

Sargisian Visits Japan

Pays Tribute to Memory of Victims Killed from Earthquake And Tsunami in Tokyo

TOKYO (Armenpress) – President Serge Sargisian was in Japan this week on an official visit.

In Sendai, Sargisian visited the Yuriage Shrine at Hiyoriyama memorial complex, paid tribute to the victims of tsunami. In addition, he familiarized himself with the works implemented to prevent similar disastrous repercussions from future natural disasters, the president's press service said.

On behalf of the Armenian delegation, the president welcomed Sendai's residents who suffered as a result of the disaster and conveyed to them the warm feelings of the Armenian people. Sargisian stressed that upon hearing of the earthquake that struck Japan nearly a year ago, many Armenians gathered to pray for the people of Japan.

"A divine liturgy was celebrated in St. Gregory the Illuminator Church [in Yerevan] at that time. Thousands of Armenians joined in the prayers," he said.

Sargisian noted that the Armenian people have not forgotten the assistance and warmth of the Japanese people, when in 1988 Armenia experienced similar difficul-



President Sargisian met with residents of the Natori Rehabilitation Center in northern Japan.

ties dealing with the ramifications of the earthquake that hit northern Armenia.

Sargisian expressed confidence that the Japanese, who have overcome tremendous obstacles throughout history, will get through this difficulty as well, and the Japanese government together with people will manage to fully prepare themselves for

future natural disasters.

In Sendai, Sargisian saw the plans for the reconstruction of the airport, which was destroyed by the tsunami.

Sargisian left Sendai for Tokyo, where, on June 6, meetings between the Armenian delegation and Japan's top leadership were scheduled to be held.

Secretary of State Clinton 'Very Concerned' about Armenian-Azeri Tensions

YEREVAN (AFP, ArmeniaNow) – US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Monday she was "very concerned" about escalating tensions over Nagorno Karabagh and warned Armenia and Azerbaijan not to settle their conflict by force.

Clinton was speaking in Yerevan after Armenia said Azerbaijani troops killed three Armenian soldiers during an alleged incursion, in the latest bloodshed in the long conflict over the Armenian-controlled Azerbaijani enclave.

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President Serge Sargisian and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Armenian Forces Kill Five Azeri Soldiers after They Cross into Armenia

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) – Armenia's Ministry of Defense reported that Armenian forces on Monday killed five Azerbaijani soldiers who had attempted to infiltrate Armenian defensive positions in the province of Tavoush, in the early morning hours.

The ministry said that an Azerbaijani unit of 15-20 tried to cross the border into Armenia.

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From left, Janet Shamlian, Alin K. Gregorian and Charles Mahtesian

Mirror-Spectator Gala Attracts Glittering Crowd

Awards Given out to Veteran Bentley Leader Adamian, Journalists Shamlian and Mahtesian

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – About 250 supporters gathered on Thursday, May 24 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel Boston, to help the Armenian Mirror-Spectator celebrate its 80th anniversary with a program that paid tribute to its past, present and future.

During the program, emceed by Carolyn Atinizian-Yardemian, which raised \$80,000 gross for the maintenance and operation of the newspaper, as well as its online expansion plans, three people were honored.

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

Dr. Gregory Adamian, the retired longtime president of Bentley University – in fact the person who has allowed Bentley to be a university instead of a college – was able to attend the program, despite suffering from poor health recently. He received the newspaper's lifetime achievement award. Adamian, who was controlling his emotions with difficulty, spoke about his illustrious career. However, he reserved his highest praise for his wife, Debbie, whom he credited with saving his life after he suffered a heart attack earlier in the month, after attending the Diocesan Assembly in Springfield, Mass.

Receiving awards of excellence were NBC News correspondent Janet Shamlian and Politico national political editor Charles Mahtesian.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ramgavar Azadagan Party Established in Armenia

YEREVAN – On June 3, the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party (ADL) of Armenia and Armenagan-RAG parties convened a unification convention at the Tekeyan Center and elected delegates. The new party unites the two parties under the name Ramgavar Azadagan Gousaktsoutiun (Armenia). The newly-formed Ramgavar Azadagan Gousaktsoutiun (Armenia) consequently will be the legal successor of ADL of Armenia and Armenagan-RAG parties. The convention elected a 25-member Central Board, with Hagop Avedikian as chairman. The Central Board convened its first meeting after the convention.

Armenian Construction Of Hydroelectric Plant To Start in August

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Iran will be the only consumer of the energy produced by the Meghri hydroelectric power plant for 15 years, which will cover the investment made by Tehran.

The hydroelectric power plant will be constructed over the Arax River and will have the capacity to produce 130 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The groundbreaking ceremony will be held in Meghri on August 22. Construction is expected to be completed within five years.

Two hydroelectric power plants are intended to construct over the River Arax – Meghri on the Armenian side and Gharachilar on the Iranian side.

Premier to Stay on Job

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian is likely to be reappointed as prime minister and head Armenia's new government that will be formed later this month, a leading member of the ruling Republican Party (HHK) said on Friday.

Sargisian and all members of his cabinet submitted their resignations to President Serge Sargisian as the new Armenian parliament elected on May 6 held its opening session on Thursday. Under the Armenian constitution, the head of state has 10 days to appoint a new prime minister. The new government is to be formed within the following 20 days.

"I don't think that there will be a change of prime minister," Galust Sahakian, a deputy chairman of the HHK, said. Sahakian also revealed that President Sargisian last Saturday began consultations with senior lawmakers from the HHK and the Orinats Yerkir Party, its junior partner in the new ruling coalition, on the government's composition. The two parties signed a new power-sharing deal earlier this week. Orinats Yerkir is expected to retain control of three ministerial portfolios.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Children from Zatik Orphanage Might End up On Streets

YEREVAN (news.am) – The housing issue for 22 children in Zatik Orphanage must be solved by 2013 or else they may end up back on the streets, the director of Zatik Orphanage, Ashot Mnatsakanyan, said, adding that at the beginning of the year, Zatik transformed into a children's support center and is operating under new rules.

According to him, currently the center is functioning in three ways: orphanage, day care and center of temporary care. There are 90 children registered at the center, 22 of whom are in the orphanage. However, starting in 2014, the center will function only as a support center for children.

The director has made it his goal to house every child in need of shelter.

Four girls will be taken under the care of the church, some will be adopted by families and the rest will wait until they reach 18 to leave.

Zatik has turned into a children's center because of the low number of children in attendance.

Seatbelt Law Applied to Backseat Passengers

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – An amendment to Armenia's law on seatbelts went into effect June 2, stipulating that passengers riding in the rear seats of vehicles on Armenian highways face fines if they do not wear seatbelts.

A law has been in effect since 2009 that calls for drivers and front-seat passengers to wear seatbelts, however after an initial strict enforcement, the law is hardly observed.

Now, in theory, drivers can be fined 5,000 drams (about \$12) if any passenger in their vehicle is not wearing a seatbelt. (The law exempts older-model cars that don't have rear-seat belts.)

Zareh Lusparonyan, deputy head of the Achilles Center for Drivers' Rights non-governmental organization, said that the new law on security seatbelts did not make drivers "happy."

"We receive many complaints related to seatbelts, and the amendment to the law has increased the number of complaints. People mainly refuse to wear seatbelts in the city, seeing no sense in doing it, and they do not mind wearing [seatbelts] outside the city," Lusparonyan said.

In 2009, hundreds of drivers were stopped and fined for not fastening their seatbelts. But the initial enforcement yielded to a more lax tolerance, as the majority of Armenian drivers who dislike wearing seatbelts now ignore the law.

Kuwait Wants Air Travel With Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Deputy Prime Minister of Armenia and co-chairman of Armenian-Kuwaiti Intergovernmental Commission Armen Gevorgian received last week Kuwaiti Ambassador to Armenia Bassam Mohammed Al-Qabandi and Nabil Abdul Mohsen Al-Zamel, deputy director at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

The latter had arrived in Armenia to discuss issues on establishing air travel between Armenia and Kuwait, the Territorial Administration Ministry press service said.

Two Young Men Shoot at Transvestites in Yerevan

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – Two young men in a vehicle fired shots at transvestites in a city park last week around midnight, resulting in several minor injuries, Armnews TV channel reported.

The shooting is being seen as an attack on transvestites who are known to gather in the park near City Hall, some of whom work as prostitutes.

Police have arrested at least one young man, aged 20-22. Part of the investigation launched by police is expected to determine whether the incident is linked to recent intolerance toward sexual minorities following a May 8 bomb attack on the DIY pub, a Yerevan club frequented by gays and lesbians.

Armenian Assembly of America's Yerevan Youth Club Concludes First Annual Lecture Series

YEREVAN – Earlier this month, the Armenian Assembly of America's Youth Club and its Armenian Diaspora Student Council held the closing event of its lecture series, reported the Armenian Assembly of America.

Participants came together to review progress made since the club's inception in February of this year. During the last three months participants were given opportunities to develop their communication and language skills,

interact with experts and specialists in the fields of psychology, human rights and politics as well as from civil society and youth organizations.

Each week students came together under the auspices of the Armenian Assembly to take part in dynamic lectures and attend training seminars to help diaspora students integrate into Armenian life and aid in their personal growth. Events included lectures by psychologists Hrachya Amiryan and

Izabella Ghazaryan from Yerevan State University (YSU), and seminars conducted by Armen Aguyan from State Pedagogical University, Lilit Mkrtchyan, Samvel Mkoyan, who leads the Armenian Diaspora Student Council, and Ashken Mkoyan, the leader of the



Youth Club members participating in a discussion and brain-storming session on the issues faced by diasporan students in Armenia.

Stepanakert Re-states Opening of Airport, Baku Re-issues Threats

By Aris Ghazinyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Last week, Tigran Gabrielyan, head of the Civil Aviation Department of Nagorno Karabagh, stated that the Stepanakert airport will be put into operation this summer.

The Karabagh authorities' statement made in March 2011 announcing that the airport was scheduled to open shortly, on May 9, stirred a whirlpool of outrage in Azerbaijan; Arif Mamedov, director of Azerbaijan's State Department of Civil Aviation, said that official Baku holds the right to destroy the planes that would land at Stepanakert airport.

Armenian President Serge Sargsian responded saying that Azeri statements are "sick."

"The population of Nagorno Karabagh has a right to use air transport services. I can only say that I – President of Armenia – will be the first passenger of that plane," he said.

Nonetheless, on May 9, 2011 the Armenian president did not become "the first passenger" as the airplane never took off. It was then that speculations started that Baku might actually fulfill their threat and fire on Armenian planes.

Then US ambassadors in Baku and

Yerevan – Matthew Bryza and Marie Yovanovitch, respectively – called the Azeri threat "unacceptable." This position forced the Azeri side to moderate the tone of its statements. Elhan Polukhov, the Azeri Foreign Ministry spokesperson, stated: "Azerbaijan has never applied force against civilians and will never do so."

Bryza then stressed that all the flight security issues had to be solved between Armenia and Azerbaijan before the opening of the airport.

"Flight security issues" have never been discussed between Baku and Yerevan, since Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry has recently released another statement flushed with threats along its usual lines.

"In accordance with international norms, in case the air space of the Azerbaijani Republic is trespassed, Azerbaijan's anti-aircraft forces will react to the aircraft the same way border guards would respond to trespassers of the state land border. After a warning signal the liner-trespasser will be shot down regardless of its type and nature."

High-ranking officials will offer comments on the issue that will also likely be discussed by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's during her visit to Yerevan and Baku, which began this week.

Clinton 'Very Concerned' over Armenia-Azeri Tensions

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"While I have only just learned about these incidents, I am very concerned about the danger of escalation of tensions and the senseless deaths of young soldiers and innocent civilians," she said.

"The use of force will not resolve the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict and therefore force must not be used," she said at a news conference with Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian.

US officials say better relations with Turkey could help Armenia's struggling economy, which suffered a 15-percent drop in gross domestic product during the 2008-2009 global financial crisis.

Clinton, who met with President Serge Sargsian, also planned to use her visit to stress the importance of rule of law, transparency and fair elections after recent parliamentary polls and presidential elections due in 2013.

Parliamentary elections last month drew charges of vote buying, but Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) monitors said the process was improved over elections in 2008.

"We are pleased to see Armenia continue to work to strengthen your democratic institutions, to promote transparency, advance the rights of a free press, root out corruption, respect universal rights and freedoms," Clinton said at a joint news conference with Nalbandian, as quoted by RFE/RL's Armenian Service.



Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian and Hillary Clinton at a press conference

"I was very pleased at the reports from international monitors about Armenia's parliamentary elections last month being generally competitive and inclusive, where candidates were able to campaign for the most part without interference," she said. "There were some electoral problems that were identified, and we hope that Armenia will work with the OSCE and others to ensure that the next election is even better."

The short trip was the opening leg of Clinton's second tour of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in two years.

Clinton also commended the Armenian government's efforts to improve the domestic business environment and in a further boost to Sargsian's international standing, again endorsed

official Yerevan's view that Turkey should stop linking parliamentary ratification of the US-brokered normalization agreements signed with Armenia in 2009 to a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

"We strongly support ratification of the Turkey-Armenia protocols without preconditions," she said. "We commend Armenia and President Sargsian for the leadership they have shown on this issue."

"As I said when I was here two years ago, the ball remains in Turkey's court," she stressed.

In Azerbaijan, highlighting the energy interests of the United States, which has invested \$8 billion in the country since independence in 1991, Clinton will visit an oil and gas trade exposition in Baku.



INTERNATIONAL

Turkish Pianist Is Accused of Insulting Islam

By Sebnem Arsuk and Daniel J. Wakin

ISTANBUL (*New York Times*) — A court here last week charged Fazil Say, a classical and jazz pianist with an international career, with insulting Islamic values in Twitter messages, the latest in a series of legal actions against Turkish artists, writers and intellectuals for statements they have made about religion and Turkish national identity.

Say, 42, who is also a composer, is accused of “publicly insulting religious values that are adopted by a part of the nation,” the Anatolian news agency said. A trial is scheduled to begin on October 18, with Say facing up to 18 months in prison if convicted.

It is unusual for Twitter posts to be the subject of an indictment in Turkey. Some of the messages were written by Say, but one, which poked fun at an Islamic vision of the afterlife, was written by someone else and passed along by Say via his Twitter account. Likening heaven’s promise of rivers of wine to a tavern and of virgins to a brothel, it referred to a poem by the 11th-century Persian poet Omar Khayyam, Say said in a text message from Slovenia, where he had just arrived for a concert.

Another Twitter post, this one written by Say, joked about a muezzin’s rapid delivery of the call to prayer, asking if he wanted to get away quickly for a drink. The messages are no longer available online. The pianist, who has frequently criticized the pro-Islamic Justice and Development Party government over its cultural and social policies, publicly defines himself as an atheist — a controversial admission in Turkey, which is overwhelmingly Muslim.

In his text message from Slovenia, Say said he was only one of 165 people who shared the Twitter post on the vision of Islamic paradise.

“I just thought it was a funny allego-

ry and retweeted the message,” he said. “It is unbelievable that it was made into a court case.”

He continued, “This case, which goes against universal human rights and laws, is saddening not only when judged on its own merit but also for Turkey’s image.”

Many intellectuals and writers have faced similar charges in recent years, including Orhan Pamuk, the Nobel lau-

extent in Asia and the United States. He has performed with major orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic and the Berlin Symphony Orchestra.

Say is also known in music circles for his eccentricities during performances, like conducting phrases with a free hand, giving range to facial expressions and humming along.

His last recital in New York was in April, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in connection with the opening of the New Galleries for the Art of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia and Later South Asia.

FRED DUFOUR/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE — GETTY IMAGES



The pianist, Fazil Say, shown in Paris in 2010, is an atheist and has criticized Turkey’s pro-Islamic government. He faces 18 months in jail if convicted.

reate, who last year was fined \$3,700 for saying in a Swiss newspaper that Turks “have killed 30,000 Kurds and 1 million Armenians.”

The European Union, which Turkey is seeking to join, and other international organizations have criticized such actions as violations of free speech.

Say, who has served as a European Union culture ambassador, has a busy international career, with frequent engagements in Europe and to a lesser

Anthony Tommasini, in reviewing the concert for the *New York Times*, said Say drew a “large and enthusiastic audience.” Of his performance of Leos Janacek’s Sonata I.X.1905, Tommasini wrote, “Mr. Say brought improvisatory freedom and vivid colorings to this harmonically misty, elegiac and restless music.”

(Sebnem Arsu reported from Istanbul, and Daniel J. Wakin from New York.)

Armenian Forces Kill Five Azeri Soldiers after Border Infiltration

ATTACK, from page 1

Three Armenian soldiers died fighting with Azerbaijani forces on Monday, as US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton was in Armenia.

The clash took place 125 kilometers northeast of Yerevan, after border troops fired on “Azerbaijani infiltrators,” an Armenian Defense Ministry statement said.

The statement said “several” more Armenian troops had been wounded in the exchange of fire, which “repelled” the encroaching Azerbaijanis.

In the US, Representatives Adam Schiff (D-CA), Brad Sherman (D-CA), House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Democrat Howard Berman (D-CA) and Congressional Armenian Caucus Co-Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ) on Tuesday issued strong statements condemning the cross-border Azerbaijani attack against Armenia.

In separate statements, several members of Congress urged Clinton to issue a clear rebuke of Azerbaijani aggression, expressed concern about pending US arms sales to an increasingly violent Aliyev regime, called for the strengthening of Section 907 restrictions on U.S. assistance to Azerbaijan, and offered their condolences to the families of the slain soldiers.

“This latest outrage by Azerbaijan’s military makes it even more important that Secretary Clinton condemn these belligerent actions during her visit to Baku later this week,” Schiff explained. “Azerbaijani provocations along the Line of Contact are a direct result of the war mongering rhetoric of the Aliyev

regime and they must cease. We should fully apply Section 907 and prohibit the transfer of any arms or dual use items to Azerbaijan.”

Sherman stressed: “I strongly and unequivocally condemn Azerbaijan’s recent attack on the Armenia-Azerbaijan border killing three Armenian soldiers. The timing of this brazen attack — on the same day Secretary of State Clinton visits Armenia — highlights Baku’s utter contempt for its neighbors and its lack of commitment to the peace process between Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Azerbaijan. I call on the Administration not only to publicly condemn the attack but also to enforce Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act without exercising its waiver provisions. We cannot provide any type of aid to Azerbaijan as long as Baku blockades Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh and rebukes peace with its neighbors. We must also block the sale of any arms to Azerbaijan, especially as these can be used against Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh.”

Berman, who first raised an alarm last week about a pending US sale to Azerbaijan of military police surveillance hardware for helicopter border patrol purposes, noted that he is “deeply disturbed by press reports about a brazen, unwarranted cross-border attack by Azerbaijan that resulted in the tragic deaths of three Armenian soldiers and the wounding of five others. This outrageous action underscores the critical importance of preventing the recently proposed sale of US military

equipment to the Government of Azerbaijan — a sale I recently requested Secretary Clinton to halt. Aside from the possible military application of this equipment against Armenia, such a sale would send entirely the wrong message to Azerbaijan, particularly in light of this horrifying incident.”

Pallone added “this type of aggression warrants a forceful condemnation of Azerbaijan’s actions by the Administration. It is my hope that Secretary of State Clinton, who is currently visiting the Caucasus and will meet with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev in Baku on Wednesday, delivers a strong message that the United States will not tolerate this type of violence and will hold Azerbaijan accountable.”

Earlier in the day, while the Secretary of State was still in Yerevan, Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Chairman Ken Hachikian dispatched a letter calling on Clinton to condemn the fatal Azerbaijani attack.

“Azerbaijan’s aggression, on the very day of your arrival in the Caucasus, represents, in addition, of course, to a painful human tragedy for those young men who were killed and injured, a brazen attack upon the prospects for a fair and lasting peace in this region,” said Hachikian in his letter. “It is long past time that the Obama Administration abandon its practice of artificial equivalence - a failed policy whose only response to Azerbaijani aggression and threats of renewed war has been to issue generically-formulated and transparently toothless calls on all parties to refrain from violence.”

International News

Armenia and Kazakhstan to Implement Exchange in Military Sphere

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Secretary for National Security Council Arthur Baghdasarian received a delegation headed by Kazakh Defense Minister Adibek Dzhaksybekov.

Baghdasarian said that Dzhaksybekov stressed the importance of signing an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of defense, underlining that it will give a new impetus to expansion of bilateral cooperation.

Baghdasarian pointed out the importance of promoting military and technical cooperation between Armenia and Kazakhstan.

The parties discussed a range of issues on military and technical cooperation, military education, defense, security, exchange of experience and information.

The parties stressed there is a potential for cooperation in other spheres as well.

Armenia Participates in France Animation Festival

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — Armenia is being represented at Annecy International Animation Film Festival within the non-competitive “Travel” category. The festival began on June 4 in the French city of Annecy and is scheduled to conclude on June 9.

Member of the Armenian delegation Gohar Gasparyan said that 120,000 tickets have been sold as of June 5, and there are still queues near booking offices.

The Robert Sahakyants Production animation studio, which represents Armenia at the world film market, will present a retrospective showing the works of Sahakyants.

According to Gasparyan, the second Armenian program is called “20 Years of Independent Animation in Armenia,” with 15 cartoons from Armenian artists to be presented.

This year the festival will have 7,000 participants from 80 countries.

Miakti Heads to Turkey Over Abduction of Pilgrims

BEIRUT (Lebanon Now) — Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati left Lebanon for Turkey to follow up on the issue of the Lebanese Shia pilgrims abducted in Syria on May 22, the National News Agency reported on Wednesday.

“Firstly, the visit aims to follow up, together with Turkish officials, on the issue of the Lebanese abductees, and to find out whether there are any developments related to this incident,” Mikati said before leaving Beirut.

“We hope that the efforts undertaken will contribute to the resolution of this humanitarian issue... and to the safe return of the pilgrims to Lebanon,” he added.

Foreign Affairs Minister Adnan Mansour and Interior Minister Marwan Charbel also joined Mikati in his official visit to Turkey where he is scheduled to discuss bilateral relations with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, according to the NNA.

According to various media reports, 11 Lebanese Shia men were kidnapped in Aleppo province as they were returning home by bus from a pilgrimage in Iran. Their families said that they were abducted by Syrian rebels. The Free Syrian Army, however, denied the accusation.

The NNA reported that the pilgrims had been released and that Mikati received a call from Erdogan who assured him they were “safe and on their way to Beirut.”

However, the current location of the abductees is unknown amid conflicting reports.

The kidnapping took place amid heightened tension in Lebanon over the Syrian crisis.

Community News

Dr. Albert Melik Ghassemian Donates \$234,000 to AEF

GLENDAL - The Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF) announced recently that Dr. Albert Melik Ghassemian of Boston donated \$34,000 to fund the renovation of two Artsakh village schools and \$200,000 towards the renovation of the Artsakh State University dormitory.

Artsakh State University students and faculty celebrated the opening of the renovated dormitory building on May 10. In attendance were Artsakh government officials, AEF board members and Ghassemian.

Ghassemian's contribution allowed AEF to renovate four floors of the dormitory. The renovation of the fourth and fifth floors were completed and presented during the opening celebration. The renovation of the second and third floors will be finished this summer. In addition to funding the renovation of the dormitory, Ghassemian also helped provide the furnishings for each room, plus two kitchenettes on each floor.

During the opening celebrations, the university president and minister of education presented Ghassemian with an honorary doctorate degree from Artsakh State University. Ghassemian, a cardiologist and a member of the Dean's Advisory Board at Boston University School of Medicine, offered philanthropic support for future projects at Artsakh State University. He also took the time to answer questions from students and inquired about their daily life at the university and their involvement in its educational programs.

In an interview with a local newspaper, Ghassemian stated that the renovation project was dear to his heart because his grandparents were born in Artsakh and that the experience brought him closer to his Armenian heritage.

The dormitory renovation project was led by AEF Board member Neshan Peromian, who for the past 10 years has personally interviewed and selected contractors and overseen each renovation project. This renovation project raises the total number of renovated schools in Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhs by the AEF to more than 177 schools.

AEF, as always, spends 100 percent of the funds received by its donors towards the project the donors are sponsoring. "We are very grateful to Dr. Ghassemian for his very generous donation," stated AEF President Hermineh Pakhanians. "It is because of the generosity of individuals like Dr. Ghassemian that AEF has for over 61 years been able to



Dr. Albert Melik Ghassemian and students at the renovated dormitory

provide financial assistance to Armenian students and educational institutions." In 2011, AEF allocated more than \$445,000 for numerous educational projects including: renovation of schools, scholarships, computers and school supplies to village schools in Armenia and Artsakh.

For more information or donation, contact the AEF office at aef@aefweb.org.



Joyce Stein

Joyce Philibosian Stein Receives Ellis Island Medal of Honor

NEW YORK - Joyce Philibosian Stein, an ex-officio member of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Board of Directors, co-chair of the AMAA National Orphan and Child Care Committee, trustee of the Stephen Philibosian Foundation, long-time Armenian Assembly Board member and Life Trustee and ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees for Haigazian University, was honored on May 12 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO), sponsors of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor was presented to Stein on Ellis Island, where 12 million immigrants entered the United States from 1892 to 1954.

Each year since 1986, NECO has honored the nation's diverse past by sponsoring the Ellis Island Medals of Honor. The medals of honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. The medals are presented on Ellis Island, in a dramatic ceremony, to American citizens from across the country for their outstanding contributions to their communities, their nation and the world.

Past Ellis Island Medal of Honor recipients include six presidents of the United States, Nobel Prize winners, athletes, entertainers and leaders of industry, education, the arts, government, media and others whose work has made a lasting impact on humanity. They are awarded to outstanding American citizens, from all walks of life, who have distinguished themselves through their significant contributions to this country. The Ellis Island Medal of Honor ranks among the nation's most prestigious awards. The United States Senate and House of Representatives have officially recognized the medals of honor and each year the recipients are listed in the Congressional Record. To date, more than 1,800 American citizens have received Ellis Island Medals of Honor.

Stein is the daughter of the late Sirpuhe Philibosian Conte and Stephen Philibosian, a philanthropist, entrepreneur and a co-founder of Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon. Both having crossed the Ellis Island threshold, they would be amazed to know their daughter was awarded this medal.

Stein was born in New York City and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. She also holds an honorary degree from Haigazian University (LLD). She lived in St. Andrew's, Scotland, while her husband, Joe, attended St. Mary's College. She now resides with her husband in Indian Wells, Calif. In keeping with her father's legacy, Stein has supported the AMAA and Haigazian University in leadership positions. Among her many other contributions to philanthropic causes, she served as a volunteer and major fundraiser for the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia and as chair of the Daisy Day Fund, when President Dwight Eisenhower was the honorary chairman. She has also served as a member of the Support Committee of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

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AGBU Hye Geen Brings Clothing Donations to Women and Families Across Armenia

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. - Reaching out to women and expectant mothers facing difficulties across Armenia, Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Hye Geen is leading yet another humanitarian project: the distribution of donated clothing, made possible by the generosity of California-based Silvia's Costumes.

On April 30, Hovig Eordekian, the AGBU Armenian Representation interim director, Haig Messerlian, the AGBU Southern California District Committee chairman, and Lena Baghdassarian, the AGBU Armenian Representation finance officer were in Yeghvard at the AGBU Hye Geen Nora Injijian Pregnant Women's Center where they presented packages of clothing, as well as blankets and books, to beneficiaries. Mary-Louise Injijian, a Hye Geen patron, along with her family from San Francisco and Milan were also visiting the center.

The AGBU Hye Geen Nora Injijian Center within the Yeghvard Childbirth Hospital is one of the four Pregnant Women's Centers that Hye Geen has established in the past decade. The launch of the project, which is being implemented by Hye Geen in partnership with the Armavir and Tavush Dioceses and the Republic's Ministry of Social Welfare, gave the women the opportunity not only to collect the donations, but also to spend time together and experience a sense of solidarity, which is central to Hye Geen's mission.

Beneficiaries enjoyed hand-picking items from some of the 200 boxes that were sent directly from Silvia's Costumes, a Los Angeles store that partnered with AGBU Hye Geen. Born in Armenia, the store's founder, Silvia Tchakmakjian, knows from personal experience how great the need for humanitarian aid is. She and her employees were eager to donate their time and effort to what they knew was a worthy cause. As Tchakmakjian commented, "just the



Mother and newborn baby Nora, who was named in memory of Nora Injijian, stand with Mary-Louise Injijian, who founded the AGBU Hye Geen Center in Yeghvard in memory of her daughter.

thought of how happy the pieces will make someone is incredibly rewarding...I am blessed to have this business, and making these contributions is the least I can do for my country."

In the coming weeks, each of the Pregnant Women's Centers will continue to distribute the clothing to the women and families they serve, and distributions will also be held in the Tavush Diocese and in Gegharkunik. To date, more than 100 women, men and children have received packages and expressed their deep gratitude to AGBU Hye Geen.

The new clothing distribution program is one of several components in Hye Geen's multifaceted approach to both aiding and empowering women throughout Armenia, with a focus on those from the country's most impoverished regions.

Since 1994, AGBU Hye Geen in Southern California (www.hyegeen.com) has worked to preserve and honor achievements of Armenian women, provide a forum for them throughout the world, promote their role in family and society through research, education and advocacy, and provide overall support to empower Armenian women as carriers of the Armenian cultural heritage.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Helping Orphans at the 20th Annual Alexandria Armenian Festival

WASHINGTON —The Washington DC Chapter of the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) successfully raised funds to benefit orphaned Armenian children at the 20th Annual Alexandria Armenian Festival on June 2. The festival provides an opportunity to share Armenian culture with the local community, which takes place annually at the Market Square in Old Town Alexandria, Va.

By Natalie Grigorian

Participants of the festival had the opportunity to learn more about the organization and its outreach programs that help orphaned children in Armenia. Volunteers from SOAR provided information about the orphanages the group supports and the child sponsorship program. Featured at the SOAR booth were works of art by orphaned Armenian children from Trchoonian Home orphanage in Gumri, Armenia. Since the 1989 earthquake that devastated many cities in northwest Armenia, Alexandria has supported Gumri as its sister city. In light of this special connection, money raised during the festival will directly benefit the children at Trchoonian Home orphanage.

At the festival, SOAR met with two Armenian sisters, Yevkine Karian and Dikranuhi Chakarian, who were orphans in Istanbul, Turkey around 1927. "It's inspiring to see how these two sisters could go from life in an orphanage to creating a happy life in the United States," said SOAR DC Chapter President Natalie Grigorian. "Such special encounters validate the mission of SOAR."

The DC Chapter of SOAR partnered with Talene Dadian White, an Armenian children's book author, who sold her books at the festival. A portion of the proceeds from book sales at the festival benefited SOAR.

SOAR hopes to expand its outreach in the Washington DC metropolitan area and continue to support the core mission of providing humanitarian relief to orphaned Armenian children throughout the world.

More information about SOAR can be found at www.soar-us.org.



From left, Yevkine Karian and Dikranuhi Chakarian, two Armenian sisters who were orphans in Istanbul, Turkey around 1927, visiting the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief booth.

Elizabeth Mugar Eveillard Named Chair Of Smith College Board of Trustees

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. — The Smith College Board of Trustees recently elected longtime investment banker Elizabeth Mugar Eveillard, a member of the Class of 1969, as the next chair of the board. She will serve a three-year term beginning July 1.

Eveillard succeeds Cornelia Mendenhall Small, Class of 1966.

Eveillard is the daughter of Helen G. Mugar and the late John M. Mugar.

Eveillard was named to the board in 2003, after retiring from a 31-year career in investment banking. She had launched her career at Lehman Brothers, where she rose to the position of managing director. She later represented PaineWebber, Inc., as managing director and head of its retail industry group.

As a member of the Smith board, Eveillard has chaired several committees including, most recently, the finance committee.

Having benefited from her study-abroad experience as an undergraduate, Eveillard is an active supporter of the college's international programs. The Elizabeth M. and Jean-Marie Eveillard Fund for International Initiatives supports a range of programs, including global engagement seminars and the Eveillard Directorship of the college's Global Studies Center.

In addition to her leadership role at Smith, Eveillard serves on the board of the Samuel H.



Elizabeth Mugar Eveillard

Kress Foundation; is a director of Master Drawings, Inc., and Birks and Mayors, Inc.; and is a member of the National Trustee Council of OPERA America, which recently presented her with the National Opera Trustee Recognition Award. She has chaired the Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, NY and has served on the Board of Dean's Advisors and the Visiting Committee at the Harvard Business School, where she earned her master's degree in business administration.

One of the largest women's colleges in the United States, Smith enrolls 2,750 students from nearly every state and 62 other countries.

Joyce Philibosian Stein Receives Ellis Island Medal of Honor

STEIN, from page 4

Her husband represents the AMAA in the United Armenian Fund and is involved in numerous other Armenian organizations and projects. Her daughter, Stephanie Landes, is a current member of the AMAA Board of Directors and her daughter, Tina Segel, is a member of Haigazian University Board of Directors. She also actively serves on the LA Child and Orphan Committee and has sponsored the annual Luncheon and Fashion Show.

"The AMAA congratulates Joyce on this very prestigious award," said Levon Filian, executive director of the AMAA. "Joyce is a true leader

who puts her heart and soul into each and every project to make the world a little better than how she found it."

Armenian Assembly Chairman Hirair Hovnanian, on behalf of the entire board, applauded Stein's dedication and praised her for serving the "community with distinction" and "setting standards for exceptional leadership."

Fellow Armenians Nancy Arabian, Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian, Kevork I. Karajerjian, Dalida Keuroghlian, Papken Megerian, Dr. Ohannes A. Nercessian and Alice Petrossian also received the 2012 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Friends of HMADS Annual Gala Dinner Dance

Dedicated to the School's
45th Anniversary

By Talar Aydin

OAKLAND GARDENS, N.Y. — Holy Martyrs Armenian Day School (HMADS) continued to celebrate its 45th anniversary with a gala dinner dance, which took place at the Garden City Country Club. This event was co-chaired by two former parents and members of Friends of HMADS, Lolita Babikian and Arto Vandian. The



Mr. and Mrs. Alex Dadourian with HMADS Class of 2012 members Shushan and Nicole, with Principal Zarmine Boghosian

evening began with a cocktail hour. Dinner and dancing soon ensued. The Kevork Artinian and Friends band kept the guests on the dance floor with a selection of popular Armenian songs. On each table were the dinner dance booklets that featured the two graduating classes of 2012, Kindergarten and the sixth grade, designed by HMADS alumnae Christine Vandian and her mother, Irene Vandian.

The ballroom was filled with more than 250 guests that included every facet of the HMADS family: HMADS benefactors from founding members to current benefactors, dinner dance booklet chairs, School Board members, Friends of HMADS gala committee members, faculty members, parents, HMADS alumni and the Class of 2012 sixth-grade students.

Friends of HMADS Chairperson Hovannes Malikyan opened the evening by welcoming all

guests and expressing his appreciation to all benefactors, donors and guests for their continuous support to the annual dinner dance and to HMADS.

Arek Nisanyan, co-chair of the School Board, acknowledged the presence of benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Alex Dadourian and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gulbenkian. He then invited Principal Zarmine Boghosian to address the guests. One of the most memorable moments of the night occurred when Boghosian invited all HMADS alumni to the floor. It was wonderful to see all the alumni — from recent graduates, to young professionals, to parents with their own children currently enrolled in the school — lined up alongside Boghosian. This was an exceptional way to recognize the quality of academic excellence that HMADS produces.

Nisanyan along with Boghosian and Malikyan approached the podium to introduce the evening's honoree, Hratch Arukian, the honorary booklet chairman, who was recognized for his dedication to the school. Arukian has linked his determination to give back to the school, and to others, to an insightful Armenian expression: "Door vor Asdvadz dah," or "Give so God will give." Arukian's wife, Negdar, is a HMADS supporter in her own right with her



Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gulbenkian with Melissa and Vartkes, Class of 2012, and Principal Zarmine Boghosian

participation in all Friends of HMADS fundraising events as a founding member. Their daughters, Arpi Arukian and Talin Arukian-Atanasov, are graduates of HMADS and continue to maintain their ties to the school.



Friends of HMADS - Gala Dinner Dance Organizing Committee members

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Nova University in Fla. to Offer Classes on Armenian Genocide

DAVIE, Fla. — The Department of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at Nova Southeastern University (NSU) prepares to offer courses in Armenian Genocide Studies. The master of science and a doctor of philosophy degrees are offered on campus in Davie, north of Miami, as well as online. The PhD program is one of only two in the country accessible from a distance.

Nova Southeastern University started in 1964, as Nova University, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. After its merger with Southeastern University in 1994, it has become the nation's eighth largest independent university with more than 28,000 students and 148,000 alumni.

At the present time more than 400 students are pursuing a degree in conflict analysis, from all over the world, including: Rwanda, Darfur, Philippines and Saudi Arabia, to build the skills that will make them informed scholars, practitioners and researchers.

Dr. Jason Campbell, PhD, whose research has focused on studies of genocide, developed an intense interest in and research focused on the

Armenian Genocide and its predictive value for the modern genocides of the 20th and 21st centuries.

Under the direction of Dr. Susanne Marshall, PhD senior associate dean of operations, Campbell would like to add more courses to the curriculum, with emphasis on the Armenian Genocide, and partner with faculty at NSU and across the nation to generate and publish innovative academic research on the topic.

Marshall who was raised in Salzburg, Austria, joined Nova Southeastern in 2003. Marta Batmasian, who is on the Board of Governors of the Huizenga School of Business, is so impressed with Marshall's and Campbell's passion and enthusiasm that she is confident NSU will eventually have an Armenian Studies endowed chair, a first in the southeast. Marshall added that, "she would love to develop an Armenian Genocide Research Archive at NSU and create a large academically managed collection of the stories of the descendants of the Armenian Genocide."

Donations

In memory of John Hovsepian, who passed away in Brandenton, Fla. on Sunday, May 27, the following donations have been made to the Armenian Mirror-Spectator: ADL/TCA Chicago Chapters, \$200; Sirop Bedrosian Family, Houston, Texas, \$200 and Arsen and Karen Demirdjian, Skokie, Ill. \$100.



80TH ANNIVERSARY

Mirror-Spectator Gala Attracts Glittering Crowd

Awards Given out to Veteran Bentley Leader Adamian, Journalists Shamlan and Mahtesian

ANNIVERSARY, from page 1

Shamlan spoke about how happy she was to be back within the fold of the Armenian community. The mother of five, who lives in Houston, said she wished her father were alive to see how she and her sister, had succeeded, after having lost their mother as teens. She spoke about her circuitous and improbable journey



Janet Shamlan

from a local correspondent to housewife to a national correspondent for NBC. She said when her children were small, she would watch newscasts obsessively, correcting reporters both in terms of grammar and content, often talking to the television set, much to the amusement of her husband. "Now when I talk to Matt Lauer, he actually answers back," she said.

Mahtesian spoke about the need for hard work and discipline that his father instilled in him, saying that these are Armenian qualities. These qualities, he said, enabled him to strive for better and better positions, and to attend law school while working full-time. He said he would always remember his father's motto when suffering because of hard work and that he would propel himself ahead. He also recalled warmly the Armenian Sisters' Academy in Philadelphia. In closing, he said, "Now I know how Mitt Romney feels in Utah," much to the delight of the audience.

The keynote address was originally scheduled to be delivered by Vigen A. Sargsyan, chief of staff to President Serge Sargsian of Armenia. However, as President Sargsian did not come to the US as planned to attend the Chicago gathering for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members and their affiliated states, including Armenia, Sargsyan could not come either. The president stayed away from the conference, as all attendees



Hagop Vartivarvan, left, presents an award to Hranush Hakobyan.



From left, Edmond Azadian, with Margrit and Nishan Atinikian

were to sign a document regarding respecting member states' territorial integrity. If Armenia had signed it, it would have signaled that Karabagh was ready to go back under Azeri rule.

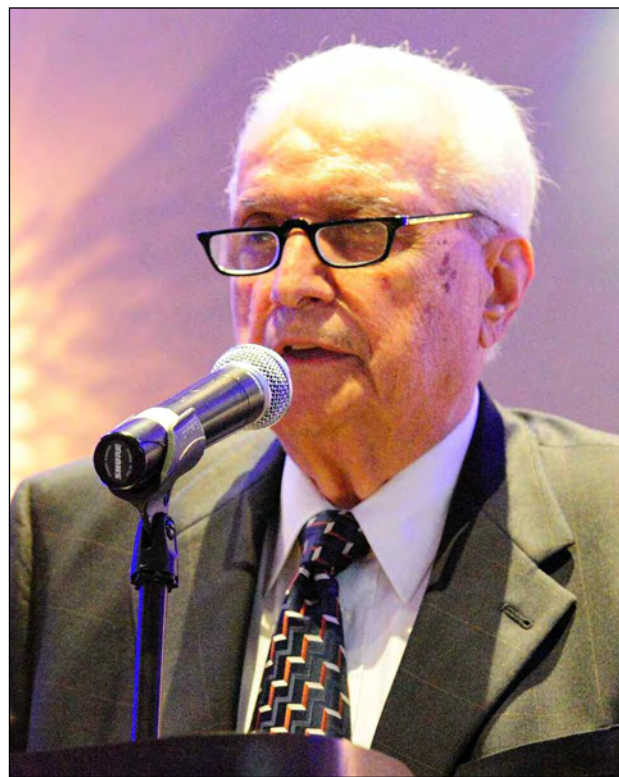
Instead, Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan spoke, stressing that the *Mirror-Spectator* was not 80 years old, but "60 plus 20," the latter the number of years that Armenia has been an independent republic. She praised the diasporan organs and organizations for keeping ties with their homeland and urged the dias-



Charles Mahtesian

pora's support in maintaining a land that few had thought they would see in their lifetimes.

Edmond Azadian, the co-chair of Baikar Association, Inc., expressed his deep love for the newspaper, with which he has been affiliated upwards of four decades. In the past decade, he has been the regular weekly commentator. He recalled working with and knowing every editor of the newspaper, including the founding editor, Elisha Chrakian (the father of longtime supporter who has volunteered her services to the paper for decades, Barbara Tellalian), through former editor Barbara Merguerian, who was in attendance, and the current editor, Alin



Dr. Gregory Adamian

K. Gregorian. He praised the staff for their dedication and expressed his hopes for another 80 years.

June Hatfield, chair of the organizing committee, praised Adamian for his lifelong service and thanked the hosts, the Nishan and Margrit Atinikian Family Foundation. Azadian called Nishan and Margrit Atinikian to the stage to present them with a token of appreciation.

continued on next page



Event Chair June Hatfield



80TH ANNIVERSARY

from previous page

In addition to Azadian, attending the program were Armenia's ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian; chairman of the ADL Press Committee Hagop Vartivarian and Baikar Association Inc. Co-Chairman Papken Megerian.

Several guests, including Jack Pini, the university's executive director of development, represented Bentley.

In addition to the speakers, a young violinist, Haig Hovsepian of Belmont, performed two pieces, accompanied by his mother, Ani, on the piano, receiving thunderous applause.

Previous recipients of awards from the *Mirror-Spectator* were ESPN baseball analyst Tim Kurkjian, the *Improper Bostonian* publisher Wendy Semonian, chief investigative correspondent for CBS News Armen Keteyan and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Stephen Kurkjian.

The members of the Celebration Committee were: Carolyn Atinizian-Yardemian and Johnny Yardemian, Nigoghos and Roset Atinizian, Ara Balikian, Nageeb Diarbakerly, Dr. Nishan and Mary Goudsouzian, Michael Guleserian, June Hatfield, Carol and Richard Ishkanian, Dr. Parnag and Nancy Kasarjian, Henry Hagopian III, Kevork Marashlian, Gary and Hasmig Mardiros, Mark McKertich, Souren and Lisa Maserejian, Jeanmarie Papelian, Hasmik Saroyan and Barbara Tellalian.



From left, Lois Kolgian, Mary Bergoudian, Audrey Pilibosian, Marianne Ajemian and Lucille Ajemian



From left, Margrit Atinizian, Vartouhi Aprahamian, Nadia Gulmezgil and Roset Atinizian



Dikran Gulmezgil and Nishan Atinizian



From left, Yervant Chekijian, Aurelian Mardiros, Anahid Mardiros and Vartan Mardiros



Stephen Kurkjian and Nancy Guleserian



Edmond Azadian



Papken Megerian and Shake Derderian



Haig Hovsepian performs on the violin.



From left, Leon Semonian, Michael Gulbenkian and Paul Boghosian



From left, Marta Batmasian and Lou Ann Ohanian



From left, Vartouhi Aprahamian, Anoush Tacorian, Carolyn Atinizian Yardemian and Margrit Atinizian



Jack Pini, right, and guests from Bentley University



80TH ANNIVERSARY



From left, Mehmet Rasgelener, Harry Parsekian and Prof. Taner Akçam



From left, Hranush Hakobyan, Papken Megerian and Nishan Atinizian



From left, Margrit Atinizian, Vartiter Marashlian and Haikouhie Deirmenjian



Gary and Hasmig Mardiros



From left, Ani Hovsepian, Michele Kolligian and Nancy Kolligian



From left, Ida Boodakian and Katherine Balian Haytayan



Virginia Ohanian, center, flanked by John and Roxie Maljanian



Mirror-Spectator correspondent Nancy Kalajian and receptionist Cristina Antoin



From left, Lisa Maserejian, Souren Maserejian and Natalie and Albert Tsaturian



Dr. Nishan and Mary Goudsouzian



From left, Carol Ishkanian, Arpi Boynerian and Araxie Devletian



From left, Jack Pilibosian and Marion Semonian



80TH ANNIVERSARY



Roxie and John Maljanian, standing, and Violet and Peter Galazan



From left, Christopher Mensoian, Ann Chaglassian, Mark and Charleen Janian



From left, Yervant Chekijian, Nancy Kolligian and Dr. Armineh Mirzabegian



From left, Jirair and Susan Demirchian and Anahit and Ervant Kibarian



From left, George Tarvezian, Yervant Chekijian and Marta Batmasian



Dr. Jack and Dorothy Keverian



From left Nishan Atinizian, Hranoush Hakobyan and Ambassador Garen Nazarian



Robert Semonian, left, and James Batmasian



From left, Tara Keramaty, Ken Hatfield, Edmond Danielson, Ann Danielson, Joyce Kolligian and Valerie Kolligian Thayer



From left, Yervant Chekijian, Pamela Avedisian, Edward Avedisian and Alice Avanian



Kevork and Jacqueline Atinizian



Vartiter Marashlian, left, and Hripsime Parsekian



Dulce Diarbakerly and Carolyn Atinizian-Yardemian



80TH ANNIVERSARY



From left, Margrit Atinizian, Janet Shamlian, Carolyn Atinizian Yardemian and Roset Atinizian



Richard Ishkanian



From left, Robert Avakian Jr., Robert Semonian, Charles Mahtesian, Paul Boghosian and Robert Avakian, Sr.



Barbara Chrakian Tellalian



Alin Gregorian and her daughter, Tenny



Rev. Avedis Boynerian and his sister, Araxie Devletian



Charles Mahtesian and Joyce Kolligian



Cheryl Balian Scaparrotta and Avedis Barmakian



John and Pat Amboian



From left, Hagop Vartivarian, Ambassador Garen Nazarian, Hranush Hakobyan, Papken Megerian, Edmond Azadian and Kevork Marashlian



Vartan Mardiros, right, and Olivia Jones

First *Mirror* Editorial Explains Mission of Newspaper

The following editorial appeared in the first issue of the *Armenian Mirror*, on Friday, July 1, 1932.

Why?

The Armenians as a race have drawn attention of the civilized world, chiefly, because of the hardships and cruelties they have suffered under Turkish domination. This sympathy has unfortunately overshadowed the important contributions they have made, for many centuries, in the fields of literature, the arts, science, commerce and religious thought.

It is the purpose of the *Armenian Mirror* to present in clear and intelligible manner accounts of Armenian life, both past and present, pertaining to social, political, economic and religious matters. Such an undertaking, it is hoped, will prove educational and instructive.

Furthermore, to many Armenians who are born in this country and who cannot read or write Armenian and who are denied a literary organ on Armenian activities, the *Mirror* hopes to supply a definite want. It feels confident that there are many Armenians who, despite the fact that they are reared amidst a different environment than that of their parents, are naturally and instinctively interested in the deeds of their countrymen. This fact is not difficult to explain, for it is directly traceable to their proud heritage, whose influence is inescapable, however tempered it may be by pride and consciousness in American nationality; for this heritage, molded in centuries of incessant struggle and strife, epitomizes the unflinching spirit of a martyred civilization, a civilization which has survived despite the endless persecutions to which it has been subjected. It embodies the fine virtues of any age: idealism, courage, piety and love of liberty and country. This is the heritage which animates the lives of those who are working

today for the regeneration of the new Armenia that has risen from the depths of oppression and is entering upon a new era. It is this natural endowment of those who have grown up in the American community life, calmly unaware that their inheritance is of such fine stuff, that has spurred them to high intellectual attainments in American universities, to auspicious careers in the professions, to successful application of the principles of good citizenship. It explains the eagerness, resourcefulness, intelligence and sturdiness of character that have marked their participation in American business and civil life. It explains their intense pride in the achievements and success of their countrymen.

If, therefore, the *Mirror* can bring the American Armenians in closer touch with this heritage and make them truly conscious of it in all its glory, then it can say with justification that its existence is of inestimable importance and value to them.

— H.A.



Jack and Lena Kouyoumjian with Jiir and Susan Demirchian



From left, Kevork Atinikian II, Garineh Minassian, Tenny Gregorian, and Grace and Claire Melcher



From left, Edmond Azadian, Hagop Vartivarian and Mihran Minassian



Elizabeth Derderian and Azadouhie Loosian



Guests mingled at the event.



Armen and Pirouz Boghosian, right, with Anahit and Ervant Kibarian



From left, Dr. Paul Barsam, Nishan Atinikian, George W. Haroutunian and Dr. Joyce Barsam



Mirror-Spectator copy editor Dilani Yogaratnam



Janet Shamlian with her daughters, Claire and Grace

80TH ANNIVERSARY

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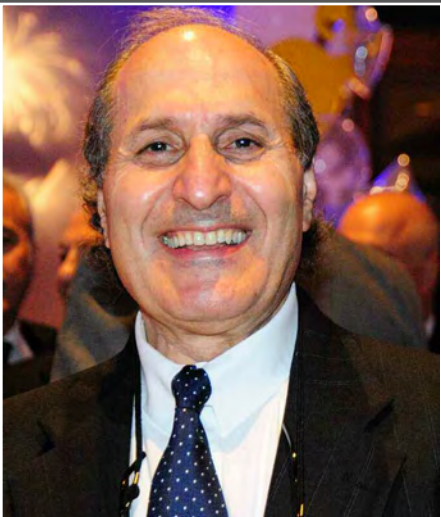
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From left, Kevork Atinizian II, Nigoghos Atinizian, Janet Shamlian and Roset Atinizian



All Photos by Jirair Hovsepián



The Washington correspondent of Armenia news broadcast H1 reported on the anniversary celebration of the *Mirror-Spectator*.



Arts & Living

Eric Roberts Joins International Cast In Original Film 'Betrayal'

LOS ANGELES— T5 Media Group LLC and Topalian/Morris Productions, a full service production company, this week announced that principal photography on the original film, "Betrayal," written and produced by Jack Topalian and Jason Morris, is currently underway in Los Angeles County with an impressive cast that includes Academy Award nominee and three-time Golden Globe nominee Eric Roberts ("The Dark Knight," "The Expendables," "The Cable Guy," "Runaway Train"), Oleg Taktarov ("15 Minutes," "Predators," "National Treasure," "We Own The Night"), Scott L. Schwartz ("Ocean's Eleven," "Scorpion King," "Starsky and Hutch"), Ric Young ("American Gangster," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom,"



Eric Roberts

"Transporter") and Marco Khan ("Iron Man," "Pirates of the Caribbean," "10,000 BC"). Topalian ("Argo," "Southland," "The Wedding") is directing and also stars in the stylized, character-driven crime

drama that tells the tale of ex-Armenian mobster turned businessman, Vazgen "Vaz" Aramyan, who is pulled back into his past life, when his eldest son, Michael, is accused of killing the husband of his lover, Natasha. When Vaz discovers the victim was captain of the Russian mob, he returns with a vengeance to the treacherous, underground world he left behind in order to protect his son and save his family.

"I'm thrilled and privileged to have the opportunity to work with Eric, Scott, Ric, Marco and



Jack Topalian

Oleg who bring such depth and experience to the film. As a director, to be able to utilize that experience, only makes the work that much more powerful and meaningful and it becomes something very exciting for the audience to watch," said Topalian.

"It's been a long time since we've seen this type of film. It has a very fresh, new twist on the crime genre and introduces us to a new world of characters that are real and living amongst us. It's also a story about family, loyalty and honor and no matter who you are and what values drive you, in the end, the truth is the only way out," Topalian added.

Filming is expected to be completed by the end of May and will go into post-production, with release planned for late 2012.

"Betrayal" (www.betrayalmovie.com) also features an international ensemble cast including Aleksandr Khachatryan, Levon Sharafyan, Kelly Lynn Gitter, Jon Biddell, Anya Avaeva, Roman Mitichyan, Vaz Andreas, Anahid Shahrik, Jessica Tome, SiAna Kay and Gev Khal.



Gerald Papasian

Paris-based Actor/Director Papasian To Host 9th Golden Apricot Film Festival Opening in Yerevan

PARIS – International actor/director Gerald Papasian is among the guests of honor of the ninth Golden Apricot International Film Festival, invited to host, in three languages, the opening and closing ceremonies of the festival in Yerevan, July 8-15.

"I am happy that Festival Director Harutyun Khachatryan invited me. It is an honor to host this event. It will be a challenge to auto translate and render my remarks accessible in all three languages," Papasian said.

Papasian is no stranger to the film and theater circles in Armenia. A graduate of the National Institute of Theatre and Cinema of Armenia, Papasian has performed on stage and screen garnering awards from the Cinema and Theatre Guilds as well as The Armenian Writers' Union for his presentation of "Sojourn at Ararat." He is an honorary member of the Gabriel Sundukyan National Academic Theatre of Armenia and was recently awarded the Presidential Movses Khorenatsi medal and the Ministry of Culture of Armenia's 20th anniversary Gold medal in recognition of his artistic contributions.

This year, the Golden Apricot Festival Guest of Honor list includes Isabelle Huppert, Agnieszka Holland, whose latest film "In Darkness," will be screened, the Belgian film maker brothers Jean-Pierre and Luc Darndenne, the Italian brothers Paolo and Vittorio Taviani, Yann Raymond of UniFrance Films International, photographer and close friend of Sergey Paradjanov, Yuri Mechitov, and Christa Meindersm, a director of the Prince Claus Foundation (Holland).

A total of 1,120 films from 70 countries will be presented this year. Participating filmmakers include Victor Erice, Valerie Massadian and Alexander Sokurov. To mark the designation of Yerevan as a world capital for books by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultrual Organization (UNESCO), the festival's slogan this year is "Book and the Cinema."

Papasian adapted and staged Dikran Tchouhadjian's "Gariné," in French as a world premiere at the Théâtre St. Maur in Paris and the Théâtre de l'Odeon in Marseille, where it was the opening of the 2010-2011 season.

His previous two visits to Armenia were on the occasion of performances with "Waiting for the Dream," based on Shakespeare and "Somewhere ... La Mancha" based on Cervantes with the Irina Brook Theater Company, of which he is a founding member, and for filming the award-winning short film, "Le Piano," by Levon Minasian.

After completing a seven-year international tour with the Irina Brook Theater Company, with performances at the Théâtre de Paris, he performed in two plays, "L'Albatros" by Fabrice Melquiot (2011) and in "Terrain Vague" by Alexandre Romanès (2012). He also played a part in the short film, "Last Winter," directed by Maeva Poinisgnon, produced in the UK (2012).

Belmont Women Show their Love by Making Quilts for Armenian Children

BELMONT, Mass. – The women of the Belmont Senior Center Quilting Circle, who, until now, may not have even heard of Hnaberd, Armenia, or been aware of what life is like in a border village, volunteered their time to make quilts, providing warmth from Belmont to the valley of Mount Ararat, through an exhibition, titled, "The Belmont Senior Center Quilting Circle Exhibition," on May 18 and 19, at the Armenian Cultural and Education Center (ACEC) in Watertown.

About 20 quilts of varying colors and designs were displayed, each composed by a different quilter with many colors, patterns and textures. The handcrafted quilts were donated by the Boyajian Foundation for the kindergarten children in the village of Hnaberd.

The village of Hnaberd is in the Ararat Province in Armenia, located on the Eastern border of Turkey in the Armenian territory. This village also borders the Nakhichevan enclave of Azerbaijan to the south. Hnaberd and many surrounding villages and towns are also located on the Ruins of Dvin. A large, ancient and historic capital city, Dvin became prominent during the reign of Khosrov II (332-338). Later during the middle of the fifth century to the middle of the 13th century, it was on the major trade route and became an art and cultural center of Armenia known at the time to the nations of Asia Minor and Europe. Dvin's geo-political position, natural disasters (earthquakes in 863 and 893) were the main



One of the quilts shown

cause of its destruction. It had been destroyed and reconstructed many times. Because of its rich historic value, systematic excavations have taken place since 1937 to the present. Today it is the site of a number of archeological excavations, bringing to light Armenian culture between the fifth to 13th centuries.

Nish Boyajian Memorial Foundation founder Richard Boyajian of Quincy and board member Peggy Hovanissian of Lexington, on a visit to this historic site, accidentally met the mayor of Hnaberd. Through him they became aware of the needed repairs to the old school building, until the new school building was to be completed, and decided to assist with repairs. When students settled in the new school building, Hnaberd's kindergarten, with 17 students, settled in the old-but-now-repaired building.

For more information about the Nish Boyajian Memorial Foundation, visit www.boyajianmemorialfoundation.com.



ARTS & LIVING

ASA Students Take Part in Armenian Awareness Day in Penn.

HARRISBURG, Penn. — Armenian music filled the main rotunda of the Pennsylvania capitol building as Armenian Sisters' Academy seventh- and eighth-grade students performed in the first-ever Armenian Awareness Day celebration. At the invitation of Sen. Daylin Leach, the students were invited to dance in traditional costume, tour the state capital and have lunch in his office. The students, while impressed by the beautiful marble, intricate mosaic work and extensive woodworking in the capital were most awed with the working basketball hoop in the senator's office. Eighth-grader Narek Jarayan commented, "It was a pleasure to meet Senator Leach. I respect his understanding of Armenian culture."

In addition to the three dances in the rotunda, Armenian Awareness Day was further enhanced by a traveling exhibit, "Who are the Armenians?," from the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in Watertown, Mass. Archbishop Oshagan Choloyan and St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Armenian Church of Wynnewood sponsored the display, which flanked the sides of the round room. Leach then held a press conference, followed by a short history of the academy by Board Chairman Asadur Minasian. Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) National President George Yacoubian Jr. discussed the

organization he started in 2006, and David E. Edman, former chair of AIPAC Philadelphia Leadership Council and currently managing partner of Risk Management Partners, related the Jewish Holocaust to the Armenian Genocide.

Leach, whose wife is Armenian and who lives near the academy, which is in Radnor, is familiar with Armenian culture, especially the food. As a treat, he ordered Armenian delicacies for lunch. The capitol tour, given by his office staff, offered the students a glimpse into governmental life as they sat in on a working session of the state House of Representatives. They learned the capital was built between 1902-1906 at a cost of \$13 million, and at the time women were not allowed in the building. Students sat in the Senate chamber and saw the actual aisle that divides Republicans and Democrats.

Following lunch, the students visited the State Museum of Pennsylvania, which highlighted all things indigenous to the state — from arrowheads to animals to artwork. "I really enjoyed the museum and the variety of exhibits," stated seventh-grade student Argirel Lion. A planetarium show on stars wrapped up the afternoon. Eighth-grade student Derek Dervishian summed it up well: "It was fun and educational and I'm glad I got to share the experience with my friends."



Armenian Sisters Academy seventh- and eighth-grade students danced in the state capitol building as part of Armenian Awareness Day, sponsored by state Sen. Daylin Leach.

Tickets on Sale for AGBU New York Internship Program's 25th Anniversary Gala

NEW YORK — Generations of alumni from AGBU's New York Summer Internship Program (NYSIP) will reunite on Saturday, July 21, to celebrate the program's 25th anniversary at a gala evening. The event will give former NYSIP participants the opportunity to both reconnect and acknowledge the various individuals, who, over the years, have shaped the program and given it a reputation for excellence.

To date, NYSIP has produced more than 800 alumni who have risen to the top of their fields, owing to the solid foundation they laid and valuable contacts they cultivated through the program. While participants are now established in various industries in different cities, during their two months living together in New York they formed a lasting bond. The celebration's venue, Battery Gardens, which sits on the New York Harbor with iconic views of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, is the ideal site for alumni to reminisce about summers spent exploring the city and to bring each other up to date on all that has happened since. As the occasion draws closer, NYSIP Co-

chair Sarkis Jebejian said, "We are very excited to see familiar faces, and to hear about all the ways NYSIP students have used their summer experience as a vehicle to advance themselves. Every year, we are proud to bring together the best and brightest students from around the globe, who demonstrate exceptional academic performance and a true motivation to contribute to their local community. As always, it will be a pleasure to learn about their numerous accomplishments following NYSIP."

Throughout the evening, NYSIP will pay tribute to those who have played a key role in developing the program. As Serge Kassardjian, the chair of the anniversary celebration committee, a NYSIP alumnus and a NYSIP committee member, said, "we are thrilled to celebrate this milestone, which reflects the impact that the program has on so many people's lives throughout the world. We also look forward to announcing a few exciting initiatives we have planned for the future, and to honoring the supervisors who have been vital to the growth

of this program." During the event, the spotlight will be put on numerous NYSIP supervisors who have devoted more than five summers to nurturing the professional aspirations of the students and have demonstrated a deep commitment to preparing them for post-graduate endeavors.

The honorees have carried on a tradition first envisioned by NYSIP founders Vartkess and Rita Balian, who sought to provide university students of Armenian descent with professional experience and to create a global network of young leaders. After the couple established the program in 1987, it quickly took off and has not lost momentum since. Today, NYSIP enjoys strong relationships with more than 200 host institutions, from Fortune 500 companies to public sector organizations, including Citigroup, the New York Times, the United Nations and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Each organization offers participants a rewarding learning experience and insight into the inner workings of their future professions, while helping them forge their career paths. The suc-

cess of NYSIP was such that it prompted AGBU to establish similar programs in Moscow in 2010, Yerevan in 2007 and Paris in 2003, which has since evolved to serve students from the French University of Armenia and is held year round.

AGBU NYSIP is supported in large part through donations by supporters who believe in the program's valuable mission. Gifts are added to a scholarship endowment fund to help ensure that qualified candidates who need financial assistance are able to take advantage of the program. Raffi Balian, the NYSIP co-chair, attributes NYSIP's success to both the generosity of program donors and dedication of its supervisors. He has also emphasized that this July's gala is not exclusively for alumni and supervisors, stating "we welcome all who have supported NYSIP through the years at this exciting event so that they can see, firsthand, the result of their contributions and meet the many accomplished professionals who have directly benefited from their support."

The celebration is one of two events being organized by the NYSIP Anniversary Committee that same weekend. On Friday, July 20, the AGBU Young Professionals of Greater New York will co-host an evening mixer. Tickets for the Saturday gala and the mixer are available via <http://agbuinternship25thanniversary.eventbrite.com/>.

For more information about AGBU and its worldwide programs, visit www.agbu.org.

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ARTS & LIVING

New Book Focuses on Treatment of Jews in Turkey

TORONTO — The Zoryan Institute announces the translation and publication of a new book by author Rifat Bali, titled *Model Citizens of the State: The Jews of Turkey during the Multi-Party Period* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, 2012).

This book provides an exposé of the treatment of the Jewish community in Turkey from 1950 to the present, their fight against anti-Semitism, the struggle for their constitutional rights and the attitude of the Turkish state and society towards these problems.

In a review of the Turkish edition that

appeared in the *Armenian Weekly*, Turkish journalist Ayse Gunaysu and a member of the Committee Against Racism and Discrimination of the Human Rights Association of Turkey (Istanbul branch) since 1995, described the book as “groundbreaking... unearthing facts and first-hand accounts that unmistakably illustrate how the Turkish establishment blackmailed the leaders of the Jewish community — and through them Jewish organizations in the United States — to secure their support of the Turkish position against the Armenians’ campaign for genocide recognition ... The book also offers rich material about how Turkish diplo-

mats and semi-official spokesmen of Turkish policies, while carrying out their lobbying activities, threatened both Israel and the US by indicating that if the Jewish lobby failed to prevent Armenian initiatives abroad-Turkey might not be able to guarantee the security of Turkish Jews ... It has been a routine practice for Turkish authorities to invariably deny such threats. However, Bali’s industrious work in the archives reveals first-hand accounts that confirm these allegations.”

In explaining his motivation for writing this book, Bali states, “There are a number of facts, which triggered my starting to research the history of the Jews in the Turkish Republic. They can all be summed up in the fact that I was tired of listening to and reading the rosy narrative that was repeated over and over by the leaders of the Turkish Jewish community, as well as by Turkish intellectuals, politicians and historians. The same narrative was also predominant outside Turkey. I wanted to discover what was really behind this rhetoric.”

Bali details how, despite the attempt of Jewish community leaders in Istanbul to fit into the mold of the “model” Turkish citizen as defined by Kemal Ataturk, and regardless of the official government policy toward the Jewish community, the anti-Semitic attitudes of the majority Muslim population in Turkish society were ever present.

The book describes how, initially, the Jewish community received similar treatment by the government of Turkey and had similar problems, fears and reactions as the Armenian and Greek minorities during the Single Party period, 1923-1949, to such things as the Capital Tax Law and policy of Labor Battalions. During the first two decades of the Multi-Party period, it endured the September 6, 1955 pogrom, the May 27, 1960 revolution and the 1971 military coup. All three minorities suffered equally from these critical events, with loss of life and property and consequent emigrations to Greece, Israel, Europe and North America.

Bali explains how a shift in the Turkish state’s treatment of its Jewish citizens started in the late 1960s and early 1970s due to three pivotal events outside of Turkey: the 1967 Israeli Six-Day War, the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus and the movement for international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. He shows that the Turkish government in the 1970s reversed its policy of prohibiting minorities’ links to outside organizations by encouraging the Jews of Turkey to connect with American Jewish organizations, once it realized the importance of American Jewish political lobby groups. Since then, Turkey has adopted a policy of utilizing the American Jewish lobby against the Greek lobby to lift the Cyprus-related arms embargo and against the Armenian lobby to further its Genocide denial policies. Bali details efforts to distance the American Jewish community from the Armenian community by propagandizing that the Armenian Genocide is a non-truth, or that whatever may have happened in 1915 it can not be compared to the Jewish Holocaust and therefore can not be called genocide, and that Turks have been very tolerant and friendly to Jews since their expulsion from Spain in 1492.

Bali illustrates that with this new policy, successive Turkish governments obtained the cooperation of Turkish Jews to convince American Jewish lobbies to actively support

pro-Turkish measures, including fighting against Armenian Genocide resolutions in the US Congress, excluding the Armenian Genocide from the Holocaust Museums in Washington and Los Angeles, prohibiting papers on the Armenian Genocide from being presented at Israeli Holocaust conferences, prohibiting the showing of Armenian Genocide related movies in US and Israel, etc. The tactics used by Turkish governments included financial assistance, economic concessions and other privileges, but also veiled threats that lack of cooperation by the Jewish lobby, the State of Israel or Turkish-Jewish leaders would jeopardize the safety and economic well-being of the Jews in Turkey.

When asked about the possible effect his research could have, Bali says, “I do not believe that the book will have any sort of negative impact on Israeli-Turkish and/or Turkish-Jewish relations. Real politics and strategic concerns always dominate and even embellish past history. However I hope that at last the English-speaking public will have the opportunity to read the ‘real’ story of Turkish-Jewish relations instead of an embellished one.”

In documenting the Turkish state’s manipulation of its vulnerable Jewish minority and their acquiescence, this book serves as a valuable case study of how Realpolitik in domestic politics and foreign relations distorts the truth and how coercion by the powerful contributes to the violation of collective human rights. It will be of interest to academics and students of non-Muslim minorities in Turkey, political lobbyists in America, Israeli policy-

Wisconsin Hye Notes

BY NAOMI ZEYTOONIAN

An Armenian in Cuba Today

Many years ago, there was a good-sized community of Armenians in Cuba, during Batista’s regime.

They were prosperous and enjoyed religious freedoms. At the end of that era, many of them immigrated to Florida’s shores. One such family was the Yazidjians and their many cousins. Mario and Anjel Yazidjian, and their children, Susan, Mary and Harry, as well as their uncles and cousins settled in Coral Springs and became an integral part of that community. Mario Yazidjian was the first commander of the new Knights of Vartan, Hayastan Lodge and Anjel Yazidjian was an original member of the guild and what is now St. David Armenian Church. The family is now living in New Jersey with all of their cousins as well.

This article is based on a recent cultural trip to Cuba by Ken Mazmanian of Racine, Wis. and a member of a cultural exchange group who found it captivating. Unfortunately, he did not meet any other fellow “hyes” nor did he see anything relating to Armenian life in Cuba today.

Mazmanian left for a two-day sojourn in Miami and from there on to Havana in the latter part of March with the Grand Circle Foundation.

He found the heat and humidity quite uncomfortable, likely so, since Wisconsin is never that hot and pretty dry, even in the summer months.

He also noticed how clean the country is, literally without any litter on the streets and highways. There is very little crime in Cuba these days, but pickpockets are everywhere, most certainly due to the poor economy in Cuba, as it is in many other countries. Even though Americans are now traveling to Cuba, tourists need to be aware that Cuban establishments do not accept credit cards from American banks, nor do they accept traveler’s checks, they deal only in pesos. Travelers from the United States will also find they will be unable to use ATMs in Cuba and are required to change their American dollars into pesos.

Coupon books are a necessity in the country and many items are quite scarce and can only be purchased in government-operated stores. Visitors are encouraged to bring basics from the States to give out as gifts to their hosts. The food, of course, was excellent, and Mazmanian enjoyed great seafood, including lobster, which is a rarity and a treat in the Midwest.

From Havana, they drove to Cienfuegos for a two-day stopover and from there the group traveled to Trinidad and a visit to the ruins of a once-thriving sugar mill. From here they returned to Havana where they enjoyed a performance by the local dance group at the Teatro Nacional. The trip was indeed culturally interesting and educational, and Mazmanian is contemplating a trip to South America next. Many South American cities, such as Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo and Montevideo boast very strong Armenian communities and churches, that he will most surely enjoy visiting.

On another note of interest here in Wisconsin is a warm welcome to Baby Adler Kadamian Eisenach, a newly-born Texan, whose parents are Adam and Heidi Eisenach. Heidi Eisenach is the daughter of Sharon and George Kadamian of Racine.

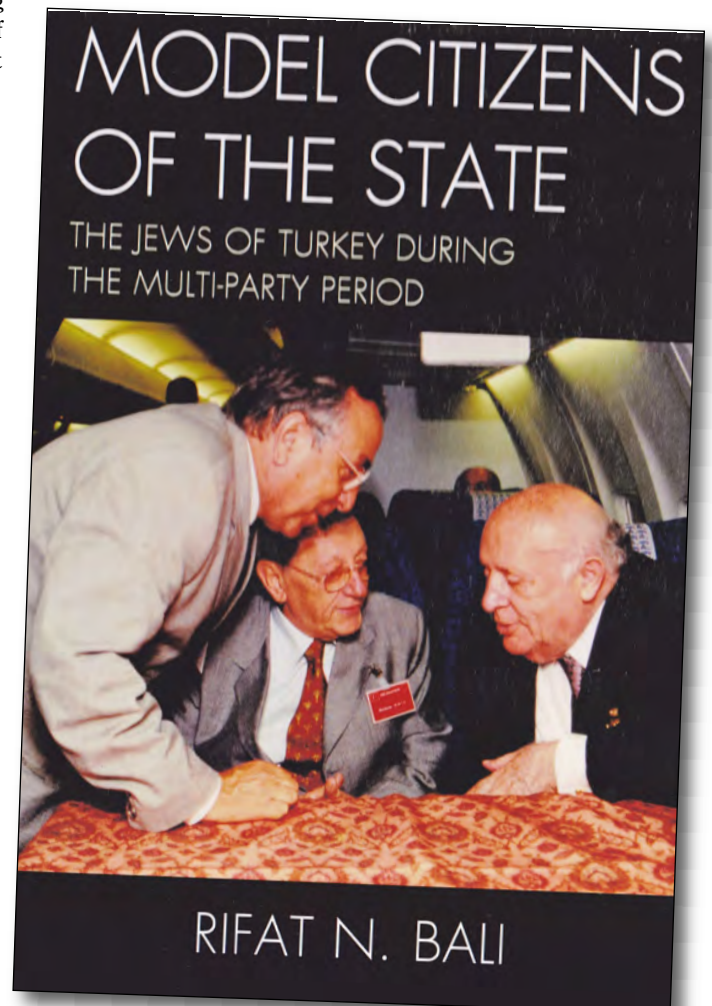
George Kadamian, known as “Papa Georgio,” recently hosted a sold-out spaghetti dinner at St. Mesrob with the monies raised to be used for the Hye Camp scholarships.

Great job “Papa G” and to all your helpers who made it so successful congratulations to Meline’s and Avak Grigorian as they celebrate 25 years of marital bliss...and many more to come. Also to Sharon and George Kadamian, Fr. Garabed and Yeretgin Roberta Ochakian of Detroit, and Lisa and Michael Zeytoonian of Milford, Mass., on their May anniversaries. Mary and Onnik Katerdjian celebrated their 50th anniversary with a beautiful fellowship following church services for the entire parish.

Our sympathies to the families of Richard Nelson and Sam Kaprielian, of Racine. Richard was the father of Stuart and Jolene (Gabrielian) Nelson. Sam Kaprielian was a great conversationalist on many different points of interest. He was a devout member of St. Mesrob and a former Sunday School teacher who also knew the Bible from start finish.

Delegates Michele Ouzounian, Janet Mrazek, Lauren Chalekian, Steve Gengozian, Naomi Zeytoonian and the Women’s Guild Central Council member, Meline Gregorian, ACYOA Central Council members Alex Ouzounian, Dan Mantis, (all representatives of St. Mesrob), along with Rev. Yeprem Kelegian, recently returned from the 110th Annual Diocesan Assembly in the Springfield/Hartford area, hosted by the dedicated parishioners of St. Mark’s Armenian Church. The Women’s Guild Assembly ice-breaker on Thursday evening featured Gilda Kupelian from the Diocese as an inspiring speaker presenting a history of Armenian artists and notables.

The Friday night banquet at the Basketball Hall of Fame honored Dr. Gregory Adamian of Bentley College. On Saturday, at the “Woman of Wonder” luncheon, which was well attended, the Women’s Guild Central Council honored Julie Ashekian for her many contributions to her church and community of St. George and to her dedicated work with the CASP and the Mer Doon program.



makers, as well as to the Jewish, Greek and Armenian communities around the world.

Bali, born in 1948 in Istanbul, is an independent scholar specializing in the history of Turkish Jews and an associate member of the Alberto-Benveniste Center for Sephardic Studies and the Sociocultural History of the Jews (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes/CNRS/Université Paris-Sorbonne). He is the winner of the Alberto Benveniste Research Award for 2009 for his publications on Turkish Jewry.

The Zoryan Institute is the parent organization of the International Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies, which runs an annual, accredited university program on the subject and is co-publisher of *Genocide Studies and Prevention: An International Journal* in partnership with the International Association of Genocide Scholars and the University of Toronto Press.

18th Annual Children's Talent Show Takes Place at Providence's Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The 18th Annual Children's Talent Show, titled "Reflections of Armenian Youth," played to a capacity crowd at the Egavian Cultural Center of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church on Saturday, June 2.

Sponsored by the church's Cultural Committee, directed by Konstantin Petrossian, the show has brought together young girls and boys throughout the Rhode Island community to show their talents yearly in the arts, dance and music.

The evening began with greetings by the Parish Council Chairman John Kazarian. Cultural Committee Director Petrossian also welcomed the audience, addressing them in Armenian.

Irene Eranosian, chairperson of the Talent Show for the past 18 years, talked about the progress of the participants over the years and the growth in their performance levels. She also praised the efforts of all the teachers in the Arts Education Program for their dedication and encouragement to the students.

The chairperson of the Arts Education Program for the past 12 years has been Janna Guegamian. The teachers are Ann Ovanesyan, drawing and sculpture; Lusine Ovanesyan and Narine Amroyan, Nazeli Dance Group (both junior and children's); Oxana Izyumoff, piano; Nana Gazaryan, piano; Vahan Grigorian, guitar; Christine Warren, violin; David Griego, flute; David Sass, clarinet; Gohar Manjelian, vocals and Petrossian, director of the Junior Choir and Youth Orchestra.

The Guitar Group led by teacher Vahan

Grigorian, spearheaded the evening's program with the patriotic Armenian national anthem enthusiastically sung by the audience. They also played solos along with teacher Grigorian concluding with a spirited encore piece.

Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church Junior Choir, directed by Petrossian, sang *Karoon Yerevan* and other popular Armenian folk songs.

Piano, vocals, violin and the Nazeli Dance Group (both children and juniors) completed part one of the evening's program.

During the intermission, the audience was directed to observe the amazing art, drawing and sculpture exhibit displayed in the Egavian Cultural Center and made by the students of teacher Ann Ovanesyan.

Part two of the program began with a pre-

mier performance by 12 members of the newly formed Youth Orchestra. A first for the Talent Show, it was organized by Janna Guegamian, chairperson of the Arts Education Program. They had only practiced for one month and under the direction of Petrossian they displayed their expertise as a group, as well as their solo performances during the evening. The organizers hope to enjoy more performances by the Youth Orchestra at future events.

The Nazeli Dance Group (children and Juniors) again took to the stage along with vocals, clarinet and piano.

Piano teacher Rouzan Gevorkian's two students played Chopin's *C Minor Concerto* flawlessly.

The finale brought both dance groups to the stage performing *My Yerevan* to shouts of

"Bravo" and "Brava" and a standing ovation from the appreciative audience.

Father Shnork Souin, pastor of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church, concluded by thanking all those involved in the success of the evening. He also thanked the parents who take the time and effort to encourage their children in pursuit of the arts, dance and music.

Following a group photo shoot everyone was invited to partake of refreshments in the Hanoian Hall.

Registration for 2012-13 first semester is on Saturday, September 8 from 11 a.m. to noon. Programs begin on Saturday, September 22. Nazeli Dance Group begins Friday, September 14.

For more information see the Church website, www.stsahmes.org.

— MJW

Armen Donelian Trio to Perform at Jazz Cafe

ACTON, Mass. — An eclectic musician who has appeared internationally as a pianist, composer and bandleader since 1975, Armen Donelian has worked with jazz luminaries including Sonny Rollins, Mongo Santamaria and Chet Baker.

Donelian's piano playing reveals a masterful command rooted in classical and jazz studies, clean articulation, a deft, swinging touch, access to a broad dynamic spectrum, a virtuosic harmonic vocabulary and a boundless source of creative ideas. Without force or persuasion, he invites the listeners to join the trio in very personal and reflective explorations.

"Oasis," Donelian's CD with David Clark on bass and George Schuller on drums featuring six originals and two standards, is his 11th as a leader and his eighth for the Sunnyside label.

The Armen Donelian Trio, featuring Clark and Schuller, will perform on June 15, Friday, from 7-8:30 p.m., at Acton Jazz Cafe, 452 Great Road.

The Acton Jazz Cafe offers full bar and dinner. Advance reservations are recommended. Reserve ahead at www.actonjazzcafe.com.



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MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 10 — St. James 2012 Armenian Festival, Annual Picnic. Delicious Armenian food (shish, losh and chicken kebab, kheyma, etc.), children's activities, moon bounce, balloons, face painting, snow cones, cotton candy and more. Live Armenian music. Jay Baronian, Leon Janikian, Ken Kalijian and Bob Raphalian. Fun for all ages. Armenian dancing, tavloo, raffle and more. Rain or shine. Church grounds, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown. For information, call (617) 923-8860 or info@stthagop.com.

NEW JERSEY

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

NEW YORK

JUNE 16 — St. Nersess Armenian Seminary annual Summer Picnic. 150 Stratton Road, New Rochelle. Festive day of music with John Berberian Ensemble, kebab meals, children's activities, including a magician, an attic treasures sale, Baykar the Armenian vendor and more. Plus, purchase super raffle ticket for \$50 to win three cash prizes. Free parking and admission. Visit www.stnersess.edu or call (914) 636-2003 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 29 — Save the date. Armenia Fund 20th Anniversary Gala, 7 p.m. at Gotham Hall in New York City.



On June 10, the St. James 2012 Armenian Festival, Annual Picnic will take place at 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, Mass., featuring delicious Armenian food, children's activities, live Armenian music and more, rain or shine. For information, (617) 923-8860 or info@stthagop.com.



COMMENTARY

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COMMENTARY

Hillary Clinton's Mission in the Caucasus

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Our globetrotting Secretary of State Hillary Clinton began her recent tour in Scandinavia and is continuing on to the Caucasus region and will conclude it in Istanbul, Turkey. Upon arriving in Yerevan on Monday, she remarked that her delegation truly enjoyed Armenia's balmy weather, after their visit to the arctic region in the north of Europe. That talk of weather seemed to set the tone of her visit to Armenia since most of the public and private talks with the officials amounted to little more than lip service.

There were perhaps two main reasons for this grand tour: first, in an election year it is important to demonstrate to the public that the US government is tending to its global responsibilities dutifully and second, after Vladimir Putin's re-election as Russia's president, to explore the underbelly of the Russian bear and find out what reactions US initiatives in the region may generate.

The Armenian government was very appreciative of the visit, which would contrast the previous visits of Vice President Dick Cheney and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who side-stepped Armenia with brazen arrogance while visiting its neighbors. That contentment was fully expressed in President Serge Sargisian's welcoming remarks, which dwelled mostly on the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

On many issues of real substance regarding Armenia, the secretary of state was demonstrably elusive.

To be fair, we have to refer to two issues, which were addressed to the satisfaction of Mrs. Clinton's hosts: on May 19, President Serge Sargisian boycotted the NATO conference in Chicago because a declaration was drafted to be signed by the participants, favoring Turkish and Azeri causes of action. Indeed, it deviated from the three principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group on Karabagh negotiations, the declaration touted the principle of territorial integrity, deleting the principles of non-use of force and the right to self-determination. The declaration read in particular:

"We remain committed to our support of territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova, and will also continue to support efforts towards peaceful settlements of these regional conflicts, based upon these principles and norms of international law, the United Nations charter, and the Helsinki Final Act."

Clinton seemed to revert back to the Minsk Principles in her deliberation. The second issue was referred to Armenian-Turkish relations, when the secretary of the state reiterated her former position that "the ball is in Turkey's court" and that Karabagh negotiations should not serve as precondition for Armenian-Turkish relations.

The Chicago declaration was also a slap in Russia's face and Georgia's territorial integrity (as the Western powers believe) was mentioned in a direct challenge to Putin, who also chose not to attend the Chicago conference.

Despite her disagreement with Turkey on these issues, the US was unable to convince Turkey to open the borders or to sign the Protocols, because when action does not follow words, the Turkish leaders will realize that there are no consequences to not following through the stated policies. Turkey is rewarded, its self-

serving policies, not withstanding, first by NATO leadership acquiescing to Ankara's demand to exclude Israel from the Chicago conference, and then, right after the summit NATO, decided to integrate 10 Turkish major-generals and five lieutenant-generals to be integrated into its military command. These rewards were offered to Ankara because it has become the vanguard of Western plans to train mercenaries and send them to Syria to topple the Assad regime. (That also explains Israel's silence on favoring Turkey).

The most dramatic incident took place on the eve of Clinton's arrival in Yerevan when Azeri forces, violating the ceasefire for the thousandth time, invaded the Tavoush region in Armenia and killed three soldiers and left many wounded. When outraged journalists asked pointed questions regarding the incident, she offered a diplomatic answer: "While I have only just learned about these incidents, I am very concerned about the danger of escalation of tensions and the senseless deaths of young soldiers and innocent civilians. The use of force will not resolve the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict and therefore force must not be used." She warned both sides to refrain from the use of force as if Armenia was equally guilty in suffering three casualties. She also stated she would give the same message to Baku leaders.

Clinton does not hesitate to blame President Bashar al Assad when mercenaries from Turkey invade Syria and go on a murderous rampage, but she chooses to tiptoe when it comes to Azerbaijani aggression. That will simply be interpreted as a green light to continue on their bellicose course.

Clinton ignored also the question of whether the US should enforce section 907 of Freedom Support Act, given Azerbaijan's war rhetoric.

During a joint press conference, Armenia's Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian forcefully condemned the Azeri aggression, which does not promise to have a peaceful end. He also took the opportunity to counter the soothing fabrications of Turkey's President Abdullah Gül that Armenian-Turkish negotiations are not dead, that contacts have been continuing.

"There are no negotiations," Nalbandian said. "The negotiations have ended, the protocols have been signed, which the Turkish side does not honor, by placing pre-conditions. I don't believe Turkey is entitled to put any pre-conditions."

All in all, Clinton's visit was more than a courtesy call. She came to test the waters and assess how far Armenia could be lured from Russia's grip in return for some generalities, which led nowhere. More serious business is awaiting her in Georgia, where she has to reinforce Tbilisi's stand-off with Moscow. In Azerbaijan, she will find out how far the Aliyev clan could go in containing Iran and supplying Israel with military airports.

Although her Istanbul meetings seem to focus on combating terrorism, the Turks will be fully engaged in toppling another unfriendly regime to Israel, namely Syria, and helping the US and the West to tighten the noose around Iran.

Armenia's interest is to find out what our secretary of state will say and do in Baku. The answer comes from a report by Agence France Press, which states: "the secretary of state will visit an oil and gas trade exposition in Baku, where US oil companies have invested \$8 billion since 1991."

It is obvious that the smells of oil and gas are intoxicating the secretary of state to the point that she will forget human rights and war issues, which were purported to be included on her agenda.

Ambassador Nazarian Sends Letter to UN Chief on NKR Elections

(The following is an excerpt from a letter dated May 7, 2012, sent by the Armenian Ambassador to the United Nations Garen Nazarian to the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon regarding the forthcoming presidential election in NKR, scheduled to take place on July 19.)

"... It is extremely disappointing to see the reaction of Azerbaijan to the exercise of the fundamental and inalienable right of free elections by the people of Nagorno Karabagh. The fundamental human rights of all nations, including the right to vote and the right to participate in government, are endorsed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of December 10, 1948. In particular, article 2 of the Declaration stipulates that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust,

non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

A nationwide election is an objective indicator of the degree of democratic development, which fully reflects the political will of the people. The upcoming presidential elections in Nagorno Karabagh are another opportunity to prove the commitment of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic to democratic principles and to the value it places on people's participation in government and on fostering democracy. In the last 20 years, four presidential, five parliamentary and five local government elections were held in Nagorno Karabagh in compliance with democratic standards and on the basis of an alternative choice, as witnessed by the numerous election observation reports of independent international observers. Furthermore, the inalienable right of the Nagorno Karabagh people to determine their own destiny is one of the main guiding principles of the proposals submitted at the ministerial conference in Madrid by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe towards the peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The international community, including Azerbaijan, must be more than interested to deal with the leadership elected by people of Nagorno Karabagh. This was also witnessed by the first Additional Meeting of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe held in Helsinki on March 24, 1992, which decided to invite the legitimate authorities of Nagorno Karabagh to the Conference.

The attempts by Azerbaijan to deprive the people of Nagorno Karabagh of the right to democratic development and the promotion of civil society are counterproductive and condemned to failure. In this regard, the criticism of human rights and democratic processes by a country that is distinguished mostly by the absence of such processes causes serious concerns.

Lastly, I call upon the representatives of Azerbaijan to refrain from the practice of spreading groundless allegations in the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations and work instead towards a political settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict..."

—Garen Nazarian



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

All Three Branches of US Government Recognize the Armenian Genocide

While readers are generally aware that the Executive and Legislative branches of the US government have recognized the Armenian Genocide, it is not as widely known that the US Judiciary has also reaffirmed the facts of the Armenian Genocide on several occasions. Indeed, all three branches of the US government have gone on record confirming that the Armenian Genocide was indeed a genocide.

The first time that the Executive branch made reference to the Armenian Genocide was back in 1951 in a key document filed by the US government with the International Court of Justice (World Court). It stated: “The Genocide Convention resulted from the inhuman and barbarous practices which prevailed in certain countries prior to and during World War II, when entire religious, racial and national minority groups were threatened with and subjected to deliberate extermination. The practice of genocide has occurred throughout human history. The Roman persecution of the Christians, the Turkish massacres of Armenians, the extermination of millions of Jews and Poles

by the Nazis are outstanding examples of the crime of genocide.”

The second reference by the Executive branch to the Armenian Genocide was made by President Ronald Reagan when he issued Presidential Proclamation 4838 on April 22, 1981, in which he stated: “Like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it – and like too many other such persecutions of too many other peoples – the lessons of the Holocaust must never be forgotten.”

The Legislative branch of the US government adopted two resolutions confirming the historical facts of the Armenian Genocide. The first resolution, approved by the US House of Representatives on April 8, 1975, designated April 24, 1975 “as a day of remembrance for all the victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry who succumbed to the genocide perpetrated in 1915.” A second resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on September 10, 1984, designating April 24, 1985 “as a day of remembrance for all the victims of genocide, especially the one and one-half million people of Armenian ancestry who were the victims of the genocide perpetrated in Turkey between 1915 and 1923.” In addition, the House adopted two amendments on the Armenian Genocide in the 1996 and 2004 Foreign Operations Appropriation Act.

However, most people are unaware that the Judiciary, the third branch of the US government, has issued at least three federal court rulings concerning the Armenian Genocide:

The first judicial reference to the Armenian Genocide was the unanimous ruling of a three-judge panel of the First Circuit Court of Appeals on August 11, 2010. In a decision written by former US Supreme Court Justice David Souter, the court rejected a claim by an American-Turkish group

that a curricular guide issued by the Massachusetts Education Commissioner explicitly referring to the Armenian Genocide should have included “contra-genocide” references.

The second court case involving the Armenian Genocide was the ruling of federal Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly on January 26, 2011, in the lawsuits regarding the Armenian Genocide Museum & Memorial in Washington, DC. In the opening paragraph of her decision, Judge Kollar-Kotelly quoted the chilling words of Adolf Hitler: “Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?” She explained that Hitler was referring to “the largely successful efforts by the Ottoman-Turkish government to eliminate the Armenian population living on its historical homeland during the World War I era, known today as the Armenian Genocide.” The judge stated in a footnote that “the Court’s use of the term ‘genocide’ is not intended to express any opinion on the propriety of that label.”

The third judicial reference to the Armenian Genocide was made on May 3, 2012, by a three-judge panel of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, denying the claim of the Turkish Coalition of America against the University of Minnesota. In a unanimous opinion, the judges referred unambiguously and without qualification to the Armenian Genocide, describing it as “the Turkish genocide of Armenians during World War I.”

With all three independent branches of the US government going on record reaffirming the Armenian Genocide, the United States has gained its rightful place in the list of righteous nations that have recognized the Armenian Genocide. In fact, in many respects, the United States has compiled a more extensive record of acknowledging the Armenian Genocide than most other countries that have merely adopted a legislative resolution on this issue.

Speech by Haig DerManuelian at AGBU, 1980, Honoring Greg Adamian

Sireli Hyvanagitzner, or is it Hyrenagitzner!

I first met our honored guest on June 12, 1950 at about 8:52 p.m. (he was late) at 42 Chatham St., Lynn at a small party where he arrived, resplendent in a white Navy officer’s uniform which I don’t think was rented. Obviously, a tall and handsome Navy man, muscling in on my territory. Since it was before the Women’s Lib movement, it is legal to say that the girls went ga-ga over him. I had been practicing law for two or three years, something which he intended to do the following year, in 1951. We had a very pleasant chat, ignoring the girls. I said to myself this is a comer.

I ran across him again in the early ’50s when Araxi Levin, then of the International Institute (who was then perhaps the most successful practicing Armenian attorney in these parts), established something called the Committee on Immigration and Resettlement of Armenians, seeking certain immigration relief in legislation and with the Department of Immigration. He did a very credible job, later commended, as I recall, in a collection of writings in a book published by Judge Nazareth Barsoumian. If Greg would like to see it, we at the Armenian Library and Museum of America would have probably 500 copies that volume; you can have one cheap, Greg!

In the mid-’50’s, during the gestation and infancy of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), the group had an office at 1430 Massachusetts Ave., in Harvard Square above the old Harvard Theatre. Greg was practicing law on the same floor. I used to attend NAASR meetings at least nine nights a week, and no matter what time the meeting ended, it seemed that Greg was still in his office, working. I realized then that he was both ambitious and indefatigable.

He performed a number of services for NAASR and was readily elected to its Board of Directors at a meeting at the now Gulserian’s Hotel Commander. Based on a quirk, it seemed at that election someone that we thought should have been elected to maintain a balanced representation of the fragile, divided community had been overlooked. Yeah, we had fragility in those days too. Greg may not remember this but her very graciously offered to resign, and he did so within an hour of his election, so that the remaining board could fill the vacancy by appointing the missing link. I realized then that he was both a darn good Armenian, and ecumenical to boot.

Around then, I also learned that he was teaching at Bentley. He had begun in 1955. It

was then a somnolent, unheralded tiny school somewhere in the Back Bay. I lived in the Back Bay and could never find it. Two or three times a week he would travel from his office in Cambridge to Boston in order to teach courses. Knowing how hard he worked and knowing that practicing law is more than a full-time job, I would occasionally ask him how he could afford the time to do that.

He used to say, “I love teaching, I love the young kids, I could never give it up. I can’t be just a lawyer.” I knew then that he was headed for bigger and better thing also.

News would trickle to me about Greg’s many investments. He was the wildest speculator I knew at the time. Those were the days when secretaries used to work five-and-a-half days and a good secretarial salary was around \$18-\$20 per week. He used to invest all of his hard-earned dollars in hair-brained ventures, often disastrous in the beginning, but never gave up. He used to say he would be a rich man if it weren’t for his investments. An honest man, I thought.

Over the years too, I used to hear throughout the community how devoted he was as a son to his beloved mother Sandy and as a husband and as a father of his two young sons. I would say it was around 1960, that he built a house probably larger than he could afford in the new Hillcrest section up on Belmont Hill. It had plenty of water, mostly in the basement. His investments had started to pan out and things were looking great for Greg until the tragedy of that fatal auto accident which kept him hospitalized for months and deprived his sons and their mother. I did not know how he pulled through but he did and he was stronger for it. He also established new law in Massachusetts in a case that bears his name, which holds that

a liquor establishment may be held liable for injuries in an automobile accident caused by one who was served too much liquor.

I saw Greg long and often over the decades, active in various community projects and organizations. Probably his longest commitment was to the NAASR of which he has been a director, probably now for close to 30 years. He was also a member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) for close to 20 years, and an early supporter of the Armenian Assembly and on and on and on.

It wasn’t long before he had the wisdom to find and marry Deborah, and Bentley had the wisdom to elect him president. Before I arrived at the installation ceremonies in 1970, I made a dollar bet (the biggest bet I ever made) that there would be a clergyman and that he would be an Armenian, in full, flowing robes and a big, black beard. That was the easiest buck I ever made. Well, I wasn’t surprised as he rapidly transformed Bentley into the giant college that it is with a new, beautiful campus, rapidly multiplying buildings, facilities, budget, student body, academic recognition, expanded accreditation, excellence and an endowment literally 100 times larger than it was. That is the acid test and was accomplished even while spending tens of millions for capital construction. In time, he served as chairman of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts, past president of the North Atlantic Regional Division of the American Business Law Association and on Boards of numerous organizations, which had the good sense to avail themselves of his many new talents. You name it, he did it. The activity has become so extensive that at certain times, it is easier to find a parking space at Harvard Square than on the Bentley campus.

He became the Clarence Darrow, the Daniel Webster of the Armenian American community. Our community speakers then used to shoot from the hip often unprepared. Every Tom, Dick and Harry was a self-styled speaker and expert; but he had the talent, the stentorian voice and made the time to prepare; and he changed all that. It wasn’t long before he was recognized as the foremost orator in the Armenian-American community from coast to coast. There was nothing that Greg could not do, and do well, despite the disadvantage of a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Harvard, and a law degree from Boston University Law School.

There is no question that in every category, no matter what, as I compared myself to him over the decades, and I had a modestly successful life, he outdid me in every single category but one. That is what kept me from the psychiatric couch; and I had to learn to live with that. What was that one?

As I look back, we the Armenians, produced Gregory the Illuminator in 296 AD. The scholars are still in animated debate whether that year is correct but it is close enough for us. It took only about 700 years for the next Great Gregory, Gregory of Narek, Naregetsi with Lamentations.

But the Armenians needed almost another thousand years to produce our Gregory, not with Lamentations, but with rejoicing! Presto, I anoint thee our Gregory the Wonder. I am pleased and proud to present to you our honored guest: lawyer, educator, college president, philanthropist, builder of round and square apartment buildings, a great Armenian leader, a great American leader, orator, creator, enthusiast, kharpetsi, our dear friend, Dr. Gregory H. Adamian.

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