



Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, left, with US Secretary of State John Kerry in Washington

FM Nalbandian Visits US, Meets with Kerry

WASHINGTON (Combined sources) – US Secretary of State John Kerry has hosted Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian for talks focusing on the impasse over Nagorno-Karabagh.

Ahead of their meeting on June 4, Kerry said it was “critical” that all parties increase efforts to resolve the conflict over the breakaway Azerbaijani territory populated by ethnic Armenians.

“One of the most important issues, obviously, that we all really want to try to see resolved one day is the frozen conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh,” Kerry said.

“It is critical that all the parties – and when I say ‘all the parties,’ I mean, obviously, the Azerbaijanis, but also Turkey, Russia, Iran, and others – try to find a way to help break the impasse.”

Nalbandian said relations between Yerevan and Washington were “today in their see NALBANDIAN page 2

Louisiana State Senate Recognizes Independence of Karabagh

BATON ROUGE, La. –The Louisiana branch of the Armenian Council of America (ACA) reports the Louisiana State Senate passed a Senate Resolution 151 (SR 151) on Thursday, May 30, 2013 recognizing the Nagorno Karabagh Republic and expressing support to develop as a free and independent nation in order to guarantee its citizens those rights inherent in a free and independent society. The resolution also urges the U.S. President and Congress to support the self-determination and democratic independence of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic and its constructive involvement with the international community’s efforts to reach a just and lasting solution to security issues in that strategically important region. see LOUISIANA, page 2



Louisiana state Sen. Edwin R. Murray (D-New Orleans)

European Parliament Hosts Conference on Armenian Genocide

BRUSSELS, Belgium (Public Radio of Armenia) – A conference at the European Parliament last week saw experts and Armenian officials urge Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide as the only way to reconcile Armenia and Turkey and therefore to bring peace, security, stability and prosperity to the region.

The conference, “Armenian Genocide: A Bridge for the Reconciliation of Nations,” was hosted by Member of the European Parliament (MEP) Dr. Eleni Theocharous in cooperation with the European Armenian Federation for Justice and Democracy. It brought together round 100 participants from Europe and politicians from Armenia.

The debate was opened by Theocharous from Cyprus, president of the EU-Armenia Friendship Group who welcomed the speakers and the guests. Theocharous stressed “the importance of recognizing crimes committed by humans against humanity, because only recognition brings reconciliation.”

“It is worth pointing out that the crimes against Armenians in the Ottoman Empire happened in front of the watchful eyes of French, British, German and US diplomats. Even today, thousands are detained without being convicted, in Turkish prisons. Violence against ethnic and religious minorities, Kurds, Pontic Greeks and others is still continuing because of foreign economic interests. I hope Turkey will soon recognize the Armenian Genocide and avoid repeating such crimes,” concluded Theocharous.

Avet Adonts, ambassador of Armenia to Belgium and Luxembourg and head of the Mission of Armenia to the European Union, said that “1.5 million Armenians have been killed simply because of their origin. The main task of the Armenian nation throughout history has been to survive. For all the survivors, the Genocide is not a past, but a reality present in everyday life. Therefore, the condemnation of the Genocide is necessary in order to achieve the historic justice.” Adonts added that the “recognition of the Armenian Genocide by Turkey and neighborly relations between Armenia and Turkey will influence not only the two countries, but the peace, security, stability and prosperity in the whole region.”

Kaspar Karampetian, president of the European Armenian Federation for Justice see CONFERENCE, page 3

Greece to Discuss Genocide Denial Criminalization Bill

ATHENS (panarmenian.net) – A draft law making the denial of genocide a criminal offense subject to penalties was submitted to the Greek parliament this week.

The draft law stipulates for 3-36 months’ imprisonment or a fine of 5,000 to 20,000 euro for denial of genocides.

The Greek parliament recognized the genocide of Pontic Greeks, the Armenians and the Greeks in Asia Minor in 1994, 1996 and 1998, respectively.

Two Armenians Killed In Aleppo

ALEPPO, Syria (Aysor) – Two Armenians were killed in Aleppo on May 31 during clashes between government and rebel forces, according to Yeragyun.com. One of the men died in the bombing of a local prison. His name was not released. The other man, Harut Palapanian, 52, died at his home after he received a shrapnel wound and underwent surgery.

PACE President: Turkey Should Accept Armenian Genocide And Face Reality

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Turkey should recognize the Armenian Genocide, face its own history and make a significant step towards its membership in the European Union, said President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Jean-Claude Mignon this week.

“I think that Turkey should recognize the Armenian Genocide. That would be one of the most important steps towards its membership in the European Union. Turkey should accept the committed genocide and face the own history and reality,” said Mignon. “The Armenian Genocide is a global tragedy, which should be recognized.”

Mignon had come to Armenia to participate in the sessions of the Standing Committee of PACE, launched in Yerevan on May 31.

Mignon, accompanied by the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Hermine Naghdalyan and NA deputy Armen Rustamyan, visited the Tsitsernakaberd Memorial on June 1.

Mignon, accompanied by the director of the Genocide Museum Institute, Hayk Demoyan, got acquainted with the exhibits of the museum and wrote in the guest book: “Thank you for this touching visit to the Memorial perpetuating the sad memory of the innocent victims of the Armenia Genocide. Every day the European Council struggles not to allow the repetition of such a tragedy.”

PACE adopted declarations on the Armenian Genocide in 1998 and 2001.

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Taksim Square Riots Rage on

At Least Two Dead, Thousands Injured After Police Crackdown

By Alexandra Hudson and Jonathon Burch

ISTANBUL/ANKARA (Reuters) – Turkey’s deputy prime minister apologized on Tuesday for “excessive violence” by police in an effort to defuse days of unrest, comments which contrasted sharply with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s defiant dismissal of the protesters.

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The woman being teargassed in this photo has become a symbol of the Turkish protests.



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Architects Fear that Republic Square May be Overbuilt

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – The contest for the conceptual re-design project of the Republic Square has become a reason for blame against chief architect of Yerevan Narek Sargsyan, who heads the contest committee. Some experts have already called the project absurd.

Honored Architect of Armenia Sashur Kalasyan said on Monday that the contest contradicts some provisions of the law. The contest is open and closed at the same time, which violates the law. In addition, he said, the Yerevan Municipality is authorized to announce municipal contest, while the Republic Square has a republican status. Kalashyan said that the project lacks exact parameters and the architectural ensemble of buildings in Republic Square may be overbuilt. He thinks that destruction and reconstruction of historical and cultural buildings in Yerevan over the recent years may be ordered by external force to liquidate the traces of Armenian architecture.

Political technologist Karen Kocharian, in turn, said that the contest for reconstruction of the Republic Square is nothing but money laundering.

To explain its decision to reconstruct the Republic Square, the Municipality declared that the Square has become an overloaded transport hub and is used ineffectively. A bid was announced by the Municipality, seeking applications until August 29.

Armenian Peacekeepers To Be Sent to Lebanon

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) – Italy, the commander country at United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), has applied to Armenia to involve its peacekeepers in the mission to ensure the security of the mission headquarters, the Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported.

Negotiations are underway with the UN and the Italian Defense Ministry regarding the structure and deployment of Armenian troops and other issues. A group of specialists from the Armenian Defense Ministry will leave for Rome next week for negotiations, after which the head of the Armed Forces General Staff will visit Italy.

Two Armenian peacekeeping platoons are expected to be sent to Lebanon this year.

Armenian Defense Chief Meets Protesting Karabagh war vets

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Armenian Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan received on Thursday members of the civil group dealing with issues of Karabagh war veterans.

A group of veterans began a sitting strike earlier this month demanding better social protection from the state. Many more joined them in writing a letter to the government demanding an essential rise in state pensions.

According to the Defense Ministry's press service, during the May 30 meeting, Ohanyan got familiarized with the protesting veterans' concerns and discussed their proposals. He also reportedly issued relevant instructions to military officials attending the meeting to address the concerns voiced by the veterans.

Retired Colonel Volodya Avetisyan, who has led the protests, expressed satisfaction with the results of their discussions with Ohanyan.

"We have raised the question of social security and pensions of freedom fighters and their families. The minister received us and we considered all the problems in an effective way. Seyran Ohanyan will raise the problems at relevant agencies. We are thankful for the reception," he said.

Retired Major Julietta Gevorgyan, who heads the Shushi-92 NGO that deals with problems of Karabagh war veterans, agreed.

"Seyran Ohanyan received us as a companion-in-arms. We have known him and a long time and are well aware of his principles," she said.

Ruling Party Cautious in Public Statements as Syunik Governor 'Temporarily' Resigns over Fatal Shooting

By Gohar Abrahamyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Representatives of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA) have been careful to avoid making any political or legal assessments of the weekend shooting in Syunik in which Governor Surik Khachatryan's son and bodyguards were involved.

Former mayoral candidate in Goris Avo Budaghyan was killed and his brother, Artak, a commander at one of Karabagh's military units, was seriously wounded in an apparent gunfight outside Khachatryan's house at around midnight on June 1. Khachatryan's bodyguard was also wounded in the incident. Khachatryan's son, Tigran, and another bodyguard of the governor were arrested over the incident.

Governor Khachatryan issued a public statement on Monday, saying that he regretted the incident, adding that until the end of the investigation, he would not be perform his functions as regional governor.

The case in the town of Goris gave rise to fresh debate in Armenia about unruly officials and the presence of 'oligarchs' in government.

In answer to media requests to comment on the situation, presidential spokesman Arman Saghatelian said: "The president has repeatedly stressed the indisputability of the principle of equality of all before the law, and today the president is confident that a full, impartial and comprehensive investigation will be ensured in this case and adequate legal assessments will be given to the activities of all persons that have any concern to it."

RPA parliamentary leader Galust Sahakyan told media that Khachatryan "carried out quite serious activities and qualitative assessments should not be made about him." But he added: "Those who commit a crime should be condemned. If someone did something good, it does not mean that he should be forgiven for a crime."

The governor of Syunik has figured in several scandals in Armenia in recent years. In 2011, he publicly slapped businesswoman Silva Hambartsumyan in the lobby of a Yerevan hotel, which raised questions about the violent conduct of officials in Armenia.

Khachatryan's name also figured in WikiLeaks revelations wherein a cable said that the Syunik governor in 2008 beat an 18-year-old man.

Earlier this year, Khachatryan was mentioned in the media in connection

with the scheme to lease vast alpine pastures of Syunik to Iranian sheep breeders, which elicited a strong public reaction.

Opposition Armenian National Congress party member Vahagn Khachatryan told ArmeniaNow that if we lived by other standards, there would be serious political consequences for any party with which an incident like the Goris shooting is associated with, but in Armenia, he said, no political implications are expected.

FM Nalbandian Meets with Kerry

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highest point" and that both sides shared a common vision to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

"We share the vision, same vision, that it is important to continue efforts to find, exclusively, a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, based on the principles and norms of international law, particularly the nonuse of force, self-determination, and territorial integrity," Nalbandian said.

Kerry met on June 3 with Nalbandian's Azerbaijani counterpart, Elmar Mammadyarov, where he cited a possible "path forward" on the conflict.

Kerry and Nalbandian were also to discuss economic ties and "strengthening democracy" in Armenia.

Armenian opposition leader Raffi Hovannisian was in Washington on June 3, where he said he urged the State Department to take a more active role in promoting Armenian democracy.

Before going into their meeting, Kerry told reporters that "Armenia today is an important partner with United States in a number of initiatives. Importantly, they're helping us in Afghanistan with ISAF, they've played a key role in Kosovo helping to keep peace there. And one of the most issues, obviously, that we all really want to try to see resolved one day is the frozen conflict of Nagorno-Karabagh. It is crit-

ical that all the parties – when I say all the parties, I mean, obviously, the Azerbaijanis, but also Turkey, Russia, Iran, others – try to find a way to help break the impasse that has kept this struggle alive and always potentially dangerous."

Nalbandian, in turn, thanked Kerry for his warm welcome. "Both countries have a good interaction in the international arena covering international regional security, proliferation, fight against terrorism, as you mentioned, peacekeeping operations from Kosovo to Afghanistan, other challenges, who are sharing a vision that it is important to continue efforts to find an exclusively peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict based on the principles and norms of international law, particularly non-use of force, excessive force, self-determination, territorial integrity."

He added that relations between Armenia and Turkey should be normalized without preconditions.

"During the last two decades since our independence, the United States has extended vital support for Armenia, and we are thankful for that," Nalbandian added.

He thanked President Obama and his administration for "a remarkable contribution to the strengthening of Armenian-American relations, which are today in their highest point."

Louisiana State Senate Recognizes Independence of Karabagh

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SR 151 was spearheaded by Louisiana state Sen. Edwin R. Murray (D-New Orleans), a distinguished member of the state legislature representing Louisiana's 4th Senate District, worked closely with ACA of Louisiana to ensure the resolution's passage. "Considering the amount of lobbying and threats conveyed by the Turkish and Azeri governments within the Louisiana State Senate against SR 151, its passage is a testament to the integrity of our State Legislators," said Louisiana ACA Chairman Vasken Kaltakdjian. "Hard work and perseverance for a just cause will always pay off, and I thank Senator Murray along with the other Legislatures for retaining their principles."

"We were glad to hear the news that the Louisiana State Senate has endorsed Artsakh's freedom and sovereignty," said Permanent Representative of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic to the United States Robert Avetisyan. "We are grateful to Senator Murray and everyone who supported and voted for the Resolution. Artsakh will continue to develop as a democratic nation, and support from American legislators reinforces our determination to aim further achievements based on our shared values of human rights and liberties."

The Louisiana State Legislature becomes the fourth state legislative body to recognize the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and ask the United States

Administration, along with Congress to support the self-determination and democratic independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic. Previous States to do so are Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine.

The full text of the resolution is provided below:

"Whereas, Nagorno Karabakh, also known as Artsakh, has historically been Armenian territory, populated by an overwhelming majority of Armenians, which was illegally severed from Armenia by the Soviet Union in 1921 and placed under the newly created Soviet Azerbaijani administration; and

Whereas, February 20, 1988, marked the beginning of the national liberation movement in Nagorno Karabakh, which inspired people throughout the Soviet Union to stand up against tyranny and for their rights and freedoms, helping to bring democracy to millions and contributing to world peace; and

Whereas, the United States Congress has repeatedly expressed support for the legitimate freedom aspirations of the people of Nagorno Karabakh; and WHEREAS, on September 2, 1991, the legislature of Nagorno Karabakh declared formation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic, in accordance with then acting legislation; and

Whereas, on December 10, 1991, the people of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic voted in favor of the independence, and on January 6, 1992, the

democratically elected legislature of the Republic formally declared independence; and

Whereas, since proclaiming independence, the Nagorno Karabakh Republic has registered significant progress in democracy building, which has been most recently demonstrated during the July 19, 2012, presidential elections that were assessed by international observers as free and transparent.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana hereby encourages and supports the Nagorno Karabakh Republic's continuing efforts to develop as a free and independent nation in order to guarantee its citizens those rights inherent in a free and independent society.

Be it further resolved that the president and Congress of the United States of America are hereby urged to support the self-determination and democratic independence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and its constructive involvement with the international community's efforts to reach a just and lasting solution to security issues in that strategically important region.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress."



INTERNATIONAL

Taksim Square Riots Rage on

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With Erdogan abroad and strikes and demonstrations still rumbling on after five days, Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc sought to assuage some of the anger at the government's initial hardline response to what began as a sit-in against plans to build on an Istanbul park.

"The excessive violence that was used in the first instance against those who were behaving with respect for the environment is wrong and unfair," Arinc told a news conference in the capital Ankara. "I apologize to those citizens."

"But," he added, "I don't think we owe an apology to those who have caused damage in the streets and tried to prevent people's freedom."

Arinc said he would meet some of the organizers of the original protest, campaigning against plans to build a replica Ottoman-era barracks on Istanbul's Gezi Park in Taksim Square. The protests started on May 28, when plans were unveiled to replace the park, one of Istanbul's smallest, with a reconstruction of the Taksim Military Barracks, which had been demolished in 1940.

It appeared too little too late to end what has become a national outpouring of anger at Erdogan's authoritarian style and Islamist inclinations, during which two have been killed and thousands injured, drawing alarm from Turkey's Western allies in NATO at his response to the worst riots in decades.

Shops were shuttered on a main avenue leading to Taksim Square, as thousands of demonstrators chanting anti-government slogans marched by for a fifth day. Barricades of rubble blocked other streets leading to the square and the acrid smell of tear gas hung in the air.

The protests have included a broad spectrum of people opposed to Erdogan, some accusing him of an Islamist agenda

which seeks to erode the secular foundations of the republic founded by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk 90 years ago, others opposed more broadly to what they say is his autocratic style.

Labor unions joined the demonstrations on Tuesday, adding to pressure on the government to acknowledge the grievances of a part of the population, even while it defends its actions as having the support of the majority who elected it.

"We are protesting the dictatorial nature of this government, which is against secular people," said one among more than a dozen lawyers dressed in formal black court robes, heading a procession of public sector workers.

"We are here to protect the legacy of Ataturk and the Turkish state, which is the state we work for."

Behind them, a group of actors from a state theatre carried banners showing an opera mask weeping a blood-red tear, flanked by union representatives in baseball caps and members of the Turkish communist party.

A 22-year-old member of the main opposition youth wing was killed after being hit in the head at a rally in the southern town of Antakya near the Syrian border late on Monday, the second death after a taxi hit a protester in Istanbul on Sunday.

A rally for the Antakya victim, whom medics said appeared to have been hit by a gas canister, was planned later in Ankara.

Four other people were in a critical condition, the Turkish Doctors' Association said, while around 3,000 had

suffered light injuries such as breathing difficulties or minor lacerations.

The ferocity of the crackdown, which involved dawn raids on Thursday and Friday by riot police on peaceful campaigners camped in the park, has shocked even Erdogan loyalists and drawn inter-

(REUTERS PHOTO)



Greek communists march in solidarity with Turkish protestors.

national condemnation.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said he was concerned by reports of excessive police force while Austrian Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger warned Turkey not to put its relationship with Europe through an "endurance test."

"A broader social discontent is finding expression in the demonstrations. The government should therefore take the concerns seriously and seek dialogue," Spindelegger told the Austrian newspaper Die Presse.

Turkey began formal accession negotiations with the European Union eight years ago but progress has been slow, partly due to concern over its record on human rights and freedom of speech.

The main public sector union federation, the leftist KESK, which represents 240,000 members, began a two-day warning strike on Tuesday while a second group, the Turkish Revolutionary Workers Union Confederation, said its members would also stage a walkout on Wednesday.

"These operations have drowned the country in gas bombs. The prime minister has become so thoughtless as to describe the millions who exercise their democratic rights ... as a 'handful of marginal looters,'" KESK said in a statement.

Erdogan has dismissed the protests as the work of secular enemies never reconciled to the election success of his AK Party, which has roots in Islamist parties banned in the past but which also embraces center-right and nationalist elements. The party has won three straight elections and overseen an economic boom, increasing Turkey's influence in the region.

Armenian civic activists issued a statement in support of the defenders of protestors.

"The recent news coming from Taksim Square, Istanbul, is worrying. We, Armenian civic activists, express our support and solidarity to all those activists fighting for human rights and democratization processes in Turkey. We condemn the use of force against peaceful demonstrators, which has resulted in deaths, dozens of injuries and the detention of hundreds. There is no alternative to democracy. Human rights have no borders. We call for the respect of the basic rights of citizens to hold peaceful demonstrations. We simultaneously demand that the issue be properly investigated by the Council of Europe and other international organizations. We are sure that our generation in Armenia, in Turkey, and in other countries will be able to build democratic societies which will endorse regional and global, dynamic and equal human development. We are for the human rights struggle," they said in their statement, according to Arminfo news website.

International News

Turkish MP: Turkey Is Willing to Ratify Protocols

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – Turkey is willing to ratify the Armenian-Turkish protocols, the head of the Turkish delegation to Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Nursuna Memecan, told journalists here.

She did not explain why Turkey has not ratified the protocols so far. She expressed her belief that the document will be returned to the Turkish Parliament.

Memecan said she believes that not only Armenian-Turkish but also that Armenian-Azeri relations would be normalized.

Jerusalem Patriarch Enthronement Takes Place

JERUSALEM – The enthronement ceremony of the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Nourhan Manoukian, took place at St. James Monastery on June 4.

With the blessing of Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, the ceremony will be attended by Archbishop Nathan Hovhannisyan, director of the Publishing Department of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin and Monastic Council Chairman, and Bishop Vahan Hovhanessian, Primate of the Armenian Church in Great Britain.

Artsakh President Meets Czech MPs

STEPANAKERT (PanARMENIAN.Net) – On June 4, Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakyan met with a group of Czech members of parliament.

The meeting focused on Artsakh-Czech relations, with special attention attached to inter-parliamentary ties.

Sahakyan expressed Artsakh's readiness to establish and develop relations with the Czech Republic, adding that it will benefit both states, the Central Information Department at President's Office reported.

Liverpool Soccer Team Targets Armenian Midfielder

LONDON (ArmeniaNow) – English Premier League soccer team Liverpool have identified Shakhtar Donetsk's Armenia international Henrikh Mkhitaryan as a leading transfer target for the summer and are not deterred by the \$33.5 million price tag on one of the most coveted players in European football, writes *The Guardian*.

The club has registered its interest in the Armenia international, who scored a record 25 goals in the Ukrainian Premier League last season despite operating as an attacking midfielder.

Mkhitaryan put Europe's leading clubs on alert following Shakhtar's elimination from the Champions League by admitting he wanted to play for "one of the strongest clubs in the world", and the 24-year-old was subsequently linked with Barcelona, Chelsea and Manchester City.

Liverpool, however, tracked the midfielder throughout last season and believe Mkhitaryan would consider a move to Anfield despite the lack of European football currently on offer and rival interest, according to the British paper.

The Guardian says: "Armenia's three-time player of the year was a priority signing for the Liverpool manager, Brendan Rodgers, before Luis Suárez began pushing for the move that could transform the club's transfer strategy and budget. Fenway Sports Group, Liverpool's owners, are prepared to sanction a big money move for Mkhitaryan without a deal in place for Suarez, with both Real and Atletico Madrid interested in the Uruguayan international, although uncertainty over other Anfield players is a complication at present."

European Parliament Hosts Conference On Armenian Genocide

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and Democracy (EAFJD), thanked the MEPs and the European Parliament for hosting the conference. Karampetian pointed out that first of all, "Armenia and Turkey are neighbors and they have to live together. This is the reality which should be faced. Therefore, to recognize the Armenian Genocide and assume its responsibilities will be the only possible way for Turkey to build a bridge for reconciliation and to insure a peaceful life in the future."

Valerie Boyer, Member of the French Parliament from Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) spoke about the bill presented by her in the National Assembly of France in 2011 to penalize the denial of the Armenian Genocide. The bill was adopted by the Parliament and the Senate of France, but has been rejected by the Constitutional Council. Boyer shared her own deception, but also her "readiness to continue to insist for penalization of the Armenian Genocide denial in the French law."

"Me and my family, we have been victims of threats; we needed to be under police protection when the bill was adopted by the National Assembly and the Senate. But this situation shows once more the importance of the question of penalization of the Armenian Genocide denial. I submitted two new proposals for law and I am also insisting for the establishment of Investigation Committee, which will analyze the role of third countries for the rejection of the bill in France," Boyer said.

Boyer was also shocked by the fact that the French public disagreed with the proposal for the penalization law

and she underlined the role of the French media for not covering the issue.

Sevag Torossian, a member of the Association of Armenian lawyers and jurists (France), analyzed the legal aspects of the proposal for a law penalizing the Armenian Genocide denial. Torossian stressed the fact that by definition, the denial of genocide is part of the crime: "The mistake in France was made already in the beginning of 1990s, when the genocide denial was connected to the laws on freedom of expression and freedom of the press. As all the historians know, the denial of the genocide is part of the genocide crime and this should be reflected in our laws. When you are a murder, you have to be punished," concluded Torossian.

Prof. Bernard Coulie, honorary rector of UCL (Louvain-La-Neuve) and professor of Armenian, Georgian and Byzantine Studies, spoke as a "historian, who doesn't offer political solutions, but brings elements for reflection and better understanding."

Coulie described the three main characteristics of all genocides: "Particular ideology, feeling of humiliation and need for revenge and suitable context to act, which happens most often in a war situation. All these three elements were present in the Ottoman Empire at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century."

Coulie said "the strength of those who demand recognition of the Armenian Genocide shows that the descendants of the survivors haven't forgotten anything. The strength of those who deny the genocide show that the executioners haven't forgot anything either."



Community News

Prof. Richard Hovannisian Receives UCLA Teaching Honors

LOS ANGELES — On May 23, Professor Richard Hovannisian was named the recipient of the UCLA Eugen Weber Honors Program Distinguished Teaching Award for his years of service to the honors division. He has been singled out for his motivational teaching, especially of the Honors Comparative Genocide colloquium, which has steadily won the praise of students, who attest that the course has deeply influenced them to strive for human rights and the prevention of the crime of genocide.

The Rose Gilbert Honors Spring Tea was opened by Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Patricia A. Turner, who spoke of the excellence of teaching and student scholarship at UCLA. Assistant Vice Provost for Honors, G. Jennifer Wilson, then lauded Hovannisian for his inspirational work, reading three examples of the student evaluations that described the instructor and the course in superlative terms. She invited Hovannisian to the podium to receive his award.

In thanking the Honors Program, the professor reflected on the role of the late UCLA Dean



Prof. Richard Hovannisian with Vice Provost Patricia Turner (Courtesy of Beverly Yanuaria)

of Social Sciences Eugen Weber, a world renowned historian of Western Civilization, and of Rose Gilbert, an outstanding teacher of English at Palisades High School, where she helped develop the writing skills of Raffi, Armen and Ani Hovannisian and then to the next generation through Raffi's son, Garin. Rose Gilbert, who was present at the awards ceremony and continued to teach into her 90s, is a major benefactor of the scholarship programs at UCLA.

Although Richard Hovannisian is now an emeritus faculty member at UCLA, he is recalled annually to interact with bright, motivated students in the comparative study of genocide, with the Armenian Genocide being one of the major subjects.

Mass. Realtor Chairs Awards Ceremony in NYC

NEW YORK — Rob Nahigian, counselor of real estate (CRE) of Auburndale Realty Co. Newton, Mass., was appointed earlier in the year as the 2013 chair of the "James Felt Creative Counseling Award" for the Counselors of Real Estate.

The committee reviews submissions from fellow CRE's who believe that they have worked on a real estate consulting project that is of the highest achievement and uniqueness of any counseling assignment in the US. James Felt was a prominent real estate pioneer, former Chairman of the New York City Planning Commission and a trustee of many well-known

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Mark Geragos and Michael Jackson in 2004

Getting Justice The Geragos Way

LOS ANGELES — Mark Geragos commands attention. Whether it is in front of TV cameras or St. James Armenian Church Men's Club in Watertown, he is able to connect with people. It is almost enough to make one feel sorry for his opponents in court, in front of juries.

By Alin K. Gregorian

Mirror-Spectator Staff

Geragos, who heads Geragos & Geragos, a large law firm in Los Angeles, has just released a book, *Mistrial: An Inside Look at How the Criminal Justice System Works ...*

and Sometimes Doesn't, with his law partner Pat Harris.

In the book, which is written in such a way that lay people would understand, through anecdotes, Geragos makes suggestions for changes to the US legal system. Some of his suggestions are appointing judges, rather than electing them, and allowing them a bigger role in plea bargaining.

Another suggestion is to change the sentencing for non-violent drug offenders serving sentences that often surpass those of people convicted of second-degree murder or sexual assault. He and Harris suggest that Congress needs to address the issue of alternative sentencing for drug addicts, as well as the mentally ill.

Most people seem to know Geragos for the very famous clients he represents, as well as his proud assertion of his Armenian heritage and work on behalf of Armenian Genocide descendants. Among those famous clients have been Michael Jackson, Chris Brown, Winona Ryder and Mike Tyson.

While the famous clients can pay well, doing the work is that much harder when there is a media circus, he said. "The media attention compounds the representation. Having to deal with that magnifies the defense and makes it quite a bit more time intensive," he noted.

Still, when asked how he accepts cases, he said something about the client has to appeal to him, even if the client does not have universal appeal.

Some, such as Scott Peterson, convicted of first-degree murder, have been vilified in the media. "I think it is unethical to not take a client just because they may be toxic to the public," Geragos said.

One case that he accepted about a year ago and meant a lot to him involved an older veteran going up against an insurance company regarding a policy on his house. "The guy was a 90-year-old WWII veteran and the insurance company was just trying to screw him out of \$24,000 and I felt like they needed to be tried and have the jury teach them a lesson. Luckily, the verdict came back to hit them with

see GERAGOS, page 5

Milestones At AGBU Manoogian School in Michigan

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. — Successes at the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Alex and Marie Manoogian School have been recorded by the oldest to the youngest students. The graduating class of 2013 is an outstanding group of thirty students. They have earned four-year college scholarships totaling more than \$1.6 million. Six of the graduates — one fifth of the class — have applied for admission to the prestigious University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and all six have been accepted with scholarships. Three of the graduates have achieved the highest ACT scores in the history of the school (99 percentile in the country).

The school has a graduation rate of nearly 100 percent.

The latest achievement is that, for the second consecutive year, US News and World Report has awarded a bronze designation to the high school, ranking it among the top 22 percent of the nation's public high schools. High School Principal Dr. Hovsep Torossian, faculty and students should be lauded.

Meanwhile, the State of Michigan Department of Pre-School Licensing made its bi-annual visit to the Manoogian School. The licensing agent was impressed with the school, particularly with the faculty and their professional demeanor, and with the curriculum in the pre-school. After a thorough review of the school files and state reports, Manoogian was found to have no citations and to be 100 percent in compliance with state rules, resulting in an extension of state licensing for another two years. The licensing agent commented that Manoogian is one of the best schools because it has withstood a stringent accreditation process and has been rewarded with national accreditation (NAEYC). Pre-School, Elementary and Middle School Principal Dyana Kezelian offered her congratulations to the pre-school faculty for their dedication to excellence.

These accomplishments were followed by an internal and external review of the entire school. Five external evaluators from the AdvancEd team conducted a meticulous examination of all aspects of the school, interviewing members of the Board of Education, the administration, parents, faculty, and student body. Besides a few suggestions for school improvement, the evaluators praised the great diversity and cohesive nature of the Manoogian School, which is now on track to receive another five-year accreditation.

For the past 44 years, the school has educated two generations of Armenian and non-Armenian students in a safe, nurturing, and dignified learning environment, utilizing its unique partnership with the community to preserve the Armenian language, culture and heritage. Graduates of the school have gone on to distinguished careers. The school encourages independent and divergent thinking through educational methods and technology that keep pace with the changing demands of society.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation Raises \$60K for Humanitarian Outreach

EAGLE ROCK, Calif. — On May 2, the Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation (ALCF) organized its second annual “Springtime Event” fundraiser at Kevork Andonian Hall. The event was held to raise money for the organization’s operating expenses. More than \$60,000 was collected in donations and pledges. These contributions will support the ALCF’s two core programs: Mayradoon (Shelter for Mothers) and Husi Jerag (Light of Hope).

foundation, answered questions, and presented videos about the core programs. Aline Andonian, a supporter of the ALCF who visited the Mayradoon facility for 12 days in 2013, presented an emotional testimonial about working, eating, teaching and living with the women and children in the shelter. Robert Gosdanian served at the master of ceremonies for the event.

ALCF founder Seta Ghazarian stated, “Our foundation is making an enormous difference in



ALCF Founder Seta Ghazarian (left) and ALCF Director Naira Muradyan (right) at a fundraising event.

The special guest of honor and keynote speaker was Naira Muradyan, director of the Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation’s office in Ptghunk, Armenia. Muradyan offered a first-hand account of the daily operations of the

Armenia. The ALCF is a beacon of hope, providing shelter and vital training to victims of domestic violence and abuse. We teach important parenting skills as well as job training. On top of all this, we also provide dental, gynecological and psychological services free of charge to all our residents. Our doors are open to anyone visiting Armenia; we are on the way to Echmiadzin. Come to our facility and see what we are doing to foster strong Armenian families and restore dignity to the oppressed.”



From left, Naira Muradyan, ALCF director, Clare Bedrossian, Arax Davidian, event hostess, and Tahlene Gourdikian.

logical and psychological services free of charge to all our residents. Our doors are open to anyone visiting Armenia; we are on the way to Echmiadzin. Come to our facility and see what we are doing to foster strong Armenian families and restore dignity to the oppressed.”

Mayradoon is a shelter for battered and abused women and their babies. The ALCF houses, loves, protects, and guides its residents for up to two years. The women are taught the basics of good parenting, child nurturing and hygiene for the entire family. All of their medical expenses are covered, and they receive specialized vocational training in sewing, computers, beauty services and culinary arts.

Husi Jerag is an outreach program which

offers desperately needed services to local, underserved communities including vocational training, psychological counseling and therapy, sewing and cooking classes, women’s health services, feeding the poor and elderly, supporting a local kindergarten, weekly Bible study, family sponsorships, and donations of essential goods to the needy in Armenia and Artsakh.

Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public benefit corporation registered in the State of California and Republic of Armenia. Donations are needed to advance this vital humanitarian work. Contributions to ALCF can be mailed to: P.O. Box 3595, Seal Beach, CA 90740. For information, visit www.armenianlighthouse.org.

Getting Justice the Geragos Way

GERAGOS, from page 4

\$8 million in total, \$7.5 million of which were punitive damages. And to think they could’ve settled the whole thing for \$24,000!”

Being a lawyer came naturally to him, as it was a family profession. “I loved my father — he is my hero. I used to follow him around. I watched him in court when he was a prosecu-

tor and though I considered going to divinity school — I was talked out of it by the then-archbishop — he thought I could do more good as a lawyer,” said Geragos in an interview.

Geragos was a well-respected lawyer, but no more famous than other lawyers, until the case of Susan McDougal, the then-fiancée of his current law partner, Harris. “I think the trajectory took off when I represented Susan McDougal in the 1990s. That was a watershed turning point for me,” he said. McDougal had been one of the people entangled in the White Water case, along with Bill and Hilary Clinton previously, and thus a focus of a federal probe. The case which brought her to Geragos involved her employer

accusing her of embezzlement after McDougal’s move to Los Angeles. Geragos was able to clear her of all charges.

(Harris did not end up marrying McDougal. “I’ve got custody of Pat Harris and he is married to a wonderful woman named Carol Welsman, who is an internationally-known jazz singer,” Geragos joked.)

It is not only wealthy clients that can enlist the services of Geragos. He said that at any given time, his firm handles 10-12 pro bono cases.

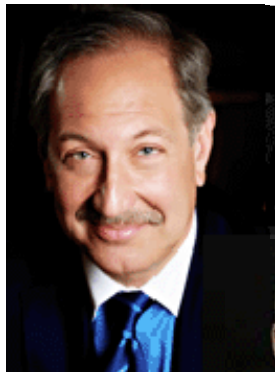
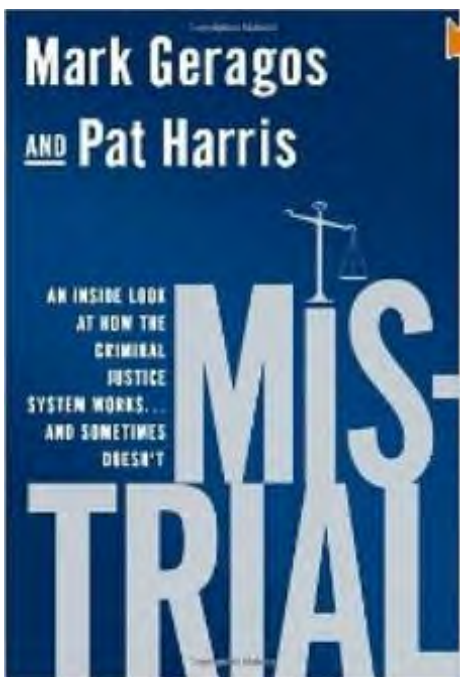
Geragos has been rightly lionized in the Armenian community for his vociferous defense of Armenians not only in TV studios, but in courts. He and his firm were able to secure a \$17 million win in 2005 against the French insurance giant, Axa. They had accused the company of benefiting from the deaths of Armenian policy holders during the Armenian Genocide.

“The Genocide litigation has been extremely personally satisfying to me and has certainly highlighted my career,” he noted.

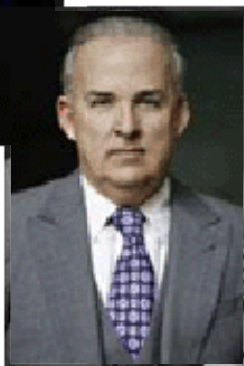
More recently, Geragos, on Anderson Cooper’s CNN show, defended the community against the repeated accusations of Ruslan Tsarni, the uncle of alleged Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

“I think it’s humbling any time people tell me that [I make them proud]. Anytime I see an Armenian in the media or an Armenian accomplishing something, there is a certain pride I feel to be an Armenian as well,” he added.

Geragos said that he sees a shift in attitudes



Mark Geragos and Pat Harris



Mark Geragos

towards lawyers, one in which defense attorneys are treated more harshly. “I think there’s been a definite change in the attitudes towards criminal defense lawyers over time. When I was growing up, you could read books like *To Kill a Mockingbird* and they were about noble defenders of the underdog. Now, not so much,” he said.

In the book, he refers to Nancy Grace, the former prosecutor and current TV host, who can target a defendant stridently before all the evidence is in.

“She has a following and her followers respect that kind of lawyer, and I think that has an impact on the people who watch her and subsequently think that’s the way you should approach a criminal,” Geragos explained.

One case in the book that he says drove Grace and other programs similar to her was that of Peterson, the California man convicted of murdering his wife, Laci, and their unborn child. In the book, Geragos laments that so many untruths were circulated regarding Scott Peterson, who is currently on death row.

Mistrial is available from Amazon and all major book retailers. For more information on his law firm, visit www.geragos.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

CSUF Faculty, Staff Selected for Irvine New Leadership Network

By Lindsey Burgess

FRESNO (Fresnostatenews.com) — Dr. Matthew Jendian, Dr. Mark Keppler and Caty Perez from California State University, Fresno have been selected for membership in the first cohort of the James Irvine Foundation New Leadership Network.

The network is a new program that brings together 12 diverse San Joaquin Valley leaders across issues, sectors and generations. The



From left, Dr. Mark Keppler, Caty Perez and Dr. Matthew Jendian

Action Award from Temple Beth Israel and the Amigo Award from Vida en El Valle.

Jendian received his BA in Sociology and minor degrees in Psychology and Armenian Studies from Fresno State and his PhD from the University of Southern California.

Mark Keppler is the executive director of the Maddy Institute for Public Affairs, a non-partisan public policy institute housed at Fresno State. He also teaches in the university's Craig School of Business. He earned his BS in Business, with a minor in Economics, from the State University of New York, as well as an MS in Industrial Relations and a law degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Keppler is a mediator for the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and a labor-management arbitrator for the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. He is the founder and chairman of the Clovis Community Foundation, as well as the founder and chairman of the Coalition for Community Trails, which merged with Tree Fresno

in 2005.

Caty Perez serves as a director of development at Fresno State. She spent 12 years working for the Craig School of Business and now supports the Lyles College of Engineering, College of Science and Math and College of Social Science. She works on major gifts, planned gifts and volunteer leadership.

Perez is a charter member and past president of River Park Rotary, where she has twice-received the Service Above Self award. She was named the 2004 Woman of the Year by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, named in the inaugural class of the "Top 40 Under 40" and served as a member of Leadership Fresno Class XIX.

She has a BA in Applied Mathematics and minor in Business Leadership from Fresno Pacific University and MA in Education Leadership from Fresno State.

group will learn, collaborate and build relationships with one another to contribute to a better future for the Valley.

Foundation officials say the program differs from other leadership programs in two ways. First, it will include a unique mix of individuals, who are brought together across traditional divides and second, it will share innovative leadership and social change approaches to help create an enduring network of leaders committed to improving the Valley for decades to come.

Matthew Ari Jendian is founding director of Fresno State's Humanics Program in Community Benefit Administration and serves as a professor and chair of the Department of Sociology.

He is the recipient of the 2012 President's Award of Excellence presented by the University Advisory Board at Fresno State, the Provost's Award for Faculty Service, the Social

OBITUARY

Joseph Israel Zokian

FORT LEE, N.J. — Joseph Israel Zokian died on May 17. He was born in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 8, 1934, the first son of Israel and Vartouhie Zokian. While he and his siblings were little, the Zokian family moved to Beirut, where his father opened a pharmacy.

After receiving his primary education in Beirut, he enrolled in college studying electronics in Los Angeles. He was called back to Lebanon due to the deteriorating health of his father. Using the knowledge and education that he had gained in the US, he opened a successful television and electronics import company, working closely with Magnavox Electronics.

In February 1973, he married Marie Mekhsian at Saint Gregory Cathedral in Anteillas, Lebanon. They settled in Nahkash and had two children Hratch and Talar. Because of the Lebanese civil war, the Zokians made the hard decision to move the family to New Jersey in 1979.

Using his experience in international import and export, he worked for the Bank of America as an international trade specialist until his retirement.

Joseph Zokian was a loving father and husband. He did everything to make his family happy and comfortable even while his health was failing.

He is survived by his wife, Marie; children, Hratch and Talar; sister Shaké Zokian Artinian; and brothers Garo and Ghazi Zokian. One sister, Martiza Zokian Shahinian, predeceased him.

His funeral was held on May 20, at St. Thomas Armenian Church. In lieu of flowers,



Joseph Israel Zokian

memorial donations can be made to the Tekeyan Cultural Association.

(The staff members of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* express their condolence to the Zokian family, who have long supported the paper and the TCA.)

ASA Students Visit Cutting-Edge MIT Laboratory

LEXINGTON, Mass. — The fifth-grade students from the Armenian Sisters' Academy (ASA) made their annual trip to the Plasma Sciences and Fusion Center (PSFC) (www.psfc.mit.edu) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on May 14.

As in past years, the school's science teacher, Jayanthi Rangan, was invited to bring her students to participate in the annual open house held by the center. Most participating students represented middle schools in the Boston-area. The ASA students were the only elementary-age participants.

The PSFC is one of only three centers in the United States working on cutting edge research related to the future of fusion energy. As part of its community outreach efforts, once a year the center opens its laboratories and asks its scientists to teach Massachusetts students about the work of the center.

"My favorite activity was seeing the Tokomac machine where fusion happens. It is a donut shaped machine inside which the plasma circulates without touching the walls of the machines," stated ASA fifth grader, Nicole Topanian.

While there, the students not only tour the facilities and laboratories of the PSFC center, but they also participate in hands-on physics-related workshops led by resident scientists.

"At MIT we saw a lot of fun experiments. My favorite was when I did one of the experiments. I got a flower and put it in liquid nitrogen. When I took it out it was hard and brittle. It was frozen solid," reported Adriana Minasian.

This visit to MIT is a component of the STEM program which underlies the science



Fifth Graders from Armenian Sisters' Academy — Karina Hananian, Julia Pioli, Adriana Minasian, Nicole Topanian, Crystal Yapoudjian, Aleen Karakouzian — visit MIT's PSFC Laboratory.

curriculum at the ASA. For many years the school has followed the elementary school engineering and science program developed by MIT and shared with teachers and schools.

The Armenian Sisters' Academy is located at 20 Pelham Road. The school offers nursery through middle school programs. Enrollment for the 2013-2014 academic year is currently open. For more information, visit, www.asalexington.org.

Giragosian

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Paying Tribute to Man behind Hye Hop, Ott Kazanjian

WYNNWOOD, Penn. — On April 6, almost 47 years after Arik (Ott) Kazanjian held the first Hye Hop at St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church, in September 1966, over 300 Philadelphia Armenians celebrated Ott's many accomplishments in bringing Armenian youth together.

In 1961, 32-year-old Ott Kazanjian started the first Armenian Boy Scout troop, Troop 454,



Arik "Ott" Kazanjian

with his friends, Simon Koumjian and Al Torcomian, which grew to more than 75 scouts over the next 10 years. In September 1966, he held the first of 14 Hye Hops at the Church for the "younger generation." From the 1970s through the 1990s, he organized Ott's Ski Club and outfitted, taught and drove more than 50 Armenian children to nearby Doe Mountain for years of skiing and camaraderie. If a family couldn't afford for their child to join, he paid for them.



Ott Kazanjian (3rd from left) with three of his former scouts: Michael Kazanjian, Grant Mazmanian, and Steve Barsamian.

Kazanjian's scouts, Hye Hoppers and skiers are now parents and grandparents and celebrated all that Ott Kazanjian has done for them and their community. The 2013 Hye Hop Committee, co-chaired by Steve Barsamian and Robin Kazanjian Williams, and composed of Mark Gulasarian, Mike Hajatian, Carol Jerrahian Miller, Jimmy Kazanjian, Lisa Gaudio Kazanjian, Lisa Kazanjian, Rich Keshgegian, Linda Vosbikian and Nanette Zakian organized what many called the party of the year. The event was attended by all ages – seniors to young children who danced all night.

Tributes to

Kazanjian were made by his first scout, Steve Barsamian, his first Hye Hopper Linda Vosbikian, and his first skier, Lori Keshgegian Sarkisian, followed by a moving and commen-

tary by Kazanjian himself.

Music was provided by the Steve Vosbikian Ensemble, whose first band job in 1966 was at the first Hye Hop. DJ Rick Mukalian was the first DJ in 1966 and now, with his son, Rick, Jr., provided the music and the tunes of the 1960s. Ott Kazanjian, at 84, danced with them all! Juliet Degirmenci and the Women's Guild had everyone in line for their food. A video of the scouts, skiers and dancers was shown on the stage throughout the evening.

The evening's sponsors were Steve Barsamian, Rich Melikian, Robin and Jerry Williams, Steve and Linda Vosbikian, Grant and Lucille Mazmanian, David and Nadine Hoplamazian, Bob and Nanette Zakian, Stephen Kazanjian and Jock Agorastos, John and Laura and Tom and Fran Torcomian in honor of Al Torcomian, Vaughn and Adrineh Hoplamazian, Laraine and Bruce Ballard, Florence Kazanjian, Mark and Jeanne Ellen Gulasarian, Harry and Veronica Hoplamazian, Michael Kazanjian and Michael and Celeste Ayjian.

This was the first Hye Hop reunion in almost 30 years and the committee plans to hold many more.

— Steve Barsamian



Co-chairs, Steve Barsamian and Robin Kazanjian Williams

Mass. Realtor Chairs Awards Ceremony in NYC

NAHIGIAN, from page 4

corporate and philanthropic boards. Felt was known for his strong sense of integrity and client accountability in his creative counseling techniques to resolve complex real estate problems. Nahigian had been honored to have received this award in 2009 and was responsible with his committee to select a recipient for 2013.

The National CRE Conference was held in NYC at The Waldorf-Astoria from April 28-30, 2013. On April 30, Nahigian, as Selection Committee Chair announced at the "Members Luncheon" with over 200 attendees that the recipient of its 2013 James Felt Creative Counseling Award was presented to Steve



Rob Nahigian, left, with James Friedman

Friedman, CRE of Chicago for the most outstanding achievement and ingenuity counseling project for the CREs nationally.

Friedman's project was a counseling assignment on the Bredemann/Reservoir Area development in Park Ridge, Ill., that totaled \$120 million of a blighted area into 189 residences, 70,000 sf of retail and 650 cars. The project took over 10 years to complete and was formerly underutilized two car dealerships.

Established in 1992, the James Felt Creative Counseling Award recognizes the most innovative and creative counseling on complex real estate issues in an ethical, objective and expert manner. Rob congratulated Steve for his creativity, commitment and expertise, all contributing to the resolution of the city's transformative project. The Counselors of Real Estate is an affiliate of the National Association of Realtors and the most elite real estate advisors in the U.S. are accepted by invitation only.

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New York
METRO

Camp Nubar at 50 Gets Ready to Get Campers from All Over the World

NEW YORK – Camp Nubar is gearing up to welcome young Armenians from all over the world for unforgettable days of friendship and fun in a very special year: Camp Nubar turns 50, and has a lot to celebrate and evoke, as well as to look forward, with an anniversary gala in the heart of New York, followed two days later by the annual Open House.

Ranked among the top private camps in North America with state-of-the-art facilities, on July 28, Camp Nubar will open for six weeks its 365 acres of forest and the private, spring-fed Lake Arax that the ground encompasses to campers from the US, Canada and elsewhere. In addition to traditional activities including hiking, horseback riding, swimming, boating and fishing, longstanding programs include dance as well as arts and crafts, with visiting instructors from Yerevan, sports, Armenian language classes and the traditional Color War. All of this has made Camp Nubar a second home for youth from across North America and beyond.

Last year, Camp Nubar welcomed campers from Armenia, France, Germany and Turkey. They are just among some of the many hundreds who are coming down to another summer of magic. More importantly, they forge bonds that last a lifetime and connect to their heritage in a spectacular setting amid the Catskill Mountains.

For the little ones, the Camp Nubar Family also welcomes the soon-to-be campers. If your child is too young for camp, there is Nubar Kids for children ages 1-8. To register for summer camp, visit www.campnubar.org.

Two generations of Camp Nubar families have more to look forward to in the coming



Horseback riding at Camp Nubar

months: on Friday, July 26, the 50th anniversary celebration will take place at Guastavino’s restaurant in New York City. Tickets are on sale

now. On July 28, Camp Nubar will hold its annual Open House and honor the five-decade anniversary.

To buy tickets for the anniversary gala and further information on the events, visit www.campnubar.org/nubar/events-2013/

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New York METRO

Ellis Island Medal Winner Has Dedicated Herself to Community and the Arts

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

NEW YORK — American-Armenian public activist, fundraiser, and an avid contemporary art collector Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian is called everyone's ideal volunteer. Her motto is "There is no 'can't' in my dictionary. If I believe in something, consider it done." She firmly believes that one has to work hard, dare, achieve and give back to the community, thus her life's journey has been to enrich and enhance all that she undertakes. Her endeavors span the spheres of cultural heritage, education, religion, politics and art. Hovanessian has achieved all these with equal dedication. Nevertheless, she remains steadfast in her humility and actively pursues her next great challenge.

Her last achievement was being selected as a 2013 recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which is being presented annually to American citizens who have distinguished themselves within their own ethnic groups while exemplifying the values of the American way of life. Past medalists include U.S. presidents, Nobel Prize winners, and distinguished leaders of industry, education, the arts, sports, and government, as well as everyday Americans who have made freedom, liberty and compassion a part of their life's work. Medal winners dedicate their lives to helping others, and preserve and celebrate the history, traditions, and values of their ancestry group while proving themselves valuable citizens of the United States. So, those criteria more than match Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian, who took this medal along with eight other Armenian-Americans on May 11, on historic Ellis Island during a weekend-long celebration.

Victoria (Vicki) Shoghag Hovanessian's name is well-known in the Armenian circles of East/West Coast of US as well as among artistic circles of Armenia especially as the former director of Vicki Hovanessian Contemporary Art, a passionate contemporary art patron, collector, independent curator and art advisor.

Her roots go to the historical Armenian city of Marash. Born in Beirut, daughter of Lebanese-Armenian intellectual and author Sissag H. Varjabedian, Vicki Shoghag attended the Armenian Evangelical College and the Beirut College for Women. In 1965, she moved with her husband, Dr. Raffy Hovanessian, to the United States, where she received a B.A. degree in management and business from the National-Louis University in Chicago. She also took advanced courses in contemporary art in the Art Institute of Chicago as well as Sotheby's Educational Institute.

She began her volunteer activities with the Armenian General Benevolent Union, holding several offices in the AGBU and being one of the four Vice Presidents of the organization (1985-1989) and spear-headed a successful fundraiser, raising \$150,000 in 1987 for the AGBU National. When she became involved with the Chicago AGBU chapter, Hovanessian discovered that it could essentially be more active. During her tenure as Fund Raising chairman and later President of the Chicago Chapter, Hovanessian raised \$1,000,000 with the help of some established elders of the community who were stunned at the magical success of the fund raising activities which none had envisioned could happen in this chapter. The funds were used to purchase and renovate a building that became the AGBU Onnig M. Norehad Center. It included the AGBU Sissag H. Varjabedian Saturday Armenian School, opened in 1987.

This was one of Hovanessian's cornerstone of success: she had been the catalyst to establish the only AGBU Center in the United States that was fully purchased (without mortgage or debt) with locally raised funds. Moreover, an Endowment Fund of \$400,000 donated by the Nazareth Barsoumian estate was established to provide for the building's capital expenditures. Thus, it became the only AGBU Center built by local Chicago fundraisings and endowed by its own endowment fund to maintain the building without being a burden on the AGBU Central Committee.

The 1988 earthquake in Armenia galvanized Hovanessian into action. In a speech which was quoted in the Newsweek Magazine, December 19, 1988, she said, "We are so few in numbers that each and every person is our relative. I feel as if I lost 100,000 relatives." Through the AGBU, she headed an area-wide committee to raise relief funds which totaled \$1.3 million. On April 24, 1991, she was honored with a citation for heading the fundraising of \$1.3 million



Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian

for Armenian earthquake relief by Congressman Peter Visclosky in the annals of the Congressional Records.

During the "Operation Winter Rescue" efforts in 1993, Hovanessian as the chairman of the chapter received a fax from the chairman of the organization, Louise Manoogian Simone. It stated that the people of Armenia were facing some of the most difficult days in their history. Immediately, with her dynamic committee the chapter raised over \$2,000,000. The shipment totaled 3,256,000 pounds and was forwarded to Armenia gratis through the US government and the Fund for Democracy and Development.

In 1985, at the General Convention of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), she was recognized with the "Volunteer of the Year Award," and in 1989, Congressman William Lipinski through the Illinois Democratic Council on Ethnic Americans honored her with one of its 12 annual "Heritage Award." In 1995, the Hovanessians raised \$1 million for St. Nersess Seminary in New Rochelle, which trains American-born Armenians to serve the church. Hovanessian considers that project one of her most difficult challenges to date since she resided in the Midwest and St. Nersess was located in the East and it was not an attractive project to undertake then.

In 1983, the Hovanessians were decorated with the Medal of Knights of Cilicia by Catholicos Karekin II for their benevolence and diverse services to the Catholicosate of Antelias. They received a second medal of St. Gregory the Illuminator in 1998 from the late His Holiness Karekin I, Supreme Head of All Armenians, one of a handful of couples who have received such awards from both divisions of the Armenian Church.

Art has been an integral part of the Hovanessians' life and both are keenly devoted collectors of contemporary art. Since 1995, Hovanessian turned her gift for making things happen toward helping introduce talented Armenian artists to the international art scene, thus regularly curating exhibitions in Armenia and the United States. To celebrate twenty contemporary Armenian artists, Hovanessian organized an art show entitled "Dreams and Visions," under the auspices of the Fund for Armenia Relief (FAR) on April 30, 1997 in Chicago. The works on display symbolized the aspirations of the people of Armenia as envisioned by the artists. On April 29, 1997, they were given homage as

'leaders in private humanitarian efforts' by a Congressional citation praising Vicki's organization of "Dreams and Vision," by Congressman Peter Visclosky. To commemorate the Centennial of the Establishment of the Armenian Diocese in North America, Hovanessian organized an exhibition in the Midwest. "Windows to Armenia: Armenian Art Today" exhibition in 1998. In 2001 she curated a momentous exhibition titled "Beyond Icons" at the Yerevan State Museum in Yerevan, Armenia. One of her early efforts was to help the project of the Armenian Pavilion at the XLVI Art Biennale of Venice succeed.

In July 2008 Hovanessian curated "Art @ the Cathedral: Giving Form to Faith," an exhibition marking the 40th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in Manhattan, New York. On this occasion, Arshile Gorky's most famous painting, "The Artist and His Mother," was lent to the exhibition by the Whitney Museum of American Art on a date that uncannily coincided with the 60th anniversary of Gorky's death. Thus, Gorky's historical painting entered St. Vartan Cathedral's exhibition space to accompany the works of emerging, mid-career and established Armenian artists.

In 2010, Hovanessian received the Gold Medal of Mkhitar Heratsi from Yerevan State Medical University for curating an exhibition titled "Optimizm: Armenian New Art," which was dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the University in Yerevan, Armenia. In 2011 she was asked to curate an exhibition "Constitution and Art" to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the Constitutional Court by the Chief Justice of the country Mr. Gagik Harutyunyan, presenting works of French-Armenian master Jean Carzou and Armenian veteran artist Hakob Hakobyan, as well as presenting Contemporary Artists of middle and new generations. In 2012 she organized an exhibition entitled "Fractured History, Reconstructing Identity: Degrees of Westernization in Armenian Paintings and Other Mediums," presenting works by 22 Armenian artists held at Bergen Community College in Paramus, New Jersey. It commemorates the 97th Anniversary of the Armenian

Genocide and is a testimony to the strong will of Armenian culture that has survived the horrors of World War I.

Hovanessian is the first woman who had the foresight to introduce and promote the contemporary artists of Armenia through exhibitions in the Diaspora. Her main goal was to promote the artists in the Diaspora, and thereby help to keep the artists in their homeland. What makes Hovanessian different from other Armenian Diaspora activists, she sees one of her missions to immortalize a less known but quite worthy field of Armenian reality - Contemporary Art. Vicki Hovanessian always made efforts making the Armenian contemporary art known and acceptable first in its own country, then - internationally, fostering the artists from Armenia to travel and participate in international events, but always come back and continue working in their native country...

Scholarship Now Available for Graduate Study in Food Science And Nutrition

NEW YORK — The New York Community Trust, in conjunction with its H. Tabakoglu Scholarship Fund, has announced the formation of the Adrina C. Kayaian Graduate Scholarship Award Program.

The program is named for Adrina Casparian Kayaian, who graduated from Cornell University in 1947 and went on to have a distinguished career as assistant food editor for the Ladies Home Journal magazine.

In order to be considered for this award, which grants up to \$5,000 per academic year, the student must be of Armenian descent; be enrolled in graduate studies in the related fields of nutrition, food science and/or research; have a good grade point average and demonstrate active involvement in their local Armenian community.

For applications and further information, contact Anne Nally, Grants Administrator, The New York Community Trust, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022, or write to amn@nyct-cfi.org.



Arts & Living

Composer Boyadjian Releases New CD, Will Have Works Debut in Yerevan

LEXINGTON, Mass. — Lexington-based and Grammy Award nominee, composer Hayg Boyadjian's *Armenian Suite* for symphony orchestra and recorded on a new Opus One CD #198 has been released by AMP Recordings. The recording features the Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Oberg. The CD also includes works by Frank Retzel (*Tamarind for Orchestra*) and David Yeagley's (*Wessi Vah-Peh for American Indian flute and orchestra*).

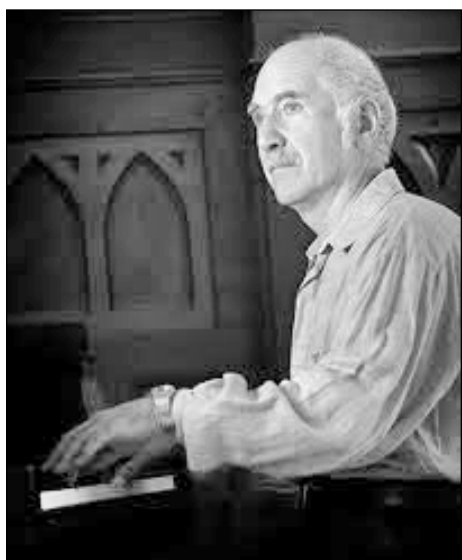
The CD is available online at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/boyadjian-armenian-suite-retzel/id635527722>, also on Amazon.com and e-Music.

Boyadjian's *Armenian Suite* is based on Armenian folk melodies (songs and dances) that range from religious, to patriotic, idyllic, nostalgic and dance.

Twelve such folk single-line melodies are used in the suite.

The composer wrote, "my task was to make a coherent whole of this diverse material....to combine the eastern and western musical traditions in the melodic and harmonic language of this suite."

Armenian Suite was first written as a commissioned work for trombone and piano. Realizing that the inherent musical language of



Composer Hayg Boyadjian

this work lends itself very well for other adaptations, thus a second version was written for two oboes and piano for the Seminar on Contemporary Music that takes place at the Music School at Rivers in Weston. This was followed by the present orchestral version, another version for violin and piano and yet another for horn and piano.

This current recording of *Armenian Suite* is the fourth orchestral work by Boyadjian recorded on the Opus One label by the Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra. All are available for purchase online.

In June, Boyadjian will travel to Yerevan, Armenia for two events. First, there will be a new CD presentation on June 26, which includes one of his duos for cello and piano. This CD is one of a series of CD recordings planned by Armenian Ars Lunga Duo, with Aram Talalyan on cello and Julietta Vardanyan on piano. The duo will over time record cello and piano duos by 60 international Armenian composers, as an anthology of works for cello and piano.

The second event will take place on July 3 and will consist of a concert of chamber works of Hayg Boyadjian. The program will include the world premiere of an unusual work for piano solo titled *32 Variations on Bach*, a 40-plus-minute composition.

Critic and musicologist Robin McNeil has
see BOYADJIAN, page 11



Two of the children perform.

Using Theater to Inspire And Empower Children

By Serena Hajjar

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BELMONT, Mass. — "A cooperative, collaborative venture...an outlet for experiences."

These are a few of the many ways Marlene Fereshetian describes

OneStage Productions, a community-based, non-profit organization with a mission to provide elementary and middle school children with a platform to express themselves through the performing arts. But this is no ordinary theater workshop.

"We provide the kids with a basic framework of a story and ask them to give us ideas, and [then] we help them build it," Fereshetian explained. "It helps them develop a sense of self-confidence because the kids are contributing to the story."

Fereshetian said she has always loved the performing arts, especially musical theater. She would frequently volunteer in community theater and even write short plays herself.

"One thing I always loved was how excited kids were when they came to the theater," she remembered. "I wanted the kids to be more involved and have a say in the creative process."

The inspiration for OneStage Productions finally came in the form of a writing class at the Arsenal Center for the Arts in Watertown.

"We had to write a lesson from a kid's point of view, and I thought, 'Wouldn't it be cool to have the kids write it?'" said Fereshetian.

She contacted an array of like-minded friends — playwrights and others involved in theater — and they decided to give this venture a try, founding OneStage Productions.

Both Fereshetian and co-founder and creative director Ruth Housman help write the scripts, with an emphasis on stories to which the children can relate. The goal is to give a voice to the children, to their ideas and concerns, and to let them express themselves through original stories, music and dance, Feresehtian said.

The plot is based on conversations and exchanges they have with the children. Fereshetian also writes the original music for the plays and the kids throw in the lyrics. The plays last anywhere from 20 to 35 minutes and are composed of several vignettes around one central idea.

Fereshetian named bullying as one of the biggest recurring themes.

"They'll tell you about an incident that happened, and I'm so glad they open up to you and talk about it because it's really sad what's going on — cyber bullying
see THEATER, page 12



Children write their own plays and perform them enthusiastically.

AGBU Musical Armenia Program in Yerevan Accepts Applications

NEW YORK — The Musical Armenia Program (MAP) is still receiving applications for its three-week summer program in Yerevan, Armenia, from July 15 to August 4.

Following a successful debut last summer, MAP offers master classes and lessons in the applicant's field of study. There will be classes for Western classical and Armenian traditional instruments as well as voice, conducting and composition taught by well-known musicians.

The program will also offer specialized lectures on the history of Armenian music throughout different periods and across genres — medieval, minstrel, classical, Soviet, contemporary, jazz — and the ancient music notational system, khaz, which was one of the main topics of interest of the preeminent master of Armenian music, Komitas. Social activities, sightseeing and excursions, including visits to historic landmarks, will complete the experience.

Whether their passions lie in singing, the piano or string instruments, MAP participants enhance each of their talents during the trip. The musicians attend concerts, lectures and classes with experts, visit local institutions such as the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory and Sayat Nova Music School, as well as museums, including Aram Khachaturyan's and Alexander Spendiaryan's.

The participants of MAP conclude their three-week stay in the homeland by performing side by side with their peers and teachers at the program's gala concert.

Last summer, while attending AGBU's Musical Armenia program, pianist Shoushy Nakashian and violinist David Melkonian were also invited to participate in the celebrated "Im Hayasdan" ("My Armenia") festival of Armenian Performing Arts, held under the patronage of the Diaspora Ministry.

"My experience in Armenia as part of MAP last summer was truly unforgettable and provided me with many exciting opportunities," said percussionist and composer Joseph Bohigian, who joined MAP's first course last year. "Being able to study and perform my own music in Armenia and learn about the country's wealth of musical culture has greatly expanded my approach to writing and playing music. In addition, I made many friends with whom I explored the country and hope to return in the future."

The AGBU Musical Armenia Program is open to applicants ages 18 and up who have training in vocal, instrumental (piano, violin, cello, duduk, percussion, horn, guitar, etc.), conducting or composition studies.

The deadline for applications has now been extended until June 15. For more details and an application form, please visit <http://www.agbu.org/musicalarmeni>



ARTS & LIVING

A Conversation with Producer Maral Djerejian

By Kevork Keushkerian

LOS ANGELES – The following interview was conducted recently with film producer Maral Djerejian by Kevork Keushkerian, on the release of her new movie, “Lost and Found in Armenia.”

Kevork Keushkerian: Maral, please introduce yourself to our readers.

Maral Djerejian: Gladly. I graduated from California State University in Northridge with a degree in Motion Picture and Television. My previous experience includes two films: I was the production coordinator of “Sideways” and the producer of “Ticket to Vegas,” a Russian-language movie filmed in Utah.

KK: Very well. Now, please tell us about your involvement in this new film, “Lost and Found in Armenia.”

MD: Definitely. I am the co-producer with Valerie McCaffrey, who has also produced “American History X” and “Neo Ned.” Shooting locations were in San Diego, Los Angeles and Armenia.

KK: What can you tell us about the production team?

MD: A talented young Armenian by the name of Gor Kirakosian is the writer/director. The movie is a Red Tie Film, presented by Shoreline Entertainment. It is distributed by Naedomi. The crew includes professionals from many nations like Georgia, Lebanon, Israel, Russia, and, of course, the United States.

KK: What about the cast?

MD: The two main characters are played by comedian Jamie Kennedy and actress Angela Sarafyan. Also featured are Mikael Pogosyan, Hrant Tokhatyan, David Tovmasyan, Narek Ghaplanyan and Vachik Mangassarian. Jamie Kennedy has been featured in “Scream,” whereas Angela Sarafyan has been featured in “The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn.” Mikael Pogosyan is an Armenian actor who has been featured in “Yerevan Blues.” Hrant Tokhatyan is a well-known comedian in Armenian who hosts the Armenia Fund’s Thanksgiving Telethon.

KK: Now, can you give us a short synopsis of the film?

MD: With pleasure. Bill (Jamie Kennedy) is an American tourist who is vacationing in Turkey to get his mind off a bad breakup. In a comedic and dangerous turn of events, Bill unknowingly ends up in a small village in Armenia, where he is accused of being a Turkish spy. It is in that village where Bill meets a beautiful Armenian girl Ani (Angela Sarafyan), who helps him escape from misfortune.

KK: What else can you tell us about the film?

MD: It’s the first Armenian American film ever made, in which 80 percent of the language spoken is Armenian. We are trying to have it nominated for Oscars, in the category



Producer Maral Djerejian being interviewed by Kevork Keushkerian

of Foreign Language Films.

KK: What is the most memorable experience that you gained from filming in Armenia?

MD: It’s a two-fold experience. First, Angela Sarafyan, the main female character, and Narek Ghaplanyan, the script co-writer and the author of the score, were married. Second, a 65-year-old American who was the script supervisor fell in love with Armenia, but shortly after her return she died of cancer. So, we dedicated the film to her memory.

KK: What did Armenia get out of this unique experience?

MD: Surprisingly, the film was funded solely by Armenians from Armenia and 100 Armenians were employed for the duration of filming this movie, which is approximately three months.

KK: What else can you tell us about this film?

MD: This film was shown at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood in December 2012, during the AFFMA [Arpa Foundation for Film, Music and Art] Festival and it was attended by 800 spectators. Plus, In November of 2012, it

was shown to sold out audiences for three months in both Yerevan and Moscow.

KK: Where and when can people watch this movie?

MD: It will open on June 7 and the engagement is for one week only in the following theaters: Galaxy Theater in Glendale; Laemmle’s Music Hall in Beverly Hills; Laemmle’s Town Center in Encino, Calif.; AMC, Town Center 8 in Burbank, Calif.; Sierra Vista 16 in Fresno; AMC Forum in Detroit; AMC Theater in Boston; Harrison Theater in New Jersey and AMC Aventura in Miami.

KK: Any last words for our public?

MD: Sure. This is a comedy targeting American audiences, but I would encourage every Armenian to see the movie, because if the theaters are filled to capacity, the distributor will extend the engagement so more people could see it.

KK: Congratulations on your achievement and good luck for your future endeavors.

MD: Thank you very much.

(For more information, go to: www.lostandfoundinarmenia.net.)

Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2013



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



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Composer Boyadjian Releases New CD, Will Have Works Debut in Yerevan

BOYADJIAN, from page 10

written about this composition, “Boyadjian makes use of retrograde, inversion, variations of rhythmic figures and ornamentation, and canon. As the piece progresses, it begins to sound more and more familiar in spite of the avant-garde harmonies and enharmonic writing....It truly is an epiphany.”

The concert will also include two other world premieres, *Third Canticle for cello and piano* written for the Ars Lunga Duo and a short piano piece *Armenian Canticle* written for a young rising Armenian pianist, Boyadjian’s second string quartet Azad and a song using the French text *Hoquet* (Hiccup in English) for soprano and piano.

For more information about Boyadjian visit his web site at www.haygboyadjian.com

The Armenian
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ARTS & LIVING

Prof. Ron Suny Receives American Academy of Berlin Prize

BERLIN – The American Academy of Berlin's 16th class of fellows comprises 26 scholars, writers, artists, policy experts and one composer, who have been awarded a Berlin Prize by an independent selection committee, chaired by Richard Sieburth, Professor of French and comparative literature at New York University. The Berlin Prize affords academy fellows time to pursue independent study and engage with their German counterparts and with Berlin's vibrant academic, cultural and political life. The Berlin Prize includes residence at the academy's lakeside Hans Arnhold Center. Most fellowships last for one academic semester and are entirely privately funded.

Among the 2013-2014 Class of Fellows is Ronald Suny (pictured above), Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History, University of Michigan, and emeritus professor of political science and history, at the University of Chicago. At the academy, Suny will continue his project titled "Why Genocide? The Fate of the Armenians and Assyrians at the End of the Ottoman Empire."



Using Theater to Inspire and Empower Children

THEATER, from page 10

ostracizing. It's a problem of epidemic proportions at this point, how it affects children academically and socially. They want us to deal with the subject in our musicals," she noted.

Fereshetian has noticed that having the children share their stories is like a healing process for them. It is an opportunity for them to creatively express their feelings as a group. Growing up, Fereshetian found her outlet for expressing her experiences in writing little books.

"When you're creative and when you imagine and fantasize, you can be anything or anyone you want to be, and for that time you go into another world," she said.

In fact, one of the productions dealt with the theme of self-respect, an idea formulated by the children themselves. The kids felt troubled by the way people would judge them based on

inspires her to be the best person – as well as best Armenian – she can be.

"We tell the kids, 'Be the best you can be, be true to who you are,'" she explained.

OneStage Productions' performances have received positive feedback from parents and school administrators alike. She said they all want children to develop a sense of creativity and a sense of self, and OneStage provides the perfect avenue for such exploration.

She also emphasized the powerful impact that participating in OneStage productions has made on the children.

"They're extremely eager, we know from their feedback. The kids are very enthusiastic, engaged. They compete for roles – they never fight but they encourage their friends," she said.

The benefit is not just for the kids, however, as Fereshetian says she is constantly amazed by the children's wisdom and their fearlessness



Children transform the Hosmer School in Watertown to the Land of Hoz.

appearances, and therefore they wrote a story about a "common" girl who saves a prince from drowning. However, after realizing her social inferiority, the prince acts in an extremely haughty manner and ignores her, even though she has just saved his life. In the end, the girl stands up to him, delivering a powerful performance in which she expresses feelings of pity for the prince who is so caught up in appearances that he cannot see the innate goodness in a person's heart. The young actress who played the "common" girl composed most of this closing monologue herself.

"The last line brought the house down, it was so special," noted Fereshetian.

Fereshetian uses her Armenian background to impart an important lesson to the students. To her, being Armenian means being true to herself and being proud of one's roots. This

when it comes to taking risks.

"They're so honest; their minds are open to so much. ... That's when great creativity happens."

Fereshetian cites her involvement in OneStage Productions as "one of the most rewarding experiences."

"I get to spend time with wonderful kids who have a story to tell...Every child is creative, every child is unique. When you bring all those elements together, you get something very beautiful... [It's storytelling and the innate creativity of children – that sums it up.]"

Fereshetian and her husband, who live in Belmont, have two sons.

A fall afterschool session will be offered at Belmont's Benton Library branch.

For more information, visit www.onestageproductions.org.

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lost&found IN ARMENIA

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

"Lost & Found in Armenia" is a Red Tie Films production with Award-winning director Gor Kirakosian (*Big Story in a Small City*) and award-winning producer Valerie McCaffrey (*American History X*, *Neo Ned*) along with Maral Djerejian (*Sideways*) and starring comedian Jamie Kennedy (*Malibu's Most Wanted*, *Scream*) and Angela Sarafyan (*A Beautiful Life*, *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn*). Shooting Locations were in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Armenia. Red Tie Films is the first Armenian-American production team to shoot in Armenia.



Angela Sarafyan

Lost & Found in Armenia will be opening in select theaters beginning **June 7th**. If it's not playing in a theater near you, most cable providers will be carrying the title within their On Demand programs.

Here's where the film is playing:

Glendale, CA – Pacific Theaters Americana
Beverly Hills, CA – [Laemmle Music Hall](#)
Encino, CA – [Laemmle Town Center](#)
Burbank, CA – [AMC Burbank 8](#)
Fresno/Clovis, CA – [Sierra Vista 16](#)
Boston, MA – [AMC Methuen](#)
Detroit, MI – [AMC Forum](#)
Hamilton, NJ – [AMC Hamilton 24](#)
Washington, DC – [AMC Rio](#)

Video On Demand

[Time Warner](#), [Comcast \(xfinity\)](#), [COX](#), [AT&T](#), [Verizon](#), Cablevision, Charter Communications

Totally Unofficial: The Autobiography Of Raphael Lemkin

NEW YORK (*Kirkus Review*) – A previously unpublished biography of Raphael Lemkin, a pioneer in the field of international law who is responsible for inventing the word “genocide” and defining legal terms for preventing future genocidal acts, is going to be published in June.

When Nobel Peace Prize nominee Lemkin died in 1959, the manuscript of his biography was near completion. However, it is only recently that Jewish historian Frieze digitized Lemkin’s manuscript and, in the process, pulled the biography together into a readable narrative.

The story of Lemkin’s life begins with recollections of his early years on a farm in Lithuania (b. 1900), where he became

engrossed with the natural world surrounding him and, also, began a fascination with reading about historical instances of group persecution.

As the deputy public prosecutor of Warsaw, the

Armenian Genocide drove Lemkin toward a focus on the prevention of government attempts at destroying a collective identity. For Lemkin, the act of genocide did not just target the lives of a particular group, but it also aimed to destroy the cultural identity of the persecuted minority.

The realities of genocide became personal when Lemkin was forced to flee Nazi-occupied Poland, while his family back in Poland fell as victims of the Holocaust. After making it to America, Lemkin sacrificed his physical health, the comforts of family life and the financial stability associated with faculty appointments at Duke and Yale to dedicate his life to alerting the world to the dangers of genocide. His dedication bore fruit when the United Nations ratified the Genocide Convention, but Lemkin would spend the rest of his life alone and in poverty.

Although the particulars of the inner workings of the UN can be overwhelming, the story is enriched by Lemkin’s keen eye for describing the environment and characters that he encounters. An engaging account of one man’s determination to overcome personal, financial and bureaucratic obstacles in his quest to pass a landmark law that would protect collective cultural life and identity.

Publication Date: 2013-06-18 Publisher: Yale Univ. ISBN: 978-0-300-18696-3 Price: \$35.00
Author: Lemkin, Raphael

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Hoy Lari Rocks the House for Boston-Area Children

WOBURN, Mass. – On May 18, Hoy Lari returned to Boston and entertained 200 parents and children. The event was to benefit the Armenia Children’s Milk Fund, which fills one specific, vital nutritional need – to provide baby formula to infants in Armenia who are orphaned or ill, or whose mothers are unable to breast-feed and whose families are unable to purchase formula.

Hoy Lari is the brainchild of Janet Yetenkian and Paola Kassabian, two cousins from Beirut living in Glendale. Combining American songs with the Armenian language, Hoy Lari has endeared themselves to Armenian children throughout the diaspora. Children were up singing and dancing with the singers.



Janet Yetenkian and Paola Kassabian of Hoy Lari entertain in Woburn.

C A L E N D A R

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 9 – St. James Armenian Festival – Annual Picnic, noon to 6 p.m. Live Armenian Music by Jay Baronian, Leon Janikian, Ken Kalajian and Bob Raphaelian; shish, losh and chicken kebab, khyma and more! Children’s Activities, Raffle, Armenian Venor – rain or shine! St. James grounds, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown.

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

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

JUNE 14 –Steve Tashjian and Classic Groove in Concert, 8 p.m. Admission: \$15 / \$12 ALMA members. Part of new ALMA after Dark series. Leader Steven Tashjian (saxophone and clarinet) is joined by vocalist Alisa Coates, Ed “Face” Corman (keyboard & vocals), Dave Dillon (drums) and Ross Hahn (guitar and vocals). Join us for a wonderfully entertaining evening of jazz and contemporary standards!

JUNE 16 – Dance Documentary and Workshop, 2 p.m., Armenian Libaray and Museum of Ameirca, 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 plm.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.

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 – Armenian Friends of America present Hye Kef 5, featuring musicians Leon Janikian, Joe Kouyoumjian, Greg Takvorian, Ken Kalajian, Ron Raphaelian and Jay Baronian, 7:30-12:30, Michael’s Function Hall, 12 Alpha St., Haverhill, MA. Proceeds to benefit all Armenian churches in Merrimack Valley



The Tekeyan Cultural Association is sponsoring a concert in Belmont, Mass., featuring Rouben Hakhverdian, the legendary folk singer from Armenia. 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.

and New Hampshire. Tickets, \$40 adults, \$30 students includes mezza platters. Call John Arzigian, 603-560-3826; Sandy Boroyan, 978-251-8687; Scott Sahagian, 617-699-3581, or Peter Gulezian, 978-375-1616.

NEW YORK

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

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

Free Calendar Submissions

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



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Defining Our Demands and Course of Action At Threshold of Centennial

By Edmond Y. Azadian

The Armenian Genocide centennial is around the corner and we are still unprepared as to how to organize or commemorate it worldwide and, more importantly, realize what impact we can expect or anticipate.

The fact that Armenians are scattered around the world and consequently cannot join together and present a unified force was the intended outcome of the perpetrators of the Genocide. One million and half Armenians were exterminated from their lands and thus, they have also been eliminated as claimants, as have the generations the martyrs would have begotten.

Talaat Pasha boasted that his plan was to keep only one Armenian alive for the museums. The primitive methods that the Turks employed did not have the discipline and perverse perfection that the Germans used 30 years later and that is why Armenians were left to populate more than museums. Actually, they have come out of the museums to haunt the Ottoman rulers and their descendants who have been enjoying the loot from their great crime.

A full century later, after all the losses and assimilations, Armenian survivors and the younger generations are at Turkey's doorstep with their demands. They have amplified their voices with those of the martyrs, who were silenced brutally.

Most of the plans and deliberations about the centennial are focused on the ceremonial and commemorative aspects. At best, they aspire for Genocide recognition.

Some people believe that the Armenian Genocide has been fully recognized, therefore we need to concentrate our efforts on demands and reparations.

The most vocal among that group is our friend, columnist and *California Courier* publisher Harut Sassounian. However, it is an open question how we determine recognition. President Ronald Reagan's commemorative citing does not satisfy the legal definition of recognition, nor does an indirect allusion in a United Nations Rapporteur's report constitute recognition. Unless a formal UN resolution is adopted, we still have an uphill battle in forcing Turkey to recognize the Genocide.

That is, of course, one component of our demand for justice. The next step is the formulation of what justice means to the victims of the Armenian Genocide. Armenians themselves have different definitions, while we should not leave foreigners to define for us what justice ultimately will mean. Most foreigners would say forgive and forget, even though there is no one on the horizon asking for forgiveness. Even alienated and assimilated Armenians would also fall into that category.

For some Armenians, it would suffice for Turkey to apologize for the crime of Genocide. Others press for compensation following a potential apology. It is that specter which scares the leaders of modern Turkey from taking the first step and recognizing the Genocide, even before moving to the apology phase.

A statement by former President Robert Kocharian to the late journalist Ali Birand of CNN-Turk was misinterpreted and reverberated in political circles and eventually ended up in an accusation that Kocharian had given up on Armenian territorial claims. What he had actually meant in his interview with the Turkish journalist was let's take it one step at a time and not jump to the next step before the first one has been achieved; recognition is one issue and compensation is another. Each of these two aspects has its own legal parameters.

In fact, many individual scholars and groups have different assumptions and concepts as to what that compensation should comprise. Some Armenians believe that if Turkey agrees to return all confiscated churches and monasteries to the Istanbul Patriarchate, it would satisfy Armenian demands. (Although a pushover vicar at the Patriarchate, echoing his master's voice, has already announced that the Patriarchate does not have the funds and power to manage those properties.)

Other Armenians will present territorial claims, which in themselves will become a Pandora's box, because many people and many groups have different perceptions about the size of territorial claims.

Wilsonian Armenia, which would have roughly tripled Armenia's present territory, is a case in point as a precedent.

During the negotiations leading to the Treaty of Sevres, US President Woodrow Wilson was asked to draw the future map of Armenia. He was trying to come up with a territory which would be viable economically. Many compatriotic organizations were appealing to Wilson to include their hometowns in the map. Wilson had designated the port of Trabizon to become Armenia's access to the world's seaways, although Trabizon had never featured in the historic map of Armenia.

As Cilicia was excluded from the Wilsonian map, a last-ditch effort was made as a desperate move to create a fait accompli; indeed, six days before the Treaty of Sevres was to be signed (August 10, 1920), an assembly of Armenians and Assyrians declared homerule in Cilicia, under the leadership of Mihran Damadian.

Turkey is a major power with tremendous resources. Its leaders have carefully and thoroughly analyzed the Armenian issue, because that is part of their permanent political agenda, and they have to deal with it down the road. They fully realize the disarray reigning in the Armenian world and they also know how to create confusion and chaos by a surprise bold move.

Should Turkey decide to deal with the Armenian Question, where do we stand collectively at this point?

There has been a precedent in recent history and Armenians reacted in a cooperative fashion. That was in the year 1977 when ASALA was conducting a terror campaign against Turkish diplomats. Whether anyone is for or against terrorism is immaterial in this case, because that campaign forced the then-Turkish Foreign Minister Ihsan Sabri Çaglayangil to invite the leaders of the Armenian political parties – ARF, Hunchak and ADL – to meet secretly in Switzerland. The political leaders demonstrated exemplary unity by subscribing to a common agenda. But as soon as the Turkish government found out that the delivery of the cessation of hostilities was beyond the means of the political parties, it immediately dropped subsequent meetings.

This brings us to the point that Turkey may decide to give it another try for whatever reason; are we prepared for that eventuality?

Armenians have very few concrete proposals or programs to deal with that kind of situation. A recent article ("A Blueprint for Diaspora Representation in Negotiations with Turkey over Reparations, June 1, 2013) in the *Armenian Weekly*, signed by Avedis Hadjian, is one of them.

The author outlines a plan to develop a representative entity to deal with Turkey. He is proposing a bicameral general assembly to be elected by the Diasporan Armenians. Given the lack of feasibility of bringing voters from different countries under one roof, he proposes a virtual system, voting online, although that may pose other problems. One important suggestion is that the Armenian government has to head this assembly; that, of course, will eliminate the traditional rivalry between the diaspora groups and what is more important, it will provide legality to the assembly as a sovereign state.

If we wish to render the Genocide centennial a meaningful historic turning point, we must be thinking in these concrete terms. Of course, following the creation of the assembly comes the definition of our demands. Historians and authorities in international law must be invited to formulate our demands, which cannot be left to amateur armchair politicians.

We need to make the centennial a watershed, where Armenians go beyond commemorations to a solid political movement, mobilizing worldwide Armenians into fighting battalions. That requires more sober thinking, detached from emotional actions and reactions. Of course, we cannot eliminate layers of distrust and hatred built up over centuries because of Turkish atrocities. And no one has the right to preach to Armenians not to hate their murderers. That is not human – and not even divine. When the poet Avedik Issahakian was reminded of Christ's advice to turn the other cheek if someone slaps one cheek, the poet answered: "When Christ gave that advice, Turks did not exist."

We have to face the centennial with diverse manifestations of artistic events, asserting our survival, political rallies and above all, united political action.

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EDITOR
Alin K. Gregorian

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Gabriella Gage

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Aram Arkun

ART DIRECTOR
Marc Mgrditchian

SENIOR EDITORIAL COLUMNIST:
Edmond Azadian

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

CORRESPONDENTS:

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

Contributing Photographers:

Jacob Demirdjian, Harry Koundakjian, Jirair
Hovsepian

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E-Mail: **editor@mirrorspectator.com**

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- 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.
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- 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.
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COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Dr. Charny Dismantles Prof. Gunter's Deceptive Genocide Denialism

As the Centennial approaches, Turkish officials and their cohorts are searching for more subtle approaches to deny the Armenian Genocide. Realizing that their past practice of outright denial is no longer credible, they have initiated a more sophisticated campaign that intends to raise subtle questions about the Armenian Genocide, sowing seeds of doubt among uninformed masses.

It is not very often that I refer to book reviews in this column, but I could not ignore the masterful way Dr. Israel Charny, executive director of the Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide in Jerusalem, dismantles Prof. Michael Gunter's book, *Armenian History and the Question of Genocide*, which illustrates the latest revisionist approach to genocide denial.

Here are brief excerpts from Dr. Charny's derisive review of Gunter's book:

"This is the BEST book I have ever read – which means

it is the best of the whole terrible world of books that are devoted to ridiculous and ugly denials of absolutely factual known genocides. It is, therefore, a TERRIBLE work.... This is the best DENIALIST work I have ever seen insofar as it is written with a quietness, and solidity of coverage of issues, and even more as if with an apparent fairness of representing ranges of ideas and opinions about issues rather than strong-arm statements of single opinion-truths.

"Gunter, a professor at Tennessee Tech, opens the book with a clear acknowledgment-disclosure of his significant period of lecturing in Turkey, and even as he says 'I have long wanted to present an objective analysis of the Turkish point of view,' he clearly conveys that he is very much on the side of Turkish denial of the Armenian Genocide....

"Gunter is nonetheless a kind denier who continuously throws us bones for our respite – and thereby of course it would seem proves and reproves his announced objectivity. Thus in the same poisonous 'Foreword' he quickly adds to his core statement of denial crocodile tears: 'Of course in no way does this excuse the horrible excesses committed by the Turks.'

"Perhaps the highest praise I can give Gunter is that unlike other great deniers he cites a large number of scholars and writers, who have published the now wonderfully strong literature confirming the Armenian Genocide – and I would add genocides of other peoples alongside the Armenians, specifically the Assyrians, Greeks, and Yezidis, and also the beginning moves of the Ottoman government toward a potential genocide of the Jews in Palestine. Deniers generally stay away like the plague from writers who confirm the Armenian Genocide....

"How does our intrepid 'objective' scholar conclude his book? Of course, he wants to be helpful in curbing the

denial that fuels 'continuing fear and revenge.' So he offers strategies beginning with splitting the 'more affluent Armenian Diaspora' that is so concerned with 'allegations of genocide' from 'the nation in Armenia' and the 'immediate economic reality of Armenia.' Yes, he wants to be large-hearted and he calls on Turkey to help Armenia with its economic problems, and thus in eternal realpolitik "Turkey may begin to split the two Armenian actors.' But all is not lost in deception. Goodhearted Gunter also includes a proposal to Turkey to open the borders it has lockjammed with Armenia for so many years."

Charny concludes his incisive review by suggesting that Gunter's book "should be studied by all students of denial for its artful stratagems of sounding fair, acting fairly, citing scholarship that covers divergent and contradictory points of view, speaking consistently softly, and of course calling for justice and peace, all in the course of organizing a disarming, deceitful, anti-history and anti-value-of-life work that should frighten anybody who is concerned with integrity in intellectual and scholarly works, and genuine valuing of human life."

Taking one last jab at Gunter's insidious denialism, Charny gives him a parting underhanded praise: "Once upon a time, deniers were so wild and obvious buffoons that they claimed that the Ottoman Turkish government protected and took care of the poor Armenian exiles in their forced march out of Armenia.... Now increasingly we have a whole series of recognized academicians who write in our contemporary language of scholarship and make their points in the name of open discussion and fairness. Gunter can be congratulated that he has risen to the top of this group...."

Prof. Mary Papazian Delivers Talk on Armenian Studies

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary celebration of the Armenian Studies program at the California State University at Northridge, Dr. Mary A. Papazian delivered the following talk. It will appear in two parts. Below is the first part:

Thank you very much, Vahram, for that kind introduction. And thank you to the representatives from California State University, Northridge, and especially your president, Dr. Diane Harrison and dean Elizabeth Say, for joining us here this evening. We in the Armenian community are delighted that you will share this evening with us...and we deeply appreciate your ongoing support of the CSUN Armenian Studies program.

When Dr. Shemmashian wrote to me to invite me to speak this evening, I had to say "yes," even though we are less than a week away from our own Commencement at my institution, Southern Connecticut State University. Coming to Northridge is indeed a homecoming for me. And while I was born over the hills in Santa Monica, I grew up in the Valley and moved with my family to Northridge when I was 12. So, I grew up in the shade of the orange groves that would become this beautiful campus, and watched as it grew into the important institution that it is today. I also remember the first years of the CSUN Armenian Studies program. At that time, I was a graduate student at UCLA...with Vahram!...he in Armenian history, me in English literature. But the Armenian students at UCLA, just as at CSUN, whatever our discipline, came together for community, learning, and support.

Like many of you, the impetus for my family's settling in California many years ago was a direct result of the Armenian genocide, whose 98th anniversary our communities around the world commemorated only a few weeks ago. Until 1915 – and in some cases, like my mother's family, the 1890s – Armenians lived for centuries on the Armenian highlands in Anatolia. Our history, culture, religion, language and traditions were passed down unbroken over the centuries, as children learned from their parents and the larger village and community that raised them. And while some drifted or travelled to other places for education and business, the vast majority of Armenians remained close to the homes, villages and towns of their ancestors, nurtured by the familiar, speaking the language, and creating Armenian culture for their time.

Armenians long have been known for their commitment to education and learning, and throughout the Armenian highlands, Armenian communities built churches and

schools in the thousands and even missionary universities in the dozens to educate their youth and ensure that their language and culture remained current and that their next generations continued to benefit from the best education they could offer. We Armenians had a culture that sustained us throughout the centuries. It is the memory of that culture that sustains us today, as we continue the challenge of reconnecting with our past and through our sheer determination ensuring that the bridge to that past is rebuilt...and becomes a strong foundation for the future.

None of us here need to ask, what happened to break that continuity. We all know through our collective experience, that the great rupture with our past resulted from the Armenian genocide of 1915-1923. Often in commemorations like those held here in Los Angeles, or in Times Square, New York, or in Paris, France, or Yerevan, Armenia – or even in recent years in Istanbul, Turkey – we commemorate the loss of the 1.5 million Armenians who perished, either through direct killing or slowly dying through violent deportations from their villages toward the parched Syrian desert hundreds of miles away. And certainly the spirits of our lost ancestors animates us as we seek to reconnect with a past that in the decades following the genocide was slipping away. But the threatened extermination not only of Armenian souls...but of Armenian culture and experience...also deserves our attention, and it is this threat that animated the development of Armenian studies in the last fifty years.

When Vahram asked me for a title to my presentation, I thought about how I best could capture the mission of the Armenian Studies Program here at CSUN—a program that is celebrating its 30th year—and I decided that a focus on "Armenian Studies: Past, Present, and Future" made the most sense. Now, some of you may wonder, since as you have heard, my academic discipline is English literature and not Armenian Studies, why I would take on such a topic. And, in my present role as a university president, I focus far more on issues of budget, enrollment, student success and retention, strategic planning, and the like, and not specifically on Armenian studies. But as a graduate of Ferrahan High School in neighboring Encino, a student at UCLA during the period when the field was growing and establishing its credibility in the academic world, to my ongoing connection to the Armenian academic community through my husband, Dr. Dennis Papazian, longtime community activist and founder of the Armenian Research Center at the University of

Michigan, Dearborn, I have found myself thinking about the role of Armenian studies in the continuation of Armenian identity following the Armenian genocide. Perhaps it is the near approach of the hundredth anniversary of the Genocide that is engendering these reflections.

Of course, when I refer to Armenian studies, I am primarily speaking of Armenian studies here in the United States, and in the immediate past to our current time. To cover all of Armenian studies, from St. Mesrob forward, would be much too large a topic. Even covering the topic from the time of the Armenian Awakening in the 18th century until the Genocide would be impossible in a short presentation. That was the time of the perfection of the Western Armenian language among the literati of Constantinople, Smyrna, and Cairo. We can only wonder what Armenian life might have been if that period of Armenian awakening had been allowed to continue unbroken to our own time.

As a community, we grew up with the memories of disruption and despair. The genocide of 1915-1923 disrupted the second Armenian awakening and nearly destroyed Armenian culture in the West. This total disruption of a culture, almost a civilization, is perhaps unprecedented in history. At the turn of the 20th century Armenians were prospering both in the Caucasus and in the major cities of the Ottoman Empire. There were the Armenian monasteries, churches, schools, printing houses, newspapers, publishers, and a literary output in the latest European tradition. Wealthy Armenian students went to some of the best universities of Europe seeking a higher education, a place, coincidentally, where they met Turkish students from prominent families also seeking a European education.

While many of us had been told of this glorious past, we had little in the way of direct memories or visual images beyond the ruins of our churches to make concrete what we felt was true based on stories of Armenian success in business, government and learning during the Ottoman period. And while I too had heard many of these stories, it was not until I leafed through the pages of Osman Koker's *Armenians in Turkey 100 Years Ago* (published in Istanbul in 2005) that I really understood the profound depth of our collective loss. This beautiful reproduction of postcards from the collection of Orlando Carlo Calumeno focuses on the years 1900 to 1914 and richly illustrates Armenian life in the years just before the Genocide. These postcards show Armenian churches, monasteries, schools, orphanages and cemeteries as well as missionary schools and hospitals founded by or primarily used by Armenians, factories, hotels,

and businesses owned or run by Armenians, and images of daily life. Armenian life...and Armenian cultural experience...came to life in these images. We were a vibrant, thoroughly modern people, with a strong sense of identity.

All of this cultural wealth was destroyed in the West due to the Genocide, and much in the East due to the fall of the first Armenian Republic and the establishment of socialist rule in Armenia. The Soviet Union can be seen as a "prison house of peoples," or it can be seen as a refuge for the Armenians, protected against Turkish aggression, depending on your perspective. The unique Armenian culture developed in Soviet Armenia has yet to be analyzed in all its detail, yet Armenian studies survived and even prospered as long as certain protocols were followed, giving lip service to Marxism before getting down to serious work. And that work continues today in present-day Armenia.

Many refugees from the genocide – many of them our ancestors – made their way to Europe and eventually on to America. Most of the survivors of the genocide were children or young people who were taken into mass orphanages in Greece and the Middle East. Few teachers and community leaders survived the great catastrophe, which threatened the complete destruction not only of the Armenian people, but of Armenian cultural life as well. Despite this great chasm which opened up between Armenian culture in the Ottoman Empire and the flotsam and jetsam of survivors in Europe and America, there must have been something in the genes, or at least the epi-genes, which caused the survivors to gather together and try to reestablish a continuity with the past, as vague as that understanding might be.

For most of the survivors that meant the establishment of church communities, coffee houses, political parties, newspapers and Armenian schools. Most of the survivors, however, were chiefly interested in making a living and bringing up their children to be educated, good citizens. Here in America, many wanted to forget the past and to concentrate on the present. The pain was just too great to dwell on the past. And so nearly five decades passed with Armenians focused primarily on individual and collective survival.

(Dr. Mary A. Papazian is the president of Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. She is the first Armenian woman appointed as president of an American university, and only the fourth Armenian to serve in such a position.)

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