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French Armenians Stage Protests as Aliyev Visits Paris

PARIS (ArmeniaNow) – The Armenian community of France is organizing large-scale protest against the visit of Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev to Paris, accusing him of carrying out a genocidal policy manifested in the latest act of pardoning a confessed killer of an Armenian.

Aliyev arrived in the French capital on Monday to attend the opening of an Islamic art exhibition at the Louvre Museum. He was also scheduled to meet with French



A man holding an Azeri flag protested the arrival of the Azeri president in France.

officials, including President Francois Hollande.

Meanwhile, the country's sizable Armenian community held a rally Tuesday in front of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Paris to express their indignation at both Azerbaijan's "genocidal policies" and the decision of France to host Aliyev.

Spokespersons for Armenian organiza-



ROBERT KARAPETIAN PHOTO

NEW YORK — Members of the Armenian-American community came out in full force on September 10 in front of the Hungarian Consulate to protest the handover by Hungary of a convicted killer, Ramil Safarov, to Azerbaijan, which in turn freed the assassin. Safarov, who was serving a lengthy jail term for killing Armenian Lt. Gourgen Markarian, was not only pardoned upon arriving in Baku, but given a promotion. Above, a woman puts a flower in front of a makeshift shrine to Markarian. Many others held signs aloft blasting the move.

tions in France said they believe that France should not encourage the anti-Armenian regime of Azerbaijan. They point at Aliyev's decision to pardon Ramil Safarov, a man who hacked to death an Armenian student at NATO-sponsored language courses in Budapest, upon his extradition from Hungary last month, as more proof that Nagorno-Karabagh cannot be part of Azerbaijan. That decision led to official Yerevan's severing ties with Budapest and demanding a clear stance of the international community to condemn the "Azerbaijani-Hungarian deal." France, too,

voiced concerns over the possibility of the Safarov affair "seriously undermining the negotiating efforts" in the Karabagh settlement that it spearheads along with the United States and Russia.

"Granting pardon to the murderer by the Azerbaijani president is clear encouragement of barbarism and anti-Armenianism. These events are the continuation of the genocidal logic of the Azerbaijani regime, see PROTEST, page 16

TCA Arshag Dickranian School Starts Academic Year with New Principal

LOS ANGELES – With the pomp and circumstance of its traditional opening ceremony, the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Arshag Dickranian School re-opened



Principal Maral Yeranossian

its doors for its 32nd consecutive year to students on Tuesday, September 4. The highlight of the opening ceremony this year was the shift of the

leadership of the school with the appointment of Dr. Maral Yeranossian as the new principal.

The event took place at the courtyard of the school, where the entire student body, from grades 1 to 12 gathered under the supervision of their teachers, along with the presence of parents.

The guests included the Primate of the Western Diocese Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, St. John Armenian Church's Fr. Manoug Markarian, school benefactors Laurel Karabian, Cindy Norian and Hmayak Baltayan, School Board Chairman George K. Mandossian with board members Angine see SCHOOL, page 8

St. James Church Honors Ellis Island Medal Recipient Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian

WATERTOWN, Mass. – On Sunday, September 23, St. James Armenian Church will host a reception following Divine Liturgy in honor of parishioner Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian, recipient of the 2012 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Goudsouzian and his wife, Mary, have been active St. James parishioners for more than 40 years. He is the chairman of the Mr. & Mrs. Group, is in his second term as diocesan delegate, and has served on the Parish Council for six years. He is active in several other organizations such as the Armenian General see HONOREE, page 8



Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian

NAASR Hosts Evening of Tribute to Manoog Young

BELMONT, Mass. – The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) will host "An Evening of Commemoration and Tribute to NAASR Founding Chairman Manoog S. Young," on Thursday, October 4, at 8 p.m., at its headquarters, 395 Concord Ave.

Manoog Soghomon Young of Belmont, the founding chairman of NAASR and its chairman until 2001, died on July 3, 2012, at the age of 94.



Manoog S. Young

The evening will feature short presentations by several individuals who worked closely with Young across more than five decades: Dr. Gregory H. Adamian, president emeritus and chancellor, Bentley University; Prof. Richard N. Frye, Aga Khan professor emeritus of Iranian history, Harvard University; Prof. James R. Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies, Harvard University; past and present see TRIBUTE, page 8

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese Armenians Disappointed with Pope Visit

BEIRUT (News.am) – The spiritual leaders of Middle Eastern Christian communities expressed their disappointment with the outcome of Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Lebanon.

The leaders said they did not manage to put the current situation of the Christian communities and the high tension in Syria on the pontiff's agenda, *Hurriyet Daily News* reported.

Jirayr Reisman, the speaker for the Armenian Apostolic Church in Damascus, told *Hurriyet* he had had a limited audience with the pope.

He also commented on "The Innocence of Muslims" movie, which infuriated the Muslims in the Middle East. Reisman called the movie "scandalous," adding that the movie would trigger violent actions in the region and stated that not only Christians but also Muslims were under threat in Syria.

As to the Armenian community in Syria, a spokesperson for the Armenian Apostolic Church said Armenians must stay in the region.

"As Syrian Armenians, we have never been a party to a conflict where brothers shed each other's blood and never will be. We hope peace will prevail in the region as soon as possible," he added.

Armenian Delegation Participates in PACE Fall Session

STRASBOURG, France (Radiolur) – The sitting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons took place on September 14. Speaking at the session, member of the Armenian delegation Naira Zohrabyan, brought up the subject of Azerbaijani murderer Ramil Safarov.

Addressing the European Parliament members, Zohrabyan said: "Hungary sold the European values and justice. Azerbaijan proved once again that it has no right to be a member of our European family, and a country, which glorifies the crime committed on the basis of ethnicity, should be condemned by all civilized humanity."

The Armenian MP hinted that the deal could have been prevented if the international structures had not used a double standards.

During the previous session of the PACE, Zohrabyan had raised the issue of Azerbaijani textbooks. She has sent several examples to the new Human Rights commissioner, demanding sanctions against Azerbaijan. Zohrabyan anticipates that the issue will be addressed during the October session, as the commissioner is expected to present an annual report.

In the letter to the EU commissioner, Zohrabyan said the textbooks prove the government is trying to instill hatred against Armenians in the books.

The issue of Azerbaijani political prisoners is also on the agenda of the PACE fall session.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Parliamentarians Praise European Resolution on Safarov's Case

YEREVAN (Arminfo) – Deputies of the Armenian parliamentary factions expressed their support for a resolution of the European Parliament on Ramil Safarov's case, who was extradited from Hungary to Azerbaijan and pardoned by its president.

The head of the Heritage faction, Ruben Hakopyan, said that the Armenian lobby helped to adopt such a resolution, which contains more specific assessment of the actions of the Azerbaijani authorities.

A member of Armenian National Congress, Aram Manukyan, said that they had a contact with representatives of European Liberal Party and added that this party was also one of the most active supporters of the adoption of such a resolution.

The leader of the parliamentary faction of the ruling Republican Party of Armenia, Galust Sahakyan, said that the resolution was more specific and strict than previous similar measures in European structures. He also added that the adoption of such a document for Baku should be followed by specific actions.

The European Parliament last week adopted a resolution titled, "Azerbaijan: the Case of Ramil Safarov." The measure deplores the decision by the president of Azerbaijan to pardon Safarov.

Prosperous Armenia Candidate Wins Gumri Mayoral Election

GUMRI (hetq) – Prosperous Armenia Party Member of Parliament Samvel Balasanyan won last week's mayoral election in Gumri with 65 percent of the vote. His nearest rival was Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF) member Hovsep Simonyan, who won 24.3 percent of the vote.

The two other candidates, Andranik Avetisyan and Spartak Petrosyan, trailed far behind with 5.7 percent and 5 percent, respectively.

Voter turnout was light in the local elections. Only 36.4 percent of the 125,657 registered voters in the district cast their ballots.

Ministry of Diaspora, Mkhitarists of Vienna to Sponsor Joint Project

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Minister of Diaspora Hranush Hakobyan hosted the supervisor of Mkhitarist Congregation's school, Fr. Archimandrite Serovbe Chaburlyan, on September 18. The ministry announced it was working on a joint project with the Mkhitarian Congregation in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Armenian typography, including a concert and an exhibition on the history of Armenian typography.

The Mkhitarist fathers have long played an important role in the Armenian nation's literary history. Many national figures, writers, poets, artists and politicians graduated from the Mkhitarist schools.

Today, the Mkhitarists have schools in Paris, Constantinople, Aleppo, Beirut, Buenos Aires and Los Angeles.

One Millionth Passenger Arrives in Zvartnots

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The number of passengers at Zvartnots Airport from January-August of this year totaled 1,110,604 compared to 1,051,509 during the same period in 2011.

According to the Central Department of Civil Aviation of Armenia, 529 386 people arrived in the country in January-August 2012 compared to 496,824 during the same period in 2011. The number of people leaving Armenia was 581,218 during the reported period versus 554,685 in the same period of 2011.

In January-August of this year, 7,510 tons of cargo was transported compared to 5,977 during the same period of 2011.

Building Hope for a Homeless Family

CYMA and FCHA Volunteers Partner to Build a Home for A Family in Need

YEREVAN – The Christian Youth Mission to Armenia (CYMA) and Fuller Center for Housing Armenia (FCHA) joined forces in August to build hope for a homeless family in the village of Irind in the Aragatsotn region of Armenia. During the two-day collaboration, the groups mixed heavy cement, passed buckets in double lines, poured



A volunteer helps build a house

a concrete porch, plastered the interior walls and hoisted tufa stone to the attic for insulation.

CYMA's team was led by Fr. Avedis Abovian, youth director for the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America, with his young adult charges Tigran Antonian, Jack Dedekian, Carmen Kestekyan, Mark Samoulian, Sona Shahbazian, Shant Stepanian, Maral Tatoian and Tamar Tatoian. CYMA serves to unify and strengthen the Armenian community by establishing a bridge between the youth of the diaspora and the homeland through participation in the social, religious, professional and cultural life of Hayastan.

FCHA's Global Builders volunteer team was led by Susan Bosovich and included Jiri Baader, William Chattin, Gary Gunyas Gostanian, Jill Gostanian, Molly Gostanian, Lauren Jones, Kristyna Kubacova, Tamara Tatoian and Judy Ellen Sarber. The FCHA has been serving Armenia's homeless popu-

Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and Karekin II's Work Project called "Building on Faith." Support for the construction was also donated by KPMG Armenia. The family of six comprises father and mother, Tigran and Salvi Haroutyunyan, and their four young children. They became homeless when they had to move out of the home owned by Tigran Haroutyunyan's parents due to overcrowding. The local municipality gave them a partially-built structure, which had been slated to be a boiler house. Even with this generous gift, the Haroutyunyan's were unable to make headway on the home because of the meager income they received from farming. With the CYMA and FCHA groups working side by side, the Haroutyunyan's dream of owning a home is today much closer to reality.

Abovian said, "Working on Haroutyunyan's home building project with the Fuller Center for Housing Armenia was a great opportunity for our young pilgrims. The CYMA participants learned not only about their beloved Armenia, but, by giving something to a needy family in a small village, also became an important part of the Motherland and her daily life and culture. We thank FCHA for this opportunity and look forward to a closer partnership in this God-pleasing mission. Our hope is that every organization, every school, every mission that takes its members to Armenia on a tour or pilgrimage, uses this opportunity to work with FCHA to provide that enriching experience enjoyed by our CYMA team. Only by putting our efforts, sweat, and blood into the Armenian soil and making a small difference people's lives are we truly able to become part of Armenia."

Bosovich stated, "Tigran was thrilled by the amazing amount of work that was completed. The work of our two groups put him weeks ahead of schedule! There is one more team that will continue the plastering and painting inside the house, and then the family will be able to move into it by early fall."

Established in 1927, the Western Diocese of the Armenian Apostolic Church of North America spans the Western United States, including Hawaii and Alaska. Based in Burbank, Calif., the Diocese operates under the auspices of Archbishop Hovnan

and renovating simple, decent, and affordable homes, as well as advocating the right to decent shelter as a matter of conscience and action. The monthly mortgage repayments from its homeowners flow into a Revolving Fund that is used to help more families make the transition out of poverty housing. This system provides a financial structure for sustainable community development. To date, FCHA has assisted 200 families. For more information, visit www.fullercenterarmenia.org.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28

US Embassy Vigilance Call in Armenia over Libyan Violence Raises Eyebrows

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – What looked like a pro-forma statement from the United States Embassy in Yerevan reminding US citizens "to maintain a high level of vigilance and good situational awareness in light of recent attacks on US missions in Egypt and Libya" did not go down well with some members of the Armenian public who consider their country a place free from radical Islamic manifestations.

Perhaps in view of this discontent the US Embassy in Armenia had to update its original release, stressing that it had "no specific information to indicate that these events will affect security in Armenia" and that "the US Embassy in Armenia is observing normal working hours." But discussions among Armenians online and in local media still went on about why Armenia got into the list of some 40 countries where the vigilance calls were issued.

Official Yerevan did not react to the statement from the US Embassy.

Some theories as to why Armenia is among the countries where alerts have been issued for US citizens center around neighboring Iran, which is an Islamic state that maintains neighborly relations with Armenia.

In particular, Yerkir.am sees close ties between Armenia and Iran as the main factor. It says that thousands of Iranian tourists visit Armenia and that nationals of the Islamic Republic may pose a threat to the US Embassy and US citizens here, especially since Washington has not had an embassy in Tehran for more than three decades now.

Another theory also refers to the large-scale military exercises of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organization conducted in Armenia September 15-19. The war games involving some 2,000 troops may also be taken as a potential threat by the United States, writes Lragir.am.

And finally some experts do not rule out the possibility that the United States is sending a message to Armenia, warning this South Caucasus nation surrounded by Muslim countries like Azerbaijan, Turkey and Iran that it may itself be affected by the rising tide of Islamic violence.



Volunteers in action

lation for four years. It welcomes volunteers of all ages to join one of its Global Builders teams, which consists of Armenians and non-Armenians. Each team spends two weeks in Armenia participating in the construction of a home as well as fascinating day trips to breathtaking historic landmarks in Armenia.

The Haroutyunyan family was the beneficiary of this selfless labor. The Haroutyunyan's home is the 34th house sponsored by the Eastern

Derderian. With the membership of the Western Diocese constantly growing, and establishing new communities, the Diocese is ever expanding its parishes and the scope of its various missions. For more information, visit www.armenianchurchwd.com.

The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia is a non-government, charitable organization that supports community development in the Republic of Armenia. The Fuller Center for Housing Armenia fulfills its mission by building



INTERNATIONAL

Komitas Honored in Berlin

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

BERLIN — Every Armenian knows (or should know) Komitas Vardapet. He was the great musicologist, musician and composer who literally founded modern classical Armenian music and whose songs, dances and liturgical works play a prominent role in our musical culture. But perhaps fewer people know about the influence of Germany on his work. On September 5 in Berlin, a gathering of scientists, politicians and artists convened to honor Komitas, unveiling a bronze commemorative plaque at the Humboldt University, which was the composer's alma mater.

The ceremony was moderated by Prof. Armenuhi Drost-Abgarjan, the leading Armenologist and director of the MESROB Center for Armenian Studies at the Martin Luther University in Halle-Wittenberg, who introduced the speakers, beginning with Prof. Jan-Hendrik Olbertz, president of the Humboldt University. It was he who has led several joint Armenian-German projects over the years during his tenure as Minister of Culture of Sachsen-Anhalt, the state responsible for cultural, scientific and educational relations with Armenia. Representing the Republic of Armenia was Dr. Armen Martirosyan, ambassador to Germany.

Among the guests who had traveled to Berlin from Yerevan for the event was the Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan, under whose patronage the project was carried out, in collaboration with Martirosyan, architect Karl van Suntum of the university and public relations director Petra Schubert.

As Poghosyan explained, a special competition had been launched for the design

also the artistic director of the Geghard women's ensemble from the Geghard Cloister, which presented folk songs by Komitas during the evening concert which concluded the festivities.

More than one speaker compared the significance of Komitas's contribution in music to the contribution of Mesrop

them. He became a member of the Berlin International Music Society founded by Fleischer and, following his return to Echmiadzin in 1899, traveled widely in search of old traditional melodies, while working on the decipherment of the ancient notation. Komitas used his knowledge of European music to rework these liturgical and folk compositions, transforming monodic melodies into polyphonic form.

During his concert tours through



From left, Archbishop Karekin Bekdjian, Primate of the Armenian Church in Germany, Ambassador Armen Martirosyan, and Hasmik Poghosyan, Armenian minister of culture, stand in front of the plaque commemorating Komitas.

Mashtots, the founder of the Armenian alphabet, to language. Born in 1869, Komitas displayed unusual musical talent at an early age and in 1881 went to Echmiadzin, where he studied singing, choir directing and composition at the spiritual academy, Geworgean Jemaran. At the age of 24 he became a monk and

two years thereafter was ordained a priest. In this period he worked closely with leading clergymen who were experts in Armenian music. His years in Berlin, from 1896-1899, were to prove crucial. Supported by a church scholarship, he entered the Humboldt University and also studied piano and music theory privately. Thus he came

Europe and the Ottoman Empire, Komitas again came into contact with other leading composers, like Ravel and Debussy. In 1910 he moved to Constantinople, where he founded a choir and, in 1915, was among the hundreds of Armenian intelligentsia who were brutally arrested and jailed. Though spared a worse fate through the intervention of then-US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Komitas suffered the psychological effects for the rest of his life, which ended in Paris in 1935. In the following year, his mortal remains were transported to Yerevan.

Although his published works include 14 volumes of songs and folk music, much of his groundbreaking achievement has been lost through the ravages of war and the Genocide. Navoyan estimates that among those works lost are about 2,000 collected folk songs as well as some original compositions and — most tragically — his work on the decipherment of the neumes. The fruit of two decades' work, this major discovery would provide the key to reading thousands of medieval musical manuscripts written in this notation.

Despite the massive loss, what has remained of Komitas is immense in significance. By combining his extraordinary musical insight and talent with his profound study of other musical cultures, especially through his Berlin years, he succeeded in creating an utterly new music — modern classical Armenian music — which is not only noteworthy as a unique compositional method, but constitutes the foundation of a national school of musical composition. Through comparative analyses of Armenian music and that of other traditions — whether Eastern or European — and his original compositions, Komitas demonstrated that “the Armenians have an independent music.” In this sense, the comparison with Mesrop is not at all exaggerated. It is indeed a happy circumstance that leading personalities in the world of culture, education and politics from Germany and the Republic of Armenia have joined efforts to commemorate this brilliant individual and to recognize his symbolic value in elevating German-Armenian relations.

into contact with leading musicians and experts from the European tradition, among them, Oskar Fleischer, Heinrich Bellermann and Max Friedländer. In addition to lectures in music history, musicology, medieval church music, instrumental music, musical criticism and related disciplines, Komitas eagerly took part in folk music research. The young musical genius had already developed a passion for Armenian folk music and collected melodies far and wide. Fleischmann taught him aspects of musical notation, which was to aid him in deciphering the Armenian *khazes* (or neumes), an old sign system in which church music and prayers from the ninth to 16th centuries were annotated but which was no longer known.

Through his studies and contacts in Berlin, Komitas forged a symbiotic relationship with the German and European musical tradition, learning from his teachers and sharing his knowledge of Armenian music with



From left, Prof. Thomas Bucholtz, composer and guest professor at the State Conservatory, Yerevan, Prof. Armenuhi Drost-Abgarjan, director of the MESROB Center for Armenian Studies at the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Hasmik Poghosyan, Armenian minister of culture, and Ambassador Armen Martirosyan, at the concert

of the bronze plaque and the prize went to artist Nara Mendelyan. When the plaque was ceremoniously unveiled, Archbishop Karekin Bekdjian, Primate of the Armenian Church in Germany, recited a prayer in Armenian and Manfred Richter, former dean of the Berlin Cathedral, offered a prayer in German.

As Drost-Abgaryan noted, “two renowned specialists of Armenian music and its links to oriental and European music had been invited from Germany and Armenia” — Dr. Regina Randhofer, musicologist from the Sachsen Academy of Sciences in Leipzig, and Prof. Mher Navoyan, musicologist and historian from the Yerevan State Conservatory named after Komitas. Randhofer, who specializes in the cultural history of the Mediterranean and Near East, teaches and conducts research at universities in Halle, Budapest and Jerusalem, among others. Navoyan, who has published numerous works on medieval Armenian music, is

International News

Turkey's Anti-Armenian Provocation in Switzerland

BERN, Switzerland (news.am) — Turkey convened a conference on September 18 at its embassy inviting not only Swiss National Council members, but also American Genocide denialist historian Justin McCarthy, *Nouvelles d'Armenie* reports.

The Switzerland-Turkey Parliamentary Group leaders likewise attended the meeting, Swiss DRS Radio reported.

The group's leader, Alec von Graffenried, expressed discontent over McCarthy being invited to the event, in which the group's co-chair, Andreas Gross, likewise participated. “When someone invites you, you can't determine the ‘menu.’ Nonetheless, the owner must know that we don't ‘eat’ everything,” Gross stated, pointing to the campaign of Genocide denial. “We insured ourselves by saying that we wish no provocation. We, too, were assured of this,” von Graffenried said.

But Switzerland-Armenia Friendship Group Chairman Ueli Leuenberger criticized this position.

“I believe the Switzerland-Turkey Parliamentary Group leaders are working completely irresponsibly,” he stated.

10 Turkish Soldiers Killed, 70 Injured in PKK Attack

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Ten soldiers were killed and 70 were injured Tuesday, September 18, after a Turkish military convoy transporting unarmed soldiers returning from leave was hit by a rocket before coming under fire in an ambush conducted by suspected militants from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in eastern Turkey, *Hurriyet Daily News* reported.

Development Minister Cevdet Yilmaz said 56 of the injured were taken to hospitals in Bingöl, while eight were hospitalized in Mush, four in Elazığ and two in Erzurum.

Some 200 soldiers who had returned from sick or home leave were being transported to their respective military units with a convoy of five buses, with 10 armored vehicles escorting the transports. The traveling soldiers were unarmed and in civilian clothing, Bingöl Gov. Mustafa Hakan Güvençer said.

The convoy was traveling on the road between Bingöl and Mush when a bus in the convoy was hit by a rocket at around 12:45 p.m.

Turkish-Armenian Community Renews Plea For Education Reform

ISTANBUL (PanARMENIAN.Net) — Representatives of the Turkish-Armenian community have renewed their pleas for education reform for children of Armenian immigrant workers, who are not considered eligible to attend state schools.

Officials of the Gedikpasha Armenian Protestant Church, which opened its doors last year to educate 84 students whose parents are undocumented immigrants from Armenia, are still awaiting a response to their ongoing grievances.

The church officials are trying to school 100 students, facing many legal and physical challenges. The classes are held in the basement of the church and some makeshift classrooms have no doors.

Church officials and families are frustrated that nothing has changed since last year as they tried to address the fact that “guest student status” does not correspond to the needs of immigrant students. The parents of these children were on the “guest student status” would not be enough for their children, who needed proof of their education when they return to Armenia.

“We call on the state to give our children a valid certificate or a valid diploma,” one parent said.

Turkey's new academic year has begun with a new education system that increases the years of compulsory education from an uninterrupted eight years to 12 years.



Community News

Armine and Garabed Zambak Scholarship Program: A Gateway to Professional Success

NEW YORK and YEREVAN – For two young Armenian professionals, Tamara Ghalayan and Armenak Minasyants, the Armine and Garabed Zambak Scholarship has served as a gateway to their career goals. Both Ghalayan and Minasyants graduated with honors this year from the Faculty of International Affairs at Yerevan State University.

“Your generous support helped me to fulfill my dream of receiving a master’s degree,” wrote Ghalayan in a letter of thanks to the Zambak family.

The Armine and Garabed Zambak Scholarship, which since 2010 has supported young Armenians who study political science, international relations or public administration, was granted to Ghalayan and Minasyants based on their excellent grades and their desire to work in public service. Since graduation both have found jobs in public administration. Ghalayan is now a junior specialist in the Division of Bilateral Financial and Technical Cooperation at the Ministry of Finance. Minasyants is the external relations officer at the Constitutional Court

“The Zambak Scholarship gave me much more than tuition. Now, I am not just another member of the civil service community; I will have to work very hard to serve my country.”

of the Republic of Armenia. He also heads the AEGEE-Yerevan Youth NGO. The organization was established in 2010 and has about 100 members who work toward increasing Armenia’s integration into the European Union and supporting cooperation between young people in order to build a more open and tolerant society, said Minasyants.

Ghalayan and Minasyants were brought into the field of public administration through the Zambak family. Armine Zambak created the Armine and Garabed Zambak Scholarship in honor of her husband, the late Garabed Zambak, a successful entrepreneur and business leader in Istanbul who was especially dedicated to preserving Armenian heritage. After Garabed Zambak’s death in 1977, Armine Zambak continued his legacy. They both believed strongly in furthering educational opportunities and this particular program is a testament to those beliefs. Pontish Yeramyian, the couples’ eldest daughter, has been a member of Fund for Armenian Relief’s Board of Directors since 2006. She, too, continues in her father’s footsteps to strengthen Armenia’s future through a commitment to continuing this scholarship program, which is helping young Armenians to become strong and dedicated future leaders in politics, international relations and public administration.

For Ghalayan and Minasyants the support of this scholarship will always remain in their consciousness, and it will help to stimulate new achievements through which they will benefit their communities for years to come.

“The Zambak Scholarship gave me much more than tuition,” said Ghalayan. “Now, I am not just another member of the civil service community; I will have to work very hard to serve my country.”



Symposium participants compare notes during a break.

Symposium for Armenian Teachers Held by Diocese

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. – At the annual Symposium for Armenian Teachers this month, educators discussed teaching strategies, learned from a professor of literacy education and heard about new resources for the classroom.

More than 35 participants representing six Diocesan Armenian schools in New York and New Jersey attended the event on Saturday, September 8. The day’s program was organized by the Diocese’s Armenian Studies coordinator, Gilda Kupelian, and hosted by St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian School of White Plains.

The day began with an invocation by the Rev. Karekin Kasparian, pastor of St. Gregory the Enlightener Church. Kasparian led the group in singing a hymn on the occasion of the Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Mother-of-God. Armenian School Principal Margrit Hamparsoumian gave welcome remarks.

Kupelian made a presentation on the core curriculum standards for Armenian Schools, in which she discussed ways to teach the Armenian alphabet at an early age and encouraged teachers to be mindful of the different learning styles of their students. She also presented techniques for maximizing student retention of new material. In addition to the language component, the core curriculum includes units on faith, history, literature and the arts.

Guest speaker Maria Paula Ghiso, assistant professor of literacy education at



Educators take notes during the symposium.

Teachers College, Columbia University, spoke on “Supporting Language Learning and Cultural Identity.” Ghiso’s talk highlighted different tools for teaching a foreign language and incorporated activities for educators to test out the new strategies she presented.

Later in the afternoon, three teachers gave reports on the training program they attended last month in Armenia. Hasmik Koulian of St. Vartan Cathedral Armenian School in New York City, Yeva Kochian of St. Gregory Armenian School in White Plains and Lusine Chamessian of Kirikian Armenian School in Tenafly, NJ, gave an overview of the seminars in Yerevan. The group then recognized Koulian, who was awarded a certificate of recognition by Armenia’s Ministry of Diaspora during her visit. All of the educators attending Saturday’s symposium received books and resources from Armenia’s Ministry of Diaspora and the ministries of Science and Education.

see SYMPOSIUM, page 7

SOAR-Wisconsin Fund-Raiser Collects \$14,000 For Orphanage Support

DELAFIELD, Wis. – On a cliff overlooking Lake Nagawicka, more than 130 people gathered at the home of Dr. Chuck and Mary Kay Hajinian on August 4 to raise money for the most disadvantaged children of Armenia.

The fundraiser, sponsored by the Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (SOAR) Wisconsin chapter, brought in close to \$14,000 in cash contributions plus about \$4,000 in donated items. This was the third annual “Day on the Blue” event, and by far the most successful to date.

All the funds raised in 2012 will be allocated to three institutions in Armenia all of which care for children with special needs – the Kharberd orphanage, the Vardashen orphanage and the Sisters of Charity Bethlehem orphanage. The donation will provide winter clothing, blankets and other needed items for some of Armenia’s most disadvantaged children.

Orphanages date from the dark days of the Armenian Genocide a century ago, when several were established to aid destitute refugees in Near Eastern countries. A huge orphan city was established in Alexandrapol (now Gumri, Armenia) by the American Near East Relief. This institution played a key role in rescuing an entire generation of children who later contributed to rebuilding Armenia during the Soviet period. When the 1988 earthquake destroyed the same city, orphanages again became the means to rescue Armenian children who had been left without homes and parents.

Even though the earthquake orphans are now grown, orphanages have become permanent institutions as difficult economic conditions in Armenia persist. In addition, few specialized institutions exist for disabled children and those with special needs.

The hosts for the event were Dr. Chuck and Mary Kay Hajinian, who opened their home to the guests. Organizers from the local community included Dr. Levon and Shirley Saryan and family, Dr. Gary, Nancy and William Seabrook, Mike and Lori Bode, AJ and Sarah Bianchi, Harry Aghjian and family, and Dr. David and Eddi Schmitt. Support was also provided by Mark Khatchaturian, Ara Charchian, Dr. Stacy and Steve Michels, and Danny and Kari D’Acquisto.

This year, for the first time, live Armenian dance music was provided by Vahan Kamalian, Kai Kazarian and Michael Kamalian. Dr. Ani Saryan provided instruction in Armenian line dancing on the patio, enjoyed by Armenian and non-Armenian guests alike. A remarkable acrobatic water ski performance was mounted by Harrison Aghjian and friends from the Pewaukee Waterski Club. Party guests enjoyed light refreshments including homemade Armenian pastries.

A silent auction included a number of donated items, including an original framed example of Armenian needlework, an oriental carpet, medieval Armenian coins, original artwork, golf vacations, jewelry, Armenian brandy, wine and other items.

When asked why he was organizing this effort, Chuck Hajinian replied: “Look into the eyes of these orphan children. These were the eyes of my grandmother who grew up in an orphanage along with 100,000 others from 1915. In the words of Jesus, ‘as you have done so unto them, you have done so unto me.’ This event is a big party, we Armenians now party with a purpose. Join us next year, we are looking for helpers, or for more information, send your email to hajinian@yahoo.com.”

SOAR was established to provide financial and moral support for Armenian orphanages and to address their unique needs. Headquartered in Philadelphia, SOAR now has more than 25 chapters around the world.

Contributions to SOAR-Wisconsin by check are still being accepted c/o Dr. Levon Saryan, treasurer, at P. O. Box 210313, Milwaukee, WI 53221-8006.

– L. A. Saryan



COMMUNITY NEWS

AMAA Receives \$300,000 Grant from the John Mirak Foundation

ARLINGTON, Mass. — The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) was recently named recipient of a grant of \$300,000 from the John Mirak Foundation here. This contribution will be used to provide support for the construction of the Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School in Malatia-Sebastia, Yerevan, Armenia. In particular, this grant will provide the school Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, meaning that it will be constructed and operated with leading edge technology and materials that maximize sustainable energy use, efficiency and water conservation.

“We are truly blessed to receive this grant from the John Mirak Foundation,” said Levon Filian, executive director of the AMAA. “The Mirak Foundation’s sponsorship of the first LEED-certified building in Armenia is truly unique. LEED-certification of the school demonstrates the commitment of both the Mirak Foundation and the AMAA to a future where the buildings are designed to be environmentally sustainable, earthquake resistant and less costly to operate.”

The award-winning Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School was established by Edward and

Pamela Avedisian of Lexington, in September 1999, as a tuition-free kindergarten with 75 students in three classes. With the anticipated com-

pletion of the Avedisian School’s new middle and high school in September 2014 and contributions such as those from the John Mirak



From left, Phyllis Dohanian, director of AMAA Development and Marketing; Jeanmarie Papelian, co-chair of AMAA Development Committee; Edward Avedisian, AMAA board member and Avedisian School benefactor; Bob Mirak and Jill Mirak Kew of the Mirak Foundation

Foundation, more than 500 students from economically-disadvantaged homes in Malatia-Sebastia will have an opportunity to explore and learn in a tuition-free, nurturing environment.

Founded in 1972 by Genocide survivor, John Mirak, the John Mirak Foundation is a private family foundation that has supported charitable and educational institutions in Arlington and the global Armenian community, including the Armenian Cultural Foundation, the Armenia Tree Project, the Armenian Heritage Park and many others. The foundation has recently renewed its commitment to preserving Armenia by funding organizations that focus on issues surrounding environmental sustainability, reforestation and education at all levels.

Ararat Armenian Church in Salem, NH Holds Annual Shish Kebob Supper

SALEM, N.H. — The Ararat Congregational Church here will hold its annual Shish Kebob Supper on Saturday, September 29, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The dinner will take place at the church, located at 2 Salem St.

The Ararat Church is New Hampshire’s only Armenian church. In 1912, a group of Armenians in Salem met to establish a church where they could nurture their faith and maintain and preserve their Armenian culture and traditions. Help was attained from the Congregational Conference (today known as the United Church of Christ), and a land grant was obtained from the Northeastern Street Railway Company. Within a short time, the

Ellis Island Medal Winner Joyce Philibosian Stein to Be Honored by Haigazian University



Joyce Philibosian Stein

LOS ANGELES — On Saturday, November 17, the Haigazian University Trustees’ Banquet, to be held at the Sheraton Universal Hotel, will pay tribute to Joyce Philibosian Stein.

Haigazian University holds a special place in her heart because her father, Stephen Philibosian of Philadelphia, a well known philanthropist, was one of the founders of the university and in fact, a building is named after him on the campus in Beirut. She is following in his footsteps as an active member of the Board of Trustees and as chair of the Philibosian Foundation. Haigazian University, under the auspices of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), was founded to prepare teachers, pastors and leaders. It does not deny admission to any qualified Armenian student. Graduates of Haigazian are serving Armenian communities worldwide as ambassadors, principals, teachers and businessmen. Stein has served as the president of the

Haigazian University Women’s Auxiliary for more than 10 years. Through her range of influence with high-profile musical personalities such as Placido Domingo and Zubin Mehta, the auxiliary was able to present unique and meaningful events, which helped raise more than \$1 million for its Scholarship Program for deserving Armenian students.

In recent years, Stein has been the national co-chair of the AMAA Orphan/Child Care Committee, which hosts a children’s fashion show annually — generating funds for the children and families of Armenia. She and her family have traveled to Armenia many times and her enthusiasm and positive attitude are evident in all her endeavors.

The program will begin at 6 p.m., with dinner served at 7 p.m.

Everyone is invited to this banquet in her honor. For information, write to joyceabdulian@gmail.com.



A photo from 1955 shows members making kebob

church was built and the building was dedicated on November 13. For nearly a century, the church has participated in the life of Salem’s community, and shared its cultural heritage by hosting an annual shish kebob supper. The photo accompanying this article was taken at such a supper held in June 1955 and was published in a local paper at that time.

Church moderator John Janigian reports that all church members participate in hosting the supper. Children assist with cleaning up, setting tables and serving soda and coffee. Adults work the grill, make the pilaf, fill the plates and sell tickets. Every household contributes to the bake sale. In 2011, there was much disappointment in the church community when the supper had to be cancelled due to a defect in the church’s stove. Thanks to a grant from the Armenian Missionary Association of America, the stove has been replaced and preparations are being made for an evening of food and fellowship. Proceeds from this year’s supper will go towards the cost of replacing the church’s steps. As the church is now 99-years old, the building requires frequent repairs and renovations.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

OBITUARY

Prof. Gabriel Vahanian

By Paul Vitello

STRASBOURG, France (*New York Times*) – Gabriel Vahanian, a theologian whose 1961 social critique, *The Death of God: The Culture of Our Post-Christian Era*, gave a name to a seemingly atheistic but widely-misunderstood theological movement, died on August 30 at his home here. He was 85.

His daughter, Noelle Vahanian, confirmed his death.

Vahanian, a churchgoing Presbyterian throughout his life, was a professor at Syracuse University when a small literary publisher released *The Death of God*, a scholarly work that took church leaders to task for what he considered the trivialization of Christian teaching in the secular age. It was not an endorsement of Friedrich Nietzsche's 1880s-era announcement of God's death. And it received little attention outside university religion departments and periodicals such as *The Journal of Bible and Religion*. (The *Journal's* review called it a dense read, but worthwhile. "Books like this must be written and read if Christian solutions are to be found," it said.)

But in 1966, Vahanian reached a wider audience when *Time* magazine named his

the group and its Nietzschean aura, however ill deserved.

"He had a totally different theological sensibility from most of them," said Jeffrey Robbins, Vahanian's son-in-law, who is chairman of the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Penn. "He was an iconoclast and a radical. But he described himself as a life-long, practicing, disgruntled Protestant Christian."

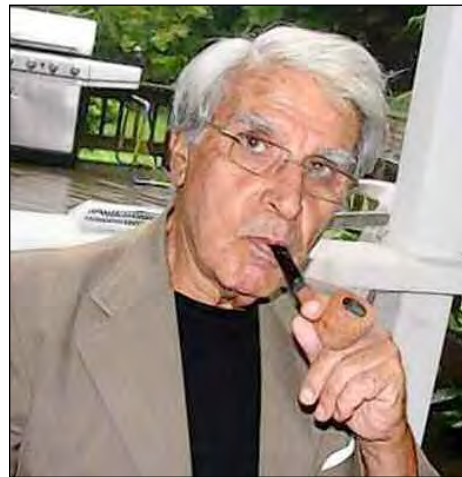
Cox, a professor emeritus at Harvard Divinity School and the author of the best-selling 1965 book *The Secular City* – considered one of the basic texts of the "Death of God" movement – described Vahanian as a "visionary" with a traditionalist streak. "He didn't like the idea of pronouncements about what no one could possibly know," Cox said in a phone interview. "He had too much respect for religious tradition."

In his book, Vahanian criticized efforts to modernize Christianity, implicitly rebuking the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, author of the 1950s self-help bestseller *The Power of Positive Thinking*. Vahanian condemned "positive thinking" and other doctrines that reduced Christianity to what he called "a tool for success." Faith had higher purposes, he said. It was for dealing with suffering; plumbing the conscience; confronting doubts about God.

"God is not necessary, but he is inevitable," Vahanian wrote in 1964 in *Wait Without Idols*, displaying the gnomic style that sometimes tried reviewers' patience (and eschewing capital letters when referring to the deity). "He is wholly other and wholly present. Faith in him, the conversion of our human reality, both culturally and existentially, is the demand he still makes upon us."

Vahanian was born on January 24, 1927, in Marseille, France, one of four children of Mesrop and Perouse Vahanian. His parents settled there in the early 1920s after fleeing the Armenian Genocide. After completing his studies at the Protestant Theological Faculty of Paris in 1949, he received his PhD at the Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1958 he became a professor of religion at Syracuse University, where he taught for 26 years and helped to found the university's graduate studies program in religion. He moved in 1984 to Universite des Sciences Humaines de Strasbourg, for a post considered France's most prominent theological professorship of Protestantism. Besides his daughter, who, like her husband, Robbins, is a professor of religion and philosophy at Lebanon Valley College, Vahanian is survived by his wife, Barbara; a son, Jean-Michel; and two grandchildren. Though he had differences with the "Death of God" theologians, Vahanian shared "the deep sensitivity and religious passion that animated the movement," Robbins said.

In *Wait Without Idols*, he identified the origin of the problem facing "Death of God" theologians as he saw it: "It is easier to understand oneself without God than with God. The dilemma of Christianity is that it taught man how to be responsible for his actions in this world, and for this world itself. Now man has declared God not responsible and not relevant to human self-knowledge. The existence of God, no longer questioned, has become useless to man's predicament and its resolution...This, then, is the irony of the cultural tradition of Christianity: it has bequeathed us the idea of the death of God."



Prof. Gabriel Vahanian

book as the forerunner of several works written around that time by scholars belonging to what the theology world called the "Death of God" movement. All were grappling with some of religion's big questions in the post-World War II era, *Time* said: Would the center hold if people stopped believing? How might religious values survive in a post-faith world?

Vahanian knew and corresponded with some of the others in the movement, including Harvey Cox of Harvard, Thomas J.J. Altizer of Emory University and William Hamilton, who would be forced out of his faculty post at an upstate New York seminary after the furor over the *Time* article and later teach at Portland State University in Oregon. None were atheists. Some were uncomfortable with the name of their movement, since they considered themselves more like a rescue team than an attack squad. They saw their work as a continuation of inquiries begun by some of the great theologians of the early and middle 20th century, including Paul Tillich, Karl Barth and Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Vahanian, though, distanced himself from

Leslie Boghosian Weds Paul Murphy

FAIR LAWN, N.J. (*New York Times*) – Leslie Karen Boghosian and Paul Andrew Murphy were married earlier this month at St. Leon Armenian Church. The Rev. Mardiros Chevian performed the ceremony, with the Rev. Diran Bohajian taking part.

Until last year, the bride, 42, was a correspondent in New York for "HDNet World Report," a show on the HDNet channel. She graduated from Temple.

She is the daughter of Barbara Boghosian and Dr. Edward M. Boghosian of Fair Lawn. Her father retired as an owner, with her mother, of Mainly Cheese, a store that was in Glen Rock. Her mother retired as an international aid coordinator in Fair Lawn for the Armenian General Benevolent Union.

The groom, 48, is a federal prosecutor in Bridgeport, Conn., where he specializes in white-collar crime. He graduated from Georgetown and received a law degree from St. John's.

He is a son of Ann M. Murphy of North Palm Beach, Fla., and the late John J. Murphy, who both worked at St. John's School of Law. His father was the dean from 1970-79, and his mother retired as the dean of alumni relations.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Symposium for Armenian Teachers Held by Diocese

SYMPOSIUM, from page 4

Kupelian introduced the *Rainbow Picture Book*, a picture dictionary recently released by the Armenian Studies section of the Diocese's Department of Youth and Education. The child-friendly volume helps young students reinforce the Armenian alphabet and basic vocabulary knowledge. Kupelian also announced preparations underway for this year's Diocesan-wide celebration of the Feast of the Holy Translators on October 14.

Before concluding the day's program, all the participants had an opportunity to visit the classrooms at St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian School, where local teachers gave brief presentations on their teaching methods.

In addition, the day featured an award ceremony. Nectar Sarkissian Munro of St. Gregory Armenian School was recognized for 25 years of service. Serpoog Ashjian, Caroline Avedissian, Maria Derian and Betty Minassian, all of St. Peter Armenian School of Watervliet, NY, were honored for 10 years of service. They were presented with books on behalf of Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), as well as the Armenian Studies program.

Educators said they took away helpful ideas from the daylong symposium. "Not only was this a good forum to learn new things, it was a



Prof. Maria Paula Ghiso (left) guides teachers during an activity at last Saturday's symposium.

good opportunity for teachers to get together and exchange experiences," said Kupelian. "Teachers were given the tools to use existing and new resources in the best way possible considering the challenges and limitations they face in the classroom."

Educators from the following six schools

took part in the symposium: St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian School of White Plains; St. Peter Armenian School of Watervliet; Khrimian Lyceum of New York; St. Vartan Cathedral Armenian School of New York; St. Leon Armenian School of Fair Lawn, NJ and St. Thomas Church's Armenian School of Tenafly.

Distinguished Humanitarian Award to Be Presented to Trio of Armenian Activists

WASHINGTON – The Armenian Assembly of America announced this week that it will present its Distinguished Humanitarian Award to three accomplished individuals, Elizabeth Agbabian, Flora Dunaians and Savey Tufenkian, for their compassion, generosity and dedicated service to the Armenian people at the Assembly's 40th anniversary gala held in Los Angeles on September 22.

All three have been elected to multiple terms of office on the Board of the Armenian Assembly – and have served with distinction.

Elizabeth Agbabian, along with her husband, Mihan, has been at the forefront of promoting the advancement of education in Armenia, helping to establish the American University of Armenia. Among her many other endeavors, she spearheaded the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) Orphan Child Care Program on the West Coast after the 1988 earthquake, which continues to help children in Armenia and Artsakh.

As a tireless advocate for democracy and rule of law in Armenia, Dunaians, through the Developmental Services for Armenia, which she founded with her husband, George, helps improve the health and education of children in Armenia.

Tufenkian, along with her husband, Ralph, has been a pillar of the Assembly's internship program with an endowed scholarship in memory of their son, Richard. Through her involve-



From left, Flora Dunaians, Elizabeth Agbabian and Savey Tufenkian

ment with organizations such as the Armenian Education Foundation, she continues to elevate educational standards both in Armenia and the United States.

All three women have played an important role in the development of the Assembly's Western Region. In addition, in 1997, 2001 and 2003 the three served as co-chairs of the Assembly's National Tribute Galas.

"Elizabeth, Flora and Savey are extraordinary individuals," stated Assembly Chairman Hirair Hovnanian. "As Armenians we can all take pride in their many achievements. Together and individually, they have given so much of their time, talent and treasure to the community. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Armenian people."



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COMMUNITY NEWS

TCA Arshag Dickranian School Starts Academic Year with New Principal

SCHOOL, from page 1

Garihyan, Parsegh Kartalian and Diran Depanian and former board member Sarkis Der Sarkissian.

The opening ceremony was led with the greetings of Derderian, who welcomed Yeranossian and wished the school a suc-

parents to the school. He invited Norian to the podium to deliver her remarks on behalf of the Dickranian family. Norian welcomed Yeranossian as the new school principal and encouraged students to always use every opportunity they encounter to educate themselves.



Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Fr. Manoug Markarian and emcee Parsegh Kartalian

cessful journey under her leadership. He concluded his remarks with a prayer blessing this new chapter. Kartalian, the master of ceremonies and vice president of the Board of Trustees, then took the podium welcoming benefactors, guests, students, teachers and

Following Norian's speech, Kartalian took the podium once again, acknowledging the efforts of the school's previous principal, Vartkes Kourouyan, who served as the school's head for 31 years before retiring this past summer. "It is hard to not see Principal



Students have fun seeing old friends on the first day.

Vartkes Kourouyan among us today; his work and effort will not go unsung." He then invited Yeranossian to deliver her very first address as the school's principal.

Yeranossian welcomed everyone to the 2012-2013 academic year and spoke about her aims and dreams for the school. "I am honored to have been appointed the principal of this great school. It is my goal to set high academic standards, make every opportunity available to the students to explore, educate and excel, the three important 'E's that will be the symbol of your suc-

cess," she said. She added, "My greatest strength as an educator and administrator for the past years has been my skill at conflict resolution...I am very excited to serve at the school; my only promise is that I will work hard every day and allow my actions to tell the story of who I am and of my commitment to TCA-ADS."

She ended her speech by wishing the students success in their endeavors and declaring the new scholastic year.

For more information about the school, visit www.dickranianschool.org.

St. James Church Honors Ellis Island Medal Recipient Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian

HONOREE, from page 1

Benevolent Union (AGBU) and the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR). Goudsouzian is on the executive board of Friends of Armenian Culture Society (FACS) and on the Board of the Armenian Cultural Society of Arlington (ACF). The Goudsouzians' contributions to the community were recognized by Karekin II, supreme patriarch and catholicos of all Armenians through the awarding of the St. Nersess Shnorhali medal and pontifical encyclical. The St. James parish also honored the Goudsouzians as St. James 2008 Parishioners of the Year, which was recognized by the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

Armenia has a special place in the heart of the Goudsouzians. Dr. Nishan Goudsouzian has visited Armenia seven times – twice with Project Hope; the first time to organize an airlift of earthquake victims to United States, and the second time to establish a rehabilitation unit. Two of the traumatized children stayed with the Goudsouzians for six months. Single-handedly he collects unused medical supplies and equipment from Massachusetts

General and Shriners' Burn Hospitals and assembles shipments to hospitals in Armenia every two or three months via the United Armenia Fund.

Goudsouzian's professional accomplishments are as notable as his philanthropic and personal accomplishments. He has been a pediatric anesthesiologist at Massachusetts General Hospital for 45 years, has published more than 150 medical and research publications and has authored two books that had several editions and translated to four languages. He was the founding editor and chairman of the editorial board of the indexed journal *Pediatric Anesthesia*. In recognition of his achievements, Harvard Medical School bestowed on him the title of Professor of Anesthesia.

The Goudsouzians' greatest pride is their family – their three sons, Steven (Lara), Aram (Chrystal) and Haig (Jarka), and five grandchildren.

All are welcome to attend this reception, which will be held in the St. James' Charles Mosesian Cultural and Youth Center, Keljik Hall, 465 Mt. Auburn St.

NAASR Hosts Evening of Tribute to Manoog Young

TRIBUTE, from page 1

NAASR Chairpersons Nancy R. Kolligian and Raffi P. Yeghiayan; NAASR Director of Academic Affairs Marc A. Mamigonian and slides and video of Young. A reception will follow the program.

The Armenian community in the United States, and indeed worldwide, owes a great debt of gratitude to Young for the advancement of Armenian Studies. The achievements realized through his efforts are ongoing and will continue to flourish. He leaves behind a rich legacy of which Armenians are all the beneficiaries as well as the caretakers. This event will provide an opportunity to remember Young, the man and the leader who

devoted much of his life to creating and nurturing Armenian studies in America and pay tribute to his vision, dedication, commitment to high ideals and rich legacy.

In recognition of Young's achievements and role in the development not only of NAASR but of Armenian studies as a whole, NAASR has established the Manoog S. Young Fund for Armenian studies at NAASR. The association requests that those who wish to honor his memory contribute to this fund that will enable the important work initiated by Young to continue in perpetuity. All donations received prior to the planned October 4 event will be acknowledged that evening and are tax deductible.

K. George and Carolann S. Najarian, M.D.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Radnor ASA Class Trip to Armenia Makes Great Impression on Participants

By Daron Pogharian

As a 2012 graduate of the Armenian Sisters Academy in Radnor, Penn., I traveled to Armenia in June with nine of my classmates. During the school year, preceding the trip, we were busy fundraising and wondering what the motherland would be like. During Armenian class in school, I would think, "Wow, I'm going to be experiencing this for real in just a few months."

June finally came. We were getting ready for graduation, organizing the funds we raised, and packing our bags. Then on the 19th, we met at JFK, excited and ready to start the experience of a lifetime. After long hugs and teary good-byes to our families, we flew from Charles de Gaul Airport in Paris and finally arrived at Zvartnots Airport, Yerevan, Armenia. As I was walking down the gate, I turned around to look for my friends. I stopped mid turn, awestruck at the beauty of our holy Mt. Ararat towering before me. It was about 8 p.m. then and the sun was setting, making the view even more spectacular. What an awesome welcome.

We were fortunate to see so many beautiful



Daron Pogharian in Artsakh

sites including the Matenadaran, Lake Sevan, Sardarabad and even experienced badarak at Holy Echmiadzin. We were lucky enough to travel to Karabagh and stayed at an exceptional hotel in Goris on the way there. Everywhere we went, the people were kind and welcoming, especially the elderly. Although the experience was wonderful overall, certain sites stood out for me.



Daron Pogharian and classmates from the Armenian Sisters' Academy in Radnor, Penn. at Sardarabad in Armenia

One of the greatest parts of the trip was when we spent a day visiting the orphanage in Gumri, which is run by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. We arrived around lunchtime, and were served amazing losh kebab and pilaf. There were only a few children there because most of them were at Our Mother of Armenia, the nuns' summer camp in Dzaghgadzor, which we would later visit. In Gumri, the children taught us a game called badeej, (Armenian-style dodge ball) and we ended up playing for hours. Despite our different dialects, we easily communicated because smiles go a long way. I was amazed how quickly we became close to these children who have so little in life, but share their incredible enthusiasm and steadfast spirit. They were very excited to have visitors and vied for our attention which we willingly returned.

Another wonderful experience was when we took the Wings of Datev skyride. It is located in a land of rolling hills and valleys (well, I guess all of Armenia is) and to top it off, the glass trolley car rides thousands of feet above the ground. It traveled at a leisurely pace; not slow enough that you get bored, yet not so fast that you feel like you missed something. Sometimes the car would tilt in the wind and everybody

would shift and some (the girls) would scream. Once back on the ground, we were touring the monastery itself, and while leaning on its wall, heard a sudden gong! The church bell signaled the start of communion and we all literally jumped at least three feet! We learned that the monastery was built with three surrounding walls and the fourth side opens to a cliff. This provided protection through the centuries. On the way out, some of us drank from a spring sprouting out from the wall – the water was so fresh and clear.

One of my favorite places on the tour was Geghard monastery. It was located in a small corner of one of the most picturesque landscapes I've ever seen. Outside the complex, vendors had set up shop and were selling all types of things. I bought some salor (plum) flavored basdegh, which was amazingly delicious. Once inside the complex, on one of the small hills, there were wooden crates. Upon further exami-

nation, I noticed it was the beehives my mother had told me about. When she visited in the 1990s she met the priest who tended the bees, who wore only a veiled hat for protection. In one of the rooms in the church there was a spring that came out of the wall and over the years it carved a stream bed through the floor.

An exciting spot for all of us was Verneesaj. For those who don't know, it is a huge open-air market in central Yerevan that sells everything from foodstuffs to carved khachkars to hand-made tavloo boards. There, one man's trash is definitely another man's treasure. Vendors came from all walks of life and bargaining was a much-used tactic. Our group would split up and buy whatever we wanted and then meet back at the bus and inspect each others' treasures and occasionally trade them.

One of the final things we did that some of us loved (I did) and some of us didn't, was our trip to Khor Virap. (Some thought the pit was too hot and stuffy, but that was the point!) In the parking lot, there were men with cages full of doves. They would ask the guests if they would like to release a dove, claiming that it was good luck. Most of the time, though, the vendors pushed the doves into people's hands and made them pay after. One of my classmates received extra good luck when a dove did its business on his pant leg! The pit wasn't as deep or narrow as I thought, and I'm glad St. Gregory had more room than I imagined. Unfortunately, visitors had carved their names into the walls of such a holy site. That day we had the best view of Ararat of the entire trip.

I feel so fortunate to have had this opportunity to see Armenia for myself. I was hoping it would be a fantastic experience, and it more than exceeded my expectations, especially since I toured with my closest friends. As a result, I hope to return as soon as I can!

(Daron Pogharian is a high school freshman and a member of the Philadelphia Papken Suni AYP Juniors.)

APS and AESA to Jointly Honor Dr. Vaughn Gregor on November 17

GLENDALE – The Armenian Professional Society (APS) and the Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) will jointly honor Dr. Vaughn (Vahan) Gregor for his accomplishments with the APS Lifetime Achievement Award and the AESA Victor Hambartsumian Award at a banquet on Saturday, November 17.

Gregor, an engineer, inventor and industrialist, has devoted his time and energy to both his profession and his community, seeking excellence in all his endeavors. Inventing new

ident of the AESA and former trustee of several organizations, including the Armenian Assembly of America (AAA), the Armenian Education Foundation (AEF) and the Armenian Society of Los Angeles (ASLA). He is also former chairman of the Southern California Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU). He has been officially recognized with several awards by the United States and the Armenian government representatives for his contributions to and accomplishments in science and engineering. He was also elected to the Armenian National Academy of Engineering.

"This will be an exceptional evening where two Armenian professional organizations have joined forces to recognize Dr. Gregor for his significant impact towards science and engineering as well as the Armenian community, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh," commented AESA President Armen Hovannesian. "We will publicize the banquet location followed by the invitations."

APS was formed in 1958 for the advancement of education and fellowship among Armenians. Since its inception, APS has supported more than 300 students of Armenian descent in the United States by granting scholarships to graduate students in a variety of fields.

AESA, established in 1983 in Glendale, Calif., is a non-partisan and non-sectarian philanthropic organization focused primarily on addressing the professional, technical and scientific needs of fellow Armenian engineers, scientists, industrialists and architects worldwide.

For more information, write to AESA at contact@aesa.org or APS at apsla@apsla.org.



Dr. Vaughn Gregor

machines and building automated factories were his daily work, while he led and contributed to Armenian and civic organizations. Gregor is a founding member of the APS, pres-

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Arts & Living

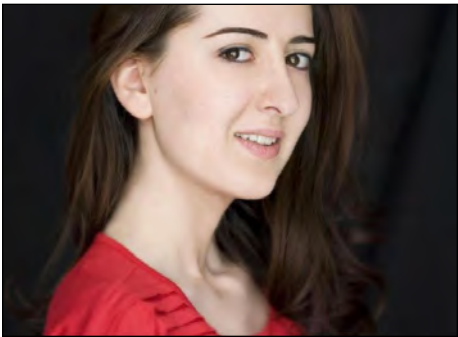
Armenian Classical Artists to Perform At Boston's Gardner Museum

By Ara Arakelian

BOSTON – The fall Sunday Concert Series at the brand new Calderwood Hall of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum will feature three rising Armenian artists.

On September 23, clarinetist Narek Arutyunian will appear in his recital debut, accompanied by pianist Solon Gordon. Their program will feature an eclectic mix, ranging from Schumann to Schoenfield with Debussy and Bernstein and Donatoni in between. The 20-year-old Arutyunian was most recently the featured soloist at the Armenian Night at the Pops, where he dazzled the audience who packed the sold-out Symphony Hall with his energetic performances with the Boston Pops and Keith Lockhart. A student of Charles Neidich at the Juilliard School, he is the 2010 winner of the prestigious Young Concert Auditions of New York. (See story on the page.)

Also no stranger to Boston audiences, cellist Narek Hakhnazaryan will take the stage on Sunday, October 7. Hakhnazaryan, 23, won the gold medal at the Tchaikovsky International Competition in 2011 and received his artist



Nareh Arghamanyan

diploma at the New England Conservatory, sponsored by the Alice and Violet Ohanasian/Friends of Armenian Culture Society Scholarship Fund. Along with his pianist of choice, Noreen Polera, Hakhnazaryan will perform music by Cesar Frank, Ligeti, Chopin, Tchaikovsky and Schumann. (The Schumann work, *Fantasiestucke, Op. 73*, is the cello version of the work by the same composer and title on Narek Arutyunian's program.)

Finally, on October 21, pianist Nareh Arghamanyan will be the featured artist in a piano recital.



Narek Hakhnazaryan

Arghamanyan is the winner of the 2008 Montreal International Music Competition who received her professional training at the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. She has appeared in concerts in Boston (also with the Boston Pops), Tanglewood and the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont. She will perform the music of Bach, Schumann and Rachmaninoff. The Rachmaninoff set of *Etudes-Tableaux* presented, are selections from a CD album released earlier this year by Arghamanyan.

All performances begin at 1:30 p.m. Tickets for these concerts are available online at www.gardnermuseum.org.



Narek Arutyunian

Clarinet Virtuoso Makes Return Trip to Boston

BOSTON – The first time clarinetist Narek Arutyunian performed in Boston in June, at the Armenian Night at the Pops, the annual program sponsored by the Friends of Armenian Culture Society (FACS), those attending were hoping that the young musician would live up to the advance praise. They were not disappointed.

By Alin K. Gregorian
Mirror-Spectator Staff

The sold-out performance was praised by those attending and Arutyunian seemed to find a fan in Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart.

Preternaturally confident, the Gumri-born Arutyunian, 20, dazzled with his ease on stage and off. Of course, the admiration was mutual, as he was thrilled to play with the Pops. "I have never played with such a [top] name orchestra," he said.

He is going to return to Boston on September 23, to perform at the Isabella Gardner Museum at 1:30 p.m., accompanied by pianist Solon Gordon. The program will include works by Bernstein and Schumann, among others. (See left.)

Arutyunian is currently living in New York, studying at the Juilliard School with Charles Neidich. He started playing the clarinet rather late, around age 9, but that certainly did not stop him from mastering it and winning many prestigious awards along the short time he has performed. He was a winner of the 2010 Young Concert Artists (YCA) International Auditions, thus nabbing recital debuts in the YCA series at New York's Merkin Hall and at the Kennedy Center in Washington.

In an interview, Arutyunian said that he was inspired at that age by his father, a folk clarinet player who often performed at weddings, he wanted to learn how to play Armenian folk songs. His mother, a piano teacher, however, wanted her son to play classical music, not Armenian. Arutyunian's mother was the first to note his abilities. "When I was 8 or 9, my mom noticed that I have a good sense of rhythm. She hired music teacher after music teacher, all of whom suggested that he study music on a full-time basis," he said.

The family had moved to Moscow when Narek was 3. Within in a year and a half of starting the to play the clarinet, he was admitted into the Central School of the Moscow Conservatory, graduating at age 16. (Typically students graduate at age 18 or 19.)

He next attended the Moscow Conservatory at age 17 for one year, before leaving for Queens College in New York, and then Juilliard, which he entered with a full scholarship.

Arutyunian confessed sheepishly that he would have gotten into Juilliard when he first applied when he was a student in the Moscow Conservatory, had he not performed disastrously on his Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam. Thus, he bided his time and continued his studies at the Moscow Conservatory – "one of the best and biggest music schools" in the world – before moving to the US

see NAREK, page 11

Muriel Mirak-Weissbach Releases New Book

BOSTON – In October, Muriel Mirak-Weissbach will present her new book at several venues in the greater Boston area. The book, *Madmen at the Helm: Pathology and Politics in the Arab Spring*, was released by Ithaca Press in Reading, UK, in July.

Are dictators mad or do they just not know when to quit? Do they know that people hate them or do they have personality disorders that block this knowledge from their consciousness?

While considering the geopolitical manipulations by outside forces, Mirak-Weissbach takes a unique perspective when she places the events of the Arab Spring in the context of personality disorders such as narcissism, paranoia, delusion, hysteria and sociopathy, considering five Arab leaders (Mubarak, Qaddafi, Ben Ali, Saleh and Assad) in turn.

A watershed in Arab history, the Arab Spring gave young protesters the impetus to challenge established and entrenched dictatorial regimes for the first time and to demand representative government. Mirak-Weissbach examines the public statements, speeches, interviews and courses of

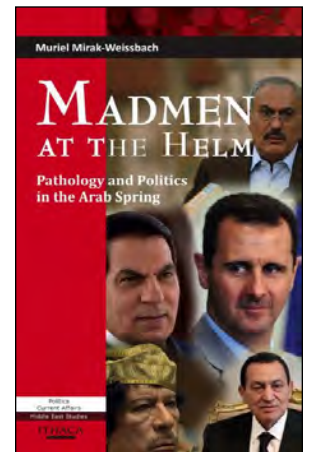
actions of the five leaders in response to these challenges, and identifies patterns and similarities of behavior. She then argues that their responses illustrate their psychological inability to face reality, and their determination to cling fanatically to power in the face of revolt.

A postscript to the book serves to show that this is a universal phenomenon, not a uniquely Arab one, by identifying examples of narcissism and its associated disorders in contemporary American politics.

This book will have huge appeal to those interested in gaining a deeper insight into the catalyst for and responses to the Arab Spring, and its implications for the future of democracy and power, in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Mirak-Weissbach is a native of Winchester and Arlington, and lives with her husband in Germany. She has worked for 30 years as a political journalist, specializing in economic, political and cultural developments in the Arab and Islamic world. Hundreds of her articles have appeared on topics related to development policy, the dialogue between Christianity and Islam and political events in the Arab and Islamic world. A regular contributor to *Arab Forum* and www.globalresearch.ca, she has recently authored articles in several Armenian publications. Book launches – open to the public and free of charge – with sales and singing will be held at the following: Old South Meeting House, Boston, panel discussion with Prof. Roger Owen, October 16, 6:30 p.m.; BookEnds, Winchester, October 18, 7 p.m.; Armenian Cultural Foundation, Arlington, October 21, 3 p.m.; and Robbins Public Library, Arlington, October 25, 7 p.m.

For more information about *Madmen at the Helm*, visit www.ithacapress.co.uk or e-mail pamelapakr@garnetpublishing.co.uk.





ARTS & LIVING

musAner Releases New Record, Will Perform in New York

NEW YORK — musAner, the ensemble blending jazz orchestration and Armenian folk music, will release a second record this October and perform to support it.

They will perform on October 26 at Drom, 85 Avenue A, in New York, starting at 9:20 p.m.

Founded in 2007 by composer and pianist Ara Sarkissian, the group released its first recording in 2009. Featuring an array of musicians from the Boston music scene, the group has presented widely in both jazz circles and general audiences. In addition to the acclaim it has received from audiences and critics in the Boston area, the group performed to sold-out audiences in Italy and Switzerland in 2010. Since then, musAner's cross-genre repertoire has been heard regularly at some of the most prestigious venues in Boston, along with features on radio programs in the US, Italy, Lebanon and Armenia.

Referred to as "an eclectic mix" (John Garelick, *The Boston Phoenix*) and having an "orchestral design with a folk-ish heart" (Marzio Mian, *Corriere Della Sera/Milano*), musAner's blend of genres is featured on their second release, "Once Upon A Time."

"It's about what you inherit," said Sarkissian. The group has plunged into the caves of tradition to rescue melodies once left for dead and renew them in the airy architecture of the halls

of modern jazz.

On musAner's sophomore release, "Once Upon a Time," scheduled for October, the folk-fusion ensemble plucks stories and spins them into musical gold. From sweeping mountaintop vistas to intimate nights around the fire, musAner takes the listener on an hour-long journey through the sonic landscape of old Armenia.

Though musAner's performances reflect the discipline of conservatory-trained jazz artists, Sarkissian's compositions begin with strands of tradition. "Once Upon a Time" features the ensemble's organic intermingling of jazz structure and folk improvisation, but at its heart are the ballads and social music of Armenian folk life.

"I think it's about surface, what's at the top, brewing," said Sarkissian. "Every phrase there on the surface will help the narrative move along."

In musAner's hands, hazy folk tunes gain a vigorous new life through European-style jazz orchestration. On the title track, Sarkissian's atmospheric piano draws the listener through a veil of clouds to find, perched atop a mountain crag in the harsh Armenian interior, a bird with a broken wing. Saxophones soar, a *duduk* rises, and musAner battles to give the bird flight.

musAner is never gimmicky — their music is mercurial and exotic, but refined. Though the album will draw in smooth jazz lovers with its lilt-

ing and airy instrumental ballads, more frenzied pieces like *Circle Dance at Midnight* will charm fans of Eastern European rhythms. A track like



Members of musAner

"All in a Day" brings an experimental feeling that may recall a Weimar-era jazz magnificat, but its rhythmically active, melody-driven core will be familiar to world music buffs.

Sarkissian was born in Cyprus and grew up in Beirut. In 1989, the piano prodigy moved to Boston, where he honed his craft at some of the

world's top schools of music. He composed and performed as he studied alternative musical systems, pushing at his own boundaries to try to bring the folk music of his ancestors to a modern stage. Eventually, he realized, "No one really teaches you all of this stuff I was looking for. You have to just have it. I don't know if I have it, but I'm trying to search for it." Sarkissian needed the Muses — in Armenian, the *musaner*.

Sarkissian searched for *musaner*, and what he found was a group of jazz musicians who wanted to engage in a fusion experiment.

Today, musAner usually appears as a 10-person ensemble, but it is an organic community of artists, so numbers vary. Near the core is clarinetist and Sarkissian's frequent collaborator, Todd Brunel: "Todd has a very lyrical, descriptive way of playing," Sarkissian commented. "He really makes a narrative out of it."

Jazz saxophone alchemist, Ken Field, transforms melodic lines into flirtatious, singing hints. Artur Yeghiazaryan and Martin Haroutunian change the whole landscape with the unique textures of traditional Armenian instruments, with the buzz and resonance that contributes additional depth to the arrangements.

Clarinet Virtuoso Makes Return Trip to Boston

NAREK, from page 10

He won first prize at the Rotary Club Moscow International Music Children Competition, the Nutcracker International TV competition and the Concertino Prague International Radio Competition in the Czech Republic. He was awarded with the opportunity to perform with Yuri Bashmet and his Russian Symphony Orchestra "New Russia" and to record a CD as soloist.

He has performed as a soloist with the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, the Kremlin Chamber Orchestra, Musica Viva Chamber Orchestra, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra of Moscow Radio and the Prague Radio Symphony Orchestra; with conductors Vladimir Spivakov, Alexander Rudin, Alexander Apolin, Vladimir Fedoseev, Misha Rakhlevsky, Yuri Bashmet and Saulous Sondeckis; and in Poland, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, France, Canada, Czech Republic and at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, in a tribute to Mstislav Rostropovich in October 2008.

He is in New York through a grant from the Guzik Foundation, a Mountain View, Calif.-based organization that gives grants to individuals and organizations for study and research in the fields of medicine and the arts.

He credits the YCA for not only giving him a major stage, but management for three years, so that he can find performance opportunities. "That is how FACS found me," he said.

While his parents wanted him to study music, it was not a career option they wanted for him. "My parents didn't want me to become a musician. They would say how much work you have to do and that you have to give yourself completely up to it if you want to succeed. Just nothing but practicing and working," he said. It was not enough to deter him.

While Arutyunian wants to be the absolute top classical clarinetist in the world, he is also eager to practice his skills in jazz, performing works by Artie Shaw and Benny Goodman, among other American jazz giants.

Future plans include plowing ahead in the music world, including advancing his already brilliant career, and possibly trying his hand at conducting.



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ARTS & LIVING

Artists Discover their Musical Heritage with AGBU's New Musical Armenia Program

NEW YORK — The debut of the Musical Armenia Program (MAP), the latest initiative by the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) geared toward youth and young adults, has proved to be such a success that plans for its second annual summer program are already underway.

In MAP's pilot year, a select group of up-and-coming artists got the chance to train and perform with renowned musicians in Armenia. Collaborating with top Armenian artists was just one of the many activities that MAP has to offer.

Launched this summer, MAP brought together a group of nine young composers, flautists, pianists, vocalists and violinists, from as far away as Greece, Syria and the United States, in their homeland of Armenia. The program was coordinated from the AGBU Central Office by

as though music, the Armenian epic, medieval spiritual music, ethnic dance music and songs to classical Armenian music composed by Komitas, Aram Khachaturian and living Armenian composers.

For every Armenian musician, this knowledge is as essential as the Armenian language. The enthusiasm and the great interest of the participants inspires us and gives hope of passing the knowledge within diaspora communities, a rare opportunity that diaspora musicians didn't have until this program."

MAP students attended lectures and classes with experts in the field, visited local institutions, such as the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory and Sayat Nova Music School, and toured the country's historic landmarks. As Arsenyan commented, "MAP is yet another

bridge that AGBU has built between Armenian Diasporan youth and their homeland. Music is a powerful means to bring individuals closer to their roots and we proudly watched this year's MAP participants discover a newfound love for both Armenian music and their country." Looking back on her experience, participant Alene Aroustamian, of the US agreed, saying, "My three weeks with MAP was inspirational, eye-opening, breathtaking

and grounding. It was so encouraging to be with talented, motivated and bright individuals who are so dedicated to their craft. I hope to have the opportunity to return to Armenia soon and to continue the journey that I started this summer — one Komitas song at a time."

When they were not in the audience at various concerts, the musicians took the stage themselves. In early August, pianist Shoushy Nakashian and violinist David Melkonian performed in the celebrated "Im Hayasdan" ("My Armenia") festival of Armenian Performing



Violinist Arpi Degirmenjian and David Melkonian practice Armenian classical music with Prof. Bagrad Vardanian as part of their daily training with the AGBU Musical Armenia Program (MAP).

AGBU Performing Arts Department Artistic Director Hayk Arsenyan. From July 14 to August 4, the participants, together with Wanes Moubayed, a violinist and the conductor of the AGBU AYA Aleppo Gomidas Chamber Orchestra and MAP artistic coordinator Levon Eskenian, discovered their musical heritage. Eskenian discussed the program's many benefits, explaining, "MAP gave participants the chance to gain basic knowledge of every aspect of Armenian music, from ancient Armenian work music, lullabies, ploughing songs,



Vocalist Alyne Corrigan (left), a MAP participant from the United States, trains alongside award-winning Armenian singer Anna Mayilyan (center), accompanied by pianist Elen Kirakossyan.

Arts, which was held under the patronage of the Diaspora Ministry.

Melkonian, who is from Aleppo, Syria, described his positive experience with MAP, stating, "I was so pleased to have the opportunity to perform in my homeland and so fortunate to have this invaluable summer experience. I benefited immensely from my instructors and loved making new friends from various coun-

tries in charming Yerevan. I only wish that the days hadn't passed so quickly and hope that I will have the chance to meet this fantastic group in Armenia again in the future."

Until then, he and all of this year's MAP participants will look back on the great memory of performing together at their grand finale concert on August 3, where they played side by side with their teachers.

Armenian Art Exhibit at SCSU Celebrates Inauguration of Dr. Mary Papazian

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) will inaugurate its 11th president, Mary A. Papazian, PhD, on September 28. Papazian is the first woman of Armenian descent to serve as a college or university president in the United States. As part of her inauguration week festivities, an exhibition of Armenian artwork will be on display on the SCSU campus through October 21 in the Lobby Gallery of the John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts. An opening reception for the exhibit, which was curated by Vicki Shoghag Hovanessian, will be held on September 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Lobby Gallery.

The exhibit presents paintings, drawings and sculptures by several Armenian artists: Ashod Bayandour, Arshile Gorky, Sarkis Hamalbashian, Hamlet Hovsepian, Gayane Katchadourian, Vasken Kalayjian, Reuben Nakian, Vahan Rumelian, Ararat Sarkissian, Arthur Sarkissian, Shanoor, Kegham Tazian and Paul Zenian.

Hovanessian, a collector, curator and art

adviser, was the former director of Vicki Hovanessian Contemporary Art. She currently represents contemporary artists of Armenia within Europe and America. Since 1995, she has regularly curated exhibitions in Yerevan and the United States.

In 2001, she curated an exhibition at the Yerevan State Museum. In July 2008, she curated an exhibition marking the 40th anniversary of the consecration of St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral in New York. In 2010, Hovanessian received the Gold Medal of Mkhitar Heratsi from Yerevan State Medical University for curating an exhibition dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the university. In 2011, she was decorated by the Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Armenia for curating an exhibition that celebrated the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Armenia.

The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. The gallery is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.southernct.edu.

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Maro Hajakian 201-934-3427, Noushig Atamian 718-344-7489



"Near East — Encyclopedia of Armenia" by Sarkis Hamalbashian, 1997, Oil on canvas, one of the works at the SCSU exhibition



ARTS & LIVING

Gala Dance Featuring Nune Yesayan to Benefit 'Mer Doon'

WATERTOWN — A gala dance will be held to benefit Mer Doon ("Our Home"), a residence for young women in Armenia who have outgrown their childhood home in Armenian orphanages, or who come from seriously disadvantaged backgrounds. The dance will be held on Saturday, November 10, at St. James Armenian Church's Charles Mosesian Cultural & Youth Center, 465 Mount Auburn St.

The evening will feature the Richard Hagopian ensemble as well as Armenia's pop sensation Nune Yesayan. There will be dancing, mezza, a midnight dessert table and refreshments.

Established in 2006 in Echmiadzin, Armenia, Mer Doon provides a home and family environment for up to 14 young women at a time. Each young woman living at Mer Doon is required to further their edu-

cation and pursue a skill or vocation that will enable them to enter the work force. In addition, residents receive a religious education, learn French, Russian and English languages, and are trained by staff in personal and social skills.

"It is essential that we continue to support and fund the important work of Mer Doon in Armenia," said event co-chairpersons Mark Kashghegian and Peter Babigian. "The need



Featured performer Nune Yesayan

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 17 — Haigazian University Trustees Banquet in Honor of Joyce Philibosian Stein, Ellis Island honoree, Sheraton Universal Ballroom, Los Angeles. Social hour, 6 p.m., dinner, 7 p.m. For more information, call (323) 456-8031 or joyceabdulian@gmail.com.

MASSACHUSETTS

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

SEPTEMBER 23 — Clarinetist **Narek Arutyunian's** recital at Isabella Gardner Museum, 280 Fenway, Boston, 1:30 p.m. For more info, www.gardnermuseum.org/calendar/events/4671.

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

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

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

OCTOBER 16-25 — Muriel Mirak-Weissbach book presentation of *Madmen at the Helm: Pathology and Politics in the Arab Spring*, on four dates:

- OCTOBER 16 — with panel discussion with Prof. Roger Owen, author of *The Rise and Fall of Arab Presidents for Life*. This program is presented as part of the Partners in Public Dialogue program at Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington St., Boston, Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact info@osmh.org or call (618) 482-6439;
- OCTOBER 18 — BookEnds, 559 Main St., Winchester, Thursday, 7 p.m. For information, (781) 721-5933 or www.bookendswinchester.com;
- OCTOBER 21 — Armenian Cultural Foundation, 441 Mystic St., Arlington, Sunday, 3 p.m. For information, (781) 646-3090; and
- OCTOBER 25 — Robbins Public Library, 700 Mass. Ave., Arlington, Thursday, 7 p.m.

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

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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



On October 13, the Sayat Nova Dance Company will perform "Journey Through Time," presented by the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church of Worcester, at North High School, 140 Harrington Way, Worcester, at 3 p.m. For tickets and more information, call (508) 770-1124 or (508) 754-1039.

NEW JERSEY

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

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

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

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

NEW YORK

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

for Mer Doon grows greater every day."

The dance is being sponsored by Our Home-Mer Doon, Inc., the US-based fund raising organization for Mer Doon, which is a non-governmental organization and is dependent on outside contributions.

For tickets, contact Donna Yerganian at donna.yerganian@gmail.com. For additional information about Mer Doon visit www.mer-doon.com.

Balakian to Read at Greek Orthodox Cathedral and At Walt Whitman Birthplace

NEW YORK — Peter Balakian will read from *Black Dog of Fate* and discuss Armenian memory across generations and writing a memoir about the Armenian Genocide on Thursday, October, 4 at 7 p.m. at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Paul's, 110 Cathedral Ave., Hempstead.

Prof. Tina Mavrikos-Adamou of Hofstra University will introduce the event. "The common history that Greeks and Armenians share is deep and I look forward to discussing this further," she said.

On Saturday, October 6, Balakian will read for the Walking with Whitman Poetry Series held at the Walt Whitman Birthplace at 246 Old Walt Whitman Road, West Hills, Long Island.

Receptions and discussion will follow both events, where admission is free.

Balakian is the Donald M. and Constance H. Rebar Professor of the Humanities in the Department of English, and director of Creative Writing at Colgate University and was the 2012 recipient of the Alice and Clifford Spendlove Prize in Social Justice, Diplomacy and Tolerance. His books include *Black Dog of Fate*, *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*, *June Tree: New and Selected Poems 1974-2000* and *Ziggurat*.

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COMMENTARY

THE ARMENIAN
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COMMENTARY

European Union off Target with Azeri Kid-Glove Treatment

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Outrage among Armenians and some human rights groups continue around the globe against the Hungarian government's reckless violation of international law, parallel to the outrage in the Islamic world, triggered by the release of a video insulting the prophet Mohammed. Armenian outrage remains below the radar of the international news media, as opposed to the Islamic one, because the latter takes place in countries that affect the Western interests, i.e. countries that provide oil and host military bases.

The protest movement against the Hungarian government's remanding convicted murderer Ramil Safarov to authorities in Azerbaijan and the latter country's hero's welcome for him took on a life of its own, beyond Armenian anger, because it undermined the European legal system and moral norms. Also, it provided ammunition to the opposition in Hungary, which joined the Armenians in protesting the government's actions in Budapest.

The Hungarian opposition has been demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Victor Orban, touching a raw nerve. That is why Hungary's Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi, adding insult to injury, has threatened Armenia with "serious ramifications" for severing diplomatic relations with Budapest.

The Hungarian government's shoddy handling of the Safarov case and the failure of its economic policies domestically may indeed hasten the overthrow of the present administration. If that happens, no tears will be shed in Yerevan.

This brewing crisis coincided with the visit of Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, NATO's secretary general, to the Caucasus. In Yerevan he bluntly condemned President Ilham Aliyev's actions, and he repeated the same comments in Baku. That helped tempers to cool down in Yerevan to a certain extent. But his comments did not go further than "deep concern" rather than what he should have said, "serious ramifications." What is more disturbing is that the secretary general did not assume any responsibility on behalf of NATO, even though the crime was committed during a NATO-led language program, by one member of the military against another, Lt. Gourgen Markarian, who had been invited to Hungary by NATO for training.

In addition to Mr. Rasmussen's inconsequential statement, the European Parliament, in its turn, condemned the Safarov pardon. In its lengthy resolution, the European Parliament specifically states that it "deplores the decision by the president of Azerbaijan to pardon Ramil Safarov, a convicted murderer sentenced by the courts of a Member State of the European Union" and that it "is further concerned that this act is jeopardizing all peaceful reconciliation processes within the society's concern and may undermine the possible future developments of peaceful people-to-people contact in the region."

This resolution was debated in the Armenian Parliament, where members expressed some satisfaction that the European Parliament had moved finally from its inertia towards a more assertive position.

The resolution did not make a dent in Azerbaijan's position, however, because Mr. Aliyev's least worry is that his actions may jeopardize the peace process. Thus far, he has been thumbing his nose at the civilized world because his main intention is to disrupt any

peace initiative anyway. War would be welcome there for many reasons, including bolstering his domestic position and the hope for seizing Artsakh.

The European Union resolution did not go far enough. In fact, it was off target, because in the first place it absolved Hungary, which supposedly had acted within the norms of international law. Second, there were no consequences brought against Azerbaijan for blatantly violating those norms of international law.

President Aliyev has cited a dissimilar case to justify his action, that of Varoujan Garabedian who was jailed in France for terrorist activities, and who upon being pardoned supposedly by the Armenian government, was granted asylum in 2001. The truth of the matter is that Garabedian, after serving part of his sentence in France, was pardoned by the French authorities and settled in Armenia as a free man. The Aliyev government has also cynically stated that "Hungary is member of NATO and EU and those structures could demand more from Azerbaijan but did not."

In the first draft of the resolution, Hungary was also mentioned as a responsible party, but later on, Hungary was absolved, perhaps under pressure from its friends, threatening to vote against the resolution.

Every time Azerbaijan has violated the ceasefire agreement of 1994 with Armenia, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), NATO, the European Union and the US have always resorted to verbal parity, cautioning both parties to restrain themselves, instead of addressing the aggressor. On the very same day that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited Yerevan this summer, Azerbaijan violated the ceasefire and killed six Armenian soldiers on Armenian soil guarding its border. The secretary of state, cold bloodedly, sang the same refrain, without any criticism of the perpetrator.

The European Parliament's resolution and most of the statements coming from the West veer from the target, and rather than warning of consequences, they express pity that the violations – and even the crime – will jeopardize the peace negotiations. The European Parliament has resorted to the same trick as the US government. US State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland has announced that the US has been in contact with the Azerbaijani government, appealing to the latter to honor its agreement with Hungary. Clearly the US has the wherewithal to take action and force the Azeri government to meet its international obligation rather than begging for positive action.

When elections took place in Armenia, the US government considered it its proprietary right to meddle in Armenia's internal affairs and took punitive measures by curtailing Millennium Challenge Fund monies as the elections were not wholly transparent, hurting the agrarian sector in Armenia, the most vulnerable segment of the economy.

The US has the same leverage with Azerbaijan; it can cut its annual aid or, even more effectively, apply Section 907 of Freedom Support Act suspended by President George W. Bush citing Azerbaijan's good behavior. The same presidential privilege has been exercised by President Barack Obama even after Azerbaijan's reckless behavior as international outlaw.

Condemnation has its place but all protests must request action; actions by NATO, by the European Union and by the US. They are all failed at best and they are all off the target in focusing the issue in the wrong direction.

Struggle for Recognition of Genocide: Fact or Fiction?

By Gregorio Hairabedián

This is surely a controversial statement, and it could not be otherwise. Let us consider the situation: a) During the decades of Soviet Armenia, both its rulers and its people living within the territory managed to build an organic country, that is, a country with its own political, economic, social and cultural institutions, and with institutions integrated with the USSR. In retrospect, the Armenian people succeeded in forming a state, gathering 3.5 million people within their territories, preserving their existence and securing their borders against the ongoing threat from Turkish imperialism. They also accomplished other achievements in various social areas, which we won't dwell on now.

Not long after the Genocide began, the people, especially workers, behaved heroically, offering up more than 250,000 young lives of the 25 million lost by the Soviets, to save humankind from the exterminating scourge of

Nazism and fascism.

A few decades before the fall of Soviet Armenia, the Armenian people were able to use the resources at their disposal to renew the struggle for the recognition of the 1915-23 genocide. They did so in their own way, not always in the leading role or with the force expected. However, they did it driven by the struggle for peace and in agreement with international efforts, which were insufficient at the time to help tackle the issue fully.

b) In the process, what is known as the "diaspora" (communities existing outside Armenian territory for different reasons, but initially due to the search for a refuge by the survivors) usually commemorated every April 24 by holding religious or civic ceremonies within the community.

Between 1920 and 1990, the period of Soviet Armenia, the diaspora acted in a highly fragmented way, focusing on the clash of opinions regarding the ruling regime. On the one hand, their enemies; on the other, their supporters; and additionally, those who did not belong to either side.

It was only as recently as 1965 that a process to uncover the truth began. This process was driven by groups of young people from River Plate communities that had new ideas and also doubts. This process, which was not free from clashes about the significance of the Genocide and, in some cases, about the way the Genocide has been dealt with, I believe is continuing and deepening today.

On the one hand, you have the decisive strength of conservative inertia and the new social composition of the diaspora: the descendants who are farmers, craftsmen, workers, professionals and intellectuals, and who became a middle class, a strongly bourgeois middle class that tends to commemorate dates as an end in itself, and that keeps losing strength. On the other hand, set against this, are those who encourage the study of causes, their development and ways of struggling to counter impunity and to eradicate the scourge of genocide.

While the first group has participants that advocate the "preservation of the Armenian see STRUGGLE, page 16



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Anti-American Protests Triggered By Bad Movie or Bad Policy?

An amateurish US film mocking the Prophet Muhammad and denigrating Islam unleashed massive and violent anti-American protests throughout the world last week.

The angry demonstrations turned deadly when unknown assailants attacked the American Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, killing US Ambassador Chris Stevens and three staff members. Security forces in several countries killed dozens of protesters as they burned American flags and scaled the walls of US embassies.

Pouring more oil on the fire, initial reports falsely claimed that the movie was produced and financed by Israelis. In fact, it was produced in Southern California by a Christian Egyptian convict whose film was severely denounced by Bishop Serapion of the Coptic Church in Los Angeles.

The real issue, however, goes beyond the vile movie and its reckless producer. The film simply served as a pretext for protesters to express their pent up anti-American anger after decades of flawed and counter-productive US foreign policies – none of which justifies the killing of American

diplomats and attacks on US Embassies.

The list of serious missteps by successive US administrations is lengthy enough to fill many volumes. Whether it is called Arab Spring or Winter of Discontent, the down-trodden masses of third world countries have finally erupted in anti-American rage, having long-endured oppressive tyrants backed by Washington. To achieve short-term and short-sighted objectives, American policymakers often damage US interests in the long run.

Another regrettable US mistake is pouring billions of dollars into the pockets of corrupt foreign leaders, to prop up puppet regimes and buy their friendship. Unfortunately, very little of this US largesse has trickled down to the poor and needy. Ultimately, the masses overthrow the autocrats and take their anger on the nearest US target – the American Embassy and the flag which symbolizes to them oppression and misery.

Lengthy congressional hearings are then held in Washington, as legislators wonder why so many foreign leaders have become anti-American and what their corrupt predecessors have done with billions of dollars in US foreign aid? Instead of taking steps to ensure that the assistance provided by the United States reaches the neediest segments of society, Congress often threatens to cut off all aid to teach the new leaders a lesson, thereby antagonizing them even more.

Most problematic is the risky role the United States plays in regional conflicts. Due to misperceived interests, American officials too often throw their weight around, rushing headlong into unnecessary wars or taking one-sided positions, whereas a more balanced approach would be more productive in peacefully mediating these conflicts.

Caution is particularly necessary during an election year, when US presidential candidates make overly partisan

statements to pander to the interests of diverse constituencies. A careless remark can have far-reaching consequences, tarnishing America's image and alienating millions of people around the world.

Most Arabs and Muslims are convinced that America has not been an honest broker in the Arab-Israeli conflict. As a result, they harbor great resentment and deep-seated anger toward the United States. Any provocation, such as burning the Koran or making anti-Muslim movies, triggers a violent reaction. While US laws protect even the vilest forms of speech, people must realize that words have consequences; and just because it is legal to say something, it may not be prudent to do so.

However, in all fairness, not every hostile act in the world should be blamed on US foreign policies. There are extremists in every race, religion and nation motivated by hostile ideologies with the sole aim of causing indiscriminate destruction. Regrettably, Western governments and societies often mistakenly blame everyone who shares the racial and religious affiliation of few extremists, thereby antagonizing millions of peaceful citizens.

Fortunately, there is no shortage of learned scholars in academia and experts in governmental agencies who can advise and educate US leaders, many lacking basic knowledge of world affairs. A case in point is a conversation President George W. Bush had with three Iraqi-Americans. When the president was informed about the existence of different Islamic sects in Iraq, he reportedly told his guests that he did not know there were Sunnis and Shias in that country. "I thought the Iraqis were Muslims," he was quoted as saying.

While bad movies can trigger short-term outbreaks of violence, bad foreign policies can cause long-term damage to US national interests.

Aleppo: the End of Armenian the Dream

By Vahakn Keshishian

The killing of four ethnic Armenians on the Aleppo airport road, the several killings by snipers in Armenian neighborhoods and the army casualties from one side, and the escalation of the conflict in these neighborhoods from the other, brings the Armenian community into an unprecedented security situation. Not only is the fate of Aleppo-Armenians a matter of concern, but also Armenian communities in the Middle East, starting from Aleppo, passing to the other Syrian-Armenian communities in Kessab, Qamishlo and Damascus, passing to Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Palestine, already devastated Iraqi communities and finally reaching Iran, Georgia and Armenia proper itself.

In other words, if the Aleppo community disperses, Armenian existence throughout Middle East and the Caucasus will be threatened. This is not only because of certain strategic positions that the Aleppo community thrives, nor because of the financial or human resources that it provides, but because its current conditions and the incapacity of the Armenians to provide the necessary support it needs.

This reveals the deep structural and ideological weaknesses that Armenians as communities suffer from. This fact is surfaced under the inability of Armenians to act and organize to support the Aleppo community: there is a clear ideological bankruptcy of at least showing any position regarding the fate of the community.

The influx of refugees to the neighboring Lebanon and the Republic of Armenia was too poorly organized – if organized at all – that many of the refugees prefer going back to Aleppo, despite the horrible conditions there, which means that they are either not received well, or they are left alone in places that supposedly should have been able to receive them. Apparently, the mythical representation of Armenian solidarity was proven to be nothing more than nominal emotional condition associated with so-and-so sentiments.

It is now a fact that the Armenian commu-

nities of the developed world are incapable of guaranteeing the well-being of the Armenian communities of the Middle East, starting from the Iraqi, and now the Syrian. The lobbying mechanisms that are well developed proved to be for the sole purpose of Genocide recognition, and useless under other conditions. This puts the whole national strategy of concentrating on one sole issue under serious consideration.

Although there are attempts of fundraising in the United States, until now, there are no tangible contributions or projects developed. The same attempts took place in the Republic of Armenia where they tried to develop several policies concerning the issue, but all of them were deemed to be irrational and impossible to implement. The policy of honoring the choreographer from Aleppo during the Dance Festival of the Ministry of Diaspora, is nothing but a farce when the streets in Aleppo are cut from the Internet, telephone, electricity and water.

The circumstances and developments of events in Aleppo are escalating. Currently, the Emergency Central Body is still able to distribute aid packages to the most economically deprived. The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) and the Evangelical Church have additional package programs, but as the crisis continues and the lower strata of the community widens, these organizations will be unable to continue with their programs, especially since their resources remain local, and their budgets are not big enough.

Another reality is that families themselves are being partitioned, as the households are deciding to split, with usually the elder sons and the fathers staying in Aleppo to protect the properties, while the children and women are taking refuge outside Syria: the demographic effects of a prolonged mass separation will be devastating with no doubt, just to mention a single problem.

The absence of proper leadership in Aleppo, and the sour reality that most of those personalities that were considered to be of leadership positions have left the country brings the hopes of proper organization to an end. The two most important power centers of the Middle East Armenians, the Holy See of Cilicia and the Armenian

Revolutionary Federation, both have decided that it is best for the Armenians to help themselves inside Syria. This actual and moral abandonment from both religious and political authorities clears the path for the Aleppo-Armenians to develop the feelings of not belonging.

Both authorities are under the impression that if the community is weakened their respective seats will be weakened, because historically Aleppo has been providing the most important Western-Armenian speaking youth masses, but the reality is that if the current conditions continue, both authorities will not only lose their standings in Aleppo, but their whole existence in the Middle East will be futile. The denial of the mentioned two authorities that the crisis is too deep to

be neglected, and their self-centered ideology-oriented positioning, rather than pragmatic decision-making endangers the Syrian-Armenian communities. The mentioned authorities are in front of serious responsibility for the lost souls, property and any unfortunate events that the community might face in the near future.

Nor Kyugh is the first domino and if it falls, the last domino might fall on the flag of the clock-tower of the Republic Square. The Armenian nation as a whole is under threat of losing its reliability in the eyes of its constituencies forever. In existential times like these, Aleppo might become a point of no return for the nation.

(This commentary originally appeared in Hetq.)

A Tribute to Our Ground Zero Dead

It has been more than 11 years and we all suffered. We wept, laughed and whatever happens, we shall always remember them.

Among the 2,752 certified victims of the 9/11 murders, there were four of ours too. We get it every time something goes wrong somewhere in the world. This time it was in New York City.

By Harry L. Koundakjian

Their names: Alisia Basmajian, Aram Iskenderian Jr., Garo H. Voskerijian and fireman Carl John Bedigian. They were most probably all from New York.

The New York Fire Department distributed Bedigian's picture. It is on the last line of the first page of the unofficial list. He looks very young, happy and handsome.

People around the world know that we, Armenians, do not and cannot betray our country of adoption and are always ready to die for it. We are proud of this fact.

At ground zero, there were no politicians who spoke and no entertainers. A chorus by children, the honor guard carrying a battered flag salvaged from the World Trade Center, moments of silence and three trumpeters comprised the day's commemoration. But the readers reminded us all, family, relatives and policemen as well as fire fighters that the grief for all was still vivid.

And this anniversary simply halted the presidential campaign.

A family member of one of the victims said "No matter how many years pass, or how many times we come together on this ground, please know this – that you will never be forgotten or alone."

A dirt-streaked sign, attached to scaffolding near the base matches the mood of the remembrance gathering, read: "Never Forget Charles Costello. Never Forget 9-11-01."

(Harry Koundakjian formerly headed the AP's Middle East



Struggle for Recognition of Genocide: Fact or Fiction?

STRUGGLE, from page 14
identity," a phrase which I believe borders on racial prejudice, in the second group, which I am part of, there are various schools of thought that share basic elements: firstly, integration with the country that welcomed their ancestors, though they still retain their historical desire for emancipation; secondly, identification with the struggle of other peoples on account of similarly appalling crimes: a struggle that is unique regarding the country that experienced it, and universal because it wrongs all humankind.

These differences do not relate only to ideas. They also have to do with practices, ways of life, habits, customs that establish dissimilarities in the community, markedly between the rich and the destitute, or between the affluent and those in the middle sectors who struggle or dream of being part of the "lucky ones." That is to say, inevitably, the community develops socially and culturally according to the existing contradictions in the host country.

However, I believe it is possible to find common elements among those who consider that dignity and a clear conscience are the

guiding principles of human society. This is because all of them have the same inhuman origin which is perpetuated in the new generations (the still unpunished genocide), and despite the differences, even when these differences and the resulting social conflicts persist.

In other words, there is an ethical agreement or tactical unity even when there is disagreement, similar to that between the different social classes of a colonized or dependent people so as to make national emancipation possible, at a given time in the historical process.

c) Now, what does the current situation tell us? Is there a willingness to unite in order to achieve the aim described above? Is the struggle against the impunity of genocide the *raison d'être* of the "diaspora" organizations, or is it the essential purpose of Armenian foreign policy, as has been stated repeatedly? Are we building scenarios which will enable people to exchange ideas, opinions, tasks, tactics, etc., freely, without the hidden intentionality of a given sector to dub itself the "vanguard"? Is there a participatory fiction without the concrete commitment of the institu-

tions or consistent practices? These and other questions are asked repeatedly, and tend to vanish, if only due to inertia.

Fiction or opportunism must be thrown into the dustbin of history, as a necessary and inescapable condition to fight the battles that have already started. Only the uninterrupted critical and anti-dogmatic review and the ethical commitment that despises opportunism and empty rhetoric can lead to justice and reparation.

e) How can we understand, by way of example, that the only court ruling in the world categorizing the crimes that ravaged the Armenian and Anatolian people as genocide and holding the State of Turkey responsible for their planning and execution, all of which was announced so that the case could be taken to national and international Courts of Law, has not been properly publicized or used to seek due reparation in court?

All the writers and essayists of Right to the Truth and Dignity agree that the necessary correlation of said Right is Justice, that is, the claim filed in a given jurisdiction seeking reparation on account of the crimes committed, as the United Nations so states, both regarding the nature and

the scope of the crimes.

How can we explain the utmost indifference to the scope and extent of knowledge about the issue, the lack of interest in knowing how to exercise the right to truth, in knowing more about the use of this new and encouraging weapon lent to the Armenian cause, and in short, provided to victims everywhere in the world in this long march for justice?

In spite of it all, nothing intimidates me or the ones I walk alongside.

We will keep struggling together with the people that fight towards a common goal, in the understanding that while domination and oppression persist, life lacks dignity without the struggle for Justice.

We are not enlightened people, but merely human beings convinced that history does not stop, but rather that it is constantly moving and changing. This is why we turn to the realistic optimism of the poet Raúl Gonzalez Tuñón: "I know the day will come. So does the sun!"

(Gregorio Hairabedian filed suit in Argentina against the government of Turkey for its complicity in the Armenian Genocide. He won.)

Armenians in France Stage Protests as Aliyev Visits Paris

PROTEST, from page 1
which is getting armed more and more for the full destruction of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabagh," the Coordination Council of Armenian Organizations of France (CCAF) said in a special press release on the occasion. "To receive Aliyev in these conditions means to support his anti-Armenian policy. Ilham Aliyev, who disregards international rights, should not be received in the Elysee Palace. Aliyev, whose regime demolished the Armenian cultural heritage, in particular 4,000 Armenian stone crosses in Old Jugha, [Nakhijevan, which is an exclave ruled by Azerbaijan] should not be received in the Louvre."

A protest against the Azeri president's visit was also held on Monday in Marseilles by representatives of the local Armenian community.

Demonstrations were also staged in Marseille and Provence, in connection with Aliyev's visit to France, *Nouvelles d'Arménie* monthly of France reports.

The protesters stated that French President François Hollande on Tuesday would receive that person who released Ramil Safarov and declared him a hero, once Safarov was extradited by Hungary.

Close to 200 Marseille residents joined numerous political and religious figures. In their speeches, the local government representatives expressed their resentment over the current situation and called upon the French President to do everything possible to restore justice.


Safarov, a lieutenant in the Azerbaijani military, was extradited on August 31 from Hungary, where he was serving a life sentence – and with no expression of either regret or remorse – for the premeditated axe murder of Armenian Lt. Gurgen Margaryan, in his sleep, during a NATO Partnership for Peace program in Budapest back in 2004.

As expected, Safarov's return to Baku was welcomed, as was his act of murder, by the officials of president Ilham Aliyev's government and much of Azerbaijani society, and the Azerbaijani president immediately granted him a pardon.

And Armenia's President Serge Sargsian announced on August 31 that Armenia is suspending its diplomatic ties with Hungary.


Safarov's pardoning has been condemned by virtually all international organizations.

(News.am contributed to this report.)



DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN CHURCH OF AMERICA (EASTERN)
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