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Cleveland Community Rallies around Teen From Armenia Suffering from Leukemia

Funds Desperately Needed for Costly Treatments

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

CLEVELAND – When one thinks of a major Armenian community in the US, certainly Glendale, Fresno and Watertown come to mind. However, it seems when it comes to the true meaning of community, the folks in Cleveland make up for their small size with their generous hearts.

The community, through St. Gregory of Narek Church and its pastor, Fr. Hratch Sargsyan, is rallying around Stella Arakelyan, 17, a leukemia patient from Armenia that has been receiving care at the Cleveland Clinic since May. Stella is accompanied in the US by her mother, Iren.

In a letter to the Mirror-Spectator, she wrote, “Four days before her prom in Yerevan, Armenia, she was diagnosed with Philadelphia Chromosome Positive Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. This diagnosis came as a shock to her family and friends and herself. At the tender age of 10 she had already been diagnosed with another life-threatening disease – diabetes. Stella had endured her illness with extraordinary strength and maturity, but this new blow and the terrifying diagnosis of cancer has put a stop to her dreams.”

Iren Arakelyan, speaking by phone from Cleveland, praised the community for its warmth and support in this trying time.

Speaking in Armenian, she said, “I have no relatives here, no one or nothing. Now I feel I am surrounded by people who are all



Stella Arakelyan

dear to me and my child. There are such good people here in Cleveland. They are all taking care of me.”

Stella Arakelyan goes into Cleveland Clinic for monthly chemotherapy treatments, her mother said. This month was see STELLA, page 16

Documents Reveal Turkey’s Use of ‘Race Codes’ for Minorities

ISTANBUL (*Hurriyet Daily News*) – An official document penned by the Istanbul Provincial Education Directorate has surfaced, revealing that Turkey’s population administration system has been recording citizens who have Armenian, Jewish or Anatolian Greek (Rum) origins with secret “race codes.”

The Armenian-Turkish weekly newspaper Agos published as its headline story on August 1 a report on an official document that openly states “citizens with Armenian origin are coded with ‘2.’” The implementation is reported to have been in place since 1923, the foundation year of the Turkish Republic.

A Turkish citizen’s mother whose origin is Armenian requested to register her child at an Armenian kindergarten, but the school responded by asking her to prove she had the “2 code” in order to check that she had not changed religion, according to the document. In Turkey, only minority see CODES, page 4

Community Activist Garbis Barsoumian Dies

WATERTOWN – Garbis Barsoumian of Watertown died on July 30.

He leaves his wife, Armine (Krikorian) Barsoumian; daughters Houry and her husband Richard Haroutunian, Ani Barsoumian and Lana Barsoumian all of Watertown; grandson Zachary Haroutunian and many nieces and nephews.

Barsoumian grew up and lived most of his life in Aleppo, Syria, where he was known as the best auto mechanic in the Middle East. In 1991 he came to America and served as chairman of the Board at Taurus Packing Company, Inc. in Boston.

see BARSOUMIAN, page 16



Garbis Barsoumian



Ilias Uyar (Akhanli’s lawyer in Cologne), left, and Guenter Wallraff in front of a poster of Dogan Akhanli in Istanbul

Bad Theater in Istanbul Turkish Court Performs Kafka

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

visit the Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque, the Topkapi Palace and numerous other sites here.

On the other side of the city, a smaller crowd of foreigners waited outside the grandiose edifice housing the 11th High Criminal Court. They, too, were rightly expecting to experience something of historic significance, albeit more political in nature. The group of 30 people had flown in from Germany as an observer delegation at the trial of Dogan Akhanli, a renowned German-Turkish novelist and playwright, who had been tried for a serious crime and acquitted by this same Istanbul court in 2011.

see AKHANLI, page 3

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armenian Businessman Killed in Russian Town

MOSCOW (PanARMENIAN.Net) – An Armenian-born businessman was killed in the Russian town of Noginsk, a suburb of Moscow.

The 42-year-old man was shot in the eye and died in the hospital. Investigators link the attack to the man’s business activity.

This was the second murder of an Armenian in Noginsk. On July 28, an Armenian citizen, 26, was shot dead because a neighbor didn’t like the loud music the young man and his friends were listening to in the yard.

Armenian, Iranian Presidents Discuss Cooperation

TEHRAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Armenian President Serge Sargsian met in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani, whose inauguration took place Sunday, August 4.

The two leaders noted the rich agenda of bilateral relations, including implementation of major joint projects, and pledged to bring the cooperation to a new level. They also dwelled on some regional issues, specifically the Nagorno Karabagh conflict settlement.

Power Confirmed as US Envoy to UN

NEW YORK (Combined Sources) – Samantha Power, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and foreign policy advisor to President Obama, won confirmation Thursday as the new US ambassador to the United Nations with a vote that completes the administration’s foreign policy team for the second term, the *Los Angeles Times* reports.

The former journalist and human rights advocate was confirmed by a vote of 87 to 10.

“As a longtime champion of human rights and dignity, she will be a fierce advocate for universal rights, fundamental freedoms and US national interests,” Obama said in a statement. “I’m grateful that Samantha will continue to be a vital member of my national security team, and I know that under her leadership our UN mission in New York will continue to represent American diplomacy at its best.”

She is best known for her 2002 book, *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, the work that caught Obama’s attention as a new member of the US Senate.

The book pointed out the successes and failures of the US in responding to mass atrocities.

Power aggressively courted Armenian voters’ support for then-candidate Obama, suggesting that her presence in his inner circle would lead to his support for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the US. Since Obama’s election, she has not commented on the Armenian Genocide.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Vyacheslav Danielyan Named NKR Army Commander

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) – President of Nagorno Karabagh Bako Sahakyan signed decrees for new and ongoing state appointments on July 29.

According to the Central Information Department of the Artsakh president's staff, Col. Vyacheslav Danielyan was appointed as the deputy commander of the NKR Defense Army with a five-year term contract.

NKR Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) – A reception celebrating the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at the Hotel Complex Europe on July 23.

The Foreign Minister Karen Mirzoyan addressed the participants of the event with an opening speech. Chairman of the Nagorno-Karabagh National Assembly Ashot Ghulyan, the parliament members, former foreign ministers and public representatives participated in the event.

Armenian TV Airs Gasparyan Memorial Film

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Public TV of Armenia aired a film dedicated to the memory of actor and People's Artist of Armenia Azat Gasparyan on August 5.

According to First Channel representatives, the film discussed Gasparyan's life and shared memories from his friends and colleagues.

On August 5 Armenian officials along with cultural, public and political figures gathered in the National Academic Theatre to mourn Gasparyan, who died on August 2 after complications from spinal surgery.

The veteran actor had appeared in more than 20 Armenian films and received the William Saroyan Medal from the Ministry of Diaspora in 2010.

Head of Armenia's Assyrian Community Urges Consolidated Effort Ahead of Centennial

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – The Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians have much to do before the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide to promote the international recognition of the first genocide in the 20th century, the head of the Union of Assyrians of Armenia Razmik Khosroyev told journalists on Monday.

He complained that the committee formed by the Armenian Government to prepare for the anniversary has neither Assyrians nor Greeks.

"Our involvement could give momentum to the campaign for the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. We have the same claims against Turkey. There are lots of serious Assyrian experts studying this field. It was due to their efforts that the parliament of Australia's New South Wales recognized and condemned the Assyrian Genocide in the Ottoman Empire. We would like the Armenians to mark the 100th year of the Armenian Genocide with something more serious than just two-three new films," Khosroyev said.

He said that on August 7 the Armenia-based Assyrians were going to commemorate the Assyrians massacred in the Ottoman Turkey.

Manana Youth Center Fundraises for 'Sand Animals' Project

By Gabriella Gage
Mirror-Spectator Staff

YEREVAN – The Manana Youth Center is more than your typical after-school program – it's an organization focused on developing the intellectual and creative talents of youth in Armenia.

The multimedia training organization was founded in 1995 and offers free classes in animation, filmmaking, journalism and photojournalism. "Students are educated as artists and critical thinkers, and through Manana's classes, they become socially minded citizens speaking for their generation," said Emma Nolan-Abrahamian, center volunteer.

Each year, Manana works with up to 100 Yerevan students, ranging in age from 7 to 16. There are no entrance exams and everyone is encouraged to participate. In recent years, Manana has expanded beyond Yerevan, con-



Manana students working on sand animation

working on other short-term projects. I taught two photography classes, and an English conversation class each week."

"I also assisted with two workshops outside of Yerevan, in Charensevan and Gumri," she recalled.

gramming in art, new media and technology," said Nolan-Abrahamian. "It's a great hands-on way for Manana's students to build their animation skills, and the finished project is going to look great."

According to project organizers, Sand Animals has two goals: 1. Produce a visually engaging education tool to teach children the Armenian alphabet. 2. Teach Manana Youth Center's students to create animated films.

Manana's animation students will storyboard each Sand Animals episode, create the animations and edit the short film, learning sand animation techniques as part of the process. Each episode will be around 40 seconds. In order to fund the project, Manana recently held a fundraising campaign.

"The reaction to the project has been really positive so far, and we have received good feedback," said Nolan-Abrahamian. "We have raised \$4,257, 53 percent of our goal," she explained of the fundraising campaign through Indiegogo.

While campaign officially ended August 6, contributions may still be made to the Sand Animals project via the website at <http://www.mananayouth.org/donate> and all contributions will be kept as part of the Sand Animals project's flexible campaign.

Students are currently working on the first episode of Sand Animals and will continue their work in the fall.

For more information on Manana Youth Center, visit <http://www.mananayouth.org/>.



A Manana student creates sand art

ducting workshops in different regions around Armenia.

Originally from New York, Nolan-Abrahamian came to Armenia with Birthright Armenia and Armenian Volunteer Corps. She spent from mid-February to the end of July volunteering with Manana. As a volunteer, Nolan-Abrahamian said, "I typically spent the morning preparing for classes, working on the Indiegogo campaign for the Sand Animals project, organizing student images for Manana's archives or

Since Manana's founding, the organization has expanded and its students have created award-winning animations, films and images. One such creative endeavor is the Sand Animals project. The "sand" refers to the sand animation stop motion techniques. As part of the project, students will draw animals on sand to introduce viewers to each letter of the Armenian alphabet. "The Sand Animals project embodies Manana Youth Center's mission of providing youth with quality educational pro-

Tekeyan Centre Fund Provides Youth with Summer Camps

YEREVAN – The Tekeyan Centre Fund provided free camps for Tekeyan schools' students in the "Gugarq" summer camp located in picturesque Lori. It is the fourth year that the fund has sponsored this camp.

This year, it sponsored the seven-day project for 74 Tekeyan students and their teachers from Yerevan, Gumri, Stepavan, Karbi and Berdzor in Karabagh.

From July 18 to 25, the camp opened its doors to the students. It featured newly-repaired buildings, a swimming pool, playgrounds as well as new entertaining programs. Due to the efforts of Tekeyan teachers and the camp staff, the seven-day program included a variety of educational and fun activities. The sounds of the trumpet in the morning, exercises, swimming, line-up and marching were an integral part of the daily drills. The Tekeyan students actively participated in sports competitions as well as intellectual quizzes.

The campers had a chance to explore the beautiful province of Lori and visit its landmarks. They hiked to the mountains and caves, walking tours to the "Abandoned Camp" and the River Debed. They had an excursion to Haghpat Monastery built in the 10th century. Here they performed songs by Sayat Nova who lived in the monastery in the 18th century.

Tekeyan students also visited Hovhannes Tumanian's



The teens participated in athletic competitions.

house-museum in Dsegh.

The last day in the camp was more active and joyful; all the five Tekeyan Schools performed special programs of poetry reading, dancing and singing and arranged a farewell party. The Tekeyan students left the camp full of unforgettable memories and impressions, adding their own personality to the camp life and activities.



INTERNATIONAL

Bad Theater in Istanbul: Turkish Court Performs Kafka

AKHANLI, from page 1

Then, in early 2013 the Supreme Court of Appeals in Ankara surprisingly demanded the case be reopened. It argued that Akhanli had been a member of a terrorist group at the time of the crime (1989) and called for life imprisonment. Faced with this demand, the Istanbul court had to respond: either buckle under the pressure from above or reaffirm its sovereign verdict of acquittal for lack of evidence.

What transpired in the brief, less than one hour hearing can only be described as a piece of Kafkaesque theatre. The defense lawyers presented their case convincingly and with passion: Akhanli had been accused of involvement in the armed robbery of a money exchanger in 1989 and this

Left Party, Social Democratic Party), trade unions, artists' and writers' associations, civil society groups, the German-Armenian Society, and myself, as a Mirror-Spectator correspondent.

On the eve of the hearing, the group held a press conference, which was attended by all leading German and Turkish press, as well as international agencies. Ragip Zarakolu, a well-known publisher of books on taboo subjects who has also been prosecuted and jailed, presented the facts of the case, and Wallraff, who has attended previous hearings in the case, said what was at stake here was the nature of the Turkish state. If justice reigned, then Akhanli would be freed; if not, Turkey would appear to be a state of injustice. He criticized the labeling of dissidents as "terrorists" in Turkey, saying people

Armenian genocide. Visitors to the Tsitsernakaberd Genocide museum may recall that in one of the showcases with books on the atrocities of 1915, there is a volume in Turkish written by Dogan Akhanli. A novel of his, titled *The Judges of the Last Judgment*, (which has been translated into German) is a literary masterpiece, a profoundly moving account of the Genocide. His most recent work is a monologue written for the stage called "Anne's Silence," which dramatizes the discovery a Turkish immigrant in Germany makes of her Armenian roots. In addition to writing, Akhanli has been active in educational work and in promoting dialogue and research among Turks, Armenians, Germans and Kurds about their shared history.

Akhanli followed the Istanbul theatrics from his home in Cologne and was flooded with requests for statements and interviews after the ruling. He compared the trial to a "piece of bad theater, in which the authorities are trying to portray me as a criminal." He said, "I hoped that they would finally stop this nonsense," he said, referring to the judicial authorities. Asked about his response to the news the case would be reopened, he said, "I feel like a football they can kick around in different directions. The people doing it think it is okay because it's only a ball." As for the court's issuing a warrant, he quipped, "They know where I live! To put out an international search warrant is as absurd as the fact that they want to put me on trial again." In fact, the warrant appears to be illegal, considering that the defendant had not been convoked or invited to attend the session - not to mention the fact of the acquittal. This is an issue the defense lawyers are following up. Repeatedly, Akhanli expressed his thanks for the show of solidarity, through the delegation as well as the supportive press coverage. "I don't feel as if I were in exile here," he said, "it's a gift to be able to stay here. Germany has saved me ... twice." As for his concrete reaction to the turn of events, he has decided to start writing new works, both in Turkish and in German.

Where will it go from here? Although German diplomats were on hand at the trial, they of course did not make any public statements. Later, in Berlin, word came from the Foreign Ministry that, in accordance with the Constitution, no German citizen can be extradited to a country outside the EU, so there is no danger of his being sent to Turkey. The Foreign Ministry told the *Köln Stadt-Anzeiger* newspaper that "it would intercede in Akhanli's behalf also in the future," and added that, in respect to Turkey, it has repeatedly "pointed to the special character of this case and also to the great concern that the case arouses in Germany." Given the ongoing domestic protest movement of the Taksim Platform, associated trials against independent-minded journalists, and growing tensions in the region focused on Syria, the Turkish government is coming under increasing international scrutiny and criticism. The next hearing on October 4 will be a test case for the regime.

(Muriel Mirak-Weissbach has followed closely the case of Dogan Akhanli. Her previous article in the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* on the case appeared in the June 22 edition, titled "Turks Demand Democratic Rights - and Justice.")



German observer delegation press conference, Ilias Uyar (Akhanli's lawyer in Cologne), Guenter Wallraff, Albrecht Kieser (Journalist, delegation leader), Ragip Zarakolu, Turkish Human Rights Union representative (left to right)

same court had cleared him of all charges in 2011 for lack of evidence. In fact, there had been no material evidence gathered by the police investigation (they did not look for fingerprints on the bag the assailants had left behind in their flight from the crime scene), and witnesses who had named the accused in interrogations later retracted their testimony in the trial, saying they had been tortured.

This very court in Istanbul had therefore acquitted the defendant two years ago, and it should, the defense lawyers argued, reconfirm that decision. The judge, one of three present and the same one who had ruled two years earlier, summarized the defense lawyers' statements, to have them entered in the record. Then the prosecuting attorney, who had been looking on apathetically, acknowledged that he had not fully read through the documentation, but nonetheless spoke in favor of reversing the earlier acquittal and called for adjourning to a later date. The judge obliged, declaring that the court would reconvene on October 4. He added that the defendant should appear in person at that hearing, and announced that the court has issued an international arrest warrant for him.

In sum: the court ruled that Akhanli would be put on trial again, although there was no new evidence against him, and that he would be treated like a criminal fugitive, subject to an international arrest warrant!

The fact that a substantial delegation of observers from Germany had travelled to Istanbul made a difference. It was composed of well-known intellectuals such as Günter Wallraff, human rights activists, representatives of political parties (the Green Party,

like Akhanli and Pinar Selek, another persecuted intellectual who broke taboos, are committed democrats, sorely needed in civil society.

At the press conference, members of the observer delegation from Germany donned t-shirts with a picture of the defendant and the slogan: "We are all K.A.F.K.A. - Justice for Dogan Akhanli." Franz Kafka's classic, *The Trial*, relates the drama of a man, arrested and tried, who never learns what the charges are up to the point of his execution. Pictures of the group and several articles and interviews appeared in the Turkish and German press, putting a public spotlight on the trial and its Kafkaesque quality.

Following the judges' ruling, which the support committee characterized in a statement as "cowardly," the issue exploded in the press. Wallraff told the *Frankfurter Rundschau* newspaper that the entire affair was "a farce." He said, "If the court accepts so-called evidence which was produced under torture and later retracted, that is an open admission that Turkey is not a state under the rule of law, but a police state." He pointed to the fact that there are currently 69 journalists and numerous lawyers in prison, a sign that the opposition is being criminalized. More public exposure of such repression is required, he said, especially in Turkey, and "pressure from abroad can be effective."

Many of the delegation's personalities interviewed after the hearing compared the proceedings to those against Pinar Selek, who was acquitted four times before being sentenced to life imprisonment, and now lives in exile in France. Like her, Akhanli has broken taboos, especially regarding the

International News

Azerbaijan Continues to Violate Ceasefire

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) - According to operative data of the defense army of Nagorno Karabagh, Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire regime about 250 times on the line of contact of the Karabagh-Azerbaijani opposing armies from July 28 to August 3. More than 1,200 bullets of different diameters were fired at Artsakh troops.

The defense army press service stated that Azeri firing was suspended due to the operative actions of the front units of the NKR defense army.

Mkrtchian Wins Bronze At Europe Championship

BELGRADE (PanARMENIAN.Net) - Armenia's Lilit Mkrtchian won a bronze medal at the European Individual Women's Chess Championship in Belgrade. Mkrtchian scored a victory over Russia's Valentina Gunina in the last round, gaining eight points to finish in third place.

Other Armenians competing, Lilit Galoian, Maria Kursova and Anna Hairapetian, took the 63rd, 64th and 65th places, respectively.

Hungary's Hoang Thang Trang won the championship.

US Appoints Warlick as Next OSCE MG Co-Chair

WASHINGTON (PanARMENIAN.Net) - Ambassador James Warlick was appointed as the next US Co-Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group.

"Ambassador Warlick brings extensive experience in Europe and Eurasia to this position. He most recently served as Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan and lead negotiator for the Bilateral Security Agreement with Afghanistan. He served as ambassador to Bulgaria from 2009-2012, principal deputy assistant secretary of state in the Bureau of International Organization Affairs from 2006 to 2009 and director of the Office of European Security and Political Affairs from 2005 to 2006. He is a first-rate diplomat," Secretary of State John Kerry said.

"The United States remains firmly committed to helping the sides reach a lasting and peaceful settlement to the Nagorno Karabagh conflict. In their joint statement on June 18, Presidents Obama, Putin, and Hollande called on the sides to focus with renewed energy on the issues that remain unresolved, and noted that the leaders should prepare their people for peace, not war. Ambassador Warlick has the wisdom, judgment, and expertise to help the sides achieve that goal. We have informed the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan and the OSCE of Ambassador Warlick's appointment," Kerry said.

Warlick will assume his new position in September.

Israeli Blogger Black-Listed in Azerbaijan

BAKU (Armenpress) - Israeli blogger and traveler Alexander Lapshin was the only representative of his country to appear on Azerbaijan's "blacklist." According to reports, Lapshin was singled out for visiting Nagorno-Karabagh (Artsakh) and for subsequently writing about the visit on his blog.

"The approach of Azerbaijani special services seems very funny to me. I have visited Azerbaijan three times - in 2009, 2011 and 2013 - and besides it I have also visited Nagorno-Karabagh and only a month ago Azerbaijani special services began to be interested in my blog. Including me in [a] 'persona non-grata' list will be more harmful for Azerbaijan than for me. Thousands of potential tourists will read about this and think [about] whether [or not] they should visit a country where national security services work with such absurd approaches," said Lapshin.

Lapshin also admitted to receiving threats from a security service representative who warned Lapshin would be named "persona non-grata" in Azerbaijan if he posted about his visit.



INTERNATIONAL

Turkey's Ergenekon Trial Verdicts Set to Entrench Divisions

.By Daren Butler

ISTANBUL (Reuters) – The conviction of more than 250 people on conspiracy charges may be seen by supporters of Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan as a triumph for Turkish democracy, but for many the landmark rulings have exposed deep divisions over the country's political future.

A court on Monday jailed a former military chief for life and imprisoned scores of other retired officers, journalists, academics and opposition politicians for plotting to overthrow Erdogan's Islamist-rooted government.

The trial laid bare an underlying tension in Turkish society reaching back to the 1920s when Mustafa Kemal Ataturk forged a secular republic from the ruins of an Ottoman theocracy, curbing Islam's role in public life and sowing the seeds for the military to establish itself as guardian of the new order.

The verdicts after a five-year trial closed a chapter on Erdogan's efforts to stamp out what he has described as "anti-democratic forces," clipping the wings of a military that carried out three coups from 1960 to 1980 and pressured an Islamist-led government from office in 1997.

Yalcin Akdogan, one of Erdogan's top advisers, said the trial was a turning point for Turkish democracy and would be a deterrent to any future thoughts of army intervention.

"Turkey has succeeded with a judicial settling of accounts," Akdogan wrote in the Star newspaper. "With this verdict there was a wholesale conviction of military coups."

Prosecutors had described the "Ergenekon terrorist organization," to which the 275 defendants were accused of belonging, as a network of secular nationalists who pursued extra-judicial killings and bombings to trigger a military coup.

Cynics questioned whether the "Ergenekon" network ever existed, seeing the case as a show trial meant to symbolize Erdogan's taming of the generals. For pro-government media, Monday's verdicts were proof enough.

"Yes, they tried to stage a coup. Life sentences for 19 putschists," said the front page of the pro-government Sabah newspaper above photos of the nineteen, many of them retired top military officers.

The sentences come weeks after street protests against Erdogan's perceived authoritarianism, action sparked by plans to redevelop an Istanbul park which spiraled into an

unprecedented show of defiance against his government.

For his critics, the verdicts only reinforced their belief that Erdogan is bent on muting opposition. The main opposition party described them as "illegitimate."



Protesters in Istanbul after the verdict (Wall Street Journal photo)

"These are courts which are under the orders of political power and implement its orders, they do not distribute justice," Republican People's Party (CHP) leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu said.

The Turkish military said in a statement it "shared the sadness" of convicted former comrades and their families.

The Ergenekon case was initially welcomed in Turkey as an effort to rein in the country's "Deep State" - an underground network of nationalists with links to organized crime long believed to have been pulling the strings of power.

But concern grew as the trial dragged on about the lengthy detention of defendants and restrictions on their defense.

Perhaps sensing the public unease, parliament passed a government reform abolishing the special courts used to hear conspiracy cases a year ago, although existing trials including Ergenekon were allowed to reach completion.

Sedat Ergin, a commentator with the mainstream Hurriyet daily, said it was difficult to conclude that justice had been done, with 23 different cases merged into one manifestly polit-

ical trial.

"However much the investigation at the start was founded on just and legitimate grounds, there are sufficient reasons to think there are many defendants who suffered injustice as a result of these verdicts," Ergin said.

tarnished evidence is used and documents and information manipulated," Bahceli said in a statement.

With an election cycle beginning next year, and criticism of the Ergenekon trial potentially providing political capital for the opposition, the government is keen to focus attention instead on how the case has banished an era of military intervention and furthered Turkish democracy.

"Such trials will only have a positive contribution to the normalization of military-civilian relations," Akdogan said.

Just last month, parliament amended an article of the armed forces charter cited by generals in the past to justify coups. The military's duty to "protect and watch over the republic" was replaced with a more limited obligation to defend "the Turkish homeland against foreign threats".

(Additional reporting by Ayla Jean Yackley;

Editing by Nick Tattersall and Sonya

Hepinstall)

Number of Tourists Visiting Georgia Increases by 29 Percent This Year

TBILISI (*The Financial*) – The number of tourists that visited Georgia in the first six months of 2013 was 2,188,721, which is 29 percent higher than the same period of 2012, according to data provided by the Georgian National Tourism Administration (GNTA).

Last year 4,428,221 tourists visited Georgia which was 57 percent more than in 2011, when just 2,822,363 tourists visited the country.

The majority of tourists come from Georgia's neighboring countries. This year the majority of tourists came from Turkey, followed by Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia. As for the other countries, the leading positions are Ukraine, Iran, Israel, the US, Poland and Germany.

The most attractive places for tourists to visit so far this year have been the capital Tbilisi and the Adjara region, statistics show.

Despite the official statistics proving increased numbers of tourists visiting Georgia, Mariana Metreveli, PhD, and Professor, Sector Economy and Economic Policy Committee, Leading Specialist (Expert on Tourism), Parliament of Georgia, queries whether the official statistics are providing exaggerated data.

"I have not seen any positive changes in tourism development so far. The situation is chaotic. Different research shows that mostly transit tourists are coming to Georgia. If that is correct, then it means that Georgia is a transit country and not a tourist destination," said Metreveli.

"First of all our country should develop a proper tourism strategy. Otherwise tourism will never be adequately developed in Georgia," she added.

Turkey Tests Rail Tunnel under Bosphorus Strait

ISTANBUL (PanArmenian.net) – Turkey has successfully completed a trial run of a rail tunnel under the Bosphorus connecting Istanbul's European and Asian sides, the first of several planned mega projects to be completed in the country's largest city.

The 13.6 km (8.5 mile) tunnel, including a 1.4 km immersed tube tunnel – the deepest of its kind in the world at 56 meters – passes under Turkey's Bosphorus Strait, the busy shipping channel linking the Marmara Sea to the Black Sea.

Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, who on August 4 boarded the first train to pass through the tunnel, said the project had been 150 years in the making and by connecting "London to Beijing," served not only those in Istanbul and Turkey.

The tunnel is part of a larger \$5-billion "Marmaray" project which also includes an upgrade of existing suburban rail lines to create a 76 km line that according to the government will carry 1.5 million people a day across the

city's two sides.

Construction on the tunnel began in 2004 by a Japanese-Turkish consortium, with funding coming from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and the European Investment Bank (EIB.)

The Marmaray, which has been beset by long delays, is now slated to open to the public on October 29, the anniversary of modern Turkey's founding, making it the first of Istanbul's planned mega projects to be completed.

Documents Reveal Turkey's Use of 'Race Codes'

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communities' members can register their children at minority schools, according to the education law.

The document, sent from the Istanbul Provincial Education Directorate to the ili District National Education office, stated that "since 1923, the secret code of Armenians is '2' on identity registration certificates," according to the Agos report.

"Since 1923, identity registration certificates have a secret 'race code,'" the document added.

The family's lawyer, Ismail Cem Halavurt, said

the struggle to register children at the Armenian kindergarten was still continuing.

"We are now waiting for an official document saying, 'Yes, your race code is 2, you can register at an Armenian school,'" Halavurt told the Agos.

Interior Ministry officials were not available for comment when approached by the Hurriyet Daily News, and referred reporters to the Directorate General for Population and Citizenship Affairs, which is a body working under their own ministry.

An official from the population administration told daily Radikal that the practice was being

conducted "to allow minority groups use their rights stemming the Lausanne Treaty," signed between Turkey and Western countries, which led to the establishment of the modern Turkish Republic.

As part of the practice, Greeks were coded 1, Armenians were coded 2, and Jews were coded 3. Other minorities or groups are not coded, the official told daily Radikal.

While there was no immediate official response to the report, opposition parties' lawmakers harshly criticized the alleged document.

"If this is true, it is fatal. It must be examined.

I will bring this onto Parliament's agenda," Sezgin Tanrikulu, deputy head of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) said.

Altan Tan, a deputy of the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP), stated that there had long been such allegations, but they were always denied by the authorities. Tan urged Interior Minister Muammer Guler to make a statement on the issue.

"If there is such a thing going on, it is a big disaster. The state illegally profiling its own citizens based on ethnicity and religion, and doing this secretly, is a big catastrophe," Tan said.

Community News

Glendale Unveils 'Comfort Women' Statue

By Susan Abram

GLENDALE (*LA Daily News*) – She was once like the teenage girl now immortalized in bronze, dressed in Korean attire who sits still and silent, with clenched fists on her lap and her feet bare.

For Bok-dong Kim and others like her, the new bronze statue unveiled on Tuesday symbolizes two moments of their lives: when they were “comfort women” – a euphemism for the 200,000 mostly Korean women and girls forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese military during World War II. When their stories became acknowledged, victims of sexual slavery came out from the shadows of silence and shame, to tell their stories freely.

“I am grateful and very appreciative,” said Kim, 88, through an interpreter. “I cannot express my thanks.”

The Glendale City Council approved the monument earlier this month, over the objections of some Japanese-Americans who said during council meetings that comfort women did not exist or their stories were exaggerated. But historians have said that 200,000 women and girls – mostly Koreans, but also Chinese, Taiwanese, Filipina and Dutch (from the then-Dutch colony of Indonesia) – were rounded up and forced into brothels where they were raped by Japanese soldiers.

The Japanese government issued a formal apology in 1993, but some within the Korean community have said there was a lack of sincerity.

Council members called the memorial a “peace statue,” meant to forge solidarity with Glendale and its sister cities in South Korea. The Korean American Forum of California, a nonprofit human rights organization, funded and built the memorial unveiled Tuesday in a park near the Glendale Public Library.

The memorial depicts a girl in traditional Korean costume sitting on a chair, and from head to toe, she is a symbol: from her fists that represent her resolve for justice to her bare feet which mean she was abandoned by a cold, unsympathetic world. It is a replica of one installed by Korean civic leaders directly across the street from the Japanese Embassy in Seoul, where surviving comfort women have held a protest every Wednesday for 21 years.

“We had a lot of pressure at City Hall and hundreds and hundred of emails opposed to this,” said Glendale City Councilwoman Laura Friedman.

But in the end, the council agreed 4-1 that Glendale would become the first city on the West Coast to install a memorial to comfort women.

“The city of Glendale stands united with the Korean community and with sexual victims,” Friedman added.

For Councilman Zareh Sinanyan, who is of Armenian descent, the memorial represents the importance of acknowledging man’s inhumanity to man. The grandson of survivors of the Armenian Genocide – which the Turkish government continues to deny was a genocide but which resulted in the deaths of more than a million people, including Greeks and Assyrians – Sinanyan said the lack of acknowledgement means the wounds inflicted on his people remain.

“I’m very happy we’re taking this step to heal a deep wound to Korean women,” Sinanyan said. “I understand the pain the victims have undergone.”

And many from the Japanese community applauded Glendale’s decision.

US Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose), a Japanese-American, expressed support for the proposed memorial. And Kathy Masaoka, of the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, said during the unveiling that Japan must apologize again and make reparations.

Korean artist Bok Lim Kim said the bronze memorial offers a broader, universal meaning.

“Every girl has dreams,” she said. “Dreams of happiness, of peace and of freedom.”



Graduates cut the celebratory cake.

Khrimian Lyceum Prepares for New Academic Year

NEW YORK – The Diocese’s Khrimian Lyceum graduation ceremony was held last May at New York’s St. Vartan Cathedral. The graduates were Ara Arsenian, Shant Bekarian, Armen Bijimian, Vahe Gemdzian, Arthur Ipek, Arthur Mouradian, Tamar Tokman, Andrew Yenicag and Lerna Yesiltepe. The *Azkatroshm* ceremony pledging to continue the Armenian Christian journey was officiated by Archbishop Yeghishe Gizirian with St. Vartan Cathedral dean, the Very Rev. Mamigon Kiledjian assisting. Following the speeches in Armenian by the graduates, the ceremony was held in the presence and participation of the graduates’ *azkahayrs* and *azkamayrs*, family and friends.

The “Dagh oo Daghant” cultural program in the Haik and Alice Kavookjian Auditorium of the Diocesan Center began with the Armenian, American and the Khrimian Lyceum anthems performed by the students. The Lyceum’s student chorus was conducted by the choir instructor, Maro Partamian, with Florence Avakian providing the piano accompaniment. The program consisted of instrumental music, dance, recitation and theatre presented by the students. This year, the students performed Hovhannes Tumanyan’s “The Foolish Man,” directed by theatre instructor Vartan Garniki.

The Diocese’s Khrimian Lyceum offers a four-year program for graduates of local Armenian schools. Students range in age from 12 to 18 years old. Sponsored by the Diocesan Armenian Studies Department, the program prepares students to be “well-informed, conversant Armenian leaders and role models for their parishes and the community at-large.”

The curriculum includes enhanced practical education in Armenian language, Christianity in the Armenian tradition, history and culture. Students are afforded opportunities on presentation skills, reading and writing, public speaking and how to contribute effectively to their parishes. Students meet once a month on Saturdays for 10 months, from September to June, each school year. Khrimian Lyceum has implemented its program in Watertown, Mass., for several years and currently has a similar program in Houston, Texas. Plans are underway to institute another program for youth in Evanston, Illinois.

Educational field trips offer cultural enrichment. The students have recently gone to the Philadelphia museum to view the Arshile Gorky retrospective and also went on a visit to the Metropolitan Museum to view khatchkars, a trip to see an

see LYCEUM, page 9



Khrimian Lyceum students perform the Shirkhani.

TCA Arshag Dickranian School Board Appoints Dr. Manoug Seraydarian As New Principal

LOS ANGELES – The Board of Trustees of the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Arshag Dickranian School has announced the appointment of Dr. Manoug Seraydarian as the school’s new principal. The announcement was made along with the board’s other undertakings in preparation for the school’s 33rd academic year.

Born in Aleppo, Syria, Seraydarian earned his doctorate degree from the University of Aleppo in 1988, where he also taught as lecturer in oral medicine and pathology. After immigrating to the US with his family, Seraydarian attended the UCLA Graduate School of



Dr. Manoug Seraydarian, new principal of ADS

Education and completed the course of Mathematics Education Leadership Institute in 2005 followed by UCLA Mathematics Project’s Continuing Teacher Leaders Institute in 2006.

Seraydarian has over three decades of experience as educator and department chair, ranging in several educational levels which he attained by serving in several Armenian schools, including Ferrahian, Rose and Alex Pilibos, and Mesrobian. He is also known to the Armenian community through his regular appearances on Horizon Armenian TV.

“We are quite certain and most confident that Dr. Seraydarian will devote his experiences and expertise to uphold the mission of Arshag Dickranian School in keeping pace with the changing times and introducing new programs to the school’s curriculum,” said Chairman George K. Mandossian, when making his announcement on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

For more information visit www.dickranianschool.org.

Winners of Margarian Scholarships Announced

SHERMAN OAKS, Calif. – The Law Offices of Hovanes Margarian announced the winners of the 2013 Margarian Scholarship. According to Armen Margarian, “The selection process was extremely difficult in light of the large number of highly qualified applicants. We were pleasantly surprised to have over 100 applicants, many of whom had stellar academic records, extensive community service records and a clear devotion to the Armenian heritage. Nevertheless, we had to select only five winners and award them with \$1,000 each.”

On August 20, all scholarship winners, applicants, family members, friends and community members at large, are invited to attend the awards and networking reception at Le Foyer Ballroom by LA Banquets. “In the process of reviewing applications, interviewing some of the semi-finalists, and trying to narrow down the list, we realized that the biggest reward we could give the applicants was not the modest financial award, but the opportunity to meet their fellow applicants – the brightest, most driven and most culturally aware young Armenians, who exhibit a passion and a clear dedication for the Armenian heritage, culture and nation. The ideas of ‘power in unity’ and ‘strength in knowing the right people’ truly resonated in our minds,” stated Hovanes

see SCHOLARSHIPS, page 7



COMMUNITY NEWS

LA Mayor Appoints Three City Representatives to Metro Board

LOS ANGELES (*Los Angeles Times*) – Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti on Thursday appointed three Los Angeles representatives to the board of the county's transportation agency, one of the biggest decisions the new mayor has made so far that will influence his administration's transportation projects.

Garcetti's appointees to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority are Los Angeles City Council members Mike Bonin and Paul Krekorian and South Los Angeles housing advocate Jackie Dupont-Walker. As mayor, Garcetti automatically has a seat on the board.

"Between the four of us, we have great geographical coverage," Garcetti said of the appointees. Garcetti lives in Silver Lake. Bonin represents a Westside district and Krekorian represents parts of the San Fernando Valley. Garcetti added that all three will be expected to help raise the national profile of Los Angeles transportation issues.

The city of Los Angeles has the biggest voting bloc of any municipality on the board, which

often provides an advantage during votes on policies that would help – or hurt – the city. The Metro board's other members are the five Los Angeles County supervisors and four elected officials from other county municipalities.

Dupont-Walker is the head of Ward Economic Development Group. She was a major force in recent city redistricting efforts. She joined with other black leaders to fight for political gains that she said would have been wiped out when the lines for voting districts were redrawn.

She also chairs the USC Master Plan Advisory Council. She represents West Adams residents as USC plans a multibillion-dollar redevelopment of some areas near the campus.

"A world-class [transportation] system should be accessible to every LA neighborhood," Dupont-Walker said in a statement. "New hubs and corridors are opportunities to spark much-needed job creation and neighborhood revitalization by spurring local economies."

Bonin's City Council district stretches from Los Angeles International Airport to Pacific

Palisades. He replaced his former boss, former council member Bill Rosendahl, as the head of the council's transportation committee.

"We on the Westside are especially eager to get moving with real solutions that give us back the family time and dollars we lose while we are stuck in traffic and gridlock," Bonin said in a prepared statement.

Bonin is also vice chairman of the board of directors for the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority. The second phase of that light-rail line, expected to open in 2015, will connect downtown LA and Santa Monica.

Krekorian heads the council's budget and finance committee and is a member of the transportation committee. Formerly, as an Assemblyman, he voted to include Measure R on the 2008 ballot. The half-cent sales tax measure is expected to generate more than \$30 billion for county transportation projects over the next 30 years.

"Through innovation and efficiency, we need to get more for our transportation dollars and

accelerate MTA's work toward enhanced mobility throughout the entire region," Krekorian said in a statement. "This is a critical moment in our pursuit of a seamless public transportation system that cost-effectively reduces congestion in the San Fernando Valley and all of Los Angeles."

When former Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa left office in June, his appointees were Council member Jose Huizar, businessman Mel Wilson and former Assemblyman Richard Katz.

Fresno Area Farmers Lose Land, Crops, Sense of Safety

By William Harless

FRESNO (*Wall Street Journal*) – Farmers here in the Central Valley, home to one of the country's richest agricultural regions, are grappling with a mounting problem: pot.

California's legalization of medical marijuana in 1996 and a crackdown on illegal marijuana crops in the nearby Sierra Nevada in recent years have led to an expansion of pot farms in the region's agricultural flatlands. This trend is alarming many farmers – both from the standpoint of seeing their region lose productive farmland as well as from an accompanying rise in violence tied to pot thefts.

"We're sitting in a war zone," said Dennis Simonian, whose family owns 80 acres on the outskirts of Fresno where they grow peaches, grapes and other produce.

Simonian, 70, said he noticed a marijuana crop on a 50-acre plot next to his farm three years ago but was afraid to report it for fear of retaliation. His workers said they saw armed guards stationed there and apparent pot thieves escaping through his property.

The Sheriff's Office raided the pot farm in October, just before Simonian began his annual hayrides for schoolchildren. "We were afraid: armed guards, taking kids through there," he said. "Anything could happen."

The farmers' predicament comes as domestic marijuana production has overtaken imports from Mexico, which had been the dominant US supplier in past decades, according to Bill Ruzzamenti, director of the federally funded California Central Valley High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program.

The national trend of states relaxing pot laws for medicinal or recreational use has blurred the lines between legitimate and illegitimate marijuana-growing operations – and has sown conflict with federal laws that still restrict marijuana use and cultivation. In Washington state, where

residents voted last year to legalize recreational pot use, federal agents last week raided state medical marijuana dispensaries.

Indeed, some of the pot cultivation in the flatlands is taking place under auspices of California's medical marijuana program, which authorizes people who gain a doctor's recommendation to grow up to 99 plants, said Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims. But she said some people have been using these recommendations for much larger growing operations.

Over the past three years, marijuana growers in the Valley have been planting multi-acre crops on leased land. Some grow tens of thousands of plants, hiding them in rows of bitter melon, tomatoes and other produce, and guarding fields with trip wires, motion detectors, shotguns and, occasionally, AK-47s, according to Lt. Rick Ko of the Fresno County Sheriff's Office. He said farmers of legitimate crops often complain of marijuana growers sneaking onto their fields and destroying plants to make room for pot.

"We've got people coming out into the fields cutting out a crop that we've spent every day of our lives for six months working on," said Mike O'Banion, a Fresno farmer who found about 11,500 marijuana plants hidden in about 10 acres of his corn in June.

O'Banion estimated he lost about \$10,000 of his anticipated harvest after marijuana growers cut down corn to make room for marijuana. Three years ago, this was hardly a problem, O'Banion added. Now, "Just about everybody who grows corn has had something like this."

Law enforcement authorities are fighting back. From March to September last year, federal and local law enforcement agents seized about 500,000 marijuana plants as part of a crackdown called Operation Mercury, said Lauren Horwood, a spokeswoman for the US attorney's office in the Eastern District of California.

In Fresno County – which produces most of the nation's head lettuce and raisins – sheriff's deputies said they have found about 343 marijuana farms so far this year, up from 72 for all of 2009. Already this

year, officers have eradicated more than 136,000 plants, or more than five times as many as the 24,000 eliminated in 2003, Ko said.

Many of the growers in the flatlands, unlike in the mountains, are Laotian refugees – who fought with Americans in the Vietnam War – drawn to the higher profits of marijuana to supplement meager farming incomes, said Richard Molinar, a farm adviser emeritus at the University of California Cooperative Extension in Fresno.

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COMMUNITY NEWS



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Jubilee Banquet Celebration on October 27 For United Armenian Congregational Church

LOS ANGELES – Fifty years ago, the dream of a united Armenian church, combining the Gethsemanie, Masis and Valley churches, was realized in the formation of the United Armenian Congregational Church (UACC) forming the largest Armenian Evangelical Church in the world.

The impetus was a group of young people from the Gethsemanie and Masis churches who approached their leadership requesting the combining of their two churches. The Valley church soon joined. Their vision resulted in the formation of The United Armenian Congregational Church.

Their ambitious dream, UACC, has been the hub of Armenian Evangelical family life in the Los Angeles area for one half a century. A formidable roster of ministers and youth pastors has shepherded generations of Armenians Evangelicals. This church has commissioned the outreach of many missions, Armenian and otherwise – supporting missionaries from their

own flock in various countries.

Beginning as a traditional Armenian Evangelical Church in 1963, serving these three former congregations, plus many Armenian families immigrating from the Middle East and elsewhere, UACC has evolved over the years. It now includes a 9 a.m. Contemporary Service, led by Rev. Jason Matossian, replete with a Praise Band, attracting many young families. The 11:15 a.m. service led by Senior Pastor Ron Tovmassian, provides families with a more traditional worship experience. Pastor Haig Darakjian and Searan Kiledjian augment the outreach. Bible studies have always been a mainstay, reaching out to different age groups.

The Jubilee Banquet celebration on October 27 will begin with a reception on the hotel Terrace. It will feature various church musical groups who will invite the guests to sing along as they mingle with friends enjoying delicious Armenian appetizers by Robert's Catering. All are invited to share in this celebration.

Winners of Margarian Scholarships Announced

SCHOLARSHIPS, page 5

Margarian. It is with this objective in mind that the awards and networking reception will be tailored to allow the winners, applicants and prominent community members from various professions to meet and network. Students will have an unprecedented chance to develop mentorships, internships and employment opportunities.

Professionals from various fields are invited and highly encouraged to attend the awards and networking reception to meet with the exceptionally talented group of applicants. "We sincerely hope to have all community members join us in extending to all applicants our guidance and support in future academic and career endeavors. These students are the future of our community, of Armenians both in the Diaspora and in our homeland. Their individual success, coupled with their devotion to our common cause, is the ultimate way to bring salvation to the Armenian people. This is why we hope that the event will be well attended by established professionals from various fields to provide the much needed support for the future generation," stated Margarian. "Much too often our community events are focused on prominent leaders and the students are left in the shadows of those who have risen to

the top. This event is about putting the spotlight on the students," he added.

"We hope that our humble \$1,000 contribution to these individuals' education will help ease some of their financial burdens and allow them to continue to excel, as they have to date. In light of the extremely competitive applications, we have revised the categories to award five individuals with equal \$1,000 awards. It would be unfair to distinguish between the five recipients, as each of them has demonstrated merits of equal value. Once again, we congratulate the scholarship award recipients and look forward to meeting you all at the reception," stated Armen Margarian.

The 2013 Margarian Scholarship winners, in no particular order, are:

- Ara Yeghikyan from Yerevan, Armenia: two years of military service on the front line in Artsakh; stellar academic record at Universite Jean Moulin, Lyon, France; French University of Armenia, Armenia; Yerevan State University, Armenia; participation in many human rights organizations/NGO's
- Hayk Mamajanyan from Yerevan, Armenia: associate attorney at one of Armenia's premier international firms, Arlex International; stellar academic record at Yerevan State University, Armenia; National Academy of Sciences of Armenia, Armenia; University of Oxford, England; various publications and involvement in pro bono services
- Ofelya Tevosian from Los Angeles: multitude of awards and recognitions; stellar academic record in high school, college and at USC; extensive volunteering/internships
- Emma Dishoian from Los Angeles: multitude of awards and recognitions, stellar academic record in high school and college; UCLA undergrad admitted; extensive community service
- Rafik Mughnetsian from Los Angeles: multitude of awards and recognitions; stellar academic record in high school and at UCI; extensive community service including service to the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church

All interested in attending the awards reception are encouraged to RSVP online at <http://margarianscholarship-event.eventbrite.com>.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Flagship's Voyage Of Discovery

CAMBRIDGE (*Boston Business Journal*) – Innovation is one of the most over-used words in business today, particularly in the worlds of startups and venture capital. But Cambridge venture capital (VC) firm Flagship Ventures, where five of the seven partners are scientists, is working to create breakthroughs that are truly worthy of the word.

By Kyle Alspach

And the firm has been generating handsome returns for investors in the process, while also becoming one of the most prolific VC backers of Boston-area startups.

Among the companies founded and shepherded through the early stages by Flagship: Cambridge-based Moderna Therapeutics, which aims to enable humans to make their own medicine inside their bodies; Bedford-based Joule Unlimited, which produces renewable fuels from sunlight, waste carbon dioxide and specially engineered bacteria; and Pronutria of Cambridge, which is developing new types of health-enhancing foods that are produced without farmland.

Signs of progress abound. In March, Moderna announced a \$240 million up-front payment from pharma giant AstraZeneca to deliver drug candidates, for instance, while Joule opened its first fuel production plant last fall.

"When you work at the cutting edge of innovation and entrepreneurship, which is what we try to do, you always want to stay hungry, and stay in learning mode. And I think we've done that quite well," said Noubar Afeyan, co-founder and CEO of Flagship, who holds a doctorate in biochemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Flagship has also had two initial public offerings of portfolio companies in recent months: Cambridge-based Tetrphase Pharmaceuticals and San Diego-based Receptos. Another Flagship-backed firm, Cambridge-based Agios Pharmaceuticals, filed plans this month with the US Securities and Exchange Commission to hold an upcoming IPO.

At venture capital tracker CB Insights, CEO Anand Sanwal said Flagship's recent success makes the firm stand out in the VC industry. "The fact that they were investors into two recent life science IPOs, Receptos and Tetrphase, certainly suggests the firm's investment thesis is working," Sanwal said.

Founded in 2000, Flagship has backed 72 companies to date and is now investing its fourth VC fund, a \$270 million fund that closed in early 2012.

The firm produced an annual return of 26.5 percent on its third venture capital fund over six years, according to data provided by the Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Management board, which is an investor in the fund. That fund had closed in 2007, and is the best-performing fund of the eight Massachusetts venture capital firms that currently have an investment from the pension board.

Flagship doesn't operate like the majority of VCs, which typically support entrepreneurs who've come up with an idea and are seeking an investor. About half of the companies backed by Flagship have been founded by the firm's partners, essentially as hypotheses to be tested, Afeyan said. The startups are then developed in ultra-secrecy at the firm's incubator space in Cambridge, Flagship VentureLabs. And for those that graduate from VentureLabs, most continue to be based in the Boston area.

Due to the emphasis on investing into its own spinouts, Flagship potentially invested the most venture capital into Boston-area startups of any firm in 2012, according to *Business Journal* research. (Some large VC firms in the area haven't responded to requests for data.)

Flagship reports that it invested \$71.3 million into Massachusetts-based companies last year, representing 92 percent of the firm's total dollars invested during the year. That's compared to other major local venture firms such as Atlas Venture (\$63.3 million into Massachusetts-based companies, representing 52.2 percent of total VC invested for the year), Highland Capital Partners (\$41 million, 22 percent) and Polaris Venture Partners (\$40.8 million, 44 percent).

Companies founded inside VentureLabs have included BG Medicine, which went public in 2011, as well as Moderna, Joule and Pronutria.

Those three companies, in particular, exemplify how Flagship's partners start companies by envisioning a breakthrough and then working to make it a reality, Afeyan said.

All three involve an entirely new way of producing something critical to society – whether it's therapeutics, energy or nutrients.

Joule has been at it the longest, founded in 2007 and backed by \$110 million from Flagship and unnamed investors. The company is working to prove the commercial readiness of its method for producing low-cost renewable fuels without biomass, at its new facility in New Mexico. Joule says the technology has the potential to decentralize the fuel industry, allowing fuel to be produced wherever the necessary elements for its process are available.

At Moderna, development has focused on altered messenger RNA that may be able to prompt the body to generate therapeutic proteins. Founded in 2010, the company has raised \$40 million in venture funding led by Flagship. Its deal with AstraZeneca will involve delivering drug candidates for cancer, heart disease and diabetes during the next five years.

Pronutria, which launched in 2010 and was formerly named Essentient, has developed technology that could theoretically provide protein nutrition to the entire world using a land area the size of Rhode Island, said David Berry, a Flagship partner and co-founder of Pronutria. The technology doesn't require arable farmland, and also has the potential to produce nutrients at less than a tenth of the minimum cost today, Berry said. Pronutria plans to start with clinical nutrient products, and expects to begin human trials as soon as this year, Afeyan said.



Noubar Afeyan



Members of the pilgrimage met with the Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II during their pilgrimage to Armenia.

Hye Pointe Parishioners Visit Armenia

By Robert Serabian

HAVRHILL, Mass. – Last month a group of more than 30 parishioners from the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe departed on a two-week tour to Armenia to visit their ancestral homeland. The tour was organized by Hye Pointe pastor Rev. Vart Gyozyan in conjunction with the Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America in New York.

The group started in Yerevan and then visited different religious, historic and educational

institutions in the country, including Mt. Ararat. A visit was organized to the Mother See of Echmiadzin, residence of the Supreme Patriarch Karekin II, Catholicos of all Armenians. The group visited different schools and orphanages to bring educational materials.

This tour to Armenia was one of the largest groups to visit Armenia in recent years. The interest and response for donations in support of the various institutions went well beyond expectations, from not only from the Hye Pointe Parish, but from others sister parishes across the New England area. A video presentation of their tour is currently being created.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Khrimian Lyceum Prepares for New Academic Year

LYCEUM, from page 5

off-Broadway Saroyan play "The Cave Dwellers," a visit to the Armenian Mission with a special guided tour of the embassy by Ambassador Garen Nazarian, a trip to Massachusetts for a visit to ALMA and Project Save and to view a performance of the Sayat Nova dance group. The students have also visited the Armenian Radio Hour Station.

Theatrical productions have included a play about Khrimian Hayrig, plays by Hovhannes Toumanian, including "Anoush," where the singing, dancing and stage design was done by the students. Several Khrimian Lyceum students have even written plays that have been performed on stage by their classmates. Artwork by the students, under the tutelage of former art teacher Susan Kirby, has been exhibited, made into US postage Stamps and compiled onto a poster. This program contributes to the civic and cultural literacy of the students attending Khrimian Lyceum.

According to its founders, building the next generation of community leaders requires a program with a strong sense of community service. These identity-building efforts at Khrimian Lyceum include working in local parish Armenian and Sunday Schools, singing with the choir of their church, reading the Holy Scriptures during the Divine Liturgy, writing



Khrimian Lyceum students sing Armenian songs at their year-end program.

press releases or helping produce the school's yearbook and visiting the elderly.

Guest lecturers at the Khrimian Lyceum are invited to speak on Armenian heritage themes. Among the guests who have addressed the Khrimian Lyceum students in recent years are: Dr. Anny Bakalian, authors Margaret Ahnert and Nancy Kricorian, CBS News Correspondent Armen Keteyian, Cesar Chekijian, photo jour-

nalist Harry Koundakjian, Jennifer Manoukian, musicians Sahar Arzruni, Solange and Sami Merdinian, Dr. Rachel Goshgarian, dramatist Nshan Parlakian, architect Richard Tenguerian, historian Stepan Piligian, writer CK Garabed, Professor Vemir Hampartsoumian, actress and director Nora Armani, poet Vehanoush Tekian, musician Elizabeth Kalfayan, Bishop Vahan Hovhannisian, actor Ed Setrakian and many others.

The current teaching staff includes: Florence Avakian, Gilda Buchakjian, Janet Demirozu, Ani Essayan Kelejian, Linda Ganjian, Vartan Garniki, Berch Manukian, Nayra Mkrtychyan, Maro Partamian and Lucia Vorperian. The founding director of Khrimian Lyceum is Sylva der Stepanian, who started the program in 1987. The current director, Diocesan Armenian Studies coordinator Gilda Buchakjian Kupelian said, "the Khrimian Lyceum program creates well-rounded young Armenians who are proud of their heritage, and are committed to keeping alive the traditions that Armenians have carried with them for generations. They leave the four-year program stronger Armenians, and better equipped individuals anchored in their culture, thanks to the uniquely tailored curriculum."

The Khrimian Lyceum academic year will recommence on Saturday, September 28. For information, contact the Armenian Studies coordinator at gildak@armeniandioocese.org.



Khrimian Lyceum students perform the Shirkhani.

Lee Harrison Corbin Joins Board of Directors of ANSEF

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. – Armenia has lost tens of thousands of scientists and scholars in the past 25 years, the result of two disasters – one natural, the other manmade. In 1988, the horrific Spitak Earthquake shook 40 percent of the country, killing 25,000 people and leaving 500,000 homeless. On its heels came an economic disaster in 1991, when the country declared its independence from the Soviet Union. As a result, funding for scholarly research vanished; talented citizens were forced to find other work or emigrate to the United States, Western Europe and Russia.

Then in 2000, Yervant Terzian, PhD, the Tisch Distinguished University Professor in Cornell University's Department of Astronomy, sought to preserve scientific research in Armenia. Since he founded the Armenian National Science & Education Fund (ANSEF), the organization has awarded more than \$2.5 million in competitive grants to 281 recipients to support research in the humanities, natural sciences, engineering, physical sciences, and engineering.



Lee Harrison Corbin

But many other scholars and scientists have to be turned away. To help ANSEF solve this problem, Lee Harrison Corbin, Esq., a founding partner at Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, LLP, has joined the organization's Board of Directors. Corbin expects to use his expertise and experience in charitable gifts, trusts and estate planning, as well as philanthropy to help the nonprofit organization reach its goals.

Corbin's interest in ANSEF came about through his 35-year friendship with Terzian, whom he greatly admires. Terzian is a world-renowned astronomer, a director of NASA and for 20 years served as chairman of the Cornell Astronomy Department, where Carl Sagan was a member of the faculty. In addition to his enormous contribution to science on every level in the United States and abroad, Terzian has worked to preserve the integrity of Armenia's scientific, technological and scholarly research communities. Without these communities, Armenia's future economic growth would be stunted.

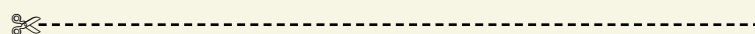
Corbin is an attorney specializing in providing counsel to charitable organizations and private foundations, and serves as a director and officer of a number of nonprofits. These institutions have greatly benefited hospitals, educational institutions, religious organizations and the arts. Corbin also is known for providing sophisticated estate, tax, and financial planning for individuals and businesses. He heads the family office and money management division at Kurzman Eisenberg Corbin & Lever, LLP, where he is a founding partner and the managing partner. His legal services include counseling and structuring complex tax, financial, and business transactions, as well as business succession planning and preparing or reviewing income tax returns for high net-worth individuals and business entities.

Admitted to the New York Bar, Florida Bar and US Tax Court, Corbin graduated from Ohio State University with a BA, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, and earned a JD from New York University Law School. He is a resident of Larchmont, NY.

Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2013



Since its inception in 2001, TCA's 'Sponsor a Teacher' program has raised over \$518,000 and reached out to 4,064 teachers and school workers in Armenia and Karabagh.



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

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

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City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

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Make check payable to: Tekeyan Cultural Association – Memo: Sponsor a Teacher 2010
Mail your check with this form to:

TCA Sponsor a Teacher
5326 Valverde, Houston, TX 77056

Your donation is Tax Deductible.

Arts & Living

Worcester Armenian Chorale to Celebrate Anniversary With Concert

WORCESTER – The Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale is presenting its 13th anniversary gala concert and dinner on Sunday, September 8, at 12:30 p.m., at the Cultural Center of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour. Led by artistic director and conductor Konstantin Petrossian, the program features guest soloist Narine Ojakhyan, a soprano from New York, and the Arevig Armenian Children's Dance Group.

The Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale was founded in February 2000 by Petrossian of Providence, RI, Rev. Aved Terzian of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, and Rev. Vazken Bekirian of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church. Following Bekirian's departure, Rev. Sarkis Aktvounian and now Rev. Dr. Khatchadour Boghossian have lent their support on behalf of Holy Trinity.

Petrossian has been artistic director and conductor since its inception and Karine Avanesov has been piano accompanist since 2004.

The Chorale is composed of the parishes of the two founding Worcester churches and Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville, Mass.

Since the first concert by the Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale in April 2000, the roster of participants has grown. A few years ago a dance troupe was introduced and the Arevig Dance Group, under the instruction of sisters Aline Sarkisian and Ani Yaghmourian. Under their tutelage and through their inspired dance numbers, the two have instilled in the children an appreciation for and a love of the rich Armenian culture.

Armenian soprano Ojakhyan is emerging as one of the most interesting lyric sopranos of the new generation. The *Daily Breeze* praised her for her "vibrant and crystal-clear voice" and she was lauded by *Stand Point* magazine for her "delicacy of presence and strength of voice."

After receiving her bachelor's degree and post-graduate diploma at the Komitas Conservatory of Yerevan State University, she



Narine Ojakhyan

attended the Royal Academy of Music in London. She earned her master's degree in opera performance and received the Royal Academy Honorary Diploma.

She has participated in numerous festivals including Solti Te Kanawa Academy di Bel Canto in Italy, Samling Program in London, Verbier Festival in Switzerland, the Alfonso Ortiz Tirado Music Festival in Mexico and the Caramoor festival. She is also a member of
see ANNIVERSARY, page 12



Actress Mariam Davtyan

Vigen Chaldryan's Films to Be Presented in Boston Area

ARLINGTON, Mass. – Two films, "The Voice of Silence" and "The Priestess," directed by one of Armenia's distinguished film directors, Vigen Chaldryan, will be screened in the Boston area the last week in August.

Chaldryan and best-actress award winner Mariam Davtyan are joined together in an extraordinary new film, "The Voice of Silence." The film, based on a true story, is startling in its visual presentation and is emotionally powerful. The story revolves around a young woman named Jiji who has survived physical violence and mental challenges with humor, compassion and a penetrating wit.



Director Vigen Chaldryan

"The Voice of Silence" has proven to be an audience favorite filled with surprises and unexpected twists and turns.

"The Voice of Silence" is presented by the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA), at the Arlington Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., in Arlington, on Wednesday, August 28 at 7 p.m.

"The film is a thought-provoking and unique portrayal of extraordinary lives – not only that of the director's experience, but of the film's heroine, who provides us a glimpse of one woman's experience in Armenia. AIWA is proud to screen this important film," said Eva Medzorian, AIWA Armenia Liaison and one of the organization's founders. A portion of the proceeds from this

screening will benefit The Women's Support Center in Yerevan.

Another film by Chaldryan, "The Priestess," an Armenian-American co-production, will be shown at a program presented by Hamazkayin-Boston at the Studio Cinema, 376 Trapelo Road, Belmont, on Friday, August 30 at 8:30 p.m.

The film is about one woman who changed the faith of her nation forever. "The Priestess," written by Chaldryan and Anahit Aghasarian, draws inspiration from "an anonymous woman" mentioned once in a fourth-century manuscript by historian Agatangeghos. This anonymous woman becomes the keystone to Armenia's history as the first nation to accept Christianity. It was shot in Armenia and stars Rouzan Vit Mesropyan of "Vodka Lemon" and the director, Chaldryan.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to present this moving film, and honored to have Mr. Vigen Chaldryan present at both screenings to introduce his work and for questions and answers following the screening," said Tatoul Badalian, Curator at Hamazkayin-Boston.

Chaldryan has received many awards, including the Movses Khorenatsi Medal from the president of Armenia, the Anahit Award from the Armenian Union of Cinematographers; European Academy of Natural Sciences' Gold Cross of Ludwig II of Bavaria (Germany) and many other awards and diplomas in Armenia and internationally.

To purchase tickets, visit: www.itsmyseat.com.

Chef Maro Nalabandian Has All the Right Ingredients

By Tom Vartabedian

WASHINGTON – If televised cooking shows are any indication, it pays to be a little crazy if you expect to succeed as a world-class chef. One example of this attitude is Gordon Ramsey, a larger-than-life, often-divisive chef on the popular television show, "Hell's Kitchen." But Maro Nalabandian is no Mount St. Helens ready to erupt. In fact, she is quite the opposite. Her demeanor around some of the world's top kitchens is more peaceful, but she still acknowledges the fast-paced, sometimes "crazy" nature of restaurant kitchens.

"Having worked at several top establishments and with famous chefs and judges, there is the demand [for] perfection and excellence in everything," she said. "If one really wants to be the best, one has to put up with the harsh reality of the hectic 'Hell's Kitchen.' Believe me, it gets even worse at times."

What viewers of such TV kitchens don't experience is the sweat dripping down their bodies, the burning heat or the rush to get the artfully-created food out on time. Add to that the adrenaline rush, ultra-multi-tasking and the drama of it all.

"It's as if you had been volleying on a tennis court for hours against Nadal, Agassi and Federer in the drenching sun," she said.

Nalabandian is no slouch when it comes to preparing a five-star dinner for some of the world's finest epicureans. She happens to be a master gardener and a professional chef and instructor. She shows students how to incorporate fresh herbs into their cooking at demonstrations she gives throughout greater Washington, DC, cooking alongside many celebrity chefs.

She has worked at the Ritz Carlton and taught at L'Academie de Cuisine, along with a number of other establishments. The 800-square-foot plot she grows at Montgomery County Community Gardens comes in handy. Nalabandian uses her own harvest in her cooking and recipes.

It all came together quite naturally for the daughter of a priest and military wife. She grew up on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. When Sahag Vertanessian was ordained a priest in the Apostolic Church in 1963, the family moved to America.

Most people knew her priestly dad Sahag and *yeretskin* mom Armenouhi.

"My father was a pillar of the community, nationalistic with his Hye Hoki and a man of God," Nalabandian pointed out. "From the day he was orphaned and grew up in Jerusalem, he gave himself to the church, schools and our people. He left an indelible mark in other people's lives."

Sahag Vertanessian was very much a part of his daughter's cooking education. He had a vegetable garden when the family lived in Whitinsville, Mass. and Washington, DC, which influenced his daughter's love of gardening. Dishes were concocted from the fresh produce. A lot of the cooking fell upon the *yeretskin's* hands as the Vertanessians did their share of entertaining for friends.

Nalabandian's husband's military career took her to various countries in Europe and the Middle East. Along with it came various cultural experiences as Nalabandian developed a fondness for new dishes.

From French and Belgian markets to German Christmas markets and Italian mercados with an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, she experienced a wide variety of tastes.

see CHEF, page 11



ARTS & LIVING

Chef Has All the Right Ingredients

CHEF, from page 10

At the Ritz, she spent a number of years as a pastry chef, sometimes catering to a thousand diners at a time. Pastries included wedding cakes and German Christmas Stollen, Kosher Rugalah and Middle Eastern baklava.

Like "Hell's Kitchen," there has been a kitchen disaster or two to cross the chef's path. Nalabandian quickly forgets the snafus and focuses upon the best of times, not the worst.

"Food is a part of our culture that is passed on from one generation to the next," she said. "Inviting someone into your home to break bread creates a nurturing environment."

Given the choice of entertaining any Armenian celebrity, she said she would choose Charles Aznavour. "I don't know his favorite food, but definitely a collaboration of contemporary Armenian and French influenced food would suite the palate," she said.

Nalabandian has met her share of celebrities like Al Gore, Hillary Clinton and Joe Lieberman. She has rubbed elbows with the Naked Chef (Jamie Oliver) of the UK in his earlier days. Of all the people taking notice was Malia Obama, the President's daughter.

"I was giving a food demo at a school and this shy, tall, young girl came up to me with a package of graham crackers and helped me fill the baggie lunches for the kiddos," Nalabandian smiled. "It went very well with the caramelized pear crumble I had prepared."

Five years from now, Nalabandian sees herself visiting Armenian villages and lending a hand to needy families. A pilgrimage to Jerusalem is another experience on her to-do list.

"Even though I've lived in various countries throughout my life, Armenia and Jerusalem are two places closest to my heart [that] I have yet to visit," she said. "Working with organic vegetables, I would like to pass along my knowledge of nutrition to parents and children in those lands."

Presentation of *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures* to Feature Edmond Azadian

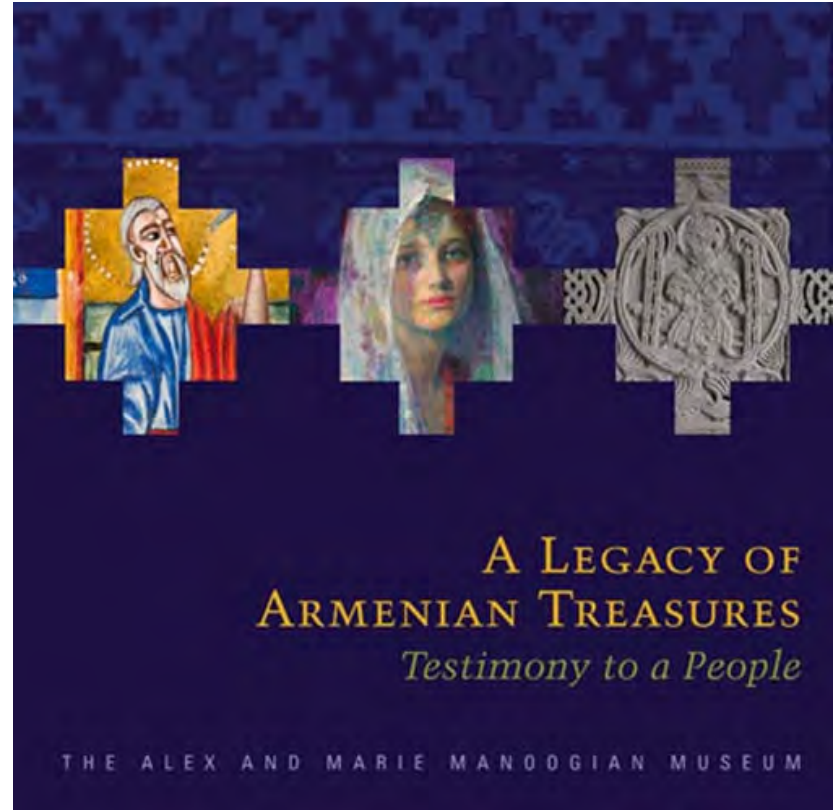
BELMONT, Mass. — Edmond Y. Azadian will be the principal speaker at the Boston-area launch of the book, *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures: The Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum*, on Saturday, August 24, at 7:30 p.m. at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), 395 Concord Ave.

The event will be co-sponsored by the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* and NAASR.

The Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum in Southfield, Mich., is home to a large and rich collection of Armenian art and artifacts, including illuminated manuscripts, early printed books, rugs and carpets, sacred vessels and vestments, textiles and embroidery, ceramics, metalwork, paintings, coins, and objects from the ancient kingdom of Urartu.

The newly-published volume, *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures*, features more than 160 of the museum's most beautiful pieces, each reproduced in full color and accompanied by a detailed entry. The book features a foreword by Thomas F. Mathews of New York University and an Introduction by Azadian; Sylvie Merian of the Pierpont Morgan Library served as the editorial coordinator and museum director Lucy Ardash was the general coordinator. Essays by nine scholars of Armenian art and artifacts shed light not only on the artistic significance of these objects but also on their cultural context.

At this book launch, Azadian will pro-



vide background information in the development of the Manoogian Museum and the creation of *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures*. Introductory remarks will be given by Alin Gregorian, editor of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, and Marc Mamigonian, director of Academic Affairs, NAASR.

A Legacy of Armenian Treasures will be available for one night only at a special sale price of \$60 including sales tax (regular price \$75 plus tax).

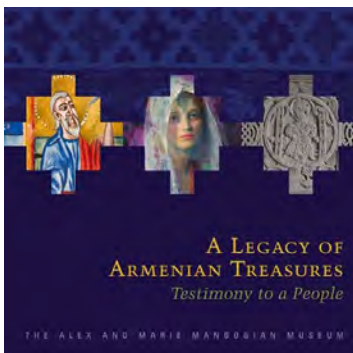
More information about this program may be had by e-mailing hq@naasr.org, or writing to NAASR, 395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA 02478.

THE ARMENIAN MIRROR-SPECTATOR
AND

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH

Present a Book Launch

A LEGACY OF ARMENIAN TREASURES: *THE ALEX AND MARIE MANOOGIAN MUSEUM*



with

Edmond Y. Azadian

Executive Editor, *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures*
Advisor to the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum

Saturday, August 24, 2013, 7:30 p.m.,
at the NAASR Center
395 Concord Ave., Belmont, MA

The Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum in Southfield, Michigan, is home to a large and rich collection of Armenian art and artifacts, including illuminated manuscripts, early printed books, rugs and carpets, sacred vessels and vestments, textiles and embroidery, ceramics, metalwork, paintings, coins, and objects from the ancient kingdom of Urartu.

The newly published volume *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures* features more than 160 of the museum's most vital and beautiful pieces, each reproduced in full color and accompanied by a detailed entry. The book features a Foreword by Thomas F. Mathews of New York University and an Introduction by Edmond Y. Azadian; Sylvie Merian of the Pierpont Morgan Library served as the Editorial Coordinator and museum director Lucy Ardash was the General Coordinator. Essays by nine renowned scholars of Armenian art and artifacts shed light not only on the artistic significance of these objects but on their cultural context as well.

At this book launch event, Edmond Azadian will provide background information on the development of the Manoogian Museum and the creation of *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures*. Introductory remarks will be given by Alin Gregorian, Editor of the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, and Marc Mamigonian, Director of Academic Affairs, NAASR.

Admission is free (donations appreciated). A reception will follow the program.

The NAASR Bookstore will open at 7:00 p.m. *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures* will be available for one night only at a special sale price of \$ 60 including sales tax (regular price \$75.00 plus tax).

Parking is available around the NAASR building and in adjacent areas.

Armenian International Women's Association, New Jersey Affiliate

St. Thomas Armenian Church Cultural Committee

Tekeyan Cultural Association

Present author

Nancy Kricorian

And her new novel

All The Light There Was

The story of an Armenian family's struggle to survive the
Nazi occupation of Paris in the 1940s

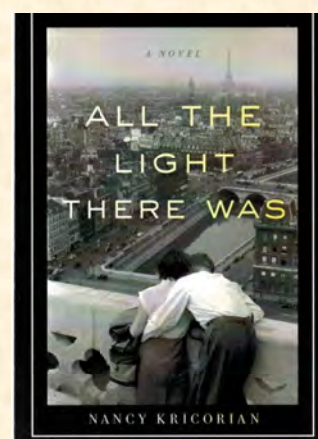
Friday, September 20, 2013

At 8:00 PM

St Thomas Armenian Church

174 Essex Drive

Tenafly NJ 07670



Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

"Nancy Kricorian is a gem, her work subtle and nuanced and moving. *All the Light There Was* brings Nazi-occupied Paris vividly, tragically, and heroically to life."

-Chris Bohjalian, author of *The Sandcastle Girls* and *Midwives*

Nancy Kricorian is the author of the novels *Zabelle* and *Dreams of Bread and Fire*

For more information, please call Ani Chatmajian at (201) 965-7785 or Talar Sarafian at 201-240-8541



ARTS & LIVING

Totally Unofficial Brings Lemkin the Man into Focus

By **Gabriella Gage**

Mirror-Spectator Staff

The recently-released *Totally Unofficial: The Autobiography of Raphael Lemkin* begins with an introduction by editor Donna-Lee Frieze into the life of the “Insistent Prophet,” international crusader against genocide, Raphael Lemkin. The chapter opens with Lemkin’s death from a heart attack, as he stands alone at the 42nd Street bus stop in New York City on August 29, 1959. This tragic opening sets the

tone for Lemkin’s own narrative – the story of a single man, on a crusade to change the world against all odds and with tremendous sacrifice.

Books

Born in 1900, Lemkin was the son of Polish-Jewish parents. He was a gifted child with a keen interest in literature and the ability to read and converse in multiple languages. He spent the first 10 years of his life on a farm called Ozerisko in what is present-day Belarus.

As a young man, Lemkin was keenly interested in events surrounding the massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks and the subsequent suppression of these events in public consciousness.

He studied at the John Casimir University in Lviv and then the University of Heidelberg in Germany, returning to Lviv eventually to earn his law degree. He then began work as a public prosecutor in Warsaw and started to develop language and case studies for presentation on what he would later deem “genocide” to present at various global assemblies, including the League of Nations conference.

Lemkin served in the Polish army during World War II, narrowly escaping German capture only to find that he had lost dozens of relatives during the Holocaust. He continued his work for justice after the war and lectured as a professor in the US and provided advice to several human rights-oriented trials.

Chapter Nine of his autobiography provides a firsthand account of the events in Geneva and later Paris during his presentation before the United Nations General Assembly proposing the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in 1948.

The UN adopted this convention which used Lemkin’s case-study of the Armenian Genocide and his language for defining the term genocide as “acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such.”

The convention came into force when the 20th nation ratified the

treaty in 1951. Currently 142 states have ratified the convention.

While at times the work seems more hagiography, than autobiography, Lemkin’s dedication to this cause and accompanying indignation place this reverence for his legacy in an understandable context.

As editor, Frieze seems to understand Lemkin’s overwhelming dedication to his task and to recognize the notion of his own self-importance in the appropriate context and marry it with his personal sacrifices. As a narrative, Lemkin’s unfinished biography can at times be a heavy read and the notion of one man’s journey to change the world can at times neglect surrounding geopolitical circumstances and key players that contributed to Lemkin’s

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 18 – Dinner and Conversation on Genocide with Professor Richard Hovannisian and Rabbi Elie Spitz, 6 p.m., hosted by the Congregation B’nai Israel, 2111 Bryan Avenue, Tustin; catering by Zov’s Bistro; tickets \$15 (by August 5), call 714-730-9693 or email cbi18@cbi18.org.

CONNECTICUT

AUGUST 18 – Armenian Festival, Holy Resurrection Church, 1910 Stanley St., New Britain, featuring Armenian music by the Harry Bedrossian Ensemble, Armenia exhibition, kids games and a special guest appearance. Contact the church office at 860-223-7875.

MASSACHUSETTS

AUGUST 18 – Soorp Asdvadzadzin Armenian Apostolic Church of Whitinsville will host its Annual Picnic; delicious Armenian food served and live music provided by the Mugrditchian Band; free parking. For more info, contact the church rectory at 508-234-3677; 315 Church Street, Whitinsville, Mass.

AUGUST 25 – 2013 Armenian Church at Hye Pointe Picnic at American Legion Farm, 1314 Main St., Haverhill (RTE 495 to Exit 51B onto RTE 125N), 12 noon to 5 p.m. Music by Jason Naroian Ensemble. Menu of shish, losh, chicken kebab dinners, kheyima, pastries and beverages; raffles for cash prizes & gift certificates. Air conditioned functional hall; bring your own chairs; for info: www.hypointearmenianchurch.org or (978) 372-9227.

SEPTEMBER 8 – Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale 13th Anniversary Gala concert and dinner, 12:30 p.m., Cultural Center of the Armenian Church of Our Saviour, 34 Boynton Street, Worcester. Led by conductor Konstantin Petrossian, soloist Narine Ojakhyan, “Arevig” Armenian Children’s Dance Group. Reservations call Elizabeth Orsi 508-865-9432. Tickets \$25.00, \$12.00 children; for program donations call Charles Der Kazarian 508-963-2076.

SEPTEMBER 8 – Sayat Nova Dance Company performs at Peabody International Festival with favorite dances from their repertory; 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members of the Dance Company manning dessert booth featuring homemade delicacies; Peabody Square on Lowell Street. For details, call Peabody Town Hall.

SEPTEMBER 8 – Picnic Festival, St. Gregory Armenian Church, 158 Main St., North Andover, 12:30-5:30 p.m., featuring Armenian music by Leon Janikian, Jason Naroian, Joe Kouyoumjian, John Arzigian, along with Siroun Dance Group; Armenian food and pastries. For more info, visit www.saintgregory.org.

SEPTEMBER 15 – Trinity Family Festival, 12-5 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Delicious food, Armenian music, Children’s games, Blessing of Madagh at 4 p.m., raffle drawing and more.

SEPTEMBER 16 – Armenian Church of Our Saviour hosts 20th Annual Golf Tournament at the Sterling Country Club, Sterling, 8:30 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. start; sponsorships and golf registrations still available; contact the church office at 508-756-2931.

SEPTEMBER 21 – Armenian Independent Broadcasting of Boston presents Avik Deirmenjian’s newly published book

success.

The strength of the text is in its personal historical utility and understanding of both a hugely influential historical figure and his struggles. Despite tendencies into what can seem indulgent self-awareness, it is impossible to argue with Lemkin’s dedication and ultimate impact. Indeed, it is this honesty and accurate depiction of Lemkin’s psyche – both the dedication and the understanding of his own self-importance – that is so unique as a resource for understanding the humanity behind historical heroes, as opposed to removing them from criticism or avoiding study at the personal level. It also serves as a reminder that there is still much left to be done in order to prevent further atrocities around the world.

Totally Unofficial: The Autobiography of Raphael Lemkin. Edited by Donna-Lee Frieze. Yale University Press



On August 18, noon to 6 p.m., Holy Resurrection Church will host an Armenian Festival featuring Armenian music by the Harry Bedrossian Ensemble, Armenia exhibition, kids games and a special guest appearance. Holy Resurrection is located at 1910 Stanley St., New Britain, CT. Contact the church office at 860-223-7875.

of poems, *Khachardzan*, 5 p.m. MC Dr. Ara Ghazarian, book presentation by Khajag Mkrtychian, cultural program and reception to follow; free admission; Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441 Mystic St., Arlington.

SEPTEMBER 28 – Annual “Walk of Life” Walk-a-thon, New England Chapter of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR), in Watertown. To register or donate, visit <http://www.abmdr.am>.

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

NOVEMBER 16 – Armenian Women’s Welfare Association (AWWA) celebrates 38th Annual Luncheon-Auction at the Burlington Marriott. Silent Auction and Bidding at 11 a.m.; Door Prizes for early bird bidding. \$60 per person; Visa and MasterCard accepted. For reservation information and general inquiries contact awwauction@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 6 AND 7 – Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 3-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge.

NEW YORK

NOVEMBER 23-24 – TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group celebrates 15th Anniversary with production of Hagop Baronian’s “The Perils of Politeness” (Kaghakavaroutyan Vnasneruh) directed by Gagik Karapetyan from Armenia; Dwight Englewood High School, 315 E. Palisade Ave., Englewood, NJ. Nov. 23, Saturday at 8 p.m. and Nov. 24, Sunday at 4 p.m. For tickets; \$50, \$35, \$25; call Marie Zokian (201)745-8850 or Missak Boghosian at (212)819-0097 or (347)365-6985.

Worcester Armenian Chorale to Celebrate Anniversary with Concert

ANNIVERSARY, from page 10

Opera Singers Initiative 2012 and performs regularly in New York City.

Ojakhyan is a winner of several competitions including the Opera Rara Patric Schmid Bel Canto Prize (London), Lyudmila Andrew Russian Song Prize (London), Hennings-Fischer Burbank Philharmonic Young Artists’ Competition (Los Angeles), as well as the third-place winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in 2010 (Western region). Her awards and grants include The Opera Buffs award (Los Angeles), Solti Foundation Award (London), Sayan Award (Armenia) and K. Orbelyan Award (Armenia).

The concert will provide a mixture of the old and the new with the emphasis on fresh and original selections. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$12 for children. Visit the Chorale’s website at armenianchorale.com to purchase tickets or to make a donation for the program book.

The Church of Our Saviour is located at 34 Boynton St.



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Second-Class Citizens in a 'Democratic' Country

By Edmond Y. Azadian

As the current Islamic administration tries to dismantle Ataturk's legacy, much dirt is being unearthed in Turkey.

The fallout from that ideological warfare has been benefiting the minorities, albeit, inadvertently.

Recently a document has surfaced revealing the racist nature of Turkey's successive administrations following the establishment of the Turkish Republic by Ataturk in 1923. The official document, prepared by the Istanbul Provincial Education Directorate, states that Turkey's population administration system has been recording citizens who have Armenian, Jewish or Anatolian Greek origins with secret "race codes." For example, citizens of Armenian origin are coded with the number 2, while Greeks were given the code of 1, and Jews, 3.

An official from the Population Administration has told Radikal newspaper that the practice was being conducted "to allow minority groups use of their rights stemming from the Lausanne Treaty." This official Turkish explanation very much resembles the justification efforts by Turkish authorities – until today – that during World War I, the government was so concerned with the safety of the Armenian minority that it deported members of that group to "safer zones," meaning the Der Zor desert, where, of course, they perished.

Armenians did not have to wait for this document to surface to find out that they were treated as second-class citizens.

But as the taboos are being broken (though not removed), politicians have begun to question these tactics and the treatment of minorities: Altan Tan, a member of parliament from the Peace and Democratic Party, has stated that "for a long time those allegations had been circulating, but they were denied by the authorities."

Tan urged Interior Minister Muammer Guler to make a statement on the issue. "If there is such a thing going on, it is a major disaster. The state illegally profiling its own citizens based on ethnicity and religion, and doing this secretly, is a big catastrophe," Tan said.

Even after the Genocide, the remaining Armenians in Turkey experienced the brunt of this discriminatory racist policy. One expression of that policy was the "wealth tax" (*varlik vergisi*), which was levied on Armenians, Jews and Greeks in the 1940s; those who were unable to pay the exorbitant taxes were sent to labor camps to perish.

Another policy which exists to this day is the appointment of Turkish assistant principals at Armenian schools. The community is free to hire an Armenian principal, but the power resides in the hands of the assistant principal, who must be an ethnic Turk. In reality, Turks serving in that capacity are the official government spies, placed there to enforce restrictive government policies and to report to higher-ups if any Armenian history is being taught secretly in those schools. That is why young people graduating from Armenian schools and emigrating to the West are dumbfounded to discover there is such a thing called Armenian history.

The Kurds do not have any race codes because they had been designated for assimilation. Beginning with Ataturk, who perpetrated the Dersim pogroms against the Kurds, successive administrations have been trying to convince the Kurds that there is no distinct ethnic group known as Kurd; that the Kurds better consider themselves as "mountain Turks." Despite all atrocities and persecutions, no Kurd was ever con-

vinced to be anything but a Kurd.

The Kurdish minority – which accounts for one third of Turkey's population – is on the verge of emancipation. The establishment of Iraqi Kurdistan has fueled aspirations of the Kurds throughout the region and especially in Turkey. It looks like in the bloodbath of the civil war in Syria, another autonomous region for Kurds is shaping up.

Painfully aware of the writing on the wall, Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is engaged in a guessing game with the Kurds. He has already cut a deal with the jailed leader of the Kurds, Abdullah Ocalan, to move the Kurdish guerillas out of Turkish territory. The Kurds have accomplished their side of the deal and are waiting impatiently for the government's move: knowing Mr. Erdogan's duplicity he will either offer some cosmetic changes in the status of the Kurds or, holding the unarmed population hostage, he will resort back to his old habit of trying to impose a military solution to the Kurdish issue.

Without a question the Armenian community in Turkey is breathing easier. Sixteen percent of confiscated community assets are promised to be returned to the community. Newspapers like Agos are writing freely about democracy which will benefit all the citizens of the country.

But Armenians are very cautious based on their historic experiences. Once burnt, twice shy. The years 1909-1914 brought a period of hope and expression of cultural freedom to all minorities in the Ottoman Empire, only to be followed by the Genocide.

Later, during the 1950s and 60s, when Adnan Menderes was democratically elected as prime minister (1950-1960), the dictatorial instincts of the authorities were tamed. The Armenians, along with other minorities, engaged in some freedoms. A representative of the Armenian community – Mugurditch Shellefian – was even elected to the parliament.

But then the 1960 military coup sent Menderes to the gallows, along with all the liberties that he had brought. Minorities again experienced the brunt of the repression.

The last coup was staged by Kenan Evren in 1980 and the constitution promulgated by his military regime in 1982 is still enforced in Turkey.

During Evren's iron-fisted rule (1980-1989), Turkey's minorities experienced the worst period of repression.

At age 96 that tyrant is still alive in Turkey and very recently boasted that after the military coup his hands did not shake when he signed the death warrants of 35 politicians and said he would repeat his act again at any time.

Recent documents also surfaced in which this bloodthirsty despot justified the murder of 1.5 million Armenians as a "necessary" and "legal" act.

Even the minister of defense in Erdogan's previous cabinet had asked the rhetorical question if Turkey would have enjoyed its present vast territory if it had not deported its minorities. And yet the West embraces Turkey as a "model democracy" for the Islamic world.

The Paris-based Reporters without Borders has referred to Turkey as "the world's biggest prison for reporters" and ranked it 154th out of 179 countries, behind Iraq and Russia, in its 2013 ranking of the world press index.

Turkey continues to be a minefield for the Armenians. They cannot breath freely, despite current illusive trends. They know they have to be cautious, as long as those bloodhounds are around and live freely in the country.

They realize their race code 2 is still in force and they know they are second-class citizens.

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



COMMENTARY

Did the Armenian Writers Conference Walk the Talk?

By Lucine Kasbarian

“**A**rmenian writers who, as a result of bitter fate, create in foreign languages are not foreigners, but faithful and dedicated ambassadors of their Armenian blood and spirit in non-Armenian surroundings,” – Sarkis Guiragossian, *Aztag* daily newspaper, 2005.

There are several schools of thought about how to behave in a foreign country. “When in Rome, do as the Romans do,” is one such advisory.

But – and I am really thinking of Armenia-diaspora relations, what about a self-identifying Roman whose family has been in exile for several generations? What if this individual often visited Rome and participated in its culture with an eye on solidarity with its people? And what if Rome was in economic and political turmoil, and the people were leaving in droves? Could one then afford to merely “do as the Romans do?”

Such questions arose in my mind during my recent 40-day stay in Armenia and Artsakh, which concluded in my participation in the Fifth Conference of Writers of Armenian Origin Composing in Foreign Languages. The conference took place from July 11 to 15 at the Writer’s House in Tsaghgatsor, 40 kilometers northeast of Yerevan.

Sponsored by the Diaspora Ministry, the Armenian Writer’s Union (AWU) and the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), the conference hosted about 40 writers from Armenia, Artsakh, Canada, England, France, Hungary, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Sweden, Syria, Turkey and the US.

An often-heard comment from diasporan repatriates to Armenia is that its positives are not trumpeted frequently enough in the global Armenian news media. While the majority of Diaspora Armenians who write about Armenia’s problems are not covert operatives who want to see this country fail but a compassionate community who wish to see Armenia succeed, it would still serve us to indulge in some well-deserved praise. As an example, the Tsaghgatsor conference is an outstanding concept that has been made into a reality. Where else do we have writers of Armenian descent gathering with the potential to testify, network, brainstorm, cross-pollinate ideas and sow the seeds for future collaborations?

Not to be confused with the Pan-Armenian Media conference, this conference mainly involves writers of literary fiction and poetry, with some non-fiction writers thrown in for good measure. The Pan-Armenian conference is a much larger affair, comprising print, broadcast and online news media editors and contributors from our global Armenian nation.

Unable to establish contact with the organizers while in the US, I visited the Diaspora Ministry while in Yerevan to register for the Writer’s conference. Even then, bringing copies of the books I had written, I did not know if I would be accepted. This is because in prior years one did not apply for participation but was selected for inclusion, and often through recommendations from the AWU. As far as I know, this practice is still in effect, but really should not be.

Though I had, in previous years, inquired about attending the Diaspora Ministry’s media conferences and receiving its e-newsletters, my requests had inexplicably gone unanswered. One diasporan editor-colleague suggested that I not hold my breath for an invite to conferences sponsored by the Diaspora Ministry. He had observed that many writers reporting about the more “unflattering” aspects of the Armenian reality were simply excluded from such gatherings. To my advantage, no one at the Ministry office appeared to check into my suitability before accepting me into the conference. Thus, this article is the result of my opportunity to bear witness to what happens at such gatherings.

The use of headphones at various diaspora conferences has been very important because it enables non-Armenian speaking attendees to receive simultaneous translations of the proceedings and thus contribute to the discourse. The absence of headphones at the conference was alarming, especially as the stated purpose of the conference was to spotlight those who write in foreign languages.

Not surprisingly, several attendees expressed to me that they felt like outsiders at the conference, as no official pro-

vision was made to consistently translate. And, as several presenters were not given an opportunity to have their speeches or works verbally translated for the benefit of those present, some delegates told me that they felt like unwanted step-children invited under false pretenses, since they were unable to participate in whatever minimal dialogue there was – figuratively put into a corner as if punished or trivialized for not knowing the Lingua Franca.

As it turns out, history was repeating itself. An article retrieved from the Armenian Mirror-Spectator of November 2011 reported that no formal translation services were provided at the conference of Armenian Writers in Foreign Languages, held in October of that year. If this conference is to continue, it is crucial that official translators be provided.

Half the conference participants hailed from Armenia and Artsakh. The proceedings, held in the Eastern Armenian dialect, seemed to serve the native Armenians first, and then, to a lesser degree, those diasporans who spoke Armenian. Writers in the latter category were generally limited to either a five-minute presentation on a stated theme or a brief description of their new work. How could they not help but feel as if the defacto purpose of the conference was not to spotlight their poetic artistry and perceptions but to be “talked at” and prohibited from participating in a meaningful way? An opportunity for genuine intellectual discussion was missed. If this conference is to continue (and the next one is scheduled for 2015 on the subject of the Armenian Genocide), the above aspects must dramatically change. Perhaps one new approach could feature the creation of subgroups within a conference, wherein more participants can express their views.

The main themes and activities of the conference centered around “Globalization and National Identity” in which participants read works or observations on the topic of globalization (in the multicultural sense rather than the economic). The conference included a session on William Saroyan. Essays, remembrances and poems about the author and playwright were read aloud. There was also a session on new books, in which participants introduced their new works.

Well-known academics in Armenia steered the conference, including three long-time fixtures on the literary front in Armenia. Each has published large bodies of work and dedicated himself to the field of literature.

What was astounding, however, was how each comported himself at the conference. These men acted like commissars whose objectives were to attempt to control public opinion or its natural expression. Some took 45 minutes to speak while allowing others only five minutes, commanding some to “ampopeh!” (abbreviate!). They would verbally interrupt and angrily contradict other writers with whom they disagreed. They gave their favorite persons – some of them not even conference delegates – more time to present their work. They acted as arbiters of which presentations were worthy of translation. And if a session ran long, it was usually a diasporan delegate asked to relinquish his time to talk.

There were other local participants who were surprisingly discourteous to delegates. The rule of thumb seemed to be, “unless you are presenting your own speech or paper, you should feel free to hold loud and lengthy side conversations with others, work on your laptop, take phone calls or launch your Facebook page.” If a conference abroad were conducted this way, it would be the object of ridicule.

Upon witnessing these behaviors, I decided to use my allocated five minutes not to talk about Globalization and National Identity in the literal sense, but in what our dispersion could help us achieve in the long term. I discussed what I would like to see happen at future conferences.

This included a desire to see the future participation of the Armenian Journalists Union, the Yerevan Press Club, diasporan newspaper editors and contributors, Armenian and diasporan publishers, booksellers, librarians and translators so that we may interact and grow into a massive, persuasive literary force in our respective communities and the world. I wished to see some of our best books being published in Armenia today – in the Armenian language as well as in foreign languages – be presented at future conferences so that we can find ways to introduce and sell them in the diaspora. I asked to hear from our best editors and translators – both from Armenia and the diaspora – discussing our best contemporary writers as well as those famous works that have yet to be translated into foreign languages but deserve to be, and how we can make that a reality. I asked

that we encourage young generations of writers to participate in these conferences and for specialists to be invited to talk about developments in the craft and business of writing, or even how one can become a “literary agent” who can represent global Armenian writers to foreign publishers so that the world can know of our great talents. And I asked that we think about the creation of a global Armenian writers society that can provide lectures and job banks and even develop a national agenda around what sorts of articles or novels could be useful to the Armenian people and nation in the foreign press at any given time.

While my remarks generated comments of support from some delegates, the organizers themselves were visibly riled, sought to marginalize the remarks and did not permit me to translate my own words from the Armenian into the English.

A few diasporan delegates later approached me to tell me that some of the issues I raised had come up at previous conferences. Some returnees from previous conferences told me that hackneyed speeches they could not bear to hear repeated had brought about notable apathy at the conference. Others told me that since they brought up similar issues at previous conferences to no avail, they now simply tried to benefit from the valuable networking opportunities such a conference provides. Sure enough, when delegates had a chance to interact with one another during free periods, many profoundly collegial, sincere and abiding connections were made.

Later, a senior Armenian-American writer offered his views to me. He said that by speaking out at the conference, I was only giving organizers further reason to be defensive and protective over their respective turfs. He suggested that we “work within the system” to help the society evolve, a comment I often heard this summer from diasporan repatriates working for NGOs. Since the senior writer in question received literary medals from the Diaspora Ministry and AWU (one at the fourth conference, and one at this fifth conference), I wondered if that is why he was willing to go along with the status quo. If so, is this not a short-sighted action that helps keep the corrupt in power?

On the last day of the conference, the delegates were shown a promotional video extolling the achievements of the Diaspora (or should I say, Propaganda) Ministry. By then, I had concluded that the purpose of the conference was not to give us space to think and share, but to tell us what to think. A conference participant approached the lectern during the closing session to say that an opportunity was not provided for delegates to dialogue during the presentations or offer feedback at the close of the conference. She had also hoped that delegates would get an idea of what the AWU’s objectives and goals were, in general and surrounding this conference. Instead of being asked to listen throughout the conference, she said that delegates could have discussed issues and talked about what the AWU and the Diaspora Ministry could do – such as promoting and funding Armenian literature abroad – instead of asking delegates to listen to praise the Ministry and established writers about whom we already knew so much. In response to this delegate, who was, of course, told to keep her comments short, an organizer took all the time he needed to rebut the delegate’s comments, even though his response did not address her concerns. As he raised his voice to her, he said she was not raised with manners in her country of origin and was told to put her complaints in writing.

To dispel any notions that there may have been a unilateral “us and them” attitude among delegates, let me add that a local delegate later told me that she and other members of the Writer’s Union had, in the past, raised the same sorts of concerns to the leadership. Learning of their discontent sowed seeds of hope within me. Imagine if like-minded Armenian and diasporan writers independently and routinely met with an eye, not just to foster mutual understanding, but also to cultivate literary (and dare I say nation-building) initiatives?

When, on the last day of the conference, our group met with Diaspora Minister Hranush Hakobyan, a conference organizer announced that we had had a “significant discussion” about Globalization and the National Identity. When that discussion occurred is beyond my comprehension. I did notice, however, that for his presentation to the minister, he had English and Russian translators.

Hakobyan, in her words of welcome to the delegates, made five requests of the conventioners. These were quite see CONFERENCE, page 14



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Not in Turkey's interest to Provoke Border Clash with Armenia

A deadly incident with potentially serious consequences took place on the Armenian-Turkish border in the night of July 31.

Armenian and Turkish sources have provided conflicting versions of this event. They agree, however, that a Turkish shepherd was shot dead after crossing into Armenian territory.

Kars Governor Eyup Tepe claimed that without warning "Armenian soldiers" opened fire on 35-year-old Mustafa Ulker, as he was trying to retrieve his "sheep" from the Armenian side. The Turkish Governor accused Armenians of using "excessive force," alleging that "the shepherd did not have a gun in his hand." Another local Turkish official, Osman Ugurlu, identified the intruder as a Turkish citizen of Azeri origin who was armed only with a knife and was shot in the back.

In a diplomatic note of protest delivered to Armenia, the Turkish Foreign Ministry stated: "We strongly condemn the shooting of an innocent citizen for a simple border infringement apparently made very innocently. There is no

valid explanation for the disproportionate use of Armenian force in such an ordinary event." In a separate public statement, Ankara called on Armenia to show "good sense" in its relations with Turkey and Azerbaijan, warning Yerevan of the dire consequences of wrong moves that could endanger regional stability and peace.

Armenia disputed the Turkish version of events, stating that two Turkish young men had crossed the border at 3 a.m., to steal sheep. When Russian soldiers guarding the Armenian frontier ordered the intruders to go back, the Turks mocked them and refused to retreat. The border guards then fired two warning shots in the air at which point one of the Turks opened fire on them. The Russian troops responded, killing one Turkish intruder, according to the Armenian Border Department of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation.

Turkish sources have repeatedly stressed that the shepherd was shot by Armenians, despite Ankara's awareness that Russian troops are the ones guarding Armenia's borders with Turkey and Iran, in line with the Moscow-Yerevan agreement of 1992. Instead of blaming the Russians, the Turkish government insists on holding Armenia responsible for the shepherd's killing, turning it into an Armenian-Turkish incident rather than a Russian-Turkish quarrel.

The Armenian Foreign Ministry issued a restrained statement, expressing regret for the loss of life and hoping that such incidents will not recur in the future. It is clear that Yerevan does not wish to inflame tempers and trigger a more serious incident with unintended consequences.

It is understandable that Turkish leaders would want to exaggerate the significance of this relatively minor border incident in order to distract attention away from Turkey's multitude of domestic and foreign troubles, in particular:

- Ongoing mass protests in Turkey, challenging Prime Minister Erdogan's despotic rule.

- Arresting 3,000 demonstrators, injuring 8,000, and killing five others as a result of the "disproportionate use of force" by Turkish police.

- Announcements placed in major American, British and German newspapers, denouncing Erdogan's "Nazi-like" actions. The Turkish Prime Minister's threatened lawsuit against The (London) Times for publishing a full-page paid letter, signed by dozens of prominent Western intellectuals and artists, would more widely expose his intimidating tactics.

- Letter addressed to Turkey's President Abdullah Gul by 46 Members of the US House of Representatives, asking him to condemn the recent anti-Semitic statements of Turkish leaders, including Erdogan, who had referred to Zionism as a "crime against humanity" and blamed the recent Gezi Park protests on Jewish instigators.

- Serious internal feuds with Kurdish groups, opposition political parties, and high-ranking imprisoned military leaders.

- Repeated military intrusions into Iraqi Kurdistan.

- Strained relations with Egypt's new rulers after the overthrow of Pres. Mohamed Morsi, Erdogan's fellow Islamist.

- Frictions with Cyprus, Greece, Iran, Iraq and Israel, and hostilities with Syria.

- The bombing of the Turkish Embassy in Somalia last month by an al-Qaeda-linked group.

With all these problems swirling in and around Turkey, Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's announced policy of "zero problems with neighbors" has turned into "zero neighbors without problems."

At a time when Armenians are planning worldwide commemorations of the Genocide Centennial, Turkey can ill afford to add to its host of troubles a border clash with Armenia, which would only serve to publicize Turkey's long list of past and present crimes!

Did the Armenian Writers Conference Walk the Talk?

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mystifying, since writers in the diaspora have been pursuing these avenues for some time with apparently little involvement from the Armenian government, and, moreover, with the hope that Armenia would pursue the same initiatives. She asked that writers of the diaspora collect Genocide survivor stories to publish for 2015; write about *Hai Tahd* in non-Armenian media; educate non-Armenian writers through networking about *Hai Tahd*; influence Turkish journalists, especially those writing truthfully about Armenian issues and insist on our rightful demands as the diaspora as well as a global nation.

Being late for our meeting with Hakobyan, we observed her excusing herself in order to officiate at a large gathering of diasporan youth participating in the "Ari Tun" ("Come Home"; <http://aritun.am/en/>) program in which they spend two weeks developing bonds with Armenia. Initially asked to view a video about what the Diaspora Ministry was doing to resettle Syrian-Armenians into Armenia, the writers were instead ushered in to join a large celebratory gathering for the "Ari Tun" participants.

The event was attended by a slew of journalists and filmed for national television. At this time, Hakobyan took the opportunity to bestow the William Saroyan Literary Medal upon two diasporan writers from the conference for "contributing to the dissemination of Armenian culture in the diaspora and making great contributions to the strengthening of relations between Armenia and the diaspora and relations within Diaspora Armenian communities."

I believe that any diasporan writer who makes the effort to attend such a conference does so with a spirit of enthusiasm and cooperation. Judging by how attentive diasporan delegates were, I can safely say that they demonstrated a respectful attitude toward their fellow participants and hosts. However, the behaviors of the conference leadership and some local writers made it difficult to maintain a respectful atmosphere. Preventing dialogue, shouting people down and interrupting with demeaning comments do not engender a spirit of mutual trust or cooperation. It was as if the hosts insisted on having the upper hand instead of seeing Armenia and the diaspora as two parts of a fully functioning body. In the end, though many great efforts were put into the initiative, the conference was largely self-defeating and wasteful. If future conferences had a more comprehensive and clearly stated purpose, along with better organization, they could be extremely successful.

I wish to express profound gratitude to Herminè Navasardyan of the Armenian Writer's Union and Greta Mnatsakanyan of the Diaspora Ministry for meeting their many obligations with dedication and gracious efficiency. They demonstrated sincere affection for the conference delegates and hopefully felt the return of camaraderie they so generously offered.

The Armenian Bar Association Condemns Russian Court's Humiliating Caricature of Armenian Citizen

In the preceding weeks, the Armenian Bar Association has closely monitored the arrest of Hrachya Harutyunyan, a citizen of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the ensuing criminal charges stemming from a traffic accident that resulted in multiple fatalities and injuries.

It goes without saying that the loss of lives and the infliction of injuries to persons of any nationality are lamentable developments. The lives lost and injuries suffered in the Moscow-area traffic accident in which Harutyunyan was involved are no exceptions. We extend our condolences to the families and friends of those who died and to the survivors for whom we hope a speedy recovery.

We, as an organization which has for more than twenty years been involved in the development of the rule of law in the former Soviet Union, must now turn to the rights and responsibilities of the accused, Harutyunyan. Therefore, we must consider the plight of this defendant in the Russian legal system in the context of governing legal requirements and standards.

The post-arrest proceedings could not have gotten off to a worse start, both for Harutyunyan and for Russia's criminal justice apparatus, revealing as it did only lip-service to ensuring the rule of law and decency.

We, along with millions of other viewers of video footage of the accused's initial appearance in court, witnessed the discriminatory, demoralizing and degrading treatment of an Armenian citizen in a Russian court while, before our very eyes, Harutyunyan was paraded, parodied and pilloried in open court as he was forced by the authorities to wear a female bathrobe and slippers.

He was made to answer the serious legal charges against him wearing these purposefully-demeaning vestments. The images of a clearly-devastated Harutyunyan are indelible reminders of the importance of the due process of law, something which Harutyunyan was, right from the start, denied.

We feel compelled to declare and demand that Harutyunyan's civil rights, irrespective of culpa-

bility or innocence, be fully respected; that he be treated humanely and in accordance with international and Russia's own stated standards of due process and that he be given a modicum of dignity and safety as opposed to the record of his being mistreated and abused psychologically, if not physically.

A review of the Russian Federation's laws affecting foreign nationals reveals that the country's legal codes pass the test of civility and comportment with accepted norms of equal protection. On the other hand, Russia's recent courtroom ridicule of Harutyunyan has resulted in a colossal failure of that test. Article 49 and Article 62 of Chapter 2 of Section 1 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, respectively, afford presumptive notions of innocence to an accused and guarantee equal rights to non-Russian citizen individuals. Russia's courts would do well to follow its legislative mandates.

We welcome the Russian Federation's lawmakers' legislative intent to provide the universally-recognized protection of individuals' rights to their citizenry and also to foreign nationals on their soil.

Russia's stated deference to the rule of law must be given real and practical meaning in the case of Harutyunyan.

Now is the time and this is the case in which to demonstrate that the words which are written into law in Russia, and everywhere for that matter, actually mean something.

And we hope that certain words resonate more favorably than those uttered by the Mayor of Moscow, Sergey Sobyenin, who, right after the accident, shamefully and publicly espoused the discriminatory treatment of foreign nationals, including, by implication, Harutyunyan.

We expect from the Russian authorities their adherence to and respect for the civil and human rights of the accused in this matter. Anything less is an insult to its legal foundations, to its citizenry and to all those who, like us, hold out hope for Russia's continuing transition to become one of the world's leading democracies.

—Submitted by the Armenian Bar Association



Cleveland Community Rallies around Teen From Armenia Suffering from Leukemia

STELLA, from page 1

the third such treatment, the last part of a three-month cycle.

The results after this last round will be analyzed at the end of August, at which time, the next course of action will be determined. Iren Arakelyan, herself a physician as is her husband, Levon, said that there is about an 80-percent chance that their daughter will require a bone marrow transplant.

"It is very difficult," Iren Arakelyan said. "Still, we are fighting it. Stella is an excellent student. She wants to go to medical school too and become a doctor," said her mother. "She is very beautiful and smart. We are fighting with God's help. We have no choice."

According to the church website, despite the deep discounts Cleveland Clinic has given the young patient, the cost of the treatment is exorbitant, hovering around \$500,000 now and expected to rise if there is the need for a bone marrow transplant.

"We are in the process of initiating a campaign to gather some funds from charitable organizations, however Stella and her mother who are now living in the St. Gregory of Narek parish house are trying to cut even on their daily expenses to save for the treatment. Their

needs are not only monetary but spiritual and moral," read the church's website.

The Armenian-born Sargsyan took the helm of St. Gregory of Narek Church in 2011, after short stints at St. John Armenian Church of Southfield, Mich. under the guidance of its pastor, the Rev. Garabed Kochakian, and St. Sahag Armenian Church in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.

Sargsyan has opened the doors of the parish house to the Arakelyans and parishioners take turns hosting the family, cooking for them or transporting them.

"We mainly try to support them morally and with our prayers," Sargsyan said. "We don't give up hope."

He added, "I feel joyful to see a challenging situation in which fellow Christians and fellow Armenians all come together. Half a million dollars will be hard to raise but for some reason, I don't lose faith. We need to find those generous people."

He continued, "It is sad and difficult when I go to the hospital to visit Stella," but, he added, she is responding well to treatment.

Sargsyan's and the community's help means the world to the family. In a statement, Iren Arakelyan wrote, "Father Hratch Sargsyan [...]



There is much community support in Cleveland for Stella Arakelyan.

is responsible for our free lodging adjacent to the church and for the invaluable moral support to our family. The benevolence, the atmosphere of constant care and material support has created an ambience of being surrounded by

family. Stella is on the very beginning of her path to recovery and the amazing warmth and moral support she is getting from the Armenian community has an immense effect on the success of the healing process. There are no words with which I can express my heartfelt gratitude to the people who have become the pillar of our strength in these few first days. On behalf of my family, I want to thank all who are supporting us with their Christian generosity of spirit in this difficult time."

Dr. Gevorg Yaghjian, a fellow physician in Armenia who works at Yerevan's University Hospital N1 with Stella's parents, got a call from colleague Dr. Bella Grigorian, a neurologist at the same hospital, asking for help for the young girl in the spring. "I told Bella the truth; the only place where they can get a cutting age treatment and support of Armenian community will be in Cleveland. On May 23 I got the latest lab results from Iren by e-mail and called Dr. Rafi Avitsian with the question, 'can we help this family. They need our help.' Rafi's reaction was 'Send all the results immediately.'"

Through Avitsian's coordination with the Cleveland Clinic's International Department, all the paperwork and visa applications at the US embassy were completed in two days.

Donations can be made via <http://www.stgregoryofnarek.org/news/we-need-your-help/> or checks can be mailed to St. Gregory of Narek Church, 678 Richmond Rd., Richmond Heights, OH 44143. Make checks payable to St. Gregory of Narek, memo line: Stella Arakelyan.

Sargsyan stressed that if anyone is interested in contacting him about the case, he would be happy to speak to them at 440-264-3541 or fr.hrach@yahoo.com.

There is also a Facebook page titled [HelpForStellaArakelyan](#).

Community Activist Garbis Barsoumian Dies

BARSOUMIAN, from page 1

In his spare time he was very active and supportive in the Armenian community, serving on the board of trustees at his Armenian Catholic church and was financially supportive of many community organizations, such as the Tekeyan Cultural Association, Homenetmen and other organizations.

He enjoyed classical music and current events but most of all he was loving and giving to his family and the community as a whole.

According to the wishes of the deceased, private funeral services were held at Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church in Belmont, MA on Saturday, August 3 and burial was at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Watertown.

Private funeral services were held at Holy Cross Armenian Catholic Church in Belmont on August 3 and burial was at Ridgelawn Cemetery in Watertown. Arrangements were made by the Giragosian Funeral Home.

The family is planning a public Hokehankisd to mark the 40th day of his passing, in September.

Tekeyan Cultural Association members express their condolences to the family.

Peter Koutoujian FOR CONGRESS

Koutoujian for Congress



My family's story, like so many others in Massachusetts and across the nation, reflects the promise of the American Dream.

My parents always believed in the honor and importance of public service. My mom dedicated her life to teaching and my dad was the City Clerk in Waltham for 30 years.

They instilled in me a desire to help people and to try to make a difference in their lives.

They taught me that when you listen to people, empower people, and help them take action - you can change lives for the better.



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