

THE ARMENIAN
Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXIV, NO. 47, Issue 4341

\$ 2.00

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

Armenia Threatens ‘Severe Consequences’ After Azeri Border Shooting Kills Two

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia threatened Azerbaijan with “severe consequences” on Friday after two of its soldiers were shot dead on its border with the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhijevan.

According to the Armenian military, the 26-year-old Andranik Yeghoyan and Boris Gasparian, 22, were killed on Thursday, June 5, by sniper from Azerbaijani army positions located about 70 kilometers southeast of Yerevan. The area is much closer to Nakhijevan’s short border with Turkey.

“For several days the enemy created tension, through disinformation and various political provocations, on the Nakhijevan border,” said Artsrun Hovannisian, the Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman. “We lost two soldiers as a result of yesterday’s shooting. The enemy was silenced after we returned fire.”

There has been no official reaction yet from the Azerbaijani side.

Ceasefire violations on Armenia’s border with Nakhijevan have been very rare unlike at other sections of the long Armenian-Azerbaijani frontier and “the line of contact” around Nagorno-Karabagh. Still,



An Armenian soldier stands guard at the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan’s Nakhijevan exclave (Photo:)

armed incidents there appear to have somewhat increased since last year. An

Azerbaijani soldier serving in Nakhijevan was reported killed in action on Monday.

The ensuing fatal shooting of the two Armenian servicemen prompted Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian to hold an emergency meeting in Yerevan with Andrzej Kasprzyk, the chief OSCE official monitoring the ceasefire regime in the Karabagh conflict zone.

see SHOOTING, page 2

‘Aleppo Protocols’ Depict What Children of Genocide Saw

GENEVA – Today when the name Aleppo appears in the press, the story will be about human suffering in the once-beautiful Syrian city, now a battleground between terrorist-linked forces and the Syrian government military. The war has been raging for more than three years and those most victimized by the killing are the civilian population, increasing turned into a mass of refugees.

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Almost a century ago Aleppo served as a safe haven for refugees, survivors of the Armenian Genocide who had made their way out of Anatolia. Newly published material from the archives of the League of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, offers rare documentation of the Genocide, through the short personal histories that survivors provided on arrival at a reception house of the League and the Danish Friends of Armenians (Danske Armeniervenner, DA). These were Armenians, many of them young orphans, who had been released from Muslim households (Turkish, Kurdish or Arab) in the period between 1922 and 1930.

The records, known as “The Aleppo Protocols: Histories of the Armenian Genocide,” have been compiled, annotated and edited by Taner Akçam, Dicle Akar Bilgin and Matthias Bjørnlund. They are being published on www.armenocide.de, an online publication launched by German Genocide historians Wolfgang and Sigrid Gust, who first made available the relevant material from the archives of the German Foreign Ministry during World War I. Joining them on the editorial staff are Akçam, Vagharshak Lalayan and Matthias Bjørnlund.

see ALEPPO, page 10

Aleppo Pounded By Bombs Armenian Neighborhood Declared Disaster Zone

ALEPPO (Combined Sources) – The New Village (Nor Kyough) Armenian neighborhood of Aleppo has been declared a disaster zone, according to the city’s News Office. A call has been issued to all



The devastation of Aleppo

Armenians to support the cessation of shelling for the sake of the city’s remaining residents.

In the first days of June, the situation in Aleppo and particularly in New Village drastically deteriorated. The civilian population was subjected to intense rocket and mortar attacks by the terrorist groups, many of which are based across the border in Turkey. The missiles fallen on the New Village neighborhood in addition to the human losses caused terrible material damage. Residential buildings were either leveled or partially destroyed. Hundreds of Armenian families were forced to leave their homes. Some left the city and tried to

see BOMBING, page 3

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russian Filmmaker to Make Movie on Armenian Quake

MOSCOW (Public Radio of Armenia) – Russian-Armenian filmmaker Ruben Dishdshyan, founder of the Russian film company, Central Partnership, is preparing to shoot a big-budget action-drama, The Story of One Earthquake, about the tragic events that took place in Armenia in 1988, the Film Journal International reports.

“We plan to begin shooting in the spring of 2015 in Armenia, where we received support from the government, the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Emergency Situations and First public television,” Dishdshyan said.

“The cast of the film will be a multinational: Casting will take place in France and other European countries, the former Soviet Union, including Georgia and Ukraine. We are currently negotiating with Vladimir Mashkov [“Behind Enemy Lines,” “Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol”], who could play a lead role.”

It is expected that the film’s budget will be \$5 million. The production will have the support of the foundation started by the French-Armenian singer Charles Aznavour, “Aznavour for Armenia.”

Armenia Will Attend NATO Workshop if Security Guaranteed

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – Armenia will attend NATO’s Rose Roth workshop in Baku, if the latter provides security guarantees.

“Two delegates from Armenia will attend the seminar if Baku gives security guarantees,” Head of the Armenian delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly Koryun Nahapetyan told reporters this week. He added that Armenia has proposed to hold the next seminar in Armenia in 2015.

The Armenian delegation participated in the meeting of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly held in Vilnius from May 30 to June 1.

At the sitting of the Political Commission of the Assembly the Armenian delegation raised the issue of Syria, particularly the attacks on Kessab, in which Turkey was involved. The question was meant to reveal what steps NATO was going to take to prevent such steps by NATO member states.

“We expressed our concern over the fact that radical Islamist forces penetrated into Syria and said that according to our information, the Turkish government provided financial assistance to those radical forces. The Turkish delegate immediately reacted, noting that they played no role in the attacks on Kessab and Aleppo. Unfortunately, no response followed on the part of the rapporteur,” Koryun Nahapetyan said.

He added that it would be naive to expect anyone in NATO to openly reproach Turkey. “Maybe, this takes place behind closed doors, but it’s a different question,” he added.

INSIDE

Avedisian School

Page 8

INDEX

Arts and Living	11
Armenia	2
Community News	5
Editorial	14
International	3,4



An image from the website



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Shots Fired from Azerbaijan ahead of OSCE Visit

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) – On June 10, in accordance with the arrangement reached with the authorities of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Mission conducted a planned monitoring of the Line of Contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabagh and Azerbaijan in the Hadrut direction near Horadiz settlement on Tuesday.

As press-service of the NKR Foreign Ministry reported, from the positions of the NKR Defense Army, the monitoring was conducted by Field Assistant of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Yevgeny Sharov (Ukraine) and staff member of the Office Peter Svedberg, as well as by representative of the OSCE High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) Lieutenant-Colonel Dan Harvey (Ireland).

From the opposite side of the line of contact, the monitoring was conducted by Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk and his Field Assistant Khristo Khristov (Bulgaria), as well as by representative of the OSCE High-Level Planning Group (HLPG) Colonel İlhami Deghirmenchioghlu (Turkey).

Before the start of the monitoring, shots were fired from the Azerbaijani side towards the Karabagh positions, but the monitoring passed in accordance with the agreed schedule. However, the Azeri side did not lead the OSCE mission to its front-lines.

Sevan to Make Room for Fishermen

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Sevan National Park soon will have an amateur fishing beach on the left part of Sevan -Lchashen highway, said the park's deputy director, Vahe Gulanyan. He said fishermen constantly crowd that part of the lake, and this fact gave rise to such an initiative. "There will be a structure like a public beach, where amateur fishing will develop. In other words, the people will not swim or relax on that beach, for it is intended to be only for the fishermen. For this purpose the beach will be cleaned and the necessary conditions will be created," said Gulanyan.

Gulanyan said that this year, due to the weather conditions, the opening of the summer season is planned on July 1. This year the three public beaches will function, and in addition, two more beaches will be set up.

This year, too, Sevan National Park has projects related with eco-tourism. Gulanyan said that the eco-tourism routes will function, which supposes coming close to the nature, sightseeing.

US Embassy Expands English Access to Remote Areas

YEREVAN (Armenpress) –On June 10, the US Embassy in Armenia, together with Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), launched a new English-language initiative that will expand resources to teach English in remote areas of Armenia. The project was initiated and is funded by the US Department of State and implemented in partnership with COAF.

The program is intended for post-high school youth in rural towns via the Internet and selected regional libraries and schools. The recruitment focused on those ages 17 to 35, a group that does not generally have access to classroom resources or instruction if not enrolled in a university or private classes.

The curriculum is composed of two branches – social and business English. It includes two online classes twice a week and one face-to-face communication English class with a local teacher once a week. The pilot phase includes approximately 150 participants from Armavir, Gavar, Yeghegnadzor and Goris.

Birthrate Decline Expected as 1990s Generation Reaches Reproductive Age

By Sara Khojayan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – The declining Armenian population caused by socioeconomic problems and emigration in the future will face a more intensive decline because of the small numbers of those born in the 1990s, which will create a serious demographic problem, experts say.

Demographer Ruben Yeganyan says that the decline becomes obvious already now because those born dur-

many children limiting to one or two children because of which there arises a problem of self-reproduction.

"It sounds rude but nowadays each woman gives birth to 1.6 children. The woman cannot even reproduce herself and her husband. So that there is reproduction that index must be more than 2.1," last month at a meeting with reporters said Karine Kuyumjyan, head of the Population Census and Demography Division of the National Statistical Service.

According to the data of the 2011 census, 12 percent of women in

three children and more from 430,000 to one million drams (nearly \$1,050 and \$2,450, respectively).

The expert, unlike the government, supports the comprehensive approach. He insists that all reason causing the birthrate decline should be found out, so that by means of influencing them it is possible to settle those problems simultaneously.

"In Belarus, for instance, President Lukashenko says the first child is yours, the second is yours and mine, and the third is mine, thus, he takes care of half of the second child's needs, and fully for the third," Yeganyan said.

"We must inspire the public that this country is a trustworthy country, but it is impossible within one year or with one step," he added.



A newborn in Armenia

Karabagh Part Of Armenia, Says Kocharian

STEPANAKERT (RFE/RL) – Former President Robert Kocharian has described Nagorno-Karabagh as "an inseparable part of Armenia" and lambasted a senior Armenian government official for disagreeing with that claim.

Kocharian made the statement through a spokesman last week in the context of President Serge Sargsian's rejection of a Karabagh-related precondition for Armenia's membership in the Eurasian Economic Union which was set by Kazakhstan. Sargsian argued Karabagh is not legally part of Armenia and will therefore not be joining the Russian-led union together with the latter.

Kocharian's press secretary, Victor Soghomonian, effectively claimed the opposite in comments cited by the Armenian media. Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharian (no relation to the ex-president) dismissed those remarks on Friday, saying that they could give Azerbaijan more ammunition for presenting Karabagh as an Armenian-occupied territory and denying the Karabagh Armenians the right to self-determination.

Soghomonian responded scathingly to Shavarsh Kocharian in a written statement to RFE/RL on Monday. He branded the senior diplomat, who was a prominent opposition politician throughout Robert Kocharian's 1998-2008 presidency, as a flip-flopper who wants to "condemn to oblivion the ultimate aim" of the 1988 popular movement for Karabagh's reunification with Armenia.

"As president of both the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic and Armenia, Robert Kocharian repeatedly stated that the ultimate aim of the Karabagh settlement is the reunification of the two Armenian states," said Soghomonian. "He who forgets this aim deludes himself and the people and jeopardizes Karabagh."

"The real extent of the NKR's integration with Armenia is now close to the confederate model, and we have complete integration in terms of security," added the ex-president's spokesman.

The remarks appeared to be an indirect attack on President Sargsian as well. Kocharian has increasingly criticized the current Armenian government in recent months, stoking speculation about his intention to return to active politics.

ing the first years of Armenian independence are reaching their reproductive age.

"The generation born in the 1990s is almost twice less than the 1980s generation, and part of them emigrated with their parents. This means that in the near future we will record a decline of birthrate," says the expert.

According to the 2011 census, there are more than 396,000 permanent residents of the country aged 18-24 (those born in the 1990s and already in reproductive age) and more than 495,000 of those aged 25-34.

The expert wants to draw government officials' attention to the fact that there are not only fewer people for having children, but also they mostly get married late and prefer to have fewer children.

Because of socioeconomic problems most Armenian families do not have

Armenia have 1 child, 29 percent – two children, 20 percent – three children, 7 percent – four children, and only 4 percent have five or more children.

To correct the situation, Ruben Yeganyan regards government intervention as critically important.

"It won't be long before the death rate here equals the birth rate, because since 1990 the Armenian population has constantly decreased. And now the birthrate is very low, and the state tries to stimulate it by one-time methods, for instance giving incentive money for new-born children. Will that even help?" asks the expert.

Currently the government methods to stimulate birthrate are free medical help at labor and lump-sum monetary help given to new-born baby's family, which for this year has been raised for

Armenia Threatens 'Severe Consequences' After Azeri Border Shooting Kills Two

SHOOTING, from page 1

According to Hovannisian, Ohanian asked Kasprzyk to help ease tensions on the frontlines. The minister warned that "the situation is fraught with very severe consequences for Azerbaijan," Hovannisian said.

The shootings around Nakhijevan followed an upsurge in fighting at a section of the Karabagh frontline adjacent to Iran. One Armenian and two Azerbaijani soldiers were killed there last week in what the Karabagh Armenian army described as a failed Azerbaijani commando attack. The Azerbaijani military said that Armenian forces themselves attacked its frontline positions in the area southeast of Karabagh.

The Nakhijevan incidents led official Yerevan to accuse Baku on Friday of torpedoing the latest international

efforts to kick-start the Karabagh peace process. Deputy Foreign Minister Shavarsh Kocharian claimed that Azerbaijani President İlham Aliyev is specifically trying to scuttle a fresh meeting with his Armenian counterpart Serge Sargsian, which is sought by the US, Russian and French mediators.

"The mediators are intent on trying to end this stalemate," Kocharian said. "This is at odds with Azerbaijan's actions. They are doing everything to prevent a step forward in the negotiation process," he said.

Several officers and soldiers from both sides have been killed in shootings in the last several weeks along the Armenian-Azerbaijani border, as well as near the administrative boundary of Azerbaijan's breakaway Nagorno-Karabagh region.



INTERNATIONAL

Conference on 'Armenians of Lebanon (II)' at Haigazian University

BEIRUT – Organized by the Armenian Diaspora Research Center at Haigazian University, the conference titled "Armenians of Lebanon (II)" took place May 14 to 16.

A group of 16 panelists composed of scholars and recent university graduates, coming from Armenia, Lebanon, the US, and Europe, discussed thoroughly the standing of the Lebanese Armenians in Lebanon.

Ohannes Geukjian on "An Ignored Relationship: The Role of the Lebanese Armenian Diaspora in Conflict Resolution," Roupén Avsharian on "Armenian MPs throughout the Lebanese Parliaments: An Assessment from Within," Dr. Irina Papkova in absentia on "The Lebanese Armenian Church and its Milieu," Dr. Antranig Dakessian on "Embracing Common Causes: The Lebanese Armenians, the

Community, 1956-1960," Vahagn Keshishian on "Armenians in the Lebanese Public Administration," Araz Kodjayan on "Public Effect in Times of Crisis: Gezi Park Events as Reflected Among Lebanese Armenians," and Shant Vartanian on "the Syrian-Armenian Refugees in Lebanon."

Presentations and sessions were moderated by Dr. Angela Harutyunian, Dr. Joseph Al-Agha, Dr. Arda Ekmekji and



The participants in the "Armenians of Lebanon (II)" conference in Beirut

Following the official opening on May 14, featuring historian Prof. Richard Hovannisian from the United States, on the topic of "the Vital Role of the Lebanese-Armenian Community: Reminiscences from the Mid-20th Century," the conference convened four sessions on the following two consecutive days, covering 16 topics.

Panelists were Dr. Huda Kassatly on "The Photographer Hovsep Madenian: in the context of Lebanese-Armenian Photography," Dr. Anahis Donabedian on "Western-Armenian Language Problems in the Lebanese Armenian Community," Dr. Armen Urneshlian on "The Armenian Subjects' Teachers in the Lebanese Armenian Schools," Dr.

May 6 Martyrs' and Lebanese Independence Days," Dr. Claude Mutafian on "Lebanese-Armenian Alliances and the Time of the Crusades," Dr. Vahram Shemmasian on "the Settlement of Musa Dagh Armenians in Anjar, 1939-1940," Dr. James Stocker on "the United States Government and the Armenian Community in Lebanon, 1943-1975," Dr. Arman Yeghiazarian on "the Lebanese Armenian Community and the Issue of Armenian Diaspora Typology," and from the young scholars Hratch Kestonian on "Armenian Student Life and the Syrian Protestant College," Yeghig Tashjian on "the Third Track in Lebanese Armenian

Dr. Richard Hovannisian.

The conference also witnessed two important events: the book launch of the first volume of the Houshamadyan project, titled *Ottoman Armenians: Life, Culture, Society, Vol. 1* by Dr. Vahe Tashjian, in addition to an evening talk on "A Historical Excursion in Bourj Hammoud" by Vicken Avakian, followed by an exhibition of rare Bourj Hammoud pictures and a collection of long plays and singles of Lebanese Armenian singers and choirs of the 1960s and '70s.

Preparations have already started for the 2015 conference, covering the topic "Armenians of Syria."

Aleppo Pounded By Bombs

BOMBING, from page 1

find a safe refuge in the coastal city Latakia, some of them moved to the homes of their relatives living in Aleppo, some having no opportunity to move to another apartment, found refuge in the basement of New Village St. Gregory the Illuminator Church.

Institutions that sustained devastating damages included the Karen Jeppe National College, Zavaryan College, Sahakyan National College, three kindergartens (National Haykazyan, National Sahakyan, National Zavaryan) Zvartnots College belonging to the Catholic community, the St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, the Armenian Catholic Holy Trinity Church, the "East" publishing house, Syrian Armenian Cross Relief Center, National Orphanage, Youth bookshop, national Cilicia, Oshakan, Nairi, Artsakh and Sis apartment buildings and shops.

Armenians die in Aleppo

According to the *Armenian Weekly*, two Armenians died, Levon Cherchyan, who was wounded in an attack on Nor Kyough district on June 1, died on June 8 and Garo Asatryan, 32, died in a rocket attack on June 7.

Hakob Semerjyan and Paytsik Melkonyan-Cherchyan were wounded in a rocket attack on Suleimanie on June 7.

Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesman Tigran Balayan expressed concern for the situation. "We strongly condemn the bombardment of Aleppo, the Armenian-populated district of Nor Kyough over the last days, that caused the loss of lives and destruction. We are convinced that the main precondition for the progress in the resolution of Syrian crisis lies in immediate cessation of violence."

Assistance organizations raised their voices and sought donations for the survivors. The Armenian Relief Society of Eastern United States expressed its grave concern and deep sadness today at the recent escalation in attacks on the Armenian neighborhoods of Aleppo, Syria, and condemned the violence. Several Armenians have been killed in the past week and sources in Syria say that over 60 mortar bombs have fallen in Armenian-populated areas. Thousands of Armenians have been left

homeless in Aleppo and the area has been officially declared a disaster zone.

The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) issued a statement strongly condemning the situation and "the heinous attacks on Syrian Armenians who, since the start of the war, have continuously advocated for peace and tranquility. The violence against residential areas of Syrian Armenians, which began in Kessab in March and continues in the Nor Kyough quarter and other Aleppo districts that are densely populated by Armenians, threaten the very existence of Armenians in the city, and their right to live safely and in dignity."

The Armenian Relief Society Eastern Region chairwoman, Ani Attar, stressed the urgency of the situation. "Our hearts are breaking for our brothers and sisters in Syria, and we are praying for their safety. They are counting on us and we will do everything in our power to assist them, through your moral and financial support."

To send donations, do so at Syrian Armenian Relief Fund, P.O. Box 1948, Glendale, CA 91209-1948 or <https://donate.agbu.org/agbu-urgent-appeal>.

(Reports from Armenpress, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia and the Armenian Weekly were used to compile this story.)

International News

Conference on Armenian Genocide to be Held on Sardinia

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, Italy (Armenpress) – Upon the initiative of the Italian-Arab Assadakah Centre and the Embassy of Armenia in Italy, on June 17, a conference dedicated to the Armenian Genocide will be held in the Italian island of Sardinia. During the conference, titled "The Armenian Genocide: 2015 – a year of memory," the proposal of Assadakah Centre will be introduced again, to declare 2015 a year of "Memory and Conscience."

Assadakah Centre had sent a letter to the UN and to the European Parliament. The Centre has declared 2015 a year of remembrance in Italy as well.

During the conference, the issues on the difficult situation of the Armenians in the current geopolitical context, as well as the continuing repression by the Syrian jihadist armed groups will be discussed.

The conference will be attended by Armenian Ambassador to Italy Sargis Ghazaryan, Senator Ignatius Angioni, Secretary General of Assadakah Centre Raimondo Schiavone, among others.

OSCE Chairperson Didier Burkhalter Arrives in Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Chairperson-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), President of the Swiss Confederation and Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, arrived in Armenia on June 3, on an official visit.

On his agenda is bilateral between the Presidents of Armenia and Switzerland, then of broadened format with the participation of official delegations, at the end of which President Serge Sargsian and Burkhalter will hold a joint press conference.

Burkhalter was also scheduled to visit Tsitsernakaberd memorial and pay tribute to the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide.

Kazakh President Meets President of Azerbaijan In Turkey

BODRUM, Turkey (Tengrinews) – President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev has met with President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev in Bodrum, Turkey.

Nazarbayev arrived here to participate in the IV Summit of the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States on June 5. During the summit, Nazarbayev had bilateral meetings with heads of the council's member-states.

During the meeting with Azerbaijan's President, he discussed bilateral cooperation and the most acute issues of the international agenda. In particular, Nazarbayev and Aliyev dwelt on the prospects of deepening of the bilateral ties in trade and economy, oil and gas, transport and logistics. They agree on the importance of increasing the trade volume in order to put the existing economic potential to a better use.

In addition, the two discussed cooperation within international and regional organizations, and the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries.

Nazarbayev also took part in the informal meeting of heads of member-states of the council. At the meeting, the leaders discussed key aspects of the agenda of the upcoming summit and exchanged views on the main areas of multilateral cooperation within international and regional organizations.

The Turkic Council, short for the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States, is an intergovernmental organization that aims to promote political and economic cooperation among the Turkic-speaking countries that share common historical and cultural ties. The current members of the Council are Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkey.



INTERNATIONAL

Turkish Authorities Condemn Flag Removal in Diyarbakır

DYARBAKIR (*Hurriyet*) – The Turkish General Staff, President Abdullah Gül and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the taking down of a Turkish flag from inside an Air Force base in the southeastern province of Diyarbakir during protests on June 8, following the funeral of a man killed during clashes in nearby Lice.

Gül called on all people “to act responsibly and avoid provocative, actions and expressions,” while the army issued a very harsh statement regarding the incident.

“We strongly condemn the attack on the Turkish flag, the symbol of the Turkish nation and our independence for which our martyrs’ blood was shed, by a person who possesses no value. We also want to inform the public that we will pursue the prosecution of finding and punishing this person,” said the General Staff in a statement June 9.

A masked demonstrator was photographed by Agence France-Presse photo reporter Ilyas Akengin June 8 as he climbed the flagpole after jumping over the walls surrounding the 2nd Air Force Command.

“A masked person among the demonstrators, some of them children, jumped in from the main entrance of the base and climbed the flag pole in the vehicle control zone between two wire

fences. A team [of soldiers] was sent to the area and fired two warning shots in the air. But the person took our flag from the pole,” said the military.

The statement defiantly stressed that the military put every effort to “remain calm” in the face of “provocative actions in which children and women are used with the aim to cause civilian deaths that would trigger massive demonstrations.”

For his part, Erdogan vowed that everyone involved in the incident, including the demonstrator and the officials who let him remove the flag, will pay a heavy price for it.

“The Interior Ministry has launched an investigation on the issue. The fact that [the demonstrator] is a child does not concern us. He will pay the price the same way as those who sent him there. We will not remain silent just because the person who has attacked our sacred in such way is a child,” Erdogan said during a joint press conference with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in Ankara.

Erdogan also slammed the military officials who did not get involved during the incident. “He climbs the mast, then pulls the flag. All the



A masked demonstrator was photographed by Agence France-Presse photo reporter Ilyas Akengin as he was taking down a Turkish flag on an Air Force base in Diyarbakir June 8.

soldiers and commanders tasked there will pay the price for it,” he said.

The Turkish prime minister also slammed what he called provocations attempt against “the non-resolution process,” describing road blocks an act of “thugs and terrorists.”

Bülent Arınc, PM Erdogan’s deputy, said the government follows the events “patiently.” “If there was no patience [in the army], if there was no loyalty to the political will of the government, the person who dared to take down the flag could have been instantly punished,” Arınc said.

Turkish Parliamentary Speaker Cemil Çiçek also condemned the incident while main opposition Republican People’s Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu urged Erdogan to give an explanation concerning the removal of the flag.

“We can never accept such an action,” Kılıçdaroğlu told reporters on June 9 concerning the incident. “We cannot tolerate the removal of flag and we have sent our friends there [Lice] because the government is not providing accurate information,” he said, while accusing Erdogan of using the peace process as a tool for his personal career and potential ambitions for presidency.

“I’ve been waiting for Erdogan to come up and speak about this matter. Though he has trampled on all kinds of nationalism, I wonder what he will say about the flag issue,” Kılıçdaroğlu said.

Meanwhile, the “Ülkü Ocakları” (Idealist Hearths), a youth organization with links to the opposition Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), called for nationwide ‘Respect the Flag’ rallies to be held late June 9. Hundreds of people marched from the Mecidiyeköy neighborhood

of Istanbul to Taksim Square, carrying flags.

The People’s Democracy Party (HDP) co-chair Sabahat Tuncel said that her party “disapproves such actions.” Stressing that “disrespecting a nation’s symbols is something nobody can accept,” Tuncel said, stressing that the attacker is apparently a child. “We can neither approve a lynch campaign based on this incident. In the end, we’re passing through a sensitive time,” she added, warning that “a child’s act” shouldn’t be attributed to all Kurds.

Meanwhile, a delegation of the HDP headed to Imrali island in a surprise visit to outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) leader Abdullah Öcalan soon after the clashes in southeastern Turkey.

The HDP’s two deputy group chairs, Idris Baluken and Pervin Buldan, and HDP Istanbul deputy Sirri Süreyya Önder headed to Imrali to visit Öcalan.

The PKK, however, said this week that “sending three-person delegations to meet with Öcalan is not enough for a solution to the problem anymore,” according to the Firat News Agency, known for its links to the PKK. “If everyone agrees [that Öcalan is key to the Kurdish solution process], then the walls on peace has to be removed and Abdullah Öcalan should be provided with free working security and health conditions,” said the PKK statement.

The statement came at a time when the violence in Lice has sparked renewed protests across Turkey, mostly in hotspots and sensitive areas, such as Istanbul’s Gazi and Okmeydanı neighborhoods and the southeastern towns of Cizre, Hakkari and Van.

Dink Family Lawyers Say more Officials Should Be Prosecuted

ISTANBUL (*Today’s Zaman*) – A recent decision by the Bakirköy 8th High Criminal Court to allow trials of key officials for their possible roles in the 2007 murder of Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink is a belated but significant development, according to Dink family lawyers, who also say more officials should be prosecuted to shed light on the murder.

Engin Cinmen, one of the Dink family’s lawyers, told Today’s Zaman: “The Trabzon Provincial Gendarmerie Command, the Trabzon Police Department and the Istanbul Police Department received intelligence about the murder one week before it happened. A report sent by the Trabzon Police Department to the Istanbul Police Department clearly stated that Oğün Samast [the gunman] and Yasin Hayal [who allegedly incited Samast to commit the murder] would kill Dink. The probe, which should have been launched immediately after the murder, is now being opened. ... There are many people like Yasin Hayal and Oğün Samast in Turkey; that’s not the issue. Those who are responsible for the murder should be prosecuted.”

Key officials at the time of the murder, including former Istanbul Deputy Governor Ergun Güngör, former Istanbul Police Chief Celalettin Cerrah and Istanbul Police Department Intelligence Unit chief Ahmet İlhan Güler, could face an investigation regarding Dink’s murder on charges of negligence since the Bakirköy 8th High Criminal Court overturned a previous ruling on June 6.

The court reversed a previous ruling which stated there was no need to prosecute Güngör, Cerrah, Güler and six police officers in connection to the murder. The court recommended an investigation into the nine individuals following a previously-issued European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) decision.

Dink, the editor of the Turkish-Armenian weekly Agos, was shot dead outside his office in Istanbul on January 19, 2007 by Samast, an ultranationalist teenager. Samast was sentenced to nearly 23 years in prison and Hayal was given a life sentence for inciting Samast to commit the murder. The judge at the time said they had acquitted the suspects of organized crime charges, but that does not mean there was no organization involved, just that there was not enough evidence to prove that the

actions were conducted entirely by the organization.

Since the murder, mounting evidence has indicated that security officials had been tipped off about the murder plot before the attack. The former Istanbul police chief also acknowledged that they had received a tip about a possible attack on Dink, but said its priority level was too low for his department to take seriously. Erhan Tuncel, another key figure in the murder, claimed in December 2013 that he had informed the police of the plan but that his warnings went unheeded.

The ECtHR ruled in September 2010 that Turkey had failed to investigate and prosecute those responsible for Dink’s murder, which constitutes a violation of Dink’s right to life.

Güngör’s responsibility for the murder has often been brought forward by the Dink family’s lawyers. Güngör summoned Dink to his office on February 24, 2004, where two National Intelligence Organization (MIT) agents warned him to be “more careful” about what he wrote. The meeting came a week after Dink had suggested that Sabiha Gökçen, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk’s adopted daughter, was in fact an Armenian orphan. During the conversation, the deputy governor and the two MIT officials threatened Dink by saying things like “We know who you are, but society may not” and “We are concerned that society might not be able to understand things like this.”

Hakan Bakircioglu, one of the Dink family lawyers, said the court had ruled that there was no need to prosecute the two MIT officials who had threatened Dink. “They should also be prosecuted. But their actions do not represent MIT’s only misdeed. It’s impossible that MIT was not informed about the threats Dink had been receiving. MIT also has responsibility for the murder,” Bakircioglu said.

Another lawyer for the Dink family, Bahri Belen, said that a captain and a major in the gendarmerie who were serving at the Trabzon Gendarmerie Command should also be prosecuted, along with Col. Ali Öz, the head of the Trabzon Gendarmerie Command at the time. “Öz was put on trial at the Bursa High Criminal Court, and the court ruled to combine it with Dink’s murder case at the Istanbul [Bakirköy] Court. However, the Istanbul court refused to combine the cases. I think they will re-evaluate this [decision] soon,” he said.

Armenian Community in Turkey Criticizes Authorities over Kessab Failure

ANKARA (Arminfo) – Turkey’s Armenian community has criticized Ankara’s indifference towards Armenians from Syria’s Kessab region fleeing from the war-torn country and seeking shelter in Turkey, also bringing attention to the inadequacy of Turkish-Armenian associations, including the Armenian Patriarchate, in helping Kessab Armenians settle in Turkey, Today’s Zaman reports.

The Turkish-Armenian community came together on Saturday in a conference to discuss the problems of Kessab Armenians, whose predicament appeared in the Turkish media earlier in April when two Armenian sisters from Kessab, Satenik (82) and Surpuhi (80) Titizian, arrived in Yayladagi after being escorted by Syrian rebels to the Turkish-Syrian border. They were offered refuge in Vakifli village, the only remaining Armenian village in Turkey.

“The Titizyan sisters were not brought to Turkey, they were kidnapped,” said Aris Nalc, a Turkish-Armenian journalist from IMC TV during an event held about the life of Kessab Armenians in Vakifli village on Saturday.

Before the Titizyan sisters came to Turkey, there were reportedly 130 people living in Vakifli, mostly elderly individuals. On May 5, 19 more ethnic Armenians from Syria, most of

them elderly and on wheelchairs, joined the Titizyan sisters in Vakifli. After most moved on to Lebanon, there are now only six Kessab Armenians left in Vakifli. An old man who was also planning to leave for Lebanon died of a heart attack in Vakifli and was buried there.

“They were people in the depths of despair,” said an old Armenian resident from Vakifli, sharing his experiences and impressions. He welcomed the arrival of Armenians fleeing Syria to Turkey to their village.

“It was a very emotional moment for me when I heard them murmuring to each other that they were among Armenians after they noticed we were all speaking Armenian,” the old man said.

Ankara had said in April that Turkey’s doors are “wide open” to the largely Armenian residents of the Kessab region of Syria, which is under the threat of clashes between Syrian rebel forces.

Turkey has been criticized by Armenians worldwide for providing assistance to al-Qaeda-linked terrorist groups who are killing Armenians in Syria. Dismissing the criticisms, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has argued against what he called the “wrong image of Turkey,” adding that the country’s doors are wide open for Armenians living in Kessab.

Community News

Knights and Daughters Of Vartan Grand Convocation to Be Held in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – The Knights and Daughters of Vartan Grand Convocation will take place here, July 2-6, at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in downtown San Diego.

More than 300 people are expected to attend the four days of activities including dinner dances and city tours for the public, and workshops and business meetings for members.

New to this year's Convocation is the first-ever National ASSP Armenian Art Event, to benefit the Armenian School Support Project, which receives 19-to-1 matching funds from the Armenian Social Investment Fund of the World Bank. The National ASSP Armenian Art Event will feature Armenian art from around the world, exhibited for sale throughout the Convocation. A number of the featured artists will be on hand. Shipping of larger pieces is available onsite.

On Wednesday, July 2, the convocation will feature a chartered tour of San Diego on the Old Town Trolley Tour, before the Welcome Reception later that evening.

On Thursday, July 3, after Knights' and Daughters' member workshops during the day, there will be the festive Big Bay Dinner Cruise on San Diego Bay at night.

Friday, July 4 will feature the first day of meetings, the Daughters of Vartan Member Luncheon, and culminate with the Freedom Kef Dinner Dance, where the wider Armenian community will also enjoy the spectacular San Diego Bay Fireworks from the panoramic fourth floor hotel terrace. Later that night will be the new Young Professionals Mixer targeting ages 18-40, to give younger members and prospective members a chance to meet and network.

The Grand Banquet on Saturday, July 5, will cap off a day of special meetings and installations with the featured presentation of the Knights' Man of the Year and the inaugural Daughters' Woman of the Year. A special Sunday church reception is also being planned at St. John Garabed Armenian Church.

The Knights of Vartan is an Armenian fraternal service organization established to encourage its members to assume leadership roles in cultural, educational, religious and charitable organizations and activities on the local, national and international level for the betterment of the Armenian nation worldwide. The Knights of Vartan has 25 chapters across the US and Canada. Its current national chairman is Nighohos Atinizian of Boston.

The Daughters of Vartan is an organization of women who promote the intellectual and leadership development of Armenian women, youth and families around the world while also preserving Armenian cultural heritage, faith and values. The Daughters of Vartan has 20 chapters across the US and Canada. Its current national chairman is Lisa Kradjian of San Diego.

Online hotel reservations for the Convocation are open now: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/KNIGHT2014> or Call 888-421-1442 and mention "Knights of Vartan" group rate.

For information visit <http://kofv.org/main/grand-convocation> or email sdconvocation2014@gmail.com.



From left, Gevorg Shahbazyan, Ani Stambouljan, Anna Lisa Strohmeier, Sona Movsisyan, intern coordinator Lena Krikorian, Chrystal Densmore, Mariam Pashayan and intern program manager Joseph Piatt

Assembly's Terjanian-Thomas Summer Interns Arrive in Washington

WASHINGTON – This week, the 37th class of the Armenian Assembly of America's Terjanian-Thomas summer interns arrived in the nation's capital. Twelve students from across the United States will be living together and working throughout the capital in various capacities in both government and private sectors during the eight-week program.

"We have a bright and capable group of young adults this summer who are excited to begin the next chapter in their professional careers," stated summer internship coordinator Lena Krikorian. "Everyone is looking forward to exploring Washington and making life-long friends," Krikorian said.

Founded in 1977, the Armenian Assembly Summer Internship Program is the first internship program established by an Armenian organization in America. Last summer, the Terjanian-Thomas Internship Program announced that over 1,000 students of Armenian descent have graduated through the Assembly ranks. From its earliest phases the Armenian community strongly supported the Assembly Summer Internship Program with major gifts from the Richard Tufenkian Memorial Fund, the John Hanessian Scholarship Fund, the Armen Astarjian Scholarship Fund, the Ohanian Memorial Fund, James and Connie Melikian and the Knights of Vartan. In 2003, the Assembly's Summer Internship Program was renamed in honor of Aram and Florence Terjanian and Annie Thomas after the announcement of their pace-setting \$1 million donation to the program.

The 2014 Assembly Terjanian-Thomas Summer Intern participants include: Garen Alexander, University of Wisconsin; Joseph Ayanian, College of William and Mary; Tyler Bagdasarian, University of Dayton; Aram Balian, Columbia University; Taleen Barsam, University of California-Irvine; Chrystal Densmore, Milwaukee Area Technical School; Lusine Mehrabyan, Cornell University; Sona Movsisyan, Michigan State University; Mariam Pashayan, Fresno State College; Gevorg Shahbazyan, Florida International University; Ani Stambouljan, Michigan State University and Anna Lisa Strohmeier, Virginia Commonwealth University.

To follow the 2014 summer interns on their journey, visit the Assembly's Intern Blog and on the Assembly Internship Facebook page.

AGBU Manoukian School Appoints New Principal

LOS ANGELES – The Board of Trustees of the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian (VTM) High School in Pasadena announced recently the appointment of the school's new principal, Dr. Armine Movsisyan.

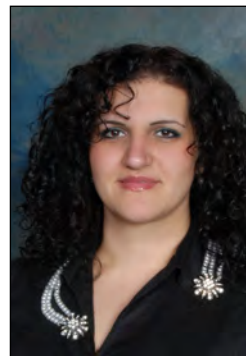
Movsisyan has been an integral part of the VTM community for more than eight years. She began her career there as a history and social science teacher, and with each school year took on more leadership responsibilities. Movsisyan has worked closely with the outgoing principal, Dr. Talin Kargodorian, fellow teachers, parents, staff and students to promote academic excellence, innovation and teamwork within the school. In her new role, she will collaborate with Hagop Hagopian, the current principal of the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School, who will act as VTM's principal advisor.

Sinan Sinanian, vice president of the AGBU Central Board of Directors and chair of the VTM Board of Trustees, welcomed Movsisyan to the school administration. "It is with immense pride that we promote Dr. Movsisyan to the position of principal," he commented, speaking on behalf of the VTM

board. "She not only has the rigorous educational qualifications that we require for such a position of responsibility, but also knows and understands our AGBU mission, school culture and values, and has proven her unwavering commitment and dedication to our students and their families. We look forward to a smooth and seamless transition."

Movsisyan's tenure will officially begin on July 14.

Movsisyan earned her doctorate in education from the University of Southern California. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of California, Irvine.



Dr. Armine Movsisyan

Babson College President Healey to Address AIWA Annual Meeting

WATERTOWN – The Annual Meeting of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) will be held on Saturday, June 21, at Wellesley College's Wang Center, beginning at 10 a.m., with lunch scheduled for noon.

Dr. Kerry Healey, who took office as the first woman president of Babson College in July 2013, will be the luncheon speaker.

Internationally recognized for her nearly three decades of service in academia, government and humanitarian work both in the United States and abroad, Healey served as lieutenant governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007. During that time, she led successful efforts to expand legal protection and services for victims of domestic violence and child abuse, increase penalties for drunken driving and create recovery high schools to support education for formerly drug-addicted youth.

In 2008, Healey was appointed a founding member of the Executive Committee of the US State Department's Public-Private Partnership for Justice Reform in Afghanistan. Subsequently she helped Afghan lawyers attend top US law schools to study human rights issues and commercial law and to establish Afghanistan's first *Law Review*. As a trustee of the American University of Afghanistan (AUAF), she worked to secure scholarships for Afghan women and, in conjunction with Stanford Law School, to establish a law program at AUAF.

Healey earned her bachelor's degree in government from Harvard College and her PhD in



Dr. Kerry Healey of Babson College

political science and law from Trinity College, Dublin. She has been a fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics and Harvard's Center for Public Leadership.

Babson College, founded in 1919, is known for its undergraduate, graduate and professional programs to foster business education. It includes a Center for Women's Entrepreneurial Leadership.

AIWA's annual meeting will open with coffee at 9:30 a.m. and the business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Special reports will be presented regarding AIWA programs in Armenia, including the Women's Entrepreneurship Program at the American University of Armenia and funding for the Women's Support Center in Yerevan. Scholarship awards to female students in higher educational institutions around the world will be announced. The latest details regarding AIWA's upcoming seventh international conference on October 9-12 in Yerevan will be available.

Following the luncheon, attendees may view the exhibit, "Read My Pins: The Madeleine Albright Collection," at Wellesley College's Davis Museum.

The public is invited to attend. Luncheon reservations, at \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members, are available by sending a check to AIWA at 65 Main St., Watertown, MA 02472.



OBITUARY

Mae Elmas Keighley Adams

First Food Editor at *Providence Journal*

PROVIDENCE — Mae Elmas Keighley Adams, the first food editor at the *Providence Journal*, died on May 21 after a long illness. She was the wife of the late Gordon W. Adams and the late John F.M. Keighley Jr.

Born in Cranston, she was the daughter of the late Harry Movsesian and Mariam (Avakian) Burt.

After graduating with honors from Rhode Island College (URI), she moved to Baltimore, Md. to pursue a degree as a dietitian from the University of Maryland Hospital.



Mae Elmas Keighley Adams

Because of her interest in cooking and writing, she created recipes which were published in the *Narragansett Times*. This experience led to her being hired by the *Providence Journal* as its first food editor, a position she held from 1951 to 1966.

In 1962, the *Providence Journal* published a cookbook (*Recipes You Asked For*) she wrote containing a collection of recipes which had been requested most often by her readers.

The news of her death was reported by her daughter, Linda Short of Barrington.

"She was a woman ahead of her time," said Short.

Adams wrote for the *Providence Journal* at a time there were not a lot of women in news-

rooms. She started writing about food as a contemporary of Craig Claiborne, who became the food editor of the *New York Times* in 1957.

Food editors' conventions were held each year in New York and Chicago on a rotating basis, Short said. Her mother always went and dined at least once in New York City with Claiborne.

"He ordered a Caesar Salad and it arrived and my mother thought it was the most beautiful dish of salad she had seen," said Short. But he ordered it cleared from the table because the lettuce pieces were too large.

Adams did not write restaurant reviews, though she wanted to. Management then thought restaurants should pay for publicity.

Rather her stories focused on home cooking.

Just recently, Judy Salvadore of the Wickford Art Association, found a copy of *Recipes You Asked For* produced by her and the *Journal* for 25 cents, at an estate sale. It was so popular, people called the *Journal* looking for copies into the 21st century.

The daughter of Armenian-American parents, her father used Armenian phrases to describe his daughter's toughness, stubbornness and the way she would dig in her heels.

Adams leaves Short, three grandchildren.

The family is grateful for the care that she received at Grandview Gardens at the Seasons and would especially like to thank the staff at both Beacon Hospice and at the West Shore Health Center. Her funeral and burial were private.

Memorial contributions in her name may be made to the Providence Animal Rescue League, 34 Elbow St., Providence, RI 02903.

(Portions of a story from the *Providence Journal* were used in this notice.)

Captain Eli Takesian, 82

POTOMAC FALLS, Va. — Captain Eli Takesian, former chief chaplain of the Marine Corps, died on May 20, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

He was the husband of Margaret B. Takesian.

Born on February 28, 1932, in Methuen, Mass., he was the son of Stephan and Koharig Takesian, and uncle to many loved nephews and nieces. He is survived by a sister, Helen Hagopian. His brothers, Raffi, Jack and Vartkis predeceased him.

He served in Korea with the 1st Marine Division from November 1951 to November 1952. Following his discharge from the Marine Corps, he graduated from Baylor University in

1957, and continued his education at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Princeton Theological Seminary, receiving a master's degree in theology in 1960. The same year, Eli was ordained a minister by the United Presbyterian Church. After serving a pastorate in Amsterdam, Ohio, Eli returned to the military as a Navy Chaplain.

Takesian served two tours of duty in Vietnam and then spent 20 years as a senior chaplain, becoming Chief Chaplain of the Marine Corps at Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC.

While in Vietnam in 1968, even though he was not assigned to the unit, Takesian joined the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Regiment, 1st Marine Division on the battlefield in Hue City — one of the most famous and bloodiest Vietnam War battles. Eli brought prayers, support and hope to the wounded and dying. In 2007, in his hometown of Methuen, men of the 1st Battalion 5th Marines had a monument built in remembrance of his bravery. During his service in the military, Takesian was awarded a number of combat decorations including the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars with Combat Vs and four Presidential Unit Citations. He retired from naval service in 1987, and became an associate pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Vienna, Va., retiring in 1995. Until his death, Takesian continued to provide ministerial services to military retirement communities and churches in Northern Virginia.

Arrangements are pending for a memorial service in June at Falcons Landing in Potomac Falls, Va. Other memorial services will be held later.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Invites you for Requiem Services in memory of

Vahan Tekeyan

*Jack Antreassian
Hagop Assadouriam
Yervantouhi Assadourian
Hagop Deukmejian
Arminée Dikijian
Araxi Diratzouian
Vahram Geukjian
Louisa Kazanjian
Souren Manouelian
Peniamin Nourigian
Antranik L. Poladian
Dickran Simsarian
Arpinée Vartivarian
Nvart Youssoufian*

Sunday, June 22, 2014, following the Badarak
St. Thomas Armenian Church
9W & East Clinton Ave., Tenafly, NJ

Nardolillo Funeral Home

Est. 1906

John K. Najarian, Jr.

Rhode Island's Only Licensed Armenian Funeral Director

1278 Park Ave. Cranston, RI 02910 (401) 942-1220
1111 Boston Neck Rd. Narragansett, RI 02882 (401) 789-6300

www.nardolillo.com

Telephone (617) 924-7400

Aram Bedrosian Funeral Home, Inc.

Continuous Service By The Bedrosian Family Since 1945

558 MOUNT AUBURN STREET
WATERTOWN, MA 02472

MARION BEDROSIAN
PAUL BEDROSIAN
LARRY BEDROSIAN

Gregory Robert Takvorian

PEABODY, Mass. — Gregory Robert Takvorian of Peabody died on June 4. He was 42.

He was the son of Robert and Marilyn (Melkonian) Takvorian of Peabody, brother of Melissa Takvorian-Bene and her husband Steve Bene of Amsbury; one niece, Juliette Zabelle Bene and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Services were at Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge on Monday, June 9. Interment was at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park in Peabody.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in his memory to Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

Arrangements were made by the Giragosian Funeral Home, Watertown.

Edward D. Jamakordzian, Jr. d/b/a Edward D. Jamie, Jr. Funeral Chapel

Serving the entire Armenian Community

Any Hour • Any Distance • Any Location
Call (718) 224-2390 Toll Free (888) 224-6088

Bus. Reg. 189-06 Liberty Ave., Hollis, NY 11412
Consultation Office: 217-04 Northern Blvd., (Suite 23), Bayside, NY 11361

Giragosian

FUNERAL HOME

James "Jack" Giragosian, CPC
Mark J. Giragosian
Funeral Counselors

576 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472, TEL: 617-924-0606
www.giragosianfuneralhome.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

SARF Collects Contributions from the East and West Coasts

Nurses, Students and Teachers Among Donors

GLENDALE – The on-going crisis in Syria continues to take its toll on the Armenians in Syria, from Aleppo to Damascus to Kessab. The Armenian communities from the East Coast continue to donate to the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund (SARF), along with continued support from the West Coast.

The Armenian American Nurses Association (AANA), which was organized following the 1988 Spitak earthquake in Armenia, focused its attention on the new crisis. According to the Presidents of the AANA, Dr. Zarmine Naccashian, the nurses were directed to make donations “in lieu of Christmas gifts from AANA.” A total of \$3,500 was collected from this effort.

The Glendale Teachers Association (GTA), which is the union that represents over 1,200 teachers in Glendale, is a local chapter of the California Teacher’s Association. Recently, Phyllis Miller, President of the GTA Board of

Directors, handed over a check for \$500 to Zaven Khanjian, Chairperson of the SARF Executive Committee. Taline Arsenian, vice president of the GTA, was appreciative of Khanjian’s thoroughness, calling it a “classroom worthy” presentation.

The Armenian Students Association (ASA) at Boston University (BU) in Massachusetts raised \$1,000 by providing graduation double cords with the Armenian tricolor. The Lebanese Club at BU provided one-third of the donation. During graduation ceremonies, the students wore the tricolors.

The ASA at Michigan University in Ann Arbor, Mich. raised \$3,500; the Detroit Armenian Women’s Club raised \$500; the Armenian Inter-Communal Committee of Philadelphia, Pa., raised \$1,000; similarly, Raffi Yousefian’s friends in West Friendship, Md., raised \$1,000; the Glendale Fighting Club Raised \$1,100 at the Mixed Martial Arts Seminar held on May 17th; Mr. and Dr. Abraham and Marianne Yacoubian of San Mateo County in Northern California, raised \$1,200 for their son’s birthday in lieu of gifts.

In Glendale, Varoujan Koundakjian’s friends celebrated his award of the “Knight of Cilicia” medal granted by Catholicos Aram I of the Great See of Cilicia, raised \$75,000 to assist the displaced Armenians of Kessab. The event doubled as his 80th birthday party.

Elizabeth Koobatian, a 12-year-old, decided to do a fundraising at Alex and Ani New Haven. She was convincing and will be the host of a fundraiser at 284 New York St., New Haven, Conn. on Tuesday, June 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Supporters can enjoy little bites and punch, and will have 15 percent of their proceeds donated to SARF. Contact Koobatian at NKBTN3@gmail.com.

Community members concerned with the dire situation facing Syrian Armenians continue to allocate proceeds from birthday parties and in lieu of flower donations to SARF to help our brothers and sisters in Syria. They are facing dangers and harsh living conditions with lack of necessities and to feed their families. The psychological as well as the physical burdens are immense on the children as well as the adults. Your contribution

will alleviate some of their needs and give them hope. Please send your tax-deductible contribution to the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund mailing address: P.O. Box 1948, Glendale, CA 91209-1948 or contribute online at www.SyrianArmenianReliefFund.org.

The following churches, charities and organizations came together to form the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund in August 2012: Armenian Catholic Eparchy in North America; Armenian Evangelical Union of North America; Western Diocese of the Armenian Church; Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America; Armenian General Benevolent Union; Armenian Missionary Association of America; Armenian Relief Society of Western USA; Armenian Democratic Liberal Party; Armenian Revolutionary Federation-Western U.S.A.; and Social Democrat Hunchakian Party-Western USA. The SARF mailing address follows: P.O. Box 1948, Glendale, CA 91209-1948. The web site address follows: www.SyrianArmenianReliefFund.org.

Armenian Evangelical Union to Convene in Central California

FRESNO – “Forging Ahead for Christ” (Philippians 3:14) is the theme of the 22nd General Assembly of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America.

The convocation will take place on June 26-29, at the University Square Hotel, 4961 North Cedar Ave. The biennial gathering will also include the 19th Convention of the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship.

Historic Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church of Fresno is the host congregation. Rev. Ara Richard Guekguezian is the Senior Pastor of the host church.

Rev. Dr. Donald Sunukjian of Southern California is the conference speaker. The holder of doctorates in theology (Dallas Seminary) and communication (UCLA), Dr. Sunukjian pastored

churches in Scottsdale, Arizona and Austin, Texas and taught preaching at Dallas Theological Seminary for a decade. He is currently Professor of Preaching and chair of the Department of Christian Ministry and Leadership at Talbot School of Theology on the campus of Biola University in La Mirada, Calif. He is also the pastor of the Armenian Christian Fellowship of Orange County.

The weekend will also include panel seminars on “Real Christians in the Real World,” “Where Do We Go From Here?: Life Transitions for the Young,” “Reaching the Armenian Unchurched,” and “Should We Do This?: The Church and Pastoral Ethics.”

The AEUNA General Assembly and AEYF Convention will culminate with a celebration ban-

quet on Saturday, June 28, and worship service on Sunday, June 29. Both ministry events will take place on the campus of the Pilgrim Armenian Church in Fresno.

Convention packages and banquet reservations are available for in-state and out-of-state visitors as well as Central California residents. Complete registration information is available by e-mailing resaliba@sbcglobal.net, or visiting <http://www.aeuna.org/>.

The AEUNA is an ecclesiastical confederation of 33 churches and one fellowship in the United States of America, Dominion of Canada, and South America. The Union dates back to the founding of the first Armenian Evangelical Church in Pera, Constantinople, Turkey in 1846.

Rev. Nishan Bakalian, senior pastor of the

Armenian Martyrs’ Congregational Church of Havertown, Pennsylvania is Moderator of the AEUNA. Reverend Doctor Ara Jizmejian is the AEUNA Minister to Youth. Edward Saliba is Chair of the General Assembly Task Force and Roseann Emerzian Saliba is Registrar of the General Assembly.

FAR Crowdfunding Platform Celebrates Children’s Day

NEW YORK – Fund for Armenian Relief’s (FAR) crowd-funding platform and civic initiative in Armenia, Ayo!, has jumped on the *Happy* train. On June 1, Ayo! released a video to celebrate International Children’s Day that features children from all regions of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh dancing along to the infectious upbeat song by Pharrell Williams.

In joining the *Happy* movement that has taken over the world, Ayo! aims to show that children can be happy no matter where they live and how they live. It is up to each and every one of us to protect children’s happiness so that they can create the future that they desire.

Ayo! was created to do just that – to empower young Armenians to create the future they desire and the future that they deserve. Ayo! raises funds for unique manageable solutions to local challenges and then implements these projects through FAR.

Ayo! is endorsed by FAR, an organization that has served hundreds of thousands of people through more than 225 relief and development programs in Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh. Contributions to Ayo! will be made payable to FAR and are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Finding solutions to your legal needs can be challenging

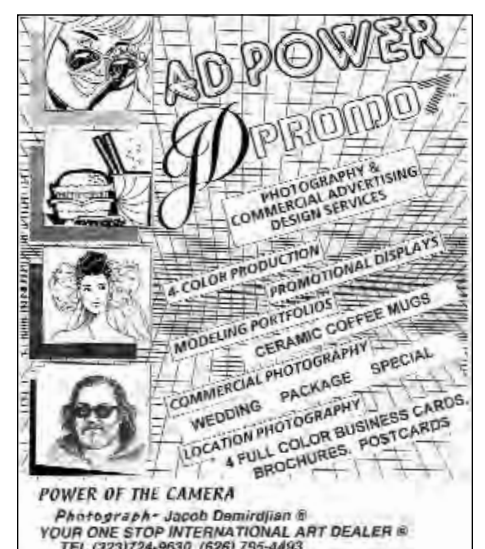
With over 90 attorneys serving our clients needs, the McLane Law Firm has the depth and experience in a variety of practice areas:

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



TradeCenter 128 Woburn, Massachusetts 781.904.2700

For more information, please contact Jeanmarie Papelian at 781.904.2700 or jeanmarie.papelian@mclane.com





COMMUNITY NEWS

Mirak Family Hosts Reception for Avedisian School

WINCHESTER, Mass. — On Saturday, May 10, Julia Mirak Kew opened her home to friends for an introduction to Edward and Pamela Avedisian, and to learn about the new Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School and Community Center in Yerevan, Armenia.

The event was co-hosted by Kew's father, Robert Mirak.

Kew and Mirak are trustees of the John Mirak Foundation, which supports the Avedisian School. In 2012, the Mirak Foundation pledged \$300,000 toward the cost of LEED certification for the new campus. The school will be the first LEED-certified building in Armenia. The Miraks have a particular interest in preserving Armenia's environment. Kew, who is also a trustee of the Armenia Tree Project, is thrilled by the partnership established between the AMAA and the Tree Project to provide green roofs at the Avedisian School and incorporate environmental education into the curriculum.

After a light supper prepared by Debra Giragosian of Bon Appetit Caterers, the 60 guests viewed a short video about the school. Following the video, Edward Avedisian made brief remarks and answered guests' questions about the School's academic successes, the status of construction, and fundraising for an endowment to support ongoing operational costs. He concluded by inviting all in attendance to come to the grand opening celebration in Yerevan on October 8.



Ed & Pam Avedisian (center) with Avedisian School supporters Irene Chang and Bob Kelly



Guests Houry Boyamian, Nina & Raffi Festekjian, and Arlette Yegumians



Co-host Robert Mirak with friend John Piantedos



Hostess Julia Mirak Kew (center) with guests Mary Goudsouzian and Danila Terpanjian

Virginia D. Bandazian Scholarship Fund Recipients for 2014

RICHMOND, Va. — After her death in 1997, the heirs of Virginia D. Bandazian — daughters Ardemis B. Jerikian and Melanie B. Kerneklian and son Bedros C. Bandazian, and their respective spouses, John M. Jerikian, Dr. Murad Kerneklian and Estelle G. Bandazian — established The Virginia D. Bandazian Scholarship Fund.

The 2013 grants are being awarded to three young women. Sosy Bouroujian of Richmond, Va., Galin Tanashian of Derwood, Md., and Ani E. Bournazian of Falls Church, Va., were the recipients of \$1,000 each. Bournazian is attending George Mason University majoring in biology and psychology, Bouroujian is attending Virginia Commonwealth University studying business administration and management, and Tanashian is attending Howard University in Washington, DC, enrolled in the School of Pharmacy.

The Virginia D. Bandazian Scholarship Board of Trustees wish each of these recipients well in their academic pursuits and zeal for the Armenian Community involvement.

The scholarship awards are restricted to

Armenian Women whose legal residence is in the Maryland, Virginia or Washington, DC area and who are active in the various Armenian Church and community activities. Active participation in the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF), Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) and the Homenentmen is desired but activity in like Armenian organizations is acceptable for qualification along with academic standards and financial need.

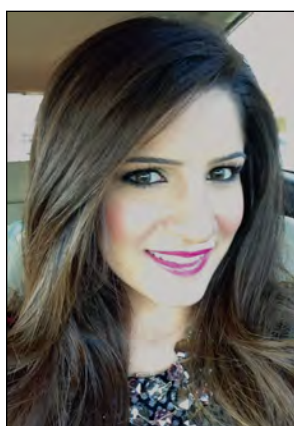
Requests for application forms for scholarship grants for the academic year 2015 may be obtained from either the St. James Armenian Church of Richmond, Va., Soorp Khatch Armenian Church of Bethesda, Md. or St. Mary's Armenian Church of Washington, DC.

Applications may also be obtained from Ardemis B. Jerikian 703-242-1755 (ardemis@aol.com), Melanie B. Kerneklian 804-784-4002 (MRS IAN@aol.com) or Bedros C. Bandazian 804-741-8107 (bandaz@aol.com).

Applications must be submitted prior to March 31, 2015, and final determination by the Selection Committee for recipients of grant(s) will be made prior to June 1, 2015.



Sosy Bouroujian



Galina Tanashian



Ani E. Bournazian

Discover Armenia. Experience Culture.
Make Friends for a Lifetime.



**The 2014 FAR
Young Professionals Trip
to Armenia starts July 7!**

Now with Eastern Turkey and Istanbul or Nagorno Karabakh

From \$980.00*

Visit <http://farusa.org/ypt>
or call Arto Vorperian at 212-889-5150 for more information.

YPT  FAR Young Professionals
Trip to Armenia
Now with Eastern Turkey and
Istanbul or Nagorno Karabakh!

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



COMMUNITY NEWS

Oxford's First Female Selectman Lost Family in Armenian Genocide

By Ellie Oleson

OXFORD, Mass. (*Worcester Telegram and Gazette*) – Two of the 1.5 million Armenian Christians slaughtered by Turkish Muslims between 1915 and 1922 were grandparents of local resident Alice Kulungian Walker, 85, the town's first female member of the Board of Selectmen. Others lost were uncles, aunts and cousins.

"I'm first-generation American. My parents escaped from Armenia. Their families didn't survive," Alice Walker said.

When she was honored with flowers at this year's annual town meeting for her years of service to this community, the town was recognizing the value of each individual, which was not recognized in Armenia a century ago, she said.

Walker and her husband of 63 years, James H. Walker, 93, live at 568 Main St., where they raised their four sons and multiple foster children and supplied the community with flowers and plants grown on their home farm, which came to be known as Walkers' Greenery.

She also worked for a time at State Mutual Insurance Co. in Worcester. James Walker worked many years for Sheppard Envelope in the city.

"My mother lost her parents and siblings. My father's uncle escaped to America. My father's mother was afraid to cross the ocean on a ship. Instead, she was forced to walk across the desert with the Turks and died there," Alice Walker said.

"My grandfather was a respected leader in his community. The Turks told him that if he would give up Jesus, they would let him live. He wouldn't, so they shot him. He could have survived if he'd renounced his Christian religion." Her parents, David and Zevart Kulungian, were teenagers at the time. They were not slain, but were forced to work as slaves for the Turkish army. When Kulungian asked young Zevart to escape with him, she said it would be wrong to run away with a boy. One rainy night, Kulungian found some nearby encamped English and French soldiers. "My father went to the soldiers and asked them to free the slaves. They did. My mother was put in a Red Cross orphanage in the mountains of Lebanon. There, the older children taught the younger children crafts and how to speak English," Walker said.

Zevart Kulungian already spoke her native Armenian and the Kurdish she'd learned while working as a slave, and eventually became fluent in five languages.

Young Zevart went to Marseilles, France with one of the older girls. There, she learned French from her foster family. Her husband came to the United States.

Zevart remained in France until her future husband sent her money to join him in America.

"To save money, she traveled in third class steerage and contracted an eye disease. When she got to Ellis Island, they wouldn't let her in and sent her back to France," Walker said.

The same thing happened during her next attempt to immigrate, but on her third try, Mr. Kulungian finally convinced his fiancée to travel first class, and she was welcomed at Ellis Island. The couple joined a thriving Armenian community in Indian Orchard, near Springfield, where the couple finally married and had two sons and two daughters.

"Massachusetts was a manufacturing center, especially Worcester," Walker said.

The family moved to Worcester, where the marriage flourished.

"My father never had a childhood and didn't know how to treat children. He was very strong and didn't realize his own strength. It was hard for my older brother," she said.

Her parents separated. Her father moved to Buffalo, NY, and her mother remained in Worcester.

There, she continued a family tradition of reading fortunes in Turkish coffee grounds for friends. One English friend, Mary Alice Richardson of Oxford, was shocked when the coffee grounds predicted she would raise Mrs. Kulungian's children.

When Mrs. Kulungian became ill with tuberculosis and depression, 12-year-old Alice went to visit her in Worcester State Hospital.

"My mother told me not to come back. She didn't want us there with all the illness. I think she lived there a couple more years. I never saw her again. Zevart means 'happy' in Armenian. She was anything but," Mrs. Walker said.

Their father paid the children's room and board so they would not be wards of the state. Mrs. Richardson, whose own children were raised and gone, took in the four Kulungian children, as their mother had foretold, and raised them for 10 years.

"She was an angel. I'm fond of her granddaughters, who came to visit and became our friends," Mrs. Walker said.

She attended Oxford's public schools, where a junior high school civics class changed her life.

"I wanted to be involved, to return the favor to this wonderful country, which is still saving people around the world," Mrs. Walker said.

When she graduated from Oxford High School in 1946, her father said he would not help fund a college education, since "girls are meant to marry."

Then Oxford High Principal Frank Sannalla, a coach at WPI, suggested she get a job at State Mutual.

"He said in five years I could be where a college graduate would be, but State Mutual did not hire Armenian girls who had not been to a finishing school like Salter's. I called and called, and the third time I applied they hired me. I was persistent," Walker said.

She met her future husband at Sunday school at the First Congregational Church, where he was the program head and she was a teacher.

"We had four boys, animals, fowl and ducks," Mrs. Walker said. The couple also took in 14 foster children, from infants to teens, "who were the hardest."

"It was painful economically. We only were given \$1 per day per child. I understood, from eighth grade civics, that I had a right to speak up, and I did."

Her strongly-worded letter was read on the floor of the Statehouse and funding for the foster care system was restructured.



Alice Kulungian Walker and her husband, James

In 1968, the family was struck by tragedy, when the couple's 16-year-old son, James H. Walker Jr., died in an industrial accident in an elevator.

The Walkers' other three boys survived and thrived, giving the couple four grandchildren.

Walker and friend Grace Rutter later fought for better public transportation in town, where riders faced inconsistent schedules and missing buses.

She served on the Economic Development and Industrial Commission, and often stayed at Town Hall for selectmen's meetings, where she took notes and shared information with the *Telegram & Gazette* reporter, sometimes being mistaken for a newspaper stenographer.

She attended training sessions for the commission, which taught her "courage and made sense."

This led to a run for a selectman's seat.

"I ran three times before I won. They didn't want a woman selectman," she said.

She served as the town's first selectwoman from 1983 to 1998. She also served as the town's representative and sole woman on the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission and was an election worker, library trustee, and member of various other committees and boards. She also became a 4-H Club leader and local activist.

She and her husband sold flowers and plants for many years, and also donated flowers to others. Many were planted around the Clara Barton School by a family friend and former custodian there, Stephen C. Anderson.

"He's a good boy," Mrs. Walker said.

When Anderson ran for and won a seat on the School Committee three years ago, it was decided that was a conflict of interest, since he was a school employee. He resigned, and Walker volunteered to run for election to serve out his remaining two-year term.

Brenda A. Ennis, chairman of the School Committee, said, "Alice is an amazing woman. She stepped up when no one else would. She showed up at all school events. Whenever she gave advice, we listened. We knew we were hearing knowledge and wisdom."

When Walker chose not to run for re-election this year, she was honored at town meeting by the committee with flowers and a pottery vase created by OHS art teacher Jamie Taborda.

Walker said she was happy to have served her community, and hopes people will remember the value of each and every individual.

"When Hitler began the Jewish holocaust, he said, 'Who remembers the Armenians?' when cautions were raised. If the slaughter of Armenians had been recognized, the Jewish Holocaust wouldn't have happened. It should be remembered, so it never happens again."



'Aleppo Protocols' Depict What Children of Genocide Saw

ALEPPO, from page 1

The records, known as "The Aleppo Protocols: Histories of the Armenian Genocide," have been compiled, annotated and edited by Taner Akçam, Dicle Akar Bilgin and Matthias Bjørnlund. They are being published on www.armenocide.de, an online publication launched by German Genocide historians Wolfgang and Sigrid Gust, who first made available the relevant material from the archives of the German Foreign Ministry during World War I. Joining them on the editorial staff are Akçam, Vagharshak Lalayan and Matthias Bjørnlund.

It was Karen Jeppe, a Danish field worker for the relief organization, DA and her staff who, as the League's Commissioner for the Protection of Women and Children in the Middle East, helped free Armenian survivors who had been kept in Muslim households, often as slaves or servants. Between 1921, when she was assigned to the League's position and 1927, Jeppe's organization worked through a network of "agents," including priests and businessmen, to locate and save Armenians in Anatolia/Asia Minor. As the editors write in their introduction, this was "an enormous task: some 100,000 Armenians, mainly female and very often poor, diseased, unemployed, orphaned, malnourished and traumatized, were scattered around Syria, many eking out an existence in refugee camps. Although Armenian and American organizations in particular had been working to release Armenians since the end of the war, approximately 20,000-30,000 of the women and children were still living in Muslim captivity, victims of kidnapping, forced marriage, rape and sexual slavery that had become de facto instruments of genocide from 1915 onward, as testified by numerous eyewitness accounts and diplomatic reports."

To locate these Armenians, the operation set up search stations in various locations including Rakka, Der Zor, Ras ul Ain and Hassitsche. Working out of these bases, the agents scoured the countryside looking for Armenians in Muslim homes. Those released found shelter first in tents in a refugee camp in Aleppo, until more permanent housing could be provided. The projects jointly run by the DA and League of Nations included agricultural colonies, schools and orphanages. In Aleppo, the DA refugee camp, known as "the city of the

was killed in a village around Urfa. She ignores what became of her sister. She lived in a Turkish house for six years as a servant. She desired to escape many times but she was afraid because they treated her very cruelly. Later an Armenian woman helped her and she went to the Armenian church from where she was sent to Aleppo. Her uncle is in America. Siranoush came into connection with her relatives, who sent her money and are preparing to take her to America. Siranoush entered our camp and is living on her own account. Left our care: February 28, 1923. Relatives."



Taner Akçam

Or take the case of Krikor Turkmonoghli, son of Kevork from Mosheg (Andreas), aged 12, admitted to the same orphanage on August 2, 1922: "Deported with his family until Malatia, where he lost them. He went on to Room Kale where he lived 7 years as a farmer with a Turk. His work was too painful for him, he could not endure it any longer and he fled to Biredjik. There he met an Armenian priest and so he met after 7 years a man of his nation and people. He was supported several days and afterwards brought him to Jirablous where he met our organization. Krikor was sent by our man to Aleppo. His elder brother is supposed to be in some environing village of Urfa. Krikor was received in the Armenian orphanage March 31, 1923. Left our care: March 31, 1923. Orphanage N.E.R. (Near East Relief)"

Or there was Khachadur Baroian from Harpoot, aged 20, whose father was killed and his mother deported. He lost contact with his mother, then was deported with a caravan of children to Mesopotamia and on the way was taken in by a Turk for whom he then worked seven years. "One day some merchants were passing his town. He heard from them, that Armenians and foreigners have opened orphanages for Armenian boys and girls. He decided to go back to his nation. He fled, joined the leaving merchants and came to Aleppo..."

These are samples of the short biographies of those who arrived in Aleppo. In the protocols there are also several longer entries (not quoted here for space reasons), which provide a fuller picture of the experiences of the refugees. Taken all together, the testimonies paint a

vivid chronicle of the genocide.

Another young Armenian, Avak Garabedian from Dersim, also lived seven years with a Kurd. "Avak was told that all Armenians were killed, he believed it and then never wanted to return to his nation. Once he heard some Kourds talking about Armenians in Aleppo, he felt a will of fleeing. He fled the same night joined some muleteers and he came with them to Aleppo."

As the editors note in their introduction, although "all the testimonies are unique ... and atypical ... many are also typical" because of the

pattern that emerges of how the genocide took place. One theme that recurs is the desire to be reunited with Armenians and the project directors concentrated very much on reinforcing or in some cases reviving a sense of Armenian identity, that some had lost in the years living with a Turkish or Kurdish family.

They write: "After having been admitted into the reception home, the survivors received housing in dormitories, education and vocational training, not only to acquire skills necessary to survive and to provide for themselves, but also to become what was regarded as truly



Matthias Bjørnlund

well as individual salvation and regeneration was of the highest priority in the diaspora, the (Western) Armenian language was regarded and taught as 'the <essence> of identity,' at the expense of other languages. As one of the Armenian orphans at the Aleppo reception home, Harutiun Tchakerian, expressed it, the home was a Babylon where Arabic, Kurdish, Turkish and Laz was spoken alongside Armenian, a language many had to learn or relearn after years in captivity. Many Western missionaries and aid workers consciously and actively participated in this project of national recovery."

Publication of these rare documents represents a valuable contribution to reconstructing the drama of the Genocide, as told by almost 2000 individual survivors. The English may be stilted – because those recording the accounts of the new arrivals were themselves not native speakers of English, but Danes or others – but the brief biographical sketches are powerful vignettes that communicate a dramatic human experience in abbreviated form.



Wolfgang Gust

20,000," survivors found material assistance, food, medical aid and training for future employment.

The documents now being published are the handwritten admission forms that each refugee filled out on arrival, with basic information, i.e. names, date of birth and origin. Some examples, taken at random: Siranoush Koresian, aged 16, came from Zara and her father's name was Vosgehan. Admitted to the Karen Jeppe orphanage in Aleppo on July 20, 1922, "She came with her elder sister to Urfa. Her father



TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA

33rd ANNUAL CONVENTION

Hosted by TCA Greater New York Chapter

SOCIAL GATHERING

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

MEETING SESSIONS

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

TRIBUTE DINNER HONORING

HAGOP VARTIVARIAN

Under the Auspices of

H.E. ARCHBISHOP KHAJAG BARSAMIAN

Saturday, June 21, 2014, cocktail at 6:30pm, Dinner at 7:30pm
Clinton Inn Hotel, 145 Dean Drive, Tenafly, NJ

REQUIEM SERVICES IN MEMORY OF

VAHAN TEKEYAN AND LATE TCA FOUNDERS

St Thomas Armenian Church, 9W & East Clinton Ave., Tenafly, NJ

For information contact:

Helen Misk: 917-589-4749 – hmisk@nyc.rr.com

Shoghig Chalian: 201-803-0240 – shchalian@yahoo.com

Arts & Living

Armenian Museum Of America Receives \$100,000 Grant

WATERTOWN – The Armenian Museum of America has been selected as one of 100 local nonprofits to receive grants of \$100,000 each through Cummings Foundation's \$100K for 100 program. The organization was chosen from more than 430 applicants.

The Armenian Museum offers exhibits and diverse cultural and literary programs to its members and the community at large. It is where Armenian-Americans can discover their roots and where people of all ethnic backgrounds can see how the story of the Armenian people plays a vital part within America's cultural symphony.

Representing the Armenian Museum of America, Haig Der Manuelian, chairman, and Dan K. Dorian, Executive Board Member, joined more than 250 other guests at a June 2 reception at TradeCenter 128 in Woburn to celebrate the \$10-million infusion of funding into greater Boston's nonprofit sector. For the second year, this event drew representatives from all 100 grantee organizations, as well as many public officials.

"The Armenian Museum is extremely grateful to be recognized as a remarkable force in the cultural world. Outside of Armenia, we are known to be the largest Armenian Museum in the world. We as well as the other recipients are very fortunate that the Cummings Foundation has the wisdom and foresight to recognize the importance of our institution and is able to give so generously to help us to make a difference in the world," Der Manuelian said.

The \$100K for 100 program supports nonprofits that are not only based in but also primarily serve Middlesex, Essex and Suffolk counties. This year, the program awarded 38 grants in Middlesex County, 25 in Essex County and 37 in Suffolk County.

Through this "place-based" initiative, Cummings Foundation aims to give back in the area where it owns commercial buildings,



Daniel Dorian of the Armenian Museum of America with Bill Cummings, president of Cummings Foundation

all of which are managed by its affiliate Cummings Properties. Founded in 1970 by Bill Cummings, the Woburn-based commercial real estate firm leases and manages more than 10 million square feet of space.

Joel Swets, Cummings Foundation's executive director, said, "Cummings Foundation is very committed to the local communities where the staff and clients of the Cummings organization live and work. We are delighted to support very worthy nonprofits like Armenian Museum of America that are working tirelessly for the benefit of the people they serve."

This year's group of grant recipients represents a variety of causes, including underserved populations, education, healthcare, hunger relief and homelessness prevention. Most of the grants will be paid over two to five years.

The complete list of 100 grant winners is available at www.CummingsFoundation.org.



The ACOOS Dance Team does "The Charleston."

Armenians Got Talent

Worcester Show Highlights Local Performers

WORCESTER – The parishioners of the Armenian Church Of Our Saviour confirmed the strength of the Armenian spirit by presenting "Armenians Got Talent!" in the church's Cultural Center on Saturday, May 17. Billed as "Fun For All Ages," the talent show featured performers of all ages (ranging from 3 to 90 plus!) in a variety of musical acts with singing, dancing and instrumental performances.

Parish Council Chairman Ed Ataman welcomed the enthusiastic crowd of 275 to the special program designed to highlight Armenian artistic and cultural talents. But, as Armenian tradition dictates, food was the first order of business.

The Hye Ladies Association prepared dinner (desserts by the Ladies Auxiliary) which was served by the ACYOA Juniors on tables decorated by Rose Gervais, Sela Horne, Nirva Penbeyan-Renzetti, and Dorin Penbeyan-Wright. Entertainment during the meal was provided by Stephen Kheboian on guitar.

Talent coordinator Linda Bullock was the M.C. for the evening and kept the flow of the acts moving at a brisk pace. Sophia Naroian started the show with a soulful rendition of *God Bless America* followed by a rollicking soft shoe version of *There's No Business Like Show Business* by the Hot Babes (Ann Avakian, Manoushag Garabedian, Margo Masmanian, Arpy Migridichian, Betty Orsi, Marion Yagoobian), complete with top hats and canes. They set the accomplished tone for the entire program.

Instrumental performances included the following: Andrew DeMauro (cello); Elizabeth DeMauro (violin); Ruben Naroian (guitar); Edward Naroian (trumpet); Anthony and Eric Migridichian (saxophones); Sarah Percifull (flute); and pianists Elizabeth DeMauro, Arsen Gulbankian, Lori

see WORCESTER, page 12

Armenian Chamber Music Concerts in Boston and Providence

BOSTON – Upon the initiative of the Composers' and Musicologists' Union of Armenia, the Armenian Museum of America and Cultural Committee of the Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church in Providence, two wonderful concerts featuring the music of contemporary composers will take place.

For the first time in recent history, there will be a big concert, which will be organized in US, to present contemporary Armenian chamber music. Featured will be compositions by Alexanyan, Babayan, Hakopjanyan, Karapetyan, Kostanyan, Mavisakalyan, Makaryan, Mikaelyan, Sadoyan, Satian, Souikiasyan, Shahrmanyan and Zarifyan. All these works will be premier performances in the US, and were chosen by the Composers' and Musicologists' Union of Armenia, whose chairman is composer Aram Satian. The soloists will be, Nune Karapetian, soprano, Nune Hakobyan, piano, and Sargis Karapetyan, violin.

The concerts will take place on Sunday, June 22, at 2 p.m., at the Armenian Museum of America, Contemporary Art Gallery, 3rd floor, and on June 27, at 7 p.m., Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson St. (Mesrob Mashdots Blvd.), Providence, RI.

– Composer Konstantin Petrossian

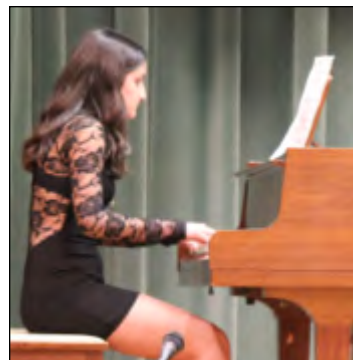
One Hundred Years of Denial by George Mouradian

CAMBRIDGE, Ontario, Canada – MAG and Associates announce the publication of *One Hundred Years of Denial* by George Mouradian. The book is a factual narration of the planned events that led to the Armenian Genocide during World War I and the results of the inhuman experiences. Mouradian goes into great depth describing the horrible occurrences the Ottoman Turks imposed on her own citizens where one and half million Armenians were brutally murdered and another one and half million were uprooted from the homes of their ancestors and forced into death marches into the Anatolian desert. Turkey has been in denial for the last one hundred years and continues to this day.

Mouradian wanted to tell the world what happened during that atrocious period and what has taken place since then. The book provides the accounts of how the "Little Ally" was betrayed by the great powers and how she had to maintain her independence by herself. The book describes the hardships of the new republic after the war but how she lost her independence to a revived Turkey and the Soviet Union in December 1920. How the country survived during the soviet period is also covered.

What has been materializing in the chaotic Middle East and how the events relate to Armenians today are described in detail. The book extends into what diaspora support is provided to Armenia and Karabagh and how Turkey is behaving toward her own citizens and to the Armenian nation. Today Turkey still continues her denial even after evidence and world opinion has declared the truth.

Mouradian has done it again with his series of writings on Armenian related subjects. He started with *Armenian InfoText*, a mini encyclopedia, then wrote *Never to Die: A Historical Novel About Armenia and the Quest for Noah's Ark Your Journey Into Armenia*, *Notable Armenian Sayings and Family Relationships*, *Evils of the World* and *The First Crusade* soon followed. All the books provide educational opportunities for readers and are also extremely interesting. The books are available from Amazon.com and Armenian bookstores.



Pianist Lori Manoukian performs Aragonaise.



Flutist Sarah Percifull plays Dance Of The Reed Flutes.



ARTS & LIVING

Our Cross Brims with Powerful Short Stories

LOS ANGELES – *Our Cross*, a collection of short stories by M. Salpi, was recently released. Originally printed in 1921 in France under the title *Mer Khachu*, the book has been translated into English and published as the sixth volume of the Genocide Library.



M. Salpi is the pen name of Aram Sahakian, who was a doctor, writer, journalist and political activist. His short stories, all based on actual persons and events, recount the personal experiences of Armenians from various walks of life who grappled with the ravages of the Genocide.

As a medical officer in the Turkish army during the First World War, Sahakian met many Armenian soldiers and officers who recounted to him the plight of their families following the deportations and massacres of their communities at the hands of the Turkish government.

Later, while serving as a resident doctor at the Armenian refugee camp in Port Said, Egypt, as well as during his assignments and travels in Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, Sahakian met numerous Genocide survivors who sought to rebuild their lives and reunite with loved ones. Sahakian found their experiences at turns heartbreaking and inspiring, and went on to depict them in his writings.

Complementing the astute observations of a man of science with the compassion and sensitivity of someone who himself had lived the devastation of 1915, Sahakian's poignant stories pulsate with unforgettable images and characters, each a microcosm of a nation's cataclysm but also its irrepressible will to endure.

"*Our Cross* is a deeply felt chronicle of

Sahakian's experiences with and through the survivors, interspersed with his eloquent reflections on the enormity of his people's loss," writes Hagop Manjikian in the book's foreword.

Translated by Ishkhan Jinbashian, *Our Cross* includes reproductions of illustrations from the book's Armenian original.

Copies of *Our Cross* can be ordered in the United States by mailing a check to H. and K. Manjikian, 10844 Wrightwood Lane, Studio

City, CA 91604-3952. The price of each copy, including shipping, is \$18.

The publishers are also offering special pricing for the entire Genocide Library collection. The titles comprise *Passage through Hell* by Armen Anush, *The Fatal Night* by Mikayel Shamtanchian, *Death March* by Shahen Derderian, *The Crime of the Ages* by Sebuhan Aguni, *Defying Fate* by Aram and Dirouhi Avedian, and *Our Cross* by M. Salpi.

Armenians Got Talent

WORCESTER, from page 11
Manoukian, Edward Naroian, Anna Noroian, Stephen Shamgochian and Agnes Torosian.

Delightful vocal performances featured Adam Bullock (*Besame Mucho*); Christine Hoogasian (*Marble Halls*); John Marderosian (*Send Me The Pillow You Cry On* and *I'm So Tired of Crying*); Elizabeth Nalbandian and Ani Seppelin accompanied by Ani Hovhannisyann on piano (*Skyfall*); Elizabeth Nalbandian, Adam, Ani, David Seppelin (*Welcome to Armenia*); Sophia Naroian (*Let It Go*); Brenda Sicard (*I Honestly Love You*).

The Children's Chorus captivated everyone with their singing of three selections: *There Were Twelve Disciples*, *This Little Light Of Mine* and *Let's Play Together*.

Solo dance numbers by Sarah Percifull ("From here to There") and Angelina Wright ("Calling All The Monsters") were imaginative and dynamic. The duet of Claire and John DiCiccio to "In The Mood" was filled with energy and executed with precision. Lily and Sarah Bialkin, Alissa and Emilee Der Kazarian, Julia and Sophia Elbe were a hit in *You Are the One I Want*. Arek Gulbankian, Artash Oganezov, and Christian Rivera revealed confidence and swagger in the Armenian dance, "Arparani Par."

All were charmed by the little ones in "The Do Bee Dance."

The ACOOS Dance Team displayed enthusiasm and zest in doing the Charleston.

A surprise bonus was an appearance by

Michael Jackson (aka Margo Masmanian), who offered a dazzling interpretation of *Billie Jean*. The audience responded with a standing ovation. The finale was *We Are Family*, sung by the entire cast and introduced by the Not Performing Men's Group of Ed Atamian, Barry Bilzerian, Charles Garabedian, and Scott Percifull.

Rev. Aved Terzian, pastor of the Armenian Church Of Our Saviour, in his closing remarks, thanked everyone for their participation and support, especially the performers, parents, and volunteers who devoted much time and effort in making "Armenians Got Talent!" a great success. Specific praise and congratulations were given to Talent Coordinator Linda Bullock and husband Ben Bullock for their leadership, encouragement, and creativity in putting together such an outstanding showcase of Armenian talent. He commented that this was truly a family affair and we, as a family, should be happy and proud of our heritage, our church, and our faith.



Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2014



Since its inception in 2001, TCA's 'Sponsor a Teacher' program has raised over \$563,000 and reached out to 4,440 teachers and school workers in Armenia and Karabagh.



Yes, I want to sponsor teachers in Armenia and Karabagh to continue helping them to educate the children, our future leaders. I would like to have the teacher's name and address.

\$160 \$320 \$480 other \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Tel: _____

Make check payable to: Tekeyan Cultural Association - Memo: Sponsor a Teacher 2014
Mail your check with this form to:

TCA Sponsor a Teacher
5326 Valverde, Houston, TX 77056

Your donation is Tax Deductible.

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

KAROUN
Restaurant
Armenian Mid-Eastern Cuisine
Entertainment Fridays
and Saturdays
Eurdolian Family



ARTS & LIVING

Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Assoc. (CYSCA) and Schools In Armenia Connect

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Cambridge Science Festival drew thousands of people — from scientists to curious explorers — to all parts of Cambridge and neighboring communities as the yearly festival got under way in April. The Festival actively engages people of all ages and varied backgrounds with STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) activities over a 10-day period each spring.

The Science Carnival and Robot Zoo!, one segment held on Saturday, April 19, included many family-friendly, hands-on participatory and informative exhibits around the area of the Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School and the main branch of the Cambridge Public Library. As it has in the past years, the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA) manned a booth that day. This year the CYSCA booth featured many posters on two long tables that displayed information on CYSCA and many of its community projects during the past 27 years; they also distributed information on the Armenia Tree Project (a partner in previous years' projects as well).

Scientific projects from five schools in Armenia were featured this year; using three computers, an iPad, and a tablet allowed Cambridge attendees to see the projects and to Skype with students in Armenia. Schools in Armenia that participated, and their projects, included: School # 198 (virtual zoo/native animals); School # 20, (using recyclables in decorative arts); Poqrik Ishxan Educational Complex (using ecological bags); AYB School ("Lightbug" drone copter); and ATP (composting). Excitement was in the air for those in Cambridge able to communicate with a student scientists in Armenia. With the large number of exhibitors and participants using the Internet during the Carnival, connectivity posed somewhat of a challenge in viewing student videos and having consistent, live communications with Armenia.

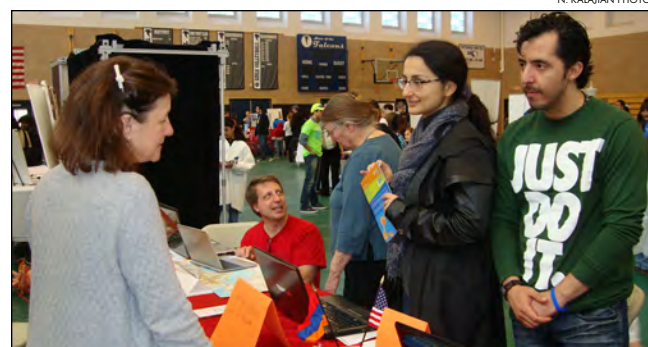
CYSCA Board members Sonya Merian, Nancy Kalajian and Suzy Pearce, all experienced educators, manned the booths and interacted with carnival participants, introducing them to Armenia (on maps), discussing CYSCA projects and distributing take-home informational materials. CYSCA brochures and membership information were also distributed to those interested in exchanges of ideas and all sorts of projects that have involved both cities through CYSCA, an award-winning sister city organization.

Meri Grigoryan from the UNESCO Chair on "Education for Sustainable Development" of the Eco Center of the Republic of Armenia facilitated the involvement of the schools in Armenia with the Carnival and Cambridge Science Festival in Cambridge through communication with Sonya Merian, a CYSCA Board member. The contact with Ms. Gregorian was fortuitous, due to connections made by two past CYSCA project participants. CYSCA had been in touch with Anoushavan Magaryan, a participant in a past CYSCA-administered Community Connections program for University Administrators from Armenia. After learning about quality assurance at the university level during his stay in Cambridge, Magaryan was, upon his return to Armenia,

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Center for Ecological-Noosphere Studies-National Academy of Sciences. Invited by CYSCA to participate at the Cambridge Science Festival a few years ago, Poghosyan knew the importance of getting CYSCA connected with science educators and students in Armenia and got Grigoryan, her co-worker, to be involved with the project. So, one contact led to another; CYSCA was soon involved with connecting schools and students in Armenia with a science festival held an ocean away.

Currently, Merian is consulting with two scientists in the Boston area about finding a way to continue collaboration with these students in Yerevan while Pearce is working on locating a sci-

ence teacher in Cambridge interested in establishing contact between a student or class in Cambridge with a student or class in Yerevan. Anyone wishing to join in these efforts can contact cyscainfo@gmail.com



Sonya Merian (L) interacts with participants at the Cambridge Science Festival. (Photo by)

appointed director of the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance (ANQA). He made contact with Gayane Poghosyan, a science instructor from Armenia and also holder of a UNESCO Chair on

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

JUNE 21 — Armenian food fair sponsored by St. Gregory Church Ladies Guild, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., 158 Main St., North Andover menu: losh, shish and chicken kebab, pilaf, salads, kheyra and veggie plates, desserts and choreg; further details, Ann Apovian (978) 521-2245 or Sossy Jeknavorian (978) 256-2538.

JUNE 21 — Annual Meeting and Luncheon, Armenian International Women's Association, Luncheon speaker Dr. Kerry Healey, president, Babson College. Meeting, 10 a.m., luncheon, 12 noon. Luncheon reservations: \$35 AIWA members, \$40 guests. Open to the public. Wellesley College, Wang Center. Info and reservations, 617-926-0171 or info@aiwainternational.org

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

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

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



On June 21, the Armenian International Women's Association will hold its annual meeting and luncheon, beginning at 10 a.m., at Wellesley College's Wang Center. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Kerry Healey, president of Babson College. Tickets are \$35 for AIWA members, \$40 for guests. The program is open to the public. For tickets and more information, call 617-926-0171.

RHODE ISLAND

JULY 19 — SAVE THE DATE. 7 p.m. — 12 a.m. The Providence ARS "Ani" Chapter and the Ladies' Guild of Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church will hold its — "A HYE SUMMER NIGHT # 9" dinner dance at the beautiful Alpine Country Club, Phippen Orchard Road, Cranston, RI featuring the sensational music of Hachig Kazarian- clarinet, John Berberian — oud, Ken Kalajian — guitar and Jason Naroian vocals and dumbeg, The dinner-dance is \$50. Dance only after 8:30 p.m. is \$35. Students dance only \$25. ID required. RSVP by June 30. Call Joyce Yeremian at 401- 354-8770, joyce41@cox.net or Joyce Bagdasarian at 401- 434-4467, sweetano6@aol.com. Cash raffle will be held.

Trip Down Under

BIRMINGHAM, Mich. — On Wednesday, May 22, local activist and historian, David Terzibashian, presented a slide show at the Hagopian World of Rugs showroom on his recent travels to New Zealand and Australia. The evening planned by friends as a "welcome home began with dinner, conversation and an opportunity to talk with the speaker. Recently retired, Terzibashian, pictured at the talk, planned and took a seven-week trip to visit friends from Jerusalem now settled in New Zealand and Australia. His trip allowed him time to see the highlights in both countries, which he photographed and shared with those present. Terzibashian spoke about what he learned about the native culture of New Zealand, especially the Maori people, and the Armenian community in Sydney. He also shared information on their local economies. The event was planned by friends Suzanne Hagopian and Pam Coultis.





COMMENTARY

Mirror Spectator



Established 1932
An ADL Publication

EDITOR

Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Gabriella Gage

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR
Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:
Edmond Azadian

CONTRIBUTORS:

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

CORRESPONDENTS:

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

Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair Hovsepian

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

Baikar Association, Inc.

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

Telephone: 617-924-4420

FAX: 617-924-2887

www.mirrorspectator.com

E-Mail: editor@mirrorspectator.com

For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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

ISSN 0004-234X

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

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

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

Baikar Association, Inc.

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

COMMENTARY

Armenia Walking on a Tightrope

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Azerbaijan and Turkey have been able to isolate Armenia from all regional development projects by blockading its borders. While Armenia's accession to the Eurasian Union seems to provide some relief from that isolation, many recent developments in the region indicate otherwise.

Russia, after having hampered major economic deals between Armenia and Iran, at this time is trying to take Armenia under its wings through the creation of the Eurasian Union, where, at best, Armenia will become a silent partner, not necessarily an equal one, because of the paucity of its resources and its Karabagh baggage. Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan's president, seems to be more the spokesman of the new union, rather than President Vladimir Putin himself.

After his remarks at the inaugural ceremony of the Eurasian Union, slapping Armenia on the face figuratively on Azerbaijan's behalf, he has further continued his pan-Turkic campaign by inviting Azerbaijan and Turkey to join the Eurasian Union.

Turkey's accession seems less probable, given the fact that for centuries it has been Russia's rival for influence in the Caucasus. But Azerbaijan's case may be different. After all, it is solidly anchored in all strategic, economic and political structures of the west. Baku may join the union as a spoiler on behalf of the west, very similar to Turkey's drive to join the European Union for the very obvious plan to weaken it. The strong US support for Ankara's accession to the EU derives from that very strategic move, because, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, which created a unipolar power structure in the world, Europe was in the process of weaning itself from its dependence on Washington to develop a new independent pole which could end up balancing the US global hegemony.

Azerbaijan, indeed, can play the same spoiler role in the Eurasian Union, despite its energy deals with the West and its strategic partnership with Israel.

At the present time, Europe is far from forming a new and independent pole, given its crippling economic woes and recent parliamentary elections, which introduced a self-destructive element in its structure. Therefore, the race is between the US and the rising Russia for the control of the Asian landmass with its abundance of natural resources and strategic significance, per Zbigniew Brzezinski, the former national security advisor to President Carter.

Azerbaijan may play a crucial role in this superpower chess game and even if its leadership is not mature enough to realize that potential, its Turkish mentor can guide it through this political maze.

The above realization seems to boost the Baku leadership's recent aggressive posture vis-à-vis Armenia.

Up until now, the confrontation with the Armenian forces was on the Karabagh contact line. But in contrast, on June 5, Azeri forces made a strategic move to create more panic in Armenia: they began hostilities on the Nakhijevan-Armenia border. That was perhaps encouraged by Turkish forces which were brought to Nakhijevan under the guise of holding joint military exercises. Two Armenian soldiers were killed and angry statements were issued by Armenia's Defense Ministry about "serious consequences."

Azeris are even thinking about the unthinkable: On November 21, 2012, the director of the Azerbaijan Center for Political

Innovation and Technology, Mubariz Ahmadoglu, stated that the bombing of Metsamor nuclear plant in Armenia by Azerbaijan is a rather logical act within the framework of the Karabagh war and is an even more effective step for "the liberation" of the territories. Earlier, in February 2010, Azerbaijan's military expert Uzeyir Jafarov had stated that Azerbaijani troops may use "retaliation over Metsamor."

This situation begs for a new question: all along when Azeri forces broke the ceasefire agreement on the Karabagh border, our strategic partner, Russia, kept a very revealing silence, indicating that the umbrella of Russian military presence in Armenia does not cover Karabagh as a disputed territory. Then what about the incident on Armenia's border with Nakhijevan, which is not under any dispute as far as Russia is concerned? Also, Azerbaijan has been violating the ceasefire agreement in the Tavoush region of Armenia, again without hearing any word of anger from Moscow.

But Russia's actions speak louder than its silence; delivery of sophisticated military hardware is not business as usual, as some pundits try to convince us. Rather, it is an existential threat to the very future of Armenia.

Adding insult to injury, Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Alexander Lukashovich said at a recent press conference that "Azerbaijan is Russia's strategic partner in the south Caucasus" and that Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov would be heading to Baku on June 17-18 for the fourth meeting of the year. Russia has been playing a double game at the expense of Armenia. Whether Azerbaijan joins the Eurasian Union or not, it will remain an important factor in determining Armenia's fate by its other partners.

Armenian officials are optimistic that Armenia's accession to the Eurasian Union will also benefit Karabagh. The chairman of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Financial Affairs, Gagik Minassian, said he is confident that Karabagh will become a de facto member of the Eurasian economic space without joining the union. He further noted that "Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh form a common economic space and that there can be no customs checkpoint between the two."

Some analysts even use the analogy of Moscow's agreement with other unrecognized regions, such as Abkhazia and South Ossetia, which will benefit from the activities of the Union through Russia. But what is permissible for Russia may not necessarily be permissible for Armenia.

With all these external political woes, Armenia also faces insurmountable internal problems, including economic decline, depopulation, political stagnation and desperation.

Former President Levon Ter-Petrosian recently published an article titled "Serge Sargisian's Road Map for Armenia's Destruction." He made some sensible and valid points but if he could overcome his rancor, he could have a larger audience.

Surrogates of the western media campaign combined with some voices in the diaspora call for a regime change in Armenia. However, the west conspired to bring down the corrupt regime of Viktor Yanukovich in Ukraine only to install another oligarch, Petro Poroshenko. The outcome will not benefit the Ukrainian people. Any change in Armenia will be the same – different faces, same end game.

The government, through its insensitivity to the plight of its desperate populace, is continuing to destroy Armenia's future, in an inadvertent, unholy alliance with its detractors in Armenia and the diaspora.

Armenia is walking on a tightrope. We have to watch its march with trepidation, expecting the worst and hoping for the best.

LETTERS

Reader Offers Praise for Terrific Roster of Writers

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate Edmond Azadian, Harut Sassounian, Raffi Bedrosyan and Muriel Mirak-Weissbach for the high quality of their articles.

Heratch O. Doumanian, M.D.
Chicago

Notice to Contributors

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

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

daytime telephone number.

- Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is 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.



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Turkey and United States Conspire to Issue April 24 Statements

While it is not surprising to learn that Turkey and the United States have coordinated their official declarations on the Armenian Genocide, recent revelations have confirmed their shameful behind-the-scenes schemes.

In a speech delivered in Australia late last year, former US Ambassador to Armenia John Evans revealed for the first time that the State Department regularly conferred with the Turkish Embassy in Washington on the content of the US President's annual April 24 statement on the Armenian Genocide.

This clearly reflects the degree of collaboration between Turkey and the United States on the genocide issue, and even more appalling, American officials' succumbing to the gag rule imposed by a denialist regime!

The American-Turkish collusion on the Armenian Genocide issue was recently corroborated by Deniz Kahraman in the Aydinlik Turkish newspaper, revealing that the two governments jointly drafted the statement that Prime Minister Erdogan issued on April 23, 2014. He offered condolences to Armenians, Turks, and others who died from various causes during World War I, thus equat-

ing the deaths of Turkish soldiers with Armenian Genocide victims.

Basing his information on unnamed diplomatic sources, Kahraman wrote that the White House had been fully aware of the content of Erdogan's statement in advance of its release. In fact, the Turkish Prime Minister's text was prepared with US input and finalized by officials in both countries. It appears that the initial text was prepared by the Turkish Foreign Ministry, after which the White House made some modifications, "based on US sensitivities" on this issue. On April 21, the Turkish Foreign Ministry forwarded the final text to Prime Minister Erdogan's office which released it to the public on April 23.

Kahraman also revealed that in return for accepting US modifications of Erdogan's statement, Washington offered to block the pending Armenian Genocide resolution in the Senate, after its adoption by the Foreign Relations Committee in early April.

Aydinlik reported that Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has personally followed since last year the Armenian Diaspora's preparations for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Turkey is reportedly evaluating its countermoves, which include convincing the Armenian government to revive the comatose Armenian-Turkish protocols, while simultaneously energizing the mediating efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group to resolve the Karabagh (Artsakh) conflict through public diplomacy.

According to Aydinlik, Ankara is evaluating its plans on how best to counter Armenians who are pursuing their demands from Turkey through three separate channels: "legal, political, and public opinion." Kahraman reported that a serious political rift emerged last June between Turkey and the US, after which Washington started pressuring Turkey to take more resolute steps on the Armenian

Genocide issue and normalize relations with Israel. To appease the United States, the Turkish Prime Minister issued a statement on April 23, on the eve of the 99th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

Aydinlik also reported that the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in favor of Turkish denialist Dogu Perincek had strengthened Ankara's hand in international circles. However, Washington wanted Turkey to be more accommodating on the Armenian Genocide issue. That is why Turkish and US officials orchestrated the release of a public statement by Erdogan on April 23, right before Pres. Obama's own statement on April 24.

It is therefore not surprising that State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki had high praise for Erdogan's April 23 statement, describing it as a positive step that would pave the way for improved relations between Armenia and Turkey. Unbeknownst to the public, the State Department was in fact praising a statement that it had helped draft.

While Turkey and the United States are playing a dishonest game of publicly supporting each other's privately orchestrated statements on the Armenian Genocide, Foreign Minister Davutoglu let the cat out of the bag by announcing in Parliament that Erdogan's April 23 message of condolences was part of the Turkish campaign to undermine Armenian efforts to commemorate the Centennial of the Genocide.

Finally, I wish to remind all those who have wrongly claimed that Erdogan's April 23 message was an unprecedented pronouncement by a Turkish leader, almost 90 years ago, on June 22, 1926, Pres. Kemal Ataturk made a truly bold statement in an interview with the Los Angeles Examiner: "These leftovers of the Young Turk Party who should have been made to account for the lives of millions of our Christian subjects who were ruthlessly driven en masse from their homes and massacred...."

SOARing to New Heights in Helping Armenian Orphans

Adoption stories are often accompanied by touching stories of patience and resilience, and ours is no different. My wife and I adopted our oldest daughter, Lilianna, from Armenia in spring 2006. At that same time, we founded the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to provide humanitarian relief to orphaned children

By George Yacoubian Jr.

living in Armenia. Today, SOAR provides assistance to approximately 2,000 orphaned Armenians across 31 institutions in Armenia, Artsakh, Javakhk, Lebanon and Syria. Headquartered in the suburbs of Philadelphia, SOAR has more than 300 volunteers in 65 Chapters and Junior groups around the world. SOAR is overseen by an Executive Board, a Board of Trustees, an executive director, and in-country partners. Six regional directors serve as liaisons between the Executive Board and the chapter presidents.

Some of our volunteers are parents of adopted Armenian children; others simply recognize the significance of our work and want to help perpetuate SOAR's mission. The common bond among us is the recognition that orphaned Armenians represent the most vulnerable population of Armenian society.

Accompanying SOAR's growth in geographic presence has been an increase of distributions during the past decade. SOAR made \$60,000 in distributions in 2006, \$80,000 in 2007, \$102,000 in 2008, \$111,000 in 2009, \$118,000 in 2010, \$360,000 in 2011, \$469,000 in 2012, and \$700,000 in 2013.

SOAR provides assistance to its target population through a variety of different mechanisms:

SOAR works with individuals and businesses to provide donations of specific products, like games/toys, new clothing, and furniture, and ships these items to Armenia through the United Armenia Fund (UAF).

SOAR uses monetary donations to purchase goods and services. As SOAR has grown during the past few years, the projects have become more diversified. SOAR has constructed athletic fields, computer labs, dental suites, playgrounds, and physical therapy suites; renovated bathrooms, bedrooms, classrooms, gymnasiums, infirmaries, and kitchens; funded facility renovations, holiday parties and summer excursions; and purchased new appliances, baby supplies, clothing, furniture, and school and camp supplies.

The Birthday Fund began in March 2014 when Stephanie LeGrand's (Philadelphia Chapter) daughter, Fiona, was dismayed to learn that not all children in Armenia get to celebrate their birthday. Fiona suggested giving her birthday gifts to kids who don't get any — an idea that led to the creation of the SOAR Birthday Fund. The Birthday Fund is a program whereby parents request donations to SOAR in lieu of gifts for their children's birthdays. The funds are used to host monthly birthday parties for the children at Mer Hooys Orphanage and the residents at Warm Hearth.

Scholarships and funds provide financial assistance to specific orphanages or to children with particularized skills and aspirations.

The Sponsorship Program (SP), established in 2010, allows donors to personally connect with an orphaned Armenian child or adult. The entire donation benefits the individual sponsored — no funds support the facilities or SOAR generally, and SOAR assumes the cost of all wiring fees. Sponsors receive a photo and personal profile of the individual sponsored, health updates, and notes, drawings, or correspondence at least twice a year. The SP provides items like tuition (or a savings account for future tuition), educational books and supplies, musical training, academic tutoring, and medical care. Approximately 170 children are currently sponsored through the program.

In addition to the Sponsorship Program, SOAR has partnered with SOS Children's Villages to offer Village Sponsorship opportunities. SOS Children's Villages have been working in Armenia since the late 1980s. Today, SOS operates two villages in Armenia (in Ijevan and Kotayk), three youth facilities, seven social centers, one kindergarten and multiple family strengthening programs, serving almost 5,000 children and families throughout Armenia. SOS Villages allow each child to grow up in a loving home with their SOS mother and SOS siblings. Village sponsorships cover the costs of all the children living in that village and support important, additional facilities within the Village, such as schools, community centers, and medical clinics.

New programs implemented in 2014 include the Mentoring program (MP) and the Language Tutoring Program (LTP). The LTP is designed for Chapter Board members who are interested in teaching orphaned Armenian children a variety of foreign languages. MP, overseen internationally by SOAR-Milan, is designed for Chapter Board members who are interested in having an impact in the life of an orphaned Armenian child by providing insight, direction, motivation, support and education. It is a way for the mentor to positively share education, wisdom and life and career experiences with another individual who can benefit from the direct and personal interaction that is provided through mentorship.

Programs under development include an Orphan Hosting Program, Student Internship Program and Professional Volunteer Program.

I am sometimes asked if there will ever come a time when I will step down as SOAR's chairman. When I do pass the torch, I hope it will be to Lilianna. No one knows where I, SOAR or Lilianna will be 20 years from now, but the idea of her leading SOAR, the organization she inspired, is an exhilarating image.

In March 2015, SOAR will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a variety of weekend-long activities. Between March 12 and 15, SOAR will host workshops, meetings, and lectures for its worldwide volunteers at the Sheraton University City Hotel in Philadelphia. The weekend will culminate with a dinner dance on Saturday, March 14. Please join us! To see the work we have done to date, visit the children, download SOAR's annual reports, or get information about our March 2015 extravaganza, visit www.soar-us.org or contact George S. Yacoubian, Jr., SOAR's Executive Board Chairman, at gyacoubian@soar-us.org.



SOS Village



AGBU YP Lyon Rhone Alpes Conference Explores Investing in Armenia

LYON, France – A recent conference hosted by the AGBU Young Professionals of Lyon Rhône Alpes (YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes) shed light on the opportunities and challenges for entrepreneurs seeking to do business in Armenia. The event, sponsored by Manog Pamkodjian, CEO of the consulting firm Fineco, was organized with Only Lyon, the city's first branding initiative, which began partnering with the YP group this winter.

The evening's program and guest list were filled with the names of government and industry leaders. Among the 70 attendees were Vaner Harutunyan, vice consul of Armenia in Lyon; Artak Abedi, director of the Damaris Group, the business management firm; and



Narek Arakelian, left, the former executive director of Commerce et d'Industrie Franco-Arménienne (CCIFA) with Assia Suchier-Kirakossian, manager of CCIFA in Rhône-Alpes (Photo credit: Vahé Toumanian)



Members of YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes gather with Narek Arakelian (second from left), the event speaker and former executive director of Commerce et d'Industrie Franco-Arménienne (CCIFA) in Rhône-Alpes; Artak Abedi (third from left), director of the Damaris Group; and Vaner Harutunyan (fifth from left), Vice Consul to the Consulate of Armenia in Lyon. Grégory Gazarian, the Chair of YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes, stands fourth from left (Photo credit: Vahé Toumanian)

Assia Suchier-Kirakossian, manager of the Chambre de Commerce et d'Industrie Franco-Arménienne (CCIFA) in Rhône-Alpes. Narek Arakelian, CCIFA's former executive director, was the featured speaker.

Arakelyan provided an overview of Armenia's current economic and political climate, and of ways entrepreneurs can capitalize on opportu-

nities there while encouraging local development. He presented figures on foreign direct investment by France and other countries, which are driven by Armenia's favorable foreign investment policies and competitive advantage.

Though business leaders are faced with obstacles – among them, high interest rates and regional conflicts – the potential is there,

Arakelyan argued. Grégory Gazarian, the Chair of YP Lyon Rhône Alpes, agreed. He commented: "Though challenges exist that require our attention when doing business in Armenia, emerging markets in the sectors of mining, jewelry and diamonds, as well as textiles and tourism, show a lot of promise for international investors and Armenia's economy."



Charig Osipian, a member of the YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes Steering Committee, right, speaks with guest Vaner Harutunyan, vice consul at the Consulate of Armenia in Lyon. (Photo credit: Vahé Toumanian)

The conference was the second event organized by YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes with Only Lyon, as the two groups continue to strengthen their relationship and help to raise the city's profile.

To learn more about YP Lyon Rhône-Alpes, email yp.agbu@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/ugab.lyon.

EU Project Is Aimed at Strengthening Democracy and Good Governance

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The European Union continues through various projects to promote the process of rapprochement between Armenia and the European Union and to contribute to the consolidation of democracy and good governance. On June 3, a formal reception marked the official launch of the EU-funded project to strengthen democracy in Armenia through support to democratic institutions, civil society and increasing awareness among the Armenian population on the process of EU-Armenia relations.

The project's main components include: To support the establishment and implementation of regulatory reforms aimed at enhancing the financial sustainability of the civil society organizations and strengthening their capacity to engage in entrepreneurship activities; to strengthen the capacity of civil society to become more engaged in the legal reform and the monitoring of its implementation, to carry out social entrepreneurship and other financial

activities, to be better involved in political analysis and active citizenship; to strengthen the capacity and professionalism of the media outlets in order to support free and pluralistic for promoting good governance, accountability and wider participation in public policy-making; To raise awareness on the civil society developments and their engagement in the promotion and implementation of political reforms in Armenia. Increase awareness and visibility among the public on the EU support related to this.

During the ceremony the audience was addressed by the Head of the EU Delegation to Armenia, Ambassador Traian Hristea, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Armenia Hovhannes Manukyan and British Council Armenia Director Arevik Saribekyan.

The project is implemented by the British Council in cooperation with its implementing partners CDPF, Grant Thornton and Thomson Foundation.

Erdogan Has Turned into Vengeful Leader: Orhan Pamuk

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) – Commenting on the recent protests in Taksim Square's Gezi Park, Turkish Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk criticized the head of Turkish Government, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, calling him oppressive and authoritarian.

In an interview with the French newspaper *Le Nouvel Observateur*, Pamuk said that Recep Tayyip Erdogan kept the country under the pressure, is not able to control it, and that's why he has ended up in a panic.

"Erdogan has turned into a paranoiac and vengeful leader," said Pamuk.

Turkey has been rocked by violent demonstrations. "It is a huge mistake by the Erdogan government to have come to the point of uprooting trees in an area that holds special memories for millions of people without asking them. The source of these reckless politics is the authoritative and oppressive tendencies of the

government," Orhan Pamuk said in comments on the incidents.

"The fact that Istanbulites do not easily give up their memories and are ready to stage political demonstrations gives me hope for the future," Pamuk further stated.

The writer noted that, nevertheless, under Erdogan's leadership, Turkey has experienced economic growth and a higher international profile. However, he has been a divisive figure at home, with government opponents complaining of his unilateral decision-making, Pamuk said.

Referring to the forthcoming presidential elections in August, Pamuk has considered it probable that a large segment of the Turkish public will vote in favor of Erdogan as the country's president. In the opinion of the famous writer, the Turkish society will take that step for the sake of economic stability in Turkey.

Special New Subscriber Offer for the Mirror-Spectator

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* is offering a special deal this spring to new readers. The offer, valid now through May 31, 2014, will give new subscribers a chance to get the newspaper for the reduced price of \$60 for one year, instead of the regular \$80. If a new subscriber gets two new subscriptions, the price for one year will be reduced to \$55 for each new subscription.

All payments (by credit card or check) should be received by May 31, 2014.

To take advantage of this offer, mail payment to:

The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
755 Mt. Auburn St.
Watertown, MA 02472
Please put "New Spring Subscriber" in the memo section of the check.

Call (617) 924-4420 or email mirrorads@aol.com for more information.

