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Armenia Raps NATO For 'Pro-Azeri' Statement

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Armenia on Monday criticized the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for again backing Azerbaijan's territorial integrity in the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict and not explicitly acknowledging the Karabagh Armenians' right to self-determination.

Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian said this stance contradicts the existing Karabagh peace proposals made by the United States and another key NATO member, France, together with Russia.

In a declaration adopted at a summit held in Wales late last week, the leaders of NATO member states said they "remain committed in their support to the territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova." They said NATO will therefore continue to seek settlements of the conflicts in the South Caucasus and Moldova "based upon these principles and the norms of international law."

Speaking at a joint news conference with Austria's visiting Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, Nalbandian claimed this "generalized" stance "does not correspond with the ideas, proposals and approaches" of the US, French and Russian co-chairs of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group. "Nor does it correspond to decisions that have been made in recent years within the OSCE framework," he said. "That certainly causes damage to the negotiation process." (Read Nalbandian's commentary from *Le Figaro* on page 14.)

President Serge Sargsian, who attended the Wales summit, likewise criticized the Karabagh-related language of the NATO declaration at the weekend. Sargsian at the same time insisted that its adoption was a "very small success" for Azerbaijan. The latter has hailed the NATO stance.

Sargsian boycotted the previous NATO summits because of virtually identical wordings of their concluding statements. Armenian officials argue that a combination of self-determination and territorial integrity is at the heart of the Basic Principles of a Karabagh settlement drafted by the US, Russia and France. The proposed framework accord reportedly allows for an eventual recognition of Karabagh's secession.



WASHINGTON — Former Executive Director of Tekeyan Cultural Association's Central Board of Directors Kevork Marashlian and his wife, Vartiter, visited the Armenian Embassy in Washington last week to welcome Armenia's new ambassador to the US, Tigran Sargsian. Sargsian is Armenia's former prime minister. Above are Kevork Marashlian, left, with Sargsian.



Secretary of Labor Rachel Kaprielian at Watertown's Town Diner

Kaprielian Is Laboring for Common Good

WATERTOWN – There are only a handful of Armenians in Massachusetts politics at any one time who are in the public eye. They become familiar figures for Armenians throughout the United States, and even abroad. Massachusetts Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Rachel Kaprielian is one of those Armenians. She has risen high in the world of Massachusetts politics, but remains close to her roots and true to the values she learned growing up in Watertown.

Kaprielian reminisced: "For me it was very much about community. I grew up in Watertown and the community was an important part of my life. Armenians were not considered to be a hotbed for political activity but about 20 percent in Watertown were at that time of Armenian descent, and I wanted to be a part of that community."

see KAPRIELIAN, page 7

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

Armenian, Azeri Presidents Meet at Wales Summit

NEWPORT, Wales (*Vestnik kavkaza*) – Azerbaijani and Armenian Presidents Ilham Aliyev and Serge Sargsian and US Secretary of State John Kerry discussed the prospects of settling the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict at the NATO summit here this past week. Kerry emphasized that there was no alternative to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and urged the presidents to strengthen trust and de-escalate the situation on the contact line of Armenian-Azerbaijani forces.

Kerry corroborated US support for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group as a platform for negotiations, adding that he would join the process himself if necessary. He emphasized that the political willingness of the sides of the conflict was the main component to end the dispute.

French President Francois Hollande also met with Aliyev and Sargsian. The sides expressed satisfaction with the development of contacts and emphasized prospects for strengthening of cooperation in the economic, political and cultural sectors. Hollande plans to meet the presidents in France soon.

Both Aliyev and Sargsian spoke at the summit. While Aliyev's speech has not been made public, Sargsian warned attendees of

the NATO summit against putting the Nagorno-Karabagh issue in the final declaration. He urged members of the Alliance to follow the common sense and rhetoric of the OSCE Minsk Group when passing a document on the Karabagh problem.

Meanwhile, in Armenia, US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern told journalists that the two presidents will meet in France at the end of October.



President Sargsian also met with US Secretary of State John Kerry, center, and Azeri President Ilham Aliyev, left.

"We think that the meeting of the heads of the two countries will be held at the invitation of President of France Francois Hollande, but at the moment the co-chairs do not have new proposals to the parties. Now the main goal is that the parties meet and search new ways to register success in the negotiations and reach the conflict settlement step by step," Heffern added.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egoyan's Film 'Ararat' To Be Shown in Turkey

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) – Atom Egoyan's film, "Ararat," which tells the story of the Armenian Genocide may soon be shown in Turkey. German director Fatih Akin's, who is of Turkish extraction, recently showed his movie, "The Cut," which also is about the Armenian Genocide, in the Venice Film Festival.

The head of Belge film Sabahatti Cetin 12 years ago bought the right to show "Ararat" in Turkey. At that time the film hadn't been shown yet in Turkey, as Cetin was afraid that it could jeopardize the security of cinema owners.

Greece Criminalizes Genocide Denial

ATHENS (Armenpress) – Voting on a bill criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide concluded at the Greek Parliament with the adoption of the bill. Greece thus has become the third European Union member state after Switzerland and Slovakia to criminalize denial of the Armenian Genocide.

The amended version of the bill entitled "Fight against Xenophobia" envisages the punishment of denial of the genocides of Jews, Armenians and Pontus Greeks. The bill provides for large monetary fines and imprisonment of those who publicly debase and deny the genocides and the crimes committed against humanity recognized by the Greek Parliament and international courts.

Mansuryan Works Dedicated to Genocide To Be Performed

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Composer Tigran Mansuryan is going to present three of his works dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide to the State Committee, established by the President of the Republic of Armenia, coordinating the events for the 100th anniversary of Armenian Genocide, in order to organize a concert. According to the President's decree the committee, created three years ago, is preparing a series of events to commemorate the anniversary.

Mansuryan said, "I have three works dedicated to the memory of victims of the Armenian Genocide. I have written a concerto for alto and orchestra titled Three works to sing for Ararat from an Open Window. I have also written a violoncello concerto titled Where is Your Brother, Abel. In addition, I have also a work titled Requiem."

According to the renowned composer, these three works together make one concert. "I must suggest the State Committee coordinating the events for the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide organize a concert with these works," added the composer.

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Yummy Cakes

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Memoirs of Baku Massacres Presented

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The book *Nowhere, a Story of Exile*, telling of the Armenians' massacres in Baku was presented to the Armenian public last week. The presentation of the book by Anna Astvatsaturian-Turcotte was organized by the Ministry of Diaspora. The book is about Armenians living in Azerbaijan, who were massacred in the 1980s and early 1990s.

A quarter century ago the 11-year-old Anna fled to Armenia from Baku with her parents and 5-year-old brother and in January 1992 they left for the US, taking with them four suitcases, \$180 and a refugee status. Today she has returned to her motherland at the age that her was when they left Armenia.

Armenia Hosts Seismology Conference

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The ninth International Seismological Conference was conducted September 8-11 in Armenia with the theme "Modern methods of processing and interpretation of seismic data."

The Emergency Situations Ministry of Armenia reported that about 120 scientists arrived from 10 countries to participate in the event.

The International Seismological School was conducted in Kotayk province. The organizers were the National Seismic Protection Service Agency of Armenia, the Geophysical Service of the Russian Academy of Sciences and Michigan State University in the US.

Premier Receives Argentinian-Armenian Businessman Eurnekian

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Prime Minister of Armenia Hovik Abrahamyan received Argentinian-Armenian businessman Eduardo Eurnekian last week. Welcoming the businessman, Abrahamyan praised his activity in Armenia. At the same time, the prime minister expressed his readiness to assist Eurnekian in the implementation of various projects in the homeland.

Eurnekian, congratulating Abrahamyan on his appointment as prime minister, expressed confidence that cooperation with the Armenian government will successfully continue progress in the future.

Yerevan-Aleppo Concert Raises Funds

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – A charity music event dedicated to the 1970s in Yerevan and Aleppo took place, organized with the support of the Ministries of Diaspora and Culture of Armenia and funded by Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Yerevan. All profits of the concert will be directed to meet the needs of Syrian-Armenians.

Popular artists from Yerevan and Aleppo participated in the concerts on August 29 and 30 in the Aram Khachaturyan Concert Hall. Presenter Zhan Vardan recalled the 40-year-old cultural bond between Aleppo-Armenians and Yerevan, dating back to a 1971 concert in Aleppo by composer Konstantin Orbelyan.

Performing were Konstantin Orbelyan's Armenian State Pop Orchestra singers. Four Aleppo-Armenian singers and three guitar players also took part. Songs of the 1970s were presented by Aramo, Emmy, Gayane Hovhannisyan, Radik and Gabrielyan. A jazz music anthology was presented by Syrian-Armenian artists Rena Tin, Zhan Vardan, Lila Vardanyan-Poghosian and Karo Taghtevirenian.

Singer Taghtevirenian was brought to Armenia by the ongoing war in Syria. Before that he had been in the motherland in 1966 and had 10 concerts. In Armenia he continues his career singing in a restaurant. At the concert he sang together with Armenian singer Emmy. He says he will remain in Armenia.

UC Helps Build Resources, Revenue At Private Armenian University

By Nanette Asimov

YEREVAN (*San Francisco Chronicle*) – Wedged like a peach pit surrounded by Turkey, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Iran sits a nation half the size of Lake Michigan with great weather, ancient history, and a dazzling private university run largely by – that's right – the University of California.

Its students have the freedom to choose their own classes. They can spar with faculty. And, most unusually for Armenia, they don't need to bribe a professor for a better grade.

Aimée Dorr, UC's provost, is a trustee of the American University of Armenia, which opened to undergraduates for the first time last year.

Eight other UC professors, deans, finance executives and retired leaders and academics also sit on its 22-member Board of Trustees. Karl Pister, former chancellor of UC Santa Cruz, is one of them. Larry Pitts, ex-UC provost, is chairman of the board – a role retiring UC provosts agree to take on.

The new president of the Armenian university is a professor on leave from UC Berkeley. Now he gazes out at Mount Ararat from campus instead of Mount Tamalpais.

"Armenia is a very old country – almost like an open-air museum with churches and monasteries going back to the fourth century. But there's no gate and no ticket to buy," said Armen Der Kiureghian, 66, a civil engineering professor from Cal who started the job on July 1. "We're hoping that some American students will be interested in studying at an American university abroad. We'd be a natural."

Academic quality is high, he said. "The diploma is accredited by the same organization that accredits Berkeley and Stanford."

Rigorous evaluations
Like those stellar establishments, the American University of Armenia undergoes a rigorous review of standards every seven years from the Western

Association of Schools and Colleges in Alameda. The evaluators are volunteers from UC campuses, California

State University and two private American colleges. They travel at the school's expense.

No UC money flows to the Armenian university, UC officials say. What flows eastward is "just know-how," Der Kiureghian said. "No financial contributions."

The know-how does include legal and investment help. The trustees – officially the American University of Armenia Corp. – rent an office from UC in Oakland's Kaiser Center and invest their funds in UC's general endowment pool. UC's controller, Peggy Arrivas,

Cal's Center for Studies in Higher Education, referring to the rare chances the school provides for Armenian students to have academic freedom in a region where universities typically exert more control than in the West.

Until last year, the university offered only graduate-level programs. Now its first undergraduates – almost 300 students – have completed their first year at a school unlike any other in Armenia and are starting their second alongside a new crew of freshmen. One obvious difference is that everything is in English.

"I love this university," said Shahane Arushanyan, a computer science major who learned English at Ayb High

ERIC GRIGORIAN/THE CHRONICLE PHOTO



Incoming undergraduate students at the American University of Armenia

chairs their finance committee.

"We are there as rooters, supporters and revenue generators for the university," said Pitts, the former UC provost who chairs not only the Armenian University's Board of Trustees but also its Board of Directors, which raises funds for salaries, taxes and health care.

Yet others say UC offers the Armenian university – and its students – something deeper.

"It's changing the moral fiber of the country," said Judson King, director of

School in Yerevan. "I even go there during the holidays, because it is like a home for me."

Students like the freedom to choose their own major – not always possible in Armenian universities – and the ability to take classes alongside students studying other fields. They appreciate browsing library shelves on their own, rather than having to ask for every book that interests them. And they like being able to disagree with their professors – without having it affect their grade.

President Defends Plans for Constitutional Changes

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – President Serge Sargsian sees no serious arguments against making changes in the current Constitution despite criticism from most opposition and non-governing forces, including his two predecessors.

Speaking at the meeting of the board of the ruling Republic Party of Armenia (RPA) on Saturday, Sargsian said that a drastic reform of the political system of the country will underlie the concept of constitutional changes that a special commission of experts is due to submit by October 15.

He stressed that such a reform is a vital necessity for the development of Armenia as a law-abiding and democratic state. At the same time, he called for active political work with parliamentary and non-parliamentary forces for the promotion and coordination of the constitutional reform.

"We clearly understand that a maximally broad coordination of the constitutional reform is necessary as the Constitution can be effective only if there is public consent. We are ready to openly discuss any initiative that will be aimed at strengthening the rule of law and democracy, at the protection of human rights, the achievement of a more effective system of governance, an

independent and impartial judiciary," he said.

"All the counterarguments that the critics of the reform cite – even though I don't see such counterarguments – are unclear to me... They say only one thing: now it is not the right time for that. And why is it not the right time? Can such a thing be an argument in a serious discussion at all? I would like to hear arguments, because arguments like "now it is not the right time, now everything is different, it was different in the past" are ways and excuses to avoid discussions," Sargsian concluded.

At least three of the four major opposition and non-governing parliamentary parties have opposed the reforms first announced about a year ago. The Armenian National Congress, the Prosperous Armenia Party and Heritage argue that Armenia has lots of much more pressing concerns, such as economic, social and demographic problems, than a constitutional reform and that the government should focus on solving these issues in the first place. Another implicit concern of the opposition forces is that by reforming the Constitution and effectively turning Armenia into a parliamentary republic the current ruling elites seek to reassure their continued grip on power after the

next general elections in 2017-18.

Still in April when several blueprints for the reform were first unveiled President Sargsian pledged not to seek a high government post after the end of his second and last term in office in 2018. He implied that his two predecessors, Levon Ter-Petrosian and Robert Kocharian, should follow suit. One of the changes planned in the Constitution supposedly may bar heads of state from holding the post for more than two times in a lifetime.

But both Ter-Petrosian and Kocharian pronounced against the need for constitutional reforms in Armenia at present. Kocharian, who marked his 60th birthday on August 31, had also said that even if restriction for holding presidential office for more than two terms in a lifetime were included in the Constitution, it could not be applied retrospectively. And 69-year-old Ter-Petrosian, who had cited his age as the main reason for not running for president again in 2013, even said in one of his recent interviews that "the issue of the constitutional reform is a sort of watershed between the dictatorial regime and healthy forces of the society, a problem on whose solution the future of Armenia and Karabagh depends."



INTERNATIONAL

Starmus Festival and Stephen Hawking Launch *Starmus, 50 Years of Man in Space*

TENERIFE, Spain – Just two weeks before the Starmus Festival 2014, the organizers launched *Starmus, 50 Years of Man in Space*, a book about the first Starmus festival. During the launch, held in the British city of Southampton, Garik Israelian, the festival's founder, had introduced Stephen Hawking, the author of the foreword, presenting the

I'm really looking forward to participating in the second edition," stated Hawking.

The publication's editors in chief are Israelian and Brian May, and the executive editor is David Eicher, the editor-in-chief of the Astronomy magazine. With a foreword by Hawking, the book is dedicated to Yuri Gagarin and Neil Armstrong

108 minutes about the round table discussion in the La Palma Observatory with a prestigious panel of speakers such as Neil Armstrong, Alexei Leonov, Brian May and Buzz Aldrin, among many others, as well as an interview with the cosmonaut Alexei Leonov.

Driven by Israelian and sponsored by the government of the Canary Islands and the Council of Tenerife, the second festival titled "Beginnings. The Making of the Modern Cosmos," to be held September 22 to 27, will bring together a line-up of internationally renowned participants. According to its director: "Having Stephen Hawking, Brian May, Richard Dawkins and many other leading lights in Tenerife at the same time is like having an extremely unique supernova explode – a supernova that creates a black hole attracting enthusiasts from all over the world."

Red Cross Delegates Visit Armenian Captive in Azerbaijan

BAKU (Armenpress) – The representatives of the Baku Office of the International Committee of the Red Cross met with Sargis Ananyan, an Armenian captive in Azerbaijan. Hasmik Galsyan, member of the press department of the Armenian Red Cross Society announced: "On September 8 the representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross met with an Armenian captive in Azerbaijan, Sargis Ananyan. The members of the family of the captive and the Armenian authorities were informed about it."

On September 1 the Azerbaijani media reported about a new Armenian captive. Sargis Ananyan, born in 1961, is a resident of Noyemberyan town. He crossed the Armenian-Azerbaijani border and appeared in Ghazakh Village. The Defense Ministry of Azerbaijan has posted Sargis Ananyan's photo and a video. The Azerbaijani side insists that Ananyan has crossed the Armenian-Azerbaijani border on August 26.

The neighbors of the Armenian captive in Noyemberyan told Armenpress that Sargis lived alone. According to the Azerbaijani media, Sargis Ananyan has got serious health problems.

The Azerbaijani side again violated the clauses of the Geneva Convention pertaining to citizens who cross the border accidentally and are taken hostage. No pressure or public broadcasting should be imposed on them. The Azerbaijani Anspress Agency, again ignoring the clauses of the Geneva Convention, interviewed Ananyan, who has been transferred to the hospital of the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan, and published the video of the interview.

Earlier it was reported that a citizen of Azerbaijan was taken captive at an attempt to cross the state border of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic in the north-eastern direction (Upper Chaylu) of the line of contact of Karabagh and Azerbaijani forces at 18:10 on September 5. Mamedov Javid Samiroglu was taken captive that evening. The International Committee of the Red Cross has been informed about the incident, and Samiroglu has been handed over to the relevant agencies of Nagorno Karabagh. The representatives of the Stepanakert Office of the International Committee of the Red Cross met with the Azerbaijani captive and passed to him a letter from his family. They also took a letter from Samiroglu to pass on to his family.



Garik Israelian presents the first copy to Stephen Hawking, the author of the foreword.

first book copy, before Hawking set sail for Tenerife.

"I'm bringing with me the first copies of the *Starmus* book about the first Starmus Festival that took place in 2011. This is a historical document, because it contains the last lecture by Neil Armstrong and talks by the Soviet and Apollo astronauts, as well as the rest of the festival material. I wrote the foreword of the first *Starmus* book and

and contains their published papers.

"The history of *Starmus* seems as improbable as the Apollo 11 mission and the phenomenon of Stephen Hawking. This inspired us to publish the book in which we captured the incredible experience of *Starmus* for scientific dissemination," stated Israelian.

Together with the book the organization has released unpublished material from the first festival: a video entitled

Austrian Foreign Minister Visits Yerevan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Foreign Minister of Austria Sebastian Kurz is in Yerevan on an official visit at the invitation of Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian. The two foreign ministers have discussed bilateral relations, and exchanged views on regional and international issues.

Nalbandian stated at a joint press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that "They are interested especially in the realm of energy, which will promote development of the spheres of trade and the economy." The minister added that the list of agreements between the two countries should be expanded and inter-parliamentary cooperation and relations made more active.

According to Kurz, "My visit to Armenia pursues three main goals. I think an interesting political situation has been created here, which demands a certain flexibility from the European Union." Kurz expressed the hope that it will find an opportunity to support Armenia in extending cooperation with the European Union while working in parallel with regional partner Russia.

Kurz added that his visit is a good opportunity to further develop economic relations between the two countries. He said, "We intend to open an Austrian Development Agency office in Armenia aimed at expanding our economic relations."

The Austrian foreign minister visited Tsitsernakaberd and paid tribute to the memory of the genocide victims. He will attend the opening ceremony of the Austrian Development Agency in Armenia later.

Kurz had a chance to visit the Austrian library of the Yerevan State Linguistic University. The minister and

his delegation walked around the university, familiarized themselves with the library's activity and met with students.

The rector of the university, Gayane Gasparyan, attached high importance to the event. "Our university has always enjoyed Austria's attention to our German-speaking students. We implement a wide range of educational and cultural programs in collaboration with Austria. As a result of those very programs, our university has founded its Austrian library, the opening of which was attended by the first lady of Austria," Gayane Gasparyan said.

The university rector expressed gratitude to the Austrian foreign minister for the visit. Sebastian Kurz in his turn thanked Armenia for the invitation. "We are very happy for our cooperation with Armenia. The visit of our delegation proves that. As I was informed, 500 students at the university study German. They can continue their education in Austria," said Kurz. He also listened to the speeches of the students learning German and communicated with them.

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Austria were established on January 24, 1992. On October 11, 2011 Arman Kirakosian was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Armenia to Austria.

On August 28, 2012 Alois Kraut, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Austria to Armenia (with residence in Vienna), presented his credentials to the President Serge Sargsisian of Armenia. In June 2011 Aram Marutyan was appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of Austria in Armenia.

International News

Abraham Confident Ahead of Title Fight

BERLIN (ArmeniaNow) – Germany-based Armenian professional boxer Arthur Abraham is confident about successfully defending his title later this month against British challenger Paul Smith.

The bout between WBO super middleweight champion Abraham (40-4, 28 KOs) and Smith (35-3, 20 KOs) is due to take place in Kiel, Germany, on September 27.

The 31-year-old Brit said he wanted to beat Abraham and then bring the strap back to the UK with him "as a trophy from battle."

But Abraham, 34, according to Fightnews.com, replied: "He can forget that... The belt and title will naturally stay with me in Germany!"

The Armenian thumper, known by his alias of "King Arthur," last defended his WBO belt by defeating Nikola Sjekloca of Montenegro in May.

Azerbaijan Invites Armenia to European Games in Baku

BAKU (ArmRadio) – Azerbaijan has officially invited Armenia to participate in the first European Games to be held in Baku. The statement came from Azad Rahimov, Azerbaijan's Minister of Youth and Sports, news.az reports.

The minister noted that the invitations for participation in European Games were sent to all European countries including Armenia.

"Azerbaijani athletes have participated in the competitions held in Armenia. For example, recently our athletes participated in the Archery Championship held in Armenia. From this viewpoint, there are no restrictions in sports. The safety of athletes at the European Games will be at a high level."

Secretary General of the Armenian National Olympic Committee said earlier this week that Armenia's participation would be on the agenda of the visit of EOC President to Yerevan in October.

Artsakh Considers France Friendly Country

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) – On September 9, the president of the Nagorno Karabagh Republic, Bako Sahakyan, received a group of French Senate and National Assembly members. Issues related to Artsakh-France relations, Azerbaijani-Karabagh conflict settlement and regional trends were touched upon during the meeting. The Central Information Department of the Office of the Artsakh President reported that special attention was paid to the development of parliamentary ties.

According to President Sahakyan, Artsakh considers France as a friendly country and is interested in deepening relations with it on a continuous basis. Vice Chairman of the National Assembly Arthur Tovmasyan and other officials participated in the meeting.

Money Raised for Vakifli Armenian Village

PRINCE ISLANDS, Turkey (Armenpress) – A benefit lunch was organized on Kinaliada Island in the name of the only Armenian village in Turkey, Vakifli. The profit from the luncheon will be used for construction of the church of the village and for neighboring structures, according to Agos.

The representatives of Vakifli prepared *madagh*, a sacrifice, which was followed by a lunch with *harisa*. The Deputy Patriarch of Istanbul Archbishop Aram Ateshyan and Archbishop Sepuh Sargsyan of the Diocese of Tehran were among those attending the ceremony.

Ateshyan delivered a speech noting that they have managed to raise 170,000 Turkish liras out of the 400,000 needed for implementation of different projects in the village. "Vakifli is the only Armenian village that we have today. It really fights for preserving its peculiarities, traditions and culture," stated Ateshyan.

Community News

Free Legal Clinic to Bring Pro Bono Services to Armenian Community

LOS ANGELES – A free legal clinic series conducted in both English and Armenian (Eastern and Western) will be offered to the community on September 18, focusing on legal topics including: immigration, landlord/tenant, bankruptcy, criminal matters, wills/trust/estates, and business and employment issues.

The event is organized in collaboration between the Armenian Bar Association (ABA), the Armenian Youth Federation (AYF) Montebello “Vahan Cardashian” Chapter, and the Armenian Law Students Association (ALSA) at Pepperdine University School of Law.

“Every year, thousands of first generations of Armenian families come from around the world to live in America,” explained Armen K. Hovannisian, chairman of the Armenian Bar Association. Hovannisian added, “For 25 years, we have tried to soften their landing by providing guidance about their legal rights and civic responsibilities under applicable laws. We are particularly pleased that the AYF Montebello and area law students have picked up the mantle to help our own. We are, indeed, our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers.”

The clinic will take place on Thursday, September 18, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Montebello Armenian Center, 420 Washington Blvd., Montebello.

Volunteer attorneys from the Armenian Bar Association will provide free legal guidance to the members of the community. Law school students from the ALSA will assist community members with intake and communicating with the attorneys. Clinics are limited to advice and consultation only.

Attendees are encouraged to bring to the clinic documentation pertaining to their legal issues such as agreements or contracts (signed or proposed), written rules or policies, court orders, court papers served or that were filed with the court, all letters and specific paperwork related to the case. Attendees will be served on a first come, first served basis. Refreshments will be served and parking is available.

International Conference At Univ. of Nebraska to Mark Genocide Centennial

LINCOLN, Neb. – On the occasion of the centennial of the Armenian Genocide, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) will host a two-day conference on March 19-20, 2015. The conference, titled “Crossing the Centennial: The Historiography of the Armenian Genocide Re-Evaluated,” will examine the latest developments in the historiography of the Armenian Genocide. It is organized by Prof. Bedross Der Matossian from the Department of History at UNL. It is co-sponsored by the Harris Center for Judaic Studies, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) in Belmont, Mass. and the Society for Armenian Studies (SAS) in cooperation with the Department of History, the Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Program, and the Institute of Ethnic Studies at UNL.

Twenty-two scholars from Armenia, Cambodia, Canada, Holland, Hungary, Israel and the United States representing 17 different academic institutions are going to take part in the conference. Speakers will focus on four themes that had been previously under-researched but which in recent years have gained more scholarly attention and analytical depth: Humanitarianism and Humanitarian Intervention in the Armenian Genocide, Women and Children in the Armenian Genocide, Comparative Dimensions of the Armenian Genocide, and the Impact of the Armenian Genocide. The complete program of the conference will be available in January 2015.

For more information contact Der Matossian at bdermatossian2@unl.edu.



Noor owners Hilda Darian and Arsen Karageozian

Nestle into Noor A Cozy New Mediterranean Grill in Somerville

SOMERVILLE, Mass. – Sitting in the air-conditioned comfort of Noor Mediterranean Grill on a warm summer’s day brought back memories of the restaurant’s opening this year on an extremely frigid January 24. But, once settled in and delighting in Noor’s homemade selections, the climate is the last thing on your mind. From ordering your food at the counter, to watching a scoop being dipped into a chickpea and fava bean mixture, and then seeing more scoops made and all fried in front of your eyes to create the freshest made-to-order falafels, eating at Noor is a down-to-earth and delightful culinary experience.

By Nancy Kalajian
Special to the Mirror-Spectator

Touches of Armenia and Lebanon influence the ambience of Noor, owned by Hilda Darian and her chef-husband Arsen Karageozian. As you soon as you enter the cozy 25-seat grill, you can’t miss an enlarged photograph of a heart embedded with hundreds of pomegranate seeds. “This symbolizes our love,” shared Hilda, a bit blushing and starry-eyed. Pomegranate magnets from Armenia also decorate a window case and greet guests. “We chose Noor as the name of our restaurant because it’s a symbol of fertility and prosperity. Armenian people would recognize it. Noor also means ‘light’ in Arabic,” she continued.

Darian discusses their family’s love and support in opening her and Karageozian’s first restaurant together. Her dad, Jack Darian, used his skills in leatherworking and made all the leather settees, in a warm olive-oil shade of green. Her mom gave advice on family recipes. Karageozian’s parents, recently arrived from Beirut, are good cooks too. “Our families have invested in our future. They believed in our dreams. We are blessed,” said Darian.

Both Darian and Karageozian grew up active in Armenian church and youth groups, and they speak Armenian with their young son, Tro. Karageozian’s ancestors have roots in Gherkhan and Zeitoun while Darian’s roots are in Adana and Aintab. Noor’s recipes touch on the best of these regions. Indeed, her grandmother’s more-than-100-year-old recipe for *sarma* has become a signature dish for Noor. Freshly made, it’s easy to keep eating these luscious delights.

Appetizers include freshly-made lemon-tingling *tabbouli*, *hummus* and *fattoush*. Wraps or dinners feature tender beef or chicken *shawarma*, Angus beef *kebab*, *lule kebab* and even *falafel*. If you are in the know, you’ll order some garlic sauce to add as a finishing touch to your dish.

Being Armenian and a fan of good food, Olga Proodian of Watertown was curious when she heard about Noor, and was so impressed with her first visit that she’s made repeat visits with different family members and friends. Her eyes light up when she describes the *baba* dip, as “the best I’ve ever eaten.” When I stopped by Noor to take some photographs, customer Marcos Vizcarnondo from Puerto Rico caught my attention when he likewise exclaimed, “This is the best *babaganoush* I’ve ever had in Boston.”

So it’s not just Armenians who have enjoyed eating at the grill, located at Powderhouse Square in Somerville, close to the Medford line. Tufts University is nearby and the grill is on College Avenue, a main route to nearby Davis Square, thus there is a lot of foot traffic from Tufts students, professors and staff as well as locals. Customers include Middlesex County Sheriff Peter Koutoujian and Mayor Curatone of Somerville and other city employees; one contingent has even become regulars often coming in on Thursdays, just before the weekend. Noor frequently fulfills catering orders and clients have included Armenian families, the Tufts and Harvard communities and even Google and Oracle.

How the owners met and connected is a story in itself. It was on a trip to visit see NOOR, page 5

Kurtan Village Medical Center Reconstruction Completed

SAN FRANCISCO and KURTAN – On June 30, the Kurtan village Medical Center re-opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony following a complete renovation of the facility. The renovation was funded through a Paros 100 for 100 Project for Prosperity with funds raised by the Bay Area Paros Committee during their November 2013 Wine Tasting event.

Thanks to Rick and Wendy Moradian, who donated all the wines for this event, an enthusiastic crowd gathered at the San Francisco home of Drs. Donald and Martha Missirlian to sample wines paired with complementary dishes. Paros Committee members Valina Agbabian, Susanna Cogswell, Rita Kablanian, Martha Missirlian, Wendi Moradian and Julie Strauch prepared the cuisine and created a fun yet informative evening.

“It was so very satisfying to witness firsthand the completion of this project,” said Martha Missirlian, who was present in June at the opening. “I am confident all the donors who contributed so generously at our event will take pride in knowing that the Medical Center was renovated both quickly and to a high quality.”

Tigran Badoyan, the deputy governor of the Lori Region, attended the ribbon cutting and offered both his appreciation to the Paros Foundation and his ongoing support for future projects in both Kurtan and the Lori Region. Mher Gevorgyan, the mayor of Kurtan, also expressed his appreciation on behalf of the Medical Center staff and the res-



Bay Area Paros Committee Members along with Kurtan Medical Center Director at the ribbon cutting ceremony, are, from left, Laura Conrow, Martha Missirlian, Julie Kulhanjian, Dr. Julieta Bruyuan and Rita Kablanian.

idents of the village.

The renovation of the Medical Center consisted of installing a new roof, new doors and windows, new flooring, new electrical, a new bathroom and repairs to the walls and ceiling.

“The completion of this project represents a successful partnership between the Diaspora and the village of Kurtan,” said Peter Abajian, Executive Director of the Paros Foundation. “The village of Kurtan offered both funding and labor, joining with the Bay Area Armenian community to address the reconstruction of the Medical Center.”

This project, as with all Paros 100 for 100 Projects for Prosperity, was implemented without any administrative fees. The Paros Foundation underwrites all administrative costs allowing 100% of donor contributions to be applied to the intended project.

Following the opening of the medical center, the Paros Foundations SERVICE Armenia 2014 participants, who also attended the ribbon cutting ceremony, proceeded to the village school to distribute shoes, dental supplies and soccer balls as part of three other Paros 100 projects.

For more information about the Paros Foundation’s 100 for 100 Projects for Prosperity, or to sponsor a project, visit www.paros-foundation.org.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Challenge of Teaching Teachers How to Teach Pre-K

By Madeleine Cummings

NEW YORK (ny.chalkbeat.org) — Emma Markarian spent seven years studying psychology and early childhood education in Russia and the United States before taking over her own classroom. So Markarian, now a pre-kindergarten teacher in the city, was surprised to find herself leading an abbreviated course on child development in June to aspiring pre-K teachers who hoped to lead their own classrooms this fall — with only three months of training under their belts.

The child development course Markarian taught lasted for a fleeting three-and-a-half weeks. “There is no way you can have a deep understanding within three-and-a-half weeks,” she said. “That’s the scary part.” In addition to taking a sequence of condensed courses over the summer, the teachers-in-training interned in pre-K classrooms to get some hands-on training.

A longstanding body of research shows that high-quality pre-K programs help children succeed in school and in life — a driving force behind the city’s unprecedented expansion of pre-K this school year. But high-quality programs depend on high-quality teachers.

Knowing that schools and private organizations would need as many as 1,000 new instructors before classes start next week, city and school officials have tried to devise creative training and hiring strategies. While education leaders say there is not an outright shortage of applicants, the number of pre-K seats will increase again in 2015. And though many pre-K teachers are entering the system through traditional pathways, it’s important that schools and community-based organizations have a choice of candidates as the pre-K expansion progresses.

The architects of the effort are faced with the complicated task of training prospective teachers in a highly specialized field. Teaching the youngest students is far more complicated than babysitting on the one hand, or simply demanding that 4-year-olds master increasingly demanding academic skills on the other.

“The people doing pre-K teaching need better training and support in most states than what they are getting now,” said Deborah Stipek, the dean of Stanford University’s Graduate School of Education, speaking generally and not specifically of New York.

In New York City, one approach has been to funnel already-certified teachers who are cur-

rently teaching older grades into pre-K classrooms. A second approach has been to start from scratch and educate rookie teachers — usually career-changers or recent college graduates — through intensive classes like the one Markarian taught in June. Experts say both approaches can be fraught with challenges. And with even the most seasoned instructors grappling over how to apply the Common Core state standards to pre-K, questions over how new teachers can be trained both effectively and efficiently are more important than ever.

Playing musical chairs

Some veteran educators shifting to pre-K from other grades in the coming years — in some cases at the urging of their principals — will have a steep learning curve. Maria OluHamilton, a teaching assistant at Brooklyn’s M.S. 394, for example, has more than 20 years of classroom experience, but primarily at the eighth-grade level. She knows she’ll have to completely change how she behaves in the classroom to engage much younger students.

“This is all new to me,” she said while attending a recent training session run by Bank Street College and the Department of Education.

Since OluHamilton is not certified as an early childhood education teacher, she will get extensive training over the next several years as she works toward her certification. Some experts worry, however, that it’s too easy for instructors who are already certified to teach older elementary grades to make the switch to pre-K; usually they can extend their certification to pre-K just by taking a course or two, says Beverly Falk, who directs the early childhood graduate programs at City College.

“The big issue is making sure the pre-K classrooms are high-quality so we are not bringing the upper grade model into the lower grades,” Falk said.

Practices like multiple-choice testing might be appropriate for fourth-graders at times, but not for 4-year-olds. And because children’s social and emotional skills are developing at wildly different rates in the early years, pre-K teachers, in particular, must be able to adjust their instruction to accommodate children at a wide range of developmental stages.

Esther Soto and Betty Garcia, who taught kindergarten and first grade, respectively, at P.S. 112 in East Harlem before switching to pre-K a few years ago, said the transition can be tough, even for those with extensive experience working with young learners.

“We were put back in pre-K with really no training,” Garcia said. “It was sink or swim.”

Both women attended the same training session as OluHamilton. They said they hope that the pre-K expansion will come with increased support for teachers in the form of professional development, frequent classroom visits from social workers, and guidance in making sense of new learning standards.

Garcia hopes to better prepare her classroom of four-year-olds for what she has discovered are demanding Common Core standards for kindergarten and first grade, particularly in reading, she says.

Though Garcia appreciated the recent workshops, she was disappointed that there wasn’t more of an emphasis on curriculum and dismayed by the number of teachers who said their schools had no curriculum at all for pre-K. “The teachers are completely left to their own defenses,” she said.

Stanford’s Stipek said young children are capable of learning extensive academic skills. But they need to be taught in age-appropriate ways — not through worksheets or rote counting exercises. In one pre-K classroom she visited, Stipek watched as students recited numbers from memory. She realized they knew the numbers’ sounds, but not their significance, when she put three pennies down and none of the children could say how many there were.

“Four-year-olds are really interested in numbers if it’s done right, in a playful, developmentally appropriate way,” she said.

Laura Bornfreund, the deputy director at the New America Foundation’s Early Education Initiative, said pre-K teachers should be engaging children in conversations and asking follow-up questions rather than lecturing.

“We know from research that, especially in early childhood, the most important thing that leads to long-term success later in school and in life are the quality of the interactions between teachers and children,” she said.

Starting from scratch

In another attempt to meet the demand for pre-K teachers, the city has helped create a fellowship program for about 100 aspiring teachers run by the New York Early Childhood Professional Development Institute. The rookie teachers, chosen from a pool of 1,200 applicants, will take over their own classrooms in September after only three months of training (though they will continue to work toward a master’s degree from the City University of New York over the next year).

The program, modeled after the city’s Teaching Fellows program, was created partly to help quickly deliver teachers to many of the

city’s 850 community-based organizations, which must find teachers who are certified — or working toward certification — if they want to participate in the expanded, publicly funded pre-K program.

Some educators, like Emma Markarian, worry that the fast-track to the classroom could leave novice teachers underprepared. When she taught the course on child development this summer, Markarian described many of her students as “confused” and “overwhelmed.”

“They are given so little time to learn and right away thrown in the classroom,” she said, noting that it takes time and training even to figure out how to set up a pre-K classroom.

Lily Pollak, one of the aspiring teachers participating in the training sessions, says the program logistics have been somewhat rushed, but she feels like she has been learning a lot. The trainees have had to be flexible as they waited to learn whether their salaries will be the same as fully certified pre-K teachers, for instance. “Things are changing so much day to day,” she said.

Still, Pollak believes she is getting solid training in such areas as teaching students with special needs and in different educational philosophies and approaches, like Montessori, which emphasizes hands-on learning and multi-age student classrooms. And although she’s studying plenty of theory, Pollak says program leaders also teach us “real scenarios in the classroom.”

Sherry Cleary, the director of the program, said the Professional Development Institute is working hard to support the teachers-in-training despite the time constraints. Each trainee has a mentor, for example, who can provide guidance on everything from job interviews to classroom management. Whether there will be funding to extend the mentoring past the new teachers’ first year on the job is uncertain, however.

Another question mark: whether all, or even most, of the trainees will stick with the multi-year teaching commitment. (They are supposed to remain in pre-K classrooms for two years after they receive their certification in exchange for free tuition.) Cleary predicts attrition, which has already become an issue, will continue.

“We fully expect that some of those people who believed with every fiber of their soul that they could manage the intensity will not be able to manage it,” she said.

Increased expectations add to the pressure. The city’s massive training effort comes at a
see TEACHING, page 6

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Cozy New Mediterranean Grill in Somerville

NOOR, from page 4

her sister in Lebanon that Hilda met Arsen. “We were awestruck when we met each other because of our height. I’m 5’9” and he’s 6’4,” said Darian. Karageozian had gone to culinary school in Lebanon and was working as an executive chef at the Intercontinental Hotel in Beirut. After getting married about nine years ago, the couple lived in California where Arsen worked at Mandaloun, a restaurant in Glendale. But Hilda missed her family and they came back to the Boston area and Arsen worked at Papa Gino’s in management.

Raised in Somerville and with a background in office management, for Darian, choosing Somerville for Noor’s location seemed natural. “Somerville is home to me. The area had a serious lack of Armenian Middle Eastern food. We wanted to offer a healthy, home-style option.”

Indeed, without the help of family and friends, it would have been difficult to open. Moving into a former café wasn’t easy and the new owners undertook a complete renovation from the floor to the ceiling to new cooking equipment. From hanging signs to painting to getting the grill ready, they were kept busy in the many months leading to the winter opening. On opening day, many friends and family members were there to offer flowers and support from the Armenian community. They are still coming, along with the local community now getting to enjoy some amazing Armenian culinary creations.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Laser Probes Explosives From afar

By Jia You

WASHINGTON (*Science*) – Scientists have developed a new way to identify a chemical sample more than four football fields away, simply by shining a laser on it. The advance could one day provide a powerful tool for the military to detect explosives from a distance and even for astronomers to probe alien worlds for life.

“It’s a new approach that has never been seen before,” says physicist Jérôme Kasparian of the University of Geneva in Switzerland, who was not involved in the study.

The technology leverages a well-established physical phenomenon called Raman scattering. When light shines on a compound, the compound’s molecules scatter a tiny fraction of the incoming photons around, changing the photon’s energy level in the process. The shift in energy, which changes the frequency of the outgoing light, varies for every compound. With a spectrometer, an instrument that measures the frequency of light, scientists can observe this shift and identify the chemical in question.

Previously, scientists have used lasers to remotely identify atoms in chemical samples, but with Raman technology, they would be able to identify chemical compounds directly. The problem is that Raman scattering produces only a very weak signal – only about one in every 10 trillion photons that enter the compound is scattered. So to make Raman spectroscopy work on a distant target, researchers would need an enormously powerful laser to get a detectable signal back.

Physicist Marlan Scully of Texas A&M University, College Station, and his colleagues have sought to get around this problem by exploiting a relatively newly discovered phenomenon called random Raman lasing. When one shines a very intense beam of light at a highly disordered material, such as a powdered chemical, the scattered photons can stimulate more photons to be emitted by the material in a similar way to how a laser works. This pro-

duces a brighter scattered signal which, in theory, should be easier to detect from afar.

The Texas team shone intense laser pulses encompassing a broad spectrum of light on samples of powdered chemical compounds. To simulate detecting the scattered light at a distance, the researchers bounced the signal back and forth 13 times between mirrors so that it covered a distance of 400 meters before it entered the spectrometer.

With this approach, the researchers could generate enough random Raman lasing in the samples to produce a signal that could be detected 400 meters away and could reliably identify ammonium nitrate and sodium nitrate, as they report online today in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Both chemicals appear as white powders to the naked eye and emit Raman signals that are near identical in frequency. The former is a harmless compound, whereas the latter can be used to produce explosives.

The result of the experiment is “impressive,” Kasparian says. “This is a clean demonstration that measurement at a few hundred meters [away] is possible.”

But Anupam Misra of the University of Hawaii, Manoa, who was also not involved in the research, says it would be more convincing if they had made a direct measurement from 400 meters rather than using relay mirrors to simulate the distance. In this experiment, because the sample is placed close to the mirrors and the spectrometer, the Raman signal could have entered the spectrometer without traveling the full 400 meters, he says.

Both Misra and Kasparian point out that to apply the technology in real life, scientists still need to solve the other half of the question: building a laser powerful enough to focus an intense beam on a sample from hundreds of meters away. The laser in the current experiment was just 8.5 meters from the samples. Today’s technology allows a laser beam to focus over a distance of 100 meters at most, Kasparian says.

If scientists do build such a laser, the technology can have broad applications in agriculture, environmental science, and biomedical science. In agriculture, for example, farmers could potentially fly laser-equipped planes over the fields to detect ammonia level in the soil, and thus determine how much fertilizer to apply. “The great thing about this part of science ... is that ... we are learning about ways in which light and matter interact in novel and fascinating ways, and it has many applications,” Scully says. “It’s the best of both worlds.”

Challenge of Teaching Teachers How to Teach Pre-K

TEACHING, from page 5

time of mounting pressure on early childhood instructors nationally as Common Core standards affect even the youngest grades. More is being asked of pre-K teachers, here and elsewhere, making it all the more vital that they receive high-quality training.

In January of 2011, New York became one of the first states to develop a set of pre-kindergarten standards that align with the Common Core. In addition to covering English and math, the document encompasses physical, social, and emotional developmental milestones, among others. It specifies that by end of pre-K children should be able to adjust their behavior depending on the setting, for example.

Rebecca Lescure, a pre-K teacher at P.S. 282 in Park Slope, said the Common Core standards have led some principals to pressure pre-K teachers to introduce far more challenging academic content. She initially pushed back against what she thinks are unrealistic expectations, but has since acquiesced to some degree, introducing more designated writing time in her classroom, for instance.

Alisa Clark, who teaches pre-K at the privately-run 14th Street Y, said there’s continued confusion among teachers over how the Common Core standards relate to pre-K.

“It’s all very vague and I know a lot of teachers are still confused about it,” she said.

Markarian said most of the pre-K teachers-in-training she works with know the standards, but not necessarily how to implement them in

the classroom. On-the-job mentoring, she said, is one way to help new teachers cover the standards appropriately. But that kind of mentoring is tough for most principals to provide. Not only do most of them already have full plates, but many don’t understand how to teach more academic skills in the youngest grades in an age-appropriate manner. “The fact is that most administrators don’t have a knowledge of pre-K and how young children learn,” said Markarian.

In the meantime, many novice teachers are relying on each other. At a recent workshop run by Bank Street College of Education and the city’s Department of Education, a trainer led groups of soon-to-be teachers through the Common Core standards and how they relate to pre-K. After giving each group a classroom scenario, she asked them to come up with activities that promote creativity, curiosity, and initiative – and are also aligned with the Common Core.

Both Soto and Garcia said they found the exercise helpful, particularly hearing from their peers. “Even though we’re veterans, today I learned a lot,” Soto said.

Garcia echoed that sentiment, saying, “As long as they continue the professional development, allowing us to meet and support each other, we’ll be happy.”

(Madeleine Cummings is a reporting fellow for a new education journalism initiative at the Columbia Journalism School focused on covering teachers.)

Memorial Planned to Honor Jasmine Chobanian

BOSTON – Jasmine Chobanian of Natick died on July 25.

The Boston University community will honor her, whom they had regarded as “first lady” of the university during the many years that her husband, Dr. Aram V. Chobanian, served in the university’s leadership, with a memorial service on Monday, September 15, at 3 p.m., at Boston University’s Marsh Chapel, 735 Commonwealth Ave.

She will be remembered as a world traveler, voracious reader, raconteur, nature lover, bird watcher and sports fan.

Chobanian was a patron of the arts and a humanitarian, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Boston Ballet. She was also active in efforts to provide aid to the people of Armenia after the earthquake in 1988.

She was a graduate of Brown University. She was a talented painter and studied with Conger Metcalf at the Boston Museum School, now the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She worked for many years as a researcher at Thorndike Memorial Laboratories at Boston City Hospital.

To honor Chobanian’s memory, contributions may be made to the Chobanian Scholarship Fund at Boston University School of medicine, c/o Development Office, 72 East Concord St., L219, Boston, MA 02118; St. Stephen’s Armenian Church, 38 Elton Ave., Watertown, MA 02472 or The Fund for Armenian Relief, 630 Second Ave., New York, NY 10016.



Jasmine Chobanian

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Rachael Kaprielian Laboring for the Common Good

KAPRIELIAN, from page 1

She feels her personality and work ethic even at a young age were suited to the American political process: "I think I was naturally drawn to asking people what they thought was important. Becoming involved politically was a way to be able to make decisions. To me it was about being able to take steps to change policy."

Kaprielian graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester in 1990. She recalled, "No one had a job then, so I moved home to my parents, as most good Armenians do, and started working on the campaign of my predecessor, Warren Tolman. I really enjoyed it, and the next year I ran to be a Watertown councilor."

She had an advantage as a Watertown native and built on this by spending long hours every day after her regular job, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., going house to house, knocking on doors.

This got her a lot of third and fourth votes on the ballot, but, Kaprielian remembered with a smile, "For Armenians, I was always their first choice. Even when I had a difficult day, I would come back to east Watertown and when I heard, 'Of course, honey, I'll vote for you,' that made everything okay. It was a tremendous wellspring of strength and support that I drew upon all the time. With an Armenian household, I would ask if I could give a lawn sign, and the Armenians were always thrilled to put it up."

She feels fortunate and grateful for the support which she has received over the years, personally and politically, and stressed, "I have been very lucky. It has mattered a great deal for me."

Armenian industriousness and family values have also been very important for her personally. She said, "a lot of what I hold dearest come from growing up with those values and my family."

Kaprielian won the election and served in the Watertown Town Council from 1992 to 1995. She did not pay much attention to obstacles. "As a woman in politics, things were probably harder but I didn't realize it. I was young and naïve. I didn't notice it and it didn't bother me. In fact, it was probably more age than gender that created problems for me. I looked young. I

think definitely people were thinking 'what does she know.' To some extent it was true, but I tried to get up to speed quickly and learn by talking to voters and residents," she said.

After a few years working on the town level, the next step for her was running for Massachusetts state representative for areas of Watertown and Cambridge. After winning, she ended up serving for some 13 years (1995-2008), during which time she tried to improve the quality of life in her district.

"I think that having a vision of what the town should be is important. I always viewed the Watertown Arsenal Development, for example, as the last big shot for development of the town. I felt more comfortable not going for the quick money, because it was more important to shape the character of the community for the long term. It was necessary to do a lot of planning and meet with other developers and interested parties," she explained.

She worked for municipal organizational and pension reforms and tackled statewide issues concerning early intervention for at-risk children and special education programs. Kaprielian was also a leader in efforts to ban public smoking.

Kaprielian not only continued to learn from her community and job, but she managed to finish her law studies at Suffolk University in 2000, and obtained a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University in 2003. Kaprielian said she feels that having "a background in law helps me reason and weigh evidence."

Kaprielian also taught some courses at Harvard and Tufts.

Her career advanced in a new direction when she was appointed by Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick as registrar of the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) in May 2008. She focused on modernizing its operations and made Internet transactions possible on a greater scale than before.

Kaprielian said, "I helped to change the business model in the RMV. People want to get in and out faster. People already banked online and were doing more things on the Internet, so the time was ripe for this change."

The idea of taking renewals out of the

branches became a successful one. Kaprielian also advanced the use of facial recognition technology for licenses. By the end of 2013, every valid license had an image with facial recognition. This will soon eliminate having to go to an RMV branch to prove one's identity.

Kaprielian's successful work at the RMV led Patrick to appoint her in January 2014 as secretary of labor and workforce development. Kaprielian pointed out that her approach remains the same. "It still is very much about the quality of life. How do we get ideas to work in practice? I've just taken it a couple of steps further, from the state house to the RMV and now as secretary," she explained.

A Democrat throughout her career, Kaprielian remains a pragmatist: "I used to call myself a 'Reasonable D' on my radio show. The party doesn't matter as much as the point of view. I believe more in certain ideals. For example, some things like job creation are not solely Republican issues. We need to have well-paying sustainable good jobs." She looks at job development from a regional perspective to see what is useful for local communities and works with industry groups to align with their needs.

On a broader level, Kaprielian said she feels that serious changes are necessary to keep the economy in Massachusetts, and in the US in general, globally competitive. "I believe that we have reached a moment in time when training must go beyond 12th grade. It is no longer possible to get by just with a high school education, but bachelor's degrees are not for everybody. Instead, training programs in advanced manufacturing can land people good paying jobs," she said. "I don't want to see a large part of our workforce stuck in lower-paying, lower-skilled jobs. It is the state's mission to train people to be in a position to get these better jobs in new industries that are springing up. For example, there are tens of thousands of lab technicians or lab assistants necessary in new fields like biotechnology, and these jobs will have decent career ladders." Necessary skills can be obtained through certificate programs in community colleges or apprenticeships in some fields.

Kaprielian is part of the "inner circle" in Patrick's administration and participates in cab-

inet policy discussions. She also carefully coordinates her work with that of other secretariats in the administration. Ultimately though she does work on policy issues, she said that "I think of this job very practically. My job is to make policy work on the ground."

She is very focused on her work, which includes improvements in the usage of modern technology in a sense in a parallel fashion to what she did at the RMV. As she serves on a cabinet position, her term is concurrent with Patrick's and will end at the end of his term in January 2015. However, Kaprielian declared, "It's too soon to ask about the next step. I don't close doors unless I know definitely that I am not interested in something. I have been lucky to have always had a job to which I loved to get up and go. I like to work in the public interest, even if it is not in government. It could be in private sector, if it is something that I believe in."

Whatever she does, no doubt Kaprielian will somehow manage to remain involved in Armenian affairs. A 2005 trip to Armenia "was a profound experience. I heard before that going there changes you, and it did. I never felt so much being part of an important culture." A subsequent trip to Jerusalem allowed her to witness firsthand the Armenian stewardship of some of the most holy places for Christians.

Still, it is Watertown in general, where she has lived most of her life (and still lives today), and the local Armenian community, which remain closest to her heart. Kaprielian exclaimed, "I love all the good work done in it, whether in the arts or for the recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Whenever a big Armenian gala takes place, I will always be a part of it. Even when I end up one day in the Armenian nursing home in Jamaica Plains, I will still be involved in things Armenians care about. It is the greatest blessing and accident of birth for which I could have asked."

Society for Armenian Studies 40th Anniversary Workshop in Yerevan

FRESNO – The Society for Armenian Studies (SAS), founded in 1974, will organize a workshop to mark its 40th anniversary. The workshop will place October 2-5 with the participation of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences. It will bring together 20 scholars from abroad and 20 from Armenia to deliver papers on a number of topics such as inadequately-studied aspects of Armenian history in the past millennium; the representation and reflection of the Armenian Genocide in the arts and culture in general; testimonies and reminiscences of the survivors of the Genocide; accomplishments, perspectives and methodologies in contemporary Armenian literary studies and historiography; and, the Armenian Diaspora in the 21st century, aspirations and challenges. The workshop will take place at the Presidium Hall of Sessions at the Armenian National Academy of Sciences.

The Society for Armenian Studies was founded by a group of scholars: Nina Garsoian, Dickran Kouymjian, Avedis Sanjian and Robert W. Thomson, on the initiative of Richard G. Hovannisian, with a view to promoting and supporting Armenian studies as an academic discipline through panels at national and international gatherings, publications, lectures and symposia. It publishes a Newsletter and the *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies* (JSAS).

Most members are from the United States, but an increasing number of scholars from Europe, Canada and the Middle East have joined the SAS.

Those with a general interest in Armenian studies may also join the SAS (as non-voting members) and receive free copies of the Newsletter and the JSAS. For more information on, or to join, the SAS, please visit our website at societyforarmenianstudies.com or write to the: SAS Secretariat, Armenian Studies Program, 5245 N. Backer Ave. PB4, Fresno, CA 93740-8001.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Saghmosavank Site of Young Couple's Wedding with 350 Guests

SAGHMOSOVANK, Armenia – Among the most breathtaking views in Armenia is Saghmosavank, the 13th-century monastery precariously situated at the edge of a deep gorge. Probably the most excitement there in centuries occurred on August 9, when Shaant Avanian and Armenuhi Khachatryan got married there.

The festivities began the day before, with a traditional slaying of a bull (a sign of fertility) to the sounds of the *zurna* and *duduk* in Tsakhkuncq village. On the wedding day, guests gathered at the *cavor's* (godfather's) house, with hors d'oeuvres and a marching band. Guests then boarded buses to Saghmosavank.

The service was unique, as the couple first gave testimonials and their vows in English outside the church, moderated by deacon Ryan Tellalian. Then everyone moved indoors for the traditional service, crowning the bride and groom, led by Rev. Mesrob Aramyan.

Three hundred and fifty guests attended the outdoor reception in a custom-built pavilion next to the church. The guest list

included Armenia's former prime minister and other political figures. Guest Nune Yessayan joined in as one of the four bands performed. Music and dancing lasted until 5 a.m., long after the fireworks display.

The wedding was a great reunion of friends and family from as far away as California, Trinidad, London and Cyprus. After the wedding, 50 overseas guests took a one-week bus tour, being introduced to the wonders of Armenia.

The mostly non-Armenian guests started in Amberd, stayed at the Avan Dzoraget hotel, proceeded to Haghpat/Sanahin and stayed in Yenokavan's Apaga hotel.

No trip is complete without a visit to Lake Sevan and then the Selim Caravanseri. After sleeping in Goris, the last day included a ride on the longest cable car in the world to Tatev. Optional day trips took guests to Garni/Geghart and Echmiadzin from the Tufenkian hotel in Yerevan.

Shaant Avanian, originally from Belmont, Mass., attended St.



The young couple exits the church.



About 50 guests stayed after the wedding to tour Armenia for a week.

Stephen's Armenian Day School, then Belmont public schools. He received his bachelor's from New York University and his master's from St. John's University in New York.

Khachatryan attended the Melkonian Educational Institute in Cyprus, then the University of Nottingham, England and Columbia University in New York.

The couple met five years ago, when they were both visiting family in Yerevan, Armenia. They started dating in New York, where she was a graduate student at Columbia and he was a teaching fellow at an inner-city high school.

Recently, they have been in Armenia working at Dolmama restaurant, preparing to bring the franchise to the US.

– Alice Avanian

Vanes Martirosyan's Next Bout Set for October 4 at Foxwoods

MASHANTUCKET, Conn. – Vanes "Nightmare" Martirosyan will face Willie Nelson on Saturday, October 4, at Foxwoods Resort Casino in a junior middleweight boxing match. The 10-round boxing match (154 lbs. limit) will be part of a quadruple-header televised on Showtime.

Martirosyan, born in Abovyan, Armenia and currently residing in Glendale, comes into the fight ranked the #6 junior middleweight contender by *Ring Magazine* with a record of 34 wins, 1 loss, 1 draw and 21 knockouts.

His opponent, Nelson, of Cleveland, Ohio, is ranked the #7 contender by *Ring Magazine* with a record of 23 wins, 1 loss, 1 draw and 13 knockouts.

Martirosyan, a former welterweight member of the United States Olympic Boxing team, participated in the Summer Olympics in Greece in 2004.

Martirosyan is eager to fight in front of the Armenian communities of New England and of the greater tri-state area.

Martirosyan stated, "It's always inspiring to see the Armenian flag waving and my fellow compatriots in the crowd cheering when I fight. I've heard about the Armenians of Watertown, Providence, Worcester and New Britain and their love of sports. I'm hoping the Armenian community is there to support me at Foxwoods on October 4. I've trained extremely hard for this fight."



Vanes "Nightmare" Martirosyan

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COMMUNITY NEWS

A New Deacon and Four New Tbirds Ordained in Livingston, NJ

LIVINGSTON, N.J. – Parishioners and friends filled the sanctuary of the St. Mary Church, on Sunday, August 17, 2014, to witness an uplifting spiritual milestone for the parish.

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of

the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), visited the parish to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, and to confer the sacrament of Holy Orders on five altar servers.

The occasion, the Feast of the Assumption of

the Holy Mother-of-God, marked the “name-day” of the Livingston parish, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

Archbishop Barsamian was assisted on the altar by the parish pastor, the Rev. Arakel Vardazaryan, as well as the long-serving senior deacons of St. Mary Church.

During the badarak, just before the gospel readings, the Primate conducted the first ordination service of the day, ordaining Matthew Hagop Dalakian to the rank of deacon. Dalakian, who has been serving on the altar since he was 10, often in the company of his father and brothers, had previously achieved the demanding requirements for this rank after much study and training – through St. Nersess Seminary programs and under the tutelage of the pastor and senior deacons of the St. Mary Church altar.

In the age-old tradition of the Armenian Church, he came to the altar on his knees, with hands raised, to receive the “laying-on of hands” from Barsamian, signifying the descent of the Holy Spirit. The congregation was asked if he is worthy to receive the sacrament, and the parishioners answered the Primate by saying, “Arjanee eh” – “He is worthy.”

Following the ordination, Dalakian was presented to the congregation for the first time as a deacon, and in clear and melodious Armenian read the gospel lection of the day.

The minor orders were conferred directly after badarak, as Barsamian conferred the rank of tbir on Yetvart Eddie Istanbul, Joseph Artin Casali, Christopher Albert Kapoian and Bedros Vartavar Maldjian. All of them have likewise devoted much time and energy to preparing for this role, which the Primate noted was the first step on a longer road of service on our Lord’s altar.

At the back of the sanctuary, the Primate said prayers over the kneeling candidates, and clipped a small amount of hair from each one’s head, before conferring on each the four minor orders that constitute the tbir or acolyte rank.

The service concluded with the traditional “Blessing of Grapes” ceremony, which is such a beloved part of the Armenian celebration of Holy Assumption.

In his homily for the day, Archbishop

Barsamian spoke of the Mother of God, St. Mary, as the great example of a human being saying “Yes” to God’s call. He added that while God calls each person in different ways, the day’s candidates for ordination represent a special way of affirming that call.

“Opening yourself up to God, receiving the Holy Spirit through ordination, is one of the most profound ways that a person can say ‘Yes’ to our Lord’s call,” he said. “And this parish is blessed to have quite a few examples to lead and inspire you.”

He congratulated Vardazaryan on the 5th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, thanked senior deacons Roy Stepanian and Martin Dalakian for their long service, and exhorted the newly ordained to continue their devotion to the Lord’s altar. He noted that the impulse to say “Yes” to God runs through the families of each of them.

“I know that each of our candidates for ordination is responding to a call that has also been answered by other members of their families: fathers and mothers, grandfathers and grandmothers, people all around them,” he said, looking out among the crowd. “Today, they are saying ‘Yes’ to ordination, because the loved ones around them, in their families and throughout this parish, have also said ‘Yes’ to God—through their dedication, service, and love of our church.”

Following services, the Primate joined the parishioners gathered in Haroutune and Siranoush Toufayan Hall for a splendid luncheon, courtesy of the Casali, Dalakian, Maldjian, Kapoian, and Istanbul families.

Parish council chair Levon Ariyan was the master of ceremonies for a program that included the singing of the American and Armenian national anthems by Daniella Badishkian and Christian Krommenhoek.

“We were honored to have our Primate among us on our name-day, to bless the grapes and ordain our altar servers,” Vardazaryan said. “My congratulations go to our new deacon and tbirds and their families. It was a beautiful day for St. Mary Church, with many parishioners and friends from throughout the community among us.”



Happy Independence Day, Armenia!

Under the Auspices
of
The Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern)
His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate

and

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations
The Honorable Ambassador Zohrab Mnatsakanyan

Noyan Tapan

cordially invites you to partake in

Armenia's Independence Day Celebration

September 21, 2013 at 1:00 pm (Following Badarak), K-hall of the Diocese

Join us to enjoy Armenian classical and folk music, poetry and dance, delicious elements of the Armenian cuisine, as well as meet our new Ambassador and distinguished speakers.

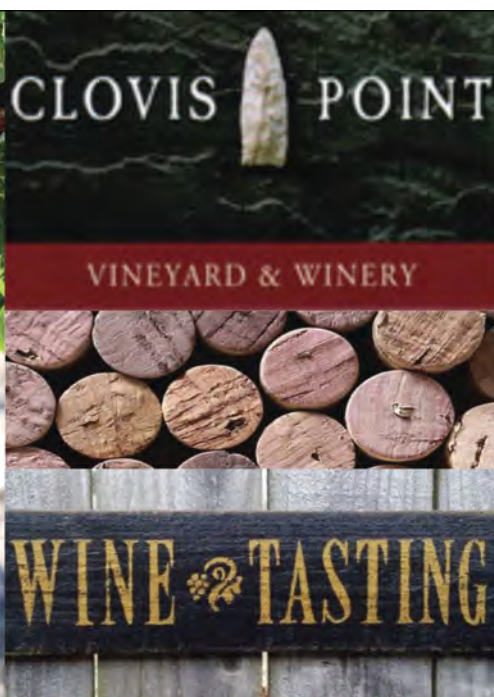
Kids Program: Magic show, games and Movie time at the G-Hall

Free Admission

Location: St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, K-Hall and G-Hall
630 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10016

For further information please contact: Tigran Sahakyan (212) 444-8003

This event Co-Sponsored by The Knights & Daughters of Vartan, Armenian Assembly of America, ADL-Ramgavars and Tekeyan Cultural Association



TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION



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\$75 per person

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Limited seating

For Reservations: Diana 201.790.0397

Arts & Living

Aram Gharabekian To Be Remembered In Tribute Concert In Cambridge

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – A longtime resident of Lexington and Boston, conductor Aram Gharabekian passed away earlier this year at the age of 58. His friends in the area will pay tribute to him on Saturday, October 4 at the Longy School of Music.

A graduate of Boston and New England Conservatories, Gharabekian was founder and artistic director of the Sinfonova Chamber Orchestra of Boston in the 1980s, establishing a loyal following among classical music aficionados and critics. Gharabekian exposed audiences to the rich musical world of Armenia, highlighting rarely performed works of contemporary Armenian composers and juxtaposing them imaginatively with works by Boston-based composers. For these efforts he received the “Most Adventurous Programming” award from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. “He knows how to inspire an orchestra to give him what he wants...” wrote Richard Dyer, former Chief Music Critic of the *Boston Globe*.

As music director designate of the National Chamber Orchestra NCOA’s Music Director



The late Aram Gharabekian

from 1997 to 2010, Gharabekian elevated the ensemble’s artistry, visibility and prominence. He commissioned and premiered over forty new works, issued multiple recordings and established important music education programs for children.

Many of Gharabekian’s friends and colleagues in the community who cared deeply about him and his work have come together to present a memorial concert to celebrate his life and artistry.

Cellist Suren Bagratuni, tenor Yeghishe Manucharyan, mezzo-soprano Victoria Avetisyan, violinist Lilit Hartunian and pianist Lilit Karapetian-Shougarian, will be performing at this special occasion. There will be remembrances in words and video, with a reception to follow the concert to provide an opportunity for friends to share their thoughts and stories.

The free event is presented by Friends of Aram Gharabekian Memorial Concert, with generous support from several Boston-based cultural organizations and individuals.

This remembrance event will take place on October 4, at 8 p.m. at the Pickman Hall, Longy School of Music in Cambridge.



Emoji cupcakes

Yum Bunnies Cakery Brings Sugary Works of Art to Belmont

BELMONT, Mass. – Warning: If you have a sweet tooth and are on a diet, you may want to look away.

Not only does Yum Bunnies Cakery have a sweet name, it delivers the goods. The beautiful cakes and cupcakes made by Jessa Sahakian win customers over with their gorgeous looks and delicious flavors.

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

In fact, in 2013 and 2014, Yum Bunnies was voted tops in the Best Birthday Cake category by the Boston A-List.

It has also been featured in two movies shot in the area, “Ghosts of Girlfriends Past” with Matthew McConaughey and Jennifer Garner, “Pink Panther 2” with Steve Martin and “What’s Your Number?” with Reese Witherspoon.

The bakery also was one of the contenders on Food Network’s “Cupcake Wars.” “Cupcake Wars’ was fun for me but there were crazy things,” she said. “We had to close the shop for five days. It was a lot of work but it was really fun. It brought in a lot of good business from all over.”

Baking came easily to Sahakian from a young age. “I made desserts all the time,” she said. Her mother decided to sign her up for a pastry baking class while she was in middle school. She recalled that she was the only child in the room full of adults.

After graduating from high school, the Watertown native attended Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island, where she specialized in pastry and baking arts, receiving her bachelor’s degree.

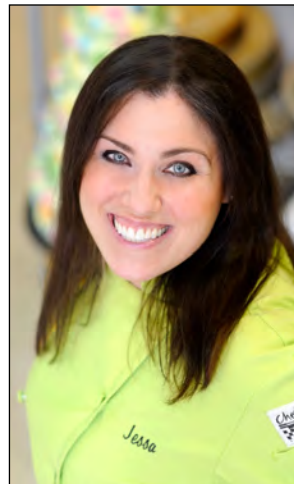
Before starting her own bakery – or cakery – Sahakian, 31, worked for several years at Icing on the Cake in Newton. “I learned a ton of stuff,” she said. “Then I decided to branch out on my own. It was seven years ago in May” that she opened Yum Bunnies.

The name of the bakery comes from Sahakian’s childhood. “When I was a kid, I was a really picky eater and to make me more interested in food, my mom would say something is yum bunnies, meaning that it is tasty,” she recalled with a laugh. She and her friends and family came up with many, many potential names, but Yum Bunnies kept her attention and eventually became the name she picked.

“So far, everyone thinks it’s cute,” she said.

Yum Bunnies gets some walk-in customers looking for cupcakes. “We keep some cupcakes on hand,” she said, adding that the majority of her business comes from people who contact her looking to order cakes. She needs at least one week’s notice for one of her eye-catching cakes.

“They ask for something very specific,” she noted. Sometimes, though, they give her more leeway, just telling her of a theme or the guest of honor’s favorite animal
see TREATS, page 11



Jessa Sahakian

A Giant Accomplishment: Video Memoir Captures Western Armenia

By Mitch Keheian

DETROIT – In 1969 I went to Turkish-occupied Western Armenia to confirm a US State Department report that my Aunt Parancim, who initially had been reported to have been killed during the Genocide, had died just six years earlier.

With the help of a then-friendly State Department, I found my assigned guide, a young Turkish law student, and my Kurdish driver-bodyguard.

For two weeks we drove through the heartland of historic Armenia, starting in Sepastia, crossing through the Pontic Manzur mountains, then on to Erzurum, across the Mourad River to Moush, Lake Van, Bitlis, Kooops, Keghi and Kharpet, In that time span the three of us developed a bond of friendship: an Armenian, a Turk and a Kurd. At the end, Mehmet expressed sadness that the Armenian lands were barren of my people. Nur remained curious about what really happened in 1915.

When I left Ankara for my flight home, Nur and Mehmet took me to the airport and in a parting gesture expressed hope our three peoples could find justice and friendship in the future. But we still wait for modern Turkey to acknowledge the 1915 Genocide. They still



Mitch Keheian

occupy western Armenia and deny self-rule for Memhet’s Kurdish people.

On my return to Detroit, I then visited Armenian communities throughout the United States and Canada to show my slides of the devastated Armenian villages and cities. For the older generation, the scenes were flashbacks to when they fled for their lives to never see their families again.

In the years that followed, I was urged by my cousin, the late Rev. Vartan Kassabian, to publish a memoir of my journey into historic Armenia, a pilgrimage that took place just 54 years after the massacre of 1.5 million of our people. Shortly after I embarked on my assignment, Rev. Kassabian died. I dedicated the memoir to his legacy for inspiring me to write the 162-page book. I titled it *Giants of the Earth*.

When the memoir came out in late 1969, requests for a showing of the original slide program came from the younger generation in search for linkage to the ancestral homeland of their grandparents.

Thankfully, longtime friend Hrayr Toukhanian, film director and producer of the movie “Assignment Berlin,” a docudrama based on Soghomon Tehlirian’s assassination of Talaat Pasha offered his professional help.

Hrayr developed a 32-minute abridged video of the journey by utilizing color slides that had been stored for at least 40 years. In doing so, we completed what I thought was an impossible task.

Interested persons can view the abridged video by visiting the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AiNDannZYRU>



ARTS & LIVING

Panel at Fresno State Discusses Recent Publications on Vahan Tekeyan

FRESNO – The Armenian Studies Program of Fresno State University is presenting two new books about Armenian poet Vahan Tekeyan (1878-1945) at a special event to be held on Friday, September 19, at 7:30 p.m., in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191.

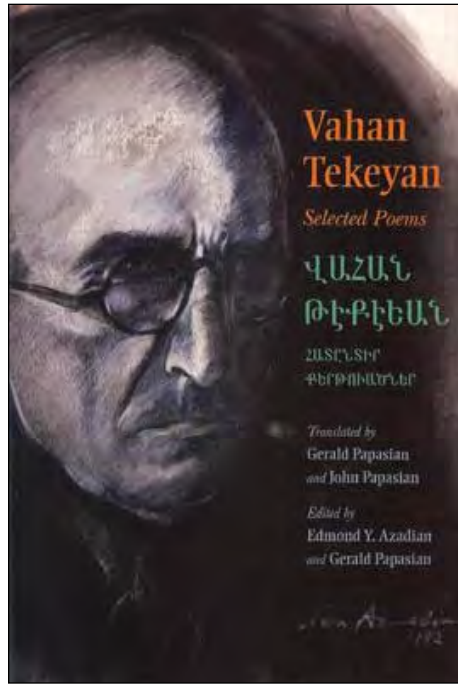
The lecture is the second in the Fall Lecture Series of the Armenian Studies Program and is co-sponsored by the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Fresno. The Lecture Series is supported by the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

Author and literary critic Edmond Azadian, editor of the newly released *Vahan Tekeyan: Selected Poems*, will speak about the significance of the volume. Vahan Tekeyan was published as volume 5 in the Armenian Series, under the general editorship of Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdchian. The Armenian Series part of The Press at California State University, Fresno.

At the presentation, Tamar Hovhannisyan of Carmel will discuss a second book, *Vahan Tekeyan-Hadendir* (in Armenian), also edited by Edmond Azadian.

Guest speaker Dr. Arpi Sarafian (California State University, Los Angeles) will speak about Vahan Tekeyan's poetry.

Azadian has had a long career in journalism, as editor of *Arev* newspaper in Cairo, and has worked with *Baikar Armenian Daily* and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*. From 1972-2010



he served as the director of the Armenian Affairs Department at the Alex and Marie Manoogian Foundation in Detroit, Michigan. He is the author of numerous books including *History on the Move* and *Portraits and Profiles*.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

Armenian Review Publishes 54th Volume

WATERTOWN – The new issue of the *Armenian Review* was released in August. The articles appearing in this issue range from historical and historiographical analyses to the examination of the Armenian press in Poland and the memoirs of Ruben Ter Minasian.

The 98-page issue includes:

- “The Turks and Kurds Are Our Fate: ARF Self-Defense Concepts and Strategies as Reflected in Ruben Ter Minasian’s ‘Memoirs of an Armenian Revolutionary’” by Elke Hartmann (Free University Berlin).

- “Examination of Armenian Trade Capital (16th-18th centuries) in Light of Fernand Braudel’s Civilization Theory” by Smbat K. Hovhannisyan (Yerevan State University).

- “The ARF’s Role in the Ethno-Racial Identity Development of Armenians in the Diaspora” by Viken Yacoubian (Woodbury University).

- “An Overview of Armenian Periodicals in Poland” by Dorota Skotarczak (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland).

- The current issue also includes several book reviews and reviews essays such as: Marc Mamigonian’s review of Inanc Atilgan and Garabet Moundjian’s *Archival Documents of the Viennese Armenian-Turkish Platform*; Christina Maranci’s book review of Edmond Y. Azadian, Sylvie L. Merian, and Lucy Ardash’s *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures: Testimony to a People*; Artsvi Bakhchinyan’s book review of E.G. Sergoyan’s *The Gathering Place: Stories from the Armenian Social Club in Old Shanghai*; Vartan Matiossian’s book review of Marc Nichanian’s *Mourning Philology: Art and Religion at the Margins of the Ottoman Empire*; and Jennifer Manoukian’s book review of Vazken Khatchig Davidian, Susan Paul Pattie, and Gagik Stepan-Sarkissian, eds., *Treasured Objects: Armenian Life in the Ottoman Empire 100 Years Ago*.



Yum Bunnies Cakery Brings Sugary Delights to Belmont

TREATS, from page 10

or motif. “Most of the time they tell me the basis of the party and the theme and let me do what I do best,” she explained.

As for prices, they depend on the size and complexity of the cake.

Sahakian joked that she cannot draw on paper but that she expresses herself clearly with fondant and frosting.

Another popular thing for customers to do is to get Sahakian to recreate inside jokes. “They want that to make sense and I have to try to understand,” she said.

It can be tougher to recreate existing items such as cars or buildings, as they can be compared to the original.

As for flavors, vanilla is the big favorite, followed by red velvet.

Sahakian’s clients come from all over the greater Boston area, including Belmont and



Madonna from the 1980s



Oo la la, Chanel is always right...



An “unbirthday” cake for a fan of Alice in Wonderland

Watertown and nearby Arlington, Lexington and Cambridge, but also from the South Shore. “If they are looking for a cake and have heard the reviews, they travel to make sure they have the cake they want,” she said. “Lucky for me, word of mouth is pretty amazing.”

She also said that she was pleasantly surprised by the types of events for which she delivers cakes. “When I first opened, I didn’t know what would happen. It could have gone the wedding route but it didn’t. It has been more bar mitzvahs, showers, some corporate events and birthdays. If someone wants something over the top, they come here.”

She added, “It is great for me. It is more fun stuff. I get to sculpt something.”

Sahakian said she is planning to expand soon, since during busier times, she has had to turn away customers.

“This is a really, really happy job,” she gushed. For more information, visit their website at www.yumbunnies.com or at 241 Belmont St.



Not exactly off the griddle



ARTS & LIVING

...And Then I Met The Getty Kouros

New Memoir Presents an Armenian-Iranian-American Engineer's Odyssey

LOS ANGELES — ...And Then I Met The *Getty Kouros* is a memoir that chronicles the story of Jack Njeh Yaghoubian, who has made a huge impact on the world of engineering in the United States and around the world.

This Armenian-Iranian-American odyssey is a story of one life with three rich and distinct cultures as an omnipresent backdrop to a prolific career in earthquake engineering. Yaghoubian invented and holds the patent for an ingenious earthquake base isolation system that enabled the broken Getty Kouros statue of a nude male to stand on its own two marble feet after 2,500 years.

The memoir touches on many personal as well as professional subjects: growing up in the Armenian minority in Iran during the 1950s, the challenges of adapting to student life in America, the ways in which careers are shaped, playing a role in innovative engineering initiatives, and what it means to be an informed citizen in one's adopted country.

Yaghoubian's parents met as children in an Iranian orphanage set up to help children whose parents died in the Armenian Genocide. Yaghoubian grew up in a gated compound of mostly Armenian families in Tehran and writes vividly of a community grateful to its host country for the opportunity to live and prosper as a Christian minority in a Muslim country.

He chronicles the beginning of the Armenian Youth Cultural Organization, later known as Ararat, being instrumental in the phenomenal growth of the Armenian Scout Organization that held a deep significance for the community: "Most of the activities were ceremonial... before audiences of admiring parents and relatives who considered the scouts as the Armenian army in diaspora."

Yaghoubian joins his own diaspora when he enrolls at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign to study civil engineering and writes with humor and warmth about his early experiences. The shock of communal showers, amazement at the tea bag and confusion over the "hot dog" are experiences familiar to many immigrants, and the young engineering student takes them in his stride.

In his memoir, he seamlessly interweaves personal and historical material while chronicling a professional path that is as much testament to the hand of fate as it is to drive and determina-

tion. When the Soviet Union launches the first Sputnik satellite in 1957, U.S. universities began placing urgent new emphasis on engineering to compete with the Soviets. Yaghoubian was at a top university and perfectly placed to excel in his field. He focused primarily on design and testing of reinforced concrete structural elements.

He returned to Tehran after graduation and took an engineering job for \$100 a month while foreign engineers were paid \$5,000 a month. After he demonstrated his innovative capabilities, the government of the Netherlands granted Yaghoubian a postgraduate fellowship to study in Holland, United Kingdom and France.

On a visit to California, he checks out geotechnical engineering salaries and, in a twist of fate, ends up working for Dames & Moore (D&M), the premier geotechnical and environmental engineering firm in the world. Realizing the importance of understanding American jurisprudence in his chosen career, Yaghoubian obtained his law degree.

Working with giants such as Dr. Charles Richter, the inventor of the Richter Scale for earthquakes, Yaghoubian became increasingly specialized in earthquake engineering as a critical component of the environmental sciences. He produced the first comprehensive environmental impact statement for cross-country oil and gas corridors in California.

On a visit to the Getty Museum in Malibu, he saw that the antiquities there were vulnerable to earthquakes and developed the base isolation system to protect them. The system made art objects behave as if suspended in air and unaffected by shaking. The news of this pioneering method reverberated through museums worldwide. Parallel with the Getty Museum, Yaghoubian was also involved with the design and construction of the renowned Blackhawk vintage car museum in California. The challenge facing the construction of the Blackhawk Museum had its own hair-raising aspects detailed in the book.

Based on the success of this new technology, Yaghoubian was asked to evaluate the fragmented Getty Kouros dating to 530 BC — "kouros" referring to ancient Greek marble statues of male nudes. He invented an ingenious earthquake base isolation system for fragile antiquities. That, combined with a mechanical joint system, was

what made it possible for the Getty Kouros to stand again after 2,500 years. News of the conservation breakthrough at the Getty spread quickly and museum staff was dispatched around the world to make presentations.

These presentations, however, became more about self-promotion and less about sharing technology, and Yaghoubian writes about how he came face-to-face with the fiercely competitive, darker side of the art world. Credit for the groundbreaking technology was being taken on all sides and by people who knew nothing of the intricacies of the base isolation system. Yaghoubian decided to patent his invention, a decision designed to end misinformation.

Yaghoubian's story will resonate with many readers. The engineering aspects are detailed, informative and relevant, the history significant, and the immigrant experience universal. The story will also resonate with California readers, since so much of the Yaghoubian's work is

based in the Golden State and is related to earthquake engineering.

His personal life was not without its shakes. After his marriage ends, in another remarkable twist of fate, he runs into an Armenian friend he had not seen for over three decades. They marry soon after.

... *And Then I Met The Getty Kouros* is a compelling memoir presented in an open and factual manner. It is published by Quantech Press and is available for purchase on Amazon.

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Editor of

*A Legacy of
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Testimony to a People

The Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum



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RECIPES

Grilled Chicken and Bulgur Salad

By Christine Vartanian Datian

This main-course salad is similar to the Middle Eastern pita salad called fattoush and is especially crisp if you use thin pita chips rather than thick.

Ingredients

1/2 cup medium bulgur
1 boned, skinned chicken breast half (about 1 lb.), pounded until 1/2 in. thick
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil, divided
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
1/2 teaspoon pepper, divided
1/2 teaspoon paprika, divided
1 cup chopped romaine lettuce
1 cup baby spinach leaves
1 medium tomato, chopped
1/4 cup chopped flat-leaf parsley
1/4 cup chopped fresh mint leaves
1 cup halved and sliced English cucumber
1/2 cup kalamata olives
2 cups pita chips
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
4 ounces feta cheese, crumbled

Preparation

1. Put bulgur in a large bowl. Cover with 1 cup boiling water and let soak until water is absorbed, 20 to 30 minutes.
2. Heat grill to high (450° to 550°). Brush chicken with 1 tbsp. oil and sprinkle

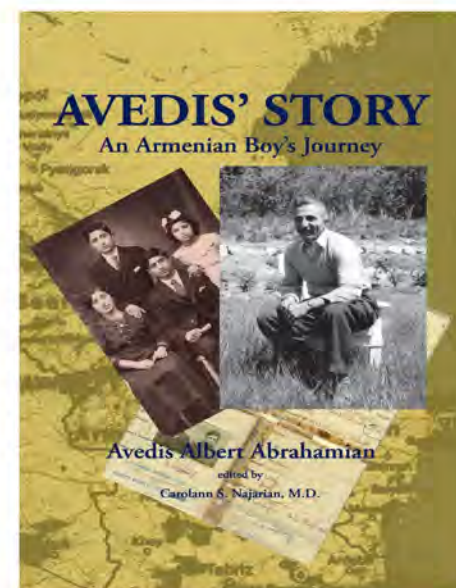
on both sides with half the salt, pepper and paprika. Grill, turning once, until cooked through, about 5 minutes; set aside.

3. Add remaining oil, salt, pepper, and paprika, plus all other ingredients except feta, to bowl of bulgur and toss to combine.

4. Slice chicken. Divide salad among 4 plates and top with chicken and feta.

(Christine Vartanian Datian is a resident of Las Vegas, Nevada, and is the daughter of Mrs. Alice Vartanian (formerly of Lowell, MA) and the late Mr. Arthur Vartanian of Fresno, California. Her latest recipe, "Grilled Chicken and Bulgur Salad," was featured in the June 2014 Sunset Magazine as the Editor's Selection and received a \$250 prize. She is a graduate of California State University Fresno (CSUF) and holds a Master of Arts (MA) Degree in News-Editorial Journalism. She has worked in Fresno, San Francisco, San Mateo, Reno and Las Vegas in advertising and marketing agencies and companies, and at Harrah's Corporate Advertising Department in Reno. She has had several recipes published in Sunset and Cooking Light Magazines over a decade; find her recipes at: <http://search.myrecipes.com/search.htm?Ntt=datian>)

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



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

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

St. Mary Armenian Apostolic Church, 4125 Fessenden St NW Washington DC 20016



ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 15 — AMAA-Haigazian University Celebratory Banquet in honor of Dr. Mihran Agbajian and George Phillips, Sr., Esq.; Saturday, November 15, Reception 6 p.m., Dinner 7 p.m., Beverly Hills Hotel, \$150; Information: Julie Aharonian 818-368-5266; Katia Kermoyan 818-242-5064.

ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 19 — "Hit The Road India" documentary will be screened, Friday, 6:30 p.m., at the Showplace Icon, 150 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago. The film follows two friends as they race from Mumbai to Chennai. This 12-day adventure encompasses over 2000 kilometers. This film recounts the challenges that the team faced racing through this foreign land. Monsoons, police detentions, vehicle crashes and the notorious Indian traffic are part of this epic adventure.

MASSACHUSETTS

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

SEPTEMBER 20 — Celebration of the New Independent Republic by the Lowell "Aharonian" Gomideh, 6 p.m., ARS Community Center, 142 Liberty St., Lowell. Dinner, program and entertainment by The Dynamic Duo featuring Greg Krikorian on oud & vocals and Michael Sabounjian on keyboard & vocals. "Why Western Armenia?" a visual presentation by Historian George Aghjayan following his recent 10-day pilgrimage to that region. Admission, \$20 adults, \$10 students.

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

SEPTEMBER 25 — Annual Fall Dinner and Drawing sponsored by the Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club, 6:30 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Open to all - join us for a delicious losh kebab and pilaf dinner, \$7.99 per person; tickets on sale at the door. Regular monthly raffle drawing at 8 p.m. "One-time" numbers will be sold on the night of dinner; special offer: purchase five "one-time" numbers for \$20, saving \$5. Chance to win a One-Year Club Membership for those attending the dinner. For further info, contact the church office, 617.354.0632.



The annual Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall, Boston, will take place on October 23 at 7:30 p.m. Titled "Truth to Action: Media Freedom-Protecting Human Rights Globally," it will feature Ray Suarez (above) of Al Jazeera America and Public Radio International, Stephen Kurkjian, retired, of the *Boston Globe*, and Thomas Mucha, editor of the *GlobalPost*. A reception will follow at the Millennium Bostonian Hotel.

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

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

OCTOBER 2 — St. Gregory Church Avak luncheon program, noon, 158 Main St., North Andover; speaker, Richard Berberian, 7th-generation gemologist, "A World That Glitters."

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

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

either John Arzigian, 603-560-3826; Lucy Sirmaian, 978-683-9121; Peter Gulezian, 978-375-1616, or Sandy Boroyan, 978-251-8687. No tickets sold at the door.

OCTOBER 23 — Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall, Boston. 7:30 p.m. Topic: Truth to Action: Media Freedom - Protecting Human Rights Globally. Introduction: Courtney Radsch, PhD, Advocacy Director, Committee to Protect Journalists. Speakers: Ray Suarez, Host, "Inside Story" on Al Jazeera America and "America Abroad" on Public Radio International; Stephen Kurkjian, founding member and former chief, Investigative Spotlight Team of the *Boston Globe* and editor of its Washington Bureau; and Thomas Mucha. Editor, *GlobalPost*. A reception follows at the Millennium Bostonian Hotel for all who attend the lecture to continue the discussion with the speakers and the lecture's leadership. Free and open to the public. An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway. www.ArmenianHeritagePark.org

OCTOBER 25 — Ararat Center Boston Harbor Cruise on the *Odyssey*, Boston, Rowe's Wharf. Embarkation 7 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres, dinner, live Kef, premium complimentary bar. Adults 21 and over - \$175; Under 21 - \$100; For more information contact Pam at 617-645-2781 or pantalmc@aol.com.

OCTOBER 25 — Fall Harvest Bazaar, First Armenian Church, 380 Concord Ave., Belmont, noon to 8 p.m. Handmade choreg, manti, Armenian pastries and more. Grilled kebab all day. Marketplace treasures. All are welcome, rain or shine. MBTA and handicapped accessible. Call 617-484-4779 or visit www.facbelmont.org/ for more info.

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

NOVEMBER 1 — Third annual Mer Doon Benefit Dance, in loving memory of Julie Ashekian, 8 p.m. Featuring Onnik Dinkjian, John Berberian and more. midnight dessert table. St. James Armenian Church Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown. Adults \$40 Students \$20. Please call Mark Kashgegian to reserve tables of 10 and purchase tickets at 617-256-5358.

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

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

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

Edmond Azadian Presents Book on Manoogian Museum

GLENDALE — Edmond Y. Azadian, advisor to the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum in Michigan, will present the recently published art album, *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures: Testimony to a People — The Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum*, on Wednesday, September 17, at 8 p.m., at Abril Bookstore, 415 E. Broadway.

Admission is free with reception to follow. Book will be introduced by Mihran Toumajan of Michigan.

The Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum in Michigan holds the largest and most representative gathering of Armenian art and artifacts outside Armenia, including illuminated manuscripts, early printed books, rugs and carpets, sacred vessels and vestments, textiles and embroidery,



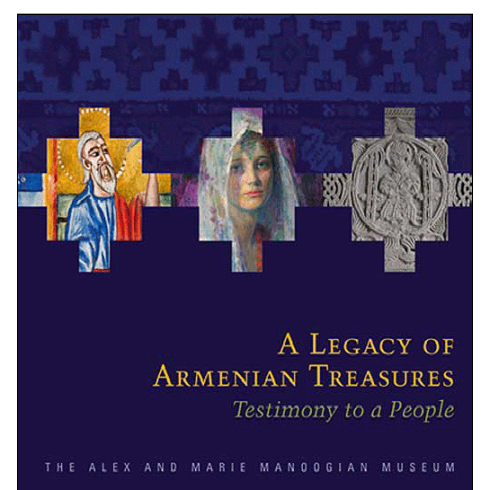
Edmond Azadian

Armenian art and artifacts shed light not only on the artistic significance of these objects but on their cultural context as well.

ceramics, metalwork, paintings, coins, and objects from the ancient kingdom of Urartu. *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures* features more than 160 of the museum's most vital and beautiful pieces, each reproduced in full color and accompanied by a detailed entry. Essays by nine scholars of

Azadian is the executive editor of the book as well as the advisor to the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum; advisor from the diaspora to the Ministry of Culture in Armenia; Republic of Armenia Academy of Sciences, Armenia; director of publications for the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* (also Senior Editorial Columnist). He has authored several books, including *Portraits and Profiles*, *Observations and Criticisms* [in Armenian] and *History on the Move*; he has edited more than 21 books and published more than 1,500 articles, book reviews and essays in daily newspapers and literary magazines.

His latest publication is dedicated to the famous Armenian poet, Vahan Tekeyan. The program is presented by Abril Bookstore.





COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

New Ottomanism on Track

By Edmond Y. Azadian

No matter how much journalists and scholars question and ridicule the Turkish leadership's dream to recreate the Ottoman Empire in the 21st century political realities, the newly appointed Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and his boss, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, seem to be determined and steadfast in their ambitious plan.

Mr. Davutoglu does not miss any opportunity to glorify the Ottoman Empire as a tolerant and benevolent ruler of other nations, without asking the opinion of the groups and nations who have suffered at the receiving end of that "benevolence."

After being elected president, Mr. Erdogan delivered a farewell speech as the retiring prime minister and extolled his party's achievements during the last 12 years of his Justice and Development Party (AKP) rule. He also outlined his plans for "the new Turkey," moving toward "holy conquest" which promises to bring more prosperity, piety and global influence.

In this scheme of things, Mr. Davutoglu has a pivotal role to play, although the Economist casts a shadow on Davutoglu's ambitions. In its August 31 issue, the London-based weekly writes, "The academic-turned-diplomat is criticized for the collapse of his 'zero-problem with neighbors' policy." Further down, the weekly continues, "Behul Ozkan, an academic who has studied Davutoglu, says he sees himself as 'infallible, as someone who is shaping history – but whose dreams of building a Sunni Muslim realm of Turkish influence spanning the Middle East and Balkans have proved empty.'"

Undeterred by all those criticisms, the Erdogan-Davutoglu team is continuing in its set course. Today, no political problem is resolved in the Balkans without Ankara's consent, participation or blessing. During his first trip as president to Baku, in a joint press conference with President Ilham Aliyev, Mr. Erdogan vowed that the political agenda in the Caucasus would be set by Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Indeed, to make strong political statements, President Erdogan made his first two visits to two potentially explosive regions, namely Azerbaijan and northern Cyprus – the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognized only by Turkey. He demonstrated his intransigence in Cyprus, thumbing his nose at world public opinion and international law, by perpetuating the 1974 occupation of 38 percent of Cypriot territory by Turkish forces. The recent rapprochement between Israel and Greece has hardened Turkish resolve even more and the Cypriot and Israeli deal to exploit the gas reserves in the Eastern Mediterranean has infuriated Mr. Erdogan to no end.

The Cypriot and Karabagh conflicts have many similarities, though they are not identical in nature. Yet Turkey applies two contradictory principals to the same problem; Mr. Erdogan defends the self-determination rights of Turks in Cyprus and denies the same for the people of Karabagh. The international community buys those policies and even tries to justify them.

Greece, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ally, and Cyprus, a European Union (EU) member, would have to wait for a very long time to see fellow NATO and EU members slap Turkey on the wrist, since the US secretaries of state and defense, John Kerry and Chuck Hagel, respectively, have just rushed to Ankara seeking Turkey's cooperation in defeating the Islamic State for Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), the terrorist group which continues beheading American journalists.

All this, despite knowing that ISIS was Turkey's creation. The terrorist organization's members were trained, armed and supplied by Turkey and allowed to cross into Syria and Iraq from the Turkish border. In fact, in Aleppo, Armenians have been at the receiving end of their firepower. After all the outrage that ISIS has caused, Turkey is still reluctant to join a coalition to stop the barbarism.

We read in a recent Reuter's article, "Turkey's dilemma illustrates the sort of challenge that Kerry faces pulling together an active coalition among states with very different interests and constraints in the region."

In the same article, Henri Barkey, a Lehigh University professor and former member of the State Department policy planning staff, predicts that "they will not allow the use of Incirlik [US air base] for lethal strikes."

The US and the West armed Turkey to such an extent that it boasts of having the strongest army in the NATO structure, after the US. It also helped Turkey to develop its economy, so that today Ankara can implement an independent policy, undermining its allies. It is because of unreliable partners like Turkey that the US is not able to develop a coherent policy to stop ISIS immediately.

President Obama's hesitation has given ammunition to his opponents and journalists to satirize his statement of "leading from behind" or "we have no strategy yet." However, that policy has a silver lining in engaging Iran in the fight. It so happens that the US and Iranian policies in destroying ISIS coincide, but in this case, my enemy's enemy still remains my enemy. The US is dragging Iran into the conflict to overstretch and exhaust its forces, since the latter is already heavily engaged in Syria.

It looks like Turkey will be the beneficiary of another political windfall, if we believe Armenia-based journalist Igor Muradian, who seems to have many intriguing political sources. In an article in *Iragir.am*, on September 4, titled "Turkey Isn't Asleep: Russia's Fragmentation Plan," he reports on a secret gathering in Ukraine: "In late August and early September, a conference with a strange agenda was organized in one of the beautiful towns of southern Ukraine. A large group of experts from Turkey, Azerbaijan, Tataria, Chuvashia, Gagauzia, Crimea and many other republics and communities from the Volga basin and North Caucasus were attending."

The agenda comprised US and NATO policy in the Black Sea region, the Crimean Tatar problem and the possibility of the fragmentation of the Russian Federation, giving rise to the emergence of independent and sovereign states on its territory.

If the collapse of the Soviet Empire was unthinkable and it happened, nothing can be ruled out in today's political climate. President Putin called the fall of the Soviet Union "the most catastrophic geostrategic tragedy of the 20th century."

The Soviet Union imploded because the system had itself sown the seeds of self-destruction. Of course, those factors were further activated under pressure from the empire's adversaries.

In case of the disintegration of the Russian Federation, there is a belt of Turkic nations extending from Azerbaijan to Central Asia, ready to form the new Ottoman Empire, a dream which Enver Pasha pursued, but did not see realized, as he was killed in Bukhara.

Today, with the Cold War winds blowing again, they may exacerbate the fault lines in the federation. Because of the falling birth rate, the number of Slavic people is shrinking and the Islamic groups are growing at a rapid rate. Mr. Putin can hardly keep the lid on smoldering tensions in Chechnya. It is believed that Chuvashia is becoming a restive region. Everybody witnessed that in Crimean referendum the most vocal ethnic group that voted against Ukraine's union with Russia was the Tatars. The Tatars have legitimate grievances, since they have ruled Crimea for many centuries, sometimes falling under Ottoman rule, which extended all the way to Crimea. Mr. Davutoglu publicly came to the Tatars' defense as former Ottoman subject/allies.

Two major wars were fought between the Russian and Ottoman empires in the 19th century. The Tatars even had a republic after the Soviet rule (1921-1944) until Stalin deported 238,500 Tatars to Central Asia because they had cooperated with the Nazis during the German occupation (1941-44) of Crimea. That elevated the Russian ethnic profile on the peninsula, until Sergey Khrushchev annexed the region of his native Ukraine in 1954 and Putin undid that annexation this year.

In addition to the restive Muslim groups within the Russian Federation, an uneasy cohabitation is manifest between Russia on one side and Kazakhstan and Belarus on the other side in the Customs' Union, which Mr. Putin is crafting, as a counterpart to the European Union.

Adding to the mix of these problems is the fact that Russia's Far East, with all its natural resources, is depopulated. This paves the way for Chinese settlers, whom China might one day defend, like Mr. Putin wishes to defend Russians living in Ukraine and "near abroad."

This is a pretty gloomy scenario, which is whetting the appetite of Mr. Erdogan, who was hailed recently in Azerbaijan as the "standard bearer of new Ottomanism."

As if Soviet domination over Armenia was not bad enough, now the specter of new Ottomanism looms on its border.

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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, 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

Foreign Minister's Excellent Commentary In Le Figaro, with Some Shortcomings

Even though it is not an easy task to unify Armenians around a common set of restitutive demands from Turkey, it is critical to do so on the eve of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide.

It is imperative that Armenians speak with one voice, telling the world what exactly they want from Turkey, because divergent demands would send a confusing message. Some Armenians would be satisfied with a simple acknowledgment of the Genocide and apology from the Turkish government. Others are after financial restitution, open borders, Black Sea access, and the return of Mount Ararat. Maximalists, including this author, demand everything that Armenians lost during the Genocide: restitution for the murders of 1.5 million Armenians, and recovery of their properties, bank accounts, churches, schools, cemeteries, and territories of Western Armenia. In previous columns, I have advocated the use of the general term – seeking justice – to summarize all Armenian demands from Turkey.

Being a “maximalist” implies not only reclaiming every-

thing Armenians lost during the Genocide, but also employing an optimum negotiating strategy. Why ask for the minimum and end up with even less? Wouldn't it be wiser to begin with maximal demands and strike the best possible bargain?

These were some of my thoughts as I read the well-written commentary of Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian, published in *Le Figaro* last week: “Turkey should reconcile with its own past.” He correctly labels as “fabricated” and “misleading” the recent use by President Erdogan and other Turkish officials of the terms ‘common pain’ and ‘just memory’ in reference to the Armenian Genocide. Nalbandian also rejects the Turkish proposal for a “commission of historians in order to find the truth” about the Armenian Genocide. Unfortunately, this sinister proposal was included in the Armenian-Turkish Protocols of 2009 which the Foreign Minister continues to support in his article. Furthermore, rather than simply castigating Turkey for denying the Armenian Genocide and seeking “reconciliation” through “recognition and condemnation of the Genocide,” the Foreign Minister should have asked for “justice” that encompasses all Armenian demands.

At the end of his in depth commentary, Nalbandian reminds *Le Figaro* readers that President Sargisian had invited President Erdogan “to visit Armenia on April 24, 2015, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. We hope it will not be a missed opportunity and Turkey's President will be in Yerevan on that day.”

Clearly, Armenia is trying to put the Turkish President in a difficult corner: he will either reject the invitation, making him look bad in the eyes of the world, or come to Armenia on April 24, 2015, and acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.

To pursue this clever scheme, the Foreign Minister of

Armenia took the unusual step of attending President Erdogan's August 28 inauguration to hand over President Sargisian's formal invitation. Nalbandian's Ankara visit came right after Erdogan insulted Armenians by complaining on Turkish television that some people called him Georgian, and “even worse, they called me an Armenian.”

I seriously doubt that Erdogan would show up in Yerevan on the Armenian Genocide Centennial. If he does not, Armenian officials would be elated that their ploy worked, making Erdogan look like an obstructionist. But, what if the Turkish President does come to Armenia on April 24, 2015? Erdogan may say and do a lot of outlandish things, but he is a wily politician who can easily evade the Armenian trap and turn the tables on his hosts. He could go to the Genocide Memorial Monument in Yerevan and announce that he has come to “share the pain” of all victims of World War I, including Turks and Armenians. That would be a great public relations coup for Erdogan!

Just last week, President Erdogan took a tough stand against Armenia during his visit to Azerbaijan. He told President Aliyev (for the thousandth time) that Turkey would not open its borders with Armenia until the latter withdraws from Karabagh (Artsakh). The newly-appointed Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu made similar harsh anti-Armenian remarks. In return, President Aliyev pledged to support Turkey in “exposing the fictional Armenian genocide.”

It is clear that Turkey and Azerbaijan are escalating their rhetoric and planning joint efforts against Armenia rather than looking for reconciliation. Under these circumstances, Armenia should take an equally tough stand against the two hostile Turkic states, starting with the immediate withdrawal of Armenia's signature from the Armenian-Turkish Protocols.

Turkey Should Reconcile with its Past

By Eduard Nalbandian

In international relations there are, unfortunately, cases of missed opportunities. The statement of Recep Tayyip Erdogan followed by the comments of other Turkish senior officials on the eve and after the commemoration of the 99th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide are such cases. The fabricated notions of “common pain,” “just memory” and the appeal to the Turks and Armenians to “follow Erdogan's lead” are misleading. Ahmet Davutoglu declares “that the main goal of Erdogan's statement is prevention of worldwide efforts of the Genocide recognition.” Instead of concrete steps towards reconciliation one can find calls to complicity. I mean complicity against the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

It is hard to find a nation nostalgic towards its centuries-old suppression in its ancestral homeland. Any oppressed nation cannot share the nostalgia towards the Ottoman Empire. Like other empires, the Ottoman Empire was built upon and forcefully sustained through suppression of the basic rights and freedoms of many of its citizens. Mr. Davutoglu's differentiation of the Western and Turkish perception of sufferings by Christians and Muslims is astonishing. The Armenian Genocide is not only part of Armenian or western memory and history, but also of the memory of the Muslim world. One of the earliest references to the Armenian Genocide belongs to Muslim witness Faye El Ghosein, who in 1916 published his work titled *The Massacres in Armenia*. Sharif and Emir of Mecca Husayn ibn Ali was one of the prominent Islamic leaders, who acted against the program of physical annihilation of the Armenians and called on his subjects to defend Armenians as they would defend themselves and their children. In 1919-1921 the large-scale extermination of Armenians were referred such Turkish public figures as Refi Cevat, Ahmet Refik Altinay. Many Muslim historians refer to the massacres of Armenians as genocide, while Arab historian Moussa Prince used the term “Armenocide,” considering it as “the most genocidal genocide.”

For the sake of “just memory” artificial political actions and calls are not needed, while those, who dare express their opinion freely are

killed like Hrant Dink, or exiled like Orhan Pamuk, or taken into custody, like Ragip Zarakolu. Davutoglu is playing the same old tune of founding a commission of historians “in order to find the truth.”

One of the most competent international institutions on genocide studies, the International Association of Genocide Scholars, in answer to the same proposal, made an appeal to the Turkish government to accept what had been proven long ago.

Instead of repeating decade-old re-worded or rephrased appeals we need genuine and concrete steps. Ratification of the Zurich Protocols, normalization of Armenian-Turkish relations, opening of the borders could pave the way to the difficult path of reconciliation between our peoples. The sub-commission on historical dimension, as envisaged by those Protocols, could implement a dialogue with the aim to restore mutual confidence between the two nations. It would be impossible to do by putting under question the reality of the Armenian Genocide.

Led by an apparent desire to deny the fact of the Genocide, as defined by the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, Erdogan's message yet again underlined that what happened in 1915 “was regardless of religion or ethnic origin.” It seems that the 1919 Turkish Military Tribunal's Indictment, which proved by undeniable facts that the deportations and large-scale massacres of the Armenians were a state policy, and sentenced its main masterminds to death, has been forgotten in Ankara. It seems that Rafael Lemkin's development of the concept of “genocide” has gone unnoticed in Ankara. I have to remind that 99 years ago on May 24, 1915, Russia, France and Great Britain issued a special declaration by which they warned the perpetrators of the atrocities against the Armenian people of their personal responsibility for “these new crimes of Turkey against humanity and civilization.”

It is beyond any doubt that the Armenian Genocide was organized with genocidal intent. Meanwhile an attempt is made by the Turkish officials to equate the losses of the war and the systematic annihilation of Armenians, as a result of which millions of my predecessors lost their lives, homes, lands, properties. There was an attempt to strip millions of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire of their right to life, as well as

their past – more than 2,000 cultural and religious monuments were destroyed and the survivors were driven off the lands they had inhabited for many centuries, before Turks came to this region. In 1915 one of the chief masterminds of the Armenian Genocide, then Interior Minister Mehmed Talaat Pasha confessed to Germany's Consul General that “there is no Armenian question, because there are no more Armenians.”

He was wrong, but the nature, magnitude and the consequences of that horrible crime are far beyond the definition of “suffering.”

In one of the interviews Erdogan rhetorically asked “if such a Genocide occurred would there have been any Armenians living in this country?” Today a large number of Jews live in Germany, but no one would dare put under question the reality of the Holocaust. Or, how can one speak of “relocation,” when 1.5 million of people died or were killed? Planned marches of people to the desert, starving them to death, killing most of them en route is not a relocation; it is a “death march;” it is a genocide.

The denial of the Genocide, the atmosphere of impunity, paved the way for the repetition of new crimes against humanity. Genocide denial is considered by scholars as the last phase of the crime of genocide. Even though there are still few who continue to deny, but this does not mean that there is a “dispute” about it. On the one hand, there is the fact of genocide that nobody doubts in the world, the pain of which every single Armenian family anywhere in the world bears until now, and on the other hand, there is an official and imposed denial of the genocide by the Turkish government. Turkey is in dispute with itself.

Is it possible to make the descendants of Genocide survivors, spread all over the world, a part of the complicity of Genocide denial? Is it possible to equate perpetrators and victims of genocide by such clichés as “common pain”? It is appalling to imagine that the perpetrators of Holocaust, of genocides in Cambodia, in Rwanda, and other crimes against humanity, can be equated with the victims. Is it even possible to consider genocide survivors' descendants as “Turkish diaspora,” which some Turkish politicians are trying to do today? As Rwandan Genocide survivor Esther Mujawayo recently mentioned at the UN Human Rights Council High Level Panel Discussion in Geneva

dedicated to the Genocide Prevention Convention, “Today is the fourth generation of Armenians who are still waiting.” Not only Armenians, the whole international community for almost 100 years has been waiting for Turkey to recognize the Armenian Genocide. The genuineness of the desire for reconciliation must be proven through recognition and condemnation of the Armenian Genocide. The Turkish government must not refrain from genuine reconciliation. Thousands of Turkish citizens have opted for that path already. Davutoglu mentions Armenian composer Komitas as an example of Armenians' creative activities in the Ottoman Empire. “Just memory” should have shed some light on the life of Komitas, who was a witness of the Genocide. He had seen all the sufferings, the horror that befell the Armenians and said that “nobody knows all the wounds of our tragedy... this distress will drive us mad!” And from 1916 onwards, for 20 years he spent his life in a psychiatric hospital.

On April 24, 2003 when we were unveiling the Komitas statue in Paris, I expressed hope that this memorial to the Armenian Genocide victims could symbolize the sufferings and memory of the victims of all genocides perpetrated in the 20th century, that it would become a mourning site for all those who consider tolerance and respect to human life and dignity as a continuous process, that there would bow not only the descendants of those who suffered physically and spiritually, but also the descendants of those who caused those sufferings. I believe that the route to reconciliation is not a path of denial, but that of conscious memory, because true reconciliation does not mean forgetting the past or feeding younger generations with the tales of denial. Turkey should reconcile with its own past to be able to build its future.

The President of Armenia has invited the Turkish President to visit Armenia on April 24, 2015, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. We hope it will not be a missed opportunity and Turkey's President will be in Yerevan on that day.

(This commentary by Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian originally appeared in *Le Figaro* newspaper in Paris on September 5.)



Near Turkish School, 10,000 Dead Armenians Are Still Ignored

By Chris Bohjalian

The three-story Yenikoy elementary school rises from a plateau like a mesa in south-central Turkey. It is the only building for miles, its exterior walls a pale yellow reminiscent of sweet corn. But the playground swings and slides beside it are a full-on rainbow of crayons: The bright blue of a cerulean sky. The crisp red of a fire engine. The orange of a traffic cone.

Surrounding the playground, however, is a black wrought-iron safety fence. Why? Because the school and playground sit at the edge of a ravine that is easily a hundred feet deep. At the bottom of the ravine is the Dudan Crevasse, a vertigo-inducing gash that plummets at least another 350 feet.

I have visited the area twice in the past two years. In May 2013, the first time I went, the school did not exist. By this August, it had sprouted from the earth like a dandelion.

When I returned to the ravine and saw the school, I was enraged. My anger was not driven by the idea that adults had built a playground beside a dangerous ravine or by the fact that the building despoils an otherwise pristine natural landscape – though both are true.

I was furious because that ravine is the final resting place for an estimated 10,000 of my

ancestors, the Armenians of Chunkush, which is the village beside Yenikoy. In the summer of 1915, Turkish gendarmes and a Kurdish killing party marched virtually all of the Armenians who lived in the area to the ravine. There they shot or bayoneted them and tossed the corpses into the crevasse.

Eventually, three out of every four Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire were systematically annihilated by their own government during the First World War: 1.5 million people.

Turkey has a long history of denying the Armenian genocide. But the figures don't lie. Outside of Istanbul, the nation was ethnically cleansed of its Armenian Christian minority. In 1914, according to the [Constantinople] Armenian Patriarchate's census figures, there were 124,000 Armenians in Diyarbakir province, which includes Yenikoy and Chunkush; by 1922, there were 3,000. Today there are but a handful, all descendants of the survivors who were raised as Muslims and sometimes referred to as "hidden."

There are no markers or memorials in Turkey that commemorate the myriad sites of the slaughter. (There are in Syria, then the edge of the empire, where many of the Armenians were killed.) Imagine Auschwitz without even a signpost; imagine Buchenwald without a plaque. It isn't easy for diasporan Armenians such as



Yenikoy elementary school, in south-central Turkey, sits above the Dudan Crevasse, where an estimated 10,000 Armenians were killed in 1915

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myself to find the sites in what once was our homeland.

But we do. There are plenty of eyewitness accounts; there are plenty of memoirs.

Some of us make pilgrimages to such places as the Dudan Crevasse to pay our respects to the dead. We visit the remnants and rubble of the churches that as recently as 99 years ago were active, vital and vibrant congregations. We bow our heads. We say a prayer. We gather the garbage that grows like moss beside the altars.

When my friends and I have asked the Kurdish villagers what they believe happened once upon a time at the Dudan Crevasse, usually their answers suggest a near-century of denial and obfuscation. Sometimes they tell you some people died there, but they don't know who or why. Sometimes they insist they know nothing. And once a pair of middle-school-age girls told a friend of mine, "Some Armenians fell in there."

There is the stone skeleton of a massive Armenian church in the village and the shell of an Armenian monastery on the outskirts. If you ask the locals where the 10,000 Armenians of Chunkush went, some will tell you with a straight face that they moved to the United States.

I do not know the thinking behind the placement of the Yenikoy elementary school. But I have my suspicions. I would not be surprised if next year when I visit, the crevasse has been filled in: the evidence of a crime of seismic magnitude forever buried.

The irony, however, is this: It will no longer take complex directions or GPS coordinates to find the 10,000 dead at Dudan. All you will need to tell someone is to visit the Yenikoy elementary school. Go stand by the playground. The dead are right there.

(Chris Bohjalian's most recent novel, *Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands*, was published this summer. This column originally appeared in the *Washington Post*.)

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