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FM to Attend Erdogan's Inauguration, Pose Question On Genocide

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia's political leadership has been invited to attend Turkish President-elect Recep Tayyip Erdogan's inauguration and is likely to send Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian to the ceremony slated for Thursday, it emerged at the weekend.

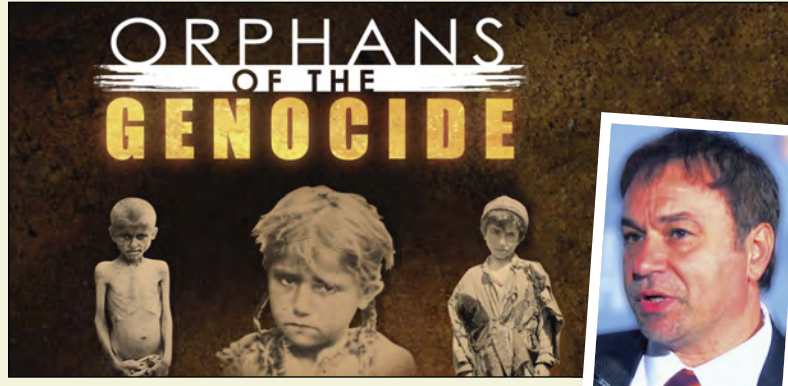
President Serge Sargsian revealed the Turkish invitation as he visited a pro-government youth camp in the Armenian resort town of Tsaghkadzor. A statement by Sargsian's press office quoted him as saying there that Nalbandian will "most probably" attend Erdogan's inauguration along with more than 20 heads of state and governments.

According to the statement, Sargsian said Nalbandian will use the occasion to clarify whether Erdogan will accept his invitation to take part in the official commemorations in Yerevan of the 100th anniversary of the 1915 Armenian genocide in the Ottoman Empire.

Sargsian publicly extended that invitation in late May. He urged the winner of Turkey's forthcoming presidential election to visit Armenia on April 24, 2014 and "face up to telling testimonies of the history of the Armenian genocide."

In a further softening of Turkey's decades-long policy of aggressive genocide denial, Erdogan offered last April first-ever Turkish condolences to the descendants of some 1.5 million Armenians massacred by the Ottoman Turks. The move was hailed by the West. Official Yerevan dismissed Erdogan's statement, however, saying that Ankara continues to deny that the mass killings constituted genocide.

see INAUGURATION, page 2



Emmy Winner Pays Tribute to Women of the Genocide

Bared Maronian

Both Victims and Rescuers to Be Subject of Documentary

COCONUT CREEK, Fla. – For many years now, writer, director and producer Bared Maronian has used his talents in a variety of outlets, especially in Florida public television. However, in the past few years, he has decided to bring his skills in putting together documentaries to a subject close to his heart, the Armenian Genocide.

By Alin K. Gregorian

Mirror-Spectator Staff

Maronian emigrated from Lebanon during that country's civil war. He was always interested in the arts – folk dance, music, and theater – and with film, he was able to unite all the subjects that interested him, especially as they concerned his heritage.

After graduating from Haigazian University in Beirut and working for a time as a photojournalist, he found his way to the US.

"When I came here, it was hard for me. Eventually I went to the Broadcast Career Institute in Florida," he said. Not long after that, he landed a job at the local PBS station. He was with PBS for 21 years.

For his PBS work, he has won four regional Emmy awards. "I have been blessed or lucky to get these awards. It gives you confidence," Maronian said. "That is why I thought with was time for me to do this."

When he started, he recalled, he worked on local programs, working his way up to regional and national programs. He also worked on the Nightly Business Report and did post-production on various programs, including in the Spanish language. Slowly, he realized that what appealed to him most was making documentaries and telling a story from start to finish.

Maronian said that he worked on some short documentaries, anywhere from 10 to 15 minutes, on Armenian subjects and showed them in local settings and some community gatherings. "People approached me and said I should expand them," he recalled. "For the last five years, I've been doing that. The most serious one is 'Orphans of the Genocide,'" which was released last year.

see MARONIAN, page 11

Former Cafesjian Executive Gets Nine Years for Embezzlement, Blackmail

By Rochelle Olson

MINNEAPOLIS (Star Tribune) – Using what he learned as a personal and business confidante to West Publishing executive Gerard Cafesjian, John Joseph Waters Jr. embezzled \$4 million from his boss to finance a double life. Then, as investigators homed in on his scheme, he filed a mean-spirited lawsuit against his former boss, who died last year.

Despite Waters' continued claims of innocence, US District Court Judge Ann Montgomery on Friday sentenced him to nine years in prison for those crimes, one year less than prosecutors sought, but more than the three years Waters' lawyer had asked for.

"You're old enough that I would have thought you'd learned the lesson of Watergate – that the cover-up is worse than the crime," Montgomery told Waters dur-

ing the sentencing hearing in a federal courtroom in Minneapolis.

Still, she was not unsympathetic to his story of working for a difficult and demanding boss. Waters, now 58, worked closely for years with Cafesjian, who earned a fortune at West and was deeply involved in philanthropic projects, especially in support

of his family's Armenian heritage. Underpaid. But "at some point around 1999, you made the decision to make your own nest a little better," the judge said, adding, "I bet you sure wish you'd quit or demanded a raise."

Instead, over a decade, Waters stole from Cafesjian, concealing his fraud by making checks out to cash and/or depositing them into the accounts of his mistress (now wife) or a deceased woman named Ani Yerosyan. He then directed Cafesjian's bookkeepers to make false entries in company ledgers for "household purchases – unallocated," which was the account used for the Cafesjians' personal expenses such as groceries and cable bills.

In 2009, investigators hired by Cafesjian discovered the trail of fraud. Waters quit that year and filed a lawsuit in 2012, claiming his boss had denied him nearly \$5 million in deferred compensation that he had promised in a verbal agreement. That lawsuit was eventually dismissed, but not

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"You're old enough that I would have thought you'd learned the lesson of Watergate – that the cover-up is worse than the crime"

US District Court Judge Ann Montgomery

of his family's Armenian heritage.

Waters left West Publishing to work as an aide to Cafesjian at a starting annual salary of \$84,000 plus bonuses in the 1990s, eventually earning \$250,000 a year with up to \$50,000 in bonuses.

Montgomery noted that Waters, at times, was a loyal, hardworking chief of staff to a high-powered man and might have been

NEWS IN BRIEF

Karekin II Condemns Violence against Yezidis

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II has sent a letter of support to Mir Tahsin Beg Saied, the temporal leader of the Yezidi community of the world, through Archbishop Avak Asaturian, the Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Iraq. According to the press service of the Holy See, the message included the following statement: "From the spiritual center of all Armenians, the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, we extend our condolences to You on the ongoing mass killings of the Yezidi population in Iraq. We are deeply concerned about the violence and the resultant numerous victims in the northern part of Iraq."

The catholicos called on international organizations to take immediate steps to stop the massacres of Yezidis in Iraq.

Armenia to Participate In ECHR Perincek Case

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The government of the Republic of Armenia has submitted an official application to the European Court of Human Rights to be accepted as a third party in Dogu Perincek's case. Christine Melkonyan, press spokesperson of Prosecutor General of the Republic of Armenia Gevorg Kostanyan, stated to Armenpress that the deadline of submitting the application was August 26. Armenia has already sent the relevant documents to Strasbourg.

Armenian Athletes Do Well in China Tournament

NANJING, China (Armenpress) – Armenian weightlifter Simon Martirosyan (85 kg) took the gold medal at the second summer Youth Olympic Games held here. Martirosyan lifted a total of 391 kilograms.

Boxer Narek Manasyan representing Armenia became a bronze medalist, defeating Viddal Riley representing the United Kingdom by a score of 2-1 in the Men's Light Heavy (81 kg) Bronze Medal Bout. Earlier, Narek Manasyan celebrated another victory over a Turkish athlete.

Anush Grigoryan, who is Armenia's sole female world boxing champion, was left without a medal at the Summer Youth Olympic Games, as she lost to Neriman Istik representing Turkey.

So far, the Armenian athletes have won two gold, one silver and one bronze medals at the Nanjing 2014 games.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Canadian MP Calls for End to Bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabagh

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Harold Albrecht, chair of the Canada-Armenia Parliamentary Friendship Group and Canadian Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Conestoga considers that Azerbaijani attacks in mid-August have led to a situation that threatens to destabilize the entire region.

The Canadian parliamentarian reminded that the latest clashes have resulted in more than 30 deaths, a number not seen since a ceasefire was established 20 years ago in 1994. He declared that “there is no military solution to this crisis; and such violations of international law can only stir the resentment of future generations.” He continued, “Canada believes problems such as these are best solved through negotiations and dialogue.”

“It’s time that the region’s leaders pursued a legacy of peace and bridge-building. Too much blood has been spilled for no good,” said Albrecht. He expressed hope for significant progress as a result of the August 10 meeting between the heads of state of Armenia and Azerbaijan in reducing the conflict levels in the region.

Winner of Chopin Competition to Perform in Yerevan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (SYOA) appeared as the official orchestra of the ninth Frederic Chopin International Competition for Young Pianists, held from August 11 to 18, 2014, in the city of Foshan, China. As the official orchestra, SYOA performed within the framework of the international competition, widely recognized as a prestigious event in Asia, and gave two concerts presenting a unique concert program.

The winner of the ninth Frederic Chopin International Competition for Young Pianists is already known. SYOA stated that the first prize was awarded to young pianist Eric Lu, who had impressed the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia by his brilliant performance of Chopin’s Symphony No. 1. SYOA surprised Lu with its own special award, which will enable him during the 2015-16 concert season to perform in Yerevan on the same stage as the State Youth Orchestra.

Armenia’s UN Rep Speaks about Azeri Truce Violations, Yezidi Plight

YEREVAN (Arka) – Armenia’s representative to the United Nations, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, raised the issue of Azerbaijan’s violating the cease-fire and the need for immediate assistance to the Yezidis of Iraq, the website of Armenia’s Foreign Ministry reported on Friday.

The ambassador stressed the importance of civil society in forming a mutual trust to prevent conflicts.

Effective prevention mechanisms are important also for unsettled conflicts, the Karabagh conflict in particular, where Azerbaijan launched a large-scale war, in violation of UN charter and against the right to self-determination, Mnatsakanyan said. The recent truce violations and raid operations by Azerbaijan led to escalation and many casualties, including among civil population, the ambassador said.

Mnatsakanyan spoke about the Yezidis’ mass killings in Northern Iraq in recent weeks. He noted that hundreds of thousands of people, including Yezidis, Assyrians and Armenians, were forced to flee their homes, and informed that Armenia has decided to deliver aid to Yezidi community through UN.

Armenia called on the UN Security Council to respond to the tragic situation with the Yezidi population, the ambassador said.

President Talks about Customs Union, Pension Reforms, Baku Provocations

YEREVAN (PanArmenian.net) – Allegations that Armenia has been under pressure to join the Eurasian Customs Union (ECU) are untrue, President Serge Sargsian said, according to ARKA News Agency.

“It is an important period for the development of our country. A lot will change in the country. I have no problems – either with those criticizing me, or the ones supporting the idea of accession. Time will show who was right,” the president said at a meeting with young reporters at the Baze-2014 youth gathering in Tsaghkadzor on August 24.

Sargsian agreed that, to some extent, not all ECU member states may be happy about Armenia’s accession.

“We are a small country, with a number of problems, and, naturally, our

accession may create problems for the member states as well,” Sargsian said. “Yet, had they been adamantly opposed to Armenia’s accession, they would have vetoed it.”

Sargsian also noted that he will sign a constitutional reform plan this October, with transparent discussions held on the issue. “About a month ago we came to a conclusion that the constitutional reform commission needed time to expand the scope of discussions and, if I am not mistaken, the outcome was to be finalized in October,” Sargsian said.

The president dismissed suggestions of a soaring shadow economy in Armenia, noting that the doubled income of the state budget in recent years became possible only with paid taxes, as the budget had no other

means of replenishment. The Armenian leader also voiced support for the introduction of mandatory funded pensions, ruling out revisiting the issue.

Commenting on recent Azeri-caused escalations at borders with Armenia and Karabagh, the president noted that Baku’s moves were intended to suggest that the war is not over and that the current status quo is unacceptable. Sargsian believes that Azeri provocations are initiated by the country’s leadership and President Ilham Aliyev does not conceal this. “Additional goals Baku pursued included intimidating the Armenian side, justifying major expenditures in the military sector and showcasing its weaponry,” Sargsian said. The president noted, in conclusion, that negotiations to achieve a peaceful settlement continue despite the lack of progress.

Amalya Yeghoyan, Gumri IT Center Director, Trains Future Industry Leaders

By Joseph Dagdigian

GUMRI, Armenia – The Gumri IT Center (GITC) was founded about nine years ago to provide education in information technologies in the Gumri region. Gumri, in northern Armenia and Armenia’s second largest city, was heavily damaged by a 1988 earthquake. An objective of the GITC is to provide a pool of IT expertise in the area in order to attract industry and improve Gumri’s economy. The GITC was established and financed by the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR), the Enterprise Incubator Foundation, and Shirak Technologies Ltd together with generous donations by diaspora and local Armenians.

GITC’s facilities are currently located in Gumri’s Ankakhutyan square but will move to Gumri Technology Park in September or October.

Amalya Yeghoyan is the director of the GITC, which is funded by the Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) and other benefactors. GITC has operated since 2005, and we has two basic programs: academic and business. Every year the number of students as well as the number of graduates increases.

According to her, “In our program we have had a lot of success: 97 percent of our graduates have found work in Armenia.”

J.D.: In Gumri?

A.Y.: Unfortunately not all in Gumri, many in Yerevan. In Gumri there are

not so many companies involved in this kind of work. But now with the establishment of the Gumri Technology Park, many technology companies are considering opening branches in Gumri. Our biggest partner, UNICEF Armenia, is focused on e-learning, on-line teaching, which we have been involved with for one year and which has been growing. We are implementing e-learning systems and have US based clients. An example is the Toufayan Bakery in New Jersey. We are working with different mobile and web clients in Germany. A German reporter came here and interviewed me. He returned to Germany, issued his report, and a week later we established relations with a large German company and have started to work on a project for them. They have become one of our best clients.

Our biggest issue is that we would like to be less dependent on large donors, but rather fund our operations from income derived from work projects. We also need to continue to find new clients and new orders. The rest is based on skill: we need to educate our students. In a couple of days we are graduating our seventh graduating class. We have 25 graduates.

We now have a variety of educational methods: on-line teaching, individual trainings, on-the-job trainings, evening time courses for the people who already have a job but would like to study programming simultaneously and if the company needs a specialist we will train

them. And we have our traditional 2-year program.

J.D.: How many graduates have you had up to now, and how many teachers and other staff members do you have?

A.Y.: Up to now we have had 120 graduates, and nearly 350 beneficiary students as not all students complete the program and graduate. But they still can take advantage of their education. We have 120 graduates, 97 percent of which are working in various areas in Armenia. We have 55 students, 25 of which will graduate in a few days, and we have 30 new students which will attend our summer session courses. At the end of August we will make student selections for the coming year starting in September. Then we will see how many students we have.

You asked about teachers. We had them from Yerevan and now we have some from Gumri, some of which are our own graduates. Every semester they can be different depending on their evaluations and their teaching quality. We are very flexible.

J.D.: What qualifications do prospective students need?

A.Y.: They must be high school graduates or have other higher education. They have to attend our summer session. At the end of August they need to pass an exam in logic and mathematics. We then make our selection for students.

J.D.: What is the tuition for students?

A.Y.: Most of the expenses come from the Fund for Armenian Relief. Tuition is 200,000 dram which is about \$500 per year.

More information on the Gumri IT Center is available on their website.

FM to Attend Erdogan’s Inauguration, Pose Question on Genocide

INAUGURATION, from page 1

Sargsian’s intention to send his foreign minister to Erdogan’s swearing-in ceremony is in tune with his congratulatory message sent to the outgoing Turkish prime minister earlier this month. Just three days before that letter, the Armenian leader angrily condemned Erdogan for making statements widely seen as a racist slur against Armenians.

Erdogan caused an outcry during his successful election campaign after he accused the Turkish opposition of carrying out a smear campaign against him. “One of them came and said I am a Georgian. Then another came up and, I beg your pardon, called me uglier

things, saying I am Armenian,” he said.

“I think that many Armenians would have also been offended if it had suddenly turned out that Erdogan is an Armenian,” Sargsian shot back.

In his ensuing congratulatory letter, Sargsian urged Erdogan to normalize Turkish-Armenian relations “without preconditions.” Erdogan has repeatedly made clear that Ankara will not establish diplomatic relations with Yerevan and open the Turkish-Armenian border before a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

Sargsian admitted on Saturday that he does not know whether the border will be opened in the foreseeable future.

Russian Premier May Visit Armenia in September

YEREVAN (Arka) – Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev is expected to visit Armenia in early September, Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan said Monday as met with participants of the youth jamboree Baze-2014 in Tsakhkadzor.

He said the Russian premier would arrive in Yerevan on September 8 or 9.

“We made a preliminary arrangement when I traveled to Russia recently,” Abrahamyan said.



INTERNATIONAL

Turkey's Davutoglu to Be Next Prime Minister, Erdogan declares

ANKARA (WorldBulletin.net) – Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) have declared that Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu will be taking over as chairman of the party, and thus become the next prime minister.

Davutoglu's nomination was announced by Turkey's current prime minister and AKP Chairman Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who earlier this month won the country's first direct presidential elections with more than 51 percent of the vote. He will step down as leader of the AK Party when he is inaugurated as head of state on August 28, as required by the constitution.

Erdogan said struggle with a "parallel state," a Kurdish peace process and a new constitution would be his top priorities.

He noted that the ruling AK Party's executive board had agreed to nominate Davutoglu as its next leader and, by default, his future premier. The decision was scheduled for a vote on August 27, but is unlikely to be opposed.

"If delegates at the congress elect Davutoglu, then he will be the prime minister," Erdogan told a news conference.

Erdogan's victory in the country's first direct ballot for head of state on August 10 marked a turning point for Turkey, taking the European Union candidate nation and NATO member a step closer to the presidential system he has long coveted.

He has made no secret of his ambition to change the constitution and bolster the powers of the presidency, a move opponents fear will herald an increasingly authoritarian rule.

"The new constitution is Turkey's primary concern. I know that Mr. Davutoglu has a high sensitivity in this respect," Erdogan said after the AK board meeting.

He said Davutoglu's determination to battle the "parallel state," a term he uses for Fethullah Gulen's network of followers, had been a key factor in his nomination.

Erdogan accuses Gulen's sympathisers of infiltrating institutions including the police and judiciary in an effort to seize the levers of state power.

"Be it the struggle against the parallel structure or the (Kurdish) peace process, do not doubt that I will be supporting Mr Davutoglu," Erdogan said.

The peace process with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militant group, aimed at ending a three-decade insurgency, has been one of Erdogan's biggest achievements in recent years, with hostilities largely dying down since a March 2013 ceasefire.

"Davutoglu is not going to be a puppet, he's going to have his own personality," said Galip Dalay, a political researcher at the Ankara-based think-tank SETA. "But I cannot remember a single time when he and Erdogan have had a serious policy disagreement. Their vision for Turkey is very close."

Cabinet

Senior AK officials told Reuters that ministers responsible for the economy would remain in place under Davutoglu, and that close Erdogan allies including his top aide Yalcin Akdogan and intelligence chief Hakan Fidan might be given cabinet positions.

Investors have been particularly concerned about the fate of Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan and Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek, who have guid-

ed the Turkish economy towards unprecedented stability in recent years.

"The decision will be up to Erdogan and Davutoglu, but in the new cabinet which is expected to be formed at the beginning of September, no changes are expected with Babacan and Simsek or other economic portfolios," one senior AK Party official said.

Senior officials had told Reuters before the vote that economic ministers would be retained at least until a parliamentary election next June if Erdogan won.



Ahmet Davutoglu

Senior AK Party officials said intelligence chief Hakan Fidan, one of Erdogan's closest confidantes, and EU minister Mevlut Cavusoglu were being considered as possible replacements for Davutoglu in the role of foreign minister.

Top aide Yalcin Akdogan was also expected to take up a position in cabinet, possibly as a deputy prime minister, while AK deputy chairman Mustafa Sentop is seen as a candidate for justice minister, the officials said.

Mr. Foreign Policy

A former academic, Ahmet Davutoglu has served the Justice and Development Party faithfully since 2002, as an adviser to prime ministers Abdullah Gul and Recep Tayyip Erdogan and, for the past five years, as foreign minister.

It was in this role that he emerged as one of the party's leading figures, steering Turkey to a more central position on the regional and global stage.

As foreign minister of the country bridging Europe and Asia, Davutoglu wanted to "transform Turkey into not only a regional power but also a global power."

Born in the central Anatolian province of Konya in 1959, Davutoglu suffered the loss of his mother aged four but has emerged as a world-renowned diplomatic figure over the past decade.

Even before his promotion to the foreign ministry, he was a prolific writer on foreign policy issues with books published in Turkish, English, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Arabic, Persian and Albanian.

This culminated in him being placed seventh in Foreign Policy magazine's 2010 list of top 100 global thinkers, citing his role as "the brains behind Turkey's global reawakening."

During his political life he has been centrally involved in the 40-year-old Cyprus conflict; the dispute between Turkey and Armenia; as well as the seemingly intractable feud between Palestinians and Israel.

In Cyprus, he supported Kofi Annan's 2004 peace plan which saw Turkish Cypriots agree to a federal system, only for Greek Cypriots to vote overwhelmingly against the proposal.

In another diplomatic hurdle close to Turkish hearts, Davutoglu was involved in negotiations on establishing ties between Ankara and Yerevan in 2007, only for the agreement to fail due to

Armenian intransigence.

Since 2002, Turkey has played a key role as a mediator in the Israel-Palestine conflict with Davutoglu, bringing the two sides together for a peace conference in Ankara.

He also played a role at the heart of Turkey's efforts to resolve sectarian violence in the Muslim world between Sunni and Shiite factions, particularly in neighboring Iraq and Syria, as well as wielding influence in Serbia's disputes with Bosnia and Kosovo and over cross-border tension between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

During Davutoglu's period near the top of government, Turkey's representation overseas has grown significantly, with the number of diplomatic missions rising from 163 to 221 over the last 12 years.

Furthermore, Turkey has developed its Africa policy, extending an open hand to the continent to secure valuable commercial contracts. The number of Turkish embassies in Africa has nearly trebled while 28 African nations are now represented in Ankara.

Perhaps more than any other foreign policy issue, European Union accession has dominated Davutoglu's time in power. Turkey began negotiating in 2005 and has been working hard to secure membership. At the end of last year, Turkey signed an agreement to allow visa-free travel in the EU for Turkish citizens.

However, Davutoglu's pet project has always been humanitarian diplomacy, in particular the human suffering unleashed by the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and the Arab Spring.

Accordingly, the Global Humanitarian Aid Report ranks Turkey as fourth in a table of contributor countries to its emergency humanitarian fund and Turkey spent more than \$1 billion on relief projects, mainly aimed at Syrian refugees, in 2012.

Georgian PM Highlights Steps Aimed Cooperation

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – On August 22, Chairman of the National Assembly of Armenia Galust Sahakyan received the delegation led by the Prime Minister of Georgia Irakli Garibashvili, who was paying an official visit to the country. The Deputy of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Eduard Sharmazanov, the Secretary General of the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia Hrayr Tovmasyan, parliament members from the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, as well as the ambassadors of the two countries attended the meeting. The National Assembly press office reported that the chairman of the National Assembly of Armenia, Galust Sahakyan, welcomed the guests and stated that this visit proves once again the willingness of the two countries to strengthen and expand the comprehensive cooperation.

Garibashvili greeted Sahakyan and the attendees and noted that the visit of the Georgian delegation targets to further develop the friendly ties with the neighboring country and contribute to strengthening of the economic and cultural relations. Among other things, Garibashvili highlighted the steps aimed at expanding cooperation between the Armenian and Georgian Parliaments.

International News

Aznavour Worried about Christians, Minorities of Middle East

PARIS (Armenpress) – Legendary French-Armenian singer Charles Aznavour is worried about the fate of Christians and other minorities in the Middle East. On French radio station Europe 1, the famous singer spoke about the Christians and other minority groups massacred by Islamic terrorists.

The singer, referring to the tragic plight of Christians and other minorities of Iraq and Syria, said: "We must welcome these people to save them. Invite one into your home! Help them find an apartment." Aznavour believes that abandoned villages in France can be repopulated in this way.

The singer then talked about the fact that 40 Iraqi Christians arrived in France last Thursday. "I welcome it. I do believe that Mr. Fabius (the French foreign minister) has done it from the bottom of his heart. These families can help their children, raise them, and work and live with dignity," Aznavour said.

Mark Bemalyan Champion in Nanjing

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Mark Bemalyan, representing the Russian Federation, won today a gold medal in Greco-Roman wrestling in the up-to-85-kg division at the Second Youth Olympic Games held in Nanjing, China. Bemalyan defeated Bulgaria's wrestler Kirill Milov 9 to 6.

Bemalyan is a rising star of Russian wrestling and in almost all his contests at the Second Youth Olympic Games has not left his opponents any opportunity to win.

Khachanov Silver Medalist in Nanjing

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Russian tennis player Karen Khachanov of Armenian origin, who lives in the city of Sochi, won a silver medal at the Second Youth Olympic Games held in Nanjing, China.

The Russian Karen Khachanov and Andrey Rublev disputed a line call in their Men's Doubles Gold Medal Match against Orlando Moraes Luz and Marcelo Zormann Silva of Brazil on day eight of Nanjing's games at the Tennis Academy of China. After two sets the score was 1-1, and only in the third set were the Brazilians able to get ahead.

Iran's Leader to Take Part in Caspian Sea Summit

TEHRAN (Armenpress) – Iran's President Hassan Rouhani will pay an official visit to Russia to attend the upcoming summit of the Caspian Sea littoral states. As per Press TV, the Iranian president is scheduled to travel to Russia on September 29. The fourth summit of the Caspian Sea littoral states is scheduled to be held in the Russian city of Astrakhan in September.

The littoral states of the Caspian Sea comprise Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. The Caspian Sea is the largest enclosed body of water by area, and is variously classed as the world's largest lake or a full-fledged sea. The issue of the Caspian Sea's legal status has gained importance following the breakup of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and the emergence of newly independent states.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also plans to pay a daylong visit to Moscow on Friday. Zarif's trip comes at the invitation of Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in July that Tehran and Moscow share a common stance on many regional issues, particularly the developments in Iraq and Syria as well as the necessity to fight terrorists in the region.



INTERNATIONAL

Secret Underground Structures, Water Channels Revealed under Ani Ruins

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The underground secrets of the historic ruins in Ani, have been revealed, Hurriyet Daily News reported.

While speaking at the recent “International Ani-Kars Symposium,” history researcher Sezai Yazici said secret water channels, undiscovered monk cells, meditation rooms, huge corridors, intricate tunnels, unbelievable traps and corners that make one lose their sense of direction were just some of the unknown underground structures located at the ancient site.

Yazici said a number of experts, academics and researchers attended the Kars Symposium, which was held at Kars’ Kafkas University from August 14 to 16. At the symposium, Yazici’s presentation titled, “Underground Secrets of Ani,” drew a lot of attention since no previous publications on the underground structures had been mentioned before.

“In 2011 while working on a United Nations project in order to promote Kars and to reveal its historical and cultural heritage, I came across some pretty interesting information. One of the most important names of the first half of the 20th century, George Ivanovic Gurdjieff, who spent most of his childhood and youth in Kars, had chosen [to stay in] an isolated place in Ani along with his friend Pogosyan where they worked for some time together in the 1880s. One day, while digging at one of the underground tunnels in Ani, Gurdjieff and his friend saw that the soil became different. They continued digging and discovered a narrow tunnel. But the end of the tunnel was closed off with stones. They cleaned the stones and found a room. They saw decayed furniture, broken pots and pans in the room. They also found a scrap of parchment in a niche. Although Gurdjieff spoke Armenian very well, he could not read the Armenian writing in the parchment. Apparently, it



View of Ani

was very old Armenian. After a while, they learned that the parchments were letters written by a monk to another monk,” Yazici said, speaking about how he became interested in the underground structures.

“Finally, [Gurdjieff and his friend] succeeded in understanding the letters. Gurdjieff discovered that there was a famous Mesopotamian esoteric school in the place where they found the letters. The famous school was active between the sixth and seventh centuries A.D. and there was a monastery there,” he added.

Yazici said Gurdjieff was the first person to mention the monastery that was located under the Ani Ruins.

“Gurdjieff’s discovery, nearly 135 years ago, could not have been confirmed until the excavation works of 1915. Years later, an Italian excavation team confirmed that it was a monastery. Before Gurdjieff, many travelers also observed that a significant population had lived in caves or rock houses in Ani,” he said.

“The tunnels are above 500 meters in Ani. Most of underground structures and caves were used as houses. The metrical sizes of most of the underground structures have been measured and maps have been made for most of them,” the researcher said, confirming that there were currently 823 underground structures and caves in Ani today.

Yazici said among the most important underground structures were the Giden Gelmez Tunnel, Yeralti Anisi (Underground Ani) and Gizli Kapılar (Secret Doors). “On the other hand, Ani also has four complicated structures. It is very difficult to reach some of them. It is time to mention these underground structures in the promotion of Ani. The Culture and Tourism Ministry should put signs showing the places of underground structures and build walking paths. Underground structures draw great interest in the world,” Yazici said.

Turkey’s Overlooked Role in Rise of Latest ‘Islamic Caliphate’ and What’s Coming Next

By Gregory R. Copley

ISTANBUL (*World Tribune*) – Much has been spewed forth about the seemingly inexorable and sudden rise, steeped in blood, of a chimeric new “state,” the so-called Islamic Caliphate. It has occupied land seized from Syria and Iraq, both states conveniently presently divided, distracted, and ripe – at least for the moment – for exploitation.

The Islamic Caliphate (referred to in the Western media as the “Islamic State”) may indeed be a pivotal entity, but perhaps not for the reasons

it thinks itself to be. It may be the final provocation which brings Iran to mount its promised vengeance on Turkey, the patron (and not the victim) of the “caliphate”.

The Islamic Caliphate was nurtured by Turkey from its beginnings in the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) [also Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL)] and the Al Qaida Organization in the Land of the Two Rivers (AQI) organization, Al Qaida in Mesopotamia, the Mujahedin Shura Council in Iraq, Jund al-Sahhaba (Soldiers of the Prophet’s Companions), and a large part of Jabhat al-Nusra (JN). These were often amorphous and overlapping entities.

Massive semi-clandestine support to these groups from Turkey and Qatar – and supported at the beginning by the US and Saudi Arabia – had been designed to break Iran’s hold on Syria and Iraq. But for Turkey and Qatar, it was also a tool to threaten or cower Saudi Arabia and to isolate Iran.

That very genesis was enough to set Iran irrevocably at the throat of Turkey, and could eventually even bring about common cause between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The self-anointed “caliph” of the Islamic Caliphate (or, more modestly, as its Emir) Abu Omar al-Baghdadi (born as Hamed Dawood Mohammed Khalil al-Zawi), broke with Al Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri, ostensibly in defiance of a sacred oath between al-Baghdadi and Zawahiri. We should remember that the Norman conquest of Britain in 1066 was premised similarly on the allegation of the breaking (by English King Harold Godwinson) of a sacred oath to Duke William of Normandy, so the current justification for the actions in the Fertile Crescent should not be dismissed.

What is profoundly obscured and ignored by the international media and policymakers, however, is Turkey’s key role in bringing the “caliphate” into being, and sustaining it now, even though Baghdadi’s people conveniently hold 49 Turkish diplomats hostage in the area of northern Iraq which the Islamists seized. There is evidence also that Turkish sources provided the IC with intelligence which ensured that US Special Forces, on July 4, were unable to locate and free foreign hostages, including US journalist James Foley (who was subsequently beheaded on or about August 19, by an IC “fighter” of apparently UK background).

There is a blur of action surrounding the emergence of the IC to the point where real strategic trends are being overlooked. What, then, are the key factors or trends?

Who Controls al-Baghdadi? As far as al-Baghdadi is concerned, he is controlled by no one, but in reality he cannot survive without Turkey’s support, both from the initial financial and weapons support, to the long-term logistical support. Some 10 percent of his fighters are reportedly Turkish, and most of his fighters are “foreign” and need to enter his region via Turkey. By late August 2014, al-Baghdadi was working to broaden his land “border” with Turkey in order to facil-

itate better contact. The “caliphate” needs to export the 800,000 barrels per day of oil production from the wells it captured in Syria and Iraq, and although it must do this through trucks, rather than pipelines, it is hoping for a stable traffic through Turkey, despite United Nations sanctions against the trade. The “caliphate” may be achieving as much as \$3 million per day from illicit oil exports, insufficient to allow it to govern the territory it has seized.

What happens if Turkey is forced by the international community to actually cease its support for the entity? To stop all traffic, all intelligence support (which clearly works in contravention of US interests), all weapons and human traffic? The “caliphate” would then be an easy target. But the US White House, so long complicit with Turkey in funding the jihadists in Syria, and so dependent on Qatar for US Persian Gulf basing, and supportive essentially of the Turkish approach to the Muslim Brothers, finds it difficult to challenge a Turkish Government which is increasingly visible in its anti-US policies.

The Threat to Iran: The rise of the “caliphate” is a proxy war by Turkey and Qatar, particularly, against Iran.

Washington has supported this, but may be poised to sell out this approach if it can achieve a rapprochement with Tehran. But Turkey, Qatar, and the “caliphate” also represent an existential threat to Saudi Arabia, and ultimately the UAE, Oman, Jordan, Egypt, and Israel. Iran has already begun responding. It is not farfetched to envisage a time when Saudi Arabia and Iran – as well as Israel, Egypt, and so on – can find common cause.

The Kurds: The Turkish leadership believes it has now transformed the Kurds of Turkey, and the Kurds of Syria and Iraq, from enemies into allies. It is true that, as always, the Kurdish leadership of northern Iraq has put aside ideology and ethnicity in the name of profits; their major income, apart from border traffic with Iran, is to act as exporters of oil to Turkey. But Iran and the Iraqi Government can and will, with others, devise new solutions to make the Kurds independent of Ankara.

In all of this, the “caliphate” is vicious, but ephemeral. But it may have forced a new set of regional expediencies. A new Middle East is emerging. Get your tickets early.

Lost Genocide Document by Zabel Yesayan Unearthed in France

PARIS (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Turkish historian Umit Kurt and journalist Alev Er, in their studies at the Paris Nubarian Library, have discovered an hitherto unpublished document on the Armenian Genocide, the author of which is the writer of that time Zabel Yesayan. Her 11-page document details what happened with Armenian women in 1915 and after. Yesayan submitted the document to the representative of the Armenian delegation at the Paris Conference of 1919, Poghos Nubar Pasha. Istanbul-based Turkish-Armenian periodical *Agos* has presented some parts of the document, *Asbarez* reported.

Yesayan particularly mentions that since the beginning of the war, the Union and Progress Party systematically exterminated the Empire’s non-Muslim population. Young women and children, whose numbers were more than 200,000, were forcibly kidnapped.

Yesayan, a gifted novelist, was born in 1878 in Scutari, a district of Constantinople. From an early age, she wanted to be a writer and as early as age 17 she published a short piece in a literary magazine. She obtained higher education in Paris where she worked her way through the Sorbonne by revising a French-

Armenian dictionary and by writing articles and short stories for French and Armenian magazines. She returned to Constantinople at the age of 30 to enjoy an active literary life, well recognized for her talent. The Young Turks ranked her with Zohrab, Zartarian, Siamanto and Varoujan and placed her name – the only female writer – on their list for execution. She escaped to Bulgaria and from there managed to reach the Caucasus, from where she documented much of the atrocities taking place. In 1918 she went to Egypt, then to Cilicia and then to Paris, serving in the Armenian Delegation for Peace. Disillusioned, she became a Communist and urged all diaspora Armenians to recognize Soviet Armenia as the only motherland.

In 1927 she visited Soviet Armenia for the first time. Shortly afterwards she was invited to establish permanent residence. In 1933 at the age of 55, she left a comfortable Parisian life and settled in Soviet Armenia with her daughter, Sophie and son, Hrant. In Yerevan, she taught comparative literature and French literature to university students, wrote numerous articles, and published prolifically. She died under mysterious circumstances in 1943.

Community News

Third Walk of Life For Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry to Be Held Sept. 27 In Watertown

WATERTOWN – On Saturday, September 27, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR) will host its third annual New England Walk of Life Walkathon here. Funds raised as a result of the Walk of Life will support the work of the ABMDR, which helps Armenians worldwide survive life-threatening blood-related illnesses by recruiting and matching unrelated donors to those requiring bone marrow stem cell transplants.

Bone marrow transplanting procedures are now as simple as a blood draw and pose little to no pain. Raising funds helps ABMDR recruit bone marrow donors, which is the crucial first step towards saving a life.

Walkers will follow a 2.2-mile route beginning at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC) at 47 Nichols Ave. The Walkathon will take participants to the “Faire on the Square” town celebration on Main Street, where walkers can enjoy the festivities: local food, music and dance.

The Walk of Life has already attracted the participation of several community organizations, including the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Young Professionals, Amaras Art Alliance, Armenian American Pharmacists’ Association, Armenian Business Network, Boston College Armenian Club, Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association, Daughters of Vartan, Erebuni Armenian School, Erebuni Dance School and Ensemble, Friends of Armenian Cultural Society, Hamazkayin, Lexington High School Armenian Club, St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School and YerazArt Foundation. New organizations are registering every day, and prospective participants are encouraged to join one of the existing teams, start their own team or walk individually.

Last year, the walk raised \$14,000 and doubled participants from the year before, with more than 200 walkers. “We hope to continue this growth trend and make the 2014 New England walk an even greater success,” said Dr. Frieda Jordan, president of ABMDR.

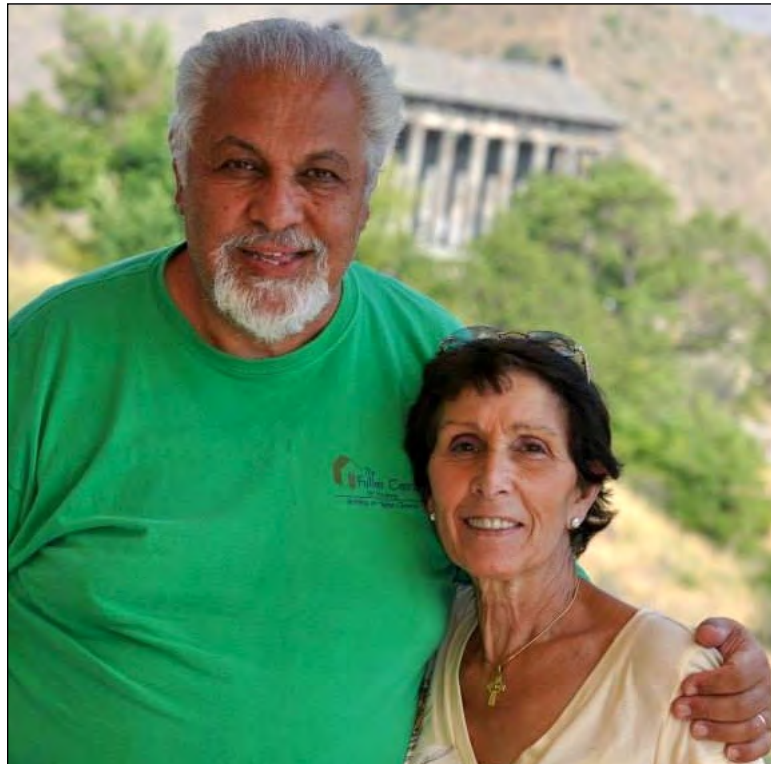
Dana Farber Cancer Institute of Boston has been a major sponsor of the event since its inception three years ago.

This year, the Armenian American Pharmacists Association and Watertown Savings Bank have both offered to sponsor the event.

ABMDR would like to mobilize the community to support this event and the response to-date has been significant. To register for the walkathon, sponsor a walker, or for more information, interested individuals are encouraged to visit <http://www.abmdr.am/ne-walk/> or contact Tatoul Badalian.

To date, the registry has recruited more than 22,000 donors in 17 countries across four continents, identified 2,135 patients and facilitated 16 bone marrow transplants.

To register for the walkathon, visit <http://www.abmdr.am/ne-walk/>



Leo and Sona Manuelian of River Vale, NJ lead teams of volunteers from the US to build homes for needy families.

New Jersey Couple Finds Inspiration by Building Homes in Armenia

RIVER VALE, N.J. – From July 17 to 28, Leo and Sona Manuelian of New Jersey led a home building mission to Armenia under the auspices of the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia (FCHA). Since 2010, they have dedicated every summer to assisting the homeless in Armenia; they have led five teams and more than 75 volunteers from the United States. Their story of selfless devotion to their brothers and sisters in Armenia is inspired by their deep Christian faith. Leo and Sona are doing what most Diasporan Armenians only think about – they spend their hard-earned vacation money working shoulder to shoulder with Armenian families in need.

Leo Manuelian’s first trip to Armenia was 11 years ago as a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity Armenia. He was so impressed with the work being done to give rural families decent and safe homes that he decided to become a team leader himself. In 2008, Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat, created a new organization, called the Fuller Center for Housing. Leo decided he would join the new Fuller Center affiliate in Armenia. His close friends and former Habitat staff started the FCHA organization.

His parents were both victims of the Armenian Genocide. His parents often told him the stories of their suffering. Leo explains, “I do this work because I never want to see Armenians forced from their lands. Homelessness is a problem we can solve, and I am committed to being a part of the solution by building homes for families who need our help. I do this work with a tremendous amount of pride. I will work with FCHA until the good Lord calls me home.”

With his 2014 trip just a few weeks behind him, Leo Manuelian is already ordering tools and other supplies to take to FCHA in 2015. Not for one moment does this man stop talking about Armenia, its beautiful people, and the Fuller Center for Housing. And now his wife, Sona, has embraced her husband’s deep-seated passion.

see HOMES, page 7



The Manuelian’s 2014 team with the homeowners in the village of Kanakeravan

Patron of Future Journalists at Yerevan State Receives Honor

NEW YORK and YEREVAN – Although it was the sweltering peak of Armenia’s summer, a handful of beaming students from Yerevan State University’s (YSU) Department of Journalism simply couldn’t let the heat prevent a prime photo op right in front of their faculty building with their long awaited guest and generous supporter Margaret Ajemian Ahnert.

Ahnert, the founder of the New York-based Fund for Armenian Relief’s (FAR) Ester Ajemian Scholarship, met with the Ajemian Scholarship’s beneficiary students at YSU’s Journalism Department and spoke to them about the difficulties she had to face along her path. She also made sure to stress her achievements in the face of such difficulties. Ahnert was herself a journalist, and authored the book *The Knock at the Door* about the Armenian Genocide of 1915. *The Knock at the Door* was subsequently recognized by the New York Book



Margaret Ajemian Ahnert

Festival as the Best Historical Memoir of 2008.

“I didn’t have a chance to go to school. I listened to my mother and married very young. When I went to university, I was 50. You now have more time than me, so go ahead!” she exclaimed to her young colleagues.

see FAR, page 6

Margarian Law Firm Announces Recipients Of 2014 Scholarship

GLENDALE – After months of anticipation, the Margarian Law Firm announced recently the five winners of the 2014 Margarian Scholarship. The firm received over 600 applications from all around the world from very deserving students in all walks of life.

The Scholarship Committee spent hundreds of hours carefully reviewing each and every portion of each application received. Given the high levels of achievement demonstrated by each applicant, it was very difficult for the Scholarship Committee to narrow down the application pool. Each applicant was deserving way and exhibited excellent grades, service to the community, leadership skills and the ability to rise above obstacles.

After thorough review and extensive deliberation, The Margarian Law Firm has announced the winners of the 2014 Margarian Scholarship: Marina Hovhannisyan; Eric Santiago Jaimes; Yujung Kim; Mariam Maghakyan and Diana Muradova.

The winners were recognized at the Margarian Scholarship Awards Reception on Wednesday, August 20 at LA Banquets’ Glenoaks Ballroom.

The Margarian Law Firm is always looking for ways to reward youth for their hard work and contributions to society. News and upcoming events are available on the firm’s website, www.MargarianLaw.com, or on its Facebook page.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Assembly Staff Meets with *Ardzagank* Analyst Giorgi Tumasyan

By Taniel Koushakjian

WASHINGTON – A few weeks ago, Giorgi Tumasyan, an analyst for the Georgian-Armenian newspaper *Ardzagank*, stopped by the Armenian Assembly of America headquarters in Washington, DC. Tumasyan met with Assembly staff and was briefed on the Assembly's work in Washington on behalf of the Armenian-American community. Assembly staff shared with Tumasyan the importance that the Assembly places on the Armenian com-

munity in Georgia, as evidenced by the repeated calls for US assistance to the ethnically Armenian-populated Samtskhe-Javakheti region of Georgia in testimony submitted by Bryan Ardouny, Executive Director of the Assembly to the US House Appropriations Committee over the past few years.

"Cooperation between Armenian American organizations and Armenian communities of Georgia are an important element of the Armenian Diaspora. Armenian Americans are influential in many international organizations and serve as a reliable partner of Georgian Armenians," Tumasyan stated. "We hope that



From left, Taniel Koushakjian, Giorgi Tumasyan and Armenian Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny

Patron of Future Journalists at Yerevan State Receives Honor

FAR, from page 5

"After I go home I will make sure that this small help will continue from now on. It was my feeling that here in Armenia girls need to have help to become journalists and have a voice, and I can now see that this is what you have become."

As part of the meeting, YSU Journalism Dean Naghash Martirosyan bestowed upon Ahnert a certificate honoring her as an individual who has "supported and contributed to the education of young journalists." The award was also presented by the university's rector Aram Simonyan.

"I pray for you from time to time and dream one day to help young journalism

students like you do," Naira Hambarzumyan, a former student and current public relations representative for the Ministry of Defense, said during the meeting.

"Philanthropy is a beautiful thing but more beautiful is the recognition of philanthropy," Martirosyan reflected at the closing of the meeting.

Members of the Armenian media were present at the event to meet with Mrs. Ahnert, and several stories about her visit made it to air on TV and online. You can watch one of the interviews with her here. It was done by CivilNet.TV, one of the leading online news sources in Armenia.



YSU Journalism Dean Naghash Martirosyan

the Armenian Assembly of America will do its best in solidifying our diaspora around the world, and in Georgia in particular."

Tumasyan studies at the Institute of Asia and Africa at the Free University of Tbilisi. He majors in international relations with a special focus on the Middle East and a minor in international law. He speaks Armenian, Georgian, English, Russian and Arabic.

Ardzagank is a publication of the Hayartun Cultural, Educational and Youth Centre, a secular community-based organization affiliated with the Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic

Orthodox Holy Church in Georgia. Since its foundation on April 30, 2010, the center has served the Georgian-Armenian community and those interested in Armenian culture in Georgia, regardless of ethnic origin or religious affiliation. The main objectives of the organization include the promotion of cultural, educational and charitable activities, the development and the preservation of the Armenian cultural heritage in Georgia, the promotion of the Armenian-Georgian dialogue, and the protection of human rights in Georgia.

OBITUARY

Charles H. Kouyoumjian

WEST ROXBURY, Mass. – Charles H. Kouyoumjian of West Roxbury died on August 21, 2014. He was 73.

He leaves his wife, Donna (Daniels) Kouyoumjian; son Joseph H. and his wife Lucine of Bedford, Charles S. and his wife Tani of Weston and twin sons Richard and Alex of West Roxbury; brothers Joseph R. and his wife Linda of Woburn and Stephen J. and his wife Lisa of Maine.

He was an accomplished oud player performing along with his brothers in various Armenian social functions.

He was a captain in the US Air Force.

The funeral was from the Kfoury Keefe Funeral Home, 8 Spring St., West Roxbury on Wednesday, August 27. Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Theresa of Avila Church.

In lieu of flowers donations in his memory may be made to St. Theresa of Avila School, 40 St. Theresa Ave., West Roxbury, MA 02132. Interment was at St. Joseph Cemetery, West Roxbury.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

New Jersey Couple Finds Inspiration by Building Homes in Armenia

HOMES, from page 5

Sona Manuelian has been a team leader by her husband's side for the past five years. She didn't join his earlier trips because of a great fear of flying. However, when Leo would return from Armenia with his emotional stories about the families and the land, she was unable to resist the strong force tugging her toward the homeland.

She shares, "Helping my sisters and brothers in Armenia fills my heart with joy. There is no other country like Armenia. My roots are here. Working with the Fuller Center gives me such

This year, the couple led a team of 14 volunteers from the US including: Beth Broussalian (California), Mary and Benjamin Nikssarian (California), Avedis Kargenian (Illinois), Perry Sarkisian (New York), Richard Sarkisian, (New Jersey), Sean Hughes (New York), Gary and Christian Khachian (Connecticut), Andrea and Steven Sinnott (Maryland), and Jennifer Mugerditchian (Georgia). They worked on the home of Archanik and Susanna Simonyan in the village of Kanakeravan, on the outskirts of Yerevan. During their six workdays, the team filled and concreted the floors of the three-bed-



Team members, homeowner Archanik Simonyan (top left), and the Fuller Center staff get ready to prepare the concrete flooring.

elation that my heart becomes larger than my body! We do God-pleasing work. Our team members and the homeowners all join together, hand in hand, to build a new home. Where they had nothing before, the families now have a home and hope for the future. To see the smiles on the homeowners' faces is priceless. I will continue to come to Armenia and work with FCHA until the day I die!"

room house and insulated the attic with crushed "toof," the indigenous volcanic rock.

During one of the work days, the team was joined by youth from the Christian Youth Mission to Armenia (CYMA - Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America) and residents of Mer Hooys, a program based in Yerevan that provides opportunities to young adult women from disadvantaged lifestyles so



Homeowners Archanik & Susanna Simonyan pictured with Varush Simonyan and Grigor Grigoryan in the village of Kanakeravan.

they may achieve a productive and secure future. When not working, the team enjoyed sightseeing in Yerevan and touring breathtaking religious and cultural monuments.

To become an FCHA beneficiary, prospective homeowners must complete an application. The application first undergoes a paper audit and then a field audit to determine eligibility. To be eligible, a family must own a half-built home or a home in need of renovation; have an income which can sustain the family, but is not enough to allow them to complete construction of the house on their own or to pay off a bank loan; and, as a result of these factors, live in substandard housing (typically, a portion of the uncompleted house, a "domik", or a borrowed home). FCHA has no shortage of applicants.

In addition to its sweat equity, the beneficiary family is only required to cover the cost of

basic materials (what the Fuller Center calls "the economy of Jesus"). Upon completion and occupation of the house, the cost of materials is converted to an interest-free mortgage, which the family pays in an affordable monthly amount. These funds are then used to purchase materials for other villagers' homes. In the more than ten years that this work has been advanced in Armenia, approximately 650 families have been provided with an affordable and decent home.

The positive impact of the FCHA program extends beyond the tangible economic and social benefits. It has proven to be 100-percent effective in stemming emigration. From the perspective of the volunteers, this experience allows them to learn about the homeland and enjoy the satisfaction of engaging in a truly Christian experience. It's a win-win-win situation!

The Manuelians have already set their trip dates for next year: July 1-13, 2015. For more information, contact Leo Manuelian at levonvi@yahoo.com, Sona Manuelian at moog8238@yahoo.com. To learn about additional trip dates with FCHA, visit www.fullercenterarmenia.org or email volunteer@fullercenterarmenia.org.

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St. Gregory Church Hosts Picnic Sept. 7

NORTH ANDOVER, Mass. — St. Gregory Armenian Church of Merrimack Valley will host its annual picnic Sunday, September 7, on the church grounds, 158 Merrimack St., from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Featured musicians will be Leon Janikian, Jason Naroian, Johnj Berberian and John Arzigian. Also appearing will be the Siroun Dance Group of Central Massachusetts.

Menu includes traditional Armenian dinners and Armenian pastries.

Games and activities for the whole family will take place.

For further details, visit www.saintgregory.org.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian National Team member Garen Spendjian Signs Pro Basketball Contract with El Shams of Egypt

NEW YORK – Garen Spendjian of the Armenian National Basketball Team will soon begin his professional basketball career with the El Shams basketball team of Cairo, Egypt. The 6'5" Spendjian will play both the power forward and small forward positions for El Shams of the Egyptian Super League. Officially known as El Shams Sporting Club, the team is based in Heliopolis, a suburb of Cairo, known as the heart of the Armenian community.

Spendjian, a New York native, rose to prominence at Glen Cove High School in Glen Cove. He was named Nassau County Conference ABC 5 player of the year and All-Nassau County during his senior season in 2010. As a senior, Spendjian averaged 23.6 points per game to lead Nassau County in scoring, while finishing third overall in scoring for all of Long Island.

Spendjian helped lead Cortland University to the SUNYAC conference championship during the 2012-2013 season. The team finished with a record of 24-5 and advanced to the second round of the NCAA Div. III tournament. During his senior season, Spendjian had a career high of 30 points versus Utica College on 12-15 shooting from the field, including 5-6 from the 3 point line. He was the team's second leading rebounder.

Carl Bardakian, head coach of the Armenian National Basketball Team, stated "Garen's strong work ethic was evident at our training camp in Yerevan. His dedication and commitment are to be commended." Hrachya Rostomyan, president of the Basketball Federation of Armenia, expressed his congratulations to Spendjian on behalf of the Basketball Federation of Armenia. Rostomyan stated "We wish Garen good luck and a successful season with El Shams Sporting Club." Boxing champion Vanes Martirosyan, a friend of Spendjian's and the national team, stated "I want to congratulate Garen on his contract. I'm really proud of him. Knock them out, Garen."



Garen Spendjian playing in college



Garen Spendjian dunks with the Armenian national team.

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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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COMMUNITY NEWS

Rich Berberian Wins NEPGA Championship

By Michael Whitmer

STRATHAM, N.H. (*Boston Globe*) – Like almost every PGA club professional, Rich Berberian's work week typically involves giving lessons and conducting clinics, then searching for any available downtime so he can devote attention to his own game.

For someone who still harbors aspirations of becoming a professional golfer, being a golf professional the past two seasons at Windham Country Club has offered Berberian the opportunity to help others with their games.

Memo to the Windham membership: Berberian's hourly rate might be going up, and his lesson sheet might be filling up. Those would be two of the spoils that come with winning the 94th New England PGA Championship, which Berberian did on Wednesday, in front of friends and family not far from where he lives.

"Being from New Hampshire pretty much my whole life, living 40 minutes away from here, it hasn't really set in yet," said Berberian, not long after he shot a 1-under-par 71 at the Country Club of New England to win the 54-hole tournament by three shots. "I haven't had a week like this, haven't been playing this well. I've been working on it pretty hard, and I guess in the process of feeling comfortable with it my game's been getting better, and I'm glad it is. It's about time."

He was born in Massachusetts (Winchester), but the 26-year-old Berberian has lived in Derry, NH, nearly his entire life. That made this week a home game, with New Hampshire taking its turn to serve as host for the NEPGA's most prestigious tournament, which dates to 1921. Portsmouth Country Club served as the sister course for the first two rounds, before the field of 189 was cut to 64 for the final round, held at the demanding Golf Club of New England.

Berberian was making his section championship debut, and after rounds of 69-71 he held a one-shot lead over defending champion Shawn Warren heading into the final round.

If Berberian was nervous, his game sure didn't show it. He birdied four of his first six holes to extend the lead to five shots, mostly riding a hot putter: 15-footer at the first, 8-footer at No. 3, 10-footer at the fourth, and a 30-footer at No. 6.

"I had no business making that one, wasn't trying to, but I had a good read on it and the speed was more important, and it just went in," Berberian said.

As quickly as Berberian's early play erased much of the suspense many might have



Rich Berberian

expected, a two-hole span brought the drama right back. Berberian played the wrong ball after his approach shot to the par-4 seventh hole nestled in deep greenside rough. He discovered the error (the wrong ball he hit was also a TaylorMade), found his ball, then got up-and-down for what would have been a par. But the two-stroke penalty turned that into a double bogey, and Berberian's lead was down to three. Warren birdied the par-3 eighth hole, and suddenly the difference was two.

"It was pretty calming, to be honest, and that was probably because of the start I had. I didn't worry about it, I just wanted to make sure I got the ruling right," Berberian said.

Warren drew within one shot of the lead when Berberian three-putted from 25 feet at the par-3 14th, but gave that shot right back when he pulled his drive on No. 15 into a hazard, resulting in a penalty stroke and leading to a double bogey.

That was as close as Warren would get.

"It was about making that one putt that kind of got the momentum going. I was hitting quality shots, and never really making that putt and getting rewarded," said Warren, a professional at Falmouth Country Club in

Maine. "Rich played great today. He was able to make some putts, and I thought that was the difference."

Any chance Warren had at back-to-back wins ended on Nos. 16 and 17. He and Berberian had similar-length birdie putts at the 16th, with Warren trailing by two shots. He missed from 14 feet, then Berberian made, and the lead was three. Warren then took a double bogey at No. 17, meaning Berberian could coast down the home hole. He did, a closing double bogey only costing him a larger victory margin.

The \$17,000 first prize, from a record purse of approximately \$100,000, likely will go toward Berberian's entry fee for Web.com Qualifying School, which starts in October.

"I've gone the last four years, and success-wise it hasn't been the greatest," Berberian said. "I was thinking about it the last few days, and I'll probably be going down in October and keep trying. That's probably the best thing to do: Do it, do it, do it, until something good happens."

Warren shot 73 and tied for second with Jeff Seavey (72) from Samoset Resort in Maine. They finished 2 under par, three

behind the winner. Jeffrey Martin, who played with Berberian and Warren in the final group, shot 74 and was alone in fourth. He was also the low professional from a Massachusetts course or club.

A competition within the competition was determining the 14 players who will earn spots in the 2015 PGA Professional National Championship, which is scheduled for June at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. Other Massachusetts pros qualifying for the national club pro included Daniel Venezia (Myopia Hunt Club), Boomer Erick (Boston Golf Club), David Dionne (Beverly Golf & Tennis Club), James Burke (Leo J. Martin) and Greg Yeomans from the Bay Club at Mattapoisett.

"The national club pro is an important tournament for all of us club professionals. There's 28,000 guys that have the potential to tee it up in their section and go play," said Martin, who works at Norton Country Club and will be making his 11th consecutive appearance next year in the national tournament. He played in the 2013 PGA Championship. "To have a chance to play in a PGA Championship with the big guys, it's a great honor."

Origins of Armenian Community in New England and Armenian-American 'Cultural Congruence'

FRESNO – Dr. Simon Payaslian, holder of the Charles K. and Elizabeth M. Kenosian Chair in Modern Armenian History and Literature at Boston University, will give a talk titled "The Origins of the Armenian Community in New England and the Construction of Armenian-American 'Cultural Congruence,'" on Friday, September 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The lecture is the first in the Fall Lecture Series of the Armenian Studies Program and is supported by the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

This lecture discusses the origins and development of the Armenian community in the United States, with a focus on the New England region, from the 1880s to the 1920s. The early Armenian immigrants to the New World, having fled Ottoman oppressive rule and economic depression, were confronted with the twin, and often conflicting, tasks of preservation of Armenian traditions, values, and mores of the homeland while seeking rapid integration and assimilation into American society. The case of the Armenian community in the United States demonstrates the dynamic nature of, and the



Prof. Simon Payaslian

complexities involved in, the construction and evolution of a diasporan community and identity. Armenian community institutions not only functioned as instruments for self-preservation but also sought to cultivate a positive self-image of the community in the host society.

A comparative analysis of the Armenian-language newspaper *Hayk* and the English-lan-

guage *Armenia* journal reveals the deep tensions between the imperatives of self-preservation and the imperatives of cultural integration and rapid economic growth. *Hayk* emphasized preservation of Armenianness against foreignization and sought to instill a sense of community belongingness and cultural authenticity. It urged community institutions and leaders to protect the newly arriving family members and compatriots from what its authors considered the dangers of drifting and assimilating into the dominant culture.

On the other hand, the *Armenia* journal promoted the idea of "cultural congruence" between Armenian and American values. It represented those sectors in the Armenian community who felt compelled to guarantee economic survival and success, to strive to create favorable impressions of Armenia and the Armenians among their American hosts, and to lobby for favorable US

foreign policy towards the homeland. The promotion of "cultural congruence" between Armenian and American values and identities as cultivated by the *Armenia* journal in the early part of the twentieth century emerged as the dominant paradigm for the Armenian communities across the United States by the 1940s and has survived largely uncontested since then.

Payaslian is the author of a number of books, including *The Political Economy of Human Rights in Armenia: Authoritarianism and Democracy in a Former Soviet Republic* (2011) and *International Political Economy: Conflict and Cooperation in the Global System* (co-authored with Frederic S. Pearson) (McGraw-Hill, 1999; Chinese translation, Peking University Press, 2006). His articles and book chapters include "Diasporan Subalternities: The Armenian Community in Syria," *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies* 16:1/2 (2007 [2012]): 92-132, and "Imagining Armenia," in *The Call of the Homeland: Diaspora Nationalisms, Past and Present*, edited by Allon Gal, Athena S. Leoussi and Anthony D. Smith (Brill, 2010).

Arts & Living

Writer Aram Saroyan to Speak At LA's St. James Ladies Society Luncheon

LOS ANGELES – The St. James Ladies Society of St. James Armenian Apostolic Church of Los Angeles are proud to announce that noted award-winning writer and poet Aram Saroyan, son of author William Saroyan, will be the guest speaker at their 47th Annual Country Store and Luncheon.

This annual event will be held on Saturday, October 11, beginning with a champagne reception and traditional country store and bake sale at 11 a.m., followed by the luncheon and “An Afternoon with Aram Saroyan” at noon. The festivities will be held at St. James Armenian Apostolic Church, 4950 West Slauson Ave., in John Gogian Hall.

Aram Saroyan is the son of Armenian-American author William Saroyan and the actress Carol Grace Matthew. According to Truman Capote, Carol's personality was the inspiration for the Holly Golightly character in the novella *Breakfast at Tiffany's*. She was twice married to the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer William Saroyan over an eight-year period. The couple had two children: Aram and the late actress Lucy Saroyan, who died in 2003.

She was also married to actor Walter Matthau, from August 21, 1959 until his death on July 1, 2000; they had one son, Charles Matthau, a Hollywood film producer. She had a wide social circle and was known for her wit and good company, amongst them, her very dear friends Gloria Vanderbilt and Oona Chaplin.

“We are truly pleased and excited,” stated Silvia Salmastian, chair of the St. James Ladies Society, “that internationally known poet, novelist, biographer, memoirist, and playwright Aram Saroyan has taken time from his busy



Aram Saroyan

schedule to address our guests. We have appropriately selected ‘Food for Thought’ as the theme for our luncheon this year.”

Aram Saroyan's poetry has been widely anthologized and appears in many textbooks. *Complete Minimal Poems* received the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America. Saroyan's prose books include *Genesis Angels: The Saga of Lew Welch and the Beat Generation*, *Last Rites*, a book about the death of his father William Saroyan, and *Trio: The Intimate Friendship of Oona Chaplin/Carol Matthau/Gloria Vanderbilt*. His first prose book, *The Street: An Autobiographical Novel*, was recently reprinted in a 40th-anniversary edition.

The recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts poetry awards (one of them for his controversial one-word poem “light”), Saroyan is a past president of the writers' organization PEN USA West. From 1996 to 2011 he taught in the Master of Professional Writing Program at the University of Southern California. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, the painter and architectural historian, Gailyn Saroyan.



The late Aram Gharabekian

Open Music Society Foundation Pays Tribute to Aram Gharabekian

LOS ANGELES – Open Music Society Foundation (OMS) will host a special evening celebrating the life and work of Aram Gharabekian, on Sunday, September 21, 6 p.m., at The Colburn School, Zipper Hall, 200 S. Grand Ave.

Performers will be Aida Amirkhanian, Nune Badalyan, Suren Bagratuni, Steve Amerson, Tamara Petrosyan, Ara Ghukasyan, Ella Melik-Husyan and Nona Alakhverdova, who will honor the late conductor's passion for music and his devotion to his homeland.

Gharabekian began his career as a student at the Boston Conservatory of Music. He studied with Franco Ferrara at the Music Academy in Siena, Italy as well as with Sergiu Celibidache in Munich, Germany. He completed his master's degree at the New England Conservatory and participated in postgraduate studies at the University of Mainz in Germany. His passion and commitment to music was evident early on and his career took off as the founder, music director and conductor of the Sinfonova Chamber Orchestra in Boston. This afforded Gharabekian the opportunity to work with local musicians but also to play at national venues such as Carnegie Hall and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion with his performances broadcast on NPR's “Performance Today.” During his time in Boston, he received an ASCAP award in 1988 for Adventurous Programming as well as the 1989 Lucien Wulsin Performance Award for best concert performance aired on NPR. The *Boston Globe* noted his performances as “Best” throughout the years in Boston and he was twice honored by the Harvard Musical Association with the “Best Performance Award.”

His musical career took him all over the globe. He spent a considerable time in Europe appearing as the principal guest conductor for the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra in Croatia as well as being invited by the Minister of Culture of Ukraine to assume the post of artistic advisor and conductor of the Ukrainian National Symphony Orchestra in Kiev.

Gharabekian consistently returned to his beloved Armenia and between 1997 and 2010, where he served as the music director and conductor of the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia. During his tenure there, he toured all over the world garnering accolades both in Armenia and abroad. During this time, he was the recipient of the Movses Khoenatsi Presidential Medal for his contribution to the arts in Armenia, he was featured on a CNN Special, recognized in a proclamation by the US Congress and featured on Russia's Kultura TV channel for his exceptional talents and contributions to the arts.

In 2010, he founded and served as the artistic director of the Open Music Society in the United States. He had the extraordinary honor of conducting the musical celebration of the arrival of the Shuttle Endeavor to Los Angeles. He inspired and entertained international celebrities and dignitaries at this event much as he had throughout his long and varied career.

He was truly a citizen of the world, bringing his love of music wherever he went. He inspired others to excellence and brought his own brand of excellence to everything he did. It is with his spirit in mind and a shared love of music that OMSF celebrates his life and legacy.

All proceeds will be donated to his Legacy Projects. For more information and tickets, visit www.itsmyseat.com/omsf.

Bohjalian, Mouradian to Discuss ‘Narrating Genocide’ at Clark

WORCESTER, Mass. – Chris Bohjalian and Khatchig Mouradian will discuss “Narrating Genocide” at Clark University on September 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Higgins Lounge at Dana Commons, Clark University, 950 Main St.

Organized by the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies and co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), the event will explore the different routes to the past – literature and history – and how each genre informs the other.

Strassler Center Director Prof. Deborah Dwork will moderate the discussion, which is part of the center's “Critical History” lecture series.

Bohjalian is the author of 17 books, nine of which are *New York Times* bestsellers. His novel *Midwives* was number one on the *New York Times* bestsellers list and a selection of Oprah's Book Club. His work has been translated into more than 25 languages, and three of his novels have become movies. His books have been chosen as Best Books of the Year by the *Washington Post*, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, the *Hartford Courant*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Bookpage* and *Salon*.

see CLARK, page 13



“Benvenuta Duemila” by George Berberian

Exhibit Featuring Works Of George Berberian at Armenian Museum

WATERTOWN – The Armenian Museum of America presents “Hundred Years Wandering,” an exhibition of new and recent paintings by artist George Berberian. The exhibition will be on view September 14 through November 9. The opening reception will be held in the Contemporary Art Gallery, on the third floor of the museum on Sunday, September 14, 2 to 4 p.m. The opening reception is free and open to the public.

Berberian's artwork has been exhibited internationally in Germany, England, France, Russia, Armenia, Estonia, Finland and Lithuania. Currently based in Jamaica Plain, Mass., Berberian recently exhibited artwork in several Boston venues. Berberian has worked in fine arts education as a lecturer in London and organized annual students' exhibitions such as Art Alive and Koestler competition. Berberian is a member of the London-based “Artists in Exile” group.

Refreshments will be provided. Donations are welcome.



ARTS & LIVING

Emmy Winner Pays Tribute to Women of the Genocide

MARONIAN, from page 1

He works on Armenian-themed productions such as "Orphans of the Genocide" with the independent Armenoid Team, a subsidiary of Armenoid Productions. Among the other shorts he has done on Armenian subjects are "Komitas Hayrig," selected by ARP Film Festival in Hollywood and "Wall of the Genocide," winner of a Telly Award in Historical Communicator category and screened in the Myrtle Beach International Film Festival and ARPA.

Maronian said that the starting point for "Orphans" was a particularly disturbing column by British journalist Robert Fisk on an Armenian orphanage in Antoura, Lebanon, which once housed 1,000 orphans who were forced by punishment to lose their heritage.

He worked on the film for more than three years. Eventually it was broadcast on four PBS stations, invited by various communities, universities and clubs for viewing both in the US and around the world, and shown at various film festivals, including the Apricot Film Festival in Yerevan, Socially Rated Film Festival in New York, Toronto's Pomegranate Film Festival and the Cannes Film Festival's documentary division.

In addition, it will be shown at the 2015 Geneva International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights. "They are very interested in making 'Orphans of the Genocide' part of the 2015 festival. It is the most important step that the film could take," Maronian said proudly.

Now, Maronian is focusing on the women who were victimized during the Genocide and the many American and European women who came to the rescue of the Genocide victims.

Work on "Women of 1915" is "going very well," Maronian said. He is in the process of fundraising to complete it.

"I am very hopeful that we will realize our

financial needs," he said. "Our initial goal was to finish the film by April 2015, but I did not think that was a realistic deadline. I did not want to jeopardize the quality," he said. The film will be finished in 1915, but possibly closer to the fall.

"We are filming and still doing some research. It is in the second phase, where we have lined up some interviews with people

Canada and volunteered to travel to Western Armenia and the killing fields of the Genocide to meet their Armenian sisters," he said.

He added, "Despite the cultural differences, a sisterhood was created between these two types of women. It was a phenomenal friendship that eventually saved thousands of lives."

Among the women who will be featured will be writer and activist Zabel Yessayan, Danish

"The women were tortured, used and abused and besides that, they had to take care of their kids and make a living," he said. "That is why Armenian needle work and rug weaving are so cultivated."

Another aspect of the film will be dedicated to Islamized or hidden Armenians. "Turkish women on their death beds would confess that they were Armenian," Maronian said. Now he said, the topic is being more and more exposed.

The recent attacks in Iraq against the Christians and especially against the Yezidi minority, brought to mind the very same situation of the Armenians early this century.

"As soon as I saw the images, on the same type of terrain, Mosul, it's the stories that we hear, how they walked for miles and miles, the women were raped, the children killed, exactly what happened to the Armenians." One difference, he stressed, was in the case of the Armenians, the mass murders were ordered by a government, "not a group of thugs."

Sadly, the events of 2014 also confirm for those who may still not believe that such depravity and murder could take place openly that "what happened to the Armenians is real and not a myth; it really happened. It was the same mentality and the same MO."

"The ultimate goal of what I am doing is to produce film on the Armenian Genocide and spread awareness of the Genocide and ultimately, hopefully, by educational entertainment, to put an end to genocide," Maronian said.

He and his wife and daughter live in Florida.

"I call on people to check their drawers, shoe boxes from their grandfathers, grandmothers, to tell their stories," he said. "We would love to hear their stories and in the process gather photos and film."

Anyone interested in sharing family stories or making a donation can write to armenoid@comcast.net.



Bared Maronian at work

whose families have experienced the Genocide," he added.

The film, he explained, would be about "the plight of Armenian women and all the non-Armenian women who came to the rescue of their sisters. Girls who were 19, 20 or 21 left their plush homes in Scandinavia, the US or

humanitarian Karen Jeppe and American Red Cross founder Clara Barton.

As many familiar with Armenian history know, he explained, the "men were taken care of" by the authorities and killing separately, leaving the women, children and elderly at the mercy of the killers.



Tekeyan Cultural Association, Detroit *an Evening of Poetry*

the presentation of two books of poetry by Vahan Tekeyan
Armenian and English translations, edited by Edmond Azadian—books will be available for purchase

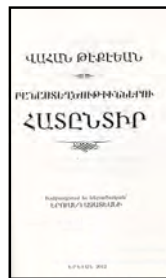


"Selected Poems" in Armenian
to be introduced by
Professor Kevork B Bardakjian

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, Professor Bardakjian received his first degrees in Armenian studies from the University of Yerevan and his D.Phil. from Oxford University, UK. As a Senior Lecturer and Armenian

Bibliographer he taught Armenian literature, language, culture and history at Harvard University and at the Harvard Extension from 1974 to 1987. In 1987, he became the first holder of the newly established Marie Manoogian Chair of Armenian Language and Literature at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. From 1995 to 2007, he was Director of the Armenian Studies Program at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Professor Bardakjian has lectured extensively in the US, Europe and the Middle East. He is the recipient of many prizes, two honorary doctorates, and The Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He is a Fellow of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences and is currently President of the Society for Armenian Studies. His latest major publications are: *A Reference Guide to Modern Armenian Literature, 1500 -1920, with an introductory history*, Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2000. A Turkish translation of this volume (*Modern Ermeni Edebiyatı*) appeared in Istanbul in 2013. Jointly with Professor Sergio La Porta, Professor Bardakjian edited a groundbreaking volume on a hitherto inadequately explored topic: *The Armenian Apocalyptic Tradition: a comparative perspective* (Brill, SVTP series, 2014).

Armenian recitation by Nora Azadian



Airea D. Matthews, Poet & Performer
will present the bi-lingual volume
and offer dramatic readings in English



Airea D. Matthews, a Cave Canem and Callaloo fellow, is a two-time Pushcart Prize nominee and a former Zell Postgraduate Poetry Fellow at the University of Michigan where she earned her MFA in Poetry and was awarded the 2011 Michael R. Gutterman Prize. She also holds a BA in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania and an MPA from The Ford School of Public Policy. A two-time Women of the World Poetry Slam finalist and producer of the one-woman performance collection, *Venus Disrobed*, her performance work was adapted and screened at the 2014 Cannes Lions Festival. Her short fiction and essay work have appeared in *SLAB* literary magazine, *Vida: Her Kind* and *Michigan Quarterly Review*. Her poetry and prose have appeared in *Callaloo*, *The Missouri Review*, *The Indiana Review*, *WSQ*, *The Baffle*, *Vinyl*, *Muzzle* and elsewhere. She is the associate editor for *shufpoetry.com*, a lecturer at the University of Michigan and is currently at work on her first full-length poetry collection. She lives in Detroit with her husband and four children.

*The evening will conclude with a recitation by
Airea D. Mathews from her own poetry.*

Dr. Raffi Belian, Emcee

Friday, September 12th at 7:30 pm
Hagopian World of Rugs Birmingham Showroom
850 S. Old Woodward, Birmingham, MI
Wine Reception to follow

Open to the Public



ARTS & LIVING

Talinn Grigor's Book on Contemporary Iranian Art to Be Released

CHICAGO – Talinn Grigor, associate professor in the Department of Fine Arts of Brandeis University (Waltham, Mass.), has authored *Contemporary Iranian Art: From the Street to the Studio*. It will be released on October 3 from Reaktion Book and be distributed by the University of Chicago Press in North America (296 pp., 164 color plates, 10 halftones).

Grigor is also the author of *Identity Politics in Irano-Indian Modern Architecture* (2013) and *Building Iran: Modernism, Architecture, and National Heritage under the Pahlavi Monarchs* (2009).

The art world has recently witnessed a surge of interest in contemporary Iranian art, but what is the background to Iran's vibrant art scene? *Contemporary Iranian Art* is the first

comprehensive book on Iranian art and visual culture since the 1979 revolution. Divided into three parts – street, studio and exile – it covers official art sponsored by the Islamic Republic, the culture of avant-garde art created in the studio and its display in galleries and museums, and the art of the Iranian diaspora within the Western art scene.

Grigor argues that these different areas of artistic production cannot be fully understood independently, for it is not despite censorship and exile that we are witnessing a boom in Iranian art today, as many have argued, but because of them. Moving between subversive and daring art produced in private to propaganda art made in the public view, this book offers an artistic mirror of the socio-political tur-



moil that has marked Iran's recent history.

The author explores the world of galleries, museums, curators and art critics alongside a discussion of artists and their work, ranging from propaganda murals and martyrdom paraphernalia to avant-garde paintings and museum interiors. Grigor raises such topics as the cross-pollination of kitsch and avant-garde, the art market, state censorship, public-private domains, the political implications of art and artistic identity in exile.

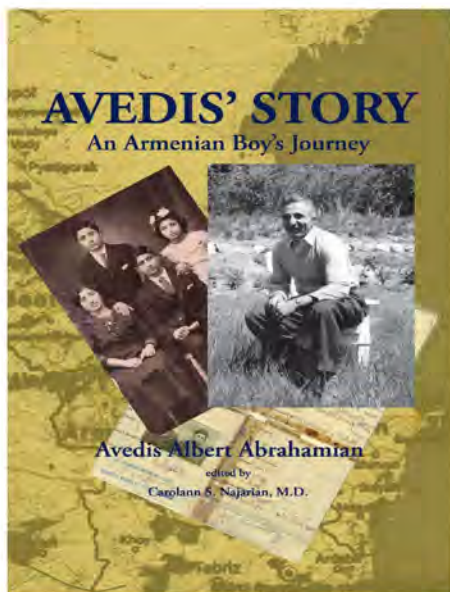
Providing an astute analysis of the workings of artistic production in relation to the institu-

tions of power in the Islamic Republic, Contemporary Iranian Art is essential reading for anyone interested in art today and in Iran's recent history.

"This book is a brave venture, a pioneering act of service to a broad readership. Iran counts as among the most dynamic and charismatic phenomena in the field of contemporary art and to learn about it one has had to rely largely on vacuous marketing ploys of this lucrative body of artistic material," said Dr. Sussan Babaie, lecturer on the history of Persian and Islamic art and architecture at the Courtauld Institute of Art, and author of *Isfahan and its Palaces*.

"Talinn Grigor's painstaking research for this book, her rich collection of visual and discursive data, her insights and very readable prose contribute not only to our understanding of contemporary Iran but also to the broader study of contemporary global arts into which Iran should and does fit firmly. In many ways, this book will be a benchmark for all future studies on contemporary Iranian arts," added Babaie.

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church
Hosted by Knights of Vartan Ani Lodge
Saturday, September 27, 2014 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Wine and cheese reception
Presentation by Avedis' daughter, Carolann Najarian, M.D



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 Boumazian for further info. Email: jboumazian@verizon.net 202-380-6948

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Eurdolian Family

Cookbook Review

In a Nutshell Livens Up Modern Dishes With Nuts and Seeds

By Grant Butler

SALEM, Ore. (*Oregonian Live*) – In a nutshell, humans have been eating nuts and seeds since prehistoric times. They are loaded with nutrients and protein, and have a rich, satisfying flavor. They're also quite versatile and this beautiful new cookbook shows how them in an array of modern dishes. The 250 recipes focus on 16 common varieties, from tiny poppy seeds to massive coconuts, using them in comforting fare like Almond-Crusted Macaroni and Cheese, to sophisticated dishes like Poppy-Coated Scallops. And the authors, who are both professional cooking instructors, have great advice on shopping, storing and using each type, with the history of how each nut and seed became a part of our diet.

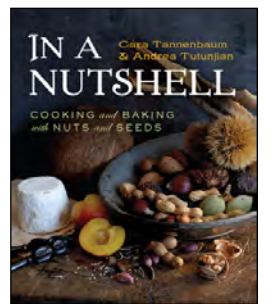
Take a taste: Crab-Coconut Dip; Tomato-Almond Tapenade; Gruyere-Poppy Pinwheels; Chocolate-Hazelnut Spread; Parsley-Sunflower Mini Frittata; Crunchy Coconut Shrimp With Ginger Dipping Sauce; Golden Banana-Brazil Nut Muffins; Peanut Butter Oatmeal; West African Peanut Soup; White Spanish Almond Gazpacho; Spinach, Potato and Pistachio

Soup; Chicken-Brazil Nut Soup; Lentil and Walnut Salad; Thai-Style Cucumber Salad With Roasted Peanuts; Roasted Vegetables With Pecan-Balsamic Glaze; Summer Squash and Corn Melange With Almonds; Maple-Pecan Mashed Sweet Potatoes; Roasted Halibut With Pistachio Crust and Herb Vinaigrette; Spanish Veal Stew With Marcona Almonds; Spicy Chicken Chili With Cashews; Toasted-Almond Ice Pops; Pumpkin Seed Spice Cake; White Chocolate-Salted Macadamia Nut Cookies.

What's hot: The recipes are broken down into chapters like Family Style, Little Bites and Meatless Mains, which smartly reflects how people eat today; there's a whole chapter on nut-based sauces, so you can take your moles and pestos to a whole new level.

What's not: There are only 20 desserts, which seems small given the book's size; chia, the trendy seed-of-the-moment, isn't represented among the recipes, which seems like an oversight.

In a Nutshell, by Cara Tannenbaum and Andrea Tutunjian, (Photography by Gentl & Hyers / Edge). Hardcover. August 2014. ISBN 978-0-393-06558-9. 8.4 × 10.3 in / 384 pages



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.



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

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Your donation is Tax Deductible.



ARTS & LIVING

Artist Gareginyan Gets Creative at Fenway Studios

BOSTON — Armenian painter Samuel Gareginyan works at the historic Fenway Studios in Boston. Gareginyan was born in Yerevan, Armenia. He graduated from Terlemezian Fine Art College and Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts (1985-1991). Gareginyan has exhibited his works in Armenia, Russia, Lebanon, Spain, England, Turkey, Argentina and the United States. His paintings are in permanent collections and archives at the Museum of Modern Arts of Armenia, the Fund of the Artists Union of Armenia, Armenian Library and Museum of America and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Gareginyan has lived since 1997 in the United States, exhibiting his works in the galleries and museums of America and abroad. He has been a drawing and painting instructor since 2003 at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and is an art advisor to Fulcrum: An Annual of Poetry and Aesthetics.

Gareginyan has been creating works at Fenway Studios since 2012. Fenway Studios



"Rooster"

was built in 1905 after a fire destroyed the Harcourt Studios on Irvington Street in Boston. The artists in that building lost their life's work. This event galvanized business and civic leaders, including members of the Copley Society and the St. Botolph Club, to help rebuild space for Boston's artist community as quickly as possible.

The new building was designed so that every one of the 46 studios would have north-facing windows, 12 feet high. The interior plan, with 14-foot high ceilings, was inspired by the 19th century ateliers in Paris, where many of the original artists had studied. The building, which is Arts and Crafts style with clinker brick exterior, is located at 30 Ipswich St.

Fenway Studios is a National Historic Landmark building. It is the oldest purpose-built structure in the country constructed for and dedicated solely to artists' space. The Studios are also the first in the country to pioneer a not-for-profit limited-equity form of ownership. The building is open to the public one weekend a year for the annual Open Studios.

Bohjalian, Mouradian To Discuss 'Narrating Genocide' at Clark

CLARK, from page 5

Mouradian is the Coordinator of the Armenian Genocide Program at the Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights at Rutgers University. He teaches History and Sociology at Rutgers University as adjunct professor. Mouradian is a doctoral candidate at the Strassler Center, and a Calouste Gulbenkian Armenian Studies Fellow. He served as editor of the *Armenian Weekly* from 2007 to 2014.

The event is free and open to the public. A reception and a book signing will follow.

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

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 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 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 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, program and entertainment by The Dynamic Duo featuring Greg Krikorian on oud & vocals and Michael Sabounjian on keyboard & vocals. "Why Western Armenia?" a visual presentation by Historian George Aghjayan following his recent 10-day pilgrimage to that region. 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.

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



Dr. Nancy Ann Simonian, CEO of Syros Pharmaceuticals, will be the featured speaker at the next St. James Men's Club meeting, on Monday, September 8. The program will take place at St. James Armenian Church, Charles Mosesian Cultural Center, Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. The evening will start with a social hour at 6:15 pm., with a traditional Armenian dinner to follow at 7 p.m.

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.

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COMMENTARY

Mirror Spectator



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COMMENTARY

How Far Can Symbolism Go?

By Edmond Y. Azadian

When the Nixon-Kissinger team resorted to its famous Ping-Pong diplomacy, it took a calculated risk. But the Ping-Pong game eventually helped China to stand on its feet and widen the chasm between Beijing and Moscow.

That was a symbolic political gamble that paid off handsome dividends for the US, as the sole surviving super power.

Since that Ping-Pong initiative, many attempts have been made to emulate it, but to no avail. One example was the football diplomacy between Armenia and Turkey. President Abdullah Gul attended a football game in Armenia and President Serge Sargsian reciprocated. These symbolic gestures were supposed to consummate the controversial Protocols, but no progress is yet in sight.

Turkey continued teasing Armenia and raising hopes that some rapprochement would be in the offing. Armenia never missed opportunities and always reciprocated in kind.

Today, we are at another stage of exchanging symbolic gestures; President Sargsian invited President Erdogan to visit the Tzitzernakabert monument on the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. It was a huge gamble which has not received an answer yet.

After President Sargsian congratulated Erdogan on his election as president, Armenia received an invitation to attend the presidential inauguration in Ankara on August 28. It would have been wasted capital had Armenia's president rushed to attend the inauguration and returned empty handed. Instead, it was decided wisely by Yerevan to dispatch Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian and to participate on the foreign ministerial level among the more than 20 heads of state who are scheduled to attend the inauguration.

Recently, President Sargsian was asked if Turkey was planning to open the border and he replied he did not have any news on that front. He also revealed that Mr. Nalbandian was instructed to bring a response from Mr. Erdogan, about whether he would be willing to accept Armenia's invitation on the Genocide centennial.

President Sargsian is aware, like everyone else, that Turkey has publicly repeated several times that the border issue is contingent upon the resolution of the Karabagh conflict, adding another Gordian knot to the existing one.

In the interim, Turkey took some symbolic steps, mostly to dupe world public opinion, that the nation entertains some goodwill to resolve intractable problems. One was Erdogan's condolence to the survivors of the Armenians "relocated" by the Ottoman rulers. Ahmet Davutoglu, the expected prime minister, tried to capitalize

on Erdogan's initiative by calling it a "historic" opportunity. Then came Mr. Davutoglu's own theory of "common pain," in a lengthy commentary in the *Turkish Studies Quarterly*.

But all these symbolic initiatives have not amounted to any concrete results.

Turkey is a rising power and on the way can afford to extend some symbolic initiatives to oil its political engine which is moving faster every day.

Erdogan's election with 52 percent of the vote is not only a domestic coronation of his 12-year rule, but also recognition by the international community of Turkey's role as a global player.

Erdogan's unpolished and elemental political style is smoothed by his counterpart Davutoglu, the prime minister-designate, whose ambitions are boundless for his country. In 2010, *Foreign Policy* magazine ranked Davutoglu seventh on the list of 100 global thinkers as "the brains behind Turkey's global reawakening."

Davutoglu is determined to return Ottoman "glory" to Turkey and present it to the world as a model of "tolerant society" which can be even replicated in modern times. Turkey is winning also on the media front; a recent documentary on the Al Jazeera TV channel on the Armenian Genocide almost presented the victims as the perpetrators of that historic monstrosity. Only this week, another documentary on the same channel painted Ottoman rule in idyllic colors. Of course, Al Jazeera is funded and run by the emirate of Qatar, a Mickey Mouse country with a lion's roar, in bed with Turkey in supporting ISIS and atrocious fundamentalist forces wreaking havoc in the Middle East.

Since Davutoglu assumed the post of foreign minister, Turkey has extended its tentacles globally; Turkish embassies have grown three times only in Africa and Ankara has become not only a supporter of Hamas in Gaza, but also the champion of the Uighurs in China, 22 million Sunni Muslims tucked along the Sino-Russian border.

Davutoglu's "zero-problem with Turkey's neighbors" policy has not yet reached its goal. Now, as the new prime minister, he is better positioned to pursue priorities such as Turkey's accession to the EU and its consolidation as a world power. On the way, Ankara has to solve the Cyprus problem, pay lip service to the Genocide issue and reach out to the Arab public while dealing with Israel under the table.

Turkey has been conducting an independent policy, even as a NATO member, sometimes embarrassing its patron, the US. Therefore, it can afford to make some symbolic gestures to its weaker neighbors like Greece and Armenia. Those symbols have not and perhaps will not amount to any concrete and positive actions.

Revisiting the Shengavit Historical and Archaeological Culture Preserve

Will it Survive Current Mismanagement?

By Hovsep Dagdigian

Introduction: In August 2013 a number of newspapers published my report "Shengavit Historical and Archaeological Culture Preserve 2011-2013". That report described the 4th millennium BC Shengavit Archaeological site, its museum, and its neglect by some of those responsible for its protection and preservation. The 5 acre preserve above Yerevan Lake, across from the U.S. embassy, contains foundations of ancient dwellings and a small museum. Adjacent to the preserve is a private hospital (Hospital #6), and a private clinic, currently being renovated. In 2012 the Cambridge Yerevan Sister City Association (CYSCA), working with Shengavit's director Vladimir Tshagharyan, established a program to make available construction material to facilitate the site's restoration.

The Shengavit Preserve is under the jurisdiction of the director of the Erebuni Museum, Gagik Gyurjyan. Erebuni's director receives government funding to maintain three archaeological sites: Erebuni, Garmir

Blur, and Shengavit. Almost no funding is used to maintain or secure Shengavit and Garmir Blur. In 2012 Erebuni's director indicated that CYSCA should fund Shengavit's renovation through him, though he then consented to CYSCA's plan to directly supply construction material for Shengavit. Later in 2013, with increased funding from CYSCA, Gyurjyan took steps to halt Shengavit's continued renovation.

When Tshagharyan assumed directorship of Shengavit in 2009, 40 percent of Shengavit's territory had been privatized. After a year's effort by Tshagharyan the individuals involved agreed to return the privatized land to Shengavit. As of August 2014 Gyurjyan still has not reincorporated the privatized land back into the Shengavit Preserve. It is obvious that Erebuni's director had no intention of recovering Shengavit's privatized land. Tshagharyan, unable to accomplish his goals of rejuvenating Shengavit, resigned in the summer of 2013. For more details Google "Dagdigian Shengavit 2013".

Shengavit 2013: In April 2013 Shengavit's director visited the Boston area where he addressed the Armenian community at the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) in Watertown and at a Knights of Vartan dinner in Worcester, MA. During Tshagharyan's absence, Gyurjyan consented to a request from Hospital #6 to tear down a section of an attractive stone wall separating the

hospital from the Shengavit Preserve. In the 2013 article this incident was reported as well as the complete lack of water, sewage, and rest room facilities at Shengavit. On numerous occasions Shengavit's director requested funds for maintenance and the establishment of visitor amenities but was always told "There are no funds". Apparently embarrassed by the 2013 report, Erebuni's director completed the construction of a rest room and had the damaged wall repaired. Suddenly, miraculously funds had become available!

2014: There remain serious infrastructure problems at the Shengavit Preserve. The wooden museum building needs structural reinforcement, heating, insulation, and ventilation. There is no plumbing within the building. The restroom, in a separate building, is intended for visitors

Due to frequent unauthorized removal of construction material, after Tshagharyan's resignation most of CYSCA's construction material was removed and donated to another project in Armenia. But three loads of cut stone intended to rebuild the museum's walls, and a couple truckloads of sand were left in place as well as sheet metal to construct a pavilion to provide shade for staff and visitors. The museum building has not been reinforced and the sheet metal is rusting on the ground, despite the fact that it would take only a day's work to build the pavilion.

see SHENGAVIT, page 16



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Justice Dept. Files Reveal Activities Of Firms Lobbying for Turkey

Last week, I described the terms of the \$1.4 million contract signed by the Gephardt Group, the lobbying firm of former House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt, to promote Turkey's interests in Washington.

Realizing that its relationship with the United States has seriously deteriorated, the Turkish government has been pouring millions of dollars into the coffers of several U.S. firms, hoping to improve its image by whitewashing the dark stains of its dictatorial regime. For that purpose, Ankara signed a contract on May 12, 2014 with former Turkish national swimming champion Huma Gruaz and her Chicago-based public relations firm, Alpaytac, Inc., for \$1,420,000 a year. Oddly enough, instead of making monthly payments, the Turkish government gave Alpaytac \$1 million up front upon signing the agreement, and paid the balance of \$420,000 in the first three months. Alpaytac thus replaced the public relations firm of Fleishman-Hillard which had received from the Turkish Embassy \$779,805 for the six-month period from November 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014, at which time its contract was terminated.

In addition, Ankara benefits from the activities of

Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), which spent more than \$1 million to sponsor 170 congressional trips to Turkey since 2000. TCA was founded in 2007 by Massachusetts microchip millionaire Yalcin Ayasli who has donated close to \$140,000 in the past 18 months to several pro-Turkish members of Congress, according to Al-Monitor.

Most people are unaware that pursuant to the Foreign Agents Registration Act, American firms representing foreign clients are required to report to the US Justice Department their day-to-day activities every six months.

Alpaytac's six-month report is not yet due. However, we would like to present excerpts from the detailed files the Gephardt Group and its subcontractors – Greenberg Traurig, Lydia Borland, Brian Forni and Dickstein Shapiro – submitted to the Justice Department regarding their specific activities on behalf of Turkey from August 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014:

- On September 19, 2013, forwarded a letter from Turkish Parliament Speaker Cemil Cicek to Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Patrick Leahy.

- Sent emails to Representatives Castro, Cohen, Connolly, Deutch, Esty, Foxx, Frankel, Gabbard, Kennedy, Schneider, Wagner and Whitfield; and Senator Murphy regarding the upcoming visit of Turkey's former Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu; contacts were also established with several other members of Congress to discuss Syria, Iran sanctions, Hamas and Missile Defense.

- Dick Gephardt reported making campaign contributions from September 24 to December 12, 2013 to: Representatives Alcee Hastings (\$1,000), Barbara Lee (\$1,000), Marjorie Margolies (\$1,000), Richard Neal (\$1,250), Brad Schneider (\$500), Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (\$1,500), Marc Veasey (\$1,000) and Henry Waxman (\$1,000); and Senators Dick Durbin (\$2,500), Mary Landrieu (\$1,000), Claire McCaskill (\$1,000), Mark Pryor (\$1,500) and Ron Wyden (\$2,500).

- Gephardt Group employees contributed to Senators

Dick Durbin (\$500) and Jeanne Shaheen (\$1,500); and Representatives Steve Cohen (\$500), Colleen Hanabusa (\$1,250), Jim Moran (\$500), Brad Schneider (\$500) and Henry Waxman (\$500).

- Employees of Gephardt Group subcontractor Dickstein Shapiro LLC contacted Ben Branch, Legislative Director to Rep. Gregory Meeks, "regarding legislation focused on Turkish regional issues." On behalf of Dickstein Shapiro, former House Speaker Dennis Hastert met with Turkish Ambassador Namik Tan and Sen. Ron Johnson "regarding US-Turkey relations."

- Other Dickstein Shapiro employees contacted the offices of Representatives George Holding, Eddie Bernice Johnson, Sheila Jackson Lee, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Gregory Meeks, Chellie Pingree, Robert Pittenger, Dana Rohrabacher, Ed Royce, and Ed Whitfield; and Senators John Boozman, Ron Johnson, Rand Paul, and Roger Wicker to discuss Turkish regional issues, Cyprus, Travel to Turkey, and US-Turkey relations.

- Dickstein Shapiro employees contributed over \$60,000 to the political campaigns of congressional candidates from July 20 to December 19, 2013, including: Senators Lamar Alexander (\$2,500), Kay Hagan (\$9,000), Amy Klobuchar (\$2,000), Mitch McConnell (\$2,500), Mark Pryor (\$2,500), and Tim Scott (\$1,000), and Representatives Sanford Bishop (\$2,500), Emanuel Cleaver (\$1,500), Rick Crawford (\$2,500), Steve Daines (\$2,500), John Dingell (\$1,000), Bill Huizenga (\$2,500), Eddie Bernice Johnson (\$1,000), Adam Kinzinger (\$2,500), Mike McIntyre (\$5,000), Buck McKeon (\$1,500), Dutch Ruppersberger (\$2,500) and Ed Whitfield (\$2,500).

Since the lobbying firms hired by Turkey are obligated by law to report their detailed activities, it is important to check regularly their Justice Department filings in order to find out who are they contacting in Congress, for what purpose, and how much are they contributing to their political campaigns?

ISIS's Skill in Exploiting Social Media Is no Reason for US Leaders to Start Talking about Apocalypse

By Robert Fisk

We keep banging on about British citizens turning into Jihadists – that tired old public relations man Dave Cameron does this all the time, with his worn-out political correctness and it's almost impolite to say "Muslim British citizens." But isn't it time we said "Muslim British citizens of Pakistani or Indian origin"? For – saving the occasional Arab-origin recruit – that, surely, is what we are talking about.

Whether James Foley's killer comes from London or Newcastle (still my choice by accent), he seems to have been born into a British community of Muslims whose background – whether family or parents' place of birth – lies within that vast, crushed jewel which we used to call the Raj.

Of course, it's not difficult for these fighters to learn Arabic – Pushtu and Urdu, for a start, is written in Arabic script and they can thus read Arabic. From there it's only a short step to understanding the language. But the political origin of Indian Muslims – and here I'll use the frontiers of the old British India – surely provide a clue to the origins of the "Islamic State" which our modern-day Mahdi, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, has created.

I suspect these roots lie in the Deobandis, one of several Sunni groups founded in the aftermath of the Indian Mutiny, a Muslim rebellion which we, of course, crushed with our usual ruthlessness.

The Deobandis' House of Learning was to become the leading theological school in India, founded 10 years after the Mutiny by Mohamed Abed Husain in Uttar Pradesh. It was partly intended to counter the pro-western Muslim colleges whose curriculum included both Islam and western liberal sciences – not unlike the French "inculturation" of Egypt at about the same time.

As my esteemed colleague Ahmed Rashid has pointed out, while the Deobandis restricted women, opposed Muslim hierarchies and rejected the Shia, the Taliban "were to take these beliefs to an extreme which the original Deobandis would never have recognised." But adopt their precepts, the Taliban did; after all, once Pakistan came into existence in 1947 – another uniquely British creation – the Deobandis became far more important in what was now the majority Muslim corner of what had been the Raj.

Even before partition, however, the Afghan government had sought help from the Deobandis to build state-controlled schools (madrassas) but half a century later, the Deobandi and Taliban distaste for tribal leadership coalesced. To quote Rashid again, the Taliban debased the Deobandi tradition of learning and reform, "excepting no concept of doubt except as sin and considering debate as little more than heresy." By 1998 Taliban

groups along the Afghan-Pakistan border were punishing sinners with stoning and amputation, killing Shia Muslims and forcing women to adopt Islamist dress. Sound familiar?

Even more so, perhaps, the next little tale. For in 2000, I visited a Taliban school at Akora Khattak in what was then the North West Frontier Province of Pakistan. It was a Deoband production line of young men from Pakistan itself, from Afghanistan, from Tajikistan and, yes, from Chechnya. They laboured over the Koran but they used modern computers. There were 2,500 students with a waiting list of 15,000. A poster showed a Russian bear skewered with a green Muslim flag. Another depicted the former Soviet Union coloured green. "All of this is going to be Islam," one of the students told me. Again, does this sound faintly familiar? Isn't the new "Caliphate" talking about Islamising the world – including, I notice, the White House?

One of Akora Khattak's teachers, a genuinely religious man, explained to me that "the more the United States and the Western world and the nations that murder Muslims oppress us, the sooner there will be an Islamic republic. Our morale is high and it's possible to have an Islamic Union all over this area and we want to create such a union – like the EU and Nato." But the moment I asked in astonishment about the Nato parallel, he launched into a speech about the right of Muslims to have a nuclear bomb. "If the Hindus make a bomb (in India), it's not a Hindu bomb," he complained. "But the Muslims who make a bomb are called fundamentalist terrorists."

But a few more thoughts. Across the vast area of Arab land which now comprises the "caliphate," most of the population are from agricultural regions – from the broken farming land of civil war Iraq and from the dispossessed Syrian country population who lost their livelihood during their own country's pre-civil war agricultural "reforms," a poverty which drove them to the fringes of cities like Aleppo and Raqqa. These people lack the education they deserved and – while never touching the school-less communities of Afghanistan – they were never given the technical skills which I saw the students of Akora Khattak learning 14 years ago.

But those who have arrived in al-Baghdadi's realm from the world of the internet and the website have come from abroad – the hi-tech jihadists, if you like, who understand that they will never receive a fair hearing from the West's largely supine and unquestioning media but who are prepared to create their own. It was their ability to produce such a chilling videotape of James Foley's beheading – but one which was also quite slickly made in its perverse way – that prompted the infantile outbursts ("apocalyptic"/"end-of-days") from America's defence secretary and top soldier last week. These jihadi guys, they seem to have been saying, not only slaughtered Westerners – they knew how

to use technology.

James Foley's kidnapers, for example, searched through his laptop in a way no Taliban would have dreamed of 20 years ago. And that was where they found out that his brother was in the US air force. Foley, according to his friends who were later released, tried to make light of the beatings he then received. His treatment grew worse once his computer memory had been opened. That is what the foreign jihadis have added to this latest Middle East war, a profound understanding of a science which we hitherto thought – in some unenlightened, blimp-like way – belonged to us. We still have not reflected deeply enough about the internet in this context. In a world in which the most ferocious verbal attacks – poison pen letters gone made – can be made on politicians, journalists, even NGOs, is it surprising that the same science of power without responsibility has provided al-Baghdadi and his lads with their most potent weapon, an armament which can be used against us but also a science which they can share.

The Taliban used to hang television sets on trees. No more. Like so many others, I admired al-Baghdadi's wrist watch on the famous video of his Mosul sermon. For now we also live in the Age of Rolex.

(Robert Fisk is the Beirut-based Middle East correspondent for the *Independent* newspaper. This column originally appeared in the August 24 issue.)

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Revisiting the Shengavit Historical and Archaeological Culture Preserve

SHENGAUIT, from page 14

Last year fencing was installed or repaired around 30 percent of Shengavit's area. This summer the crew renovating the clinic next to Shengavit tore down some of the newly installed fencing. Without authorization they bulldozed a wide road whose edge extends 40-50 feet into the Shengavit Preserve. It is illegal to dig or excavate on archaeological sites without obtaining permission and a site survey. None of this was done.

The current entrance to Shengavit is intended to be the employees' entrance and is accessible from the hospital parking lot. The visitors' entrance from the time of the Shengavit Preserve's establishment was intended to be from a small stone building near Yerevan Lake. Garbage is dumped in that building with impunity. There is no policing. The area around the lake and the entrance building is now being cleaned by a private organization. The entrance building has been fenced off – apparently that building is on its way to being privatized as well. There seems to be no explanation as to what is happening.

Although there is a janitor, hired directly by

Erebuni's director, grass and weeds are seldom cut. There is little or no security. On Monday, Aug. 13, 2014, a day when the site was closed, I happened to be nearby and walked to the site. Through torn down fencing I entered the site and looked around. I expected to be questioned by a policeman but this did not happen. There is no sign indicating unauthorized entry is forbidden. At night there is supposed to always be a policeman on duty, but on a site that large at night it is impossible to spot intruders without outside lighting.

Shengavit's Artifacts: The State History Museum, the Shengavit Museum, the Sardarabad Museum, and others contain Shengavit artifacts from 1936-1980 excavations. During the past two decades additional excavations have occurred but the retrieved artifacts are not stored at Shengavit's museum as required by Armenian law. A full and detailed account containing the description and location of all Shengavit's artifacts must be made public.

The Real Problem: The lack of honest stewardship of Shengavit by Erebuni's director is clear. He receives funding to manage and pre-

serve three important cultural and archaeological preserves: Erebuni, Garmir Blur and Shengavit. No funding is supplied for the maintenance of Shengavit with the exception of his response to my embarrassing report published in August 2013, as described above. Garmir Blur, which is an important Urartian site in Yerevan, is serving as a dumping ground for construction waste!

Moreover, Erebuni is intended for the study and protection of the Erebuni site and its Urartian culture and history. Shengavit is not a Urartian site. Its history, archaeology, and methods of study have little to do with Urartian history or archaeology. About an hour's drive from Yerevan is the Agarak archaeological site. Recently 3-4 new signs have been installed there explaining the significance of the site and detailing its existence as a site of "Shengavit" culture. Yet in Yerevan, the Shengavit preserve is deliberately neglected, its land privatized for personal profit, and it remains unpublicized in tourist books and ignored by tour agencies. This is not an accident, this is on purpose!

Reports of abuse or damage to Armenia's cul-

tural monuments proceed through a bureaucratic labyrinth of organizations and departments before they reach a law enforcement stage. Other nations have streamlined law enforcement organizations to protect their cultural heritage sites, with violators severely punished. Armenia has over 30,000 listed cultural heritage sites. I hope they are not all for sale. Strict protection of these sites is required both from natural destruction, man-made destruction, looting, and from individuals who believe everything in Armenia is for sale.

Solutions: Shengavit must be permanently removed from Erebuni's jurisdiction for two reasons. First, to put it mildly, Erebuni's leadership is interested in exploiting Shengavit, not preserving and protecting it, even though it receives funding for Shengavit! Second, Shengavit's culture and archaeology has little or no relation to that studied at Erebuni. Like the Shengavit cultural and archaeological site at Agarak, Shengavit must be placed directly under the supervision of Armenia's Ministry of Culture and Armenia's press should keep a close eye on this and other cultural heritage sites.

UN appoints former Norwegian FM as special adviser on Cyprus

ISTANBUL (*Today's Zaman*) – United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Espen Barth Eide, former Norwegian foreign minister, as his special adviser on Cyprus on Friday. The UN declared in its written statement that "Mr. Eide is a seasoned diplomat who brings to the position a deep understanding of peace processes and peacemaking."

Eide assumed the position from Alexander Downer, who stepped down in April. "The Secretary-General expresses his gratitude to Lisa Buttenheim of the United States, his special representative and head of mission, United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), for serving as acting special adviser since Mr. Downer's departure," the statement added.

Eide was foreign minister between the years 2012 and 2013 and he has served in senior positions in the Norwegian government for 10 years. He currently serves as the managing director and a member of the managing board of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in

Geneva.

"Honored to be appointed as the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Cyprus," tweeted Eide on Friday.

Turkish Cyprus' chief negotiator Kudret Özersay welcomed the appointment of Eide on Monday. According to a written statement released by the Foreign Ministry of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC), Özersay said he considers Eide's appointment an important step to accelerate the peace process for the island. Özersay noted that the relevant parties in peace talks are the ones to make the process successful, yet the appointment of a special adviser will make positive contributions to this process.

Meanwhile, President-elect and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who won the presidential election in Turkey on August 10, will pay his first official visit abroad to the KKTC in September.

Cyprus has been divided between the Greek



Foreign Affairs Espen Barth Eide speaks at the 68th United Nations General Assembly in New York, September 25, 2013 (Reuters)

recognized as representing the entire island, while only Turkey recognizes the KKTC.

Turkish and Greek Cyprus have been trying to strike an accord for decades with United Nations support. Talks resumed in February after the leaders of the divided island took a different approach and agreed on a document outlining key provisions of an envisioned federation. Following intense diplomatic efforts by the United States and Turkey, substantial talks between Greek and Turkish Cyprus kicked off in May with the aim of reaching a comprehensive solution.

However, Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Anastasiades left the peace talks last month after a disagreement with Turkish Cypriot officials. According to

Cypriot south and the Turkish Cypriot north since 1974, when Turkey sent troops to the island in the aftermath of a Greek-inspired coup that sought to unite the island with Greece. The Greek Cypriot administration is internationally

some Turkish media reports, Anastasiades left the negotiations after KKTC President Dervis Eroglu offered to accept settling on agreements made between the previous Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders.

Former Cafesjian Executive Gets Nine Years for Embezzlement, Blackmail

EMBEZZLEMENT, from page 1

before Waters threatened to reveal embarrassing personal information about Cafesjian and insisted on a humiliating deathbed deposition of his wife, Cleo Cafesjian.

When confronted with his fraud, "things went from bad to awful" and "brought out the worst in you," Montgomery said, adding that the lawsuit showed a "degree of anger and meanness that I can't figure out where it comes from."

She ordered him to pay \$5 million in restitution for both the stolen funds and Cafesjian's costs of defending the frivolous lawsuit.

In his comments before sentencing, Waters said, "I maintain my innocence and I will continue to maintain my innocence." He said he would respect the verdict, but that it has been a very difficult time for him and his family. "I am very angry at myself for allowing this to come to this point," he said, before adding that the past couple of years had been a "wonderful opportunity to reconnect with family and friends in a much more meaningful way."

Montgomery sighed before sentencing Waters, saying she knows how hard the sentence will be on his family. She allowed him until September 2 to surrender for his sentence and warned that "running would be really stu-

pid. There aren't many people that escape the [US] marshals when they look for you."

Waters walked out of the room holding hands with his wife, Cheri Kuhn, the former exotic dancer he housed and supported with several thousand dollars a month through his fraud.

Gerard Cafesjian died last September. His daughter, Kathie Cafesjian, spoke at the sentencing about the how deeply her father trusted Waters and how his betrayal was then "calculated to inflict maximum damage" on her dad.

She described her mother as a loving, generous nurse who did a great deal of volunteer work. She spoke of her father's great sense of humor and how it pained him to see his wife suffer through the deposition about his "peccadilloes."

Leaving the courthouse, the daughter said the sentencing wasn't a "joyous occasion. I'm so sad that any of it had to happen."


Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Otteson prosecuted the case, along with Sarah Hudleston. "Justice was done today," Otteson said. "Nine years is a serious sentence."

Waters declined to comment, as did his lawyer. He has 14 days to file an appeal. His lawyer indicated in court that he would.

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