

# Prof. Akçam Muses on Turkish-Armenian Relations and Genocide

By Aram Arkun  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

NEW YORK — Dr. Taner Akçam, in an interview with the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* after receiving the Man of the Year Award from the Knights of Vartan in on July 7 (see story below), expanded on some points of his speech and made interesting new observations on the course of Turkish-Armenian relations and the Armenian Genocide. Akçam is the Robert Aram, Marianne Kaloosdian, and Stephen and Marion Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University.

He said that the turning point in his relationship with Armenians was the publica-

tion of his book, *A Shameful Act*, in 2006.

The appearance of this book led him to become the target of an organized hate campaign coordinated from Ankara by the paramilitary semisecret organization Ergenekon. This in turn seems to have helped dissipate fears and suspicions about him within Armenian communities in the diaspora.

Akçam said that of course he also has changed in the past 20 years, especially politically. He gave an example of how he is now more open and relaxed than before: “When I first came to the United States, in 2002 or 2003, an Armenian group in New York wanted to give me an award. I declined. I was scared. Also, I was very careful not to make certain political demands, such as the recognition of the Armenian



Dr. Taner Akçam receives the Man of the Year Award from Dr. Dennis Papazian.

Genocide by the Turkish government. ... I was cautious and scared because of the attacks against me. I tried not to be a public intellectual but a simple academic as much as possible.”

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## Knights Honor Taner Akçam, Ragip Zarakolu at New York Convocation

By Florence Avakian  
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

NEW YORK — For the first time in its nearly 100-year history, the Knights of Vartan honored two internationally distinguished men of Turkish origin — Dr. Taner Akçam and Ragip Zarakolu — with the “Men of the Year” awards. This unique event took place at the conclusion of the 94th annual Knights of Vartan Grand Lodge convocation in the ballroom of New York City’s Marriott Downtown Hotel during a banquet on Saturday, July 7.

The gala event capped the almost week-long convocation of the Knights and Daughters of Vartan, under the General Chairmanship of Antranik Platyan. Among

see CONVOCATION, page 9

## NAASR Founding Chairman Manoog Young Dies

BELMONT, Mass. — Manoog Soghomon Young of Belmont, the founding chairman of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and its chairman until 2001, died on Tuesday, July 3, at the age of 94.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years Barbara (Johnson) Young, children Armen Young of Littleton, Mass., and Adrina Young Gobbi of North Billerica, Mass., and grandchildren Jake and Mariah Gobbi and Christopher and Lauren Young.

Prof. Gerard J. Libaridian has aptly called Young “the father of the Armenian Studies movement,” and this begins to give a sense of Young’s role in ushering into existence the field of Armenian Studies in America and his half-century working to advance it. One of the founders of NAASR, which led the effort in the 1950s and 1960s to establish permanent programs in Armenian Studies at American institutions of higher learning, starting with Harvard University, Young served as chairman of the Board of Directors from its inception in 1955 until 2001. During these decades both NAASR and the field of Armenian Studies continued to evolve and expand.



Manoog Young in 1995

see YOUNG, page 6

## Hayrapetyan Resigns from Parliament Following Death of Beating Victim

YEREVAN (Hetq) — Parliament member Ruben Hayrapetyan announced his resignation from parliament last week out of a sense of “moral responsibility” he feels over the June 17 beating of military physicians at the Harsnakar Restaurant he owns on the outskirts of Yerevan.

The army doctors were beaten by restaurant employees and a personal bodyguard of Hayrapetyan. One of the physicians, Vahe Avetyan, never regained consciousness and died in a hospital a few days later.

“I would give everything to have been there on that terrible evening and stopped the tragedy with my own hands. I would give everything to be able to turn the clock

back. But I can’t,” said the tycoon, who has the nickname Nemetz Rubo, in his public resignation from the parliament.

The move comes after a wave of public protest, both in the streets and on the internet, charging Hayrapetyan with creating an environment in which such a savage attack was possible and demanding that he resign.

There is an on-line petition calling on UEFA and FIFA to call for Hayrapetyan’s resignation as the president of Armenia’s Football Federation.

“I should have prevented such a tragedy but wasn’t able to. Such incidents should not be possible in establishments owned by

see RESIGNATION, page 3



Ruben Hayrapetyan

## Cardinal Discusses ‘Brotherly Ties’ with Armenian Church

ECHMIADZIN (RFE/RL) — A high-ranking envoy of Pope Benedict XVI called for the strengthening of “brotherly relations” between the Roman Catholic and Armenian Apostolic Churches during a visit on Monday.

Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Catholic Congregation for Eastern Churches, met with Catholicos Karekin II, the supreme head of the Armenian Church, at his official residence in Echmiadzin.

“Cardinal Sandri ... addressed the Roman Catholic Church’s brotherly relations with the Armenian Church, expressing hope that they will become even closer and deeper,” read a statement issued by Karekin’s press office. It said Sandri, whose congregation oversees Catholic communities in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, passed on Benedict’s “warm greetings” to the top Armenian cleric.

Karekin, for his part, spoke of his “brotherly love” for the pontiff and “particular warmth” between the two “sister churches.” “His Holiness emphasized with satisfaction the importance of the existing productive cooperation between the [Armenian] Mother See and the Vatican in the educational and social spheres,” said the statement.

Sandri was scheduled to meet with Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian on Tuesday. The cardinal was accompanied by Archbishop Rafael Minasian, the spiritual leader of the Armenian Catholic minorities in Armenia, Georgia and Eastern Europe.

## Turkey PM Calls Syria Massacres ‘Genocide’

ANAKARA (AP, DPA) — Turkey’s prime minister has warned Syrian leaders that the Syrian people will “make them pay” for massacres like the reported killing of dozens in a farming village by government forces this week.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan calls the killings an attempted “genocide” and says such acts of violence are “the footsteps of a regime that is on its way out.”

World leaders have heaped criticism on President Bashar Assad’s regime for the mass killings Thursday in the village of Tremseh.

Activists say they have confirmed the deaths of more than 150 people at the hands of regime forces. Many more remain missing. The government says 50 were killed but denies its troops caused the deaths.

Also on Saturday, opposition activists reported that at least 12 people were killed Saturday when a car bomb exploded in central Syria. Fifteen others were injured in the attack, which occurred in the district of al-Karameh in the central province of Hama, they added.

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## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Karagheusian Foundation Director Receives Medal

STEPANAKERT – On May 27, Dr. Walter Bandazian, executive director of the Karagheusian Foundation, received, on behalf of the Karagheusian Foundation, the Medal of Gratitude, in recognition of the foundation's many years of providing health, medical and social assistance to the children in Karabagh.

President of Karabagh Bako Sahakian presented the medal. Present were Dr. Sergei Movsessian, minister of health, and former minister of health, Dr. Zoya Lazarian. Dr. Gamu Ter Petrossian, the foundation field director in Armenia, accompanied Bandazian.

## Nansen Museum Construction Worries Environmental Activists

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – Environmental activists in Armenia are worried about the construction of the new Fridtjof Nansen Museum, proposed to be built in the park adjoining Nansen Street.

A web page dedicated to opposing the construction, titled “We are the owners of this city” on Facebook, has been discussing the actions of the municipality.

The Yerevan Municipality has responded to the green activists, saying that on March 22, the Commission of Architecture voted to implement the project and that it would not be built on any portions of the park. Instead, the statement said, it will be built on the paved ground in the park.

Nansen, a Norwegian explorer and public figure, saved the lives of a total of 320,000 Armenians, who were able to receive shelter and gained citizenship in various nations due to having Nansen passports.

## Artsakh President Meets OSCE MG Co-chairs

STEPANAKERT (PanARMENIAN.Net) – On July 11, Artsakh Republic President Bako Sahakian met with co-chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, Ambassadors Robert Bradtke (US), Igor Popov (Russia) and Jacques Faure (France) to discuss the Nagorno Karabagh conflict settlement.

Sahakian referred to Azerbaijan's destructive policy and distorted negotiation format as the main obstacles for the conflict resolution and called on the co-chairs to work towards peaceful resolutions.

Acting Foreign Minister Vassily Atajanyan, representative of the OSCE chairman-in-office Andrzej Kasprzyk and other officials also attended the meeting, reported the Office of the Artsakh Republic president.

## Armenia Wants Closer Ties with Canada

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian received several members of the Canada House of Commons, Canada-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group Vice Presidents Alexander Bulriss and Jim Karajanis.

The ministry reported Nalbandian stated progress has been made during the recent years, which pertain to various fields of cooperation with Canada. He added that Armenia attaches great importance to the strengthening and deepening of relations with Canada.

Nalbandian noted parliamentary diplomacy as an important factor for the development of relations between states and welcomed the efforts of Canadian parliamentarians.

Nalbandian also emphasized the participation of Canadian parliament members as observers in the upcoming elections due to take place in Artsakh, which will enable the chance to get an unbiased picture concerning the electoral processes and their compliance with international standards.

# Golden Apricot Film Festival in Full Swing

By Gayane Mkrtchyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – A week-long international film festival that began on Sunday is presenting a total of 170 features, short feature films and documentaries, with 65 of them included in the competition program.

Prizes at the ninth edition of the Golden Apricot will be in four sections – feature films, documentaries, short films (a category called Stone) and Armenian films (Armenian Panorama).

On July 7, many representatives of the cinema world who had arrived in Yerevan for the festival attended the most spectacular part of the opening ceremony – the blessing of apricots at St. Zoravor Church.

The red-carpet ceremony for the official opening of Golden Apricot later that day took place in Yerevan's Charles Aznavour Square near the Moscow Movie House – the main festival venue.

“Cinema is a worthy celebration for the city and the Armenian people, because during the nine years we have proved that Armenians are very fond of cinema art,” said filmmaker Harutyun Khachatryan, the founding director of Golden Apricot. “The young people who have grown up on the nine years of this festival have now themselves become full-fledged cinema professionals and present new films at various international festivals.”

As part of the festival opening ceremony two Paradjanov's Thaler prizes were awarded to noted Spanish director Victor Erice and Georgian filmmaker Eldar Shengelaya, respectively. The prizes were handed to the winners by Roman Balayan, a well-known Ukrainian-Armenian filmmaker.

Twelve films are presented in the festival's feature films section. Erice, a Cannes Festival prize winner, heads the jury to decide the winner in this category. As many as 39 short films are competing in the Stone section.

The Armenian Panorama competition, in which Armenian filmmakers

present their films, features six full-length feature films, five short feature films and 15 documentaries.

Arsen Gasparyan, one of the filmmakers participating in the festival, presents a short film called “New Jugha: To Be...” The film tells about the rich cultural heritage of Nor Jugha (New Julfa),

and has arguably not been fully appreciated in our own days either.

In addition to the competition program, the festival also presents films in other “non-competitive” categories – Yerevan Premieres, Retrospective Screenings and Tribute.

The Book and Film program imple-



During the opening ceremony, Tekeyan Cultural Association Central Board Vice President Edmond Azadian, (second from left) as diaspora advisor to the Minister of Culture, Minister of Culture Hasmik Boghosian (fifth from left) and Mayor of Yerevan Daron Markarian, next to Boghosian

the Armenian quarter of Isfahan, Iran, where more than 150,000 Armenians fleeing Ottoman persecutions in Jugha (Julfa) in Nakhichevan took refuge at the beginning of the 17th century.

“It portrays the Armenian community that has lived and created in Nor Jugha for more than 400 years, keeping its religion, church, school, as well as customs and traditions. Emigration is the focal point of the film,” said Gasparyan.

The characters of Vahe Yan's film, “Two Roads,” are two deaf persons presented in their daily life. The filmmaker tries to give the audience a glimpse of the colorful world of the deaf.

Hayk Kbeyan's film, “Kostan Zaryan: The Lonely Soul of Armenian Literature,” presents the image of the great writer and intellectual who was not understood by his contemporaries

mented on the occasion of UNESCO's declaration of Yerevan as World Book Capital presents the screenings of works by Armenian and foreign classical and modern writers.

The festival will conclude with an exclusive show of Michael Haneke's movie, “Love,” that won the Golden Palm at the Cannes film festival this year.

Ralph Yirikian, general manager of VivaCell-MTS, the festival's main sponsor, praised the festival, calling it a means of raising Armenia's prestige in the world.

“Artists come to Armenia every year for this festival and our country is becoming recognizable...this is the reason why we stand next to this festival, because we know well that every year this festival reaches higher levels,” said Yirikian.

# Trophies Presented at Fourth Annual AGBU-Sponsored Interschool Chess Tournament

YEREVAN – The winners of this year's AGBU-sponsored Republican Interschool Chess Tournament have been announced, marking an end to the annual eight month-long competition that attracts thousands of talented youth across Armenia, Artsakh and the Armenian schools in Javakhhk, Georgia.

The winning schools, Vanadzor

rounds before receiving their titles. The first phase is held within schools; in the second phase, schools from the same community compete; through the third phase, winners of different communities from the same region participate, and, lastly, the finalists arrive at the regional level. This year, the number of student participants, whose ages range from 6 to 17, totaled

more than 5,000. The tournament's widespread popularity indicates the students' commitment to, and passion for, the game, which Inessa Margaryan, the AGBU Armenian Representation Special Projects Coordinator who coordinated the matches, witnessed firsthand, and said, “watching the pupils sit across the chessboards, we could sense their high level of concentration and focus on the game. They moved each piece with intention and care, and had clearly developed strate-

gic approaches over the course of the tournament. It was rewarding to see so many students from various schools come together for the occasion,” noting that more than 1,000 schools were represented.

The awards ceremony, which was held on May 5, at the Chess Academy of Armenia in Yerevan, will likely be the first of many such honors for the participants. Since it began in 2008, the Interschool Tournament, which is an initiative of the Armenian Chess Federation, under the auspices of the Republic of Armenia's Ministry of Education and Science, has produced many players who graduate to the professional level and take home prestigious awards from Armenia's Youth Chess Championship, the Republic of Armenia Chess Championship and the international Vladimir Dvorkovich Cup in Moscow. For now, the recent winners of the AGBU-sponsored competition will enjoy prizes such as chess sets, chess clocks and projectors for their schools, as well as souvenirs from the Chess Academy and their local municipality. Those tools will keep them engaged while they continue to hone their expertise and skills and prepare for the fifth tournament set to begin in October.



Students go head to head in Yerevan during the final rounds of the AGBU-sponsored Interschool Chess Tournament, which drew more than 5,000 participants in its fourth year.

School # 5, Gumri School #3 and Yerevan School #55, which placed in first through third place respectively, progressed through four challenging

tion and focus on the game. They moved each piece with intention and care, and had clearly developed strate-





## ARMENIA

# Italian Restorers and Armenian Art Students Team up to Save a Minas Avetisyan Mural

By Marine Madatyan

YEREVAN (Hetq) – “Armenian Pastoral,” a 1973 mural by Armenian artist Minas Avetisyan that was destroyed in the 1988 earthquake is being painstakingly restored under an agreement signed by the cultural ministries of Italy and Armenia.

The Italian and Armenian experts restoring the mural are being led by Fabrizio Iacopini, a lecturer at the Palazzo Spinelli Art and Restoration Institute in Florence and a renowned restorer in his own right.

The material used to put the pieces of the wall mural back together is a mysterious Italian concoction made by boiling bull bones until the right consistency is achieved.

The Armenia student restorers joke and say it is like *khash* (a meal made of boiled pig’s or sheep’s feet and other innards).

The teams work all day in close proximity and a lively exchange of ideas and chatter fills the work room. It turns out that the Armenian students want to visit Italy to hone their skills, while the Italians want to remain in Armenia.

Italian restorer Philip Morelli tells his Armenian counterparts that Armenians are great hosts and his Italian colleagues chime in that “Armenia is out of this world” and that they love the food and hospitality.

For some of the Armenian students selected by the Minas Avetisyan Foundation to take part in the project, it is their first time actually restoring a damaged artwork, let alone one that embodies such artistic and cultural significance. It is a golden opportunity for them to contribute to the restoration and gain valuable professional experience.

Anahit Galstyan, who studies at the Yerevan State University’s Faculty of History (Art



“Armenian Pastoral,” by Minas Avetisyan, is currently kept in the canteen of the former electro-technical plant of Gumri.

Division), says she found out about the competition to participate two days after the application deadline.

“I applied anyway but didn’t think I had any chance. But I was accepted. I was thrilled,” she says.

Hasmik Hakobyan, a student at the Panos



Davit Saribekyan, Gevorgyan Theological Seminary student



Hasmik Hakobyan, Panos Terlimezyan State College of Fine Arts student

Terlimezyan Art College, says she is so impressed by the skills of the Italian restorers that she wants to continue her education in Italy.

“I have always been attracted to art restoration but the field sadly has no future in Armenia,” says Hakobyan.

Another member of the team that arrived from Italy is Davit Saribekyan, a student at the Gevorgyan Seminary in Armenia. Catholicos Karekin II is sponsoring his education at the Florence Restoration Institute where Fabrizio Iacopini is one of his teachers.

“In 1966 a flood hit Florence and many works were damaged and in need of restoration. Many schools specializing in mural and fresco art were opened. They differed greatly from those dating back to the 1800s,” says Saribekyan.

The seminary student says that there are many murals in Armenian needing immediate care. “Many such iconic works now being kept in churches also need preserving,” Saribekyan says. “You can say that I am studying at the best such institute in the world. I have come to realize what we have in Armenia and what have been our deficiencies. The institute is a fabulous place to learn but I will definitely return to Armenia.”

To date, “Birth of Toros Roslin,” “Spinning Thread,” “Meeting” and “Next to a Khachkar” are some of Avetisyan’s murals that have been restored.

## Hayrapetyan Resigns from Parliament Following Death of Beating Victim

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myself and my family members. I cannot forgive myself and do not know how to ask forgiveness from others,” Hayrapetyan’s statement reads.

Hayrapetyan then goes on to ask forgiveness of those who voted for him in last month’s parliamentary election since he can no longer justify their expectations.

Despite the public anger and related protests that have been taking place in Yerevan and elsewhere regarding the beating death of, the authorities remain silent.

There has been no news as of yet regarding charges. So far, five of the 15 or so individuals who savagely beat Avetian and his friends have been arrested.



Philip Kron Morelli, Italian art restorer





## INTERNATIONAL

## International News

## Boys' Team of Armenian College Wins Centenary Plate

KOLKATA, India — On July 7, the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin's Armenian College and Philanthropic Academy (ACPA) Rugby Team recorded an impressive victory over the Maidan Hazards in the finals of the tournament for the Centenary Plate.

On the June 23, in the Plate semifinals, the team beat Frank Anthony Public School with a score of 35:05.

The final match was a display of impressive rugby skills from both teams. While the opposing team performed well, in the end, they had to succumb to the ACPA team who played with greater determination and skill.

ACPA won the Plate final with a score of 27:05.

Armenian College Rugby Team will participate in two more tournaments this year, Calcutta Cup, after a few weeks, and the All India Cup in September.

## Armenian Pilgrims to Visit St. Thaddeus Church in Iran

TEHRAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Iran's Qara Kelisa will honor the memory of Saint Thaddeus and his faithful followers during an upcoming ceremony in the northern province of West Azarbaijan, according to Press TV.

Scores of Armenians, Assyrians and Catholics from Iran and other countries will attend the annual event as part of their pilgrimage on the Day of St. Thaddeus.

Qara Kelisa, also known as the St. Thaddeus Church, is one of the oldest and most notable surviving Christian monuments in Iran that carries great significance for the country's Armenian Orthodox community, the report says.

Armenians hold that Qara Kelisa is the world's first church and was constructed in 68 AD by one of the apostles of Jesus, Saint Thaddeus, who traveled to Armenia, then part of the Persian Empire, to preach the teachings of Christ.

Qara Kelisa, which literally means Black Church, has been registered as the ninth Iranian historical-cultural heritage site on the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World Heritage List.

## Russia's Internet Control Law Could Be Precedent For Armenia

MOSCOW (ArmeniaNow) — A bill on making amendments to the law on information adopted at the State Duma of Russia last week will enable the legal limitation of Internet content.

The supporters of the draft amendments believe that it will be possible to control unsavory content.

Those who are against the draft bill believe that it will result in censorship, because the control will be enforced by companies authorized by the government.

Websites such as the Russian version of Wikipedia and Life Journal bloggers' service are among the opponents of the bill.

The Armenian Internet Society NGO is also against the draft law and hopes that Armenia will not copy Russia.

"In 2006, Armenia along with 40 countries, signed the convention against cyber crimes, according to which no limitation can be imposed on a website without a court decision," said Grigor Saghyan, deputy chairman of Internet Society NGO, adding that blocking a website without a court decision is against Armenia's Constitution, too.

According to Saghyan, restrictions over Internet content has become a daily issue and the matter is being discussed on the international level, and some countries even suggest passing the Internet content control to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), which is part of the United Nations (UN).

# UK Benefactor Ouzounian Donates 30 Contemporary Paintings to TCA London

YEREVAN — In March, the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) of London, affiliated with the London charitable organization, the Tekeyan Trust, revitalized the TCA mission and activities in promoting Armenian culture and bridging Armenian Diaspora communities with one another and with Armenia.

The exhibition of contemporary paintings from Armenia was the first major cultural event organized by the TCA London after its rebirth. The two-week exhibition was held at the Polish Cultural & Social Centre in London, where 45 paintings by 25 well-known Armenian artists were displayed to entertain not only the members of the Armenian community but also hundreds of foreigners. The paintings were by: Armen Agnoui, Rouben Manoukian, Samvel Maroutian, Slavig Baronian, Lyusia Samvelian, Seiran Khatlamadjian, Armen Khodjoyan, Hrant Tatevossian (Tatoss), Khatchig Haroutunian, Seta Bekarian, Rouben Arouditchian, Vilig Zakarian, Vrej Tamazian, Antranig Giligian, Ashod Tatevossian, Kevork Djavroushian, Edward Vardanian, Hrant Karakhanian, Anatoli Krikorian, Pakrad Krikorian, Hampartsoum Baghdasarian, Felix Hagopian, Volotia Matevossian, Artiom Tovmassian and Armen Krikorian.

Thirty paintings were fully donated by Vartan Ouzounian, the president of the TCA London, from his private collection. The paintings were on sale to raise funds for the TCA activities in the UK with many forthcoming major cultural projects.

The exhibition was under the auspices of Bishop Vahan Hovhannessian, Primate of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland, and Karine Kazinian, ambassador of Armenia to the UK.

The official opening of the exhibition

with more than 150 people present was on May 27. The ceremony started with Ouzounian's brief speech. The president welcomed all the guests and detailed the exhibition which was the first one within the last 15 years. Ouzounian also thanked all those who contributed

event. Through their extensive involvement, the exhibition was a great achievement.

The opening ceremony continued with Hovhannessian and then Kazinian, with brief congratulation notes. They both commended the fruitful activities



Some of the paintings on display

extensively to the success of the event, particularly, the TCA art team, including Nairi Sahakian, an experienced gallery manager, Edmond Aivazian, a noted Armenian painter based in London, Nerces Yerissian, an architect and art expert, and Nairi Afrikyan, a young artist from Armenia currently working in the UK, a great talent in bringing the paintings to their best condition for display. Afrikyan received a bachelor's in fine arts (with honors) at Central Saint Martin's College of Art & Design from 2007-2011.

The president also mentioned TCA committee members Rosette Ouzounian, Sossi Yerissian, Garen and Sevag Arevians for their intensive and considerable work in organizing the

of the TCA and its devotion to the Armenian nation and emphasized the importance of the organization in the national and spiritual life of Armenian communities as well as in the prosperity of the British-Armenian Diocese and in the development of the British-Armenian relations.

After the speeches the exhibition was open to guests who also enjoyed a reception while viewing the paintings.

The exhibition of contemporary paintings from Armenia, a charity project, was a great success, since within the two weeks the public was very excited and reacted very positively by buying considerable number of paintings and contributing to the further activities of the TCA London.

## AGBU Young Professionals of Montreal Join Forces with ANC Professional Network to Tackle Assimilation Issues

MONTREAL — Questions of assimilation have long dominated the public discourse within the Armenian Diaspora. At a recent May 3 panel discussion co-hosted by the AGBU Young Professionals of Montreal (YP Montreal) and the Armenian National Committee

emphasis was also placed on the importance of activism among today's young generation to ensure public representation and visibility of the Armenian Diaspora community.

Part lecture and part interactive forum, the discussion was moderated by Lalai

of the AGBU Montreal Alex Manoogian Center, raised important issues concerning the challenges now facing the Armenian Diaspora. The question-and-answer portion of the night quickly turned into a constructive debate on ways young Armenian professionals could work in solidarity to increase participation in both the public and private sectors. YP Montreal Chair Sarine Chitilian and ANC PN Chair Hrag Darakdjian were very satisfied with the outcome of the event. Chitilian commented, "It was a pleasure to watch and listen to the young audience members engage with each other, and brainstorm how to become more active in the community. Many shared personal anecdotes on the ways they have successfully assimilated: by embracing the local culture while maintaining their Armenian identity and heritage; stories that were inspiring to all."

Before opening the floor to the audience, Tanachian cited facts and figures that set Armenian culture and history apart, notably that the Armenian alphabet is one of only 21 alphabets in the world. Turning to Armenians' contributions to the arts, he reminded the audience that 2012 marks the 500-year anniversary of the Armenian printing press. Niziblian then took the podium educating attendees on the significance of peaceful activism and discussing how effective advocacy has led to the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by several nations.

To learn more about YP Montreal and its upcoming events, email [yp.montreal@gmail.com](mailto:yp.montreal@gmail.com).



YP Montreal Chairwoman Sarine Chitilian (fourth from left) and ANC PN Executive members Nora Gunjian and Vana Nazarian (fourth and second from right) who organized the "What's Next: Assimilation?" panel stand with the event's speakers, Chahé Tanachian of the AGBU Alex Manoogian School, (far left), former government affairs director of the ANC, Apraham Niziblian (fifth from left) and PhD candidate Lalai Manjikian (sixth from left) and attendees.

Professional Network (ANC PN), new answers were considered by the very leaders who will help turn these ideas into a reality. The event, titled "What's Next: Assimilation?" prompted young professionals to strongly consider their roles and responsibilities in the preservation of Armenian culture and language. An

Manjikian, a PhD candidate at McGill University, and featured speakers Chahé Tanachian of the AGBU Alex Manoogian School and Apraham Niziblian, former government affairs director of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA). Following their presentations, the audience, who filled the seats



# Community News

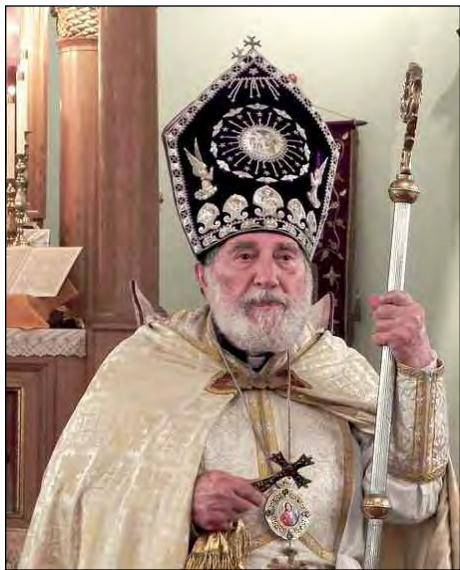
## Archbishop Gizirian: 65 Years Of Service

CHELTENHAM, Penn. — More than 200 people gathered at Holy Trinity Church here on Sunday, June 17, to mark Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian's 65th anniversary of ordination into the holy priesthood.

Gizirian celebrated the Divine Liturgy. A luncheon and program followed the service in the church's Santerian Hall.

Messages were read from Karekin II, the supreme patriarch and catholikos of All Armenians, and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern).

"In all the aspects of your ministry, you have



Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian celebrated the Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Church on June 17.

always kept your priestly promise to our Heavenly Father, and shown your love and dedication to the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin," the catholikos wrote. "May our almighty Lord keep you strong and protect you."

Barsamian expressed his appreciation to Gizirian for his dedicated service. "The holy priesthood is an unbroken chain linking us back to Christ; and this spiritual truth is clearly evident in Archbishop Yeghishe," the Primate wrote. "His preaching is done with such authority; yet his personal example is one of humility and quiet grace. He is a leader of great inner strength and conviction; yet his greatest strength is the tender compassion he shows to all — a quality that has made him beloved wherever he has served."

Other clergy spoke about the humility and devotion that Gizirian has brought to his ministry. The Rev. Karekin Kasparian, pastor of St. Gregory the Enlightener Church of White Plains, NY, who studied with Gizirian at the seminary in Antelias, Lebanon, spoke about their close friendship and their ministry in the Eastern Diocese.

The Rev. Hakob Gevorgyan, pastor of Holy Trinity Church, said that Gizirian has been a mentor to him and to other young priests in the Diocese. "He carries love in his heart, and shares it with everyone he meets," Gevorgyan said. "He is a role model and a source of inspiration for young seminarians and newly-ordained priests."

Remarks were also made by the Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgolian, pastor of the nearby St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church of Wynnwood, Penn., who reflected on Gizirian's tireless service.

The program included a video highlighting his path to the priesthood, produced by the Diocese's Communications Department, as well see SERVICE, page 8



After hiking and exploring the outdoors, students of the AGBU Alex and Marie Manoogian School pause to admire Mount Ararat.

## From Michigan To Armenia

### Manoogian School Students Embark on 10-Day Educational Journey

DETROIT — This year's annual trip to Armenia spent touring the country's historic sites and taking in its natural beauty will be remembered by students of the AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School in Michigan as a highlight of their high school career. The trip was one of the many initiatives the school offers to complement its courses, earning it the title of one of America's best high schools, according to the *U.S. News & World Report's* annual ranking, released just last month.

The AGBU-organized trip was attended by students in the school's junior and senior classes, forming a group of 30 peers who had spent months preparing for the 10-day excursion. Led by principal Dr. Hosep Torossian and teachers Anahit Toumajan and Sebouh Avedikian, it was the students themselves, the majority having never before visited the region, who acted as the group's tour guides. Every student had devoted the semester to conducting in-depth research on the various people and places that have shaped Armenia's history and as they traversed the country, each engaged fellow classmates and impressed their teachers with their vast knowledge. Avedikian, the head of the school's Armenian Department, said, "It was a great pleasure to watch and listen to the students lead us all and narrate the different chapters in Armenia's history. They demonstrated a deep understanding of their studies and were clearly inspired by what they had the opportunity to experience firsthand. As educators, we very much enjoyed seeing Armenia through their eyes."

The students' itinerary was filled from the moment they stepped off the plane on April 26, and to a midnight dinner party, to the day they made their way back home, on May 4. On the days in between, students enjoyed a cultural immersion experience, visiting sites including the St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral, the Geghard Monastery, Holy Echmiadzin and Lake Sevan and the AGBU Nork Children's Center, where they watched performances by its talented students. Prior to the trip home, the students paid tribute to their heritage by visiting the grave of the creator of the Armenian alphabet, Mesrob Mashdoto.

Anticipation for the trip mounted after the students took part in an online conference and virtual tour with their peers from the AGBU Marie Manoogian Institute (MMI) in Buenos Aires on April 11. The virtual tour was made possible by the AGBU Armenian Virtual College (AVC), which was launched three years ago and has proven to be an invaluable resource for AGBU's schools, supplementing the material for the course "Armenian Language, History and Culture" — which was a pre-requisite for the Michigan trip. Guided by Hasmik Khalapyan, academic director of AVC, and Arpine Tavakalyan, AVC program coordinator and instructor, both groups of students took a virtual tour of the inside of the Matendaran Institute and some of the thousands of medieval manuscripts that it houses. Following the tour, the students exchanged ideas and shared their positive experiences using AVC, realizing that despite their distance, they had a common interest in their cultural heritage. With the help of Torossian and MMI teacher Rosita Youssoufian, they also asked each other questions in Armenian, English and Spanish, practicing their language skills. The video conference offered a preview of Armenia's celebrated monuments, not only for the students from the Alex & Marie Manoogian School, but for the Argentinian students as well, who will embark on their own trip to Armenia later this summer.

If the experience their Michigan-based counterparts had is any indication, they are sure to create memories that will last a lifetime and continue to enrich their studies.

## TCA Arshag Dickranian School Honors Morris Sarafian for His Achievements

LOS ANGELES — Having excelled in his studies and extra-curricular activities, graduating student Morris Sarafian was honored as the "Student of the Decade" at Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Arshag Dickranian School's commencement ceremony, which took place on June 23.

Valedictorian Sarafian graduated with a GPA of 4.28 and obtained a score of 2010 in the SAT tests this year. Passing the five main Advance Placement (AP) courses of English literature and composition, art history, US history, environmental science and calculus AB, Morris will be granted the AP Scholar with Distinction title from The College Board. With his remarkable achievement, Sarafian has been accepted to the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of California at Berkley, University of California at Irvine, University of Southern California, Pepperdine and Loyola Marymount University. He will attend UCLA with an \$80,000 scholarship, majoring in political science.

Sarafian was also involved in various competitions. He is a medal holder of the LA County Science Fair, an ADS team member winning first place in the Franklin Lu Hands-On Competition and a member of a water polo team that has participated in the Florida International Championship, winning first place twice and being named World Champions for players age 16 and under. He has been a member of the school choir and theatrical programs and became ADS's Student Council President of the 2010-2011 academic year.

He is the son of Mona Saakyan and has two twin sisters, Ani and Lilly, who attend Dickranian School.

## Armenian Bar Leader Garo Ghazarian Elected Vice Chair of Glendale Civil Service Commission

GLENDALE — Garo Ghazarian is the chairman of the Board of Governors of the Armenian Bar Association, which boasts members throughout the United States, Canada, Armenia, Europe, South America, Asia and beyond.

Just seven months after being unanimously appointed by the City Council of Glendale to the City's Civil Service Commission, Ghazarian was nominated to the position of vice chair of the commission by Commissioner John Gantus, a two-time former chair and a 12-year member of the commission. On June 27, Ghazarian was unanimously elected by his fellow commissioners and assumed his post as vice-chair of the commission. Also on June 27, Art Devine, the incumbent chair of the commission was nominated by Ghazarian to serve another term as chair. Devine was also confirmed by a unanimous vote of the commissioners.

In addition to his nationwide criminal defense law practice, Ghazarian is also the dean and a professor of law at Peoples College of Law in Los Angeles. Ghazarian has lectured extensively to law enforcement agencies and is a former guest instructor at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va. He is a board member of the Mexican American Bar Association - Political Action Committee and serves on its Judicial Evaluations Committee. He also is a board member of The Armenian Center for National and International Studies, a research and educational institute which promotes the rule of law and civil and human rights in the Republic of Armenia.



Garo Ghazarian





## OBITUARY

# NAASR Founding Chairman Manoog Young Dies

YOUNG, from page 1

After stepping down as chairman, Young remained on the NAASR Board and maintained a keen interest in the development of the organization he had led and the field he helped bring into being. On the occasion of his 90th birthday in 2007, he stated that the Armenian community must take pride in the creation and advancement of Armenian Studies, "because you are responsible for it. I was one small cog in the whole thing. I'd like to be here a hundred years from now and see all that has transpired."

His successor as NAASR chairman, Nancy R. Kolligian, remarked that "the Armenian community, not only in this country, but worldwide, will always be indebted to Manoog Young as the driving force behind the creation of an organization in the US that was essential in order to promote our rich Armenian culture and history. He and his colleagues worked tirelessly to advance this virtually non-existent field at the university level and the first chair in Armenian Studies was established [at Harvard] in 1959, a mere four years after the establishment of NAASR. That achievement would not have been possible were it not for the vision and endless devotion and energy of Manoog S. Young."

Current Chairman Raffi P. Yeghiayan stated, "Manoog Young guided the development of Armenian Studies with the highest academic standards and instigated the establishment of a multitude of endowed chairs at top universities. The Armenian community in the United States, and indeed worldwide, owes a great debt of gratitude to Manoog for the advancement of Armenian Studies. The achievements he accomplished are ongoing and will continue to



Manoog Young in 1955

flourish, a testimonial to his legacy."

James R. Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard since 1992, commenting on Young's "long life of extraordinary and visionary labor in the service of the Armenian people and of human scholarship," observed that "it is not just that we have him to thank for the very existence of university chairs in Armenian studies in this country. He is a part of American-Armenian history itself, and as it's now almost a hundred years on from the Genocide and dispersion, the history of Armenians in this country is a very important part of Armenian history."

Margot Stern Strom, co-founder and executive director of Facing History and Ourselves, of which Young was a longtime Board of Trustees member, cited Young's lasting impact on that organization: "He was an unsung hero for me and for Facing History and Ourselves. His deep commitment to preserving the history and legacy of the Armenian Genocide for future generations was inspiring and a critical part of Facing History's work."

Young was born in Boston, in 1917, to Soghomon and Aghavni Malymezian Young. Both parents were born in Kharpert, in the Ottoman Empire and emigrated to the US prior to the 1915 Armenian Genocide. Young was raised in Boston's South End. He received a BS in mathematics and physics from Northeastern University and a MA in history and international relations from Clark University, where he wrote a thesis, titled "Russia and the Armenians, 1700-1923: Growth of Russian Interest in Armenia, its Character and its Relation to the Straits Question." He also took courses at MIT, Boston University and the London School of Economics. During World War II, Young served in the 8th and 9th Air Forces in Europe.

Young taught physics and applied mechanics at the University of Massachusetts; taught international relations at Northeastern University and history and government at Brookline High School. In the early 1950s, he worked as an editorial assistant at the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* newspaper. He served as business manager and bursar at the Franklin Institute in Boston for more than 27 years.

## Affiliations and Many Honors

Young's many affiliations include the following: founding member, chairman of the Board of Directors and honorary life member, NAASR; member, Board of Trustees, Facing History and Ourselves National Foundation; Honorary Board member, Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association; chairman, AGBU Elementary School Board, Watertown; chairman, American Veterans Committee Council of Massachusetts; founding chairman, London School of Economics Foundation of America; co-chairman, United Armenian Observance Committee of Greater Boston for the 55th and 60th Anniversaries of the Armenian Genocide; member, Armenian Students' Association of America; member, Society for Armenian Studies.

Among the many honors bestowed upon Young are the St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Medal from Catholicos of All Armenians Vazken I, for outstanding service to the Armenian Community and Leadership in Promoting Armenian Studies (1986) and the Arthur H. Dadian Armenian Heritage Award given by the Armenian Students' Association in "recognition of his outstanding contribution to the preservation of the rich Armenian heritage."

Funeral services were Tuesday, July 10, at St. James Armenian Church, Watertown. Expressions of sympathy may be made in his memory to St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA, 02472, or NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA, 02478.

## Beatrice (Nargizian) Dulgarian

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Beatrice (Nargizian) Dulgarian, a speech pathologist and pianist, of Cranston, and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., died on Monday, July 2. She was the wife of the late Earl S. Dulgarian, with whom she was co-founder of the College Hill Book Store and vice president of the Avon Cinema, both in Providence.

Born March 27, 1925, in Brooklyn, NY, she was the daughter of the late Alfred and Gladys (Memlekian) Nargizian. After beginning a liberal arts program at Brooklyn College (City University of New York), she transferred to the University of Southern California, where she received her bache-

lor's degree in speech pathology.

She was an accomplished classical pianist who studied in New York and performed as a guest artist in the New York area and Rhode Island until her retirement. She was a state vice president of the Rhode Island Federation of Music Clubs, a past president of both the Chaminade and the MacDowell Music Clubs and a member of the Chopin Club of Rhode Island. She was scholarship chairman of the Chaminade Club. Years ago, her husband had established a scholarship in her name, to benefit talented young musicians. She was a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and was a frequent lecturer and guest speaker for civic and church groups. She was a member of Meshanticut Park Community Baptist Church. She served as church moderator, chairman of the Diaconate, chairman of the Board of Christian Education and was a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee. She was active in community affairs in Rhode Island and an active participant in fund-raising drives for the United Way, Rhode Island State Council of Churches and the Meeting Street School.

She was a member of the Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, the Women's Guild and the Daughters of Vartan, Lodge No. 10 and lectured throughout the state on Armenian culture.

She was a life-long member of the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

She leaves three sons, Robert E. Dulgarian and his wife Janis of Cumberland, Richard K. Dulgarian of Cranston, Kenneth R. Dulgarian and his wife Gretchen of Providence, and one daughter, Joyce C. Swedberg, and her husband, Steven, of Danvers, Mass.; four grandchildren, Scott Swedberg, Madison, Morgan and Harrison Dulgarian; her brother Richard Nargizian, and his wife, Margaret, of Franklin Square, NY and her sister, Jean Nargizian, of North Andover, Mass.

The funeral was held on Friday, July 6, in The First Baptist Church in America, Providence, followed by interment at Swan Point Cemetery in Providence.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to: Hamilton House, 267 Angell St., Providence, RI 02906.

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Beatrice (Nargizian) Dulgarian





OBITUARY

# Edward N. Costikyan, Adviser to New York Politicians, Dies at 87

By Dennis Hevesi

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (*New York Times*) — Edward N. Costikyan, a former adviser to New York governors and mayors who as a Democratic Party insurgent in the early 1960s took over the leadership of Tammany Hall as it rooted out a century of bossism, died on June 22 at his home here. He was 87.

His daughter, Emilie, confirmed the death. It was in March 1962, four months after the ouster of the imperious party boss Carmine G. De Sapio, that Costikyan was elected leader of Tammany Hall — a party organization tainted since the 1860s by the prodigious corruption of Boss William Tweed.

After Costikyan's two years as leader, many Manhattan Democrats, including Costikyan, said that Tammany Hall was no more. All that remained, they said, was simply the New York County Democratic Party.

"He was a transitional link from the collapse of Tammany Hall to the modern-day Manhattan party structure," said Mitchell L. Moss, a professor of urban policy at New York University. "It went from warlord to a series of would-be bosses."

In 1964, Costikyan resigned from his party post. But over the next three decades, he was repeatedly pulled back into the political fray.

Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, a Republican, chose him as chairman of a commission that in 1972 called for the decentralization of New York City's government. In 1986, at the height of the city's Parking Violations Bureau scandal — involving a bribery and kickback scheme that brought down powerful Democratic politicians and raised the profile of Rudolph W. Giuliani, then a Republican prosecutor — Gov. Mario M. Cuomo and Mayor Edward I. Koch, both Democrats,

appointed Costikyan to a special panel investigating ways to prevent corruption.

In 1994, Giuliani, by then the mayor, asked Costikyan to draft a plan to eliminate the city's central Board of Education and place the school system under mayoral control — a reorganization realized under Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg.

"He was the go-to guy for politicians of both parties," Moss said. "Throughout his career, he was a forceful advocate for modernizing government and the decentralization of urban services, though he wasn't always successful."

Edward Nazar Costikyan was born on September 14, 1924, in Weehawken, N.J. His father, Mihran, an Armenian immigrant from Turkey, was a rug merchant. Costikyan's mother, Berthe, was a teacher at the Horace Mann School in the Riverdale section of the Bronx. Costikyan graduated from that school in 1941.

In World War II, as an Army first lieutenant, he saw action on Okinawa, then served as the military governor for a small district in Korea. He graduated from Columbia University in 1947 and earned his law degree there two years later. Within a year he had become law secretary to Judge Harold R. Medina of the United States District Court in Manhattan.

In 1951, he joined the law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison and he became a partner in 1960.

In 1950, Costikyan married Frances Holmgren, and the couple moved to East 53rd Street. He waded into clubhouse politics and in 1955 was elected Democratic leader of the Assembly district in his East Side neighborhood, placing him on Tammany Hall's executive committee.

Stirrings of reform were being heard. Costikyan joined other reformers in 1960 to circulate a petition calling for De Sapio's ouster, saying that his "bossism" — overseeing a strict precinct-based structure with patron-



Edward N. Costikyan

age based on party loyalty — would give the Republicans a powerful issue in the next election. The reformers were supported by Mayor Robert F. Wagner, a Democrat.

In fall 1961, De Sapio was deposed. On March 2, 1962, Costikyan was elected Tammany leader and began a balancing act of trying to democratize the party while still dealing with its old guard. Indeed, reform Democrats criticized him for being too willing to compromise with the party regulars.

Municipal reform remained a concern after he resigned from his party post and went into private law practice. As chairman of Rockefeller's 1972 task force on city government, Costikyan recommended that the city be carved into 25 to 40 districts, each with its own "locality mayor" and council administering services like street cleaning, schools and even police patrols. (Some said the governor created the task force because of his rivalry with Mayor John V. Lindsay, a Republican turned Democrat who had campaigned as a reformer.)

Costikyan acknowledged that decentralization was no cure-all for inaccessible government agencies. But political clubs no longer held sway in the television era, he said, and that left a vacuum: nothing to mediate between neighborhoods and the bureaucracies downtown. Criticism of his report, Costikyan said, was based on fear among the "liberal-intellectual middle class" that poor people were incapable of self-government.

After his first marriage ended in divorce, Costikyan married Barbara Heine, a freelance writer, on March 6, 1977. Four days later, he announced he was running for mayor. He joined a Democratic field that would grow to include Koch and Bella Abzug; Representative Herman Badillo; Percy Sutton, the Manhattan borough president; Cuomo, then New York's secretary of state; and Mayor Abraham D. Beame, who was seeking re-election in the face of rising crime and a worsening economy.

Two months later, short of money and support, he pulled out of the race to become co-chairman of Koch's campaign. Koch went on to win the mayoral election.

The Parking Violations Bureau scandal, in which officials accepted hidden partnerships and bribes in exchange for granting contracts to fine-collection agencies, drew Costikyan back into public service as a member of the special commission on corruption formed by Governor Cuomo and Mayor Koch. Its report called for changes in campaign financing, ethics rules, judicial selection and contracting practices.

In spring 1994, Giuliani asked Costikyan to come up with a plan for replacing the city's schools chancellor with an education commissioner. The mayor had engaged in a long feud with the central board and several chancellors. Then, on July 10, 1995, in a sharp escalation of the tension, Giuliani formed a commission — with Costikyan as chairman — to investigate criminal activity in the system and the effectiveness of the central board in maintaining school safety. The next day, Schools Chancellor Ramon C. Cortines resigned.

Costikyan's second marriage also ended in divorce. In addition to his daughter, he is survived by a son, Gregory; his brother, Andrew, and five grandchildren.

Costikyan also made a mark, though a lesser one, in music. For more than 30 years, up to 80 lawyers, relatives and friends of lawyers — all amateur musicians and singers — would gather for the Christmas concert of the Occasional Oratorio and Orchestral Society, a group founded by Costikyan and a fellow Columbia Law School graduate, William M. Kahn, in 1950.

On the conductor's podium, at not quite five-foot-five, Costikyan would bob and weave to the strains of Stravinsky and Handel. During the society's 1982 concert at the City Bar Association building in Manhattan, Costikyan was heard urging, "OK, cellists and bassists, plenty of schmaltz."

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Return to Asbury - Bringing KEF Back to the Beach

By Robin Barone and Kim Yacoubian

ASBURY, N.J. — Sitting just north of the Seventh Avenue Beach in Asbury Park, a small group of New York-based Armenians began plotting the return of an Armenian Kef scene in July 2011. The lead organizer, Robin Barone, spent every summer visiting her aunt and uncle who have vacationed in the area since the 1960s until present day.

It has been nearly 40 years since Armenians held an event in Asbury Park. But for Armenians on the East Coast in the 1950s and '60s, Asbury Park was the place to come together on summer weekends. Days were spent on the beach and in the water, and at night everyone would gather at places called the Hye Hotel, the Van Hotel, the Sunset Lounge and the Hye-Da-Way kef room.

Initially, Barone set out to organize a simple beach party of 50 people around Memorial Day Weekend. She intended to invite friends between New York City and Philadelphia-Armenians living off the New Jersey Turnpike. However, the immediate response that she received was overwhelming. She started to receive emails and phone calls that all contained the same message, "I was thinking about trying something like this" or "I was wishing that someone would start something like this?"

It was then that she decided to reach out to all the Armenian non-profit organizations and churches in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Sister organizations of the Armenian network and Armenian General

Benevolent Union (AGBU) Young Professionals from Boston and Washington, DC reached out to her too. Soon Barone began to connect with other friends whose loved ones had spent their summers in Asbury.

By mid June, "Return to Asbury" Armenian Kef Weekend was scheduled for August 10-12, 2012. In short order, an eager and active committee was in place, the hotel was booked, two bands committed to perform, a website was opened, and ticket sales came rolling in. The location of the main event on Saturday, August 11, is the Berkeley Hotel where many Armenian Student Association (ASA) dances had been held in the past. The weekend is complemented and supported by the recent rebirth of Asbury Park's waterfront itself. With package as well as à la carte tickets available, Armenian families can pick and choose to participate in all the activities offered that weekend, or for instance, meet at the Seventh Avenue Beach in Asbury Park on Saturday, join the tavloo tournament run by the Philadelphia Chapter of the Knights of Vartan.

With "Return to Asbury," this group of enthusiastic young Armenians hopes to provide a forum for young Armenian musicians as well as an opportunity for Armenians to socialize in a casual and summer setting at the beach. Currently, the two bands scheduled, the Artsakh Band and the Michael Gostanian Ensemble, comprise an exceptional roster of young Armenian musicians from New York to Philadelphia.

Last week, the event received its first major sponsor-

ship donation from the Fereshtian family of Philadelphia. The couple, Harry and Seran, met at the Seventh Avenue Beach in Asbury Park around 1950. Harry Fereshtian was a member of ASA and active organizer of events at their chance encounter.

Additionally the event is a fundraiser for the following Armenian summer camps: AGBU Camp Nubar, Saint Vartan and Camp Haiastan. Barone, an alumni of Camp Nubar and Saint Vartan, explains, "I met some of my closest Armenian friends at camp during the summer. Those experiences were integral in making me proud of my heritage and establishing lifelong friendships."

The event is coming together thanks to the sponsorship of the ASA who were the initial organizers of KEF events in Asbury Park. The event is supported by a consortium of Armenian nonprofits that include: AGBU YPGNY, AGBU YP Philadelphia, AGBU YP Boston, Armenian Network New York, Armenian Network DC, Society for Orphaned Relief (SOAR), Knights of Vartan Philadelphia, Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) Philadelphia and Armenian Youth Federation. There is an extensive committee of volunteers from Boston to Washington DC assisting in the planning and marketing of this epic event as well.

During the weekend, the committee hopes to interview people who remember the "glory" days of Asbury and create a short film to document the past. They are actively looking for Armenians to submit photographs and stories to [returtoasbury@gmail.com](mailto:returtoasbury@gmail.com).

To learn more go to [www.returntoasbury.eventbrite.com](http://www.returntoasbury.eventbrite.com) and [www.facebook.com/returntoasbury](http://www.facebook.com/returntoasbury).

To share a story or photographs from the past, submit them to [returtoasbury@gmail.com](mailto:returtoasbury@gmail.com).

## Archbishop Gizirian: 65 Years Of Service

SERVICE, from page 5

as a musical performance and poetry recitations. Antranig Garibian served as the master of ceremonies.

In his remarks, Gizirian shared memories about his ministry and about the people who have inspired him. He also spoke about the importance of carrying forward the mission of the Armenian Church and keeping alive its ancient traditions for new generations of faithful.

"Despite all the disappointing events of our time, we Christians strongly believe that there is an everlasting source of strength and hope in this divine institution that we call the Church," he said. "The basis of everything is the love of God, and the Armenian Church was established on that divine love."

Also attending the program were guests from the Armenian Martyrs Congregational Church and the Armenian Sisters' Academy.

A native of Damascus, Syria, Gizirian studied at the Seminary of the Catholicosate of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon. He was ordained a celibate priest in 1947 by the late Bishop Terenig Poladian.

He came to the United States in 1951, where he served as the pastor of the Holy Cross Church of New York City; St. John the Baptist Church of Miami, Fla.; Holy Mother of God Church of Newark, NJ; the Holy Saviour Church of Worcester, Mass.; St. John the Baptist Church of Detroit; Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church of Wynnewood, Penn. and Holy Trinity Church of Cambridge, Mass.

In 1982, Gizirian was ordained a bishop in the Cathedral of Holy Echmiadzin by Vasken I, the late Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. In March of that year he began serving as Primate and Pontifical Legate of the Armenian Church of England. In 1993, he was elevated to the rank of archbishop.

After 20 years of service in the United Kingdom, he retired and returned to the United States, where he divides his time between visiting parishes, representing the Diocese at official functions and serving as the spiritual father of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle, NY.

For a video on Gizirian's ministry, visit the Diocese's website at [www.armenianchurch-ed.net](http://www.armenianchurch-ed.net).



## Papken and Anahid Megerian Mark 50th Wedding Anniversary in Armenia

ECHMIADZIN and PHILADELPHIA — Papken and Anahid Megerian of Philadelphia marked their 50th wedding anniversary on June 28 in Holy Echmiadzin, during a ceremony officiated by Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II. Present for the celebration were the couple's three children and their spouses, Garo (and Annette), Aram (and Carla) and Tanya (and Nerces) and their grandchildren, as well as extended family members. In addition to family, present were Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), Very Rev. Oshagan Gulgolian, pastor of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church in Wynnewood, Penn., as well as Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Primate, Western Diocese of America, and Archbishop Vicken Aykazian.



Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian (center), Fr. Hakob Gevorgyan (left) and Fr. Karekin Kasparian (right) with choir members and altar servers following services at Holy Trinity Church on June 17.

## Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club to Host Barbecue

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — The Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church will host an "All American Barbecue" on Thursday, July 26, in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall of the church complex at 145 Brattle St., beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by their monthly drawing at 8 p.m., with a chance to win \$1,000.

The 1000 Club, established in 1976, holds a monthly drawing on the last Thursday of each month, awarding \$2,000 in cash prizes.

"One-time" numbers will be sold the night of the dinner at \$5 each.

Armen Skenderian, co-chair of the 1000 Club, said, "Everyone is welcome. For only \$5.99, you'll enjoy a hot dog, hamburger, beans, coleslaw and watermelon dinner. If you have a 1000 Club number or buy one that night, you'll have a chance to win \$1,000."

Dinner tickets will be on sale at the door. For more information, contact the church office at [office@htaac.org](mailto:office@htaac.org).





## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Knights Honor Taner Akçam, Ragip Zarakolu at New York Convocation

CONVOCAION, from page 1

the guests of honor attending were Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese (Eastern), who gave the invocation and the closing prayer, Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations Garen and his wife, Nana Nazarian, honoree Dr. Taner Akçam, and James Seref Holle, representing honoree Ragip Zarakolou.

During the event, scholarships were announced for six students, with recipient Lori Sanag accepting hers in person. Avak Dirouhie Agnes B. Sahagian who was introduced by Sister Christina Gazarov spoke about the many

Armenian Genocide, Turkey is not monolithic, but rather that there are distinct signs of change and hope for the future."

Zarakolou, who grew up with members of the Greek and Armenian minorities in Turkey, and has been imprisoned in Turkey several times for his courageous human rights and publishing activities especially in regards to the Armenian Genocide, was not present for this honor. He is awaiting trial in Turkey for yet another trumped up charge by the Turkish government. He was represented by his stepson Seref Holle who accepted the award on his behalf.

Akçam, who has also written extensively on

Knights of Vartan) at the University of Michigan. He delved into research, took on various posts, and is now the chairman of the Armenian Genocide Studies program at Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

In his powerful address, Akçam spoke about the "long road." He urged the audience to think back to 20 to 30 years ago, and "what we Turks and Armenians used to think of each other. For you, a Turk was some who murdered your ancestors, who represented the murderers, and supported the policy of denial that the Turkish government promotes today. And for the Turks, Armenians were the stereotyped figures of Ankara's propaganda, the 'traitors' and 'backstabbers' who plotted against the Ottoman regime and murdered our innocent diplomats."

Both groups have been burdened with these concepts, unable to accept each other as a human being, he continued. "For a long time, we viewed each other through prisms, and prejudices. Now we are breaching the barricades, dismantling the walls brick by brick, but there are many reasons that hinder the two communities from reconciling completely." Armenians, he said still live in this tunnel as victims of Genocide "which started in 1915 and still continues because of the denial. For you the past IS present and occupies today. We, most of the Turkish people, as descendants of the perpetrators, have no sense of history whatsoever."

One side is frozen in the "tunnel of history" and the other side is completely unaware of its existence, Akçam said, adding, "this is what we need to get past, and this is what this award signifies for me – that the two sides are coming closer and we are in the process of creating something new – a new cultural space, a new language and a new discourse. In this new space and time, the meaning of Turks and Armenians has a different meaning – we claim and reclaim your destroyed and our stolen past and merge it with the present in a different way, thus building a beautiful future."

Quoting the assassinated journalist Hrant Dink – a close friend – who stated, "I am a Turk, I am a very good Turk." Akçam declared both in Turkish and English to lengthy applause, "I am an Armenian; I am a good



Prof. Dennis Papazian with James Seref Holle, representing his step-father, Ragip Zarakolu



From left, Prof. Dennis Papazian, Prof. Mary Papazian, Prof. Taner Akçam and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian

dedicated projects of the organization, including the funding of the Armenian school in Jerusalem.

Avak Sbarabed Dr. Dennis Papazian who introduced and made the presentation to Akçam, declared, "the awards to Dr. Akçam and Mr. Zarakolou, two acclaimed humanitarians recognize the fact that 100 years after the

the Armenian Genocide, escaped a 10-year prison sentence in Turkey as a leftist student and received political asylum in Germany where he eventually received a doctorate. With a recommendation from his mentor, Genocide scholar Dr. Vahakn Dadrian, he was brought to the US in 1999 by Papazian, then director of the Armenian Research Center (supported by the

Armenian."

He added, "This is how we will "keep the legacy of the Armenian Genocide alive. The Armenian Genocide was a crime in human history, and whoever cannot condemn it has no moral right to denounce such crimes occurring today. Together we have to work and do whatever is necessary to prevent and increase the awareness against genocide and mass crimes. We have to fight for a better future not only for Turks or Armenians, but for all of humanity."

The evening had begun with the singing of the American, Armenian and Canadian national anthems by St. Vartan Cathedral choir soloist Hasmik Meikhanedjian. To the delight of the audience, 14-year-old gifted pianist Arthur Ipek played selections from Khachaturian, as well as a medley of well-known Armenian compositions. All attendees received a complimentary book by Akçam on the Armenian Genocide, titled, *The Young Turks' Crime Against Humanity*, made available through Argentine-Armenian benefactor Eduardo Eurnekian, chairman of the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation.

## Taner Akçam on Turkish-Armenian Relations and the Armenian Genocide

AKÇAM, from page 1

Changes in Turkish society allowed Akçam to become more open on political issues and become more of a public intellectual. The assassination of Hrant Dink was one of the main causes of the changes in Turkey. Akçam said, "Until Hrant's assassination we were in a defensive position. They, the government and Deep State (generals and bureaucrats in Ankara) were attacking us. They were hunting us. They were dragging us from courtroom to courtroom. We were psychologically the underdogs. After the assassination the psychological attitude of society shifted. I would say there is a shift in the mentality today, and we have the upper hand. The state's position did not change, but how we talk on Armenian Genocide has altered. Talking about the Armenian Genocide in Turkey today is not something for which others would attack you as a traitor." In particular, Akçam noted that progressive and leftist organizations which were previously ignorant on the Armenian Genocide now have made this issue part of their platforms, and he feels their support strongly.

While the development of civil society in Turkey, which is supportive of Akçam and others who work on the Armenian Genocide and various human rights issues is a big change, Akçam cautioned, "We should also not exaggerate this, as it is still limited. It is in particular localized only in Ankara and Istanbul."

His relationship with Turks in the United States remains complicated due to what he perceives as a schism in this community. There is an older group of Turks in the US, which is primarily upper middle class. Akçam said, "We call them the white Turks. They are nationalists, Kemalists and very anti-Armenian. They

are basically state bureaucrats. These kinds of Turks, belonging to the ATAA [Assembly of Turkish American Associations] and other groups are the ones who organized the hate campaigns against me." Akçam felt that they came to the US with a positive identity as Turks and the shock of learning about the Armenian Genocide for the first time led them to become initially defensive in terms of their identity, but then aggressive against Armenians. They became utterly anti-Armenian. This is a part of their identity now.

Akçam likes to call the second group of Turks in the US the "normal Turks, people who came from Turkey as simple workers or with their own financial means to study or work." Most of these people are more religious than the largely secularist first group, and many are connected to the Fethullah Gülen movement. This group is to a degree in conflict with the first group. The Gülen movement, lately in the news because of some controversy about its schools in the US, is trying to make contact with Armenians in certain parts of this country. In Turkey, some of its representatives participate in the activities of Hrant Dink Foundation, and one public figure of the movement publicly apologized for the events of 1915, though without using the word genocide (which is still very common in Turkey).

Akçam thinks that this movement "has begun to understand the connection between Ergenekon and the Armenian Genocide. Ergenekon, which is responsible for Hrant Dink's assassination and other political assassinations in Turkey, was also the archenemy of Gülen. ... In the process of fighting against Ergenekon for liberty and democracy, the Gülen movement realized that there is a strong connection between past and present, between

the crimes committed by the Committee of Union and Progress and the policy of terror of Ergenekon today."

In the US, they want to have good peaceful relations with Armenians as with all other parts of American society, not as a movement "from Turkey" but as a part of American society. Secondly, Akçam feels, "they want to learn. They want to deal with this problem. They may not agree [with what they hear], but I think this is what we call dialogue."

Meanwhile, the Turkish government, Akçam feels, might be preparing "something" for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in 2015. Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu gives some interesting hints in his speeches, he said, suggesting one possibility is publicly announcing that Diaspora Armenians can receive Turkish citizenship.

On the one hand, Akçam said, "I don't think that the Turkish government has a comprehensive plan, idea or strategy of how to deal with 1915." Nevertheless, there has been a change in policies concerning the Armenian Genocide.

He explained, "This has something to do with the character of the AKP [the Justice and Development Party in power in Turkey]. AKP is a categorically different elite and political power than Ergenekon and the military bureaucracy. It felt persecuted by the military bureaucracy. Originally a religious group, it is more open to religious issues. As a result of Islamic values, it cannot shut down churches or be aggressive against Christian demands because of the tolerance understanding of Islam." This is one explanation for why it is renovating some Armenian churches or returning them to Armenians. Akçam also feels "it is using all these issues as part of the bargaining

with the military bureaucracy."

Part of the problem with the government is, Akçam said, that Turkey, like some Latin American countries, is in a transitional period between an authoritarian state and a democracy. He thought "it is stuck now because the governing party thinks that it controls everything. It does not need to push democratization anymore."

One more factor that makes Akçam pessimistic is Azerbaijan's influence on Turkey. He said, "Turkey's government consists of very pragmatic individuals. They are invested in Azerbaijan, with pipelines and other big investments, and they don't give a damn for moral issues. Azerbaijan can easily buy Turkey in its own fight against Armenians, and this is what we experienced with the Protocols. It was Azerbaijan that killed the Protocols."

The Azerbaijani factor will also help Turkey use Karabagh and Khojaly in a campaign of "your genocide, our genocide." Akçam fears a radicalization of such actions, including an attempt to mobilize Turkish and Azerbaijani diasporas against the Armenians until 2015.

Akçam spoke about the state of the field of Armenian Genocide studies. His main problem was "the disinterest in the Armenian community. We need more students, and we need financial support for graduate programs."

The prolific Akçam is working at present on a new project dealing with the confiscation of Armenian properties during the Genocide. He said, "I'm trying to read the existing laws and regulations as a historian, not as a legal scholar. I try to make the argument that legally, according to the Turkish judicial system, Armenians' rights to their properties have never been categorically denied, so that they can claim them back."



# Arts & Living

## Armenians Have Got Talent

By Charles K. Der Kazarian

WORCESTER, Mass. — Armenians have got talent — and how. Any doubts about this were dispelled by the parishioners of the Armenian Church Of Our Saviour with their talent show, titled “Armenians Got Talent!” Presented in the church’s Cultural Center on Saturday, June 2, performers of all ages got to strut their stuff in a wide variety of musical acts with singing, dancing, poetry readings and solo, duo and group instrumental performances.

Parish Council Chairman Ed Atamian welcomed the crowd of 225 to the special program designed to showcase Armenian artistic and cultural talents. But, as the Armenian tradition dictates, food is the first order of business: the Men’s Club prepared a chicken dinner (with desserts by the Women’s Guild and Senior Avaks), which was served by the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) Juniors with table decorations by the Sunday School. During the meal, entertainment was provided by the trio of Gabe Kazarian, Stephen Kheboian and Luis Pizzaro, who performed rock selections by Iron Maiden and Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Talent Coordinator Linda Bullock was the emcee for the evening and kept the flow of the acts moving at a crisp pace. The show got off to a good start with a rendition by the Hot Babes (Mary Atamian, Ani Kapur, Margo Masmanian, Betty Orsi) of *Let Me Entertain You*. They set the cheerful, light-hearted and accomplished tone for the entire program.

Solo instrumental performances included the following: Andrew DeMauro (cello); Elizabeth DeMauro and Lily Balkin (violin); Ryan Smith (guitar); Emily Habib (viola); Daniel Bullock,



Eric and Anthony Migridichian, the “dueling” saxophonists

Andrew DeMauro, Elizabeth DeMauro, Arsen Gulbankian, Lori Manoukian, David Seppin and Stephen Shamgochian (piano) and Matthew Sivalzian (guitar). Duos were Marti Du Lac (flute) and Linda Bullock (violin), and Anthony and Eric Migridichian (saxophone). Group instrumental was the Yalanche String Ensemble (Daniel Bullock, Jeremy Bullock, Linda Bullock and Alexandra Sivazlian) playing *Thine Be The Glory*.

see TALENT, page 13



From left, Angelo Ghailian (APS), Hasmik Agemian (silent auction winner) and Yuroz

## A Night of Art, Food and Wine With Artist Yuroz

LOS ANGELES — The artist Yuroz opened his studio doors to the Armenian Professional Society (APS) earlier this summer. Guests indulged in food and wine, catered by Ladybugz, while taking a private tour with Yuroz through his art gallery. As he walked the guests through his gallery and studio, he showed them the grand United Nations Mural and gave a detailed description for his process in the development of this piece.



Yuroz was invited to paint portrait of a saint, newly-canonized by Pope Benedict XVI

A slide show presentation by Yuroz followed, which reviewed his pieces for Dubai, Guatemala and the Vatican.

Yuroz became internationally recognized through his United Nations Murals depicting the plight of refugees, “Respect for Refugees,” and his mural. His piece, “Human Rights,” has been shown worldwide creating awareness and teaching people about the continued fight for human rights.

Yuroz became part of a very elite group of artists spanning the last 800 years to be commissioned by the pope and the Vatican to create a painting for Saint Arcangelo Tadini, Italian priest and

see YUROS, page 11



APS Executive Board with Yuroz, from left, Ani Petrossian, Lily Kazarians, Angelo Ghailian, Yuroz, Seta Khajarian and Taline Hanna

## Opera Stars to Help Celebrate Der-Hovanessian’s 25th Book of Poetry

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Two Armenian opera stars, Victoria Avetisyan and Yeghishe Manucharyan, will join Cambridge poet Diana Der-Hovanessian on July 22 at 4 p.m. at the Longfellow National Historic Site, 105 Brattle St., to celebrate the publication of Der-Hovanessian’s 25th book of poetry, *Armenian Poetry of Our Time*, from the Press at California State University.

Many of the poems will be sung and then read in English translation by the translator and several poets from New England Poetry Club.

Reviewing her first volume of translations in 1980, *The London Times Literary Supplement* called Der-Hovanessian “a brilliant poet who has opened up the book of her people to the English speaking world.” She has gone on to translate 13 other books of Armenian poetry including *The Other Voice*, poems by Armenian women, as well as volumes by Yeghishe Charents, Sayat Nova, Gevorg Emin, Vahan Tekeyan and Vahan Derian.

For her own poetry she has won the Paterson Prize, plus awards from American Scholar, Prairie Schooner, NEA, Poetry Society of America and from Columbia University both Armand Erpf Award and the Anahid prize.

During the post-earthquake years, she and Michael Kermoyan, singer-actor, and later Vahan Khanzadian, tenor, toured many universities with a musical play written by Der-Hovanessian, “The Secret Of Survival,” for earthquake relief. This last year, two new books appeared, *Now I See It* and *Dancing at the Monastery*, from Sheep Meadow Press.

Singing many of the poems will be two of the most sought after soloists in this country, tenor Manucharyan and mezzo soprano Avetisyan who won the Young Artist Award at her Kennedy Center debut. Both artists were born in Yerevan, Armenia. Avetisyan graduated with a master’s degree in vocal performance from Komitas State University and began her career at the National Opera.

She made her American debut with the Boston Lyric Opera where she appears frequently. Manucharyan made his debut at Carnegie Hall followed by joining the Metropolitan Opera Company. *NewsDay* has praised the “purity, power and flexibility of his voice.” He graduated from the Tchaikovsky Central Music School and Komitas State Conservatory of Music.

The Friends of Longfellow and New England Poetry Club are making the program possible. It is free and open to the public.

The July 22 reading and concert is free and will be followed by a book signing.



Diana Der-Hovanessian





## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Project SAVE Honors its Volunteers and Staff

By Tom Vartabedian

WATERTOWN — Given a choice between lying on a hammock in the Caribbean or categorizing photographs for Project SAVE, the choice would be an easy one for John Kebabjian.

Give him a cubicle inside an overstuffed office — doing what he enjoys best — and he is perfectly content with life.

Kebabjian doesn't consider himself the "ultimate" volunteer but how else would you describe a 70-year-old who spends five days a week at 65 Main St., working a myriad of jobs including that of office manager?

He documents historic pictures, files them accordingly, keeps the donor list updated, handles the bookkeeping and supervises other volunteers like himself.

"We don't have another organization like this anywhere in the world," he says of Project SAVE. "The history of our ancestors is being preserved and what better way is there to do this than through pictures. We're a link to the outside world."

Founded by Ruth Thomasian in 1975, Project SAVE Archives' extensive and diverse collection of more than 35,000 programs and growing library of oral history audio tapes depict all aspects of Armenian life in the homeland and Diaspora dating back to the 1860s.

As the premiere archive of Armenian photographs in the United States, its mission is to collect, document, preserve and present the historic and modern photographic record of Armenians and their rich heritage. The 26 calendars which have emerged forth are another testament to success.

"Our purpose is to make our resources available and increase our outreach to the academic communities, general public and to the greater Armenian community," said Thomasian. "We wouldn't exist today were it not for the many volunteers and donors who have come to our side.

If I had to pay for each of these services, we would not have survived this long."

According to Thomasian, volunteers do everything from hands-on work to office cleaning, graphic design and technology.

"We accomplish so much with so very little," she notes. "People bring their own skills to us and we utilize them. It benefits both sides."

Project SAVE honored its staff and volunteers during an appreciation luncheon June 20 at the Coolidge School Apartments.

Among the highlights was a special award to Arlington High senior Anahis Kechejian for her outstanding creativity and communication skills in designing and implementing "Stand Up For Your Survivor" presented April 20 at the Massachusetts State House Genocide Commemoration.

The 17-year-old was accompanied by her mom Linda and brother Antranig.

"I hope to inspire Armenians of my generation to volunteer their time for worthy organizations like Project SAVE," said Anahis Kechejian. "There's nothing more rewarding than being able to contribute to the Armenian community."

She will be lecturing at Camp Haiastan in Franklin, Mass. this summer to generate added interest in her survivor project. In her initial attempt, 50 people took part by holding up posters of their loved ones. The results were gratifying and emotional from the near-capacity crowd which included four survivors.

Not only was Kebabjian among the volunteer honorees, he took it upon himself to host the luncheon. His association with Thomasian dates back nearly four decades.

"I met her on the street one day and she asked me to help her with some bookkeeping," Kebabjian recalled. "It's given my retirement



Project SAVE honored its staff and volunteers at a luncheon June 20 in Watertown. From left are, John Kebabjian, Sarah Murray, Suzanne Adams, Tom Vartabedian (board member), Anahis Kechejian, Ruth Thomasian (executive director), Beatrice Changelian, Hasmig Esserian and Aram Sarkissian.

years a new purpose. I started once a week and saw the work needed so I expanded my role."

Kebabjian spent 50 years as a diamond-cutter in the family jewelry business located in downtown Boston. He retired three years ago.

Hasmig Esserian has spent the past 11 years volunteering some 2,800 hours as a translator. She started with captions and extended herself to articles on the Genocide. She was born in Alexandria, Egypt, spent 27 years living in Armenia before immigrating to Watertown in 1975 — the year Project SAVE was conceived.

Being fluent in both dialects (Eastern and Western) has been a valuable commodity for the archival center. She started the year after her husband passed away and it's helped to fill a void in her life.

"Ruth kept after me to devote my time," said Esserian. "I learn something new each day I'm here. The more I read, the more I translate. It's very stimulating. I'd hate to think what would happen to all these photographs if they weren't being properly preserved."

In her seven years and 1,050 hours as a volunteer, Beatrice Changelian has served as an office assistant, performing a variety of adminis-

trative and archival tasks.

Sarah Murray has spent five years as a volunteer, logging some 500 hours as an archival assistant before, during and after her degree work in library and information science at Simmons College.

Other volunteers singled out were: Taiga Lorena, archives assistant; Marlin Keshishian, calendar mailing specialist; Jean O'Kuckan, photographer, and Ani Chilingirian, high school community service.

Two staffers were also paid tribute for their enthusiasm and pride: Suzanne Adams, for her five years as an archivist and development associate, and Aram Sarkissian, for his 11 years as an archival assistant, helping to keep photographs and documents organized and accessible.

The vision becomes obvious and immediate: more resources and an expanded operational base.

"In order to achieve our purpose, we need full-time professional staff operating in a larger office space that meets archival standards for temperature and humidity control," Thomasian said. "We need an endowment that will ensure this professional care for our treasured collections."

## Night of Art, Food and Wine with Yuroz

YUROZ, from page 10

founder of the Congregation of the Worker Sisters of the Holy House of Nazareth, who was canonized. Following the canonization of Fr. Arcangelo Tadini, authorities in Botticino Sera, Italy, his former home, decided to name the church in Botticino after him. A large painting dedicated to commemorating Tadini's life is planned. Yuroz, who has become known as a respected artist of the people by the Vatican and is well known for his style of Cubism, has officially been invited to paint the image. In September 2009, Yuroz traveled to Italy and met Vatican and Botticino officials to discuss the details. His painting, "Light of Compassion," currently hangs in the church in

Botticino.

As the presentation came to an end, guests sat in amazement of the mastery of such an accomplished artist.

A raffle was drawn, and the two winners were invited to have shirts hand painted by Yuroz himself.

Yuroz donated two paintings to the APS for a silent auction benefiting the group.

APS is an independent, non-partisan organization founded in 1958 to promote fellowship among Armenian professionals. Additional information about the APS and its upcoming events is available at [www.apsla.org](http://www.apsla.org). For information, email [apsla@apsla.org](mailto:apsla@apsla.org), or write to: APS, P.O. Box 10306, Glendale, CA 91209.



Yuroz makes a presentation.

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## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Novel about Armenian Genocide to Be Presented By Chris Bohjalian at ALMA on July 26

WATERTOWN, Mass. — Bestselling author Chris Bohjalian will discuss his eagerly-awaited 15th book, *The Sandcastle Girls*, an epic novel set against the backdrop of the Armenian Genocide, on the evening of Thursday, July 26, at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA).

Most of Bohjalian's book take place in his native New England, but his latest, described as a sweeping historical love story steeped in the author's Armenian heritage, is set in Syria and New York. *The Sandcastle Girls* is the author's most personal novel to date.

## Books

Bohjalian's book talk and reception is sponsored jointly by ALMA, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) and the Armenian General Benevolent Union Young Professionals (AGBU YP) of Boston. The event takes place at the beginning of a nationwide book tour that will take the author across the country, from Los Angeles and San Francisco to New England, New Jersey, and to Capitol Hill, where he will meet with Congressional leaders during the day and have a book signing at the Rayburn House Office Building in the evening of August 1.

Perhaps known best for his novel *Midwives*, a number-one *New York Times* bestseller and a selection of Oprah's Book Club, Bohjalian has won a number of writing awards and his work has been translated into more than 25 languages and has appeared in a variety of magazines. Three novels have become movies. Bohjalian has said that he has contemplated his latest

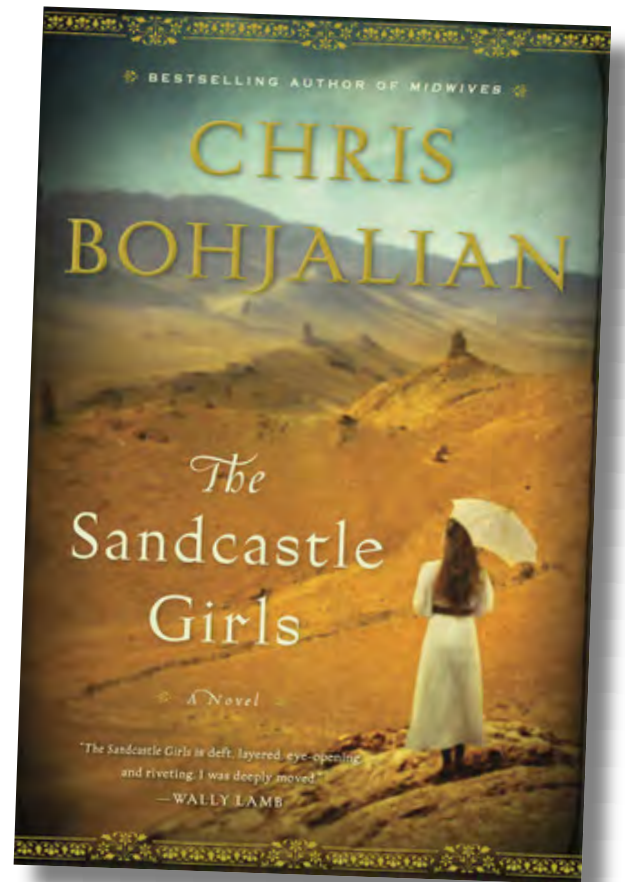
novel since 1992, when he first "tried to make sense of the Armenian Genocide: a slaughter that most of the world knows next to nothing about." Unsatisfied with this first attempt, he placed the draft aside and vowed that it would never see the light of day.

The narrative in his only other book not set in New England, *Skeletons at the Feast*, takes place in Poland and Germany during the last six months of the Second World War and deals in part with a fictional family's complicity in the Holocaust. As he toured on behalf of the book in 2008 and 2009, readers would ask him when he was going to write about the Armenian Genocide.

The son of an Armenian father and a Swedish mother, Bohjalian says that three of his four Armenian great-grandparents died in the Genocide and First World War. As he tried again, this time successfully, to write a novel about the Armenian Genocide, he dug deeper into his family's own personal diaspora. The fictional characters in *The Sandcastle Girls* are not his grandparents or great-grandparents, he says, "but the novel would not exist without their courage and charisma."

The talk and reception will take place in ALMA's Third Floor Gallery beginning at 7.30 p.m. The museum will be open on that day from 12 noon to 8 p.m. for those who may wish to visit the galleries or to view two current exhibits commemorating this year's 500th anniversary of the first Armenian printed book.

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



# New Book Explores Karsh's Relationships with His Subjects

By Daphne Abeel

Special to Mirror-Spectator

## *Karsh: Beyond the Camera: Selected with an Introduction and Commentary*

By David Travis. David R. Godine. 2012. 162 pp. ISBN 978-156792-438-1

Last year, photographer Yousuf Karsh's reputation in the Boston area received a special boost when his widow, Estrelita, made a gift of 27 of his best-known images to the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in Watertown. The images, which are now part of ALMA's permanent collection, ensure that Karsh will have a lasting presence in one of the Armenian community's more important institutions.

Now, David R. Godine Publishers, known for its high production values, has, again with the support and encouragement of Estrelita Karsh, assembled a collection of nearly 70 images, accompanied with a dual text: commentary by Karsh himself on his subjects, and additional interpretation and commentary by David Travis, the founder of the Department of Photography at the Art Institute of Chicago.

The comments by Karsh have been extracted from a series of interviews, which were conducted in 1988 by Jerry Fiedler, Karsh's long time studio assistant, who sat down with the master and taped many hours of reminiscences and recollections regarding his subjects and the conditions in which he made his pictures.

An introduction reviews the essentials of Karsh's biography, his escape from the Genocide to Aleppo as a young boy, from whence he was sent as a teenager to live with his uncle, George Nakash, a photographer who had a successful studio in Sherbrooke, in the province of Quebec, Canada. Karsh attended school there, but he also swiftly picked up the tools of the photographer's trade by working as his uncle's assistant.

Nakash soon recognized his nephew's abilities and arranged for him to travel to Boston to apprentice with yet another Armenian photographer, Joseph H. Garo. In 1930, he returned to

Canada and set up his own studio.

A significant aspect of his training and an experience, which led to the distinctive Karsh "look" was his work at the Ottawa Drama League. It was there that he learned about stage lighting and the use of tungsten lamps, which he would use later to great effect in developing the deep blacks and dramatic highlights that would become the signature of his photographic work.

It should be added that in addition to pursuing what would become a highly-successful career, Karsh did not forget his family back in Syria and eventually succeeded in bringing them all to Canada, where they thrived, one of his brothers becoming a medical doctor.

Karsh, early on, encouraged by his uncle, also learned to make use of his personal connections, and it was his acquaintance with the Canadian Prime Minister, William Lyon Mackenzie King, that led to the capturing of the iconic portrait of Winston Churchill, widely accepted as the most famous portrait ever taken. According to legend, Karsh, who had only a few minutes with the great man, removed the cigar from Churchill's fingers, thereby arousing the faintly belligerent and piercing look he managed to capture so memorably on camera.

The collection of images in the book presents much of Karsh's best-known work, including the Churchill portrait, which graces the cover. We once again gaze at his portrayals of Ernest Hemingway, Albert Schweitzer, Edward Steichen, Audrey Hepburn, Georgia O'Keeffe, Pablo Picasso, Queen Elizabeth, Grace Kelly, Aaron Copland. And many of these are familiar, but there are also portraits of some who are less known, such as the physician, Thomas Cullen, and a charming shot of a young Armenian boy, Stephen Moomian, taken in 1979, which may have reminded Karsh of himself when he was that age.

The commentaries, while interesting, are not always especially revealing, although they contain some surprises. The playwright George Bernard Shaw, known for his astringent wit and observations, had the temerity to say to Karsh, when he learned that he was Armenian, "Oh, wonderful. I have many friends among the



Armenians. But you know, the only way to keep them healthy and strong is to exterminate them once in a while." Karsh, ever the diplomat even in the face of this shocking comment, concluded that he did not take offence. "There was no menace in it," he is recorded as saying.

Karsh, who had considerable skills for putting his subjects at ease, never commented negatively about them, and clearly went to considerable lengths to put them at ease and to photograph them in settings that enhanced their stature and persona.

One exception was the novelist, Vladimir Nabokov. Karsh's portrait of him, reveals the writer, not quite in full face, staring quizzically at the camera and holding up a small drawing of a butterfly. (Nabokov was a famously enthusiastic lepidopterist.) About him, Karsh says, "Nabokov is a brilliant writer and prolific writer. As a human being, he left much to be desired. He is among the least attractive men I have ever photographed. His manners, his thinking, his arrogance, his false behavior [were objectionable to me]." One has to wonder what

the dazzling, Russian satirist might have said to Karsh to arouse such an unusual and critical reaction.

Some of Karsh's most notable portraits were taken in profile and a number of them appear here, including the images of Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn, Georgia O'Keeffe and Francois Mauriac. He also photographed some very famous couples, including John and Jacqueline Kennedy, the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Queen Elizabeth and her consort, Prince Philip. He was capable of taking some great risks with his composition, his photograph of the cellist Pablo Casals being one of them. He photographs Casals from the back, dramatically lit, sitting alone on a stage, playing his cello.

While the Travis commentaries are always admiring, they do not, in every case, necessarily add to the appreciation of a particular photo, but in some instances, he does add information that causes the viewer to absorb the image in a new way. The portrait of Ernest Hemingway, which was taken at the writer's retreat in Cuba, shows Hemingway, dressed peculiarly, for the climate, in a heavy, wool turtle necked sweater. Travis provides the information that Hemingway was, at the time, in great pain, from some back injury. Perhaps, the heavy sweater provided him with a sense of protection.

Only a very few of Karsh's subjects are still alive. The last portrait in the book is of the great South African leader Nelson Mandela and was taken in 1990. Karsh died in Boston in 2002.

Godine has gone to considerable lengths to honor Karsh's concern for printing and reproduction. The book has been printed in Switzerland at Jean Genoud SA, Karsh's favorite printer. The paper, tatami natural paper on an acid free sheet, supports the lush black and white tones that characterize the photographer's work. There are critics who can, perhaps, dismiss aspects of Karsh's work as formulaic, and it is true that he found an aesthetic and technical strategy that worked for him over and over again. But when a viewer comes across an image and identifies it immediately as Karsh, we know that he has made his mark as an artist and a photographer. This volume attests to his lasting influence.



ARTS & LIVING

# Kanun Virtuoso Topouzian Nabs Music Prize

By Tom Vartabedian

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. — What does it take to win a \$25,000 Kresge Artist Fellowship Award for musical excellence?

For Ara Topouzian, it is the support he has received from his parents, Armenag and Norma, both of whom have dedicated their efforts to the advancement of the Armenian community, both here and abroad.

"I was always encouraged by my parents to strive for more and owe so much to them," said the *kanun* virtuoso and noted recording artist. "Musically, I have many mentors and role models. I got my start in Armenian music as a child sitting with the Voskikian band at the old Atlantic City kef weekends. I am truly honored by this award."

Topouzian was among two-dozen Metro Detroit literary and performing artists to receive this award. Each of the 24 fellowships included an unrestricted prize of \$25,000 rewarding creative vision and commitment to excellence within a wide range of artistic disciplines.

## Armenians Have Got Talent

TALENT, from page 10

Delightful and moving vocals came from Du Lac (*Someone To Watch Over Me*), Rachel Mazur (*Hallelujah!*), Nikki Penbeyan (*Edelweiss*) accompanied by Bullock on violin and Brenda Sicard (*Mozart's Lullaby*). Seta Migridichian danced to *Sweet Georgia Brown* and the Little Cats Dancers (Lily Bialkin, Alissa Der Kazarian, Emilee Der Kazarian, Julie Elbe, Sophia Elbe and Sarah Percifull) wowed the audience with *Las Gatitas*. Ani Sepplin, Takouhie and daughter, Maral Taoukdjian, beautifully read poetry in Armenian and English. The last listing in the program booklet consisted of two songs by the Armenian Chorus (*Ambee Dageetz* and *Genatz Yerk*).

To everyone's surprise, a "mock" protest from Barry Bilzerian in the audience interrupted concluding comments by the emcee. He asked, "Why are the 'men' not performing?" This led to an "impromptu" dance performance by five "male dancers" (Ed Atamian, Barry Bilzerian, Peter Der Kazarian, Robert Elbe and Amar Kapur) to the Village People's *Macho Man*, which brought down the house.

Rev. Aved Terzian, pastor of the Armenian Church Of Our Saviour, in his closing remarks, thanked everyone for their participation and support. He then went to each performer on stage and had them give their names, the final one being Mary Atamian who simply identified herself as "Ed's mother" which brought the biggest laugh of the night.

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Topouzian was selected for his accomplishments as a world music artist, specializing in the *kanun* — an instrument he has played for decades. He was part of a 19-piece world music group that premiered to a sold-out audience at the Detroit Orchestra Hall.

He enjoys sharing his heritage and talent teaching workshops for both children and adults demonstrating various Armenian and Middle Eastern instruments as well as folk music.

The money will be used to advance his career and promote world music to wider audiences. A question-and-answer session with the artist follows:

**Tom Vartabedian:** Relate a couple highlights of your career.

**Ara Topouzian:** In 1995, I was commissioned by the Armenian Relief Society to produce an album, which benefited a pre-natal clinic located amidst Armenian's earthquake devastation. The album, "For the Children of Armenia," raised over \$20,000 for that clinic in memory of my late mother. In 2002, I produced another album that was dedicated to the thousands of children saved by the Nork Marash Medical Center in Yerevan.

**TV:** What exactly is the *kanun*?

**AT:** It's one of the most important traditional instruments used in Armenian and Middle Eastern music. The instrument is the granddaddy of the piano — 75 strings tuned in three-string unison.

**TV:** Tell us about outside work, family and personal life.

**AT:** By day, I work as an economic development director for the City of Novi, one of the biggest and more growing cities in Oakland County, Mich. I'm married to Della Cassia Topouzian and we have two children, Aline Norma, 3, and Alexan Peter, 11 months.

**TV:** What can you tell us about you that may surprise others?

**AT:** A lot of non-Armenians do not know

about my musical background. I once performed for over 1,800 patrons at Detroit Orchestra Hall. At a reception which followed, people I interact with at my day job came up to me in utter shock. They were there for the concert and had no idea that would be me on stage. I've been playing Armenian music for 25 years.

**TV:** What is the impact of Armenian music upon our society?

**AT:** The younger generation isn't as interested as my generation and that troubles me. I feel that as musicians, we have an obligation to teach and preserve our music so that it continues to live. Music is part of our rich history and tells an important story. We should never forget 'our' story.

**TV:** What is your favorite recording?

**AT:** I have a record label — American Recording productions — which I founded in 1991. To date, I have recorded 30 albums. Among my favorites is "Whispers of Ellis Island" which features Joe Zeytoonian on *oud*. This was dedicated to the millions of Armenians who arrived in America through Ellis Island. Another is Eastern Winds, featuring a number of local non-Armenian musicians performing Middle Eastern music. Both have been very popular.

**TV:** What does this award mean to you?

**AT:** Very humbling. The Kresge Artist Fellowship is a prestigious honor that I don't take lightly. It isn't just about the money. The Fellowship will allow me to show an even wider audience my capabilities as a musician and gives me the motivation to learn more music with different genres. I plan to utilize the money in ways that will help advance my career as a musician while promoting world music to wider audiences.

**TV:** How did you qualify to receive this? Were you nominated?

**AT:** I applied for it as you would a grant. It was a very competitive process with over 450 applicants. I was judged by a panel of professionals within the music and performing arts

industry. They reviewed my music, watched concert videos, and ultimately made their decision.

**TV:** What impact does this make in the world of Armenian-American music?

**AT:** A huge impression. It gives us the recognition within the non-Armenian sector that we deserve. Hopefully, it will also show other Armenian-American musicians that our talents are not just limited to picnics, dances and weddings. The joke to some is that we are all "picnic band musicians" and I don't agree with that. Many of us are exceptionally talented musicians. I look at others like Ara Dinkjian and Mal Barsamian. We've successfully branched out to play with a variety of musicians and genres. More of us can be doing this.

**TV:** What projects do you have in the fire now?

**AT:** I perform quite a bit in Michigan. With two small children, it's hard to execute projects. I recently completed original music for an upcoming Armenian documentary with Mark Gavoor, another good musician friend.

**TV:** Who is your role model?

**AT:** I have several. Aside from my parents, there are others like Mark Gavoor and Jack Chalikian, a *kanun* player associated with the Kef Time Band. Jack took the time to give me mini-lessons at Kef Time Hartford. I won't forget that. I've had the good fortune to play with a variety of musicians over the years and learned something special from each of them.

**TV:** How do you feel about commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide?

**AT:** We have an obligation to commemorate it to the outside world. Whenever I talk about my music, I always mention the Genocide. It has an impact upon the musicians and what we play. I've always felt our annual commemorations were being directed toward the wrong audience. We should be educating non-Armenians. The number of misinformed people I speak to about the Genocide is staggering. We have an opportunity to commemorate an event to a nation that may never have heard about the Armenian Genocide.

## CALENDAR

### NEW JERSEY

**AUGUST 10-12 — Return to Asbury, Armenian Kef Weekend at the Beach.** For tickets and information, visit [returntoasbury.eventbrite.com](http://returntoasbury.eventbrite.com). The event is sponsored by the ASA.

**OCTOBER 5 — Save the date.** His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of Armenian Church, invites everyone to attend a tribute banquet in honor of Hrant Gulian. Details to follow.

**OCTOBER 21 — The Armenian American Support and Educational Center, the Hye Doon, celebrates its 35th anniversary.** Bergen County Academies, 200 Hackensack Ave., Hackensack, with the participation of Akh'Tamar Dance Ensemble of the Hye Doon, Arev Armenian Folk Ensemble of Hamazkayin of Boston and other talented guest performers.

**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.

**NOVEMBER 17-18 — Musical theater presentation by TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group, Yervant Odian's "Love and Laughter"** (Ser yev Dzidzaghi), directed by Krikor Satamian, with more than 20 actors participating. Dwight Englewood High School, Englewood Cliffs, 8 p.m., Saturday and 4 p.m., Sunday. \$25, \$35, \$50. For tickets, call Marie Zokian or Noushig Atamian.

**NOVEMBER 18 — TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group Cast Party and tribute to Karnig Nercessian on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the group.** Special program and dinner, with Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of the Armenian Church, presiding. St. Thomas Armenian Church, Tenafly. Donation, \$30. For tickets, call Marie Zokian or Noushig Atamian.

### NEW YORK

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



On October 5, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of Armenian Church invites everyone to attend a tribute dinner for Hrant Gulian, pictured above, in New Jersey.





## COMMENTARY

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## COMMENTARY

## Oligarchy on the Defensive

By Edmond Y. Azadian

While the Cold War is intensifying over the Syrian crisis, pitting again the old warriors against each other, an internal crisis is brewing in Armenia with broad ramifications; this time the oligarchy is on the defensive, mind you, not yet on the run.

In order to put the crisis in perspective a background flashback is warranted here.

Since Armenia emerged as an independent country, it claimed to have adopted the system of market economy, replacing the Soviet-style command economy. But it turned out that only the worst traits of capitalism were adopted and practiced giving rise to a sharp divide between the rich and the poor. A caste of oligarchs evolved, making its own rules of conduct and placing itself over the law and the constitution.

Each oligarch has a fleet of luxury cars driven by a band of bodyguards to follow the movements of their boss, always ready to take the law into their hands, at the nod of their bosses. Their cars have special license plates to intimidate and threaten traffic police, who remain mindful of job security and leave alone the oligarchs and their mafia-type bodyguards to violate all laws with impunity.

At times these oligarchs have killed or driven away foreign investors who inadvertently have violated their business turf. Therefore it is self-evident why Diaspora Armenians or other foreign investors stay away from meddling into the affairs of these oligarchs who have instituted a chokehold over Armenia's economy. To buy impunity from any prosecution, these oligarchs are keen to be elected as parliament members.

A journalist once asked sarcastically why these oligarchs need so much protection. They must have hurt somebody that they are scared for their lives.

Indeed, the bodyguards of these oligarchs have beaten to death many citizens without any consequences. A much-highlighted case was the killing of a man named Vartan Vartanian by the then-President Robert Kocharian's bodyguards at the Aragast Café.

The oligarchs practice the "Wild West" model of politics. Last year, the newly-elected mayor of Yerevan, Gagik Beglarian, beat one of President Serge Sargsian's protocol staff members who had refused to bend the protocol rules to accommodate the whims of the mayor's wife. Beglarian was asked to resign but before a year elapsed he was awarded with a ministerial office, rendering the government into a revolving door.

Of course the opposition media uses all these incidents to criticize the government to no avail. But a recent incident proved to be the straw that broke the camel's back. On June 17, the bodyguards of powerful oligarch Ruben Hairabetian (nicknamed Nemetz Rubo) decided "to teach a lesson" to a group of visitors to the Harsnakar hotel and resort in the suburbs of Yerevan. The resort is owned by Mr. Hairabetian. (Incidentally, all these oligarchs have nicknames like Nemetz Rubo, Lfik Samo, Dody Gago, etc. and they don't resent the nomenclature; they rather carry

them as badges of honor.) The bodyguards, allegedly under orders from their boss, gave a beating to the visiting group, killing one, army surgeon Vahe Avedian.

The incident touched off intense public outrage which hit the political scene like an avalanche.

Last May, Mr. Hairabetian was elected a member of the parliament on the ruling Republican Party ticket. He is also the head of the Armenian Football Federation.

To calm public outrage, the president met with Hairabetian, who, upon leaving the presidential palace, issued an apology and resigned from the parliament. Despite those steps, vigils are continuing at the site of the crime and the public is demanding more retribution. Hairabetian is being asked to quit his position at the Football Federation while some maximalists are even asking the government to confiscate Mr. Hairabetian's assets and throw him in jail.

This time around, the public has had enough of such unruly conduct, which had been continuing over the years with impunity.

Of course, this incident also became a God-sent golden opportunity for the opposition to use against the ruling Republican Party. The incident became a cause celebre for the entire spectrum of the opposition parties. At this point, four political parties have rallied around the case, asking Hovik Abrahamian, the Speaker of the Parliament, to hold a special session to discuss the issue and take action.

Forty-four members of the parliament need to sign the petition, in order for the speaker to call a special session. At this writing the opposition had not garnered that number yet.

But a very important picture has evolved in the process: the opposition parties thus far had acted in disparate courses, but this time around, they have found a case which warrants their cooperation. Until recently, the Armenian National Congress and the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) were mortal enemies. Gagik Zaroukian's Prosperous Armenian Party was a coalition partner with the president's Republican Party until the parliamentary elections of last May. At this time, they seem to have parted ways. All the above opposition parties plus the Heritage Party have signed the petition requesting the special session.

The news media is continuing to give extensive coverage to the issue indicating that public anger will not quiet down any time soon.

Meanwhile, some voices from the Republican quarters have been asking not to politicize the issue since the law enforcement authorities and the courts have taken up the issue. One such voice was the Republican member of the parliament Artashes Geghamian. But voices of defense are far and few since no one wishes to take the risk of countering public anger, which has become a cumulative force reflecting anger not just at this incident but the group's modus operandi.

This time around it seems that public outrage has struck a balance in the legal system to tame a self-appointed caste and make it accountable to the court.

For the first time, the oligarchs are on the defensive but not yet on the run.

## Jerusalem

By Nubar Dorian

"One does not choose one's subject, one submits to it." - Gustave Flaubert

Jews, Christians and Muslims all across the universe consider Jerusalem the most historical, meaningful, significant city in the world. Very few, including Armenians, know that some 1,000 acres of the most valuable parcel of land belongs to Armenians, just a little larger than the land owned by Greek and Catholic communities. All three consider their share inviolate, God-ordained and priceless.

Now that the Armenian Patriarch, His Beatitude Torkom Manougian, is seriously ill and unable to function, the situation remains most critical. Most urgent and most fatefully, it is tragic if not incomprehensible to note the complete silence of Armenians, the press, newscasts. No community interest, no debates, no discussions. It is simply left to the pleasure and whim of some three-dozen clergy to determine the future of the Jerusalem Patriarchate. What irony. To leave the fate, the symbolism, the treasure, our most precious heritage and proud possession

is pure folly, if not insanity, in following the dictates of a constitution written decades ago giving full power to the brotherhood, excluding all lay voices, lay input, lay experiences and lay participation.

Just take a minute and view the situation. The Primate of the smallest diocese of Armenians was elected by both lay and clergy combined. All future plans, future actions are debated, discussed and voted upon. Long ago, there was lack of transportation, lack of funds, lack of education and by-laws and the constitution had to be written accordingly. The Jerusalem Patriarchate was to prepare the clergy and attend to the needs of the Armenian community's religious needs. All that has been drastically changed except for the same old, same old constitution.

Even a cursory review will convince any interested soul that the Jerusalem Patriarchate has faced problem after problem. Fight for power and prestige among the brotherhood members have been constant. The fate of our Jerusalem — conferred by Christians — including many Armenians — is far more than the fate and importance of our Holy Echmiadzin. To assume that the Jerusalem Patriarch is a monastic order, means only that we have simply abandoned this holy God-ordained gift of God.

For the longest time, the Jerusalem Patriarchate stood for piety and principle. Piety will remain unchanged forever. Principle however should have some "sacred

cows" unchanged. But others need change in a changing world. The need for lay participation in Jerusalem affairs has become a "must" and that includes election of patriarchs as well.

One change could be the election of a co-adjutor now and appoint a committee consisting of clergy and lay to carefully study the old constitution and have a single delegate from every Armenian diocese in the world. To form an assembly to elect a patriarch and attend annual or by-annual convention to plan "future" Jerusalem for all Armenians.

These lay delegates would then present a "Jerusalem" item on their assemblies and all Armenians worldwide will be included in being more familiar and more interested in Jerusalem.

We all know that Jerusalem is unique in its historical, traditional, symbolic way and extremely important to all Jews, Christians and Muslims. God has destined us to own a parcel of the most valued soil on earth. It is therefore wrong and contrary to all Armenian interested to let a handful of brotherhood members have all the right to direct the present and future of this most precious gift for all Armenians on Earth.

May the light of God's pure sun and grace inspire the members of the Brotherhood, to not only accept, but demand change as well.

(Nubar Dorian has served as a Diocesan delegate for Holy Cross Church, NJ.)





## COMMENTARY



## My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Turkey Shows Interest in Armenian Demand for Access to Trabzon Port

In a recent column, I reported that Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu had indicated an interest in meeting with "diasporan leaders" to discuss Armenian demands emanating from the Genocide of 1915.

In response, I suggested that before Armenians consider meeting Davutoglu, he must prove his sincerity by making eight preliminary concessions, one of which is providing the Republic of Armenia special commercial access to the Turkish port of Trabzon.

Last week, the Turkish website Gunebakis and other media outlets reported the positive reaction of Muzaffer Ermish, general manager of the Trabzon Port: "In a recent article, Harut Sassounian, editor-in-chief of the *California Courier* newspaper, pointed out that Turkish authorities were actively pursuing the start of a dialog with the Armenian Diaspora, and further contended that they were engaged in a series of meetings ahead of 2015, the 100th anniversary of the deportation. Sassounian, who advised the diaspora not to make conflicting demands from

Turkish authorities, listed the demands that a united Armenian delegation could make, including the demand that 'Armenia be given special commercial access to the Port of Trabzon.'" Gunebakis confirmed that "Trabzon has given a green light to that request."

However, the general manager observed: "should the Turkish government provide us with the necessary permission, we are ready. Armenia can easily import and export through this location. The \$7.5-billion trade volume of Armenia would be an amazing event for Trabzon." The Gunebakis article, headlined "Armenia's Eyes are on the Port of Trabzon," indicated that most of Armenia's imports and exports currently pass through the Georgian Port of Poti

Ermish indicated the benefits of using Trabzon instead of Poti. He pointed out that the distance from Trabzon to Yerevan is 430 kilometers (270 miles). "While the Port of Poti provides the advantage of a railroad link, there is a significant delay in shipments. On the other hand, there is a convenient highway between Trabzon and Yerevan, which is available at all hours of the day. From the Port of Trabzon to Alican [Armenia's Margara border crossing point] is 400 kilometers, and from there to Yerevan the distance is only 30 kilometers.... Any vehicle that departs from our location will be in Armenia within six-seven hours, which is an unbelievable advantage for that country," Ermish stated.

The general manager stressed that "Trabzon's Port capacity is capable of accommodating new projects," and that "we have increased the capacity of the Port from 3.9 to 10-million tons. We are only utilizing 25 percent of the port's capacity. We are prepared for any commercial opportunity that might present itself regarding Armenia."

One can draw several conclusions from Port Manager

Ermish's swift and positive reaction:

- This deal is in the mutual interest of both Armenia and Turkey. Trabzon would utilize its port capacity more fully, while Armenia would save on cargo handling fees, pay lower freight rates, and gain an alternate land access to the outside world.

- The general manager would not have made a public announcement on the sensitive topic of cooperation with Armenia, unless he had advance clearance from Ankara. It is possible that the Turkish government is using Ermish's positive statements as a trial balloon to gauge the degree of support or opposition to such a move. While there has been no negative reaction from anti-Armenian nationalist circles in Turkey and Azerbaijan, Armenian merchants have welcomed the Turkish gesture.

- Since the Trabzon Port's manager has announced that Armenian cargo can directly cross the currently closed Armenian-Turkish border rather than being rerouted through Georgia, even a limited opening of the border for cargo shipments would eliminate the need for the highly controversial Armenian-Turkish protocols, once and for all.

Finally, a truly sincere gesture of reconciliation by Turkey would be acknowledging that Trabzon was a major center of extermination during the Armenian Genocide. A monument should be erected in Trabzon Port in memory of thousands of Armenian women and children who were placed in boats and cruelly dumped to drown in the Black Sea.

It should be clear that neither giving Armenia special access to the Trabzon Port nor the erection of a monument could be considered restitution for the Genocide. These are simply steps Turkish officials must take to prove their good faith before Armenians can sit with them at the negotiating table.

## LETTERS

## Violence and Atrocities Must Stop

To the Editor:

For those of us who are on the front lines defending our heritage and culture, it is essential that we are aware and conscious of what is happening on the borders of Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh, as well as the horrific civil war in Syria today.

Recently, during my May/June trip to Armenia, there were confirmed reports of Azeri military who had sneaked across the Chinari village border at night, and at ran-

dom viciously killed three Armenian military men who were driving home. A short time later, Azeris pepper sprayed the local kindergarten walls and nearby homes with bullets. Intermittent sniper attacks at random during the day and nighttime in these northeastern border villages of Armenia are fiendishly calculated to frighten families to abandon their homes. Because of Azeri snipers and land mines, farmers can work only 30 percent of their lands leading to severe hardships on

their families.

On June 4, a disturbing video appeared on You Tube, titled " Assyrian TV network, An Arab Spring...Muslims Behead Christian Man While Reciting Anti-Christian Islamic Prayers." His only crime was that he chose to become a Christian. The video clearly shows a young man, who even under the threat of a knife at his neck, did not renounce his Christian belief. (If you have a weak stomach do not watch this documentary film, which contains graphic scenes.)

It is essential that we fully understand that the horrors depicted above and similar atrocities experienced by our people in 1915-1923,

are still present today in the fiber and soul of some irrational fanatics, their thinking and practices.

We must all be vigilant and wise in taking necessary actions to assure that we protect and where possible, advance sane

Christian and universal humanitarian thinking that allows and promotes religious tolerance.

At the same time, let us never forget the many good Muslim people and countries in the Middle East, like Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Iran and Palestine who opened their borders, welcomed, sheltered and protected destitute Armenians and others during the bitter genocide years.

Let us not feel guilty or defenseless in speaking out against radical extremists bent on destruction. Let us speak out against grave, immoral and violent actions wherever they may be. Let us speak out on issues based on religious beliefs, issues, which are critical to the survival of our fledgling Armenian nation and the world at large. Now, more than ever, we must advance through our words and actions a platform of specific initiatives and programs to confront the immoral, uncivilized, brutal thinking that underlies atrocities.

We can network, form alliances with Christian, Jewish, Muslim, other religious and non-sectarian groups and humanitarian organizations to raise world public awareness to defend and protect our people, and to help bring peace to our troubled planet.

— Eva Medzorian  
Winchester, Mass.

— Edward A. Kazanjian  
Belmont, Mass.

## Take Your Grandchildren to the 'Park'

To the Editor:

When I say park, I don't mean Fenway — I mean the Armenian Heritage Park on the Rose Kennedy Greenway. The park is spectacularly situated at the cross walk between Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Christopher Columbus Park and the North End. Walk the labyrinth, splash in the fountain, talk about and explain the significance of the dodecahedron sculpture and beautiful reflecting pool and read together the inscription: "Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have offered hope and refuge for immigrants seeking to begin new lives."

The park is a gift to the people of the Commonwealth and the City of Boston from the Armenian-American community of Massachusetts. This sculpture is offered in honor of the one-and-one-half million victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923. May it stand in remembrance of all genocides that have followed, and celebrate the diversity of the communities that have re-formed in the safety of these shores."

Regardless of your ethnic background, talk to your grandchildren about this beautiful gift from the Armenian people to the City of Boston and your own experiences. Take the opportunity to discuss their immigrant grandparents or great grandparents who fled to the United States and to Massachusetts which promised a new life and opportunity, as it did for immigrants of all nationalities.

We recently took just such a field trip with our

grandchildren Marianna and Damian Lilla. They loved the entire experience. They also met one of the supervisors from Barletta Construction who built the park and who explained the workings of the pumps, pools, anemometers, which control the fountain height, and had them view the mechanical equipment vault. They met a Boston resident, Debra Nashita, who was anxious to join our mini tour and wanted know more about the park which has now become the destination of her early morning walks from Beacon Hill. My wife, Mary Ann and I felt like docents, explaining to Bostonians and tourists the significance of the park, its features and the effort behind its construction. (An automated system to provide this information is in the works.)

If you do nothing else this summer, visit

the park, and then return for a second time to view it in the evening when it is fully illuminated. Both experiences will be highlights of your summer! You can cap off your visit with a ride on the carousel nearby and then a walk into Faneuil Hall Marketplace where there are plenty of street performers entertaining children of all ages.

Come back throughout the year to this "pocket park" and spend some time reflecting on its accomplishment and the true meaning of this gift to the City. For more information or to make a donation, see [www.armenianheritagepark.org](http://www.armenianheritagepark.org).

## Notice to Contributors

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

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

daytime telephone number.

- Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is noon on the Monday of the week of publication.

- Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director. Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.

- The *MS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.

- Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases.





# KOHAR

All Time Armenian Favorites

## 4 Cities 9 Concerts

**Montevideo** Sodre  
23 - 24 October

**Buenos Aires** Luna Park  
27 - 28 - 29 October

**Córdoba** Orfeo Superdomo  
3 November

**São Paulo** Auditorio Ibirapuera  
9 - 10 - 11 November

## 2012

For more details:  
[www.koharconcert.com](http://www.koharconcert.com)

