

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## May 28: First Republic Day Marked in Armenia

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – The independence anniversary of the First Republic was marked in Armenia on May 28, with the country's top political, military and spiritual leadership attending traditional celebrations at Sardarapat, 40 kilometers west of the capital, where advancing Turkish troops were stopped in a heroic battle 96 years ago.

Along with other Armenian military successes at Bash-Aparan, Karakilisa and elsewhere, the May 1918 victory see REPUBLIC, page 2



From left, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia Aram I, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, President Serge Sargisian, President Bako Sahakian of Karabagh and Armenian Catholic Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX at Sardarapat

## TCA and ADL of Armenia Hold Leadership Meetings in Yerevan

YEREVAN – On May 9-12, meetings were held between the Central Board of Directors of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) of United States and Canada, the Trustees of TCA London Trust, the Trustees of TCA Yerevan Foundation and the representatives of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party of Armenia. The leaders of TCA and ADL arrived at a con-

structive and practical consensus regarding various challenges and issues faced by the organizations.

On May 9, a special meeting was held with the participation of representatives of the Executive Board of the Democratic Liberal Party of Armenia: Hagop Avedikian (chairman), Karen Kakoyan (vice chairman), see MEETING, page 16



From left, Nar Khatchadourian, Silva Aharonian, Hagop Vartivarian, Roupen Mirzakhanian, Vartan Ouzounian, Krikor Haroutounian and Hagop Avedikian

## Armenian Heritage Park Chefs' Fundraiser Brings in \$95,000

By Alin K. Gregorian  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Some of the most famous chefs in Boston came together on Wednesday, May 21, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel Boston, for the Chefs Party for Our Park fundraiser helping the Armenian Heritage Park. The program raised \$95,000 for the upkeep of the park, which was officially opened and dedicated in 2012.

The participating chefs who had donated their time and food were Ana Sortun of Oleana, Sofra and Sarma; Andrew Hebert of Trade, Andrew Yeo of the Ritz Carlton; Brian Dandro of see CHEFS, page 8



Jim Kalustian, Foundation President, with Chef Seta Dakessian, chef/owner of Seta's Cafe in Belmont

## Genocide Education Bill Unanimously Passes California Assembly Committee

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – On Friday, the California State Assembly Appropriations Committee unanimously passed AB 1915, requiring the inclusion of the Armenian Genocide in the list of studied subject areas for the adopted courses of study in Social Science for 7-12, reported the Armenian National Committee of America Western Region (ANCA WR). The bill, authored by Assembly member Adrin Nazarian, also recommends for the Department of Education to include the atrocities of 1915 into publications and curriculum materials.

AB 1915, which had unanimously passed the California State Assembly Education Committee in early April will now move on to the full Assembly floor for consideration.

"As AB 1915 advances for a floor vote, I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Assembly and the ANCA-WR to ensure swift passage for this vital measure. Education on human rights and the Armenian genocide is an important component that should be broadly incorporated in our curriculum. This has been a long time coming, and I am so pleased from the broad range of support for this measure," stated Assemblymember Nazarian.

Earlier in the week, ANCA Western Region Executive Director Elen Asatryan submitted a strongly worded letter in support of AB1915 on behalf of the organization noting "Despite the existence of the provision within the framework (pursuant to AB 1273 which was enacted in 1985), the Armenian Genocide is not taught in the overwhelming majority of our public schools. The State Assembly recently

see EDUCATION, page 5



Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### President of Armenia Hosts Religious Leaders

YEREVAN – President Serge Sargisian on May 28 held a meeting with the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, the Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia Aram I and the Armenian Catholic Patriarch Nerses Petros XIX.

The president, the Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians, the Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia and the Catholicos Patriarch of the House of Cilicia discussed issues concerning the close cooperation between the state and the Armenian churches, as well as issues pertaining to the homeland and the Armenian Diaspora.

At the meeting, the participants discussed the role of the Armenian Apostolic Church in the preserving Armenian identity. Those gathered also discussed the involvement of the Armenian Apostolic and Armenian Catholic churches in Armenia's plans for marking the centennial of the Genocide.

In addition, the president and the three religious leaders discussed the fate of Armenians in Syria.

### Gabriel Sargissian Wins Chicago Chess Tourney

CHICAGO (Armenpress) – Three-time Olympic champion Grandmaster Gabriel Sargissian and took first place at the Chicago Chess Open tournament. Priyadharshan Kannappan of India came in second, according to the Chess Federation of Armenia.

This was Sargissian's third victory in the Chicago Open, with the previous wins there in 2009 and 2012.

### Sargisian Invites Turk Pres. to Armenia on April 24, 2015

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – President of Armenia Serge Sargisian invited the President of Turkey to visit Armenia on April 24, 2015 during the fourth sitting of the state committee dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

"If the Turkish authorities are interested in the truth, they have to come to Armenia and be by the side of the Armenian people on April 24. I do not think that after that they will be able to speak out about visiting archives. Taking advantage of this opportunity I officially invite the President of Turkey, whoever be elected in the upcoming elections, to visit Armenia on April 24, 2015 and to face the conspicuous evidence of the history of the Armenian Genocide," said the president.

He also stated that he had sent invitations to the heads of a number of states to visit Armenia in 2015, especially on April 24, to raise a voice against the crime of genocide in general and to fix that the Armenian people not only survived these fated sufferings, but also took the path of revival.

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### Happy 104th

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Karabagh Soldier Killed While Confronting Azeri Infiltrators

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) – An Armenian soldier in the Karabagh army was killed the night of May 27-28 along the southern contact line between Karabagh and Azerbaijan. At around 2.55 a.m., Azeri forces attempted to penetrate into Karabagh.

The press service of the NKR Defense Army reported that the front line units of the defense army, detecting the advance of the special detachments of Azeri soldiers, responded and caused significant damage to the Azeris.

While resisting the Azerbaijani soldiers, Karabagh sustained one loss, that of Corporal Eric Vilen Gasparyan, 19.

The Defense Ministry of the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh expressed its condolences to Gasparyan's family members, relatives and fellow servicemen.

## International Community Worried on Azeri Arms Acquisition: Nalbandian

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The issue of Azerbaijan's increased spending on weapons causes concern to the international community and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-chair countries as well, said Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian during his interview with the journalists in Sardarapat on May 28. "The international community and the co-chair countries are also concerned about this issue, and they call on taking appropriate steps to strengthen the ceasefire, withdraw the snipers from the contact line," said Nalbandian.

In reference to the recent statements made by the co-chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, the minister said, that the negotiation process is taking its course. "In a few days the co-chairs will be in Azerbaijan, as the last time they were in the region and visited Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh, the Azerbaijani leadership was not in the country," Nalbandian added.

## Prime Minister Receives Designer Michael Aram

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan received noted American-Armenian designer Michael Aram (Wolohojian). He welcomed the exhibition of Aram's metal decorative works currently ongoing in Yerevan on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his career.

"I know that the exhibition has created great interest among art fans and the public at large. I am glad that your creations are based on Armenian designs and, thus bring honor to our nation throughout the world," said Abrahamyan.

Abrahamyan urged the renowned designer not only to visit Armenia frequently, but also to establish a school and studio, as well as to develop business here.

## Gagik Harutyunyan Considers Constitutional Reforms

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The deferment of the constitutional reforms will lead to more complications, said Chairman of the Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunyan at the public debate on "The initial concept of the constitutional reforms in Armenia."

Studying the history of the constitutional order from the pre-Christian era to the present day, Harutyunyan came to the conclusion that in the fifth century and later the Armenian people had a higher level of the constitutional culture than it is today. "Today we have a nation, but no citizens. We have situations which can be considered as morbid. The primary treatment approach is that the Constitution does not allow the emergence of such situations," he said.

# Matenadaran Institute Celebrates Launch Of New AGBU-Funded Scholarship

YEREVAN – Armenia's Ministry of Education and Science and the Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts (the Matenadaran). The new venture will provide bright young researchers with the support they need to discover and help preserve some of the oldest manuscripts, books and documents in Armenian history.

Eight scholars were selected to participate in the AGBU-funded program, advancing their studies in art history and theory, historical source research, historiography, as well as world history. The Matenadaran is the ideal site to conduct their work: it houses more than 100,000 documents dating as early as the eighth century. Researchers and tourists travel from all over the world to see its national treasures, including the Gospel of Lazarus and Hakob Meghapart's Parzatumar, one of the first Armenian books ever printed.

The scholarship initiative is one of the many ways AGBU has supported the Matenadaran over the years. Following

## Armenian Genocide Museum Receives 450 Original Photos

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute has obtained an exclusive and rich collection of photos connected with the Armenian Genocide and its consequences. The collection of more than 450 original photos was donated to the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute by the descendants of the Greek-Armenian Khanikian family, noting the importance of the preservation of the memory of the Armenian Genocide and its transmission to the future generations.

The collection includes photos linked to the orphanages of the Ottoman Empire, Greece, Egypt and Syria, the orphans' lives, the activities of Near East Relief, as well as the separate episodes in the history of the Armenian Genocide. On the reverse side of most of the photos there are notes containing information.

"On the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the acquisition of this collection is not only a symbolic, but also a unique event for our museum, and these photos will find their own place in the museum's new exhibition opening in April 2015. Among the photos I would like to distinguish for its significance, of course, is the original photo of Young Turk leader Ismail Haqqi Bey's imprisonment by the British soldiers," said the director of the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, Hayk Demoyan.

## Correction

A letter to the editor last week included the wrong state for Edward Alexander. Mr. Alexander is a resident of Washington, DC. He is a retired US diplomat and the author of several works of non-fiction and fiction.

We regret the error.



AGBU scholarship recipients display their new certificates. The young researchers will work in the Matenadaran to help preserve its centuries-old collections.

Armenia's independence, when the country was plagued by an energy crisis, AGBU and its benefactors helped the Matenadaran acquire the air conditioning, fire prevention and security systems that are vital to protecting its archives. AGBU has also sponsored a number of the Matenadaran's publications.

The new program was inaugurated during a ceremony held at the institute and attended by several public officials. There to celebrate was Hrachya Tamrazyan, the Matenadaran's director; Manuk Mkrtchyan, deputy minister of Armenia's Ministry of Education and Science; Ashot Ghazaryan, vice president of operations of the American University

the AGBU Armenia Representation office, congratulated the students and addressed the crowd, remarking, "When the Matenadaran's leadership first approached AGBU with the idea for this partnership, we did not hesitate to pledge our support. We knew it would strengthen an already productive partnership between our organization and the institute, one that is of strategic importance because it promotes the development of Armenian studies in Yerevan and globally."

Upon receiving his certificate, scholarship recipient Hrant Ohanyan commented on the great impact that the program will have on him and his fellow acade-



Hovig Eordekian, interim director of the AGBU Armenia Representation office, presents scholarship recipients with their awards.

of Armenia and former director of AGBU Armenia; Vardi Keshishian, head of the Matenadaran's international relations department; and Vahan Ter-Ghevondyan, head of the Matenadaran's Arabic manuscripts research department.

Hovig Eordekian, interim director of

amics. Holding his award, he stated, "AGBU's assistance is not merely financial. It signals to us that our work is critical to the Matenadaran and to the field of Armenian studies as a whole. We are so proud and excited that AGBU has decided to invest in us and our research."

## May 28: First Republic Day Marked in Armenia

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also led to the establishment of the first Armenian republic.

The First Republic of Armenia lasted for about two and a half years.

Armenian President Serge Sargsian attended the celebrations at the Sardarapat Memorial. On the occasion, he issued state awards and ranks to different notable figures who have made achievements in the spheres of science, education, economy, health, culture, arts and sports, as well as to a number of representatives of the Diaspora and servicemen.

"The fact that this ceremony is taking place in Sardarapat has special meaning. Herewith we emphasize the link and continuity of generations of our people," Sargsian said. "Herewith we stress that the work done by all of us is

largely in the same orbit. It is the Armenian statehood, its history and present. A serviceman, a teacher, a scientist, an artist, a doctor – we all are in the same orbit that is called the Republic of Armenia."

He also made an address to the nation on the occasion of First Republic Day. He emphasized the great significance of the Armenian victory at Sardarapat that saved the nation from total destruction.

"All facts and the whole reality seemed to be against us, but we were saved here. We ourselves gained the right to live and return to the international political arena. And that was done by the most tragic, but at the same time most heroic generation of Armenians of all times," Sargsian noted.





## INTERNATIONAL

# Pope Visits Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AP) — Pope Francis and the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians prayed together Sunday inside the Jerusalem church that symbolizes their divisions, calling their historic meeting a step toward healing the centuries-old Catholic-Orthodox schism.

Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I embraced one another in the stone courtyard outside the 12th century Church of the Holy Sepulcher and recited the "Our Father" prayer together once inside, an unprecedented moment of solemnity at the spot where Catholic and Orthodox believe Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected.

The encounter, punctuated by haunting Greek and Latin chants, was full of symbolic meaning: The two men, both in their mid-70s, helped one another down the stone steps leading into the church, grasping one another's forearms. And after Bartholomew delivered his remarks, Francis bent down and kissed his hand in remarkable show of papal respect for a patriarch when some 500 years ago a patriarch was forced to kiss the feet of the pope.

The evening prayer service was the spiritual highlight of Francis' three-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land and capped a momentous day in which the Israeli and Palestinian presidents accepted Francis' invitation to join him at the Vatican next month to pray for peace.

Francis has said his primary reason for coming to the region was to mark the 50th anniversary of the meeting in Jerusalem between Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople. Their 1964 embrace ended 900 years of mutual excommunication and estrangement sparked by the Great Schism of 1054, which split Christianity.

Since that meeting, the two churches have grown closer in personal friendships and even theological dialogue, but core differences remain, including over the primacy of the pope.



From left, Armenian Patriarch Nourhan Manougian, Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew I

Tellingly, Francis referred to Paul not as pope but as "bishop of Rome" — the other main title attributed to popes and the way Francis introduced himself to the world on the night he was elected pope in a clear gesture toward his Orthodox "brothers."

Bartholomew, for his part, called for their meeting at Christ's tomb to show how fear, religious fanaticism and hatred of people of other faiths and races can be overcome by love. "The message of the life-giving tomb is clear: love the other, the different other, the followers of other faiths and other confessions."

The site of their meeting could not have been more significant: Perhaps no other piece of real estate on Earth symbolizes the divisions of Christianity than the Holy Sepulcher, where six Christian denominations practice their faith, yet occasionally come to blows in jealously guarding their turf and times of worship.

Given the centuries of tensions underlying the visit, the seating arrangements and procession order alone were an ecclesiastical and diplomatic feat of protocol. Francis, Bartholomew and the leaders of the three main communities that share the church — Greek-Orthodox, Armenian and Roman Catholic — all sat on the same sized, gilded red velvet chairs facing the shrine encasing Jesus' tomb.

Bartholomew was the first to enter the tomb, but Francis was the first to

climb the steep stairs up to the site where tradition holds Christ was crucified. The Gospel was chanted in both Latin and Greek, to appeal to the linguistic traditions of both Catholic and Orthodox. The two men recited the "Our Father" together in the relatively neutral Italian.

They embraced each other on several occasions, drawing applause from the ecumenical crowd inside the cavernous church lit by twinkling lanterns. After arriving at the church piazza from separate entrances, they left in the same car to dine together.

Though the three major denominations adamantly stick to the status quo arrangement that governs separate worship at the church, none particularly enjoys the arrangement.

"We are grown-ups. We should be able to sit down and finalize the whole thing," said the Rev. Samuel Aghoyan, the Armenian superior of the Holy Sepulcher.

"The amount of energy that's required to maintain it is counterproductive," said the Rev. Athanasius Macora, a Texas native and Franciscan monk who sits on an inter-church commission that negotiates disputes at the Holy Sepulcher.

"It's very silly. We laugh about it," said Anna Koulouris, a communications adviser with the Greek Orthodox church.

## Turkey's Erdogan Slams Critics in German Speech

COLOGNE (Reuters) — Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan told a cheering arena of 16,000 diaspora supporters in Germany on Saturday to integrate but not assimilate and slammed German criticism of his response to a mining tragedy, in a defiant hour-long speech.

Earlier in Cologne some 45,000 protesters, had marched against the Turkish Prime Minister, according to authorities' estimates, some wearing miners' helmets and with banners calling Erdogan a dictator, laying bare Turkey's political divisions in the western German city.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel had appealed to Erdogan to be sensitive in his address at a 10th anniversary rally of the Union of European Turkish Democrats (UETD), amidst criticism from German lawmakers that holding such a speech was insensitive 11 days after a mining accident in the southwestern Turkish town of Soma killed 301.

The event also falls a year after anti-government protests swept Turkey, fired largely by a violent police crackdown on a small demonstration against development of a city park.

"A certain type of media here and organizations have been trying to exploit the Soma disaster by insulting the prime minister of the Turkish Republic," Erdogan said.

"Tayyip Erdogan knows the smell of those coal mines. I have been inside those mines and have walked 4-5 kilometers in them," he added.

The government was widely criticized for its handling of the disaster. An Erdogan aide kicked a protester, for which he was sacked, and Erdogan himself became embroiled in angry altercations.

The Turkish leader went on to condemn the "lies and intrigue" spread by his opponents, calling this "black propaganda."

In power for more than a decade, Erdogan has weathered a bitter power struggle with an influential Islamic preacher, as well as a graft scandal he says was engineered to undermine him.

Erdogan has often addressed mass audiences of expatriate Turks when visiting Germany in rousing patriotic affairs with thousands waving the Turkish flag.

He repeated remarks made in 2008 in which he warned Germany's largest minority against assimilation.

"Assimilation? No. I have said this before and I'm saying it again — we don't compromise our language, religion and culture."

There is deep doubt in Europe about the direction Ankara is taking — two months before Erdogan is expected to stand for a presidency he aspires to turn

from a largely figurehead role to that of a strong executive head of state.

"Turkey, with its mission, values and its people is now part of Europe and European politicians should see and accept this. The problems of European politics will be solved with Turkey, not by using Turkey," Erdogan added.

Critics said Erdogan's very appearance in Germany was inevitably an appeal for support from expatriate Turks, significant voters after changes to the electoral system. He was introduced in Cologne as the "architect of the new Turkey".

Some 3 million people of Turkish origin live in Germany and 1.4 million Turkish citizens can vote, a number equivalent to the electorate of Turkey's fifth largest city Adana, according to the Institute of Turkish Studies and Integration (ZITI).

Under previous rules, expats could only vote at Turkey's borders.

Martin Schlus, the Socialists' candidate for European Commission president, repeated his criticism of the visit on Saturday. "I'd prefer it if Prime Minister Erdogan concerned himself with Turkey's problems instead of waging election campaigns abroad in Cologne. But, we are a tolerant and democratic country in which of course a foreign leader can speak," he said.

## International News

### Russia Offers More Tanks to Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (Eurasian.net) — Russia is offering Azerbaijan another 100 tanks, on top of 100 that it has bought over the last three years, in a move that will surely have Armenians asking what more they need to do to prove their loyalty to Moscow.

Speaking at Kazakhstan's Kadex defense expo in Astana, Konstantin Biryulin, the deputy director of Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation told Russian news agency Itar-Tass that Azerbaijan's order of 100 T-90S tanks had been completed a month ago. And he added that Azerbaijan has an option to buy another 100, but that the option hasn't yet been exercised.

News last summer that Russia had completed a \$1-billion arms deal with Azerbaijan (which included those 100 tanks) prompted outrage in Yerevan. Armenia has been a loyal ally of Russia.

But that was when Armenia was flirting with signing an Association Agreement with the European Union. Not long after the arms deal was announced, Armenia announced that it had changed its mind about the EU and would instead be joining the Russia-led Customs Union. Now Armenia is scheduled to formally join the Customs Union in June. So another big arms sale to Azerbaijan would seem like an even bigger betrayal.

### Armenian Dies in Aleppo

ALEPPO, Syria — An Armenian died in the Hamidie neighborhood in Aleppo on May 26 as a result of a bomb.

Avetis Kebabjian was 86. His funeral was held in St. Astvatsatsin Church on May 27.

Earlier, on May 24, two rockets made of gas barrels fell in New Village Armenian neighborhood of Aleppo. As a result, resident Karapet Piloyan was injured. He was taken to a hospital.

Since early May, about three dozen Armenians have been injured in Aleppo.

### UNESCO Secretary General Congratulates Aznavour on 90th

PARIS (Armenpress) — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Secretary General Irina Bokova on May 20 sent a letter to Charles Aznavour, congratulating him on his 90th birthday.

In the letter, she writes, "I want to send you my warmest wishes on your birthday at the moment when Berlin will have the happiness to receive you on its stage on Thursday, May 22. Let me offer you my special wishes since I know that you are a great artist who was able to direct his look, aspirations and expectations to the future horizon of opportunities, but not to the past and homesickness, which would be expressed by holidays yearly defined and determined. I know that you attach greatest importance to the tireless service to your art through texts playing on the fibers of the beautiful chiseled heart all of which bear address and deep feelings. The heart of each person finds some reaction there."

Aznavour (Shahan Vaghinak Aznavouryan) was born in Paris in 1924 to a family of Armenian migrants Mikayel and Knar Aznavouryans.

Since the 1988 earthquake in Armenia, Aznavour has been helping the country through his charity, Aznavour for Armenia. Together with his brother-in-law and co-author Georges Garvarentz he wrote the song Pour toi Arménie, which was performed by a group of French artists and topped the charts for 18 weeks. There is a square named after him in central Yerevan on Abovian Street, and a statue erected in Gumri.

In 2004 Aznavour received the title of National Hero of Armenia, Armenia's highest award.

During a career that has spanned more than 70 years, he has appeared in more than 60 films, written more than 1,000 songs and sold more than 100 million records worldwide.



# Community News

## Church Leaders Congratulate Syrian Patriarch

NEW YORK – On Tuesday, May 13, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), hosted an ecumenical gathering at the Diocesan Center in honor of Mor Ignatius Aphrem II Karim, the former Metropolitan of the Syriac Archdiocese of the Eastern United States who was recently elected as Patriarch of the Syriac Orthodox Church.

Leaders of the Roman Catholic, Oriental Orthodox, Episcopalian and Eastern Orthodox churches came together at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral for a prayer service, followed by a reception to honor Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem.

Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, visiting New York after having traveled to Rome, where he met with Pope Francis, presided over the gathering.

The assembled church leaders congratulated the new patriarch on this latest calling in his ministry, and expressed their solidarity as he embarks on leading a church that finds itself beleaguered by



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian greets Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II Karim on the plaza of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral.

the conflict in Syria.

Metropolitan Tikhon, head of the Orthodox Church in America, delivered the invocation, and Archbishop Barsamian welcomed the clergy to the Diocesan Center. "It is a great pleasure for me to greet you, on this deeply meaningful occasion," he said. "This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together, in the warm embrace of our shared Christian heritage – to give physical expression to our sense of friendship and common mission in the world today."

He went on to speak about Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem's spiritual leadership in America, and the friendship that has grown between them. "Throughout these years, I have been privileged to witness his virtues of energy, spirituality, wisdom, and humility," Barsamian said. "He exemplifies the best qualities of the Christian heritage of the East; and he has given these virtues exemplary life and vitality here in the West."

see PATRIARCH, page 10



Speakers at the Hye Geen Young Circle conference discuss the sports industry, culture and the Armenian diaspora. From left to right: graduate student Megan Fornasar; coach and educator Nancy Gavoov; sports business executive Cory Shakarian and martial arts specialist Edmond Tarvedyan.

## AGBU Hye Geen Young Circle Conference Takes on Sports in Shaping Nation

LOS ANGELES – The relationship between athletics and international affairs was the theme of this year's AGBU Hye Geen Young Circle conference, which brought together a panel of experts to discuss the sports industry, culture and the Armenian diaspora. The ninth annual event, "Sports: Shaping a Nation: An Arena for Diplomacy, Business and Identity," drew more than 130 guests to Woodbury University in Burbank in March.

In her opening address, Hye Geen founder and chair Sona Yacoubian described the inspiration for the 2014 topic. Recalling her childhood school in Lebanon, she remarked, "Every school day began with exercises to help us focus on our studies and every year we celebrated the Navasartian Games, which gathered youth teams. We hope this conference reinforces that sense of solidarity."

Father Zaven Arzoumanian, representing the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church, and Bared Maronian, the award-winning filmmaker of "Orphans of the Genocide," joined Yacoubian in welcoming the crowd. Father Arzoumanian pointed to the positive example set by Ararat Chrissian, the turn-of-the-century coach who instilled discipline, character and fair play in countless young athletes. Maronian shared a clip from his documentary and highlighted the work of Vahan Cheraz, who, following the Armenian Genocide, organized sporting events in a Gumri orphanage to teach youth the necessary skills for building resilience and endurance in the face of suffering.

Led by moderator Manouk Akopyan, a digital content producer for the National Football League, the panelists discussed the power of sports diplomacy today. Nancy Gavoov, a personal trainer and educator, recounted her experience as an envoy for the US Information Agency program, Building Democracy and Diplomacy with Sports. In that role, she saw states strengthen ties through various events – table tennis championships in China, arm wrestling competitions in Iran, as well as soccer matches between Armenia and Turkey.

Sociology graduate student Megan Fornasar and martial arts trainer Edmond Tarverdyan noted the ways sports cultivate a sense of national identity across countries, and confidence among youth. Fornasar, who researches multiculturalism at the University of California, Los Angeles, commented: "Especially when the national flag is raised, the games we play create a powerful, shared experience. At the same time, they bring together people and groups who may not otherwise interact." Tarverdyan is responsible for sending athletes to those high-profile games; he has trained world boxing champion Vic Darchinian and Olympian boxer Vanes Martirosyan. In his presentation, Tarverdyan relayed how rewarding it is to help children and teenagers become proficient in martial arts.

Yet, the path to stardom can create controversy, speaker Cory Shakarian noted. As a sports business executive and sales and marketing professional, Shakarian has witnessed athletes' exorbitant salaries continue to rise. He argued that the phenomenon has deterred talented young people from pursuing careers in science and technology, and from making promising contributions to those fields. The consensus among all the panelists was that athletics must be part of a well-rounded curriculum for students, that coaches should act as educators and that schools should encourage team sports.

The ninth annual Young Circle conference was also an opportunity to honor Richard N. Demirjian, a key member of the California and Michigan diaspora communities. Demirjian is the author of multiple books including *Armenian-American & Canadian Who's Who of Outstanding Athletes, Coaches and Sport Personalities* and a co-founder of the Western Armenian Athletic Association. When the event came to a close, the audience gave him, the participants and the Hye Geen Young Circle repeated rounds of applause.



Hye Geen founder and chair Sona Yacoubian welcomes guests to the conference.

## Armenian Assembly, Armenian National Institute Expand Genocide Discussion In Mainstream Media

WASHINGTON – As the world marked Genocide Awareness month this past April, representatives of the Armenian Assembly of America and the Armenian National Institute (ANI) broadened the discussion of the Armenian Genocide with the American public and abroad with several appearances in national and international media.

On the heels of the Islamic militant attack on Kessab Armenians launched from Turkey, Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny told the *International Business Times*, "For Armenian Americans, current images of Armenian homes being looted and occupied in Kessab, and innocent lives tragically lost, invoke painful memories of the early phases of the first genocide of the 20th century at the hands of Ottoman Turks."

The Assembly's efforts to secure the release of the Armenian Orphan Rug from the White House also made headlines. "The Armenian Assembly ramped up pressure by displaying a 'sister rug' in Boston and Boca Raton, Fla.," reported the *Miami Herald*, while Ardouny told KPPC-Southern California Radio that, "The display of this tangible expression of gratitude for America's humanitarian intervention to save the survivors of the Armenian Genocide is a positive development."

Following President Barack Obama's April 24 statement which again fell short of his 2008 campaign promise to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide, Assembly Board Chairman Hirair Hovnanian told Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's (RFE/RL) Armenia service, that "In 1981 President Ronald Reagan squarely acknowledged the Armenian Genocide ... This accurately reflects America's values and record of speaking out against genocide, and I welcome this approach." "In a related development, a member of the Assembly's board, Van Krikorian, praised the influential American Jewish Committee (AJC) for urging Turkey to 'address the realities' of the Armenian genocide," the same RFE/RL report said.

In addition, former Assembly board member Mark Momjian, Esq. discussed the Armenian Genocide on WBAI/NYC 99.5 FM Radio. On Sunday, April 13, Momjian appeared on the show "Beyond the Pale," which explores cutting edge Jewish culture and offers local, national, and international political debate and analysis from a Jewish perspective.

The Assembly's activities surrounding the decision by Suffolk University Law School to invite Anti-Defamation League (ADL) National Director Abraham Foxman to deliver this year's commencement address was also noteworthy. "If the ADL now supports the pending Congressional resolution, this would truly be a courageous act against injustice," said Anthony Barsamian, a 1990 Suffolk Law School graduate and member of the Armenian Assembly of America," to the *Boston Globe*. In 2007, Foxman and the ADL publicly opposed the Armenian Genocide resolution that was pending in Congress.

With over 30,000 downloads in the first few weeks, the release of "The Last Refuge & the First Defense: The Armenian Church, Echmiadzin, and the Armenian Genocide," a free, online exhibit jointly produced by ANI, the Armenian Genocide Museum of America (AGMA), the Assembly and in cooperation with the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute in Yerevan, and the Republic of Armenia National Archives, also expanded the scope and reach of genocide awareness. Appearing on *Voice of America-Armenia*, ANI Director Dr. Rouben

see MEDIA, page 5





## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Interdisciplinary Conference Led by UCLA to Take Place on May 31

LOS ANGELES – The UCLA Research Program in Armenian Archaeology & Ethnography at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology announces its inaugural event, an interdisciplinary conference that brings together 14 subfields within Armenian Studies. The conference seeks to assess the field holistically, and participants from eight countries will present position papers on May 31, and interact with each other and the academic community of Southern California at Lenart Auditorium Fowler Museum, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Research Program was established through a long-standing partnership between

the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology and Zaruhi Sara Chitjian of the Hampartzoum and OvsannaChitjian Foundation, whose previous successful projects have included the excavations of the Areni-1 cave complex in the Republic of Armenia. The discoveries of the oldest leather shoe and the earliest wine press have changed the world's understanding of human civilization.

Future plans of the Research Program include several projects that will expand its activities in the Republic of Armenia, such as environmental research, which will open new venues in addressing the issues of Global

Warming, and a project on archaeological human DNA. Future projects outside the Republic of Armenia will include the documentation of the Armenian cultural heritage worldwide, including collaborative projects in Turkey and other countries, as well as the preservation of the ethnographic legacy of the Armenian Genocide in the Armenian Diaspora. All of these projects are aimed at the long-term goal of increasing the visibility of the Armenian cultural heritage worldwide, with its inclusion in textbooks and through mass media.

For further information, contact Dr. Gegory Areshian at [gareshia@ucla.edu/](mailto:gareshia@ucla.edu/).

## Genocide Education Bill Unanimously Passes Calif. Assembly Committee

EDUCATION, from page 1

passed AB 659 which encourages inclusion of oral history components in the instruction of human rights issues, including the Armenian Genocide. This law is a step in the right direction, but not enough to achieve the objective



California Assembly member Nazarian introduces AB 659

Holocaust and subsequent genocides. Consequently, the Holocaust (which must be taught per state law) cannot be taught or understood comprehensively without instructing students about the Armenian Genocide," she continued.

In the weeks leading up to State Assembly consideration of the measure, the ANCA Western Region worked closely with legislators to ensure they learned of the broad, enthusiastic support for the measure, especially during the organization's 2014 Advocacy Day when over 350 activists from California including a group of students from San Marino High School who have taken up the Genocide Education as their senior project, met with over 70 California legislators.

On Wednesday April 9, ANCA Western Region Education Committee Chair Alice Petrossian and ANCA Western Region Education Committee Executive Member and writer Kay Mouradian testified in front of the California State Assembly Education Committee in support of the bill along with joint author of AB 1915 Assembly member Katcho Achadjian, and Assembly Education Committee members, Chair Joan Buchanan and Assembly member Rocky J. Chavez prior to its unanimous passage.

Further, earlier this year, the State

Assembly Education and Appropriations Committees unanimously adopted AB 659, another bill introduced by Nazarian. The bill, which is on its way to the California State Senate, encourages schools to use oral histories when teaching about the Armenian Genocide and other acts against humanity. AB 659 set the stage for the presentation of AB1915.

Once adopted by the full State Assembly and the State Senate and signed into law by the Governor, AB 1915 would codify the Armenian Genocide into the curriculum of 7th to 12th grade Social Science and History classes. It would also recommend publication about the Armenian Genocide and other genocides including Cambodia, Rwanda and Darfur in instructional materials provided to instructors about crimes against humanity.

Currently, California is one of 11 states, including Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island and Virginia, which have the Armenian Genocide included in their curriculum. The California Model Curriculum developed by the Department of Education, includes the Armenian Genocide as a recommended topic to teach. However, schools aren't required to follow this model curriculum.

of instruction across all public schools across the state. What is necessary is enactment of AB 1915 which would mandate such instruction while providing teachers with the tools that they need."

"Within the context of modern world history, the Armenian Genocide was a pivotal event which served as a progenitor to the

## Merrimack Valley Genocide Committee Donates \$3,500

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. – In keeping with its annual tradition of assisting Armenian charities, the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley distributed \$3,550 to four projects.

Charitable contributions paid out this year were \$1,300 to Armenian Syrian Relief; \$1,000 each to both the Women's Resource Center (battered women) and Fuller Center for Housing in Armenia, along with \$250 to the Armenian Genocide Education Committee of Merrimack Valley.

Over its 20-year existence, the group has donated some \$75,000 to charities both here and abroad. The funds come from net proceeds from an annual commemoration in North Andover.

This year's commemoration drew 220 guests featuring a memorial concert given by the Arev Armenian Folk Ensemble.

Plans are currently being made for next year's centennial observance.

## Armenian Assembly, Armenian National Institute Expand Genocide Discussion In Mainstream Media

MEDIA, from page 4

Adalian discussed the unique focus of the exhibit and its broad appeal. ANI's website registered one million hits during March and April of this year alone.

On April 24, Adalian also discussed Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's April 23 announcement and President Obama's statement with Arabic-language Al Hurra TV broadcast throughout the Middle East. In addition to reaching international audiences on Armenian Genocide remembrance day, Adalian told Business Insider that "[Obama] has made unambiguous statements as a senator and in his presidential campaign to fully recognize the genocide ... But he has avoided using the actual word for obvious reasons: pressure from Turkey, whom the US considers an important ally."

A pillar of the Assembly's Mission is to expand the organization's pioneering research, education, and advocacy campaigns for universal affirmation of the Armenian Genocide and to secure Diaspora-wide consensus for the government of the Republic of Armenia to deal with the consequences of this crime against humanity.

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## OBITUARY

## Genocide Survivor from Kessab Celebrates 104th Birthday

PASADENA, Calif. — Joseph Manjikian celebrated his 104th birthday at the Pasadena Highlands with more than 100 people in attendance including family, friends, and community leaders. Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27) presented Manjikian with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition honoring his life. Sierra Madre Mayor John Harabedian, Armenian National Committee of America board members Raffi Hamparian and Raffi Kassabian, Kessab Education Association President Esther Tognozzi, and Armenian Bar Association President Garo Ghazarian were also in attendance.

“My father is the richest man from Kessab,” said Dr. Haig Manjikian, his son. “Having survived the Armenian Genocide of 1915 and suffering the loss of family and close friends, he understands that the real wealth in life lies in the ability to cherish and appreciate time spent with family, friends, and community.”

Manjikian was born on May 9, 1910 in Kessab, when it was part of the Ottoman Empire. During the Armenian Genocide, his father was conscripted into the Ottoman Army only to be murdered along with fellow Armenians. The villagers were forced into exile, marched into the desert of Der Zor, along with countless other Armenians from the region. He was able to survive by eating weeds his mother collected along the way. By good fortune, survivors from Kessab were able

to go back to their village, as it became part of Syria after World War I. In recent weeks, Kessab, which has been inhabited by a Christian Armenian population for centuries, has been in the media spotlight as it was



Joseph Manjikian with Rep. Judy Chu

attacked by extremist militant groups that entered Syria through the Turkish border and drove out the local villagers from their ancestral lands.

Manjikian eventually immigrated to California in 1950 with his wife and two children, followed by a third child born in the US. His story symbolizes the American Dream. He worked as an auto mechanic for 40 years supporting his family and establishing new roots in Los Angeles. All his children represent first generation college graduates and raised their families with a strong Armenian-American upbringing. In his later years, he most enjoys being in the company of his eight grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and all extended family and friends.

## OBITUARY

## Arthur A. Maranian Sr.

BELMONT, Mass. — Arthur A. Maranian Sr., of Belmont, formerly of Lexington, died on May 22, 2014. He was 86.

He was born on May 1928 in Arlington, one of nine children of the late Aram and Alice Maranian. He attended schools in Arlington as well as Don Bosco in Boston for printing. At the age of 9, he was an entrepreneur.

Following his discharge from the US Marine Corps, he started his own business in Somerville. In 1950, he married the late Helen Maranian of Lowell. They had two children, Arthur Jr. and Linda.

He worked for a printing company affiliated with the US government and was in charge of the Special marine Unit from the Pentagon that was providing and rushing secret documents and map essential to the Korean War effort. This experience provided him with a thorough understanding of lithography. In 1953, he returned to Boston and started Maran Printing Service, Inc., in Arlington. Over the years, Maran Printing Service became one of the most unique printing plants in the Boston area, receiving many awards for outstanding work in the printing trade.

He made special presentations for President Gerald R. Ford, the Bicentennial, the US Postal Service, the US Constitution Museum, the opening of the Kennedy Library, and other historic programs.

He received numerous expressions of gratitude, among them from President Ford, the White House and the Kennedy family.

His love for history and printing was recognized by his peers in the *New England Printer* and *National Graphic* magazines, as well as the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* and Boston-area papers.

He was a longstanding member and supporter of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston along with other Armenian churches and organizations.

He was a member of Mystic Valley Masonic Lodge, the Knights of Vartan, and the Aleppo Shriners.

He leaves his children, Arthur Maranian Jr.



Arthur A. Maranian Sr.

and his wife Karen and Linda Mitchell and her husband Ken' four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. He was the brother of Aram, Jack, Lucy Balian, Dorothy Parsikian and the late Leo, George, Michael and Ann Haroutunian. Also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

He is also survived by his companion and friend Nadia Karnik.

Funeral service was at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge on Wednesday, May 28. Interment was in Lincoln Cemetery, Lincoln, MA.

Memorial gifts may be made to The Quimby Center For Geriatric Care at Mount Auburn Hospital, 300 Mount Auburn St., Suite 517, Cambridge, MA 02138, Attention - John R. Anderson M.D.

Arrangements were by the Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Clergy Gather for Annual Conference

NEW YORK – The 112th Diocesan Assembly was preceded by a clergy conference, held April 28 to 30, at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, NY. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), presided at the event where members of the clergy gathered for prayer, services, and a series of presentations on various aspects of the ministry.

In a written message, Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, encouraged clergy of the Eastern Diocese to remain firm in their calling and to continue their service to the Armenian people.

Among the first presenters at the meeting were visiting priests from the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, Rev. Hovel Kamaghelyan and Rev. Markos Mankasaryan. Kamaghelyan explained how the church in Armenia is working to establish orphanages, soup kitchens, and other social services. Mankasaryan spoke about youth programs offered by Holy Echmiadzin.

Dr. Robert Gunn, director of the program in pastoral care and counseling at the Blanton Peale Institute and Counseling Center in New York City, gave a presentation titled "Love and Loss: Counseling with the Bereaved and the Divorcing." He explained the experience of loss, and stressed the importance of the priest's role in the healing process.

The Very Rev. Simeon Odabashian, Diocesan Vicar, and Very Rev. Aren Jebejian led a discussion on how the Women's Guild Central Council can continue to reach out to parish

guilds. Clergy offered suggestions, which were later presented to the Central Council.

Presentations followed on Christian education programs at various parishes. Clergy spoke about activities they have offered and shared ideas and advice on how to strengthen the faith of their parishioners. Among other topics discussed were liturgical matters, the requirements for ordination to the diaconate and sub-diaconate, the distribution of holy communion during Lent, and Diocesan youth programs.

On April 29, the Rev. Ghevond Ajamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy. A requiem service was offered for the souls of the Very Rev. Fr. Shnork Kasparian, Very Rev. Fr. Varujan Kabarajian, and Rev. Fr. Garen Gdanian.

In his message to the clergy, Barsamian reflected on the strength of the Armenian Church in America and commended the clergy for upholding the values of Christian brotherhood. He went on to speak about the importance of St. Nersess Seminary in preparing the next generation of priests for the Armenian Church in America, and noted the seminary's collaboration with seminaries in Jerusalem and Armenia.

He also encouraged the clergy to continue supporting the Armenian Patriarchates of Constantinople and Jerusalem by organizing parish pilgrimages to historic Armenia and the Holy Land. Turning to Holy Echmiadzin, Barsamian said, When Holy Echmiadzin, our Mother See, is strong, we, too, are strengthened because we all belong to one body – the Armenian Church. Holy Echmiadzin is the

stronghold of our faith, and a source of spiritual nourishment for every Armenian."

## Diocese Plans

Vahan Janjigian presented the Diocese's new strategic plan, which was developed by the Diocesan Council. The plan focuses on six key areas: enhancing worship, offering continuing education opportunities for clergy, strengthening youth ministry, developing Christian and Armenian education programs, creating outreach initiatives to prospective members and cultivating stewards.

Another highlight was a presentation by Dr. Lynn Cetin, who introduced the Armenian American Health Professionals Organization (AAHPO) and invited its members to speak about what the organization offers to the Armenian communities in the United States and Armenia.

Leslie Aslanian Williams, coordinator of scholarships at AGBU, outlined scholarship opportunities available to clergy and lay leaders of the Armenian Church. Shaké Derderian of SIMA Tours spoke about tours of Armenia, historic Armenia and Jerusalem, which are available to parishes wishing to organize pilgrimages.

The Clergy Conference was chaired by the Rev. Untzag Nalbandian. Rev. Vartan Joulfayan served as vice chair, Rev. Abraham Malkhasyan served as the Armenian secretary and Rev. Ghevond Ajamian served as the English secretary.

The conference was hosted by Holy Martyrs Church of Bayside, NY, under the leadership of its pastor, Rev. Abraham Malkhasyan.

## Armenian Festival To Take Place June 7 and 8 in Watervliet

WATERVLIET, N.Y. – The annual Armenian Festival will take place on Saturday, June 7, from 12 to 8 p.m. and Sunday, June 8, from 12 to 5 p.m. on the grounds of St. Peter Armenian Church, 100 Troy Schenectady Road.

Admission and parking for the event are free.

The festival – known throughout the region for its authentic Armenian food and the "Hye Burger," a traditionally-seasoned burger that debuted last year and became an instant hit. All the traditional grilled meats as well as sweet and savory pastries will be available.

Back by popular demand this year is the John Berberian Ensemble, who will provide live Armenian music throughout the two-day event. The group features John Berberian on oud, Mal Barsamian on the clarinet, Harry Bedrossian on keyboard and vocals, and Charles Dermenjian on the *dumbeg*.

The weekend will also be filled with cooking demonstrations, Armenian dancing, carnival games, bounce rides, and a special "Apple" raffle where participants will have a chance to win one of the following items (tickets are just \$10): Apple MacBook Laptop Computer or \$1,000 cash, Apple iPad, \$250 Cash, \$200 gift certificate at Top Custom Jewelers, and basket of apple cheer (featuring Harvest Spirits Farm Distillery Core Vodka and Applejack Brandy).

The Armenian Festival is held rain or shine, with covered seating available in the event of inclement weather.

For more information, contact the church office, e-mail [stpeter.armch@prodigy.net](mailto:stpeter.armch@prodigy.net), or visit [www.stpeterarmenianchurch.com](http://www.stpeterarmenianchurch.com).

## St. Stephen's Armenian School Establishes Araxie Poladian Scholarship Fund

WATERTOWN – St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School (SSAES) announced recently that Araxie Poladian will retire at the end of 2013-2014 academic year, after 21 years of service at SSAES and a total of 44 years of teaching.

Poladian has left her mark as an outstanding preschool teacher. Her dedication to her students, her commitment to the SSAES mission and her example as a role model to fellow teach-

ers will be greatly missed.

To honor her, the school has established the Araxie Poladian Scholarship Fund. Those who would like to express their appreciation to Poladian may send their contribution to: St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School, Attn: Araxie Poladian Scholarship Fund, 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown, MA 02472.

Founded in 1984, the St. Stephen's

Armenian Elementary School has distinguished itself with its bilingual curriculum, academic strength, devoted staff and low student-to-teacher ratio. St. Stephen's is fully accredited by the Association of Independent Schools in New England (AISNE), the accrediting body for independent elementary schools.

To learn more about SSAES, visit [www.ssaes.org](http://www.ssaes.org).

## American and International Art and Antiques

Altair Auctions located in Norwood, MA will hold an American and International Art and Antiques auction on Saturday May 31, 2014, beginning at 10 am. The auction will be held onsite at 151 Carnegie Row, Norwood, MA. Preview days for the auction will be held on Thursday, May 29, and Friday May 30. The auction will feature 20th modern art, including fine jewelry, cameras, art glass, furniture, sculptures and painting.

The auctions will include work for well-known Armenian artists Jean Carzou, Jean Janssem, Hagop Hagopian, Aleksander Gevorkyan, and Boris Hakopyan. Catalogs featuring the artwork for the auction will be available prior to the day of sale. Breakfast and lunch will be catered during the auction. Online bidding is available through [liveauctioneers.com](http://liveauctioneers.com) and [invaluableauctions.com](http://invaluableauctions.com). Contact with questions at 1-781-349-8388 or online at [altair-auctions.com](http://altair-auctions.com).



Lot 291 - Jean Janssem (French 1920-2013) Untitled.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Heritage Park Raises \$95,000 at Chefs' Fundraiser

CHEFS, from page 1  
the Royal Sonesta; Brian Poe of Poe's Kitchen, the Tip Tap Room and Estelle's; Dante de Magistris of Dante and il Casale; Gerard Tice of Omni Parker House; Jason Reed of Vicki Lee's; Jeffrey P. Fournier of 51 Lincoln and Waban Kitchen; Jody Adams of Rialto and Trade; Julia Brant of North 26, Millennium Bostonian Hotel; Nathan Kibarian of the Ritz Carlton; Seta Dakessian of Seta's Café and Vicki Lee Boyajian of Vicki Lee's.

In addition, the Royal Sonesta had also donated its space.

About 360 people attended the bash, all expressing their pride in the creation of the park and their hope for its perpetual maintenance.

Lu Ann Ohanian, one of the guests, said, "It feels so good to have representation of our heritage in Boston."

After a cocktail reception in the hallway,



Royal Sonesta Hotel Executive Chef Brian Dandro with chefs from the hotel and its Art Bar prepare to serve his shepherd's pie inspired by his mother, Sheila Dandro.

guests filed into the Royal Sonesta's grand ballroom, where small tables were set up as well as booths by the chefs.

One of the chefs that was mobbed and ended up running out of food was Fournier of 51 Lincoln and Waban Kitchen, who was serving lamb *kibbe* (raw, ground lamb) with parsley salad, based on his grandfather's recipe. He recalled that Barbara Tellalian, a member of the benefit committee, and her husband, Don, the architect and designer of the park, including its labyrinth and abstract sculpture, had frequented Waban Kitchen and started talking to him, not knowing he was Armenian because of his French last name. His mother, Fournier said, is a "Mansourian" and his Armenian grandfather was the one who encouraged him to be a chef.

Seta Dakessian's table was also mobbed, where she and her mother served tiny sandwiches with *louleh kabab* (grilled beef/lamb patties) served in a fresh tomato/onion sauce in homemade *lavash* (flat bread).

"I am here to support the Armenian Heritage Park," said Dakessian.

Gerard Tice's mini Boston cream pies created a lot of buzz. He said his creation was a tribute to Armenian-French Chef M. Sanzian, the chef at the Parker House in 1856, who had created the treat, now the official dessert of



Vicki Lee Chef-Owner Vicki Lee Boyajian and Executive Chef Jason Reed, second from right with staff



John and Megan Connelly with Elizabeth Cerda and Middlesex Sheriff Peter Koutoujian



Massachusetts. Of course, Tice explained, it is not a pie at all but sponge cake with custard filling and ganache on top. It was called a pie because it was baked in a pie tin. Tice's creation was incredibly moist, delicious and beautifully presented.

Nathan Kibarian had made a dessert called Pasta Flora, featuring a Greek-style sponge cake with apricot preserves and a white chocolate ganache in honor of his grandmother, helped



Trade Executive Chef Andrew Hebert with Trade and Rialto chef/owner Jody Adams and Trade's Meghan Brady

by fellow chef Andrew Yeo. Their dessert was elegant and delicious.

Kibarian said he was delighted to partake in the program, saying, "[The Heritage Park] is a great thing for Boston. It is something to represent the Armenian Genocide and also all the other communities that experienced hardships. It's giving something back."

Yeo praised the sculpture, calling it "very powerful."

Brian Dandro's deconstructed shepherd's pie also won raves. He said he had decided to help out because in the past he had worked with Barbara Tellalian in Access Sport America. "Anything she is supporting I am happy to support," Dandro said.

Barbara Tellalian took no credit and instead



Iggy's Breads of the World Pedja Kostic with Kate and Mark Mooradian, founder MEM Tea and Karnak Farms



Three generations: Noel Talanian, Nevart Talanian and Gail Talanian O'Reilly

thanked those who had helped make the evening possible. She said, "Hats off to the Royal Sonesta Hotel and all the chefs! Their generosity and commitment to our park are incredibly impressive. That coupled the enthusiastic Benefit Committee and other extraordinary gifts in kind contributed to the evening's delights."

Other participants included Mark Mooradian's MEM Tea Imports, wines from the



Benefit Committee members Martha Mensoian and Christopher Mensoian with their father, Michael Mensoian

Tutunjian Estate Vineyards and Iggy's Breads of the World. Each guest got a goody bag with flavored Boyajian oil and vinegar as well as nuts from Fastachi, now with stores in Watertown

and Charles Street in Boston.

Speaking at the program were two original supporters of the Heritage Park in the State House, Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian and Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rachel Kaprielian.

Said Koutoujian, "The entire park is a dream come true but it can easily vanish if we don't maintain it. Not only its construction but also its future. I want this park to be there when my children can come independently and their children as well."

He singled out Gov. Deval Patrick for his sup-



Nancy Tutunjian with Armen Mahserjian

port.

Kaprielian stressed the positive influence of the park on the community and its celebration of Armenians' "ancient culture and our martyrs that we honor every single day in this park."

Also speaking was James Kalustian, president of the Heritage Park Foundation, who thanked the crowd "for making the Armenian Heritage Park a reality. We can rise to the challenge and accomplish anything we want to."

Kalustian said the foundation needs \$2 million to ensure having in perpetuity the \$80,000 necessary annually for the park's upkeep. To date, \$1.1 million has been raised.

To send a contribution, mail a check made payable to Armenian Heritage Foundation, to: Charles P. Guleserian, Vice President, Armenian Heritage Foundation, 25 Flanders Road, Belmont, MA 02478 or visit <http://www.armenianheritagepark.org/> to donate online.

Armenian Heritage Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, non-profit organization.

Photos by Leo Gozbekian

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Engineer, Musician, Columnist Bedrosyan Addresses Detroit Commemoration

DETROIT – On Sunday, April 27, the Tekeyan Cultural Association and the Detroit United Committee sponsored Raffi Bedrosyan as a speaker for the 99th commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. The event was held at the AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School. The program was opened by Diana Alexanian, Chair, Tekeyan Cultural Association and Edmond Azadian, emcee.

Bedrosyan presented a unique approach to recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Rather than describing the dead and gone victims of 1915, he spoke about what was left behind in historic Armenia – the living victims, tens of thousands of orphans who ended up being



Raffi Bedrosyan, Diana Alexanian, Edmond Azadian (Emcee)



Edmond Azadian presents a copy of *Legacy of Armenian Heritage* to Raffi Bedrosyan.



Raffi Bedrosyan

Turkified and Islamicized, or girls who became maids, wives or slaves in Turkish and Kurdish families.

Bedrosyan also spoke about the thousands of churches and schools left behind, mostly destroyed or converted to other uses. However, he explained how the recent reconstruction of Diyarbakir's Surp Giragos Church, the largest Armenian church in the Middle East, has triggered a reawakening and returning to their roots among the hidden and Islamized Armenians, the grandchildren of the 1915 orphans left behind.

Through dialogue with open-minded Turks and Kurds, opinion-makers in media and academia, a small but fast growing number of the Turkish population has stopped believing the state version of denialist history about 1915, and has started to seek the truth toward acknowledging the Armenian Genocide.

A reception followed where attendees were able to mingle and talk with Bedrosyan. The event was a great success and many compliments were paid to Bedrosyan and the organizing groups. The Detroit United Committee

includes; The Armenian Assembly, ADL-Ramgavar Party, AGBU, Armenian Research Center, University of Michigan Dearborn, CSAI, Detroit Armenian Women's Club, Daughters of Vartan, Zabel Oyttag Chapter, Knights of Vartan, Nareg Shavarshan Lodge, Tekeyan Cultural Association and Wayne State University Society of Armenian Students.



Shot of speaker Raffi Bedrosyan and Edmond Azadian



Mayor of Southfield, Brenda Lawrence



Front, from left, Raffi Bedrosyan, Nora Azadian, Edmond Azadian; back, from left, Hagop Alexanian, Diana Alexanian, Garineh Koundakjian

## Women's Guild Plans New Programs at Annual Assembly

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK – In opening the meeting of the Women's Guild Assembly in New York on Thursday morning, May 1, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), stated: "We view this week's meetings as a homecoming for our Diocese, a reunion of all our parish representatives at St. Vartan Cathedral, our Mayr Dajar."

"The sense of family, of common purpose and shared destiny, of loving concern and hospitality" is brought to vivid life by members of the Women's Guild, he said.

"Without these precious qualities, the mission of the church would be reduced to mere doing, just a series of jobs, instead of a way of life, a way of living," declared the Primate, who went on to relate important events that women were known for in Christ's life and in the Gospel.

"We have seen these stories vindicated in the lives and experiences of our own survivors and martyrs, stories from our mayrighs and hayrighs a century ago. They serve as an example today of what it truly means to 'Live the Gospel of Christ.' Women like yourselves, in roles of leadership and ministry, have played a crucial role at critical points in Christian and Armenian history. And today, many of our most

productive, visionary and beautiful projects find their origin in the work of the Women's Guild Central Council (WGCC) and its local guilds."

Barsamian's address to the Women's Guild Assembly was part of activities surrounding the 112th Diocesan Assembly.

Following a welcoming message by WGCC chair Charlotte Sevazlian to the more than 90 representatives and parish priests in attendance, the 28th annual Women's Guild Assembly officers were presented: chair Nancy Kassabian, vice-chair Yeretzgin Patricia Buttero, secretary Linda Harutunian and parliamentarians Barbara Haroutunian and Janice Kavjian.

Sitting around tables, the participants delved into discussions centered around two questions. The first revolved around how to get more women to be part of the women's guilds, the second concerned the role women's guilds could play in accomplishing the Diocesan theme, "Living the Gospel of Christ."

Among the many suggestions presented for the first question were recruitment and outreach for the young; meaningful ministries within the community for the sick, poor and young; mentoring from elders; being a role model for another person; creating a junior women's guild; the teaching of technology by the young to their elders; education through retreats and Bible study; honoring members for their contributions; and most of all personal engagement and interaction.

Responses to the second question included creating meaningful ministries for one's particular city; pilgrimages to other Armenian and non-Armenian churches; encouraging pilgrimages to Jerusalem; advocating for the needs in Armenia through the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) and other groups; and planning technological symposia.

Diocesan Vicar General the Very Rev. Simeon Odabashian presented proposals for consideration from the 2014 Clergy Conference to the Women's Guild Assembly. They included enlightening women in the parishes about the mission, purpose and activities of the Women's Guild; creating opportunities for fellowship and retreats with women in different regions and parishes; ensuring that representatives from every region took part in the Women's Guild Assembly; receiving guidance in organizing the annual Sainly Women's Day program; studying the organizations of other Christian groups; and having an "executive secretary" appointed by the Primate to support women's ministry and the WGCC throughout the Diocese.

The newly-elected officers of the Women's Guild Central Council are chair Charlotte Sevazlian, vice-chair Nancy Kassabian, recording secretary Marian Orcutt Varteresian, corresponding secretary Yn. Patricia Buttero, treasurer Hasmig Minassian, assistant treasurer Meline Grigorian and advisors Sherry Edward, Barbara Haroutunian and Janice Kavjian.





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Church Leaders Congratulate Syrian Patriarch

PATRIARCH, from page 4

Turning to the civil war in Syria, Barsamian said, "through prayer and fellowship, through mutual support and love – we stand in solidarity with you."

All of the church leaders expressed gratitude for the presence of Catholicos Karekin II and paid their respects to the leader of the worldwide Armenian Church.

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, thanked Barsamian for his hospitality and reflected on the blessing of religious freedom people of all faiths experience in the United States. "This gathering

patriarch. "You have a very difficult mission, but be assured that you have our prayers, our love and our support."

In introducing Karekin II, Barsamian spoke about the catholicos' work in continuing to revive Christianity in Armenia after years of Soviet hostility toward the church. He mentioned Holy Ekmadzin's emphasis on Christian education and youth programs, which are making it possible for generations of Armenians to reassert their Christian heritage.

The catholicos spoke about Aphrem's commitment to serving God and his people. "We have known him as a good shepherd, well loved by his flock," he said. "Despite all the challenges facing Syria, he has no doubt in accepting his new responsibility. This shows his endless love for the church of Christ and for his people."

He said that the Armenian Church, too, has been closely following the war in Syria, where there is a sizeable Armenian population, and mentioned his recent meetings with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill in Moscow and Roman Catholic Pope Francis in Rome. In both meetings, the church leaders expressed concerns about the situation in the Middle East, and specifically in Syria, and discussed ways to bring peace to the region.

"I want to assure you that you are not alone," Karekin II said. "You will have our full support and our prayers."

He presented Aphrem with medallions inscribed with Armenian crosses and etchings of churches. The patriarch, in turn, presented the catholicos with The Chronicles of Michael the Great, a new volume published by the Syriac Archdiocese.

In a moving valedictory address, Aphrem said he is "encouraged and strengthened to know that your prayers are with me. I hope and pray that my ministry will be of service to all people."

He reflected on the close ties between the Armenian and Syriac churches, and recalled Karekin II's visit to the Syriac Orthodox Church in America. He added that he looks forward to



Clergy and lay leaders pose for a group photo on the steps of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral.



Catholicos Karekin II presents Patriarch Mor Ignatius Aphrem II Karim with medallions from Armenia.

seems particularly appropriate in the radiance of the Easter season," Cardinal Dolan said. "And one can sense the spirit of the Risen Christ in this room – in our fraternity, in our warmth and brotherly love."

Archbishop Demetrios, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, expressed his appreciation to Barsamian for the warm welcome and congratulated Aphrem on his election. He presented the latter with an engolpion bearing an icon of St. Mary.

Demetrios spoke about St. Ignatius of Antioch—the first century martyr, theologian and hymnist, whose spirit, he said, is embodied by the new patriarch.

"We are going to miss you," he said to the

visiting Holy Ekmadzin next year on the centennial of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

"The courage of those martyrs will always inspire us and give us wisdom and energy," he said. "Their sacrifice gives us courage to continue on the same path of martyrdom."

The patriarch will be formally installed in Damascus on May 29. He said he will continue to seek ways to promote the work of the ecumenical movement, and asked that the church leaders in America continue to support the cause of Christians in the Middle East.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the Roman Catholic Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, DC, delivered a benediction, in which he underlined the need for common love and understanding among the various churches.

Other high-ranking clergy in attendance were Archbishop Mor Silvanos Ayup of the Malankara Syriac Archdiocese; Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, Apostolic Nuncio of the Roman Catholic Church at the United Nations; Bishop Andrew Dietsche, the Episcopal Bishop of New York; Bishop Makarios of the Eritrean Orthodox Church; and Bishop William Murphy

of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Long Island.

Also in attendance were Very Rev. Dr. James Kowalski, dean of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine; Rev. Kurt Dunkle, dean of General Theological Seminary; Rev. Ronald Roberson of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Jim Winkler, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches; and Warren Clark, executive director of Churches for Middle East Peace. Accompanying Karekin II was the Rev. Vahram Melikyan, director of Information Services at Holy Ekmadzin.

Representing the Eastern Diocese at Tuesday's event were Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, the Diocese's Ecumenical Director; Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian; Very Rev. Simeon Odabashian, Diocesan Vicar; Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian, dean of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral; Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, director of the Diocese's Zohrab Information Center; Very Rev. Aren Jebejian; Very Rev. Papken Anoushian; Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgulian; Very Rev. Vazken Karayan and Rev. Mardiros Chevian, dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.



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# Arts & Living

## Shushi Dance Ensemble Performs at Ellis Island Medals of Honor 2014

NEW YORK – On Saturday, May 10, 18 members of the Shushi Armenian Dance Ensemble were fortunate to be present at the Ellis Island Medals of Honor event which is sponsored by NECO (National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations). Medals are presented annually to American citizens who have distinguished themselves within their own ethnic groups while exemplifying the values of the American way of life. This year, 6 of the 96 recipients were Armenian: Salpy Akaragian, Lily Balian, Archbishop Hovan Derderian, Vahe Imasounian, Raffi Megerian and Jerar Nishanian. Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ), friend and supporter of Armenians, was also a recipient.

The day started with a ferry ride across the Hudson River with all the members waving the Armenian flag on the top deck of the ferry while approaching Ellis Island. Once on the island, the members searched for names of relatives on the Wall of Honor and took photos of the names.

Despite the rainy day, Shushi members marched their way to the ferry boats in costumes and flags and were prepared with their own matching Shushi classic umbrellas. Fortunately, it stopped raining just in time to greet the honorees and their guests as they arrived on Ellis Island. There was much excitement as the guests of honor starting arriving in their tuxedos and elegant gowns. Shushi members performed several dances as the guests disembarked the boat.

This was a memorable and exciting day for all involved! Congratulations to all the honorees!

## Sixth Annual Young Stars in Concert

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Amaras Art Alliance is presenting musically talented children at the Pickman Concert Hall, Longy School of Music, on Sunday, June 8, at 3 p.m.

“Children love to perform. You can see this in their eyes,” said program co-hosts Maral Der Torosian and pianist Marine Margarian “and we love the opportunity to present them to our music-loving audience.”

Beyond giving children a stage to perform on and an opportunity to meet other talented people of their age, this program aims to recognize dedicated music teachers and introduce them to new parents.

“The proceeds of this and similar concerts,” said Arax Badalian, president of Amaras, “help us provide scholarships to musically gifted children both here and in Armenia.” The scholar-



The young performers

ship fund is set up in the name of Hovhannes Badalian, the legendary Armenian singer who passed away in 2001.

To participate in the program, children audition in front of a jury made up of musicians and are expected to present two pieces at the concert. Youngsters of Armenian descent can select any work they like to present; children who are not of Armenian descent must have at least one piece written by an Armenian composer.

There will be 18 instrumentalists and vocalists ages 8 to 18 in the June 8 program. For additional information and ticket prices, visit [www.Amarasonline.com](http://www.Amarasonline.com) or write to [Amarasart@yahoo.com](mailto:Amarasart@yahoo.com).



Dr. Sylvie Merian

## Unraveling the Mysteries of Early Armenian Books

NEW YORK – It was an evening of revealing finds in early Armenian religious books on Wednesday, April 9, as Morgan Library and Museum art historian Dr. Sylvie Merian unearthed beautiful woodcut illustrations, modeled after 17th-century European prints. Many of these rare masterpieces are found in the book collection of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

**By Florence Avakian**

recent schedule of lectures at the Zohrab Center aim to cover the broad spectrum of Armenian civilization, he said.

Armenian bookmaking “began with the invention of the Armenian alphabet in the early 5th century,” said Merian at the beginning of her multi-media presentation. Its impetus was the desire to write down sacred scripture in the Armenian language. Until the printing press was invented, texts were copied by hand, “letter by letter, word by word by highly trained scribes, and decorated by highly trained artists.”

She gave an example of one of these scribes, Tserun, who left many colophons (an inscription at the end of a manuscript, very long and informative in the Armenian tradition). His manuscripts were made on paper created from linen rags (not wood pulp from trees) and could also have been made of parchment from specially-prepared animal skins, she explained.

“These hand-copied books continued to be produced for centuries until the advent of the printing press; in the Near East the technique continued well into the early 18th century and later.”

As is well known, the printing press with movable type was invented by Johannes Gutenberg, and his famous Bible was printed around 1455 in Mainz, Germany. (The Morgan Library and Museum, located in Manhattan on Madison Avenue between 36th and 37th Streets, always has one of its three Gutenberg Bibles on display in its beautiful East Room.) This world-changing invention made the production of many copies of the same book possible in much less time, and cost much less than the price of a manuscript, she said.

The printing of Armenian books began in Europe because the technology was simply unavailable in the Near East. Additionally, printed books were looked upon with self-interested opposition from scribes, and with suspicion by Muslim rulers.

The first Armenian book was produced in Venice around 1512 by Hagop Meghabard (Hagop the Sinful) who printed five books of great interest to Armenian merchants or travelers. It was not until 50 years later that another Armenian book would be printed, by diplomat and cleric Abgar of Tokhat, who printed two works in 1564-65, then returned to Constantinople where he opened another short-lived printing press from 1567 to 1569.

see BOOKS, page 13

## ‘Please Be Normal’ At New Hampshire Film Festival

KEENE, N.H. – “Please Be Normal” a film written and directed by Haik Kocharian was an official selection at Monadnock International Film Festival in Keene, NH and was screened in a theater there.

During the festival, Kocharian also took part in a panel titled “A Conversation on Music and Film,” where he discussed a range of subjects including his involvement in photography and music in addition to film.

“I was born in a family of few generation of actors,” said Kocharian “and was introduced to many art forms from a young age. I played music as early as 6 and began taking photos few years later. At one point, later in my life I felt that perhaps I had to choose between film, photography and music but a voice within me said do what you love and I decided to do them all.”

The screening of “Please Be Normal” attracted a large and diverse audience and was well received, with an engaging question-and-answer session afterwards.

Kocharian also held several interviews with the festival media.

“For a long time, the notion of a family, its permanence and its meaning created doubts in my mind. What if, I thought to myself, the right path to happiness does not lie in attachment or expectations, and perhaps all we consider ‘normal’ is a big misunderstanding or an illusion? The main character, Victor, was born out of these deep personal doubts. I did not intend to

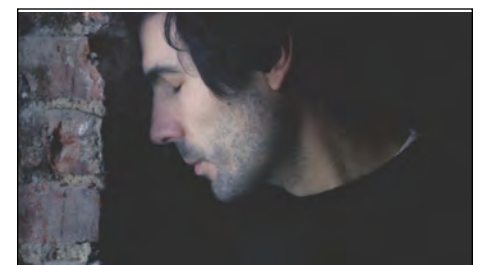


Haik Kocharian in a panel

tell a sad or happy story. Nor was I interested in making loud moral statements, but rather, I was questioning my own understanding for personal happiness. It was my goal to create a highly visual film, revealing the relationships amongst the characters through dynamic, symbolic and thought-provoking imagery,” he explained.

“Please Be Normal” stars Oscar-nominated Sam Waterston along with his daughter, Elisabeth Waterston, and his son in law, Louis Cancelmi. The cast also includes Dana Eskelson. The film was produced by Anette Lewis and Karine Kocharyan, who are also the executive producers.

During the Monadnock International Film Festival award ceremony “Please Be Normal” received a prestigious Audience Choice Award, presented to Kocharian.



Louis Cancelmi in a scene from “Please Be Normal”

In addition, the film will have two screenings at Marche Du Film at 2014 Cannes Film Festival.

“Please Be Normal” also has been selected by the Golden Apricot Yerevan International Film Festival 2014, to screen in the Armenian Panorama competition in Yerevan July 13-20.





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Baku Survivor Adapts to a New World

By Tom Vartabedian

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. — In a world marked by violence and remorse, Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte considers herself a survivor — and rightfully so.

She survived a pogrom in Baku at the height of the Azeri conflict. She faced assimilation and survived that. It was not easy being estranged from her native land and childhood friends, but she survived that.

She survived being Armenian on hostile ground and survived the innuendoes of a new and often unacceptable world.

And for all these experiences, she became a better woman, looking to justify her heritage and speak out about genocide in the far reach-

es of Maine where she practices law and raises a family.

"I wondered what the future would be like for me in America and the person I would become," she told an audience of enraptured listeners in North Andover recently. "As a 13-year-old immigrant, I was petrified with thoughts of what the new country had in store for me and my family."

It's all there in a book she's had published called *Nowhere*, her story of exile, a hot-selling nugget from a diary she kept, much reminiscent of Anne Frank's diary.

She travels a lot with her story and books in tow, much in demand, and is extremely poised. On this visit to Merrimack Valley, she brought her family along so that her two children, Armen and Evangeline, could visit the Museum of Science in Boston the next day.

Not long ago, Turcotte drew a packed house in Philadelphia, giving voice to a tragedy seldom reported in the West. She tells of her life as a refugee, documenting the organized terror in Baku and Azerbaijan amid the struggles to find herself, all against the decline of the Soviet Union.

At a time of rampant ethnic cleansing, this child victim lived to tell about it while others were not as fortunate.

"The independence of Artsakh was a major factor that escalated Azeri hostility toward Armenians," she recalled.

"The most memorable thing for me was having my father sitting in the dark with knives and waiting it out. I remember hiding in school when the demonstrations went bad. There was violence in the street but you never expect it to come to you."

Over her 36 years, Turcotte has become a strong voice in the global fight against ethnic cleansing and an inspiration for survivors around the world.

The family first fled Azerbaijan for Armenia and later resettled in North Dakota in 1992 and five years later, Anna became a US citizen.

It didn't come easy, often finding herself as an outsider surviving in an unheated basement facing discrimination again, this time by her own people.

She graduated from the University of Maine School of Law in 2003 and became one of the first Americans to clerk for the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands. She and husband John, a fellow attorney, reside in

dence. In turn, peace-loving people from the brutal Azeri hold must be released of their bonds."

The mere mention of a role model draws a refutation from Turcotte. Those she leaves to the survivors — people like her parents and friends and others who endured the strife.

She's been to Capitol Hill, lobbying for her kind with issues of importance to Armenian-



Author Anna Astvatsaturian Turcotte signs a book for Chake Boloian.

## Contemporary Classical Music of Armenia at Armenian Museum of America

WATERTOWN — On Sunday, June 22, the Armenian Museum of America, together with the Armenian Composers Union of Yerevan, presents "An Afternoon of Armenian Chamber Music," with opening remarks by Composer/Conductor Konstantin Petrossian. This concert features Soprano Nouné Karapetyan, Violinist Sargis Karapetyan and Pianist Nune Hakobyan.

The program includes works of Armenian contemporary composers: Alexanyan, Babayan, Garsoyan, Hakopjanyan, Karapetyan, Kostanyan, Mavisakalyan, Makaryan, Mikaelyan, Sadoyan, Satian, Souikiasyan, Shahrimanyan and Zarifyan.

This event begins at 2 p.m. and is free and open to the public, 65 Main St.

Westbrook, Maine, where she now works in the financial industry.

She started writing her book by hand at age 14 before completing it two years later. She dedicated the work to future generations, including her own children. The book was ultimately published in 2012.

"Simply a young girl's story of experiencing human beings at their worst," as she puts it. "The tragedy was covered up. I want the world to understand that Nagorno-Karabagh is subjected to the same abuse we were and the United States needs to recognize their indepen-

Americans and the current situation in N-K. It came during the 21st anniversary of Astakh Independence from the Azeris, hosted by the Congressional Armenian Caucus and Armenian National Committee of America,

"I met many activists that fight daily for the people of N-K and their freedom," Turcotte points out. "I hope through my book, I am their voice."

Among those she acknowledges in the book is Tatoul Sonentz-Papazian for his editing work, as well as her resilient parents Norik and Irina Astvatsaturov.

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IN SESSION

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OCTOBER 2014





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Book Review

## Kirkus Reviews Weighs New Pilibosian Book

CreateSpace, 2014, 94 pages,  
ISBN 1495409449.  
Helene Pilibosian  
hsarkiss@comcast.net

NEW YORK — In this imagery-drenched collection of poetry, *A New Orchid Myth*, Helene Pilibosian (*My Literary Profile*, 2010, etc.) uses verse to tell the fantastical tale of two extraterrestrials who come to Earth to start a new life together. They say if you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere, but coming to the Big Apple from another town or country is one thing; Mr. and Mrs. Everydream, on the other hand, have come to the city from another world — the planet of Tome. As they build a life in the big city, they also travel throughout the United States and take in the sun-dappled orchards of California, the rush of the Colorado River, the Cajun jazz of the bayou, and the heat of the desert.

However, the Everydreams worry that their daughter, also on Earth, will be taken from them, apparently to help bring life back to their home world. So, in a rather vague plot, the couple turns to the orchids that thrive on Earth in the hope that these flowers will vitalize the people of Tome.

As she takes the struggle to succeed in America and applies it to sci-fi, Pilibosian showcases her talent for creating swirls of surreal imagery. One of the standout poems, "Where Was Everywhere?" has husband and wife descending to Earth in silver parachutes as New York's ultimate immigrants: "They swore allegiance to symphony / to prove their patriotism / and tried to fathom the cymbal clash." Also lush and lovely is "Stretching the Lyric," which illustrates the Everydreams at a dance, as "[v]oices from under the sea / melted the smog into night / and drank ballads played on trumpets."

Pilibosian describes her landscapes with color, music and sounds, the resulting poems becoming, at their core, loving depictions of life. A unique collection of verse with a sci-fi twist on the American dream.

—Kirkus Reviews



# CALENDAR

## MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

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

**JUNE 8 — St. James Armenian Festival — Annual Picnic**, noon to 6 p.m., Live Armenian Music by Jay Baronian, Leon Janikian, Ken Kalajian and Bob Raphalian; shish, losh and chicken kebab, kheyra and more! Children's Activities, Raffle, Armenian Vendor — rain or shine! St. James Grounds — 465 Mt. Auburn St — Watertown.

**JUNE 12 — "Finding Zabel Yessayan,"** the documentary that inspired the translation of two books by groundbreaking Ottoman Armenian author, Zabel Yessayan, will be shown at the Watertown Public Library, 123 Main St., 7 p.m. For more information, contact info@aivainternational.org or call 617-926-0171.

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

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

**JUNE 22 — An Evening of Armenian Chamber Music**, Sunday, 2 p.m., Contemporary Art Gallery of Armenian Museum of America, presented by the Armenian Museum of America and Armenian Composers Union, Yerevan. Featuring violinist Sargis Karapetyan, soprano Nouna Karapetyan and pianist Nune Karapetyan. Program includes works of Armenian contemporary composers Alexanyan, Babayan, Garsoyan, Hakopjanyan, Karapetyan, Kostanyan, Mavisakalyan, Makaryan, Mikaelyan, Sadoyan, Satian, Soukiasyan, Sharimanyan and Zariyan. Opening remarks by composer/conductor Konstantin Petrossian. Admission free, donations accepted. 65 Main St., Watertown.

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

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



**Prof. Richard Hovannisian will discuss "The Armenians of Gesaria: From Evkere and Talas to Mount Arkeos, Chomakhlu and Evereg," on Saturday, June 14, at the Armenian Museum of America, 65 Main St. at 7 p.m. He will trace the region's history and the role Armenians played there, but in urban and rural Gesaria. The program is free and open to the public.**

## NEW YORK

**JUNE 7 and 8 — The annual Armenian Festival on the scenic grounds of St. Peter Armenian Church**, 100 Troy-Schenectady Road, Watervliet. Admission and parking are free. Kebab meals, the John Berberian Ensemble, cooking demonstrations, church tours, carnival games for children, and more during this week-end-long event. Visit <http://bit.ly/armenianfest> for more info or call the church office at 518-274-3673.

## RHODE ISLAND

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

## RHODE ISLAND

**JUNE 7 — Knights and Daughters of Vartan present a musical performance with pianist-composer Hayk Arsenyan of New York**, under the auspices of the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia, at the cultural hall of the embassy, 2225 R Street, NW, Washington DC, at 4:00 PM. By reservation only. Please call Takuhi Hallajian (301) 219-4041 or Doris George (301) 951-0955.

## Unraveling the Mysteries of Early Armenian Books

BOOKS, from page 11

### First Printed Armenian Bible

As it had at other points in Armenian history, the *Bible* played the key role in opening the Armenian community to something new: in this instance, to the revolution of printing technology.

After several unsuccessful attempts to print *Bibles* in the Middle East, it became clear that the first printed Armenian Bible would have to be produced in Europe. A printing house was founded in Amsterdam in 1658 by Matteo Tsaretsi, who procured the necessary metal for casting the typeface, and also obtained 150 previously-used religious-themed woodblocks (illustrations gouged out of wood), produced by Christoffel van Sichem. Bishop Oskan Erevants

followed Matteo after receiving funds from three wealthy Armenian merchants in New Julfa, Isfahan (in Iran), and printed the complete *Bible* in Armenian in 1666.

More than 100 Christoffel van Sichem woodcuts were printed in the *Armenian Bible*, Merian noted via several slides, and his woodcuts were used in many other Armenian publications, as the woodcuts and blocks went eastward. On the journey, they became very popular and were copied into new woodcuts,

manuscript illuminations, wall paintings and silver covers for sacred books.

These woodblocks moved along with the printing houses and were used in several locations in Europe, even in Constantinople, until at least 1718.

"Another intriguing development was the use of Western European prints by Armenians as new sources for religious iconography in manuscript illumination in the 17th and 18th centuries. This new visual vocabulary was used

for other woodcuts, as well as in wall paintings, silverwork, ceramic tiles, and even manuscript illumination," Merian said.

Constantinople would become the home of many Armenian printing presses and remained so until the early 20th century, the speaker added.

Following the lecture, a spirited question-and-answer session took place, after which many attendees crowded around Merian with even more queries.





## COMMENTARY

# Mirror Spectator



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## COMMENTARY

## Georgia on My Mind

By Edmond Y. Azadian

No, this column is not about Ray Charles' song, *Georgia on My Mind*, nor is it about the southern US state of Georgia. It is about a country of 5 million tucked in the Caucasus Mountains, a next-door neighbor to Armenia.

The region is plagued by many complex problems, because of the rivalry between regional and world powers. One of those problems is the Ottoman dream of Pan-Turkism, which has been checked by the existence of two Christian nations, Armenia and Georgia, blocking the eastward thrust of Turkish nationalist powers.

In recent years, however, it has become apparent that Georgia's leaders do not consider Pan-Turkism an existential threat to their country, choosing instead short-term political accommodations with Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Successive Georgian governments have consistently voted with Turkey and Azerbaijan at the UN. But above all, they have been sanguine in supporting any economic plan which intends to isolate Armenia. For example, Tbilisi governments have joined rail and pipeline networks which bypass Armenia.

As a Christian nation with a long history with the Armenians, we are always deceived into thinking that a Christian nation's interests would coincide with another Christian nation experiencing the same predicaments. But Tbilisi has tried to dispel that notion time after time by its hostile policies against Armenia.

Some foolhardy people sometimes blame the Armenian government for not adopting a tougher stand against Tbilisi. However, while simmering conflict rages with Azerbaijan, it is not wise for any administration to open a second front on its borders, especially when its lifeline crosses through the territory of that neighbor.

That is why we have considered Georgia as a friendly foe. But recently, the *Economist* weekly has used another word which suits better the two nations' relationship, "frenemies." The word was also used by the magazine when Moscow and Beijing cut an energy deal worth \$400 billion. Outwardly, it was a political scoop for President Putin of Russia, in view of threatened economic sanctions by the West, but per the *Economist*, Russian and Chinese national interests will diverge in the long run. (The word frenemies, a mashing of friend and enemies, is more popular with teens rather than nation states.)

Georgia is not only a worrisome neighbor through its international relations, but also through its domestic policy towards its diverse ethnic groups. Armenians constitute 6-7 percent of Georgia's population, along with an almost equal number of Azeris. Armenians are concentrated in the capital city of Tbilisi and in the Javakhk region on Armenia's northern border.

The confiscation of Armenian churches and community properties has not been resolved yet.

May 18-22, the UN Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay visited Georgia and she expressed her concern over the Tbilisi government's discriminatory policies with regard to its minorities and called for the government to implement its own constitutional obligations and respect international law.

That is, of course, a slap on the wrist which cannot have consequences as long as Tbilisi's aspirations to join NATO can be manipulated by the West to undermine Russian posturing in the region. Georgians are very cognizant of that political reality and intend to continue their discriminatory policies with impunity.

Javakhk was once home to a Russian military base, which provided security and jobs to the local Armenians. With total disregard for the Armenian population, Moscow liquidated its military base prematurely, to assuage the Tbilisi government, which in turn

promised Armenians economic help, improved roads and communications, none of which have materialized yet. The Georgian authorities blame Javakhk Armenians for their economic difficulty, arguing they have failed to learn the Georgian language. They are blamed for continuing to use the Armenian language and practicing their ancestral traditions, even though Javakhk has been a historic territory of Armenia.

The Tbilisi authorities have been implementing a two-pronged policy towards Javakhk: persecuting human rights activists and assimilation. In the first case, the religious and ethnic rights of minorities are willfully trampled, which leads to the depopulation of the region. In the second case, the remaining Armenians are exposed to an intense Georgianization, forcing them to forgo their identity under the pretext of creating job opportunities. The central government has introduced cosmetic improvements in the region to deflect criticism.

The Armenian problem for them is not new. At one point, the government intended to resettle in Javakhk the Meskhetian Turks, who had been expelled by Stalin, in order to create ethnic tensions.

Another region of concern for Armenians in Georgia is Ajaria, which became the Ajarian Autonomous Republic after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Between 1991 and 2004, Ajaria's president was a local warlord, Aslan Abashidze, who during the Rose Revolution sided with former President Eduard Shevardnadze. When Mikheil Saakashvili consolidated his position in Tbilisi, he gave an ultimatum to Abashidze, who until that point was ruling Ajaria as a sovereign state. Saakashvili behaved at that point in the same manner that he behaved later in 2008 against Abkhazia and South Ossetia, using military force to subdue them.

But in the case of Ajaria, Moscow still believed that helping Saakashvili would curb his anti-Russian zeal. Therefore, a helicopter flew Abashidze to Moscow and the threat of armed conflict was resolved. Ajaria fell under the control of Georgia, courtesy of the Kremlin. That convinced Saakashvili that bullying will always win but that gamble did not work in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Ajaria is a vital economic link for Armenia, which is already under a crippling blockade by Turkey. Most unofficial trade and tourism between Armenia and Turkey crosses through Ajaria. The region was under Turkish rule for a while and the Georgians were forced to adopt the Moslem religion. By the time of independence, Ajarians had mostly converted back to Christianity. Today, the Turkish influence is so great that 70 percent of the population has adhered to Islam.

In his quest to turn Ajaria into a tourist destination, Saakashvili opened the floodgates to Turkish economic penetration. Parallel to that economic drive, he offered citizenship to anyone who applied for it. Already, 25,000 Turkish citizens have received Georgian citizenship and they have taken white collar jobs in and around Batumi, unlike Europe, where the Turks are mostly unskilled laborers.

The Turkification of Ajaria is moving on many levels especially education and religion. Already there are 50 Turkish boarding schools in Ajaria. An important factor in this Turkification drive is ascribed to Saakashvili's mother, Giuli Alasania, a professor of Turkish history who cooperates with Fetullah Gulen.

As we can see, a cross-border territory for Armenians is fast becoming hostile territory. The long-term effect of this Turkification process is that the road is being paved through a so-called Christian land for pan-Turanists like Ahmet Davutolgu.

Georgia's political alienation from Armenia is further amplified through its gradual integration of Turkish-Islamist mainstream.

Whether we sing Charles' *Georgia on My Mind* or not, we always need to have in mind Georgia with its perpetually hostile posture vis-à-vis Armenians and Armenia.

## Sultan Erdogan's Last Curtain Call

By Miran Sarkisian

Arrogance and the illusion of omnipotence led the poor boy from the petty Kasimpasa district, where as a student he sold lemonade and cookies in the streets to earn a living, to believe that he could overcome the limitations imposed by eternal politics. The agile, combative and skillful Recep Tayyip Erdogan was thus trapped in the spectrum of an over bloated ego.

So, Erdogan openly clashed with Israel when he boorishly challenged Israeli President Shimon Peres at the 2009 World Economic Forum in Davos by stating: "Mr. Peres, you are older than me. Maybe you feel guilty and there-

fore you raise your voice. When the discussion comes to the issue of killings, you know the subject very well. I remember you killed children on beaches". After following the blockade of Israel's air force from the annual Turkish exercise known as "The Anatolian Eagle," the Gaza flotilla, closer relations with Hamas, delivering 10 Iranians to the government in

Tehran in early 2012 on charges of collaboration with Israel and Turkey, as reported by the Washington Post, Erdogan's February 2013 statement indicated that Zionism is a crime against humanity and also a synonym for fascism.

At the same time, Erdogan violently clashed with powerful Fethullah Gulen, has mostly bad relations with President Abdullah Gül, shed innocent people's blood in Turkey because he

wanted to trample demonstrators at Istanbul's Gezi Park and replace it with a mall in classical Ottoman architectural style while the allegations of corruption have hit himself personally as well as his family members, while he proceeded in prohibiting access of his Turkish population to YouTube and Twitter citing national security reasons.

Yet he won in Turkish regional elections held at the end of March 2014!

If allowed to make a prediction, which I don't do too often, it seems likely that after the August 2014 elections, Erdogan will be the next president of Turkey. He has failed, however, to pass laws which increase presidential constitutional powers nor does he any longer have alliances within his AKP party "barons" who have the power to support such laws. So maybe he thinks his power-moves will go

*continued on next page*

## COMMENTARY





## COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Why Turks were Able to Exterminate Armenians, but not Jews

(Part II)

This is the second and final part of a column I wrote last month, analyzing why the Young Turks were able to exterminate the Armenians, but could not carry out their simultaneous plan to eliminate the Jewish settlers of Palestine.

On May 9, 1917, Reuters disseminated the following news report by settler Aaron Aaronsohn: “an order was given to deport all Jews from Tel Aviv, including citizens of the Central Powers [Germany and Austria-Hungary], within 48 hours. A week before, 300 Jews were expelled from Jerusalem. Jamal Pasha declared that their fate would be that of the Armenians. The 8,000 deportees from Tel Aviv were not allowed to take any provisions with them, and after the expulsion their houses were looted by Bedouin mobs.”

Shortly thereafter, Oskar Cohen, a Jewish socialist member of the German Parliament, asked the Chancellor to press the Turkish government “to vigorously prevent the recurrence in Palestine of atrocities” against Jews similar to the ones committed against the Armenians.

On June 8, Aaronsohn wrote in his diary: “The cry we raised was effective. The Turks and the Germans were quick to realize that one cannot get away with slaughtering the Jews like the Armenians. German financing of the war might have suffered because of the Jews. Therefore they ceased the new deportations.”

Palestine, the official journal of the British Zionist movement, described the significant difference between the lob-

bying capabilities of Jews and Armenians: “The German government knows that the Jews do not compare to the Armenians in terms of their world power, and that the weight of the Jews in Germany is therefore different from that of the Armenians.”

Mordecai Ben-Hillel Hacoheh, a prominent chronicler of Jewish history in Palestine, wrote in his diary of March 30, 1917: “the Turkish government has been stained in the eyes of the whole country because of its crime against the Armenians, and perhaps the government will reconsider its thoughts of doing thus to the Jews as well...”

Moshe Smilansky, a leader of the Jewish agricultural settlements in Palestine, after relating reports of the terrible massacres of Armenians, concluded: “The testimony of the eye witnesses aroused fear and panic in the Jewish audience. Who knows what would have been our fate were it not for Morgenthau, the American representative in Constantinople, and the fear of the world press which is ‘controlled’ by the Jews.”

Yair Auron reported in his book that Meir Dizengoff, a leader of the Jewish refugees in Palestine throughout World War I, “worked in close cooperation with the Zionist delegation in Constantinople, which was pro-German and pro-Turkish. According to Dizengoff, there were also excellent relations with the German consul in Palestine.... The consul served as a conduit for transferring funds to the Yishuv [Jewish community], on orders from the German Ambassador in Constantinople.” Dizengoff also stated that the Germans were the ones who assisted and saved the Yishuv. “The fact that Jamal Pasha became more sympathetic to the Jews was due to Germany.” Dizengoff recalled Jamal and Enver Pashas’ threats to the Jews: “Zionists beware! If you oppose us, we will do to you what we have done to the Armenians.”

In October 1917, when the Turkish authorities uncovered the Jewish Nili spy ring, a new threat loomed over the Jewish settlers in Palestine, giving yet another excuse for the Turks to oppress them. They feared that such anti-Turkish efforts would result in harsh counter-measures as practiced against Armenians. The Turkish Governor of Haifa met with Jewish leaders of the village of Zichron Yaakov on October 4, 1917,

and threatened that unless they cooperated with his demands, he would do to them what he did to Armenians. He told them that he “barehandedly killed several Armenians, and his soldiers killed thousands of them.” Chaim Margalit-Kalvarisky, the representative of the Jewish Colonization Association in Galilee, wrote the following note in his diary: “I received word from a fairly dependable source that the [Turkish] high command was very angry at the Jewish settlement, and they were consulting about the possibility of a general deportation of all the Jews of Palestine to the furthest provinces of the Empire [Eastern Anatolia].” Kalvarisky recorded Jamal Pasha’s ominous words after a heated exchange with him: “Heaven help the people whose sons are those cursed spies. We taught the Armenian people a lesson about such deeds, and we will not hesitate to take the same steps in this case.”

Having witnessed the brutality of the Turks against Armenians who were accused of insubordination and rebellion, the Jewish settlers decided to be completely submissive and not challenge the Turkish authorities. Prof. Auron observed that “there was not a single attack by a Jewish settler on a Turkish soldier.” What ultimately saved the Jews was the occupation of Palestine by the British forces, precluding further brutalities and massacres by the Turkish authorities.

At the end, 1.5 million Armenians were wiped out, whereas the Jewish settlers of Palestine suffered relatively minor losses. During the war years, the Jewish population of Palestine was reduced from 86,000 to 55,000. Despite the fact that Armenians had also their advocates in Europe and the United States, the Jewish settlers enjoyed the double protection of powerful countries on both sides of the war: the Western countries, including the United States, and Germany, Turkey’s military ally. Vahakn Dadrian, in his book, “The History of the Armenian Genocide,” relates that Hans Wangenheim, the German Ambassador to Turkey, told US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau: “I will help the Zionists... but I shall do nothing for the Armenians.”

While Germany saved the Jewish settlers of Palestine, it assisted the Young Turk regime to exterminate the Armenians.

## Sultan Erdogan’s Last Curtain Call

from previous page

unnoticed. But the Turkish political system has shown that it moves with relentless punishment, even for its popular prime ministers.

Turkey currently enters an intensely low level due to political overexposure caused by her unrealistic strategy of Neo-Ottomanism and the housing bubble in Istanbul. Turkey’s destabilization is, however, also due to the authoritarian manner Erdogan chose to govern the state. He imprisoned almost all the Kemalist military leadership, did not hide his willingness to control the administration of justice, and collided with great vehemence against powerful Kemalist publishers to create space for his own people. In short, Erdogan opened many fronts, created prominent enemies and soon will have to deal with them. The poor boy from Kasimpasa with many skills but a much greater ego did not understand that a basic rule of politics is “what goes up comes down, and nothing lasts forever.”

The conclusion to be drawn from Sultan Erdogan’s behavior of the last few years is that he is a very agile but dangerous politician with ambitions to leave his legacy as Turkey’s second Kemal but in reverse, meaning having brought back to Turkey the neo-Islamism the country had been able to shed since its founding in 1923.

These events do not bode very well for Armenia and with Sultan Erdogan as the new President of Turkey by 2015, we should expect a very harsh reaction to any efforts by Armenian communities and organizations around the world to have the Genocide recognized as such by Turkey. Every step taken by Armenians to attract international attention to the Genocide will be countered accordingly by Sultan Erdogan’s Turkey, including YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter communications.

The question is what and how are we, Armenians, planning to handle the future with Sultan Erdogan on the other side?

Miran P. Sarkissian

## Anti-Defamation League’s Abraham Foxman Recognizes Armenian Genocide

By Laura Boghosian

After years of equivocation, Anti-Defamation League National Director Abraham Foxman has publicly acknowledged that the Turkish massacres of the Armenian people constituted genocide.

This recognition comes after a seven-year campaign in which the Armenian and Jewish communities, as well as human rights activists and local officials, demanded that the ADL affirm

this historical truth.

In remarks delivered at Suffolk University Law School’s commencement on May 17, Foxman stated, “Had there been people of courage to act in 1915 when the Armenian Genocide was taking place, had there been international intervention when massacres in Cambodia, Bosnia and the genocide in Rwanda were happening, innocent lives in great numbers could have been saved.”

The announcement that Foxman would deliver the keynote address and receive an honorary degree unleashed widespread criticism that the university planned to honor a man who refused to issue a clear statement on the Armenian Genocide and who actively lobbied against its recognition.

Groups including the Suffolk chapter of the National Lawyers Guild, Suffolk student organizations, the Armenian Bar Association, Suffolk alumni and others called on Suffolk to rescind its invitation. When Suffolk refused, several faculty members carried small Armenian flags in silent protest onto the stage where Foxman spoke.

Foxman’s Suffolk remarks stand in contrast to the ADL’s 2007 statement that the “consequences” of the Turkish government’s actions were “tantamount to genocide.” The Armenian community and its supporters rejected that statement as its qualifiers circumvented the intent required by the 1948 United Nations Genocide Convention.

An ADL statement one year later that alleged it had “referred to those massacres and atrocities as genocide” was likewise rebuffed as it only “referred” to the unacceptable 2007 statement. Recent claims by Foxman and the ADL that this 2008 release clearly and unequivocally acknowledged the Armenian Genocide are false.

Since that time, human rights activists have continued to press the ADL for an unequivocal acknowledgement, as well as an end to its lobbying for the Turkish government to prevent passage of a

Congressional Resolution affirming the Armenian Genocide.

“Abe Foxman’s reference to the Armenian massacres as genocide, without any qualifiers, is a welcome change,” stated Herman Purutyan, Massachusetts chair of the Armenian Assembly of America. “Even though Foxman continues to assert that he had previously acknowledged the genocide, the basis for his claims are a chain of statements, at the root of which is the 2007 statement full of qualifications, intended to obfuscate the question. We expect that Foxman’s statement at Suffolk is not only his personal view, but that it also reflects ADL’s official position. ADL should confirm this by publishing an unequivocal statement on its website, and joining in the efforts to have the US Congress recognize the Armenian Genocide by passing the resolution currently before it.”

Foxman’s remarks reflected growing support by Jewish organizations for recognition of the Armenian Genocide. In March, ADL New England Regional Director Robert Trestan was quoted stating that the ADL “now fully recognizes the Armenian genocide without reservation.”

The following month, the American Jewish Committee issued a release that read, “We pause in mournful tribute to the memories of the estimated 1.5 million victims of the Meds Yeghern, the Genocide of Armenians, committed in the final years of the Ottoman Empire.” Describing the genocide as “an unspeakable crime against humanity,” the AJC called upon the Turkish government to “confront the truth.”

Finally, the Israeli Knesset discussed recognition of the Armenian Genocide at a plenum on May 13. A motion by the left-wing Meretz party to recognize the genocide before its 100th anniversary next year received support from across the political spectrum, including from the rightist coalition government.

“These reversals of position by major Jewish organizations are quite significant for all those committed to recognition of the genocides of the past century,” stated Dikran Kaligian, chairman of the Armenian National Committee of Eastern Massachusetts. “No longer will Turkey be able to exploit the differences between the positions of these organizations’ leadership and their membership – the vast majority of whom want nothing to do with Turkey’s genocide denial campaign.”

Locally, the Coalition to Recognize the Armenian Genocide was established in 2008 to foster communication between the Armenian and Jewish communities and to raise awareness of the Armenian Genocide within the Jewish community. Its objectives include advocating for official recognition of the genocide by the United States government. Coalition members include representatives from the Armenian National Committee of America and the Armenian Assembly of America.

The coalition facilitated contacts between Armenian activists and members of the ADL and created an online petition calling on Congress to recognize the Armenian Genocide that has gathered over 21,000 signatures to date.

(Laura Boghosian, a Lexington resident, is a member of the Coalition to Recognize the Armenian Genocide.)





## Leadership Meetings in Yerevan Held between TCA and ADL of Armenia

MEETING, from page 1

Suren Sargsyan (secretary), Hagop Vartivarian (US) and Nar Khatchadourian (Lebanon). They discussed the ADL and Azg newspaper purchasing a new five-story building in a central location of Yerevan. Participants at the meeting had already visited the new center and its current owner was present at the meeting. The partici-



From left, Hagop Vartivarian, Minister Hranush Hakobian, Baydzig Kalaydjian and Gabriel Chamberdjian

On May 11, a meeting was held at TCA Yerevan Center with the participation of the TCA Armenia Central Board of Directors: Ruben Mirzakhanian (Yerevan), Hagop Avedikian (President of TCA Armenia) and Armen Tsulikian (director of TCA Yerevan Center). The annual report of the Center was presented and approved. Various proposals were made and adopted on improving the reception hall and gardens, as well as erecting a statue of Vahan Tekeyan. It was unanimously decided to introduce some necessary changes required for the ownership of the Center, noting that TCA of US and Canada had made great contributions financially when the center was being constructed.

On May 12, former UN Ambassador of Armenia Garen Nazarian and TCA New York/New Jersey Chair Vartivarian met. Vartivarian praised Nazarian's approach toward Tekeyan chapter throughout his five-year tenure, by his personal participation and support towards the TCA and ADL events in New York and New Jersey. Thanks to the recommendations by Nazarian, the local chapters of the

participants signed an initial agreement that was finalized on May 12 and handed to the representatives of the TCA Central Board of Directors of United States and Canada and to the TCA Committee of Armenia. At the end of the meeting, Committee members joined benefactor Gabriel Chamberdjian (Phoenix Foundation), Baydzig Kalaydjian and Lebanon ADL Regional Board Chair Michael Vayedjian.

On May 10, trustees of the London Trust held its annual meeting, where the annual financial and activity reports were presented by the foundation's president, Vartan Ouzounian. Attending the meeting were members of the board of Directors of London Trust assembled from different parts of the world: Hagop Vartivarian (New York), Nar Khatchadourian (Beirut), Krikor Haroutounian (Cyprus), Silva Aharonian (London) and Alan Kuchukian (Yerevan).



Ambassador Garen Nazarian and Hagop Vartivarian



With the members of ADL Committee of Armenia

TCA and ADL had organized events commemorating Armenia's membership to the UN, the independence of Armenia and other occasions.

On May 12, Vartivarian (member of TCA Board of Directors) and Kalaydjian (executive director of TCA Board of Directors), paid an official visit to the Ministry of Diaspora, to meet Minister Hranush Hakobian. They discussed the possibility of re-visiting the concept of the Diaspora-Motherland Committee and to mark the 50th anniversary of that organization. Hakobian confirmed that this organization, since its founding in Soviet Armenia, has been the only one with whom Diaspora Armenians established contacts with the homeland. For many years this institution was managed by historian Vartkes Hamazasbian, he called for organizations and individuals in the US and Middle East to forward to the Ministry of Diaspora any articles, documents or memorabilia related to the late

Hamazasbian.

On May 12, at the Board Meeting of ADL party of Armenia, with the participation of Vartivarian and Kalaydjian, discussed various issues concerning the ADL. Avedikian and Vartivarian presented to the members of committee the new administrative center's complete program. This new venue will serve the best for ADL Armenia as a center for cultural activities and for Azg newspaper's editorial team.

Later the same day, Vartivarian was the guest of the National Assembly deputy and the Joghovrtagan party's chairman, Stepan Demirjian. He is the son of the late Garen Demerjian from the National Assembly; he was a close friend of the Democratic Liberal Party in Soviet Armenia in the days when he was the chief leader not only in Armenia but in the Soviet Union as well.

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Trip to Armenia  
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\* for the Armenia Only land package, excluding flights to and from Armenia

**St. James Annual Picnic!**  
**ARMENIAN**  
**Sunday, June 8 2014**  
**FESTIVAL**



### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES!

Moon Bounce \* Balloons \* Face  
Painting \* Ice Cream \* Treats \*  
Games \* And more!

### DELICIOUS ARMENIAN FOOD!

Shish, Losh and Chicken Kebab!  
Kheyma, Hummus, Eetch  
and delicious vegetarian options!

### FUN FOR ALL AGES!

Armenian Music & Dancing!  
Tavloo! Raffle! Armenian Vendor!  
Rain or shine!

### LIVE ARMENIAN MUSIC!

Jay Baronian \* Leon Janikian  
Ken Kalajian \* Bob Raphalian

St. James Armenian Church grounds - 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown MA 02472

For more information or to volunteer contact:

Emily Bedrosian (bedrosi.emil@gmail.com or (617) 416-2412) or  
Mark Yacubian Torre (torremark@yahoo.com or (617) 233-5746).