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Escalating Violence in NKAR

Region, World Alarmed

YEREVAN (*Russia Times*, Armenpress) – The international community is raising growing concerns over the renewed violence in the Nagorno-Karabagh enclave, urging the Armenian and Azerbaijani combatants to deescalate tensions.

As of Monday, at least 18 soldiers were confirmed dead in the fighting that flared over the weekend in Nagorno-Karabagh. Thirteen Azerbaijani soldiers are among the dead, according to the country's Defense Ministry. Armed forces of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic said five of their soldiers have died in the violence.

The region has seen a largely undisturbed ceasefire, or frozen conflict, since 1994, even though technically Armenia and Azerbaijan are still at war. Occasional shooting incidents in no-man's land over the years have resulted in the deaths of dozens of soldiers on both sides, however.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group on the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, which is co-chaired by Russia, the United States and France, urged the parties to show maximum restraint and prevent further fighting,

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told Itar-Tass news agency on Monday.

"Of course, we are worried about the events along the so-called 'Line of Contact,'" Lavrov said. "The parties are accusing each other of provocations. That happened earlier, in the past, and unfortunately we have been observing such escalations for many years. However, this time everything is being reported and perceived in a particularly dramatic manner."

"This time everything is being reported and perceived in a particularly dramatic manner."

–Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov

Washington has also expressed concerns over the escalating tensions in the region, stressing that there is no military solution to the conflict. "We extend our condolences to the families of those killed or injured and call on the sides to take immediate action to reduce tensions and respect the ceasefire," US State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said Monday.

"The United States urges the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan to meet at the earliest opportunity to resume dialogue on key issues," she added.

The Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents are scheduled to hold separate meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin this week in Sochi in southern Russia, Lavrov said, stressing that the leaders will most likely discuss the situation in Nagorno-Karabagh.

On Sunday, the European Union urged both sides to respect the ceasefire and refrain from the use of force or threats. "We reiterate our full support to the efforts of the OSCE Minsk Group and the work of the three co-chairs, especially with regard to the need to continue negotiations at the highest level, as was agreed at the meeting between presidents of Azerbaijan and

see VIOLENCE, page 2

US Senate Goes Into Recess Without Confirming Turkey Envoy

WASHINGTON – The US Senate recessed for August without confirming an ambassador to Turkey.

The Senate finished its business late Thursday, July 31, with the confirmation of US Ambassador to Russia nominee John Tefft, after having declined to act on a number of other diplomatic nominations, including a US envoy to Ankara. Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has announced that he does not expect any roll call votes until after the August recess. The earliest date for confirmation votes for Ambassador-designate John Bass and other pending ambassadorial nominations is September 8.

"We are gratified for the additional time that US Senators and American civil society stakeholders will have to scrutinize the troubling responses offered by Ambassador-designate Bass," stated Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Executive Director Aram Hamparian. "More broadly, we welcome this expanded opportunity for a careful consideration of the implications of this

see ENVOY, page 16

US Warns Armenia over Sanctions against Russia

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – The United States has urged Armenia to avoid doing business with Russian companies and individual entrepreneurs that have been subjected to US sanctions in retaliation for Moscow's alleged role in the Ukraine crisis.

"We encourage all countries and their nationals to consider the reputational risk of doing business with sanctioned individuals and entities and cease business dealings inconsistent with the sanctions that we and

others have imposed," the US Embassy in Yerevan said on Thursday.

"The US Embassy in Armenia, like other US embassies around the globe, distributed information about these latest sanctions to Government of Armenia representatives as well as to local business organizations," it added a statement to RFE/RL's Armenian service (Azatutyun.am).

The embassy did not specify whether Armenia will only jeopardize its reputation

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Conductor Sebouh Apkarian

Kohar Conductor Sebouh Apkarian Dies

NICOSIA, Cyprus – Artistic Director and Conductor of Kohar Symphony Orchestra and Choir Sebouh Apkarian died at his home here on August 5 after a brief illness.

Apkarian was born in Cyprus. He was a composer, conductor, painter and educator. He founded the Armenian Radio Program at the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, where he served for 46 years. He was also a member of the ADL and supporter of the Tekeyan Cultural Association.

He graduated from the Melkonian Educational Institute, where he later taught music and conducted the school choir, following the steps of his music teacher and mentor, Vahan Bedelian.

After graduating from the Melkonian he continued his studies in Paris.

As an opera singer, he performed in Europe and the Middle East.

He composed many songs, choral works, chamber music, oratorios, cantatas, symphonic suites and musical caricatures. Many of these compositions have been performed in Tokyo, Paris, Cyprus, Beirut and the US.

His work and performances with Kohar Symphony Orchestra and Choir were characterized by many as the most significant contribution towards the promotion of Armenian culture during the last decade.

Details of his funeral have not been announced yet.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More Armenian Casualties in Aleppo

ALEPPO (Armenpress) – Another Armenian has died due to a missile attack on the Armenian-populated districts of Aleppo on July 30, according to the Aleppo News Office. Araksi Arushian-Khachatourian was the sister of an earlier victim, Azniv Arushian.

The source stated that Sona Palikian was also among the casualties. She died in the Jalaa District after to a missile blast. Gevorg Galemkeryan died in the hospital. He had been wounded in the New Village district. Juliet Khachatourian, Gevorg Tashchian, Hakob Hakobian, Raffi Ayyvazyan, and Hovhannes Ayyvazyan were injured.

US 'Concerned' after Azeri Activist Charged With Treason

BAKU (RFE/RL) – The United States has voiced "deep concern" after Azerbaijani authorities charged prominent human rights activist Leyla Yunus with treason.

Yunus, 57, was arrested on July 30 and sent to pre-trial detention for three months.

A fierce critic of Azerbaijan's poor rights record, she was charged with treason, tax evasion, documents forgery and fraud, and sent to pre-trial detention for three months.

Her 59-year-old husband, Arif Yunus, faces similar charges.

The Prosecutor General's office said on July 31 that the two were involved in passing classified information to Armenian agents via Azerbaijani journalist Rauf Mirkadirov, who was arrested and charged with treason in April.

US State Department deputy spokeswoman Marie Harf said the charges "represent a further restriction on peaceful civil society activities in Azerbaijan."

In a statement, she called on Baku to ensure Leyla and Arif Yunus are "afforded all the fair trial guarantees to which all citizens are entitled, and allow them to freely express their views in accordance with international human rights commitments."

Human Rights Watch said the charges "are bogus and intended to silence them."

The New York-based group's deputy chief for Europe and Central Asia, Rachel Denber, called for an end to "this campaign of intimidation against Azerbaijan's leading human rights defenders."

On his Twitter account, the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, called the charges a reminder of the difficulties rights defenders face in Azerbaijan.

Leyla Yunus, the founding director of non-registered Peace and Democracy Institute in Baku, has been actively involved for years in people-to-people diplomacy with Armenian rights activists. She has won several foreign prizes and honors for her work.

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Joan Quinn

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

PM Appoints New Deputy Justice Minister

YEREVAN (Hetq) – Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan this week appointed Artyom Geghamyan to the post of deputy justice minister.

From 2008 to 2011, Geghamyan headed the ministry's liaison division to the European Court of Human Rights.

Geghamyan holds a JD and Master of Laws from Yerevan State University School of Law, and a PhD in European Union Law and Integration from Public Administration Academy. He holds an LL.M. in International and Comparative Law from Indiana University School of Law.

For the past year he was a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University.

Catholicos Karekin II Sends Letter to Azeri Counterpart

ECHMIADZIN (Armenpress) – Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, on August 5 sent a letter to Sheikh ul-Islam and Grand Mufti of the Caucasus, Azerbaijan's spiritual leader, Allahshükür Pashazade, calling for making efforts to prevent the Azerbaijani authorities to endanger the peaceful settlement process of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

The catholicos' letter reads: "Incessant shooting of the border settlements by the Azerbaijani side, subversive acts, lasting attempts of ceasefire violations are a serious threat to our fragile but costly achieved peace. We are deeply concerned about the tense situation, which takes the lives of soldiers and the peaceful life of the border population is distorted. God-given human life is holy, and the right to it is sacred, and harassment of human life is unacceptable.

"Provocations and hostilities cannot be an alternative to the settlement of the Karabakh conflict through peaceful negotiations, in accordance with international norms."

It was not clear if there was a response to the letter.

US Embassy Says Technical Problems Hamper Visa System

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – The US Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs is currently experiencing technical problems with the visa system, the US Embassy in Armenia reports.

"We are operating at a significantly reduced capacity and will be until we clear the document backlog. This issue is worldwide and is not specific to any particular country, citizenship document, or visa category. We are working urgently to correct the problem and expect our system to be fully operational again soon," the Embassy said in a statement.

The State Department will be posting updates to <http://travel.state.gov> as more information becomes available.

President Sends Condolence on Barseghyan Death

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – On August 4, President Serge Sargsisian sent a telegram of condolence to the Barseghyan family on the occasion of the death of the eminent linguist and pedagogue, Prof. Hovhannes Barseghyan.

"Hovhannes Barseghyan was one of our elder generation's devoted specialists of the Armenian language who for decades made a valuable contribution to both the research of the Armenian language and the training of qualified native language specialists.

I extend my deepest condolences to the merited linguist's family, relatives, friends and colleagues," according to the telegram.

Escalating Violence in NK

VIOLENCE, from page 1
Armenia in Vienna on November 19, 2013," the EU said in its statement.

Lavrov said that Moscow is taking significant efforts together with its American and French co-chairs "to help resolve problems that prevent us from signing an agreement on the common principles of a resolution."

Iran also called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to hold talks and reach an agreement following the renewed violence.

Meanwhile, Baku's major regional ally, Turkey, announced its support for Azerbaijan and its armed forces, Trend news website reported, citing Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry.

On August 3, the Armenian Defense Ministry accused the Azerbaijani side of violating the cease-fire along the front-line nearly 900 times.

Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry, meanwhile, blamed the Armenian forces for the continuing tensions.

Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian said a meeting between the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan,

Serge Sargsisian and Ilham Aliyev, could be held as early as August 8-9 in the southern Russian resort of Sochi.

Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-office also urged caution.

On August 4, Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan and US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern had a discussion on the situation. Both the Defense Minister and the Ambassador expressed deep concern about the recent escalation of tension and considered ways to relieve the tension, primarily through the process of the Minsk Group.

Heffern conveyed his condolences to the families of the servicemen, killed in the result of the recent incidents, and urged all parties to alleviate the situation.

Spokeswoman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran Marziyeh Afkham called on Armenia and Azerbaijan to hold negotiations to reach an agreement. In addition, Afkham expressed regret over killing several people in a recent military clash and invited

both sides to exercise restraint.

Similarly, representatives from France and the UK also expressed hope for cooler heads to prevail.

"France is concerned about the increase of bloody incidents on the Nagorno-Karabakh line of contact and the Armenian-Azerbaijani state border, which caused numerous deaths in the recent days. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict can be resolved only through negotiations. France urges the sides to respect the ceasefire regime and take immediate measures to reduce the tension and avoid new incidents," read the statement.

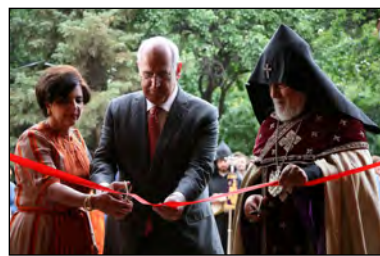
UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Monday urged the two sides to abstain from violence and observe the ceasefire regime agreement. Ban "urges all parties to respect the ceasefire agreement, refrain from further violence and commit themselves to immediate de-escalation and continuing dialogue in the pursuit of a rapid and peaceful political solution," according to the UN statement.

Old Pontifical Residence Reopened through Donation of Berge and Vera Setrakian

ECHMIADZIN – On July 5, the reopening ceremony of the Old Pontifical Residence took place at the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, presided over by His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. The renovations to the historic building were made possible by a donation from AGBU president Berge Setrakian and Vera Setrakian.

Present at the opening ceremony were Hasmik Boghosian, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Armenia; Armen Muradian, Minister of Healthcare of the Republic of Armenia; Arthur Nazarian, Minister of Energy of Lebanon; members of the Brotherhood of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin; members of the Setrakian and Nazarian families; representatives of educational and cultural organizations; as well as a large crowd of guests and friends from overseas.

The ceremony began with the Lord's Prayer and a blessing offered by the clergy, led by Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians. At the end of the ceremony,



His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Berge and Vera Setrakian during the official ribbon cutting ceremony.

the Catholicos extended His blessing to all those present. "Glory and thanks be to God, who has showered us generously with His favor, by the means of which our Holy Church is beautified and made more splendid in its mission. We give thanks to God, that today, together with you, we are opening the doors of the Old Pontifical Residence," He stated.

The Catholicos also offered his blessings to the faithful children of the Armenian Church, Berge and Vera Setrakian, for undertaking the renovation of the Old Pontifical Residence.



Paintings by the Hovnatian family are found on display at the Ornamented Hall of the Old Pontifical Residence.

Describing the Setrakian family, he remarked: "They too wished to leave something good by which they would be remembered in the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin, because Holy Echmiadzin has been a part of their lives, and has always had an important place in their mission." He then expressed his appreciation to Berge Setrakian for his leadership and continuous endeavors to strengthen the close ties between AGBU and the Armenian Church.

Cutting the red ribbon, the catholicos, together with the Setrakians, officially opened the renovated Old Pontifical Residence. Guests were invited to tour the galleries and admire the array of historic, sacred and religious objects.

Berge Setrakian expressed his joy on this occasion and stated, "We have had catholicoses and patriarchs who have served our nation unwaveringly and are remembered as heroes. Their lives have been a source of inspiration for all of us and without their dedication and sacrifice; we would have probably lost our identity. I believe that Armenians as well as all those who visit the Old Pontifical Residence will pay tribute to their memory and their legacy will be kept alive.

The Old Pontifical Residence has a rich history that the renovations will help to further preserve.

By the time of Catholicos Ghazar I

Jahketsi (1738-1751), the catholicos's residence had already been moved from the western side of the Cathedral to the upper floor of the two-story building, which was constructed during the time of Catholicos St. Movses III Tatevatsi (1629-1632). Until 1962, every Catholicos continued to live and work in the Old Pontifical Residence. In 1968, at the time of Catholicos Vazgen I of blessed memory, the New Pontifical Residence was built, and with the support of benefactor Alex Manoogian, the Old Pontifical Residence was remodeled and began to operate as a museum.

With the latest renovations, the Old Pontifical Residence is now home to a series of galleries dedicated to catholicoses and kings of Armenia, where their art collections, treasured possessions and personal effects are showcased. In the Ornamented Hall, paintings by the Hovnatian family and the 400-year-old Holy Chrism is on display. Nearby is the historical throne of the Armenian catholicoses, made in Madras in 1837, and the Pontifical Eagle, which belonged to Catholicos Pilibos I Aghbaketsi (1632-1655). In another gallery are the personal belongings of Komitas Vardapet; also featured are unique examples of Armenian silver and needlework, and various ceremonial objects.

The Old Pontifical Residence will operate as a museum and will serve as a guesthouse for high-ranking clergy visiting Holy Echmiadzin.



ARMENIA

Armenian Assembly Yerevan Summer Interns Meet with Karabagh Officials

YEREVAN and WASHINGTON – Every year, the Armenian Assembly of America Yerevan summer interns travel to the Nagorno Karabagh Republic (NKR or Artsakh) as part of the program mission. During their time in NKR, the Assembly interns participate in meetings with various NKR government officials. Joining them were members of the Assembly's Young Activists (AYA) club. By working together, the Assembly summer interns and the AYA club members broadened Armenia-Diaspora relations as well as Diaspora-Karabagh relations.

On July 16, the Assembly's youth delegation met with NKR President Bako Sahakyan, who had just returned from a visit to the NKR-Azerbaijan border. He updated the group on the latest developments along the line-of-contact, particularly the recent incursions by Azerbaijani armed forces. The Assembly delegation had the opportunity to speak with Sahakyan on this and other issues of concern.

"The task is to introduce Karabagh and the issues surrounding our homeland to young, active Armenians who are eager to learn, and who are trying to find appropriate solutions," stated Yerevan summer internship program coordinator Hayk Minasyan.

Sahakyan highlighted the continuous strengthening of ties with the Diaspora, attaching special significance to the visits of



Archbishop Pargév Martirosyan, Assembly Country Director for Armenia and Artsakh Armina Darbinyan, Assembly summer interns and AYA members at the Archbishop's residence in Stepanakert, NKR.

you see it for yourself – to feel this land, to breath the air, to connect with each other. This is another reality."

The Assembly youth also met with Vahram Atanesyan, the chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the NKR National Assembly. The broad discussion included an interesting question-and-answer session regarding new developments in the resolution of the Karabagh conflict. Meetings with Karabagh Members of Parliament touched on NKR's foreign policy

and regional issues.

The Assembly's trip to NKR concluded with a meeting with its spiritual leader, Archbishop Pargév Martirosyan. He highlighted the power and impact of the spirit of Christianity in Armenia's struggles. He also presented the delegation with copies of his book, *Christianity and Eschatology*.

"In order to effect positive change in Armenia and Karabagh, the Assembly emphasizes its work with Armenian youth in order to develop deeper bonds between the Diaspora and Armenians in Armenia," stated Assembly Country Director for Armenia and Artsakh Armina Darbinyan.



Chairman of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs of the NKR National Assembly Vahram Atanesyan (standing, center left), Assembly Country Director for Armenia and Artsakh Armina Darbinyan (standing, right), Assembly summer interns and AYA members at the NKR National Assembly's conference hall.

Diasporan youth to Armenia and NKR, and the experience of living and working in their historical homeland. The Nagorno Karabagh leadership shared in appreciation of the activities of the Armenian Assembly of America in this context and underlined the importance of the Assembly's role in Armenia and the United States.

"I learned a lot of interesting things on this trip," stated Yerevan summer intern Narek Sargsyan. "To hear and read on the Internet all that happens here doesn't compare to when



NKR President Bako Sahakyan and Assembly delegation at the Office of the NKR President.

Canadian Minister Concludes Successful Trip to Armenia

YEREVAN and OTTAWA – Jason Kenney, Canada's Minister of Employment and Social Development and Minister for Multiculturalism, completed a visit to the Republic of Armenia. He is the first Canadian minister to have visited the country since 2002.

The minister – who completed his three-day trip this week – had a 90-minute meeting with President Serge Sargsian, discussing issues such as trade and investment, the Armenian Genocide, Canada's support of efforts by Armenia and Turkey to seek a path towards reconciliation, Armenian and Canadian support for refugees from violent persecution in Syria and Iraq, the crisis in Ukraine and alignment by the international community in its response to Russian aggression in Ukraine and the successful role of Canada's Armenian community.

Kenney discussed these and other issues with Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamian, Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian, Diaspora Affairs Minister Hranush Hakobyan, and National Assembly President Galust Sahakyan.

In 2013, Canadian trade with Armenia totaled more than \$100 million. During the visit, on which he was accompanied by several members of the Canadian-Armenian community, Kenney met with Canadian companies investing in Armenia and Armenian business leaders to discuss strategies for increasing bilateral trade and investment.

Kenney laid a wreath at the Armenian Genocide Memorial in memory of the vic-



Visit to Holy See of Etchmiadzin, the spiritual centre of Armenia



Visit to Khor Virap Monastery, a key site in Armenia's ancient history, in the shadow of magnificent Mount Ararat.

US Warns Armenia over Sanctions against Russia

WARNING, from page 1 or also face other, more tangible consequences if it ignores the warning.

The Armenian government declined to comment on the statement. Senior government officials refused to answer relevant questions from journalists after a weekly cabinet meeting in Yerevan.

The Russian entities sanctioned by Washington include defense and energy firms and commercial banks mostly owned by the state. Two of those banks, Gazprombank and VTB, have subsidiaries in Armenia playing a major role in the local banking sector.

The Gazprombank subsidiary, Areximbank and the VTB Armenia bank declined to comment on the US Embassy statement. They both insisted on Wednesday that the US sanctions will not seriously affect their operations in Armenia.

The sanctions bar US persons and firms from providing financing for longer than 90 days or issuing new equity to Gazprombank, VTB and three other state-controlled Russian banks. However, American customers of those banks are still allowed to conduct other dollar transactions with those banks, and debit and credit cards issued by them are not subject to restrictions.

The US blacklist also includes Rosneft, Russia's largest oil company run by a close associate of President Vladimir Putin. Over the past year, Rosneft has negotiated with the Armenian government on the possible purchase of a moribund chemical plant in Yerevan. Armenian officials said early this year that the Russian oil giant is ready to invest \$400 million in reviving the Nairit plant that used to employ thousands of people.

"I'm not going to answer any questions,"

Energy and Natural Resources Minister Yervand Zakharian said when asked whether the US sanctions could scuttle the deal with Rosneft. Economy Minister Karen Chshmaritian and Central Bank Vice-Governor Nerses Yeritsian also refused to comment on the sanctions' implications for Armenia.

The Armenian Defense Ministry likewise avoided answering a question about Yerevan's cooperation with Russian defense firms sanctioned by Washington.

Meanwhile, Arsen Ghazarian, the chairman of the country's leading business association, suggested that Armenia is too dependent on Russia to sever ties with blacklisted Russian firms. "Some of the companies mentioned in the US Embassy statement have monopolist positions in Armenia's transport and energy sectors," he told reporters. "Like it or not, we have to work with them."

tims of what the Senate of Canada has recognized as "the first genocide of the 20th Century" and the House of Commons recognized as genocide and "a crime against humanity."

He also paid respects at the Armenian Memorial to the Victims of Communist Repression, noting that the Government of Canada is working with community groups to build a Canadian Monument to the Victims of Communism.

Finally, Kenney visited the Khor Virap Monastery, a key site in Armenian history near to the symbolically important Mount Ararat; and he attended service at Holy Etchmiadzin, the spiritual center of Armenia.



International News

Armenian Sentenced to Six Years for Crash

MOSCOW (Armenpress) – The Moscow Troitsky court has sentenced Hrachya Harutyunyan, an Armenian truck driver who crashed into a bus near Podolsk last summer, killing 18 people and injuring 40 others to 6 years and 9 months in prison. The Russian Itar-Tass agency reported that Harutyunyan was sentenced in accordance with the articles 264 and 327 of the Russian Criminal Code.

After the verdict was announced Harutyunyan's lawyer Ruben Margaryan said that he was going to appeal it. "I do not know whether we will appeal against the severity of the verdict, as it is up to Harutyunyan to decide it, but there will be an appeal against document forgery," he said.

The accident happened on July 13, 2013 when a Kamaz truck carrying rubble, at the intersection crashed into a bus with 64 passengers.

Armenian-Australians Demand Foreign Minister Retraction

SYDNEY (Armenpress) – A group of Armenian-Australians have written to Prime Minister Tony Abbott demanding Foreign Minister Julie Bishop retract her recent statement explicitly denying the Armenian Genocide.

In addition to an online letter drive initiated by ANC Australia, which resulted in 500 complaint emails to Bishop's inbox, a number of community members living in the district of Prime Minister Abbott wrote to ensure their anger is heard.

"ANC Australia has received copies of these letters sent from understandably disgusted members of our community, all of whom are direct descendants of survivors of the Armenian Genocide," said ANC Australia Executive Director Vache Kahrmanian. "It is with this sort of direct involvement in the political process that we can expect the answers we demand from our leaders."

In a letter addressed to the Australian Turkish Advocacy Alliance, Bishop denied the Genocide stating "we, do not however, recognize these events as 'genocide.'"

Tank Biathlon World Championship Kicks off

MOSCOW (Guardian) – It was meant to be a celebration of peace, love and tanks as former cold war foes raced through obstacles and fired at targets.

Instead, Russia's tank biathlon world championship, which started on Monday at testing grounds outside Moscow, featured teams from the former USSR and its allies but no NATO countries. The competition follows a new low in relations with the US and European Union, which last week introduced "tier-three" sanctions against sectors of Russia's economy over the Ukraine crisis.

The defense minister, Sergei Shoigu, who started the competition as a way to raise the prestige of Russia's armed forces, said after the inaugural showdown in 2013 between Russia, Armenia, Belarus and Kazakhstan that the next competition would feature countries from outside the former Soviet Union, including Italy and Germany. Speaking in Washington in August 2013, Shoigu even said the US military had agreed to participate.

But after a year of diplomatic conflicts with the US and Europe over whistleblower Edward Snowden, the annexation of Crimea and the conflict in eastern Ukraine, no western countries showed up for the party. Shoigu nonetheless called the event a "new page in international military cooperation." The 12 countries participating were Angola, Armenia, Belarus, China, India, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Russia, Serbia and Venezuela.

Teams have to race through a 20-kilometer obstacle course in Russian-made T-72B tanks, pausing to fire at targets imitating tanks and helicopters. China brought its own 96A tanks. Russia also planned to show off its air power at the event by having Su-25 fighter jets and Mi-28N and Mi-24 helicopters fire rockets and cannons at ground-based targets.



Sign with Armenian writing in Van

Armenian Language Added to Signs in Van

ARTAMED, Van, Turkey (Public Radio of Armenia) – Armenian inscriptions have been added to the signboards placed in the streets of the city of Artamed (Edremit) in Van Province in Turkey, eremenihaber.com reports.

The initiative aims to stop hostile perceptions of Armenians and create sympathy towards them, said Mayor of Artamed Sevil Rojbin Cetin, member of the Party of Democratic Regions.

"The Kurdish people have historical-cultural similarities with the Armenian people. Van and Artamed were densely populated by Armenians before 1915. The Kurds and Armenians have lived side by side in Van for centuries. Therefore, we'll not allow the state to erase the Armenian history and destroy the Armenian culture. We have made this step as a sign of respect for Armenians," the Mayor told Haber 7 website.

Iraq Air Force to Back Kurds Battling Islamic State Offensive

BAGHDAD (AP) – Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has called upon his country's armed forces to help the Kurdish military battle a Sunni militant offensive in northern Iraq that has caused tens of thousands of people from the minority Yazidi community to flee their homes.

It was the first sign of cooperation between Baghdad and Irbil, the capital of the semi-autonomous Kurdish region, since Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, was taken over by the Islamic State group in June, signaling a degree of rapprochement in the face of the country's deteriorating security crisis.

Iraq's military spokesman Lt. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi said Monday that al-Maliki has commanded the air force to provide aerial support to the Kurds in the first sign of cooperation between the two militaries since Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, was captured by the militants on June 10.

Iraq is facing its worst crisis since the 2006 civil war when the Islamic State group captured large swaths of land straddling the Syria-Iraq border with the goal of establishing a self-styled caliphate.

When it overran the cities of Mosul and Tikrit in June, Iraqi security forces

virtually collapsed, with police and soldiers abandoning arsenals of heavy weapons.

The Islamic State captured the northern towns of Sinjar and Zumar on Saturday, prompting an estimated 40,000 from the minority Yazidi sect to flee, said Jawhar Ali Begg, a spokesman for the community.

The Sunni militants have targeted minority communities in areas they have conquered.

"Their towns are now controlled by (Islamic State) and their shrine has been blown up," Begg told The Associated Press. The militant group gave the Yazidis, who follow an ancient religion with links to Zoroastrianism, an ultimatum to convert to Islam, pay a tax or face death, Begg added.

The United Nations said last month that more than 500,000 people have been displaced by the violence since June, bringing the total this year to 1.4 million, including more than 230,000 Syrian refugees. The group drove ethnic and religious minorities out of Mosul, and attacked mosques and shrines, claiming they contradicted strict Islamic teachings.

Kurdish forces have been battling with the militants for control of several towns stretching between the province of Nineveh and the Kurdish Iraqi province of Dahuk. At least 25 Kurdish fighters were killed in clashes with the militants on Sunday, and another 120 were wounded, according to Muhssin Mohamed, a Dahuk-based doctor.

A statement Monday by the Islamic State said it had captured dozens of Kurdish prisoners during the clashes and seized "large number" of weapons.

The authenticity of the statement could not be verified, but it was posted on a website used by the group.

Kurdish state-media reported late Monday that peshmerga units surrounded the town of Shangal and were able to capture it from militants seeking refuge there.

Turkish Studies Expert Predicts Erdogan Will Win Turkey Presidency

YEREVAN (Tert.am) – Hakob Chakryan, a Turkish studies expert, believes that Turkish Prime Minister Recep Erdogan will be elected Turkey's president.

Chakryan said he does not rule out that Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet

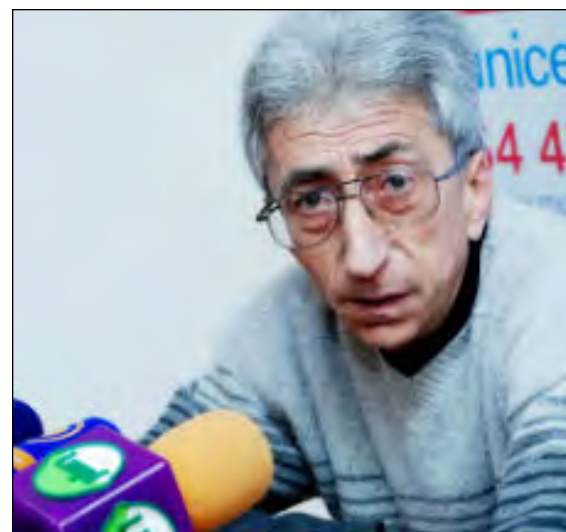
Davutoglu, rather than incumbent President Abdullah Gul, may be appointed the next premier.

"Gul has for many years been Turkey's president. If he is appointed premier, he will be too strong for Erdogan to dictate his will to him," Chakryan said.

Erdogan stresses that, in contrast to his predecessor, he, if elected Turkey's president, will interfere in the government's activities as he is the head of the Executive.

"None of the Turkish presidents has ever taken part in cabinet meetings. However, since Erdogan is willing to be an active president, Davutoglu is a better candidate for premiership for him."

Chakryan is former assistant editor of Azg Daily.



Hakob Chakryan

Community News

'Return to Asbury'

Weekend Reflects on Past, Embraces Future

By Taleen Babayan

ASBURY PARK, N.J. – Hundreds of Armenians will gather at the New Jersey shore for the annual "Return to Asbury" weekend, which will be held from August 8-10 in an effort to usher in a new generation of Armenians to this coastal city.

In its third year, "Return to Asbury" continues to expand its scope and will feature exciting activities, including a social at the Watermark Lounge on the boardwalk, a *tavloo* tournament, a day at the beach with games and giveaways, and will culminate in a Kef Party at the Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel featuring live Armenian music by Kevork Artinian and the Michael Gostanian Ensemble. The weekend wraps up with a poolside brunch featuring New Jersey's own DJ Shant.

"Asbury is lightning in a bottle," said Arsine Kaloustian, an event planner from Florida who holds positions in several Armenian organizations and is spearheading this year's weekend in an attempt to encourage Armenians to be active in their culture. "The same excitement our parents and grandparents felt still exists there."

In its heyday, Asbury Park attracted thousands of Armenians from the 1930s to the 1970s who stayed at one of the many Armenian-run hotels by the boardwalk, including the Van Hotel, Hye Hotel, Lincoln Hotel and Roosevelt Hye Hotel. Participants spent their days on the beach and their evenings at the dances and "hookups" listening to traditional live Armenian folk music and spending time with one another.

Kaloustian, whose grandparents and father traveled to these events every summer from Manhattan, was motivated to continue the "Return to Asbury" tradition when she saw other Armenian weekends on the East Coast fade away, including Kef Time Hartford and Cape Cod Kef. She has taken the reigns from Robin Barone, who initially re-launched the event with the sponsorship of the New York Armenian Students Association.

"When I first pitched the idea, I would have never imagined that it would have developed such a following as it did," said Barone, a Philadelphia native who vacations in Asbury Park. "I was not alone in wanting to connect back to the atmosphere and camaraderie of Armenian events from the past, which were warm, welcoming, and full of joy."

One of the highlights of "Return to Asbury" will be the performance of traditional live Armenian music, which will be featured heavily during the weekend, from a jam session by the Berkeley pool to the more formal "kef" party Saturday evening.

"Armenian music is a key element of our heritage and culture," said Philadelphia-based singer Kevork Artinian, who will perform at the kef party, combining modern beats with the melodies and songs of Armenian musical

see ASBURY, page 6



Aram and Florence Janjigian

Armenian Gourmet to Close After 40 Years

SUNNYVALE, Calif. (*Community Newspapers*) – For the past 40 years, the Armenian Gourmet classic Lebanese-Armenian restaurant has been more than a place to grab a bite; it has been a home away from home for South Bay residents and employees.

The 48-seat restaurant has seen its share of birthday celebrations, first dates, engagement proposals, holiday parties and even funeral receptions. Over generations, customers have become a part of the restaurant's family, celebrating life's special occasions. But come this fall, the locally owned business will bid farewell and close its doors for good.

By Alia Wilson

It was in July 1974 when Aram and Florence Janjigian of Saratoga held the grand opening of the Armenian Gourmet.

Back then it was a part of the Fair Oaks Plaza strip mall, and before long – thanks to Aram's cooking and customers' word of mouth – every night saw a line out the door.

Ten years later they built their current building, which sits detached from the rest of the strip mall at 929 E. Duane Ave. The restaurant hasn't changed much over the years, and neither has the menu.

Aram refers to the dishes as "California Armenian."

"The problem with Armenians is we come from various areas in the world, and you use the local herbs and spices of whatever is available," Aram said. "When someone asks, 'Do you have authentic Armenian food?' I don't know what that means."

But Aram said his family hails from Lebanon, which is why he features Lebanese dishes such as *humus* and *tabbouli*.

Keeping it small and informal is what the couple says kept the restaurant going for so many years.

"You know, little old ladies used to come with their kids, and now their kids have kids," Aram said. "We know our customers by name, and we look forward to coming in to work every morning."

Aram said he is going to turn 70, however, and they feel like they've been missing out on their social circles and time with family.

"It's going to be a shocker once I stop," Aram said. "I won't know what to do with myself."

Char Petersen, a customer of 40 years, says she hopes Aram will put together a cookbook before he hangs up his apron.

The 47-year-old San Jose resident has been coming to the restaurant since her parents started bringing her. Her father, who owned a printing business at the time, helped the Janjigians print their first business cards and menus.

Petersen said when her parents passed away, the Janjigians opened up the restaurant for the family to come and eat after the funeral.

"We were in a vulnerable place, but it was like coming home," Petersen said. "There's a special something that he puts in his food that just brings you back, and they're just wonderful people. I'm so broken-hearted because there is never going to be another Aram's. You see a lot of the same faces when you're there, too. It reminds me of Cheers, where everybody knows your name."

Twenty-seven-year customer Andrea Schatz, 58, of San Francisco, said there is nothing like the restaurant and no one like Aram and Florence.

"As sorry as I am to see after 40 years all of this go, the reality is everything

see CLOSING, page 7

French Parliamentarian Will Open AIWA Int. Conference in Yerevan

BOSTON – Preparations for the seventh International Conference of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA), which will be held in Yerevan, Armenia, October 9 to 12, are rapidly moving forward.

Valerie Boyer, Deputy in the French National Assembly, who has spearheaded legislation to make denial of the Armenian Genocide recognized as a criminal offense, heads the list of distinguished speakers who will participate in the Conference under the general theme "Armenian Women in Action: Building Communities Across the Globe."

In recognition of next year's centennial of the Armenian Genocide, the first full day of the conference (October 10) will explore new perspectives on the roles of Armenian women during the Genocide, as well as the lingering effects that followed. Italian-Armenian scholar and writer Antonia Arslan, author of *Skylark Farm*, the best-selling novel about the Genocide (which has been made into a movie) is one of several speakers on this topic. The day will end with a visit to Tsitsernakaberd to place a wreath at the Genocide Monument and tour the Genocide Museum with its director, Hayk Demoyan.

Other speakers on the first day include Fethiye Çetin from Istanbul, author of the groundbreaking book, *My Grandmother*, which has opened a discussion in Turkey about Islamized women survivors of the Armenian Genocide whose origins have been hidden. Çetin, who is the lawyer for the Dink Foundation, has been in the news recently for her criticism of the Turkish government's role in the investigation of the murder of journalist Hrant Dink.

Prior to the official beginning of the Conference, participants will be welcomed on Friday evening (October 9) by Hranush Hakobyan, Armenia's Minister of Diaspora, at a



Valerie Boyer

gala opening reception at the Kars Restaurant Complex. The first day's session will be held at Conference Hall of the Armenia Government Building in Republic Square. Subsequent sessions over the next two days will take place at Manoogian Hall of the American University of Armenia.

The second full day of the conference (October 11) will focus on Armenian Women in policy-making, entrepreneurial, social and health issues. Among the presenters scheduled for that day are Canadian-Armenian actress Arsinée Khanjian, noted for her roles in such movies as "Exotica," "The Sweet Hereafter" and "Ararat," and Vahan Zanoian, author of the highly acclaimed novel about trafficking, *A Place Far Away*. Several non-governmental organizations have been invited to provide models for what can be accomplished in a panel on NGOs in action in Armenia.

Culture will also be on the agenda that day, with a stage reading of the new play "Women of Ararat," followed by a discussion with the author, Boston-based Judith Boyajian. Ottoman-

see AIWA, page 8



COMMUNITY NEWS

Richard Bazarian Served Community, Church, Merrimack Valley

By Tom Vartabedian

HAVERHILL, Mass. — Richard K. Bazarian didn't let his disease stand in the way of service to the Armenian community.

With pancreatic cancer ravaging his body, he continued to show up at Genocide commemorations and other community events before death intervened July 23. He was two days shy of his 73rd birthday.

Despite the pain and discomfort which he kept to himself, Bazarian traveled to Genocide committee meetings, kept singing in his church choir and remained a devoted Knight of Vartan to the very end. He didn't want it any other way.

"If you didn't know, you never realized he had Stage 4 pancreatic cancer," said his close friend, Gary Koltookian. "He was in a weakened condition on the day of the monument dedication and marched with the brother Knights against his family's wishes. He stood with us the whole day."

Bazarian took his place by the region's last Genocide survivor, Nellie Nazarian, who showed up for the ceremony despite the rain. He had been a part of the committee representing the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, formerly St. Gregory the Illuminator parish.

His presence and impeccable service there will surely be missed by the church community in Haverhill, especially by its pastor, Rev. Vart Gyoazian. His death hung a pall of grief over

Merrimack Valley.

"Richard was a huge part of our parish," said Gyoazian. "He was a spiritual and dedicated member of our church and community and will be missed by all."

Wherever there was Armenian activity, you would find Bazarian, whether it was a dance, church-related event or a cause for humanity. He served diligently and without fanfare, much like the Legionnaire he so emulated.

Sharing an allegiance to the genocide monument committee was his involvement with the Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee of Merrimack Valley, both while representing his church where he was a catalyst in many ways, particularly with the Parish Council and choir.

His other passion was Arakadz Lodge #35, Knights of Vartan, where he served as commander and secretary.

"Richard was the kind of person who had no enemies," said Commander Harry Alexanian. "He was a devoted Christian, a dedicated Armenian and family man as well as a pillar example of Knightly qualities. In my 18 years with the Knights of Vartan, there was hardly a lodge meeting where he was not present until his illness. Our lodge simply won't be the same without him."

Others like Ara Jeknavorian remember him as a strong advocate for many worthy causes. The two were activists for Armenian Genocide recognition.

"Richard's support for that Genocide memorial in Lowell was an inspiration to all the committee members," said Jeknavorian. "He was always looking out for the best in people."

Bazarian was educated in the Watertown School System where he graduated and also

served with the Yankee Division, Army National Guard, where he played with the band. He was employed for 32 years with Verizon until his retirement.

Members of his community remember Bazarian as an affable guy who always looked upon the positive side of life. He never had a bad word for anybody and truly embraced his family — both immediate and those around him.

He loved attending events surrounding his family, particularly three grandchildren, in his life, whether sports or academic, with pride written on his face.

During his Watertown days, Bazarian coached many a player in basketball, including the late Roger Krikorian, a prominent musician who passed seven years ago. When it came to following Boston's professional sports teams, Bazarian was partial to none.

He leaves his wife of 45 years, Charlene (Pelosi) Bazarian; a son, Craig and his wife Rosa Bazarian, Peabody; a daughter, JoAnn and her husband Jason Ryan, Hudson, NH; siblings, Charles and his wife Carol Bazarian, North Andover; Harvey and his wife Barbara Bazarian, Quechee, Vt.; Carl Sr. and his wife Linda Bazarian, Amelia Island, Fla.; Maryjo Bazarian Murray and her husband Sean, Uxbridge; a brother-in-law, Frank Pelosi, Sandown, NH; an aunt, Margaret Bazarian, Watertown, and three grandchildren, Nuno, Evan and Ryan Bazarian.

Services took place at the Armenian Church at Hye Pointe.

Memorial contributions may be made either to the Armenian Genocide Monument Committee of Merrimack Valley, c/o Richard Juknavorian, 61 Salem St., Methuen, MA 01844 or Armenian Church at Hye Pointe, PO Box 8069, Ward Hill, MA 01835.



Three generations — Richard Bazarian attends his last Genocide commemoration May 10 in Lowell, joined by Nellie Nazarian, who preceded him in death as the last survivor in Merrimack Valley, and 12-year-old Datev Gevorkian. (Tom Vartabedian photo)

'Return to Asbury'

ASBURY, from page 5

l history. "Every opportunity to hear and enjoy our music helps to keep the Armenian spirit alive."

Participating musicians include those with memories of the original weekends as well as a new generation who are keeping traditional Armenian music alive by learning to play the music of their ancestors.

"It will be inspiring to see Armenians of all ages coming together to celebrate our music and culture," said Sage Kevorkian McBride, a classical violinist and concertmaster of the Miami Music Project and the Florida Youth Orchestra. "Nothing makes me happier than being able to create and share music with others, especially fellow Armenians."

New Jersey-based musician Chris Marashlian,

who will be joining the Michael Gostanian Ensemble, was an avid participant in the original Asbury Park weekends and reflects fondly on the influential historic event.

"I grew up and lived through this era, which has since vanished over time, yet which is something that continues to motivate me to this day," said Marashlian. "The most recent 'Return to Asbury' events have been inspirational, as both a remembrance of days gone by, as well as of many more great memories yet to come, where our great music and heritage all comes together each summer at the Jersey shore."

"This is a legacy, and we all have a responsibility to preserve it and pass it on," said Kaloustian. "Come be a part of the past, revel in the present, and hand it down to the future."

"Return to Asbury" will take place from Friday, August 8 to Sunday, August 10. It is sponsored by the New York Armenian Students Association. All event proceeds will benefit Camp Haiastan, Camp Nubar and St. Vartan Camp. For more information and to order tickets, visit www.returntoasbury2014.eventbrite.com

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Justin Aprahamian

James Beard Award Winner Justin Aprahamian Cooks up a Storm

MILWAUKEE (Fox6Now) – He entered the culinary world at just 12 years old – helping out with his uncle's catering company.

At the age of 16, he applied for work at the chef owned and operated Steven Wades Cafe. Wanting to learn all aspects of a kitchen – he accepted a job as a dishwasher, and worked his way up to garde manager.

During his time at Wades, he graduated from high school and immediately enrolled in the culinary program at Waukesha County Technical College.

He earned an Associates Degree at the age of 18 – and joined the kitchen staff at Sanford Restaurant in Milwaukee – then owned by renowned Chef Sanford D'Amato and his wife, Angie.

He was hired as a prep cook – and moved up the line. By 2005, three years after receiving his Associates Degree, he was promoted to sous chef.

In December of 2012, Justin Aprahamian purchased Sanford Restaurant from his mentors.

Most recently – in May 2014, Aprahamian won the coveted James Beard Award for "Best Chef Midwest" – following in the footsteps of Sandy D'Amato – Sanford Restaurant's founder.

D'Amato was Wisconsin's first chef to win a Beard Award, in 1996.

Justin Aprahamian was nominated for "Best Chef Midwest" in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Aprahamian and Studio A's Brian Kramp visited the West Allis Farmer's Market for fresh supplies – and then Justin was in the studio – cooking up a delicious meal.

Carnegie Gives Providence \$3M Grant to Create New High Schools

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (WPRI) – Providence has won a \$3-million private grant to create two small high schools as part of an effort to make "dramatic changes" in a district plagued by poor performance.

Up to 450 students will be eligible to attend each school beginning in the fall of 2015, according to the Christina O'Reilly, a spokeswoman for the school department. Each school will be housed inside already-existing school buildings, but the locations still haven't been determined.

The three-year grant was awarded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a 103-year-old foundation that focuses primarily on "international peace, the advancement of education and knowledge, and the strength of our democracy." The organization's president former Brown University President Vartan Gregorian.

"This Carnegie grant is a tremendous opportunity for the Providence Public Schools," Superintendent Dr. Susan Lusi said in a statement. "We have a chance to create these schools from the ground up, to let them be proof points that we can succeed in taking a different approach to education. The inherent opportunity in launching these ideas on a small scale with these two schools is that we can then bring them to bear across more schools, accelerating improvement."

While the exact design and curriculum for each school is still being determined, there will be significant changes from the city's current high school. Teachers will be members of the Providence Teachers Union, but the union has already agreed to be flexible when it comes to the number of students in a classroom and the length of the school day, according to O'Reilly.

"The Providence Teachers Union recognizes the need for a range of choices for our students, especially in the high school years," union president Maribeth Calabro said. "It is our hope as educators that the creation of this highly personalized, flexible school environment will allow students to thrive."

Every high school student in the city will be eligible to attend one of the schools, but if

enrollment goes over 450, they will be subject to a lottery system. As it stands now, students in eighth grade are asked to rank the high school they wish to attend the following year and the district attempts to make good on those requests.

Armenian Gourmet To Close after 40 Years

CLOSING, from page 5

good in life must come to an end," Schatz said. "It's been a wonderful opportunity to meet such a beautiful family who fell in love with me as much as I fell in love with them. They've decided it is time to move on, and I totally respect that and am happy for them."

While the restaurant has seen a lot change over the years—from companies like Verbatim, Tandem, MIPS, Amdahl, and National Semiconductor coming and going to the huge AMD lawn turning into a residential neighborhood—the food and service have always stayed the same.

"His food is delicious," Florence said. "I always tell people that he can make a bologna sandwich taste good."

The Janjigians are predicting the store will close up shop sometime in the end of August or the middle of September.

New Britain Festival to Take Place August 17

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. – The Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection will hold its annual Armenian Festival on Sunday, August 17. The day's events will be from noon to 6 p.m. (rain or shine) on the grounds of the church at 1910 Stanley St. Admission is free.

The festival will feature traditional Armenian foods and many other delicacies and pastries.

The afternoon will be full of entertainment also. The Harry Bedrossian Ensemble will play Armenian, Greek and Middle Eastern music. The band features Harry Bedrossian on vocals and oud (a walnut shaped 12-string instrument similar to a lute). Mike Kassabian on clarinet and George Righellis on guitar. Gary Hovhannessian will play dumbeg (an hour glass shaped hand drum).

Also joining in the festivities of the day will be Valentine the Clown (balloons and face painting) and Rocky the Rock Cat (mascot of the New Britain Rock Cats Baseball Team). The Youth Dance Ensemble from the church will also perform some traditional Armenian dance steps. For any additional information about the event, email garyhov@aol.com.

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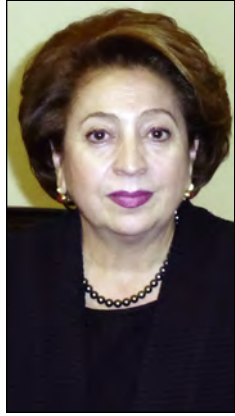


COMMUNITY NEWS

Gala on August 10 to Celebrate Crystal Anniversary of ABMDR

LOS ANGELES – “Match for Life,” the annual gala of the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR), will celebrate the 15th anniversary of the organization’s founding. The event will take place on Sunday, August 10, at the Glendale Hilton.

The hundreds of supporters in attendance will include community leaders, elected officials, and representatives of various community and health organizations, with guests of honor including former Armenian First Lady and ABMDR Honorary Chair Bella Kocharian, MD, among several others.



Former First Lady of Armenia Bella Kocharian, MD

“Our crystal-anniversary gala is a wonderful opportunity to share with our supporters 15 years of achievements, and to renew our commitment to a truly unique mission of helping save Armenian lives,” said

Dr. Frieda Jordan, president of ABMDR. “The gala also gives us a chance to publicly recognize all those outstanding individuals – including our founders, Board members, volunteers, and lifetime supporters – as well as institutions that have made ABMDR what it is today.”

During the event, special crystal-anniversary awards will be presented to several individuals, in recognition of their support of the registry’s life-saving mission. The award recipients will include church leaders, ABMDR founders and Board members, volunteers and lifetime supporters.

The “Match for Life” gala will begin with a cocktail hour and silent auction prior to dinner,



A scene from last year’s Gala: California state Sen. Carol Liu (second from far right) flanked by Dr. Sevak Avagyan and Dr. Frieda Jordan of ABMDR

and will feature several musical performances. The event’s master of ceremonies will be ABMDR Chairperson Mark Geragos, Esq.

For tickets and additional information, email abmdrla@sbcglobal.net.



A scene from last year’s Gala: the Gala Committee and supporters



A scene from last year’s Gala: from left, Mark Geragos, Esq., Archbishop Hovnan Derderian of the Western Diocese, and Father Vazken Atmajian of the Western Prelacy.

French Parliamentarian Will Open AIWA International Conference in Yerevan

AIWA, from page 5

Armenian author Zabel Yessayan, some of whose works have just been published in English by AIWA in two volumes (*Gardens of Silihdar* and *My Soul in Exile*) is one of the authors featured in a panel titled “Women in Literature.”

Sunday morning will open with an AIWA organizational meeting, open to the public, designed to provide an opportunity for affiliates in different areas to get together to discuss current programs and future plans. There will also be an optional excursion to the Armenian Church Mother Cathedral in Echmiadzin. Lunch will be followed by a conference wrap-up, with the focus on “Looking Ahead.”

The conference will end with a closing ban-



Arsinee Khanjian, left, and Antonia Arslan

quet on Sunday evening.

AIWA’s international conferences are designed to examine the evolving status of Armenian women and develop strategies for the future in the fields of government, the

economy, business and finance, health, education, communication, culture, and the arts. Beginning with the first AIWA conference in London in 1994 and continuing in Paris (1994), Yerevan (2000), Geneva (2004), Buenos Aires (2008) and San Francisco (2011), AIWA’s conferences have become noted for their interesting presenters, stimulating discussions, and especially for opportunities to interact with a diverse international network of Armenian and non-Armenian women.

Fall is a busy time of year in Armenia, and conference participants are invited to such events as the opening celebration on October 8 of the new, state-of-the-art Avedisian School sponsored by the Armenian Missionary Association of America and a visit to a nurs-

ery near Yerevan sponsored by the Armenian Tree Project and other non-profit organizations. Also available on October 13 are an optional one day excursion to Dilijan, Haghartsin and Lake Sevan, or a three-day, two-night side-trip to Karabagh.

The Coordinating Committee for the conference consists of Arpi Balian (Yerevan), Silva Katchiguiian (Los Angeles) and Barbara Merguerian and Judy Norsigian (Boston).

Details regarding the conference program, speakers and activities will be posted on the AIWA website (www.aiwainternational.org). All sessions are open to the public through registration, which can be made on the website or by contacting the AIWA office at 65 Main St., Watertown, or info@aiwainternational.org.



Paying Tribute to Raoul Wallenberg and His Legacy

WASHINGTON – Raoul Wallenberg was born into an aristocratic Swedish banking family on August 4, 1912, and his father died when Raoul was three months old. Raised by his mother and grandfather, he studied architecture, then joined his family's banking business and gained experience in a branch of the Holland Bank in Haifa, Palestine, where he first came in contact with Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. Returning to Sweden, where he continued his banking and business career, in 1944, he learned that the Swedish government was looking for an appropriate candidate to work in its embassy in Budapest, Hungary, as a cover for the US-based War Refugee Board. The purpose was to save the remnants of Hungarian Jewry, which at the time was being systematically decimated by the Germans, who had occupied Hungary on March 19, 1944, and their Hungarian collaborators.

On July 9, 2014, Wallenberg was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal during a ceremony in the US Congress. The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation (IRWF) was the driving force behind the initiative to present the prestigious award to the Swedish hero. According to Eduardo Eurnekian, the chairman of the IRWF, "We hope that this well-merited recognition by the US Congress will raise the awareness to Wallenberg's legacy and personal fate, and will



Eduardo Eurnekian and Nina Lagergren

serve as a catalyst to resolve the mystery of his disappearance in the hands of the Soviets."

The Wallenberg Foundation bestowed upon Nina Lagergren a silver medal specially coined by renowned silversmith Carlos Pallarols. Moreover, the International Raoul Wallenberg

Foundation received public recognition by members of the US Congress for its relentless efforts in promoting the deeds of Wallenberg as well as of other thousands of Holocaust saviors.

In 2012, the centennial year of the birth of Wallenberg, President Barack Obama, himself

born on August 4, addressed a video message exclusively dedicated to the "Hero without a Grave" for the first time ever in US history. Wallenberg is one of the few Honorary Citizens of the United States.

Regarding the fate of Wallenberg we consider that he is alive until proven otherwise. The central archives of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) should allow unfettered access to documentation that could shed light into the fate of Wallenberg. The fact that almost 70 years after Wallenberg's abduction and disappearance the Russians are still reluctant to offer access to vital information is absolutely baffling.

For many years now, the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation has stood by Prof. Guy von Dardel, a champion of the cause, as well as by other relatives of Wallenberg, in their just quest to secure reliable answers to this tragic affair. Their noble perseverance is a source of inspiration for us.

To this end the Wallenberg Foundation, a global-reach NGO devoted to research, preserve and divulge the legacy of Raoul Wallenberg and of many other saviors, has instituted a \$500,000 reward to any person or entity coming forward with reliable information concerning the whereabouts of Wallenberg and his driver, Vilmos Langfelder.

Napa Chili Contest Draws a Crowd, Helps Food Bank

By Kerana Todorov

NAPA, Calif. (*Napa Register*) – For those who enjoy chili, downtown Napa was the place to be Saturday, where a dozen teams competed for the best concoctions at the 6th annual Napa Chili Cookoff.

While some enjoyed stopping from booth to booth, others like Chuck Tingler came out of curiosity and to meet friends at the cookoff, a juried event that raises money for the Napa Food Bank.

"There is nothing like people watching," said Tingler, as The Voltones played nearby. "I like it," he said, as people milled about the dozen booths set up in the parking lot on Main Street next to Downtown Joe's.

Hours earlier, a dozen teams of volunteers came to the parking lot to set up their booths to prepare and cook a minimum of 6 gallons of chili.

"It's one of my favorite things to eat," said Bobby Cabrera, the chef at Jax Diner, as he and his team prepared 8 gallons of chili using his secret recipe.

Nearby, Brian Farmer and his wife, Sylvia Hudencial, cooked bacon, hot sausage links, and hamburger meat, along with jalapenos and bell peppers.

"We don't really have a recipe. We're just going to throw it together and hope for the best," laughed Farmer, an insurance agent in American Canyon.

Winning was not on Matthew Kazarian's mind Saturday. "As long as we raise money for the food bank, that's all that matters," said Kazarian, owner of Kazar Custom Arms, a company on North Kelly Road that builds and repairs guns. "It's all about giving back today."

"We're not cooks. We just want to come out and support Napa, and do the best we could for the Food Bank," Kazarian said.

He and his team served "Gunpowder and Lead Chili," along with mints in camouflage wraps in a booth decorated with World War II-era 28-millimeter dummy rounds. "It goes with what we do," said Kazarian, of the decor.

In 2013, the Chili Cookoff raised about \$10,500 for the Napa Food Bank. Saturday's fundraising totals were not immediately available.

Shirley King, Food Bank's program manager, said the food bank serves about 12,000 people a year. "We take care of the community," she said. "Lots of people think that there isn't poverty in Napa County because you see so much wealth."

The majority of the food bank's 12,000

clients are either seniors or working-class poor residents, King said. "A lot of the people in the service industry are working but they're not making enough money," she said.

The first three finishers in Saturday's contest received cash prizes of more than \$1,500.

Jax Diner won first place for Best Chili 2014; Coldwell Banker Brokers of the Valley

finished in second place and Strong and Hayden in third place.

People's Choice award also went to Jax Diner's team. Coldwell Banker Brokers of the Valley won best booth.

The jurors tasting for Best Chili 2014 jury included Barry Martin, co-founder of Lucky Penny Production

Jaffarian Blood Drive Helps American Red Cross Replenish Community Blood Supply



HAVERHILL, Mass. (*Northshore Magazine*) – As part of its ongoing efforts to give back to the community, Jaffarian Volvo Toyota Scion teamed up with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive on June 13, which collected enough units of blood to help save up to 72 lives.

This donation helped to replenish the blood supply during a crucial time for the Red Cross, as summer months can take a toll on it.

According to the Red Cross, blood supplies often decline during the summer months when schools are out and many families are vacationing.

As a treat to the donors who came to Jaffarian that day, Gary Jaffarian arranged to have Boston Pitcher Jake Peavy at the drive to meet and greet guests and give autographs.

Pictured (left to right) are Luis Morales, an Iraqi war veteran who came to the drive to donate blood; Gary Jaffarian, CEO of Jaffarian; and Jake Peavy, Boston Red Sox pitcher.

Fresno State Receives Donations

FRESNO – Fresno State's agricultural program recently received donations amounting to \$200,000 each from alumnus Dr. Harry B. Moordigian Jr. and from agribusiness leader Olam Spices and Vegetable Ingredients (SVI).

Fresno State President Joseph I. Castro announced the two gifts at the June 13 groundbreaking ceremony for the Jordan Research Center, which will be a 30,000-square-foot facility to foster collaboration among students and faculty in agricultural sciences and technology, engineering and science and mathematics.

The center will be part of the Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology.

Moordigian, a retired dentist, has supported his alma mater since the 1970s when he joined the Bulldog Foundation. His contributions have included support for the Armenian

Studies Department. In 2007, he established an endowment in honor of his parents, Harry and Nevert Moordigian – it supports deserving students in the Department of Viticulture and Enology. He continues to grow the scholarship, which now stands at nearly \$250,000.

Olam SVI, based in Fresno, is a top global supplier of dehydrated onion and garlic, spices, capsicums, tomatoes and specialty vegetables. The company sells to more than 70 countries.

The Moordigian gift will be used for the new center's microbiology laboratory, where research will be conducted on microorganisms in food processing and wine production.

The Olam SVI gift will be used to enrich the sensory evaluation, tasting and prep laboratory inside the new Jordan Research Center.

The center is scheduled to open in fall 2015.

Arts & Living

Knights, Daughters Of Vartan Host Concert at Armenian Embassy

WASHINGTON – Last month, the Knights and Daughters of Vartan Washington, DC chapters featured acclaimed pianist Hayk Arsenyan at the Embassy of the Republic of Armenia.

Ani Lodge Commander Jake Bournazian and Dikranouhi Otyag Commander Louisa Baghdasarian opened the program and welcomed the packed hall. Arsenyan brought the audience through a majestic musical performance that featured the works of famous Armenian composers Hovhanness, Khachaturian and Komitas. Arsenyan also performed a beautiful rendition of Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliette* and delighted the crowd with Schubert's *Piano Sonata*. His performance was passionately concluded with Khachaturian's iconic *Sabre Dance*, which brought the audience to their feet in magnificent applause.

"I hope that today's concert will not only be a tribute to our heroes who gave their lives for the independence of the Republic of Armenia, but will also be an inspiration for all those Armenians, who even far away from their motherland, continue to support and assist our brothers and sisters in Armenia," stated Baghdasarian.

Arsenyan is a New York-based pianist/composer and a native of Armenia. He has appeared in numerous recitals in the US, Armenia and the Middle East, including Carnegie Hall. He teaches at New York University and holds a doctorate in music



From left, Armenian Embassy First Secretary Karen Israyelyan, Hayk Arsenyan, Jake Bournazian, and Louisa Baghdasarian

from the University of Iowa. At age 11 he made his orchestral debut performing his composition for piano and orchestra.

Armenian Embassy First Secretary Karen Israyelyan and Third Secretary Anna Naghdalyan were present for the performance. "The Knights of Vartan appreciates the Armenian Embassy's willingness to provide this prestigious venue for this event so that we can feature and support performances by our musical artists for the greater Washington, DC Armenian community to enjoy," stated Jake Bournazian.

Following the concert, the members of the Ani Lodge and Dikranouhi Otyag gathered for a special dinner, where former Commander Margie Satian was honored for her steadfast leadership. All the members expressed their satisfaction and pleasure with the evening's success, particularly the excellent performance of Arsenyan.

The Knights and Daughters of Vartan appreciate the graciousness of the Armenian Embassy for their hospitality and contribution to the Armenian-American community.



With the push of a button, the Thanatron would deliver a painkiller, then a lethal infusion. Owners of the Museum of Death in Hollywood bought the device at auction.

Museum of Death in LA Buys Kevorkian Suicide Device, Thanatron

LOS ANGELES (*Los Angeles Times*) – The Museum of Death in Hollywood has bought one of Jack Kevorkian's assisted-suicide devices, the Thanatron.

In addition to the Kevorkian's suicide device, one of his macabre paintings join the collection at Museum of Death in LA.

With its 20th anniversary coming in 2015, the Museum of Death plans a second site in New Orleans.

The Thanatron, a lethal contraption built by Jack Kevorkian to expedite assisted suicides – earning him the nickname "Dr. Death" – is now at possibly the only museum that would relish showing it.

By Mike Boehm

That's the Museum of Death in Hollywood, which is nearing its 20th anniversary of marshaling memorabilia of mortality for the public's entertainment and edification – at least that portion of the public that has the stomach for it.

The Thanatron came on the market last spring at Gallerie Sparta in West Hollywood, which showcased it along with about a dozen of Kevorkian's oil paintings.

The Museum of Death's co-founders and proprietors, J.D. Healy and Cathee Schultz, are now the proud owners of the Thanatron and one of the paintings, "Fever," in which a grimacing man's see-through torso glows red. He doesn't appear to be dead but clearly is suffering. Kevorkian designed the Thanatron to release chemicals from tubes hung from a simple, clunky-looking frame. The device would deliver a painkiller, then a lethal infusion with just a push of a button.

"It should be in the Smithsonian," Healy said.

Instead it's in Hollywood, but perhaps not for long. Healy and Schultz, who are married, plan to open a New Orleans branch of their museum this fall, and the Thanatron is pegged to reside there for a good while.

Before it leaves, Healy said, the exhibit of Kevorkiana he's developing will open in September for a couple of weeks in LA. The show might include a related acquisition Healy said he's now considering, despite its impracticality for indoor display: the white 1968 Volkswagen van where Kevorkian's patients ended their lives using the Thanatron or the Mercitron, a companion device that Kevorkian designed to release fatal streams of carbon monoxide gas.

In reporting Kevorkian's 2011 unassisted death from illness in a Detroit hospital, the *Atlantic* noted that the Mercitron saw considerably more use than the Thanatron.

Still, for Healy, it's a prized display item that has more than a lurid appeal. He said it helps the museum fulfill what he considers the serious mission of getting people to focus now on what we'll all face later.

He said the Kevorkian installation will ask museum-goers to consider whether what the doctor did was murderous or humane. "We're not here to tell people what to think," Healy said. "We're here to give them information. Is it murder or is it suicide? That's what museums are supposed to do – ask the hard questions."

Also on display will be the suitcase and wooden box in which Kevorkian transported the table-top sized Thanatron, and the medicine bag in which he carried his chemicals for people who no longer wanted to live because of extreme illness or disability. Kevorkian said he helped more than 130 people die from 1990 to 1998.

He was convicted of murder in 1999 for directly administering a lethal injection – an exception to his usual approach of providing a device that his clients could operate themselves. Kevorkian served eight years in prison.

With a collection of more than 5,000 objects, photographs, documents and
see KEVORKIAN, page 11

AIWA Celebrates Joan Quinn, Plans Conference

LOS ANGELES – Members of the Armenian International Women's Association (AIWA) joined the Southern California support group of the National Museum of the Women in the Arts in DC at a special talk and tour with AIWA member Joan Agajanian Quinn at an exhibition "Joan Quinn Captured."

Much has been said and written about art that celebrates the many styles and mediums of art, but nothing comes close to contemporary art being shown through perhaps the largest collection of portraits, sculpting, drawings and photographs of one person, Joan Agajanian Quinn. From the 1970s, the Quinn's Los Angeles home base has been a gathering place for artists and intellectuals. In this milieu, the artists were drawn to showcase their individual styles and expressions in portraying the essence of Joan Quinn.

The month-long exhibition "Joan Quinn Captured" at the Brand Library and Arts Center in Glendale showcased a large portrait collection by contemporary artists in the world, including Jean-Michel Basquiat, Shepard Fairey, Frank Gehry, Robert Graham, David Hockney, Ed



From left, Nora Yacoubian, Joan Agajanian Quinn and Margaret Black

Ruscha, Beatrice Wood and photographers Robert Mapplethorpe, Helmut Newton, Matthew Rolston and Arthur Tress and Ned Evans. In addition to the portraits, there were a number of non-portrait works by selected artists including Jon Krawaczek, sculptor; and Chaz Guest, painter and sculptor.

"What captured me most about Joan was her placid calm," said Guest, who was present at the exhibit. "She exuded confidence. It was warm and comforting."

"One couldn't ignore her collection of wrist watches, jewelry and her hair," said Evans who captured the warmth and energy that surrounded her. "Joan (and her husband Jack) had a flair for the arts and artists naturally navigated toward them."

"She stands firm, she is solid, and yet she is energy," said sculptor Jon Krawaczek, as he stood in front of the sculpting of geometric shapes that embodied the image of Joan Quinn with forceful grace.

The art being shown celebrated Joan's life and also highlighted various styles used in contemporary art. The portraits on display were selected from a collection of over 300 and were shown alongside other artworks on loan from galleries, foundations and the Quinn family.

Joan Agajanian Quinn, a longtime member of AIWA, serves as Board Liaison and United Nations representative for AIWA. Among her many achievements, Quinn has produced and hosted cable television talks on arts and entertainment. She served on the California Arts
see AIWA, page 11



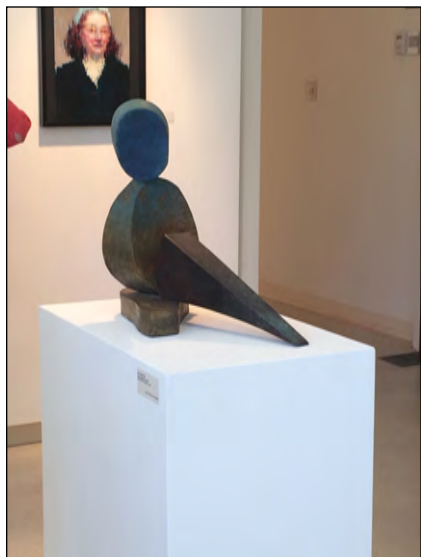
ARTS & LIVING

AIWA Celebrates Joan Quinn, Plans Conference

AIWA, from page 10

Council and the Beverly Hills Architectural Commission and served on the board of the Hollywood Women's Press Club.

Various activities of AIWA are being planned particularly the forthcoming Seventh International Conference to be held in Yerevan, Armenia, October 9-12, "Armenian Women In Action - Building Communities across the Globe." Previous international conferences have brought together a cross-section of Armenian (and non-Armenian) women from the United States, Armenia, South America, the Middle East and Europe. "We are working closely with our conference co-chairs in Boston and in Armenia to bring together women from diverse fields and backgrounds to share the richness of our inherited legacy and our learned professions," said Silva Katchiguan, president of AIWA-LA. For info and registration contact: www.aiwainternational.org



Sculpture by Jon Krawaczk



From left, Silva Katchiguan, Ned Evans, Chaz Guest, Joan Agajanian Quinn, Jon Krawaczk and Nora Yacoubian

Picture Worth A Thousand Breaths

By Paul Harasim

LAS VEGAS (*Las Vegas Review-Journal*) – It was one of those things that was always in the back of Bill Kading's mind.

The 64-year-old food service director at Desert Springs Hospital didn't lose sleep over it, but whenever he thought about his parents, he couldn't help but wonder whether he'd die as they had, from heart failure.

He made all the right moves to fight it off: ate sensibly, didn't party too hard, exercised, did what his doctor ordered.

Still, he knew that existing testing couldn't always pick up existing heart disease or the earliest signs of it.

And then he heard that Desert Springs CEO Sam Kaufman not only had ordered a new scanner that was advertised to do just that, but he was giving some hospital employees free scans as his radiology team became acquainted with the advanced computed tomography technology that provides an entire 3-D image of the heart in about a heartbeat.

Kading was the first to sign up in January for the diagnostic imaging procedure that uses a combination of X-rays and computer technology to produce cross-sectional images (frequently called slices), both vertically and horizontally.

Not only did the new 256-slice CT scanner produce images faster than the old 64-slice CT, doctors told Kading it was also far more accurate and reliable and reduced radiation exposure by as much as 80 percent.

"Though it was the latest and greatest, not everybody wanted to be the first volunteer," recalled Lan-Dai Addington, the hospital's radiology director. "Bill took the initiative. He wanted to know if he had the heart disease that ran in his family."

Turns out he didn't. His heart's anatomy looked great. Even the coronary arteries where atherosclerosis occurs were clean.

But Kading still had a problem that threatened his life.

The scan showed he had a mass on his left lung.

Both Addington and the hospital's medical director of radiology, Dr. Armen Hovanessian, saw it.

"I make sure when I look at scans that I try to never miss anything on them, even if I'm basically doing testing on the heart," Hovanessian said last week as he pointed out Kading's mass on a hospital computer screen.

Hovanessian had to tell his longtime hospital colleague what he found.

"That wasn't easy," the doctor said. "I treat all my patients as if they were friends and family but fortunately that's not something I have to tell them."

Further testing would show that the mass was cancerous.

As Hovanessian talked about the "incredible detail" the new CT scanner provides, Kading stared at the computer screen beside the doctor, seeing, for the first time, the images of the diseased lung that may have soon killed him.

"Thanks for saving my life, doctor," Kading said, shaking Hovanessian's hand.

Since the scan, Dr. Rick Martin removed Kading's left lung, a procedure that kept him out of work for a month.

He's now on a chemotherapy regimen that will finish in about eight weeks. Every Friday he gets a dose of anti-cancer drugs that he says keeps him in bed for the weekend.

Martin said Kading's prognosis is excellent for a healthy future.

That the new CT scanner caught health problems of several hospital employees didn't really surprise radiology director Addington.

"It's just so powerful," she said as she stood in the darkness of the radiology lab (employees call it the "Batcave") where scans are read. "For the first time we can even see what so many heart patients worry about – whether the stents that have been put in to keep arteries open are in the right position and going to last."

Only Kading's scan, however, could find a life-threatening condition among employees.

He seems mystified that doctors say his cancer, which was caught at stage 2, was growing fast and could have quickly been largely untreatable.

"I didn't have any pain in my chest, no coughing, nothing," he said. "If it weren't for the scan, I'm sure I would have been at stage 4 before I had symptoms that would have had me going to the doctor to get checked out. I literally had no idea."

Kading's wife, Stephanie Anderson, said she's "fantastically grateful" that her husband's cancerous mass was found and often wonders how it came to be that the hospital offered free scans to employees "at just the right time."

Radiologist Hovanessian has an explanation that doesn't come out of a management or medical book.

"You can have a great staff like we have here, people who really care, but you also need some luck," Hovanessian says. "Bill had some good luck at a good time."

Museum of Death Buys Kevorkian Suicide Device

KEVORKIAN, from page 10

human remains – among them the head of a French serial killer who was guillotined in 1922 – Healy estimates the 4,000-square-foot Museum of Death can show no more than a third of its collection. The site in New Orleans' French Quarter will be about three times larger, he said. The plan is to rotate exhibitions back and forth between the Museum of Death and Musee de Mort Orleans, as the Louisiana museum will be called.

Healy declined to say how much he paid for the Thanatron and the "Fever" canvas, or to say how many visitors the Museum of Death gets. It has been popular enough, he said, to earn a living and finance ongoing acquisitions.

The wares in Gallerie Sparta's Kevorkian show were provided by his niece. Co-owner Lee Bowers said that seven of his paintings have been sold, fetching \$12,000 to \$40,000; four others remain on display, two of them macabre – "Coma" and "The Brotherhood." The others, portraits of Kevorkian's father and Johann Sebastian Bach, show a more placid side.

"Leonardo DiCaprio and his dad came in to see [the show] privately," Bowers said, noting that the actor "has become a very big collector of edgy outsider art, and Kevorkian falls into that category. He didn't make an offer on any of them."

Bowers said the Thanatron, which was shown in a Plexiglas case, had a discernible effect on

the gallery's visitors.

"They were real quiet when they realized it was the real one" that had been used in assisted suicides. "It definitely had a vibe, and people were somber."

"The Museum of Death contacted us very early on" about negotiating a price for the Thanatron, she said.

The Museum of Death's Kevorkian acquisitions aren't on display yet. They probably won't have as extreme an effect on viewers as some of its more graphic depictions of death. "Already this week we had two people pass out," Healy said. "Everyone has different triggers," he added, so it's impossible to say which artifacts are the most powerfully gruesome. "I call it my falling-down ovation."

The initials in J.D. Healy are for James Dean. Healy was born in 1961, six years after the actor died in a car wreck; his mother named him for the screen actor.

Now museum visitors can check out a copy of the speeding ticket issued to Healy's namesake shortly before he fatally crashed his Porsche.

The Museum of Death's other holdings include a simple bunk bed that it was one of the deathbeds in a 1997 mass suicide in which 39 members of a San Diego County cult called Heaven's Gate poisoned themselves.

The museum's most important possession is its name, Healy said. "That's the magic right there. All these items and objects come to us because of the name."

ARMENIA
TREEPROJECT
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Plant a Tree. Plant Hope



Vahag and Lusine Baghdasaryan and little Carlos
Aghavnavank Village, Tavush Region

PLANT
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WITH AS LITTLE AS
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THE BAGHDASARYANS moved to Aghavnavank in 1988 from Dagestan, Russia, and have been planting seedlings with Armenia Tree Project (ATP) since 2011. With six members in the family, grandfather Karlen notes that this backyard nursery program has been crucial in helping to pay off debt, and keep the two small grandchildren Carlos and Hasmik fed. This ATP micro-enterprise initiative provides 10 Aghavnavank families a steady source of income and is one of many programs we conduct in Armenia to provide jobs and environmental assistance.

SINCE 1994, we have planted and restored more than 4.5 million trees and created hundreds of jobs for Armenians in seasonal tree-related programs and backyard nursery programs.

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ARTS & LIVING

Graphic Novel Centers on Talaat Assassination

SPECIAL MISSION-Nemesis
Editions Sigest
17x24 cm (about 6½" x 9½")
68pp / \$19.95
ISBN: 978-2-917329-71-9

PARIS – One day in March 1921, a young man burst into Hardenberg Street, Berlin, trailing a neighborhood resident who was out for a stroll. Minutes later, he struck down his target with a bullet to the head.

At his trial, the young Armenian, Soghomon Tehlirian, acknowledged the killing but claimed he was no murderer. It was the victim, Talaat Pasha, who had orchestrated the massacre of Tehlirian's family and the annihilation of his people.

This true-crime drama unfolds in *Special Mission-Nemesis*, a 68-page graphic novel by Paolo Cossi, J. B. Djian and Jan Varoujan (\$19.95).

Newly translated from the French by Lou Ann Matossian, *Special Mission-Nemesis* is



available from publisher Editions Sigest (<http://editions.sigest.net>) and wherever Armenian books are sold.

The trial became a focal point for many Armenians and non-Armenians who learned about the Genocide because of it. In fact, Raphael Lemkin, the lawyer who coined the term "genocide," said, "The trial of Talaat Pasha in 1921 in Berlin is very instructive. A man [Soghomon Tehlirian], whose mother was killed in the genocide, killed Talaat Pasha ... So, you see, as a lawyer, I thought that a crime should not be punished by the victims, but should be punished by a court, by a national law."

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CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 16 – The Armenian National Committee of America Professional Network (ANC-PN) and the Armenian Engineers & Scientists of America (AESAs) joint cocktail networking event at the exclusive CBS Studios Backlot "New York Street" at 7:00 p.m., Studio City. The event will feature an open bar for all guests, appetizers, and music by DJ Arak. Cocktail attire is recommended. Donation is \$45 through August 8 and will increase thereafter. Purchase tickets by August 13, 2014 at the latest. Tickets are limited due to capacity, so make sure to buy yours early via the link below: https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=BP5YAPFE7JX8S

CONNECTICUT

AUGUST 17 – Armenian Festival hosted by the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection (rain or shine), on the church grounds at 1910 Stanley St, New Britain. Noon to 6 p.m. FREE admission. Shish kebab, Pilaf, Khema, Losh Kebab Burgers, Hot Dogs, beverages and other delicacies and pastries. Live music with the Harry Bedrossian Ensemble featuring Harry (oud/vocals), Mike Kassabian (clarinet), George Righellis (guitar) and Gary Hovhannessian (dumbeg). For more details, call Gary 860-690-5959.

MASSACHUSETTS

AUGUST 10 – New England Poetry Club presents Poetry of Purpose with Diana Der-Hovannessian, Fred Marchant, and Afaa Weaver, Sunday, 3 p.m. Longfellow National Historic Site, East Lawn, 105 Brattle St., Cambridge. Free and Open to the Public, wheelchair accessible. Fred Marchant, professor at Suffolk University, the first US Marine officer to resign as a Conscientious Objector with an honorable discharge. Der-Hovannessian, president of NEPC, was twice a Fulbright Professor of American Poetry in Armenia. Her 10 books of poetry and 15 of translations, published by Columbia University Press, Sheep Meadow Press, etc. have won numerous awards. She will read translations from ancient and modern Armenian. Weaver just won the prestigious Kingsley Tufts Award for his new book *The Government of Nature* (University of Pittsburg Press).

AUGUST 10 – Saints Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Road, Chelmsford, will hold its annual picnic from noon to 6 p.m., with Jason Naroian and his ensemble. Admission, \$1 per person. For more information, visit www.stsvartanantz.com or call the church office at 978-256-7234.

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

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

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

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



British-Armenian comic, Kev Orkian, is coming to Watertown's St. James Cultural Center for a Comedy Night, on Friday, September 12, at 8 p.m., presented by the Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston. Orkian was a finalist in Britain's Got Talent and has performed around the world. Tickets are \$40 until September 1 and \$45 after. For tickets call 617-852-1816 or 508-397-7977.

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; Leo Janikian, clarinet; Kenny Kalajian, guitar and Jay Baronian, dumbeg. Game for the Kids at 2:30pm. Bob Lobel, Emcee. www.ArmenianHeritagePark.org

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

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 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

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.

NEW YORK

AUGUST 8-10 – Return to Asbury Park, Friday Night: Happy Hour at Watermark Lounge, Saturday 11AM: Tavloo Tournament, Saturday 12PM: Meet us at the 7th Avenue Beach, Saturday 4PM-6PM: Poolside Happy Hour with live Armenian music, Saturday 8 p.m., Berkeley Oceanfront Hotel, Kingsley Ballroom, live music, mezze, and cash bar, featuring the Michael Gostanian Ensemble and Kevork Artinian Band.



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Erdogan's Triumphant March to Presidency

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Is it a guilty thought for any Armenian to wish that Turkey were to be wiped off the map the way historic Armenia was? Whether guilty or just, that is not a probability in the present world order, where Turkey is gaining prominence thanks to its strategic location and its leadership's policies.

Therefore, Turkey is there, bordering Armenia and Armenians will have to deal with it until the end of history.

Prime Minister Erdogan has much to do with Turkey's gaining prominence during the last decade and at this time, his political fortunes are moving triumphantly towards his ultimate goal, which is his country's presidency. Up to now, the post has been a ceremonial one, but after Erdogan's election, it is planned to be converted into a political powerhouse. Current president, Abdullah Gul, his fellow collaborator in the AK Party, is geared to replace him in a much-eneebled premiership.

Despite fervent denials that a Putin-Medvedev style pact exists between them, developments indicate otherwise.

The presidential election will take place on August 10. Some absentee ballots by expatriate Turks in Germany herald Erdogan's victory, if not in the first round, but certainly in the second round.

Historically, Turkey's presidents were elected by the parliament; first time around, the election is held by the popular vote, which will have a more powerful mandate for the president.

Opposing Erdogan are a number of candidates representing different factions and interest groups. The opposition parties are mostly urbanites and consider themselves "modernists" rallying around the Republican People's Party (CHP), which distinguishes itself from traditional nationalists supporting the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP). These two parties have joined forces to support a single candidate, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu.

For the first time in Turkey's modern history (if we discount rumors of Ismet Ununu's Kurdish ancestry), a Kurd is running as a candidate; that Kurd is Salahattin Demirtas, who represents leftists and socialists. Despite Demirtas's vocal support for the Armenian Genocide in the past several years, it is believed that the majority of Armenians will vote for Erdogan for two reasons:

- Erdogan has ingratiated himself to the Armenian community by some symbolic gestures and by returning to the community a few pieces of real estate, confiscated by the previous administrations.

- The political pendulum may swing any time in Turkey as it did during the 1960 and 1980 coups, and anyone caught red-handed voting for socialists or leftists may end up in jail.

Although political pundit Etyen Mahcupyan discredits, in a commentary on August 2 in Sabah daily, the opposition group's ideologies as inept to exercise the judiciary's authority over the executive, a columnist in Today's Zaman, Dogu Ergil, bluntly identifies the new administration as an authoritarian one, of course, based on Erdogan's record thus far: "The separation of powers having been reduced to merely a principle will disappear and give way to a union of powers under the guise of 'administrative unity.' The legislature will no longer be an institution to check and correct the excesses and deviations of the executive branch. The executive will be presented by the president, who has already declared himself the sole decision maker."

Despite such assessments, Erdogan's popularity has not been dented. On the contrary, it has survived many adversities. In May 2013, President Obama reprimanded Erdogan and his intelligence chief Hakan Fidan for supporting the "wrong insurgents" in Syria. In June 2013, police brutality against the Gezi Park protestors hardly bruised his popularity, despite international condemnations. In July 2013, a soul mate of the AK Islamist Party in Egypt, the Muslim Brotherhood, fell, and its elected president, Mohammed Morsi, was jailed. In a massive witch-hunt in Turkey, thousands of policemen and judges were replaced or fired and at one point, Erdogan's arrogance ran out of control when he threatened to expel the US ambassador to Turkey, Francis Ricciardone, for his alleged involvement in the corruption probe of his family and cronies.

He also used that opportunity to neutralize Fetullah Gulen's sympathizers.

Erdogan's Palestinian policy comprises many layers; his virulent attacks against Israel, even invoking Hitler and accusing the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) of committing genocide, yielded abundant dividends domestically. On the other hand, he did not suspend military cooperation with the Jewish state and his son continued his business activities there. While Israel was pounding Gaza, a source in Iran revealed that Ankara was shipping jet fuel to the IDF.

One Turkish journalist remarked that on the one hand, Erdogan's anti-Israeli outburst contributed to his popularity in the Muslim world, while on the other hand, they constituted a Godsend to Prime Minister Netanyahu indicating that anti-Semitic sentiments were on the rise and Israel needed more support. The veracity of that statement was proven by the US senate, which with unusual unanimity of votes (100-0), approved to send a \$350-million gift to Israel.

Erdogan's Kurdish policy also proved to be multi-layered. Contrary to Secretary of State John Kerry's pleadings to Turkey to support Nouri Al-Maliki's central government in Iraq, Erdogan cut

a deal with Kurdistan's Massoud Barzani to market Kurdish oil internationally and undermine the stability of the government in Baghdad. He also came to an understanding with Iraqi Kurds not to provoke the PKK in Turkey and encourage the Kurdish independence movement there. That is why Abdullah Ocalan, PKK's jailed leader, and Demirtas are satisfied with seeking autonomy within Turkey.

The Kurdish issue in Syria has a different dimension. The reason President Obama reprimanded Erdogan and Hakan is that Turkey was – and has been – supporting Jihadists to fight Syrian Kurds who have carved an autonomous region and have been observing a neutral position between the government forces and its opponents. Erdogan, fearing the emergence of another Kurdistan on its borders, is trying to eliminate that prospect, misusing the US-supplied armaments for his selfish goals.

As we can see, Armenians will be dealing with a formidable and sophisticated opponent. We need to abandon our traditional views of the "stupid Turk" and be prepared to deal with a major power, whose influence is growing inexorably in the region.

Fortunately, we are at a juncture of history and Armenian-Turkish relations where we no longer are facing Kenan Evran and Turgut Ozel. We need to be reminded that the engineer of the bloody coup in 1980, the dictator Evran, challenged Armenians by stating: "If you want land from Turkey, come and take it! Land can only be taken by blood." Turgut Ozel, in his turn, said that "1915 has not been enough of a lesson for the Armenians; what if we drop a few bombs over Yerevan during our war games, to teach them a lesson?"

The Erdogan government took a few initiatives, which were very different from the above belligerent postures. Of course, those initiatives were not done out of the goodness of his heart; there is no such thing in political dealings. They were compelled by political necessities.

Turkish leaders have nothing to fear from Armenia or Armenians. But their case hangs over Turkey like the sword of Damocles to be used by the international community at the convenient time. The Genocide issue has been used by Israel, the European Union and even the US to extract concessions from Turkey. Blockading Armenia has always raised questions with the EU, NATO and the World Trade Organization. Therefore, Turkey is sensitized by the political impact of those issues and would like to blunt them or to dupe the Armenians into submission or silence.

The ill-fated protocols were promoted for that very same reason. Especially, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton wished ardently to render them into a feather on her foreign policy cap.

Erdogan's condolence to the children and the grandchildren of the Armenians who were "relocated" during the Ottoman period did not go as far as his apology to the Dersim Kurds who were slaughtered during the Kemalist rule, but it was a step in the right direction which Foreign Minister Ahmed Davutoglu tried to capitalize. Also, Turkey played the game of football diplomacy with Armenia.

Even some trial balloons were floated in the Turkish press recently that Ankara was in the process of planning to open the border with Armenia.

On a more tangible issue, Erdogan took the initiative to return some valuable pieces of real estate confiscated from the Armenian community. If any thing, that was a symbolic minimum out of 2,000 churches and monasteries and other historic sites still languishing in ruins or being used as stables or storage facilities. When the Turkish government began returning some properties, Patriarchal Vicar Atesian, who was manipulated to assume the Patriarch's responsibilities by the Ankara government, playing the role of his master's voice, stated that the Patriarchate cannot handle all the properties, should the government decide to return them, oblivious of the fact that those properties belong to the entire Armenian nation and not necessarily to the Patriarchate.

Before his assassination, Hrant Dink had a prophesy: he said, "The Turkish government will never give in to outside pressure. Only internal democratization will force changes. Armenians have to help bring democracy to Turkey to achieve recognition."

Every passing day vindicates Dink's prophesy. Despite the existence of Article 301 of the Turkish penal code, Armenians are commemorating April 24 on Taksim and Bayazid squares without fear of government repression.

The Armenian question has been such a serious burden on Turkish foreign policy that Ahmet Davutoglu took pains recently to publish a thesis in Turkish Policy Quarterly under the title "Turkish-Armenian Relations: Is a 'Just Memory' Possible?"

It was a serious opening, albeit self-serving, to challenge our scholars. Prof. Gerard J. Libaridian took the foreign minister to task rebutting his case point by point.

Our scholars, sometimes consider such challenges as advocacy and they shy away from the battlefield or if they engage in the battle, they try to insult the other party, damaging the issue in both cases.

Libaridian has chosen a moral high ground and has treated the issue in a scholarly and dignified manner.

The Turks will challenge Armenians in every possible field. We do not need to be intimidated nor offer empty belligerence.

Erdogan's election will be the most formidable challenge. The diaspora and Armenia have to mobilize their resources. The battle will be long and arduous but it is not unwinnable.

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COMMENTARY

Massachusetts Election Politics and the Armenian American Voter

By David Boyajian

For decades, top Jewish organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) have colluded with Turkey to deny, and defeat Congressional resolutions on, the Armenian genocide.

Not surprisingly, those organizations' scandalous double standards figure in Massachusetts elections in September and November: some candidates are not as supportive of Armenian issues as they'd like you to believe.

Briefly recall 2007-2008. Over a dozen Massachusetts cities and the umbrella Massachusetts Municipal Association tossed out the ADL's so-called "No Place for Hate" anti-bias program. They recoiled at the ADL's bare-faced hypocrisy regarding genocide. The clash spawned hundreds of articles in national and international media and rocked Israeli-Turkish relations.

Three months ago, under fire from students and faculty at Boston's Suffolk University Law School and human rights activists over the Armenian genocide and other concerns, keynote commencement speaker Abraham Foxman, ADL National Director, mentioned in passing the words "Armenian genocide." It was, of course, decades overdue and undoubtedly insincere. Foxman, renowned for his bullying manner, had the gall to imply that he had been "bullied" by those who protested his speaking and receiving an honorary degree.

In any case, the ADL has yet to issue a formal, unambiguous statement on the Armenian genocide and continues to oppose its recognition. See www.NoPlaceForDenial.com.

Martha Coakley's Lack of Valor

Attorney General Martha Coakley is running for the Democratic nomination for governor.

In late 2007, while the ADL was openly lying about the Armenian genocide, Coakley accepted the New England ADL's Woman of Valor award. Precisely what valorous act Coakley – in office only 10 months – had performed remains a mystery.

The Armenian National Committee of America's Massachusetts chapter pronounced it "unfathomable that Coakley and her team would be unaware of the [2007] scandal ... would she have accepted an award from an organization with a shaky stance on the realities of the Holocaust?" Coakley has also attended and co-chaired ADL events since then.

In 2010, in her abortive race to replace the late Sen. Ted Kennedy, Coakley made a last-minute play for Armenian American votes by acknowledging the Armenian Genocide. Granted, after Turks sued the state, Coakley successfully defended a Massachusetts genocide education law that included the Armenian Genocide. But it was actually Tom Reilly, her predecessor, who initiated the state's legal defense.

State Treasurer Steve Grossman, himself a former ADL and AIPAC officer, is Coakley's opponent in the September Democratic primary for governor.

Steve Grossman and AIPAC

When the ADL-Armenian issue exploded in 2007, Grossman – not yet a public official – openly acknowledged the Armenian Genocide and urged the ADL to change its stance. He had done the same, he claims, when he was an ADL officer. However, there seems to be no public record of that.

From 1992 to early 1997, Grossman was National Chairman of the powerful AIPAC, which has been demonstratively anti-Armenian American. He resigned that post to chair the National Democratic Party.

According to Yola Habib Johnston, a director at JINSA (Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs), AIPAC – plus the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith, and JINSA – "have been working with the Turks" since at least 1991 to stop US recognition of the Armenian Genocide. That puts Grossman at the center of AIPAC's anti-Armenian efforts.

The Washington Times has reported that Keith Weissman, an AIPAC senior researcher, enthusiastically helped Turks defeat an Armenian Genocide resolution in the US House in October 2000. Weissman was an "architect of the Jewish community's support for Turkey." AIPAC "even offered training to Turkish Americans on how to establish a successful lobby."

In 2005, the Federal government indicted Weissman and fellow AIPACer Steve Rosen for passing classified information to Israel. (Charges were dropped in 2009.)

Beginning in 1993, Grossman's and Weissman's tenures at AIPAC overlapped for four years. Yet Grossman has apparently never publicly criticized AIPAC's or Weissman's anti-Armenian activities.

Warren Tolman and the ADL's Berman

Former Democratic State Senator Warren Tolman of Watertown is running for Attorney General. Long sensitive to Armenian concerns, Tolman also co-authored a law

requiring inclusion of the Armenian genocide in the State Board of Education's genocide curriculum guide.

Tolman has never, however, commented publicly on the ADL's war against Armenians. Moreover, months ago he, and some other big names, petitioned the eight elected members of the Governor's Council to approve controversial attorney Joseph Berman to be a Mass. Superior Court judge. Berman, an ADL National Commissioner, was nominated by Governor Deval Patrick.

In 2007, Berman supposedly privately urged the ADL to acknowledge the Genocide. Regardless, he did not do so before 2007 or after. That troubled several Governor's Councilors, particularly longtime Armenian friend Marilyn Petitto Devaney.

Councilors also questioned Berman's qualifications, and criticized his deceptions about having phoned state senator, now Congresswoman, Katherine Clark, to ask her to lobby for his judgeship.

Berman and the ADL finally lost what was perhaps the biggest judicial nomination fight in Massachusetts history. It was especially embarrassing for Gov. Deval Patrick who that day was hosting his friend President Obama.

Did Warren Tolman endorse Berman because he thought he'd gain more votes from ADL constituents than he'd lose from Armenian Americans? Marilyn Devaney, on the other hand, has always stood firm on Armenian issues.

Marilyn Devaney Stands Tall

As a Governor's Councilor, and a past Watertown Town Councilwoman, Devaney authored successful resolutions that called on Turkey to acknowledge the Genocide and pay reparations. She has attended every April 24 commemoration at the State House. She worked with the late House Speaker, Rep. George Keverian, on Armenian earthquake relief in 1988.

At great political risk, Devaney, who represents much of eastern Massachusetts, not only opposed Joseph Berman's confirmation but has consistently opposed the ADL's anti-Armenian actions.

September's Democratic primary pits her against Charlie Shapiro of Newton, a Berman partisan who has no position on Armenian issues and has repeatedly insulted Devaney. It's the political fight of her life.

As politicians make their pitch for votes, the Armenian American voter will scrutinize their actual records.

(David Boyajian is a regular contributor to the Armenian press.)

Teaching Saroyan In College

By Lusine Mueller

Teaching William Saroyan's literary works has been on my to-do list for many years. I decided to offer non-Armenian students in my Freshman Seminar class at Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland the opportunity to engage Saroyan. We enjoyed productive class discussions, wrote essays analyzing Saroyan's idea of the good life, and composed journal entries on the students' favorite quotes of the Academy Award and Pulitzer prize-winning author.

After reading *The Human Comedy*, my student Brett Smoot wrote, "One technique that Saroyan employs in his writing is that he speaks through his characters, sending invaluable messages to his readers." Saroyan's method, speaking through characters who represent lower-middle class Americans, is an interesting approach to getting his important ideas across to the reader. He creates characters with whom the reader can identify or with whom the reader can imagine interacting in daily life. In the little book, consisting of 39 simple stories, the simple messages that Saroyan's characters convey offer deep meanings that haunt and pursue

the reader for a long time.

Saroyan used these types of characters to teach generations of readers about the most important human feeling, love. He inserted love into the basic conversations of the characters. They were hard workers, striving to make ends meet. They were kind, loving, devoted to their families and their fatherland. Even in their experience of the pain caused by war, Saroyan's characters still had an openness to love.

For example, one of my students, Matthew Cinquegrana, focused on Saroyan's idea, "Love is immortal and makes all things immortal, but hate dies every minute." Cinquegrana wrote, "People die. People die every day, every minute. They could be family members or friends, or perhaps complete strangers whom you have never met in your life. The fact is, their lives have ended, or are ending. But that does not mean people are obsessed with death. Those close to the departed can move on because they still have their love and memories of them."

One of Saroyan's main ideas is that, even if people are physically not with us, they are con-

stantly present in our hearts and minds; their absence is only physical. According to Saroyan, if we are alive, they are alive. They are alive with us as long as we allow them to stay with us. As Stephanie Rappazzo, another of my freshman students, wrote, "Even though God can take away the ones we love, he can never fully take them away from us; their spirits will forever live within the ones who had loved them most."

Saroyan's ability to treat life and death at the same level touched many of the students whom I taught. For example, William Briscoe wrote, "Saroyan is trying to tell people to embrace the fact that death is inevitable and that people should not be afraid. That is a great life lesson. If people are constantly worrying about dying, then they will not be able to live their lives to the fullest. But life is a gift from God, something humans should live to its fullest with no regrets." In this comment, the student comes to the same realization that Saroyan did when he wrote in *The Daring Young Man on the Flying Trapeze* that we should always strive to be wholly alive (13).

One of the things that keep us from living life to the fullest is our fear of failure. Failures occur in every human being's life; some are big, some small. One should regard failure as a part of human development, shaping people and cultivating them into stronger and more mature beings. As my student Benjamin McNamee wrote, "Life is tough, but it is through the difficulties and hardships that we experience that make us stronger." We all know that humans experience many ups and downs throughout their lives; however, failures make people wiser. And the lessons that are taught by failure become unforgettable, just like the lessons that my students learned from engaging Saroyan in the classroom.

(Lusine K. Hambardzumyan-Mueller earned her doctorate in philology from Yerevan State University. In addition to her book, *Michael Arlen and His Artistic World* (Zangak, 2012), she has published in such outlets as *Grakan Tert*, *Kamurj*, *Barruban*, *Gamar*, *Kantegh*, *Nork* and the *Journal for Armenian Studies*.)

Notice to Contributors

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

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

daytime telephone number.

- Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is 12 noon on Monday of the week of publication.
- Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director. Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.
- The *MS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.
- Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases, but should be reserved for calendar listings and advertisements.



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Turkish Vice Prime Minister Ridiculed For Telling Women not To Laugh in Public

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc is the latest government official to put his foot in his mouth.

In a speech last week, this high-ranking official preached his perverted version of morality to Turkish women by telling them not to laugh in public! “A woman will know what is haram [forbidden] and not haram,” Arinc warned. “She will not laugh out loud in public. She will not be inviting in her attitudes and will protect her chasteness.”

Arinc, a co-founder of the ruling AK Party, continued his chauvinist sermonizing: “Where are our girls who slightly blush, lower their heads and turn their eyes away when we look at their faces, becoming the symbol of chastity?” He ridiculed women for discussing cooking recipes and other “frivolous things” on cell phones. Imitating a female voice, he squeaked: “What happened to Ayse’s daughter? When is the wedding?” He told the women to talk about such insignificant matters “face to face,” not on the phone!

The Deputy Prime Minister’s demeaning remarks spread like wildfire. In defiance, tens of thousands of Turkish women went on social media (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) posting “selfies,” pictures of themselves, laughing out loud. Rather than stopping their laughter, women started laughing ... at him!

Arinc’s ridiculous comments were picked up by the international media, including Hurriyet, the Guardian, ABC News, The Daily Star, National Post, Washington Post, Time magazine, Newsweek, The Australian and hundreds of newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations, blogs and websites. The Turkish Deputy Prime Minister has become the laughing stock of the world!

The next day, instead of apologizing for his sexist remarks, Arinc made matters worse by insisting that he stood by his words and attacked his critics. He wondered why everyone was focusing on a small segment of his hour-and-a-half speech. He proceeded to mock female celebrities: “There are some artists who laugh artificially and send me their photos. Real laughs relieve a person, but these are artificial ones. You all had your moment of fame, but when that eluded, you tried to attract attention with alcohol and such fake laughter. Despite being married with kids, women go on vacation with their boyfriends, while leaving their husbands behind and never miss a chance to wrap themselves around a dancing pole.”

This is not the first time that Turkish officials have made such asinine statements. In the past, Arinc was quoted saying that a rape victim must have “wanted it.” He also stated that it is perfectly fine if parents give permission to their 15-year-old daughter to marry a 45-year-old man. Ankara’s Mayor Melih Gokcek, while condemning abortion, shamefully declared: “Why should the child die if the mother is

raped? The mother should die instead.” Meanwhile, the Forestry Minister told women who were seeking employment, “Isn’t your housework enough?” Former Minister for European Union Affairs, Egemen Bagish, an AKP official who frequently made nonsensical statements, was quoted: “What happened in 1915 can’t be classified as genocide as far as I am concerned, but I was not around in 1915.”

Rather than being worried about women’s laughter, Arinc and Erdogan should be more concerned about their government’s increasing slide into authoritarian rule by jailing journalists, killing Christian priests, violating minority rights, supporting Jihadists in Syria and Iraq, and engaging in corruption, theft and embezzlement. This is the real immorality that Arinc should denounce.

By preaching totalitarian morality for women, the conservative Turkish leader is appealing to Islamist voters to support Prime Minister Erdogan who is running for President on August 10. Arinc’s stone-age strategy has backfired as nearly half of Turkey’s deeply divided society does not consider itself Islamist and was offended by his remarks. Erdogan’s rival in the presidential race, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, blasted Arinc’s statement, saying that “more than anything else, our country needs women to smile and hear everyone’s laughter!”

After Erdogan’s meteoric rise to power, his government has pursued brutal policies at home and abroad, bringing worldwide condemnation to the country. As the probable next President, Erdogan and his clique are most likely to continue undermining Turkey’s international standing, turning it into a rogue state. After the presidential election, Turkey’s Islamist women would only laugh in private, while the secularists would laugh in public and risk getting 100 lashes!

Time for Netanyahu to Make Peace in Gaza

By David Ignatius

Now it’s Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s turn to show that he has the vision and leadership to build a durable cease-fire that could empower Palestinian moderates and begin building a pathway from the hell on earth that is Gaza.

Many people, including me, sharply criticized U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry a week

ago for seeking a quick Gaza cease-fire that would have strengthened Hamas and its allies, Qatar and Turkey. Hamas didn’t deliver, the fighting resumed and the process had the effect of undermining moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. Kerry was widely attacked, especially in Israel.

Kerry isn’t the problem today, however. Over the past week, he has been crafting a cease-fire plan that seeks to stabilize Gaza under the leadership of Abbas and the moderate Palestinian Authority. After an initial truce, negotiators would gather in Egypt for talks about Gaza’s future. Abbas would select the members of the Palestinian delegation, and the authority (with the support of the international community) would have overall responsibility for the rehabilitation of Gaza. The Palestinian delegation is already in Cairo, waiting for the talks to begin. It’s headed by Azzam al-Ahmad, a leader of Abbas’s Fatah movement and the person who brokered the reconciliation agreement in April between Fatah and Hamas.

Israel wants quiet in Gaza, but it seems undecided now whether it wants to negotiate a broader peace agreement. The Israelis agreed to a cease-fire Monday, and there were press reports that the country had agreed to an additional 72-hour truce. But the cabinet had reportedly decided over the weekend against joining the Cairo talks. Hopefully, Netanyahu will seek a broader deal that might reduce the likelihood of future conflict.

The thrust of Kerry’s new plan is to leverage Hamas’s unity pact with Fatah and its pledge to

transfer authority in Gaza to the authority. As a first step, the Palestinian Authority and its U.S.-trained security service would assume responsibility for policing the Rafah crossing from Gaza into Egypt, as well as the passages into Israel. That’s a big deal, as it would give Abbas’s security chief, Majid Faraj, control over the most strategic ground in Gaza.

The authority would begin paying the salaries of Palestinian civil servants in Gaza, assuming that the details could be worked out. The agreement might also move toward disarmament of all terrorist groups in Gaza by building on a promise Hamas made in a 2011 unity plan that the Palestinian Authority’s security service would be the only armed force in Gaza. This would also uphold Abbas’s insistence on “one government, one law, one gun.”

In all these ways, Kerry is now headed in the right direction – away from strengthening Hamas and toward empowering the moderates on whom hopes for a more stable and secure Gaza depend.

The question is whether Netanyahu has the courage and political clout to move in the same direction, toward a new framework for Gaza, rather than return to the battered status quo ante – with continued Hamas rule and the recurring wars that some Israelis have described as “mowing the lawn.”

It will be hard for the Israeli leader to embrace this new vision for Gaza because he would have to reverse his earlier opposition to the Fatah-Hamas reconciliation agreement, which he denounced as an embrace by Abbas of

Hamas’s terrorist ideology. Netanyahu would also have to be prepared to truly open Gaza to the free flow of people and goods in return for disarming the terrorist groups.

Netanyahu faces a real leadership dilemma. He has prevailed over Hamas and its tunnels in Gaza, albeit at a terrible cost to Palestinian civilians. But his popularity at home is dropping, with his approval ratings down 20 points from their peak of 82 percent when he ordered the ground invasion. Though Netanyahu may not realize it, he needs Kerry’s diplomatic help to consolidate the gains of the war. The question is whether the Israeli leader has the boldness to leverage his military success in a way that brings greater lasting security for Israelis, and reduces the Palestinian suffering in Gaza.

Israel’s continued refusal to attend the peace talks in Cairo would mean returning to the status quo ante and waiting for the next round of fighting. It would be a mistake. Netanyahu could open new opportunities by treating Abbas as a real partner – starting by helping him to gain control of Gaza. Netanyahu can go down in history as the statesman who achieved greater security for Israelis as well as a measure of dignity for Arabs.

History shows us that in the aftermath of Arab-Israeli wars, there are rare opportunities for diplomacy. Kerry, stung by the criticism that his peacemaking was helping Hamas a week ago, appears ready for such a creative moment now. Is Netanyahu?

(David Ignatius is a foreign affairs columnist for the Washington Post.)

LETTERS

Museum Back On Track

To the Editor:

Happy Day for me when I read the good news. The de-railed Museum & Memorial Project is back on track; their legal problems are past history.

I was curious about how the bank building looks after its purchase 14 years ago. I googled maps and typed in the following addresses:

1. 619 14 St NW Washington DC (National Bank of Washington)
2. 1334 G St NW
3. 1338 G St NW
4. 1340 G St NW
5. 1342 G St NW

Please enjoy your virtual tour as I did. The four properties on G St are adjacent to the Bank and were purchased by Gerard Cafesjian. The rubble you see is two razed lots. Regrettably, Mr Cafesjian will not see his vision become a landmark building for Armenians. He grew up in NYC, graduating from Hunter, my alma mater too, and St Johns Law School before settling in Minnesota.

We are all proud and grateful that the Armenian Assembly and Mr. Cafesjian teamed together and purchased the Bank which is only about half a mile from the White House. My sincere wishes for success to the new team.

Sonia Hagopian
Havertown, Penn.

Islamic State’s Advance in Iraq Jeopardizes Turkmen, Yazidi Presence

The Islamic State is continuing to expand the territories under its control, having recently seized three towns in northern Iraq after deadly fighting with Kurdish security forces, endangering the ethnically divided country’s Turkmen and Yazidi minorities, many of whom have fled from the extremist group’s violence to mountain refuges.

On Sunday, the Islamic State seized three towns that are home to Turkmen and Yazidi people, an oil field and the electricity-generating Mosul Dam, after an offensive of barely 24 hours.

Gains over the weekend by the extremist militants have forced thousands of residents to flee from the religiously mixed towns of Zumar and Sinjar to the northern self-ruled Kurdish region,

while some residents remain trapped in an open rugged area, the United Nations said. The UN mission said that as many as 200,000 civilians, mostly Yazidis – a minority religious sect – have fled to a nearby mountain but are surrounded by militants and endangered.

Sinjar, one of the towns recently seized by the Sunni extremists, had hosted thousands of refugees, including Turkmen who were displaced when the Islamic State started to solidify its grip on northern Iraq in June and captured Tal Afar, a predominantly Turkmen town, and the surrounding villages. According to locals, some 100,000 Turkmen fled the town and had taken shelter in the Sinjar area west of Mosul; however, the Islamic State’s takeover of Sinjar threatens the Turkmen, who are already

struggling to survive under harsh living conditions. Some Turkmen, along with Yazidi Kurds, have reportedly left Sinjar and taken refuge in the Duhok and Zaho areas, local media report.

The Turkmen population in the region includes members of the Shiite branch of Islam – who radical groups consider to be apostates who deserve to be killed – as well as Sunnis.

Many Turkmen children have already lost their lives due to heat exposure, diarrhea, malnutrition, thirst and scorpion stings while struggling to stay alive in desert areas that they have had to settle in. They and their parents are often living in extremely unhealthy conditions, sleeping in the open air as they are often unable

see ISLAM, page 16



Islamic State's Advance in Iraq Jeopardizes Turkmen, Yazidi Presence

ISLAM, from page 15

to find a place in refugee camps and tent cities and so have no access to services and no food. Most of the Turkmen refugees are living in the open and trying to survive despite the hot weather and a lack of water.

Turkish organizations, especially the Turkish Red Crescent and the Prime Ministry's Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (AFAD), have been sending aid to Turkmen in the region since the beginning of Islamic State's advance in northern Iraq. However, humanitarian aid going to the region from Turkey has been allegedly misused by locals in charge of delivering the aid. A Twitter account

named "Turkmeneli" claims most of aid packages sent by Turkey have been sold off. "If Turkey sends 10 trucks, only two of them reach the Turkmen. We don't know where the rest of it goes," claimed one tweet.

Iraqi pro-Turkmen Turkmeneli Party leader Riyaz Sarikahya says that Turkmen are thankful for the aid sent to the region, but that aid packages are both insufficient in number and are not delivered effectively because the packages have been delivered via Kurdish forces, known as peshmerga.

"Ninety percent of the aid sent from Turkey has been delivered by peshmerga. ... There are problems in the delivery, though.

There is no record of the aid that is delivered. If one of the aid trucks goes to a place other than its destination, nobody realizes that it is missing," Sarikahya said.

The Turkmen leader also complained that Turkey does not back Turkmen politically. "This is something that saddens us so much. Turkey hasn't voiced Turkmen's problems enough," he said, adding that Turkey's failure to ask any international organizations to guarantee their security has deeply disappointed them.

Sarikahya also said that Turkey needs to be in contact with other Turkmen groups rather than just the Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF). "The ITF is perceived as a Sunni

organization by Iraqi Turkmen. It is not healthy to be in contact with Turkmen only through the ITF. Turkey shouldn't discriminate among Turkmen. ... When Turkey supports only the ITF, it gives the impression that Turkey only backs Sunni Turkmen," he said.

The ITF has close contacts with Ankara. ITF leader Ershad Salihi, who pays frequent visits to Turkey, was in Ankara last Friday for talks with Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutolu. However, the organization has been criticized for only engaging in politics and not addressing Turkmen's problems.

The ITF representative in the Iraqi

Kurdish region, Aydın Maruf Selim, dismisses the allegations about the delivery of aid. He says the quantity of aid sent by Turkey to the region is sufficient and that the aid packages have been effectively delivered to Turkmen.

Mahir Nakip, a Turkmen scholar from Kirkuk, says that Turkey did not act in time to secure the Turkmen's safety. He believes that Turkey sends sufficient aid to Turkmen but that Turkey should also ensure a secure place for Turkmen. "The most urgent need of Turkmen in Iraq is security," he said, emphasizing that Turkmen face an existential threat in Iraq, with their hometowns under the control of the Islamic State, an extremist group which recently declared a caliphate.

Sinjar is also home to Yazidis, a Kurdish-speaking religious minority. Some 40,000 Yazidis have fled the northern towns of Sinjar and Zumar, claimed Jawhar Ali Begg, a spokesman for the community.

Clashes between Kurdish peshmerga and Islamic State fighters in the northern towns of Sinjar, Rabia and Zumar have been reportedly continuing and Kurdish forces are planning a counter-offensive against Islamic State fighters after being routed in battles on Sunday. The Kurds plan to deploy a large number of fighters to hit back against the Sunni militants, according to Begg.

"Thousands of Yazidi people have been

killed," he said. The militant group gave the Yazidis, who follow an ancient religion related to Zoroastrianism, an ultimatum to convert to Islam, pay an additional tax or face death," Begg added.

After thousands of Iraqi soldiers fled the Islamic State offensive, Shiite militias and Kurdish fighters have emerged as a key line of defense against the militants. In the early days of the Sunni militants' offensive, the Kurdish fighters did not fight the group but instead pushed into disputed areas with Kurdish populations. However, they found themselves periodically fighting the militants across the northern fronts.

Kurdish forces have been battling with the militants for control of several towns stretching between the province of Nineveh and the Kurdish Iraqi province of Dahuk. At least 25 Kurdish fighters were killed in clashes with the militants on Sunday and another 120 were wounded, according to Muhssin Mohamed, a Dahuk-based doctor.

A statement released on Monday by the Islamic State said it had captured dozens of Kurdish prisoners during the clashes and seized a "large number" of weapons. The authenticity of the statement could not be verified, but it was posted on a website used by the group.

(This analysis originally appeared in Today's Zaman on August 4.)

US Senate Goes into Recess Without Confirming Turkey Envoy

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Administration's doubling down on decades of failed US policy toward Turkey."

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee paved the way for full Senate consideration of Bass on earlier this week, when it approved a slew of Ambassadorial nominees by voice vote. The ANCA worked closely with Senators to secure responses from Ambassador Bass on a range of Armenian American concerns, following his disappointing Senate testimony. In his formal testimony he used inaccurate and offensive euphemisms, such as "shared history," to avoid properly characterizing the Armenian Genocide, and praised Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan's cynical repackaging of genocide denial in his April 23rd "condolence" open letter to Armenians.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Ed Markey (D-MA) questioned Ambassador Bass on US policy on the Armenian Genocide, Turkey's ongoing blockade of Armenia and efforts to secure the return of confiscated Christian holy sites from Turkey. Ambassador Bass' responses were mixed.

"The US government acknowledges as historical fact and mourns that 1.5 million Armenians were massacred or marched to their death in the final days of the Ottoman Empire," began one response to Chairman Menendez, who had asked how Ambassador-designate Bass "personally characterize[s] the events that took place between 1915-23." The nominee, later in his response, went on to reduce this genocidal crime to a "shared history" between Armenia and Turkey.

Markey's inquiry regarding the role of the US Embassy and Consulates in Turkey in commemorating the Armenian Genocide received this response: "In recent years, a senior representative from our Consulate in Istanbul has attended the April 24 commemoration event in Istanbul. This is typically the largest and most public event held in Turkey on Remembrance Day itself, and Istanbul is where the vast majority of Armenian citizens in Turkey now live. If confirmed, I will continue to make attendance at such commemoration events a priority, particularly in light of the upcoming 100th anniversary of one of the worst atrocities of the 20th century."

In response to a question by Menendez regarding the decimation of Turkey's Armenian, Greek and Assyrian communities and efforts to address religious persecution

against Christians and other minorities, Bass responded, in part: "If confirmed, I will encourage the Turkish government to follow through on the return of religious minority properties and to take additional steps to promote religious freedom, such as allowing more religious communities to own property, register their places of worship, and train clergy."

In response to questions by Chairman Menendez and Senator Boxer regarding efforts to lift Turkey's blockade of Armenia, Ambassador-designate Bass stated: "Facilitating Armenia's regional integration by opening its border with Turkey is a priority for the United States. If confirmed, this would be one of my key goals as Ambassador." This response downplays Turkey's unilateral responsibility for imposing an illegal blockade, implying, inaccurately, that Armenia bears some of the burden of "opening its border."

Earlier this week, Hamparian publicly noted that "The ANCA cannot support the nomination of John Bass to serve as US Ambassador to Turkey, on the basis of his Senate testimony that compounds President Obama's broken pledge to recognize the Armenian Genocide by retreating even further from the truth and tightening Turkey's gag-rule on the US government."

"It is simply unacceptable – six years after President Obama pledged to recognize the Armenian Genocide, five years after Ankara walked away from the Turkey-Armenia Protocols, and less than a year away from the 100th anniversary of the start of this still unpunished crime – for a US ambassadorial nominee to respond to direct Senate questioning on the Armenian Genocide with generic references to 'shared history.' Such euphemistic language seeks to downgrade a genocidal crime to a bilateral conflict by establishing moral parity between unrepentant perpetrators and those that they mercilessly preyed upon." He closed by stressing that: "The United States must be represented in Ankara on April 24 of 2015 by a clear and compelling voice for truth."

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