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NEWS IN BRIEF

Karabagh Soldier Dies From Azeri Gunshot

STEPANAKERT (Arminfo) – An Armenian soldier, Hovhannes Nikoghosian, died from a gunshot wound in one of the units of the Nagorno-Karabagh defense army on Friday after shots were fired from across the border.

The Azerbaijani side reportedly violated the ceasefire, at the line of contact between the Karabagh and Azerbaijani armed forces, more than 500 times in the past week.

Armenian Communists Mark May Day

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Hundreds of supporters of the Armenian Communist Party (HKK) demonstrated in the city's center on Tuesday, May 1, in a May Day celebration that attracted a rare media spotlight for its election campaign.

Holding red flags and banners, they marched through Republic Square, which was once dominated by a huge statue of the Soviet Union's Communist founder, Vladimir Lenin. The procession ended in a nearby park where HKK leaders addressed the mostly elderly and teenage crowd on the occasion.

The party's first secretary, Ruben Tovmasian, also mentioned the upcoming parliamentary elections in his speech. An HKK appeal to the nation read out by another Communist leader, urged Armenians to vote for the party, saying that only the HKK can guarantee employment and worker rights.

The HKK was a major political force in the 1990s, winning roughly 10 percent of the vote in presidential and parliamentary elections. However, it failed to gain parliament seats in 2003 and has not been represented in the National Assembly since then.

Aronofsky to Direct Noah's Ark Film

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (Huffington Post) – Russell Crowe will play Noah in Darren Aronofsky's Noah's Ark movie, "Noah." Crowe's casting was first reported two months ago, and since then it has become official.

"I rejoice that Russell Crowe will be by my side on this adventure," Aronofsky, director of "Black Swan," said in a statement. "It's his immense talent that helps me to sleep at night. I look forward to being wowed by him every day."

Crowe's involvement in "Noah" was initially revealed back in February by Deadline.com, and the actor took to Twitter to confirm the news that he was "eyeing" the project. The potential casting was re-confirmed by Deadline.com in March.

Liam Neeson is also rumored to star but as yet he has not been added to the cast.

Production on "Noah" begins this summer. Paramount has set the film for a March 2014 release.

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Obama again Breaks Promise to Commemorate Armenian Genocide

By Olivier Knox

WASHINGTON (Yahoo News) – One day after paying a solemn visit to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, President Barack Obama on Tuesday, April 24, called the mass killings of Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Turks in 1915 "one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century" but again broke a 2008 campaign promise to label the tragedy "genocide."

"We honor the memory of the 1.5 million Armenians who were brutally massacred or marched to their deaths in the waning days of the Ottoman Empire," Obama said in a written statement on Armenian Remembrance Day.

"A full, frank and just acknowledgement of the facts is in all of our interests. Moving forward with the future cannot be done without reckoning with the facts of the past," Obama said in an implicit appeal for vital American ally Turkey to move closer to recognizing the massacre.

Turkey, a NATO member, fiercely disputes the genocide charge, and has warned that formal US steps to use the term will hamper relations. Turkey's Ambassador to Washington Namik Tan sharply criticized a similar statement from Obama in 2011, taking to Twitter to denounce it as inaccurate, flawed and one-sided.

On October 2, 2008, the Armenian-American newspapers published a letter see OBAMA, page 7

New York Times Square Armenian Genocide Commemoration Defies The Weather

By Lucine Z. Kinoian

NEW YORK – More than 1,000 Armenians and Armenian Genocide recognition supporters alike gathered in "virtual Times Square" to commemorate the first genocide of the 20th century on Sunday, April 22. The commemoration took place in Kavookjian Hall of St. Vartan Cathedral to avoid the inclement weather. The hall was crowded with standing-room-only and many observers listened through speakers that were set up across the vestibule and up the marble staircase to the lobby of the building. An anchor group of volunteers was left in Times Square, with stage and posters, to preserve our permit for future years.

This annual commemoration, organized by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan under the chairmanship of Hirant Gulian, drew busloads of people from all over the tri-state area. The event is given support from all major Armenian-American organization in the United States, all Armenian churches from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as well as local college and university student groups, many of whom were present. Individuals came from as far as away as California, Michigan and upstate New York. see COMMEMORATION, page 9

JIRAIR HOVSEPIAN PHOTO



Barbara and Donald Tellalian in front of the Heritage Park sculpture

Heritage Park Monument Unveiled

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror Spectator Staff

PEABODY, Mass. – The Armenian Genocide monument that will be the focal point of the Armenian Heritage Park in Boston later this year was unveiled at a reception sponsored and

hosted by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan at the birthplace of that monument, A&A Industries.

A&A Industries, owned and operated by Anahid and Aurelian Mardiros and their sons, is a high-precision cutting facility which specializes mostly in high-tech applications. The Mardiros family has donated the sculpture to the Armenian Heritage Park.

Guests strolled around the facilities and took pictures in front of the abstract sculpture, a split dodecahedron designed by architect Donald Tellalian. Café-style small tables were set on the floor of the factory, and food and drinks lent the event a light atmosphere.

see UNVEILING, page 10

Mirror-Spectator Presents Gregory Adamian the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award at May Gala

By Aram Arkun
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN, Mass. – As was announced last January, Dr. Gregory Harry Adamian, president emeritus and chancellor of Bentley College, is being awarded the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award at the Armenian Mirror-Spectator's benefit gala, "Celebrating 80 Years and Beyond." The celebration will take place on May 24.

Adamian's life story is an example of the rapid path to success accessible in the United States to Armenian immigrants and their children. see ADAMIAN, page 11



Dr. Gregory Adamian



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Germany to Provide 40 Million Euros to Armenia for Renewable Energy Development

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Germany's state-owned development bank is likely to provide support in the amount 40 million euros to Armenia, for implementation of programs toward renewable energy.

According to bloomberg.com, this is the next round of the program, which was launched in 2007. In the first round, 24 million euros had been provided toward the development of water energy.

Serge Sargisian Pushes For Development of Tourism in Garni

GARNI (Armenpress) – Tourism in Armenian provinces should be developed, both for domestic and foreign tourists, President Serge Sargisian said on April 30, during a visit before the elections.

"Garni is well known among Armenians, a kind of open-air museum. It is one of the visiting-cards of our country. There are serious grounds for tourism development in the country," Sargisian said.

He urged voters to participate in the May 6 elections.

Shushi to Host Artsakh Wedding Project

SHUSHI (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The Artsakh Wedding Project will be presented here on the occasion of 20th anniversary of Shushi's liberation on May 8. Gagik Ginosyan, director of the Karin song and dance ensemble, will stage the dances for the performance.

Artsakh Wedding will take place on the grounds of the Shushi fortress, while the Stepanakert stadium will host a grand festive parade on May 9, Ginosyan told a press conference on April 30.

The project idea belongs to Karabagh Minister of Culture Narine Aghabalyan, while the performance will be staged by Artsakhs We and Our Mountains folk ensemble.

According to Ginosyan, special national dresses were prepared for the event, which will be staged in the Karabagh dialect.

The project is expected to be presented in Yerevan and abroad.

Armenian Wines Can Grab Bigger Share of Russian Market

YEREVAN (Arka) – Armenian wines now have every chance to take their place in the Russian market, with the right marketing strategy, director of the Russian Jaguar-17 distribution company, Sergey Nikitin, said at a seminar on Armenian winemaking, organized by the Armenian Ministry of Economy.

He said, currently the Russian wine market is very favorable for the promotion of Armenian wines.

"Georgian wines are not sold in Russia any longer. There are Moldovan wines, which are no longer popular among Russian consumers who have no idea about Armenian wines and therefore there are great opportunities to boost their image," he said.

For the promotion of Armenian wines in the Russian market a common brand must be created as well as a chain of special stores, he said.

"According to official data, last year, Russia imported 1 million liters of Armenian wine, less than .3 percent of the overall wine imports which amounted to 343 million liters," he said.

Nikitin said another factor hindering the progress of Armenian wines on the Russian market is that they are promoted by companies engaged in imports of Armenian brandy. As a result, he said, the majority of Russian consumers buy Armenian wine as "exotic" wine.

Groundbreaking Ceremony Held for AGBU's New Office Building in Yerevan

YEREVAN – On Friday, April 13, the groundbreaking ceremony of the new Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) office building took place. Presided over by Bishop Hovnan Hakobyan, grand sacristan of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, the ceremony was attended by AGBU Central Board member Vasken Yacoubian, head of the Republic of Armenia Government's Committee for Coordinating Humanitarian Projects Simon Ter-Simonyan and special guests, as well as AGBU's local staff, scouts and members. Remarks were made by both Yacoubian, who explained the intricate details of the construction, and AGBU Armenia Representation Interim Director Hovig Eordekian. Following the blessing, a time capsule was lowered by Yacoubian into the foundation of the building containing the following statement: "On

this 13th day of April, 2012, during the presidency of Berge Setrakian, the blessing ceremony of the Armenian General Benevolent Union's new office building took place in the Capital by the hand of His Grace Bishop Hovnan Hakobyan, Grant Sacristan of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin."

Though AGBU has been active and present continuously in Armenia, it was not until recently that the organization purchased land and commenced



Message being placed in the time capsule by AGBU Central Board member Vasken Yacoubian



The groundbreaking ceremony and blessing of the new AGBU office building in Yerevan, currently under construction

the construction of its own office building on Melik-Adamian Street, adjacent to the Republic of Armenia Government building in the center of Yerevan. The six-story facility, in addition to two underground parking levels, will be built on a land area of 1,380 square meters, with a total area of 6,700 square meters. The structure will offer modern amenities with fully-equipped office space, conference rooms and exhibition halls. The new building will preserve the architectural aspects of Old Yerevan by delicately blending new and environmentally-friendly features with the historical façade of the old building that was once built on a neighboring street.

In addition to serving as the main headquarters of AGBU in Armenia, the building will allow for the expansion of the organization's existing educational, cultural, humanitarian and youth programs throughout the country.

ATP Celebrates Earth Day in Kotayk with US Embassy and United Nations

YEREVAN – The celebration of Earth Day is gaining in popularity at a rapid pace in Armenia. This year, Armenia Tree Project (ATP) celebrated by planting trees in the community of Teghenik in the Kotayk region. On Friday, April 20, the US Embassy in Armenia and the United Nations joined ATP to plant a cluster of decorative and fruit trees in Teghenik.

"Our goal in planting is to restore green spaces throughout Armenia to provide valuable environmental services including clean air, soil retention and shade during hot summers," said ATP Managing Director Tom Garabedian.

"The Kotayk region had significant greenery some 150-200 years ago. These planting activities offset the impacts of deforestation, and the creation of green spaces represents an important step in the improvement of the environment and quality of life in the region."

US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern joined his colleagues from the Embassy and took part in ATP's Earth Day tree planting. "This year I'm honored to join Armenia Tree Project in Teghenik to mark Earth Day. The trees we plant here will improve the environment and help highlight the necessity of maintaining our natural surroundings," stated Heffern.

The trees were planted as part of ATP's innovative community forests program, which was initiated in 2011. "The aim of this new program is to create small community forests in areas that are deprived of any green zones and nearby forests," said Garabedian. "ATP identifies affected areas and partners

with the local authorities to establish these community forests. While the trees are provided by ATP, the local community invests resources in planting and long-term maintenance of the trees on their land. The program was designed with sustainability in mind."

This program started with planting at sites in Karenis and Teghenik in the Kotayk region, where nearly 6,000 trees were planted in 2011. "The program has been successful so far, and we have received requests from other community leaders who want to establish small forests in their villages," added Garabedian. "This Earth Day tree planting was part of ATP's mission to green Armenia, and we look forward to expanding these partnerships."

Schoolchildren and other members of the local community participated in the planting along with guests from various organizations and international institutions. A total of 2,000 seedlings were planted for Earth Day. The new forest includes oak, pine, ash, pear and apple trees.

"The proclamation of April 22 as International Mother Earth Day by the United Nations is an acknowledgement that the Earth and its ecosystems pro-

vide its inhabitants with life and sustenance. It also recognizes a collective responsibility, as called for in the 1992 Rio Declaration, to promote harmony with nature and the Earth to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations of humanity," stated



US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern plants trees with schoolchildren from the town of Teghenik as part of an Earth Day program with the United Nations and Armenia Tree Project. (Photograph by Alex Tarverdi)

United Nations Resident Coordinator Dafina Gercheva.

Earth Day events are held worldwide to increase awareness and appreciation of the natural environment. Gaylord Nelson, a United States senator from Wisconsin, first called for an environmental teach in, or Earth Day, to be held on April 22, 1970. More than 20 million people participated that year, and Earth Day is now observed each year by more than 500 million people in 175 countries.



ARMENIA

Fruitful Armenia Fund Begins Distributing Thousands of New Laptops to Students in Artsakh

AGBU Provides On-the-Ground Support for Global Education Movement toward New Technologies

YEREVAN — The Argentinean-Armenian entrepreneur and philanthropist Eduardo Eurnekian has officially launched the New Educational Strategy (NUR), one of the most ambitious education initiatives in Nagorno-Karabagh (NKR).

With the Armenian General Benevolent Union's (AGBU's) support on the ground, Eurnekian, through the Fruitful Armenia Fund,

Stepanakert, Shoushi and Qarin Tak. The device, which is developed by the educational program, One Laptop per Child (OLPC) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) University in Boston, is the first of its kind, with durable hardware and interactive software that give students the opportunity to both play and learn, emphasizing creativity over instruction. Environmentally-friendly features allow the students to enjoy the laptop outside, where they can read its screen in direct sunlight and power its batteries via solar energy. The laptop also gives them the freedom to work in groups and individually; when together, they can easily tap into a peer-to-peer network or use the comput-

er." To help Eurnekian realize his vision, over the past few months, teachers and students have attended various training workshops, learning how to use the XO and take advantage of its programs. Now that the laptop distribution has commenced, the government of NKR, in collaboration with NUR, will soon take a much-anticipated next step, providing high-quality Internet connection in each of its schools. As wireless access is secured, they will continue to distribute the computers, aiming for every elementary schoolchild of Artsakh to own one by the year 2014.

With the deployment phase well underway, the youth of Nagorno-Karabagh have much to look forward to. The OLPC has a proven track record of success, and it joins a rapidly expanding global community, now equipped with the resources and tools to succeed both within and outside of the classroom.



A student in Karabagh becomes the proud owner of his own new XO computer.

his non-profit organization in Armenia, has begun to distribute more than 3,500 brand-new laptops in elementary schools across the region. The project, which is part of an international movement that is bringing cutting-edge technologies to disadvantaged students, was kicked off at a special ceremony held in Stepanakert on April 2.

The partnership between Eurnekian's NUR and the AGBU has put the innovative XO laptop, which is already being used by more than 2 million children and teachers worldwide, into the hands of first- through fourth-grade students in three Karabagh schools in

ers at home at their own pace.

Students were presented with the XO laptop at the ceremony attended by Arayik Harutyunyan, the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic's (NKR) prime minister; Vladik Khachatryan, the NKR education minister; Sebastian Arias Duvall, the NUR project coordinator; Sassoun Baghdasaryan, AGBU Armenian representative of the NKR projects coordinator, and Ashot Ghazarian, chairman of the AGBU Armenian Representation Managing Committee. Addressing the children, Duvall stated, "our goal is to provide the young generation with high-quality education. We are

One Woman's Campaign To Remember Hrant Dink

YEREVAN — I often think of Hrant Dink.

I think about what I would have done had I been in his shoes as a journalist working in Turkey.

Would I have been so profound and daring with my editorials? So controversial and vigilant? Or would I have remained passive in the wake of Genocide education?

It has been five years since the Turkish-Armenian editor/columnist/journalist was gunned down in Istanbul, not far from his Agos newspaper office, leaving behind three children and a

wife of 31 years.

To say it saddened the entire Armenian community globally would not be overstating the matter.

Dink was best known for advocating Turkish-Armenian reconciliation, marked by human rights in

Turkey. He was often critical of Turkey's denial of the Genocide and was prosecuted three times for denigrating Turkish policies while receiving numerous death threats from Turkish nationalists.

He walked a tight line, only to see it sag in the middle before finally losing his grip. But who can forget the man and his allegiance to his beloved heritage. He lived for it and ultimately died for it.

Two years ago, while touring Armenia during the 95th anniversary of the Genocide, my pilgrimage took me to the Armenian memorial at Tzeznagapert on the outskirts of Yerevan.

One million others and I — or rather the entire population of this capital city. To join a million people anywhere in the world is an imposing experience, let alone a monument. The wait was excruciating but tolerable, thanks to speakers along the way gushing out Armenian liturgical music.

I was holding a batch of flowers in one hand and a camera bag in the other. No matter where you looked, there was a photo opportunity to be had. Spring had awakened a sleepless population on this April 24. Every worker and schoolchild kept the vigil secure.

Ninety minutes later, I found myself inside the monument where mountains of flowers had already surrounded the eternal flame. Hordes of mourners were shuffling their way past the 12 pylons which represented each of the prominent villages devastated during the 1915 pogroms.

Off to one side, set in the rear, was an elderly woman. She, too, held a bouquet. In the other hand was a poster attached to a wooden handle. She was dressed in black and appeared to be struggling with the sign which featured a formal picture of Dink holding a microphone and the inscription below: "1,500,000+1," noting the number of martyrs who succumbed during the 1915-23 massacres.

I was intrigued by the bystander, enough to approach her out of curiosity.

"Are you alone?" I asked.

"Yes," she answered. "I prefer it this way. People are more apt to study one sign than many.

This is getting the attention it deserves. Hrant Dink died for us. He died for the people who come to this monument today and place their flowers. We owe him our gratitude for the attention he drew to this genocide."

I offered to bring the woman a bottle of water, seeing she had none.

"How long have you been standing here?" I asked.

"All day," she said. "I came here at 6 a.m. so people could see my sign. I will be here until 9 p.m. By then, the flowers will be very high and most everyone will have come and gone."

I was enamored by the woman. Though people couldn't avoid her presence, they passed her by unnoticed, tending to the matter at hand — young, old and those in between. All approached the eternal flame with their flowers and prayers.

Many tributes have been rendered to this esteemed colleague. Many have acknowledged and lauded his fine work. Heads of state and dignitaries around the world have kept the memory of Dink intact. And here was a solitary woman — one in a million — embracing the man with a sign, standing her ground.

Had the woman been at his funeral where 200,000 mourners had gathered to protest the assassination, she would have been another face in the crowd.

The following year, a friend of mine toured Armenia in April and he, too, found his way to Tzeznagapert. Upon his return home, he agreed to give a presentation to the community.

Included in his display was a photo of the very same woman, holding the very same sign and striking a similar pose. Had the gentleman taken my picture and duplicated it, no similarity would have been detected. It was a mirror image.

Should you be in Armenia this year and run across this woman, please give her our very best. Let her know that her efforts are being appreciated by those of us here in America, but most of all, those who rekindle the flame Hrant Dink lit for all of us looking to escape the darkness of obscurity.

By Tom Vartabedian

Sargisian Orders Removal of Yerevan Park Kiosks

By Elina Chilingarian

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) — After months of protests by environmental and other civil activists, President Serge Sargisian ordered municipal authorities on Tuesday, May 1, to remove more than a dozen kiosks controversially built in a small park downtown.

Sargisian visited Mashtots Park with Mayor Taron Markarian just two days after the most serious clashes yet between protesters and riot police guarding the state-owned properties.

"You've done everything right," he told Markarian in front of television cameras. "You were right in the sense that you made a temporary decision. In two or three years all this would have to be removed from here. But, my dear Taron, as you can see, this [appearance] is not quite nice."

"Again, you made the right decision but it would be right if you find a way of dismantling all this," Sargisian said. "That would be the appropriate decision."

The remarks effectively put an end to a more than three-month standoff between dozens of activists and the Yerevan municipality backed by the police. The mostly young people have demonstrated there on a virtually basis in protest against what they see as further damage to the city's green areas. They have also challenged the legality of the mayor's decision to use the public area for commercial purposes.

The municipal administration has said all along that the kiosks will stand in Mashtots Park for up to three years and not damage any trees. It has also cited the need to compensate entrepreneurs whose kiosks mainly selling clothing were removed in January from the sidewalk of a major street in the city center. Hundreds of other sidewalk shops were dismantled across Yerevan last year.

The standoff intensified early month when the protesters were joined by a group of prominent public figures trying to tear down the under-construction kiosks. Their attempts led to scuffles with police.

The most violent of those incidents took place on Sunday. Seven protesters were detained on the spot and kept in police custody for several hours. Two of them suffered injuries and required treatment at a hospital.

Sargisian on Tuesday praised the police for showing restraint in the high-profile dispute. Robert Melkonian, a deputy chief of the Yerevan police who has personally coordinated the police actions in the park, afterwards congratulated environmentalists on what many of them regard as a rare victory against the government.

Some campaigners dismissed Sargisian's intervention as a public relations move related to Sunday's parliamentary elections. But as one of the organizers of the protests, Yeghia Nersisian, said, "You can find a lot of political context in all this but I don't want to do that ... I just know one thing: he who fights in good faith always achieves his goal."



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Azerbaijan, Turkey to Sign Delayed Tanap Pipe Deal at End of June

BAKU (Bloomberg News) – Azerbaijan and Turkey plan to complete delayed talks on the proposed Trans-Anatolia pipeline that will carry Azeri natural gas across Turkey to Europe by the end of the month.

“We aim to complete talks this month and sign the inter-governmental agreement by June 30,” Elshad Nasirov, vice president of State Oil Co. of Azerbaijan, known as Socar, said on May 2 in an interview in the Azeri capital. The deal was held up issues over tax and the investment regime, according to Nasirov.

The two sides signed a memorandum of understanding in December on the 2,000-kilometer (1,240-mile) pipeline known as Tanap that will transport gas from the BP Plc-led Shah Deniz field in Azerbaijan’s section of the Caspian Sea. Socar has an 80 percent stake, while Turkey’s state pipeline company Boru Hatlari ile Petrol Tasima AS, or Botas, and oil company Turkiye Petrolleri AO have a combined 20 percent.

At an estimated cost of \$5 billion to \$7 billion, the partners plan to build Tanap before the start of production from the second phase of the Shah Deniz project, due in 2017 or 2018. It will link up with other proposed pipelines, such as Nabucco West, that are vying for the rights to deliver the fuel on to the European Union from the Turkish border.

Turkish Municipality Tears down Monument to Armenian Composer

ISTANBUL (news.am) – Yalova City Hall authorized razing a monument dedicated to renowned Armenian musician and composer Hovhannes Tuncboyaciyan (Onno Tunc), the older brother of musician Arto Tuncboyaciyan.

The monument, which was erected in 2002 in honor of Tuncboyaciyan who had died in a plane crash in 1996, was vandalized several times. And 15 days ago, unidentified people had erased the words on the monument, *Radikal* daily reported.

The Yalova mayor reported that the municipality decided to dismantle the monument, since it was in such bad shape. He claimed to have spoken with the late musician’s family members and the monument’s sculptor, and said that a more fitting monument would be erected in two months.

Slovak Official: Any Turk Denying Armenian Genocide in Slovakia Will Be Jailed

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia (PanARMENIAN.Net) – On April 4, a wreath laying ceremony was held at a *khachkar/belisk* here, in memory of Armenian Genocide victims, the press service of the Forum of Armenian Associations of Europe (FAAE) reported.

Slovakia’s Supreme Court Chairman Stefan Harabin, President of Armenian Constitutional Court Gagik Harutyunyan, Chairman of the Republic of Armenia Court of Cassation Arman Mkrtumyan and FAAE Chairman Ashot Grigorian took part in the event. In his speech, Harabin noted the importance of a “law criminalizing the Armenian Genocide denial,” adopted by the Slovak government and parliament. He said that any Turkish official, regardless of his rank, and any other person who denies the Armenian Genocide in Slovakia will be sentenced to five years in prison. The Slovak official stressed his readiness to help his French counterparts to pass a similar law.

Harutyunyan voiced his gratitude to the Slovak government, nation and personally the Supreme Court chairman for being the first in the EU to adopt a law that penalizes the Armenian Genocide denial. He noted Armenia’s Constitutional Court members’ readiness to cooperate with the Slovak lawyers to prove to other countries the necessity of passing such a law. Harutyunyan noted that the law does not run counter to human rights but, just the opposite, ensures their protection.

Armenians Mark Genocide with March to Turkish Embassy

By Van Meguerditchian

RABIEH, Lebanon (*Daily Star*) – Nearly 25,000 Lebanese-Armenians marched to the Turkish Embassy in Metn on April 24, calling on Ankara to recognize the Armenian Genocide committed by the Ottoman government.

The large turnout – which surprised even organizers – prompted the Turkish Embassy to request an increase in security outside the embassy, according to an Internal Security Forces source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Interior Ministry officials estimated that 20,000 to 25,000 people took part in the march, which began at the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia in Antelias.

Catholicos of the See of Cilicia Aram I denounced Turkey’s efforts to expand its influence in the region during a mass before the march. “We hold the present Republic of Turkey, in its capacity, as the legitimate successor of the Ottoman Empire, accountable for its crimes against our people.”

Once they were meters away from the Turkish Embassy’s gates, protesters began to burn Turkish flags and chant anti-Turkish slogans. “We fight for justice, and we demand it from the fascist Turkish regime,” read one of the banners raised at the barbed wire separating some 200 riot police from the crowd.

Beirut MP Serge Torsarkissian of the



Young Armenian demonstrators in Beirut

March 14 Coalition hailed the rally, calling it an opportunity to remind officials at the embassy and in the Turkish government that Armenians will not stop demanding justice.

“The embassy and the new Ottoman Empire should be aware that the rights of the Armenian people will not fade in time,” he said.

His rival in parliament, Metn MP Hagop Pakradounian of March 8 also marched, saying “this day proves that we will continue to demand justice until Turkey recognizes its guilt and gives reparations to Armenians around the world.”

Politicians from across the political

divide in the country expressed their solidarity with Lebanese-Armenians.

“I express my solidarity with Armenians in the country who have suffered in Armenia and have also suffered in Lebanon’s Civil War,” Beirut MP Nadim Gemayel said in a statement at parliament.

Free Patriotic Movement leader Michel Aoun criticized the Turkish government for refusing to recognize the massacres. “I had hoped that Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu would recognize the Armenian Genocide. But as long as he doesn’t apologize for it, he is responsible for it,” said Aoun.

Marie Manoogian Institute in Buenos Aires Gets State-of-the-Art Renovations

BUENOS AIRES – On Monday, March 19, parents, students and faculty gathered in the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Marie Manoogian Institute to celebrate the unveiling of two brand new classrooms for its Serpuhi Ekshian Nursery School.

Providing high-quality education and resources to youth around the world has always been a key component of the organization’s mission, and the Institute’s new classrooms are a testament to that commitment. Designs for the renovations were finished in record time – ground was broken this past January and the work was completed according to schedule so that the improved facilities could be taken advantage of during the current school year. As planned, one of the classrooms increased by 70 percent, while the other almost doubled in size. Each room boasts state-of-the-art projectors, computers and stereo systems and is complete with modern furniture and desks.

At the inaugural event, family and friends had the opportunity to tour the new space and watch a video highlight-



Abp. Kissag Mouradian, Very Rev. Maghakiá Amiryán, Buenos Aires Chapter Chairman Ruben Kechichian, and the Institute’s patrons celebrate the ribbon cutting ceremony.

ing the extensive demolitions and months of tireless work that made the transformation possible. Ruben Kechichian, Buenos Aires Chapter Chair and AGBU Central Board member, thanked the project’s many advocates, chief among them Juan Ignacio Balian,

an institute alumnus and member of both its Board and Educational Committee. Kechichian also praised the teachers, who, under the leadership of director Noemi Fourmentel and with the support of AGBU’s local committees, helped make 2012 the year the school reached the highest level of enrollment in its history, with almost 400 students in grades pre-kindergarten to 12th.

Following Kechichian’s remarks, Archbishop Kissag Mouradian, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church in Argentina and Chile, performed a blessing over the two rooms. He was joined by the project’s benefactors, Jorge and Maria Rosa Kalaidjian, and Souren and Nelly Youssefian, along with other supporters who cut the ribbon together, officially opening the classrooms amidst enthusiastic applause.

This year students will travel to the homeland from July 21 through August 3 to learn more about their heritage and strengthen their connection to their ancestral roots.



Parents, students and teachers gather for the unveiling of AGBU Marie Manoogian Institute’s new Pre-K facilities.

Community News

Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian To Receive Ellis Island Medal

BOSTON – Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian of Winchester, a pediatric anesthesiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), will receive an Ellis Island Medal of Honor in May.

He had received the Robert M. Smith Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics in February for his exceptional work.

Goudsouzian is the foremost expert on muscle relaxants in children and a distinguished leader in the field of pediatric anesthesia.

Goudsouzian was born in Cairo, Egypt, to Armenian parents who escaped the Armenian Genocide in Turkey. After attending the Mekhitarist School and LaSalle College, he obtained his medical degree from Cairo University. He then immigrated to the United States via Canada. In the United States he continued his graduate education, obtaining a master's degree in physiology (MS) at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.

Goudsouzian did his residency and fellowship training in anesthesia at Massachusetts General Hospital. He served in the army as an officer with the rank of major and director of operating rooms at Fort Gordon in Augusta, Ga. Following his honorable discharge, he rejoined the staff of Massachusetts General Hospital as a pediatric anesthesiologist, where he currently serves in his 45th year.

Besides his duties as a fulltime pediatric anesthesiologist, Goudsouzian has been interested in clinical research. Initially he was involved in clinical evaluation of several muscle relaxants. He was the first in objective evaluation of



Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian

curare in infants and children. Later he worked on newer relaxants, and his scientific data was used by the FDA for the determination of their effective doses in children. During his career he has published more than 150 medical and research publications and has authored two books, which have had several editions and translated into four languages. He was founding editor and chairman of the editorial board of the indexed journal *Pediatric Anesthesia*. In 1999 Harvard Medical School bestowed on him the title of Professor of Anesthesia, with an honorary MA degree.

Because of his research and academic knowledge, he has traveled and lectured in more than 20 countries and been invited to nominate candidates for the Nobel Prize. He is also on the International Advisory Board of the Medical School of Yerevan University.

The Proton Beam Therapy Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital has the most experience in treating children with brain and eye tumors. Twenty-five years ago, Goudsouzian organized and administered the

see AWARD, page 8



From left, Igor Petrosyan, Ken Allikian, Sen. Lois Tochtrop, Diane Brown, Sona Hedeshian, Seta Tashjian, Rep. Su Ryden, Kim Christianian, Rafael Saakyan and Simon Maghakyan

Colorado State Legislature Approves Armenian Genocide Resolution

DENVER, Colo. – On Friday April 20, the Colorado General Assembly unanimously supported the 11th annual Armenian Genocide Resolution, designating April 24 as Colorado Day of Remembrance of The Armenian Genocide.

The resolution was spearheaded by Armenians of Colorado (AOC) Genocide Commemoration Committee chairperson, Kim Christianian in 2002, with the help of committee members Ken Allikian and Simon Maghakyan. "Each year we update the language of the resolution to bring awareness to the continuous injustices that are placed on the Christian minorities in Turkey", says Christianian. Last year, Colorado led the states with language in their resolution calling for the return of Christian properties confiscated during the genocide "This year, we added language about the US Commission on International Religious Freedom, which named Turkey as one of the 16 most egregious and systematic violators of religious freedom in the world," said Christianian.

State Sen. Lois Tochtrop has been the primary sponsor of the resolution since 2002, back when she was a State Representative in the House. "We have had several House sponsors over the years, but for the last two years we have had Rep. Su Ryden as our advocate in the House chamber," said Allikian.

In addition to the annual resolution, Armenians of Colorado has for 30 years obtained annual Gubernatorial and Mayoral Armenian Genocide commemorative proclamations. This year, the proclamations were submitted by AOC board member, Rafael Saakyan.

The resolution was followed by the annual commemoration ceremony on Sunday April 22, organized by Armenians Of Colorado Inc. and the Genocide Commemoration Committee. Maghakyan acted as emcee

and the guest speakers included Tochtrop and Ryden. Rev. Zaven Markosyan delivered the invocation in the Senate and at the commemoration ceremony. A crowd of more than 150 attended the ceremony held in the Armenian Garden located on the State Capitol grounds where there is a dedicated commemorative headstone and evergreen tree. The garden was established with the support of the Armenian community and AOC in April 1982. "We are very fortunate to have our own piece of land on the Capitol grounds," said Sona Hedeshian, president of AOC. "We'll be working to make enhancements to the site in time for the centennial in 2015."

Last month, AOC and Facing History and Ourselves brought Genocide Scholar/poet Peter Balakian to Denver for a teachers' workshop titled "Why Studying the Armenian Genocide Matters Today." A reading of poetry and book signing was held the following day at the historic Tattered Cover Bookstore in Denver.

Upcoming AOC events include a talk, titled, "The Changing Landscape of Historic Western Armenia: Reflections on a Journey into the Past," with Dr. Richard Hovannisian on Saturday, May 5. Details can be found at www.armeniansofcolorado.org.

Each year we update the language of the resolution to bring awareness to the continuous injustices that are placed on the Christian minorities in Turkey

–Kim Christianian

Pallone Statement on Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day

WASHINGTON – Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), co-chair and founder of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, released the following statement in recognition of the 97th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, which is April 24:

"Today we commemorate the 97th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, and remember the lives of the one-and-a-half million Armenians who were needlessly slaughtered by Ottoman Turks between 1915 and 1923. Today's anniversary gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the atrocities committed against the Armenian people as genocide and renew our commitment to prevent and end injustices where they exist.

"Armenia stands as a resilient ally of the United States and a nation dedicated to democracy and regional stability. Since I first came to Congress I have been proud to push for a formal recognition of the Armenian Genocide and as the co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues I have encouraged my colleagues to do that same.

"This day also serves as a reminder that Turkey still refuses to acknowledge the fact of the Armenian Genocide and reconcile itself with its own history. The Turkish leadership has broken promises of a normalization of relations with Armenia and we must not stand idly by as Turkey continues its denials of history.

"Today we commemorate the bravery of those who perished in and survived the Armenian Genocide. I remain fully committed to ensuring formal US government recognition of the mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks for what it was, genocide."

Sen. Levin Calls for Genocide Recognition

By Mitch Kehetian

DETROIT – In my 52 years as a journalist, I have been honored to cover history-making events – from local news to state and national issues.

The list of those who served the public as elected officials included leaders from the Democratic and Republican ranks. Many never wavered at standing up for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23 by the Ottoman Turkish government, a crime against humanity that present-day Turkey still denies.

Sen. Carl Levin (D-Mich.) reminds the American people we must "never forget the genocide visited upon the Armenians we remember today" in a moving statement delivered on the floor of the US Senate on April 24.

This is not the first time Levin has called for recognition of the Genocide. Throughout his career, the senator has championed the Armenian cause as a call for justice. This year the ranking senator honored this writer by calling attention to his published memoir as a must read by those who deny the genocide of 1.5 million fellow Armenians by the Ottoman Empire.

Shortly after I sent the senator a copy of my memoir, he responded with a heart-warming personal letter that the memoir was "a compelling, deeply moving, honest memoir – a tribute to Armenians lost in the Genocide."

Levin closed by pledging to refer to it when I speak in support of a resolution recognizing and memorializing the events you recount for what they were – a genocide."

In his opening remarks in the US Senate, Levin said: "Mr. President, this is a week to bear witness. Today, April 24, we mark Armenian Genocide Remembrance Day – the day on

see LEVIN, page 7



COMMUNITY NEWS

California's Oldest Armenian Church to Salute Senior Pastor, Family

FRESNO – Members and friends of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church (FAPC) will salute Senior Pastor Mgrdich Melkonian, his wife, Houri, and their family, at an appreciation luncheon on Sunday, May 20.

Melkonian is concluding his Central California pastorate of almost nine years to accept a position in the Armenian Missionary Association of America in Armenia. Melkonian has been designated mentor pastor to the pastors of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Armenia. He will observe his first day in the new pastorate on July 1.

The luncheon will begin with a 1 p.m. fellowship hour and continue at 2 p.m. with a meal catered by Pardini's at the FAPC Fellowship Hall, 430 South First St. on Huntington Boulevard.

Melkonian was born in Aleppo, Syria in 1954. He received his early education at the Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical School and the Karen Jeppe Azkayn Jemaran (high school) in his native city.

In 1974 and 1975, Melkonian served as a teacher at the Bethel Armenian Evangelical School in Aleppo. In fall 1975, he enrolled as a pre-theological student at the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut, Lebanon. The 1976 civil war in Lebanon interrupted his education and he returned to Aleppo to again teach at Bethel School. The following year he resumed his education in Beirut.

In 1982 he earned a bachelor's degree in Armenian literature from Haigazian University. In 1984, he earned his master of divinity degree from NEST and he married Houri Aposhian, a fellow graduate of NEST. The couple has three daughters, Alina, Shogher and Tamar, and one grandson, Peter Mgo Shanoian.

Upon his graduation from the seminary, the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East called Melkonian to serve as the director of the Armenian Evangelical youth in Syria and Lebanon. In the succeeding five years, he served as Christian educator

of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Damascus, Horns, Kessab and Aleppo. He also served as preacher at the Armenian Evangelical Martyrs' Church and Bethel Armenian Evangelical Church in Aleppo.

In 1989, the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, Quebec, called Melkonian to its pastorate. The Armenian Evangelical Union of North America ordained him a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in 1990.

During his stay in Quebec, Melkonian started the Tebi Louys (Toward Light) television ministry and chaired the task force for the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) 12th Biennial General Assembly. He also served as vice president of the Armenian Missionary Association of Canada.

In 1995, the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood, Calif. called Melkonian as associate pastor for parish development. On June 1, 2003, the FAPC congregation called Melkonian as its 11th senior pastor.

Melkonian was installed in the senior pastorate of FAPC on Sunday, September 21, 2003. Along with his almost nine-year parish ministry, he has served as moderator of the AEUNA (2002-2004) and he presided at the Union's 17th Biennial General Assembly in Fresno on June 23-27, 2004. He is currently the moderator of the AEUNA and will preside at the union's 21st Biennial General Assembly in Montreal (June 28-July 1). Melkonian is also the current president of the Armenian Evangelical World Council.

Forty immigrants from Marsovan chartered the Fresno congregation in a rented hall on



Senior Pastor Mgrdich Melkonian

July 25, 1897. The boyhood church of authors William Saroyan and A.I. Bezzerides and filmmaker J. Michael Hagopian, FAPC today is a multigenerational evangelical congregation drawn from the Old and New Worlds.

Rev. Mike Mekredjian is the associate pastor of the congregation, Philip C. Garo, Jr., M.Div. is the director of Children's and Youth Ministries, and Elder Edward Saliba and Mary Lou Bagdasarian are co-chairs of the Appreciation Luncheon Committee.

FAPC is a member congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America. The 2012 theme of the congregation is "A New Mission."

OBITUARY

Anne (Bolsetzian) Zarookian

SCARSDALE, N.Y. – Anne (Bolsetzian) Zarookian, formerly of the Bronx, died on April 14. She was the daughter of Khosrov and Takoohy Bolsetzian, and the sister of Edward Bolsetzian. She was 96.

She married Souren Zarookian in 1938.

She was active in several Armenian organizations. She was a charter member of Saint Vartan's Cathedral when it was being built, where she worked on many committees. She was a member of the Cathedral Guild, Women's Central Committee of the Armenian General Benevolent Union for 25 years, an active member of the Holy Cross Church and their Women's Guild for 60 years and was a Daughter of Vartan for more than 50 years.

Her good nature, generosity, unselfishness and neat appearance were admired. She kept her wit and sharpness until the end of her life keeping busy reading and telling jokes. She delighted in reciting poems in Latin and her memory was one of the best.

She leaves her son, Robert, and daughter, Carol, and son-in-law, Mardo; two grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Anne (Bolsetzian) Zarookian



Aris Sevag

Aris Sevag, Noted Editor, Translator

NEW YORK – Writer, translator, editor and educator Aris Sevag died suddenly on Saturday, April 28. He was 66.

For many years, Sevag was the managing editor of the *Armenian Reporter* weekly, and later the assistant editor of the biannual *AGBU News* magazine and editor of *Ararat* online magazine. He published more than a dozen literary, historical and other works, the most recent being *Armenian Golgotha*, with Peter Balakian, as well as hundreds of articles. Among his unpublished translations are accounts of several Armenian Genocide survivors, a study on the orphans from the Armenian Genocide, histories of prominent Armenian families and works of literature.

A full obituary will appear next week.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Genocide Memorial Planned for Lowell

By Tom Vartabedian

LOWELL, Mass. — A monument featuring a mother's hands weaving the history of her people is the theme of an Armenian Genocide memorial approved by city officials, during a meeting with organizers from the Merrimack Valley Armenian community.

Plans for the structure were announced during the 97th anniversary commemoration in front of City Hall, where the monument will be situated to the right of a flagpole, which flies the Armenian tricolor every April 24.

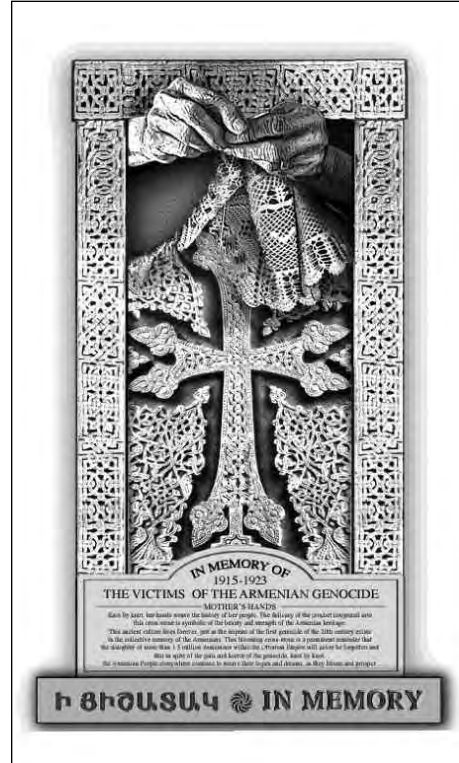
Estimated cost for the project runs \$25,000, which will be collected through an intensive fund-raising campaign.

The announcement followed six months of plenary work by a pan-Armenian committee headed by activist Armen Jeknavorian with members of various church and civic organizations; Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian is also lending insight as honorary chairman.

The structure, which features a mother's hands protruding from the *khachkar*, serves as an immediate eye-catcher. At the base are the Armenian words "EE Hesh-a-dag," which translates into "In Remembrance." The stone measures six feet in height and three feet in width.

"The delicacy of the crochet integrated into the cross-stone symbolizes the steadfast richness of the Armenian heritage that has sustained our ancient people for centuries," said

Hejinian. "Knot by knot, the Armenian people everywhere weave their hopes and dream as they grow and prosper. This expression of 'weaving' echoes the Armenian national anthem."



"Mother's Hands" Genocide memorial planned for Lowell

The theme of weaving a lace cloth into stone appears connected to Lowell's history, known for its prominent textile industry.

"Lowell accepted immigrants from throughout the world to work the mills," added Hejinian. "It is here in which a community of Armenians was established and flourished from the late 19th century. Just as this Genocide is imprinted in the collective memory of every Armenian, this cross-stone is the permanent reminder that the ultimate crime against humanity will never be forgotten or repeated."

The project was started during the term of Mayor James Milinazzo, who lobbied for a piece of prime land abutting City Hall. He has since been replaced by Mayor Patrick Murphy, who remains just as dedicated to the endeavor.

The Armenian memorial will share company with markers from other nationalities inside an area known as Monument Park, which attracts some 100,000 people each July during an ethnic folk festival.

"It'll certainly create an attractive yet meaningful presence," said Murphy. "We have a very sizable Armenian presence in the city and this is a tribute to them. Armenians have overcome extreme adversity. Together, we'll all share in the human experience — that being peace and harmony throughout the world."

Armenians began settling in Lowell before the 1900s as immigrants came searching for work and a safe haven in which to raise their families, practice their religion and educate their children.



Displaying an artist's rendition of the Genocide memorial for Lowell are, from left, Mayor Patrick Murphy, Daniel Varoujan-Hejinian, artist/designer, and Armen Jeknavorian, committee chairman.

"The Armenian community became an asset to the growth of Lowell's economic and social fabric through their industrious spirit, strong family values and their devotion to a free society, healthy religious values and strong civic pride," added Murphy.

The Merrimack Valley currently is home to three Genocide survivors, Nellie Nazarian, Thomas Magarian and Ojen Fantazian, and each was invited to serve as an honorary member of the committee. Their names grace all formal correspondence and will be mentioned in conjunction with every nuance of the project, which is expected to be completed next April.

"Through their sacrifice and vision, generations have prospered here and made our heritage and culture one to be admired," said Jeknavorian. "It's a meaningful gesture of gratitude for all they've done to preserve and advance our history."

Obama again Breaks Promise to Commemorate Armenian Genocide

OBAMA, from page 1

from then-candidate Obama in which he trumpeted "my firmly held conviction that the Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion, or a point of view, but rather a widely documented fact supported by an overwhelming body of historical evidence."

"The facts are undeniable. An official policy that calls on diplomats to distort the historical facts is an untenable policy," Obama wrote. "As President I will recognize the Armenian Genocide."

The chairman of the Armenian National Committee of America, Ken Hachikian, issued

a blistering denunciation of Obama's latest statement, saying it made "a stark lie" out of his 2008 campaign pledge and charged it "represents the very opposite of the principled and honest change he promised to Armenian Americans and to all the citizens of our nation."

"The cause of genocide affirmation and prevention is a fundamental issue for all of humanity," stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny. "Only by squarely acknowledging the Armenian Genocide and confronting Turkey's denial, can the promise of the prevention be realized and truly give meaning to the words

never again. Armenian-Americans will not rest until the United States stands firmly with the community of righteous nations, wherein 20 countries have affirmed the Armenian Genocide."

Armenian-American celebrity Kim Kardashian marked the event on her official Twitter feed, @kimkardashian. "Today lets all stand together & remember the 1.5 million people who were massacred in the Armenian Genocide. April 24th, 1915. #NEVERFORGET," she wrote.

(Additional reporting by the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* staff.)

Sen. Levin Calls for Genocide Recognition

LEVIN, from page 5

which we remind one another of the organized campaign of deportation, expropriation, starvation and atrocity perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire against its Armenian population."

Continuing Levin reminded the audience that the Genocide began on April 24, 1915 with the eventual execution of hundreds of Armenian community members, then adding that "just as, a few days ago, we marked Holocaust Remembrance Day bearing witness to the attempt by Nazi Germany to destroy Europe's Jewish population."

While addressing the Genocide, Levin stressed "the historical record is clear and undeniable. I would ask any who deny the historical reality of the Armenian Genocide to read *Giants of the Earth*, the moving memoir of native Detroit Mitch Kehetian and his search for the fate of beloved family members during the tragedy."

In linking the Armenian Genocide with the Jewish Holocaust, Levin cited how Adolph Hitler ordered his Nazi commanders on the eve of the invasion of Poland to kill the Jews much like the Ottomans killed the Armenians, with impunity, since "Who today, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians? And so, he launched the Holocaust, ending the lives of 6 million Jews simply because they were Jewish."

Giants of the Earth was printed by Publish America of Baltimore, focusing on the writer's search in 1969 for his father's sister Parancim in the province of Keghi, Turkish-occupied western Armenia and journey through the now barren Armenian cities of Sepastia, Erzincan, Erzurum, Bitlis, Moush, Kharpet, Malatya and historic Lake Van.

(Mitch Kehetian is the retired editor of the *Macomb Daily*.)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

South Florida Armenian Community Gathers for Easter Celebration

BOCA RATON, Fla. — On Sunday, April 8, the South Florida Armenian-American community gathered at St. David Armenian Church to celebrate Easter Sunday, reported Florida Armenians (FLArmenians). The sanctuary was filled to capacity and the adjoining church hall accommodated 500 people so that all could par-

ticipate in the day's service, festivities and celebration. Led by Very Rev. Dr. Nareg Berberian, pastor of St. David Armenian Church, parishioners came with their families and friends to celebrate the most important feast day in the Armenian Christian faith.

"I am pleased to see almost 700 people gath-



Parishioners in attendance at St. David Armenian Church



Rev. Nareg Berberian and the St. David Armenian Church servers

er together in our Sanctuary to celebrate the Feast of the Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With Christ, our souls are resurrected and in Christ our hearts are created anew. I encourage all our congregants to become more active in sharing their God-given talents and gifts with our Church community, especially since this year has been designated as the year of the 'Lay Ministry.'

Holy Week is the most important week of the Church calendar and St. David Armenian Church held religious activities in the days leading up to Easter Sunday. As is tradition

in the Armenian church, the greeting "Krisdos haryav ee merelotz" (Christ is risen from the dead) is used on the joyous day of Easter, followed by the response "Orhnyal eh harouteunn Krisdosi" (blessed is the resurrection of Christ).

"It was wonderful to see so many of our community come out to celebrate this day," stated Parish Council member Carol Norigian. "As our parish continues to grow, the St. David Armenian Church Parish Council is pleased to continue serving our vibrant south Florida community," stated Norigian.

Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian To Receive Ellis Island Medal

AWARD, from page 5

first anesthetic for children at the Harvard Cyclotron Physics Laboratory located on Harvard's main campus. These children required 20 to 30 treatments on a daily basis. Presently, Goudsouzian is the principal anesthesiologist of the unit at MGH. The unit is proud in its accomplishment in that no major mishap at the old or new unit has happened in 25 years.

Goudsouzian and his wife of 42 years, Mary, have been active in the St. James Armenian Church for 37 years. He has been on the Parish Council for six years and is a diocesan delegate. He is active in several other organizations such as the Armenian General Benevolent Union (vice chairman of the Greater Boston chapter), National Association of Armenian Research and Studies (board member), Armenian Cultural Foundation (board member) and Friends of Armenian Culture Society (Secretary). The

Goudsouzians' contributions were recognized by the Catholicos of all Armenians and he received the St. Nerses Shnorhali Medal with a pontifical Encyclical, an event recognized by the Massachusetts House of Representatives. Furthermore, he has also volunteered his time in providing anesthesia for handicapped children on the Mercy Ship in Port Antonio, Jamaica.

Armenia has a special place in the heart of the Goudsouzians. He has been to Armenia eight times, twice with Project Hope, the first time to organize an airlift of earthquake victims to the United States, and the second time to establish a rehabilitation unit.

While with Project Hope, Goudsouzian was appalled by the lack of medical supplies in Armenia. He started collecting medical supplies and sending them to hospitals in Armenia. He has been sending a large shipment every two to three months through the United Armenia Fund for the last 15 years.

St. John Garabed Armenian Church Hopes New Building Project May Be Approved by Year End

SAN DIEGO, Calif. — The Trust Fund Committee of St. John Garabed Armenian Church has resubmitted the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application to establish a new church campus on its property near Del Mar. This second submission is a "limited submittal" in response to specific concerns raised in the first review to traffic flow and environmental impact. After initial feedback from the city staff and affected agencies, a complete resubmittal will be made for a final, comprehensive review by the City of San Diego. The Trust Fund Committee is hopeful that the project may be approved by the end of this year.

Harry Krikorian, chairman of the Trust Fund Committee, stated, "The San Diego-Armenian community is eager to establish our spiritual, social, educational and cultural home on our new property near Del Mar. It has been our dream for several years, and now we are growing closer to realizing that dream. Throughout this process, we have been blessed by many fortuitous events that have helped to bring even greater potential to our project."

Krikorian said that the new campus would be built in stages over a period of several years with the sanctuary and a state-of-the-art social hall being the first priority. In addition, the proposed church campus will include a cultural center and library, youth center, classrooms for Sunday and Armenian Schools, gymnasium,

Armenian heritage park, picnic and meditation space and abundant parking.

On November 10, the Trust Fund Committee will host the second annual "Bridge to the Future" Gala Dinner and Dance at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines with guest of honor, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, and entertainment provided by Robert Chilingirian. For event information, contact Ani Lanuza at sjgsdtrust@gmail.com.

In 2008, the Trust Fund Committee of St. John Garabed Armenian Church purchased close to 14 acres of premium property near Del Mar. The new property is located at 13860 El Camino Real. The current fundraising goal is to raise \$1 million for expenses associated with final approval of the CUP as well as final land acquisition.

For more than 30 years, St. John Garabed Armenian Church has been at the heart of Armenian community life in San Diego. Under the leadership of Rev. Datev A.K. Tatoulian, St. John Garabed is a vibrant parish with many active church organizations and groups, including the Parish Council, Ladies' Society, Sunday and Armenian School, church choir and the Armenian Church Youth Organization.

For information about the Trust Fund Committee, new church campus, fundraising events and donations, visit www.stjohngarabedtrust.org.

ARPA to Hold Daylong Event with Lectures and Panel Discussions

GLENDALE, Calif. — The Board of Directors of the Analysis Research and Planning for Armenia (ARPA) Institute has planned an all-day event, with lectures and panel discussions by scholars and experts, culminating in a gala banquet, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the founding of ARPA.

The conference on "Current Issues Facing Armenia and the Diaspora" will convene on Saturday, May 19, at 11 a.m., (lunch will be provided) at the Glendale Public Library, 222 E. Harvard St. The gala banquet will be held on the same day at 7:30 p.m., at the Dream Palace Banquet Hall (510 E. Broadway), following the conference.

To document this event, a booklet will be published, which will include the history of the organization, the summary of all ARPA

projects in Armenia currently in progress as well as other future plans and projects. The booklet will also include the highlights of ARPA's monthly lectures in Los Angeles, the details of the conference program and the abstracts of the papers presented at the conference.

ARPA encourages participation in supporting this program by advertising products or services, and/or expressing well-wishes to ARPA Institute or honoring the memory loved ones and families in the booklet.

ARPA organizes monthly lectures on various subjects. If unable to attend the lecture on Armenian Identity, Knowledge and Studies: Synthesis and/or Controversy, visit the following site to watch the complete lecture on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/cvSVFgDXdyg>.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

New York Times Square Armenian Genocide Commemoration Defies the Weather

COMMEMORATION, from page 1

Dennis R. Papazian, PhD, national grand commander of the Knights of Vartan and founding director of the Armenian Research Center at the University of Michigan-Dearborn, and Mary A. Papazian, PhD, president of Southern Connecticut State University, presided over the ceremonies. Armen McOmber, Esq., assisted Papazian as emcee.

Commemoration participants included Armenian Genocide survivors, elected officials and humanitarian, cultural, religious, educational and community leaders. Speakers included Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-NY), Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ), Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), New York City Comptroller John C. Liu, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer and New York City Council member Peter F. Vallone Jr. (D-NY). No other Armenian genocide commemoration the United States, except in the capitol in Washington DC, attracts as many distin-

and sisters on the occasion of YaHashoa, the commemoration of the Jewish Holocaust.

In a spirited address, Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY) said that "America's place among the other countries that recognize is long overdue. Continually calling upon the United States government is critical and I remain optimistic towards our nation. It is important that there be no lapse in our effort to recognize the Genocide."

Menendez, the chief defender of Armenian interest in the US Senate, proclaimed that Armenians' struggle for recognition is not in vain. "We must express our concerns that Turkey continues to punish on a criminal level those who dare call the Armenian atrocities a genocide. The Armenian Genocide is not and should not be an issue for debate; it is a fact... Keep the faith and [we will] do what we need to do to accurately represent the facts." Menendez is working diligently to prevent Armenian Genocide deniers from representing the State Department in foreign countries and has put a hold on the appointment of many recalcitrance.

"The one thing as bad as genocide is the denial of genocide," said Schumer. "We should not fail to head the lessons taken from the crimes in the early part of the century. We owe



Several Genocide survivors attended the



Rep. Carolyn Maloney addressed those assembled in St. Vartan Cathedral.

guished political figures.

Special guests included Attorney Mark J. Geragos, who helped lead the federal class-action lawsuits against New York Life and other insurance companies for policies issued to Armenians living in Turkey prior to the Armenian Genocide; Susan L. Rosenbluth, editor and publisher of the *Jewish Voice and Opinion*, and others.

Rosenbluth, in a spirited commentary, said that she represented the vast majority of Jews who accepted the reality of the Armenian Genocide and were working to convince the ADL and the state of Israel to openly declare their support.

Genocide survivors, who were given thunderous applause when introduced, included Arsalos Dadir, 98; Charlette Kechejian, 99; Perouze Kalousdianian, 102, and Azniv Guiragossian, 101.

The commemoration began with a rendition of the American and Armenian national anthems by Ani Djirdjiryran. Kechejian clutched a white carnation and joined in the singing, pronouncing each word with distinction. The message was clear: Despite being strong and proud Armenians, we also have faith and pride in our home country, America, which is our land of security and opportunity.

Despite 43 states in the nation recognizing the atrocities of 1915-1923 against the Armenian people by the Young Turk Government of the Ottoman Empire as genocide, the United States government is no longer willing to use the word officially. Economic reasoning and diplomatic pressure from Turkey has been preventing our nation's governmental leaders from following in the footsteps of the 21 other counties around the world who legally recognize the events against the Armenians as genocide.

Acknowledgment was also made of the genocide committed by the Turkish government against the Greeks and Assyrians at the same time as the Armenian Genocide and fraternal commiseration was offered to Jewish brothers

it to the victims and the survivors. We are all survivors; if not for someone in our ancestry, we would not be here. The recognition of the Armenian Genocide is not for only for the sake of those victimized or oppressed; it is for us and all those who have ever suffered such tragedy."

Pallone (D-NJ), head of the Armenian Caucus of the House of Representatives, stressed the idea that we are making progress in Washington. "Even though some Congressmen continue to vote against the Armenian genocide recognition resolution, they no longer deny the reality but only say we do not want to offend "our ally Turkey."

Any action taken to recognize past genocides also serves as a preventative for future crimes against humanity. "There is no question that when genocide goes unpunished, it makes other perpetrators discount the possibility of being held accountable for their crimes..." said Papazian, "It was the Armenian Genocide which opened the door to all other genocides of the 20th century."

"Of course," stressed Papazian, "the recognition by Turkey is the ultimate goal. The Turkish government must offer recognition and recompense. It would be a lot easier if the Turkish government would free the Turkish people to do their own investigating rather than forcing the party line on a public denied the freedom to investigate and discuss the issue freely without threat of arrest and prosecution under Article 301 of the Turkish criminal code."

Maral Mouradian, 20, second place winner of

the annual Knights of Vartan essay contest, co-sponsored by Facing History and Ourselves,



Sen. Robert Menendez addressed those assembled in St. Vartan Cathedral.

who was recognized by Grand Commander Papazian and Grand Matron of the Daughters



Sen. Charles Schumer also spoke at the Times Square event, which was moved inside to St. Vartan Cathedral.

of Vartan, Agnes Sahagian, commented on what it might take for recognition to be implemented, "Public opinion can only go so far if politicians do not act on it. However public opinion can provide political consequences to an official's lack of action. "Recognizing Armenian sufferings is pivotal in showing the world that "every race of people has a place on this earth and no one has a right to change that dynamic."

The proceedings opened with an invocation from Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan of the Prelacy and ended with a benediction by Very Rev. Vazken Karayan representing Archbishop Khajag Barsamian of the Diocese.

Special introductions were made of Dr. Allan Whitehorn, author on topics related to the Armenian Genocide, Ugur Umit Ungur, a Turkish scholar who writes effectively on the Armenian Genocide, and Margaret Ajamian Ahnert, whose recent novel, *A Knock at the Door*, on the Genocide, has gained wide acclaim.

Paul Saryian, a candidate for Congress, was also introduced.

Three representatives of several participating organizations brought greetings: Natalie Gabrielian of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Alex Karapetian of the Armenian Assembly of America and George Aghjanyan of the Armenian National Committee of America.

Rouben Matevosyan roused the crowd with singing *Zartir Lao* and Raisa Megerdichyan performed an upbeat rendition of *Azk Parabantz*.

The commemoration concluded with an echoing rendition of *God Bless America* by Anjha Avsharian.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Heritage Park Monument Unveiled

UNVEILING, from page 1

The sculpture, when it eventually makes its way to its permanent home, will be mounted above a reflecting pool. It will be reconfigured annually.

A joyous Anahid Mardiros, who was happily playing with her grandchildren, was both relieved and delighted that the sculpture was finished. "It's like a baby that took two years to have," she said. She added that she was grateful for the support of close friends in realizing this project.

Ani Stepanian of Belmont, whose husband, Nelson, chaired the event, was happy with the night's turnout. "You have people from different segments of the community. That is kind of perfect considering what the monument signifies."

The program started with Sevag Khatchadourian singing the Armenian and American national anthems. Then, dancers from the Sayat Nova Dance Company, in which Vartan Mardiros is a dancer, performed to the delight of the crowd.

James Kalustian, the president of the Armenian Heritage Park Foundation, thanked the Knights of Vartan for sponsoring the night's event and for being the first organization to support the project, as well the Mardiros family.

"We owe them an undying debt of gratitude," he said. "Donald envisioned it and the Mardiroses realized it."

"Many people said it couldn't happen. Others



From left, Nelson Stepanian, James Kalustian, Peter Koutoujian, Aurelian Mardiros, Anahid Mardiros and Donald Tellalian

said it shouldn't happen. But now, we're a few weeks away" from its unveiling, Kalustian said.

Tentatively the parcel is supposed to be finished sometime late in May or in early June.

"The park is dedicated to the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide and to those who came here to seek new lives," Kalustian said.

The sculpture, he noted, will have 24-26 different configurations, which symbolize the dispersion and coming together of immigrants from different shores.

Kalustian introduced Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, crediting his perseverance during his time as a state representative for the Armenians getting the parcel in the Rose Kennedy Greenway.

Koutoujian praised the Knights for their support of various projects in the community and the two local Armenian schools, St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School and the Armenian Sisters' Academy, as well as the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. "They do this good work without anyone knowing," he said.

He gave credit to the late Peabody mayor, Peter Torigian, for doing so

much to help the community in general and the Armenian-American community in particular.

Mayor Edward Bettencourt, who spoke next, continued with praise for the work of the late Torigian. "I really feel honored to be here. The Armenian community is a very important part of the city of Peabody. The architect responsible for making this city was Peter Torigian. He built it into the great city it is."

In a touching story, first-time mayor Bettencourt said how when he was a student in high school, Torigian came to speak to the students and left an indelible impression on the

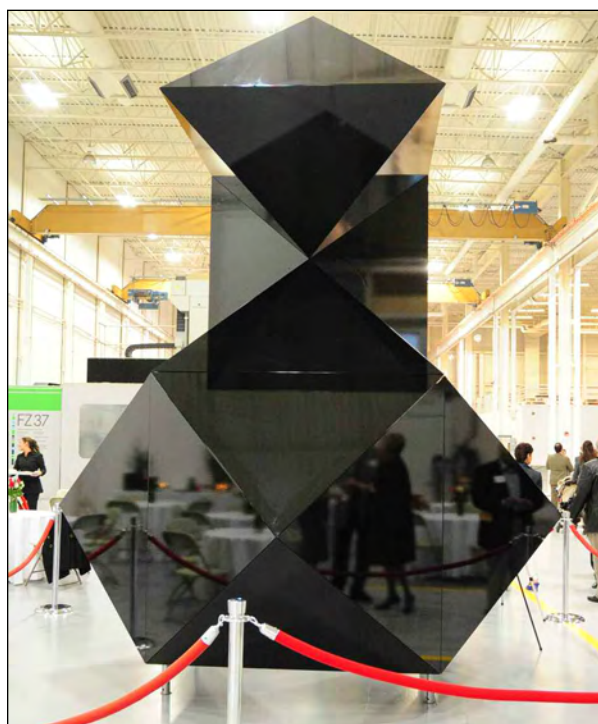


Aurelian Mardiros in front of the Heritage Park sculpture

future mayor.

Bettencourt noted that he is going to continue the tradition of commemorating the Armenian Genocide in the city annually with the participation of high school and middle school students, adding that the program had taken place earlier that day. "I want students to come and learn what evil is so that something like that does not happen again."

Also present at the event was Torigian's widow, Jackie.



The reflective surface shone like a mirror.



Peabody Mayor Edward Bettencourt, left, with Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian



The members of the Knights of Vartan

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Job Opening

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

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

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

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ANSEF in Forefront of Stemming Armenia's Brain Drain

By Florence Avakian

NEW YORK – Looking into the heavens, Dr. Areg Mickaelian leads the Armenian Virtual Observatory project. Chemist Dr. Astghik Shahkhatuni continues to make dramatic advances in decoding the human genome. And Hamlet Martirosyan studies Armenology and the history of the Armenian nation.

These three scholars are a few of more than several hundred intellectuals during the last 12 years in Armenia who have received the Armenian National Science and Education (ANSEF) grants of \$5,000, each to further and enhance their valuable research and prevent Armenia's brain drain.

Set up by the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), ANSEF has awarded grants totaling \$1.4 million thus far.

"ANSEF's mission is to maintain and strengthen Armenia's intellectual community by providing peer reviewed research awards to support scientific, technological and scholarly research," stated Dr. Yervant Terzian, in a telephone interview. One of the founders of ANSEF and chairman of the ANSEF Board and its Research Council, he is the Tisch Distinguished University Professor at Cornell University's Department of Astronomy and Space Sciences, and was the department chairman from 1979 to 1999. A recipient of many honors, he has authored more than 230 scientific publications, and is the director of NASA's New York Space Grant Program to enhance science education and research.

Born in Alexandria, Egypt, to a Greek mother and an Armenian father, he recalled as a child seeing the stars "shining like diamonds in the sky." By age 7, he had already given a lecture to his fellow boy scouts. From that precocious childhood, he became one of the most respected researchers in radio astronomy in the world.

Alarming Brain Drain

"After the fall of the Soviet Union, the sciences were in an awful and really terrible condition," Terzian explained. Many scientists had no work. A large number of them left and went to Europe and North America. "ANSEF was created to assist and strengthen Armenian intellectuals with peer-reviewed research awards to support scholarly and intellectual needs where financial conditions are difficult. In order for the country to advance, intellectual leaders are needed to take leadership roles and educate the next generation."

Armenia, from ancient times, "has contributed tremendously in the sciences," he continued, citing among many others, Karahoonch (an Armenian version of Stonehenge, predating the British one) and Medzamor as possible ancient sites for astronomical observations, and more recently Armenia's preeminent Byurakan Observatory, and its world famous astronomer, the late Viktor Hampartzumian. "During the Soviet period, after Russia, Armenia was the most notable and productive Soviet country in the sciences – physics, astronomy and mathematics," he added.

Started in the late 1990s by a group of Armenian-American scientists, ANSEF was created to fundraise in the United States and financially aid scientists and scholars (and graduate students) in Armenia. In its first year, the committee received 85 proposals, 26 percent of which were granted ANSEF Awards. By the second year, there were 269, with 10 percent receiving money, and now in its 12th year, more than 200 proposals were submitted.

The process of selection is done by a committee of Armenian-American scientists, as well as non-Armenians. It involves weekly meetings by telecommunication, reviews and evaluations by experts and ranking by the research committee, with the final selection made before the New Year, and a final ceremony in Yerevan, either at the Academy of Sciences or the offices of FAR. Grant recipients get the first half of the money immediately; after six months, they write a progress report, after which they receive the second half of the funds.

During the project's 12 years, the ANSEF researchers have made research reports which have been published in more than 700 scientific publications, most in international leading journals. "We are very proud of our scientists in Armenia. They have been submitting outstanding proposals at the cutting edge of world class research in many research areas," said Terzian, revealing that 49 percent were in the physical sciences, 28 percent in the natural sciences, 15 percent in engineering and 8 percent in the humanities.

"Education is the core of all of this," stressed Terzian, adding that "for a country to prosper, be safe and successful, it needs an educated population."

Excellent Philanthropic Program

"Armenia's intellectual resources are most important because Armenia has no natural resources," stated Dr. Aram V. Chobanian. A former president of Boston University, dean of the School of Medicine and provost of its medical campus, he is the recipient of many awards for

his research in cardiovascular diseases and is the author of 250 papers and two books. Chobanian is also a founding member of ANSEF.

"Though ANSEF's grants of \$5,000 covers only a small need, nonetheless ANSEF has done a great job in these 12 years. It has put research on a more peer-reviewed basis so that it's not a political decision," he explained, adding that in Armenia, "they know that they have a fair and equal process with us to get grants. It puts a quality stamp on the grants and gives the grant recipients something special to include on their curriculum vitae."

By the high number of publications published in journals, the "cost-to-benefit ratio is very positive. And it says a great deal for the quality of the people in Armenia. They have done so much for so little. It is an excellent philanthropic program," Chobanian said.

"My interest in ANSEF was a natural outcome of the excellent potential in Armenia that was being lost after independence," said Dr. Mihran Agbabian, another ANSEF founding and Research Committee member. Former chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Southern California, he is also a founding president of the American University of Armenia.

"There were brilliant scientific minds willing to tackle new projects. The National Academy of Sciences in the US in 2004 made a total evaluation of sciences in Armenia, and was amazed at the capability and organic structure under the USSR, which was now sitting idle. And the Armenian Academy of Sciences was hungry for involvement in research, but there was no money," Agbabian said. It was revealed that the budget of the Armenian government only allocated 1 percent for scientific work – approximately \$2.9 million in 2004, and this tiny amount would have to support 2,000 scientists.

"ANSEF has done a beautiful job so far, but much greater donations are needed from the Armenian-Americans, as well as from the Armenian government. If the sciences in Armenia are not supported, the economy will suffer and emigration of the intellectuals will increase," said Agbabian.

"The leaders of Armenia should be encouraged to financially help the youth to study and receive doctorates in the sciences. There are not



Dr. Yervant Terzian

enough students at Yerevan State University getting PhDs. There is a general need to review where we are, where to go and how to get there."

Garnik Nanagoulian, executive director of FAR, said "this small landlocked country of Armenia has an amazing vitality for talent. ANSEF is one of the major projects of FAR which is noted for its charitable work involving orphans, single mothers, the elderly and the less fortunate. However, it is gradually doing more and more things in research, science and education."

Paying tribute to the "visionary donors," he named in particular the very generous contributions of Armen Avanesians, Jerry Turpanjian, the Dadourian family and Dr. Sarkis Kechejian. "We hope the Armenian intellectuals in the US can understand the crucial importance of this noble project and support their peers," he said in conclusion.

After 12 years of hard work, ANSEF will celebrate its successes in a major Forum meeting in Yerevan (Academy of Sciences) this September 24.

ANSEF, operating under the auspices of the FAR, provides financial and other material resources to support scientific research, advanced technology development and scholarly work in the Republic of Armenia.

For more information about ANSEF, visit www.ansef.org.

Mirror-Spectator Presents Gregory Adamian the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award at May Gala

ADAMIAN, from page 1

His father came to Boston from Aintab after the Genocide, while his mother's parents had fled Kharpert to Worcester even earlier, before his mother was born. Consequently, Adamian was born in Somerville, Mass., in 1926. His grandmother, who lived with his parents, could not speak English, therefore his first language and only language was Armenian until he began elementary school. The family moved to Brooklyn for a few years, where the family was in a less Armenian environment, but Adamian's father was hired as a bilingual compositor by the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* and *Baïkar* and they moved to Watertown.

Adamian skipped several grades to graduate high school early and began work at the Hood Rubber Company, in whose sweatshop-like factory many Watertown Armenians found employment, including, briefly, artist Arshile Gorky. At the very end of World War II, he joined the navy, which sent him to college and officer training. He graduated from Harvard University and received a commission as an officer. He went to the Pacific for a year after the war was over.

While providing fuel to naval ships in Hong Kong, he was told that an Armenian owned the largest bar in the city. When he walked up to him and said, "Inch bes es," or how are you, in Armenian, the man almost had a heart attack.

They became so close that when Adamian left the city, the bar owner organized a farewell party which was attended by 75 Armenians living in Hong Kong at the time.

After leaving the navy, Adamian attended law school on the GI bill at Boston University and opened an office in Harvard Square. Initially, business was not good, therefore he decided to get a master's degree in public administration from nearby Harvard and was granted a fellowship. Adamian began teaching economics (his major earlier at Harvard) at Suffolk University in 1951 on a part-time basis, and this led to a major change in his life.

Adamian's best student turned out to work at Bentley College and asked him whether he would like to teach there. He began teaching economics part-time in 1955 while continuing his law practice. An opening in the law department led him to start teaching business law, and he eventually became chairman of the department in 1968 and in two more years he was appointed president of the college. He remained president until 1991, when he was made chancellor for life.

He changed the nature of the college, expanding its offerings from one bachelor's degree to a variety of business and liberal arts disciplines, as well as master's programs in six fields. He created one of the first college centers for business ethics in the US. In a sense, Adamian pre-

pared the college for its transformation into a university. This new status and name was recognized by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education in 2008.

Adamian was involved in the building of more than two dozen campus buildings. He increased the endowment from over \$350,000 to \$60 million when he retired as president. Today it is in the range of \$200 million. An adept fundraiser, his Armenian contacts came in handy here. He was close friends with Detroit industrialists and philanthropists Alex Manoogian and Edward Mardigian. Adamian was on the board of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) when Manoogian was its president, and was frequently invited to lecture for the AGBU. After each lecture, Manoogian would send a check for \$5,000 to Bentley. Manoogian donated several hundred thousand dollars to build the president's house at the Bentley campus. Mardigian donated part of the graduate center for \$150,000.

His impact on Bentley was recognized in many ways, including the creation of the Gregory H. Adamian Professorship in Law and the Gregory Adamian Award for Teaching Excellence.

Adamian has received many honors, including the St. Nersess Shnorhali Medal granted by the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin I in 1998, the Humanity Award from Facing History

and Ourselves, the 2007 Ellis Island Medal of Honor. Most recently the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America has announced Adamian to be "Armenian Church Member of the Year" for 2012.

Adamian was one of the founders of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research and served for some 50 years on its board. He was president of the Council for Immigration and Resettlement of Armenians. In 1956, he testified at a Washington Senate Committee on the Judiciary hearing on behalf of this organization for a bill to assist Armenian immigration into the US, together with other prominent Armenians.

Adamian was an associate trustee of the Armenian Assembly of America. He became a frequent lecturer on the Armenian Genocide for Armenian organizations, speaking nearly every April.

Adamian's ties to the Baïkar Association and the *Mirror* run deep. He worked while young on Saturdays to help wrap newspapers for mailing. At that time the *Baïkar* offices were on Shawmut Avenue in Boston proper. Adamian was also the keynote speaker at the 50th anniversary banquet for the *Mirror* in 1982 and continues today to be a faithful reader and supporter. This only makes it all the more fitting for the *Mirror-Spectator* to recognize his achievements as an Armenian in America.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Forum Shows for More Diaspora Armenians, Love of Homeland Is No Longer Blind

FAIRLAWN, N.J. — Thanks to the enthusiastic response to last year's first "Truth or Consequences" forum on "Challenges to Human Rights and Rule of Law in Armenia," a series of public forums has been organized. Owing up to the specific challenges facing the homeland and the role of the diaspora in overcoming them requires a deeper understanding of the issues involved. To that end, the second "Truth or Consequences" forum took place on April 20, titled "Challenges to Armenia-Diaspora Relations."

The forum was again co-sponsored by a diverse group of diaspora organizations, including: Armenian Bar Association; Armenian Engineers and Scientists Association (ASEA) of NY/NJ; Armenian Human Rights Advocates; Armenian National Committee (ANC) of New Jersey; Knights of Vartan; the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and the New York Armenian Students Association (ASA).

More than 150 attendees gathered at the St. Leon Armenian Church in Fairlawn to hear three panelists give their unique perspectives on the state of relations between the diaspora and Armenia.

Returning as moderator, Arda Haratunian, a strategic communications and crisis management professional from New York, welcomed the participants. She also noted that the deputy minister of diaspora relations had been invited to participate on the panel, but declined. In her opening remarks, Haratunian reiterated the concept behind the forums. "We lay out the truths; understand the consequences of inaction; and help set up a framework about what to do next."

Guest speaker, Edgar Martirosyan, is an Armenia-born attorney, practicing in Los Angeles. He is also a board member of Policy Forum Armenia, a global think-tank engaged in critical analysis of policies and trends impacting Armenia and its future.

Joining him as a panelist was Edele Hovnanian, founder of Birthright Armenia, an international organization that enables young diasporan adults to live and work as interns in Armenia.

Razmik Panossian, PhD, a newcomer to the Armenian-American community via Canada, also participated. In addition to writing many books and articles on Armenian subjects, he is an international human rights expert and a longtime commentator on Armenia-diaspora relations. Panossian brought a wealth of global experience to the complex nature of the subject.

The themes and concepts each raised during their presentations created a lively exchange of ideas and information. They also elicited hard-hitting questions from a diverse and multi-generational audience — from cultivating effective diaspora leaders and investing in Armenia as stakeholders to overcoming poverty in Armenia as a pre-requisite to political change. The role of the Armenian Church and big-name diaspora organizations in promoting human rights was also brought up, as well as the pros and cons of creating a diaspora venture capital fund, among other ideas.

Throughout the two-hour discussion, the main principle upon which all panelists agreed, was that the idealized relationship does not and never really did exist. The real question is where we go from here and how.

The centerpiece of the discussions was a report released by Policy Forum Armenia in 2010, titled "Armenia-Diaspora Relations: 20 Years Since Independence." This groundbreaking 57-page report offers insights into what it characterizes as a troubled relationship between Armenia and its worldwide diaspora. The report provides historical context, rigorous research, professional analysis and commentary from thought leaders around the world. These elements combine to identify the critical issues at play and innovative solutions for going forward. A noteworthy key finding, for example, is that the March 2008 presidential election in Armenia was the major turning point in widening the chasm between the diaspora and the people of Armenia. The full report, in addition to reports on other timely issues, can be viewed at www.pfarmenia.org.

Key Issues in Diaspora-Armenia Relations

The main theme of Martirosyan's presentation was that, despite the diaspora's best intentions to develop democratic values and prosperity in Armenia, on balance, it has failed to achieve its vision. He noted that the diaspora leadership, in the form of various organizations, political parties and institutions, has long exhibited a pattern of aligning itself with the government, either tacitly or vocally. Ironically, their stance is often at cross-purposes with the very populace the diaspora purports to want to help or the values that its own constituencies espouse.

This dissonant and often hypocritical behavior on the part of the diaspora has resulted in mistrust among those in Armenia working toward building a true democracy. At the same time, the diasporan institutions' mostly passive response to political and social crises, such as the mass protests and deadly police actions of March 2008, has emboldened the Armenian government to dismiss the diaspora as a force to be reckoned with.

Martirosyan elaborated on how the diaspora has not been able to engage Armenia in any meaningful way with respect to governance, public service reforms and civil society building. "Corruption and state capture continue to debilitate the State largely unabated and the diaspora's response to the deficiencies and inefficiencies of systematic governance and state of corruption

is for the most part muted. Some argue that criticizing the Armenian government strengthens opposing states and weakens Armenia, while others harbor the belief that no mechanism exists for engagement on these issues. The real problem, however, is less in these considerations and more in the set of values that form the foundations of the relationship between the Diaspora and Armenia, as well as concepts of what is and is not important to Armenia. Democratic ideals and aspirations and respect for human rights take a back seat to notions — or should I say perceptions — of stability and tranquility. Whether it be civil society building or promoting sustainable economic development in Armenia, sadly, the diaspora is more absent than not."

Influence of Diaspora on Armenia's Affairs

Panossian offered other sobering revelations on the diaspora's role and influence in Armenia. He began by questioning the very definition of the Armenian Diaspora itself. He cautioned that it is far from a monolithic entity. He divided the diaspora into distinct categories, i.e. the "established" diaspora, encompassing descendants of Genocide survivors and "post-Soviet" diaspora composed of emigrants from Armenia since 1988. One could subdivide these groups further, each with incongruent perspectives. He described the former group as having more emotional links with the Armenian homeland and concerns with Genocide recognition and the latter more tied to the republic with family and structural concerns. He mentioned how, for example, Armenian student politics is changing in Western universities as more Armenia-born students study in North America and Europe. He believes they are starting to challenge some of the diaspora's established perceptions regarding Armenia and diasporan politics.

Most important, he explained, is the shift in the diaspora's center of gravity. Contrary to popular belief, the largest Armenian diaspora is now in Russia, the source of the most money sent back to Armenia. To understand this new paradigm, Panossian suggested that a study be commissioned to find areas of common interests and differences between diasporans of Russia and the West.

Panossian also broke with conventional wisdom by advocating for a decentralized diaspora, remarking that the diversity of perspectives and institutions could serve as a benefit, given that the large diasporan organizations are not in the best position to be change leaders. Nevertheless, he went on to say that the diaspora had a role to play as the "conscience" of the Armenian republic. He urged that it remain critically engaged insofar as asking the legitimate questions.

Another way the diaspora can become more constructively engaged in Armenia's affairs, Panossian asserted, was in foreign affairs impacting Armenia. A clear example is the prospect of a war between Israel and Iran, which would be "absolutely detrimental" to the security of Armenia. He recommended that the diaspora organize itself as a "peace lobby" to help avoid such a war in Armenia's neighborhood.

In his concluding remarks, Panossian mentioned that despite all the criticisms of Armenia's government, it deserved credit for establishing a ministry of diaspora affairs, for allowing dual citizenship for a nominal fee and through a simplified process and for engaging in other initiatives that reach out to the diaspora.

At the same time, Panossian stated that "there is a red line in Armenia — that if it is crossed by diasporans the consequences tend to be severe: challenging the oligarchy and monopolistic capitalistic system." He described the underlying message as "don't try to invest in a way that is going to challenge our monopoly." He added, "This is what depresses me most."

Human Ties that Bind Diaspora to Homeland

Hovnanian began her introduction by stressing that she was not an apologist for the Armenian government and recognizes that the taxation and judicial systems are deeply flawed. "The days of being shocked that there are bad things about Armenia are over," she declared. "I think we are much more pragmatic today than were right after the earthquake."

At the same time, she reminded the audience of the emotional and cultural dimensions of the diaspora-homeland relationship are the glue that would bind present and future generations to Armenia. She described how her own passion for Armenia led her to found Birthright Armenia.

The concept behind Birthright Armenia is that every diaspora young adult deserves the opportunity to experience that special connection to his or her ancestral homeland. By total immersion in the life of the country, residing with families and working as interns over an extended period, a new generation of diaspora leaders will emerge. They will be ready to engage Armenia as credible and informed players with local counterparts with whom they bonded during their formative years. Some will even return to Armenia to plant a stake in the nation as residents, entrepreneurs or community organizers. "People say how can we engage. On whatever scale you can, you do the one thing in Armenia that you feel the most passionate about," said Hovnanian.

Hovnanian, later in the conversation, pointed out that many Birthright Armenia alumni who come home inspired and energized to

help Armenia find they are not welcomed by the established diaspora organizations. She urged that more young people in their 20s and 30s, who are "fearless" and believe that "anything is possible," should be embraced by the boards of such organizations.

Doing Business or Humanitarian Work in Armenia

On the subject of direct investment in Armenia, Hovnanian noted the excessive time and patience it takes to work through the complex and confusing regulations involved in doing business there. She agreed, however, that direct investment in Armenia's economy was an important component of creating a community of diasporan stakeholders with real impact on the nation's economy and governance. Yet she admonished diasporans to exercise extreme caution in such endeavors, citing the cases of Dr. Carol Ann Najarian and the Hovnanian family's travails. She believes the root of their troubles was partnering with the wrong people. "Never do what you would never do in America," she said. "Trust but verify," she said.

Since the Armenian government does not promote an environment in which recourse through the courts can be achieved fair and square, extraordinary diasporans such as Najarian are alienated. "We lost the inspiration of a woman who was truly at the forefront of improving the health care system in Armenia," said Hovnanian of Najarian.

This point was underscored with the presentation of a short video related to the case of Nareg Hovnanian, a US citizen and member of the Armenian-American community of New Jersey. Various high-profile Armenian-Americans such as Carla Garapetian, Serj Tankjian and John Hodian expressed their outrage over the way the Armenian government is allowing Nareg Hovnanian's human rights to be abused. Notables in Armenia's cultural community also voiced concern that mistreating someone who works so hard to bring free expression and creative inspiration to the people would send the wrong message to other well-intentioned diasporans.

The Bottom Line: What Can Be Done?

The presenters deemed the question-and-answer session as thoughtful and telling about the mindset of the audience. Some asked why the major organizations don't stand up for democratic values or try to influence Armenia's governance. Hovnanian explained that these organizations often have to walk a fine line with the government, especially since their ongoing programs and services require the cooperation of the local authorities for permits etc. Panossian maintained that the hope does not lie with the large organizations with their vested interests but rather with smaller groups. He suggested that even just a handful of people with a good idea could organize for positive change.

Panossian also posited that any graft and siphoning of diasporan funds to Armenia weren't nearly that significant in the scheme of things. Unlike in the early years in which diasporan funds were a major portion of Armenia's budget, today they are "loose change" compared with those of non-diasporan sources from Europe and the US. This is where corruption is far more substantive and damaging to Armenia's economy.

Another issue raised multiple times was how daily economic hardships and persistent poverty sap the will of Armenia's citizens to press for reforms. Too often, the way to overcome economic inequities wrought by rampant corruption is to leave the country. As in the last forum, the issue of depopulation was posed as one of the most serious threats to the security and survival of the Armenian homeland.

Hovnanian said, "The court systems, the tax systems, the lack of rule of law, those things will come but not come from us. That day will come, I believe, when every Armenian in Armenia has a job, their children have an opportunity for a good education, the healthcare system is not too expensive and is quality and their stomachs are full. I believe they will rise up. The reason the populace is not as engaged as they should be, as we want them to be, is they have so many other issues." She encouraged the audience to keep working in that direction, to keep caring, but to realize that sweeping change had to come from Armenia's citizens themselves.

Finally, the feedback from the leave-behind surveys indicated that despite all the challenges raised, most respondents came away with a "better understanding of the factors at play" and are "inspired to become more engaged with Armenia." The overwhelming response was that the presentations were very informative, the audience would like to stay engaged with the issue, receive updates, attend future forums, as well as donate to organizations or groups working to promote civil society in Armenia. Clearly, the task ahead is providing the platforms and channels through which the momentum for change can be harnessed most productively.

With that in mind, the next forum in the "Truth or Consequences" series will focus on "Challenges to Fair Elections and Democracy Building in Armenia." It is scheduled for May 18, in the aftermath of the parliamentary elections in Armenia slated for earlier that month. The guest speaker is Alex Sardar of Counterpart International in Armenia.

Arts & Living

Armenian Night at The Pops to Feature Clarinetist Narek Arutyunian

BOSTON – The Friends of Armenian Culture Society (FACS) will present the 61st annual Armenian Night at the Pops on Friday, June 8 at 8 p.m. at Symphony Hall. The evening will feature the young clarinetist Narek Arutyunian. Music director Keith Lockhart will lead the Boston Pops orchestra.

Arutyunian will perform Vittorio Monti's *Czardas*, *Kroonk* by Komitas and the *Jazz Clarinet Concerto* by legendary clarinetist Artie Shaw. The evening will also pay tribute to American song-writer Cole Porter as part of Pops' 2012 celebration theme, "Visions of America." Broadway stars Jason Daniele and Marin Mazzie will perform a collection of songs, including *Another Opening*, *Anything Goes*, *Another Show* and *So In Love*.

Arutyunian, 19, is a player who "reaches passionate depths with seemingly effortless technical prowess and beguiling sensitivity" (*Washington Post*). As a winner of the 2010 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, he was presented in recital debuts in the Young Concert Artists (YCA) Series at New York's Merkin Hall and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC.

This season Arutyunian performs as soloist with the Meridian Symphony and appears in recitals and residencies at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the Washington Center for the Performing Arts, Music for Youth and the Buffalo Chamber Music Society.

Arutyunian has performed at the Louvre Auditorium in Paris and at the Palazzo del Principe in Genoa. He has appeared as soloist with the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra in the Czech Republic and in Russia with the Kaliningrad Philharmonic, the Moscow Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra. Arutyunian's clarinet is a personal gift from the conductor and violinist Vladimir Spivakov.

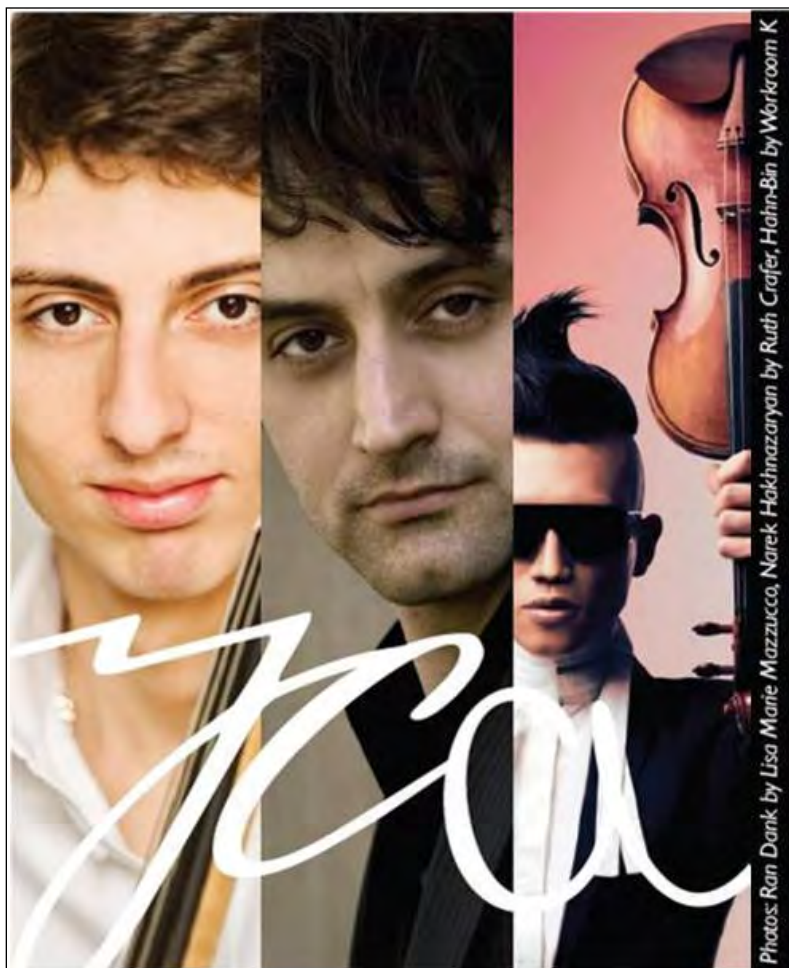
Already an award winner including first prize at 16 in the International Young Musicians Competition in Prague and at 15 in the Musical Youth of the Planet Competition in Moscow, Arutyunian was also awarded a prize by renowned violist and conductor Yuri Bashmet to perform concerts and record the Weber *Concertino* for clarinet with the State Symphony Orchestra of New Russia.

Born in Gumri, Armenia, Arutyunian's family moved to Moscow when he was 3. He graduated from the Moscow State Conservatory where he worked with Evgeny Petrov. He currently lives in New York and works with Charles Neidich at the Juilliard School.

Tickets for the concerts are available for purchasing online at www.FACSBoston.org.



Clarinetist Narek Arutyunian



From left, Narek Hakhnazaryan, Ran Dank and Hahn-Bin

Young Talents to Perform in Alice Tully Hall

NEW YORK – Three noted Young Concert Artists (YCA) alumni, cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan, pianist Ran Dank and violinist/performance artist Hahn-Bin, will perform as part of the YCA concert at Alice Tully Hall on Wednesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. Each has achieved exceptional recognition in their careers.

At the age of 22, Hakhnazaryan won the gold medal at the 2011 International Tchaikovsky Cello Competition in Moscow. He also won the Prize for Best Performance of the Chamber Concerto and the Audience Prize. A winner of the 2008 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, his debut opened both the Young Concert Artists Series at Zankel Hall and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC that same year. He has performed at the Young Concert Artists Festival in Tokyo and toured extensively including appearances as soloist with the Pasadena Symphony, Hilton Head Symphony, the Boston Pops, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Mariinsky Orchestra under Valery Gergiev, the Moscow Philharmonia and in recital in the Caramoor Rising Stars series and the Ravinia Festival's Rising Stars Series.

Dank won first prize in the 2008 Hilton Head International Piano Competition. As a winner of the 2009 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, he made his New York debut in the YCA Series in the Jerome L. Greene Foundation Concert. At the Auditions, he was also honored with the John Browning Memorial Prize, the Albany Symphony Prize and the Embassy Series Prize for a concert in Washington, DC.

Dank also performed in the Hayes Piano Series at the Kennedy Center, the Morgan Library and Museum in New York, and as soloist with the Phoenix, Ann Arbor and Pensacola symphonies as well as the orchestras of Jerusalem, Rishon Lezion and Raanan in his native Israel. A protégé of Emanuel Ax, he currently works with two other YCA alumni, Richard Goode and Ursula Oppens.

A winner of the 2009 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, violin virtuoso Hahn-Bin's critically-acclaimed debuts opened the Young Concert Artists Series at Zankel Hall and at the Kennedy Center. A protégé of Itzhak Perlman, with whom he worked from the age of 14, he has developed a unique performance art which dramatically enhances his musical performance. His acclaimed recital project, "The Five Poisons," included appearances in New York at the Rubin Museum of Art and Le Poisson Rouge, in Los Angeles at the Hammer Museum and in Berlin at the Konzerthaus. He performed *Soliloquy for Andy Warhol* to huge crowds at the Museum of Modern Art throughout the show's two-month installation in New York. Hahn-Bin has appeared at the Auditorium du Louvre in Paris, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, as well as in the Far East with the Queensland Orchestra in Australia and all of the major Korean orchestras including the Seoul, Bucheon and Daejeon Philharmonics, both in Korea and on tour in Japan. Born in Seoul, Korea in 1987, he began playing the violin at the age of 5.

Filmmaker Nora Armani's 'Moving Stories' Premieres At Cannes Festival

CANNES, France – "Moving Stories," a narrative fiction short film directed and produced by filmmaker/actress Nora Armani of Pavev Productions (New York-Paris), was chosen as part of the official selections of The Cannes Film Festival, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious film festivals, and will be presented in the Short Film Corner category, it was announced this week.

Armani conceived and developed the idea for "Moving Stories" in late January, scripted in February, began shooting immediately through mid-March and finished post-production immediately before the entry deadline to the festival. All the while she was in the midst of moving from one New York City residence to another – the 18th move during her adult life.

"Moving Stories" focuses on two women whose lives become intertwined by the apartment one is leaving and the other is entering. One woman, leaving behind New York, her hometown of 40 years, is relocating back to Germany, and the other woman moving yet one more time, as someone who has had many moves in various locations spanning cities, countries and continents. Many would relate to how traumatic it can be, as well as how liberating.

Having just been through a whirlwind of non-stop productions, Armani admits her excitement and delighted surprise. "I am thrilled and so honored to once again participate in the Cannes Film Festival," she said. "I'm genuinely moved by the acceptance, as this film is part of my life story, my moving journey. I'm looking forward to the trip to Cannes and being inspired by and possibly meeting all the cinema greats who will attend."

"Moving Stories" features the music of Jean-Jacques Lemêtre, cinematography by Matthew Hefferin, and the film is edited by Harry Glennon. The cast includes Sheilagh Weymouth opposite Armani in the lead, as well as Laurie Folkes.

Not only an inventive filmmaker, Armani is a well-respected actress who was educated and trained in England and France and has appeared on stage and screen worldwide performing in many languages. She is also starring in another film, "Was My Whole Life Wrong," directed by Maxine Pugh, also in this year's Cannes Festival Short Film Corner.

Armani is no newcomer to the Cannes Croisette as she co-produced the film "HAIFA," by Rashid Masharawi, starring Hiam Abbas and Mohammad Bakri, which was previously presented in the official selection "Un Certain Regard" section at the Festival.

Her multi-faceted background also includes organizing film weeks and special screenings at the Institute of Contemporary Art, The British Library and the Ciné Lumière French Institute in London, Le Centre Pompidou in Paris and guest curating film festivals such as AFI (Los Angeles and The Kennedy Center, Washington, DC), the Kerala Film Festival and the Silver Lake Film Festival.

She will be seen in the upcoming pilot "Golden Boy" for CBS appearing opposite Theo James and will soon be working on a 30-episode Egyptian TV series to be filmed in part in Paris.

Armani currently divides her time between New York and Paris.

The 65th annual Cannes Film Festival kicks off on May 16 and continues through May 27.

For more information, visit <http://www.noraarmani.com/> and <http://movingstoriesmovie.wordpress.com>.

For more information about the Cannes Film Festival, visit <http://www.festival-cannes.fr/en/festival.html>.



Nora Armani



ARTS & LIVING

'To Know Wisdom and Instruction: Library of Congress' Exhibit Celebrates 500th Anniversary of Armenian Printing

By **Aram Arkun**
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WASHINGTON — The 500th anniversary of Armenian printing this year provides an opportunity to highlight the prominent early role Armenians, who at that time already had lost statehood and had their homeland come under foreign rule, played in the Near East in this field. It also is an opportunity to present some of the fruits of centuries of Armenian literary and cultural work. While the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) selected Yerevan as this year's world capital book city, there are exhibitions and conferences taking place throughout the world. In the US, the Library of Congress, thanks to the efforts of curator Dr. Levon Avdoyan and a team of staff members, inaugurated a beautifully designed exhibit on April 19, titled "To Know Wisdom and Instruction: The Armenian Literary Tradition at the Library of Congress." It will remain on display until September 26 of this year, Monday-Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There is no charge for access to this exhibit.

The exhibit includes 76 items from as early as the 14th century, and as late as 2010. The early manuscripts on display show that Armenia had a long and illustrious literary tradition which quickly was transformed by the adoption of printing. The exhibit includes the first complete Armenian-language printed bible from Amsterdam (1666), the first modern Armenian novel, the first transcription of the Armenian liturgy with European musical notation in the



Levon Avdoyan at the opening reception for the exhibit

sored by outside grants. In this case, Armenian-American foundations were the sponsors, including the Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fund, the Dadian Fund of the Library of Congress, Roger Strauch and Julie Kulhanjian Strauch, the Vartkess and Rita Balian Family Foundation and the Sami and Annie Totah Family Foundation.

An evening pre-opening reception on April 18 with Dr. Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, as keynote speaker attracted approximately 160 people, while another 160 people, coincidentally, attended the next day's lectures. Dr. Kevork Bardakjian (Marie Manoogian Chair of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) delivered the 16th annual Vardanants Day Lecture on the Armenian alphabet and literary identity, on April 19, followed by curator Avdoyan's discussion of the continuity and change of Armenian identity in "the digital age." A free concert by Armenian cellist

Narek Hakhnazaryan (tickets are required through ticketmaster.com) will help celebrate the exhibition and the Armenian cultural heritage on May 19 at 2 p.m.

The idea of the exhibit originated with Avdoyan, who submitted it internally through an application process. The library welcomed the idea. Avdoyan pointed out that "not every country has had an exhibit at the Library of Congress. This is unusual and is an honor for the Armenians." Furthermore, this exhibit is the first in a new series by the library in its year-long Celebration of the Book.

Following the acceptance of the project by the library, Avdoyan lay the matrix for the exhibition and selected items that would illustrate the theme of the Armenian literary tradition, both from the Near East Section's collection of Armenian-language items and other curatorial divisions such as the Geography and Maps Division and the Music Division.

Avdoyan began working at the Library in 1977, and as the reference specialist for Classics, Ancient History, and Byzantine and Mediaeval Studies in 1982. After 10 years, he

became the Armenian and Georgian Area Specialist, a position he continues to hold today. He actually is the first to hold this position in the Library, though there were Armenian cataloguers before him, and during his tenure, the collection grew from over 7,000 to 45,000 items (comprising 16,300 unique titles) in the Armenian-language. These items are accessible to readers in the African and Middle Eastern Reading Room, while non-Armenian language items pertaining to Armenians are held in different divisions of the library.

Avdoyan pointed out during this interview that the library's Armenian collection is of fairly recent origin. It only possessed some 200 items before a committee of Armenian Americans chaired by Arthur Dadian and including noted scholar Sirarpie Der Nersessian was created in 1948 to assist the Armenian language collections at the Library of Congress. Libraries in other countries have much older collections, yet the Library of Congress has now turned into a major resource for Armenian studies. This exhibition serves to call the attention of scholars worldwide to this resource, in addition to informing a broader public. Avdoyan is very proud that the Library "is a very democratic institution. Anyone over the age of 16 can use it, whether American or not, and without

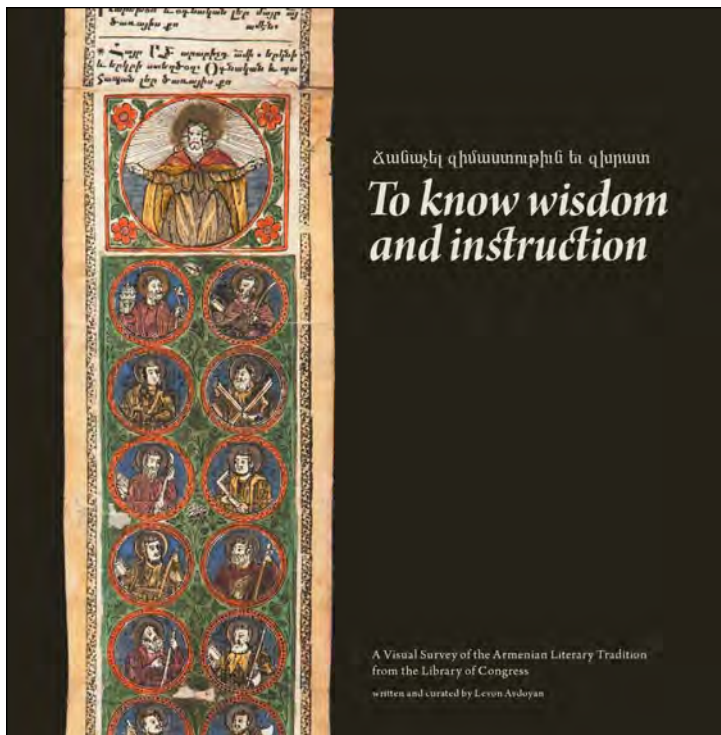
collections, general reference and anything involving special events." For example, he created the Vardanants Lecture Series in 1994, and represents the Library at important conferences. He gives briefings about the collection, and seminars on Armenia for the government. He also recommends items in non-Armenian languages for other Library of Congress reading rooms. He helps provide reference information to visitors and responds to long-distance requests for help.

Avdoyan purchases books for the library from Armenia, Europe and the Middle East through various vendors around the world, and also engages in exchange programs. He said, "We do work very closely with partner libraries in Armenia, especially in book exchanges. We now have 14 exchange partners." The American embassy in Armenia will transport books exchanged from Armenia to the United States. Avdoyan feels that though Armenian-language printing declined initially after Armenian independence, it has increased again (though it is not as prolific as in the Soviet period). The cost of new Armenian-language books has gone up, while their print runs have generally decreased.

Avdoyan is constantly trying to fill in the gaps in the library's collections. He said, "We always welcome gifts. Last fall we received two manuscripts, fabrics and silver objects from American-Armenians whose ancestors brought these items after the Armenian Genocide. Three are in the present exhibit." The library preserves and maintains such rare items. Although there is a limited budget for purchase of older items, Avdoyan feels it has been ample for what he has found.

The Library of Congress is not a lending library, so Armenian items will always be accessible to visitors. However, as the collection increases in size, more items will be placed in off-site storage because of space shortages in the library. It generally takes one day for an item to be brought to the reading room from storage, so readers have to order such items ahead of time. Avdoyan is allowed to decide which items are suitable for transferal to storage.

Digitalization may eventually be a partial solution, but at the moment, it must be largely paid for by outside funds. Avdoyan said that arranging for it to take place is a matter of workflow in the Library of Congress. Furthermore, the technology itself is still immature and being perfected. There is not, for instance, an acceptably reliable optical character recognition software for the Armenian language, according to Avdoyan.



"To know wisdom and instruction, A Visual Survey of the Armenian Literary Tradition from the Library of Congress" 2011. Written and curated by Levon Avdoyan, Armenian and Georgian Area Specialist. Library of Congress

19th century, an 18th-century phylactery or prayer scroll and various rare 19th-century publications. Maps, such as one of Yerevan in the early 20th century, sheet music and modern diasporan, Ottoman, Soviet and post-Soviet Armenian books and periodicals show the vitality and range of Armenian printing. Non-printed items such as manuscript illuminations, elaborately embroidered fabrics, musical recordings and photographs highlight the richness and range of the Library of Congress collection. The exhibit is accompanied by a 100-page illustrated catalogue compiled by Avdoyan, available at the library gift shop or at amazon.com.

The exhibition is in a prominent area of the Library of Congress that already is attracting tourists and passers-by. Avdoyan noted that all kinds of people are visiting, and hopefully are being educated. One woman asked, for example, whether Armenia was a country. Of course, many groups of Armenians are also planning visits, and Avdoyan is providing guided tours to those who make arrangements in advance.

The exhibition and catalog, like all others produced by the Library of Congress, were spon-



The History of Armenia from the beginning of the world until 1784, volume 1, by Mik'ayel Ch'amch'ean (Michael Chamchian), Venice: Tparan Petros Vaghvazeants, 1784. Library of Congress African and Middle Eastern Division.

the need for documentation, letters or recommendation, or similar items. One photo ID and 10 minutes later you have a user card."

Avdoyan's job as area specialist, he explained, includes "anything associated with the preservation, acquisition or service of the Armenian

However, all the items in the public domain in the present exhibit will be digitized after it is taken down. Discussions are underway about obtaining digital copies of Armenian works



ARTS & LIVING

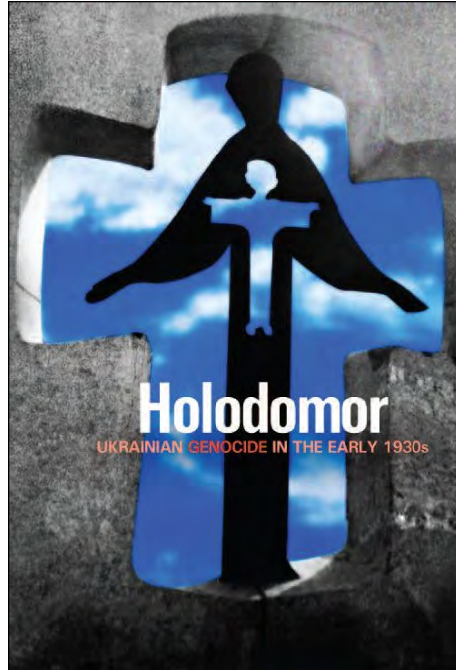
Commemoration of Irish, Armenian And Ukrainian Genocides at ALMA

WATERTOWN, Mass. — The Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) commemorated on Sunday, April 22, the Armenian Genocide along with the Great Hunger of the Irish people in the 1840s and the Ukrainian Genocide of the 1930s.

Brief talks were given by Dr. Joseph Downes on the Irish Great Hunger, Dr. Dikran Kaligian on the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide and Attorney Paul Rabchenuk on the Ukrainian Genocide. The commemoration was followed by a Ukrainian mass with priest and choir. As each genocide was outlined, it became evident that all three had common characteristics and a common modus operandi. Further it was also apparent that the Great Powers and the US stood aloof. There is little wonder that genocides have continued through the 20th century and continue in this century.

An exhibition on the Ukrainian Holodomor is currently on display in the Terjenian-Thomas Gallery (ALMA's third floor), courtesy of the Connecticut Holodomor Awareness Committee, through May 31. ALMA will also be showing the documentary "Genocide Revealed: the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933" on Sunday, May 6 at 2 p.m.

The Armenian Library and Museum of America is located at 65 Main St.



The Ukrainian Holodomor exhibit is currently on display at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA).

Asking for Your Blessing

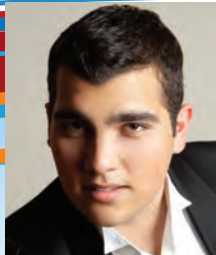
By Lucine Kasbarian

On our cellar walls, you are immortal.
Over the years, I've conversed with you.
I speak the mother tongue your resolute children, my parents, taught me.
You stare back thoughtfully, through sepia-toned photos.
Your bodies are stocky; you wear clothes you made yourselves.
Your hands are calloused from planting, building, kneading and mending.
Your faces are stoic, even when in bridal garb.
Your expressions carry a worldliness born from suffering and uncomplaining dignity.
Almond shaped, your eyes have the heavy lids that is our ancestral birthright.
They betray the sleeplessness of tormented memory, and exhaustion from rebuilding shattered lives.
Sometimes I ask about Dikranagerd, sometimes Sepastia — wishing you could reminisce.
I long for your folk wisdom, your Old Country ways.
I ask you to recall our gentle kertastan before the seizures, slaughters and destruction.
I try to picture how you subsisted as lambs before wolves.
You patiently listen as I speak of the burdens of today's Armenian — no matter how light when compared to yours, and sometimes just as onerous.
Then I ask forgiveness for not doing more.
Many times I seek to borrow your strength, your all-seeing wisdom.
Why did you die before I could know you?
In my mind, your penetrating eyes lavish the love only grandparents can give.
Year after year, I yearn for you to speak up and say,

"We see you clearly from above.
You carry our blood in your veins.
You feel our ancient world in your bones.
You live with our history.
You possess our ethic.
You dance and sing authentically.
You persist in spite of exile.
You know our sufferings.
You speak for us.
You won't forsake us.
You have our blessing.
You do us justice.
You are Western Armenia."

61st Armenian Night at the Pops

PRESENTED BY THE FRIENDS OF ARMENIAN CULTURE SOCIETY



Featuring
Narek Arutyunian, clarinet
Boston Pops Orchestra
Keith Lockhart, Conductor

Friday
June 8, 2012
at 8:00 PM
Symphony Hall,
Boston

"An energetic stage presence..."
— The Washington Post

For Tickets and Information, please visit:
www.FACSBoston.org

Library of Congress Exhibit Celebrates 500th Anniversary of Armenian Printing

PRINTING, from page 14

from other institutions as well as all sorts of other cooperative programs. The Library of Congress has also already bought every microfilm item commercially available on Armenian topics.

Avdoyan became interested in Armenian studies and history from an early age. His grandparents on both sides of the family were from Kharpert and Bitlis. He spoke Armenian while a very young child in his birthplace of Providence, but he and his sister stopped speaking after their family moved to Florida. He said, "I've always been interested in history. Even in grade school, I loved history, especially ancient history."

Avdoyan went to the University of the South in Seawee, Tenn. as an undergraduate to study history, and a visit to Dr. Nina Garsoïan of Columbia University to inquire about how to learn Armenian led to an invitation to study there. His doctoral dissertation, later published as a book in 1993, was a translation and analysis of the medieval Armenian work, *The History of Taron*. He spent many years learning languages such as Classical and Modern Armenian and Greek, French, Georgian, German, Italian, Latin and Russian.

Avdoyan became Columbia Prof. Morton Smith's research assistant for several years, which provided an opportunity to learn research methodology in ancient history. He said that the switch to working in a library was not that hard. One of his first positions in the Library of Congress was as a library examiner in its Copyright Office. When he became a reference specialist, he said, "I came in knowing the sources and research methodology for my subjects of expertise. It was not all that hard to

transfer that knowledge. It took about a year to learn general reference in the main reading room. That was one of the best general learning experiences that I have ever had. You learn so much while fielding questions about everything."

Avdoyan has published a number of opinion pieces on Armenian Studies in the past, and today is troubled by a general shift in education in the US. He says, "I feel we have in many ways lost our way." He would like to see greater support for and strengthening of existing chairs and programs in the field, and is concerned about the poor job market for the new doctorates being produced.

"I must say, however, that I spent many years bemoaning the fact that I was not teaching in academia, until I realized what a truly rewarding career I had at the Library of Congress. Not only was I allowed to build an important research collection, but I have also been on doctoral committees, in essence guided others in the preparation of their dissertations, and have aided others in their research. With a little creativity and initiative, and the enlightenment of our community, I would hope that our gifted young scholars could do the same rather than being forced to leave the field. It really has been an honor to serve in this capacity."

The fate of his own position at the Library of Congress is uncertain after he retires, as it is unclear what the financial and logistic situation will be then. He is not sure how long he will continue, as there is no formal retirement age, but after the exhibition concludes, Avdoyan plans to rest and think about new library projects and his own future. He would like to get back to his personal Armenological research eventually.

Alfred Demirjian
Data Recovery
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ARTS & LIVING

Lecture at NAASR On Coverage of Genocide in *New York Times* and *Missionary Herald*

BELMONT, Mass. – Anne Elbrecht of Davis, Calif., will give a lecture, titled “Telling the Story: The Armenian Genocide in the *New York Times* and *Missionary Herald*,” on Thursday, May 17, at 8 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave.

Elbrecht’s *Telling the Story: The Armenian Genocide in The New York Times and Missionary Herald, 1914-1918* (Taderon Press, 2012) focuses on two important journals to see how news of the Armenian Genocide filtered through to the United States between 1914-18. It also looks at how the American public reacted to such news with a humanitarian intervention program.

There were undoubted differences between the two journals, as the *New York Times* was a leading news organization while *Missionary Herald* was part of an institution (the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions) with vested interests in Turkey. However, the flow of information to the outside world was clear and compelling, especially as many reports were actually written by United States officials in Turkey and leaked to the press by the State Department in Washington, DC.

Elbrecht is a graduate of Wheaton College, University of California, Berkeley, School of Library Studies and McGeorge School of Law. *Telling the Story* is based on her master’s thesis at California State University, Sacramento. With her late husband, Richard A. Elbrecht, she traveled throughout Turkey photographing Armenian churches, a visual archive now part of the Armenian Studies Program at California State University, Fresno. She has been a member of NAASR’s Board of Directors since 2007.

Telling the Story: The Armenian Genocide in The New York Times and Missionary Herald 1914-1918 will be available for purchase and signing the night of the lecture.

Admission to the event is free.

More information about the lecture is available by e-mailing hq@naasr.org or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.

Winners Announced for 2012 Michigan Armenian Genocide Essay Competition

Awards Presentation Honors Local Winners

DETROIT – The Armenian Genocide Committee of Greater Detroit announced the winners of the fifth annual essay competition. Awards were presented to the winning students at the 97th commemoration of the Armenian Genocide event at St. Sarkis Armenian Apostolic Church before a large crowd of guests.

The competition, open to all Michigan High School students, is funded by the Hagopian Family Foundation and was conceived and initiated by the late Edgar Hagopian. Perpetuated by the metro Detroit Knights of Vartan, the competition recognizes and awards Michigan high school students who have written a successful essay on the Armenian Genocide, the first genocide of the 20th century, often called “the forgotten genocide.” This is the fifth year that the statewide competition has been offered



Winners, from left, Edmond Hagopian, Ashley Pikula, Naghem Albeer, Olivia Kurajian and Suzanne Hagopian



From left, David Terzibashian, Edmond Hagopian and Ed Bedikian

to students with the hope that it will stimulate study of the many aspects surrounding the Armenian Genocide in Ottoman Turkey, 1915-1923. David Terzibashian, committee and Knights of Vartan past commander and member, and Edmond and Suzanne Hagopian, representing the Hagopian Family Foundation, presented the awards as follows:

This year’s winners were: first place (\$500), Ashley Pikula, 12th grade, Andover High School; second place (\$250), Olivia Ann Kurajian, 10th grade, Birmingham

Seaholm High School, and third place (\$150), Naghem Albeer, 11th grade, Andover High School.

In addition, each teacher of the student submitting a winning essay was given a \$100 appreciation award.

Winning essays can be read at www.annualessaycompetition.com.

The Armenian Genocide Committee of Greater Detroit, a group committed to bringing awareness of the Armenian Genocide, is made up of members of the Detroit metro Armenian community including educators, former educators and business leaders; the founder is the late Edgar Hagopian; members are Ray Boujoulian, Corinne Khederian, Ani Kasparian Paul Kulhanjian, Richard Norsigian, Shirley Sarkisian David Terzibashian and Madeline Thomasian.

C A L E N D A R

MASSACHUSETTS

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

NEW JERSEY

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

NEW YORK

MAY 12 – Shushi hosts a Gala Dinner Dance for an evening of “Celebration,” 20th anniversary of Shushi’s liberation, Mother’s Day. Anniversary of Shushi Dance Ensemble, Kavookjian Hall, 630 Second Ave., New York City. Details to follow.
MAY 19 – HMADS Gala Dinner Dance. Details to follow, June 25. HMADS 30th Commencement Exercise at 8 p.m., Kalustyan Hall.
SEPTEMBER 29 – Save the date. Armenia Fund 20th Anniversary Gala, 7 p.m. at Gotham Hall in New York City.



On Thursday, May 24, the Armenian Mirror-Spectator will celebrate its 80th anniversary with a banquet, during which several awards and featured speakers will be presented, starting with a reception, at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m., at the Boston Royal Sonesta, in Cambridge, Mass. Among the award recipients will be Janet Shamlian, pictured above, who is national correspondent for NBC News.

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COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN Mirror- Spectator

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COMMENTARY

Ataturk Unmasked

By Edmond Y. Azadian

A little-known historical event has great significance in deciphering and defining the racist ideology of today's Republic of Turkey; during World War II, Turkey was assisting Nazi Germany's war efforts by supplying raw material to its war machine, in appreciation of Turkey's support, Hitler allowed the transfer of the remains of Talaat Pasha, his Turkish soul mate, assassinated in Berlin in 1921, back home to Turkey, where a monument was erected in Istanbul's Liberty Hill (Hurriyet Tepe) as a shrine for all racist Turks to visit and venerate one of the arch-criminals of the 20th century. That monument is still standing, carrying with it symbolism for the Turks and their victims.

When historians hold responsible and accountable the present Republic of Turkey, as the successor state inheriting all the loot generated by the murder of 1.5 million Armenians, they need also to refer to the symbolism that Talaat Pasha's monument represents.

Current leaders of Turkey cannot avoid responsibility because they have inherited historic Armenian territory and the blood money resulting from the murder of an unarmed nation.

Fortunately, some Turkish scholars, writers and journalists are awakening to the fact that the present generation of Turks have on their shoulders an awesome burden of history. One of those writers, Ayse Hur, is revising the history she was taught at school in an article published in *Radikal*, unmasking the racist policies of Ataturk, the founder of the modern Republic of Turkey.

Historian Taner Akcam, through his thorough research, reveals that many Ittihadist government functionaries who had executed Talaat's orders eventually joined the milli movement of Ataturk in laying the foundations of the Republic of Turkey.

However, even Ataturk himself as a young man in the military had joined the Union and Progress Party of Talaat and he also had a significant role in the Young Turk revolution of 1908 which deposed the sultan.

His hands are not clean as a military man either, as he participated in colonial wars to put down revolts against the harsh Ottoman rules in Albania (1910) and the Balkans (1912-1913). The same colonial war was waged against Armenians in Cilicia (1921) and Greeks in Smyrna (1922) under the direct leadership of Ataturk.

Reading through scholarly or journalistic sources in the West, one is left only with awe and respect vis-à-vis Ataturk as a military leader and reformer. No mention, if any, is made of his racist policies and atrocious war crimes. Reading BBC sources on the Internet, we come to "admire" the father of modern-day Turkey.

The source presents Ataturk, the fatherly figure in the following way: "He [Ataturk] launched a program of revolutionary social and political reforms to modernize Turkey. These reforms included the emancipation of women, the abolition of all Islamic institutions and the introduction of Western legal codes, dress, calendar and alphabet, replacing the Arabic script with a Latin one."

To inspire pride in the Turks, he coined racist slogans, one of which to this day, all schools, including the ones belonging to

minorities, have to prominently expose: "Proud should feel the person who claims to be a Turk." This kind of a slogan has fed feelings of racial supremacy to the Turks, while inducing an inferiority complex and fear among minority children.

Although he promulgated the Hat Law of 1925, forcing Turks to wear Western-style hats to replace the fez, he could not change what was under that hat, because he was not interested in what lay below the surface.

Hur lists a long number of laws, decrees, regulations that define Ataturk as a racist leader. Only a few examples will suffice to fully understand the true reformist side of the father of the Turks.

Thus, speaking to a group of Turkish businessman in Adana, on March 16, 1923, Mustafa Kemal (aka Ataturk) said: "Finally this land returned to its true owners. The Armenians and others have no rights here. These fertile fields belong to true Turks."

In a decree promulgated in June 1923, all Jews, Greeks and Armenians were laid off from government and private institutions and their travel within Anatolia was banned.

An April 3, 1924 law stripped the title of all Jewish, Greek and Armenian lawyers, allowing the legal profession to be the purview of the Turks exclusively.

A law was passed on August 1, 1926 to confiscate all minority properties acquired before the Lausanne Treaty took effect (August 23, 1924).

Minister of Justice Mahmoud Essat Bozkurd announced on September 18, 1930, in the region of Eodimis: "My idea, my belief is that this land itself is Turk. Those who are not real Turks and wish to live in this country can only survive as servants or slaves." And this is a Turkish kind of justice from a minister of justice. This kind of treatment reduced the minorities to the levels of rayas (slaves) practiced during the ages of sultans. While suppressing Islamic symbols, Kemalists enhanced the rights of Muslims and Turks over all minorities.

Therefore, it is not difficult to detect the red line, which runs throughout Turkish history from the sultans to the Young Turks and then to the Ataturk era, inherited intact by the modern Republic of Turkey.

These racist laws are still extant in Turkey. In fact, they have been codified. What is penal code Article 301, supposedly defending Turkishness, if not a muscle to silence dissidents and in the first place any one who pronounces the word "genocide?" It is under that penal code that authorities in Turkey have been persecuting and prosecuting Orhan Pamuk, Ragip Zarakolu, Hrant Dink and other scholars and journalists.

The reason these anachronistic trends and laws have survived is that the army has taken upon itself to safeguard Kemalism, or the legacy of Ataturk. Indeed, an unelected junta has assumed the perpetuation of these laws.

The feeble voices of scholars and journalists would not have been sufficient to transform Turkey from racism to civilization, were it not for the pressure exerted by the European Union.

Once Turkey attains a respectable level of civilization then the gates of Europe may become more hospitable.

It is also our hope to deal with that kind of Turkey, because only a fully civilized nation will be able to demonstrate the courage to face its abominable history.

Truth in the Face of Genocide

By Andrew Tarsy

The Armenians of the Ottoman Empire were victims of genocide: the deliberate extermination of a culture and people. This month communities worldwide commemorate these events to remember what was lost and illuminate with historical accuracy the events that took place. On occasions like this one (and the world has too many), we seek a way forward that both honors the dead and increases the safety of the living.

Five years ago, I was executive director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of New England. With a series of events that began in Watertown and came to include communities all over Massachusetts and beyond, I learned a painful lesson about the power of words. I spent months in 2007 struggling to under-

stand my employer's refusal to acknowledge directly and with candor the factual historical events we mourn and commemorate as the Armenian Genocide. The details are not important. It is sufficient to say that given its position on this issue, ADL's fitness to be a community partner was questioned in a great number of cities and towns. After lots of listening, reading and with the support of family, friends and my regional board of directors, I broke with ADL and stated publicly that I would no longer support the organization's position. I told the community then and still believe that we must be candid about history, or we dishonor the dead and endanger the living.

To withhold the use of the term "genocide" to describe the war on the Armenian people in the Ottoman empire is a deliberate calculation that values short term political stability over truth. Make that bargain once or twice in a few extreme situations and maybe we will get by for the moment; but before long it will undermine the foundation of everything else we believe in. At that point, nothing important to us will be safe.

The world knew what was happening to the Armenians at the time the genocide took place. In 1915 alone, there were 145 articles in the *New York Times* about policies and campaigns of deportation and mass killing. The Ottoman Turkish regime intentionally and sys-

tematically wiped out more than a million of its own citizens, shattered the Armenian culture and scattered the survivors into diaspora, under the cover of war. Years of effort by the Turkish government and the willingness of its allies to play along produced doubt and confusion about these events only after the fact.

The spotlight on ADL gave me opportunities and privileges for which I am deeply grateful. My understanding of why genocide happens is as inadequate as anyone's. But my awareness of its lasting and intergenerational impact has been magnified. Over the past five years I have had the privilege to visit with Armenian communities around the United States and in Canada and Israel. I have told my story and participated in discussions about the power of words and the legacy of the Armenian Genocide on university campuses, in synagogues, in teacher-training programs and among family and friends. I met with the Armenian archbishop in Jerusalem and with His Holiness the Catholicos of all Armenians when he visited Boston. I even had the opportunity to share my experiences in the Hague at the International Criminal Court, where I spent two months observing war crimes trials and listened to lawyers and judges debate whether to apply this same word — genocide — to the destruction of the people of Darfur in the Sudan.

see TRUTH, page 18



COMMENTARY

When They Died...

By Gonca Sonmez-Poole

We are approaching another April 24, the day Armenians around the world remember the year when thousands of their ancestors perished during what's widely known as the Armenian Genocide of 1915. I am neither a historian nor an international law expert, and yet I feel compelled to give you a sense of my own personal journey as it relates to Armenian-Turkish relations.

I am a 52-year-old Turkish-American woman. I have lived in the Boston area for over 30 years, first as a student, later as a television producer and most recently as a mid-career student of international affairs. I must admit that it wasn't until I was in my late 40s that I ever had an actual conversation with an Armenian person about his or her personal and national history, let alone the Armenian Genocide. Why?

The answer explains why I am compelled to write about my own personal journey and about my relationship to two murders a quarter of a century apart.

On May 4, 1982, I learned that a man I knew personally had been shot to death on his way home from work. That kind and gentle man was Orhan Gündüz, Turkey's honorary consul to Boston at the time. I had stopped by his little souvenir shop in Cambridge, Mass., for a quick hello — as it happened, just a few hours before he died. I remember trying to console his wife during a few phone calls and saying some words of condolence at his funeral. But what I remember most is how Gündüz's murder (a group named Justice Commandos claimed responsibility) confused me so much that I spent the next 25 years avoiding the subject altogether.

During the early '80s, a few of the area's Turkish influentials often sent me lengthy packages of propaganda material to submit to my employer at the time, WCVB-TV. The aim was to make sure that nothing outside the official Turkish narrative (which referred to the events of 1915 as the "so-called genocide") would be exposed to Western media. This was also the time when the program I worked on, the news magazine "Chronicle," was producing stories about the richness of Boston's ethnic makeup. But there was no profile on the relatively small Turkish community and when it was time to air the "Chronicle" program on Armenians, I simply skipped work — the first and last time ever in my life. I simply wasn't ready to hear the "G" word repeated over the airwaves.

Over the next two decades, following the Gündüz assassination, I simply shunned the subject of the Armenian Genocide because it was too uncomfortable, too painful and too difficult to deal with. In fact, when I attended a mid-career master's degree program at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, I wrote my thesis on the rights of Turkey's Kurds, bypassing the subject of the Armenians. So through those 20 years, I raised two children, instilling in them my own values of equal rights and social justice, but with one exception: I did not speak about the Armenians or the reason that I had stopped going into Watertown after the passing of Orhan Gündüz, whom my children had never met.

Then came the summer of 2006, when I received an invitation to work on an Armenian-Turkish dialogue project partly affiliated with Harvard University. As I immersed myself in new knowledge (for example, the history of the Ottoman Armenians, missing from all the school textbooks I read as a child) and new friends (for example, Armenian Americans with whom I'd been living parallel lives, while never exchanging a word), I heard the news of an assassination. Hrant Dink, a Turkish Armenian newspaper editor, was gunned down in front of his office in Istanbul by a 16-year-old Turkish nationalist. I did not know much about Dink at the time. I knew only that he was the founder of *Agos*, that he had opened the eyes of his traditionally quiet and passive Armenian community, encouraging both Armenians and Turks to speak openly about their ethnic identities and their family histories, that countless people in Turkey had discovered their lost Armenian ancestry through his help.

But I didn't know all of this that fateful morning when I turned on the morning news. When I heard Dink had been killed, there was only one thing I knew with absolute certainty: something horrible and despicable had happened, and it was unacceptable. The date was January 19, 2007, 25 years after I had buried the subject of the Armenian Genocide.

So for the next five years, I followed a long and winding road of learning, reading and thinking. I spoke with a myriad of Armenians, from a variety of backgrounds and affiliations: overachieving 20-somethings, hard-work-

ing midlifers and a few elderly gems like Areka Der Kazarian from Watertown, who will be turning 100 very soon. I became friends with Harry Parsekian, whose ancestors came from the province of Gesaria (Kayseri in Turkish), and who, in his effort to bring more and more Armenians and Turks together across the Atlantic, has made frequent trips to Turkey; I met playwright Joyce van Dyke, who was encouraged to write a beautiful play based on the story of her grandmother Elmas, a Genocide survivor from the village of Mezireh and I watched and reviewed the videos produced by Roger Hagopian, a rug specialist from Lexington, Mass., who never misses an opportunity to remind me of the Turkish mayor of Marash (where his grandparents were born), who saved the lives of many Armenians during the nightmare of 1915. I listened to countless stories of loss, both physical and emotional, from my newly-found Armenian friends, and I observed the goodwill gestures of Armenians who overcame their initial fear by making the decision to visit their ancestral homes in today's Turkey.

But I've also learned a few things from my Turkish friends and colleagues over these past few years. Turks of various backgrounds feel an inordinate amount of pressure when speaking with Armenians about the events of 1915. Because all Armenians call this period the Armenian Genocide, and would like to hear the same from Turks, there is a dialogue of the deaf at work between these two groups. Many Turkish people — who are just starting to learn about their own history — feel that somebody is always trying to shut them up unless they start any sentence with the "G" word. Many Turks today want to be heard; they don't want their ancestors labeled "barbarians" who one day woke up and decided to slaughter Armenians.

Whether the realization comes after a quarter of a century, as it did for me, or overnight with luck and soul-searching, I believe that all Turkish people need to know and accept one simple truth: somewhere, somehow, an ancestor of theirs may have taken the life of an innocent Armenian person just because that person was Armenian. Period. When that bit of information is understood, genuinely accepted, digested and settled into the hearts and minds of every Turkish person, then, and only then, can we all start a new chapter. And in that chapter, the discussion will no longer be an argument about the term genocide, the definition of intent or the total tally of killings on either side; it will simply be a discussion about the question how do we deal with the "other?"

Orhan Gündüz was killed because he was a Turkish diplomat and he represented the misguided silence on an issue that affected millions of the world's Armenians. Hrant Dink was killed because he was an Armenian from Turkey who spoke up and promoted speaking about the issue. I cried the same tears over those two murders. But here's where those two heinous acts diverge in my heart and soul: the first murder led me to years of silence and ignorance, but the second led me to knowledge and truth seeking. And in the words of Martin Luther King Jr., I truly believe that truth will set us free. In fact, some equate Dink with King because of his inspiring commitment to improving the rights of all of Turkey's minorities, and his hope to begin a new era of civil rights in that country. Only time will tell whether Dink's legacy will indeed transform the country of his birth and death.

I wonder what Orhan Gündüz would have said to Hrant Dink when they were both alive. Alas, we will never know, because we weren't supposed to dig deep into our history or give voice to the voiceless during the years when Gündüz was alive.

So where does all of this leave me, in the tortured landscape of Armenian-Turkish relations? Am I hopeful when I speak to the young generation of Armenians and Turks? Yes. Am I disgusted and appalled when I see clearly racist and anti-Armenian propaganda on the streets of Istanbul? Without a doubt. Am I ready to give up hope? Absolutely not! I believe that, if not my children's generation, but maybe my great-grandchildren's generation will finally find a way out of this mess.

And finally, as an American citizen of Turkish descent, I now use the word genocide when speaking about the massacres of 1915 because doing otherwise would be a retreat into ignorance. I think a lot about those two politically charged murders, Gündüz' and Dink's, bookends of sorts in my reeducation journey. And I know I simply cannot go on denying the true depth of brutality and suffering brought upon the Ottoman Armenians, and the animosity and hatred 1915 perpetuated for nearly a century. On a more personal level, such a denial would be an affront to all of my new friends and acquaintances...not only because they happen to be Armenian, but because they are first and foremost human beings who I care about.

Remembering

April 24, 2012 represents the 97th commemoration of one of the most shameful events in the history of mankind: the beginning of the Armenian Genocide in 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman government.

In the years that followed, more than 1.5 million Armenians perished as a result of being starved, sent to death marches into the

desert and savagely murdered.

By Harry N. Mazadoorian

The movement

to attempt exter-

mination of

Armenians began by rounding up intellectuals and leaders, moved on to all able-bodied men and culminated with the barbaric and horrendous destruction of women and children. The pervasiveness of the killings was matched only by its cruelty and bestiality. Property was confiscated and the sacred churches of the noble and centuries-old Armenian religion were desecrated and destroyed.

The brutal events were well chronicled by journalists, diplomats and leaders throughout the world. Scholars have continued to document the events in book after book and journal after journal. An indisputable mountain of evidence has been accumulated by genocide scholars memorializing not only the events but the mindset leading to them.

Following the Genocide, the Armenian Diaspora spread across the world with a large number coming to the United States and settling initially in the industrial areas of New England, New York and Michigan and the receptive farmlands of California. Succeeding generations of the Armenian American community in Connecticut and throughout this country heard identical eyewitness reports from parents, grandparents and other relatives and friends who were survivors of the Genocide.

Substantial support for Armenian orphans and survivors was initially provided by philanthropic organizations in the United States, the Near East Foundation being just one example. So shocked was the world community at the atrocities that trials were conducted of the leaders of the Young Turk regime that perpetuated the cunningly organized and meticulously executed Genocide.

But alas, memories soon faded and the events of that tragic time were either forgotten or — incredibly — denied by the successor governments of Turkey. The zealous outrage of many countries subdued in time. Indeed, Adolph Hitler, about to embark the obscene and massive Holocaust at the time of World War II, denied that world opinion would stop him and asked "Who today, after all, speaks of the annihilation of the Armenians?"

Today, most of the voices of the Genocide survivors have been silenced by death or the infirmities of old age. At a Genocide Commemoration to be held at the Connecticut State Capitol on Saturday April 21, only three elderly survivors remain to be honored and recognized. Both my parents, Genocide survivors, urged their children not to let the story be forgotten and attended the commemoration year after year, but are no longer here to participate.

Sadly, efforts to get the United States Congress to recognize and condemn the Genocide are met with powerful lobbying opposition by the government of Turkey. The Congress, shrinking to its fear of alienating a Middle Eastern ally, looks the other way. Even the President of the United States, who vowed in his campaign rhetoric to recognize the Armenian Genocide, plays word games and backtracks reneging on a clear campaign pledge. This, despite a veritable parade of countries, including — just to mention a few — Canada, Germany, France, Australia, Sweden, Switzerland and Italy which have recognized the Genocide.

Why should we worry about what happened almost a hundred years ago ask those who turn their back to the historical truth. Why offend an ally? What good can come from recognizing the Genocide? After all, even the vast majority of the survivors have now died.

The answer is a simple one and one that has proven true throughout the very history of civilization: To ignore a crime against humanity, whenever and wherever perpetuated, is to condone that crime. And even worse, it virtually assures that it will be repeated. To forget heinous acts is to guarantee — even encourage — their repetition in the future. A casual reading of front-page news about current atrocities demonstrates and validates this undeniable truth.

Few would deny that the United States should maintain its strategic alliances, particularly in the volatile Middle East. But an alliance built upon falsehoods does not stand on a firm foundation. Friends speak truthfully to friends.

While the Armenian Genocide was the first genocide of the 20th century, it was not the last. Nor will the brutality stop in the future until all countries speak with one voice to condemn all of the genocides of the past.

A recognition of the Armenian Genocide is a compelling place to start. And the moral authority of the United States Congress is the voice, which should ring out that recognition.

(A ceremony commemorating the Armenian Genocide was held in the Chambers of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol on Saturday April 21. The keynote speaker was Dr. Mary A. Papazian, newly-installed President of Southern Connecticut State University. Gov. Dannel P. Malloy has issued a proclamation commemorating the Genocide.)



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Why Does President Obama Torture Himself and Armenians Every April 24?

For some unknown reason, the president of the most powerful nation on earth feels compelled to put himself through a strange and unnecessary ritual every April 24. Weeks in advance of that date, President Barack Obama orders his White House staff to scour the dictionary to come up with series of words other than genocide to describe the Armenian Genocide.

For the fourth year in a row, the president's resourceful aides have not disappointed him. For this year's "Armenian Remembrance Day," they have come up with a dozen words that describe the Armenian Genocide without using that specific term. When they ran out of substitute English words for genocide, the president's hardworking word-smiths turned to an Armenian term, "Meds Yeghern," without providing its English translation (Great Calamity), so no one other than Armenians would understand what President Obama was speaking about.

Here are some of the words that the president's men offered this year: "Atrocities," "brutally massacred," "marched to their deaths," "unspeakable suffering," "per-

ished," "dark chapters of history," "what occurred in 1915," "facts of the past," "lives that were taken," "senselessly suffered and died," and finally, "the darkness of the Meds Yeghern." Anything but genocide!

Engaging in verbal gymnastics on genocide is unacceptable and unbecoming of the office of the president of the United States. Could such deplorable efforts be explained as a feeble attempt by Obama to minimize his broken promises? As presidential candidate, he repeatedly and solemnly pledged that he would recognize the Armenian Genocide. But when he became president, he hid behind insulting statements issued in his name year after year.

In his last four annual statements, President Obama avoided carrying out his campaign promises by claiming: "I have consistently stated my own view of what occurred in 1915. My view of that history has not changed." But, he never bothered to tell the American public what exactly were his views in the past, what his views are today and what happened in 1915! He cleverly downplays the significance of the Armenian Genocide by calling it "my own view of what happened in 1915." Yet, on January 19, 2008, then presidential candidate Obama, seeking the Armenian community's campaign contributions and votes, had no qualms to call these events by their proper name. Back then, he confidently stated that "the Armenian Genocide is not an allegation, a personal opinion or a point of view," and promised that "as president," he would "recognize the Armenian Genocide."

Sadly, President Obama is not the only member of his administration who has not kept his campaign pledge on this issue. Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, two of the highest officials of the country, had made similar promises to recognize the Armenian Genocide when they were Senators and presidential candidates. While Vice President Biden has remained eerily

silent, Mrs. Clinton has gone from being a proponent of the recognition of the Armenian Genocide to its leading opponent. After becoming secretary of state, she actively lobbied to defeat a proposed congressional resolution on the Armenian Genocide.

After four years of this senseless charade by the White House, the Armenian-American community has two good reasons for asking President Obama not to make any more statements on the Armenian Genocide.

First, by breaking his word for four years in a row and playing verbal games with genocide, Obama has lost the moral standing to speak on this highly emotional and painful topic! How can the president of the United States lecture anyone around the world about human rights, democracy and justice, when he himself has so crudely violated the trust of his own people and lost all credibility? He should stop torturing himself, his staff and Armenians worldwide by not issuing insulting "Remembrance Day" statements. It makes no sense for President Obama to issue an annual statement that Armenians don't want, don't like and are offended by it!

Second, another US president, Ronald Reagan, has already acknowledged the Armenian Genocide in a Presidential Proclamation in 1981. The Armenian Genocide was also recognized by the House of Representatives in 1975 and 1984, by the Justice Department in an official filing with the World Court in 1951 and by 42 US states. Therefore, the Armenian community has no need to beg President Obama or any other political candidate to recognize that which is already and repeatedly recognized.

Genocide is too sacred to be a subject of crass political trading. Those who acknowledge the undeniable fact of the Armenian Genocide do so, not as a favor to the victims, but to restore their own credibility and moral integrity!

Truth in the Face of Genocide

TRUTH, from page 17

This year the annual commemoration created an opportunity for me to convey to the Armenian-American community of Massachusetts my deep condolences and my respects for the losses and insults you have suffered. Together, we call on our governments and our ethnic, religious and cultural institutions at all levels to join us in a clear voice to say that we know what happened and we know that our work to address its intergenerational damage has hardly even started.

For more than 200 years the House chamber in the Massachusetts State House has been a forge where democratic ideals have been formed into actions that are taken in the name of the people of Massachusetts. We are awed by its physical beauty and by the vastness of the issues debated here and resolved more often than not for the betterment of our society. I am grateful that the government of the Commonwealth recognizes and commemorates the Genocide together with its citizens in such a fitting location.

We also need to remind ourselves that a proclamation or pronouncement by government is one small part of the equation when it comes to remembrance and prevention. I am reminded of what President Harry Truman said: "the highest office in the land is that of citizen." I believe the measure of a healthy community, state, or nation is not just whether painful or ugly events happen, but how we respond.

We have an obligation of vigilance and diligence to honor those we have lost and to protect those among us and those yet to come.

(Andrew H. Tarsy, former regional director of the New England ADL, is president of the Alliance for Business Leadership. This piece is adapted from prepared remarks delivered April 20, at the Armenian Genocide Commemoration, in the Massachusetts State House. It appeared in the April 29 issue of the *MetroWest Daily News*.)

April 24 Marks Anniversary of Armenian Massacre, Deportation from Ottoman Empire

By Eduardo Eurnekian

On April 24, the Armenians in particular and the world at large commemorate the systematic massacre and deportation of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. The date is somewhat arbitrary, coinciding with an order given on April 24, 1915, by the Ottoman authorities to arrest some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders, which by and large, opened the gates of hell.

To be sure, the forced death marches and brutal mass murders resulted in the death of 1,500,000 Armenians.

This unfathomable loss has created a huge void in the collective conscience of the Armenian people. In Hebrew, the word "chalal" is used to describe a "slain person," someone who died a "sudden, unnatural death." "Chalal" also means "space" or "void," and this is exactly what all Armenians feel about their murdered ancestors.

As a son of the Armenian diaspora, I can say that each and every Armenian senses a tremendous "void," which cannot be easily described by words. I am sure this is something that the Jewish people can easily relate to, after suffering so much persecution, pogroms and the Holocaust. The Israelis too, who face an endless war and have paid such a dear price in terms of fallen soldiers and even civilians targeted by terrorism, would understand this dark sensation.

A few months ago, when I assumed my duties as chairman of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, I started to learn firsthand what makes this organization so special. Its uniqueness lies in the emphasis it places on the positive rather than the negative. From its very inception, ever since my friend Baruch Tenenbaum, together with the late US representative and Holocaust survivor, Tom Lantos, have founded this non-governmental organization, they have focused on the saviors of victims of the Shoah, shedding light on their magnificent feats and unveiling their unknown stories of heroism. Others deal with the atrocities of the Nazis, and that is very well, needless to say, but the Wallenberg Foundation dedicates its mission to the saviors, to make their stories known and to thank them for having made a difference.

All my life I have upheld this philosophy. As an entrepreneur, I believe in building a better reality in which prosperity and human values are intimately intertwined.

Do not misunderstand me. The past is of cardinal importance. The souls of the 1.5 million Armenians who were massacred in the beginning of the previous century, are entrenched in the hearts of all people of good will. Their voices can be heard loud and clear.

Negating the evil is preposterous. But this is not a matter of semantics or of legislation. A definition will not bring them back to life and a law will not punish the perpetrators.

Objective historians, jurists and scholars should analyze the tragic events of 1915 in a scientific fashion. Finger pointing is a futile exercise. Same as the Germans of today are not to blame for the sins of their forefathers, we should not blame this generation of Turks. At the same time, they — the Turks — should not be afraid of recognizing the wrongs of the Ottoman Empire. This would make a great service not only to the Armenians, but above all to the Turks themselves.

As far as Armenia and Armenians are concerned, dwelling with the past without a clear vision of the future is pointless. Geography has created a landlocked Armenia whilst its tragic history has given birth to a landlocked people, slave of its past.

The virtual wall separating Turkey and Armenia should be torn down and replaced by millions of bridges. These two neighbors deserve to build up a shared vision of peace, co-existence and prosper-

ity. This is the only way to start healing the wounds and to shatter into pieces the poisoned atmosphere. New relationships will be established in a gradual fashion, leading to a new and common narrative that will replace almost 100 years of mistrust and hatred. New experiences will become a new reality worth living.

Following Raoul Wallenberg's legacy and example, our foundation has launched a number of grassroots initiatives aimed precisely at creating bridges of understanding, dialog and mutual respect between the peoples of Turkey and Armenia.

At the outset, we have created a literary contest for university students from both countries, who will write essays around this very subject of bridge-building between the two peoples. For obvious reasons, engaging the young generations is of utmost importance.

This will be followed by further projects, involving scientists, artists and professionals from both nations. They will sit together and exchange views. They will talk to each other like good neighbors do.

This is my personal vision and I am privileged to have the backing of the Wallenberg Foundation.

So if you ask me what is the legacy of the victims of the Armenian Genocide, I think the answer is clear: "Remember us, but don't forget the living."

(This commentary appeared in the April 25 issue of the *Jerusalem Post*. Eduardo Eurnekian is the chairman of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation, a global-reach NGO with offices in New York, Buenos Aires, Berlin and Jerusalem.)

Notice to Contributors

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

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

tact person and a daytime telephone number.

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



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