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Armenia Offers Aid to Iraqi Yezidis

Minority Protests in Armenia

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) – Armenia is deeply concerned about the ongoing violence against the Yezidi population in the north of Iraq, and the ensuring casualties, Arman Saghatlyan, President Serge Sargisian's press secretary announced this week.

"The use of violence against any national and religious minority, in particular, the Iraqi Yezidis, is absolutely unacceptable, and the international community must take immediate steps to stop it as soon as possible, provide support and humanitarian aid to the victims.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the heads of diplomatic missions were instructed by Sargisian to double their efforts in pursuing the issue at an appropriate level in the international arena.

Today, Sargisian discussed with Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian the issue of



Armenians protest in France against the fate of Yezidis in Iraq.

increasing the planned volume of humanitarian aid to be provided by Armenia, for which the Armenian government will find a solution in the coming days.

"The issue will continue to stay in the spotlight of official Yerevan, and within its capacities the Republic of Armenia will consistently support the friendly Yezidi people suffering hardship," reads Saghatlyan's statement.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Tigran Balayan wrote on his Twitter account, "The Armenian Missions in the UN and other international organizations have received respective directives to closely cooperate

with stakeholders on this issue."

On August 8, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia Shavarsh Kocharian received the representatives of Yezidi community.

The Yezidis of Armenia presented their concerns about the predicament and humanitarian crisis for dozens of thousands of Yezidis created as a result of persecutions by radical Islamists in Iraq.

Kocharian emphasized that Armenia shares the concerns of the Yezidi community and noted that in different international arenas Armenia will continue to speak see YEZIDIS, page 2

Can Israel Recognize The Genocide of Armenians in 1915?

By Peter Lyukimson

JERUSALEM (*Vestnik Kavkaza*) – Presidential officials of Israel and Armenia are having intensive negotiations on recognition of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey in 1915. The Armenian side proposed a plan, according to which Israeli President Reuven Rivlin will arrive in Yerevan in April 2015 as one of the world leaders to mark the tragic event. He will declare official recognition of the genocide carried out by the Turkish government in 1915.

A high-ranking official of the Israeli president's office told *Vestnik Kavkaza* that the idea was actively promoted by leaders of the Armenian lobby in Israel, although their names have not been given.

see ISRAEL, page 3

US, Armenia Want Answers in Death of Armenian in Azerbaijan

YEREVAN (Armenpress and RFE/RL) – The US State Department issued a statement on the death of the Armenian citizen Karen A. Petrosyan, who was taken captive and killed in Azerbaijan.

The State Department stressed that United States is deeply concerned about the death of Petrosyan, which, according to a number of sources, was not due to natural causes and took place while he was in Azeri custody.

Among other things, it was stated: "The US offers sincere condolences to Mr. Petrosyan's family. We call on the Azerbaijani government to conduct a full and transparent investigation of this incident and publish the results.

We remind the Governments of Azerbaijan and Armenia of their obligations under international humanitarian law, see ANSWERS, page 16

Biotech and Ebola in Cambridge: Chris Garabedian, CEO of Sarepta

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Recently, the Ebola virus has been in the news almost every day, with panicked speculation about the danger of its spread, and the

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

ethics of treatment. There is no tested and proven treatment or vaccine available. Christopher "Chris" Nishan Garabedian, the president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Sarepta Therapeutics, is frequently sought out by the media in these discussions. It happens that his company is one of only a handful with drugs that could treat Ebola victims. Garabedian, in his Cambridge headquarters, explained that in fact this drug is only one example of what his company can accomplish. Sarepta employs an approach

which is part of a revolution in biotechnology, using Ribonucleic Acid (RNA) to specifically target diseases and genetic problems.

This is a different technology from the ZMapp combination of several antibodies against the Ebola virus, which was in the news because it was given to two American missionaries infected by Ebola recently. These antibodies attempt to allow a person's own immune system to identify and neutralize the virus. However, they had

never been given to humans before, while Sarepta's drugs have been used on non-human primates and in Phase 1 safety trials for the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), with promising results. The trials were supported by the Department of Defense but economic issues halted the program.

see EBOLA, page 7



Chris Garabedian, Sarepta CEO

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope Francis to Celebrate Mass on Genocide Centennial

BUENOS AIRES (Agencia Prensa Armenia) – Pope Francis will celebrate Mass for the Armenian Genocide centennial in the Basilica of San Pedro on April 12, 2015, according to an announcement by the Archbishop of Buenos Aires Mario Poli during a mass in the Armenian Catholic Parish of Our Lady of Narek on Sunday, August 17.

"The Pope replied to the invitation from the Armenian Catholic Church a year ago through Patriarch Nerses Bedros XIX to celebrate a mass for the recognition of the Genocide," stated the pastor of Narek, Pablo Hakimian.

During a meeting with the Patriarch of Armenians Catholics Nerses Bedros XIX Tarmourini in June last year, he also received the daughter of a surviving family of the Armenian Genocide. He told her, "It was the first genocide of the 20th century."

Political Party Calls for Artsakh Representation In Tehran

STEPANAKERT (Hetq) – The National Rebirth Political Party in Artsakh has publicly voiced its concerns regarding the country's low level of relations with neighboring Iran. The party argues that better relations with Iran could open up new opportunities in Artsakh in the economic, political and cultural sectors. National Rebirth thus urges the Artsakh government to take a more proactive stance regarding fomenting relations with Iran and calls for the opening of a permanent diplomatic representation in Tehran.

Medvedev Signs Treaty On Armenia's EEU Accession

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev inked the Treaty on the Accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union and submitted it to President Vladimir Putin for signature.

"The Treaty is a fundamental document that defines the agreement reached between the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the terms of accession of the Republic of Armenia to the Eurasian Economic Union," said the Russian government's website.

The treaty was elaborated on May 29, 2014 by the Eurasian Economic Commission, jointly with the state bodies of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia. The treaty, discussed and approved on August 7, at a government sitting of the Russia Federation, is subject to change.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Czech Company to Build Livestock Facility in Karabagh

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Representatives from Genoservice, a Czech company, met with the head of Artsakh's Rural and Agricultural Support Fund Ashot Bakhshiyani, to discuss a project that envisions a large livestock breeding facility in the village of Talish.

The representatives at the meeting said the location will adequately provide all of the necessary resources required for the project, such as water, power, and agricultural products.

The first phase of the project will establish a complex that will house some 400 cattle. The second phase will expand the complex and will add a milk-processing plant.

The Prime Minister of Artsakh Ara Harutunian also met with the European businessmen and discussed further opportunities for cooperation.

Cross Stone Dedicated to Freedom Fighters Unveiled

BAREKAMAVAN, Tavush (Armenpress) – Several members of parliament, headed by the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Galust Sahakian, as well as the Defense Minister Seyran Ohanian and many guests visited Barekamavan community.

The members of parliament took part in the unveiling ceremony of the cross stone in the memory of 21 freedom fighters from Barekamavan, martyred in the defense of the Motherland.

The event was attended by the entire village. The attendees were greeted by community leader Gagik Abazyan, and the honor of the opening of the cross stone was assigned to Sahakian, Ohanian and two relatives of the freedom fighters.

Ohanian later awarded medals to a group of freedom fighters. The sculptor of the cross stone is the participant of Artsakh Liberation War, architect Andranik Davtyan.

Yeritsyan and Grigoryan Sign Agreement

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Ministry of Emergency Situation of the Republic of Armenia and the Yerkrpah Volunteers' Union will establish closer cooperation, the heads of the two entities, Armen Yeritsyan and Lieutenant-General Manvel Grigoryan, respectively, announced on Tuesday. The two signed a memorandum on cooperation.

At the beginning of the ceremony of signing the memorandum, Grigoryan laid a wreath on the memorial of Devotees of Rescue of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia. Then, a number of the representatives of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia and the Yerkrpah Volunteers' Union received awards.

Mini Hydro-Plants Threaten Tavoush Rivers

YEREVAN (Hetq) – After conducting inspections at a number of mini hydro-power plants in Tavoush Province, the Armenian Environmental Front (AEF) has issued a report stating that the rivers from which the water is drawn can be dead eco-systems.

The AEF says that water outflow below the plants is totally insufficient to sustain the flora and fauna that once existed in the rivers and along their banks.

The AEF team found that no water measuring equipment had been installed and that water level automatic regulatory systems were lacking.

Ironically, hydro-plant operators have built cement fish ladders that are either impassable for whatever fish stocks have survived downstream or else have no water flows.

The AEF says it has documented these violations and has forwarded the photographs to the Ministry of Nature Protection.

Tekeyan Summer Camp in Armenia 2014

For the fifth year, the Tekeyan Center Fund (TCF) has sponsored a free camp for Tekeyan Schools in Armenia and Karabagh. This summer 70 Tekeyan students and their teachers from Yerevan, Gumri, Stepanavan and Berdzor had a chance to enjoy the seven-day program in Aragats summer camp, in picturesque Hankavan. The program was primarily for needy and excellent students.

The natural beauty of the area and the warm welcome of the summer camp staff made for an unforgettable summer experience for the children. They successfully integrated into camp life, with its morning exercises, line-ups, trumpet sounds and marching, which was a part of daily drills. Due to the efforts of Tekeyan teachers and the camp staff, the week included a variety of educational, cultural and fun activities. The children actively participated in sports competitions and intellectual quizzes. They were also taught national songs and



Tekeyan students together with other campers explore wild nature.

dances.

Camp Aragats turned into a little Armenia where patriotic education was the most important element.

Documentary films and discussions helped children to forge their Armenian identities and a love for the land to which they belong. Even camp groups were named after prominent Armenian cultural figures and national heroes. The children learned a lot about their national heritage.

The campers enjoyed hiking to the mountains and caves and walking tours both in daylight and at night. They had an excursion to Trdatavank, a monastery built in the 13th century. Here they performed church songs and were deeply impressed.

The camp organized a cultural event dedicated to Gumri. The Tekeyan students presented the history of the town, its customs and traditions, jokes, dances and songs. The program featured a dance group from Gumri. Among the guests present were officials from Shirak province.

The last day at the camp was active and joyful. All four Tekeyan schools of Armenia and Karabagh arranged a farewell party performing for their regions and schools with poetry reading, songs and dances. All this was followed with speeches, messages of thanks and a traditional campfire. For a week the Tekeyan students lived in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere and now it was difficult for them to leave their friends from Camp Aragats, where they were a family.

Thanks to the TCF's project "Summer Camp," Tekeyan students have a chance to explore the beauty of Armenia and visit its landmarks, form friendships with other youth and gain deep knowledge. This project also furthers our teenagers' physical, moral and cultural development. It is an opportunity to educate the new generation and strengthen their young bodies, souls and minds.



All the campers doing morning exercises.



A national dance at the cultural event dedicated to Gumri.

Armenia Offers Aid to Iraqi Yezidis

YEZIDIS, from page 1

against the violence against ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq and in the Middle East in general, using all its capacities for this goal.

Scores of Yezidis rallied in Yerevan on August 14, calling on the government to champion the cause of the Yezidis in Iraq and put the issue of their plight at the hands of militants from the Islamic State on the agenda at the United Nations.

Some of the Yezidis demanded a meeting with Abrahamian, saying the Armenia was not adequately reacting to "the genocide of the Yezidis."

Abrahamian's deputy chief of staff Gurgen Dumanian spoke with the crowd. He told them the government would send some \$50,000 worth of

humanitarian aid to Yezidis in Iraq.

There are some 60,000 Yezidis living in Armenia, descendants of those who fled there during the notorious 1915 Armenian Genocide by the Ottoman forces that also saw thousands of Yezidis killed as well.

In France, on August 1, some 1,200 people demonstrated against recent attacks by the Islamic State (IS) against the Yezidi community in Iraq.

The demonstrators assembled at the Place du Chatelet in Paris represented several Kurdish organizations, human rights groups, the Communist Party, the Yezidi community and the Coordinating Council of Armenian organizations of France (CCAF).

In his speech, CCAF Co-Chair Ara Toranian expressed the "sense of horror

and indignation of the Armenian community witnessing such mass crimes."

Praising the resistance of the Kurdish people, Toranian noted: "Is it acceptable 100 years after the Armenian Genocide that we should see this sad spectacle of refugees fleeing their own land to escape the destructive effects of a violent and unenlightened ideology and unenlightened?"

Torianian concluded: "Yes we support you in your struggle not only because you yourselves are in danger, but because we continue to defend a vision of the interests of the region to which we are very attached."

(Stories from Armenpress, RFE/RL and Jean Eckian were combined for this report.)



INTERNATIONAL

Kurdish Protester Killed in Turkey PKK Statue Protest

ISTANBUL (BBC) – A protester has been killed in eastern Turkey after clashes broke out over the removal of the statue of the founder of a Kurdish rebel group.

Two others were wounded as protests sparked by the demolition of the controversial statue turned violent.

Turkish security forces in the town of Lice attempted to dismantle the statue of Mahsum Korkmaz, founder of the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK).

It was unveiled last week for the 30th anniversary of the PKK's first attacks.

Protesters gathered at a cemetery outside Lice had tried to prevent the soldiers from reaching the statue and the incident quickly escalated, with the Turkish army firing live bullets.

The victim is believed to be a 24-year-old demonstrator, according to *Hurriyet*. Reports say he died of gunshot

wounds to the head.

The statue, which shows Korkmaz dressed for battle and with a rifle by his side, had infuriated Turkish nationalists who viewed it as a result of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's policy of granting greater rights to the country's Kurdish minority.

On Monday, two days after the statue was unveiled, a court in Lice ordered its demolition following complaints that it

promoted terrorism.

Under Erdogan, Turkey is seeking to restart stalled peace talks with the separatist PKK.

The rebel group has been designated a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and European Union.

The conflict between Kurdish rebels and the Turkish state is estimated to have claimed the lives of more than 40,000 people.



Protestors in Lice, Turkey, take action against the dismantling of PKK's Mahsum Korkmaz's statue.

Can Israel Recognize The Genocide of Armenians in 1915?

ISRAEL, from page 1

Advocates of acknowledging the Armenian Genocide believe that now is the perfect time for its recognition, considering the tense relations of Israel and Turkey and the latest speech of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has recently become the president. Erdogan called the actions of the Israeli army in Gaza a "genocide of the Palestinian people." Over 2,000 people have died in the Gaza operation. Israel, as is well-known, denies the accusations, reminding that over a third of the people killed were Hamas militants. International experts say that 70-75 percent of people killed were militants. Moreover, Israel insists that peaceful inhabitants of Gaza were only killed because Hamas used them as human shields. In any case, figures of losses in Gaza are incomparable with the number of people killed in the 1915 tragedy.

Rivlin's figure itself plays an essential part in rumors about official recognition of the Armenian genocide. He has spoken for such recognition several times. At the Lithuanian parliament he said that "the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide of 1915 were the two most tragic events of the 20th century." Until then, all Israeli politicians were doing their best to evade such comparisons.

Rivlin has emphasized several times that he only wanted historical justice when struggling for recognition of the 1915 genocide and had no intentions of accusing the population of modern Turkey or its government. Rivlin has also said many times that he could not understand why recognition of the Armenian Genocide could have a negative impact on the Jewish state's relations with Azerbaijan and other Turkic-speaking countries of the post-Soviet space, which have no relations to the events of 1915.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry believes that the president does not have the right to take the initiative, and recognition of the events of 1915 can only happen after talks with Azerbaijan, an important partner of Israel. Israel is confident that Turkey and Azerbaijan know about the negotiations between Rivlin's supporters and Armenian president Serge Sargsian. However, no reaction from Baku or Ankara has been seen, according to Israeli diplomats.

Azerbaijan Detains Prominent Human Rights Activists in Fresh Crackdown

By MJ del Valle

BAKU (*Guardian*) – Azerbaijan has detained at least four of the country's most prominent human rights activists, prompting fears that authorities are intensifying efforts to silence campaigners ahead of the world's first European Games in Baku next summer.

Veteran activist and lawyer Intigam Aliyev was detained in the Azeri capital last Friday, and charged with tax evasion, abuse of office and illegal entrepreneurship. He was swiftly jailed for three months. Amnesty International called the charges "trumped up" and said Aliyev had been "detained solely for his work as a human rights defender."

Leyla Yunus, arguably one of the fiercest critics of Azerbaijan's poor rights record, was detained the previous week, as was her husband Arif Yunus, and the democracy campaigner Rasul Jafarov. All three were placed under three-month pre-trial detention.

Leyla and Arif Yunus have been accused of treason, spying for Armenia, and illegal business activities, among other financial charges. Jafarov has been accused of tax evasion.

"Leyla Yunus is yet another independent voice in Azerbaijan who, for a long time, the government has tried to silence through threats and intimidation," said Natalia Nozadze, Amnesty International's researcher on Azerbaijan in reaction to her detention last week.

All four are believed to have been involved in drawing up a list of political prisoners currently held in Azerbaijan, which is due to be published in English this week. Azeri investigative journalist Khadiya Ismayil told the *Guardian* Aliyev has been added as the last entry.

The list is based on the definition of political prisoner offered by the Council of Europe, which aims to promote human rights on the continent. The organization's secretary general Thorbjorn Jagland said he had spoken to Azeri president Iham Aliyev, and told him of his "deep concerns about the arrests of prominent human rights defenders in recent days." Despite its rights record, Azerbaijan currently presides over the organization's committee

of ministers.

The authorities in Baku have said charges against all four relate to financial activities of the nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) for which they each act as directors. All had their bank accounts frozen prior to their arrests.

Azay Guliyev, chairman of the country's state support to NGOs, insisted that "the Azeri system is fair and transparent" and said the accounts were frozen as a "preventative measure because of irregularities in the operation of the NGOs managed by Aliyev, Jafarov and [Leyla] Yunus."

Many activists believe the detentions are part of a sweep ahead of the world's first European Games, due to be held next summer in Baku. Activists have already started mobilizing in an attempt to use refocus attention for the games from the international community onto Azerbaijan's human rights record, just as they did when Baku hosted the Eurovision song contest in 2012.

The accusations against Leyla Yunus go beyond Azerbaijan's borders. In addition to tax evasion and illegal business activities, she has also been charged with treason, for allegedly spying for Armenia. If found guilty, she could be sentenced to life imprisonment.

In Azerbaijan, links to Armenia are an extremely sensitive issue. Yunus has advocated working with Armenian human rights activists in order to find a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

Azerbaijan sharply increased its military spending in 2011, and President Aliyev has repeatedly threatened to attack Armenia.

Sylvana Kolaczowska, a project director and Eurasia analyst at Freedom House, said she believes the perceived threat of war provides the Aliyev regime with the justification for a civil society crackdown.

Lawyer Khalid Bagirov, who is acting on behalf of all four, said the arrests are politically motivated, and added that their acquittal is nigh on "impossible." He also expressed additional concern for Arif and Leyla Yunus, who both have long-running health problems. "Both require special care. Their relatives are not in the country; most have left. It is difficult to provide them with special meals and medications from the outside," he said.

International News

Homemade Missiles Explode in Aleppo

ALEPPO (Armenpress) – New blasts rocked the New Village Armenian district of Aleppo this week. The Facebook page of Aleppo-based *Gandzasar* weekly stated that the armed groups fired two homemade missiles in the direction of the Armenian district. No casualties were recorded though there was material damage.

During the previous week, three Armenians were killed due to the missile blast in the Armenian-populated districts of Aleppo.

EC Allocates €125 Million to Producers of Fruits and Vegetables

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The European Commission, according to its August 18 press release, has allocated from the European Union's budget 125 million euros (\$167.4 million) to the producers of a range of perishable fruits and vegetables over the Russian ban on food imports. "These measures will apply until the end of November with a budget foreseen of €125 million," declared EC Agriculture and Rural Development spokesman Roger Waite.

EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos stated: "Taking into account the market situation following the Russian restrictions on imports of EU agricultural products, I am triggering CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) emergency measures which will reduce the overall supply of a number of fruit and vegetable products on the European market as and when price pressures become too great in coming months."

On August 6, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a bill to protect the country's security. The decree went into effect the next day, effectively banning the import of agricultural and food products from countries that had imposed sanctions on Russia over the Ukrainian crisis for one year.

Man Fires at Turkish Embassy in Moscow

MOSCOW (Armenpress) – A man who fired at the Turkish emblem at the Embassy of Turkey in Moscow turned out to be Armenian. Moskovskiy Kosmolets reported that he is 43-year-old Arthur Mirzoyan. Mirzoyan, the general manager of the company Dobry Les, shot twice at the Turkish emblem, both times hitting the target.

After being arrested, Mirzoyan did not specify the reasons for his action. According to police, the reason is the longstanding feud between the Armenian and Turkish nations.

Basque Parliamentarians Condemn Azeri Aggression

BILBAO (Armenpress) – The military aggression of Azerbaijan against Nagorno-Karabagh, cases of shooting at the civilian population and the International Committee of the Red Cross vehicle should be condemned by the international community, according to a statement by Basque Senator Aiertza Azurtza and Parliament member Jon Inarritu.

The statement stressed that Azerbaijan's recent actions are violations of international law and are contrary to the requirements of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Minsk Group on maintaining the ceasefire regime.

"During these years the people of Nagorno-Karabagh managed to create a peaceful and democratic society. They deserve independence and freedom. The international community should stand by their side and stop Azerbaijan's military ambitions. We demand that the European Union and the governments of member states condemn the attacks of the Azerbaijani side that jeopardize the vital work carried out by the Minsk Group and force Azerbaijan to stop the violence," the statement of the Basque parliamentarians read.

Community News

Progressive Politics Conference Returns

Plenary Will Feature Noam Chomsky

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – The Armenians and Progressive Politics conference returns to the Boston area this year with the theme, “The Road to Justice.” With discussions on Turkish politics, the media, Turkish-Armenian relations and reparations, the conference will be held on Friday, September 26, and Saturday, September 27, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Friday night’s plenary session will feature linguist Noam Chomsky in conversation with Alternative Radio’s David Barsamian. Topics to be discussed include Turkish politics and social movements, the Gezi Park protests, and imperialism. Turkey’s failure to come to terms with its history and human rights record, particularly with regard to the Armenian Genocide and the Kurdish question, will also be examined. The plenary will take place in MIT’s Kresge Auditorium from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Levon Chorbajian, Carla Garapedian and Aris Nalci will explore aspects of the media, including public relations, propaganda and ownership, in the first of three panels on Saturday.

Turkey has been highly successful in distributing its narrative, often through professional



Noam Chomsky

public relations firms; despite having the advantage of historical truth, Armenians have not. The media often fails to present the Armenian Genocide as fact. Why? Does the US mainstream media frame the issue as a controversy due solely to Turkish pressure, or are American foreign policy and corporate interests responsible?

Turkish-Armenian relations have myriad aspects, including “reconciliation groups” and other civil society exchanges promoted by the US State Department. Are these initiatives in the interests of Armenia and Armenians?

Additionally, progressive Turkish academics, writers and activists have been instrumental in initiating discussion of the Armenian Genocide within Turkey, especially following the murder of Hrant Dink. Have any gone beyond calls for recognition of the Armenian Genocide; that is, have any demanded justice in the form of restitution and reparations? What can and should Armenians expect from them?

The Turkish-Armenian relations panel will also consider denial of the Armenian Genocide by the Turkish state and others. Denial is becoming more sophisticated, as evidenced by Prime Minister Erdogan’s statement this past April about “shared pain.”

The panel will include Bilgin Ayata, Peter Balakian and Marc Mamigonian.

The reparations panel will examine possible legal channels and strategies Armenians might pursue to reclaim land and property stolen during the Armenian Genocide, looking at other see FORUM, page 7



Archbishop Khajag Barsamian with students Nanar Nakashian and Dikran Enoyan

Jerusalem Students Attend St. Nersess Summer Conferences for Ninth Year

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. – In the serene setting of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, two bright and enthusiastic 16-year-old students from the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School of Jerusalem’s Armenian Patriarchate took part in the annual summer conferences.

“Our two weeks here has been a deeply enriching experience,” said Nanar Nakashian, and Dikran Enoyan, speaking almost simultaneously. “We made friends and bonded with the 36 other students. They believe the same as I do,” says Nakashian. “We made friends quickly. We related to each other quickly,” adds Enoyan.

By Florence Avakian

This is the ninth year that this program has been in operation. It was created, and continues to be organized by Rev. Mardiros Chevian, dean of St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, to enable promising students from Sts. Tarkmanchatz to enhance their spiritual life and knowledge, and meet their counterparts in America.

This year’s program was made possible by benefactors Russell and Susan Kashian (Wisc.), and Neil and Renee Ferraro (MA). Also supporting the program were Gabriel and Sophia Ovanessian (NY), Gregory and Meline Toufayan (NJ), Vicken and Rosette Arslanian (NJ), Stephen and Kristina Findikyan (NY), Keith and Karyn Bilezerian (MA), and Glen and Kristin Dabaghian (NJ).

Sts. Tarkmanchatz Armenian School, which has grades from kindergarten through high school, follows the British system, and is known for its academic excellence and warm family atmosphere. With its small classes (118 students total), it enhances personal attention to each student.

“The school brings together Armenian students of all the organizations and political persuasions,” Nakashian points out. “We all joined to go together to go to Armenia in the Ari Doun (Come Home) program,” says Nakashian who has been to Armenia twice. “Armenia is the only safe haven for Armenians,” Enoyan notes, voicing his patriotism. “It is our homeland.”

The school has played “an instrumental role in shaping us,” notes Enoyan. “It has ensured the educational value, and conserved the Armenian identity. Many of the teachers, the majority of which are Armenian, have PhDs, and relay the content of the subjects with knowledge and authority,” he relates.

Nakashian’s favorite subject is history. “It’s interesting how people lived in the past, compared to how life is today,” she comments that the principal of the school, the Very Rev. Norayr Kazazian is “serious, funny and understands the students. He tries to keep up with modern life.”

Enoyan praises the principal for the advancement of the educational direction, and the many renovations he has instituted in the school with the help of the Faisal Hussani Foundation, including new academic subjects, especially in the sciences, as well as the new rooms, furniture, doors, painting of the classrooms, etc.

Enoyan, who is interested in all aspects of science, hopes to advance his education following graduation next year in the field of oceanography, possibly at the University of Rhode Island. He would like to return to the Patriarchate in the future. “I can’t imagine life outside of that place,” he declares with emphasis.

Nakashian, who like Enoyan will be a senior, is gravitating to biology for future studies. Having made a video of life in the convent which is now on Facebook, she notes that it will be hard to leave. She calls Jerusalem “a cultural crossroads. There is so much culture in a small space, and we all know everyone, like one big family. I’m lucky to have been raised there where I could be assured to receive the proper education in an atmosphere of safety. It’s incredible how a mother can leave her child outside with no fear of the child’s safety,” she gushes.

They both pay tribute to the founder of the school, Bishop Guregh Kapikian, see ST. NERSESS, page 5

Dean Kay Appoints New Armenian Institute Director And Faculty

LOS ANGELES – On August 14, University of Southern California (USC) Dornsife College of Letters Arts and Sciences Dean Steve Kay announced the appointment of Salpi Ghazarian as director of USC Dornsife’s Institute of Armenian Studies (IAS) at a gathering of the IAS leadership council and supporters.

In addition, Kay appointed Armenian studies scholars Richard Antaramian as the Turpanjian Early Career Chair in Contemporary Armenian Studies and assistant professor of history, and Richard Hovannisian as adjunct professor of history.

Established in 2005 as part of the long partnership between USC and the Armenian community, the institute is structured as a multi-disciplinary center of learning and research.

Ghazarian begins her post on August 18. She arrives from the think-tank and advocacy group Civitas Foundation, where she was founding director. Managing a team of 60 professional and support staff, Ghazarian helped introduce a new culture of civic activism to Armenia’s struggling democracy by establishing and expanding the foundation’s programming to include civil society strengthening, Internet media, and research and publishing.

Antaramian will be the inaugural holder of the Turpanjian Early Career Chair in Contemporary Armenian Studies. He brings with him a vast knowledge of Armenian history see USC, page 5



USC Dornsife Dean Steve Kay (second from right) announced the appointments of Richard Antaramian (left), Richard Hovannisian and Salpi Ghazarian (right) during a gathering of the leadership council and supporters of USC Dornsife’s Institute of Armenian Studies.

AMAA Awards \$140,450 In College Scholarships

PARAMUS, N.J. – This year, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) awarded \$140,450 in scholarships to 57 deserving students who attend colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

In addition, \$15,000 will be awarded to needy and qualified university students in Armenia. These scholarships range from \$200 to \$600, as the cost of higher education in Armenia is significantly less.

Since its inception, the AMAA has helped thousands of students from kindergarten to high school with tuition aid, and hundreds of college students with scholarships. Moreover, the AMAA provides financial aid to schools and institutions of higher education in the Near East, including Haigazian University and the Near East School of Theology in Beirut.

The scholarships granted this year were provided from several AMAA scholarship funds established over the years to help students in need. Students may request applications from AMAA headquarters in Paramus, NJ beginning in January of each year. The deadline to submit applications for the 2015-2016 academic year is May 1, 2015.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Attorney Garabedian: Town Rejects Paying Molestation Victims

By Frank Mortimer

FOXBORO (*Foxboro Reporter*) – The town won't pay out millions of dollars in compensation to alleged victims of one-time youth leader William Sheehan, who is accused of molesting at least 28 boys decades ago.

Boston attorney Mitchell Garabedian, who last spring sent Foxboro an \$8 million settlement demand – \$1 million for each of the clients he had at the time – said this week that the town has refused to pay.

Selectmen chairwoman Lorraine Brue confirmed Tuesday that the board has rejected Garabedian's cash demand, but declined comment further.

Town Manager William G. Keegan Jr. replied on June 10 to Garabedian's demand.

In response to a public records request from the *Foxboro Reporter*, the office of town counsel Richard Gelerman released the letter Wednesday.

"Although the Town is sympathetic to any injuries your clients may have suffered, there is no indication that the Town is in any way liable for any of the alleged conduct of Mr. Sheehan that occurred more than 34 years ago," Keegan wrote. "Consequently, the Town is without

authority to pay your client(s) \$1,000,000.00, or any other sum."



Mitchell Garabedian

Sheehan, then 73, of Fort Myers, Fla., was identified in a warrant obtained by police Sept. 12, 2012, in Wrentham District Court.

The charges followed an investigation that began when one of his alleged victims contacted school Superintendent Debra Spinelli.

Garabedian at the time said he was investigating reports of child sexual abuse involving Sheehan from the late 1960s to 1980. The victims were approximately ages 8 to 13.

Over the past two years, 28 men have come forward to allege abuse by Sheehan, Police Chief Edward O'Leary said.

"These men came forward and gave direct information about a predator that victimized those men when they were young boys," O'Leary said.

Foxboro police obtained an arrest warrant for Sheehan in September 2012 alleging multiple counts of abuse of a child under 14 and also over 14. The warrant was based on testimony from three alleged victims who told Foxboro detectives Sheehan molested them between 1978 and 1981 in Foxboro.

In 1981, Sheehan moved with his family to Fort Myers, Fla., where he again obtained teaching and Scout leadership roles – positions from which he was eventually banned in that state.

Foxboro police and a representative of the Norfolk District Attorney's Office visited

Sheehan in a Florida nursing home in 2012, but were unable to arrest him because he was believed to have advanced Alzheimer's disease.

A psychiatrist later hired by the DA's office to evaluate Sheehan's medical records determined he was medically unfit to stand trial, O'Leary said.

"The investigation is over," O'Leary said. "There are no further investigative leads. We identified our suspect. We obtained enough probable cause for an arrest warrant for the person, but at this time there is no further ongoing investigation."

Meanwhile, efforts have been made to improve child protection, he and other officials said.

"I feel that our community has done an outstanding job in acting proactively in trying to prevent sexual abuse of children in the future," he said. "That's demonstrated by the community committing to have a strong core of trained adults that are more aware of the tactics of the predator and know what steps to take to protect children."

The May 12 annual town meeting established the Foxboro Child Safety Committee to include trained representatives of the schools, clergy, police, human services and other agencies.

"Several of us had the opportunity to meet with the victims early on, and one of the things that came across loud and clear to me was that there was a passion to make sure this type of thing would not happen again in our town," Selectman James DeVellis said Wednesday.

"As selectmen, we had an opportunity to do our best to assure a no tolerance environment

on our properties moving forward. One positive that came from this passion is that we now have a permanent, unanimously supported committee through town meeting in our bylaw with the unambiguous responsibility to educate and bring a sense of awareness that child abuse at any level is not tolerated here."

DeVellis said every sector is represented: sports, religion, private and public groups and all levels of town government.

In addition, Darkness to Light, a YMCA-affiliated sexual abuse awareness training was provided for hundreds of Foxboro school and municipal employees, and protective rules were put in place for groups using town facilities, he said.

"The victims selflessly coming forward to participate have no doubt been very helpful, and our community should be thankful for their courage."

Dean Kay Appoints New Armenian Institute Director and Faculty

USC, from page 4

and culture. He was recently awarded his PhD in history from the University of Michigan with a dissertation titled: "In Subversive Service of the Sublime State: Tanzimat, Consolidating Jurisdiction and Armenian Reform in the Ottoman Empire, 1844-1896."

Hovannisian will take a leading role in advising USC Shoah Foundation – The Institute for Visual History and Education in its efforts to integrate nearly 400 interviews of Armenian Genocide survivors into its Visual History Archive, a collection of 53,000 testimonies of the Holocaust and other genocides.

The Armenian interviews were recently given to the USC Shoah Foundation by the Armenian Film Foundation, and represent the work of the late Dr. J. Michael Hagopian, an Armenian Genocide survivor who filmed the interviews in 16mm between 1968 and 2004. Testimonies from the collection will begin to be integrated into the Visual History Archive by April 24, 2015, the centennial of the historic event.

Hovannisian is a Guggenheim Fellow and has received many honors for his scholarship, civic activities and advancement of Armenian studies. He is also the cofounder and three-time president of the Society for Armenian Studies.

"Salpi Ghazarian has a stellar background – both personally and professionally – to lead USC Dornsife's Institute of Armenian Studies," Kay said. "Every year there is an average of up to 1,000 Armenian Trojan students. Under Salpi's direction and with the expertise of Richard Hovannisian and Richard Antaramian, the institute will continue to play an integral role in our mission to provide students and researchers with the

tools they need for a comprehensive, interdisciplinary understanding of Armenia's past, present and evolving future."

Since its founding in 1880, USC has educated thousands of Armenian Americans who have gone on to distinguished careers in business, government, the arts and the professions. The institute offers courses in Armenian studies and has organized major community events, international conferences, symposia, exhibits, and concerts. On September 28, 2014, the institute's achievements will be honored with an anniversary gala in Los Angeles.

Charles Ghailian, chair of the institute's Leadership Council noted how fitting it is that these appointments come just as the institute is preparing to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

"The Leadership Council is grateful for the work of all those who supported, served and invested in the institute in its first decade, and now, continuing the partnership between the university and the Armenian community, we are committed to a new decade of innovative programming," Ghailian said. "We welcome Richard Antaramian, Salpi Ghazarian, and of course Richard Hovannisian, and on September 28 we will focus on that future."

Established in 2005, the USC Institute of Armenian Studies supports multidisciplinary scholarship to re-define, explore and study the complex issues that make up the contemporary Armenian experience – from post-Genocide to the developing Republic of Armenia to the evolving Diaspora. The institute encourages research, publications and public service, and benefits from communication technologies that link together the global academic and Armenian communities.

Jerusalem Students Attend St. Nersess Summer Conferences for Ninth Year

ST. NERSESS, from page 4

who was the principal until his death. With obvious admiration, they relate how a year ago a group was set up to organize a documentary in his memory titled "Vigilant Guardian." Nakashian's mother who had been a student in the school was part of the organizing event," she relates, revealing that a bronze sculpture of him is now in the school auditorium.

Enoyan calls the bishop "the engine" that brought about the new chapel in the Holy Sepulchre Church. "Bishop Guregh was responsible for two new sections in the school through his fundraising efforts, including the high school," he reveals, and adds that the clergyman was very interested and active in pursuing his interest in church architecture. "He made replicas of the churches in Armenia and Jerusalem, of which there was a mini exhibition

in Jerusalem." They are now housed in Armenia.

Nakashian was born in Jerusalem's Convent. Her father, Saro, is the CEO of the EFE Company (Education for Employment), and her mother, Nora, has been employed at the Sts. Tarkmanchatz School for 25 years. Her grandfather, Hrant Nakashian, was a photojournalist working for the United Nations.

Born in Beirut, Enoyan came with his family to Jerusalem at the age of 3. His father, Kevork, is the bookstore manager in the Armenian Patriarchate, and his mother, Micheline, is a ceramicist. His grandfather was a petroleum engineer in Syria.

Both Nakashian's and Enoyan's great-grandparents were survivors of the Armenian Genocide. Enoyan strongly supports recognition of the Genocide by the international com-

munity, and compensation in the form of land and money to the survivors of the victims. "I know no amount of money can compensate for the suffering and loss of life," he adds.

Two Weeks in a Different World

Returning to their participation in the summer program at St. Nersess, both Enoyan and Nakashian again repeat the enriching experience, and the commonality of interests they felt among their fellow students.

For Nakashian, the religious atmosphere was a revelation "where I learned so many things about Christianity. When I return, I will always pray before eating. If I don't pray, I will feel something is missing. Now I know what the prayers mean. I can now say them with my heart."

Enoyan emphasizes these feelings. "Even though there are morning and evening services

at the St. James Armenian Cathedral, I never knew what they meant. Now I know what they do in church. And equally, our experiences of bonding together were special. This was two weeks in a different world.

"I don't know what I'll do without my new friends. Of course we will stay in touch," he says, proudly pointing to his book filled with new phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

And with his typical enthusiasm, Fr. Mardiros notes, "It is always such a pleasure for me to witness the growth and excitement that the students of Jerusalem's Sts. Tarkmanchatz Armenian School experience by participating in the St. Nersess summer conferences. They leave here inspired and having gained new friends. The relationships begun here between American-Armenian and Jerusalem-Armenian young people will last a lifetime."



COMMUNITY NEWS

Market Basket Workers Defiant As Deadline Passes

By Kyle Clauss

TEWKSBURY (*Lowell Sun*) – The Market Basket standoff continued Friday morning as workers rallied against the company management at the corporate headquarters.

“This is good versus evil,” said Joe Garon, a Market Basket employee of 49 years. “The regular worker versus the CEO.”

Holding up signs and heckling the company CEOs leaving the premise, the workers remained defiant despite the threat from the corporate management that they must return to work by Friday or lose their jobs.

Later Friday afternoon, a replacement truck driver for Market Basket was arrested for allegedly approaching protesters with a hammer outside of headquarters, according to Tewksbury police.

Ira Forbes, 27, of Brooklyn, N.Y. was arrested after allegedly threatening demonstrators with a hammer.

He was charged with assault by means of a dangerous weapon and disorderly conduct. After a verbal altercation with protesters at the company's headquarters at 875 East St., police said Forbes armed himself with a hammer, got out of his truck and approached the crowd gathered around the entrance to the building.

Forbes ignored commands to get back into his truck and walked toward the crowd in a threatening manner, police said.

He is scheduled to be arraigned at Lowell District Court on Monday.

Market Basket released the following statement about the incident late Friday afternoon: “We are thankful that local police intervened and that no one was injured. Market Basket of course condemns the driver's actions. Both the driver and the company for which he worked have been terminated, effective immediately.”

Employees and customers have caused a standoff with the company over the firing of CEO Arthur T. Demoulas by the board of directors, a move led by cousin Arthur S. Demoulas. Workers say they will return only if Arthur T.

Demoulas is returned as CEO. Gov. Deval Patrick has urged employees to return to work while an agreement between the warring parties is negotiated, yet workers have ignored the governor's request.

“Artie's always been there for us. He's always taken care of us. Now it's our turn to take care of him,” said employee Rosie Hagopian.

Numerous protesters took issue with the barren flagpole outside Market Basket headquarters, which they say has lacked an American flag for the entire standoff.

“Every day we come in, first thing: That flag goes up. We've asked them to put the flag up. They've ignored us,” said Hagopian. “Four weeks, no flag. They should be ashamed of themselves.”

Hagopian, who worked in the meat department for 25 years before moving to the front office for 16, had not seen any employees return to work.

“That's where people are supposed to go back to work, between those two cones,” said Hagopian. “Do you see anybody? There's nobody. There hasn't been anybody. There isn't going to be anybody. Guaranteed.”

“Nobody's going to separate us. Nobody,” said Hagopian.

The company management countered the rally by placing security guards at both entrances. Guards filmed the protesters with handheld camcorders. All media was banned from the property. A Sun reporter was escorted to his car by security and filmed as he exited.

The large crowds appeared to be in for a long rally, putting up tents and roasting a lamb in a fire pit. The protesters received donations of sushi on Thursday, while Sal's Pizza has steadily donated pizzas.

“We're not going back until Arthur T. Demoulas owns and runs the company,” said Richard Fichera, who had been picketing since 6:30 Friday morning. “We're a family. We're going to stick together.”

“The Demoulas family created a wonderful career opportunity for the average person. It's a partnership,” said Fichera.

(Staff writer Chelsea Feinstein contributed to this report.)

Biotech CEO Nancy Simonian to Speak at St. James Men's Club

WATERTOWN – Dr. Nancy Simonian, chief executive officer of Syros Pharmaceuticals Inc., will speak at the St. James Armenian Church Men's Club Dinner Meeting on Monday September 8. Her talk is titled “The Long and Winding Road: Building Great Biotech Companies.”

Simonian, is the founding CEO of Syros Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a privately-held life science company focused on breakthroughs in gene control to revolutionize the treatment of cancer and other diseases. Through Syros' proprietary platform in mapping gene regulatory pathways in human disease tissue, novel approaches for treating disease are being pursued. She was chief medical officer at Millennium Pharmaceuticals and, previously, vice president of clinical development at Biogen. Under her leadership at Millennium, Velcade became a mainstay of treatment for multiple myeloma, and a billion dollar commercial blockbuster. She also built and advanced Millennium's promising pipeline of clinical stage drugs for cancer and Entyvio for inflammatory bowel disease. At Biogen, she played a central role in developing and commercializing blockbuster products for multiple sclerosis.

Simonian started her career as a member of the faculty at Harvard Medical School and neurology staff at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). She trained in neurology and internal medicine at the MGH, received her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania and graduated with a degree in biology from Princeton. She is a member of the board of directors of Seattle Genetics, Inc.

The social hour starts at 6:15 p.m., followed by a complete Armenian dinner at 7 p.m. The dinner meeting will be at the St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center- Keljik Hall, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown.

The program is open to the public and women are welcome. For more information, including ticket prices, call the church.



Dr. Nancy Simonian

OBITUARY

Lt. Col. David B. Davidian Sr.

WEST YARMOUTH, Mass. – Lt. Col. David B. Davidian, Sr. died on March 12, at the age of 89, at Mt. Auburn Hospital, with his family by his side.

He was the husband of the late Mary (Dolbashian) and Roxy (Shrestinian) Davidian.

He was the son of the late Bagdassar and Mary (Oozoonian) Davidian.

He was a graduate from Classical High School and Clark University with a degree in history and international relations.

Davidian enlisted in the US Army Air Corps in 1943. He was stationed in England during WWII. He was a lead navigator in the 301st AAF BU and flew a B17 conducting bombing raids over Germany, earning him an Air Medal. He was recalled during the Korean War in 1951 and later during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He retired in 1974 as a lieutenant colonel. His WWII crew was a tight group of friends. They had a 50th reunion at his home in West Yarmouth, a historic event that made front page of the Cape Cod Times.

He was the father of David B. Davidian, Jr. and his wife Innessa Antonian of Belmont, Mass., Christyne Davidian of Petaluma, Calif., Susan Davidian Kinnear and her husband Michael Norman Kinnear of Watertown, and the late Melanie Davidian of Burlington, Vt. He leaves his grandchildren, Shant Davidian of Waltham, Mass., Ani and David Davidian III of Belmont, Matthew Ray and Gregory Davidian Hubert of Petaluma, Michaela Araxi and David Aram Kinnear of Watertown. He survived two sisters, Ojen Fantazian of Arlington, Mass. and Vartouhi Merzigian of Worcester. He also leaves many nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces.

He worked for New York Life Insurance for



Lt. Col. David B. Davidian Sr.

more than 40 years. He built a nursing home Medway Country Manor, from the ground up, with his partner, John Peters, Jr. and worked as the treasurer until he retired in 1992.

He was a member of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church in Worcester, served on the Board of Trustees, and was a member of the Men's Club for many years. He was a member of the ARF, was on the board that formed the Worcester AYF Juniors and helped with the construction of Camp Haiastan in Franklin, Mass.

In lieu of flowers, donation can be made to the Armenia Tree Project, 65 Main St., #3, Watertown, MA 02472.

Notes of comfort and sympathy may be sent to the family at www.MorrisOConnorBlute.com (This obituary originally appeared in last week's *Mirror-Spectator*, with a typographical error in the headline.)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Biotech and Ebola in Cambridge: Chris Garabedian, CEO of Sarepta

EBOLA, from page 1

The problem is that treatments for many diseases which are usually restricted in the numbers of victims do not economically attract investments necessary to support research and trials. For this reason, drugs intended to treat rare diseases affecting fewer than 200,000 people in the US are called orphan drugs. Garabedian said, "I think the US government knows, as governments around the world know, that to leave it up to the private sector to develop technologies and medical countermeasures against these threats, whether pandemic threats that spread naturally or biological ones that someone can manufacture in a garage, is not feasible. They know they have to foot the bill. The problem is that they are not funding it fully." He pointed out that crises come and go, so specific diseases float in and out of the public's awareness along with a sense of urgency, but the potential threats remain.

For Ebola in particular, his company has enough supply ready only to treat 100-150 people, if the FDA would give emergency authorization, along with permission from the Department of Defense which had provided initial funding. In case Ebola does spread on a greater scale, he said, "We hope that this is raising awareness that we have the technology but need to raise the manufacturing ability to a higher scale."

The same is true of course for Ebola drugs using different approaches which are being developed by a few other companies, like Tekmira's TKM-Ebola, which the FDA very recently allowed to be used on infected people. However, Garabedian exclaimed that "regardless of what press or market reactions have been, we still think that we have the most advanced and robust data set for safety and efficacy that is out there for Ebola."

There are many companies utilizing various types of technologies that attempt to modify or suppress RNA. Sarepta uses phosphorodiamidate morpholino oligomers (PMOs), stable synthetic chemical structures similar to RNA. They can be used to create drugs specific for either human or pathogen RNA and can also target

specific tissues. PMOs increase or decrease the production of a protein involved in a disease. In the case of Ebola or other viruses, the PMOs block access of the virus to human cellular machinery and thus inhibit its replication.

Despite the attention that it is garnering lately, the work on Ebola or related viruses like Marburg is not the main focus of Sarepta's commercial research. Instead, it is pursuing PMO-based therapeutics actively for a form of muscular dystrophy called Duchenne (DMD), which is caused by a mutation or error in the gene for dystrophin, a protein necessary to protect human cells during muscle function. The PMO treatment in this case deals with human and not virus RNA, and is targeted to skip defective mutated sections of the dystrophin gene to allow the body to make functional dystrophin protein. It can be targeted to specific mutations, and thus treat different varieties of the disease. Phase IIb clinical trials on safety and efficacy have already been done on one of these drugs, eteplirsen, meaning that it is advancing in the FDA process needed for government approval.

Garabedian stated that the reason for the focus on DMD is that "Duchenne is a commercially viable market, high on medical need." Furthermore, the same technology can be used for a series of related drugs. Garabedian said, "It is the consummate personalized medicine."

This is novel for regulators like the FDA. He continued: "I would say that this technology demands a new approach from the FDA...If you read that we have had ups and downs, it is because the FDA sometimes gets more conservative the more advanced and novel the technology is. I have been characterized as being aggressive or pushing too hard, but all we were doing is arguing on behalf of patients who need this technology."

Sarepta needs at least one successful breakout drug to allow it to expand the scale of its finances and work. Afterwards, it can expand its PMO-based approach to many different diseases and genetic problems, and will be in an enviable position. For example, among its other ongoing projects, Sarepta is testing a flu drug using the PMO approach.

There are many companies working on RNA therapeutics with different approaches. While some others also work with PMOs, Garabedian said, "We have the lion's share of the real estate of morpholino intellectual property. We also have the most know-how on scale-up manufacturing. While we don't have a 100 percent lock on all morpholino, we are the only one in advanced drug development. We have patents."

Born in 1966 and raised in the Washington DC area, Garabedian is Armenian on both his mother and father's sides. His parents were born in the US but his grandparents fled the Armenian Genocide to the US via Ellis Island and Cuba. He did not get to know his grandparents well, as they died either before he was born or while he was still a child. Garabedian's parents tried to instill Armenian culture in their children, but by the time they came to young Chris, it became too difficult. For this reason, Garabedian said, "Peter Balakian's *Black Dog of Fate* resonated with me. I too grew up with American cultural mores and came to appreciate my Armenian heritage as an adult." He started to read books, and saw movies like Atom Egoyan's "Ararat," and encountered in the popular culture efforts at documenting the Armenian plight. He did work for around a year from 1998 to 1999 for an Armenian, Vaughn Kailian, CEO and president at COR Therapeutics, but otherwise has had little opportunity to cultivate his Armenian connections in his profession.

Garabedian had a business background in college and initially worked in market research, brand management and new product development. He described his involvement in biopharmaceuticals as "a little bit of serendipity." He began learning about this industry in a consulting company, and from 1994 worked at Abbott Laboratories in Chicago, which "was a great training ground...Then Gilead Sciences called in 1997 and I joined them. This was my formative experience in the biotech industry. They really shaped a vision. At the time, they were less valued than Sarepta is today. They had a few more employees...They have about a 140 billion dollar market capitalization today. They built it on a relatively small footprint ... I really learned what it

takes to build a successful biotech, how to build in a lean, smart way, and good, smart drug development. I learned from my mentors, like John Martin as CEO of Gilead."

Garabedian found out through experience that many companies failed not due to problems with their technology, but how they applied that technology, the information they attached to a particular drug, and how they dealt with the regulatory process.

Garabedian joined Celgene Corporation in 2007, feeling they were on the same trajectory of success as Gilead, and became vice president of corporate strategy. He led its first commercial acquisition of a company called Pharmion. He joined the board of directors of AVI (the predecessor of Sarepta) in June 2010 and became its president and CEO in January 2011.

So far, things have worked out pretty well at Sarepta. With a cutting-edge technology moving toward FDA approval, it had the top performing stock of all 2012. It rarely used to break over a market value of 400 million dollars, and now it has been operating at a valuation between eight hundred million to 1.8 one billion. Garabedian does not want a buyout, and tells investors that the company is woefully undervalued, so they should stick with it for the next five or ten years.

Garabedian nurtures grand ambitions for Sarepta, and for himself. He learnt from two highly successful chief executive officers, and so instead of staying as part of a good management team, wanted the opportunity to build the next great company, the equivalent of a Google or Apple: "What I'm driven by and what motivates me is to apply my experience in this industry, to take a technology that can be the next revolution in medicine. If I can see this developed to treat even one serious disease like Duchenne, I will feel pretty good. I think this technology can be applied to many diseases. We all strive to be part of being something bigger than ourselves. This industry, this technology and this company give me the opportunity to do that. I hope my children will be proud of it, that they may have sacrificed time with their dad for something bigger."

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Progressive Politics Conference Returns

FORUM, from page 4

cases in which reparations were paid. Panelists will discuss what was taken, its value today, pertinent international treaties and laws, and appropriate forums such as the International Court of Justice.

In addition to demanding reparations and restitution from Turkey, panelists will also consider whether Armenians should pursue reparations from all those nations and corporations who benefitted from the Armenian Genocide. If one believes that the Armenian Genocide did not end in 1923, but continues to this day, are those nations who ally themselves with Turkey colluding in the perpetration of the genocide?

With the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide approaching, panelists Umit Kurt, Edvin Minassian and Thomas Samuelian will highlight these questions.

A discussion titled, "Where do we go from here" will conclude the conference. Saturday's panels will be held in MIT Building 6, lecture room 120, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

APP is a project of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation-Eastern USA. This year's conference is co-sponsored by Alternative Radio and the MIT Armenian Society.

All events are free and open to the public. For details, visit: <http://armenianprogressive.com>.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Twenty Days in Armenia

A Journey of Service and Discovery

NEW YORK — They prayed in ancient cliff-side monasteries, explored a medieval fortress and experienced the cool, fresh waters of Lake Sevan.

The 12 young people taking part in this summer's ACYOA Armenia Service Program (ASP) crisscrossed Armenia, encountering its geography and its religious and historic sites. But the three-week journey, from July 1 to July 20, was more than a tour of the homeland, participants said. It was also an introduction to the local way of life and an opportunity to give back.

The group was led by the Rev. Hratch Sargsyan, pastor of St. Gregory of Narek Church of Cleveland, Ohio, with assistance from Ani Gulbenk of Fairfield, Conn.

The ACYOA again partnered with the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) to prepare the service component of the itinerary and group members volunteered at FAR's Vanadzor Old Age Home and Tzitzernag Summer Camp in Armenia's third-largest city.

"There was a lot that I learned from this service experience," said ASP participant Julia Janigian. "One key thing was that little acts of service can do a lot more to help others than one imagines."

A Lifelong Commitment

Upon arrival in Vanadzor, the group was greeted by Archbishop Sebouh Chuljyan, Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Gougark. Chuljyan led them on a tour of the city and introduced them to members of the local youth organization.

During their weeklong stay, the ASP participants assisted at Tzitzernag Summer Camp and at the Vanadzor Old Age Home. At the camp, they joined the children for games, dances and other activities. In addition to hosting children in need from the local area, this summer the camp welcomed kids who are refugees from war-torn Syria.

At the Old Age Home, the young people took turns helping prepare meals — they learned to make *dolma*, *sarma*, *kebab* and *pilaf* — as well as cleaning, ironing and doing yard work. When all the work was complete, they spent time socializing with the elderly and hearing their stories.

"It was great to see that we were really helping them," said Gina Falzone, adding that the residents were eager to make the young volunteers feel welcome. "It is a distinct quality in Armenians that they want to make you happy and to feel at home. Everyone was like a mother or father to us."

Other participants agreed that volunteering in Armenia was one of the most important aspects of their trip.

"We realized that our service in Armenia is a lifelong commitment," said Alexis Shahnasarian. "The days we spent in Vanadzor were the most impactful and important days we spent on our trip."

An Unforgettable Journey

For a number of the travelers, ASP marked their first time in the homeland and the opportunity to see Armenia's historic sites — sites they grew up admiring in books and learning about in Armenian and Sunday School — was an unforgettable experience.

Among the highlights of their itinerary was a visit to Vagharshapat for worship services in some of Armenia's earliest and most celebrated churches. At St. Hripsime Church the group

experienced one of the most beautiful examples of Armenian architecture before proceeding to the Cathedral of Holy Echmiadzin — the spiritual center of the Armenian people.

"It was a monumental feeling to experience

Armenia in their hearts." He reminded them of the importance of preserving their Armenian heritage abroad and of maintaining their ties to the homeland when they return to their home parishes.

Other stops included the monasteries of Khor Virab, Geghard, Noravank, Saghmosavank and Datev, where the travelers rode the world's longest aerial tramway across the Vortan River Gorge to the ninth-century monastic complex. Their travels were enriched by *Bible* study and discussion sessions at the various sites.

"It had always been my dream to travel to Armenia," said Andrew Tesini. "Being in Armenia



Sampling dried fruit outside Geghard monastery.

the power of the Holy Spirit in Echmiadzin after hearing about it for so many years," said Alexis Shahnasarian. They participated in the Divine Liturgy there and later visited the nearby St. Gayane Church.

The young people also met with Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian church. The catholicos blessed them and encouraged them to "keep

gave me a better understanding of the Armenian culture and made me have a stronger connection to my Armenian roots."

They visited the Sardarabad memorial dedicated to Armenia's 1918 victory over the Ottoman army. In Oshakan, they saw the St. Mesrob Mashdots Church, where the creator of the

continued on next page



Young people dance with a resident of the Vanadzor Old Age Home



Playing tavloo at the Vanadzor Old Age Home.


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COMMUNITY NEWS

from previous page

Armenian alphabet was buried in the fifth century. On Lake Sevan, they climbed up a rocky path leading to the ninth-century St. Arakelots and St. Asdvadzadzin churches and in Garni they saw a colorful performance by a local dance group against the backdrop of Armenia's only surviving pagan temple.

"I have great impressions from this introduction to the homeland," said Gina Falzone. "All of the churches, historical sites and mountainous views were breathtaking and all of the people were so warm and welcoming."

In Yerevan, the group visited the Tzitzernagaberd Genocide Memorial, Erebuni Fortress, National Parliament, Victory Park, Cascade, Matenadaran Manuscript Library and the outdoor Vernissage market.

At the conclusion of their trip, the ASP participants visited the Fund for Armenian Relief's Children's Center in Yerevan, where they learned about the center's child protection programs. The children prepared a play for the visitors and everyone enjoyed a day of playing games, singing and dancing.

"As a great-granddaughter of an Armenian Genocide survivor, I was always proud to be Armenian. I shared my family's stories and felt connected to my heritage," said Julia Janigian. "But being in my homeland was an unforgettable experience. I especially loved passing people on

the streets and seeing their friendly eyes and smiles."

Participants also noted how engaging it was to discover Armenia with other people their age from across the Eastern Diocese. "I could not have picked a better group to experience the Armenia Service Program with," said Alexis Shahnasarian. "Over the 20-day pilgrimage, we went from strangers to family."

Alexandra Hachigian remembers a warm family meal in Sargsyan's childhood home, not far from Vagharshapat. "I offered my help in the kitchen and despite the language barrier, I felt right at home," she said. "The fellowship with Der Hratch and his family is something I will always hold in my heart."

Sargsyan said the trip was also rewarding for him as a pastor. "With every step we took together, I saw them grow in their understanding of Armenia and their Christian identity," Sargsyan said. "They truly embraced the land and the people as their home and I was touched by their commitment to serving others. Their love and care will remain in people's hearts long after this summer."

Julia Janigian said she was struck by "all the beauty that God has created in this country."

"It's very important to carry back home all the things that we learned about our Armenian homeland," she went on. "We have to continue to strengthen our faith and our connection to our heritage."



The ASP group at Khor Virab monastery.



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Ani Batikian - Violin
Benjamin Frith - Piano

6th September 2014, 7:30pm

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The brilliant Armenian violinist Ani Batikian plays a varied and challenging repertoire of much-loved violin virtuoso pieces, accompanied by the internationally-acclaimed pianist Benjamin Frith. To mark the 111th anniversary of the great composer Aram Khachaturian, the programme includes some of his outstanding works, as well as pieces by Debussy, Brahms, Saint-Saens, Chopin, Baghdasarian and Roberts.

"Ani controls the violin with very strong technique, possesses a very beautiful tone and expresses her music with very good sense of style and personal sensitivity." - Pierre Amoyal, Concert Violinist

"Player of great stature and powerful personality... A real performer of the highest level." - David Strange, Head of String Department Royal Academy of Music, London

"...a wonderful violinist despite her youth." - Michael Tumelty, The Herald

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Councilmember Paul Krekorian presents the City Resolution plaque to Dr. Frieda Jordan.

Los Angeles Resolution Commends ABMDR

LOS ANGELES – On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR), the Los Angeles City Council honored the organization by adopting a resolution commending its life-saving mission.

Councilmember Paul Krekorian presented the resolution to ABMDR President Dr. Frieda Jordan and other representatives of the registry during a ceremony held in Council Chambers on August 12.

The ceremony was attended by the Los Angeles City Council. The ABMDR team accepting the honor included, in addition to Jordan, ABMDR Executive Director Dr. Sevak Avagyan, honorary Chair Dr. Bella Kocharian, Arpine Zohrabian, Alique Topalian and her parents, Mourad and Arpi Topalian. Also present was Carmen Libaridian.

patient with a life-threatening blood disease – now or in the future – will have a much better chance of survival," she said. "But the benefits don't stop there. The ABMDR also presents the citizens of this great city with the opportunity to actually save a life by registering as potential donors, or lending their support as volunteers and contributors."

She concluded by stating, "Today, as we celebrate our 15th anniversary, we salute the dedicated members of the Los Angeles City Council and thank you all for your gracious recognition of our mission, which helps save lives in Los Angeles and beyond, in communities throughout the world."

Also delivering remarks were Zohrabian, who has saved the life of a child by donating her bone marrow, and Alique Topalian, a childhood cancer sur-



From left: Mourad and Arpi Topalian, Alique Topalian, Dr. Bella Kocharian, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Dr. Frieda Jordan, Dr. Sevak Avagyan and Carmen Libaridian

As he presented the resolution plaque to Jordan, Krekorian said, "The Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry Charitable Trust has made tremendous strides for patients suffering from life-threatening illnesses. The registry's work has saved the lives of thousands of Armenians around the world. I was proud to honor the organization on its 15th anniversary and thank the dedicated volunteers who bring hope and care to patients worldwide."

In her acceptance speech, Jordan spoke of the major achievements and goals of the registry. "The ABMDR ensures that a

vivor who 15 years ago inspired the establishment of ABMDR.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, several members of the City Council approached the ABMDR representatives to convey their congratulations and appreciation of the registry's work.

"This has been a wonderful and deeply moving event," Jordan commented afterwards. "I can't say enough about Councilmember Paul Krekorian for his absolute dedication to the well-being of our community, and the Los Angeles City Council as a whole for its beautiful gesture in recognizing our work."

Arts & Living

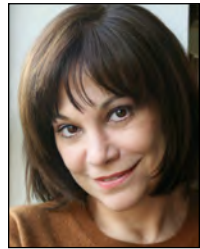
Rated SR Film Fest New York Kicks off 2nd season With Launch Party

NEW YORK – Following a successful inaugural year with 55 films from 18 countries, Rated SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York is gearing up for its second edition with a gathering at Bettolona restaurant on Wednesday, September 3. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the winning film directors, cast members and their colleagues as well as network with important industry guests. There will be prizes to win and passes to the festival to be given out.

Founded by award-winning actor, filmmaker and curator Nora Armani in order to promote positive social change through films covering a range of social issues, this year's Rated SR film festival has two special spotlight sections titled 100 Years of Genocide & Women Filmmakers of MENA respectively.

"I know many Middle Eastern and MENA women filmmakers who are really talented and make films that deal with socially relevant issues not limited to the status of women only," said Armani. "I have always wanted to present their work to U.S. audiences and we thought this would be a good time to do it."

This year's festival will also shed light on the atrocities of genocide that are ruthlessly carried



Nora Armani

out to the present day. The festival provides a platform to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide during World War I and honors the sacred memory of its victims in a context that is much more universal and international by juxtaposing it to the Holocaust, the Ethnic Cleansing Acts in Eastern Europe, Rwanda, Sudan and others.

"There are many nations that have suffered the fate of the Armenians to various degrees," said Armani. "It is important to put all of that into context and show that impunity encourages further acts of Genocide."

Reflecting on the current situation of Christians in Iraq, Armani likens it to the sufferings of Armenians one hundred years ago.

Rated SR promotes and provides exposure to its films into a wider viewership by accompanying the winning filmmakers beyond the festival week. This year, Rated SR took seven of the programmed documentaries to Cannes for the Cannes Film Festival Doc Corner. The Grand Prize winning film "Small Small Thing" had its weeklong release in June as part of the prize at the Quad Cinema and received positive coverage in the New York Times and Village Voice, among other respectable publications. The winning documentary Not Who We Are obtained a DVD-VOD distribution by Cinema Libre Studio and three of the six selected shorts from the festival's slate are already distributed on IndiePix.

At its core, Rated SR films must relay a positive uplifting message even when dealing with social ills.

"I strongly believe that if a film is made well, and it has an interesting social or human angle, it does not need to rely on gratuitous violence, crime, drugs, nor does it need to glamorize violence through exaggerated special effects in order to become commercially viable," said Armani. "By offering a platform to filmmakers who choose to make socially relevant films that are also entertaining, we encourage them to make more films of that kind. Film submissions are now open. We look forward to hearing from filmmakers."

Submission details may be found on <http://www.ratedsrfilms.org>

The launch party for the second edition of the Socially Relevant Film Festival will take place on Wednesday, September 3, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Bettolona restaurant, 3143 Broadway. No tickets will be sold at the door. To reserve and purchase tickets, go to <https://sorelevantbettolona.eventbrite.com> or email ratedsrfilms@gmail.com



"Queen of Quince" Barbara Ghazarian

Fans of Quince Promote The Uncommon Fruit

CLOVIS, Calif. (*Appeal-Democrat*) – Even in fruit-productive California, sources of the fragrant quince fruit are limited, but a few determined growers produce it and provide it for consumer enjoyment

Sometimes described as a fuzzy apple, its ardent fans are relentless in their promotion of the golden globe of fruits. Like apples and pears, it carries its seeds in a core, is produced by an expansive tree, ripens in the fall and has ornamental relatives that grow on vines.

By Don Curlee

Recently, the quince has gained a reputation for making a unique cider and spicy wines produced in the mountains of Santa Cruz County. But raw product for crushing is basically produced elsewhere, even on small plots as far away as rural Oregon.

But customers for the fresh product, many of them in Eastern Canada, count on quince grown in the Terra Bella area in southeastern Tulare County. One grower there, considered major by quince industry standards, has been supplying the market for several years from 26 acres of the astringent fruit.

Although quince has been a solid source of revenue for him, and expansion is on his mind, the fruit ranked 45th of the top 45 fruit crops listed in Tulare County. Production in 2013 amounted to \$1.95 million.

The best chance of finding quince locally in the fresh state is at scattered farm stands and markets that dot Fresno and Tulare counties. One of them, the Vineyard Farmers Market, occupies a popular urban location in Fresno, where operator Richard Erganian proudly maintains a display of quince every year during its short season. Specialty grocery stores such as Whole Foods can be sources as well.

However, limited supplies and minimal growers do not reduce the enthusiasm that true fans of quince feel and express. One of the most vocal and persistent is Barbara Ghazarian of Pacific Grove. She so associates with the fruit that she calls herself the Queen of Quince.

Ghazarian has written three books about quince, with recipes and history. A graduate of Wellesley College in molecular biology, she enjoys public appearances that allow her to discuss the long history of quince in Middle Eastern countries and its origins in locations not far from the Garden of Eden, if anybody can ever pinpoint that.

She points out that old world families cherished a quince tree almost as much as a member of the family. Boiling a batch of chopped-up quince brings its pectin to the fore, used then in canning fruits and for thickening and stretching other food dishes.

At the US Department of Agriculture Experiment station in Corvallis, Ore., John Postman admits that the quince has limited appeal, although one of his assignments is to maintain a focus on its potential and the broader possibilities for quince wood as a rootstock for breeding purposes.

The relatively wide range of negative responses leave Ghazarian undaunted. From her exalted throne room in Pacific Grove she has joined with the California Rare Fruit Growers to declare 2014 as the year of the quince.

Her heirloom approach is compatible with the slow food, sustainable food movement and the fans of old fashioned cooking she refers to as fruit nerds.

Ghazarian was a special guest speaker at The Quince Revival Swells – 2014 Festival of Fruit in Portland, Ore., August 6-9.

She talked about how to prepare such delicacies as candied quince, quince jam and chicken and quince stew. For the more adventurous, she emphasized the favorites of quince-orange pickles and a medley of quince chutneys, compotes, cobblers and sweets.

Vartanian Datian's Recipe Named as Editor's Choice in June *Sunset* Magazine

LAS VEGAS – Christine Vartanian Datian, a resident of Las Vegas, is the daughter of Alice Vartanian and the late Arthur Vartanian of Fresno. Her latest recipe, "Grilled Chicken and Bulgur Salad," was featured in the June 2014 *Sunset* magazine as the Editor's Selection and received a \$250 prize.

She is known for her many recipes that have been published in *Sunset* and *Cooking Light* magazines. Several of her Armenian recipes can be found at the popular theArmenianKitchen.com website based in Florida. She has been published in the *Fresno Bee* and the *Armenian Reporter* newspapers.

Datian attributes her accomplishments and great interest in writing, cooking and creating recipes to her mother, Alice, and late grandmother, Mrs. Levon Sarkisian from Los Angeles and Lowell, Mass.

"My mother and grandmother were loving, energetic and generous women and mothers who took pride in making outstanding dishes and recipes for our family celebrations, parties, and special events throughout our lives; I learned by watching and listening to them both laugh, talk (in Armenian and Turkish) and work together in the kitchen at our home in Fresno; they instilled a great attention to detail and interest in Middle Eastern and traditional Armenian flavors, ingredients, and cooking techniques at an early age," she adds. "They really cooked with love, and that made all the difference..."

"I can still taste my grandmother's Armenian green bean *fasoulia* stew she made for our family when she visited Fresno each summer, with fresh green beans, tomatoes, peppers, garlic, onions, spices, fresh mint and lamb. It was a feast all by itself. And her buttery, sweet baklava melted in your mouth, a dessert my family remembers to this day..."

Her grandmother, Pepay Sarkisian, who was born in Adana, Turkey, endured a very turbulent and tragic childhood; she was in an orphanage at a young age, and survived with the fortitude to ultimately come to America with her new husband, Levon, a successful barber, and to have a home, a family business, and to raise their family of three children in Lowell with many other new immigrants at the time.

Datian's mother celebrated her 85th birthday this spring and is known for her superb *yalanche*, *dolma*, rice and bulgur pilaf, cheese boureg, and specialty cookies, nut breads, *gata*, biscotti and desserts, including her celebrated Armenian *shakar-ishe* or sugar cookies, she adds.

Christine graduated from California State University, Fresno (CSUF) with BA and MA Degrees, and worked in marketing and advertising in Fresno, San Francisco and in Reno for Harrah's Reno and Harrah's Lake Tahoe award-winning resort properties before moving to Las Vegas to work at R&R Advertising, Nevada's premier advertising and public relations company for President Sig Rogich, veteran Nevada advertising executive and former US Ambassador to Iceland.

She served in technical support positions at the Yucca Mountain Project (YMP) for the Department of Energy (DOE) and at the Nevada Test Site at Mercury, Nevada.

Readers will find her recipes by going to the *Sunset* or *Cooking Light* websites at: <http://search.myrecipes.com/search.html?Ntt=Christine+Datian> or to: <http://www.thearmeniankitchen.com/>.



ARTS & LIVING

Kocharian's 'Please Be Normal' Wins in Competition

YEREVAN – “Please Be Normal,” a film written and directed by award-winning filmmaker and photographer Haik Kocharian, took part in the Armenian Panorama Competition of the Golden Apricot International Film Festival held in Yerevan, in July. The film won the Jury Diploma “Armenian Panorama Special Mention” for its expression of complex, emotional human conditions on the screen through compelling visuals and powerful performance.

Notably, the film also won the Queen Nevert Award for best cinematography of more than 100 films presented by the Armenian Association of Filmmakers.

Filmed in New York and Connecticut, “Please Be Normal” is a bold and visionary reflection on the universal problem of choosing the direction of our lives. A young, struggling playwright and theater director, Victor, and his girlfriend Mary are expecting their first child.

As Mary’s dad keeps buying them things they could never afford, Victor’s claustrophobia and sense of entrapment grows. His inner struggle to meet their expectations seems to be guiding him towards a way of life he is unwilling to accept.

With two screenings at the international film festival, the film played to a full house in the Moscow Film Theater’s Red Hall and was positively received by the audience and the jury.

Jean-Christophe Ferrari, the president of the Armenian Panorama Jury, found “Please Be Normal” to be an example of Armenian cinema having its own voice. The official release of “Please Be Normal” in the United States is scheduled for late fall 2014.

In addition, the film also won audience choice award at Monadnock International Film Festival earlier this year.



Haik Kocharian picks up his award.

Jazz Workshops at The Loft in Northampton

By Sean T. McGuire

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (*The Republic*) – Since 2010, the Jazz Workshop series has been winning over music lovers at The Loft at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton on Tuesday night.

“We’re bursting at the seams whenever there’s a big name...we get to play with great musicians every week,” said band member Paul Arslanian.

Returning for its fourth year, the workshop has continued to keep growing over the years.

“We started in a small cafe on Green Street and played there for about a year and a half then we moved to the Clarion, which is a great art scene. Before we used to get maybe fifty people and it was packed...When we moved it definitely grew plus we brought all the same people with us,” Arslanian said.

Featured guests include:

- August 26- Tim Armacost on tenor sax
- September 2- Giacomo Gates on vocals (open-



The Green Street Trio, with members George Kaye on bass, Jon Fisher on drums, and Paul Arslanian on piano

- ing event of the Northampton Jazz Festival)
- September 9- Kris Allen on alto sax
- September 16- Felipe Salles on tenor sax
- September 23- Barry Ries on trumpet
- September 30- Rich Greenblatt on vibes

“It’s like an education sometimes...you get to hear music from your idols,” Arslanian said.

Each hour-long concert starts at 7:30 p.m, followed by a two-hour jam session until 10:30 p.m. The Loft is located in the Clarion Hotel.

Sculptor Boyajian Chosen To Create Logo for Danbury Race4Scholars

DANBURY, Conn. (*Danbury Daily Voice*) – The Cultural Alliance of Western Connecticut, in collaboration with WHEELPassion, selected two artists to create a design for the inaugural Danbury Audi Race4Scholars Criterium.

Danbury art director and designer Paul Minigiello created the race’s logo and New Fairfield sculptor David Boyajian interpreted Minigiello’s logo to create an award, which were unveiled at the winners’ circle ceremonies after the race in Danbury on Sunday, August 17.

“The arts and recreation complement one another and the upcoming race was a great opportunity to incorporate creative talent from the area,” said Lisa Scails, executive director of the Cultural Alliance.

The award was presented by WHEELPassion to Josh Weeks, dealer and principal for the race’s title sponsor Danbury Audi, as a gesture of appreciation for Danbury Audi’s commitment to promoting cycling in the area and helping to make the Race4Scholars Criterium a reality.

The race helps establish college scholarship funds for high school graduates majoring in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines, as well as medical and other relevant fields.

Hundreds of top pros and amateurs participated and raced their bikes around the 0.6-mile (1K) closed course multiple times – with spectators just inches away from the riders as they hammer around the course.

The Danbury Audi Race4Scholars Criterium also aimed to promote women’s racing by offering equal distances and prize money for the Woman’s Feature 1, 2, 3 & Pro event.

Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2014



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.

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ARTS & LIVING

Book Review

Inheritance Of Hidden Armenian Grandchildren In Turkey

NEW YORK – *The Grandchildren* is a collection of intimate, harrowing testimonies by grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Turkey's "forgotten Armenians" – the orphans adopted and Islamized by Muslims after the Armenian Genocide. Through them we learn of the tortuous routes by which they came to terms with the painful stories of their grandparents and their own identity. The postscript offers a historical overview of the silence about Islamized Armenians in most histories of the genocide.

When Fethiye Çetin first published her groundbreaking memoir in Turkey, *My*

*The Grandchildren
The Hidden Legacy of "Lost"
Armenians in Turkey*

by Ayse Gül Altınay and Fethiye Çetin

With an introduction by Gerard Libaridian and translated by Maureen Freely
ISBN: 978-14128-5391-0 (hardcover) 2014 270 pp. \$49.95

Grandmother, she spoke of her grandmother's hidden Armenian identity. The book sparked a conversation among Turks about the fate of the Ottoman Armenians in Anatolia in 1915. This resulted in an explosion of debate on Islamized Armenians and their legacy in contemporary Muslim families.

The Grandchildren (translated from Turkish) is a follow-up to *My Grandmother*, and is an important contribution to understanding survival during atrocity. As witnesses to a dark chapter of history, the grandchildren of these survivors cast new light on the workings of memory in coming to terms with difficult pasts.

Ayşe Gül Altınay teaches anthropology, cultural studies, and gender studies at Sabanci University in Istanbul. With Yesim Arat, she won the PEN Turkey's Duygu Asena Award in 2008 for their book *Gender Based Violence in Turkey*.

Fethiye Çetin is a human rights activist and attorney in Turkey. Her bestselling book, *My Grandmother*, received Prix Armenia 2006 in France.

Gerard Libaridian is the editor of Transaction's *Armenian Studies* series.

For more books in the Armenian Studies series, visit www.transactionpub.com/arm.

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MASSACHUSETTS

AUGUST 24 – Armenian Church at Hye Pointe Picnic to be held at American Legion Farm, 1314 Main St., Haverhill MA (take Rte. 495 to Exit 51 B onto Rte. 125 N), noon to 5 p.m. Music by the Jason Naroian Ensemble. Menu includes Shish, Losh, & Chicken Kebab Dinners, Kheyma, Pastries, & Beverages. Raffles for Cash prizes & Gift Certificates. Air Conditioned Hall. Bring your lawn chairs. For more info visit www.hyepointechurch.org or call (978) 372-9227

SEPTEMBER 7 – Annual Husenig Foundation Picnic, Husenig Grove, Simmons Street, Rehoboth. Delicious shish kebab, losh kebab, kheyma, chicken and more, including pastry booth, raffle, live music by Gary Kashmanian's New England All Star Band. For more information, call Marc Janigian, 401-942-3477.

SEPTEMBER 8 – St. James Men's Club, Monday, featuring speaker Dr. Nancy Ann Simonian, CEO, Syros Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Topic: "Building Great Biotech Companies." Dinner features Losh Kebab and Kheyma Dinner, Social Hour (mezza) 6:15 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. \$14 per person, St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural & Youth Center - Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Ladies welcome.

SEPTEMBER 7 – Picnic Festival, sponsored by St. Gregory Armenian Church of Merrimack Valley, 158 Main St., North Andover, featuring musicians Leon Janikian, Jason Naroian, Johnny Berberian and John Arzigian; appearance by Siroun Dance Ensemble of Central Mass.; 12:30-5:30 p.m., church grounds; shish, losh & chicken kebab dinners, veggie plates, Armenian pastries; family games and activities.

SEPTEMBER 12 – COMEDY NIGHT - An invitation to attend and enjoy a fantastic night of fun, laughter, food, music and dancing! Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston presents the world-renowned Armenian comedian/pianist, Kev Orkian, direct from the UK and for the first time in Boston. Finalist in "Britain's Got Talent" and having performed for Britain's royal family, he is now ready to wow his audience in Boston. Friday, at 8 p.m. at St. James Cultural Center, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Please reserve your tickets now and save. \$40 if reserved by 9/1; otherwise, \$45. Call 617-852-1816 or 508-397-7977 ASAP. First come, first served. Tables of 10 recommended. For more details and flyer, visit www.sayatnova.com.

SEPTEMBER 14 – Trinity Family Festival, 12-5 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Delicious Armenian food; Armenian music by the Greg Krikorian Ensemble featuring Greg Krikorian, oud & vocals, Leon Janikian, clarinet, George Righellis, guitar & vocals, Michael Sabounjian, keyboard & vocals, Charlie Dermenjian, dumbeg and Steve Surabian, tambourine; fun games and activities for children; Blessing of Madagh at 4 pm, raffle drawing and more. For further information, contact the church office, 617.354.0632 or email office@htaac.org.

SEPTEMBER 20 – Celebration of the New Independent Republic by the Lowell "Aharonian" Gomideh, 6 p.m., ARS Community Center, 142 Liberty St., Lowell. Dinner and entertainment by The Dynamic Duo featuring Greg Krikorian on oud & vocals and Michael Sabounjian on keyboard & vocals. Admission, \$20 adults, \$10 students.

SEPTEMBER 21 – Sunday Afternoon at the Park for Families & Friends! 2-4 p.m. Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston between Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Christopher Columbus Park. Enjoy the music of Mal Barsamian, oud; Leon Janikian, clarinet; Kenny Kalajian, guitar and Jay Baronian, dumbeg. Game for the Kids at 2:30pm. Bob Lobel, Emcee. www.ArmenianHeritagePark.org

SEPTEMBER 26, 27 – Armenians and Progressive Politics Conference returns to Boston. Keynote speaker will be Noam Chomsky. Details to follow.

SEPTEMBER 29 – Party for Our Park! Friends of Armenian Heritage Park September Social. Hosted by Abby Lane, 253 Tremont Street, Boston. 7-10 p.m. Shake it Up with Great Friends and Cool Drinks while supporting the ongoing care of Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway. For details and tickets, visit www.ArmenianHeritagePark.org. Advance Tickets only.

OCTOBER 4 – YerazArt, a group committed to young musicians from Armenia, will hold a dinner and benefit concert. Belmont. Venue, time and ticket prices to be announced soon.

OCTOBER 11 – Armenian Friends of America presents Hye Kef 5, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Michael's Function Hall, 12 Alpha St., Haverhill; tickets, \$50, students 21 & under, \$40, proceeds to benefit Armenian churches of Merrimack Valley; individually served mezza platters and pastries; musicians, Mal Barsamian (clarinet), John Berberian (oud), Bob Raphaelian (violin), Bruce Jigarjian (guitar), Jason Naroian (dumbag & vocals); tickets, call either John Arzigian, 603-560-3826; Lucy Sirmaian,



It is family time on Sunday, September 21 at the Armenian Heritage Park in Boston's Greenway, between Faneuil Hall and Christopher Columbus Park. From 2 to 4 p.m., participants can enjoy the music of Mal Barsamian, Leon Janikian, Kenny Kalajian and Jay Baronian, with games for kids at 2.30 p.m. Bob Lobel will emcee.

978-683-9121; Peter Gulezian, 978-375-1616, or Sandy Boroyan, 978-251-8687. No tickets sold at the door.

OCTOBER 23 – Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall, Boston. 7:30 p.m. An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Foundation, sponsor of Armenian Heritage Park on Greenway. Details forthcoming. www.ArmenianHeritagPark.org

OCTOBER 26, 2014 – Fr. Vasken Kouzouian's 20-Year Pastoral Journey – Join us as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our Pastor's Ordination, immediately following church services, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Charles and Nevert Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Details to follow.

NOVEMBER 8 – Armenia Tree Project's 20th Anniversary Celebration. Reception and dinner at the Grand Atrium of the John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse overlooking the Boston Harbor. Reserve the date, additional details to follow. For information about ATP's programs, visit www.ArmeniaTree.org

NOVEMBER 15 – The 39th Annual Luncheon/Auction of the Armenian Women's Welfare Association will be held at the Burlington Marriott Hotel. Funds raised will support programs at the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica Plain, Mass and Hanganak NGO Health Clinic in Stepanakert, Karabagh, for senior women in need. For more information, call Karen Hovsepian at 617-898-8619.

DECEMBER 14 – Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, Christmas Holiday Concert, 7 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Save the date; details to follow.

CONNECTICUT

September 20 – Kirikian Armenian Saturday School of St. Thomas Armenian Church Registration and Opening day, 9.15 a.m. Corner of Rt. 9W and East Clinton Avenue in Tenafly, NJ, 07670. Curriculum includes: Armenian language & culture instruction for Toddler, Pre-K, Kindergarten and grades 1 through 7. Separate sections with identical curriculum for Armenian-Speaking Classes and Bi-Lingual Classes for English-Speaking students for every grade level. For info contact Principal Ani Capan at (201) 767-3846, e-mail ani@lacapan.com or Church Office 201-567-5446.



COMMENTARY

Mirror Spectator



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COMMENTARY

A Distorted Media Mirror

By Edmond Y. Azadian

When Armenia attained independence, many Diasporan-Armenian organizations and experienced journalists moved to Yerevan to “liberate” the bland Soviet-style news media and restore its original mission. The newspapers, radio and TV broadcasting improved dramatically, in terms of formatting design, news gathering, reporting and above all, commenting freely. This much was a patriotic contribution, which Diaspora Armenians brought to Armenia.

But in a parallel rush, major powers introduced their own outlets, of course, to serve their own political interests. While the newspapers owned and operated by Armenian organizations have encountered funding challenges – consequently suffering in quality – foreign-funded news outlets flourish and are run professionally.

George Orwell’s Big Brother is omnipresent globally, tending its business and has not spared Armenia.

Open Society Foundation, Radio Liberty and other agencies operate freely in Armenia and common sense will dictate that they don’t care about the well being of the Armenian people nor the problems facing Armenia. They have recruited professional journalists, writers and commentators to toot their own horn.

For example, the Open Society Forum could feign to promote democracy in Eastern Europe and in Third World countries but in the end, it serves a greater political design.

The Open Society Forum is the brainchild of billionaire George Soros, who escaped tyranny in Hungary and made a fortune in the US. During the Bush-Cheney Administration, he demonstrably confronted the US administration in its foreign policy objectives. But in the meantime, his organization trained some youth and sent them to Ukraine and Georgia – and certainly to other parts of the world – to organize the Orange Revolution and the Rose Revolution, a feat that the US military power could not have achieved so easily.

Mr. Soros is entitled to use his money to spread his ideas around the world but he is not entitled to play with the destiny of the Armenian people who have suffered so much from major power rivalries, in their history.

The writers and commentators of these agencies may be sitting in Yerevan and Karabagh, but the brains behind them may be on the remote control in Prague or in Washington.

The controlled news media does not operate in isolation – and no matter what lofty ideal it claims to pursue – it is part and parcel of the overall strategy of a major power.

We can easily make the connection with all the well-oiled religious sects, which penetrate like rodents in the fabric of the society in Armenia to decimate and to disorient the population. One treacherous act is to brainwash the youth to refuse to bear arms under the guise of conscientious objection, when Armenia is at war with its neighbors – not of its own choosing.

To cite a salient example, trading Armenia’s security against NATO’s objectives in the Caucasus we may refer to an article in *Iragir.am*, an outlet funded by Open Society Forum. The article is entitled “Serious Geopolitical Prospect for Javakhk,” under the byline of Hakob Badalyan, a prominent political commentator.

Javakhk is an Armenian-populated region of Georgia. Historically it has changed hands between Georgia and Armenia. Currently more than half of the region is populated by Armenians; in cities like Akhatsikhe and Ninotsminda, Armenians account for

94.3 percent and 95.8 percent, respectively. The region was deliberately mismanaged and left economically depressed by Tbilisi authorities to force Armenians out of the area, fearful that Armenians would one day ask for autonomy or independence.

Until 2007, the city of Akhalkalak was home to a Russian military base, which provided jobs and security for Armenians in the region. Moscow precipitously moved out the base, before even its deadline in the treaty, leaving the Armenians to the mercy of the hostile Georgian government. Tbilisi’s harassment and Russia’s reckless move satisfied, to a certain measure, the Georgian government’s goal, as many destitute Armenians migrated to Russia for jobs and for security. Russia went to war with Georgia to give independence to South Ossetia and Abkhazia while the destinies of Javakhk and Ajaria were left in the hands of the Tbilisi government. President Saakashvili jailed human rights activist Vahagn Chakhalian and implemented policies to force the people out or to assimilate them under the guise of teaching them the Georgian language.

Despite a punishing war with Russia and despite a regime change, the new government in Tbilisi is looking for NATO presence on its territory, if not outright membership.

Armenians have enjoyed the “benefits” of having a NATO member in the Turkish border and now this writer is hailing a NATO move into the heartland of Armenians in Javakhk, as he writes: “NATO may empower itself with new tools of cooperation with non-member countries like Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova. And it may mean that the North Atlantic Alliance will receive a possibility or prospect for being present in Georgia, though the latter is not a member. In this respect, Georgian military base in Akhalkalak has strategic importance because it is close to the Russian base in Armenia, is located in a place where Russian provocation against Georgia are probable, close to the conflict area of Artsakh which is one of the potential places of destabilization of the region.”

First NATO’s interference on the Southern Russian underbelly is the most flagrant provocation, and also, the writer should know better that even Washington blamed Saakashvili for the provocation, which triggered the 2008 war.

In a shortsighted conclusion, the writer jubilantly welcomes NATO’s extension in the region as a “stabilizing factor,” exactly at the moment when the defense ministers of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkey had been meeting in Nakhichevan to plan war games and tighten the noose around Armenia at NATO’s behest.

The conclusion is more ludicrous than the article itself as it states, “It would be interesting to observe the reactions of Russia, Javakhk and Armenia to the Georgian military base, who will torpedo the process full of prospects for regional balance for the sake of security of Armenia, Artsakh and Javakhk and what the force will be.”

This concept fits in and complements the recent proposal by Ambassador James Warlick to introduce US Peacekeeping forces in Karabagh.

Adding insult to injury, the Open Society Forum has a hypocritical disclaimer at the bottom of the article, which reads, “The opinions and analyses expressed in these sections are those of the authors and are not approved by OSF-Armenia or its Board.”

When Open Society Forum cuts the payroll check of the writer, at least it is disingenuous to make such claims.

Hagop Badalian is a better-qualified writer. He deserves a more dignified job than peddling NATO wares in Armenia through a distorted media mirror.

Homecoming Part Two: The Baptisms

By Raffi Bedrosyan

The homecoming trip of the (no longer) hidden Armenians from Diyarbakir to Armenia finally began this week, after months and months of planning, preparation, resolving issues, emerging new issues, seemingly endless three-way long distance discussions from Diyarbakir to Yerevan through Toronto.

And now, the ‘new’ Armenians of Diyarbakir are strolling in the streets and museums of Yerevan, tiptoeing into the various churches scattered all over Armenia. Emotions are very near the surface... One moment they burst into dancing in the streets as soon as they hear a playful tune; the next moment they cry uncontrollably at a scene that may mean nothing to passersby but has reminded them of something or someone, all the way back in 1915.

Yerevan is full of Armenian kids from all

over the world as part of the Ari Dun [Come Home] program at the invitation of the Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia, which has also helped organize our itinerary. The government officials arranged to meet the Diyarbakir group on our first day along with hundreds of the Diaspora children. The Diyarbakir group was extremely anxious about how they will be greeted. The Armenian officials were equally curious about these Turkish/Kurdish-speaking individuals, ranging in age from 18 to 83 but mostly middle-aged people from all socioeconomic and educational levels, including teachers, students, doctors, housewives and retired people. Some of them are sophisticated urban dwellers, others are going abroad for the first time.

I am acting as the translator from Armenian into Turkish and back, but my task needs to be more than just to relay statements and messages. I have to be able to convey, from Turkish into Armenian, the

incredible desire and courage of these people in becoming new Armenians, and also to be able to convey, from Armenian into Turkish, the honest sincerity of welcome of the government officials. But I am happy to report that by the end of the meeting, the previously anxious Diyarbakir Armenians and the previously serious-looking government officials were dancing the Diyarbakir halay together to Armenian music, while the kids from the Diaspora, including Russia, US, France and Iran, watched these grown-up kids in amazement. A government official says his parents are from Mush, another one says from Sasun, then one of the Diyarbakir people screams “My father is from Sasun, too.” Then the stories remembered in common from Sasun begin. They don’t need my translation any more. They have already started comparing Sasun village names and hugging each other...

I was a bit apprehensive when the Diaspora Ministry people had told me they see **HOME**COMING, page 16



COMMENTARY

In Turkey, Even a Respected Filmmaker Can't Discuss Armenian Genocide

By Eyal Sagui Bizawe

TEL AVIV (*Haaretz*) – The documentary film by the German-Turkish film director Fatih Akin, “Crossing the Bridge: The Sound of Istanbul” (2005), was one of the most beautiful love songs ever created for and about Istanbul. A musical documentary, it depicts the rich and varied music scene in modern Istanbul. While it also sets forth the tensions and conflicts in this complex city with its many cultural influences, it shows love and appreciation for each one.

But Akin, who was born in Hamburg to a family that had emigrated from Turkey, has dealt mainly with the integration, or lack of it, of Turks into Germany. His films combine political and social criticism and a sharp look at the situation with a bit of humor. The most prominent of his works, “Head-On” (2004) and “The Edge of Heaven” (2007), won him many awards at prominent film festivals worldwide.

But in contemporary Turkey, awards and loving homage apparently are not enough to enable a film director to criticize his beloved ancestral country or touch one of its taboos – the Armenian Genocide of the early 20th century.

Akin's latest film, “The Cut,” focuses on that topic and will be competing at the Venice Film Festival opening late this month. It has already aroused the ire of Turkish radical nationalists, who are calling for a boycott of the film and for Akin to be prevented from entering Turkey.

Following an interview in the bilingual weekly newspaper *Agos*, which is published in Istanbul in both Turkish and Armenian, fanatical Turkish nationalists sent death threats to Akin both directly and through *Agos's* editorial board.

The Armenian Genocide – the mass murder of the Armenian inhabitants of the Ottoman Empire during World War I – was preceded by years of massacres of the Armenians by mobs of Turkish and Kurdish villagers. They had been incited to believe that the Armenians sought to weaken the empire, whether because of their desire for national independence or their support for Russia, the Ottomans' major foe.

The Armenian Genocide started on April 24, 1915, when the government of the Young Turks arrested about 250 Armenian leaders and intellectuals in Istanbul and put them to death. With that murderous act, the Turkish government began a campaign against the Armenians that included expulsion, abuse, rape and starvation, killing an estimated 1.5 million people. April 24 is the day of commemoration of the Armenian genocide.

German-Turkish Director Fatih Akin's Latest Film, 'The Cut' Raises Furor in Turkey, Draws Threats from Nationalists

The Armenian refugees were imprisoned in camps, where many of them died of starvation or disease. Others were killed by burning, drowning or poison gas as the world's countries did nothing. When the war ended, the Turkish government leaders were tried by military courts in Europe for war crimes and were sentenced to death in absentia. While the three leaders mainly responsible for the Armenian genocide managed to evade the death sentence, they did not escape fate: Three years after the trial, two of them were killed by Armenian assassins and the third was killed by the Soviet army.

Only about 20 countries officially recognize the Armenian genocide and the Turkish government's responsibility for it. The others have chosen to distance themselves from the issue out of a desire to keep their relations with Turkey stable. Turkey's relations with countries that have recognized the Armenian genocide – such as France, which also outlawed denial of it – have fallen into diplomatic crises that even led to the recall of ambassadors.

Recent public debate in Turkey about the Armenian genocide seems freer and more open than ever. During his term as prime minister, President-elect Recep Tayyip Erdogan even issued an official statement apologizing to the grandchildren of the survivors of the Armenian genocide, saying that a probe of that painful period in history was both a human and a historical obligation.

But even his stance is not accepted by radical Turkish nationalists. Next week, Armenian communities in Turkey and elsewhere will be commemorating the 100th [sic] anniversary of the Armenian genocide. But some in Turkey still do not wish to acknowledge past crimes.

Akin's original idea was to direct a film about the late Armenian journalist Hrant Dink, editor-in-chief of *Agos*, who called for dialogue between the Armenian and Turkish nations and wrote and spoke a great deal about the Armenian genocide. On January 19, 2007, he was shot dead at the entrance to the building that housed the newspaper's offices.

His death shocked Turkey. Hundreds of thousands of people attended his funeral, carrying signs in Turkish, Armenian and Kurdish that read “We are all Armenians” and “We are all Hrant Dink.” Others carried placards reading “[Statute] 301 is the mur-

derer,” a hint at Statute 301 in Turkish criminal law, which prohibits “insulting Turkey.” Under Statute 301, anyone who accuses Turkey of having committed the Armenian genocide can be sent to prison. The Turkish writer and Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk was put on trial under this statute for having said in an interview with a Swiss newspaper that a million Armenians and thousands of Kurds had been murdered in Turkey. The charges were dropped following an international outcry.

Akin could not find a Turkish actor willing to play the role of Dink. All the actors to whom he sent the screenplay reacted similarly, saying the subject was too emotionally loaded. Only after he spoke about that in an interview with *Agos* did some of the young and popular actors, such as Riza Kocalogu (the star of the Turkish suspense series “*Karadayi*”), say they were willing to play the role of Dink if only they were of the right age.

Akin, who insisted that the actor playing the role of Dink be Turkish, was compelled to give up the original screenplay. The plot of the new film focuses on a young man, Nazareth Manoogian (played by the French-Algerian actor Tahar Rahim), a survivor of the genocide who discovers that his daughters may be alive. He searches for them in Turkey, Syria, Cuba and the U.S.

The film, shot in Jordan, Cuba, Canada, Malta and Germany, contains appearances by the Franco-Moroccan singer Hindi Zahra and the Arab-Israeli actor Makram Houry.

“Turkish society is ready to deal with the topic of the Armenian Genocide,” Akin says. But the radical Turkish nationalists show that the opposite is true. The statements they sent to *Agos's* editorial board threatened that if Akin's film were screened in Turkish cinemas, their activists would be waiting outside the theater in white berets. That's a reference to the hat Dink's assassin wore in a photograph that was published after the murder. The article of clothing symbolized these groups' anti-Armenian demonstrations.

Despite pressure from the Armenian community in Israel, the Israeli government still has not officially recognized the Armenian Genocide. It does not wish to create a parallel of the Armenian Genocide with the Jewish Holocaust in Europe, nor does it wish to destabilize its relations with Turkey. At least regarding the latter reason, such considerations seem useless since Israel's relations with Turkey are shaky in any case. Either way, everything seems temporary, even Turkey under Erdogan, and the significance of the full recognition of the other's pain cannot be ignored. They are not forgotten, and they are not resolved on their own, not even after 99 years of trauma, and certainly not after 66.

Bombs away! US to the Rescue – but only of Certain Minorities, not Muslims

By Robert Fisk

Obama's air strikes on Isis in northern Iraq are hypocritical, and a sense of déjà vu is understandable

He wouldn't bomb Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's bloody caliphate when it was butchering the majority Shia Muslims of Iraq. But Barack Obama is riding to the rescue of the Christian refugees – and the Yazidis – because of “a potential act of genocide.” Bombs away. And thank heavens that the refugees in question are not Palestinian.

This hypocrisy almost takes the breath away, not least because the US President is still too frightened – in case he upsets the Turks – to use the “G” word about the 1915 Turkish genocide of a million and a half Armenian Christians, a mass slaughter on a scale which even Abu Bakr's thugs have not yet attempted. We'll have to wait another year to see how Obama wriggles out of the 100th anniversary commemorations of that particular Muslim massacre of Christians.

But for now, “America is coming to help” in Iraq with air strikes on “convoys” of ISIS fighters. But isn't that what the Americans staged against the Taliban in Afghanistan,

often mistaking innocent wedding parties for Islamist “convoys”? Dropping food parcels to minority refugees in fear of their lives on the bare mountainsides of northern Iraq – also under way – is exactly the same operation US forces performed for the Kurds almost a quarter of a century ago; and in the end, they had to put American and British soldiers on the ground to create a “safe haven” for the Kurds.

Nor has Obama said anything about his friendly ally Saudi Arabia, whose Salafists are the inspiration and fund-raisers for the Sunni militias of Iraq and Syria, just as they were for the Taliban in Afghanistan. The wall between the Saudis and the monsters they create – and which America now bombs – must be kept as high as it must be invisible. That is the measure of American dissimulation in this latest act of duplicity. Obama is bombing the friends of his Saudi allies – and the enemies of the Assad regime in Syria, by the way – but won't say so. And just for good measure, he believes that America must act in defense of its consulate in Erbil and embassy in Baghdad.

That's the same excuse the US used when it fired its naval guns into the Chouf mountains of Lebanon 30 years ago: that Lebanon's pro-Syrian warlords were endan-

gering the US embassy in Beirut. That the Islamists are as unlikely to seize Erbil as they are to capture Baghdad is neither here nor there. Obama says he has a “mandate” to bomb from the Iraqi government of Nouri al-Maliki, the elected but dictatorial Shia who now runs Iraq as a broken and sectarian state. How we Westerners love “mandates,” ever since the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, which drew the borders of the Middle East for our “mandates” – the very frontiers which Abu Bakr's caliphate has now sworn to destroy. There is not much doubt about the awfulness of the equally sectarian ISIS which Abu Bakr is creating.

His threat to the Christians of Iraq – convert, pay tax or die – has now been turned against the Yazidis, the harmless and tiny sect whose Persian-Assyrian roots, Christian-Islamo rituals and forgiving God have doomed them as assuredly as the Christians. Ethnic Kurds, the poor old Yazidis believe that God, whose seven angels supposedly govern the Earth, pardoned Satan: so inevitably, this ancient people came to be regarded as devil-worshippers. Hence their 130,000 refugees – at least 40,000 of them living on mountain rocks in at least nine locations around Mount Sinjar – tell stories of rape, murder and child-killing at the hands

of Abu Bakr's men. Alas, they may all be true.

The Yazidis are probably descended from supporters of the second Umayyad Caliph, Yazid the First; his suppression of Hussein, the son of Ali – whose followers are now the Shia of the Middle East – might theoretically have commended the Yazidis to Abu Bakr's Sunni Muslim army. But their mixed rituals and their denial of evil were never going to find favor with a group which – like Saudi Arabia and the Taliban – believes in “the suppression of vice and the propagation of virtue.” In the fault lines that lie across ancient Kurdistan, Armenia and what was Mesopotamia, history has dealt the Yazidis a bad hand.

But for them and the Nestorians and other Christian groups, Obama has gone to war. The French, their old Crusader spirits reawakened, called the Security Council to reflect upon this Christian pogrom. But the question remains: would America have done the same if the wretched minority refugees of northern Iraq had been Palestinians? Or will Obama's latest bombing campaign merely provide a welcome distraction from the killing fields of Gaza?

(Robert Fisk is the Middle East correspondent for *The Independent* newspaper.)



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Former House Majority Leader Sells His Soul for Fistful of Dollars

Washington has long-suffered from unethical politicians, but the prize for the top hypocrite on an Armenian issue goes to former Rep. Richard Gephardt who served as House Majority Leader from 1989 to 1995 and Minority Leader from 1995 to 2003.

After championing the recognition of the Armenian Genocide for more than two decades, Gephardt retired from the House of Representatives in 2005 and began enriching himself by lobbying against the very issue that he had staunchly defended in Congress.

Taking advantage of Turkish paranoia on the eve of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, the Gephardt Group Government Affairs expanded earlier this year its long-standing lobbying relationship with the Republic of Turkey. The new contract, worth \$1.4 million per year, includes subcontractors Dickstein Shapiro (\$531,000 per year), Greenberg Traurig (\$314,000 per year), Lydia Borland (\$180,000 per year) and Brian Forni (\$78,000 per year). The Gephardt Group and its subcontractors agreed to provide the following services to Turkey:

(a) Proposing and pursuing passage of legislation and other U.S. government action that promotes Turkey's inter-

ests and provides a positive image of Turks, Turkey and the United States-Turkey relationship,

(b) Preserving and enlarging the Congressional Caucus on Turkey and Turkish Americans,

(c) Educating members of Congress and the Administration on issues of importance to Turkey,

(d) Promptly notifying Turkey of any action in Congress or the Executive Branch on issues of importance to Turkey,

(e) Preparing brief analyses of developments in Congress and the Executive Branch on particular issues of concern to Turkey,

(f) Identifying official gatherings and social events to which [Turkish] Embassy personnel ought, in the Gephardt Group's opinion, attend, including to the extent possible, obtaining the necessary invitations,

(g) Identifying and/or arranging speaking engagements locally and nationally for [Turkish] Embassy personnel or their appointed or suggested proxies in fora that will improve Turkey's image and advance its causes on Capitol Hill. Such would be, if so directed by Turkey, coordinated with Turkey's existing public relations service provider(s), and

(h) Maintaining and forging alliances with other interest groups whose goals are similar to or shared by Turkey."

Significantly, subcontractor Greenberg Traurig's responsibilities include: "develop and utilize contacts at the State and Defense Departments, and the National Security Council to convey the seriousness of the genocide issue and the potential threat it poses to the U.S./Turkey relationship."

While there are plenty of sleazy lobbyists in Washington, none can match Gephardt's shocking transformation from a leading supporter of Armenian Genocide recognition to a genocide denier. The early years of Gephardt's shameful flip-flop on this critical moral issue was revealed by The New Republic in its July 23, 2007 article titled, "K Street Cashes in on the 1915 Armenian Genocide." Throughout

his 26 years in Congress, Rep. Gephardt co-sponsored several genocide Resolutions and repeatedly spoke on the importance of recognizing the Armenian Genocide. In 2000, Gephardt and two other House Democrats co-signed a letter to then-Speaker Dennis Hastert urging him to schedule an immediate vote on the Armenian Genocide Resolution.

In January 2005, barely days after leaving his House seat, Gephardt opened his consulting and lobbying firm in Washington, DC. From 2005 to 2009, he became a strategic adviser on government affairs for the international law firm of DLA Piper, which was paid \$100,000 per month to represent the interests of Turkey, including lobbying against the pending House Resolution on the Armenian Genocide! The New Republic reported that Gephardt arranged meetings between members of the Turkish parliament and House Democratic leaders, helped Turkey's U.S. Ambassador to gain an audience with "a skeptical Nancy Pelosi," and circulated a booklet titled "An Appeal to Reason," that denied the Armenian Genocide.

Armenian-Americans and all people of good will should not remain silent while Gephardt enriches himself with Turkish blood money! They should warn his lobbying firm's clients — Anheuser-Busch, Boeing, Chevron, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, General Electric, Goldman Sachs, Google, Los Angeles Airport, National Football League, Port of Oakland and United Airlines — that they will boycott their products and services unless these firms cancelled their contracts with the Gephardt Group. Letters of complaint should also be sent to Ford Motor Company and The Scripps Research Institute for giving Gephardt a seat on their Board of Directors.

Finally, readers should write directly to Dick Gephardt, Gephardt Government Affairs, 1101 K Street, N.W., Suite 310, Washington, DC 20005 or send an e-mail to dickgephardt@gephardtdc.com, admonishing him for his highly unethical behavior!

Farewell, Dear Maestro

By Baydzig Kalaydjian

My pen rebels against marking the end of the precious life that is truly sacred for each Melkoniantsi. The farewell ceremony that took place was a

tribute to our idol, Maestro Sebouh Apkarian. All the segments of our nation revere him. He achieved this with his undeniable merits, many gifts and talents, dedication and seriousness.

Truly, all things good, right and beautiful were shining in the life of Maestro Apkarian, a pure intellectual whose heart was a lyre, whose thoughts were a book and whose soul captured your breath. He was a flesh-and-bone idol revered by the Armenian nation. The witnesses are the legions of those generations firmly ensconced in all the corners of the world that learned from his noble spirit.

In the Armenian reality, it is a rare phenomenon to see an individual win the sympathy and respect of all segments of the nation. He did not want medals or honors as the success of each student was a medal on his chest. He was an ideal teacher of the arts, a spiritual mentor, a conductor who taught classic and folk songs and who treated his students honestly. His sweet disposition shined with talent, a titanic personality that brought out respect for him in everyone.

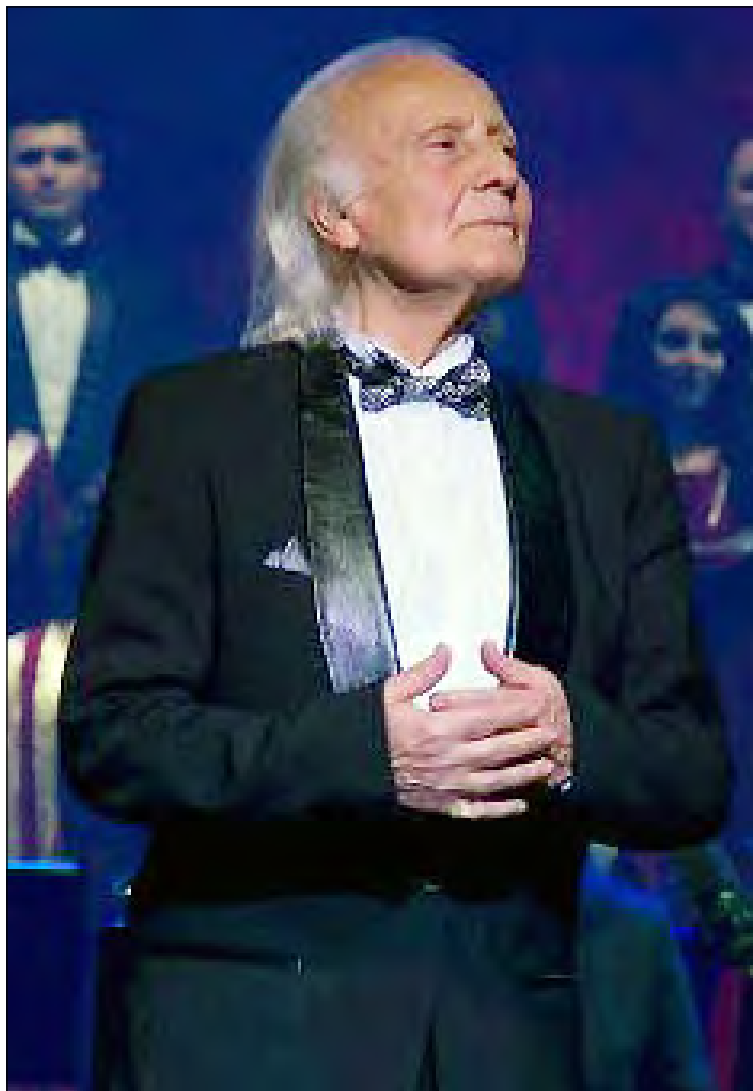
He was a philosopher, friend, mentor, teacher, orator, preacher, sports-lover and he always aimed high in everything and he raised others with him, till the shining peak. And it was so in everything, always upwards...

Despite his bold stance, he never looked down on anybody but rather the opposite — he bowed before the weak and showed the path for development to the ignorant and taught to articulate in beautiful Western Armenian. He gave to everyone his mind and heart, and everyone bowed down before the great mentor.

Wit and smiles were typical of him. Until today, echoes from Melkonian's study desks, stadiums, choir halls reflect the literary and musical Friday night programs. Their warmth has also been reflected in our independent Fatherland thanks to the performances of the KOHAR ensemble. He was proud of "his new Yerevan." Owing to him, Gumri revived and rose like a phoenix from ashes. He welcomed the Lachin pass and prospering Artsakh. Beyond that, he relentlessly attacked the parasites and deserters of the nation, the ones selling off the national assets and the ones in support of that.

Maestro Apkarian was a wonderful mix of noble and lofty aspirations. He believed in the KOHAR ensemble and was lucky to find his worthy place in that noble Armenian institution. With his unique and imposing look, he shied away from the spotlight, believing in his soul that the only thing that mattered was the Armenian spirit. Melkonian shaped his soul with the world of art. It planted the seeds of art whose growth and blossoming granted him deep satisfaction. And through KOHAR he carried out his goals in the world of art. He fell down on his knees at the altar of Armenian music and culture and lived in a trance while performing. He spread the meaning of Ayp-Pen-Kim around the world.

His message remains and we pay tribute to his memory.



Reflection on Life and Times Of Sebouh Apkarian

By Mark Chenian

Sebouh Apkarian name was and will remain associated with two institutions, Melkonian Educational Institute, Cyprus, and KOHAR Symphony Orchestra and

Choir, Armenia. He was a privileged beneficiary of both, and a contributor to their missions. To participate in the impact that these two institutions had on the Armenian experience worldwide is a privilege indeed.

The genesis of Melkonian, a Rockefeller-ian undertaking, was the response to the one of the saddest chapters in the history of mankind. The institute, from its inception, became that safe harbor for the intellectuals who miraculously survived, Parsegh Ganatchian, Boghos Kevorkian, Hagop Oshagan, Vahan Tekeyan, to name a few, the pioneers who christened the mission and the legacy of MEI.

In 1959, a "revolution" took place on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean with Armenia's Song and Dance Ensemble's tour. Sebouh Apkarian was part of the Cyprus delegation to UNESCO auditorium, in Beirut. That "revolutionary" wave penetrated the whole region. In schools and cultural associations, the repertoires expended with Song and Dance model. The Armenian radio program in Nicosia Cyprus, with Sebouh Apkarian's voice, was a major catalyst in that penetration.

Almost 40 years later, that same impact was the catalyst for the genesis of KOHAR.

KOHAR's founder, the son of a beneficiary of the MEI legacy, recognizing the "voice" of the Armenian radio hour from Cyprus, invited Apkarian to participate in KOHAR's mission, the second revolutionary wave, this time with symphony orchestra and choir model. With this second privilege vested in him, the Maestro, with KOHAR, reached three continents, with the state of the art technology and logistics, a penetration that Armenians all over the world needed to re-christen with KOHAR'S "AYP" "PEN" "KEEM".

And now, from the theater of Heavens, the maestro will follow the continuation of the legacies of both Melkonian and KOHAR, with utmost satisfaction, and reciting our poet's "Inch Vor Deverr..."

Ruggiero Leoncavallo's "Vesti la giubba..." in Pagliacci, perhaps paints the real "Life and Times" of Sebouh Apkarian.

As for KOHAR, in Canio's words, "On with your costume..." There is a world waiting for your AYP PEN KEEM...!!!

Vartsket Gadar, Maestro...!!!

(Mark Chenian is a Los Angeles resident.)



Homecoming Part Two: The Baptisms

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had planned two hours of Armenian language lessons each day as part of the itinerary, thinking that our group would be more interested in seeing places. To my surprise, they all burst into enthusiastic applause and were deeply grateful for the lessons.

When we visited the Madenataran's manuscript treasures and Oshagan where Mesrob Mashdots, the creator of the Armenian alphabet, is buried, they understood better the mystery of the strange letters that they saw for the first time in their lives just two years ago.

As I reported in previous articles, almost all of the group members have some degree of 'Armenianness' in their family, some from one parent, some from both. They have mostly decided to come out as Armenians, but not as Christians—yet. Two of them have already been baptized in Diyarbakir's Surp Giragos Church, changing names, identity and religion. Gafur Turkay has become Ohannes Ohanian and his wife Nurcan has become Knar, proudly wearing not one but all three cross necklaces given to her as presents after her christening. One of the teachers in the group is determined to be baptized at Echmiadzin. The risks he is taking are enormous. He is a primary school teacher in a government school. He may lose his job, friends' circle, or worse, but his mind is made up. In addition, if he is baptized in

Echmiadzin instead of back home at Surp Giragos, he will gain bragging rights over Gafur/Ohannes as being a more complete Christian Armenian... I have arranged for the ceremony beforehand with Bishop Pakrad Galstanian of Echmiadzin, formerly the Canadian diocesan Primate.

We also have a lady who has spent many sleepless nights trying to decide whether she should get baptized too. Her dilemma is even more dangerous. She feels she has an obligation to her long-suffering late father, a hidden Armenian, who had encouraged her to become a Christian Armenian before he passed away. But her devoutly Moslem Kurdish husband has forbidden her from taking this step. The night before our trip to Echmiadzin, she tells me she will not be able to go ahead with the baptism.

In the morning we are off to Sardarabad, visiting the Victory Museum, understanding the significance and consequences of the 1918 events. As we approach Echmiadzin, the lady with the dilemma walks from the back of the bus to where I am sitting, and tells me her final decision: "My father suffered a lot, I know he is still suffering even though he is dead, I need to do this to end his suffering. If I will suffer as a result of this, I am prepared for it."

So we end up having a double christening ceremony at Surp Asdvadzadzin Church in Echmiadzin for the 'new' Stepan who took

his Armenian grandfather's name, and for the new 'Anzhel' who took her Armenian grandmother's name. I am certain this was the first time in Echmiadzin, or all of Armenia, where the Armenian christening ceremony was carried out in both Armenian and Turkish translation word for word. At the end, Pakrad Srpazan concluded with the statement: "To become a Christian, one needs to be brave, to become both an Armenian and a Christian, one needs to be doubly brave." Everyone had tears in their eyes, including Pakrad Srpazan.

Isn't it ironic that these people chose to become Armenian on the same day when Turkish Prime Minister and presidential candidate Erdogan stated on national TV: "They [the opposition] said I was of Georgian origin. Even uglier, they accused me of being an Armenian, sorry to say?"

And isn't it doubly ironic that if Erdogan does become President, the presidential mansion that he will reside in was once owned by an Armenian family known as the Kasapyan family?

Our reporting of the journey through Armenia toward a new life for the (no longer) hidden Armenians will continue.

(Raffi Bedrosyan is a civil engineer as well as a concert pianist, living in Toronto, Canada. For the past several years, proceeds from his concerts and two CDs have been donated to the construction of school, high-

way, water, and gas distribution projects in Armenia and Karabagh—projects in which he has also participated as a voluntary engineer. Bedrosyan was involved in organizing the Surp Giragos Diyarbakir/Dikranagerd Church reconstruction project, and in promoting the significance of this historic project worldwide as the first Armenian reclaim of church properties in Anatolia after 1915. In September 2012, he gave the first Armenian piano concert in the Surp Giragos Church since 1915.)

Golden Wheat Festival In Vardenis

YEREVAN — On August 5, ONEArmenia launched its new crowd-funding campaign in partnership with Homeland Development Initiative Foundation (HDIF) to fund the Golden Wheat Festival in Vardenis, in the rural province of Gegharkunik.

Vardenis does not have a steady source of income and the aim of the Golden Wheat Festival is to grow and support the local economy. Fifty percent of the population is unemployed. Numerous local businessmen and women have been called upon to participate in the festival and sell their handmade goods, foods, crafts and beer, all made of wheat.

HDIF began organizing similar festivals several years ago. This summer the organization has planned the Sheep Shearing Festival in Halidzor, Taraz Fest in Old Arpeni Village, and the Shamshadin Honey and Berry Festival. These thematic events aim to enhance tourism in Armenian communities meanwhile celebrating local crafts and culture.

HDIF estimates that approximately 3,000 guests will attend the festival on September 20.

Non-profit funding platform ONEArmenia was founded in September 2012 to stand with the change-making individuals and the organizations they represent, using social media and crowd-funding to involve anyone with an Internet connection in boosting projects that are geared toward making tangible changes in Armenia now.

US, Armenia Want Answers in Death of Armenian in Azerbaijan

ANSWERS, from page 1

especially their obligation to treat humanely all those taken into custody. We call on both Armenia and Azerbaijan to grant the International Committee of the Red Cross access to all detainees and internees held for conflict-related reasons."

The Azerbaijani side has given no response about returning Petrosyan's body. The representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are involved as mediators in the negotiations. The mediation mandate of this international structure is acceptable for both Armenia and Azerbaijani author-

ities. And although the Armenian side is inclined to direct negotiations, the Azerbaijani side has not entered into direct communication for five to six years, avoiding direct negotiations.

The head of the working group of the State Commission for Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons of the Republic of Armenia Armen Kaprielian, referred to the Geneva Convention. "The International Humanitarian Law recognizes the state's expression of goodwill, and Azerbaijan should have returned Karen Petrosyan's body without preconditions, but as we are dealing with

Azeris, they are always talking in a language of preconditions. We do not exclude the possibility that this time they will again propose a precondition and will talk about exchange," he said. "Although we demanded that Azerbaijan respond and act without preconditions, experience has shown that this country is incapable of expression of good will." said

In 2010 during the handover of the body of Armenian shepherd Manvel Saribekyan, killed in Azeri captivity, the Armenian side handed the Azerbaijani resident Eldar Taghirov who had crossed the Armenian border illegally.

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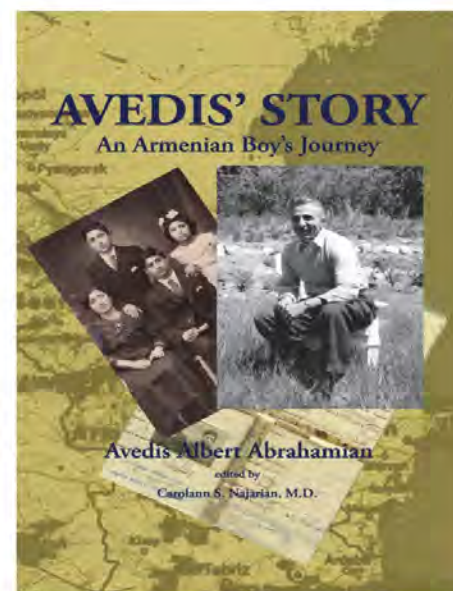
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Avedis' Story is a captivating story about an Armenian boy's experiences growing up in a rural village in Turkey, surviving the genocide, escaping to Russia, and then being caught in the middle of the Communist revolution. The author, Carolann Najarian, M.D. is a retired medical doctor who spent years researching and editing Avedis's Story before deciding to publish this book, her father's memoir. Book sale and signing following the event.

Contact Jake Bournazian for further info. Email: jbournazian@verizon.net 202-380-6948

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