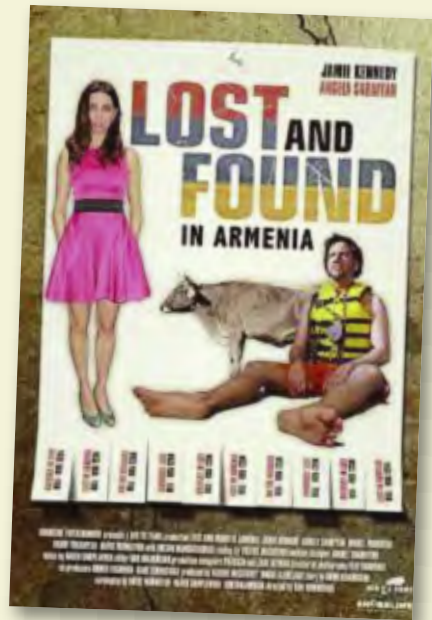


'Lost and Found' Seeks to Reunite Audiences with Armenian Culture

By Gabriella Gage
Mirror-Spectator Staff

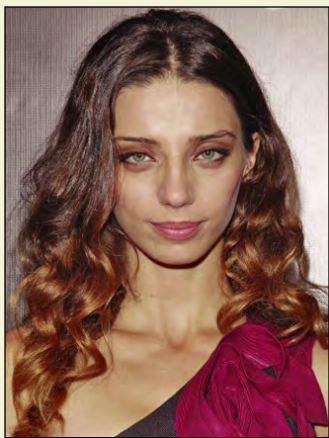
WATERTOWN – The creators of the recently released “Lost and Found in Armenia” say they wanted to create more than just a film about Armenians – they wanted to showcase current Armenian talent and culture in the arts.

The film is the story of Bill (Jamie Kennedy), an American tourist and son of a US Senator who vacations in Turkey trying to mend his broken heart. After a strange parasailing accident, Bill unknowingly finds himself in a small village in Armenia where he is accused of being a Turkish spy. In a comedic series of events, Bill meets a beautiful Armenian girl (Angela Sarafyan) who helps him navigate his plight.



The film's producer, Valerie McCaffrey grew up in Fresno's Armenian community and her mother hails from Lowell, Mass. Prior to her work as a producer, McCaffrey studied theater at the University of Hawaii before graduating from California State University, Long Beach. She worked for eight years as a casting director for Universal Studios and then as the vice president of casting at New Line Cinema. Her film credits include films such as “American History X,” and she is credited with discovering actors such as Jeremy Renner and Ellen Page.

see FILM, page 12



Angela Sarafyan stars in the film.

UCLA Gets \$2 Million Gift to Establish Armenian Archaeology Center

LOS ANGELES – The UCLA Cotsen Institute of Archaeology has received a \$2 million gift from UCLA alumna Zaruhi Sara Chitjian to establish the first permanent research program in Armenian archaeology and ethnography at a major American university.

Chitjian also donated a significant collection of artifacts, documents and books related to the history and material culture of Armenia and to the Armenian diaspora after the Armenian Genocide of 1915-23.

The Hampartoum and Ovsanna Chitjian Collection and Archive of Armenian Ethnographic Artifacts and Documents, named in honor of Chitjian's parents, will be housed at the Cotsen Institute and digitized, giving scholars around the world access to this important resource.

Gregory E. Areshian, assistant director of the Cotsen Institute, has been appointed director of the new Chitjian Collection and Research Program.

The gift will enable an expansion of research projects in Armenian archaeology and ethnography, the establishment of a public lecture series and the publication of scholarly works on the Web and in print. It will also fund seminars and graduate-student conferences devoted to topics in Armenian archaeology, anthropology, ethnography and history and to the preservation of the cultural heritage of historic Armenia and the Armenian diaspora.

“The collection represents a set of objects and letters that will provide an invaluable insight into the Armenian dias-

pora,” said Charles Stanish, director of the Cotsen Institute. “Each acquisition not only provides insight into a small portion of this tragic but heroic drama but also provides a window into dozens of new questions and areas of inquiry. We hope that the Hampartoum and Ovsanna Chitjian Collection will be a model for others to emulate.”

A retired schoolteacher, Chitjian earned her bachelor's degree in child psychology and her teaching credential from UCLA. She has received numerous awards and honors for her work and for her dedication to Armenian issues, past and present.

She continues to fund research and student scholarships throughout the world. In 2003, she published a memoir of her

see GIFT, page 3

Genocide Survivor Areka Der Kazarian Dies

WATERTOWN – Areka (Janikian) Der Kazarian of Watertown, survivor of the Armenian Genocide, passed away on May 18, 2013 at the age of 101.

see SURVIVOR, page 6

High Court Rebuffs Genocide Case

By Bob Egelko

SAN FRANCISCO (*San Francisco Chronicle*) – The US Supreme Court refused on Monday to revive a California law that would allow heirs of victims of the Armenian Genocide to sue in state courts for unpaid insurance benefits.

The law, passed in 2000, was struck down in February 2012 by a federal appeals court, which said California was intruding into sensitive foreign policy questions that were the exclusive domain of the federal government.

The law “was intended to send a political message on an issue of foreign affairs” and “imposes the politically charged label of ‘genocide,’” the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals said in an 11-0 ruling. The ruling dismissed a class-action suit filed in 2003 by several hundred Armenian Americans against a German insurance company and two subsidiaries.

The high court denied review of the ruling without comment Monday.

The appeals court ruling was one of a series of decisions that have barred California and other states from allowing victims of decades-old foreign atrocities, like the Nazi Holocaust and the use of slave labor by the Japanese military, to seek redress in their courts.

As many as 1.5 million Armenians were killed in the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1923. The California law would have allowed descendants of Armenians killed or deported during that period, or of anyone who escaped to avoid persecution, to sue insurers until the end of 2013, long after the normal deadlines would have expired.

In urging the Supreme Court to take up the case, state Attorney General Kamala Harris' office said the appeals court's ruling “allows judicial censorship of state legislation because of the potential offense of foreign officials.”

The Obama administration endorsed the appellate ruling and asked the Supreme Court to deny review. President Obama condemns the Armenian killings in annual speeches but has refrained from describing them as a genocide.

The case is Arzuoumanian vs. Munchener Ruckversicherung, 12-9.

Armenian Mirror-Spectator Annual Summer Break

WATERTOWN – The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* will close for two weeks in July as part of its annual summer break.

The last issue published before the vacation will be that of the June 29 issue, and the first edition back would be that of July 20.

Shahan Natalie's Turkism from Angora To Baku Published in Moscow

MOSCOW (PanArmenian.net) – Writer Shahan Natalie's (Hagop Der Hagopian) book titled *Turkism from Angora to Baku* and *Turkish Orientation* was published in Moscow for the first time. Though the book was written more than 80 years ago, the issues raised by the author are still relevant.

According to the annotations to the publication, Armenia is bordered by a state that secretly and openly nourished the dream of the global empire, a dream that changes its denominator from religious to secular pan-Turkism (and vice versa) regardless of the political situation. As for Armenia, the book argues that the policy of isolationism cannot prove effective in a landlocked country. The author argues that Armenia is in need of a dialogue with its neighbors.

Natalie (1884-1983) was a member of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation's Bureau and the principal organizer of Operation Nemesis wherein the Turkish masterminds of the Armenian Genocide were assassinated. He later became a writer on Armenian national philosophy writing the essay, “The Turks and Us.”

Natalie's avengers also executed several Armenian spies and traitors, who, by denouncing their kinsmen to Turkish authorities, were responsible for their deaths.

Air Arabia to Begin Flights to Yerevan

YEREVAN – The United Arab Emirates-based airline Air Arabia announced Monday it intends to begin offering a twice-weekly service to Yerevan, starting in August.

Flights will depart from Sharjah International Airport on Tuesdays and Fridays.

“Armenia is rapidly emerging as a must-visit destination for tourists seeking great culture and history alongside fantastic scenery and outdoor activities,” said Adel Ali, group CEO, Air Arabia in a statement released by the airline.

The service is to begin August 16.

INSIDE

Fellini at Tekeyan

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

New Mayor of Yerevan Sworn in

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – The newly elected Mayor of Yerevan, Taron Margaryan, a member of the Republican Party, was sworn in at the Yerevan Municipality this week.

Attending the ceremony were President Serge Sargisian, Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, representatives of the government and the parliament. Earlier, Barev, Yerevan, Bloc that has 6 mandates at the city council refused to attend Margaryan's swearing in ceremony. Representatives of Prosperous Armenia Party have attended the event.

After the swearing in ceremony, Martin Vardazaryan, a member of the Elder Council of Yerevan, handed the symbol of the mayor – an encrusted chain – to Taron Margaryan.

"Taron Margaryan and his team should further work and communicate with people to settle the problems in the city. I think, there are no irresolvable problems in Yerevan, there are just difficult tasks that can be settled through hard and consistent work," the president said.

Syunik Villages Sustain Hail Damage

KAPAN, Armenia (Hetq) – On June 10, fruit trees and other crops in several communities in the southern province of Syunik sustained hail damage.

The affected villages include Azatan, Vahramaberd, Marmashen, Lousakert, Saratak, Benyamin, Ajgabats, Arevik, Tsoghamarg, Toros, Gogahovit and Sarnaghbyour.

Armenian Women Allowed to Apply to Military Schools

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia's Defense Ministry has announced that, for the first time, women can now enroll in the nation's military schools.

Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovannisian told journalists on June 6 that Armenian females have a right to apply to the Vazgen Sargisian Infantry Institute and Marshal Khanperiants Air Force Institute.

The applicants have to be at least 18 years old and have excellent marks in physics and mathematics.

According to Hovannisian, the new regulation is a part of ongoing general reforms in Armenia's armed forces.

Ambassador Heffern Visits AGBU Hye Geen Center

TALIN, Armenia – On Saturday, May 18, US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern, his wife Libby Heffern, Former Chairman of the AGBU Western District Committee of California Haig Messerlian and AGBU Armenia Director Arpi Vartanian visited the AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Center. During the Ambassador's Diaspora Tour in the US last December, Sona Yacoubian, chairperson and founder of AGBU Hye Geen Southern California, invited the Hefferns to visit the AGBU Hye Geen Pregnant Women's Centers in Armenia and meet the expectant mothers to better understand the realities facing women and their families in Armenia's regions today.

Yacoubian remarked, "The AGBU Hye Geen Committee welcomes the interest and the appreciation shown by Ambassador and Mrs. Heffern. We consider the Pregnant Women Centers in Armenia a priority. Healthy newborns and healthy, educated mothers are essential to safeguard the future of our homeland. I also thank Haig Messerlian and Arpi Vartanian for their assistance in arranging this visit."

In 2009, the Talin Center was established, replacing the Gumri Center. To date, the center has served close to 160 women and their healthy babies.

Hayastan All-Armenian Fund Opens Karmir Shuka Water Network and Martuni Hospital

YEREVAN – Within the framework of the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund Board of Trustees annual meeting, held in Yerevan, a delegation led by Executive Director Ara Vardanyan and comprising benefactors, trustees, and representatives of affiliates worldwide has begun a string of project-reporting visits in Armenia and Artsakh.

The delegation, which includes close to 40 members, has also started to hold opening ceremonies for recently completed projects.

Prior to traveling to Artsakh, the delegation visited the Goris Cardiology Center, which was built with the co-sponsorship of the fund's French affiliate, the French-Armenian Doctors' Association, the department of Bouches-du-Rhone (a large administrative area in the south of France), and former Lebanese prime minister Saad Hariri.

On May 23, the delegation officially unveiled two major infrastructure projects in the Martuni Region: the potable-water network of Karmir Shuka Village and the Martuni Hospital. The construction of both projects was sponsored by Armenia Fund USA, the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund's Eastern US affiliate.

Dignitaries and guests participating in the opening ceremonies included Rev. Shahe Ananyan, representative of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin; Karen Shahramanyan, Urban Planning minister of NKR; Khoren Bandazian and Irina Lazaryan, chairman and executive director, respectively, of the fund's Eastern US affiliate; and local-community representatives. The festive events were attended by large numbers of local residents.

"I thank you all for your devotion to your village," said Ara Vardanyan in his opening remarks during the Karmir Shuka opening ceremony, as he addressed the residents. "I am hopeful that your bond with your village will always remain strong, that the ranks of children standing here today will increase, and that this land will prosper well into the future."

The 270 households of Karmir Shuka, comprising 1,050 residents, now enjoy around-the-clock access to potable water, which reaches them from area springs thanks to the recently built

hospital also features an advanced infectious-diseases department, with its own entrance.

The hospital's amenities include a large elevator, a boiler room, a power



Khoren Bandazian cuts the ribbon of the Martuni Hospital.

distribution network. The network, whose construction was co-sponsored by the government of NKR, includes an 11-kilometer pipeline and two regulation reservoirs.

The opening ceremony for the Martuni Hospital was equally jubilant. A highly anticipated project since its start in 2011, the construction of the hospital was co-sponsored by the government of Artsakh, the fund's Eastern US affiliate, and the Armenian Medical Fund.

In his opening remarks, Martuni mayor Mher Khachatryan spoke of the critical importance of the state-of-the-art facility. With a total area of 2,470 square meters and fully equipped to provide a broad range of health services, the Martuni Hospital is one of the largest establishments of its kind to be built by the Hayastan All-Armenian Fund. The two-story complex comprises a polyclinic, a maternity ward, an emergency room, an intensive-care unit, and departments of gynecology, diagnostics, surgery, and physical therapy. The hos-

substation and central heating and air-conditioning. The facility can serve close to 1,000 stationery and 1,400 ambulatory patients a year.

In his welcome speech at the opening ceremony, Khoren Bandazian said, "We are extremely happy that ongoing collaboration between the diaspora and the government of Artsakh has resulted in the establishment of yet another modern medical center in the republic. The Martuni Hospital, whose construction was made possible by the support of the Armenian Medical Fund, our partner, will provide local communities with quality healthcare. It remains to hope that this major initiative will be followed by many others, toward the continued development of the strategically significant Martuni Region."

The Martuni Hospital is the second major medical facility in Artsakh to be built through the support of the Armenian community of the Eastern US. The first was the Stepanakert Polyclinic, a landmark complex which was built in 2006.

CRD Scientists Win Presidential Award

YEREVAN – On May 29, the Armenian Presidential Awards Ceremony for achievements during 2012 was held. President Serge Sargisian and member of the Robert Boghossian and Sons Foundation, Albert Poghosyan, handed out the awards, along with enclosed certificates and monetary bonuses.

Sargisian congratulated the awardees and wished them every success. The awards for 2012 achievements were given to 22 scientists, painters,



Bagrat Mayilyan (center) with President Serge Sargisian and Albert Poghosyan



From left, Bagrat Mayilyan, Gagik Hovsepyan, Levon Vanyan, Prof. Ashot Chilingarian and Nichola Bostanjyan before the ceremony

actors and musicians. Among them were Cosmic Ray Division (CRD) scientists.

The Presidential Award is an annual award, which was established in January 19, 2001, by a decree of the president of Armenia. It is awarded for a breakthrough discovery or significant contribution to the area of natural sciences, technical sciences and information technologies, arts, medical science, physics, literature and humanitarian sciences.

It was decided that the Presidential Award in each area is to consist of a certificate with the inscription and prize money (equivalent to \$10,000.)



INTERNATIONAL

Tear Gas, Stun Grenades, Fire: Chaos Overtakes Istanbul Protests

ISTANBUL (CNN) – A day of clashes between protesters and riot police in Istanbul's Taksim Square suddenly changed dramatically Tuesday when police blanketed the area with massive clouds of tear gas and shot water cannons.

Tens of thousands in the square fled, while some in Gezi Park, which was also hit by tear gas canisters, chanted and launched fireworks in defiance.

Soon the square, home to days of protests over what demonstrators call an increasingly authoritarian government, was filled with chaos. Hugely loud bangs echoed through the area – likely the result of stun grenades. Thousands packed back into Taksim Square, surrounding a large bonfire that they were fueling with whatever they could pick ups.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government had said it would allow protesters to remain in Gezi Park as long as they were peaceful. But CNN's Arwa Damon, inside the park, saw police shoot tear gas canisters

in Tuesday.

"There's a spirit of determination" and "solidarity" in the park, Damon said. Throughout the day, protesters had called on each other to try to keep things calm and to keep protests peaceful.

Police Attack

The assault on the area marked a return to the more heavy-handed tactics Turkish authorities used in the earlier days of the protests.

The protests at first had focused on the environment – opposition to a plan to build a mall at the park – but quickly grew into a battle against Erdogan's democratically elected government.

Protesters had built a new barrier earlier Tuesday and lobbed Molotov cocktails at armored vehicles and burned one. Police responded by spraying water cannons.

In a game of cat-and-mouse, the demonstrators, using wooden boards as shields, would pull back – only to return, lobbing cocktails and firecrackers and flashing "victory" signs.

"We will never allow people to push things to us, force things to us," Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a gathering of his own Justice and Development Party in parliament. "And we will never force things either."

After touting a long list of achievements in the country, which he credited to his government, Erdogan turned to the street demonstrators in Istanbul, who for more than a week have called for him to step down.

"They say the prime minister is harsh. The prime minister is firm," Erdogan said of their grievances against him. "I'm sorry," he answered them. "This prime minister is not going to change."

Throughout Tuesday morning, smoke from tear gas and fireworks wafted through the air at Taksim Square as the armored vehicles shoved away makeshift barriers set up by the demonstrators.

Several protesters linked arms to form a human chain and prevent the police advance. But when police deployed multiple canisters of tear gas, they scattered again.

"If you stop throwing rocks, we will not use tear gas," the police told the raucous group over loud speakers. "We don't want you to get hurt; please

obey."

The police movement came one day before Erdogan planned to meet with protest organizers. The presence appeared more to be a show of force at the square than an effort to flush out protesters who have been camped there for days.

The demonstrations in Turkey started as a small sit-in over plans to bulldoze Gezi Park – the last green space in central Istanbul – and replace it with a shopping mall.

But they have grown into a protest across the political spectrum.

Demonstrators have demanded Erdogan's resignation, accusing his government of creeping authoritarianism.

The result has been the biggest challenge to Erdogan and his governing Justice and Development Party during their decade in power.

Beyond the riot zone: Why Taksim Square matters to Turks

Erdogan fights back

And the prime minister has fought back.

In speeches, Erdogan has said he has no tolerance for what he calls illegal demonstrations.

Sunday, he slammed protesters, warning that "even patience has an end."

He criticized protesters' tactics and challenged them to beat him at the ballot box.

"All they do is destroy. They attacked public buildings; they burned public buildings. They burned the cars of civilians," he said.

"Let's face off at the ballot box in seven months. If you are saying democracy and freedom, if you are saying rights and freedoms, you cannot achieve that with violence. Only within the laws, you can achieve it."

Previous protests have met with a harsher police response, garnering broad criticism from inside and outside of Turkey.

Since the demonstrations started on May 31, two protesters have been killed. One was hit by a car in Istanbul; the other was shot in the head by unknown assailants in Antakya, near the border with Syria.

A police captain died after falling from a bridge last week, the Adana governor's office said.

The Turkish Medical Association said that more than 4,300 people were injured in clashes last week. Only a few dozen suffered serious injuries.

Armenia Builds a New Aleppo

YEREVAN (Eurasianet.org) – To make sure exiles from Syria feel at home in Armenia, the government has commissioned the construction of an entire settlement called New Aleppo.

Located 20 kilometers shy of Yerevan, the residential project will accommodate some of the thousands of Syrians of Armenian descent, who escaped the war in Syria.

New Aleppo, named in honor of the war-torn northern Syrian city that is home most of Syria's ethnic Armenian population, will sit on 4.8 hectares (about 11 acres) of land in the industrial town of Ashtarak.

Armenia's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs reports that approximately 600 families have expressed willingness to move into the development's apartments. They will be expected to pay half the cost of the flats; the authorities and charity groups are expected to pick up the rest of the tab.

With some 7,000 Syrian-Armenians now seeking residency in Armenia, the government says that more Syrian quarters will be popping up across the country as well.

The Syrian Diaspora, estimated to be over 100,000-strong, descends from ethnic Armenians who fled World-War-I-era massacres in Ottoman Turkey. Now, a century later, the bloody rebellion in Syria has driven the community back to what is considered their ancestral homeland.

Yerevan has been fast-tracking visas and residency permits, facilitating employment and social adaptation for the arrivals from Syria, often described as returnees. The projects pose a financial burden for the cash-strapped country, but the authorities hope that the influx of ethnic Armenians will help boost Armenia's shrinking population and contribute fresh entrepreneurial ideas to its economy.

UCLA Gets \$2 Million Gift to Establish Armenian Archaeology Center

GIFT, from page 1

father's experiences as an Armenian genocide survivor and his journey to safety on foot through eastern Turkey.

More than 1 million Armenians are estimated to have been killed during and after World War I, when the Ottoman Empire systematically exterminated and removed Armenian subjects from their historic homeland in territory that constitutes part of the present-day Republic of Turkey. The majority of Armenian diaspora communities were founded as a result of this genocide.

Chitjian also funded the establishment of Aramazd, The Armenian Journal of Near Eastern Studies, the first Armenia-based, English-language, peer-reviewed international journal on the archaeology, ancient and medieval history, and linguistics of Armenia, the Caucasus, Iran, Turkey and the broader

Near East.

"With the work at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, the Armenian identity and Armenian people – past and present – can be respected and appreciated for the contributions of their 3,000 year history," Chitjian said. "Studying the ethnographic artifacts of recent age is an important means of understanding the past of this still thriving culture."

Donation

In memory of Arsen Demirdjian, Arsen Hagop Avedikian and Harry Meneshian of North Hollywood, Calif. donate \$50 each to the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*.

International News

Pope Francis May Visit Armenia in 2015

ROME (ArmeniaNow) – Pope Francis has expressed willingness to visit Armenia in 2015 to attend events dated to the Armenian Genocide's 100th anniversary.

In May, Pope Francis referred to the mass murder of Armenians as "the first genocide of the 20th century." He alluded briefly to the Armenian Genocide during a meeting with Armenian Catholic Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX Tarmouni of Cilicia. The remark prompted an angry response from Turkey.

Several years earlier, while serving as archbishop of Buenos Aires, then-Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio described the killing and forced deportation of millions of Armenians as "the gravest crime of Ottoman Turkey against the Armenian people and all of humanity."

French City Twinned With Martuni

PARIS (PanArmenian.net) – The foreign minister of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), Karen Mirzoyan, met with France's Armenian community representatives during his visit to the country.

A working meeting with the members of the Coordination Council of Armenian Organizations was also on the Mirzoyan's agenda.

A reception at Marseilles mayor's office was organized in honor of the Artsakh official, with Mirzoyan praising the current relations between the French city and NKR and expressing hope for their further development.

Also, an agreement was signed, naming Les Pennes-Mirabeau and Martuni as sister cities.

Dink Foundation Publishes Collection

ISTANBUL (PanArmenian.net) – The collection of essays presented at the conference "Social and Economic History of Diyarbakir and Region," held in Diyarbakir November 2011, has now been published in Turkish by the Hrant Dink Foundation Press.

The book includes 24 essays on the region by researchers abroad and in Turkey. The press says it hopes the collection will contribute to political discourse on the topic of the peace process in Turkey.

"Memory is returning to these lands. It is coming from a far, from the period of nation-building, which is [more than] a century away. Surely, what has been deemed fit by the state for the inhabitants of these lands during the process of nation-building, what the inhabitants deemed fit for each other, the suffering, the collective violence, every malign recollection that has been forgotten or worse, made to forget, is returning now," said Cengiz Aktar, professor of political science at Istanbul's Bahcesehir University.

Azeri MP Offers to Involve NATO in Karabagh Settlement

BAKU (PanArmenian.net) – A member of Azerbaijan's parliament said this week that the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) possesses powers to monitor all of the ingoing regional and international processes.

In this context, Zahid Orudzh attached importance to the institution's involvement in the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

"Despite our membership in the Non-Aligned Movement, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is the current security format. We will have to intensify efforts to deepen ties with NATO, in case of Baku's decision against joining Russia-formed military blocs," he said.

"NATO is against open intervention in regional problems and well aware of those issues. Documents protecting Azerbaijan's territorial integrity were adopted during the institutions' summits in Washington and Istanbul. Any agreement on Karabagh issue must enter into force with the help of a certain institution," Orudzh said.



Community News

Zoryan Institute Receives President Of the Republic of Armenia Prize

YEREVAN — The Zoryan Institute has received the President's Prize for 2012 for significant contribution to the cause of recognition of the Armenian Genocide. The awards were handed out by President Serge Sargisian and Albert Boghossian, one of the founders of the Boghossian Foundation which sponsors the annual prize. Describing the Zoryan Institute as one of the "key institutions" in the diaspora, President Sargisian declared, "The Armenian Diaspora's crystallized spirit was reflected in the activities of the Zoryan Institute, allowing our people not only to survive the disaster, but



President Serge Sargisian presents the award to K.M. Greg Sarkissian, president of the Zoryan Institute.

also to reaffirm their determination to live on."

The official citation recognizes Zoryan for "research on the Armenian Genocide, publishing activities, and notable contribution to the preparation of young scholars." A second award was given to scholar and human rights activist Dr. Tessa Hoffman, cited as an, "outstanding German expert in Armenian studies and genocides."

The acceptance speech of K.M. Greg Sarkissian, president and one of the founders of the Zoryan Institute, acknowledged that the Institute's achievements, honors and awards are the result of the hard work of hundreds of Armenian and non-Armenian individuals.

In describing the goals and objectives of the institute, Sarkissian emphasized Zoryan's "belief that the strongest defense of the causes of universal human rights and the prevention of genocide is constant education."

With this concept in mind, Sarkissian stressed that, "through the education of the Turkish people with irrefutable information, we will be able to win their hearts and minds and eventually help achieve reconciliation and coexistence between our two peoples in peace and security."

Towards this end Zoryan has sponsored 15 Armenian and fifteen Turkish students, respectively, to attend the Institute's annual Genocide and Human Rights University Program, held in partnership with the University of Toronto.

Some of those students have gone on to earn their PhD's, teach, and write books and articles that add to the Institute's effort in establishing a factual history in this area, so crucial to the mutual understanding and dialogue between Turks and Armenians.



From left, Albert Boghossian, Tessa Hofmann and President Serge Sargisian



The fifth-grade students at Noravank, eagerly photographed by parents

Discovering Hayastan Through the Eyes of Children

WATERTOWN and YEREVAN — For too long the term "diaspora" designated both the identity and homeland for many Armenians. The post-World War I republic was short-lived and Soviet Armenia, especially during the Cold War, was a remote reality, both geographically and politically. Since 1991, that has happily changed, and Armenians worldwide can look at the Republic of Armenia as their

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

"other half." Armenian Ambassador to Germany Armen Martirosyan has said of these two pillars, "Our unity is the source of our strength and our diversity is the source of our resilience."

For the diaspora, a visit to Armenia is more than a vacation or a cultural discovery; it is a journey through one's own past which lends a new dimension to one's identity. I had the honor of chaperoning my great niece for the first half of her two-week visit there. Christina, the 11-year-old daughter of my niece Julia Mirak Kew, is a fifth-grade student at St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School in Watertown. I flew to Yerevan from my home in Germany and a week later, Julia arrived from Boston. Every year the school's graduating class makes the long trip,



The author of this article, Muriel Mirak-Weissbach, with her niece, Christina Kew, in Armenia

this year being the 10th anniversary. Although I had visited the country before, this time I was able to live the joy of discovery through the eyes of the children, and to appreciate a special kind of interaction between them and the people who welcomed them. Although there was a culture shock, as the Bostonians were not accustomed to strolling down the streets of a major capital city at 10 p.m. among hundreds of local citizens, mostly young couples with children, or to hear music piped through loudspeakers in Republic Square as the water fountains danced in changing colors, still, the language they spoke was just as familiar as the lamejun and kebab served in the restaurants. Despite the differences between Eastern and Western Armenian, the children (and their parents) could communicate with ease. When visiting schools in Yerevan or Shushi (in Nagorno Karabagh), the girls and boys from St. Stephen's chatted with their counterparts; they all knew the same poems and songs, which both groups would perform. And if there was a soccer field nearby, they would quickly line up in teams and kick the ball. (St. Stephen's won both games.)

The fact that all the children spoke fluent Armenian, even in conversation with one another, had a powerful impact on the local residents. In Echmiadzin on the first day as well as in Sardarabad, during Independence Day celebrations, TV channels rushed to interview them. And they cherish their language; they took special delight in the life-size stone letters of the alphabet invented by Mesrop, which they

see CHILDREN, page 5

Whirlwind Day Keeps Sheriff Koutoujian in The News

By Tom Vartabedian

CHELMSFORD, Mass. — What started out as a routine day June 1 ended pretty much the same way for Peter Koutoujian. But sandwiched in between was a page out of the Wild West for the high-energy Middlesex County sheriff.

It began with the former state representative serving as parade marshal for graduates at the Harvard University School of Government, where he graduated from 10 years ago.

There he was at his alma mater with top hat, tails and ceremonial scepter in what has become a standard role for the sheriff. It even led to a bear hug from TV personality Oprah Winfrey, who was there as a commencement speaker.

One might have assumed it was Koutoujian and not the starlight receiving the honorary degree. Hours later, the sheriff found himself in Harvard Square en route to some office business before heading out to Chelmsford for a fundraising reception hosted by Armen and Sossy Jeknavorian for the Merrimack



Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian, left, joined by prominent Merrimack Valley artist Daniel Varoujan-Hejinian, center, and Carl Manikian.

Valley Armenian Genocide Monument Committee.

As circumstances prevailed, Koutoujian embarked upon a raucous scene where a woman was being assaulted in broad daylight. The chivalrous sheriff needed no posse for this call. He rescued the damsel in distress and order was quickly restored in the square during the mid-afternoon bedlam.

"I don't think it was a heroic action or anything brave," he revealed. "It was just an instinct."

The unexpected transformation from Ivy League opening act to Cambridge's Wyatt Earp was taken as nothing larger than a grain of salt.

"I was wearing a badge and a very formal-looking morning suit," Koutoujian added. "People couldn't tell what I was doing there."

That evening Koutoujian found himself in a more sedate role among Armenians of Merrimack Valley, serving as honorary chairman of a monument committee bent on constructing a \$33,000 memorial by Lowell City Hall.

The sheriff appeared at the reception unflustered and gave no hint to his rigmarole, much less the commencement. The focus was on greeting guests and encouraging their support for the project.

Koutoujian was also an instrumental see KOUTOUJIAN, page 5



COMMUNITY NEWS

Youth Leaders Gather for Assembly, Sports Weekend

By Armen Terjimanian

WARWICK, R.I. — Youth and clergy from across the Eastern Diocese gathered last month for the 67th annual ACYOA General Assembly. The two-day meeting, held May 23-24 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and the annual Sports Weekend activities that followed, were hosted by the ACYOA chapter of Providence's Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church.

Providence committee members Nick Durgarian, Ara Janigian and Gevork Vartanian welcomed the General Assembly delegates to the Ocean State on Thursday evening. The assembly was chaired by Sam Mrofcza of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Chicago, with Arthur Sabounjian of Holy Translators Church of Framingham, Mass., serving as vice-chair. A total of 79 delegates, clergy and observers took part in the proceedings.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), addressed the delegates on Friday morning, introducing them to the diocese's theme for the coming year, "Living the



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and the Rev. Shnork Souin install the new ACYOA Central Council.

Gospel of Christ." The Primate called on the delegates to not only hear the words of Christ, but to act on them in their daily lives.

"Our mission is to be like Christ," Barsamian said. "His teachings are the words of a total way of life."

The Primate also offered his appreciation to Nancy Basmajian, the longtime executive secretary of the ACYOA, who is retiring this summer. He introduced Jennifer Morris, the Diocese's Youth Outreach coordinator, as the head of the newly established Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

During the meeting, delegates took part in a Bible study session, working in small groups with St. Nersess seminarians and ACYOA Central Council members. The delegates dis-



Delegates at the Annual Assembly

cussed the Bible verse Matthew 5:13-16 in terms of leadership in today's world.

Elections were held for four seats on the ACYOA Central Council. The newly elected council members are Shant Paklaian of St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Chicago, Chelsea Kress of St. Leon Church of Fair Lawn, NJ and Daniel Zalinov of St. Sarkis Church of Charlotte, NC. Adrienne Ashbahian of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church of Wynnewood, Penn., was re-elected for another term.

The ACYOA Central Council for the coming year will include Chair Jonathan Pelaez (St. Mary Church, Livingston, NJ), Vice Chair Ani Grigorian (St. Mesrob Church, Racine, Wisc.), Treasurer Paklaian (St. Gregory the Illuminator Church, Chicago), secretary Chelsea Kress (St. Leon Church, Fair Lawn, NJ), public relations coordinator Armen Terjimanian (St. Mary Church, Washington DC), programming coordinator Ashbahian (St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church, Wynnewood, PA) and chapter relations coordinator Zalinov (St. Sarkis Church, Charlotte, NC).

Barsamian blessed the new Central Council during an installation service following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at Sts. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church on Sunday, May 26.

During the Primate's Luncheon on Friday, May 24, Rev. Hovnan Demirjian, pastor of St. Hagop Church of Pinellas Park, Fla., was presented with the "Fr. Haigazoun Melkonian Award," in honor of his dedication to leading the youth of the Armenian Church.

Sam Mrofcza received the "Gregory Arpajian

Award" for his leadership and service to his local parish in Chicago.

Krikor Javardian of Holy Trinity Church of Cheltenham, Penn., won the "Sam Nersessian Award," which is given to individuals who display Christian values of love, patience, humility and understanding.

Dn. Levon Altiparmakian of St. Nersess Seminary received the "Fr. Haroutiun and Yn. Patricia Dagley Award" for his service to the Armenian Church and community.

The "Chapter 'A' Award," given to the chapter that best fulfills the requirements of an ACYOA chapter, went to St. Mary Church of Livingston, NJ.

"It was great to see the youth together this past weekend in Providence for the General



Delegates and clergy pose for a photo during the Annual Assembly.

Assembly and Sports Weekend," said Pelaez. "I am honored to be the newly elected chair of the ACYOA, and I am excited for this year to be productive and innovative during a transitional time in the organization."

Next year's General Assembly and Sports Weekend will be hosted by the ACYOA chapter of Holy Martyrs Church of Bayside, NY and held in New York City.

Whirlwind Day Keeps Sheriff Koutoujian in The News

KOUTOUJIAN, from page 4

figure in the completion of a \$6.5 million memorial on the Rose Kennedy Greenway and helped to sponsor genocide activities during his term in public office with sidekick Rachel Kaprielian, now Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

He may be back in government after announcing a bid for Congressman Ed Markey's seat should he be elected to the U.S. Senate in the special election against Republican candidate Gabriel Gomez on June 25.

In referring to the backlash other cities have received from the Turks with their monuments, Koutoujian presented a more benign approach to any potential rebuttals. A crowd of 40 was there to welcome the sheriff and heed his words.

"We should just remain calm and not do anything to incite dissention," he told the gathering. "This monument is a testament to all immigrants who settled in the Merrimack Valley and defied the genocide. It's a tribute to all who served their heritage so generations could follow."

The evening raised \$7,500, which included an \$850 bid for a painting donated by noted local artist Daniel Varoujan Hejinian. The craftsman designed this monument to show hands weaving lace, paying tribute to mill workers plying their craft as new residentsLowell.

Koutoujian also pledged \$500 toward the project.

Among others attending were former Lowell mayors James Milanazzo and Rita Mercier, who have embraced the project since its inception a year ago. But in the end, it was a nightcap Koutoujian welcomed dearly.

"Despite the tensions he faced earlier in the day, Peter engaged everyone at the reception with a warm smile and a handshake," said Dr. Ara Jeknavorian of Chelmsford, a project activist. "He never let the emotions of the day interfere with the matter at hand. That says a lot for his personality."

And what about that fabulous embrace from Oprah? That was very special indeed!

"I got to give her a hug," Koutoujian said. "As I finished adjourning the ceremony, I looked over and she was smiling at me. She put out her arms. I didn't even have to ask for it. It was a really nice moment."

Discovering Hayastan through the Eyes of Children

CHILDREN, from page 4

discovered in Oshagan, the great scholar's final resting place.

The few days in Artsakh (or Karabagh) were very special. Although the bus ride from Yerevan was a long nine hours, it was broken up with stops at historic sites, where we could marvel at several of the innumerable treasures of Armenian church architecture: from the monastery of Khor Virab, where Gregory the Illuminator was imprisoned (and into whose dark dank dungeon the children descended), to the 13th-century masterpiece of Noravank, with its perilously steep stone steps up the front façade (which the children did not hesitate to ascend).

In Karabagh, we encountered monuments to a much more recent past. If the tank used in the 1992 battle of Shushi was fun for the children to climb up on; it was a no toy, but a dramatic reminder of the life-and-death struggle to liberate the city. "I felt so proud that I stood on the tank that freed Shushi," wrote Sarine in her report. At the Shushi museum, the children received a detailed lecture on the battle, illustrated with the help of a model, and wandered

through the rooms of another museum dedicated to the memory of those young men and women who gave their lives in the war. Their black-and-white photos cover the high walls of the rooms, and the birth and death dates testify to the tender age at which they perished. An unscheduled visit to the military base in Stepanakert provided a glimpse into the harsh conditions under which soldiers today serve to defend the republic. After completing their marching drill, a group of soldiers stood at attention to listen to the St. Stephen's students sing patriotic songs, then broke into enthusiastic applause before posing for pictures.

Such scenes were moving, as they captured a moment of mutual recognition: of the Armenians there, who have waged the struggle for liberation, and the very young Armenians here, who, in learning about it and the thousands of years of prior history, can reflect on who they are. "We saw our ancestors' homeland," wrote Gregory in his report.

(Muriel Mirak-Weissbach is the author of *Through the Wall of Fire: Armenia - Iraq - Palestine: From Wrath to Reconciliation* and can be reached at www.mirak-weissbach.de)



Students meet young Artsakh soldiers at a barracks in Stepanakert.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Rotary Club, Ophthalmologists and Armenian EyeCare Project Finance Training for Physician

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. — The San Clemente Sunrise Rotary Club, the American Academy of Ophthalmologists and the Armenian EyeCare Project combined their resources and complementary missions to sponsor the continuing medical education of Dr. Asatur Hovsepyan, an Armenian physician and medical director of the Armenian EyeCare Project's Mobile Eye Hospital.

Hovsepyan attended the Academy's annual meeting in Chicago. After Chicago, Hovsepyan traveled to Southern California to train with Dr. Roger Ohanesian, founder and president of the Armenian EyeCare Project.

While in Chicago, Hovsepyan participated in roundtable discussions and instructional classes moderated and taught by leading experts in ophthalmology, and skills-transfer sessions—hands-on courses offering intensive training in surgical and diagnostic techniques with direct supervision and a low participant-to-instructor ratio. These are exceptional opportunities for physicians from developing countries and have significant and far-reaching outcomes for the physician, his colleagues at home and his country.

While visiting Ohanesian's ambulatory surgical clinics in Laguna Hills and San Clemente, Hovsepyan was able to observe surgical procedures and patients in stages of pre- and post-surgery learning new techniques and patient management.

Upon his return to Armenia and the Mobile Eye Hospital Hovsepyan began teaching his colleagues new diagnosis and treatment procedures and surgical techniques, leveraging his experience to benefit many more physicians and ultimately, patients.

The mission of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) is to advance the lifelong learning and professional interests of ophthalmologists and to ensure that the public can obtain the best possible eye care. The Academy is a professional medical association of ophthalmologists, headquartered in San Francisco, California. Its membership includes more than 90 percent of practicing ophthalmologists in the United States as well as over 7,000 members abroad.

Founded in 1905, the mission of Rotary International, of which San Clemente Sunrise is one of its 33,000 worldwide clubs, is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. Rotary clubs,

with its 1.2 million members, exist to improve communities through a range of humanitarian, intercultural and educational activities. Clubs advance international understanding by partnering with clubs in other countries.

The San Clemente Sunrise Rotary Club has been involved in international service since its inception more than 20 years ago. Under their motto, "Service above Self," San Clemente Sunrise Rotarians have always worked to help those in their local community and throughout the world. The Rotary Club expands its reach by supporting international organizations and programs throughout the world.

Blindness is a terrible fate with enormous personal, social, and economic consequences that can condemn otherwise healthy individuals to lives of poverty and dependence. Yet, 80 percent of all blindness can be prevented or treated. The Armenian EyeCare Project's mission is to eliminate preventable blindness and to make eye care accessible to all Armenians.

Over the past 21 years, with charitable programs that combat the debilitating causes of blindness, the Armenian EyeCare Project has been able to train Armenian ophthalmologists to provide comprehensive eye examinations, perform surgery and laser procedures and dispense new eyeglasses. The Project has examined and treated 550,000 Armenians and restored the sight of 60,000 through Cataract and other surgeries.

In 2003, the Project's Mobile Eye Hospital (MEH) traveled by boat from Vermont where it was built, to the country of Georgia and then by truck to Yerevan. The MEH is the Project's hub of regional service delivery and travels country-wide screening and delivering eye care to thousands of children and adults. With this method of eye care delivery the Project is able to save or restore the sight of significantly more people living throughout the Marzes in Armenia. The MEH has traveled to all marzes in Armenia at least twice where all surgeries and other ophthalmological examinations and treatments are performed as charitable services at no cost to the Armenian people.

Upon his return to Armenia and the Mobile Eye Hospital where he is director, Hovsepyan talked about his learning experience in the U.S. and said, "I will be forever grateful to the San Clemente Sunrise Rotary Club, the Academy and the EyeCare Project for joining together to sponsor my continuing education and for giving me this exciting opportunity that I can share with my colleagues in Armenia."



Dr. Asatur Hovsepyan

OBITUARY

Genocide Survivor Areka Der Kazarian Dies

SURVIVOR, frpm page 1

She was the wife of the late Harry Der Kazarian. She leaves her children Dr. Alan K. Der Kazarian and his wife Isabelle of Belmont, Gregory Der Kazarian of Arlington and Edward Der Kazarian of Watertown; grandchildren Alan H. Der Kazarian and his wife Kathy of Belmont, Susan Der Kazarian and her husband Michael Malone of Westchester County, NY and Dr. Mark Der Kazarian and his wife Jennifer of Carlisle; great-grandchildren Claire, Charles, Kaitlyn Der Kazarian and Gavin and Charlotte Malone; brother, Charles Janikian of Maynard and many nieces and nephews.

Her siblings Artin, Gorun and Aram Janikian predeceased her.

Born in Marash, Historic Armenia, she spent her childhood traversing the Middle East as a result of the Genocide, including living in Lebanon, Syria, Jerusalem and Egypt before settling in Marseilles, France, for two years, at the age of 10.

She moved with her family to Watertown in 1924 where she lived for 90 years.

Der Kazarian was one of the many Genocide survivors who found work at the Hood Rubber

Plant in Watertown.

In a story from three years ago by Tom Vartabedian, she said, "Where else could we go?" recalling earning \$18 a week doing piece-work as a cementer. "I would turn the money over to my parents and get a quarter back for spending purposes. Hood Rubber opened its doors to immigrants from many foreign lands who had no language or working skills. We learned it on the job."

Documentary filmmaker Roger Hagopian turned these stories into "Destination Watertown: The Armenians of Hood Rubber."

The project, which began in 2003 as a short highlight film, reached fruition after six years of research and interviews, delving into the lives of Armenian refugees looking to establish a decent lifestyle in America, in this case Watertown.

Services were held at St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown on Friday, May 24. Interment was in Mt. Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in her memory to St. James Armenian Church or Armenia Fund USA, Inc., 80 Maiden Lane, Suite 2205, NY, NY 10038.



Kim Kardashian (right) with her cousin, Cici. Kourtney Kardashian (right) with Cici



Kardashians Speak out about ABMDR

LOS ANGELES — Recently Kim Kardashian took a swab test, which will determine her eligibility to become a potential bone marrow donor and urged her fans to follow suit. Kardashian took the test to raise public awareness of the mission of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) and to help her cousin, Cici, a cancer patient, as well as others who urgently need donor matches for life-saving bone marrow transplants.

The video can also be accessed from the ABMDR site, at abmdr.am/kim-kardashian-joining-abmdr-registry/.

Earlier this year, Kardashian's sister, Kourtney Kardashian, likewise took a swab test and issued an appeal, urging the public, and especially those of Armenian descent, to join ABMDR as potential bone marrow donors.

"We thank the Kardashian sisters and Kris Jenner for helping advance the ABMDR mission to save lives," Dr. Frieda Jordan, president of the ABMDR, said.

For more information, visit abmdr.am.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Watertown Welcomes ACYOA Juniors for *Hye M'rtsoom*

WATERTOWN — Over Memorial Day weekend, St. James Church welcomed 223 participants from 15 parishes across the diocese for the annual Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) Juniors *Hye M'rtsoom*. The program brought together young people ages 13 to 18 for worship, as well as for sports and other activities.

All events were held at St. James Church's Charles Mosesian



Young people play chess during the weekend program in Watertown.

Cultural and Youth Center and participants were housed with local families. Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, diocesan Primate, visited participants on Saturday, May 25, while the sporting events took place. The diocese's Youth Outreach Coordinator Jennifer Morris was present throughout the weekend and deliv-

ered the "Insights" message at the conclusion of the morning service on Saturday.

The youths participated in sports and other competition on Saturday. Participants also had a chance to lead a discussion about everyday questions and struggles young people face in today's world.

In addition, the weekend featured two outreach projects, organized by the St. James ACYOA Juniors. The first was a sandwich-making project for a local community shelter, where an assembly line was set up in the kitchen as teens and parents made 130 sandwiches for the Pine Street Inn in Boston.

The second project was a gift card drive and participants donated gift cards to benefit the Home for Little Wanderers, which offers children and young adults behavioral health, special education, adoption, foster care and other services.

On Sunday, May 26, the Fr. Arakel Aljalian, parish pastor, celebrated the Divine Liturgy, which was attended by all *Hye M'rtsoom* participants. After services, participants gathered to watch the intense sports finals.

The team sport champions were: St. James Church of Watertown (boys basketball), Holy Trinity Church of Cambridge (girls basketball) and St. Leon Church of Fair Lawn, NJ (co-ed volleyball). The "Chapter 'A' Award" was presented to Sts. Sahag and Mesrob ACYOA Juniors of Providence, RI. The "Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Service Award" was presented to Ariana Ferarro of Holy Translators Church of Framingham, Mass. The "Archbishop Tiran



Young people make sandwiches as part of an outreach program during Hye M'rtsoom.

Nersoyan Leadership Award" was presented to Hagop Toghrumadjian of St. Sahag Church of Minneapolis, Minn. and the "Archbishop Tiran Nersoyan Vision Award" was presented to Ari Kazanjian of St. James Church.

On Sunday evening, the group enjoyed a moonlight cruise on the Spirit of Boston.

The St. James parish has been hosting the *Hye M'rtsoom* for 38 years. Aljalian, Yn. Natasha Aljalian and St. James youth minister Maria Derderian worked alongside community members to ensure the success of the weekend's events.

AGBU Focus 2013 Heads to San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO — The seventh AGBU FOCUS weekend heads west to San Francisco. As literary great William Saroyan proclaimed, "No city invites the heart to come to life as San Francisco does. Arrival in San Francisco is an experience in living," which hundreds of AGBU young professionals from around the world will soon discover. The four-day event will take guests through the city's rich culture and nightlife, to the region's scenic wine tasting and picturesque backdrops.

Since its launch in New York City in 2001, AGBU FOCUS has distinguished itself as a premier event for Armenian young professionals

(YPs). What started as a signature anniversary celebration is now a sensational biennial weekend event, offering YPs an opportunity to connect with hundreds of international peers while highlighting the direct and positive impact of AGBU's programs on generations of Armenians. Over the past 12 years, AGBU FOCUS has brought together over 2,500 YPs in 5 different cities: New York City (2001, 2007), Montreal (2003), Miami (2005), Chicago (2009) and Paris (2011).

"We are thrilled to host this exciting event in our backyard and look forward to welcoming a truly global young professional crowd. An

incredible weekend awaits attendees of this year's FOCUS. For the first time on the west coast, the four day event-filled weekend will showcase San Francisco and wine country in unique ways exclusive to FOCUS 2013," said AGBU FOCUS 2013 Co-Chair Steven Cherezian.

AGBU FOCUS 2013 kicks off Thursday, August 1 with Perspectives, an engaging panel discussion and networking opportunity for guests to share viewpoints on a hot topic. The panel will be held downtown at Spur Urban Center, a non-profit incubator for research, education, and advocacy. On Friday, August 2,

there will be an all-inclusive wine tour, lunch and tasting at Chateau St. Jean Winery in Sonoma wine country, and Friday night, the action will shift to one of San Francisco's elite nightclubs. Saturday, August 3, features FOCUS on Art at SoMA district's 2nd Street Gallery, and culminates that evening with the FOCUS 2013 Gala set in the San Francisco City Hall. Completing the memorable weekend, a farewell brunch on Sunday will offer YPs the perfect opportunity to bid farewell to the friends and the city where they are bound to leave their hearts.

With the move west, AGBU FOCUS 2013 raises funds for AGBU's Generation Next Mentorship Program (GenNext) in Los Angeles. Created in 1997 by a handful of YP volunteers under the auspices of the AGBU, and with the assistance of the Glendale Unified School District, the goal of GenNext is to assist Southern California youth of Armenian descent by providing them with positive role models, guidance, and support. Through one-on-one mentoring, monthly group activities and parenting seminars, the program has aided and supported Armenian students who are faced with difficult choices in today's often tense school environment including issues of acculturation, drug and alcohol abuse, peer pressure, violence in schools, gang involvement and other serious adolescent challenges. Throughout the year, mentors and mentees make a commitment to one another, developing a unique friendship.

"One of the highlights of AGBU FOCUS is the charitable aspect of the event. With FOCUS being hosted in California for the first time, GenNext is an ideal benefactor. Our fundraising is underway, and the event will also help increase awareness of the important work AGBU GenNext is accomplishing in Southern California," expressed AGBU FOCUS Co-Chair Greg Nemet.

Hundreds of young Armenians have already benefitted from GenNext's programming; however, with a waiting list of more than 90 at-risk adolescents at any given time, today's fundraising efforts are critical to the program's long-term sustainability and expansion.

AGBU FOCUS San Francisco 2013 ticket packages are on sale now and weekend accommodations are available at a discounted rate at the Hotel Adagio near Union Square. For more information about the weekend's events and to register, purchase tickets, or book hotel rooms, visit www.agbufocus.org. For any other questions or inquiries, please contact FOCUS Coordinator, Sharis Boghossian, at focus@agbu.org.

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New York METRO

Friends of FAR Children's Center Holds Fundraiser in NJ

By Florence Avakian

WEEHAWKEN, N.J. — With a stunning view of the New York City skyline in the background, a group of women held a successful luncheon on Thursday, May 16, at the Chart House Restaurant located on the Hudson River. The event was held to benefit the Children's Center of Yerevan, a major project of the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), where abused, abandoned, trafficked children from ages 3 to 18 are cared for with devoted support, professional therapy, and boundless love.

More than 130 supporters attended, including Honorary Chairperson Sirvart Hovnanian, whose late husband, Kevork Hovnanian, was one of the founders, chairman, and lifetime honorary chairman of FAR.

It was organized by the Friends of the Fund for Armenian Relief's Children's Center, a group of 14 New Jersey women who started a committee a few years ago at the request of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese (Eastern), to help in this very crucial endeavor. The Chart House event began with warm welcoming remarks by Committee Co-Chairperson Sylva Torosian who related that each time the committee ladies had a function such as a birthday or baby shower, the donations were given to the Children's Center instead of personal gifts. "Our children are our future, and you can make it possible, one child at a time," she said.

Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian delivered the invocation and read an inspiring message from the Primate who was unable to attend due to his presence at a meeting in Echmiadzin. "Since its inception in 2000, the FAR Children's Center has truly lived up to its mission - leading the way in the area of child protection in the capital city of Yerevan, and creating a safe haven for our homeland's most vulnerable children," the Primate's message stated. "Thousands of formerly 'at-risk' children have discovered care, affection, encouragement and



The Friends of the Children's Center with Sirvart Hovnanian in the center.

dignity through the Children's Center. Their transformed lives are the measure of the Center's success, and the result of your generous support."

In her thoughtful remarks, Annette Choolfaian, FAR vice chairperson, recounted the background of Armenia's children in the late 1990s, which led to the creation of the center. "The police took children, many walking in the streets with no home, and threw them in a room like an *akhor* (hovel). And so the FAR Children's Center was born with the support of the FAR Board of Directors and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, thereby changing the future of Armenia's most vulnerable children. The hovel was developed into a caring and loving home," she stated with emphasis.

Since 2000, the center has helped 7,000 children, and child protection laws have been enacted. "One can see the dramatic changes in a child a month or two later," Choolfaian said,

adding that "Armenia has gone through great shock affecting people, but especially the children who are the recipients of a positive or negative future. And this year a major program has been started by FAR affecting poverty in a whole village, with a full infrastructure program." Concluding her remarks, she said with obvious emotion, "Stay with us and help us. It is crucial for the future of Armenia."

In a brief message, Garnik Nanagouljian, executive director of FAR, expressed appreciation to the Primate, Sirvart Hovnanian, the co-chairs of the Friends of the Children's Center Silva Torosian and Nadia Gharibian, and all the supporters of this vital project. The occasion concluded with the benediction by Very Rev. Papken Anoushian, pastor of St. Thomas Armenian Church in Tenaflly, NJ.

The event also included a fashion show presented by Linda Gezdir, and a group of Armenian young women who presented the latest fashions,

and a silent auction of gifts donated by the members of the Friends of the FAR Children's Center. Also participating and donating a percentage of their sales for the Children's Center were the owners of several area boutiques.

The Yerevan Children's Center is the only institution in Armenia that performs crisis intervention and rehabilitation. The center is also a national full service facility where children and their families can access shelter, counseling, outreach service, healthcare and legal assistance.

In 2012, FAR and the Friends of the Children's Center in Armenia sponsored their first major function for the Children's Center at the Diocese of the Armenian Church in New York, with Dr. Mira Antonyan, director of the Children's Center attending and leading the event. The next function for the center will take place on Saturday, November 9, at the Armenian Diocese in New York.

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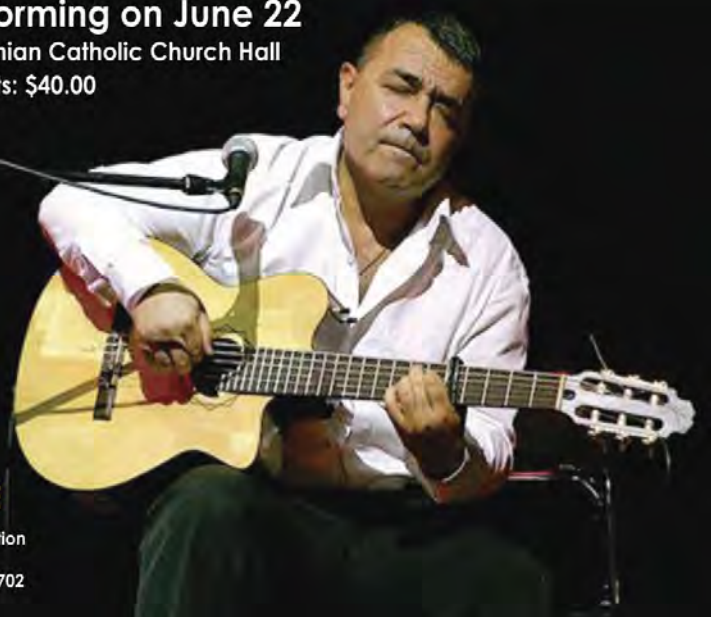


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New York METRO

AIWA Members at Annual Meeting in New Jersey Look Ahead to Future Challenges

WEEHAWKEN, N.J. — Participants at the Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) had the opportunity to take stock of recent progress and to look ahead to future challenges.

Highlighting the Luncheon, held at the Sheraton Lincoln Harbor Hotel on May 18 were presentations by three special guests: Dr. Mary Papazian, president of Southern Connecticut State University, who gave the keynote address on "The Empowerment of Women through Education;" Maro Matosian, director of the Women's Support Center in Yerevan, one of a consortium of organizations in Armenia addressing problems associated with Domestic Violence and partially funded by AIWA; and Ruth Bedevian, who received the Distinguished Service Award for her contributions to a number of cultural and humanitarian projects in the United States and Armenia.

The day began with the Annual Meeting in the morning, with organizational reports on membership, projects, programs, archives and publications, scholarships and affiliate reports. Present from the Los Angeles Affiliate were Affiliate President Silva Khatchiguan and Board member Joan Quinn and from Boston Board Vice Presidents Barbara Merguerian, Judy Norsigian and Joy Renjilian-Burgy, as well as Armenia Liaison Eva Medzorlian.

Preliminary discussion took place regarding AIWA's next, seventh International Conference, scheduled to take place in Yerevan in 2014.

In her keynote presentation, Papazian summarized many of the gains made by women in the field of education, noting that more girls than boys attend college today. Yet women lag in many key areas, such as computer science, math and engineering,

ty is not yet at hand," she said in conclusion. "Education can prepare women for any profession, but society must accept them in some roles still restricted to men."

The road ahead for women? "We must all help each other — be a network of successful

Matosian, describing her work in Yerevan. While Armenia's constitution and signed international conventions protect women's rights and adhere to principles of gender equality, "the reality on the ground is completely different," she pointed out.

"Because of this we need to organize and develop a women's movement or network so that we start working towards activism, advocacy, and gender mainstreaming," she noted. "Gender equality is not just a women's issue but a societal one."

Ending on a positive note, Matosian noted that in Armenia today, a young generation of women have emerged, who are active citizens concerned with social justice and gender issues. "All this, gives me hope that progress will come to Armenia," she concluded.

Bedevian, in accepting her Distinguished Service Award, offered heartwarming remarks about her participation in several projects, particularly in publications (she helped to arrange and edited *My Odyssey*, the memoir of Antonina Mahari, wife of Armenian poet Guren Mahari), and also her work at Mer Hooys home, located in the Nakashian Children's Support Center in Yerevan.

The planning and preparations were done by the New Jersey AIWA Affiliate, headed by its president, Lisa Stepanian.

Membership in AIWA is open to all women. Further information about AIWA or about its programs to advance Armenian women is available by contacting the association at 65 Main St., 3a, Watertown, MA, aiwainc@aol.com.



From left, Maro Matosian, director of the Women's Support Center in Yerevan, Ruth Bedevian, recipient of AIWA's Distinguished Service Award; and Dr. Mary Papazian, keynote speaker, at the recent AIWA Luncheon in New Jersey

which are key to the rapid global economic development taking place today. Women are active in business, but continue to face a glass ceiling when it comes to advancement.

"Women have come a long way, but equali-

ty is not yet at hand," she said in conclusion. "Education can prepare women for any profession, but society must accept them in some roles still restricted to men."

The theme of working together in order to advance women's rights was taken up by

Primate Hosts Ecumenical Gathering Honoring Bishop Dietsche

NEW YORK — On Wednesday, May 22, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), hosted an ecumenical gathering at

ing back well over a century," Barsamian said. "Long before St. Vartan Cathedral existed — before even the first Armenian sanctuary was built in New York — the Episcopalians welcomed our people into their churches to celebrate the Divine Liturgy... Since that time we have always found encouragement, welcome, and support from our Episcopalian brothers and sisters. And I look forward to continuing that tradition with Bishop Dietsche," he added.

Barsamian presented Dietsche with a pectoral cross from Holy Etchmiadzin. Dietsche, in turn, presented the Primate with a commemorative medallion from his installation.

Cardinal Dolan, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, thanked Barsamian for his hospitality and continued

efforts to foster ecumenical relationships among religious leaders in New York. "It makes



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian presents Bishop Andrew Dietsche with a pectoral cross from Holy Etchmiadzin.

the Diocesan Center in honor of Bishop Andrew Dietsche, who was recently installed as the 16th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

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

"Bishop Andrew Dietsche is a man of firm conviction, but also gentleness," Barsamian said, "a pastor who deals with the urgent, solemn issues of the church; but also an artist who deals in beauty and laughter."

Cardinal Edward Egan, the former Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, delivered the invocation. He thanked Barsamian for organizing the day's program and congratulated Dietsche on his elevation. Dietsche was installed as the leader of the Episcopal Diocese of New York at Manhattan's Cathedral of St. John the Divine in February 2013.

"I want to acknowledge that the Episcopal Church and the Armenian Church have had a long history of friendship in this country, dat-



Cardinal Timothy Dolan congratulates Bishop Andrew Dietsche.

us all more grateful for the amity we experience here," he said, adding that such gatherings also help address common challenges that various Christian churches face across the world.

Dolan also extended his congratulations to



Religious leaders in prayer at St. Vartan Cathedral

Egan on the 28th anniversary of his consecration as bishop.

Dietsche expressed his gratitude to Barsamian for the warm welcome, and said that he is committed to strengthening the ecumenical bonds established by his predecessors.

"We make a witness to the wider world with the friendship we share with one another," he said. "When we bring our fraternity to the wider world, we say something the community needs to hear."

At the conclusion of the afternoon meeting, Bishop David of the Coptic Orthodox Archdiocese of North America delivered a benediction.

Other high-ranking clergy in attendance were Bishop Melchisedek of the Orthodox Church in America; Bishop Makarios of the Eritrean

Orthodox Church; Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, the Apostolic Nuncio to the United Nation; and Rev. Kurt Dunkle, dean and president of the General Theological Seminary in New York City. Representatives of the Syrian Orthodox Church, the Malankara Syriac Church and the National Council of Churches also took part.

In addition to Barsamian, representing the Eastern Diocese at Friday's event were Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, the diocese's ecumenical director; Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian; Very Rev. Simeon Odabashian, Diocesan Vicar; Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian, dean of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral; Very Rev. Daniel Findikyan, director of the diocese's Zohrab Center and the Rev. Mardiros Chevian, dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.



Arts & Living

Composer, Conductor Konstantin Petrossian Receives Movses Khorenatsi Medal

YEREVAN – During the celebrations of Armenia's Republic Day, May 28, Konstantin Petrossian, musical director of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence, RI, was awarded the Movses Khorenatsi Medal by the president of the Republic of Armenia, Serge Sargsian, in the Presidential Palace.

The award is the highest national governmental recognition that can be given for those who have excelled in intellectual and cultural endeavors. Petrossian was recognized for his music pursuits and notable contributions to Armenian culture during his many years of outstanding achievement in both Armenia and in the diaspora.

Petrossian's works include symphonic, chamber, vocal and instrumental music, as well as chorales. His works are performed and have been published worldwide, included in radio/TV music archives, and recorded on CDs.

Since January 1995, he has served as cultural and music director of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church in Providence. The same year, he organized the Cultural Committee at the church. During the past 18 years this Committee has organized around 180 cultural and educational events, including the annual



President Serge Sargsian with conductor Konstantin Petrossian

Spiritual Music Festival of Rhode Island Orthodox Church Choirs; the Annual Youth Talent Show and many concerts, including the annual Christmas concert, as well as movie presentations.

Petrossian also has been the artistic director and conductor of the Armenian Chorale of Rhode Island and the Armenian Chorale of Greater Worcester. In 2009, he was appointed the music director and conductor of the Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra of Holy Trinity Armenian Church in Cambridge, Mass.

He also serves as the president and artistic director of the Armenian Music Festival of Rhode Island, Inc., which was organized in 1997. In the same year, he presented for the first time "Anoush" Opera with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra at the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium, Providence.

In 1999, Petrossian, as cultural director of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, founded the unique Arts Education Program for children and adults. This church is the only one in the Eastern Diocese to have such a program. In 2002, he established the Knar cultural newsletter for the church.

Petrossian has given numerous performances in many countries, including the former USSR, England, France, Spain, Greece, Finland, Canada, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Italy and Germany. Additionally, he has presented his own music in various cities in the US. In 1991, he was invited to participate at the first Armenian concert at the United Nations dedicated to the independence of the Republic of Armenia.

– Marilyn J. Woloochian



Pianist Karine Poghosyan performs at St. Vartan Cathedral.

Global Community Celebrates Khachaturian's Legacy

NEW YORK and YEREVAN – A concert dedicated to the 110th anniversary of the birth of the great Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian was held at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral on Wednesday, June 5. The event went forward under the auspices of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern) and Ambassador Garen Nazarian, permanent representative of the of Armenia to the United Nations.

Born in 1903, Khachaturian showed early signs of a love of music, but his formal training did not begin until 1922, when he was admitted to the famous Gnessin Institute in Moscow and continued at the Moscow Conservatory with the eminent composer Myaskovsky.

Karine Poghosyan, an award-winning pianist, performed a program she created to present the richness and diversity of Khachaturian's style. First, there was Khachaturian the lyricist, whose melodies – *Adagio* from "Spartacus" and *Lullaby* from "Gayaneh" – Poghosyan performed.

The program also highlighted the energetic and rhythmic Khachaturian of his early piano work *Poem* (1927) and the *Toccata* (1932). Finally, the audience encountered Khachaturian the innovator – less well-known but powerful – through his large-scale piano composition, the *Sonata* (1961). Poghosyan closed the concert with an encore: Khachaturian's *Waltz* from the *Masquerade Suite*.

More than 300 people attended the evening concert, including more than 40 United Nations ambassadors and dignitaries. The concert marked the inaugural 2013-2014 Season of Classical Music, Concerts at Saint Vartan. Future concerts will be held on Wednesday evenings.

Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian welcomed the audience and outlined the objective of the concert series, mentioning that there would be four more concerts in the coming season. She spoke of Khachaturian's lasting legacy and said that he enriched human culture with the timeless beauty of his heritage.

Nazarian said that "music is a universal language of mankind." He added, "It touches many hearts, and reminds us of our common humanity and common responsibility to work together in partnership to spread the message of solidarity and peace around the world."

Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian closed the evening with a benediction. A reception followed.

Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian, dean of St. Vartan Cathedral, was instrumental in organizing the concert.

On June 6, the ninth Aram Khachaturian competition began at Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall in Yerevan. The concert featured the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia and cellist Gautier Capuçon from France. The competition was to conclude by June 13.



Ambassador Garen Nazarian, permanent representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations, speaks about the legacy of Aram Khachaturian.

AGBU Young Professionals and ANC Host Screening Of 'Orphans of the Genocide' in NYC

NEW YORK – The Armenian General Benevolent Union Young Professionals of Greater New York (AGBU YPGNY) and the Armenian National Committee of New York (ANC-NY) cosponsored a screening of "Orphans of the Genocide" on Thursday, May 16. The film, created by Florida-based, four-time regional Emmy award winning filmmaker Bared Maronian, was shown at the AGBU Central Office in New York City.

"The ANC of New York is pleased to work with Mr. Maronian to spread awareness of this significant film," said ANC-NY Co-chair Arousiag Markarian. "The documentary tells an important story in the history of the Armenian people, and we are happy to showcase the work of Mr. Maronian, a longtime active community member in Florida."

Nominated for a regional Emmy award, "Orphans" is a groundbreaking 90-minute documentary that takes the viewer through never-before-seen archival footage and discovered memoirs of orphans who lived through the 20th century's first fully documented genocide. It profiles orphans while unveiling many orphanages where Armenians were housed in the Middle East. The film also explores the humanitarian efforts of the American Near East Relief in saving, feeding and sheltering more than 150,000 documented Armenian Genocide orphans between 1919 and 1926.

"We are so proud that photos and documents from the AGBU archives and Noubarian Library in Paris helped with the production, especially since YPGNY was instrumental in acquiring the archival photos," said AGBU YPGNY vice chair Lindsey Hagopian. Responding to a call from a concerned Armenian American who had stumbled upon the relics, several YPGNY committee members and their friends took the initiative to purchase the collection of photos from a military antiques shop in Los Angeles more than a decade ago. It was discovered that the photos had belonged to Ellen Mary Gerard, a Near East Relief nurse who had volunteered in Syria and Lebanon for three years, serving over 1,000 Armenian orphans during her tenure. The AGBU YPGNY Gerard Archive can be viewed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/agbu/sets>.

Maronian has also made use of archival photos and documents from the Rockefeller Archive Center, Das Bundesarchiv (German National Archives), Statens Arkiver (Danish National Archives), the Library of Congress, U.S. National Archives, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, Houshamadyan, the Armenian Relief Society and other private archival collections.

Founded in 2006, Maronian's Armenoid Productions has produced numerous award-winning Armenian-themed documentaries, among them "Komitas Hayrig" and "The Wall of the Genocide." "Orphans" took a little more than three years to complete. His next project is under the working title of "Women of 1915," dealing with the plight of the Armenian women during the genocide, and paying tribute to all of the non-Armenian women who came to the rescue of their sisters. Maronian was interviewed by Voice of Armenians TV New York, and the segment is set to be broadcast in the coming weeks.

Local AGBU and ANCA chapters and committees are encouraged to reach out to their local PBS (Public Broadcasting Service) stations to urge them to air "Orphans." The film has already been broadcast by a number of PBS stations, including ValleyPBS, Station KPVT 18 in Fresno, Calif., and WMHT in Troy, New York. Readers interested in screening "Orphans of the Genocide" for their community may send an email to armenoid@comcast.net.



ARTS & LIVING

Fellini's 'Amarcord' comes to life at Tekeyan Center, Montreal

By Jerry Arzoumanian

MONTREAL — A young man sets up his easel in a scenic street in Rome, 1939. The sun is beating down on him mercilessly but he will get all the shade he needs from his oversized straw



From left to right: Demci Arzoumanian (as Luigi), Jerry Arzoumanian (as Jean)

hat. Meanwhile, Italian folk songs can be heard from a nearby café. The owner steps out and gestures the artist who is now becoming a familiar face. "He really knows how to catch tourist-

s' attention," he thinks to himself as he observes the artist's matching colors: a red scarf and a hat with red lining. Sure enough, an American navy sailor strolling along walks up to him to take a closer look.

"What are you setting up for?" asks the sailor.

"Me? I make-a caricature-e," replies the young man, with a strong Italian accent. As he takes a second to look at the sailor, he becomes overjoyed by his impressive build. "Oh! You're a very strong-a man!" he remarks enthusiastically and immediately offers to make him a portrait. As a caricaturist, he's developed the habit of picking up salient physical traits in everyone he meets. His eye doesn't think in terms of normal, pretty or ugly; he sees shapes, expressions and char-

acter. The sailor, now posing with his two arms flexed, is quite entertained by the friendly chitchat. When he finally asks the young man's name, the caricaturist responds



From left to right: Mike Bajakian (as Fellini), Alex Husseindjian (as Navy sailor)



From left to right: Sarina Kazandjian (supporting actress), Jerry Arzoumanian (actor, MC), Demci Arzoumanian (writer, director), Edward Husseinjian (coordination, consulting), Roupen Boyadjian (audio-visual preparation), Mike Bajakian (supporting actor), Sarkis Ekizian (video), Dr. Levon Ketchian (sound, consulting). Missing: Alex Husseindjian (supporting actor)

with a resounding voice:

"Fellini!"

Fast forward to present times...

Luigi is a production manager at Cinecittà studios. He's expecting a visit from a dear friend, Jean, a French film director. As he's turning the pages of the newspaper in his office, he is thinking about the bad news. Jean was hoping to tour the famous studios but everything is shut down; the workers are on strike. Within a second the mood turns festive when Jean comes in and yells out "Mon cher Luigi!" Strong hugs follow and it turns out that Jean is not bothered by the news of the strike; he has to deal with them in Paris all the time!

During their conversation, Jean learns that Cinecittà was founded in 1937 by none other than Mussolini as a means of fascist propaganda. It is a huge complex of 148 acres housing 17 studios, 73 buildings, 8.6 acres of gardens and, 75 km of streets; the name literally means "cinema city." Classics such as "Ben Hur" and Clint Eastwood's spaghetti westerns

were filmed there as well as more recent blockbusters like "Gangs of New York." Perhaps the biggest icon of the studio is the famous director Federico Fellini — the luminary and non-conformist genius of cinema. Among his notable films, Jean and Luigi discuss "Amarcord," which won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 1974. It's comedy-drama and a snapshot of Fellini's hometown, Rimini, in the 1930s. He recreates the daily life the way he remembers it including the pretty sights and the dirty secrets. As the pair leaves the office to go for lunch in Rome, the lights turn off. The audience at Tekeyan Cultural Center is now immersed in Fellini's world and ready to watch the great Italian classic, "Amarcord."

This successful film screening and live performance on May 25 was written, directed and produced by Demci Arzoumanian. Fellini was interpreted by Mike Bajakian; the sailor, by Alex Husseindjian; Luigi, by Demci Arzoumanian; Jean, by Jerry Arzoumanian.

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ARTS & LIVING

Hamazkayin Eastern USA Celebrates Third Annual Pan-gathering

WATERTOWN — On May 4, the Eastern Region of the Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society along with its Boston chapter hosted an evening of cultural celebration at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC) Hovnanian Hall, dedicated to the 300th birthday of Sayat Nova. The event was the high point of the annual eastern regional meeting and pan-gathering of all eight chapters of Hamazkayin Eastern USA which took place in Massachusetts over the weekend.

A crowd of friends of Armenian culture and prominent figures from academia filled the Hovnanian Hall that had been completely revamped and decorated for the occasion. Recent and upcoming projects of Hamazkayin Eastern USA were outlined at the beginning of the evening. As one of the major achievements of the executive, Hamazkayin Eastern Region is pursuing the establishment of a business entity as a source of income to help fund educational and cultural programs envisioned by the organization that are currently cost prohibitive.

Special guest filmmaker Eric Nazarian from Los Angeles shared the role of master of ceremonies with distinguished librarian and lifelong Hamazkayin member Arevig Caprielian from New York, as they presided over the evening program.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Thomas Samuelian, dean of the American University of Armenia Law School, tackling the theme of Armenia and the Diaspora at Crossroads. Samuelian emphasized the role of Hamazkayin as an organization to bridge the cultural gap between Armenia and the Diaspora as a fundamental task of Hamazkayin in the 21st century. For much of Hamazkayin's existence, Armenia was not an independent nation. However, with the emer-



Dr. Thomas Samuelian

gence of the Republic of Armenia as an independent nation, efforts must be made to strengthen existing bonds between the Diaspora and the homeland and introduce new and up to date means to fortify the relationship. Additionally, as a Diasporan residing in Armenia for many years, he emphasized the progress observed in Armenia over the years and challenged us to focus more on the positive gains and build upon those successes.

Following the need to bring the organization in tune with the realities and demands of the 21st century, a number of youth oriented projects, including the creation of Armenian themed apps for iPhone and Android users and a distance learning initiative to connect Armenia with Boston, New York and Washington DC for lectures, symposia, training sessions and mini-courses are in the pipeline to provide relevant Armenian cultural and educational offerings to the youth using their preferred communication modes.

Many prizes were distributed throughout the awards ceremony, of which the newly established Minas and Kohar Tololyan Prize in Contemporary Literature (which recognizes the

work of talented writers in North America) was awarded to Christopher Atamian for the translation of Nigoghos Sarafian's *The Bois de Vincennes* from Western Armenian to English. Also honored were Gary and Susan Lind-Sinianian, curators of the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) and Ara Ghazarians, curator of the Armenian Cultural Foundation in Arlington, each of whom received the inaugural Hamazkayin Founders' Award. This award aims to acknowledge the work of individuals who have contributed significantly to Armenian cultural and educational



The Anna Mayilyan Trio

causes in the diaspora over an extended period of time.

The second part of the evening featured a concert by the Mayilyan Vocal Trio from Armenia under the artistic directorship of mezzo-soprano Anna Mayilyan, along with singers Yeva Yeganyan and Armine Khatchatryan. The artists, accompanied by pianist Lusine Grigoryan, engaged the audience with their beautifully-rendered repertoire of



Susan and Gary Lind-Sinianian

classical, traditional and folk songs. The evening ended on a high note as the crowd praised Hamazkayin members and event organizers for a successful event. All proceeds from the evening will benefit the educational and cultural initiatives of Hamazkayin.

'Lost and Found' Seeks to Reunite Audiences with Armenian Culture

FILM, from page 1

The initial idea for the film began with actor Vachik Mangassarian, who plays Josef in the film. After hearing the story concept, McCaffrey said she was "sold."

"I loved the whole thing," she recalled. McCaffrey, together with director Gor Kirakosian, worked to develop a sizzle reel for the film to show potential investors and cast. From the buzz created by the sizzle reel they were able to find the funding for the film, with much of the investments coming from Armenia.

Fellow producer Maral Djerejian worked tirelessly with their team to create a film that would appeal to a variety of audiences.

McCaffrey cast the film, in addition to developing the script and helping to find investors. "We wanted an American actor [for Bill] who would be perfect for bridging the audiences. I immediately thought of Jamie," said McCaffrey.

The team shot on location throughout villages in Armenia for six weeks. They also filmed in San Diego for a week and a few days in Los Angeles.

"We employed a lot of people [in Armenia.] We were able to use the money invested by Armenia and put it back into the country when filming."

Four languages were spoken on set, including Georgian.

"Everybody worked as a family to get this done," she said.

A few Turkish actors also participated in the film production. "This is one of the first times Turkish and Armenian actors have worked together on a film," noted McCaffrey.

McCaffrey was proud to focus on the current artistic achievements of talented Armenian

actors and bring them to the attention of American audiences. "There are so many talented Armenian actors who are devoted to their art, but there aren't enough roles for them there," said McCaffrey.

This film does not focus on the Armenian Genocide or tragic events in Armenia's history, but instead, is a light-hearted take on current Armenian culture. One goal was to create a fun and accessible way for those not familiar with the Armenian worldwide community to learn about the culture and heritage. "It's [the film] is about who we are as a people," said McCaffrey. "We see a lot of our own family members and people we know in these characters," she added. "This American character falls in love with Armenia and Armenian culture," said McCaffrey, adding that she hopes that it is a sentiment audiences will share with 'Bill.'

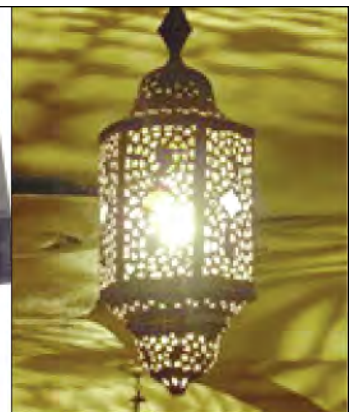
For lead actress Sarafyan, the film was also a homecoming. "Angela had left Armenia at age 4. She came back to her homeland to shoot this film. It was an emotional experience for her and we were so lucky to have her as a part of it."

According to McCaffrey, the film has sold out several screenings including its weekend opening in Glendale. "The audience response has been great so far. People are just loving it," she said.

The film is currently playing at the following theaters: Pacific Theaters Americana, Glendale; Laemmle Music Hall, Beverly Hills, Calif.; Laemmle Town Center, Encino, Calif.; AMC Burbank 8, Burbank, Calif.; Sierra Vista 16, Fresno/Clovis, Calif.; AMC Methuen, Methuen, Mass.; AMC Forum, Detroit, Mich.; AMC Hamilton 24, Hamilton, NJ and AMC Rio, Washington DC.



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ARTS & LIVING

All Chobanian Concert at Saint Gregory of Narek

RICHMOND HEIGHTS, Ohio — Loris Ohannes Chobanian, Baldwin Wallace University Professor Emeritus of Composition and Guitar, and composer-in-residence, presented an “All Chobanian” concert at the St. Gregory of Narek Armenian Church.

The concert originally intended for the April 24 Commemorations had to be rescheduled for Sunday, June 2. Joining Chobanian to form the Baldwin Wallace Guitar Trio were two BW Conservatory graduates Adam Bilchik and Bryan Reichert. After the Divine Liturgy the congregation moved to the Cultural Hall where Rev. Hratch Sargsyan welcomed and introduced the BW Guitar Trio. The All Chobanian concert was inspired by Spanish, Arabic, Indian and Armenian music. In lieu of program notes, the composer introduced the different selections with commentary and began with the words, “A few years ago, as a Cleveland composer and winner of the Cleveland Arts Prize I was invited to speak at the Cleveland Clinic. The audience included both doctors and patients. I spoke about my childhood experiences as well as those of my parents; how in 1915, my mother and grandmother were driven out of their homes by the Ottoman Turks during the Armenian Genocide. At the end of my presentation a young man came to me and said that he was a Turk and that everything that I had said was lies, and he walked away. I stood there for a moment and thought “How in the world can they get away with it? They slaughtered a million and a half. Still, they have not been able to annihilate the Armenian Spirit, the Armenian art, music, the Armenian religion and language. And thus we present this All Chobanian concert.”

First on the program was the first movement of the recently-composed *Three Spanish Dances for Three Guitars*. Although the composition sounds as if improvised, actually all the notes are written down. Next on the program was *Dowland in Armenia*, performed by Adam Bilchik. The composer introduced the piece with the following words: “There is an interesting story about *Dowland in Armenia*. When my *Songs of Ararat* was performed at the Quebec International Guitar Festival in Canada, Lutenist Paul O’Dette commissioned me to write a new composition for his English Renaissance Lute using Armenian melodies. In order to justify using Armenian sounding melodies I made up the story that supposedly the English composer John Dowland, in the year 1623, traveled to Armenia and must have written this composition. Lutenist Paul O’Dette presented the world premiere at the Toronto International Guitar Festival. The Festival accidentally forgot to mention that the program notes were imaginary. As a result I received many letters from scholars from all over the world enquiring about Dowland’s visit to Armenia. I have to admit I had a lot of fun reading their questions and

enquiries.”

Maharaja’s Fancy for Three Guitars was next on the program. About this piece, the composer presented the following remarks: “During World War II, a large contingent of Indian soldiers came to Baghdad with the British Army. As a result Indian music was heard extensively. The idea of writing a composition with Eastern Indian flavor came about while exploring unusual sounds on the classical guitar. In authentic Indian music, melody and rhythm are highly developed while harmony usually consists of a sustained drone chord. *Maharaja’s Fancy* creates an impression of these sounds and uses the *raga Behag*. To produce these unconventional sounds the guitarists use ordinary pencils, a bottle neck or a metal slide bar to perform sliding melodies.”

The 1992 Olympic Games attracted world attention to the Iberian Peninsula. Among the many articles written about the cultural wealth of Spain, one that displayed a 14th century tile mosaic design from the Alhambra, Granada was significant and renewed interest in the architectural treasures of Andalusia. *Taqseem for Solo*



Baldwin Wallace Guitar Trio, with Adam Bilchik, Loris Chobanian and Bryan Reichert

Guitar was inspired by the Moorish mosaics. The composition combines the Arabic Middle Eastern music performance of the *oud* with elements that are more Spanish and Flamenco in character. The Arabic word *Taqseem* means division and is comparable to the English word improvisation.

The final composition on the program performed by the BW Guitar Trio was *Bouquet – Four Armenian Melodies*. The composition

was originally composed and performed on the occasion of the late Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem Archbishop Torkom Manoogian’s visit to St. Gregory of Narek in early 1980s. The first melody by Komitas is often heard on Radio Yerevan at the opening of broadcasting. The other three Armenian melodies such as *Chem U Chem* are well-loved Armenian themes. The appreciative audience expressed their enthusiasm with a prolonged standing ovation.

CALENDAR

CONNECTICUT

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

MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 16 — Dance Documentary and Workshop, 2 p.m., Armenian Library and Museum of America, Main St., Watertown. Showing of “Other Voices, Other Songs: Armenian Music and Dance in America,” an examination of evolution of Armenian folk dancing in the diaspora. Followed at 3 p.m. by dance workshop presented by ALMA curators Gary and Susan Lind-Sinanian. Admission, \$7/\$3 seniors. Free for members.

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

JUNE 22 — Tekeyan Cultural Association of Boston Presents Music of the People, performance by Rouben Hakhverdian, at Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church, 7:30 p.m. 200 Lexington St., Belmont. For tickets (\$40) call (781) 439-3702.

JULY 17 — Presentation by Margaret Ajemian Ahnert, author of The Knock at the Door, 7:30 p.m., at ALMA, 65 Main St., Watertown.

JULY 18 — An Evening with Margaret Ajemian Ahnert, Author of The Knock at the Door, an account of her mother’s daring escape from sure death during the Armenian Genocide. Losh Kebab Dinner and Program. Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford. \$10 donation, 7 p.m. For dinner reservations, contact Ara, ara.a.jeknavorian@grace.com or call 978-251-4845.

AUGUST 4-10 — PACE [Parent and Child Experience], Craigville Retreat Center, Cape Cod. Private accommodations in Craigville’s historic Inn with privileges to newly renovated beach club with access to private ocean beach, tennis lessons, courts, evening concerts, and more. Babies, grandparents, teens and all in between welcome! Contact familycampvacation@yahoo.com

OCTOBER 19 — Hye Kef 5 featuring Leon Janikian, Joe Kouyoumjian, Greg Takvorian, Ken Kalajian, Bob Raphalian and Jay Baronian, Haverhill, MA, 7:30 p.m., Michael’s Function Hall-12 Alpha Street, Tickets: \$40.00 Each Students \$30, includes individually-served mezza platters. Proceeds to benefit all Armenian churches in Merrimack Valley and New Hampshire. Call either John Arzigian, 603-560-3826; Sandy Boroyan, 978-251-8687; Scott Sahagian, 617-699-3581, or Peter Gulezian, 978-375-1616. Organized by Armenian Friends’ of America [a new organization in Merrimack Valley].



The Tekeyan Cultural Association is sponsoring a concert in Belmont, Mass., featuring Rouben Hakhverdian, the legendary folk singer from Armenia, on June 22 at 7:30 p.m. The performance will be at the Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church, 200 Lexington St., Belmont. Tickets are \$40. To purchase tickets or for info, call (201)888-0516 or (781) 439-3702. Wine-and-cheese reception follows the concert.

NEW YORK

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

Free Calendar Submissions

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

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In memory of Arsen Demirdjian, Arsen Hagop Avedikian and Harry Meneshian of North Hollywood, Calif. donate \$50 each to the Armenian Mirror-Spectator.



COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN
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COMMENTARY

All Power and No Integrity

By Edmond Y. Azadian

When Samantha Power published her award-winning book, *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, Armenians – along with human rights activists globally – believed that she had been sent from heaven to defend the underdogs – victims of genocides and human rights abuses. She was so factual, legalistic and passionate as not to leave any shade of doubt that she was the apostle of human rights and justice.

During President Obama’s first election campaign, she approached the Armenian community with written statements as well as You Tube videos that once elected, Mr. Obama would recognize the Armenian Genocide.

Rallying support from the Armenians and from different groups with human rights agendas, she helped Mr. Obama’s election and she was rewarded with a job at the White House, as special assistant to the president and senior director of multi-lateral affairs and human rights. She could have landed at a higher profile position had it not been for her earlier fallout with Hillary Clinton, whom she had called a “monster” in an interview with The Scotsman.

Today, as she is nominated as US representative to the United Nations, replacing the beleaguered Susan E. Rice, Ms. Power is a completely different political animal. She did not deliver on her pledge on the Armenian Genocide nor did she remind her boss of his solemn commitment on the issue. Instead, she resorted to the ruse of putting in Mr. Obama’s mouth the term used by the late Pope John Paul II, of blessed memory, “Medz Yeghern,” to avoid the use of the word genocide which has finite legal determinants. In his turn, Mr. Obama continued harping that he has not changed his stance on the issue, without, once again, defining that issue.

The Armenian Assembly issued a press release on June 7 outlining Ms. Power’s earlier activities and statements, which could portray her as an honest academic and human rights advocate, without any reference to her later dishonest political gymnastics, to be able to continue climbing on the ladder of political power. The above-mentioned press release concludes with the following statement: “The Assembly expects a robust US Senate confirmation process in the coming weeks.”

This kind of lopsided presentation is a disservice to the Armenian community.

The fact that a hawk and warmonger like Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz) has endorsed her nomination says a lot about Ms. Power’s turn-around.

More objective characterization about her and about Rice was made by Edward C. Luck, dean of the School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego and former senior United Nations advisor on peace-keeping issues. He said, “Five years ago you might not have been able to predict where they are now. They were both idealists, but they have both become practical idealists. Time in government does that to you.”

The same could be said about Obama.

As a senior member of Mr. Obama’s team we do not have a full account of what Ms. Power has said to Turkish leaders and what commitments she has made to them on behalf of the US government, but her betrayal of trust says much more about her selling her soul for career advancement. Her reversal of position on the Genocide issue and her steering of the president away from his

pledge are all one needs to know about her character. The rest can be extrapolated from her activities which are in public records.

It is believed that Samantha Power and Susan Rice are the architects of the White House’s “humanitarian intervention” policy, which has convinced Mr. Obama to overthrow Muammar Gaddafi in Libya on “humanitarian grounds.” How much humanity Ms. Power has lost to advocate the invasion of a sovereign country, which to this day is gripped by carnage and political instability, even if we discount the assassination of the US Ambassador Chris Stevens, which was the direct outcome of that “humanitarian intervention.”

Eccentricities of Gaddafi aside, he had created the most egalitarian society in the Middle East, distributing oil income to his people, unlike the Aliyev dynasty which spends oil income on its opulent lifestyle, while millions of refugees are confined to the misery of shanty towns.

Mercenaries were sent to begin an uprising and NATO bombing completed the task by Genghis Khan-style assassination of Gaddafi on the TV news and the country was consigned to blood baths, which continue to this day. Thus, Ms. Power’s “humanitarian intervention” policy mission was accomplished.

The true test of humanitarian intervention was presented in 1994, when the UN peacekeeping commander warned that a genocide was imminent in Rwanda. The warning was ignored as 800,000 Tutsis were killed by their Hutu neighbors in a matter of 100 days. President Bill Clinton’s subsequent trip to Kigali – on whose watch the genocide was committed – to apologize for his non-intervention was disingenuous, too little and too late.

The most revealing opportunism of her political flip-flop was her reversal on the Israeli-Palestine issue. Before entering the government, she had stated that the US would need to make “mammoth” commitment to secure a Palestinian state,” “a move that could mean alienating American Jews,” according to the New York Times, a group she described as having “tremendous political and financial import.”

Ms. Power later on apologized for her comments about the human rights of the Palestinians to absolve herself in the eyes of Israeli lobbyists.

It is a sad commentary that any politician would stoop so low as to curry favors with lobbyists for career advancement. And indeed, she has won the nod of Israeli ambassador in Washington, Michael B. Oren, and Abraham H. Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League. The latter has stated, “She has matured and moved on, and I look forward to working with her in the UN.”

The New York Times article suggests that by abandoning her views on Palestinian rights, she has paved her way for comfortable votes in the US Senate. “Ms. Power has also cultivated American Jewish groups, meeting in 2011 with 40 leaders of these groups, where she expressed her regret for some of her remarks and defended herself in emotional terms against charges that she had an anti-Israel bias,” the article reads.

If she has dropped Palestinian rights, there is no guarantee that she has not apologized to the Turkish leaders about her position on the Armenian Genocide.

It looks like Ms. Power will win an easy victory in the US Senate hearings and at best, we will send a hypocrite to the UN to represent US interests.

If we needed any additional proof that politics and morality are mutually exclusive, Ms. Power’s case will provide that.

LETTERS

Dissent in Turkey

To the Editor:

The Mirror-Spectator reprinted an op-ed titled, “Turkey’s Authoritarian Turn,” by Seyla Benhabib, originally published in the New York Times on June 3.

Recent events in Turkey should not surprise Western observers who continue to succumb to the falsehoods and dishonesties of Ankara’s being a model democracy for booming Islamic countries. So-called free speech is embodied in a news media friendly to the government – a convenient tool – and more journalists are imprisoned for voicing their

opposition than in any other country in the world, according to Reporters Without Borders.

Dissent is something that all democracies should embrace and not contain with water cannons or bullets. It is amazing to see how Turkey masks its authoritarian rule by redefining its present by trying to change its past.

What has been transpiring in Taksim Square over the last several days is something the minority populations living in Turkey, like the Armenians, have been aware of for decades.

Finally, the world is starting to see Ankara’s true colors.

–Stephan Pechdimadji
San Ramon, Calif.

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

Armenia Should Send Peacekeeping Forces to Lebanon, Not Mali

The Armenian Defense Ministry is considering sending two platoons of troops to southern Lebanon. Ministry officials are traveling to Rome this week to discuss the structure, deployment site, number of troops, and needed supplies with their Italian counterparts who are in charge of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

This is a positive development since 2006 when President Kocharian's government refrained from joining dozens of countries that had agreed to take part in UN's peacekeeping mission after Israel's war with Lebanon. At that time, Kocharian's spokesman told Mediamax that the Armenian government refused to contribute troops because of UNIFIL's unclear mandate and that any clashes involving Armenian soldiers could endanger the Armenian community in Lebanon. Kocharian staunchly defended his position on this matter during a private conversation I had with him in 2006.

The Turkish government, on the other hand, was quick to

recognize the benefits of sending troops to Lebanon, as part of its effort to establish a military footprint, expand its political and economic influence in the Arab world, gather valuable intelligence and counteract the Armenian influence in Lebanese affairs. Consequently, Turkish troops entered Lebanon for the first time since the collapse of the Ottoman Empire almost a century ago. Currently, UNIFIL consists of 11,000 troops from 37 countries, including 495 from Turkey. Armenia sent just one officer to southern Lebanon last year on an observer mission. Meanwhile more 130 Armenian soldiers have been serving in Afghanistan and 35 in Kosovo for several years and until recently in Iraq.

The Armenian government did not fully explain last week why it is now interested in sending a peacekeeping force to Lebanon, after Kocharian's refusal to do so seven years ago. In my view, there are five good reasons why Armenia should contribute troops to UNIFIL:

1) The presence of Armenian soldiers on Lebanese soil would generate great pride among the large Armenian community in that country.

2) The Armenian contingent would serve to balance in a small way the pro-Turkish propaganda resulting from a much larger Turkish military deployment in southern Lebanon since 2006.

3) The Armenian troops would be the only ones from the South Caucasus, as neither Azerbaijan nor Georgia has contributed troops to Lebanon.

4) Even though there is an element of risk in sending troops to police southern Lebanon which borders Israel and Syria, this is a far less dangerous mission than Afghanistan, where more than 130 Armenian soldiers have been serving for a number of years.

5) As in Afghanistan, Iraq and Kosovo, Armenian troops

would gain valuable military experience by serving along with contingents from dozens of other countries.

The Armenian Defense Ministry also announced that it might send peacekeeping troops to Mali in Africa, where a series of bloody confrontations have been unfolding. In these clashes, Al-Qaeda-linked Islamist fighters have been battling Malian, French and African forces. A civil war is also raging between separatist Tuareg tribes and Malian troops. The situation is so precarious that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a report last week warning that peacekeeping troops may face grave risks in and around Mali.

Under such dangerous conditions, it would be unwise for Armenian troops to be dispatched to Mali. The responsibility for the security of Mali is primarily assumed by troops from African countries with logistical support from the French military. Armenia cannot afford to risk the lives of its soldiers unnecessarily, keeping in mind its own security priorities at home due to the Karabagh (Artsakh) conflict.

Having a limited number of Armenian troops serving in less dangerous locations may be a good idea in order to gain military training and diplomatic visibility, but dispatching large numbers of soldiers to multiple theaters of conflict and placing them in perilous situations would be most imprudent, given the small size of the Armenian military.

Although Armenia's participation in UNIFIL is subject to parliamentary approval, little opposition is expected in view of the ruling party's overwhelming majority. The Armenian government should seek the Parliament's consent to dispatch peacekeeping troops to southern Lebanon only. There are many sensible reasons for stationing Armenian units in Lebanon, but not in Mali.

Dr. Mary Papazian Delivers Talk on Armenian Studies

PART II

Of course, we can see that a few dedicated individuals even at that early date produced works in Armenian and English attempting to fill the void left by the almost complete annihilation of the Armenian literary and academic class. One of these efforts was the translation into English of the *History of Armenia* by Jacques de Morgan from the French. Another early effort was the small book written by O. A. Sarkisian, of the Library of Congress, on the politics of the Armenian genocide. Still another was the translation into modern Armenian and English of Yeghishe's *History of the Battle of Avarayr*. There were also little Blue Books written to educate the youth and inspire patriotism, and often there was a page in English in the Armenian newspapers. These few examples might be seen as stepping stones...not a bridge....but stepping stones, threatened at any time to be washed away by the floods of assimilation or indifference or denial. Or, in hindsight, we can see them as the first foundations on which to build the structures that became the bridges of our time....the intellectual link to our past.

The first original academic works on Armenian topics were produced by Sirapie der Nersessian and Nina Garsoyan who had received their education in Europe. And by the 1950s, a small scattering of self-taught, young university professors began to write and publish articles and eventually books, in an unsystematic way, seeking to learn something of their past and to put it in the perspective of world history. Of course, these young professors broke into academic circles by teaching in established fields of history and writing on the Armenians as an avocation. Their training was in Middle Eastern history, or Russian history, or even European history. There was no field of Armenian studies, which in the first decades of the last century was considered marginal, at best, in American academic circles.

This outpouring of energy by what then was the younger generation of scholars — who are now honored as the founders of Armenian studies in America — is also reflected in the first efforts to commemorate the Armenian Genocide and to build monuments and memorials, efforts which began in the 1960s to mark the 50th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

Anyone can be proud of those early pioneers who persisted against all odds. Yet, it soon became apparent that if Armenian studies was to grow beyond a marginal existence in the academic world that the Armenians themselves had to fund it. One of the earliest groups to recognize this was the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) that raised money to establish

an endowed chair at Harvard University, one of the world's renowned institutions of higher learning. Meanwhile, our academic pioneers were coming of age, such as our own Prof. Richard Hovannisian, who were entering the academy and establishing a name for themselves without public support. To do so required grim determination.

The next attempt was to establish a chair of Armenian literature at UCLA, which was finally realized. Columbia University, where Nina Garsoyan taught, became the next focus of community efforts. Our experience at Columbia was not entirely successful since, as you know, once a chair is established the university has full control over it within the general parameters spelled out in the giving contract. Professor Garsoyan left Columbia and took a position at Princeton University and Columbia University did not take seriously its obligation to replace her with a scholar of equal talent. Unfortunately, that problem persists up until today.

My husband, being aware of the pitfalls of the university controlling a chair, decided rather to establish an Armenian Research Center, the only such center attached to an American university. Over the years, thousands of books on Armenian studies were collected, organized and data-based. Fortunately, the Library of Congress in its own database notes when a book can be found at the Armenian Research Center. Furthermore, the books at the Armenian Research Center are being scanned by the Google project. When that project is complete, all of these books will be available to researchers in electronic form online, without one penny of Armenian money being involved.

Dennis then began to invite scholars to the Research Center to make use of its rich facilities. He brought such people as the late Prof. Babken Haroutounyan, chairman of the Department of History at Yerevan State University, Prof. Boris Shpotov, of Moscow State University, and most notably Dr. Taner Akcam from Germany, who stayed for two years and currently holds the chair of Armenian Studies at Clark University, as well as other scholars interested in Armenian history or the Armenian Genocide.

Most notable in producing a generation of PhDs was Prof. Richard Hovannisian, who also either wrote or edited a plethora of important books on Armenian history and culture. We must be eternally grateful to him. And specifically in the field of Armenian Genocide studies, we owe a great debt of thanks to Prof. Vahakn Dadrian. These are titans indeed.

The development of the field of Armenian studies and its presence at significant universities through the United States paralleled the awaken-

ing of the Armenian community in America....and paralleled the efforts by ethnic Armenians to reclaim the stories of the past, stories of the dreadful experiences that their parents and grandparents largely had kept from them. One of the first such works to burst onto our consciousness was Michael J. Arlen's award-winning *Passage to Ararat* (it won the National Book Award in 1976), an autobiographical memoir in which Arlen seeks to discover what his father had tried to forget: Armenia and what it meant to be an Armenian, a descendant of a proud people whom conquerors had for centuries tried to exterminate. The story of remembering....reconnecting with a lost, fragmented past...has since found many outlets by some of our best writers. I note Peter Balakian's memoir *Black Dog of Fate* (1997), and more recently, Chris Bohjalian's novel *The Sandcastle Girls* (2012).

It was on the heels of Michael Arlen's memoir and the work of Armenian scholars at universities across America that the Armenian Studies program at CSUN was established, one of many finding root in a reawakened Armenian community in America. Began as a single class on Armenian language taught by Hermine Mahseredjian in 1983, CSUN's Armenian Studies program did not look to create Armenian scholarship. Its purpose was to ensure that Armenian youth had a way to reconnect to a past lost long ago to the travails of our history. In the Valley in 1983, one did not hear Armenian spoken at grocery stores and shopping centers, as one does today. There were few bakeries or restaurants. The community was growing...a consequence of challenges in what was then Soviet-Armenia and conflicts in Lebanon and Iran....but it still was in its childhood. In this environment, the founder of the Armenian Studies program at CSUN, like the founders of Armenian studies programs at sister institutions, understood that language and culture matter; that Armenian youth who have grown up far away from the locations illustrated in Osman Koker's postcards, beginning to lose the grandparents who might have taught them the history, needed another way to reconnect....or the bridge linking the Armenian past to the Armenian future would never be built. And so the Armenian Studies program at CSUN began.

We can celebrate in our knowledge that several generations of students have now grown up in the shadow of a growing Armenian studies tradition. Students can take courses in Armenian studies here at CSUN ... or at Cal State Fresno, UCLA, Michigan, Columbia, Harvard, Clark or at Tufts, as my older daughter did last year, or at my own institution, Southern Connecticut State University. These institutions educate our young people...and their Armenian and non-Armenian friends...in our

language, history, and culture. Investing in young people is always the best investment we can make. For Armenians, investing in our young people through programs such as the Armenian studies program here at Cal State Northridge remains one of the best investments we can make. I should add that with 3,500 students of Armenian heritage here at Cal State Northridge — some 10 percent of the entire student population — Armenian students also have much to offer to the university at large...and to all its many students.

But the job of ensuring the future of Armenian studies is not yet done. And our understanding of what Armenian studies is has not remained stagnant. As the first cohort of scholars retires, there is a need to replace them. There is a need to have strength in depth in scholarly productivity and to have a sensitive and knowledgeable audience to appreciate and enjoy the fruits of their labor. There is also a need to understand the changes in Armenian studies. What was once the effort of ethnic Armenians to forge a place for their story in the academy has now become a global conversation taking place not only in the United States, but in Europe and, most important, in Turkey itself.

What was true in the past is still true today: in large measure you have to pay to play. The Armenian community needs to support Armenian studies programs, Armenian chairs, and Armenian research centers if they are to be represented in the American academic community. We Armenians have an obligation to reestablish to the extent possible that culture and civilization that was so wantonly destroyed from 1915 through 1923. And while I have dwelled on the past as a prelude to the future, I leave you with the promise of the future, embodied so well in our wonderful students here at Cal State Northridge and at universities across the country.

Congratulations again to all who have contributed to and share in the success of Cal State Northridge on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Armenian Studies program.

As Moses of Khoren wrote, "We are a small people, but we have done many things worthy of being remembered." Of course he meant small in number, not in stature, intelligence, or determination. When measured by those standards Armenians have been, are, and shall be among the tallest and proudest people on the face of the Earth.

(Dr. Mary A. Papazian is the president of Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. This talk was delivered on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Armenian Studies Program at the California State University at Northridge. It was edited for space)



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