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World Chess Champs



The Armenian men's team at the podium in Istanbul

Armenia's Men's Team Wins World Chess Olympiad

ISTANBUL and YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Armenian chess players returned home to a hero's welcome after winning the 40th World Chess Olympiad in Istanbul, Turkey, on Sunday.

President Serge Sargsisian personally went to the airport on Monday to meet the chess players who won Armenia's third Olympic gold, matching the result so far achieved by only two nations in the world – the Soviet Union (which does not exist anymore) and its legal successor, Russia.

Speaking at a ceremony organized at his residence in honor of the team, Sargsisian said that this latest chess victory once again shows that while Armenians can be strong individually, they can also be strong as a team.

"This is a message to all of us as to how each of us should be working in their own place," said Sargsisian, who also heads the Armenian Chess Federation.

For their "brilliant victory" at the World Chess Olympiad and promoting the image of Armenia abroad, the five members of the team and its coach received awards from the president.

Armenia's coach Arshak Petrosyan and leading Grandmaster Levon Aronian were awarded with St. Mesrop Mashtots Orders, while Grandmasters Vladimir Akopian, Sergei Movsesian, Tigran Petrosian and Gabriel Sargsisian received Orders of Honor. A number of chess officials also received medals from the president for promoting the sport in Armenia.

In a short speech Aronian, speaking on behalf of the team, said they were humbled by the warm feelings towards them from the people and state officials and thanked the president personally for his support and promotion of chess.

see CHAMPS, page 2

AGBU Issues Urgent Appeal To Help the Armenian Community in Syria

NEW YORK – With the worsening political turmoil in Syria, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) has announced a major fundraising campaign to help the Armenian community there, including Aleppo, Damascus, Homs, Kamishli and Latakia, as well as other cities with Armenian populations. Months of fighting and instability have left an otherwise lively and prosperous community facing the loss of homes and businesses, with some even suffering personal injuries; fatalities have also been reported. Hundreds of Armenian families have been forced to relocate within Syria or to the neighboring countries and Armenia.

While already providing critical humanitarian assistance through its District Committee of Syria and its local chapters, AGBU now appeals to the greater Armenian Diaspora to help confront this increasingly dire situation. Given the urgent need for financial support, donations can be made immediately online, by telephone or by mail as outlined below.

"As AGBU has done numerous times during see SYRIA, page 7



Artsakh Can Feel Itself to Be Secure Only After It Is Independent:

Ara Abrahamyan Proposes Concrete Steps

MOSCOW (Azg) – After the extradition and heroization of the Azerbaijani murderer, a flood of opinions started as to how Armenia's government, the Armenians of the diaspora and all Armenians of the world must behave. Azg's interview with the president of the Union of Armenians of Russia (UAR) and the World Armenian Congress (WAC), Ara Abrahamyan, addresses these issues. The interview took place Saturday, September 8.

Azg: Mr. Abrahamyan, what will be the steps of the Union of Armenians of Russia [UAR]? What do you plan, since the Armenians formed the largest community [of the diaspora] in Russia and in this sense a substantial portion of the work must be realized in general by the Armenians of Russia? What proposals does the UAR have?

Ara Abrahamyan: Several days ago the Union of Armenians of Russia held consultations in which Armenia's Ambassador Oleg Esayan, clerical leader Ezras Srpazan see ABRAHAMYAN, page 16

Sen. Kerry 'Shocked and Appalled' at Release of Azeri Axe Murderer Safarov

WASHINGTON – Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman John Kerry (D-MA) last week condemned President Ilham Aliyev's release of Ramil Safarov, the Azerbaijani army lieutenant who was convicted of brutally axing to death Armenian soldier Gurgen Markarian in his sleep, during a 2004 NATO English-language training course. see KERRY, page 5



John Kerry

NEWS IN BRIEF

2,000 Flock to Mass in Restored Church

ANKARA (AFP) – Around 2,000 Armenians from Turkey and the diaspora flocked to a recently-restored ancient church on the isle of Akhtamar on Lake Van, to the 10th-century Church of the Holy Cross, Anatolia news agency said.

Turkish authorities restored the church between 2005 and 2007, which then opened as a museum. Mass was celebrated there for the first time in 95 years in 2010.

According to the Turkish tourism ministry, the church attracted nearly 30,000 visitors in 2010, and similar number in 2011.

Archbishop Aram Atessian, the acting Armenian patriarch, presided over this year's mass, attended by 2,000 parishioners, of whom only a few dozen were able to watch inside the church, the rest following proceedings from outside.

The congregation prayed for peace at a time when Turkey's neighbor, Syria, which also has a large community of Armenians, is being torn apart.

The church is one of the rare surviving indicators of the large Armenian presence in Turkey under Ottoman rule, before the Armenian Genocide wiped out the population.

Iraq to Open Embassy In Armenia

BAGHDAD (Zawya.com) – The Iraqi government is planning to open its embassy in Armenia in the near future, it was announced this week. The decision for the opening of the embassy came in an official visit by an Iraqi delegation headed by Deputy Iraqi Prime Minister Rozh Nouri Shawais and included several ministers among them Trade Minister Khairullah Hassan.

"Both Iraq and Armenia agreed on opening the Iraqi embassy in Armenia soon. Also, the Iraqi government asked the Iraqi Foreign Ministry to take steps for the opening," Hassan told AKnews.

Armenia opened an embassy in Iraq recently.

The Iraqi delegation met with Armenia's top officials including the vice president and prime minister, as well as trade, industry, agriculture, health and human rights ministers.

Armenia Hosts Luxembourg FM

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenia's President Serge Sargsisian received the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister of Luxembourg Jean Asselborn during his official visit in Armenia, on September 11.

The two discussed not only the development of bilateral relations between the two countries, but also the development of relations in the framework of European institutions.

The two spoke about the settlement of the Artsakh (Nagorno Karabagh) issue, as well as regional issues.

INSIDE

Iraqi Primate

Page 4

INDEX

Arts and Living	10
Armenia	2
Community News	4
Editorial	14
International	3



ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Son of Republican MP Interrogated in Beating Case

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – Makar Petrosyan, the son of the Republican Member of Parliament Aleksan Petrosyan, was summoned to the police station on September 10 to be interrogated in the case of a beating of an election agent for a candidate running in the local elections in a village.

Arman Sargisian, the election agent of Varuzhan Vardanyan, one of the candidates, was hospitalized following the September 9 scuffle in Bambakashat, in Armavir Province, where the residents were electing members of the local council. According to the media reports, Sargisian was beaten by Makar Petrosyan and his friends.

Petrosyan denied the charges, saying he was brought up knowing that he could not solve his problems through violence.

Armenia's Deputy PM Meets with Iraqi Counterpart

YEREVAN (News.am) – Armenian Deputy Prime Minister and Territorial Administration Minister Armen Gevorgyan last week received a delegation led by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Rose Nuri Shaways.

Gevorgyan underscored the Iraqi delegation's visit to Armenia, in terms of enhancing bilateral relations and deepening ties, the Territorial Administration Ministry Public Relations Department reported.

The minister noted that Armenia stands ready to cooperate with Iraq in all domains. He expressed a hope that the guests would be able to get familiar with Armenia's production capacity and outline the directions for interaction.

Shaways added that his country attaches a great importance to deepening ties with Armenia, and said that his delegation also comprises ministers representing the infrastructural domains. The Iraqi side deemed especially interested in the possible cooperation in the energy, investment, healthcare, science and education sectors. Also, the visitor spoke about Iraq's plan to open an embassy in Armenia.

Argentina's Foreign Minister Visits Armenia

YEREVAN (PanArmenian.net) – Argentina's Foreign Minister Héctor Marcos Timerman arrived in Armenia on Monday, September 3 at the invitation of Armenian Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian.

According to the Armenian Foreign Ministry's press office, Timerman is expected to meet with Armenian President Serge Sargisian, Prime Minister Tigran Sargisian and Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II.

A meeting with Nalbandian was followed by a joint press conference.

Timerman was also scheduled to visit the Armenian Genocide Memorial.

Armenia, S. Africa to Cooperate in Diamonds, Wine and Tourism

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The newly-appointed South African ambassador to Armenia Stanley Chupu Matabata visited Armenia's Chamber of Commerce and Industry to familiarize himself with the country's legal and economic sectors.

As he noted, despite growing trade and economic ties between the two countries, there is still much room to grow.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO Araik Vardanyan suggested organizing business forums and exhibits in Armenia and South Africa, with cooperation sectors including diamond processing, wine-making and tourism.

Armenia Men's Chess Team Wins World Championship

CHAMPS, from page 1

Sargisian replied, "The best way for you to thank me will be winning the world champion's title."

Aronian, who is currently ranked second in the world by the World Chess Federation (FIDE), will engage in an eight-man tournament in London next March to determine the challenger of the reigning World Chess Champion from India, Viswanathan Anand, in the match for the chess crown later in 2013.

About 150 nations competed in the championship in Turkey. The organizers of the 40th World Chess Olympiad raised the Armenian flag and played the Armenian anthem as the Armenian men's team stood on the podium having accepted the trophy from FIDE President Kirlan Ilyumzhinov.

This is the third Olympic win for Armenia that first won the Olympic gold in Turin, Italy, in 2006 and then repeated the success two years later in Dresden, Germany.

The tournament in Istanbul began



Grandmasters Levon Aronian, left, and Garbriel Sargisian

well for the Armenian team as Aronian and his teammates gained five victories in the first five rounds of the tournament. Days 6 and 7 proved the toughest for the team as they first had to work

hard to achieve a draw against the strong Russian quartet and then dropped the match against China. Those eventually proved the only points missed during the whole Olympiad. Having beaten Hungary in the 11th and final round of the competition Armenia gained 19 points (same as Russia) and was declared the winner due to having better additional performance showings than the Russians.

Aronian and Akopian also took gold and silver medals, respectively, for their individual performances on boards #1 and #3.

Aronian shared his joy with fans through his Twitter account.

"We won the Olympiad !! So proud to be a part of a team like this! Hurray hurray hurray! Armenia rules !!!!!" Aronian wrote.

The Armenian women's chess team, meanwhile, finished sixth among 126 nations. They placed 11th at the Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, two years ago.



Armenia's President Serge Sargisian – also the head of the country's chess federation – applauds Armenia's victorious chess team, whose members were draped in Armenian flags, upon arriving in Armenia.

Hovannisian Sets Stage for Presidential Bid

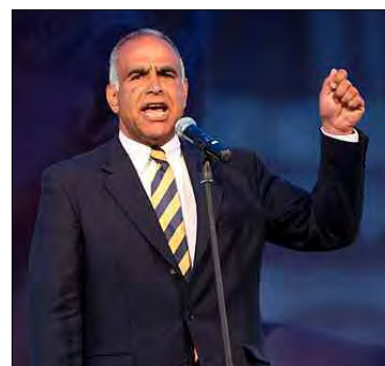
By Gohar Abrahamyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Armenia's political lineup in the run-up to next year's presidential election has got a bit less vague on Monday as the leader of one of the opposition parties moved to give up his seat in the National Assembly with an apparent intention to join the fray.

Raffi Hovannisian, the founder and current leader of the Heritage Party, did not qualify to run for president during the 2003 election due to his failure to meet the 10-year citizenship requirement. Five years later, in the 2008 presidential race, the US-born former foreign minister of Armenia decided to support the candidacy of Levon Ter-Petrosian, the former president who was making a political comeback. Now it appears Hovannisian is set to stand for the top post himself.

It has been Heritage's long-advocated position that Armenia needs a new leadership and political environment that would not be centered around the current president, Serge Sargisian, or his two predecessors, Ter-Petrosian and Robert Kocharian.

Heritage parliamentary faction head Ruben Hakobyan said on Monday that the previous day the party's board had endorsed Hovannisian's intention to give up his parliamentary mandate.



Raffi Hovannisian

Unless Hovannisian withdraws his resignation in the next 15 days, it will be considered granted.

It is not the first time that Hovannisian attempted to give up his seat in the legislature. In 2009 he tendered a letter of resignation only to take it back a few days later.

Speaking to media on Monday Deputy Parliament Speaker Eduard Sharmazanov, of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia (RPA), said with irony that they have already got used to Hovannisian's "manner of action" in the last several years.

"I certainly did not expect him to do that, but still it wasn't a surprise to me," said Sharmazanov.

RPA deputy chairman and head of the party's parliamentary faction, Galust Sahakyan, meanwhile, said he

was "sorry" about the decision.

"After all, one must respect people's vote. If he is to run for president, the National Assembly would be the best place for him to show his value," said Sahakyan.

Meanwhile, Heritage spokesman Hovsep Khurshudyan said that Hovannisian's presence in parliament would only obstruct his participation in the upcoming presidential race, as "there are a lot of organizational issues [to take care of] before the elections."

Political analyst Yervand Bozoyan, meanwhile, said he believes that the Heritage leader's step is a matter of personal psychology and will not change political developments.

"By this step Hovannisian is trying to change his position, classifying himself among other potential presidential candidates, such as Robert Kocharian and Levon Ter-Petrosian, who also had opportunities to enter the parliament, but chose not to do that. In other words, he is trying to show that if you are a serious figure, you should not be in parliament," Bozoyan said.

According to Khurshudyan, it has not yet been decided who will be the one picking up Hovannisian's mandate. At the same time, there is no movement in the Heritage proportional ticket yet, with the next candidate in line being International Center for Human Development NGO Executive Director Tevan Poghosyan.



INTERNATIONAL

Aleppo Armenian Organizations Provide \$35 Care Packages to the Needy; Is It Enough?

By Vahakn Keshishian

ALEPPO, Syria (Hetq) – Amidst the tumult in Syria, particularly Aleppo, a number of Armenian organizations are working to meet the daily basic needs of hundreds of needy Armenians.

Alongside the activities of the Central Council, a sort of coordinating umbrella structure, the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) is also carrying out charitable work.

Families in need come to the office and fill out a detailed questionnaire in order to receive assistance. The care package they are given includes sugar, wheat, oil and canned meat – about \$35 worth of goods.

In these troubled times, I was encouraged to see the flurry of work being carried out by members and administration of the AGBU and the Armenian Youth Association. The young scouts were loading cars full of provisions for delivery to needy families.

I asked those responsible if they would be continuing their work if the situation on the ground got worse.

“The care package they are given includes sugar, wheat, oil and canned meat – about \$35 worth of goods.”

- The AGBU will always be ready to assist our compatriots, was the answer.

- What about assisting Arabs?

- If they ask for our help, yes.

Today, there are hundreds of families in Aleppo receiving such help, and the number can easily double. Other organizations are assisting a similar number of families.

Many are in need because they no longer work. Others are not getting paid.

One week later, the number of people receiving aid from the Central Assistance Council had surpassed 900. Add this to the 700 receiving assistance from the AGBU and one can get a picture of the worsening situation.

Assistance is also being provided by the Armenian Catholic Benevolent Committee and that of the Armenian Protestant community.

It should be noted that the funds collected by the Central Committee were earmarked to be spent in case the situation reached emergency proportions. That is to say if a portion of Armenians were forced to leave their homes and seek

refuge in Armenian schools, churches and clubs.

In reality, the funds invested by Armenian organizations is a drop in the bucket – some \$500-\$600,000.

Leaked Foreign Affairs Report Suggests Azeri President Misled Hungary

BUDAPEST (Arminfo) – A classified document issued by the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (MKI), leaked by the news website nol.hu on Friday, September 7, indicates that Hungarian authorities were misled by Azerbaijan in connection with the handover of the Azeri officer who killed an

Armenian officer in Hungary eight years ago.

The document stated that Prime Minister Viktor Orban had met Azeri President Ilham Aliyev to discuss the repatriation of the prisoner. The president had promised him that Ramil Safarov, who had been sentenced to life in prison, would be kept behind bars upon his return to his native land. Instead, Safarov was pardoned and released on arrival to his homeland. Hungary condemned the release two days later, but Armenia nevertheless suspended diplomatic relations with Hungary over the case.

The MKI report concluded that Hungary had been misled by the Azeri president, nol.hu reported, citing a copy of the document. It added that Hungary was surprised by Safarov's release and needed 24 hours to formulate an official government position on the matter. The report added that Azerbaijan had tried to give the false impression there had

been an agreement with Hungary on Safarov's release. "Azerbaijan is much more important to Hungary at the moment than vice versa," the report said, adding that for this reason Budapest would not openly say that the Azeri president had misled Orban.

The MKI suggested that Hungary should pursue a communications strategy, which made it plain that the release had been made without Hungary's consent. "We must speak of a misunderstanding," the report said. The report said it was clear that relations between Hungary and Armenia would be icy for a period of time but it added that in the medium-term relations could be revived through hard work.

The MKI's head, Botond Zakonyi, said the leaking of the document, which analyzed the diplomatic situation, had been "unfortunate." The institute, a government agency for foreign affairs, regularly issues such reports on key affairs of Hungarian diplomacy, he added.

Armenian Love Story Features Georgian Co-Star

TBILISI (The Messenger) – Tbilisi will have a premier of a new Armenian movie, titled "100, 000 Seconds," directed by Ara Arnjakian. The film will star Armenian actress Luiza Nersisyan and Georgian actor David Katsarava.

The movie premiere was held last week and it is currently being shown in Georgian cinemas. "The film is very emotional and pleasant to watch," Katsarava said.

Arnjakian said Katsarava was the only one who could capture the role. "As soon as I saw David, I understood that he was the right man for the film," he said, adding, "I hope the Georgian public will like it and visit the cinemas to see it."

According to Nersisyan, it was a great experience to work with Katsarava. "He is an excellent partner and we did not have any difficulties to work together," she said. The film begins with a simple story where a man and a woman meet by chance and a love story develops, although the plot develops very surprisingly."

The soundtrack was written and performed by Haiko and Anahit Shahbazyan.

Before being screened in Tbilisi, the film was shown in Yerevan and in Los Angeles.

Suspected Leftist Suicide Bomber Kills One in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (Reuters) – A suicide bomber thought to be from a leftist militant group threw a grenade into a police station last week then blew himself up, killing a police officer and wounding at least seven other people.

The Revolutionary People's Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C), which has been blamed for at least one previous suicide attack in Turkey's largest city, said, in a statement, that one of its members had carried out the attack in the suburb of Sultangazi.

It was not immediately possible to verify the statement, which was published on a website close to the group, but a high-ranking security officer said the security services also believed the DHKP/C was responsible.

"First (the attacker) threw a grenade, then he blew himself up at the entrance of the police station, where the X-ray

machines are located," Istanbul Police Chief Huseyin Capkin told reporters at the scene.

"The policeman working at the entrance was killed. Another four personnel were wounded, as well as three others who are civilians," he said, adding that the attacker was aged 25 but declined to comment further on his identity.

The DHKP/C, founded in 1978, wants to set up a socialist state in Turkey and is vehemently opposed to the existing establishment and to the United States, according to the US National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC).

The group, deemed a terrorist organization by both the United States and Turkey, was blamed for a suicide attack in 2001 that killed two police officers and a tourist in Istanbul's central Taksim Square.

International News

Iraqi Oil Exports to Turkey Halted Due to Pipeline Fire

BAGHDAD (PanARMENIAN.Net) – A fire on a pipeline carrying about a quarter of Iraq's oil exports forced the closure of the link on Monday, August 27, and halted loading at Turkey's Ceyhan export terminal, security and shipping, sources said.

The cause of the fire on the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline in Turkey's Sirnak province near the Iraqi border was not immediately known, but authorities suspected sabotage, security sources said.

The fire was extinguished and workers tried to cool the pipeline, a 600-mile-long double link.

Turkish energy officials in Ankara confirmed oil flows were still suspended and said it was not immediately clear how long repairs would take.

An Iraqi Oil Ministry spokesman said Iraq had halted exports due to the fire, which broke out at 12:35 a.m., and that it expected Turkey to open the link's second pipe to resume exports, Reuters reported.

The pipeline, which last month exported 300,000 barrels of oil a day, is frequently shut due to sabotage. Most recently, a fire closed it on August 6.

Azeri Organ Trafficking Scandal Grows

BAKU (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The Azeri newspaper Zerkalo has released statement by the mother of Azeri soldier Irada Mamedova.

According to Mamedova, the body of her son, whom the authorities claimed committed suicide, was brought to her by a civilian who demanded that he be buried at once.

Having learnt the news on trafficking of organs removed from dead soldiers, Mamedova demanded to exhume the remains of her son.

As it was discovered during an autopsy, Ismail's heart and liver were removed from his body.

"Further, the investigator was trying to persuade me that Ismail's missing organs simply decayed. My son's military unit commandment offered to pay me not to speak at news conference, which I didn't agree to," Mamedova said.

The story about the trafficking of organs of dead soldiers broke in early August, when Azeri media released a statement by a soldier's mother, suggesting the organs of her son and his seven co-servicemen were sold abroad.

Concert Held in Diyarbakir's Saint Giragos Church

DIYARBAKIR (News.am) – Ninety-seven years after the Armenian Genocide, a concert was again held in Saint Giragos Armenian Church, which is the largest Armenian Church in the Middle East.

Istanbul-Armenian pianist Raffi Bedrosyan, who now lives in Canada, performed at the church.

The event brought together close to 80 American-Armenians, led by Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of Armenian Church of America (Eastern), Istanbul Armenians, headed by Archbishop Aram Ateshyan, the Armenian deputy patriarch of Constantinople, a small group of Armenians from Armenia, Mayor Osman Baydemir of Diyarbakir, Turkish Member of Parliament Altan Tan and other officials.

In his welcoming remarks, Baydemir addressed the Armenians who had arrived in Diyarbakir and noted that this city belongs to the Muslims and the Armenians alike. He once again called upon the heirs of those Armenians who had left Diyarbakir to return to their lands.

In his remarks, Bedrosyan recalled that monthly concerts were held at Saint Giragos until 1915, and on that year Diyarbakir's then-provincial governor had also stolen the church's piano and taken it to his home.

Renovations at Saint Giragos Armenian Church had finished last year, but the entire work is expected to be finished by the end of the year. A mass will be celebrated on November 4 to mark the completion of the work.

Community News

Washington, DC, Parish Celebrates Renovation of Sanctuary

WASHINGTON – Parishioners of St. Mary Church welcomed Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), as they celebrated the completion of interior renovations at the church last Sunday.

Barsamian celebrated the Divine Liturgy and consecrated the church's newly-renovated altars on Sunday, September 2.

"The St. Mary Church of Washington has had a long history of faithful, devoted service," said the Primate. "As the church approaches 80 years, how wonderful it is to see the parishioners tending to it, beautifying it with such love and hope for the future."

The renovation of the main altar was made possible thanks to the generosity of parishioners, Jirair and Anahit Nishanian.

The two smaller altars were underwritten by the George family and by Sami and Annie Totah.

Other parishioners contributed funds for window enhancements and the renovation of the church floor, ceiling, pews and candle room. New icons were also hung in the sanctuary.

Following services, the community gathered in the church hall for a reception. The Nishanians cut the celebratory cake and the



Jirair and Anahit Nishanian cut the celebratory cake at the reception following services, with Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan (left) and Archbishop Khajag Barsamian looking on.

entire parish celebrated the opening of the renovated sanctuary.

Joining the parish on this occasion were Ambassador Tatoul Markarian, Armenia's ambassador to the United States; Robert Avetisyan, permanent representative of Nagorno-Karabagh to the United States; Col. Mesrop Nazarian, Armenia's defense attaché in Washington, and other embassy staff.

Rev. Hovsep Karapetyan, parish pastor, said that the second phase of renovations will involve exterior work, including the building of a new bell tower at the entrance and the installation of a new door being crafted in Armenia.

The parish plans to complete the project by early December, when the community will mark the 80th anniversary of the consecration of St. Mary Church. A banquet and program are scheduled for the weekend of December 8-9.



A young parishioner kisses the cross during the procession at St. Mary Church on Sunday, September 2.



Archbishop Avak Asadourian of Iraq

Iraq's Armenian Primate Visits US

NEW YORK – He takes care of his flock in one of the most dangerous countries in the world, where dozens are killed daily. Archbishop Avak Asadourian who has been the Primate of the Armenian Diocese of Iraq for the past 33 years, during some of its most traumatic periods, is considered a hero among his people. He is currently visiting the United States for a special celebration to be accorded him by the large Iraqi-Armenian community in Glendale on September 16, in honor of his 35 years as a clerical leader. On this trip, the Primate also visited the St. Vladimir's and St. Nersess' Seminaries in New York from which he graduated in 1976.

During an exclusive interview, the Primate spoke about the insecure condition of the Armenian and Christian communities since the time of the Iran-Iraq war, which started in 1980, and the "ill-conceived war perpetrated by the NATO coalition against Iraq" in 2003, "reportedly for the purposes of bringing democracy. I have seen this kind of democracy," he stated, "which has caused the demise of Christianity in its Eastern manifestations. This is very sad, and I don't think it can be revived. Now Christians are leaving and going mainly to the West. Iraq which had been a country very tolerant to Christianity and whose people were highly educated with doctors, engineers, educators, craftsmen, is now suffering from a Brain Drain. And Arab countries are in an upheaval called a 'Spring.' This is part and parcel of the *Game of Nations*," he said with irony, referring to the best-selling book of that title which was published in 1970.

The once-vibrant Armenian community in Iraq numbered at around 35,000, but has now been reduced to 10,000. Due to the absence of security, Christians are targeted and are migrating both outside and inside Iraq. Many have relocated to the Kurdish autonomous region and its capital, Erbil, which is safer, and where an Armenian church is now being built. There are 13 other Armenian churches in Iraq, four in Baghdad, two in both Basra and Mosul, one in Kirkuk and four in other areas.

Armenians have a very deep history in Iraq. Since 1222, there has been an Armenian church in Basra, one in Mosul since 1375, and another in Baghdad established in 1639. The Primate noted that in 1639, one of the important generals of the Ottoman army, Kevork Nazaretian, who demolished the gates of Baghdad to allow the Ottoman army to capture Baghdad, was granted his wish by the Sultan – two pieces of land, one for a church and another for a cemetery. Into this church named St. Asdevadzadzin (St. Mary) were brought the bones of the Forty Martyrs of Sebastia. In 1968, this church was demolished due to its

see VISIT, page 5

Ambassador Edward Djerejian to Speak at Najarian-Endowed Lecture On Human Rights

BOSTON – The third annual K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, MD Endowed Lecture on Human Rights will be held on Thursday, October 25, at 7 p.m. at Faneuil Hall.

Free and open to the public, the lecture is an endowed public program of the Armenian Heritage Foundation, sponsor of the Armenian Heritage Park on Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway.

In celebration of the opening of the Armenian Heritage Park and a central theme of the Greenway – the immigrant experience – it is fitting that this year's speaker is Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian, founding director of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy and former US ambassador to Israel and Syria.

A first generation Armenian-American and the son of survivors of the Armenian Genocide, Djerejian is an example of the kind of achievement, leadership, public service and commitment to human rights that this endowed lecture series celebrates in this inaugural year of the park. Djerejian has also worked to assist Armenia and Artsakh in their transition to democracy and peace.

Djerejian served in the US Foreign Service under eight presidents, from John F. Kennedy to William J. Clinton (1962-1994). Prior to his nomination by Clinton as US Ambassador to Israel (1993-1994), he was assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs in both the George H.W. Bush and Clinton administrations (1991-1993). He was the US ambassador to Syria (1988-1991) and also served as special assistant to President



Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian

Ronald Reagan and deputy press secretary for foreign affairs in the White House (1985-1986). After his retirement from government service in 1994, he became the founding director of the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University.

His book, *Danger and Opportunity: An American Ambassador's Journey Through the Middle East*, was published by Simon & Schuster in 2008. He has been awarded the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the Department of State's Distinguished Honor Award and numerous other honors, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Anti-Defamation League's Moral Statesman Award. He is also a recipient of the Association of Rice Alumni's Gold Medal, the group's most prestigious award, for his service to Rice University.

In 2011, Djerejian was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and named to the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation of New York by its president, Dr. Vartan B. Gregorian.

"We are honored and pleased that the ambassador has accepted our invitation to speak in this inaugural year of Armenian Heritage Park," commented Dr. Carolann S. Najarian who with her husband, George, has endowed this lecture series in honor of Carolann Najarian's father, Avedis Abrahamian.

The lecture series has been inspired by the New England women and men – intellectuals, politicians, diplomats, religious leaders and ordinary citizens – who, beginning in the 1890s at Faneuil Hall, heard the eyewitness accounts of the atrocities taking place against the Armenian minority of the Ottoman Empire during World War I and were called to action. Distinguished Bostonians, among them Julia Ward Howe, Clara Barton, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Alice Stone Blackwell, heard these accounts and were moved to assist the

see LECTURE, page 7



COMMUNITY NEWS

Sen. Kerry 'Shocked and Appalled' at Release of Azeri Axe Murderer Safarov

KERRY, from page 1

"I am shocked and appalled that Azerbaijan not only welcomed Safarov home, but pardoned, promoted and treated him as a hero," noted Kerry, in a statement. "This needlessly provocative act endangers the fragile peace between these countries and damages the government of Azerbaijan's credibility."

Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Eastern Region Executive Director Michelle Hagopian welcomed Kerry's statement, noting "We join with Armenian Americans from throughout the Commonwealth in welcoming Senator Kerry's condemnation of Azerbaijan's pardon of convicted axe-murderer Ramil Safarov. We thank the senator for his principled stand against this injustice, and urge him and his legislative colleagues, in the interest of peace, to act now to cut off all US military aid, sales or transfers to Azerbaijan."

Kerry echoes statements issued by a number of US representatives this week decrying Azerbaijan's release and subsequent glorification of Safarov.

House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Democrat Henry Waxman (D-CA) noted that he is "deeply disturbed by the president of Azerbaijan's decision to pardon Ramil Safarov, an Azerbaijani military lieutenant who gruesomely murdered Armenian Lt. Gurgen Markarian while the two soldiers were participating in the 2004 NATO Partnership for Peace program in Hungary. It is an appalling demonstration of the Azerbaijani government's continued refusal to reconcile with Armenia and its unwillingness to uphold the rule of law."

House Foreign Affairs Committee Ranking Democrat Howard Berman (D-CA) called Safarov's release "contemptible," noting, "that Safarov in a premeditated fashion killed Markarian at a NATO Partnership for Peace event underscores the cynical brutality of his act. For the Hungarian government to have demonstrated leniency in this matter is of grave concern... The Azerbaijani government's decision to free Safarov is contemptible and a serious blow to hopes for Armenian-Azerbaijani peace."

Central California Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA) told *The Fresno Bee* that "This injustice of international law committed by the government of Azerbaijan is an outrage, plain and simple." In a longer statement issued to his constituents, he noted that "We in the United States stand firm with our friends in Armenia during these

trying times because of our steadfast commitment to justice, peace and mutual respect. The actions of the Azeri government stand in stark contrast to these values and underline the need for the US government to strongly support Armenia and its people."

Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA), one of two members of Congress of Armenian origin, called for the immediate reincarceration of Safarov. "Safarov's release dangerously undermines the rule of law and peace throughout the region. The Azerbaijani government should immediately reverse its decision to pardon Safarov."

Earlier, Congressional Armenian Genocide Resolution architect Adam Schiff (D-CA) commented that "Hungary, where Safarov was supposed to be serving a life sentence, and Azerbaijan owe the international community an explanation for this terrible subversion of justice. This is an appalling result in the case of a confessed killer."

The Armenian Assembly of America released

a statement similarly commending the administration and members of Congress for their initial statements in reaction to the news.

The National Security Council issued a statement last Friday highlighting President Barack Obama's deep concerns and noting that "this action is contrary to ongoing efforts to reduce regional tensions and promote reconciliation." The State Department also issued a statement, which read in part: "The United States is extremely troubled by the news that the president of Azerbaijan pardoned Azerbaijani army officer Ramil Safarov, who returned to Baku today following his transfer from Hungary."

The Assembly in a statement said its leadership is troubled by reports that Azerbaijan used its financial resources and Turkish influence to secure the repatriation of Safarov, and moreover, that Safarov was reinstated and promoted in the military.

Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA), a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, stated in part: "The convicted criminal was wrongfully

and unjustly pardoned and set free by Azerbaijan's president immediately after arriving in Azerbaijan. I stand by our friend and ally Armenia in her ongoing quest for peace and security for her citizens. I call on the Azeri government to bring this individual to justice instead of freeing a convicted criminal. Baku's actions demonstrate a stubborn refusal to avoid threats against its neighbor."

"The Assembly condemns Azerbaijan's pardon of Ramil Safarov in the strongest possible terms," stated Assembly Executive Director Bryan Ardouny.

"We also appreciate the initial statements issued by the administration, State Department and members of Congress. President Ilham Aliyev's actions are consistent with the pattern of rhetoric with which he continues to threaten war against Armenians. This latest escalation only underscores the need to guarantee the safety and security of Armenian people in Nagorno Karabagh and Armenia," added Ardouny.

Iraq's Armenian Primate Visits US

VISIT, from page 4

dilapidated condition and rebuilt along the same dimensions and in the same location by a benefactor.

"It is called a church of miracles for granting wishes, and is visited by many people, especially Muslims," he noted.

The Iraqi government, after 2003, communicated to Asadourian, "to make sure that your people do not leave Iraq. We need the Christians, because they are peace-loving people, with a head on their shoulders, and always serving Iraq. However, that is easier said than done. We need job opportunities and there are virtually none. There is also a high level of corruption and no peace or security. Iraq has always been a very comfortable country to live in, but even the Muslims who also are very educated, are leaving. Maybe some will return if there is peace and security." The Armenian Diocese in Iraq has always led in helping the community. During the archbishop's tenure, 16 priests have been ordained, including the bishops of England and Romania, who recently were consecrated in Echmiadzin by

Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II. There is a museum in the Diocese for which he has collected numerous manuscripts, encyclicals, holy objects, icons and vestments, recording and cataloging them. There is also a Sunday school which started in 1985 with 25 students, and by 2003 had grown to more than 450 students, as well as a youth group created in 1986 with 12, and which peaked at 400 young people.

"These numbers have dwindled considerably due to the utter absence of security," he added.

Besides its churches, there are five community centers and a senior citizens' home. The Diocese has also set up a strong social services program where they deliver food, medicine and money to indigent families, and aids those who need hospitalization, X-rays and dental care. And soon a full-time clinic will be functional, but doctors are needed. "We take care of our flock," declared the Primate with emphasis.

Born in Baghdad, Vasken Asadourian (his baptismal name) started life as an active young man, pursuing acting, singing in a chorus and

having friends from both the Christian and Muslim communities. As a child, he was privileged to be tutored by his mother's aunt. "She was a great kindergarten teacher proficient in Armenian and music, and who demanded that the room look like a classroom. My brother and I had to dress like students, even though the class was in our home."

He pays great tribute to both his parents. "I learned patriotism and love for the Armenian culture from my father and proper manners with good behavior from my mother, who spoke six languages. She basically brought us up since my father, Nishan, was working in Kuwait as the general manager of a successful department store. Everyone who knew my mother commented what a lady she was," he related with obvious pride. When she died in 2010, the Iraqi government gave her a state funeral out of respect for the Primate.

Receiving his early education in Iraq, the Primate first pursued engineering in Baghdad, then won a five-year scholarship from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, studying philosophy at Benedictine University in Illinois. He continued philosophy studies at Tulane University in New Orleans, earning a master's degree in 1973, and his doctorate in 1998 from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross at the Vatican, while serving as Primate.

Though he had always been close to the church, wearing a *shabig* and singing in the choir, it was not until age 34 that he became a priest. "God came after me and when he does, you cannot escape," he said with a wide smile.

He came to St. Vladimir's and St. Nersess Seminaries "to give it a try." Invited to Echmiadzin in 1976 by the Catholicos of All Armenians Vasken I, he was ordained a celibate priest by Bishop Housik Santourian and served as a parish priest in Elberon's Holy Mother of Christ church (now St. Stephen's).

The previous Primate of Iraq, Asoghig Archbishop Ghazarian, had whispered to Vasken that the young priest was a "vibrant young man" and should replace him some day. Returning to Iraq, he was appointed as locum tenens in 1979, elected Primate of the Iraqi Armenian Diocese in 1980 and consecrated as a bishop in 1982 by Vasken. In 1993, Vasken elevated him to the rank of archbishop.

Asadourian commended the Iraqi-Armenian community "which prevailed in the face of numerous adversities and even prospered."

Most important for him are his teaching duties, which he calls a "pleasure, so that our boys are kept under my wings, and in the fold of the church. Since people are leaving, and cutting themselves off from their roots, there will come a time when some of these boys will save the church."

And how does Asadourian see himself? "I am a humble servant of the Armenian Church."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Holy Trinity's 50th Anniversary Banquet to Be Held September 30

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – It started as a dream in 1954, when Holy Trinity Armenian Church was located on Shawmut Avenue in Boston, to build a house of worship on historic Brattle Street in Cambridge. A massive fundraising campaign was launched in April 1956, to raise funds for the erection of this new church. Due to the untiring efforts of an army of parishioners, who went door-to-door soliciting contributions throughout the Greater Boston-Armenian community, that dream became a reality on September 17, 1961, when the church was consecrated on Brattle Street in Cambridge. The first divine liturgy was celebrated by the late Primate, Archbishop Sion Manoogian, in the presence of a record-breaking crowd. The godfather of the cross was Nishan Semonian, and 16 other individuals served as godfathers for the consecrated pillars. Church services were followed by a banquet in the church hall in the presence of a multitude of people. This day marked a milestone for the members of the Holy Trinity Church community.

Fifty-one years later, on Sunday, September 30, Holy Trinity will conclude its yearlong 50th anniversary celebration with a Grand Finale Reception and Banquet presided over Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern). The Banquet Committee is chaired by Cheryl Panjian and includes Lu Ann Ohanian, Audrey Tanashian, Joanne Tashjian and Nancy D. Kasarjian. The afternoon will begin with a wine-and-cheese reception in the Peter Adamian Hall, followed by a dinner and program in the Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall. The banquet will honor the history of Holy Trinity's parish and especially the memory of the 27 members of the original Building Committee chaired by the late Gen. Sarkis Zartarian. Charles Talanian, grandson of the godfather of the Church, Nishan Semonian, will offer the toast.

Fr. Vasken A. Kouzouian, pastor of Holy Trinity

Church, invites the community to attend this day of celebration.

"Fifty years ago," Kouzouian said, "a great dream came to life. That dream was carried out on the shoulders of many remarkable people who called Holy Trinity Armenian Church their home. These heroic people turned their hope into a reality. At our Grand Finale Banquet, we will pay tribute to all those who worked to move Holy Trinity from Shawmut Avenue to historic Brattle Street in Cambridge. We will share their stories and pay tribute to their success by hearing from the descendants of these extraordinary people. Five decades ago, a new chapter was beginning for our parish. Their stories are our stories, their history is our history and their great vision is alive within us today. At this moment, it is our turn to dream new dreams, and begin writing new chapters for the future of Holy Trinity Armenian Church and for her parishioners."

The morning will begin with the divine liturgy celebrated by Barsamian. During the earlier part of the *badarak*, he will ordain sub-deacon Armen Skenderian to the liturgical rank of deacon. Skenderian, who was ordained a sub-deacon in Iraq in 1970, has been serving on the altar of Holy Trinity for the past decade. He is currently a member of the Holy Trinity Parish Council, the Trinity Men's Union, where he has served as chairman, and co-chairman and co-treasurer of the Friends of Holy Trinity 1000 Club.

Donation for the banquet is \$50 per person. Reservations with payment must be received by September 20. No tickets will be sold at the door. For further information, contact the church office or email office@htaac.org. To purchase tickets online, visit www.htaac.org/banquet.

Front page from the *Mirror-Spectator* in 1956



OBITUARY

George Nakhnikian

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. (*Bloomington Herald Times*) – George Nakhnikian, 91, died on Monday, July 30. He was born in 1920 in Varna, Bulgaria. His father and both his grandfathers were priests in the Armenian Church. The family moved to Lebanon when Nakhnikian was 10. They lived there for three years before coming to the United States in 1933 and settling in the Boston area.

Nakhnikian earned his undergraduate degree in chemistry from Harvard. During the World War II, he served for two years with the United

States Army in Europe. He then returned to Harvard where he earned his MA and PhD degrees, both in philosophy.

His first full-time academic appointment came in 1949 at Wayne State University, in Detroit, with which he was associated until 1968. Between 1955 and 1956, he served as visiting assistant professor and Carnegie intern in

general education at Brown University, in Providence, RI and in 1965-66 he was named a Fulbright Scholar at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. In 1956, he was appointed the chair of the Wayne State Philosophy Department. Over the course of the next decade, and almost single-handedly, he built it into a department that became well-known and highly respected by philosophers nationally. Then, after a wide-ranging search for an outside chair to revitalize the Department of Philosophy at Indiana University (IU), he was appointed chair in 1968. He deserves much of the credit for that department's rise to national and international prominence. He retired from IU in 1987.

Nakhnikian own scholarly work in philosophy focused on several great historical figures and on various problems in contemporary moral theory. In addition to his *Introduction to Philosophy*, published in 1967, he edited and co-edited two anthologies, *Morality and the Language of Conduct* (1963) and *Bertrand's Russell's Philosophy* (1974). His last article was published as recently as 2004. Nakhnikian has hundreds of students across the state, especially nurses, who learned principles of ethics as well as logical thought in his class, "An Introduction to Philosophy."

He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Robin Murphy, by their son, Alexander Murphy-Nakhnikian (Eric Anderson) of Bloomington; by three daughters from his first marriage, Ellen Nakhnikian (Harry Reis) of Rochester, NY; Judith Nakhnikian-Weintraub (Mark Nakhnikian-Weintraub) of Eugene, Ore.; and Elise Nakhnikian (Steve Gittelson) of New York; and by grandchildren, Sofia, Hannah and Benjamin Nakhnikian-Weintraub and Lianna Reis. He is also survived by his sister, Lenore Macpherson (Mac Macpherson), numerous nieces and nephews, and many friends, particularly his dear friend, Paul Eisenberg, of Bloomington.

A memorial services will be held at a later time. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Armenia Tree Project, Doctors without Borders or the charity of one's choice.



George Nakhnikian

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Djeredjian to Speak at Human Rights Lecture

LECTURE, from page 4

Armenians. As a result, the American Red Cross launched its first international mission, Armenian Heritage Foundation, with Barton bringing aid to the Armenians. Philanthropists nationwide raised more than \$100 million in aid. This was America's first internationally-focused human rights movement.

Gov. Deval L. Patrick and Mayor Thomas M. Menino are honorary chairs. Co-chairs representing their participating organization are Charlie Clements, executive director, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School of Government; Martha F. Davis, PhD, faculty director, Northeastern School of Law, Human Rights and the Global Economy; David Hollenbach, S.J., director, Boston College Center for Human Rights and International Justice; Michael A. Grodin, MD, and George J. Annas, JD, and MPH co-directors, Global Lawyers and Physicians Working Together for Human Rights, Boston University School of Public Health; Shant Mardirossian, chairman of the board, Near East Foundation; Margot Stern Strom, founder/executive director, Facing History and Ourselves; Adam Strom, director of research and development, Facing History and Ourselves; Deborah W. Nutter, PhD, senior associate dean, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; Balakrishnan Rajagopal, PhD, acting director, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Human Rights and Justice; and Joshua Rubenstein, Northeast Regional director, Amnesty International USA.

Serving on the Lecture Committee are Dr. Carolann Najarian, George Najarian, Dr. Joyce Barsam, Phyllis Dohanian, Dr. Linda Kaboolian, Audrey Kalajian and Barbara Tellalian. The Armenian Heritage Foundation, sponsor of Armenian Heritage Park, is a non-profit organization founded to secure the designation and to raise funds to design, develop and construct Armenian Heritage Park and endow its public programs, including this annual lecture, the reconfiguration of the park's sculpture and its ongoing care and maintenance. The board comprises representatives from 13 parishes and 25 cultural organizations within the Massachusetts Armenian-American community. Honorary chairs of the foundation are Sheriff Peter Koutoujian and Registrar Rachel Kaprielian; the president is James Kalustian.

For further information on Armenian Heritage Park and its programs, visit ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

AGBU Issues Urgent Appeal To Help Armenian Community in Syria

SYRIA, from page 1

its more than 106-year history, we are helping all Armenians within our once vibrant Syrian community in their time of greatest need," said AGBU Central Board of Directors member Vasken Yacoubian. "Armenians from all over the diaspora can help, knowing that all funds will go quickly and directly to support the relief efforts for Armenian families in Syria, who, amid the destruction and economic distress caused by the ongoing military activity, are depending on our assistance right now for their livelihood."

As communications both within Syria and with the outside world continue to deteriorate, the Armenian community is relying on local efforts to address basic needs. AGBU has already begun providing relief with food, medicine, shelter, water and energy to thousands of Armenian families in various cities, with local youth from AGBU chapters mobilizing as volunteers. AGBU chapters are collaborating with the Syrian Armenian Emergency Coordinating Committee, which is composed of members representing all local Armenian organizations. Moreover, AGBU will also address tuition concerns of parents whose children attend Armenian schools in Syria when they reopen.

To make a donation online, visit <http://agbu.org/syriarelieff/index.html>. Donate by phone Monday through Friday (EST): +1-855-AID-AGBU (243-2428). Send checks to: AGBU, Syria Emergency Fund, 55 East 59th St., New York, NY 10022.

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**New York
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St. Nersess Armenian Seminary Purchases New Property

Board Closes on Location for Expanded Theological Center

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. — On September 6, St. Nersess Armenian Seminary completed its purchase of a property in Armonk to become its new home. The site, formerly known as Promise Farm, sits on 5.5 scenic acres. It is located in an upscale suburban community about 16 miles from the current New Rochelle campus.

On the site, St. Nersess will construct the new, 8,400-square-foot Karekin I Theological Center, named in memory of the former catholicos of all Armenians, who was a great advocate of learning and education. This center will include the St. Hagop chapel, library, classrooms and offices. The construction of the Theological Center and chapel, as well as the purchase of the property, has been made possible by a donation by Haig and Elsa Didizian of London, England.

In addition, the three existing structures on the site will be renovated, expanded and adapted to meet the needs of the seminary, including housing for single and married students and faculty, as well as the summer youth conferences and a dean's residence. There will also be recreational facilities for the use of the seminarians. The seminary will soon launch a fundraising campaign for the new site, specifically including naming opportunities for the renovated buildings. Additionally, the board will begin the process of selling the New Rochelle location.

"As we close on the 50th anniversary commemoration, we launch into an exciting new era for our beloved St. Nersess," stated Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern). "Tiran Srpazan's vision of creating a seminary in North America is alive and strong, and now with this next step in its remarkable history, will be propelled into the next five decades to thrive for generations to come."

During the last year, St. Nersess worked to secure the necessary approvals from the Town of North Castle, where Armonk is located. This included a special use permit from the Town Board, along with the approval of its site plan application by the Planning Board. St. Nersess plans to begin construction at the new site this fall, with a 2014 targeted completion date.

"This land is compelling and has the potential to be even more beautiful than New Rochelle," said board member Suzanne Akian. "No doubt future generations will create similar amazing



A schematic of the new Armonk, NY, site for St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, which includes the Theological Center to be built, and the existing buildings that will be renovated

memories as generations past because the same spirit of St. Nersess will live on within the walls of this new campus."

The new site will be an all-inclusive and functional campus

for the continued and more effective spiritual nourishment of our people and parishes. The new facility, along with the ultimate sale of New Rochelle, will allow St. Nersess to have a more sound financial foundation, and build upon its already renowned theological program while also providing opportunities for our youth to flourish in their faith and culture. By staying in Westchester County, St. Nersess will be able to maintain important ties with St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, as well as remain close to the Diocesan Complex in New York City.

St. Nersess is committed to the growth of the Armenian Church by meeting and serving the unique needs of the dioceses in North America. This is achieved through the preparation of leaders in ordained and lay ministries, nurturing our youth in the apostolic faith, and offering continuing education, mission outreach and public lecture programs. St. Nersess is also a centralized source for perpetuating the scholarly teachings of the Armenian Church. It is the only Armenian seminary in the Western hemisphere.

Founded in 1961 with the first classes held in 1962, the seminary first opened its doors to the Ouzoonian House in Evanston, Ill. Seventeen years later, the seminary relocated to New York in order to continue its work, and has been located at 150 Stratton Road in New Rochelle since 1978.

Visit www.stnersess.edu to learn more about the seminary's programming.



Catholikos Karekin I Theological Center and St. Hagop Chapel

Rendering of the Catholikos Karekin I Theological Center and St. Hagop Chapel to be built on the new site of St. Nersess Seminary

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New York METRO

AGBU Wraps up Third Moscow Summer Internship Program

NEW YORK and MOSCOW – The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Moscow Summer Internship Program (MSIP) officially came to an end last month with a celebratory and emotional farewell dinner, where the program's coordinators, interns and supervisors looked back on an unforgettable summer spent living and working in Russia.

On Tuesday, July 31, the six MSIP interns gathered to say their final goodbyes, embracing now life-long friends who, just six weeks earlier, were complete strangers. Though the tight-knit group was sad to part ways, they are returning to their homes around the world – in Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada, France, the UK and the US – armed with professional experiences that are sure to help them advance in their respective careers after they graduate.

As it has every summer since its 2010 launch, MSIP placed this year's participants within Russia's top institutions, where they explored their diverse interests, from the fine arts to finance and medicine to magazine publishing. Host organizations included the Association of Restorers of Andrey Anisimov, the Association of Russian Banks, the Moscow Diagnostics Center and *Cigar Clan Magazine*. At each, they learned all facets of the industry, building their professional skills and their resumes. Internship supervisor Anna Grebenkina of the Skolkovo School of Management praised the program, noting that it "brings lots of value to both parties – interns willing to implement their knowledge and gain some practical experience in a company, and employees ready to invest their time and efforts in order to help young professionals take their first steps on the business ground."

The interns' days in the office were complemented by various evenings spent meeting with successful entrepreneurs who have made a name for themselves both within the local Armenian Diaspora community and internationally. They included Grachik Adzhmian, whose startup company, Budist, has been recognized by Forbes



At the 18th-century Tsaritsyno Palace in Moscow, MSIP interns explore Russia's rich history.

Russia, as well as Aram Pakhchanian, the vice president of the global software firm ABBYY and the co-founder of AyB, a foundation that is investing significantly in Armenia's education system. Each offered career advice and anecdotes and dedicated hours to engaging with the students. At many of the meetings, the MSIP interns were joined by members of SIVAM (Organization of Young Professionals of Moscow), AGBU's partner in Russia.

Since MSIP's inception, SIVAM has provided the critical support, contacts and resources that have made the internship program such a success. SIVAM members were by the MSIP interns' sides from the day they arrived to the day they departed, helping them navigate the city and acting as their mentors, friends and often times, translators. SIVAM volunteer Tigran Begijanyan stated, "For the third year in a row, we saw that MSIP cannot be anything but pos-

itive. Each year, the program's membership grows, through participants and volunteers alike, proving that Armenians from different countries are united by common interests and goals. The program brings together Armenians of different backgrounds from all over the world, creating bonds between them that we know will only continue to grow stronger."

Cultural immersion is a key component of MSIP, and at classes that met twice a week, the interns sharpened both their Russian language skills and their Armenian dance steps. The summer's greatest highlight, however, was a mid-summer trip to St. Petersburg, which has become an annual program tradition. Led by MSIP coordinators Lusiné Kerobyan and Lilit Abgaryan, the group explored all the city's national treasures, starting with the Peterhof Summer Palace, a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site,

and continuing over the next four days to visit the world-renowned Russian and Hermitage Museums, the celebrated St. Isaac's Cathedral and Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood and the historic Peter and Paul Fortress. For intern Tatevik Sargsyan, a student at the London College of Law, the trip was just one of the many elements that made her AGBU experience so extraordinary. As she reflected, "MSIP has allowed me to deeply understand the meaning of being Armenian. The opportunity to experience the thrillingly modern and exciting Russia, to get to know amazing young Armenian professionals living in Moscow, to gain valuable career experiences and to make life-long friends who share with me a deep sense of pride and passion in their Armenian heritage, are all things that will stay with me forever."

This year's MSIP participants were not only of interns and tourists, but volunteers as well, committed to lending a helping hand whenever it was needed. On their second visit to the new Surb Khach Armenian Church being built in Moscow, they got their hands dirty alongside the construction workers on site. As the MSIP group assisted them with their work, they learned that most were seasonal migrant laborers from Armenia's small towns and villages,



AGBU Moscow Summer Internship Program (MSIP) participants enjoy spending the day in Cathedral Square in the Kremlin.

who represent the diversity of the Armenian Diaspora communities in Moscow. It was yet another experience that the MSIP participants can add to their scrapbooks, ones already full of memories from a life-changing summer.



Victory Park in Moscow becomes one of the 2012 AGBU MSIP interns' favorite destinations.

The K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, M.D. Lecture on Human Rights
Endowed Public Program of the Armenian Heritage Foundation, sponsor of
Armenian Heritage Park on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway, Boston

In celebration of the opening of Armenian Heritage Park
 and the theme, the immigrant experience, please join us to the
Lecture on Human Rights
Keynote Speaker



Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian

Founding Director, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Rice University, Ambassador Djerejian was the former U.S. Ambassador to Israel (1992-1994) and to the Syrian Arab Republic (1988-1991).

Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 7pm

Faneuil Hall, Boston

Free and open to the public

FAR to Hold Forum in Yerevan to Celebrate 12 Years Of Armenian National Science and Education Fund

NEW YORK – The Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) recently announced that for the very first time it will hold a special forum recognizing the Armenian National Science and Education Fund (ANSEF) on September 24 in Yerevan. The forum celebrates 12 years of one of FAR's most important programs, which provides financial support for Armenian scientists and researchers.

"Over the past 12 years, the Armenian National Science and Education Fund played

an important role in maintaining Armenia's tradition of excellence in the sciences by encouraging researchers to continue their groundbreaking work," said Prof. Yervant Terzian, Cornell astrophysicist and a founder of ANSEF.

Dignitaries from the US and Armenia and the founders of ANSEF will lead the forum, which will be held at the Armenian National Academy of Sciences. Several researchers who have received support from ANSEF throughout the years will also be presenting on their work.

Arts & Living

Musician Souren Baronian Tours, Releases Autobiography

By Steve Knight

NEW YORK – What should a musician do, when, after many years of pouring torrential energy into performing, recording, composing and teaching, he reaches the age of 82? If he is Souren Baronian, he pours his energy into the performing, recording, composing and teaching, and having a whale of a time of it, from New York to Spain, to Switzerland to Fiji, to California and around again.

Powerhouse clarinetist, saxophonist and bandleader, master percussionist, composer and educator, at 82, Baronian is at the top of his form and the height of his career. Among musicians – especially improvisers – the ability to execute with mastery “anything he can hear” is the highest level of musicianship. Baronian is known for that everywhere he has been – for that and his inexhaustible energy. He comes home to New York for a few weeks and he is off again on his musical journey, sharing with the rest of the planet the marvels of folkloric Armenian music – and his own original music.



Souren Baronian

He maintains two bands. One is a quintet called Taksim, which he calls Middle Eastern jazz. The other is a somewhat younger trio called Transition, which offers a varied repertoire closer to Armenian folk roots, plus originals by Baronian and his mates. For decades, he has traveled with these ensembles, performing and teaching workshops on Armenian music and world rhythms as he goes. He has planted musical ideas in Switzerland, Ireland, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Germany, Austria, Belgium and France, as well as Central America and South American countries and sometimes includes the best of his local students in whooping and cheering at the 25th anniversary of the Montreal Jazz Festival. Then, with Transition, he played to a capacity crowd at the University of Santa Barbara, and was invited back as soloist with a 50-piece Middle Eastern orchestra before another full house.

What next?

Off to Hawaii for five weeks with another folk-jazz group called Partners in Time, which perform some of his material. Then back to New York for some recording and off to Switzerland for a three-week tour with Transition. And so it goes.

Baronian feels that he has much more music and many more adventures ahead of him, since his father lived to be 103. His family witnessed the horrors of the 1915 Genocide inflicted by the Ottoman Empire upon the Armenians, an unarmed minority among its citizens. While in Brussels recently to perform with Transition on Kurdish television, he was asked to comment for the Kurdish newspapers on the Genocide as well as on his music. (It was actually April 24, the date the systematic slaughter of the Armenians began.) After six decades of world travel, Baronian observes that the Hidden Holocaust is becoming known and acknowledged in more countries every year. Baronian continues on his odyssey, acquainting the world with the delights of Armenian music and adding his own chapters to its history. He says he's still learning, practices every day and feels blessed to be able to play music that he loves.

Now he has written his autobiography, *The Magic Carpet Ride: My Life so Far* and is available on Amazon.



Krikor Satamian on the stage soaks up the adoration of the audience.

A Worthy Tribute

LOS ANGELES – The Armenian General Benevolent Union's Ardavazt Theatre Company was founded in 1979. Its first performance took place the following year at the AGBU Convention in Los Angeles. Krikor Satamian, AGBU's artistic director, assumed the responsibility of directing the Ardavazt Theatre Company in 1988.

For more than three decades, the theater company has been actively involved in the lives of Southern California theater enthusiasts by performing more than 50 dramas and comedies written by Armenian and non-Armenian authors. This tremendous success couldn't have been achieved without the financial support of

By Kevork Keushkerian

AGBU's Central Board of Directors and the many benefactors, who over the years have been contributing generously and thus have been called “Friends of Ardavazt.” It was high time for these supporters to be honored and recognized. This worthy tribute was the brainchild of Ardavazt Theatre Company's Committee, headed by Ara Babayan. It took place on Saturday, August 25, at the Boyadjian Hall of AGBU's Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Center in Pasadena. The hall was artistically decorated by artist Manoug Satamian.

Ardavazt Committee member John Samuelian delivered the opening remarks. He welcomed the guests and thanked the many supporters of Ardavazt Theatre Company who, over the years, had been sustaining the existence and survival of this group in times of hardship.

During dinner, more than 150 guests enjoyed the soft music provided by accordionist Nikko Ariano. After dinner, entertainment was provided by the many talented amateur actors of Ardavazt Theatre Company, under the direction of Artistic Director Krikor Satamian.

The comedic sketches performed included a scene in the nail salon, where the Vietnamese proprietor was keenly interested in marrying her son. Another sketch was a scene from Othello, where Othello and Desdemona conversed in Indian. Although no one understood the language, the body language and facial contractions conveyed

see SATAMIAN, page 13



Krikor Satamian and the members of the committee

Author Aris Janigian To Present His New Novel in Fresno

FRESNO – Author Aris Janigian will read from and discuss his new novel, *This Angelic Land*, Wednesday, September 19, at 7 p.m., in the Bonner Auditorium of the Fresno Art Museum.

Janigian's presentation is co-sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Fresno Art Museum. Admission is free to the event.

In *This Angelic Land*, Janigian tells the story of Adam Derderian, a hip, 27-year-old bar owner, during his six-day journey through the surreal heart of Los Angeles and one of the city's darkest episodes.

Seeming to carry scant memory of Lebanon's civil war, from which Derderian had fled while still a boy, the landscape of the riots now finds him revisiting the world he thought he had escaped. Derderian engages with Armenian gangsters, members of the Nation of Islam, a Hancock Park playboy and others as he watches his adopted city ransacked and set ablaze.

Janigian is the author of *Bloodvine* and *Riverbig*, and the co-author, with April Greiman, of *Something for Nothing*. From 1993 to 2005 he was senior professor of humanities at Southern California Institute of Architecture. He was a contributing writer to *West, the Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine*, a finalist for the William Saroyan Fiction Prize, and the recipient of the Anahid Literary Award from Columbia University. He is a contributing writer to *thenervousbreakdown.com*.

Copies of *This Angelic Land* will be on sale at the presentation.

Crows of the Desert Lecture and Book Signing

GLENDALE – Levon Parian, the editor of *Crows of the Desert*, will speak about his book on Thursday, October 11, at 7 p.m. at the Glendale Central Library Auditorium, 222 East Harvard St.

The lecture is in English. Admission is free; seating is limited.

Crows of the Desert details the memories of Levon Yotnakhparian. It is illustrated with photos, maps and documents from the British and Arab High Command. In 1909, Yotnakhparian joined the Ottoman military and eventually found himself in the middle of the genocide against his people. This is his story of escape through the desert and subsequent return to Der Zor on a quest to save thousands of other stranded and orphaned Armenians. His story is reminiscent of Lawrence of Arabia, as he travels through the same deserts to Al Aqaba.

Parian is the grandson of Yotnakhparian. “It really was a family affair,” said Parian. “My mother did the translation, I did the editing and layout, my wife made the maps, my aunts and cousins supplied pictures and documents, and my father did the prodding.” It was Parian's father who inspired him to publish the book.

Parian is currently working on a number of books. These include one with the Genocide Project that involves portraits and oral histories of survivors of the Armenian Genocide. *Lost Memories* is his other book about flood-damaged images from his childhood. *Scopophilia* is a 3-D series about the “Male Gaze” and also a book of his mother's memoirs, *The Girl from Jerusalem*.

Parian is an acclaimed photographer whose works have been exhibited throughout the world and are in the collections of the, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Library of Congress, Paradjanov Museum, Museum of Photography in Paris, Southern Illinois University Museum and The Downey Museum of Art in Downey, Calif.

The program is sponsored by the Library, Arts & Culture Department and the Friends of the Glendale Public Library.



ARTS & LIVING

Duduk Ensemble to Perform at St. James, Six Other Parishes

WATERTOWN – Under the sponsorship of the Cultural Committee of St. James Armenian Apostolic Church of Watertown and Amaras Art Alliance, the Dudukner Ensemble, a premier assembly of Armenian traditional instrumentalists from Yerevan, Armenia, will perform sacred and folk songs at St. James Armenian Church's Cultural Center's Keljik Hall.

The *duduk*, known since antiquity as an apricot pipe, is a traditional woodwind instrument indigenous to Armenia. It is a double-reed instrument with ancient origin, said to be 1,500 to 3,000 years old. It is exclusively made of wood, preferably from aged apricot trees. According to ethnomusicologist Dr. Jonathan McCollum, the *duduk* is depicted in numerous Armenian

manuscripts from the Middle Ages and is actually the only truly Armenian instrument to have survived through history and as such is a symbol of Armenian national identity. In 2005, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proclaimed Armenian *duduk* music as a "masterpiece of the intangible heritage of humanity."

The founder of the ensemble and principal *duduk* player is Georgy Minasian, an honored artist of Armenia. Tatyana Minasian is the artistic director and conductor. The group also consists of Khosrov Mnatsakanyan, alto *duduk*, dhol; Artak Asatryan, tenor *duduk*; Georgy Minasian, Jr., baritone *duduk*; Mher Mnatsakanian, *shvee*, clarinet, baritone *duduk*,



The Dudukner Ensemble

Tigran Avetisian, bass *duduk*, Hovhannes Avetisian, clarinet and manager, and Margar Yegiazarian, soloist.

The concert will take place on Saturday, September 22 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20, students and senior citizens, \$15.

For tickets, call the church office or Ardemis Minassian or purchase them online at www.AmarasOnline.com.

A reception will follow the concert.

Six other performances by the ensemble will take place in Diocese parishes on the East

Coast: St. Leon Church, Fair Lawn, NJ, September 21, at 8 p.m.; Church of the Holy Ascension, Trumbull, Conn., September 23 at 3 p.m.; Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Church, Providence, RI, September 26, at 7 p.m.; St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral, New York City, September 28, at 7:30 p.m.; St. Mary Church, Washington, DC, September 29 at 7 p.m., and St. James Church, Richmond, Va., September 30 at 4 p.m.

For more information, visit www.ensemble-dudukner.com.

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Cemal Pasha's Grandson Releases Book On Armenian Genocide

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The grandson of Cemal Pasha, one of the masterminds of the Armenian Genocide, has published a book titled *1915: The Armenian Genocide*.

The news was first reported by Istanbul-based *Agos* weekly and confirmed by journalist Yavuz Baidar on Twitter.

"Armenians in Turkey were Russia-oriented and Turks had to kill them. That's why the Genocide happened," Hasan Cemal quotes his grandfather as saying in Munich in 1919.

Cemal is columnist at *Milliyet* newspaper. In 2008, he visited the Armenian Genocide memorial in Yerevan. His note in the memory book



Hasan Cemal

says: "To deny the Genocide would mean to be an accomplice in this crime against humanity."

A h m e d Cemal Pasha was killed in Tbilisi in July 1922 by Stepan Dzaghighian, Artashes Gevorgyan and Petros Ter Poghosyan as part of Operation Nemesis for his role in the Armenian Genocide. His remains were brought to Erzerum and buried there.

Levon Thomassian to Speak at Ararat-Eskijian Museum On German-Armenian Relations during WWII

MISSION HILLS, Calif. – Levon Thomassian will have a book presentation, on Sunday, September 16, at 4 p.m. at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum, 15105 Mission Hills Road.

Despite the overwhelming contributions made by the Armenians to the Allied war effort, it is widely unknown that at least 18,000 served under the Third Reich. After the war, these so-called collaborators were chastised and indiscriminately labeled as traitors by those unable to grasp the complexity of their circumstances. Largely based on archival research, *Summer of '42* attempts to separate fact from fallacy by

examining the complex motives, treatment and history of these Armenians.

Thomassian was born in Hartford, Conn. In 1994, he graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with an undergraduate degree in history. He later pursued his graduate studies at the California State University, Northridge, writing his master's thesis on German-Armenian relations during World War II. He currently resides with his family in Los Angeles.

For more information, contact the Ararat-Eskijian Museum at ararat-eskijian-museum@netzero.net.

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The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* is seeking a part-time reporter and copy editor, to start immediately. Tasks include writing features, covering some events, as well as reading copy for style and accuracy. Pay commensurate with experience. Send resumes and writing samples to the editor, Alin K. Gregorian, at editor@mirrorspectator.com.



ARTS & LIVING

ALMA Offers Free Admission on *Smithsonian Magazine's* Annual Museum Day

WATERTOWN – On Saturday, September 29, the Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) will open its doors free of charge along with more than 1,400 other participating venues for the eighth annual Museum Day Live! This immensely successful program, launched by the *Smithsonian Magazine*, encourages learning and the spread of knowledge nationwide.

For one day only, from 12 to 6 p.m., ALMA will grant free access to visitors who present a Museum Day Live! Admission Ticket – available for download on the Museum Day Live! website on www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday. One ticket is permitted per household, per email address. This year's Museum Day Live! is expected to attract close to 400,000 participants nationwide.

ALMA is located at 65 Main St.



ALMA in Watertown

Reddit AMA Breaks Record, Ohanian Invites Romney

NEW YORK (CBS News) – President Barack Obama answered questions from the link-sharing community, Reddit, earlier this month. During a 30-minute question-and-answer session commonly referred to as an AMA – which stands for “ask me anything” – the president addressed Citizens United, the space program and Internet freedom.

“It was a good day!” Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian told CBS News in an email. “Over 200,000 people on site hitting during the interview (mashing reload to keep seeing updates) is a new high.” Reddit typically sees about 100,000 people on the site at a time.

Reddit general manager Eric Martin told CBS News over the phone that the site passed 3 billion monthly page views in July. And Obama's AMA alone is currently at 3.8 million page views.

When asked how Reddit convinced the president to do an AMA, Ohanian told the blog AllThingsD: “There's not a lot to it. I've gotten

to know quite a few folks in the WH & Obama campaign team over the years and it was always something I brought up when I got the chance. There are quite a few redditors at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave and at the campaign HQ – given the prominence of reddit, it's an easy sell.”

Politicians have hosted AMAs in the past, including Rep. Ron Paul and former Rep. Anthony Weiner, but Obama is the most prominent host of an AMA session yet.

When asked if Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney would be asked to host an AMA, Ohanian told CBS News, “I'd been quietly working to encourage the Romney team to do one, but I went ahead and invited him publicly.” In a Bloomberg report, Ohanian said that it was Romney's turn to face the Internet.

“He came out so strongly against SOPA during that CNN Republican candidate debate that it's clear he too wants Internet freedom for Americans,” Ohanian told Bloomberg.

ARMENIANS IN THE NEWS

Gerald Chertavian is the creator of Year Up, a nonprofit in Boston to help people prepare for the workforce. Having worked as a Big Brother in one of the roughest neighborhoods in New York



Albert Gevorgyan and Puzant Chouljian

City, Chertavian realized the potential of youth who don't experience the traditional forms of education. He now has a book, *A Year Up*, which discusses how some young people's adversities can be an asset to employers, looking for talent, according to an article in the July 22 issue of *Boston Globe Magazine*.

NBC national news correspondent **Janet Shamlan** is spotted on the Improper Sightings page of the *Improper Bostonian* holding a copy of the Summer Style issue. On the Out and About page of the same magazine, in the July 8 issue, **Albert Gevorgyan** of

Waltham and **Puzant Chouljian** of Watertown are pictured at the weekly Boston dance party, Play Fridays, at Bond Restaurant and Lounge. In the Last Scene Here page, by Jonathan Soroff, **Carolyn Mugar** is mentioned for her attendance of a designer's runway presentation to benefit the Big Sisters' Association, held in the ballroom of The Fairmont Copley Plaza Boston. On the same page, **Hunter Ohanian**, MassArt executive director, was mentioned and pictured for his appearance at the grand opening of the Revere Hotel; the school's fashion students designed the hotel's uniforms.

In the winter issue of *Chalkboard*, the Indiana University publication, is a story about a group of Turkish and Armenian teachers who came to the university as part of a US embassy-sponsored program to learn how to make learning in their respective countries more student centered. Bringing together teachers with a history of strained relations helped them to learn about each other and by the end they saw themselves as one group of teachers.



Gerald Chertavian

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ARTS & LIVING

Armenian Crew Visits Johnstown for Film on Clara Barton

By Patrick Buchnowski

JOHNSTOWN, Penn. (*Tribune-Democrat*) — The story of the 1889 Johnstown Flood has reached the nation of Armenia.

A three-member film crew from Armenian Public Television was in Johnstown on Saturday shooting a documentary on Clara Barton, who founded the American Red Cross in 1881.

Barton is remembered for championing the relief effort after the devastating flood.

Then in 1896, Barton traveled overseas to help Armenians who were being slaughtered by the Ottoman Empire.

"Clara Barton was kind of an angel who helped Armenians," said Tigran Danielyan, 21,

reporter for the project.

"Johnstown is part of our project," he said. "We came here to shoot about the Johnstown Flood and Clara Barton."

For 11 days, the film crew toured various cities including Washington, DC.

The group, which included cameraman Hakob Sargsyan, also took a close look at Johnstown.

They visited "some of the well-known flood-related sites and some churches as well," said Shelley Johansson, spokeswoman for the Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA).

"We need to find the most important and most interesting information about the flood and also about Clara Barton," Danielyan said.

Barton was 67 when she and five Red Cross volunteers arrived in Johnstown on June 5,

1889, five days after the flood. Under her direction, the American Red Cross distributed supplies worth \$211,000 at the time, which was enough to help 25,000 people.

Until then, the Red Cross had been a battlefield relief organization, said Richard Burkert, JAHA executive director. Danielyan interviewed Burkert at the flood museum.

"She (Barton) had responded to a couple smaller disasters before the 1889 flood," Burkert said. "But it was really here in Johnstown that she and the American Red Cross made a name."

"Everyone recognized her name because of all the news coverage following this great disaster," he said. "Disaster relief services became one of the key elements of the Red Cross. That was Clara Barton's innovation."

A Worthy Tribute

SATAMIAN, from page 10

the meaning of the sketch, making it enjoyable to the audience.

A scene depicting a trial in the people's court was hilarious, as the Persian-Armenian wife was seeking divorce from her Lebanese-Armenian husband, and none of them were in command of the English language. The self-professed interpreter made the sketch more interesting by looking after his own interest, rather than that of the disenfranchised couple.

Other sketches included a scene from "Dancing with the Stars" of Ardavazt, a poetic recitation of a letter from Lebanon sent to her son-in-law, followed by songs and dances.

The highlight of the evening was the surprise announcement by Ara Babayan that the Ardavazt Theatre Company had been renamed Krikor Satamian Theatre Company, with the blessing of the AGBU's Central Board of Directors. Then, he and his committee members presented Satamian with a portrait of him sketched on wood, later to be engraved on bronze. This was a gift on the occasion of Satamian's Golden Jubilee as an actor, director and comedian.

Committee member Vartouhi Kazandjian read Prof. Osheen Keshishian's letter, congratulating the committee for its initiative to honor the supporters of Ardavazt Theatre Company.

Finally, it was time for the honoree to take to the podium. Touched by the surprise announcement and humbled by this honor extended to him, he thanked the committee and promised to continue being at the helm, for the sake of preserving the Armenian language and keeping the torch of the Armenian cultural heritage alive.

Cecil Keshishian also joined in and thanked the committee for the program and for honoring the many supporters of Ardavazt Theatre Company.

At the end, DJ Armen Samuelian provided international music, which was enjoyed by young and old alike.

CALENDAR

MASSACHUSETTS

SEPTEMBER 20 — Ed and Mary Kazanjian present "Journey to Historic Armenia, Part II," Andover Public Library Memorial Hall, 6:30-9 p.m. Open to the public, limited seating, free admission. Co-sponsored by Knights of Vartan, Arakadz Lodge #35. Contact John Jeknavorian: (978) 557-1065.

SEPTEMBER 22 — St. James Church Cultural Committee and Amaras Art Alliance present The Dudukner Ensemble, performing Armenian sacred and folk music, and songs. A reception will follow. Saturday, 7 p.m. Charles Mosesian Cultural Center Keljik Hall, 465 Mount Auburn St., Watertown. Donation: \$20; students and senior citizens, \$15. For tickets, contact the church at (617) 923-8860 or Ardemis Minassian at (617) 930-0181.

SEPTEMBER 30 — Holy Trinity 50th Anniversary Grand Finale Reception and Banquet, following church services, Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Donation for reception and banquet, \$50; RSVP deadline September 20. To make an online reservation, visit www.httac.org/banquet.

OCTOBER 12-13 — St. James Armenian Church Annual Bazaar. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. St. James Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. Delicious Armenian food, delicacies and pastries. Vendor booths, attic treasures, silent auction and more. Raffles, including the \$100 raffle, apple raffle and \$2 raffle. Kidzone including pumpkin decorating, games, clown/balloon animals. For information, call (617) 923-8860 or e-mail info@stthagop.com.

OCTOBER 13 — Sayat Nova Dance Company, North America's leading Armenian dance company, performs "Journey Through Time" presented by Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Worcester, 3 p.m. at North High School, 140 Harrington Way, Worcester. Tickets are \$35 and \$15 for children, 12 and under. For tickets or more info, call (508) 770-1124 or (508) 754-1039.

OCTOBER 25 — K. George and Carolann S. Najarian Endowed Lecture on Human Rights. Speaker: Ambassador Edward P. Djerejian, founding director, James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy, Rice University and former US ambassador to Israel (1992-1994) and the Syrian Arab Republic (1988-1991). Faneuil Hall, Boston. Thursday, 7 p.m. An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park. Free and open to the public.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

SEPTEMBER 29 — Ararat Armenian Congregational Church of Salem NH Annual Shish Kebab Supper. 4:30 to 7 p.m. 2 Salem St., Salem.

NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 5 — Save the date. His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, Diocese of Armenian Church, invites everyone to attend a tribute banquet in honor of Hrant Gulian. Details to follow.

OCTOBER 21 — Hye Doon (Armenian American Support and Educational Center), 35th Anniversary Celebration, with the participation of Akh'Tamar Dance Ensemble of the Hye Doon, Arev Armenian Folk Ensemble of Hamazkayin of Boston, Sunday, 3:45 p.m. Bergen County Academics, 200 Hackensack, NJ 07601. All net proceeds to benefit the Hovnanian Armenian School. Tickets: \$50, \$35 and \$25. For tickets, call Sonya Bekarian, (201) 315-5916; Juliyet Tabibian, (201) 233-0326; Nivart Arslan, (201) 475-0224; Maral Kalishian, (845) 729-1888; Maral Kaprielian, (201) 289-6486; Lina Bakhtiarian, (732) 299-1120; Linda Gezdir, (201) 394-6310 or the school, (201) 967-5940.



On Friday, October 12, and Saturday, October 13, St. James Armenian Church will hold its Annual Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., in the St. James Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, where Armenian food, vendor booths, attic treasures, silent auctions, games and more will be available. For information, call the church (617) 923-8860 or e-mail info@stthagop.com.

NOVEMBER 17-18 — Musical theater presentation by TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group, Yervant Odian's "Love and Laughter" (Ser yev Dzidzagh), directed by Krikor Satamian, with more than 20 actors participating. Dwight Englewood High School, Englewood Cliffs, 8 p.m., Saturday and 4 p.m., Sunday. \$25, \$35, \$50. For tickets, call Marie Zokian or Noushig Atamian.

NOVEMBER 18 — Join the TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group Cast Party to celebrate "Love and Laughter." Special honoree, Karnig Nercessian, one of the founding members of the TCA Mher Megerdchian Theatrical Group. St. Thomas Armenian Church, East Clinton Ave. & 9W, Tenafly. 8 p.m. Donation: \$30. BYOB. For tickets, call Marie Zokian (201) 745-8850, Maro Hajakian (201) 934-3427 or Noushig Atamian (718) 344-5582.

NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 22 — "Evening Under the Stars," benefit reception and silent auction, at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary. Enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and music under an elegant candlelit tent on the scenic grounds of the seminary campus at 150 Stratton Road, New Rochelle, while reminiscing on 50 years of St. Nersess past, celebrating the present and launching an exciting future for generations to come. Donation, \$75 per person. Register at www.stnersess.edu or call (914) 636-2003. Auction items go live online September 10.

SEPTEMBER 29 — Armenia Fund's 20th Anniversary Gala, at Gotham Hall, New York City. Celebrity lawyer Mark Geragos, as master of ceremonies, entertainment by French-Armenian pop singer Patrick Fiori; keynote speaker, Eduard Nalbandian. Details to follow.

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COMMENTARY

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COMMENTARY

Recovery on the Way

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Armenian political parties are the most maligned organizations in our society, although they have borne the heaviest share of sacrifices in recent history. Perhaps the main reason is that Armenians, being individualists, don't want to fit in ideological straightjackets or organized disciplinary structures for the common good. As we blame the world around us for our failures and misfortunes, we seldom step back to figure out our own responsibilities.

Armenian political parties were founded during the Ottoman period with the patriotic goal of liberating our people from a tyrannical rule.

Each party had an ideology and a road map towards the realization of its goals.

The Armenagan party, which was the precursor of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Organization (ADL), was for secret preparation of self-defense, and it proved the veracity of its political strategy twice during the two battles of Van (1896 and 1915), where it was born.

The Social Democratic Hunchak party had an international calling and its credo was based on socialism.

The Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF or Dashnag) was more nationalistic and better organized than the other parties.

Any political party can exercise its ideology within a government structure. Therefore, after the dispersion of the Armenians around the world in the aftermath of the Genocide, the parties became irrelevant in their host countries as ideological entities and they all focused on the survival and the reorganization of an uprooted population.

This noble task, of course, does not discredit those organizations, whose leadership recognized the priorities of the day and acted selflessly.

In the process, the ideological exercise was placed on the back burner.

When Armenia declared its independence, a new era dawned for the political parties to rejuvenate themselves and to introduce the democratic process in the homeland, which had been dormant during 70 years of dictatorial rule.

But the parties were viewed with suspicion by the natives and some leaders were even persecuted for meddling into the internal affairs of the homeland which lacked homegrown political institutions at the time. The first president, Levon Ter-Petrosian, even dismissed them as "anachronistic" and began manipulating those parties internally. He closed down their offices, jailed their leadership and confiscated their media offices.

No one can deny that after 70 years of atrophy in the diaspora, the parties needed to reform their stances and tailor their ideologies and actions to the emerging political realities.

But they did not deserve destruction. Even today Western concepts of political systems have not yet taken root in Armenia, where most of the parties constitute the political fiefdom of some influential oligarchs.

Following this unanticipated confrontation, the ARF rebounded thanks to its structure and discipline, to play its role within the system. The Hunchak party was half resuscitated and still is led by more than one head.

The ADL was the victim of its own liberalism, as opportunists infiltrated the ranks to achieve their own selfish goals under the guise of "democratic freedom." At one point, more than 20 members of the Armenian parliament adhered to the Ramgavar party, which in its turn aggravated jealousy.

Disintegration hit the general structure of the party and since 1995 different regions have operated in a decentralized manner. This situation afforded the opportunity to some marginal people to co-opt the title of "central committee" leadership, lending that title subserviently to the traditional adversaries of the party, in the

name of "cooperation." The ADL has always extended a hand to other parties, on equal terms, on issues of paramount importance, but never at the expense of winning personal favors for its leaders.

Besides, no strategy and no policy have been changed in the opposite camp to warrant complete surrender.

In order to further weaken the party, the hijackers began a process of "expulsions" – on trumped up charges – of leaders who had built the history and the glory of the party. But those supposedly "expelled" leaders proved to be more resilient and in command of the membership who had elected them in the first place.

The root causes of this destructive behavior seem to be the unrelenting vendetta of some frustrated members towards the traditional legal leadership and a motivation to control and waste the assets of the organization.

While these invaders were unable to overthrow the traditional leadership, they were very successful in alienating a large number of productive, loyal and dedicated members, who refused to lower themselves in mud wrestling and they opted to serve sister organizations in the community. The vacuum created by their exodus proved to be handy to these self-appointed elements to create chaos in the organization and render its by-laws and traditions a mockery.

These opportunists have marginalized themselves and they have decided to hold a convention this week in Lyons, France, with the participation of hand-picked "loyalists" without due process of the election of delegates, with the obvious goal of reinventing themselves.

Of course, no honest member in good standing would – or could – recognize the election results nor the decision of that illegal gathering.

The ADL Eastern Region of the US and Canada certainly is one group that is not supportive of the elections. The party's membership in Lebanon has already showered the organizers with hundreds of signatures denouncing this unsavory course of action.

While the healthy regions continue their activities in the diaspora, despite the mayhem created by a few troublemakers, a brighter picture emerges in Armenia.

The leadership of the party was also hijacked by a self-appointed "leader," who was serving as the deputy of the "leader" in Toronto, Canada. The main "contribution" of that deputy was selling the head office on Koriun Street in Yerevan and pocketing the money. He has also sold three offices bought through the contributions of ADL benefactors in the Eastern region of the US. At this writing he remains a fugitive as he is on the wanted list of law enforcement authorities in Armenia.

The Toronto leader had begged for photo ops with the president and the prime minister in Armenia. His wish had been granted under the condition of his solemn promise to unite the party in the diaspora. Although he used those pictures to boost his beleaguered image, but he reneged in his promise. He was told: "If you wish to serve your people and Armenia, unite" the party. He has lost his credibility with the authorities in Armenia. That credibility was very dubious any way.

With the fugitive "deputy" on the run the ADL Armenia (HRAK) and Armenagan ADL have joined and reorganized under one charter of ADL (Ramgavar Azadagan Goussagtzoutioun) and they have been duly registered as a political party, which claims its roots in the Armenagan party of Van (1885) and its successor party ADL (Ramgavar Azadagan party - 1921).

The party is participating in local elections and has already a political platform for a future role in Armenia's democratic process.

This gives the opportunity of the healthy regions of the ADL to cooperate with the rejuvenated party in Armenia.

The ADL District Committee of US and Canada has already greeted this dynamic development and offered plans and projects for future cooperation.

While some minions still are mired in their ludicrous games, the recovery of the ADL is finally on the way.

Two Steps Backwards in the Caucasus

By Peter Rutland

In recent days there have been two symbolic events that run the danger of igniting hostilities in an already tense neighborhood of the Caucasus.

On August 31 a former Azerbaijan Army lieutenant, Ramil Safarov, flew back to Baku after serving eight years in a Budapest jail for killing Gurgun Margarian in 2004. The victim, an Armenian officer, had been a fellow participant in a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise. Safarov hacked him to death in his sleep with an axe.

The Hungarian government transferred the prisoner to Azerbaijan on the understanding that he would serve out the rest of his life sentence in his home country. But immediately upon his arrival in Baku, Lieutenant Safarov was pardoned by President Ilham Aliyev, restored to military duties, promoted to major, given an apartment and awarded back pay for his time in prison. These actions drew universal condemnation from Washington, Moscow and European governments.

Apart from the fact that such a step is an affront to basic notions of justice and the rule of law, even more troubling is the message that it sends to the rest of the world: that the Azerbaijani government thinks it is acceptable

to kill Armenians. Apparently, the grievances they suffered in their defeat by Armenian forces in 1992-94 are so profound that even murder is excusable. It is hard, then, to ask the Armenians living in Karabagh to quietly accept the idea that the solution to their disputed territory is for them to return to living under Azerbaijani rule.

This one single act could undo the patient efforts of diplomats and activists over many years to try to rebuild connections and work toward mutual trust – without which any kind of peace settlement will be a pipe dream.

Compounding the problem was a less significant but still noteworthy gesture. On September 3, Richard Morningstar, the new US ambas

continued on next page



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

French-Armenians Should Welcome Aliyev in Paris as 'Chief Hatchet Man'

When President Ilham Aliyev arrives in Paris on September 18, thousands of French-Armenians should greet Azerbaijan's leader with posters depicting him as "Hatchet Man-in-Chief" – "Bash Baltaji" – holding a bloody axe. Interestingly, in all three languages – Azeri, Hungarian and Turkish – "balta" means hatchet or axe.

During the protest, French-Armenians should not waste their energies yelling out meaningless slogans, such as "Shame on Baku" or "Shame on Hungary." Instead, they should deliver the crucial message that Artsakh (Karabagh) be recognized as an independent state, because its Armenian population cannot survive under a despotic regime that glorifies axe-wielding murderers.

Inadvertently, Hungary and Azerbaijan have done a huge favor for Armenians in extraditing and pardoning Lt. Ramil Safarov, who bludgeoned to death his sleeping Armenian classmate, at a 2004 NATO course in Budapest. Numerous countries and international organizations have condemned Hungary and Azerbaijan for their unsavory actions. Armenians should capitalize on this sordid affair by holding demonstrations in every major city around the world,

raising it in every international meeting, and filing lawsuits in European courts against Hungary, Azerbaijan and NATO. Now that the axe-man's release has generated worldwide sympathy for Armenians and clear antipathy for Azerbaijanis, Armenia should take advantage of this narrow and fleeting window of opportunity to recognize Artsakh's independence and urge others to follow suit. A search on Google reveals that more than 1 million articles were written on this subject in the last 10 days, the overwhelming majority favoring Armenia and criticizing Azerbaijan.

Armenians should explain to the world the futility of holding peace negotiations with Azeri leaders who treat international agreements as toilet paper. The most recent example is the August 15 letter of Azerbaijan's Deputy Justice Minister to his Hungarian counterpart, assuring him that Safarov would not be released if extradited to Baku. Two weeks later, the axe-man was not only freed, but promoted and rewarded by the "Chief Baltaji," who is taking his cues from Turkish leaders on glorifying criminals and treating protocols as meaningless pieces of paper.

Turkish officials, however, are not too anxious to link their names to the odious behavior of Aliyev Junior. A spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a statement claiming that Turkey had nothing to do with Safarov's extradition from Hungary, despite the murderer's expression of gratitude for Turkey's support, after his arrival in Baku. Independently of its accuracy, the Turkish statement does confirm that Azerbaijan is isolated from the rest of the world and abandoned by the major powers – the United States, Russia and France – all of which have condemned Safarov's release.

In desperation, Azerbaijan's intelligence services concocted a fake Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) letter that threatens Azeri officials, so

that Aliyev can regain the sympathy of world public opinion. The forged letter included statements that no Armenian would make, such as claiming that only 600,000 Armenians were killed during the Genocide, a false figure circulated by denialist Turks and Azeris. No Armenian would ever minimize the enormous death toll from 1.5 million to 600,000. In response to this forgery, the ASALA issued a statement rejecting the authenticity of the letter. Such fraudulent Azeri actions give credibility to rumors that Azerbaijan may consider "eliminating Safarov," its "national hero," in order to blame Armenians for his murder.

Ironically, Armenia defeated Hungary last Sunday to win the World Chess Championship held in Istanbul. Azerbaijan was in 10th place, while Turkey came in 48th. Armenians should be genuinely proud of this incredible accomplishment (for the third time!), but they should refrain from making disparaging remarks about people in other countries. There are good and bad individuals in every nationality. Rather than harboring ill feelings toward the people of Hungary, Azerbaijan or Turkey, Armenians should confront those who deny the Armenian Genocide, extradite a convicted criminal or glorify an axe-murderer.

Tomris Azeri, president of Azerbaijan Society of America and co-founder of the Pax Turcica Institute, suggested in an interview posted on News.az that rather than criticizing Turkey, I should help resolve the Artsakh conflict! Mr. Azeri stated: "I sincerely wish that before authoring another Turcophobic ode, Mr. Harut Sassounian analyzes what can be done to resolve the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict." My advice to Mr. Azeri is not to deny past crimes, not to commit new ones – with or without an axe – and then pursue peaceful solutions, rather than whipping up racist anti-Armenian mass hysteria by the "Bash Baltaji" and his cohorts.

Two Steps Backwards in The Caucasus

from previous page

sador to Azerbaijan, paid his respects to Heidar Aliyev, the deceased former president (and father of the incumbent), by laying a wreath at his statue in central Baku. Apparently it is standard protocol for US ambassadors to include this stop in their round of duties when arriving in Baku. Photographs also clearly showed the ambassador bowing his head before the monument, though a State Department spokesman later denied this.

Mr. Morningstar's far-from-empty gesture sent two wrong signals.

First, it is disheartening to Azerbaijani democratic activists to see the United States so cravenly supporting dictatorship as a suitable form of rule, a pattern all too familiar from US policy toward the entire Middle East.

Second, it signals to Armenia – and its principal ally, Russia – that the United States is an unqualified backer of the Azerbaijani government, warts and all. Strategic interests – Caspian oil, access to Central Asia and containment of Iran – count for more than the niceties of human rights and democratic procedure.

This makes it all but impossible for Armenia to expect the United States to act as an honest broker in the peace process. And if the United States cannot play that role, no one else will.

Diplomacy has long revolved around such symbolic acts. In 1793, the Earl Macartney, British ambassador to China, was thrown out of the country when he refused to kowtow before the emperor. More recently, visits by Japanese government ministers to the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo, commemorating the souls of warriors, have triggered protests from China and South Korea.

By contrast, when Chancellor Willy Brandt fell to his knees before the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto in 1970 he turned a page in German atonement for its past atrocities. In the same spirit, Vladimir Putin sent a clear message of reconciliation when in 2010 he knelt at the monument to Polish officers killed on Stalin's orders.

What we need in the Caucasus are leaders willing to follow the examples of Mr. Brandt and Mr. Putin, with the courage to show contrition and a willingness to meet with their former adversary and figure out a way to live together. We may be in for a long wait.

(Peter Rutland is a professor of government at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn.)

This column originally ran in the *New York Times*.)

Justice, Money and the Little Guy

By Alexandra Lodge

We live in crazy times. The lines between nightmares and real life have blurred. Reality has become confusing, incoherent, ugly.

Take the Safarov affair. Eight years ago that Azeri officer got up in the middle of the night in Budapest, where he was taking a NATO sponsored course. He walked over to the room of his classmate, an Armenian officer who was sleeping (as people who are taking a course should), and axed him to death. He struck the Armenian, Lt. Gurgen Margaryan, sixteen times with an axe. He also stabbed him a few times for good measure. Not content with killing one Armenian, Safarov went in search of the second Armenian officer attending the NATO course. His door was locked.

During his trial Safarov stated that he felt "sorry that I haven't killed any Armenian" before he axed Margaryan. Armenians bothered him. They greeted him: "they said hi to me, but I didn't accept it." They were very good at what they did: "because of personal effectiveness the feeling of animosity grew up in me."

The Hungarian court was not impressed. Murder is murder. Premeditated, brutal, and remorseless murder is heinous. It needs to be punished. On April 13, 2006 Judge Andras Vaskuti sentenced Safarov to life in prison without parole until at least 2036.

Fast forward to 2012, or to be precise to August 31, 2012, and we find Safarov in Azerbaijan. Viktor Orbán, the Hungarian Prime Minister released him to the Azeri president Ilham Aliyev. Upon his arrival in Baku, Safarov was pardoned by Aliyev. He received a promotion from the Defense Minister of Azerbaijan, Sabar Abiyev. He was given back pay. He was made a national hero. All for brutally killing an Armenian officer in his sleep.

Nasty rumors have emerged in this past week about Viktor Orbán. It is whispered that the Hungarian Prime Minister transferred the Azeri murderer to Baku in exchange for Azerbaijani promises to buy several billion dollars worth of Hungarian government bonds. It is whispered that it is the promise of Azeri natural gas that motivated the deal.

I don't know what's more disgusting about this affair. Safarov's murder? Azerbaijan's blatant idolization of an axe murderer? Orbán's selling a murderer to those who would release and idolize him (they had plenty of forewarning)? Is it the fact that the case would show that money is more important than justice? And that it would implicitly tell us that we are all just slaves?

Or is it that the Safarov affair shows us that we are living in a nightmare: in a world where those values that we hold most dear – rationality, justice, generosity, courage – are just the illusions of philosophy professors who don't want to face facts?

We are surrounded by liars, murderers, money grubbers. That is a fact. It is an uncomfortable fact. We have become so used to this fact that it does not even make us flinch. It is not just some far away country that makes me say this. I started this article because I was looking through documents concerning the AXA case that is taking place here in Los Angeles. The more I read, the more I was disgusted. The more I read, the more I dreamt of moving to some God-forsaken place

where a tree was the closest thing to a politician, a rock the closest thing to a judge, a coconut the closest thing to a lawyer.

What would you think of a case involving blood money – the settlement of insurance poli-

cies of Armenians killed in the genocide – where checks have been cashed by the wrong persons, where those lawyers who were responsible for the money let them get away with it and actually gave false information about the moneys in their possession, where judges let the lawyers get away with both hiding money and letting the frauds get away with stealing?

The facts of the case are clear and are enough to make you spit. Some five years ago two of the three lawyers who negotiated the settlement decided that for their comfort they would exclude one of their team members from the distribution of funds. They stuck the money in some trust fund and not only put that account in their own names only (excluding the little guy). They wouldn't let the little guy see the money.

The little guy complained. He went to the judge. But the judge would not listen. And the big guys, well, they were big guys and knew that they could get away with it.

Then the money started to be distributed. This is where the adventures really began. A man by the name of Boyajian, signed \$100,000 worth of checks made out to a man by the name of Mkhitarian, and other checks worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. The banks let him do it. The lawyers with the account let him do it. The judge, who let the big lawyers control the account, let him do it.

Our two lawyers, the trust fund guys, who wanted the little guy out, lied in court about the money. They told the judge in February 2011 that they only had some \$300,000 left in the fund, that it should be closed, and the files destroyed. They filed a Final Status Report.

But the little guy would not go away. The people who were supposed to get money called him. He couldn't just go away. So the little guy did what a little guy does. He complained. He went to the judge. The judge wouldn't listen, but the two big lawyers got nervous any way. They accused the little guy of fraud. They dragged in his wife, just for fun.

Three months after they filed the Final Status Report, the big guys must still have felt nervous. Maybe it was the fact that the little guy got a big lawyer. They filed a second status report. They had mysteriously found \$2,500,000 more dollars in their AXA coffers. No one asked them why they didn't know about the money. No one called them to task for not declaring the money.

The only person being held to task is the little guy and his wife, the ones who never had their names on the trust fund to begin with.

They are fighting the system. They are the little guy and his wife.

My heart goes out to them. Fight little guy. You are our hope for a better world. Professors are rooting for you. Students everywhere are rooting for you. Make them pay. If you win, you will keep us one step away from the bad guys, the ones who have made the lines between nightmares and reality blur.



Abrahamyan: Artsakh Can Feel Secure Only after Independence

ABRAHAMYAN, from page 1

Nercessian and others also participated. During these deliberations we examined our future steps. As this incident is not only proof of allowing the criminal to go free, but a much more profound, cunning step with which Azerbaijan demonstrates that whoever kills an Armenian turns into a national hero, the master of great wealth, receives a dwelling, this can be an example for Azerbaijanis to take such steps against us throughout the world, that is, to kill the innocent Armenian while asleep or the innocent Armenian traveler. And the most important issue is for it not to be repeated. In this sense, I and the Union of Armenians of Russia propose a series of steps.

First, I want to unite all Armenian forces and organizations in connection with this matter by creating a coordinating structure which is to deal with this matter and systematize efforts. The traditional political parties will also be in this structure. Its meaning is that superfluous and independent steps should not be taken, we should not give way to emotion and everything must be extremely organized. If there are differences of opinion, they must be brought to light in this structure.

Then, we Armenians of Russia want to call upon the presidents of Armenia and Russia and other states to recognize the independence of Karabagh. Karabagh cannot be part of that country's structure even with the highest status of independence, since killing Armenians is encouraged in that country in all ways. The issue of recognizing Karabagh's independence must be approached as a national security issue. Azerbaijan showed its true face once more and proved with precisely this last example that we cannot leave Karabagh in Azerbaijan's structure.

We must begin with the process of prosecuting Azerbaijan's authorities so that we force the international community to return the criminal to Europe and bear responsibility in accordance with international norms. Aside from this, we must exert efforts so that those who made the decision in Hungary resign; the representatives of that country must not hold positions in European structures. We must find friends and confederates in Hungary so that they help us in the realization of such a plan of operations. UAR will work along these lines with the best lawyers. We are going to convene an international legal forum on this matter so that we will find the legal mechanisms to bring the matter to an international court. This is a

crime directed against mankind, fraught with the danger that it might occur again. Other nations might also find themselves in the same situation and bear losses. As to whether it is necessary to blame Hungary, I wish to approach this in a different way. We must find friends in Hungary who recognize accepted moral norms and the norms of international rights, supporters who will aid us and demand the resignations of those of their leaders who made that decision.

Azg: What is to be done in Russia domestically?

AA: We will conduct mass meetings and demonstrations in Russia. We will organize conferences in Russia's 640 cities. There are over 2.5 million Armenians, there of whom 600,000 to 700,000 work someplace. They can involve their friends. We must carry out protest actions and first, succeed in getting Russia's highest authorities to take their steps, since such an incident is unacceptable. We will carry out efforts toward the recognition of the independence of Karabagh. We must exhort the Armenians of all countries so that each in his country carries out consistent work and appeals to his country's authorities for the recognition of the independence of the Republic of Mountainous Karabagh. They must argue that the government of Azerbaijan, by its vile steps of defending and justifying the criminal, clearly showed that it is a criminal govern-



Ara Abrahamyan

ment, while the Republic of Mountainous Karabagh simply cannot be under a criminal government since its safety would not be assured.

Azg: In your opinion, could we have prevented what has taken place?

AA: Yes. I have experience in how things are done, and I am sure that being aware of those types of processes, we could have prevented it. I am confident that there would have been

many forces which would have participated in stopping it. What is important is that we would have done our share of the work, and whatever would have happened would happen. However no one proposed this to us. The issue is not just the loss of Gurgun Markarian – a very dangerous precedent has taken place. We must turn what Azerbaijan has done against it and use the opportunity correctly. A great battle of information must take place and nothing must be spared for it, since the overt text of the precedent is that the Azerbaijani who kills any Armenian henceforth is a hero in Azerbaijan and will grow rich. By uniting the Armenian force of the entire world, we will reach the desired result.

Remaining silent is not that step. And unity is necessary, putting aside disagreements for the moment. That the president of Armenia has adopted such a stance – the steps and response of the president of Armenia after this incident are praiseworthy. I had a telephone conversation on this matter last Friday with the president of Armenia. He is ready to aid all our steps in this direction. The ministry of foreign affairs is going to aid us. We must learn to defend ourselves and in the necessary circumstance to strike back, placing foremost unity and consistent struggle.

(Translated from the Armenian original, which appeared in *Azg* daily on September 4.)

Film on History of Armenian Memorial Church to Be Shown on September 22

WATERTOWN – On Saturday, September 22, at 7 p.m., the Armenian Memorial Church will host a dinner to premier a documentary on its



Outside the church in 1950

history, titled "The Company of the Committed."


Church member and documentary filmmaker Roger Hagopian made the film.

With the help of several church members, Hagopian spent hundreds of hours collecting photographs, interviewing church members and weaving the story of the Armenian Memorial Church.

Tickets for the dinner are \$25. Tickets can be bought at the door or reserved by calling the church office. The documentary DVD set is \$25.


All donations are tax deductible.

The church is located at 32 Bigelow Ave.



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