

THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

Volume LXXXV, NO. 10, Issue 4353

\$ 2.00

The First English Language Armenian Weekly in the United States Since 1932

Basque Parliament Recognizes Nagorno-Karabagh Self-Determination

TOLOSA, Basque Country – On Friday, September 12, a European Union regional parliament has, for the first time in history, adopted a motion supporting the self-determination of Nagorno-Karabagh following several official visits to the region that were organized by European Friends of Armenia (EuFoA) and the commitment of EuFoA contacts' network.

The motion adopted by the Basque Parliament praises the strong determination of the Nagorno-Karabagh people in their choice for democracy, despite the obstacles. In addition, it states that the people there have the right to decide their own future, namely their self-determination, which is the fundamental element in any negotiation for the final settlement of the conflict. Additionally, it emphasizes the importance of Nagorno-Karabagh's participation in the OSCE Minsk Group conflict resolution negotiations.

Nagorno-Karabagh's foreign minister, Karen Mirzoyan, with the assistance of European Friends of Armenia, travelled to the Basque Country on this occasion and had official visits, including meetings with



The Basque Parliament

Basque country government high officials, the head of the legislative, Bakartxo Tejeria Otermin, and departmental and main local

authorities, as well as companies with an interest in the region.

see BASQUE, page 14

Warlick in Yerevan Meets with Foreign Minister for Karabagh Talks

YEREVAN (Armenpress and Public Radio of Armenia) – The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia Eduard Nalbandian hosted the US Co-chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group James Warlick on September 16. During the talk

the sides discussed issues related to the peaceful settlement of the Karabagh conflict. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia reported that the two sides exchanged ideas concerning the issues put forward at the meeting of the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, initiated by the

US Secretary of State in Wales on September 4.

Warlick said the mission is concerned over the recent violence along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border, Tert.am reports.

At a news conference held at the US Embassy in Yerevan, Warlick voiced alarm over Azerbaijan's arms build-up and the possible risks it poses to the region.

see TALKS, page 16



Ambassador James Warlick with Armenia's Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian

Buenos Aires City Legislature Discards Plan for 'Republic of Azerbaijan' Square

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (Agencia Prensa Armenia) – The legislative council of Buenos Aires, Argentina, decided to discard a draft project to name a square in the neighborhood of Colegiales as "Republic of Azerbaijan" on Wednesday, September 10.

The bill drew a lot of criticism within the Armenian community, as its language indicated that Azerbaijan's early years of independence "were overshadowed by the Nagorno-Karabagh War with neighboring Armenia," while, in recent years, "Azerbaijan had not only succeeded in pacifying the region but also is making great efforts to open up to the world as part of various international organizations, achieving economic and political stability for its people."

see BUENOS AIRES, page 16

Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry Dedicates Walk of Life On Sept. 27 to Young Hero

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

WATERTOWN – Superheroes come in all sizes. Just ask Fr. Arakel and Yn. Natasha Aljalian of St. James Armenian Church of Watertown. Their son, Gabriel, 5, whose leukemia is now in remission, is one such pint-sized superhero.

"When he was diagnosed, he was very young," Natasha Aljalian said. "At first we didn't tell him that he is sick." Though he has had to miss a lot of school and to tolerate much discomfort due to the treatments, his mother said that Gabriel's attitude has been stellar. "I can't say enough about this child," she said with pride.

This year, the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry (ABMDR), which has hosted an annual Walk of Life in the town for the past three years, has dedicated the walk to Gabriel. The walk will take place in Watertown, starting at 10 a.m., on Saturday, September 27.

see WALK, page 9

Gabriel Aljalian



NEWS IN BRIEF

Artsakh Hands over Azeri Citizen Who Crossed Border

STEPANEKRT (Hetq) – The State Commission of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons reports that the authorities of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic, displaying good will and a commitment to the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, with the assistance of the Stepanakert Office of the International Committee for the Red Cross, handed over to representatives of the Republic of Azerbaijan Muzafarzade Javid Samiroglu, a resident of Mir-Bashir born in 1999, who crossed the NKR border in the Martakert region on September 5, and was subsequently detained by the NKR authorities.

The transfer took place on September 11, at 15:04 p.m., local time, on the border between the Nagorno Karabagh Republic and the Azerbaijani Republic, near the village of Bash Karvend.

Wrestler Arsen Julfalakyan Crowned World Champ

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (Hetq) – Arsen Julfalakyan has been crowned world champion in the 75-kilo-gram Greco-Roman category after beating Neven Zugaj earlier this evening at the 2014 World Wrestling Championship in Tashkent.

Julfalakyan beat a Croatian opponent by a score of 4-0.

The Armenian wrestler won a silver medal at the 2012 Olympics and came in second in his weight category at the 2010 world wrestling championship.

AGMI to Host Int. Genocide Conference

YEREVAN (Public Radio of Armenia) – The International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS) will hold its twelfth meeting in Yerevan on July 8-12, hosted by the Armenian Genocide Museum & Institute (AGMI). Director of the AGMI Hayk Demoyan will serve as the local conference chair. The conference theme is "Comparative Analysis of 20th Century Genocides."

The year 2015 is not only important as it marks the centennial of the Armenian Genocide, but the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII and the Holocaust. Therefore, it is a significant time to analyze both crimes and all genocides of the 20th century in global and comparative perspectives. The event will bring together hundreds of renowned genocide scholars from all around the world.

The International Association of Genocide Scholars recognized the Armenian Genocide in 1997 and was awarded the Armenian President's 2010 Prize for considerable contribution to the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Premier Congratulates Wrestler on World Title

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Prime Minister of Armenia Hovik Abrahamyan sent a congratulatory message to the Armenian Greco-Roman wrestler Arthur Aleksanyan on achieving the title of world champion.

In a letter, Abrahamyan wrote, in part, “I cordially congratulate you on the occasion of your victory in the Greco-Roman Wrestling Championship. I am proud that the state anthem of the Republic of Armenia sounded in Tashkent [Uzbekistan] and our flag rose for the second time. Your brilliant victory, which has brought the second gold medal to our team, has become a double festival for our compatriots in Armenia and outside its borders. I am certain that now on you will keep the honor of your country high, achieving new successes in sport. Thanks to all of the coaches, who have a great contribution in the victories of our athletes.”

Aleksanyan won a gold medal at the 2014 Wrestling World Championship by defeating Oliver Hassler (Germany).

Catholicos Karekin I's Book Republished

ECHMIADZIN –The Publishing Department of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin has republished *The Church and Care for the Poor*, a work written by Catholicos Karekin I Hovsepian of the Great House of Cilicia when he was still a deacon. The book was published as part of the Depth series of publications created by the Gevorkian Theological Seminary with the blessings of Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II.

This work has a unique place in the rich and multifaceted scholarly heritage left by Catholicos Karekin I and is mainly influenced by the challenges faced by the Armenian people at the beginning of the twentieth century. In it, the catholicos attempted to create an atmosphere and ideological principles to allow the Armenian Church to implement active and organized activities in the field of social services, as well as to adopt a specific position on the socioeconomic problems of his time. He stressed that the primary focus of importance for the welfare of the people should be the vulnerable groups of society – the poor, orphans, minors, beggars, unemployed and those standing on the precipice before moral decline.

Bishop Gevork Saroyan, dean of the Gevorkian Theological Seminary, wrote the introduction. The book is published under the patronage of the Sarkis Gabrielian Foundation.

Greek MP Welcomes NKR Self-Determination

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – On September 16 Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Armenia Eduard Sharmazanov met with the Ambassador of Greece to Armenia Ioannis Tais and member of the Greek Parliament Gavriil Avramidis. Sharmazanov praised the centuries-old friendly relations of the Armenian and Greek peoples.

They discussed the settlement of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict and the genocides experienced by the two peoples. Sharmazanov thanked the Hellenic parliament for adopting a resolution criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Sharmazanov highlighted the necessity of supporting each other in different international platforms.

Avramidis said that he welcomes the implementation of the right of self-determination of the population of the Republic of Nagorno Karabagh. The Greek deputy remarked that Greece officially supports the activities of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Minsk Group.

Sharmazanov invited his Greek counterpart to attend a conference called *Parliamentarians against Genocide*. It will be organized within the framework of the events of the centenary of the Armenian Genocide, and is scheduled to be held in Yerevan on April 22-23. In the course of the meeting the sides also discussed other issues of bilateral interest.

Embassadors Help Build Housing in Armenia with Fuller Center

VANADZOR, Armenia – On September 13, US Ambassador to Armenia John A. Heffern, the ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Armenia, Erikas Petrikas, and more than 20 volunteer members from the US Embassies Build event organized by Helping Hands and the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia (FCHA). Their goal was to help build homes for eight vulnerable families who have been liv-

Association Charitable Foundation, Vanadzor Municipality and the FCHA. As a result, 47 families already live in decent homes of their own, and this year eight more families will enjoy that happiness. The home of one of the eight families, the Voskanyans, is partially sponsored by Burns Supper of the Armenian-British Business Chamber.

“My family and I have been living in a metal container for many hopeless years. The bad living conditions have

who have given us a helping hand in building our dream home,” said the future resident Tatevik Voskanyan.

“Three years ago, the US embassy established a volunteer community service organization called Helping Hands. Our Armenian and American employees and family members have worked with outstanding organizations such as Fuller on several occasions and look forward to the opportunity to help the people of Vanadzor,” said Ambassador Heffern.

“It is everyone's cherished dream to have a decent home to live in, especially for these people who have lived in deteriorated metal containers without any necessities for many years. It is our duty and domain to help our compatriots,” said the president of the FCHA, Ashot Yeghiazaryan. By the end of the year the construction of the multi-apartment building will be completed and the families will move to their new homes.

The partnership between the US embassy and the FCHA started in 2008. The FCHA is a non-governmental, charitable organization that supports community development in the Republics of Armenia and Artsakh by assisting in building and renovating simple, decent and affordable homes, as well as advocating the right to a decent shelter as a matter of conscience and action. It provides long-term, interest-free loans to low-income families. The monthly repayments flow into a revolving fund, which is used to help more families, thereby providing a financial foundation for sustainable community development. Up to now the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia has assisted 350 families.

For information, visit www.fuller-centerarmenia.org.



The ambassadors and the volunteers

ing in metal containers (domiks) for more than 26 years.

It was a day of great celebration and unusual excitement in Taron, the third district of Vanadzor. The participants set the concrete for the floors of the multi-apartment building. Efforts to assist the families living in these temporary shelters started in 2008 with the trilateral partnership between the Armenian Relief and Development

affected my son Avetik's health. He is ill with hydrocephalus and has had three surgeries. After a few years he will have to be operated on two more times. I couldn't even dream that one day I would have my own decent home. Now I see that my dream and the dreams of people like us are coming true. We are so happy that our children will live in better conditions... We are grateful to this program and to all these people

Yerevan Awaits Erdogan's Reply to Invitation To Attend 2015 Genocide Commemorations

By Naira Hayrumyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Turkey is in dispute with itself: it should reconcile with its own past to be able to build its future. This was the main message of the article by Armenia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Eduard Nalbandian published in the French newspaper *Le Figaro* late last week.

On August 28, Nalbandian attended the inauguration of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and handed him President Serge Sargisian's invitation to visit the commemorative events which will take place on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in Yerevan on April 24, 2014. The “commemoration year” has already begun, and it promises to be a challenge for Turkey.

French President Francois Hollande has already announced that he will arrive in Yerevan on April 24. Pope Francis will also be with Armenia on this day. Other world leaders have not yet responded to Sargisian's invitation. Apparently, they are waiting for Erdogan's reply, because if the Turkish president declines the invitation, it would mean that Turkey continues its policy of denial. And the visit to Yerevan by each of the world leaders will be evidence of an open confrontation with Turkey.

“The president of Armenia has invit-

ed the Turkish president to visit Armenia on April 24, 2015, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. We hope it will not be a missed opportunity and Turkey's president will be in Yerevan on that day,” Nalbandian wrote in his article. He also reminded that by speaking about “common pain” and “just memory,” the new prime minister of Turkey Ahmet Davutoglu emphasizes that “the main goal of Erdogan's statement is prevention of worldwide efforts of the Genocide recognition.”

On April 23, Erdogan issued a first-of-its-kind message on the “Armenian Issue” with words of condolences addressed not to Armenians alone, but to all victims of the events during World War I.

The Armenian issue is part of the policy of Western countries to curb Turkey. Political analyst Igor Muradian believes that the United States and European countries, along with Iran and a number of Arab countries, actively stop attempts of Turkey to expand to Central Asia, the Middle East and the Caucasus. And the Armenian issue is used as one of the main weapons in this police of containment.

There is also another issue – the events in the Middle East could lead to the division of Iraq, Syria and the creation of a Kurdish state. If events develop this way, one would be able to talk about the termination of the Treaty of

Lausanne that determined the new borders across the region after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the First World War. It was because of the collapse of the Ottoman Empire that Armenian lands were divided between Turkey and Russia.

The revocation of the Treaty of Lausanne may open up enormous chances for Armenia to restore historical justice. However, the assessment of Armenian diplomacy in this matter is not entirely positive – analysts believe that Armenian diplomats should more firmly defend the country's interests. For example, some took note that Nalbandian's article has no mention of compensation and claims of Armenians. Although in one of his recent interviews Nalbandian for the first time declared about the inevitability of reparations.

In Turkey they are trying by all means to resist these processes, but at the same time they understand the inevitability of recognition of the property rights of Armenians. It is hardly a coincidence that there are reports in the Turkish press that Erdogan is building a new presidential palace and intends to leave Cankaya Palace. For nearly 100 years Turkish presidents have used Cankaya Palace as their official residence. The building was originally the Kasabian Estate and belonged to an Armenian named Ohannes Kasabian, a survivor of the Armenian Genocide.



ARMENIA

'Armenia Is Always in My Heart,' Says US's Youngest Grandmaster

Interview by
Varvara Hayrapetyan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Samuel Sevan, 13, is an American chess prodigy of Armenian descent. He was born in Corning, NY. He currently holds the record as the youngest ever United States International Master at the age of 12 years and 10 months, besting Ray Robson's previous record by three months. He accomplished it by completing all the norm performances and reaching a FIDE rating of 2401 during the course of tournament play in Budapest, Hungary in November 2013. Sevan accomplished it while being the reigning World Champion in his age group U12. Sevan became an IM-elect by completing all three International Master norms before he turned 12. In an interview with Armenpress News Agency, Sevan confessed that his favorite chess player is Garry Kasparov, but he likes watching Levon Aronyan's matches.

VH: Samuel, who first introduced you to the chessboard and when?

SS: I have made my first steps in the chess with the help of my father at 3.

VH: How did it happen that you liked the chess so much?

SS: After learning the chess rules I started solving small tasks, which my father presented me in the form of games. I enjoyed it. Beginning at the age of 5, I started participating in competitions, which were very interesting and rich in emotions.

VH: Specialists, chess players and just chess loving people speak of your great success. How would you assess your success of being the youngest grandmaster in the US?

SS: Certainly, I am proud that experts and chess players speak of my successes, but actually I do not focus on that, I just try to improve my knowledge and to win each match.

VH: Being one of the most promising chess players in our time, do not you have weak points?

SS: Certainly, I do. I waste much time trying to estimate all the lines, which leaves little time for the last 30-40th steps and it is easy to make mistakes just that time. At the moment I am working at proper distribution of my time.

VH: Samuel, do you have a favorite chess player?

SS: Kasparov is my favorite chess player. Of course, I also love following Levon Aronyan's matches.

VH: Levon Aronyan was distinguished by his creative way



of playing, Tigran Petrosyan was a master of defense. What chess philosophy do you follow? Which is your style?

SS: It is very early to think of my playing style. Now I need to learn and deepen my chess knowledge, after which my style will be formed.

VH: Tigran Petrosyan said that the chess is a game by its form, art by its content and science by the difficulty of mastering it. What is the chess for you?

SS: I agree with Tigran Petrosyan, but chess is still a sport for me.

VH: You play under the US flag. Can it happen that one day you decide to play in the staff of the Armenian team, under the Armenian flag?

SS: I was born in the US, I represent that country, but Armenia is always in my heart. It is very early to think of it.

VH: Samuel, your father is a chess player too. Do you compete with each other?

SS: I have always played ordinary chess, but now we mainly play in the Fischer round and sometimes my dad wins. He is the most authoritative chess player for me. We have done my first steps in the chess together, we go to my matches together up to now and his advices are the most important for me.

VH: Are you interested in other sport styles apart from the chess. And do you have a favorite athlete?

SS: I like soccer very much and follow all the games of the Armenian team. I like Mkhitaryan and Movsisyan. I like hockey, I am the fan of the Boston Bruins. I play basketball in my free time and I like swimming.

VH: When will we see Samuel in Armenia?

SS: I would like to be in Armenia more frequently. Just my competition schedule is very full. I hope in near future big tournaments will be organized in Armenia in which I will participate with great joy.

Former Syunik Governor Likely to Return to Office after Successor's Resignation

By **Gayane Mkrtchyan**

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – The appointment of a governor of Syunik, who is likely to be the former governor again, has caused a tide of debate within the political and social circles of the country.

Last week the former governor of Syunik, Vahe Hakobyan, was sacked from his position of governor by a government decision and was appointed head of the State Water Resources Management Committee. At a meeting with reporters Hakobyan said it was not an unexpected resignation.

"When state officials see me in this position, naturally enough I should live up to their expectations. We are a political team, and the political force, the government decided for me to continue my duties at the State Water Committee," Hakobyan said, adding that Syunik has a deputy governor.

In the political backstage, as well as in many media there circulate news about ex-governor Surik Khachatryan's possible appointment as new governor. He resigned following events on June 1, 2013.

That day a shootout near the house of Surik Khachatryan resulted in one person, Goris former mayoral candidate Avetik Budaghyan's death and his brother Artak Budaghyan's severe injury. As a result the governor's relative and bodyguard Nikolay Abrahamyan was also wounded.

Khachatryan's son, Tigran Khachatryan, and bodyguard Zarzand Nikoghosyan were arrested, but later they were released and prosecution against them was stopped as investigators found they were acting in self-defense.

Khachatryan is one of the notorious oligarchs in Armenia whose name is connected with several cases. Two years ago in one of Yerevan's hotel lobbies he reportedly slapped a businesswoman,

Silva Hambardzumyan.

Khachatryan's name appeared in Wiki leaks as well yet in 2008 when the governor was said to have beaten an 18-year-old man.

During last year Khachatryan's name figured in the media in connection with the infamous intent to lease vast alpine pastures of Syunik to Iranian sheep breeders. The idea appears to have been abandoned after a strong reaction from the public.

A former mayor of Goris told *Aravot* that by not bringing charges against Surik Khachatryan

after his resignation "the ruling regime sent a message to the newly appointed governor Vahe Hakobyan that he must follow Surik Khachatryan's orders."

"Vahe Hakobyan's resignation is directly connected with Surik Khachatryan. The two of them could not have stayed in that status for so long; the case was to be solved. And they solved it – Vahe Hakobyan got fired. The regime sees the position of a governor as more important, and it is very likely that Surik Khachatryan will actually be reappointed in the position," he said.

Aram Khachaturian Festival to Be Streamed Live Online

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) – The second Aram Khachaturian International Festival and an innovative project of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia (SYOA) were presented during the joint press conference of Sergey Smbatyan, the Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia, and VivaCell-MTS General Manager Ralph Yirikian.

The artistic director and Principal Conductor Sergey Smbatyan of the SYOA announced the launch of the festival, which will be held with the support of the Ministry of Culture of Armenia.

It is dedicated to the 95th anniversary of Yerevan State University and is being implemented under the patronage of the Embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Armenia and with the support of the British Council.

During the concert, the State Youth Orchestra of Armenia will perform jointly with the world-renowned musician - DJ Switch (United Kingdom) and Bagrat Terteryan, the head of the Armenian Association of Beatbox. The audience will be presented the Concerto for Turntables and Orchestra by Gabriel Prokofiev and the Concerto for Beatboxer, Turntablist and Orchestra by Miles Hancock.

One more initiative of the Youth Orchestra is becoming a reality thanks to the support of its General Partner VivaCell-MTS. Now the connoisseurs of classic music will be given a unique opportunity to follow all the concerts of the collective, particularly the whole season of the 2nd Aram Khachaturian International Festival, regardless of their location, the only condition is the availability of internet. Starting September 16 the concerts will be available on the official website of the Festival www.akhif.am and the official website of the Orchestra www.syoa.am.

"Technology is at the service of culture: the more we can use technology to endorse the spheres, which are our Nation's main pillars, the better we will stand out and sustain. The voice of culture is nowadays louder with the tools we can use to make it reach. VivaCell-MTS is happy to supply the Youth Orchestra with such means for music to reach more people," commented Yirikian.

Numerous events are going to be held within the framework of the Festival – concerts, masterclasses, screenings of films, etc. Yerevan will host both famous musicians and young talents from all over the world who will perform pieces by Khachaturian.

Armenian Lawmakers to Help Iraqi Yazidis

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – Deputy speaker of the Armenian parliament Edward Sharmazanov has called on fellow parliament members to contribute to helping Iraqi Yazidis following an appeal by members of the Yazidi community of Armenia.

"We are aware of the deplorable events...The Yazidi community has asked us for help. A bank account is open and I ask those MPs who are ready to help to do so," Sharmazanov said.

He said that the number of the bank account will be sent to all the factions and thanked his colleagues in advance for the support.

Earlier this month the Armenian Foreign Ministry transferred \$100,000 to an international agency for relief aid to Yazidis suffering at the hands of Islamic State militants in Iraq.

Tens of thousands of Yazidis have fled their homes in the town of Sinjar in the country's north last month amid a fierce onslaught of militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), an organization that is increasingly seen as a threat to not only regional, but also to international security. Hundreds of Yazidis are believed to have been killed by the Islamists, who warn religious minorities to convert to Islam or face death.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Georgia to Send Helmets, Bulletproof Vests to Ukraine

TBILISI (RFE/RL) – Georgia is preparing to send military helmets and bulletproof vests to Ukraine as part of what it calls a humanitarian aid shipment. Georgia's minister of labor, health, and social affairs, Davit Sergeenko, told journalists in Tbilisi that the government has reached an agreement with transport companies to send humanitarian aid to Ukraine on September 10.

Defense Minister Irakli Alasania told Rustavi 2 television that the aid would include military helmets and bulletproof vests. Alasania said Georgian hospitals are ready to treat Ukrainian soldiers injured in fighting with pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine. Kyiv and the West say the rebels are backed by Russian soldiers.

The conflict in Ukraine has struck a chord in Georgia, whose military fought against Russian forces in 2008.

Peace Conference in Belgium

ANTWERP, Belgium – In the Belgian city of Antwerp, an international conference entitled "Peace is the Future: Religions and Cultures in Dialogue 100 Years after the First World War" was held on September 7-9 through the initiative of the Community of Sant'Egidio of the Catholic Church. Over 300 delegates and guests from the world's various religious institutions and organizations attended the conference.

With the blessings of Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II, Bishop Bagrat Galstanian, director of the Office of Religious Conceptual Affairs of the Holy See, represented the See of Echmiadzin. Bishop Galstanian conveyed the greetings and blessing of the catholicos to the participants, as well as delivered remarks on the theme of "solidarity, the key to our times."

European Armenian Group Seeks Punishment For Turkey's IS Support

PARIS – The Assembly of the Armenians of Europe issued a statement in which it condemned "in the strongest possible discourse the murderous genocidal deeds committed by the cut-throats of the so-called Islamic State (IS) against the Christians and other multi-cultural denominations on an industrial scale, deeds which includes mass rapes of women and children, mass murders of their husbands and fathers, forced and false Medieval religious worship and their exile from their own ancestral historical homes."

The group suggested that the operation bears a striking resemblance to the operations during the Armenian Genocide in Turkey.

There are more than 1,000 Turkish citizens fighting in the IS ranks, according to the Turkish press.

US 'Concerned' about Deportation of Azeri Activist

WASHINGTON (RFE/RL) – The US says it has raised concerns with Azerbaijan about Said Nuri, a US citizen of Azerbaijani origin who was deported by authorities in Baku after what he called days of "intimidation and harassment." "We have made our concerns clear to them both publicly and privately," US State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said on September 15.

Nuri, a former youth opposition leader, says he was ejected from Azerbaijan and told he could never return. He said he has received an email warning him not to forget his relatives remain in Azerbaijan.

"We are increasingly concerned that the government of Azerbaijan is not living up to its international human rights commitments and obligations in its actions against civil society groups," Harf said. Rights watchdogs have decried the wave of arrests of Azerbaijani rights activists in recent months.

International Dink Awards Awarded

ISTANBUL (Public Radio of Armenia) – The 2014 International Hrant Dink Award was presented to laureates Sebnem Korur Fincanci from Turkey and Angie Zelter from Britain, on September 15, with a ceremony organized by the Hrant Dink Foundation at the Cemal Resit Rey Concert Hall.

The award statue was presented to Angie Zelter from Turkey by the Head of the Award Committee Ali Bayramoglu and Ziena Alhaji from Greenpeace.

In 1997, Zelter was one of the six activists that initiated the Trident Ploughshares campaign that aimed to disarm the UK Trident nuclear weapons system via non-violent, direct and peaceful means. In 1999, with Ellen Moxley from the US and Ulla Roder from Denmark, she entered the Trident Sonar testing station in Loch Goil, Scotland, where they damaged computers and electronic equipment and threw the log books, files and computer hardware overboard. After this specific action, she came to be known as a member of the Trident Three. In 2002, she initiated the International Women's Peace Service – Palestine. In March 2012, she supported the resistance against the construction of the Jeju Naval Base on Jeju Island, declared in 2005 World Peace Island by the South Korean Government and home to a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Since the mid-1990s, she has been arrested more than 100 times; these arrests played a significant role in creating public awareness and media interest on nuclear disarmament. In her award speech, Zelter stated that Britain systematically undermines and violates international law. It supports and trades weapons with some of the most repressive regimes in the world and mentioned the current developments as: "Currently it [UK] supplies arms to Israel and refuses to condemn Israeli war crimes and breaches of humanitarian law in the occupation of the West Bank and siege of Gaza."

The statue was presented to Korur Fincanci from Turkey by the Jury members Baskin Oran and Saturday Mothers / People representatives Hanim Tosun and Ikbal Eren.

Having dedicated her professional career to the struggle against torture, in the 1990s, when torture was prevalent in Turkey and covered up by authorities, Korur Fincanci was subjected to the oppression and obstructions of the state as she wrote articles on medical ethics and penned reports documenting torture. In 1996, she took part in post-mortems from mass graves in the Kalesija region of Bosnia as member of the PHR team on behalf of the United

Nations International Criminal Tribunal.

On behalf of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture (IRTC), she travelled to Bahrain disguised as a tourist and collected tissue samples from the body of a young man whose remains were discovered at sea, claimed by the police to have drowned. She brought the samples to Turkey, and in the autopsy she carried out, determined that he had been murdered under torture in detention as his family had claimed. She proved the torture carried out by Adil Serdar Saçan, the former Director of the Directorate of Organized Crime Branch. Her application to intervene on the grounds that her telephone had been tapped by the Ergenekon organization and that her personal information had been filed, became the only intervening party in the Ergenekon case.

In her speech, Korur Fincanci gave voice to her embarrassment upon receiving the Hrant Dink Award: "I feel embarrassed because I am receiving this award as I merely try to fulfill the responsibility of being human. In addition to feeling incredibly honored, I feel embarrassed because I am receiving the same award extended to Saturday Mothers who have been looking for people lost by the state for years. I feel embarrassed because this award means so much. I feel embarrassed because in my mind I have done what needs to be done and that does not call for an award. I feel embarrassed because what needs to be done is still not readily done in these lands. The fact that the Armenian Genocide is still discussed behind closed doors, the denial of Kurds, their annihilation, the fact that the purging out of indigenous people of this land is celebrated every year, that you live with the shame of the fact that in a neighborhood populated by the ever-shrinking Armenian community a school is named Talat Pasha, a road Ergenekon, a street Türk Beyi, that we feel the plight of all oppressed people in our hearts but that we have failed in dressing their wounds. The embarrassment of this all..."

At the award ceremony, hosted by Olgun Simsek, the President of the Hrant Dink Foundation, Raket Dink made the opening remarks. Ara Dinkjian, initiating the award ceremony with his piece titled *Keeshar Bari*, after the opening remarks, took the stage with Ari Hergel to give a musical performance.

Before the awards presentation, Inspirations, a group of people and institutions from Turkey and from all corners of the world who multiply hope for the future with the steps

they take, were saluted with a film acknowledging their achievements. The Inspirations of 2014 included Galata Fotografhnesi and the Photography Foundation in Turkey which organized the "The Photographer Children of Soma Workshop" in Elmadere village, following the great Soma mine disaster, in order to provide support to children during the difficult process they faced; the Palestinian non-governmental association, ADDAMEER [Arabic for conscience], providing support for Palestinian political prisoners held in Israel and Palestine prisons; Ta'ayush [Arabic for living together], a group of Palestinians and Jews, to end the Israeli occupation and to achieve full civil equality through daily non-violent direct-action; the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety in Azerbaijan working against governmental restrictions on freedom of expression and press freedom; the Kazova workers in Turkey who occupied their workplace when their factory was closed and they were fired without compensation, and continued production; the AEK supporters' group Original 21 which unfurled a banner, featuring Alexandros Grigoropoulos and Berkin Elvan, victims of police violence on both sides of the Aegean Sea; a group of citizens in Japan who prepared a video in Turkish, expressing the shame they felt of the Prime Minister of Japan regarding their government's sale of a nuclear power station to Turkey; the Viasna Human Rights Centre in Belarus providing assistance to political prisoners and their families; the Earth Tables in Turkey during the month of Ramadan, in protest of luxurious banquets organized at five-star hotels; Bytes for All from Pakistan working for freedom of expression and for the prevention of gender-based violence on the internet both in Pakistan and across the world; the movement that was initiated under the name Oy ve Ötesi/Votes and Beyond in order to find independent polling clerks for the 2014 local elections in Turkey because pro-government election rigging has been widespread, became an association in April 2014; the July 21 Association in Italy committed to the protection of the rights of the Roma and Sinti communities in Italy; and Kiyamet Peker who pulled her chair into the path of the bulldozer and started sitting to protect the park in her neighborhood from being demolished.

The Jury of the International Hrant Dink Award 2014 consists of Baskin Oran, Gerard Libaridian, Kenneth Roth, Kumi Naidoo, Mary Kaldor, Oya Baydar, Raket Dink and 2013 International Hrant Dink Awardees Natasa Kandic and Saturday Mothers / People.

Basque Parliament Recognizes Nagorno-Karabagh Self-Determination

BASQUE, from page 1

"I am particularly pleased by the acknowledgment of the democratic governance development of Nagorno-Karabagh and the recognition of the efforts they are doing in transposing EU legislation. The Nagorno-Karabagh soci-

etates at regional level, such as health, education, from elementary schools to universities, or territorial development.

The Basque country is one of Spain's 17 autonomous communities since 1979 and has a population of approximately 2.5 million people. It has its own executive and legislative institutions. The Basque government is among the sub-state governments that enjoys the highest level of competences in the European Union. Basque authorities are competent to lead policies in domains such as fiscal policy and tax collection or police management, having its own police force, among other more classic compe-

tences at regional level, such as health, education, from elementary schools to universities, or territorial development. Moreover, the Basque country has its own External Actions Service, at the head of a network of over 200 political and cultural delegations worldwide. From an economic point of view, the Basque country represents one of the European Union most developed areas.

On September 13, Mirzoyan visited the city of Tolosa, the Basque Country, where he met with Mayor Ibai Iriarte San Vicente.

During the meeting, the sides exchanged views on the prospects for decentralized cooperation between Artsakh and the Basque Country in a range of areas. In this context, issues related to the possibility of establishing relations between the city of Tolosa and the cities of Artsakh were touched upon.



Karen Mirzoyan

ety should be proud that their commitment for democracy as an inalienable part of the European space is not only

etates at regional level, such as health, education, from elementary schools to universities, or territorial development.



Community News

Dr. Albert Ghassemian Establishes Scholarship Endowment with AEF

GLENDALE — The Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF) announced this week that it has received a donation from Dr. Albert Ghassemian of Boston to establish a \$100,000 endowment fund in honor of his late wife, Ginger. It will be named the Dr. Albert & Ginger Melik Ghassemian Educational Fund and will specifically establish scholarships to pay for the entire tuition for students attending public universities in Artsakh. The fund will be allocated in two parts. One half of the scholarships will be awarded to students graduating from high schools in Shushi, and the other half will be awarded to students graduating from high schools in other regions of Artsakh.

In recent years, Ghassemian has provided additional financial support for various AEF projects, including \$200,000 for the renovation of a



Dr. Albert Ghassemian

four-story dormitory at Artstakh State University, and \$34,000 toward the renovation of two schools in villages in Artsakh. Ghassemian stated that his

grandparents were born in Artsakh, and thus, he wished to honor their memory by helping students with scholarships and financing renovation projects in that region. In appreciation of Dr. Ghassemian's generosity, Artsakh State University awarded him an honorary doctorate degree.

Ghassemian has always possessed a passion for learning as demonstrated through his personal excellence in his own academic studies. He studied medicine at the Melli University of Tehran, and continued his higher education at Boston University School of Medicine. He eventually launched his own medical clinic, where he became a renowned cardiologist and served more than 10,000 patients in his medical group. He also mentored many young students who demonstrated a sincere desire to continue their education, and many of his mentees eventually became doctors, lawyers and businessmen. In addition to his accomplishments in medicine, Ghassemian is fluent in Armenian, Farsi, Russian, Turkish, English and French.

One patient remarked that, "as a doctor, Dr. Ghassemian is like a guardian angel; caring for all his patients like they were members of his own family." Ghassemian's sister, Janet Mirzayan, also stated, "We are all proud of Albert and eternally appreciative of his charitable gifts to the Armenian community. We hope that his gifts of education and medicine will live on forever through the people he has helped."

"We extend our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Ghassemian for his generous donation and trust in AEF, and we commit to continue providing scholarships in his name and in memory of his wife, Ginger," stated AEF President Al Cabraloff.

AEF currently administers 13 educational endowment funds, totaling more than \$1,500,000. The proceeds from these funds provide scholarships to students in the United States, Lebanon, Armenia, and Artsakh. Since 2000, AEF has awarded more than \$1,100,000 in scholarships for education. For more information, contact the AEF office at aef@aefweb.org.



Warwick Mayor Scott Avedisian campaigns outside a polling place at the Heritage Christian Fellowship in Warwick Neck on Tuesday.

In Warwick, Avedisian Credits 'Positive' Campaign In GOP Primary Win

WARWICK (*Providence Journal*) — Mayor Scott Avedisian easily fended off a challenge from newcomer Stacia Petri in the GOP primary last week.

Unofficial results had Avedisian ahead by a margin of about 2-to-1, according to numbers posted on the secretary of state's website. The tally the state listed was 3,108 votes for Avedisian and 1,627 for Petri.

With 151 Republican mail ballots pending in the city, they are not a factor in the race's outcome.

The longest-serving mayor in the city's history, Avedisian, 49, has held the office since 2000.

He will now face two opponents in the general election: Democrat John T. Kirby and independent Kevin C. Eisemann.

Kirby did not have a primary contest although the ballot listed him as having Carel Callahan Bainum as an opponent. Bainum withdrew last month.

Kirby, who ran as an unendorsed Democrat in the last election, has unsuccessfully challenged Avedisian in the past three elections, while Eisemann ran for mayor against Lincoln Chafee in 1994.

"I think positive always wins over negative," Avedisian said after addressing supporters at his Airport Road headquarters. "I think a lot of people know me, they know how I govern and I am gratified by these results."

Avedisian took nothing for granted in the primary and campaigned hard — holding fundraisers, luncheons with older residents and wearing through a lot of shoe leather as he walked local walking neighborhoods.

That is his typical campaign style whether it is a primary or a general election, but Petri, 43, kept the energy level high.

With most of her campaign financed by a \$1,600 loan she made to herself, Petri had only a fraction of the funding Avedisian had. Petri is a customer representative for Summit Pharmacy, a national home-delivery pharmacy service.

According to campaign finance reports filed with the secretary of state's office in mid-August, Avedisian had nearly \$40,000 in his coffers.

As a result, Petri relied heavily on social media. She launched a Facebook page almost as soon as she declared her candidacy in June and posted numerous position papers there.

Avedisian, who had the finances for more mailings, launched his Facebook page at the end of July, and whether the "likes" each page received would translate into votes remained an unknown factor.

By primary day, the Avedisian page had garnered 1,341 "likes" while Petri had 1,541.

Avedisian focused on his accomplishments of the past 14 years, including the city's ability to preserve about a mile of coastline at the site of the old Rocky Point amusement park and its ability to continue welcoming new businesses despite a sluggish economy.

Petri went on the attack, criticizing Avedisian for 14 years of tax increases, and pledging to hold the line on the tax rate.

Petri also warned that city finances were buckling under the weight of pension debt, but Avedisian stressed that the city is not only well on its way to bolstering its one severely under-funded plan but that it has three other locally-administered pension plans that are the only ones ranked "high performing" by the state.

Avedisian said that Warwick is fiscally well-managed, affordable to live in, and has many new businesses and exciting projects being launched such as the redevelopment of downtown Apponaug.

"I believe our best days are ahead," he said in an interview a couple of weeks before the primary. "We have a lot things coming together that will add to our already rich and vibrant city."

Festival of Nations Celebrates Cultural Diversity in Upstate New York

WATERVLIET, N.Y. — A celebration of cultures and art will take place on October 26 during the Festival of Nations event held at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany.

"With such division taking place around the world today, it is nice to have our community here in upstate New York unify to appreciate one another's culture," shared Rafi Topalian, president of the Capital District Armenian Cultural Organization.

Nations participating in this 43rd annual Festival of Nations include: Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Burma, China, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Korea, Liberia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Russia, Scotland, Taiwan, Turkey and Ukraine.

The day will begin at noon with a parade of the 27 nations represented. In addition to a stage full of dancers and musicians, the convention hall will be sprinkled with crafts and ethnic foods to savor.

The highlight of the day will be the crowning of the Miss Festival of Nations. St. Peter Armenian Church's own Renee Dearstyne will represent as Miss Armenia. Dearstyne, daughter of Rebecca and Michael Dearstyne and granddaughter of Victor Khachikian, is a multi-talented 14-year-old prepared to take on the task of representing the Armenian community in the Capital District.

"We have always been fortunate to have beautiful and intelligent young ladies participate as Miss Armenia, and this year we are very pleased to have the talented and poised Renee Dearstyne as our representative," expressed Topalian.

Dearstyne, a freshman, is enrolled in the Schalmont High School honors curriculum and is also a member of the National Junior Honors Society. She has studied the piano for eight years, and is part of the Capital District Youth Choral. Other interests include volunteering at



Renee Dearstyne, 14, of St. Peter Armenian Church in Watervliet, NY, will represent the Upstate New York Armenian community as Miss Armenia during the 43rd annual Festival of Nations.

the Schenectady City Mission store, competitive dance and cheerleading, and participation in several school clubs as well as a member of the Armenian Church Youth Organization of America (ACYOA) and a St. Peter Sunday School student.

For further information about the Festival of Nations, visit www.festivalofnations.net, or contact Topalian directly at rafitop@aol.com.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Keyan School Joins Combined Federal Campaign

FRESNO – The Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School (CKACS) recently joined in the world's largest annual workplace charity campaign – the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC includes thousands of local campaigns throughout the country and overseas. Presently, the CKACS is the only Armenian non-profit in the entire CFC directory.

Even if a person is not a federal employee, everyone can work toward the CFC's success. All federal civilian, postal and military employees, including retirees, have an opportunity to choose from CFC charities and support the cause that matters most to them. Any federal employee or retiree can donate to the CKACS regardless of geographic location.

Federal employees are encouraged to search for the school in the CFC Charity List and pledge a portion of their salary to the CKACS using the I.D. code Armenian Community School CFC #23531. Donations will support the next generation of Armenian-Americans and help preserve Armenian culture in the US.

Even if a person is not a federal employee, he or she can still help spread the word. Tell any federal employee you may know (friends, family members, mailmen) to consider the CKACS as a charitable option.

In 2013 Federal employees contributed over \$200 million to CFC charities. The current campaign season ends in mid-December.

Support for the CKACS helps commemorate the 1915 Armenian Genocide by maintaining an excellent academic education and a strong Armenian language and culture program for Armenian-American children that keeps Armenian culture alive.

For more information about the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School, please visit our website at www.ckacs.org, or contact Zaroohi Der Mugrdechian, principal, at principal@ckacs.org.

For more information about the Combined Federal Campaign, see the CFC website at www.cfctoday.org/ or the Central Valley CFC at www.centralcaliforniacfc.org.

OBITUARY

Dr. Hrair Atikian

(1940-2014)

SHERMAN OAKS, Calif. – Dr. Hrair Atikian, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle, passed away on Tuesday, August 19, in Burbank, due to complications caused by cancer. He was 74.

Atikian was a resident of Sherman Oaks for 46 years and a prominent orthodontist in North Hollywood for more than 35 years.

He was born on February 25, 1940 in Kessab, Syria, the youngest of Hovhannes and Martha Abdulian's eight children. Two weeks after his birth, his biological mother passed away, whereupon young Hrair was adopted by his maternal aunt, Efronia Atikian and her husband, Agop Atikian, a well-known chemist and schoolmaster, whom he always warmly called Mom and Dad. The family immigrated to the United States in 1954, settling in Boonton, NJ, where he attended Boonton High School and graduated in 1958.

He then attended Cooper Union, where he studied mechanical engineering for two years. After witnessing a downturn in the engineering industry, he redirected his academic focus and enrolled in New York University (NYU), graduating in 1962 with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry.

He moved to Boston, and from 1962-1966, he attended the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and received a Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree.

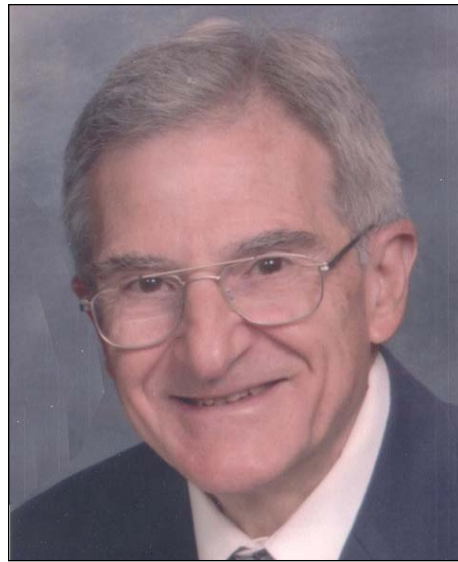
In June 1966, he married Martha Bilezikian of Newton, Mass. They moved to Portland, Ore., where he completed a post-doctorate program in orthodontics at the University of Oregon Dental School. In 1968, shortly after moving to Studio City, Calif., Atikian opened up his own successful orthodontics practice in North Hollywood. For 35 years, many local youth and adults received orthodontic treatment from Dr. Atikian.

In late 1970, Hrair and Martha purchased their home in Sherman Oaks, where Hrair resided up until his death. The couple had three daughters: Katherine ("Katie"), Caroline, and Alison.

In 1994 the couple separated and later divorced. In 1996, he married Mary (Ekmekji) Britton. They enjoyed nearly 18 years of marriage, which included travel to Kessab, Syria and other destinations. Mary cared for Hrair throughout his illness.

Atikian practiced orthodontics until late 2003, at which time he entered an early retirement and sold his practice in order to care for his 34-year-old daughter, Katie, in the last months of her life as she courageously battled pancreatic cancer. The dedication, loyalty, diligence, and relentless sacrifice displayed at this time summarized his character.

He was very active in the local community, dedicating time and resources to the Armenian



Dr. Hrair Atikian

community and several American charitable organizations. He was involved with the Kessab Educational Association (KEA) since 1969, serving as chairman three times, as well as secretary and treasurer. His other civic involvements included: the Kiwanis Club, North Hollywood Chapter, from 1969 to 2010; the United Armenian Congregational Church Deacons' Committee for 11 years, where he served as chairman for two years; and the Merdianian Armenian School for 12 years. His 12 years of service to the Merdianian Armenian School included 5 years as the Chairman.

An avid reader, Atikian enjoyed history, archaeology, and anthropology. Other hobbies included stamp and coin collecting, and spending time with his children, grandchildren, and family.

Atikian is survived by his wife, Mary Atikian; his daughters, Caroline Atikian O'Malley and Alison Sykes; his grandchildren, Shannon Michelle O'Malley and Jack Ryan Kade O'Malley; his son-in-law, John O'Malley; his brothers, Misak, Daniel, and Vasken Abdulian, and their families; and his sisters-in-law, Joyce and Patsy Abdulian, and their families. He was predeceased by his daughter, Katie.

A Memorial Service in Hrair Atikian's honor is scheduled at the United Armenian Congregational Church, 3480 Cahuenga Blvd. West, Los Angeles, CA 90068, on Saturday, September 27, at 10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Merdianian Armenian Evangelical School (13330 Riverside Drive, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423 - Memo Line: Hrair Atikian); or to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Kessab, Syria Fund (31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 - Memo Line: Hrair Atikian).

Detroit Knights of Vartan Sponsor Facing History Workshops on Armenian Genocide

SOUTHFIELD, Mich. – In 2015, Armenians worldwide will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide by organizing and sponsoring a series of educational and cultural programs. As one of their planned centennial commemoration activities, the Detroit Knights of Vartan, Nareg Shavarshan Lodge, will participate in the 40th Annual Great Lakes History Conference scheduled for October 10-11, at Grand Valley State University.

The conference focuses on issues associated with the Holocaust and the topic of Genocide throughout history. The Knights will sponsor Dr. Mary Johnson, a founding member and senior historian from the Facing History and Ourselves organization of Boston, to present four workshops during the two-day conference incorporating the history of the Armenian Genocide. Over 240 scholars of Genocide and the Holocaust, as well as public historians, professors and teachers are anticipated to participate in this year's conference.

To date the Detroit chapter of the Knights of Vartan has hosted six workshops in the metropolitan Detroit tri-county area free of charge to hundreds of educators in order to promote awareness of the Armenian Genocide. The long-term goal of the Knights is to introduce the history of the Armenian Genocide into the Michigan high school curricula. Similar efforts in recent years have been successful in Massachusetts and California.

The average cost to sponsor a workshop locally is \$5,000. These funds are raised annually by the Knights of Vartan through the generous donations of metropolitan Detroit benefactors – a small price to pay for a project that advances the just cause for the recognition of the first genocide of the 20th century.

The Knights of Vartan, Nareg Shavarshan Lodge is committed to its mission of preserving the Armenian heritage by supporting Armenian churches, schools, and charitable institutions on a local, national and international level.

Memorial Service for Anahid Yacoubian

WATERTOWN – Anahid Yacoubian of Arlington died on July 18, 2014.

Yacoubian was a longtime and beloved Armenian-language teacher at Watertown High School.

A memorial service for her will be held at the Armenian Memorial Church, 32 Bigelow Ave., on Saturday, September 20, at 5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.giragosianfuneralhome.com.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SARF Board Elects New Members

GLENDALÉ – The Syrian Armenian Relief Fund (SARF) Executive Committee elected new officers: John Titizian was elected chairman and Raffi Kendirjian was elected vice chairman.



From left, John Titizian, new SARF Executive Committee Chairman, and Raffi Kendirjian, new SARF Executive Committee Vice-Chairman.

Zaven Khanjian, the outgoing chairman of the Executive Committee, presided over his last Executive Committee meeting on August 30, when new officers were elected. Since its inception in August 2012, in response to deteriorating living conditions of Armenians in Syria, SARF, under the leadership of Khanjian, raised and transferred to Syria, more than \$1 Million for use in humanitarian relief and to meet immediate needs of Syrian Armenians. Khanjian had submitted his resignation from SARF Executive Committee due to his appointment as the Executive Director/CEO of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Although this position requires him to relocate to New Jersey, Khanjian pledged his continued support to SARF's mission.

In his inaugural address to the Executive Committee, Titizian expressed his appreciation for the work performed by SARF during the past two years, outlined his commitment to SARF's mission and pledged to continue the vigorous fundraising work undertaken by the Executive Committee.

Kendirjian stressed the need to continue assistance to Syrian Armenians since the conditions in Syria have not improved in the past two years.

The election of new officers of the Executive Committee was completed with the re-election of Sona Madarian as Secretary and Meher Der Ohanessian as Treasurer.

In addition, a reception to honor Khanjian was held at Kavar Restaurant on August 20, with the participation of about 30 executive and supporting committee members and press representatives.

On behalf of the SARF Executive Committee, Ara Arayon, the vice chairman at the time, presented Khanjian with a memento, and

Armenian Relief Society of Western USA, Regional Executive Co-Chairperson Rebecca Berberian presented Khanjian with a plaque in appreciation of his efforts.

Many of those who were present, made heartfelt remarks about their appreciation for Khanjian's vision, dedication and leadership during which SARF persevered despite many challenges, bringing and focusing the efforts of various community organizations and the public and raising funds for the Armenians of Syria. Khanjian reciprocated their praise, and reaffirmed his desire to continue to help those in need.

SARF continues to accept contributions. One of the latest contributions was a \$10,000 donation from the proceeds of the "Bashde LA



Zaven Khanjian with SARF Executive Committee Members

2014," which was a concert held on July 12, 2014, at the Christian Outreach for Armenians Center in Glendale, Calif.

Donations for SARF can be sent to P.O. Box

1948, Glendale, CA 91209-1948; or donate online at www.SyrianArmenianReliefFund.org.

The following churches, charities and organizations came together to form the Syrian Armenian Relief Fund in August 2012: Armenian Catholic Eparchy in North America; Armenian Evangelical Union of North America; Western Diocese of the Armenian Church; Western Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America; Armenian General Benevolent Union; Armenian Missionary Association of America; Armenian Relief Society of Western U.S.A.; Armenian Democratic Liberal Party; Armenian Revolutionary Federation-Western U.S.A.; and Social Democrat Hunchakian Party-Western U.S.A.



Zaven Khanjian receives a plaque from Rebecca Berberian.

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Donation

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AMAA's Avedisian School Opens Doors for New School Year

PARAMUS, NJ. and YEREVAN – On a beautiful morning in Yerevan, the doors to the new Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) opened to welcome a large crowd of teachers, students, parents and friends.

With the love and generosity of the Avedisian and Bilezikian families, and many other donors, the AMAA was able to construct this state-of-the-art campus to house preschool through 12th grade. The building is the first LEED certified building in Armenia, setting the standard for all countries in the region. Focusing on another exciting project, the AMAA has collaborated with the Armenia Tree Project (ATP) for work on the school's green roof gardens, which will not only provide insulation and lower heating and cooling costs but will be an educational feature in itself.

In addition to continuing offering first-class education for children from the economically disadvantaged neighborhood of Malatya-Sebastia, the campus will serve as a community center where civic groups can meet, athletic teams can practice and courses will be offered for adults to develop employment skills. In time, colleges and universities will be invited to offer courses for credit during the summer.

The Avedisian family pledged \$5 million towards this project. To help the AMAA reach its goal of matching the Avedisian family's pledge, visit www.amaa.org or write to the AMAA at 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.



Students walk to class.



Students, staff and parents await entering into the school.



The courtyard of the Avedisian School

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and

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

Noyan Tapan

cordially invites you to partake in

Armenia's Independence Day Celebration

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

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

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

Free Admission

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

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

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



COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry Dedicates Walk of Life to Young Hero

WALK, from page 1

So far the family, including Rev. Aljalian, Natasha Aljalian and Gabriel, as well as little sister Mary, is planning to walk together. In case Gabriel is not feeling well, they will go and cheer all the walkers.

Gabriel was diagnosed in November 2012 and has been receiving treatment since then for B-cell ALL, one of the most common and most treatable forms of leukemia, at Dana Farber Cancer Institute. "Gabriel was diagnosed as having standard risk and luckily, we never needed radiation," Natasha Aljalian said.

As she explained, "they achieve remission within the first 30 days. Achieving remission is not the problem but training the body for it not to return" is why the treatment protocol continues over the course of two years of chemotherapy and steroids.

His treatment causes much discomfort and pain, but he bears it gracefully. "He has chemo put into his spine and has a port under his skin," she said, in addition to getting oral chemotherapy. Even more debilitating than the chemotherapy is the high dose of steroids that he has to take in order to retrain his body.

Still, all the difficulties have been worth it, she explained, as "he has responded beautifully." With the treatments almost at an end, she said her son "looks great and is running around like a 5-year-old boy should be." He is also driven by the joy that he is seeing the end of the exhaustive treatments. "He is in count-down mode," she said.

Gabriel, a kindergartener at St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School (SSAES), was in the second year of nursery school when he was diagnosed. "He goes to school as much as he can," his mother said. "He is loving it."

Aljalian praised the students and staff at SSAES as well as the parishioners of St. James Armenian Church for their support. "When the kids saw him with no hair or extremely puffy, both the St. James Sunday School students and the St. Stephen's stu-

WALK OF LIFE
Sept. 27th, 2014 • Watertown, MA

SAVE THE DATE!

3rd Annual New England Walkathon
To Benefit
Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry

We invite you to join the Walkathon to support the Armenian Bone Marrow Donor Registry

will help people to realize it could happen to them. It is good to be more proactive in helping each other, by participating."

The Watertown walk follows a 2.2-mile route starting at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACEC), 47 Nichols Ave., and ending at the "Faire on the Square" on Main Street in Watertown Square, where participants can enjoy music, dancing and food.

Several organizations have already formed walking teams and new ones are joining every day. The participating organizations include Armenian General Benevolent Union Young Professionals of Boston, Amaras Art Alliance, Armenian American Pharmacists' Association, Armenian Assembly of America, Armenian Business Network, Armenian Youth



The Armenian Business Network team from last year



The Erebuni Armenian School team from last year

dents were remarkable. They just rolled with it. The kids have been so amazing for him," she said.

She added that the "St. James family already treated Gabriel like one of their own. Everyone at St. Stephen's Elementary and nursery—I can't say enough about them, how they have treated him so that he has been able to have a normal childhood. Both the teachers and the staff have been remarkable."

Aljalian said that though she has always known about the importance of the bone marrow registry, her son's illness has

made her that much more aware of its importance. "It could literally save our son if he relapsed," she said.

She encouraged everyone, including families, organizations or individuals to join the walk. "They can donate to any of the teams," she added. She also encouraged people to have a swab taken of their mouth in order to register.

Dr. Frieda Jordan, the president of the ABMDR, said that over the course of the organization's operation within the past 15 years, there have been more than 26,000 active donors registered, and more than 2,000 potential matches made. "Not every potential match goes into a patient," she explained, as sometimes the patient either recovers before the bone marrow transplant or conversely, the illness ravages the patient's body to the point that it cannot endure a transplant. "The final transplant decision is not up to the registry," she said. "We provide a match and it is up to the physicians to use it."

There have been 20 successful transplants, she explained, all over the world. "Our size is small but we provide potential matches all over the world," Jordan said.

The goal of the walkathon, she said, is twofold: to raise awareness so people know about the ABMDR and also to provide much-needed funds to test and sort swab samples. "They go hand in hand," she said. "We want this walk to be a grassroots event, with young families and all the schools, especially as leukemia hits young people more."

The idea to dedicate the walk to Gabriel Aljalian, Jordan said, came from the Walk Committee, headed by Alvar Badalian. "It is a beautiful idea," she said. "Our motivation is a patient in need. I am so happy that he is in remission. Gabriel being at our walk



St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School's team from last year

Federation, Belmont High School Armenian Club, Boston College Armenian Club, Cambridge Yerevan Sister City Association, Erebuni Armenian School, Erebouni Dance School and Ensemble, Friends of Armenian Cultural Society, Hamazkayin-Boston, Lexington High School Armenian Club, Massachusetts Institute of Technology Armenian Society, St. James Armenian Church, St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School, Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston and YerazArt Foundation. Prospective participants are encouraged to join an existing team, start their own team, or walk individually.

To register for the walkathon, sponsor a walker, or for more information, interested individuals are encouraged to visit www.abmdr.am/ne-walk/, contact Tatoul Badalian at (617) 331-0426 or write to ne-walk@abmdr.am.

Avakian-Hardaway Named 2014 Rising Star by Temple University School of Media and Communication

PHILADELPHIA — Meredith Avakian-Hardaway, director of communications and marketing at the Philadelphia Bar Association, will receive the Rising Star Award September 26 at Temple University's 14th annual Lew Klein Alumni in the Media Awards.

Avakian-Hardaway, a native of Manasquan, NJ, who now lives in Philadelphia, began at the Philadelphia Bar Association in January. Previously, she worked for DuPont, where she spent nearly eight years in a variety of public relations and communications roles. She graduated from Temple in 2006 with a degree in journalism, public relations

and advertising.

"Meredith personifies the spirit and values of Temple and of our school, demonstrating remarkable energy and working tirelessly for her profession and for the community at large," said David Boardman, dean of the School of Media and Communication. "We can't wait to see what she does next, and we know it will make Temple proud."

The Lew Klein Awards celebrate Temple University alumni who have helped to advance the fields of media and communication. In 2012, the Rising Star Award was added to honor alumni working in these fields who have graduated within the past 10 years. This year, Brian Williams, anchor and managing editor of NBC Nightly News, will receive the Excellence in the Media Award, awarded annually to a renowned media practitioner.

Avakian-Hardaway serves as the Philadelphia Public Relations Association's president-elect and has won the organization's Fast Track Award and Dr. Jean Brodey Award. She also recently was named a "Rising Star of PR" by PR News, a "Hero" by the American Red Cross, and was listed among "Notable Alumni" by Temple University's Department of Strategic Communication.

The Lew Klein Awards will be held on Temple's Main Campus in Mitten Hall, starting with a reception in the Owl Cove at 11:15 a.m. The awards luncheon, where Williams will serve as guest speaker, will be held in the Great Court at 12:15 p.m. The winners will be honored with

documentary profiles about their careers.

Proceeds from the event support approximately two-dozen scholarships for Temple School of Media and Communication students each year. Visit sites.temple.edu/lkam for details.

Centennial Ball of Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church on October 18

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Saints Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church of Providence, is celebrating its centennial (1914-2014). Many events have been organized throughout the year dedicated to this major milestone. The Centennial Ball gala on October 18 will conclude this year's celebrations with a Battle of the Bands night. It will feature Joe Kouyoumjian's All Star Armenian Ensemble, including Joe Kouyoumjian (Oud), Leon Janikian (Clarinet), Harry Bedrossian (Keyboards/Vocals), Bob Raphaelian (Violin), Bruce Rawan (Kanoun), Ken Kalajian (Guitar/Vocals), and Jason Naroian (Drums/Vocals), and the Sevan Armenian Band, both inspired by Dr. Herman Ayvazyan.

The bands, along with Ayvazyan, had delighted an enormous crowd 20 years ago with a memorable performance and an evening enjoyed by all.

The evening of music and dance will take place at the Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson St., on Saturday, October 18 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now. To order, please call Ann Ayrassian or Sevan Janigian. As a sell-out is expected, those wishing to attend are encouraged to purchase tickets soon.



Meredith Avakian-Hardaway

Arts & Living

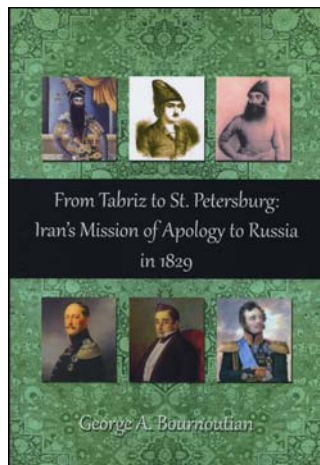
Prof. Bournoutian to Lecture on Russo-Iranian Relations and Formation of Modern Armenia

BELMONT, Mass. — Prof. George Bournoutian will give a lecture titled “Russo-Iranian Wars and Diplomacy and the Formation of the Modern Armenian State,” on Thursday, October 2, at 7:30 p.m., at the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) Center, 395 Concord Ave.

Following the second Russo-Iranian War (1826-28), Russia obtained the region of Yerevan from Iran and called it “Armenian Province.” Armenians from Iran were encouraged by the treaty to repatriate to the historic homeland and thousands did. The region became the foundation of the present day Armenian Republic.

Russia sent an ambassador to Iran in 1829 to ratify the treaty and to assure the return of any Christian prisoners taken away during the war. When Russian Ambassador Griboedov gave refuge to an Armenian man and two women, the Iranians became angry, attacked the embassy, and killed the Russian ambassador and all the Russian diplomats except one. Following this incident, the Shah sent a letter of apology with gifts to the Russian Court, thus strengthening the two nations’ ties.

Bournoutian will explore this fascinating historical episode, covered in his latest book, *From Tabriz to St. Petersburg: Iran’s Mission of Apology to Russia in 1829*, which utilizes primary Russian and Persian sources, and discuss its enduring importance and relevance to modern Armenian history as well as for Russia and



Iran. *From Tabriz to St. Petersburg* will be available for purchase and signing the night of the lecture.

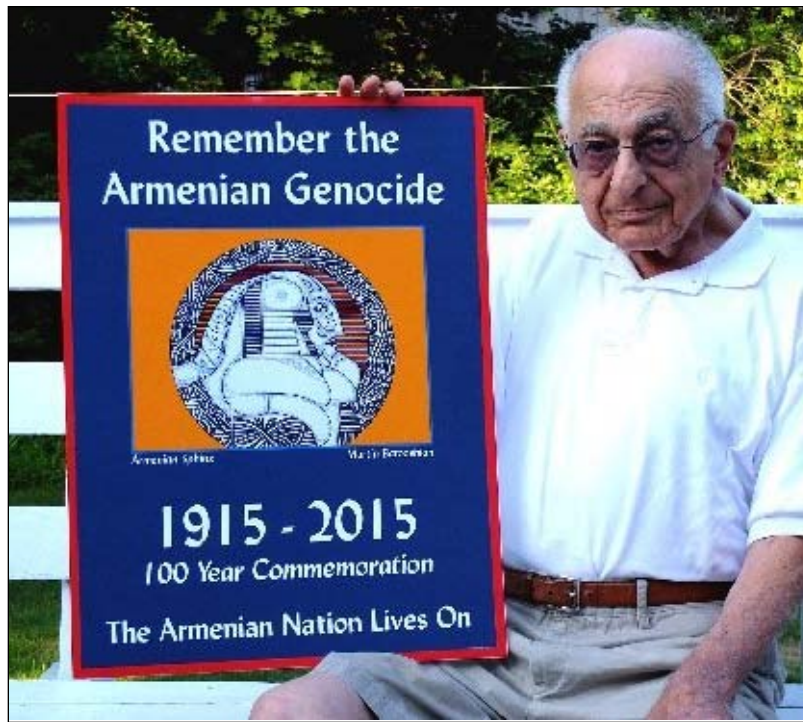
Bournoutian is a professor of Eastern European and Middle Eastern History at Iona College, as well as a recipient of the IREX, NDEA and Mellon Fellowships. He has taught Armenian and Iranian history at UCLA and Columbia University and is the author or translator of numerous books, including *The Khanate of Erevan Under Qajar Rule, A Concise History of the Armenian People, Two Chronicles on the History of Karabagh, The Travel Accounts of Simeon of Poland, Tigran II and Rome, Jambr and A Brief History of the Aghuank Region*.

For more information about Bournoutian’s lecture contact NAASR at hq@naasr.org.

Armenian Museum of America Free on Sept. 27

WATERTOWN — On Saturday, September 27, the Armenian Museum of America will open its doors free of charge as part of Smithsonian magazine’s 10th annual Museum Day Live! nationwide event.

Museum Day Live! offers free admission to visitors presenting a Museum Day Live! ticket at a participating museum or cultural institution. Visitors who present the ticket will gain free entrance for two at participating venues for one day only. One ticket is permitted per household, per email address. To obtain a ticket, and view a list of participating museums and cultural institutions, visit: Smithsonian.com/museumday/venues.



Artist Martin Barooshian displays the poster he designed as a free gift to the community marking next year’s centennial.

A Gift of Art to Mark The Centennial

NORTH READING, Mass. — With the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide next April, many are making plans. Playwrights are busy putting scripts together. Authors are writing books. Commemorations are being planned. Movies are in the works—though whether any will be produced is yet another matter. Internationally-renowned artist Martin Barooshian is making a contribution in the way he knows best. The 84-year-old specialist has created a new work of art specifically marking the occasion.

By Tom Vartabedian

More than that, he’s giving it as a free gift to the community in the form of a commemorative poster with a message that will be meaningful to everyone: “100 Year Commemoration, The Armenian Nation Lives on.”

Barooshian is making it available at no charge to both individuals and organizations. He’s labeled it “the Armenian Sphinx.” “While many think of the sphinx in terms of Egyptian history and mythology, some of the earliest known sphinx images and artifacts are from our Armenian ancestors, the Urartians,” Barooshian points out.

“I guess the Egyptians just had a better marketing team than we did,” he chuckled. “But in mythological terms, the sphinx is a symbol of survival and rebirth. I can’t think of a more appropriate statement to make on the 100th anniversary of the Genocide.”

The poster is being used by Barooshian’s church, St. Gregory of North Andover, as well as other churches, groups and organizations across the country. He is providing the poster image free to anyone who wants it — to print out and use however it best serves his intentions.

There are two versions: the poster itself and a second replica that has an empty space at the bottom which allows organizations to put information about an event or a message. While there is a low-resolution copy on Barooshian’s website: www.martinbarooshian.org, anyone interested in receiving a digital version suitable for printing on their own can request a copy by sending an e-mail to the artist’s website.

“It’s important for me to make a contribution in the way I know best, the central message of which is one of life affirmation rather than tragedy-centered,” he continues. “I believe very strongly that while we must remember who and what we lost, it’s very important to tell the world that we have survived, that we remember, and that we have been reborn. Maybe not in historic Armenia, but we’re still here, and maybe one day ...”

Barooshian is an internationally-regarded surrealist painter and printmaker. His artwork is in the permanent collections of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Metropolitan Museum in New York, Museum of Modern Art in New York, Smithsonian and other leading museums throughout the world. A book on his art is being published in 2015 titled *Martin Barooshian: A Complete Catalogue of the Graphic Works, 1948-1970* by Michael Russo.

Born in 1929 in Chelsea, Barooshian has distinguished himself as an artist whose great vitality and willingness to explore is matched only by his technical finesse. His versatility in every graphic medium has extended itself to woodcuts, etchings, engravings, lithographs and silk-screens.

Over the past 55 years, he’s been fascinated by what he calls fantastic art and surrealism, citing others like Arshile Gorky as contributing to the development of his style. “I’d be bored to tears if I wasn’t involved with art,” he says. “It’s been my obsession for decades and continues to build self-esteem. My art is designed to make people think.”

Newly Published Hymnal Brings Evangelical Churches Into 21st Century

By David Bogosian

PASADENA, Calif. — Openness to change has been a hallmark of Armenian Evangelical churches from their beginning. After all, no change could have been more radical than their separation from the Apostolic mother church back in 1846.

Since then, the pace of the movement’s evolution may have slowed, particularly when faced with the retrenchment necessitated by the Genocide. But the recent publication of a new book of hymns suggests that the creativity and innovative spirit of those early founders have once again manifested themselves among their spiritual descendants.

The *Hymnal (Hokevor Yerkan)*, published by the Armenian Heritage Committee of Royal Oak, Mich., appeared in print in August, representing the culmination of 22 years of labor by its two editors, the brother-sister team of Hrant Agbabian and Lucina Agbabian Hubbard. Lifelong members of the Armenian Evangelical community and the children of Rev. Siragan Agbabian, each brought their significant musical talents to bear on a task that neither anticipated would last the better part of a quarter century. Hrant was for decades choir conductor at the largest Armenian Evangelical church in the US; Lucina has for many years been teaching Armenian music history at USC. Workings with them were a number of distinguished clergy and laymen from both within and without the Evangelical tradition.

Together, they embarked on a quest to develop not just a new hymnal for their fellow congregants, but a hymnal guided by a new set of standards and unprecedented attention to detail and quality. In some areas, the change involved a return to the roots of Armenian Christianity. Their approach was guided by a small number of clearly articulated principles:

- Make the hymnal as bilingual as possible, in order to serve our highly bilingual congregations. This necessitated the gathering of as many Armenian translations of English lyrics as possible, along with the commissioning of new translations into Armenian. Significantly, a handful of indigenous Armenian hymns have had their lyrics translated into (singable) English for the first time.

- Accentuate the use of contemporary language, in order to make the texts relevant to the generation of today. Thus, archaic usage such as “thee” has in many cases been replaced by “you;” “singeth” has been replaced by “sings;” and so forth.

- Similarly, replace repeated use of third person pronouns in referring to the Deity with “God”, “Jesus” or “Christ.”

- Greatly expand the representation of traditional Armenian liturgical songs or sharagans in the hymnal. Yes, theological differences exist between the two traditions, but there is much more that is held in common and can unite the two communities. The new hymnal contains dozens of these sharagans, most of which are being printed in Armenian Evangelical context for the first time. To enhance their accessibility to modern bilingual audiences, the Armenian texts are accompanied both by a transliteration (so that non-Armenian speakers may sing along) as well as by translations into both modern Armenian and English (so that they can understand what they are singing).

- Introduce new Armenian Evangelical hymns by living composers. Efforts were made to include new compositions from those currently involved in producing praise music in the Armenian language.

- Produce a printed copy that uses consistent, clear, and legible typefaces, along with numerous resources for reference (e.g., a *Scripture* verse index).

Getting the hymnal published and printed, however, was not a straightforward process. The task of creating such a volume was first handed to the

see HYMNALS, page 11



ARTS & LIVING

Detroit Tekeyan's Evening of Poetry a Huge Success

By Lucy Ardash

DETROIT – An evening of poetry sponsored by the Tekeyan Cultural Association of Detroit attracted a capacity audience at the beautiful galleries of Hagopian World of Rugs on Friday, September 12. Highlight of the event was the introduction of two books of selected poems written by Vahan Tekeyan translated by Gerald Papisian and John Papisian and edited by Edmond Azadian and Gerald Papisian.

The emcee for the evening, Dr. Raffi Belian, explained that Tekeyan symbolizes the Armenian soul, Armenia's history, tragedy, its survival and hope through the vehicle of poetry. He then introduced Prof. Kevork Bardakjian, the first holder of the Marie Manoogian Chair in Armenian Language and Literature, language and culture at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor who gave an overview of the books. Bardakjian praised Azadian for his illuminating efforts to bring Tekeyan out of the dark shadows and place him in a prominent place among poets.

Samples of Tekeyan's poetry were read alternately in English and Armenian. A powerful English rendition of "We Shall Say to God" was presented by multi-talented artist Aira Matthews, who is a poet in her own right. Well



Aira D. Matthews recites poetry while Nora Azadian looks on.

known artist Nora Azadian, who is one of the few people who knew Tekeyan personally, presented a vivid and emotional Armenian version of the same poem, which dealt with painful memories of the Genocide. She stated that she



Nora Azadian, left, and Edmond Azadian

chose this poem because of the upcoming centennial of the Genocide.

David Terzibashian recited "Yes Siretzi" in Armenian followed by the English rendition "I Have

Loved" by Matthews.

The program included a number of other selections which revealed the poet's tortured soul.

Alice Nigoghosian, publishing consultant for the publication stated that it was a true honor to be a part of the team to bring the poetry of a hero and literary giant to light. She read the following quote from the Foreword written by Barlow Der Mugrdchian, Armenian Studies Program, California State University, Fresno: "Vahan Tekeyan, *Selected Poems* is a work that will become an authoritative edition of the work of Vahan Tekeyan, a poet whose works speak not only to the Armenian people, but to the world."

Edmond Azadian took the podium and expressed appreciation to the speakers and to all whose efforts



Seated, from left, are Dr. Kevork Bardakjian, Aira D. Matthews, Edmond Azadian, Nora Azadian, and standing, from left, are Diana Alexanian, Dr. Raffi Belian, Alice Nigoghosian and David Terzibashian.

brought these volumes to fruition. Azadian wrote the introductory chapters of the books providing insight into the tormented life of the poet. He pointed out that the Armenian version is geared for the readership in Armenia, many of whom are not as familiar with Vahan Tekeyan as with other poets, since his works were written in Western Armenian. The bilingual volume is for American audiences and it is his hope that once the language barrier is eliminated, the poet will receive the recognition he deserves.

The program was brought to a close with Matthews reciting one of her thought-provoking original poems titled "Wisdom." Tekeyan Detroit Chapter Chair Diana Alexanian presented her with an inscribed copy of the recently



Edmond Azadian with poet Aira D. Matthews

published book on the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum, *A Legacy of Armenian Treasures: Testimony of a People*.

A wine and cheese reception coordinated by Alexanian and long time Tekeyan supporter Pam Coultis gave guests the opportunity to mingle and have books signed.

Newly Published Hymnals For the 21st Century

HYMNALS, from page 10


Agbabians in 1992 by the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA). In 2009, the book was finally printed, only to be met with skepticism and resistance. The gradual theological shift towards conservative evangelicalism among AEUNA clergy over the previous two decades had created an environment that was not receptive to the hymnal's guiding principles of inclusivity and contemporaneity of language, as well as to the Apostolic associations of the sharagans. The resulting bitter debate ultimately led to the new books being destroyed in 2010 – prior to their distribution to churches – by the very body which had commissioned them in the first place.

Refusing to accept this setback, Hrant and Lucina, in conjunction with a committee of supporters, pursued their goal with renewed vigor. They took note of the more constructive of the comments offered by the hymnal's critics, and used the reprinting as an opportunity to incorporate a number of further improvements. The new hymnal thus rose from the ashes of its short-lived predecessor, ready to meet the needs of Armenian congregations worldwide.

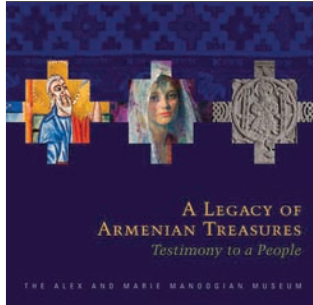
The *Hymnal* contains 435 musical numbers, organized thematically according to the statements of the Apostles' Creed. Of those 435 hymns, about 40 percent are in English, 27 percent in Armenian and fully 34 percent are bilingual, representing a historic achievement in this regard. In addition, it contains over a hundred pages of responsive readings and other texts as resources for worship compiled by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian. The book is handsomely printed and securely bound, ready to endure the wear and tear which the next half-century of weekly congregational use will surely bring. And it is equally well suited for private use by singers, organists, and music directors.

For ordering information, contact either the Armenian Heritage Committee of the Armenian Congregational Church, 26210 West 12 Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48034 or on the West Coast, the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church, 339 South Santa Anita Ave., Pasadena, CA 91107-5247.

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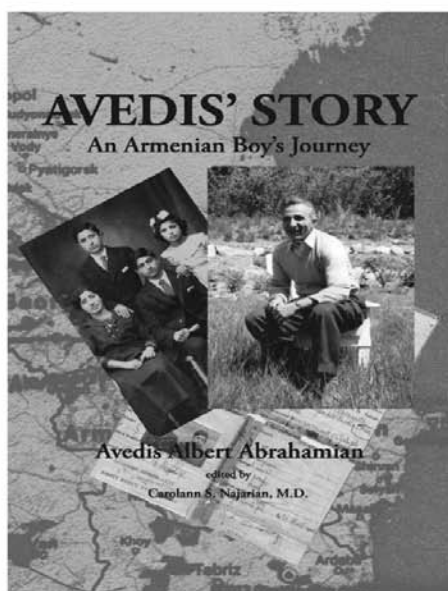


EDMOND AZADIAN
Editor of
A Legacy of Armenian Treasures
Testimony to a People
The Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum



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



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

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

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ARTS & LIVING

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 15 — SAVE THE DATE: AMAA-Haigazian University Celebratory Banquet in honor of Dr. Mihran Agbabian and George R. Phillips, Esq.; Saturday, November 15, 2014, 6 pm, Beverly Hills Hotel, \$200; Information: Julie Aharonian 818-368-5266; Katia Kermoyan 818-242-5064.

MASSACHUSETTS

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

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

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

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

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

OCTOBER 11 — Armenian Friends of America presents Hye Kef 5, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., Michael's Function Hall, 12 Alpha St., Haverhill; tickets, \$50, students 21 & under, \$40, proceeds to benefit Armenian churches of Merrimack Valley; individually served mezza platters and pastries; musicians, Mal Barsamian (clarinet), John Berberian (oud), Bob Raphaelian (violin), Bruce Jigarjian (guitar), Jason Naroian (dumbag & vocals); tickets, call either John Arzigian, 603-560-3826; Lucy Sirmaian, 978-683-9121; Peter Gulezian, 978-375-1616, or Sandy Boroyan, 978-251-8687. No tickets sold at the door.

OCTOBER 23 — Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall, Boston. 7:30 p.m. Topic: Truth to Action: Media Freedom - Protecting Human Rights Globally. Introduction: Courtney Radsch, PhD, Advocacy Director, Committee to Protect Journalists. Speakers: Ray Suarez, Host, "Inside Story" on Al Jazeera America and "America Abroad" on Public Radio International; Stephen



Celebrate the Armenian Heritage Park on Sunday, September 21, with a program for Families & Friends, 2-4 p.m., at the Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston, between Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Christopher Columbus Park. Mal Barsamian, oud; Leon Janikian, clarinet; Kenny Kalajian, guitar and Jay Baronian, dumbeg will perform and there will be games for kids at 2:30 p.m. Bob Lobel will emcee.

Kurkjian, founding member and former chief, Investigative Spotlight Team of the *Boston Globe* and editor of its Washington Bureau; and Thomas Mucha. Editor, GlobalPost. A reception follows at the Millennium Bostonian Hotel for all who attend the lecture to continue the discussion with the speakers and the lecture's leadership. Free and open to the public. An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway. www.ArmenianHeritagePark.org

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

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

OCTOBER 26 — Fr. Vasken Kouzouian's 20-Year Pastoral Journey — Join us as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of our Pastor's Ordination, immediately following church services, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Charles and Nevert Talanian Cultural

Hall, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Details to follow.

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

NOVEMBER 2 — "Musical Benches," an organ and piano concert presented by Glenn "Ananian" Priest and Christopher Garven on the occasion of the dedication of the recently restored sanctuary of the First Amrenain Church of Belmont, at the church sanctuary, Sunday, 3 p.m.

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

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

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

NEW YORK

OCTOBER 28 — Sip on French wine, nibble on delectable hors d'oeuvres, meet talented artists and cinematographers, and network with kindred spirits, all in a cozy salon at "Château Village," Alouette's home in Greenwich Village. This exclusive soirée will benefit SR Socially Relevant Film Festival New York. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 1 Minetta St., 2E (STREET, not Lane, NE corner of Bleecker St & Sixth Ave, W 4th St subway stop). Donation: \$60 Early Bird, \$75 Regular. SR is a film festival that focuses on socially relevant human stories and raises awareness to social problems by offering positive solutions through the powerful medium of cinema. SR believes that through raised awareness, expanded knowledge about diverse cultures, and the human condition as a whole, it is possible to create a better world free of violence, hate and crime.

RHODE ISLAND

OCTOBER 18 — The Cultural Committee & ACYOA Proudly Present The Sts. Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Church Centennial Ball, Saturday, 8 pm - ? Inspired by Dr. Herman Ayzvazyan, Battle of the Bands, Joe Kouyoumjian Ensemble and the Sevan Band, Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson St., Providence. Mezze - Cash Bar - 50/50 Raffle. Tickets \$35 - Under 16 \$25. For Tickets and Table Reservations Please Call: Ann Ayrassian Seven Janigian 401-272-4743, 401-533-4147

Comedian Kev Orkian Returns to Fresno for Keyan School Benefit

FRESNO — The Paul Shaghoian Theater once again roared with laughter on September 6 as comedian/pianist Kev Orkian regaled an audience of more than 600 with jokes, anecdotes and music. This was his second performance to benefit the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School (CKACS) and judging by the crowd's reception, it won't be his last.

The British-Armenian performer is often compared to other musically gifted entertainers like Victor Borge and Dudley Moore, who similarly combine piano, song, and comedy. His version of a typical opera — including impersonations of soprano, tenor, and baritone vocals — left everyone in stitches.

Orkian is much more than a comedian and continually showed his talent and versatility as

a classically trained pianist. His modern adaptation of the well-known Beethoven favorite *Fur Elise* is appropriately titled *Funk De Lis*. He also played his own piece *Spaces*, composed for next year's centennial commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Orkian appreciation for his Fresno following is very apparent, even while he ribbed numerous members of the audience, including CKACS board member Serphouie Messerlian. The performer shared some of his personal experiences with the British royal family as well as being a new father to twin boys and took time out to answer some questions from the crowd.

Prior to the show, the evening's emcee, CKACS School Board Chairman Marshall D. Moushigian, welcomed the audience and gave

special thanks to Ron Mortanian, the "Reach for the Stars" Program, and the CKACS Women's League for spearheading the event. Committee members included Mary and Alain Ekmalian, Patty Torosian and Jane Knar Lanas.

The school gives many thanks to Dan and Varvara Sivas for hosting an event for Kev and supporters at their home and to the Educational Employees Credit Union for serving as a major sponsor of the performance.

CKACS is also very appreciative of all the sponsors of the school, including the UCLA Dream Fund, the Bertha and John Garabedian Fund, the Roxie and Azad Joseph Fund, and the Leon S. Peters Foundation, which underwrite many of its programs. In addition, the Kazarian Family Foundation and the Goorigian



Comedian Kev Orkian with students and alumni of the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School.

estate made generous bequests to the school in the past year.



COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Caviar Diplomacy in Action

By Edmond Y. Azadian

In recent months, investigative journalists unveiled the amount of money, caviar, gold bullion and political capital spent by the Azerbaijani government in the West and especially in the US, to influence legislators in order to promote its policies.

No matter how much embarrassment those revelations may cause, Azerbaijan is determined to pursue its course of caviar diplomacy because there is no other way for the Baku government to cover up its abominable record of human rights. Turkey and Azerbaijan are on record for having the largest number of journalists in custody in the world. The current president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, inherited the throne from his father in a fashion very similar to that of the oil-rich Gulf kingdoms, and he governs the country ruthlessly. Azerbaijan's oil reserves and its petrodollars remain the last shields to cover his autocratic rule.

The US government's Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act is still on the books to deny any direct military aid to Azerbaijan until it ends its aggression toward Armenia, as well as an illegal blockade. However, both the Bush and Obama administrations have given presidential dispensation to waive the law in order to dissuade Baku from courting Moscow for arms.

The Azerbaijani government has enlisted a few academics and prominent public relations firms to market its untenable political position in the West. It is within this context that an article was planted on the *New York Times* opinion page ("Russia's Next Land Grab") on September 9, 2014 by Prof. Brenda Shaffer. She is presented as a "professor at the University of Haifa and a visiting researcher at Georgetown." The revelation of her complete profile would have undermined her thesis, which is why her other activities have not been divulged. Indeed, she spends time in Baku as a professor at the Azerbaijani Diplomatic Academy, which might be considered scholarly activity had she not been also engaged in lobbying for Azerbaijan by presenting testimony to the US Congress. One can easily dismantle her arguments and refute her biased fiction, but cannot easily dismiss her shrewdness in formulating her article's headline, which will certainly "grab" attention, as Russia-bashing and fanning the winds of the Cold War have become permanent fixtures in the press.

To prove her case, Shaffer forcibly places the Nagorno Karabagh issue within the context of the West versus Russia. A simplistic approach reducing a complex political and historical case to an equation is not worthy of a serious scholar. While it may not be strange for Shaffer to try to sell Azeri oil and gas in the West, it is disingenuous for her to use the readers of the *New York Times* for her professional ends.

Incidentally, the *New York Times* editors have compromised their impeccable standards of fair reporting and their hallmark journalistic excellence by failing to check the article's facts, especially its tendentious thrust to serve Azerbaijani interests.

The writer has the good sense not to glorify Azerbaijan as a model democracy nor a "moderate Islamic country," as many apologists would label it. Instead, she plays on a very sensitive chord by writing, "The South Caucasus may seem remote, but the region borders Russia, Iran and Turkey, and commands a vital pipeline route for oil and natural gas to flow from Central Asia to Europe without passing through Russia."

Once she introduces the topics of oil and gas to the readers, she knows she can "grab" their attention and peddle her wares unquestioned. Therefore she continues, "Conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan is not new. From 1992 to 1994, war raged over which former Soviet Republic would control the autonomous area of Nagorno-Karabagh, a mountainous region with a large Christian population of about 90,000 within the borders of largely Muslim Azerbaijan."

To begin with, Karabagh's population in 2013 was 146,573. Second, Karabagh has never been "within the borders of largely-Muslim Azerbaijan." Just as Nikita Khrushchev whimsically annexed Crimea to his native Ukraine in 1954, Stalin, as the nationalities commissar, ripped the region from Armenia and placed it under the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan in the 1920s.

Technically, Karabagh has never been fully integrated within Azerbaijan's borders; even during Stalin's tyranny it was an autonomous *oblast*, with its own legislature.

During the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Azerbaijan removed itself from the union, using the mechanism extent at that time in the Soviet constitution. Nagorno Karabagh used the same mechanism, putting a referendum question to vote, and voted to free itself from the union too. This dissociation of both entities also defines the principle of the territorial integrity of each party.

These facts do not jibe well with Azerbaijani claims and that is why in her unscholarly manner, Professor Shaffer discounts them in her article. Citing other sweeping statements to demonize Russia's intentions (which we are not here to defend), she writes: "More to the point, Russia has found ways to keep the conflict alive. Three times in the 1990s, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed peace agreements, but Russia found ways to derail Armenia's participation. (In 1999, for example, a disgruntled journalist suspected of having been aided by Moscow assassinated Armenia's prime minister, speaker of Parliament and other government officials.)"

It is a fiction or a figment of Professor Shaffer's imagination to relate that the "disgruntled journalist" who committed the massacre at the parliament was "aided by Moscow." Had that been true, Moscow would have benefitted from the crime. The fact that there was no change of policy before or after the parliament massacre vis-à-vis Moscow belies the professor's faulty assumption.

During the 1990s, no agreement was signed between Armenia and Azerbaijan that Russia would have been able "to derail." Since May 1994, a shaky cease-fire agreement has been overseen by the Minsk Group subcommittee of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a subcommittee co-chaired by the US, France and Russia. Every time an agreement is reached at the negotiation table, it is broken within hours by the Baku government, either by shooting across the border or the use of bellicose language by President Aliyev.

It would be very illuminating and instructive for Ms. Shaffer to cite when, where and in what circumstances those agreements were signed. No self-respecting scholar should allow himself or herself to make such unsubstantiated statements that can be so easily dismissed.

One would be at a loss to try to refute all distortions and misstatements of facts. But one other statement cannot remain unanswered: "An unresolved conflict – a 'frozen conflict,' Russia calls it – gives Russian forces an excuse to enter the region and coerce both sides. Once Russian forces are in place, neither side can cooperate closely with the West without fear of retribution from Moscow."

As an expert on the region, the professor must be aware that as much as Armenia remains Russia's strategic ally, its government has refused the introduction of Russian peacekeeping forces between Armenian and Azeri positions. Similarly, Washington's attempts to the same end were rebuffed, with the Armenian government arguing that its forces are capable of maintaining peace on its borders.

Another fact must not have missed Shaffer's scholarly scrutiny. When war was escalating between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces, Moscow's representative in Karabagh, Arkady Volosky, offered to bring Karabagh under Russian tutelage, but the Armenians refused. The political landscape would have been completely different had Armenians acquiesced to that proposal.

Many apologists for Azerbaijan resort to cheap shots, as Professor Shaffer demonstrates, through scare tactics such as saying "Russian troops run Armenia's air defenses."

It is necessary to understand that if Armenia maintains an unsavory alliance with Russia, it is largely because it still has a fear of extermination. Armenia survived the first genocide of the 20th century and the Turks and Azeris have never given up their plans to see through to the end their grisly plans.

Sitting in Haifa, Professor Shaffer must know that she is the same distance from the Holocaust Memorial at Yad Vashem as the Tsitsernakaberd Armenian Genocide memorial is from the Turkish border, where 1.5 million Armenians were murdered while their historic homeland was destroyed.

Mirror Spectator



Established 1932
An ADL Publication

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The Armenian Mirror-Spectator is published weekly, except two weeks in July and the first week of the year, by:

Baikar Association, Inc.

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For advertising: mirrorads@aol.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U.S.A.	\$80 a year
Canada	\$125 a year
Other Countries	\$190 a year

© 2014 The Armenian Mirror-Spectator
Periodical Class Postage Paid at Boston, MA
and additional mailing offices.

ISSN 0004-234X

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Armenian Mirror-Spectator, 755 Mount Auburn St., Watertown, MA 02472

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

daytime telephone number.

– Deadline for submission of all articles and advertising is 12 noon on Monday of the week of publication.

– Photos will be published without charge at the discretion of the editors and art director. Photos will be returned only if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included.

– The *MS* will publish only one article about an upcoming organizational event. For major special events, exceptions may be made only by special arrangement with the editors.

– Telephone numbers, ticket prices and other details (at the discretion of the editors) will not be included in press releases, but should be reserved for calendar listings and advertisements.



COMMENTARY

Little Sparrow of Armenia Spreads the Truth about Turkish Government Lies

By Rachel Melikian

Dear Deniers of the Armenian Genocide,

Turkey is officially claiming that since Armenians currently still live in this world, there could not have been an Armenian Genocide. I wonder whether this is your stance too? I have to ask, are you an automaton or a vegetable? Because even animals cry; animals with fearsome reputations, like wolves and lions will rescue and may even nurse children. You are stating no evil has been committed on your part in regards of the Genocide: "hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil."

Repentance is in order on the Eve and the Vigil of the Centennial Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide. Go cry before God and ask for forgiveness. Humans are defined by their emotions and if you cannot cry for the sins you've committed, then my next question is: are you even human? Are you a monster, aimlessly and vehemently shouting your words?

How are you unable to taste the poison of the perpetrators and the deniers? Or are you blinded and determined to "see no evil" in your crimes? Can't you taste the blood in the bread you stole? Do you find pleasure in its taste? If you have, than you must be a monster, and I suspect the world has no further use of you. If you wipe out the Armenians, the devil will devour you and who will pray for you then? You must repent and ask our "Christian God" to save you, the God which you mocked.

I am told that there were some good Turkish people, even during the Genocide. Thanks to them you are still breathing life. God spares life even if he finds eight innocent lives, and Noah was bargaining with God to save the innocent lives from "The Great Flood." Like Noah, Grandma bargained with God notifying Him that there are still some good Turks living amongst the evil Turks. They have committed the most barbaric atrocities in human history and refuse to own up to it. I know that all that is needed for evil to prosper is for a good man to remain idle, so I will remain skeptical until I have seen proof of action. Where are the good Turks now? Have they become mute due to your brutal policies? Do they "speak no evil?"

Save our churches and let all the Armenian Church bells ring, so that our ancestors hear your conscience. You must beg for apology for your desecrations, cultural and historical destructions, and for the grand theft of the Armenian wealth. You must ask for forgiveness from the survivors, and most importantly from our martyrs for the Great Evil: the Genocide you committed.

Maybe you have even turned deaf: do you "hear no evil?" In case you didn't hear, since your "crime against humanity" devoured your human soul, our belfries were relentlessly ringing for you to hear your conscience.

I suppose you must be a beast. The Grandmother of Armenia's prayers could only help you if you were to truly repent. You are here because there are some of you who were innocent, as Grandma told the world for goodwill. When you mocked our prayers to our "Christian God," you did not know they were for you, even when you ordered for Grandmother of Armenia, her children, and her grandchildren to be wiped out from existence.

But you still insist you "see no evil" in your own backyard. You don't even allow the dead you murdered to rest in peace. Instead, you desecrate every sacred and holy historical place, including the graves of the dead.

Are you "Big Foot"? Are you a rabid animal that you are destroying everything you lay your hands on? Destroying precious treasures as though they were trash, ruining all that you see, and leaving your monstrous imprint behind? Don't you understand the land of Armenia is a holy and sacred place? A place where God created His terrestrial paradise, the Garden of Eden? A place where Noah landed his Ark on Mount Ararat and saved civilization from destruction? Didn't you hear God asking you, "Where is your brother Abel?" Though you left Him unanswered for a century? Couldn't you see the innocent bloodshed from your massacres? Couldn't you hear the unborn babies cry when your soldiers brutally murdered them, all before they had the chance to see the light of day?

Turkish people murdered our fathers, mothers, and grandparents, they beheaded our intellectuals and leaders, burned our martyrs in our churches, and brutally killed our children and grandchildren in cold blood. They slit the throats of babies and elders alike, and now they wish to hide behind the passage of time and pretend as though this never happened. "Hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil," of your own "crime against humanity."

Are you planning an "eternal bestial feast" where you will eat our stolen bread, imbued with lies and genocidal policy? Will you cheer and raise a cup of wine stolen from our vineyards while you lie to the world, determined to "hear no evil,

see no evil, speak no evil"? How are you able to hide your beastly horns and tails from the world dignitaries, old and new rising powers, multinationals and businesses?

You can never escape death, nor God's judgment, and neither "eternal damnation." Repent before you sell the world's soul to the devil. Remember, God is watching you, waiting for your answer.

You may think that there is no God; even so I pray to God for proof of good Turks. Grandmother of Armenia has prayed for you and for goodwill, yet you continue to lie and deny from your perch in our ancestral lands: the Land of Armenia. Have you ever heard the words "Thou shall not lie"?

You shaped history with your lies and you won't allow justice to prevail. Your lies are a cancer that rapidly spreads worldwide. But despite your efforts, the stories of the survivors remain. The truth shall be revealed.

Are you oblivious to your surroundings: you destroy, burn, and bring everything into ruins? Can't you see that the Highland of Armenia is an open air museum with written historical monuments? Are you numb? Should we call the doctor to check for your lost senses seeing as you cannot walk and you crawl like a snake?

Your eyelevel vision is limited to the ground; however, you manage to turn the cradle of civilizations into a ghost city. There was humanity in the Armenian Plateau before the stone ages (over 100,000 years ago), yet you wish to wipe the traces of civilization with your "Big Foot": there is no sacredness for you. Are you a pig, as Matthew 7:6 says, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs, and do not throw your pearls before the swine [pigs], or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces." Do not trust the enemy around your pearls as he tramples world civilization like a beast, destroys all holiness, and tries to rule with his animal instinct.

Now, you have become a rabid animal.

You have complete amnesia in regards to truth and history. You don't remember the crimes you committed, neither the genocide, nor the history of Armenia being the cradle of civilization, the land of truth and salvation. A computer automaton has memory. If it no longer does, a virus has wiped out its memory. Is your brain being attacked by a virus? Conveniently, Armenia has been wiped out from biblical maps, where God created the Garden of Eden, where Noah's Ark landed on Mount Ararat, and to where Jesus corresponded with the Armenian King, and sent his two Apostles. It seems all due to your amnesia you don't recall anything.

I'm sorry, but are you in a coma? Are you brain dead and in a vegetable state? In this case, should we pull the plug? Grandmother of Armenia would have never stopped praying for you unless you continue your evil ways. She fervently prayed for you and now you've killed her, silencing her prayers forever. Now your life is in danger. You sent your wolves out to devour Grandma — unaware that even the wolves, unlike you, would have enough humanity to spare her life the moment they saw her grandchildren and heard her prayers. I suppose I should pick up the prayers and pray for you...

"Wisdom of the Father — O Jesus — give me the wisdom to always think, speak, and do what is good in Thy sight and in every hour of the day; save me from evil thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon all your creatures, especially upon me, great sinners we may be. Amen."

God, help the deniers to recognize their evil acts and crimes. Deliver the enemy from their evil mentality and guard their souls, to save humanity from their evil destruction.

God grant the world the wisdom of Jesus to see through the enemy's evil lies, to save humanity from the devil's pawn and his rules.

God and guard the world leaders with your guardian angels to bear witness to truth and to let justice to prevail.

In the words of Aeschylus, "Riches do not protect the man who in wantonness has kicked the mighty altar of justice into obscurity."

Dear world, do not dirty your bread with the innocent blood caused by the enemy. Don't partake in the "eternal bestial feast" with the enemy. How dare you make this enemy the world dictator as you soak your bread with the blood of our martyrs? How are you planning to purge when you swallow evil? Who will protect you? The enemy will put his finger down your throat and raise his sword to chop your head off just like he did during the genocide for you not to spill the truth of his lies... You are blinded by the monstrous lies. The beast wants to lead our world into darkness and blind you from the truth. Open your eyes to the light and defend the truth.

(Little Sparrow of Armenia, AKA Rachel Melikian, is a former GCC Woman of the Year and is based in Glendale.)

Lucy Dumanian On Higher Ground

By Tom Vartabedian

Lucy (Dulgarian) Dumanian of Chelmsford lived a good life.

She had three wonderful children who clung to their Armenian roots, was a dutiful wife and housekeeper, was college-educated during a time when education was at a premium, and worked 34 years for the federal government.

Prior to that, she taught school and never wasted an opportunity to exercise an act of kindness. Lucy enjoyed life to the fullest before death took her August 27 at age 91.

How many of us have lived through divine interventions, maybe felt a spirit tugging us toward an enriched destiny?

Lucy's demise did that. It led me to a spiritual path toward a higher ground.

As I always do on a long trip, I select a piece of music for my listening pleasure. It's usually a CD I have prepared in advance. But on this day, I allowed fate to play my hand.

I reached into the side compartment where my CDs are stored and picked one out at random. Whatever it was, that would be my selection for the ride to Lucy's funeral.

The CD that fell into my hand was Barbra Streisand's 1997 recording of Higher Ground I had picked up at a second-hand store for a dollar. It was the second song on the track after a spiritual gem called I Believe/You'll Never Walk Alone.

The lyrics grabbed me instantly and I caught myself singing along with Barbra.

Turns out the studio album was the 27th in this diva's repertoire, though her first in four years, selling more than 5 million copies worldwide.

Let it be known that up to this moment, I had yet to hear the track. It had remained in my car for months before after I had bought it on an impulse.

At the church, it was said that Lucy was the light of the earth, a ray of sunshine on a dreary day. She was a lifelong resident of Chelmsford and married for 53 years to her husband John before he passed.

Her children Audrey, Andrew and Robert were members of the Armenian Youth Federation and lent their support to many functions. Lucy had spent her working life with the Electronic Systems Division of Hanscom Air Force Base after teaching at Chelmsford and Orange High Schools.

The funeral procession wound its way along the highway to a side road leading to the cemetery, past the headstones to what looked like a cul-de-sac where the entourage came to a halt.

Mourners were led up a steep hill to a site under an elm tree overlooking the entire premises. Lucy's ground couldn't have gone any higher unless you were buried on a mountain. The view was like another Streisand song, "On a Clear Day, You Could See Forever."

She was laid to rest with her husband John where a graveside service was conducted by Rev. Khachatur Kessablian. Had Lucy picked this spot after being inspired by the Streisand song?

Turns out, it was the other way around. Her husband had suggested the idea — not to be above their peers but more to serve as a watchtower. Of course, the view from the top didn't hurt matters.

The story about the CD unfolded at the meal which followed. My copy was passed along to Lucy's children for their listening pleasure, keeping their mother in mind.

Rest in peace, Lucy!



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Greece: Third Country to Criminalize Denial of the Armenian Genocide

While Turkey was pressuring the French President not to support a bill criminalizing denial of the Armenian Genocide, it had to cope with Greece, yet another country that just adopted a law making it illegal to deny genocides, including the Armenian Genocide. Greece is the third European country, after Slovakia and Switzerland, to pass such a law. The Swiss law, however, is under review by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) for violating a Turkish defendant's freedom of speech.

The French Parliament (2011) and Senate (2012) adopted a similar law to punish genocide denial which was overturned by the French Constitutional Council. To replace the failed law, French Deputy Valerie Boyer submitted a new bill to the Parliament last week. President Francois Hollande has also pledged to back the criminalization of Armenian Genocide denial.

Despite legal uncertainties regarding such laws in Europe, the Greek Parliament adopted by a vote of 54 to

42, on September 9, an anti-hate crime law – Combating Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism – making it illegal to deny the Jewish Holocaust, and genocides recognized by international courts or by the Greek Parliament, i.e., the genocide of Pontus Greeks, the genocide of Asia Minor Greeks and the Armenian Genocide. Those violating this new law would be fined up to 30,000 euros, and imprisoned for up to three years.

The Greek law stems from the European Union's 2008 "Framework Decision against Racism and Xenophobia," which urged all EU states to adopt laws that punish racism, xenophobia, denial of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Caught by surprise, Turkish officials and Azerbaijani propagandists made confusing statements about the Greek law. Initially, the Turkish Foreign Ministry condemned the Greek law, claiming that "it contradicts democratic principles and freedom of speech." Soon however, the Foreign Ministry reversed itself and expressed the hope that the new Greek law would help protect the rights of Turks living in Greece! It should be noted that Greece adopted this law, despite President Erdogan's warning at the NATO Summit in Wales on September 5 to Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras who flatly told the Turkish president that the Greek law would not violate international law. A similar warning was issued by Erdogan to the French President that adopting any new laws on the Armenian Genocide could complicate the relationship between their countries.

Azeri commentators also made contradictory claims even though the Greek law has nothing to do with Azerbaijan. One Azeri writer alleged that the Greek law does not mention the Armenian Genocide and that the Greek Parliament

has never recognized the Armenian Genocide. Of course, both of these claims are completely false. Clearly, this Azeri writer does not know that the Greek Parliament recognized the Armenian Genocide on April 25, 1996, and on July 10, 1996 President Konstantinos Stefanopoulos signed a decree, declaring April 24 to be "the memorial day of the genocide of the Armenians by Turkey."

A second Azeri, V. Seyidov, not only acknowledged that the Greek law covers the Armenian Genocide but also went ahead and dared Greek police to arrest him after planning to state in Athens that "the Armenian Genocide is not a historical fact." Assuming Mr. Seyidov would dare to carry out his bluff, it remains to be seen whether he will be thrown into a Greek jail or hailed as a "hero" by denialists in Turkey and Azerbaijan, depending on ECHR's final ruling.

Armenia's Foreign Minister and Parliament praised Greece for adopting the law on criminalizing denial of the Armenian Genocide. However, it is high time that the Armenian Parliament officially recognize the Greek Genocide in Ottoman Turkey. Past efforts to do so have been quashed by the Armenian government for unknown and incomprehensible reasons!

On September 22, Catholicos Aram I of the Great House of Cilicia is scheduled to meet with Greek Prime Minister Samaras in Athens, during which His Holiness is expected to express his gratitude to the Greek government for adopting the law against genocide denial.

On the eve of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide, it would be most salutary if ECHR would overturn its earlier ruling on the Swiss law and if France would adopt a new law criminalizing denial of the Armenian Genocide, paving the way for other European countries to follow suit.

Lessons Not Learned? The Yazidis and the Armenians of Musa Dagh

By Jess Olson

The crisis faced by a little-known religious minority, the Yazidis [Yezidis] of northern Iraq, captured the attention of western humanitarians. Their capitulation to their pursuers, the forces of the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL), whose strict interpretation of Islam regards the Yazidis as polytheists, would mean physical destruction. To escape, thousands of these practitioners of an obscure faith, who have dwelt in the Nineveh region for centuries, encamped on the desolate summit of Mount Sinjar, desperate for rescue by a foreign power.

A remarkably similar story was told a little over eighty years ago by German-speaking Jewish novelist Franz Werfel, in his blockbuster novel *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*. Virtually unknown today, the 900-page novel was widely read when it appeared. Just in time to serve as a prescient critique of Nazism, it was optioned by studio giant Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in 1934 to produce an epic film starring a young Clark Gable, then on his way to winning an Academy Award for "It Happened One Night."

Werfel's inspiration was a footnote to the Turkish anti-Armenian atrocities of World War I. In June 1915, receiving news of mass expulsions and murder, the inhabitants of six Armenian Christian villages on the Mediterranean coast collected their few possessions and weapons, and fled to the summit of Musa Dagh, highlands on the coast of the Mediterranean, to escape the approaching Turks. The leader of the revolt, Moses Der Kalousdian, a European-educated Armenian gentleman, rallied the spirits of the villagers, held off assaults on their stronghold until, on the verge of capitulation, they were rescued by a passing French warship.

Although the revolt of 4,200 Armenians at Musa Dagh received scattered attention in the press, it was a small event in a much larger conflict. It was Werfel's novel, though, that humanized the crisis, giving the western reader access to the perspective of the humanitarian refugee, in particular through his intimate portrayal of the protagonist, Gabriel Bagradian.

Modeled after Moses Der Kalousdian, Bagradian is a man of two worlds: cosmopolitan Europe on the one hand, the earthy villages of his native Armenian Turkey on the other. The well-to-do Bagradian had left his village to seek refinement in Paris, but after a while his expatriate life revealed an inner void, and he returns

home on the eve of World War I with his French wife Juliette and young son Stephan, seeking shelter from the hostilities and his own existential doubt.

But the quiet life that Bagradian and his family seek evaporates in violence and insecurity. Under his leadership, the villagers retreat to Musa Dagh in the face of the approaching Turks. For forty days, they endure deadly attacks by the Turkish army, mishaps that cost them precious resources, and the collapse of morale against a hopeless siege. Bagradian himself suffers terribly as the threads to his European life are cruelly snipped one after the other. As the situation becomes more desperate, the villagers' only remaining hope is a swimmer dispatched into the Mediterranean, carrying letters begging for intervention by the Allied powers, hopeful of a passing allied ship.

Although not as familiar to western readers as his contemporary Stefan Zweig, Werfel's associate who has enjoyed a renaissance, he was once equally familiar to an international audience. Born into a remarkable cohort of German-Jewish writers in Prague, Werfel counted among his friends Franz Kafka and Max Brod; an enthusiastic supporter was the caustic Karl Kraus. After his service in World War I, Werfel lived the life of the interwar cosmopolitan, one lovingly dramatized in Wes Anderson's recent film "Grand Budapest Hotel." A lothario, his romantic entanglements included an affair with the ubiquitous Alma Mahler.

But the war had changed him. Like Zweig (the inspiration for Anderson's film), Werfel was an ethical hedonist, railing against modernity's nihilistic trajectory; after the war, he added a deep humanism to his urbane commentary. Living in the heady literary air of Vienna and Berlin, Werfel's international breakthrough came with the 1933 publication of *Musa Dagh*.

Appearing early in the unfolding of the Nazi nightmare, Werfel's text was a chilling prophecy of things to come. The villains in the novel are not simply Turks, but a cohort of ideologically-driven racists who displace their more humane elders in pursuit of national purity. Werfel's Armenians would have resonated with the Jewish readership of his time especially, tinged with the same air of romanticism that many of Werfel's cohort felt towards the folkways of traditional Jewry. Indeed, the novel's descriptions of the brutality faced by a community pushed to its very limits are nearly indistinguishable from later Holocaust narratives woven into images of Treblinka and the Warsaw Ghetto.

As the Yazidi saga shows, the relevance of Werfel's work endures. The *Forty Days of Musa Dagh* raises fundamental questions of moral duty for modern man. When the evil of persecution rears its head with such unfathomable horror, what do we do? How do we react? To Werfel, whoever holds their morality precious must demand immediate intervention and rescue. In *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh*, as with the Yazidi crisis today, it the most powerful

weapon of genocidal forces is not a machine gun or a howitzer, it is time – the time of hesitation before action in the face of evil, the very time that dooms many of Bagradian's friends and family to their deaths. Time is of the essence; we hesitate at our moral peril.

(Jess Olson is Associate Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University in New York. This commentary originally appeared last week in Huffington Post.)

LETTERS

When in Rome...

To the Editor:

I was fortunate enough to visit the Holy Land this past January. As a member of a church group, our pilgrimage included celebrating Armenian Christmas in Bethlehem. While waiting in line to take communion, a hand juttied out of the crowd grabbing my arm. A woman told me politely but emphatically that the protocol was to allow men to take communion first. Putting my American mindset of "ladies first" to one side I obeyed because "when in Rome"...

Recently I was made aware of the fact that one of the priests from Armenia has vehemently voiced his objection to the influence that lay members of the community have on the church. He had stated that matters relating to the church must be left solely to the clergy. That is the accepted protocol in Armenia, and when in Armenia I, as an Armenian American, would accept it because "when in Rome"...

However, our parishes are under the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America – not Armenia. Generally speaking, our churches and cathedrals were funded and built by the survivors of the Genocide and their offspring and are financially supported by Armenian Americans both American born and naturalized, and they should be maintained according to the democratic ideals that we embrace as Americans or funding will cease – "no taxation without representation!"

The reality is that the newcomers from Armenia and elsewhere are only familiar with the Armenian church from whence they came and will accept the mindset of the aforementioned priest because they know no other way. More and more of our priests are coming from Armenia, and if they embrace these antiquated protocol, our church will regress.

A while ago I suggested to the hierarchy that before a priest is assigned to a parish, he should serve a short internship in an American church to observe and hopefully apply American protocols to his parish. I'm not suggesting that the service be in the vernacular, but at the very least our protocols shouldn't be a throwback to bygone days or a cultural divide because "when in Rome"...

Non-religious organizations such as the Armenian General Benevolent Union and the Children of Armenia Fund have successfully evolved in sophistication to meet the needs of the Armenian-American youth and consequently their participation in these organizations has grown.

I can state emphatically that the self-serving and antiquated mentality of the priest to which I referred will only serve to further alienate Armenian Americans, especially the youth, a group that our church sorely needs, and whose needs have not thus far been addressed adequately, to help it move into the 21st century.

Adrienne Alexanian
New York, NY



Military Exercises Involving 1,300 Western Troops Start in Ukraine

YAVORIV, Ukraine (RFE/RL) – Military exercises involving some 1,300 personnel from 15 nations began on September 15 in western Ukraine. Some 200 U.S. soldiers are participating in the annual Rapid Trident exercises.

This year's drills come amid tension between Russia and North Atlantic Treaty Organization

(NATO) over the Ukraine crisis. They do not involve the live firing of weapons, but they have brought US ground troops to Ukraine for the first time since Russia's annexation of Crimea in March and the start of the conflict between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

NATO says the exercise, which ends on September 26, will improve interoperability. The exercise kicked off at a Ukrainian military base in Yavoriv, near the Polish border.

Local officials in the rebel-controlled stronghold of Donetsk said that six people were killed on September 14, the bloodiest day since a cease-fire was signed 10 days ago. It was not immediately clear whether those killed were civilians or rebel fighters. The cease-fire started on September 5 and has been broadly holding despite sporadic violations which each side blames on the other.

The deal was negotiated by envoys from Ukraine, Russia, the separatists and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in

Europe (OSCE). However, Aleksandr Zakharchenko, the Donetsk rebel leader who signed the September 5 agreement in Minsk, accused Ukrainian forces on September 15 of violating the truce repeatedly and said further negotiations with Ukraine made no "sense."

In Kyiv, military spokesman Andriy Lysenko said on the same day that there had been some deaths among Ukrainian troops over the weekend, although he did not provide details. Lysenko said 73 soldiers had been freed in an exchange with the rebels. An OSCE monitoring team said it was also shelled twice in the city on September 14, but none of its members had been injured.

Warlick in Yerevan Meets with Foreign Minister for Karabagh Talks

TALKS, from page 1

"We are working closely with the Russians and communicate regularly with the Russian co-chair in the framework of the Minsk Group. Despite our difference in other parts of the world, we see the way forward. And we want to coordinate our diplomacy and work together, and I hope we can, at some point as mediators, achieve a lasting settlement [of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict]. We are concerned about the arms buildup and risks it poses for peace and for successful negotiations. That's our shared goal of peace," he said.

The diplomat stressed the role of the conflicting countries' active efforts towards reducing the tension in the border zone.

"This isn't an issue for co-chairs to deal with directly, but we do talk about the issue of violence along the line of contact and along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border. We are concerned about the violence that has taken place and the deaths and injuries it has resulted, and if we are to find a way to a lasting peace, we know that violence must stop and the ceasefire must be respected."

Asked whether he thinks that the continuing negotiations bear a formal character against the backdrop of the recent border tensions, Warlick replied, "Well, I understand that people are frustrated, as the negotiations have been going on for 20 years now. The war that took place from 1992 to 1994 was devastating for

the countries, for both Armenia and Azerbaijan, and we don't ever want to see those days return. Negotiations that cover such an important issue are never easy, but as I said before, there is a window of opportunities."

In that context, he recalled particularly the Armenian and Azerbaijani presidents' 2013 meeting in Vienna and their recent talks with Secretary of State John Kerry on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Wales.

He further stressed the importance of reaching a new level in the negotiations. "The time has come to move the negotiations to another level. It's not enough for the presidents to meet on an occasional basis or foreign minister to meet on an occasional basis. There needs to be a more formal negotiating process. And it's up to the parties to determine what that format should be and what that process should be. We are not predetermining an outcome, we are not asking any of the parties to make compromises, we are asking for a process to begin," the diplomat said.

Warlick added that the input of the Karabagh authorities is important to the negotiations. "It is quite important that in the negotiations process the voice of the 'de facto' Nagorno Karabagh authorities sounds. That is the reason we, the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, often visit the Nagorno Karabagh Republic and meet with the local authorities to take their opinion into account as well."

Buenos Aires City Legislature Discards Plan for 'Republic of Azerbaijan' Square

Buenos Aires, from page 1

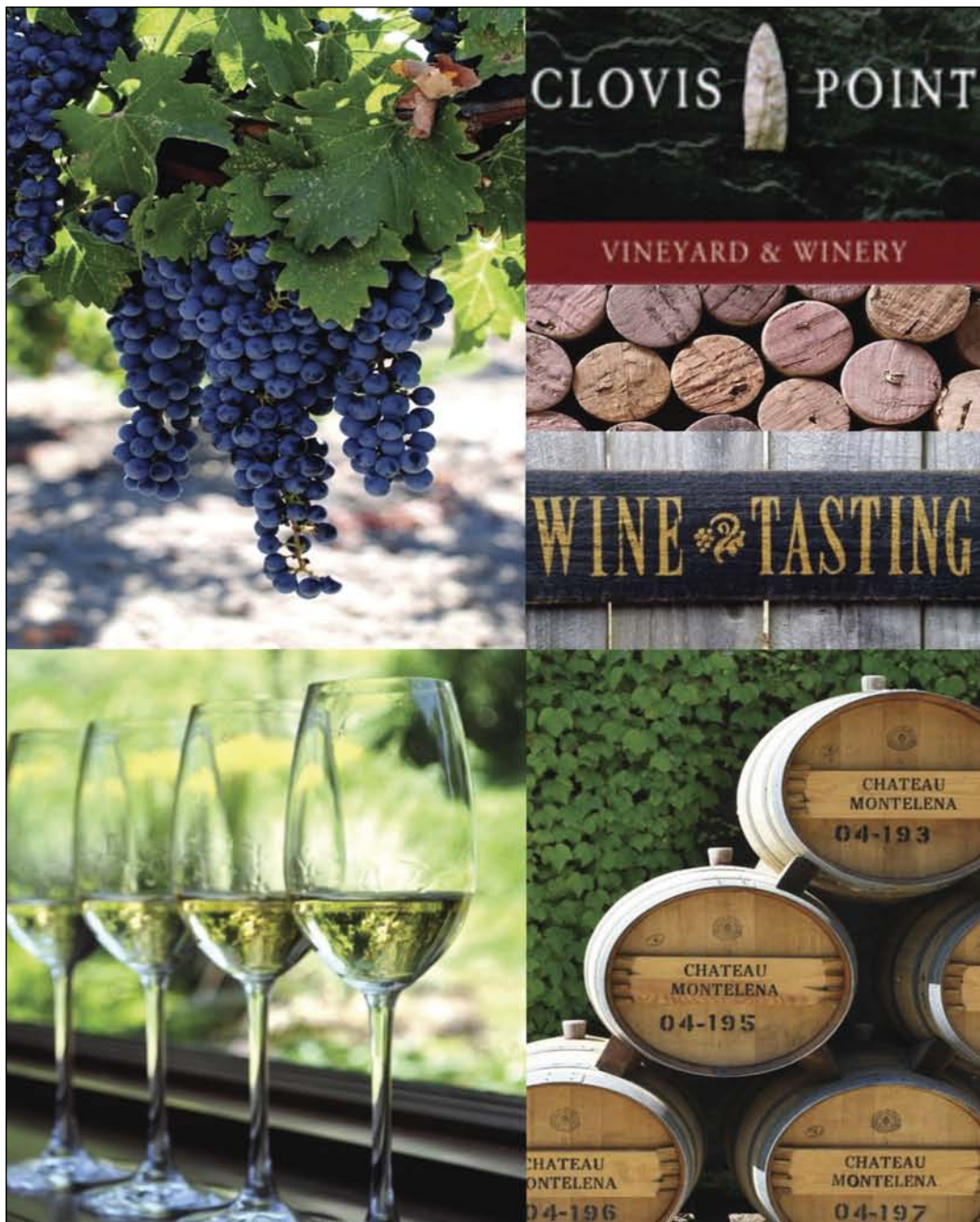
Carolina Karagueuzian, director of the Armenian National Committee of South America in Buenos Aires, was the first to raise her voice: "Within the apparent neutrality of the project there is a broader strategy hidden by the Azerbaijani authorities, who seek to clean up their image and conceal their constant violations of human rights. Azerbaijan's embassy in Argentina was specifically opened to confront Argentine citizens of Armenian descent, who have maintained an active struggle against the impunity of crimes against humanity for nearly 100 years."

"The project said that Azerbaijan managed to pacify the region, when in fact Azerbaijan authorities boycott mediation on the Karabagh issue and its president continuously threatens to resume the war. Moreover, the Azerbaijani president declared on September 3 that Turkey and Azerbaijan will work together to 'dispel the myth of the Armenian Genocide' in 2015, the centenary of the Genocide. It is unacceptable for the City of Buenos Aires to grant a space for the Azeri lobby to continue disseminating its

denialist propaganda, just when the city prepares to commemorate the 100th anniversary of this crime against humanity," added Karagueuzian.

Furthermore, Karagueuzian recalled that "Azeri diplomacy attempted to carry out a similar project in Mexico City two years ago. Additionally, in 2010, through the action of the Armenian community the Buenos Aires City Government canceled the installation of a statue of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk."

After the news broke through this agency, Deputy Alejandra Caballero, author of the project, made it clear that she would not submit it in the legislature: "I feel very close to the beloved Armenian community. I join them in their pain, in living memory and the constant claim of the cruel Armenian Genocide 99 years ago," said Caballero. "I signed the project mistakenly, among many, to name public spaces for other countries. I am sorry and I apologize to those who may have been affected and felt offended by my mistake and deeply thank my friends who alerted me of my carelessness," she added.



TEKEYAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION



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