has allocated funds in the amount of 1 million Turkish lira (approximately \$543,000) to widen the road to the Mor Gabriel Monastery.

According to Bingol, the current narrow road to the Syriac Orthodox monastery, which is also known as St. Gabriel, will be widened by eight more meters.

The road is expected to be finished in four months thanks to the support of the ministers of interior and finance, Muammer Guler and Mehmet Simsek, respectively, said the local governor. The monastery is visited by thousands of domestic and international tourists each year. However, visitors complain about the difficulty of arriving at the monastery.

"As the local governor, I pursue a policy of affirmative action towards Aramean [Syriac] citizens so that they do not feel alienated," said Bingol, who added that Mor Gabriel Monastery is one of the most important sites in the region. "I was ashamed of the conditions of the road to the monastery," the local governor added.

The new road project will also enhance the landscape surrounding the Mor Gabriel Monastery.

The Mor Gabriel Monastery is located on the Tur Abdin Plateau near Midyat in southeastern Turkey's province of Mardin. It was founded in 397, and it is the oldest surviving Syriac Orthodox monastery in the world.



Community News

Vartan Gregorian Is Commencement Speaker at Brandeis' Heller School of Social Policy

WALTHAM, Mass. — They came to the Heller School of Social Policy and Management from across the globe — from Ghana to Indonesia, from Israel to Jamaica — to learn how to make their communities healthier, stronger and more just.

At the Spingold Theater on Sunday, the Heller School celebrated the Class of 2013's commitment to social justice and civic engagement.

Commencement speaker Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, called the graduates "ancestors in training," urging them to leave the world a better place than they found it.

"What have you done to deserve your ancestors?" Gregorian asked the graduates. "What will you do as ancestors of future generations?"

Gregorian has long been an advocate for higher education. He was among the six honorary degree recipients at this year's commencement ceremony.

His resume also includes stints as president of Brown University from 1989 to 1997 and president of the New York Public Library from 1981 to 1989. Gregorian served as a Brandeis trustee from 2006 to 2010.

In his address to Heller graduates, Gregorian stressed the importance of reaching out across economic, cultural and political divides to build stronger, better informed and more engaged democracies.

"You are the people who will break down the walls that we have constructed to separate ourselves from each other," Gregorian said. "Cynicism has become trendy. Cynicism has fostered dissolution with our institutions, politics and policies just at a time when our nation is facing great challenges. The Heller School has inculcated you against cynicism, against narcis-



Vartan Gregorian, right, with Brandeis President Frederick M. Lawrence

sism. It has given you the education and the tools to know that you must never give up on yourselves and you must never give up on America or the world."

Gregorian singled out international students and immigrants, calling on them to continue and strengthen the bonds they made while studying in the US.

"Whether you remain here or return to your native countries, you have the obligation to build bridges between [your] nations, [your] societies and the United States and visa versa," Gregorian said. "Those of us who come from developing countries have yet another obligation, a very weighty one, in the work towards creating a better quality of life for those at home. ... After all, we represent the hopes of a better future both in America and in the world."

Gregorian praised the graduates, calling them the leaders of the future.

"You will be among the ranks of leaders and citizens who make our economy viable and strong but our society just," Gregorian said. "You'll be the leaders who breathe life into our American ideals and find new ways to bring us together as one nation, one people and one humanity."



Peter Balakian and Carla Garapedian speak at the program.

NAASR Launches Leadership Circle in Southern California

LOS ANGELES — The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) launched a campaign for its Leadership Circle of membership in the Southern California Armenian community on April 13, at the Pasadena home of David and Margaret Mgrublian.

The evening was organized by NAASR's Southern California Board members Bruce Roat and Dr. Gregory Ketabgian, working closely with a dedicated committee.

Following a buffet dinner, the nearly 100 individuals present gathered to listen to remarks by Master of Ceremonies Paul Ignatius, a dialogue between Dr. Carla Garapedian and Prof. Peter Balakian, and comments by members of the NAASR leadership.

"Fifty-five years ago my father got the bug for NAASR to help them set up endowed chairs at Harvard and UCLA in Armenian studies," said MC Paul Ignatius. Ignatius served as Assistant Secretary of Defense and Secretary of the Navy during the Kennedy and Johnson presidential administrations. His father, Hovsep, an immigrant from Kharpert, was involved in many Armenian causes including efforts at the inception of NAASR to keep Armenian history alive for future generations. Ignatius, in his concise and witty opening remarks, emphasized that NAASR continues to be a uniquely important organization that needs to be supported by all who value scholarship and increased knowledge about Armenian subjects.

Ignatius introduced acclaimed documentary filmmaker Garapedian and writer and scholar Balakian, who engaged in a half-hour-long discussion on the topic of "Scholarship and the Pursuit of Justice."

Garapedian and Balakian discussed the fraudulent academic apparatus supported by the Turkish government to further their project of denial of the Armenian Genocide. Balakian spoke of the need to counter this campaign both through scholarship and through the kind of informed activism that scholarship makes possible. He pointed to the example of the exposure and shaming of Princeton's Heath Lowry by Robert Jay Lifton in the 1990s, when it was found that Lowry was working closely with the Turkish Embassy in Washington, DC, as a key moment in demonstrating the relationship between academia and the Turkish state. The publicity surrounding this affair had brought the denial issue out in the open in the mid-1990s.

Although — or perhaps because — the Armenian Genocide today receives far greater coverage in scholarly work, on television, and in social media than in previous decades, denial persists. The discussion turned to Turkey's attempt to pressure the Rwanda Genocide Museum to remove materials on the Armenian Genocide. A last-hour effort by genocide scholars and writers, including Balakian, who had gathered there to give a symposium helped to block that effort.

Similarly, in 2005 there was a Turkish-supported attempt in England to have the Parliament officially repudiate the authenticity and validity of the Bryce/Toynbee *Blue Book* (aka *The Treatment of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 1915-1916*). This effort ultimately failed and led to noted British human rights lawyer Geoffrey Robertson writing a report titled "Was There an Armenian Genocide?" which was highly critical of Turkish-led denial and British acquiescence.

Revisionist historiography by Turkish and Azeri scholars has picked up speed and needs a large number of trained scholars to answer their claims. Garapedian and Balakian stressed the need for financial support of institutions such as NAASR to enable increased grants to deserving researchers and scholars, and the

see NAASR, page 7

Paros Foundation Reports on 100 For 100 Projects For Prosperity

BERKELEY, Calif. — Since its official launch in October 2011, the Paros Foundation's 100 for 100 Projects for Prosperity has had a significant and meaningful positive impact on Armenia and her people. This initiative, designed to provide the Armenian community with opportunities to recognize the upcoming centennial of the Armenian Genocide through implementing 100 special projects in Armenia, is on schedule to meet its goal of having these projects completed by the end of 2015.

100 for 100 Projects for Prosperity-Numbers of Significance:

\$0 from donor contributions has been spent on administrative expenses.

2 years remain to April 24, 2015.

18 months have passed since the Paros 100 for 100 initiative launch.

27 projects have been completed or are in progress.

71 people have been employed or temporarily received a salary as a result of Paros 100 for 100 Projects.

73 projects remain to be implemented to reach the goal.

150 cities, villages and towns have benefited from a project.

210 donors have contributed to a Paros 100 for 100 Project.

83,696 people have benefited from a Paros 100 for 100 Project.

\$116,932 in cash contributions has been received and spent on Paros 100 for 100 Projects so far.

\$750,270 is the value of in-kind contributions received including new shoes, dental supplies, computers and musical instruments.

"The numbers speak for themselves," said Peter Abajian, executive director of The Paros Foundation. "We are eagerly working to identify new projects, advertise them on our website, and secure new potential project sponsors in order to effectively and efficiently implement these sponsored projects in Armenia. During the first 18 months of this campaign, we significantly improved the lives of our brothers and sisters in Armenia with support of our generous donors. As each one of these projects is sponsored and implemented, the memory of our ancestors is honored in a way that we believe is positive and appropriate."

Formally launched in 2006, The Paros Foundation supports six local NGOs in Armenia with contributions of quality rent-free program space, operating funds and human resource support. To honor the upcoming centennial of the Armenian Genocide, The Paros Foundation launched the Paros 100 for 100 Projects for Prosperity in October 2011.

The Paros 100 for 100 Projects for Prosperity develops and administers projects throughout Armenia and Artsakh in four program categories: Development, Education, Humanitarian and Cultural. To become a part of the project, visit www.parosfoundation.org.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Carolyn Mugar Is Speaker at Clark U Commencement

WORCESTER, Mass. — Clark University held its 109th Commencement on Sunday, May 19. Degrees were granted to 1,096 graduates.

Carolyn Mugar, executive director of Farm Aid, and founder of the Armenia Tree Project, delivered the Commencement address and imparted lessons from the early days of both organizations. Mugar was married to the late John T.



Clark University commencement speaker Carolyn Mugar (third from left) with Farm Aid staff Glenda Yoder and Jennifer Fahey, ATP director Jason Sohigian and Robert Aram and Marianne Kaloosdian

the most committed visible supporter of family farmers.

“Yes it’s good to think ahead, to plan, but often the best thing is to simply act. Just take that first uncertain step, and then take the next, and keep going,” said Mugar. “Don’t spend any time standing still in fear about which road to take. Just get moving. Life happens when you make choices, when you take action.”

The philanthropist/activist reassured the graduates that the future would be okay because of what they themselves will do.

“With ordinary human courage and vision, with the particular special tools Clark has given each of you, with the hands-on experience you already have, together with others, you have the capacity to do what needs to be done,” she said.

Mugar accepted an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters on behalf of Farm Aid and the Armenia Tree Project — two organizations, she said, “that know the importance of courage, vision, and community.”

In his introductory remarks, Clark President David Angel told the graduates, “While some are pessimistic about what lies ahead for our country and our world, those of us who have spent time with Clark graduates are optimistic about our common future.”

“The difference you have made on our campus inspires us,” Angel continued. “We are confident that you — our graduates — will challenge convention and change our world for the better.”

O’Connor, who served as a Clark Trustee from 1997 to 2001, when he died at age 46.

“Don’t wait for your life to begin,” she urged the graduates. “When you see what’s wrong, there is always something you can do, no matter what your age.”

Mugar told the story of Farm Aid, and how musician Willie Nelson, whose original plan was to host just one concert to raise money and awareness for family farmers, sparked a movement and earned himself a reputation as

Florida State Senate Recognizes April 24 as Armenian Martyrs Remembrance Day

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — In April, the Florida state Senate adopted SR 1878, the Armenian Martyrs Remembrance Day resolution to mark the 98th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, reported Florida Armenians (FLArmenians). Armenian Americans from Miami and Boca Raton joined members of the local Tallahassee Armenian community to mark the historic day.

“It’s like a weight lifted off my back,” stated Margaret Atayants, a student at Tallahassee Community College. “I’m grateful to the Florida Senate for honoring and recognizing the victims of the first genocide of the twentieth century.”

State Sen. Jack Latvala (R-Pinellas) introduced SR 1878 and spoke in favor of the resolution on the Senate floor. He then recognized Armenian-American community members observing the proceedings from the gallery.

“The entire St. Hagop Armenian Church community of the Gulf Coast is thankful for the efforts of our elected officials,” stated Rev. Hovnan Demerjian, pastor of St. Hagop Armenian Church. “Each time a genocide recognition resolution is introduced and passed, a small bit of justice is served for victims of the Armenian genocide and all victims of genocide and mass atrocities,” Demerjian said.

In 2006, Gov. Jeb Bush issued an official proclamation recognizing the Armenian Genocide. However, the Florida legislature had not affirmed this crime against humanity until last month.

“This is a historic day for Florida and for all Armenian-Americans,” stated Taniel Koushajian. “On behalf of the entire Florida Armenian-American community, we thank Senator Latvala, Senate President Gaetz and the entire Florida Senate for their leadership on this important human rights issue.”

Florida Armenians would also like to recognize and give special thanks to Rana Brown, Henry Petraki and the Atayants family for their steadfast efforts and support.



From left, Danny Bedrosian, Albert Atayants, Margaret Atayants, state Sen. Jack Latvala (R-Pinellas), Taniel Koushajian, Sona Antonyan and Michael Akopyan



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COMMUNITY NEWS

AAHPO to Extend Medical Outreach with Public Webinars

NEW YORK — On Wednesday June 5, the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) will sponsor its first public webinar on the topic “What is Social Media Doing to Our Children and Families?” The webinar, an online event that can be attended with the use of a computer or mobile device, will be presented at 9 p.m. Pediatrician Lynn T. Cetin, MD is the presenter.

“We’re excited to use this online media to reach more members of the Armenian community to share essential health care information for individuals and families,” noted Lawrence V. Najarian, MD, president of AAHPO. “Sharing medical knowledge is an important part of AAHPO’s mission.”

Najarian noted that other webinars are being planned for the rest of 2013. These webinars will be open to the public and free of charge.

Prior to the webinar, Cetin will present the same topic to the AAHPO members and their guests at a dinner meeting on May 31 at Sevan Restaurant, Bayside, NY. At the meet-



Pediatrician Lynn T. Cetin

ing, another speaker, periodontist Gregory Kazandjian, DDS, MS, also will make a presentation. All health care professionals are invited to attend, and may RSVP to Dr.

Arthur Kubikian.

On Saturday May 25, Cetin will appear on Voice of Armenians TV at 4 pm, Channel 25, NYC Life. In this pre-recorded television program, Dr. Ohan Karatoprak interviews Cetin about “Technology and the Effects on Children.”

To provide the information in “What is Social Media Doing to Our Children and Families?” to the public, AAHPO is sponsoring the June 5 webinar. Cetin will share her presentation through an online slide show, and then answer questions from the attendees.

To attend the webinar, attendees must pre-register by sending an email request to info@aaipo.org. They will be sent instructions about how to log in to the webinar on June 5 at 9 pm.

“In my pediatric practice I have seen many families affected by the use and misuse of social media. As parents and health care providers we must take the time to understand and embrace the technology that exists, but also be aware of the consequences of its

use on the health of our children and families,” Cetin said.

Cetin was educated at the University of Pennsylvania and Stony Brook School of Medicine. She completed her pediatric residency at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center and started her pediatric medical career in academia.

“For several years, AAHPO has sponsored public medical workshops, like the one we held April 5 at St. Leon Church. Now we can bring top-rate medical experts like Dr. Cetin right into your home with webinars. This is an opportunity to attend without leaving home or wherever you have the use of a computer or mobile device,” noted Garbis Baydar, MD, who was recently voted “Top New Jersey Pediatrician.” Baydar, who is AAHPO treasurer, added that “AAHPO is committed to sharing information with more community members, and no-cost public webinars is another way AAHPO can help fulfill its mission to provide medical support and education to both our local communities and Armenia.”

Dr. Yervant Zorian Will Present Objectives of Virtual College at Talk

PASADENA, Calif. — The Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) will host a lecture on the Armenian Virtual College (AVC), an online learning institution for Armenian studies, as part of their lecture series on topics related to science and engineering. Dr. Yervant Zorian, founder and president of the college, will present the objectives and achievements of the AVC. The lecture will be held on Monday, June 10, at 7 p.m. at Parsons Corporation, 100 West Walnut St.

The Armenian Virtual College (AVC) is AGBU’s newest educational project. It is an online learning institution for Armenian studies initiated in 2004 by Zorian, who had long noted the need for an educational program that better addresses the current demands of the Armenian nation in the diaspora and homeland. The technology at the heart of the project has been developed largely in Armenia with the collaboration of scientists and engineers at Yerevan State University Information

Technology Center for Education and Research.

Through the use of both synchronous and asynchronous online communications, AVC allows students to learn new material at their own pace, but also to confer face-to-face with their virtual teachers and classmates. With the latest advances in the world of virtual education, AVC’s mission is, in addition, to create a virtual learning community that can foster both the cultural education and social communication otherwise out of the reach of most Armenian students across the globe Zorian who is a fellow and chief architect of Synopsys Corp., Mountain View. Previously he was the vice president and chief scientist of Virage Logic Inc, and a distinguished member of Technical Staff at AT&T Bell Laboratories. He has authored more than 300 scientific papers, four books, holds more than 30 US patents and received numerous best scientific paper awards.

A Fellow of the IEEE, he was selected by Electronic Engineering Times among the top 13 influencers on the semiconductor industry in the past 50 years. Zorian was the 2005 recipient of the prestigious Industrial Pioneer Award, and the 2006 recipient of the IEEE Hans Karlsson Award. He is named the general chair of the 50th Design Automation Conference, to be held in June, in Austin, Texas. Also, he is a member of the AGBU Board of Directors, serves as the chair of AGBU Silicon Valley Chapter, and a trustee of the American University of Armenia. He is a foreign member of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia.

“We would encourage Armenian community to attend this interesting lecture on an interesting topic,” said AESA Vice President Vasken Yardemian.

For more information, check AESA’s website at <http://www.aesa.org/>

Ambassador to Austria Arman Kirakosian Delivers Lecture in California

GLENDAL — Organized by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Western District Committee Arman Kirakosian, Armenia’s ambassador to Austria, presented a

the Organization of Istanbul Armenians, the Armenian Bar Association and the Armenian Society of Los Angeles.

Introductory remarks were made by Prof. Peter Cowe, holder of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Naregatsi Chair of Armenian Studies. Master of ceremonies was Prof. Hrair Dekmejian, director of the University of Southern California Institute of Armenian Studies.

Kirakosian presented the security details of the Caucasus and Armenia’s role in the peaceful resolution of all conflicts in the region. Being the former ambassador of Armenia to the US and a historian, Kirakosian compared the security of that region with

the policies of great powers who cooperate with the regional forces to establish lasting peace in the region.

At the end, the audience had the chance to ask questions, which he graciously answered.



Ambassador Arman Kirakosian

lecture on the topic of “Regional and Security Policy of Armenia.”

Held at the Armenian Society of Los Angeles Center, under the patronage of AGBU President Berge Setrakian, the event was co-sponsored by

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COMMUNITY NEWS

NAASR Launches Leadership Circle in Southern California

NAASR, from page 4

importance of continued "cultural production" in various media and forums in order keep Armenian history and culture alive and moving forward.

As Balakian stated at the conclusion: "We need to move into a much higher level of professionalism, it needs to involve creative think-

ing and needs to be proactive. It should be emerging as we walk out tonight."

After a lively question-and-answer session, representatives from the NAASR Board's Executive Committee were introduced to provide an update to the audience concerning the present status and future goals of NAASR. Raffi Yeghiayan, NAASR Board chairman, wel-

comed the guests and introduced Marc Mamigonian, NAASR director of academic affairs, who briefly reviewed the history of NAASR since its inception in 1955 and its

tributing books on Armenian subjects; publishing; and organizing heritage trips to Historic Armenia led by prominent scholars. As did Garapedian and Balakian, he emphasized that it

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Members of the NAASR's Executive Board

early efforts to establish the first chair in Armenian Studies at Harvard and subsequently the second at UCLA. Taking special note of NAASR's renewed high level of activity in Southern California, thanks to the efforts of current board members Roat and Ketabgian, as well as former board member Dr. Rubina Peromian, Mamigonian also pointed to the close working relationship with the Ararat-Eskijian Museum in Mission Hills, whose director, Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin, serves on NAASR's Southern California committee.

Next, he detailed some of the tasks that NAASR performs at the present, including organizing and collaborating on lectures and other public programs; providing research/publication grants; maintaining an extensive library; functioning as a communication hub for scholars; assisting researchers; dis-

is crucial that NAASR substantially increase its capacity to provide grants and support for scholars and vital projects.

He was followed by Yervant Chekijian, who explained the establishment of the Leadership Circle as an upper level of annual support, which will allow NAASR to expand upon the work it currently performs. Chekijian emphasized the importance of members of the community showing leadership by taking responsibility for the strengthening of institutions such as NAASR that support scholarship and preserve Armenian history and culture.

The evening came to an end with former Chairman Nancy Kolligian thanking the speakers, the MC and the host, as well as the organizing committee. After dessert as the guests were leaving, each received a signed copy of *The Burning Tigris* by Balakian.

Armenian Bar Association to Host Gala Honoring 95th Anniversary of Armenian Republic

GLENDALÉ – The Armenian Bar Association will honor the 95th anniversary of the rebirth and resurrection of the Armenian nation when the Republic of Armenia declared its independence on May 28, 1918. A gala banquet with an

evening program of recognition will be held on Tuesday, May 28, at Phoenicia Restaurant.

"We look forward to seeing all those who choose to remember and celebrate the resilience of the Armenian people, to honor their achievements and sacrifices, as well as to reflect on the significance of May 28, 1918 now, 95 years later," stated Garo Ghazarian, chairman of the Armenian Bar Association.

All Armenian churches and organizations, along with the entire Armenian community, are invited to attend the event, which will feature remarks by Nora Hovsepian, Esq., Armenian Bar member and co-chair of ANCA-Western Region.

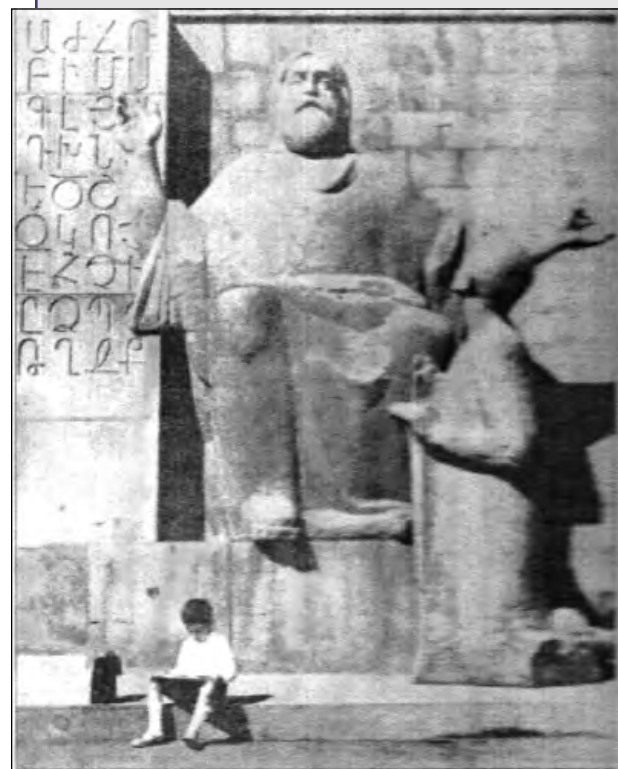
The keynote address will be delivered by Raffi K. Hovannisian, former and first foreign minister of Armenia, founder of the Armenian Bar Association and leader of the Armenian Center For National and International Studies (ACNIS), a research and policy institute in Yerevan.

The evening will also feature a marquee musical arrangement by Harout Pamboukjian, as well as a special ensemble by students of the Chamlian Armenian School.

The event will begin with a cocktail hour at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner and program at 7 p.m.

For ticket prices, reservations and information, contact Jacklin Boyadjian at jacklin.boyadjian@gmail.com, or Lisa Boyadjian at lisasava@aol.com.

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New York METRO

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II Honors Nazar and Artemis Nazarian for Life of Service, Philanthropy

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK — “There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.”

These words by poet Kahlil Gibran might be considered the lifelong creed of Nazar and Artemis Nazarian.

On Friday, May 10, close to 400 people attended a gala banquet in the Plaza Hotel, to bear witness as the visiting Catholicos of All Armenians, Karekin II, bestowed on the deserving couple the Knight of Holy Echmiadzin Medal, the highest honor of the Armenian Church.

The event was sponsored by the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), and went forward under the auspices of Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and AGBU President Berge Setrakian.

Among the dignitaries in attendance were Diocesan Legate in Washington, DC, Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Vice Prime Minister of Armenia Armen Gevorgyan, United Nations Security Council Director Dr. Movses Abelian, Armenia's Ambassador to the United States Tatoul Markarian, Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian and Co-Chair of the Armenian

TINA TCHOLAKIAN PHOTO



Seta Nazarian Albrecht speaks of the generosity of her parents.

Caucus in the US House of Representatives Congressman Frank Pallone.

The banquet was also attended by the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) District Committee Co-Chairman Papken Megerian, member Dr. Vaghenag Tarpinian, Press Committee Chairman Hagop Vartivarian



Nazar and Artemis Nazarian with Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians. Photo credit: Tina Tcholakian

and Assistant Executive Secretary Baydzig Kalajjian.

Welcoming the enthusiastic throng at flower-bedecked tables in the chandeliered ballroom, Nila Festekjian, chair of the banquet committee, highlighted the significance of the evening by calling the Nazarians “a couple who we love, cherish, and respect.”

Master of Ceremonies Yervant Demirjian, AGBU's treasurer, called it a “rare privilege” to have the catholicos present.

In his invocation, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian paid tribute to the catholicos, who “with a spirit of fatherly love and spiritual friendship has journeyed from Holy Echmiadzin to share our joy tonight.”

The Primate extolled Nazar and Artemis Nazarian for their “lifetime of leadership and generosity,” which has made the couple “shining examples of the Armenian Christian heritage at its best.” He noted that “Nazar and Artemis are influential forces in the worldwide Armenian community, whose ethic of philanthropy has inspired our homeland to grow in the educational, cultural, national, and spiritual fields.”

In a heartfelt salutation to her parents, Seta Nazarian Albrecht shared the lessons she and her brother, Levon, had learned through the years. Revealing a childhood memory of her mother's kindness, Albrecht recalled Artemis Nazarian's generosity to a stranger in a supermarket. “Lesson learned?” Albrecht asked, “We are blessed with many gifts. Share them.”

From her father, Nazar, who was always read-

ing “everything in print, always looking for what was needed and how he could help,” she said she derived the lesson that “Our focus is not on ourselves, but on the needs of others.”

Concluding her message, Albrecht encouraged “the future Artemises and Nazars” to “give of yourselves; give financial support when you can; give your time and give your skills. Stay connected to one another and your community.”

“If we do this,” she added, “if we all follow my

parents' example, our community, church and our culture will not only survive...we will thrive.”

A charming three-part video, produced by Ani Manoukian and Bryant Botero, presented lovely vignettes of the honorees' life together, as recounted by friends and members of the Nazarian family, including the couple's five

TINA TCHOLAKIAN PHOTO



Nila Festekjian, Gala Banquet Committee chairperson, welcomes guests.

grandchildren: William, Nicholas, Matthew, Daniela and Gregory.

It was revealed that Nazar and Artemis had met at a dance and married in 1954. Together,

TINA TCHOLAKIAN PHOTO



Dr. Levon Nazarian toasts and roasts his parents.



With Nazar Nazarian, Bryan Ardouny of the Armenian Assembly of America (left) and Papken Megerian of the ADL District Committee

TINA TCHOLAKIAN PHOTO



The honorees with AGBU President Berge Setrakian and Vera Setrakian



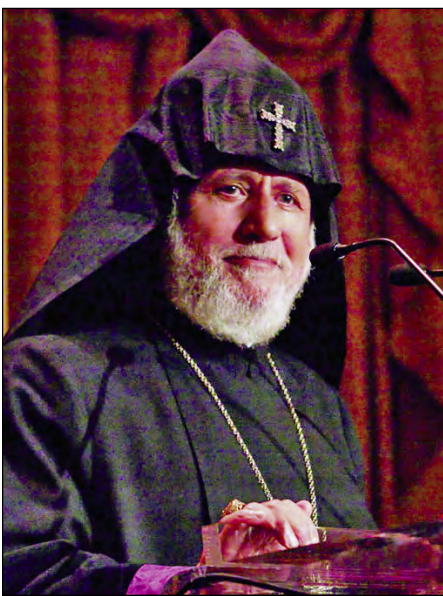
New York METRO



Several ADL members were present at the banquet. They are, from left Panos Titizian (Los Angeles), Baydzig Kalaydjian (Boston), Oscar Tatossian (Chicago), Hagop Vartivarian (New Jersey) and Dr. Vaghenag Tarpenian (Philadelphia).

they have shown an unwavering commitment to Armenian communities around the world. Among their countless acts of benevolence are the AGBU Levon G. Nazarian Elementary School in Beirut; the AGBU Levon and Satenig Nazarian Fund; the AGBU Noubar Nazarian

TINA TCHOLAKIAN PHOTO



Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, addresses guests before bestowing the Nazarians with the Knight of Holy Echmiadzin Medal.

Building, housing the Armenian Embassy in Beirut; the Artemis Nazarian Preschool in Canoga Park, California; the AGBU Yerevan State Medical University Levon and Claudia

TINA TCHOLAKIAN PHOTO



Armen Gevorgyan, vice prime minister of the Republic of Armenia, delivers a message of appreciation on behalf of President Serge Sargsian.

Nazarian Radiology Center; and the new AGBU Center under construction in Armenia. Additional beneficiaries of their generosity are the AGBU Yerevan Summer Internship Program, AGBU Camp Nubar, and countless

AGBU academic scholarships.

Nazar and Artemis undertook the funding of the construction of the chancellery in Echmiadzin, which houses the administrative offices and the secretariat of the catholicate. In anticipation of the 1,700th anniversary of Armenia's conversion to Christianity, they sponsored the construction of the Drtad Chapel of Yerevan's St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral.

Viewers were also reminded that Nazar Nazarian had been one of the godfathers of St. Vartan Cathedral, and co-chair of the St. Thomas Church Building Committee, and has supported major projects of the Eastern Diocese, including St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

Fr. Arnak Kasparian, a longtime friend of the family, spoke for many in his filmed interview when he said to the Nazarians: "You are God's blessing for the Armenian people."

Love and Honor

Dr. Levon Nazarian, a prominent radiologist and academic, presented a multi-media "roast" of his parents, sharing some humorous and heartwarming episodes from his upbringing. He reminded the audience that Artemis is an accountant by training, and also an activist, raconteur, family historian, puzzle fanatic, baseball fan and a skillful knitter "who has provided baby blankets for all of the diaspora."

Dr. Nazarian also portrayed his mother as "kind, trusting, and generous; a philanthropist, patron of the arts, caring wife, mother and grandmother."

In a tender recollection of his father, Dr. Nazarian told of the trip they both made to Armenia, during which he felt he discovered his father anew, as he witnessed his father's desire to talk with everyone they met, and to help the great enterprise of building a free and decent Armenian Republic.

AGBU President Berge Setrakian, who has served on the AGBU Central Board of Directors with Nazar Nazarian for 35 years, paid a warm tribute to the couple (his wife Vera is a niece of Nazar), speaking of the close family spirit, the sense of celebration, and protection in the family. "They give with humility and dignity," said Setrakian in his tribute to the honorees. "They are heroes and role models, who symbolize the best traits of the AGBU founders... I have seen very few individuals who care as much about the AGBU, the Armenian Church and the Armenian nation as Nazar. He follows all of our projects and initiatives closely, ensuring their continuity and success."

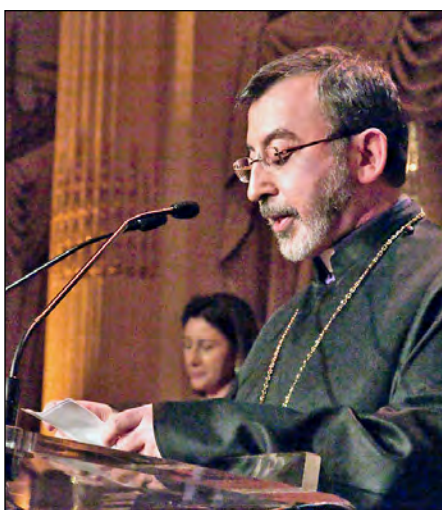
Armenia's Vice Prime Minister Armen Gevorgyan read a message of appreciation to the honorees from Armenia's President Serge Sargsian, thanking them "for all your service and contributions to Armenia and Artsakh."

At intervals throughout the evening, a string quartet played Komitas pieces as arranged by Aslamazian. Among the musicians was Tatevik Ayazyan, a beneficiary of the Nazarians' generosity, who thanked them in the video presentation. The other players were Cece



Tribute Gala Banquet Committee: (standing) Maral Hajjar, Seta Nazarian Albrecht, Claudia Nazarian, Maral Jebejian, Anita Anserian, Ruby Gulian, Sossy Setrakian, Hilda Hartounian; (seated) Vesna Markarian, Betty Cherkezian, Nila Festekjian, Ani Kasparian, Kristine Casali, Lynn Beylerian (missing from photo: Sandra Balouzian, Arda Haratunian, Lynn Jamie, Ani Manoukian and Alice Yigitkurt)

TINA TCHOLAKIAN PHOTO



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), delivers the invocation.

of a free and independent Armenia come true," the Catholicos continued, speaking throughout in Armenian. "Armenia progresses through the kind work of our people. Let God's blessings always be on us and on the Nazarians, and may they continue their kind service to Armenia."

With Artemis and Nazar Nazarian standing on either side of him, the catholicos decorated the honorees with the Knight of Holy Echmiadzin Pontifical Medal – to a standing ovation from the enthusiastic crowd.

As the audience quieted down, Artemis Nazarian spoke for her husband and family, expressing deep appreciation to the Catholicos and all the organizers and guests.

"Tonight is one of the most memorable events of our lifetime," she said. "It has been an honor to have you, our friends and relatives, here for this unforgettable occasion," she said with emotion, bringing on another thunderous ovation.

The evening concluded with a benediction

TINA TCHOLAKIAN PHOTO



The Nazarians: (standing) son Levon Nazarian, grandson Nicholas Albrecht, daughter Seta Nazarian Albrecht, grandsons William Albrecht and Gregory Nazarian; (seated) daughter-in-law Claudia Nazarian, Artemis and Nazar Nazarian, and granddaughter Daniela Nazarian (missing from photo: grandson Matthew Nazarian).

Pantikian, Anoush Simonian and Ani Kalayjian.

Family, Nation and Church

Catholicos Karekin II was introduced by Barsamian, and expressed his pleasure at being present for this occasion.

"The Nazarians exemplify the Armenian treasures of family, nation and church. Artemis was a catalyst for Nazar's great donations and contributions, and was responsible for bringing up her family. We know their children will continue their great contributions. The words of Nazar are embedded in my soul, that he will continue his help to Armenia in every way."

The Nazarians "were able to see their dream

from the Catholicos Karekin II and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, as the large crowd pressed forward to congratulate Nazar and Artemis Nazarian.

The tribute banquet committee was led by Nila Festekjian, and included Seta Nazarian Albrecht, Anita Anserian, Sandra Balouzian, Lynn Beylerian, Kristine Casali, Betty Cherkezian, Ruby Gulian, Maral Hajjar, Arda Haratunian, Hilda Hartounian, Lynn Jamie, Maral Jebejian, Ani Kasparian, Ani Manoukian, Vesna Markarian, Claudia Nazarian, Sossy Setrakian and Alice Yigitkurt.

Visit www.tinyurl.com/nazarian-tribute to view a video of the tribute evening.



New York
METRO

Akhtamar Dance Assemble to Perform at St. Nersess Annual Picnic

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. — The only place to be on Saturday, June 15, is at the St. Nersess Armenian Seminary's annual Summer Picnic. Enjoy an afternoon of dancing to traditional, live Armenian music, watching beautiful Armenian dancing, feasting on delicious Armenian food, taking a chance on a Super Raffle, and purchasing great finds at a rummage sale or buying unique gifts made in Armenia.

"The St. Nersess Picnic has become a much anticipated family day out activity," said Rev. Fr. Mardiros Chevian, seminary dean, adding, "There is so much to do in one beautiful location, all while supporting the Seminary and its

board and providing vocals; Raffi Massoyan on dumbeg and also adding to the vocals and Leon Janikian on clarinet.

New this year will be the performance of traditional Armenian dances by the Akhtamar Dance Ensemble of the Armenian American Support and Educational Center – Hye Doon of New Jersey. This ensemble, directed by Sylva Asadourian, was formed in 2000 by a group of parents wanting their children to maintain the culture and heritage of the Armenian nation.

Also new to the picnic line-up is a Tavloo (backgammon) Tournament. For a \$5 registration fee, anyone of any age can enter the tournament. The winner will be awarded the first ever St. Nersess Tavloo Tournament

Championship trophy as well as receiving Seminary memorabilia.

Baykar Dervishian is once again planning to sell Armenian goods ranging from CDs to jewelry, artwork and general giftware. And there will be an "Attic Treasures" sale taking place simultaneously with the picnic, along with the St. Nersess Store featuring logo-inspired apparel for sale.

Additionally, children and teens will be able to partake in activities and games throughout the day for a nominal fee, including a bounce house and other entertainment surprises.

General sponsorships are being secured to help underwrite the cost of this event so that all proceeds on the day of the picnic will directly

benefit the ongoing mission of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, which is to prepare leaders in ordained and lay ministries through graduate degree and continuing education programs.

Also, the seminary has again launched a Super Raffle with winners being announced the day of the Picnic. Only 300 tickets are available for this raffle, with each ticket costing \$50. The three cash prizes awarded will be \$3,000, \$1,500 and \$500.

For more general information, to become a Picnic sponsor, purchase a Super Raffle ticket or to register for the Backgammon Tournament, contact the seminary at info@stnersess.edu, or visit the website at stnerses.edu.



A team of young professionals and former St. Nersess Conference participants, volunteer their time to organize and run the annual Seminary Picnic.

many programs."

The picnic will be held from noon to 7 p.m. on the scenic grounds of the seminary campus, located at 150 Stratton Road. Come for lunch and stay for dinner with family-fun activities and entertainment provided throughout the day!

The John Berberian Ensemble will provide hours of musical entertainment with Berberian himself on the oud; Harry Bedrossian on key-

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Arts & Living

Chris Bohjalian Dazzles in Penn.

WYNNEWOOD, Penn. — On Friday, April 26, the St. Sahag & St. Mesrob Armenian Church Women's Guild invited the community to an entertaining and informative event with *New York Times* best-selling author, Chris Bohjalian, closing out his 13-city Rock and Roll Paperback Tour of *The Sandcastle Girls*, a love story set against the backdrop of the Armenian Genocide.

Co-chaired by Laraine Kazanjian Ballard and Nanette Zakian, the event drew nearly 150 Armenians and non-Armenians from the community. Sponsors were treated to a delicious dinner with the author beforehand prepared by members of the Women's Guild. It was an excellent opportunity to get to know Bohjalian on a personal and professional level. Bohjalian shared with everyone the inspiration for the book, describing how he learned of his Armenian history and how his Swedish mother encouraged him to write the book. *The Sandcastle Girls* took Bohjalian 15 months to write. According to the author, it is the most important book he has written.

Bohjalian lives in Vermont with his wife and daughter. His father was an Armenian-American who only went to the Armenian Church to honor the day his parents died. Bohjalian had no idea his father spoke Armenian until he was 14 years old. At age 8, Bohjalian wrote short stories, which his father kept for years. Bohjalian found out about the short stories his father had kept after his father died, just before *The Sandcastle Girls* was published.

A highly-respected author among his peers, Bohjalian has written 16 books, some of which have been turned into movies. *Pass the Bleachers* was a Hallmark TV movie and *Midwives*, which Oprah Winfrey picked for her book club, became a popular movie starring Sissy Spacek. *Midwives* topped the *New York Times* bestseller list in 1998, remaining on the list for six months.

Genocide scholar and Armenian Weekly editor Khatchig Mouradian, introduced himself to Bohjalian after *Double Bind* was released, and asked Bohjalian to write a novel about the Armenian Genocide. The editor at Doubleday also encouraged him, although he worried that "no one would want to read about the Genocide." Bohjalian did a lot of research for his book and had Genocide experts read it. He received support from the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the Armenian National Committee and the Armenian Network in Boston, New York and Los Angeles.

What is inspiring to him is increasing awareness among those that were not aware of the Genocide and want to learn more. The book has been translated into 10 languages (including Eastern Armenian, French, Italian, German, Spanish, Hebrew, Brazilian, Russian and Greek). He said he did not plot the book in the beginning and had no initial idea where the characters were going.

After his presentation, Bohjalian fielded questions from the audience and took the time to sign nearly 100 books (not to mention those that had brought their own or read the novels on their digital devices). The Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgolian, thanked everyone for coming and expressed his gratitude to Bohjalian for spreading the word and his pride in being an Armenian.

Bohjalian's next book, *The Light in the Ruins*, takes place in Italy during World War II. It comes out in July.



Violinist Nune Melikian and Narine Ojakhyan (inset)

'Musical Armenia' Presented at Carnegie Hall

NEW YORK — The "Musical Armenia" concert, sponsored the Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Prelacy Ladies Guild, was hosted at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall on April 19.

By Lucy Ishkanian

This annual concert series was conceived with the purpose of "introducing and supporting exceptional young Armenian musicians already on the threshold of a professional career." Founded by Archbishop Mesrob Ashjian 30 years ago, this jubilee anniversary concert was dedicated to his memory.

The new artists being presented at this concert were soprano Narine Ojakhyan and violinist Nune Melikian, with the musical collaboration of pianist Karén Hakobian.

Ojakhyan opened the program, which featured the works of present-day Armenian composers, Edward Abrahamian and Geghuni Chitchian; operatic arias and lyrical songs by Sergei Rachmaninov, Leo Delibes, Armen Tigranian (*Assoom en oorin* sung by Anoush, from the opera, "Anoush"), Komitas Vartabed, Aram Khachaturian, Franz Lehar and Charles Gounod. Ojakhyan offered a special encore from the works of composer, Konstantin Petrossian.

Violinist Melikian's performance began with the lyrical introspective *Adagio* from Alessandro Marcello's *Oboe Concerto*, arranged for violin by Albert Markov. This piece was contrasted by an intense performance of *Sonata for Violin and Piano* by Arno Babadjanian, which he had dedicated to composer Dmitri Shostakovich.

The year 2013 was named the "Festival Jubilee Year," in order to celebrate the 110th birthday anniversary of Khachaturian.

Ojakhyan performed the tempestuous aria, *Nina's Romance*, which was written for the film score of the dramatic tragedy, "Masquerade," by Lermontov.

The lyrical *Song-Poem for Violin and Piano*, inspired by the melodies and improvisational folk-art style of the *ashughs* (Armenian troubadours) was performed by Melikian.

The final major work performed by Melikian, was the *Spartacus Rhapsody*, composed by Albert Markov, the distinguished Russian violinist-composer-pedagogue, inspired by Khachaturian's work. Melikian was accompanied by Karén Hakobian on piano. At the conclusion of the concert, both performers received a standing ovation.

Next year's "Musical Armenia" concert is schedule for March 28, 2014.

AGBU Performing Arts Pays Tribute to the Armenian Composers of the Ottoman Empire

NEW YORK — The Italian Academy at Columbia University was a packed house on the evening of April 25, with 200 guests in attendance for a musical tribute to Armenian composers of the Ottoman Empire in Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide, hosted by the AGBU Performing Arts Department. Some of the rarely performed compositions were introduced to a New York City audience for the very first time at the event.

The event attracted an enthusiastic and diverse audience, thanks to the participation of co-sponsors Armenian Society of Columbia University and, the Armenian Center at Columbia University, as well AGBU University Outreach, who helped draw such a diverse group.

Dr. Hayk Arsenyan, the evening's artistic director and MC, delivered the opening remarks. Dr. Arsenyan, the director of the AGBU Performing Arts Department, discussed the musical contributions Armenians made in the Ottoman Empire, and remembered the 1.5 million people who perished as a result of the Armenian Genocide. Throughout the program, guests enjoyed the works of Armenian composers from the Ottoman Empire, including Komitas, Aleshah, Elmas, Kanachyan, Manas, Sinanian and Tchouhajian.

As the lights in the theater grew dim, pianist Karen Hakobyan played the works of Komitas, beginning with *Erangi* and ending with *Het u Araj*. The evening continued with beautiful



Mezzo-soprano Solange Merdian performs Kanachian's *Oror Im Balas*, accompanied by the string quartet of Cecee Pantikian, Ani Bukujan, Aleksandr Nazaryan and David Bakamjian.

music surrounding the walls of the theater, performed by Solange Merdian (mezzo soprano), Margarita Terzyan (soprano), Karen Hakobyan (piano), Cecee Pantikian (violin), Ani Bukujan (violin), Aleksandr Nazaryan (viola) and David Bakamjian (cello).

Kanachian's songs, originally written for a vocal quartet, were adapted for a soloist accompanied by a string quartet, were superbly performed by Merdian. The concert concluded with a string quartet of Komitas' music followed by a loud applause and standing ovation by attendees.



A view of the Italian Academy during the performance of pianist Karen Hakobyan.

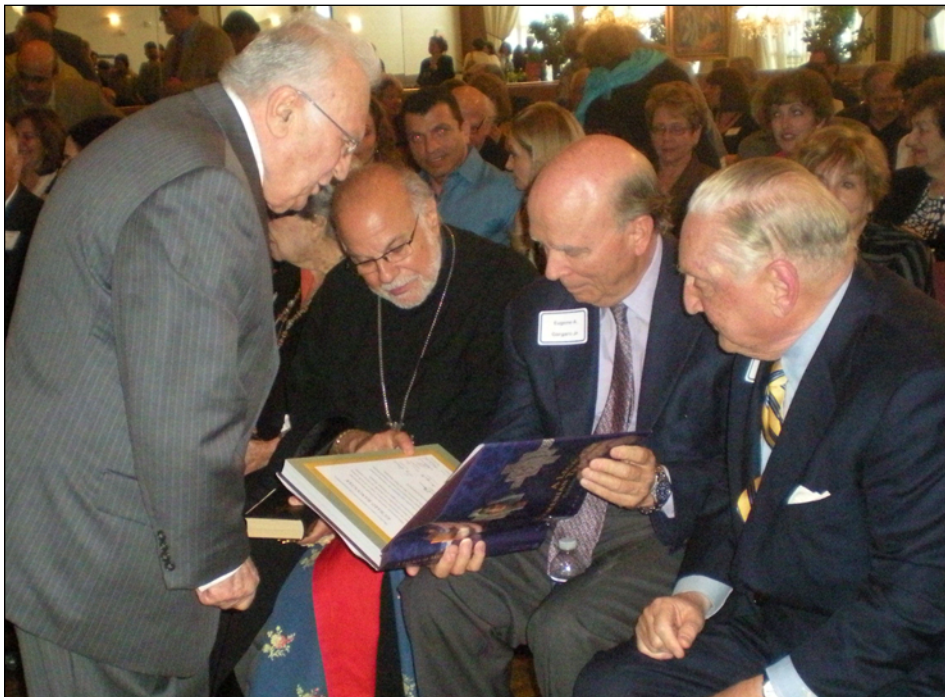
New Book Launched – *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures* Celebrated in Michigan

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – On Thursday, May 16, more than 250 people gathered at St. John Armenian Cultural Hall to celebrate the publication of *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures: Testimony to a People – The Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum*. The book features more than 160 of the museum’s objects, each reproduced in full color and accompanied by a detailed entry. Each of the book’s nine chapters was written by scholars of Armenian art and artifacts and sheds light not only on the artistic significance of these objects but on their cultural context as well.

The evening began with an Armenian “book blessing” ceremony by Rev. Garabed Kochakian, assisted by Deacon Rubik Mailian (both of St. John Armenian Church). Individuals directly involved in the book participated in the service.

Edmond Y. Azadian, executive editor of the volume and moderator of the program, introduced those involved in creating the book: Editorial Coordinator Sylvie L. Merian (also author of the “Illuminated Manuscripts” chapter and others) – and truly the scholar’s scholar; museum director Lucy Ardash, who worked hard on the project; Dr. Levon A. Saryan (author of the “Ancient and Medieval Coins” chapter) and publishing consultant Alice Nigoghosian (formerly associate director, Wayne State University Press).

Azadian also acknowledged manuscript editor Cynthia Newman Edwards (editor of many museum catalogs); award-winning book design-



Shown appreciating the special dedicated book is Edmond Azadian (standing); (seated, left to right) Rev. Fr. Garabed Kochakian, Eugene A. Gargaro Jr. and Richard Manoogian

er Mike Savitski (Azadian noted that his design was more Armenian than the work of many Armenian artists); and Robert Hensleigh who provided the meticulous photography. Azadian expressed appreciation to Eugene A. Gargaro Jr., a long-time supporter of the project, along

with benefactor Richard Manoogian, whose support never wavered through the 10 years of research and writing.

A brief history of the museum was provided by Azadian: “The museum was opened in 1992 and was built by the late Alex and Marie Manoogian. Bishop Paren Avedikian (former pastor of St. John) worked closely with Mr. Manoogian in acquiring many of the objects for the Museum, to develop content, and steer the construction of the Museum. It holds one of the most representative gatherings of art and artifacts outside Armenia.” Azadian acknowledged that a letter of congratulations on the publication of the catalog had been received from Hasmik Poghosyan, Armenia’s minister of culture, recently reappointed to a second term. She is looking forward to hosting a similar book launching event in mid-September in Yerevan at the State Museum of Arts.

Azadian is an advisor to the Ministry of Culture.

An unusual highlight of the evening was the presentation of the book’s original colophon written and read by Sylvie L. Merian, a librarian at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York. She explained that the colophon was written in the spirit and style of a medieval Armenian colophon, where the scribes would describe their challenges and frustrations, “with only slight exaggeration,” while requesting prayers for their families and the sponsors of the manuscript or book. The scribes would refer to themselves in an insulting manner – describing themselves as “vile scribes” and as “so-called scholars” was fairly typical language. She mentioned that communications on the Manoogian book via letter and e-mail exceeded 40,000 between all involved – and that this was certainly not an exaggeration! The colophon usually included mention of recent historic events – in this case, references to 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy. The unusual presentation with subtle

humor and a scholarly touch was appreciated and enjoyed by an attentive audience.

Azadian then introduced Manoogian, chairman of the Armenian Apostolic Society and benefactor of the book, presenting him with a special dedicated book, signed by all involved in its creation. Manoogian thanked Azadian for bringing the book to fruition and offered his congratulations and appreciation to all those involved in completing the book. He recalled many memorable occasions with his parents at the Cultural Hall and stated that “my parents would have been extremely proud of this moment in the museum’s history.” An elegantly prepared reception of wine and cheese, Armenian hors d’oeuvres and desserts followed in the beautifully decorated ballroom. The crowd enjoyed the convivial and lively atmosphere of book buying and signing, with many guests also taking advantage of viewing the Museum, lingering late into the evening.

The book of nine chapters, 336 pages, in sequence: “Illuminated Manuscripts and Printed Books” by Dr. Sylvie L. Merian; “Ceramics” by Amy S. Landau; “Inscribed Rugs” by Vahram Tatikian with Dr. S. Peter Cowe; “Ancient and Medieval Coins” by Dr. Levon A. Saryan; “Paintings and Sculpture” by Dr. Garabed Belian, DDS; “Ancient Objects” by Dr. Alina Ayyazian and Dr. Felix I. Ter-Martirosov; “Garments, Lace, and Embroidery” by Sylvie L. Merian; “Sacred



From left, Richard Manoogian, with Edmond and Nora Azadian



From left, Richard Manoogian offers personal congratulations to Executive Editor Edmond Azadian and Editorial Coordinator Dr. Sylvie L. Merian.



Richard Manoogian, left, with Rev. Garabed Kochakian and his wife, Yn. Roberta.

An Orphan’s Lament

By Allan Whitehorn

The frail child plaintively asks:
Why did you kill my father?
Why did you send my mother,
along with my sister and brother,
into the desert to perish?
They died ever so slowly and painfully.
Why did you make me an orphan?
Why did I live?
What must I still endure?

Why did you hate us so much?
Why did you lash out with such violence?
Why did you kill so many of my family and kin?
Inchu?
Why?

I still want to know why.
I still want to know why.

‘Bridge to the Future’ Gala in San Diego

SAN DIEGO – The third Annual “Bridge to the Future” Gala Dinner and Dance will be held on October 26, at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine. This year’s theme is “An Evening in Paris.” Element Band from Los Angeles will be this year’s featured entertainment.

The St. John Garabed Armenian Church Trust Fund Committee is hosting the gala to support the establishment of a new church campus near Del Mar. St. John Garabed’s active parish is led by Archpriest Davev A.K. Tatouljian.

Lisa Kradjian, chair of the gala, stated, “We

are excited to host this unique event in San Diego. The success of the past two Galas tells us that we are offering a special experience to the Armenian community. We need to keep going to reach our goal of a new church campus for all Armenians in the area.”

The high-end silent and live auctions will feature many exclusive items, including jewelry, travel, golf, beauty and leisure services, wine-and-dine outings, and VIP experiences.

For information about the Gala, donations, or ticket sales, email sjgsdtrust@gmail.com.

ARTS & LIVING

Burlington Teen Interviews Prince Edward

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Kristina Ayanian, Miss Massachusetts Outstanding Teen 2013, traveled on May 23 to receive her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Medal Award from Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex and Viscount Severn of England. The Nashville visit will include Tennessee’s inaugural Duke of Edinburgh Award Ceremony hosted by Governor Bill Haslam at the Tennessee Governor’s Mansion. The foundation was founded by Edward’s father Prince Philip in 1956 and is a self-development program available for young people ages 14 to 25, with millions of candidates from more than 140 countries having taken part in the past.

Josh Randle, the US award’s national executive director, said, “The award program aims to develop one’s entire self, creating responsible and experienced citizens and encouraging selfless service to others. It’s about personal discovery and building character, and the life lessons learned give participants the confidence and skills to make a difference within themselves, their communities, and the world.”

Following the awards ceremony, Ayanian will have the opportunity to interview Prince Edward for Teen Kids News on the ABC Television network. According to Ayanian, “this is a dream come true for me and a rare opportunity for any television reporter to interview a member of the British royal family.” She will also interview award recipients and participate in an English style afternoon tea. She is invited to a black tie Royal Gala, which will benefit the US Duke of Edinburgh Award, taking a place at the Montgomery Bell Academy. Crissy Haslam is serving as honorary chair of the gala, with Nashville philanthropist Ellen Martin chairing the royal affair.

An official preliminary to Miss America’s Outstanding Teen Pageant, the Miss Massachusetts’ Outstanding Teen pageant promotes scholastic achievement, creative accomplishment, healthy living and community involvement. Ayanian’s chosen community ser-



Kristina Ayanian

vice platform is “Food is a Privilege Not a Right – Fighting Hunger Today.” She is completing her sophomore year at Burlington High School. She is a two-time recipient of the Presidential Outstanding Academic Excellence Award, a recipient of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Level Award, a recipient of the Citizenship Spanish and Sportsmanship Awards and of the Prelacy Award in Armenian Studies in the northeast.

Ayanian is a Principal’s Advisors board member and is a certified alcohol education instructor for the Burlington Public Schools. A short story contest winner, her work is published in the Anthology of Short Stories by Young Americans. She has had training in voice, acting, dance and piano and has received several awards and recognition in the past.

She has been in many community and professional theater productions, but playing piano is her passion. In fact, she has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Ayanian will represent the Commonwealth for the title of Miss America’s Outstanding Teen 2014 this August in Orlando, Fla.

‘Lost and Found in Armenia’ to Open June 7

LOS ANGELES – “Lost and Found in Armenia,” a film by Gor Kirakorian, will open on June 7 at several cities in the US.

The film stars Jamie Kennedy (“Malibu’s Most Wanted,” “Scream,” “Bending the Rules”) and Angela Sarafyan (“The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part II”).

The bilingual film is the first production by Red Tie, an independent film production company based in Los Angeles.

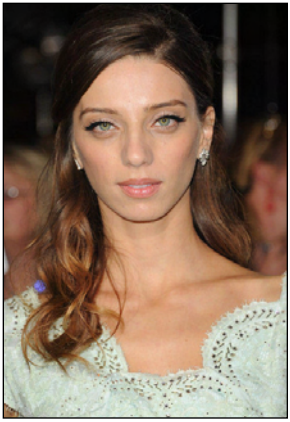
Directed by award-winning director Kirakosian (“Big Story in a Small City”), the feature film is the first American comedy filmed on location in Armenia. It tells the story of is Bill (Kennedy), an

American tourist who vacations to Turkey to get his mind off a bad break up. In a comedic and dangerous turn of events, Bill unknowingly ends up in a small village in Armenia, where he is accused of being a Turkish spy. It is in that small village, he meets a beautiful Armenian girl (Sarafyan), who helps him escape from misfortune.

The film will be shown in the following cities: Beverly Hills -Laemmle Music Hall; Encino - Laemmle Town Center; Burbank - AMC Burbank; Fresno/Clovis - Sierra Vista 16; Boston - AMC Methuen; Detroit - AMC Forum; Philadelphia - AMC Hamilton 24 and Washington, DC - AMC Rio.



Jamie Kennedy



Angela Sarafyan

CALENDAR

CONNECTICUT

JUNE 15 – Remembering Lili Chookasian, 7 p.m., Clinton Town Hall, Clinton; friends, colleagues and former students will pay tribute in performance, anecdote and video. Proceeds to benefit Metropolitan Opera Auditions, tickets \$25.

MASSACHUSETTS

MAY 30 – Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club 36th Annual Spring Dinner and Drawing, 6:30 p.m., Charles & Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Donation for losh kebab dinner, \$7.99. Monthly drawing at 8 p.m.; “one-time” numbers available. Tickets on sale at the door; for more info, contact church office, 617-354-0632.

MAY 31 and JUNE 1– Armenian Memorial Church Annual Fair (rain or shine); open Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. serving Armenian kebab meals; entire Fair open Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Armenian meals served all day Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Beef, chicken or losh (ground beef) kebab dinners with sauce, pilaf, salad, pita bread; take out available; also Armenian vegetarian meals; Armenian delicacies table featuring paklava, kadayif, cheoreg, mante, koufte and other baked specialties; silent auction of exciting items and gift certificates; craft fair; 32 Bigelow Ave., Watertown, take Watertown bus from Harvard Square; admission free. Wheelchair accessible; for more information, call 617-923-0498.

JUNE 1 – Armenian Night at the Pops, 8 p.m., featuring violinist Emmanuel Tjeknavorian from Vienna and the Boston Pops Orchestra at Symphony Hall, Boston. Presented by Friends of Armenian Culture Society. For tickets and information, visit <http://www.facsboston.org>.

JUNE 3 – St. James Men’s Club will host speaker Sara M. Bogosian, president and acting executive director, Whistler House Museum of Art. Topic is “From Whistler to Gorky.” Losh kebab and Keyma dinner, social hour 6:15 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m.. \$12 per person, St. James Armenian Church Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall, 465 Mount Auburn St. Ladies welcome.

JUNE 9 and JUNE 13 – Soprano Knarik Nerkararyan appearing in the lead female role of Sergei Rachmaninoff opera “Aleko” by Commonwealth Lyric Theater, 1845 Commonwealth Ave., Brighton; two appearances June 9, 3 p.m., and June 13 at 8 p.m. For tickets, visit www.CommonwealthLyricTheater.com.

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

JUNE 17 – The Gregory Hintlian Memorial Golf Tournament, this year remembering Dan Dorian, sponsored by Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Marlborough Country Club, Marlborough.

NEW YORK

JUNE 7 – The Hamazkayin Armenian Cultural Association of NY presents a concert dedicated to the 300th jubilee of Sayat Nova, 8 p.m. featuring Elie Berberian (Canada) and his band performing songs by Sayat Nova and other favorite minstrels, sug-



On June 15, St. Nersess Seminary will hosts its annual summer picnic, noon to 7 p.m., and will feature performances by the John Beberian Ensemble and Akhtamar Dance Ensemble. The event will also feature kebab, super raffle, children’s entertainment, tavloo tournament; free parking and admission, rain or shine; 150 Stratton Road, New Rochelle, New York.

gested donation \$25 post-concert reception included at the Armenian Center, 69-23 47th Ave., Woodside. Contact gradaranik@gmail.com or call (212) 689-5880 for tickets.

JUNE 8 and JUNE 9 – The John Berberian Ensemble will entertain at St. Peter Church Festival in Watervliet. Weekend includes kebab, games, raffle, vendors. Free parking and admission. Weekend room block rates available at Hampton Inn Albany Airport 518-782-7500. For more info, call the church at 518-274-3673.

JUNE 15 – St. Nersess Seminary annual Summer Picnic, noon to 7 p.m., performances by John Beberian Ensemble and Akhtamar Dance Ensemble; kebab, super raffle, children’s entertainment, tavloo tournament; free parking and admission, rain or shine; 150 Stratton Road, New Rochelle.

JUNE 25 – The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) will host its third annual Summer Soiree from 7 to 10 p.m. at the PH-D Rooftop Lounge at Dream Downtown Hotel in New York City. The event will help raise funds and awareness about COAF; for tickets and information, visit coafkids.org or call 212-994-8234.

Free Calendar Submissions

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



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

A Tale of Two Operas

By Edmond Y. Azadian

With the spectacular and complete disappearance of the iron curtain, millions of people who had been trapped behind it, suddenly were exposed to the rest of the world. There was a deluge of Western cultural trends inundating the former Soviet republics. Armenia, being one of them, proved to be defenseless against invading trends. First the worst trends took hold among the general public starved of European and Western fads, along with mind-controlling religious sects.

The oligarchs, their children and their families traveling abroad learned very quickly which luxury cars to drive, which fashion houses were the hippest and on which plush resorts to waste their money. However, the West's finer offerings in the arts and literature proved to be harder to absorb.

The cross-fertilization of contrasting cultural trends have left many people confused, and even some experts at that.

In the heyday of Soviet power, Stalin had pontificated that the Soviet Union had everything its people needed and that whatever the Soviets had in any given area, was the best. But with the collapse of the Soviet empire, people realized the empire did not have everything and that whatever it had was certainly not the best. Since habits and long-held perceptions die slowly, people and experts in certain fields feel too insecure to question their long-held beliefs.

These contradictions came into the open when Serge Avedikian, a movie director from France, came up with the new interpretation of the Armenian national opera, "Anoush." A group of respectable artists and performers addressed an open letter to President Serge Sargisian to ban the performance of the opera in France, which was scheduled for May, "to save Armenia's honor" and not to desecrate the legacy of poet Hovhannes Toumanian, the author of the lyrics, and the composer, Armen Tigranian.

This reminds us of the Soviet period when books by Guren Mahari and Vartkess Petrossyan were subjected to auto de fe, because they did not conform to the ideological straitjacket of some influential leaders or palace critics.

The open letter was succeeded by another article signed by Archbishop Arsen Berberian, a prominent singer in his own right, this time criticizing the sexuality featured in Avedikian's "Anoush."

At the end of the 100-minute performance, some members of the audience began to applaud, while others began hurling insults at the director, most vocal among them conductor Ara Petrosyan, son of Avak Petrosyan, associated for many decades with the role of "Saro" in the same opera. He later followed with a critical article in the daily *Azg*.

A popular actor, Stepan Danilyan, reacting to the outpouring of criticism, said, "This is the 21st century. Why does 'Anoush'

absolutely have to be wearing brogues and smell like manure?"

The new version of "Anoush" triggered a controversy, pitting the so-called traditionalists against the progressives, both still caught in the web of Soviet-era biases.

The judgments of both camps is compromised by the limitations of their knowledge, and the still-lingering belief of having proprietary license on any artistic project. Simply put, "We know best and Diaspora Armenians have to learn from us."

This state of mind is proven by the fact that in this entire debate, no references have been made to the presentations of "Anoush" at Detroit's Michigan Opera Theater (MOT) twice, in 1981 and 2001, to critical acclaim. Not only did the local music critics give it kudos, but even other American critics ranked the performances of "Anoush" as "the best of the season," competing with "Tosca" and "Carmen." The New York Times critic praised Tigranian's music and titled his article, "'Anoush,' An Armenian Classic." In 1981, "Anoush" was performed on a professional stage in the Western world for the first time. In 2001, when 20 days later, the MOT produced Anoush again, the London Opera international magazine wrote, "This 'Anoush' should not have to wait another 20 years to be seen again." Further proof of Tigranian's quality!

A similar controversy occurred in 2001, when San Francisco Opera featured "Arshak II," by Dikran Tchouhadjian, the first Armenian opera ever written.

Some expats from Armenia, former singers and musicians of parochial caliber, even tried to sue the director of the opera for not including them in the cast, but above all for having opted for the performance of Tchouhadjian's original rather than the doctored version from the Stalin era. That cost the Armenians the disgust of opera management, and as a result, since then, it has not considered any other Armenian opera, nor is it expected to in the near future.

The lines of battle have been drawn and the antagonistic camps are dead-set against each other. As constricting as the Soviet-era, government-sanctioned cultural definitions and limitations were, so are the West's "we-know-culture" attitude, shooting down any references outside the European norm.

It would be unfair to pass judgment from a distance without viewing the new project by Avedikian, who certainly enjoys wide respect as an actor and filmmaker in the French film industry, but with limited musical knowledge, even with less handle on Toumanian's literary heritage, we have gotten the sense from the Armenian protestors that he was about to sell snake oil to the Armenian opera goers using his reputation as a movie director and France's cultural aura.

Whatever the outcome is, it is a healthy debate between art aficionados. But as they criticize each other, a little circumspection could be useful. More useful, of course, would be to have full command of the relevant facts. Armenia needs the civilized debate, especially in the fields of art and literature.

No revolution will be helpful, but evolution is necessary.

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EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gabriella Gage

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR

Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:

Edmond Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

Florence Avakian, Elizabeth Aprahamian, Daphne Abeel, Dr. Haroutiune Arzoumanian, Taleen Babayan, Prof. Vahagn 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

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E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

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Armenian Bar Association Issues Statement Regarding Yerevan Elections

LOS ANGELES – The following statement was released by the Armenian Bar Association on May 8 in response to the recent elections in Yerevan:

"The Armenian Bar Association closely followed the events leading up to and culminating in Yerevan's May 5 municipal elections. We did so with the hope that the lessons of the previous parliamentary and presidential elections would be both redeeming examples of conformities with, as well as cautionary precedents of violations of, free and fair elections.

With renewed concern, we are led to conclude that this week's compromise of the citizenry's rights with respect to the rule of law and notions of fair play and substantial justice in the electoral process were as egregious, if not more, than the serious challenges to vot-

ers' constitutional rights which were experienced during the February presidential election and the May 2012 parliamentary elections.

We regret that those who hold power in Armenia did not embrace these most recent elections as an opportunity to break with the past and to honor their basic responsibilities by providing a free and democratic way for residents of Yerevan to choose their government.

The enormity and great number of violations based upon credible sources include ballot stuffing, bribery, voter intimidation, forged signatures on voter lists, use of physical force and, significantly, a Central Election Commission which is not subject to an independent review process and which lacks accountability. See, for example:

<http://armdex.com/elections2013/map/>,
www.civilnet.am, www.alplus.am,
www.hetq.am and www.armenianow.com.

The sheer number and consistency of grave violations recorded and widely-reported by virtually every monitoring group provide substantial justification to express deep disappointment about the utter disregard of the civil rights of the citizens of Armenia generally and specifically of the residents of the beloved capital of our Armenian homeland – Yerevan.

The Armenian Bar Association calls for an independent and transparent investigation of election-related human and civil rights violations in order to ensure and instill confidence, for the country's citizens and for those outside see STATEMENT, page 16

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

– All articles submitted should be typed, double (or triple) spaced and printed in a type size large enough to be clearly legible (10 point or larger). Submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be assigned lowest priority.

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

encouraged.

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

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

– Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director. Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.

– The M-S will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.

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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

House Resolution Goes Beyond Genocide Recognition

In a welcome move, four members of the US House of Representatives have introduced a resolution that advocates a new approach for the pursuit of Armenian rights in Congress, going beyond Genocide recognition.

This new bipartisan initiative, introduced by Congressmen David Valadao (R-CA), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Michael Grimm (R-NY) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ), is appropriately titled, “Armenian Genocide Truth and Justice Act.”

It is well known that the US government has recognized the Armenian Genocide on several occasions, starting in 1951 by the submission of an official document to the International Court of Justice (World Court), followed by President Ronald Reagan’s Presidential Proclamation of April 22, 1981, and through two House resolutions in 1975 and 1984.

The proposed measure calls upon President Barack Obama “to work toward equitable, constructive and durable Armenian-Turkish relations based upon the

Republic of Turkey’s full acknowledgement of the facts and ongoing consequences of the Armenian Genocide, and a fair, just, and comprehensive international resolution of this crime against humanity,” the Armenian National Committee of America reported.

It is high time that Armenian-Americans support congressional efforts that go beyond the mere repetition of the acknowledged facts of Armenian Genocide, and seek the more meaningful goal of justice, which entails the restitution and recovery of the substantial losses suffered as a consequence of the Genocide, including personal and community properties, and the occupied territories of Western Armenia. It is hardly conceivable that anyone would dare to oppose the universally-accepted concept of justice, not even Rejep Tayyip Erdogan, the prime minister of Turkey, who heads the ruling ‘Justice and Development Party.’

It is understandable that for many years, it was necessary to seek Genocide recognition as most of the world was unaware of the Armenian Genocide. However, as a result of the relentless efforts by the Armenian Diaspora and the Republic of Armenia, there is no longer a need to continue pursuing recognition – having largely prevailed over persistent Turkish denialism. By declaring victory and moving forward to reclaim their just demands, Armenians would avoid falling in the Turkish trap of trying to reconfirm the facts of the Genocide ad nauseam. Meanwhile, the Turkish government would continue its shameful refusal to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide or might engage in the deceptive game of issuing partial and meaningless apologies in order to mislead the international community on the eve of the Genocide’s Centennial.

The new House resolution also seeks to shift the US government’s efforts away from the ill-fated Armenia-Turkey Protocols and refocus the Obama Administration’s attention on Armenia’s just demands from Turkey. The congressional resolution reminds Obama of his April 24, 2012, statement in which he advocated that “a full, frank and just acknowledgement of the facts is in all of our interests. Moving forward with the future cannot be done without reckoning with the facts of the past.”

The resolution points out that the Republic of Turkey, rather than “reckoning with the facts of the past,” has “escalated its international campaign of Armenian Genocide denial, maintained its blockade of Armenia and increased its pressure on the small but growing Turkish civil society movement acknowledging the Armenian Genocide and seeking justice from this systematic campaign of destruction of millions of Armenian, Greek, Assyrian, Pontian, Syriac and other Christians upon their biblical-era homelands.”

The Congressional resolution further declares that US “national interests in the establishment of equitable, constructive, stable and durable relations between Armenians and Turks cannot be meaningfully advanced by circumventing or otherwise seeking to avoid materially addressing the central political, legal, security and moral issue between these two nations: Turkey’s denial of truth and justice for the Armenian Genocide.”

The newly-introduced resolution makes it clear that Armenians, rather than being satisfied by merely regurgitating the well-known facts of the Genocide, demand a just resolution through full and comprehensive restitution.

Opportunities and Risks Ahead for Turkey

By Alon Ben Meir

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s visit to Washington on May 16 comes at a pivotal time when the Middle East is riddled with extraordinary conflicts that have the potential of exploding into a regional war. The time is also ripe for creating a geopolitical realignment that could eventually usher in stability and progress.

Turkey can and in fact should play a constructive role, provided that the Erdogan government takes a hard look at the opportunities that exist to contribute to building a structure of peace and stability. The Erdogan government, however, must also consider the risks entailed should it remain stuck in grandiose old thinking.

The Turkish government managed over the past few years to create the perception that Turkey’s rise has been based on a sound foreign policy doctrine of “zero problems with neighbors” along with solid economic development policies, while continuing social and political reforms consistent with Islamic values.

A close look at the reality, however, suggests a somewhat different picture that raises serious concerns among Turkey’s friends and quiet jubilation among its enemies.

According to the Human Rights Watch 2011 World Report, the government increasingly breaches what it has committed itself to, including unjustified prosecutions for alleged speech crimes, the arbitrary use of terrorism laws, prolonged pretrial detention (especially of journalists and editors), and the systematic intimidation of any individual or party that objects to, or opposes, government policy.

The government also reversed course with the Kurds, carrying out a clampdown on the legal pro-Kurdish Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), arresting Kurdish notables and intellectuals for links with the PKK, and until recently resuming the old policy of massive retaliations against PKK attacks.

On Turkish foreign policy, if one takes a look at the situation country by country, the picture looks surprisingly different than “zero problems with neighbors.” There is hardly any neighboring country with which Turkey does not have some kind of problem.

Now is the time for Ankara to take some corrective domestic and foreign policy measures consistent with what the country has and continues to aspire for but fails to realize.

As the Turkish Parliament is writing a new constitution, there is no better time to seek political equilibrium and enshrine human rights in all aspects, especially the rights of the Kurds. Now that the PKK has agreed to abandon violent resistance in favor of a negotiated settlement, the government can institutionalize such reforms without losing face.

The Kurds and other minorities should enjoy equal rights to speak their language and live their culture with no reservations or discrimination, which is the essence of democratic governance.

Turkey’s failure to reconcile the hundred-year old dispute over the Armenian genocide continues to poison its relations not only with Armenia but also with the United States, which takes a strong supportive position on the Armenian grievances.

It is time to end the conflict with Armenia as the one hundredth anniversary is near (2014) and is bound to reignite a major controversy within and outside Turkey. Instead of taking such a categorical stance refuting the entire issue of the Armenian genocide, Turkish leaders should take heed of what both the Old Testament and the Quran preach: “The children should not be held responsible for the sins of their fathers.”

Turkey, in this regard, should express deep regrets about the Armenian genocide during World War I for the tragic events that occurred a century ago. This may not go far enough with the Armenians, but it offers a good beginning that may lead to reconciliation.

The discord with Greece over Cyprus has only worsened with the dispute over gas exploration near Turkish territorial waters. Turkey must find a solution to the Cyprus conflict; not doing so will further strain its relations with Greece. Realpolitik must trump nationalism which can serve national interests; otherwise it will only harden over time and further limit any room for a negotiated settlement.

Although Turkey and Iran enjoy strong trade relations, Ankara still has not made up its mind about Tehran’s ambition to acquire nuclear weapons. Their bilateral relations are strained by Ankara’s decision to host a base for a NATO missile defense system and the conflict over Syria’s future.

Moreover, Turkey must come to terms with the fact that Tehran’s and Ankara’s national interests do not coincide and that the two countries are on a collision course. Syria has become the battleground between Sunnis and Shiites and thus the emerging political order in post-Assad Syria will have a great impact on their overall ambitions.

Turkey is also in conflict with the two countries it once acted between as a mediator – Syria and Israel. Erdogan’s government has finally lost hope in the Assad regime, and joined its allies in imposing sanctions against it, but refrained from taking any decisive measure of its own, fearing Moscow’s wrath. Given the deep animosity and factionalism, the recent agreement between Washington and Moscow to arrange for a conference between the rebels and the Assad government in an effort to end the bloody conflict is not likely to succeed.

But since Turkey will be affected perhaps the most, regardless of the outcome of this conference, it is time for Erdogan to shed its concerns about Russia and persuade the U.S. to plan on supplying the rebels with the weapons desperately needed to tip the balance in their favor and bring a quicker end to the slaughter of civilians. On the

Israeli front, Turkey must put behind its conflict with Israel over the sad Mavi Marmara incident in May 2010 that ended with the killing of nine Turks by Israeli commandos aboard the ship.

Israel should have apologized immediately after the incident for the tragic deaths of the Turks, but Israel’s refusal should not have prompted Turkey to downgrade its diplomatic relations with Israel to the lowest level, which clearly did not serve Turkey’s long-term strategic interests.

Now that Israel has apologized, however, Turkey should move quickly to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel and certainly not make it contingent upon the removal of the blockade of Gaza.

Turkey must spare no effort to demonstrate evenhandedness in dealing with Hamas and Israel. Erdogan’s pending visit to Gaza offers a momentous opportunity to persuade Hamas to permanently forsake violence in favor of a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Only then would lifting the blockade become a real possibility, provided it is done to the full satisfaction of Israel’s national security concerns. In addition, Erdogan must also use his considerable influence to wean Hamas off of Tehran, which will over time make it more palatable for Israel to deal with Hamas.

To improve the chances of reconciliation between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, Erdogan must not skip the West Bank and meet with Mahmoud Abbas during his visit to the area if he really wishes to play a constructive role.

Finally, Turkey should recognize that its ultimate successes and its efforts to mitigate Russia’s coercive regional policies depend on the strength of its alliance with the United States and on its ability to continue to serve as a positive bridge between East and West.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the modern Republic of Turkey by Mustafa Kemal Atatürk in 1923. In celebrating the birth of the new republic, there is no better time to take a deeper look at what has taken place since then, especially during the past ten years.

I believe that Turkey is a country that has the potential of becoming a significant global player, but, like any other power, it must also learn its limits.

Turkey’s current rise to prominence was possible because of its promise and implementation of many political, economic and social reforms. These initial successes, however, are not self-perpetuating and must continuously be nurtured.

Only then will Turkey live up to the promise of being the leading Islamic democracy it has set out to be, or it will lose a historic chance to become that kind of a model, especially in the wake of the Arab Spring.

(Alon Ben-Meir is a professor of international relations at the Center for Global Affairs at NYU. He teaches courses on international negotiation and Middle Eastern studies. alon@alonben-meir.com Web: www.alonben-meir.com. This article was originally published in *The American Thinker*.)



K-9 Officer Toumayan Shares her Passion with the Community

K-9, from page 1
public figure and family” on a local memorial site.
Pativ was replaced on the force by Charik, also trained and owned by Toumayan. Both dogs were trained by Toumayan to respond to German, Armenian and English. Toumayan

Armenian Bar Association Issues Statement Regarding Yerevan Elections

STATEMENT, from page 14
Armenia, that the government reflects the free expression of the will of its people.
The Armenian Bar Association will continue to lend its institutional support to the advancement of the rule of law and the serious work of building democracy in Armenia.
In that respect, we call upon all diasporan and concerned organizations and individuals, and most certainly the governing authorities of the Republic of Armenia, to join together as we strive to make Armenia a truly democratic republic and homeland.”

learned Armenian at a young age from her mother and grandmother. “I am proud to be Armenian,” said Toumayan and added that she loves that Charik understands Armenian as well.
Charik may originally hail from Holland but has made the local community his home serving as a “huge asset” to the force. Charik’s job is anything but a walk in the park. He is utilized in narcotics searches, finding missing or wanted persons and is often the first to enter a dangerous scene, including sites of possible explosives. “A trained dog is going to be able to convey various scenarios to you with its body language,” explained Toumayan.
Toumayan also serves on the North Eastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC), a professional law

enforcement organization that maximizes and expands member resources and capabilities by sharing equipment, knowledge and personnel. It is composed of 54 cities and towns, including Concord, from across two counties.
As members of NEMLEC, Toumayan and Charik played their part in the April Watertown manhunt for Boston Marathon bombing suspect, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. “We were given an area to search and secure. We had to be incredibly slow and methodical clearing houses, garages, etc. It really was a team effort. There were several ‘ghost calls’ and not a lot of information [...] we were definitely worried that there were explosives on around.”
Recalling the day of Tsarnaev’s capture, Toumayan said, “We were one of the first spe-

cialized SWAT and K-9 units on the scene. We were across the street [from the boat site], holding the perimeter.”
After the capture, “People were elated,” recalled Toumayan. “It was a nice feeling that people responded in a positive note after such a tragedy.”
As Charik’s owner, Toumayan is responsible for his care, training and expenses, and contracts him out to the city. There is a gift fund set up for the K-9 unit so any citizens wishing to donate to Charik’s medical expenses and other needs may do so.
“[Charik and I] have received a lot of great support from Concord, and from surrounding communities we aid through NEMLEC,” said Toumayan.
In addition to her official duties, Toumayan offers demonstrations and meet-and-greets of the K-9 training to local groups and schools, and enjoys sharing her passion for both police work and K-9s with others.

Cuba Appoints New Ambassador to Armenia

YEREVAN (PanArmenian.net) – Cuba named a new ambassador to Armenia, Emilio Lozada Garcia, this week. Garcia also serves as Cuba’s ambassador to Russia and will be permanently based in Moscow.
Armenian President Serge Sargsian congratulated Garcia on his new diplomatic mission and said he welcomed all initiatives promoting strengthened bilateral relations between Havana and Yerevan.

From Commanding the Space Station to Being Unfit to Drive a Car

ASTRONAUT, fro page 1
from his feet, his footsteps felt like walking on hot coals.
A first trip to the gym was excruciating, he said, because it felt like two people had jumped on him when he was trying to move on a mat.
Things were so different in space.
“My body was quite happy living in space without gravity,” he said.
“(It’s) a very empowering environment where you can touch the wall and do somersaults, where you can move a refrigerator around with your fingertips and never worry about which way was up.
”Well, that all changed when our Soyuz (capsule) slammed back into the Earth. And my body is catching up with the change. And so the symptoms are dizziness. It’s like when you come off a ride at the CNE or something.”
Hadfield returned to Earth on Monday night and was flown to Houston to be reunited with his wife and to undergo tests and debriefings.
Hadfield also announced that his use of social media, which earned him an international audience, won’t end with his return to Earth.
He had 20,000 Twitter followers when he blasted off with Russian space colleague Roman Romanenko and NASA astronaut Tom Marshburn on December 19, 2012. This week back on terra firma, Hadfield was hovering around one million followers.
Hadfield said the point of using social media was not to gain fame – but to teach people about space exploration.
“It is just too good an experience to keep to yourself,” he said. “And the more people that see it and understand it, the more the benefits of space exploration will roll back into daily life for all of us.”
Hadfield added that it felt rewarding to receive a message from someone who said he didn’t even know Canada had a space program, until he saw Hadfield’s tweets.
There were major changes at the Canadian Space Agency while Hadfield was gone.
While Hadfield was circling the globe every 92 minutes, Steve MacLean quit as head of the space agency and was replaced earlier this year by interim boss Gilles Leclerc.
But Hadfield wouldn’t say if he was eager to take over the top job at Canada’s space agency.
“I’m nowhere near even thinking about that yet,” said Hadfield, who is Canada’s oldest active astronaut, when asked if he wanted to be the next CSA president.
“Ask me again in a few months. For now, I’m still trying to stand up straight and I have to sit down in the shower so I don’t faint and fall down.”

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