

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Azerbaijan Spreads Anti-Armenian Propaganda in Tokyo

TOKYO, Japan (PanARMENIAN.Net) – During the Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA) International Tourism Forum, which took place from September 20 to 23, the Azerbaijani delegation attempted to distribute a large amount of materials of anti-Armenian propaganda amongst the participants and visitors, according to the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia (NCFA).

The NCFA delegation requested that exhibition organizers address the provocative actions and withdraw the offensive materials, which was immediately done.

Just a few days ago, the Armenia and Artsakh booth at the Top Resa 2012 International Travel Market suffered damage, which was especially targeted at Artsakh posters.

The Azerbaijani side had complained about the participation of Artsakh at the exhibition. However, the booth was restored to its original condition and all information on NKR was put back.

### Turkish, Azeri, Georgian Troops Hold Pipe Protection Drills In Ankara

ANKARA (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The Infinity-2012 military exercises with Turkish, Azerbaijani and Georgian troops participating, took place in Turkey last week.

The drills, which lasted through September 28, were organized by Land Forces Training and Doctrine Command (EDOK).

The drills hosted annually by one of the participating countries through which the Baku-Ceyhan oil pipeline passes, are designed to secure the safety of the pipes.

In addition to the armed forces of the participating countries, representatives of the organizations engaged in protection and management of pipes also attended.

### Armenian Soldier Dies In Azeri Attack

YEREVAN (PanARMENIAN.Net) – On Tuesday, September 25, at 11:30 a.m., Armenian soldier Vaghinak Baghdasaryan, 19, was shot dead at a military post north of the Armenian armed forces.

According to preliminary data, the shot was fired from Azeri positions.

An investigation was initiated based on article 104 of Armenia's Criminal Code (murder while on service as a result of racial or religious hatred), the Armenian Defense Ministry reported.

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## Armenia Celebrates 21st on the 21st

YEREVAN (Combined Sources) – The Republic of Armenia celebrated its 21st anniversary on September 21.

Many world leaders sent congratulatory messages to President Serge Sargsian, including US President Barack Obama.

Obama in his letter, said, "I extend my warmest wishes to you and the people of Armenia as you celebrate national day on September 21. As Armenia enters its 22nd year of independence, the relationship between our two countries and our peoples is strong see ANNIVERSARY, page 16



Raising the tricolor on September 21 to mark Armenia's independence anniversary

## Azeri Axe-Killer to Return to Military

BAKU (RFE/RL) – Ramil Safarov, the Azerbaijani army officer who had hacked to death an Armenian colleague in Hungary, will return to active duty military service soon, a senior Azerbaijani military official

Citing "threats" from Armenia, the general also said that Azerbaijani authorities are taking "necessary measures" to protect him against possible assassination attempts. "Relevant structures are taking security measures with regard to Safarov," he said.

Safarov received a hero's welcome in Baku on August 31 following his extradition from Hungary and immediate pardoning by President Ilham Aliyev more than eight years after he axed Armenian Lt. Gurgen Markarian during a NATO training course in Budapest. He was promoted from the rank of lieutenant to major, granted a free

apartment and paid eight years' worth of back pay the following day.

Azerbaijani Defense Minister Safar Abiyev personally met with the 35-year-old and wished him future success in his military career. Safarov, who was sentenced to life imprisonment by a Hungarian court in 2006, has not been seen in public since then.

The release of the convicted killer has provoked a furious reaction from Armenia and strong international criticism. The United States, the European Union and Russia consider it a serious blow to their long-running efforts to broker a peaceful solution to the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

"We continue to express our dismay and disappointment," US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon said in Washington on Thursday.

"In our view, this is someone who should have continued to serve out his sentence, and certainly we were appalled by the glorification that we heard in some quarters of somebody who was convicted of murder," Gordon said. see SAFAROV, page 3



US Assistant Secretary of State Philip Gordon

said over the weekend.

"Right now Ramil Safarov is on vacation and having a rest. He will return to service after the vacation," Maj-Gen. Ramiz Najafov, head of the external relations department at the Azerbaijani Ministry of Defense, told the SalamNews agency. Najafov did not specify whether Safarov will serve and in what capacity.

## ALMA Appoints Dr. Susan Pattie As New Director

WATERTOWN – The Armenian Library and Museum of America (ALMA) announced this week the appointment of Dr. Susan Pattie as its new director, effective September 24.

Pattie comes to ALMA after a long residence in London, UK where she was co-founder and director of the Armenian Institute. She is also a senior research fellow at University College London and has taught courses in anthropology there and at other universities, most recently Aga Khan University and Syracuse University London Program.

Born and raised in Washington, DC, Pattie left for Michigan to attend Hope College where she received her bachelor's degree. After working as an artist/craftsperson, Pattie began a PhD in cultural anthropology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, doing her fieldwork with the Armenian community of Cyprus and later research in Armenia, Syria and North America. She is the author of *Faith in History: Armenians Rebuilding Community* (Smithsonian Institution Press), various academic articles and contributions to edited volumes, as well as two recent books aimed at a wider audience. see ALMA, page 16



Dr. Susan Pattie

## Australia Primate Aghan Baliozian Dies

By Arthur Hagopian

SYDNEY, Australia – The Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand Archbishop Aghan Baliozian died on September 22. He was an eminent leader of the Armenian Church.

Baliozian had been in poor health over the past few years and had recently entered Sydney's leading the Royal North Shore Hospital, for treatment. His loss is particularly acute, coming at a time when the diaspora church is facing crucial challenges on so many fronts.

Ever since the incapacitation of the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, Baliozian has been touted as a possible contender to succeed him at the Jerusalem See, considered the second most important spiritual center for Armenians all over the world, after the mother church at Echmiadzin.

He was born in Aleppo, Syria, where Armenian Genocide survivors had found a safe haven. Around the time he was born, World War II had just ended and the city was still wallowing in the misery of deprivation and starvation, a calamity that is now again being visited on its inhabitants.

see BALIOZIAN, page 6



Archbishop Aghan Baliozian



## ARMENIA

## News From Armenia

## Piano Legend Evgeny Kissin Performs in Armenia

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The International Festival Yerevan Prospects launched its autumn concert season, on September 27, with one of the most popular and in-demand musicians in the world, Evgeny Kissin, performing at the Aram Khachaturyan Concert Hall.

On September 25, during a press conference, the manager of the Yerevan Prospects Festival, Sona Hovhannisyanyan, said that the idea to invite Kissin to Armenia had emerged about seven years ago, and at that time the festival contacted Kissin's managers and did not get any response. Over the years, the number of authority figures of the festival has grown, and in 2008, Kissin contacted the administration of the festival in person and said that he would come to Armenia in four years. He chose a solo concert and performed works by Haydn, Schubert, Beethoven and Liszt.

The president of the festival, Stepan Rostomyan, stated, "He is a great musician and it is a vast honor for everybody to perform with him."

Kissin said he was very happy to be in Armenia again and partake in the festival. "I prefer participating in those festivals, which are 'safe' and well-organized," he said.

The International Festival Yerevan Prospects was organized under the auspices of President Serge Sargsyan.

## Armenian Stone Pictures To Be in UNESCO World Heritage List

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – Armenia's Minister of Culture Hasmik Poghosyan received a delegation headed by Stephan Dorgerloh, minister of cultural affairs of Saxony-Anhalt, Germany. Poghosyan discussed the cooperation between the two states. Dorgerloh, in his turn, invited his Armenian counterpart to Saxony-Anhalt.

Poghosyan stated that the joint statement signed in 2005, between Armenian and Saxony-Anhalt had a positive result.

The cooperation between the two countries was highlighted in examining the Armenian-German joint project launched in Jermuk and Sisian, led by Saxony-Anhalt state Prof. Harald Meller and Director of Archeology and Ethnography Institute, Armenian National Academy of Sciences Pavel Avetisyan, which is aimed at recording and attaching importance to that heritage. Armenian stone pictures are scheduled to have their Internet database, which will contribute to the development of tourism.

An aerial photo session was conducted in 2012. Meller presented those photos to Poghosyan noting they are dealing with ancient stone pictures which will later on be included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) World heritage list. Poghosyan awarded Meller with the Gold Medal of the Ministry of Culture.

## One Soldier Killed, Eight Injured in Crash

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – At least one person was killed and eight were injured after a vehicle transporting military personnel veered off a highway and crashed in northern Armenia, in Aragatsotn province, Monday afternoon.

The press service of the Armenian Defense Ministry said the soldiers were taken first to the Armenia Medical Center in Yerevan and then to the Central Military Hospital.

Private Gor Galstyan died in the hospital that night, while the condition of seven of the men including Privates Vahe Khacheryan, Argishti Shahvelyan, Gegham Sahakyan, Hayk Bertizlyan, Sgt. Narek Ghevondyan, Jr. Sgt. Narek Hovhakimyan and Sr. Lt. Arsen Yeritsyan is said to be satisfactory. Doctors said Private Harutyun Kirakosyan's condition is critical.

According to the Defense Ministry press release, military police have launched an inquiry in connection with the crash.

## AMAA Partners with United Nations in Armenia

YEREVAN – Unemployment is one of the key socioeconomic problems in Armenia and the youth unemployment is the most important issue in this context. The situation with the educated youth is a special issue.

On one hand, youth state that finding decent employment is a major challenge especially as they lack work experience. On the other hand, companies and organizations state that fresh graduates are not ready for direct employment right after their formal graduation as they lack work experience, competitive skills and practical knowledge in their fields.

This week, Dafina Gercheva, United Nations resident coordinator/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative in Armenia, and Harout Nercessian, Armenia representative of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), signed a cost-sharing agreement to kick-off the fourth round of the Youth Carrier Trail (YCT) project. The main objective of the project is to facilitate the transition of unemployed youth into the workforce by providing direct employment opportunities through internships. The duration of the paid internship is six months, and UNDP Armenia, in cooperation with the host organizations, will be responsible for recruiting and placing 60 interns on a competitive basis.

The AMAA is a cosponsor of this round of the YCT because it believes that youth employment in Armenia is a major step in preserving and expanding the economy and social

### Bridging the Gap between Formal Education and Entry Into Labor Market

fabric of the Armenian society. The AMAA is a non-profit organization that supports underprivileged people in 24 countries. The AMAA was established in 1918 in the US.

"The AMAA and UNDP have developed a working relationship over the

are exploring other areas of cooperation," noted Nercessian.

"The main outcome of our partnership is the provision of targeted response to employment challenges the youth is facing in Armenia. Our experience in this field makes us a partner of choice to support the long-term nature of youth capacity development," said Gercheva in her opening remarks.

During 2007-2009, UNDP Armenia implemented three rounds of the YCT initiative, which were in high demand



Dafina Gercheva, UN resident coordinator/UNDP resident representative in Armenia, and Harout Nercessian, Armenia representative of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), sign an agreement.

last two years as they share common concerns regarding the economic conditions in Armenia. Both organizations are concerned about youth unemployment which has resulted in the exodus of youth from Armenia. This YCT program will help keep youth in Armenia. AMAA and UNDP

among both the university graduates and employers. In total, 118 fresh graduates passed the YCT internship in Yerevan and six regions of Armenia, and around 50 percent of the interns were offered permanent employment by the host organizations at the end of their internships.

## ATP and Acopian Center Join Cleanup Campaign in Margahovit Village

MARGAHOVIT, Armenia – A series of cleanups have swept over the globe this year as part of the "Let's do it!" world movement. The effort was inspired by the grassroots campaign in Estonia in 2008, and the goal is to use volunteers to pick up 100,000,000 tons of waste all around the planet.



More than 300 volunteers joined the "Let's do it! Armenia" cleanup in Margahovit Village, where more than 30 cubic meters of waste (500 bags) was collected.

Armenia is among the countries that joined the global initiative. "Let's do it! Armenia" aims at uniting everyone to clean up urban and rural areas and historical sites in one day. Armenia Tree Project (ATP) was one of the first organizations to join the pan-Armenian volunteer cleanup movement along with World Wildlife Fund, Acopian Center for the Environment, Young Biologists NGO and others.

On September 15, ATP and the Acopian Center joined the people of Margahovit Village to clean up the beautiful landscape that had been littered. This village in Lori is the location for ATP's Mirak Family Reforestation Nursery, the newly-inaugurated Michael and Virginia Ohanian Center for

Environmental Studies, and Hrant Dink Memorial Forest.

More than 300 local residents including schoolchildren and their teachers joined the initiative. Twenty groups were led by American University of Armenia graduate students from the Acopian Center. By the end of the day,

more than 30 cubic meters of waste (500 bags) was collected in Margahovit and the surrounding forests.

"We had several trainings on waste management and I have already noticed positive shifts in the attitude and thinking of schoolchildren," Environmental Education

Manager Alla Sahakyan said. "After the cleanup, one of the girls from our eco-club confessed that she never thought about nature in the past, but that she now thinks differently and realizes the importance of a clean environment and the benefits of recycling."

ATP and the Acopian Center participated in "Let's do it! Armenia" as part of the ReGardening of Eden partnership. The project is being implemented in Margahovit with tree plantings and education about trees, birds, recycling and other topics.

"Margahovit does not have a park or a green zone where people can gather and relax, so ATP will establish a new park," explains ATP Social, Economic, and Environmental Development for

Sustainability (SEEDS) Program Manager Vardan Melikyan. "We will use trees from ATP's local nursery and organize plantings with the community."

The teachers in Margahovit's school have been trained to use ATP's "Plant an Idea, Plant a Tree" environmental education manual in their classroom. Some of the core topics are water, forest protection, waste management and organic agriculture. The Acopian Center has also organized bird identification trainings at the Ohanian Center for the eco-club.

"Birds are one of the easy objects for observation because they are not secretive, can be identified by visual characteristics, and live in close vicinity of people," notes Acopian Center Director Karen Aghababyan. "The classes on bird identification might create a new type of interest among children and name the objects for the children, who just referred to them as 'birds' before."

"This has been a great collaboration with the Acopian Center and other partners. It's important that people from the community are actively involved in the process because they come up with ideas on what should be done. For instance, they asked for help setting up a recycling program so we approached [United Nations Development Programme] UNDP to provide bins for collection of plastic waste," adds Melikyan.

"We tried to make the cleanup fun for participants. Since it was a team effort, it also motivated groups to compete with each other in collecting the most waste. At the end of the day we were tired, but everyone enjoyed seeing the beautiful village of Margahovit free of waste. This may have been the largest public program ever organized in this community," concludes Melikyan.



## INTERNATIONAL

## Turkish Court Convicts 330 From Military in Coup Case

By Sebnem Arsu

ISTANBUL (New York Times) – A Turkish court convicted 330 military officers, including three former top commanders, and sentenced them to prison terms of as long as 20 years on Friday, September 21, after a trial in which they were accused of a wide-ranging plot to overthrow the government nearly a decade ago. Thirty-four were acquitted.

### Australian TV Covers Armenian Protest at Hungarian Embassy In Canberra

CANBERRA, Australia (Armradio.am) – Busloads of Armenian-Australians joined in the international condemnation over the extradition and pardon of Azeri Lt. Ramil Safarov by protesting in front of the Hungarian Embassy last week.

SBS Television and several radio stations covered the demonstration of the 250 members of the community, who stood in solidarity with slain Armenian soldier Gurgun Markarian, who was axed to death by Safarov during a 2004 NATO Partnership for Peace program in Hungary.

Safarov was expected to serve a life sentence in Hungary, however, was extradited to Azerbaijan where he was immediately pardoned by the Azeri government. Upon returning to Azerbaijan, Safarov has been treated as a national hero, causing fury in the international Armenian community.

The protest, a joint effort by the community's Armenian churches, political, youth and relief organizations, strongly conveyed the feelings of Armenian-Australians, calling upon the Hungarian authorities to condemn the actions of Azerbaijan.

This message was conveyed with loud chants and signs reading "Punish not Pardon," "Shame Hungary Shame," "We Want Justice," "A crime punished is a crime encouraged" and others.

During the two-hour demonstration, Armenian National Committee of Australia (ANC Australia) Executive Director Vache Kahramanian and Fr. Avedis Hambarzumyan of the Armenian Apostolic Church met with the Hungarian Ambassador to Australia Anna Siko. During the meeting, which occurred to a backdrop of strong chants from the crowd outside, Siko was presented with a letter on behalf of the community calling upon the following: The condemnation by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban of his Azeri counterpart Ilham Aliyev for pardoning a convicted murderer despite assurances provided by Azerbaijan; The condemnation of Azerbaijan's continued aggression and threats of war against the Republic of Armenia and the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh; and Recognition of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabagh as an independent state to ensure the safety and security of its people.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Kahramanian addressed the gathered, stating: "Our issue is not with the peaceful people of Hungary but with those officials in Budapest who allowed the extradition of a convicted cold-blooded murderer."

"We will continue to pursue the Hungarian authorities through the Embassy in Canberra until we receive a response which is not a response that the Hungarian government wants to hear, but a response which is just and correct."

"Today we not only fight for the memory of an Armenian soldier but as human beings of this world we fight for the dignity of all mankind."

The protest received coverage through SBS TV World News, ABC Radio and SBS Radio.

Defense lawyers and family members of the accused have long denounced the evidence in the case as flimsy, and all of the verdicts were expected to be appealed. "With this verdict, the court appeared in collaboration with the gangs that produced these fake documents, as judges refused to assign experts to discover all of these fabrications," Pinar Dogan, the daughter of Gen. Cetin Dogan, said after the verdict. "Reductions in jail terms mean

nothing when those who are left in jail should not be spending even a minute in there given the falsity of this trial."

The convictions and sentences, reported by the Turkish news media, signaled completion of the first trial in a civilian court of defendants in a coup plot known as Sledgehammer, said to have been masterminded as part of a 2003 military exercise. The prosecution of the case was widely regarded as a test of the democratically elected government's power over the formerly dominant Turkish military, which has been responsible for four coups since 1960.

Prosecutors have said the Sledgehammer coup plotters had conspired in a master plan to bomb



Accused Turkish officers, awaiting verdicts, waved to family members.

mosques and set off a military conflict with Greece in an effort to stir unrest and overthrow the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose Justice and Development Party has roots in an Islamist movement. The military has historically regarded itself as the guardian of the secular political system in Turkey, which has a Muslim majority.

The trial, which began in December 2010, polarized public opinion in Turkey. Hundreds of other suspects, including military members, politicians and journalists face prosecution in a separate trial.

(Rick Gladstone contributed reporting from New York.)

### Pianist Gives Concert at Newly-Restored Surp Giragos Armenian Church

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey – Istanbul-born Canadian-Armenian pianist Raffi Bedrosyan gave a concert at the newly-restored Surp Giragos Armenian Church on September 10. The concert, the first one in the church since before 1915, received wide coverage in Turkish and Kurdish media, both nationally and locally. It was attended by more than 400 people, including Diyarbakir Member of Turkish Parliament Ahmet Tan, Diyarbakir Municipality Mayor Osman Baydemir, Sur Municipality Mayor Abdullah Demirbas, Istanbul Armenian Patriarchate Acting Patriarch Archbishop Aram Ateshian, US Eastern Diocese Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, a group of 70 Armenian pilgrims from the US touring historic Armenia, 40 graduates of the Armenian language course in Diyarbakir, several Armenians from Armenia, Austria and Istanbul, as well as a large contingent from the local Diyarbakir people.

After greeting the audience in Armenian, English, Turkish and Kurdish, Bedrosyan commented that the newly-restored church, the largest in the Middle East, is evidence of a large Armenian presence in these lands before 1915 and has now become a pilgrimage point for all Armenians.

He also added: "But having a silent stone monument to the past is not sufficient, and events like this concert are initiatives to make the church a live, active center for continuing peaceful dialogue

and interaction among peoples." He reminded the audience that the Turkish word "chalmak" has two meanings – to rob or steal, as well as to play a musical instrument. The first meaning of the word took place in 1915, when the Diyarbakir governor of the time, after deporting and massacring the Armenian population in the region, had all their valuable belongings, including several pianos, brought and stored in this church. Bedrosyan commented that he now wishes to implement the second meaning of the word by playing the piano in this concert. He then presented a musical journey from Europe with Western Classical composers, Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and De Falla, to Anatolia and Caucasus with Armenian music from historic and present Armenia and Karabagh, through the works of Komitas, Hovhanness, Godoyan and Khatchaturian. A surprise addition to the concert program was an 11-year-old Kurdish girl, one of the Armenian language course graduates in Diyarbakir, who sang two Armenian songs.

Although the restoration of the main church building was completed last year, the bell tower construction is continuing and expected to be completed by November 2012, when a 100-kilogram large brass bell, manufactured and donated by Russian Armenians, will be installed at top of the tower. Donations are welcome through the Eastern Diocese offices.

### Azeri Axe-Killer to Return to Military

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The US administration already expressed "deep concern" immediately after Safarov's release from a Hungarian prison. President Barack Obama said through a spokesman that it was "contrary to ongoing efforts to reduce regional tensions." The State Department was likewise "extremely troubled" by the development, demanding an explanation from the Hungarian government.

US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns conveyed these concerns to Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov in a phone call on

September 2. Mammadyarov reportedly told Burns that Baku is "bewildered" by the US criticism.

Najafov insisted, however, that Aliyev's decision to pardon Safarov was an "exceptionally humane step."

Armenpress reported that the Armenian National Assembly deputies will raise the issue during the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) held in Strasbourg on October 1. According to member of Armenian delegation at PACE, Naira Zohrabyan, said that all the Armenian delegates are expected to raise the issue.

## International News

### Turkey 'Carefully Following' Genocide Bill Reintroduced in France

PARIS (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Turkey is carefully following the situation with a possible reconsideration of the law on the criminalization of Armenian Genocide denial in France, Anadolu agency quoted Turkish Minister for EU Affairs as saying. With the Turkish embassy following the development of events around the Genocide law, Turkey has not received any information on a new discussion of the issue, Egemen Bagis said.

On January 23, the French Senate passed a bill making it a crime to deny the Armenian Genocide. The bill would have imposed a 45,000-euro fine and a year in prison for anyone in France who denies this crime against humanity committed by the Ottoman Empire.

Subsequently, the French Constitutional Council ruled that the bill is un-constitutional. In a statement, the council said the document represented an "unconstitutional breach of the practice of freedom of expression and communication."

After election, President Francois Hollande pledged to introduce a similar bill that would go in line with the country's constitution.

### Aram I Urges Respect for All Religions

BEIRUT (PanARMENIAN.Net) – Following the recent protests against the anti-Islam film denigrating the Prophet Mohammed, Aram I, the Catholicos of the See of Cilicia, stated that "no group or individual has the right to undermine what is regarded as sacred by any religion, and we strongly condemn such approaches."

"The traditions, teachings and values of all religions should be respected," he said.

Aram I also said, "The monotheistic religions believe in peace and not violence, and dialogue is the key to building respect."

He concluded: "Christians and Muslims have been living together as neighbors for many centuries and are working constantly towards building a culture of coexistence based on respect for our differences."

### US Envoy to Azerbaijan Says Karabagh Issue Priority

BAKU (PanARMENIAN.Net) – The US government advocates a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabagh conflict, American Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Morningstar said.

"Following conversations with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, I can confidently say that the solution to this conflict is a priority issue for the US," News.Az quoted Morningstar as saying.

"I'll feel like the happiest man in the world, if the Karabagh problem gets settled during my diplomatic mission in Azerbaijan," he told a press conference, pledging to take every effort aimed at the conflict resolution in the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group.

### Romanian Museum Hosts Armenian Celebration

BUCHAREST, Romania (Armradio.am) – Armenian culture is being celebrated at the Village Museum here, on September 21 through 23, with music and traditional dance, a photo exhibition, a display of traditional Armenian goods, as well as film screenings.

The Armenian community in Romania dates back a millennium and is spread all across the country. With only around 5,000 Armenians left in the country, the community celebrates its history, culture and traditions. This year, it also celebrates 500 years of existence for the Hagigadar church and monastery in Suceava, the most important centers for pilgrimage for Armenians across Europe.

Some 3,000 pilgrims from Europe and other parts of the diaspora are expected to take part in the celebration, romania-insider.com reports.



# Community News

## UAF Delivers \$21 Million of Aid to Armenia and Artsakh

GLENDALÉ – The United Armenian Fund (UAF) delivered more than \$21 million of humanitarian assistance to Armenia and Artsakh, during the period of October 2011 to September 2012.

The UAF itself collected \$13 million of medicines and other supplies donated by several charities, including AmeriCares (\$5 million), Direct Relief International (\$2.8 million), Catholic Medical Mission Board (\$2.2 million), MAP International (\$1.6 million), Feed the Children Fund (\$873,000), Health Partners International of Canada (\$475,000) and Operation USA (\$43,000).

Other organizations which contributed valuable goods during this period were: World Vision – US (\$1.1 million), Harut Chantikian of Fair Lawn, NJ (\$816,000), Project Hope (\$585,000), Ordre Saint Lazare of France (\$508,000), Garni Foundation (\$491,000), Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation (\$405,000), Juliette Serabian of France (\$279,000), Armenian EyeCare Project (\$269,000), World Vision – Canada (\$245,000), Armenian Ministries of UK (\$235,000), Dr. Stephen Kashian of Winnetka, Ill. (\$230,000), St. Vartanants Armenian Apostolic Church of Mahwah, NJ (\$206,000), Sacred Heart Medical Center (\$200,000), Project Agape (\$192,000), Armenia Fund USA (\$192,000), Focus on Children Now (\$187,000), Armenian Canadian Medical Association of Ontario (\$170,000), Nephrology Armenia Flanders of Belgium (\$164,000), Fund for Armenian Relief (\$162,000), Medical Outreach for Armenians (\$153,000), Gabriel Ghemberji of Canada (\$150,000), Birthlink of UK (\$145,000), Achot Schemavonian/Association de Soutien aux Patriotes Armeniens of France (\$137,000), Armenian Christian Mission of Australia (\$132,000), Action Sante Armenie France of Marseille, France (\$120,000), Armenian Missionary Association of America (\$109,000), Lions Club Draguignan St. Hermentaire of France (\$108,000) and Armenian Relief Society – East (\$101,000).

Also contributing major supplies were: Alvan Tsarik of Holland (\$70,000), Humanitarian Outreach Foundation (\$70,000), Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief (\$70,000), Ara Project of Pasadena (\$66,000), Amaras Art Alliance (\$49,000), Howard Karagheusian Commemorative Corp. (\$49,000), Eastern Prelacy of the Armenian Church (\$47,000), Foundation Semra of Switzerland (\$46,000), Bay Area Friends of Armenia (\$39,000), Dr. Frieda Jordan of Armenian Bone Marrow Registry (\$38,000), Armenian International Ophthalmic Association (\$35,000), Dr. Samuel Malayan of Glendale (\$30,000), Armenian Studies Program of Fresno (\$28,000), Dr. Hagop Hovaguimian of Portland, Ore. (\$25,000) and Herman Hintiryan of Oak Park, Mich. (\$21,000).

Since its inception in 1989, the UAF has sent \$653 million of humanitarian assistance to Armenia on board 158 airlifts and 2,028 sea containers.

The UAF is the collective effort of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), Armenian Missionary Association of America, Armenian Relief Society, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and Prelacy of the Armenian Apostolic Church of America.

For more information, contact the UAF office at 1101 North Pacific Ave., Suite 204, Glendale, CA 91202.



A disabled teen walks upright for the first time thanks to the ALCF's gift of a walker.

## The Gift of Mobility

### Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation Gives Hope to Special Needs Disabled Children and Adults

PTGHUNK, Armenia and SEAL BEACH, Calif. – The Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation (ALCF), the organization formerly known as Paros "Lighthouse" Charitable Foundation, cares for the sick and injured who are marginalized and often forgotten. As part of its community outreach initiative, called Husi Jerag (Light of Hope), ALCF has given the gift of mobility to dozens of disabled children and adults throughout Armenia. This vital assistance is made possible with donations of wheelchairs, walkers and other equipment from ALCF supporters in the US. ALCF collects all forms of gently-used medical equipment on a year-round basis, and has a long waiting list of disabled children and adults in need of immediate assistance.

One recent beneficiary of ALCF's outreach is Susanna, age 50, from Yerevan. Susanna was paralyzed from the neck down following an automobile accident that claimed the life of her husband. The accident occurred when Susanna and her husband had just spent a weekend with their son in Tavush where he was serving in

see LIGHTHOUSE, page 5



Susanna operates her new paraplegic wheelchair from the ALCF.

## Armenian Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy in Massive Medicare Fraud Scheme

By Terry Dickson

BRUNSWICK, Fla. (*Florida Times-Union*) – An Armenian national pleaded guilty last week to helping set up phony clinics in Brunswick and Savannah that were used to submit nearly \$400,000 in false Medicare claims.

Speaking through an interpreter, Khoren Gasparian, 29, acknowledged to Chief US District Judge Lisa Godbey Wood his role in a fraud scheme that stretched from New York to Los Angeles.

Run from Los Angeles by Armenian immigrant Arthur Mansarian, the scheme used doctors' and patients' identifications that were stolen to submit more than \$200 million in phony claims.

Mansarian, 49, pleaded guilty to submitting \$7.4 million in false claims through nine phony medical supply businesses and is serving a 14-year prison sentence. At his sentencing, Wood ordered him to repay the government \$1.8 million.

Shahak Tumanyan, 44, who pleaded guilty to money laundering, is serving five years and must pay \$309,000 in restitution. Tumanyan is in the country illegally and will be deported as soon as he completes his sentence.

When the government began making arrests in the scheme last year, Gasparian was living in Moscow and saw international news accounts, FBI Special Agent Tony Alig testified Friday in Gasparian's change of plea hearing.

Gasparian went to the US legal attaché's office in Moscow and told officials there of his role in the scheme, Alig said.

Familiar of the harsh treatment of suspects in Eastern Europe, Gasparian was initially fearful, Alig said.

"When he was assured he would be treated politely and fairly, he agreed to return," Alig said.

Gasparian flew to Washington on July 7, 2011, and was arrested. He admitted that the clinics he helped set up in Savannah and Brunswick were "completely a fraud," Alig testified.

He also confessed to similar activities in New Mexico, where he is serving a three-year sentence in federal prison.

Rather than be tried on the charges in an indictment, Gasparian pleaded guilty to a criminal complaint from the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia charging him with a single count of conspiracy to commit Medicare fraud.

To carry out his part of the scheme, Gasparian set up three storefront clinics in Savannah called SOJ, Healthy Families and Savannah Medical, and one in Brunswick called Brunswick Medical Supply. The later was on Gloucester Street a few blocks south of the federal courthouse where he entered his plea Friday.

Gasparian used stolen Medicare providers' identifications to establish the corporations, set up bank accounts and rented post office boxes where Medicare mailed claims, Alig said.

The claims were typically for wheelchairs, walkers, canes and other equipment. It caused some legitimate Medicare beneficiaries hardship because when they tried to buy needed supplies, Medicare sometimes had already paid a false claim for the same items.

The offices in the coast-to-coast scheme typically had only one employee who picked up the mail and sent the checks to Mansarian's office in Los Angeles, where they were cashed at a liquor store, Alig testified in an earlier hearing,

see FRAUD, page 7



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## The Gift of Mobility

LIGHTHOUSE, from page 4  
the army. Following the accident, she spent two years in the hospital recuperating from her injuries. When her son returned from the army, the pressure and stress of caring for an invalid parent become too overwhelming for him, and he refused to see her. With the exception of a cousin who came once a day to feed her, Susanna was stranded and utterly alone.

A few months ago, ALCF learned about Susanna's plight from the doctor who is treating her. ALCF staff quickly took action and brought her an electric wheelchair designed specifically for paraplegics. They also spent time with Susanna training her to operate the new chair. Because of this wheelchair, Susanna has a renewed feeling of independence with the ability to ride around her home and venture outdoors.

Garine, age 12, has also received the gift of mobility from Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation. Garine was a healthy, active, young girl with a bright future. Without warning, one day she began to lose strength and movement in her legs. While her doctors have not been able to diagnose the cause, Garine's mobility has been compromised. She can only walk holding someone's hand and sways unsteadily from side to side.

Recently, Garine and her mother visited



Garine, 12, receives a walker, left, and an elliptical, right, for her physical therapy.

ALCF's center in Ptghunk, and Garine was given a walker. The next day, her mother returned asking if the foundation could also provide some type of equipment to help strengthen Garine's legs. ALCF gave her an elliptical, and Garine uses it for her own physical therapy. In the meantime, ALCF is working with Garine and her family to determine the

cause of her disability.

Gagik, age 55, lives in the Gegharkunik region and is a war veteran. During the war, he lost both of his legs in battle. Since sustaining his injuries, Gagik has fashioned a car for himself to control the accelerator and brake pedals with his hands. On a recent visit to ALCF's center, Gagik received an electric wheelchair.

Delighted with this new piece of equipment, he treated the staff of ALCF to cognac and chocolate. ALCF provides the maintenance on all the equipment that it donates to needy individuals.

Husi Jerag offers desperately-needed services to the local community including vocational training, psychological counseling and therapy, sewing and cooking classes, women's health services, feeding the poor and elderly, supporting a local kindergarten, weekly Bible study, family sponsorships and donations of essential goods to the needy in Armenia and Artsakh. In addition to Husi Jerag, ALCF operates a shelter for abused women and girls, with open doors to the children of these victims.

Zuhrab and Seta Ghazarian are the founders of Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation. They have been engaged in charity work and community outreach for underprivileged and underserved Armenians since 1996. The idea grew out of their concern for at-risk Armenian women and children as well as preserving the integrity of the Armenian family. Armenian Lighthouse Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public benefit corporation registered in the State of California and Republic of Armenia.

Donations are needed to advance this work. The organization invites travelers to Armenia to visit its 13,000 sq.-ft. complex in Ptghunk and witness first-hand its work.

Contributions to ALCF can be mailed to: PO Box 3595, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

## Prof. Richard Hovannisian To Get Cardashian Award

MAHWAH, N.J. – The Armenian National Committee of America Eastern Region will be honoring Prof. Richard Hovannisian with the Vahan Cardashian Award at the sixth annual Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA) Eastern Region Banquet on December 1, at the Sheraton Crossroads.

"We are proud to honor Richard Hovannisian with the Cardashian Award for his many accomplishments, including his outstanding research and development of Armenian Studies in higher education," said ANCA Eastern Region Executive Director Michelle Hagopian.

Hovannisian is a professor of Armenian and Near Eastern Studies at UCLA. Born and raised in Tulare, Calif., Hovannisian received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of California-Berkeley, and he obtained his PhD from UCLA in 1966. In 1987, Hovannisian was appointed the first holder of the Armenian Educational Foundation Endowed Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA.

He is a Guggenheim Fellow who has received many honors for his scholarship, civic activities, and advancement of Armenian Studies. Hovannisian is the author of numerous books, including *Armenia on the Road to Independence* and *The Armenian Holocaust*. He has edited and contributed to at least a dozen other works, and has published more than 50 scholarly articles.

Hovannisian serves on the board of directors of nine scholarly and civic organizations, including the Facing History and Ourselves Foundation, the International Institute on the Holocaust and Genocide, International Alert, the Foundation for Research on Armenian Architecture and the Armenian National Institute. He also received the UCLA Alumni Association's 2010-2011 "Most Inspiring Teacher" award.

In the past, the ANCA Cardashian Award has been presented to notable Armenian-Americans, such as ANCA activist Stephen Dulgarian, Director of the Project Save Armenian Photograph Archives Ruth Thomasian and New England community leader Tatul Sonentz-Papazian.

The Vahan Cardashian Award is given annually to an ANCA supporter who demonstrates longstanding dedication and active involvement in the Armenian-American community and its issues. The award is named for Yale-educated lawyer Vahan Cardashian who set aside his successful New York practice to dedicate himself to the establishment of the American Committee for the Independence of Armenia (ACIA), predecessor organization to the Armenian National Committee, and to advocate for the plight of the Armenian nation.



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## OBITUARY

## Stephan DerMargosian

### Founding Father and Pillar of the Armenian Community

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. — Stephan DerMargosian, 86, of Farmington, died on September 11. He was the husband of Susan Avedisian DerMargosian to whom he was married for 60 years.

DerMargosian was born in New Britain, on March 16, 1926, the son of the late Ghevont DerMargosian and Miriam Mananian DerMargosian. His birth mother, Miriam, died when he was 2. His father remarried Jouhar Simonian, daughter of Peter and Yelhsa Simonian, who in every respect became his mother.

DerMargosian lived in New Britain for 30 years and graduated from New Britain High School in 1943. Upon graduation, he attended the Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina.

As the country was engaged in World War II,

he volunteered for the US Navy and served on the battleship USS Iowa in the Pacific Theater. After discharge, he received his bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Hillyer College of the University of Hartford.

DerMargosian was a pillar of the Armenian community. He was a life member and served as deacon of the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection for approximately 70 years, chairman of the Parish Council and a diocesan delegate and chairman of many programs. He was chairman of the building committee and a founding father of the new Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection on Stanley Street, New Britain.

He was a member of the Armenian Democratic League (ADL) organization and chairman several times of the local chapter, a



Stephan DerMargosian

member of the ADL District Committee, a delegate from New Britain for national ADL conventions and committees including the April 24 commemoration, and organized the national ADL conventions hosted by the New Britain chapter

several times.

DerMargosian was also a member of the Masonic Organization for more than 56 years and was a member of the American Legion. He served as a commissioner on the Town of Farmington Sewer Authority.

DerMargosian was with the Royal Typewriter Co. for 20 years, leaving as production control

manager when the company closed its Hartford operations. He subsequently engaged in commercial brokerage.

He is survived by his wife, Susan; children, Stephen and his partner, Matthew Clark, of Asheville, NC, Philip of Paris, France and his partner, Giovanni Fretti, of Bergamo, Italy, daughter and son-in-law, Brenda and David Jermakian, of Wilbraham, Mass.; granddaughters, Talene and Ani; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Henrietta and Richard Kallajian of Wethersfield, and nephews, Michael and Greg Kallajian and their families of Wethersfield; cousins, Jon Simonian of New York City and George Simonian of Suffield, and their families.

A funeral was held September 17 at the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery in New Britain.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Armenian Church of the Holy Resurrection, 1910 Stanley St., New Britain, CT 06053.

## Marie Ann 'Maro' Donabedian

VAN NUYS, Calif. — Marie Ann "Maro" Donabedian was born on July 15, 1928, to Lazar and Arshalous Manoogian in New Britain, Conn.

She was a precocious child with natural musical talent and unbridled drive. As early as 5 years old, she quickly built a reputation as "that girl who plays beyond her years." She became a fixture on Sunday mornings, playing the church organ at the local Armenian Church in New Britain. While she was in high school, she won the Musical Directors Hall of Fame Award, which was given to her by Dr. Fred Mirliani, musical director of New Britain High School. She earned the reputation as the finest accom-

panist the high school had ever produced.

Young Marie Manoogian graduated from high school in 1945, and was accepted by and attended the Juilliard School of Music in New York City. After her graduation four years later, she spent the following three years as an accompanist for virtually all of the leading Armenian opera and classical singers of the day. When an accompanist was needed, she was the "go-to" pianist.

While living in New York, she became close friends and shared her passion for music with a young priest who later became known as Archbishop Torkom Manoogian, patriarch of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Together, they shared their love for Armenian folk and liturgical music, and she would often play as the young priest sang the beautiful and haunting songs written by Armenian composers and priests.

In 1953, at the age of 25, she married a handsome ex-marine and Ivy Leaguer, Martin Donabedian. From that time until her death she became known as Maro Donabedian.

Over the following decade, the couple had three children, Laura, Randy Hrant and Noel Martin. In 1963, the couple moved their young family from New Britain to Van Nuys, where they each began a new chapter in their careers and where they became part of an extended family that resulted in lifelong friendships.

Martin Donabedian went to work for the Los Angeles County Health Department as director of records and statistics. Maro Donabedian joined the Music Department at California State University of Northridge (CSUN, originally San Fernando Valley State College) in 1964 where she became a full-time accompanist. She began working and collaborating with the late Dr. David Scott, and together they founded the Opera Department at CSUN. Today the CSUN opera department enjoys national distinction as



Maro Donabedian

one of the top five programs in the country. It has produced some of the country's finest opera singers.

Her close friendship and professional partnership with Scott lasted almost 50 years. Scott passed away in July, but Maro Donabedian was spared that sad news because of her declining health.

She officially retired from CSUN in 1992. However, her retirement did not mean that she stopped tutoring students from CSUN. In fact, she continued to act as accompanist and vocal coach for vocal students and was often seen on campus at recitals for her students, until as recently as June.

She also contributed her musical talents to the Armenian community and to her church, St. Peter Armenian Apostolic Church, both as an

organist, vocal accompanist and as a mentor to Armenian musicians studying piano, voice and accompaniment. Some of her protégés remained close friends with her until her death.

She was preceded in death by her parents Lazar and Arshalous Manoogian and her older brother Harold Manoogian. She leaves her husband, Martin; daughter, Laura, and son-in-law Michael, son, Randy Hrant, and daughter-in-law, Patricia, son, Noel; grandchildren, Danielle and Rachel Dale, and Jacqueline and Patrick Donabedian, as well as extended family and lifelong friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made payable to the CSUN Foundation, Memo: Maro Donabedian Memorial Fund; Mail Drop 8236, MCCAMC, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330.

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## Australia Primate Archbishop Aghan Baliozian Dies

BALIOZIAN, from page 1

Early in his youth, Baliozian had felt stirrings of a deep spiritual yearning and this led him to Jerusalem, where he enrolled as a student of theology at the Armenian Patriarchate's seminary. At the age of 22, he was ordained a celibate priest.

In 1982, he was elected Primate of Australia and New Zealand. A brilliant orator who never used notes, he could move crowds and congregations with his eloquent sermons.

Always approachable and gregarious, Baliozian had a loyal following. But ill health remained a pernicious shadow.

During his tenure in Sydney where he was stationed, his astute native savvy helped the church bolster its finances and extend its land-holdings.

Contemporary Jerusalemite Armenians remember his spirited leanings towards sports, particularly soccer. They recall he could kick a football right across the field and straight into the opposing team's goal, with the greatest of ease.

Among the duties he undertook in Jerusalem, was teaching and administering the affairs of the Armenian Patriarchate Seminary,

where he was appointed dean in 1974.

A year later, he was picked by the Catholicos of All Armenians Vasken I to become vicar general of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand.

Baliozian was always active in ecumenical affairs and earned the distinction of being the first president of the National Ecclesiastic Council of Australia. He also represented the Armenian Church within the World Council of Churches. In 2001, he was elected vice president of the New South Wales Ecumenical Council, a post to which he was elected three times.

In 1995 and again in 2003, the Australian government awarded him the Order of Australia for his "devout service and contribution to the country and society, especially to the Armenian community."

Inevitably, as with every other leader, he had to contend with his share of controversies. But he had the courage and determination to deal with them all as best he could.

Among the most prominent members of Baliozian's local congregation, is the NSW minister for transport, Gladys Berekijlian.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

# 500th Anniversary of Armenian Printing Marked on October 7 in New Jersey

TENAFLY, N.J. – Armenian typography began its journey in Venice, in the year 1512, and traveled to Madras, eventually Rome in 1623, Milan in 1624, Paris in 1633, Nor Julfa in 1641, Amsterdam in 1655, then St Petersburg, Constantinople, Tbilisi, Shushi and finally rested in Yerevan.

The majority of the 11,000 well-known Armenian books were printed outside of



Dr. Kevork Bardakjian

Armenia; from 2,243 books in Venice to 18,000 books were published in Armenia between 1920 and 1940.

The magnitude of the love of books and printing by Armenians is self-evident. It is this love of printing that has led a handful of Armenians, such as Krikor Markarian, who has a discerning eye, to locate, collect and preserve Armenian artifacts and historical memorabilia, for more than 30 years. His collections consist of a variety of Armenian items such as, illuminated manuscripts and a large collection of early printed books, daily newspapers dating from the 19th century, church vestments and silver and gold religious icons as well as paintings.

On the occasion of this anniversary, the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) will host a program on Sunday, October 7 at 2 p.m. at St Thomas Church Hall, with Markarian, to present his artifacts and early printed books. Another Armenian historian, Prof. Kevork Bardakjian, will participate in the program. Bardakjian has taught at Harvard University from 1974 to 1987 and then he transferred to the University of Michigan, where he continues to teach the Armenian language and literature. Bardakjian has expended his expertise, on a committee of the Holocaust



Krikor Markarian

Museum and prepared a confidential report on the Armenian Genocide, which later became part of the museum. This led him to write his book, *Hitler and The Armenian Genocide* (1986), which provides documentation of the well-known quote by Hitler pertaining to the Armenians. He has also published the *Reference Guide to Modern Armenian Literature, 1500-1920* (2000).

The event is free and open to the public.  
– Shoghig Chalian

## Kirk Kerkorian Announces Engagement

By Norm Clark

LAS VEGAS (*Las Vegas Review-Journal*) – Kirk Kerkorian's engagement announcement earlier this month is raising eyebrows among friends of the 95-year-old billionaire, and his age has nothing to do with it.

What baffled insiders was that Kerkorian took the highly unusual step of going public with the announcement, which was made by a representative from Tracinda, Kerkorian's Beverly Hills-based investment corporation.

The brief emailed statement sent from spokesman Tom Johnson to *Review-Journal* business writer Howard Stutz read: "At a dinner with friends this weekend, MGM Resorts founder Kirk Kerkorian and longtime friend Lu Beard announced their engagement."

Beard is a well-respected Oklahoma City woman who was married for 31 years to Bill Beard, a wealthy oil and gas executive, before his death last year.

One source said it was completely out of character for Kerkorian to make an engagement announcement unless it was to send a message that he was no longer engaged to Joan Dangerfield, the widow of comedy legend Rodney Dangerfield.

"The Joan thing was over a long time ago," the source said. "That was not a serious relationship. He was with a couple people after her."

What caught the attention of Kerkorian's friends was the claim by Joan Dangerfield in a June video that she was still his fiancée.

That's how she described herself in the elaborate video she apparently had shot when she surprised him on June 6, his 95th birthday, with a flash mob dance performance on the grounds of the Beverly Hills Hotel.

In the video, Dangerfield, 60, is standing in front of a large birthday cake topped with a crown, with a K above it.

"What do you give the father of Las Vegas" who was "a daredevil pilot," she asked.

She is then shown walking Kerkorian to a bungalow. As they are standing outside the door, dancers suddenly come out from behind palm trees and perform to the 1950s song *To Know Him is to Love Him*. The video was posted a day later on YouTube.

"Anyone who knows Kirk knows he wouldn't have ... allowed that and he would let you know it," one of the sources said. "He's so private he's almost reclusive."

Dangerfield, who formerly ran a flower delivery business when she lived with the comedian at Regency Towers in the Las Vegas Country Club Estates, could not be reached for comment.

## Armenian Pleads Guilty to Medicare Fraud Scheme

FRAUD, from page 4

The identities of two physicians were stolen to establish the Savannah clinics, Alig said.

Neither doctor knew their Medicare provider numbers were being used, Alig said.

Alig said that although Gasparian used the stolen identities, he did not personally steal them nor did he submit any false claims.

In fact, Medicare was warned of the scheme and did not pay any of the \$393,000 in false claims submitted through the shell corporations Gasparian established, Alig said.

Medicare kept accepting the claims, Alig said, while he, Special Agent David Graupner of Health and Human Services and other investigators continued building their case.

Wood told Gasparian he could be sentenced up to three years in prison, fined \$250,000 and placed on three years probation. The government agreed, however, for him to get a lighter sentence for admitting his guilt and helping in the investigation, Assistant US Attorney Brian Rafferty said. The government also agrees that he may serve any sentence concurrently with the one he already is serving in New Mexico, Rafferty said.

Wood told Gasparian she would schedule his sentencing after federal probation officers complete a pre-sentencing investigation.

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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Another Summer Ends at Camp Nubar but Festivities Just Beginning for 50th-Anniversary Year

NEW YORK — Another summer has flown by at Camp Nubar in upstate New York, and while campers were sad to board the buses home, they know that there will be plenty to celebrate in the coming year as the camp commemorates its 50th anniversary.

Summer at Camp Nubar kicked off on Saturday, July 7. When the season officially ended on Sunday, August 18, it saw some of the highest number of enrollees in years — more than 240, from Armenia, Canada, France, Germany and Turkey, as well as 14 states across

## *New Anniversary Features on Camp Nubar Website Will Keep Supporters Engaged Year-Round*

of lifelong friends that I have made here is too many to count.”

In 2012, Yerevan-based ballet master Arman Julhakyan and art instructor Ella Pepanyan helped reinforce the camp's long-standing commitment to promoting the Armenian cultural heritage. This was the second summer

strong over the past five decades, Director Jennifer Omartian commented, “Year after year we create a unique family comprised of talented campers and counselors from near and far.



Campers create arts and crafts projects at classes.

the US. Many were returning campers who were excited to return, reconnect with old friends and take part in all the traditions they know and love. Many more were experiencing camp for the very first time and quickly found a place in the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) family. As in years past, daily schedules filled with arts and crafts, fishing, hiking, horseback riding and music, as well as swimming in the private lake, kept everyone active and engaged. This year, in addition to those activities, a number of special classes and events were organized that were well-received by all: a new basketball class that focused on skills and drills, and a new hockey league helped young athletes enhance their game under the encouragement of camp's experienced coaches. An evening dance on the lake was made even more memorable with a guest DJ from New York and the revival of Carnival Day during both the first and second sessions ensured that, no matter how many weeks he or she chose to attend, every camper had the chance to enjoy fun games and cotton candy. Isabelle Akian, a 13-year-old camper from New Jersey, remarked on her summer, stating, “There is nowhere I would rather be than Camp Nubar... it is like a home to me, and the amount

Pepanyan and Julhakyan joined Camp Nubar, bringing with them the expertise they have developed over the years as teachers at the AGBU Nork Children's Center in Armenia, which provides enriching arts, culture and performing arts programs for over hundreds of



Camp Nubar's private, spring fed lake gives campers the chance to participate in various water sports.

youth. Camp Nubar Committee Chair Sarah Partin Setrakian praised Pepanyan and Julhakyan for their many great contributions to Camp Nubar stating, “When they arrived from Armenia, Arman and Ella were welcomed enthusiastically by the entire camp and throughout the summer everyone looked forward to their classes. Arman got every camper and counselor involved in a fantastic dance he choreographed, which was performed during the Open House. Ella helped the campers create beautiful arts and crafts projects, such as

Every summer we add new layers to the traditions we've maintained for so many decades. This element keeps campers both excited for what's to come and reassured that their favorite activities will be repeated. There is nothing better than watching Armenian youth join together, create lifelong memories and forge friendships they will carry with them through adulthood. Campers have the unique opportunity of making camp a part of them and leaving their mark on Camp Nubar's history. This attachment to the camp is what sets us apart, making



Staff and campers representing six countries gather together in front of Camp Nubar's state-of-the-art facilities.



Horseback riding on the trails becomes one of campers' favorite activities.

ceramics and painting on silk. They are both a great addition to Camp Nubar, and we hope to welcome them back for years to come.”

In addition to Armenian art and dance, both the staff and the youth were treated to traditional Armenian meals that were donated by a number of friends and alumni, a special treat that gave everyone a taste of home.

Halfway through the summer, campers, counselors and AGBU families officially kicked off Camp Nubar's 50th anniversary celebrations at the Open House, which was held on Sunday, July 29. Throughout the day, alumni, parents and friends could be found in the barn, on the tennis courts and down by the waterfront where campers and counselors showcased their talents with special performances. Another popular destination was the canteen, where new items, including Camp Nubar apparel, were introduced to commemorate the camp's milestone anniversary. The day offered an exciting preview for the July 28, 2013, Open House, and all the festivities that are planned between now and then, which will allow campers and alumni to relive their favorite summers. Praising the unique spirit that has helped Camp Nubar grow

our program stronger and the experience richer.”

Though the facilities have officially closed for the season, camp supporters can still express their spirit through the new online store, which will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through next summer. The website now features a one-stop shop for all Camp Nubar gear, including limited-edition clothing and accessories, designed especially for the 50th anniversary. And, while campers have put this summer's Color War behind them, the Blue and Gold teams are still recruiting supporters online and donations to Camp Nubar will help decide which side is the champion. To visit the canteen and support a team, visit Camp Nubar's 50th anniversary website: [www.campnubar.org/50](http://www.campnubar.org/50).

Tickets are also available on this site for Camp Nubar's 50th anniversary celebration, which will take place on Friday, July 26, 2013, at Guastavino's in New York City. More details on the weekend of events are coming soon.

For more information about AGBU and its worldwide programs, visit [www.agbu.org](http://www.agbu.org).





COMMUNITY NEWS

# Genocide Monument to Be Erected in Troy

TROY, N.Y. – A monument dedicated to the Armenian Genocide victims of 1915 will be erected in one of the parks here. Mayor Lou Rosamilia confirmed that the Armenian Heritage Memorial would be placed on the previously-consecrated place. The memorial will reflect the positive contributions that the Armenian community has made to Troy and the capital region, the *Troy Record* reports.

Pastors Bedros Shetilian and Stepanos Doudoukjian had consecrated the place last December, where the memorial will be erected after the park is renovated.

While there had been previous reservations, at the end of last week, Armenian Genocide Memorial Monument Committee Co-chair Ralph Enokian was contacted by Rosamilia and informed that the Armenian Heritage Memorial would be placed on the previously-consecrated ground north of the Vietnam Memorial. The memorial will be created and installed by Grethen-Cahringer Memorials of Lansingburgh.

The decision comes after years of tension between the city and the committee.

“There have been years of work to make this memorial a reality,” said County Legislator Harry Tutunjian, who represents the city of Troy on the legislature.

The memorial effort was conceived and has been spearheaded by the Knights and Daughters of Vartan. They formed the Armenian Genocide Memorial Monument Committee in 2005, which has been working to place a memorial in the city’s vicinity, stating that Troy and its environs have been the locale of the largest Armenian communi-

ty in the region.

The memorial will reflect the positive contributions their community has made to Troy and the capital region and would serve to honor victims of the Armenian Genocide, as well as those of all genocides. That extermination, resulting in 1 to 1.5 million Armenian deaths, caused the growth of the present-day Armenian community in America, including that now residing in and around Troy.

Shortly after the committee undertook the memorial project seven years ago, the Troy City Council passed a resolution authorizing the monument, but did not specify an intended site. Yet the committee has hoped the \$15,000 monument would find a home in Riverfront Park, and was prepared to place the memorial on the northernmost end of the park several years ago. However, then-Mayor Tutunjian urged them to wait, so as to more fully incorporate the memorial as part of a \$1.75-million state grant redevelopment project targeting the park. This delay caused tension between the group and the city, and the committee began contemplating other local parks.

“We looked at Frear Park, Beman Park” and others, said Rafi Topalian, a committee member. Those parks, due to a variety of reasons, were found unfitting by the committee.

In 2010, the committee’s hopes for the memorial by the river grew with the inclusion of the monument in the preliminary plans for Riverfront Park, compiled in September of that year. Further strengthening those hopes was the monument’s inclusion in the master plan and first phase, compiled in March of last year, which was then cemented when the

mayor at the time, Tutunjian – who is an Armenian-American himself – sent a letter in August giving the city administration’s word that the memorial would find a place in the northern end of the park.

In the community’s eyes, the letter guaranteed the monument would be placed in Riverfront and thus would be located in the heart of downtown and seen by the thousands that pass through the park during the various concerts and major city events held there. With this understanding, last December the Genocide Memorial Committee organized a ground ceremony that consecrated the ground where the monument will be placed.

In July, however, the new city administration under Rosamilia, who attended the consecration ceremony, met with Armenian community leaders and put forth the possibility of moving the monument to Frear Park near the Oakwood neighborhood. The Armenian community was not pleased.

“We didn’t take that too well,” Topalian said, explaining that the ground had already been consecrated and that the committee considered the agreement with the previous administration “a contract” with the city.

Since the early 20th century, there has been a substantial Armenian community in Troy and the surrounding communities, a result of Armenians refugees fleeing organized killings during the Armenian Genocide. The Armenians that came to Troy in that diaspora founded the second Armenian Church in America, became very active in the community and so inundated a length of road across the river in Watervliet that it became known as Little Armenia for a time.

# September 11 Victim, Firefighter Carl Bedigian, Is Remembered

NEW YORK – Robert Odabashian of Bellmore, NY, decided it was time to commemorate the memory of his cousin, Carl Bedigian, a Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) first responder who heroically lost his life on September 11, 2001, helping others at the site of the Twin Towers, now known as Ground Zero.

Odabashian decided to dedicate the red maple tree, which he planted in front of his house to Bedigian, a tree he had first planted 11 years ago.

Bedigian 32, was a Queens resident, and had only been married for nine months when he

lost his life. A former New York Transit Authority worker, he had changed careers and served as a New York firefighter for eight years at that point, according to his brother, Joseph Bedigian.

“Carl was a member of Company 214, stationed out of Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn,” he said. “He responded to the Twin Towers disaster and we never heard from him again.”

Eventually his body was found along with five other members of his company in the World Trade Center lobby.

A small ceremony was held on Monday, September 10, in front of Odabashian’s Williams



John and Vivian Bedigian, Angie Cullen, Robert Odabashian, Delores Bedigian and Dave Dennenberg

Court home. Family and local politicians, including Legislator David Dennenberg (D-Merrick) and Town Councilwoman Angie Cullin, gathered around the red maple tree, decorated with American flags and a plaque.

Fr. Valentine Rebello, of Saint Barnabas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church of Bellmore, recited a prayer in the name of Bedigian and all those who lost their lives on September 11, and anointed the tree with holy water.

Amidst tears, Delores Bedigian, Carl Bedigian’s mother and a Brooklyn resident, recalled her son’s memory. She was deeply touched by the ceremony.

“It was beautiful today, it really was,” she said. “It was so touching and very, very nice.”

Robert Odabashian said, “Carl was a brave person for what he did. All firefighters, law enforcement ...each day they put their lives at risk for us.”

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November  
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 Love & Laughter

Written by Yervant Odian      A Musical Comedy      Directed by Krikor Satamian

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Dwight Englewood High School, 315 Palisades Avenue, Englewood  
 Շաբաթ, Նոյեմբեր 17, 2012 ժամը 8-ին      Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 8pm  
 Կիրակի, Նոյեմբեր 18, 2012 ժամը 4-ին      Sunday, November 18, 2012 at 4pm

Tickets: \$50, \$35, \$25



A poster honors Carl Bedigian

# Arts & Living

## Documentary 'Orphans Of the Genocide' Will Be Presented at Woodbury University, With Introductory Remarks by Dadrian

BURBANK, Calif. — On September 30, at 4 p.m., the documentary film, "Orphans of the Genocide," will be screened at Woodbury University, Fletcher Jones Foundation Auditorium, at 7500 Glenoaks Blvd. Four-time regional Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Bared Maronian will present the broadcast version of the film to the public ([www.armenoidteam.com](http://www.armenoidteam.com)). The event is organized by Ararat-Eskijian Museum in Mission Hills.

The stories of these orphans are told by the orphans themselves, backed by expert opinion from such scholars as Deborah Dwork and Keith Watenpaugh.

"Orphans of the Genocide" tells the story of hundreds of thousands of Armenian Genocide orphans. It is a posthumous tribute to the memory of those Armenian children victimized by the horrors of a systematic, concerted process of annihilation and a celebration of their survival against all odds.

Maronian has made use of archival photos and documents from the Rockefeller Archive Center, Das Bundesarchiv (German National Archives), Statens Arkiver (Danish National Archives), the Library of Congress, US National Archives, the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Archives, Noubarian Library, Houshamadyan Archives, ARS Archives and other private archival collections. In an exclusive on-camera interview, 105-year-old Almas Boghossian of Whitensville, Mass., tells how she became a Genocide orphan, walked from Husseinig to Der Zor on foot and how she was adopted by an Arab family, admitted to an Armenian orphanage in Aleppo and eventually claimed by a relative in the United States.

Almas Boghossian's grandson, Bruce Boghossian, is the current president of the American University of Armenia.

Besides personal accounts, the documentary also examines one of the largest orphan relief efforts of mankind that was spearheaded by the American Near East Relief Society (NER).

Robert Wirt, a US Special Forces Green Beret, based on his great grandfather Loyal Lincoln Wirt's memoirs, tells us how Loyal Wirt witnessed NER's herculean task of establishing 212 orphanages for 200,000 orphans scattered from Constantinople to Aleppo." A special segment is dedicated to Alexandrapole (current Gumri, Armenia), where an orphanage once stood that housed 22,000 Genocide orphans. Another segment of the documentary deals with the Antoura Orphanage in Lebanon, where 1,000 Armenian orphans were stripped of their identity and Turkified. Independent researcher Missak Kelechian and journalist Robert Fisk delve into the details of this operation masterminded by Jemal Pasha.



Boghossian in the Oval Office in 2005 with President George W. Bush to her side.

## The White House through a Lens: Photographer Joyce Naltchayan Boghossian

WASHINGTON — Joyce Naltchayan Boghossian has not only seen people and places most people only see on television or the news, but has captured them for posterity through her work over several decades as a photographer. Some of her photographs are used as illustrations in history books, while others may be found in the George Bush Presidential Library and the institution dedicated to the work of his son, the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, which will open in spring 2013.

**By Aram Arkun**  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

She is from a well-known family of photographers, with her brothers Haik and Neshan H. Naltchayan also working in the field.

It was their father, Harry (Harout) Naltchayan, who initiated the siblings into the world of photography. Born in Beirut, he and his brother had a photography studio and photographed prominent people, including the Lebanese president. According to his daughter, he began working with the American embassy and after marrying came to the US in 1958 for a safer life. He had already made some contacts with magazines such as *National Geographic* and *Life*, but when the *Washington Post* had a temporary opening for a photographer he started working there. His knowledge of five languages, combined with an outgoing personality, led him to end up working for the Post for 35 years. He covered national news in Washington, including important



White House Photography staff assistant Joyce Naltchayan with her father, Harry, and President George H.W. Bush, circa 1989

episodes of the Civil Rights movement, Watergate and presidential events, though he also traveled occasionally to places like the Middle East. He covered presidents from Dwight Eisenhower to Bill Clinton and took an award-winning photograph of four American presidents called the modern day Mt. Rushmore. Several decades later his daughter took a similar historic photograph of five living presidents.

Harry Naltchayan was the photographer of the 1978 *National Geographic* article, "The Proud Armenians." He won many prizes, including four first place awards from the White House News Photographers Association.

Naltchayan lent his American-born daughter, Joyce a Leica, a high-end German camera often used by professionals, when she went on a field trip in fifth grade. Joyce Boghossian commented, "I remember my dad taking me to art galleries and saying, look at how the artist drew his pictures. This can inspire you and give you ideas."

Boghossian continued taking pictures in high school, where she became the yearbook photographer and had an experience decisive for her future. She said, "What really inspired me to take this route was that during my senior year of high school, after the Challenger space shuttle disaster [in 1986] with Christa McAuliffe, President [Ronald] Reagan came to our school to address the students. As the yearbook photographer I was able to work next to photo journalists and the press corps and photographed President Reagan...It really gave me the bug."

Boghossian would accompany her father on assignments to photograph celebrities, such as Tom Cruise or Wayne Newton. She said, "I thought my dad's job was like a front row seat. It was really exciting to see TV personalities in person and work with them."

see PHOTOGRAPHER, page 11

## AIWA Will Present 'A Literary Afternoon' with Three Armenian-American Women Writers

ARLINGTON, Mass. — Three Armenian-American women writers will discuss their work at "A Literary Afternoon" sponsored by the Armenian International Women's Association on Sunday afternoon, October 14, at the Armenian Cultural Foundation (ACF).

Sylva Boyadjian-Haddad, founder and editor-in-chief of *Entelechy International/A Journal of Contemporary Ideas*; Lola Koundakjian, curator of the Armenian Poetry Project; and Seta Terzian, author of *Two Girls from Heliopolis*, will present their recent publications and discuss the evolving process of creative writing and publication from their differing perspectives.



Sylva Boyadjian-Haddad

A writer and poet, Boyadjian-Haddad is professor of English and comparative literature at New England College in Henniker, NH. Her work has appeared in numerous literary journals and magazines and her collection of poems titled *Salt* (published by Finishing Line Press) was released in 2011. A native of Beirut, Lebanon, she currently resides in Concord, NH.

Koundakjian published her first collection of poetry, *The Accidental Observer*, in 2011, and



Lola Koundakjian

her second manuscript *Advise to a Poet* is ready for publication. She is the poetry editor of *Ararat* and has read her work in various venues in New York, Los Angeles and Rhode Island, as well as in Medellin, Colombia, at the 20th international poetry festival. Born and raised in Beirut, she has lived in New York since 1979.



Seta Terzian

Terzian has just published her first novel, *Two Girls from Heliopolis*, a book based on her life growing up in Heliopolis, a suburb of Cairo, Egypt. It tells the story of the Armenian community there, changes brought about during the North African Campaign of World War II, and her subsequent immigration to the United States. An active participant in the Armenian community, particularly as a leader in the Armenian Relief Society and the Armenian Renaissance Association, she resides in Dedham, Mass.

The public is invited to attend the program, which will begin at 2:30 p.m. at the ACF, 441 Mystic St., Arlington, Mass. A reception and book signing will follow the program.

Further information contact AIWA at 65 Main St., Watertown, at [www.aiwainternational.org](http://www.aiwainternational.org).



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## The White House Through a Lens

PHOTOGRAPHER, from page 4

After high school she started working as an intern and freelance photographer with the *Alexandria Gazette Packet* and *Fairfax Connection* newspapers and began studying journalism at Northern Virginia Community College. She then got an internship at the White House for three months, during the very end of Reagan's presidency in 1988, working for David Valdez, the photographer for the vice president.

With a small staff, Valdez relied heavily on his interns for filing, preparing contact sheets, ordering photos and responding to requests for photographs. Beyond that, Boghosian was given a special pass and allowed to take pictures of the vice president and even the president when possible. The president's staff photographers would take her on their events, letting her shoot from a wider angle. Boghosian's father already knew many of these people, but although he opened the door for his daughter through his contacts, Boghosian still had to work hard to succeed. She said, "You could work 12-hour days without blinking an eye in the White House because it was so exciting and interesting."

Boghosian had just been accepted to start Marymount College in the winter of 1989, but was given a difficult choice to make. Valdez had become director of the White House Photo Office and personal photographer to the new president, George H. W. Bush, and asked Boghosian to stay on for the next four years as a photo staff assistant. She took night classes, but had scheduling conflicts when she had to travel on work to places like Oslo with Vice President Dan Quayle.

She said, "I couldn't do both and chose my job. I don't regret it. I think though that if I did go back to school I would study history, or, I would love to work in the National Archives."

Valdez had three staff photographers under his direction. The president could meet anywhere from 200 to 1,000 people a day, and they all had to be photographed, because the White House photography office had to document all official business and meetings of the presidency, as well as occasional personal moments. Boghosian thus had great opportunities for



President-elect Barack Obama, President George W. Bush and former Presidents George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter stand together in the Oval Office at the White House, January 7, 2009. This is the fifth time in history that five presidents have gathered.

work. Not only did she continue to work with contact sheets and files for Valdez, and handled some of his press requests, but she also occasionally filled in for Quayle's photographer. During the last two years of Bush's presidency, Boghosian got to photograph him often because one of his photographers quit and that position was never filled. Boghosian said, "In his second term I traveled a lot with him on Air Force One. I was 23, 24 years old, and thought it was so cool."

She got to photograph many historic moments, such as when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met with Bush.

When Clinton was elected as president, the staff of the White House Photo Office largely changed and Boghosian traveled in Europe for six months. Upon returning to the US, she began freelancing for the Agence France-Presse (AFP) wire service, covering news events in Washington. AFP was known for seeking unique perspectives in its photos. A year later, they hired her as a staff photographer, with the White House, Capitol Hill and the Pentagon as her beat. She worked for eight years, traveling to cover Clinton in places such as Ireland, Macedonia, Kosovo and Russia.

Boghosian described what this entailed: "You look to tell a story in your pictures that news-

papers want to run (unlike working in the White House). Every day was a contest with AP and Reuters to see who would be picked for covers and newspapers. I had a great time being a news photographer. It was competitive. You want to transmit your photo first on the wire while the president was still speaking. You are competitors but you are also good friends. When you are in Spain at a summit with 30 other countries all with press corps, the Americans then help each other out. But we each have a job to do, with mutual respect."

Among her favorite memories of working at AFP was traveling to King Hussein's funeral in Jordan with President Clinton. Boghosian said, "I was probably the only woman photographer there. I think women were not permitted at the funeral so I had to try not to attract attention to my being a woman there. My handlers were aware but did not make a big deal about it." She covered celebrities like Elton John and Stevie Wonder playing together at a dinner for Great Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair and photographed the historic moment when President Clinton denied having relations with Monica Lewinsky. However one of her favorite pictures from this period is a scene of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington in snow.

Boghosian quit AFP in February 2004 to spend more time with her children. However, before President George W. Bush's reelection campaign, Eric Draper, the president's photographer, asked her to join his staff, and Boghosian could not turn down such an opportunity. She covered Laura Bush more and more, and tried to avoid traveling unless absolutely necessary. She left again in 2005 to have her son Armen, but when he was 1 1/2 years old, she went back to work for the last two years of the Bush presidency as an official White House photographer — one of the three photographers covering the president. She worked from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., covering anything taking place in the Oval Office.

Boghosian recalls that "the highlights were getting to know the president better and feeling more comfortable around our leader. It was a privilege for me to be there every day, and there were a lot of candid moments I had with President Bush." Of course, she was able to continue to photograph various world figures like Queen Elizabeth or the pope. Bush would sometimes chide her when he saw her working late at night, reminding her of her children. Once he said, "let's take this picture with Tony Blair so that Joyce can go home." On another occasion, he signed a baseball for her son Nareg's birthday. Despite these exchanges, Boghosian noted, "The nature of photography at the White House is not being noticeable. You have to decide when you want to be noticed and when you do not."

The Obama administration asked Boghosian to continue. Among other things, she did an official portrait of Michelle Obama, and she was once invited to lunch with her. Boghosian said,

"It was great to watch the transition up close and get to know the first lady and president." However, she felt that her schedule was too tiring considering her family obligations and decided to work part-time as a private photographer. Boghosian has a wide base of clients now and does portraits for law firms and even photographs the occasional wedding. However, she also still works with some of her old contacts, including the Bush family through the Bush Institute and various Washington organizations. She recently worked with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting at a launch of a documentary about oppressed women and with the Meridian International Center in Washington.

Boghosian has had the occasional encounter with Armenians while on the job. One important occasion was a delegation of Armenians coming to thank Reagan for America's help during the earthquake. Valdez, knowing Boghosian was Armenian, asked her to photograph the event. Reagan was not available, thus President-elect George H. W. Bush took his place. Prior to the meeting Boghosian mentioned that it was Armenian Christmas and Bush asked her for an appropriate Armenian greeting. When Boghosian said, "Shnorhavor Dznunt," he asked for something easier to say, and she substituted, "Parev," which the president used. Boghosian also photographed Frederic (Frid) Sogoyan, who presented Bush in 1990 with a replica of the bronze sculpture "Armenian Earthquake" expressing Armenian gratitude for aid (the original is located on the north lawn of the American Red Cross National Headquarters). She had to escort him in from the White House gate as he only spoke Armenian.

Boghosian's dream is to prepare a book from her father's photographs of Armenians around the world. He used to do a slide show with



Michelle Obama photographed by Boghosian

some of those photographs, and Boghosian has permission from the *Washington Post* to choose from 10,000 photographs.

She thinks that it is important to document the Armenians in Washington photographically. She said, "A lot of the older ones who built our Armenian community are passing on. I think it is important to have this photographed. I do occasionally take pictures at events in our church of various individuals, and keep them on file."

Boghosian said she feels that she has grown more mature as a photographer, and this makes it easier to get shots in situations where time is critical. She said, "Now I feel that there is so much more time, whereas before a minute would seem too short."

She concluded, "I just want it to be known that I felt very fortunate to have witnessed the history I did from 1988 to the present. I started photographing these events of a movement for women, and also just for the younger generation. I feel fortunate to be invited into an event or the White House and document it."

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## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Talin Dolls: Crocheting for Change

TALIN, Armenia – It is not uncommon in Armenia that on a warm early autumn day, adults are gathered together, chatting happily while the children sit on the floor playing with assorted toys smiling and laughing. Two children are making car noises; others toss a ball back and forth, while one sits quietly creating imaginary lives for her inanimate friends. But, look closely and you will notice something different. Unlike most social gatherings where the women are busy preparing coffee and tasty foods, these women are busy making crocheted dolls wearing ancient Armenian dress. For now, a lone prototype doll and I sit, marveling at the courageous ambitions of these women. Their energy makes the dolls feel just as alive as the bustling town five-stories below.

Talin, a town located in Aragatsotn province

with an estimated 5,700 people, has always been at a crossroad. Here, six women come together to create collectable dolls uniting the past, present and future of Armenia. Talin, like the rest of Armenia, is no exception to the existing economic and social difficulties. For families in Talin, the lure of employment for both men and women was once strong. But now, with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the closure of many factories, these opportunities are limited to the most skilled laborers.

Women in Armenia work mostly at home; serving as the glue in a strong family tradition as a mother, wife and homemaker, but as the global economy continues to struggle, so, too, do the families of Armenia. Here, the need for multiple income families has grown without an increase in job availability.

Said one Talin native who has moved away, “I want to move back but there is no work available for my family and me.”

However, for those working with Talin Dolls, this reality is changing.

Talin Dolls, like the work of so many other great endeavors, is the result of international friendship. When Brian Bokhart, current United States Peace Corps Volunteer, connected Gayane Khachatryan, a local Armenian woman, with Sir Timothy Straight, the honorary consul for Norway and Finland in Armenia and founder of Homeland Handicrafts, no one expected a mere six months later that Talin Dolls would be a product highly demanded in the market. Just as each stitch brings the collectable doll to life, the sum of these individuals created a vessel for Talin Dolls to achieve

its goals – the Talin Women’s Resource Center Development Foundation (TWRC).

TWRC’s work with Talin Dolls is two-fold. They strive to create jobs for women through

and create a new support community for families of special needs children.

In addition to giving a fuller life for the children and families of disabled individuals in the Talin region, TWRC also strives to bridge the information gap among women on issues like health, nutrition and rights to state services for themselves, their families and children. TWRC and Talin Dolls represents the combined efforts

DARON TITIZIAN PHOTO



Working on the Talin Dolls

the sale of hand-crocheted dolls wearing traditional Armenian clothing and with the use of profits generated create a disabled children’s resource center in the region. This new center seeks to identify disabled children and address their needs by providing information for parents, training to medical staff, physiotherapy

DARON TITIZIAN PHOTO



Some of the dolls

of different organizations and people coming together to pool resources and experience to create something new to positively affect the future of women and children in Talin.

Being one of the new volunteers in the region, I have lost track of how many people have told me about their hopes for Armenia, their dreams for their family and themselves. All of this is said with the great passion and hospitality that comes with what it means to be Armenian. It is hard not to get swept up in the passion of these exceptional people’s desire to help their families, communities and country. But the reality in regions far from Yerevan often means limited resources and a lack of information among various networks, especially those for children with special needs. Unfortunately, this often means many families are left alone to face the challenges of everyday living. Still, despite obstacles generated by complex business and societal inter-workings, Bokhart, Khachatryan and Straight remain steadfast in their commitment and make this project succeed.

Currently, collectable dolls have been designed for 10 ancient communities: Moush, Sasoun, Trabizon, Vaspourakan, Karin see TALIN, page 13

## Kach Nazar Quarterly Publication’s 40th Anniversary Celebration

By Hovik Gabikian

GLENDALE – On September 30, at 6 p.m., a celebration of Glendale-based *Kach Nazar* quarterly’s 40th anniversary will be held at the Glendale High School Auditorium. Admission to the event is free to the public.

This comical/satirical publication’s longevity reflects its significance and virtues. The dedication of Hovanes Balayan, the editor and publisher of the magazine, combined with contributions from a range of writers, journalists, cartoonists and caricaturists throughout the last 40 years have turned the magazine into one of the most admired and successful humor/satire publications in the Armenian Diaspora and played an important role in the protection and preservation of Armenian identity and its rich cultural heritage.

Having maintained a distinctive and independent style, the magazine has served as a key instrument for uncensored recognition of a vast range of social and cultural taboos, tackling political concerns and uncertainties, and at the same time providing an open stage for critical discussion of vices, flaws, problems and shortcomings that exist in Armenia and throughout the local communities of the widespread Armenian Diaspora.

Humor and parody have been used to draw necessary attention to various critical and controversial topics with the ultimate motive to bring about positive improvements.

Indeed, the intention of this publication has not been entertaining its readers by making fun of society but to provide a clear and loud voice to express Armenian’s concerns about pressing economic and sociopolitical issues through the usage of serious, open and thought-provoking discussions.

In addition to his role as editor, Balayan has been hosting the “Kach Nazar Live” TV program broadcasted weekly on Glendale’s AMGA local cable channel for several decades. This show exposes some of the same important topics and issues that appear in the magazine and involves its thousands of loyal viewers through open discussions on live TV.

Throughout some of his programs, for example, Balayan has been criticizing the indifferent attitude of a privileged few to the plight of disadvantaged masses and those that are desperately poor in the Republic of Armenia.

At age 80, Balayan is determined to continue his mission for yet another 40 years. The Armenian community owes this figure a great debt of gratitude and a grand celebration.

## Sponsor a Teacher in Armenia and Karabagh 2012



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## ARTS &amp; LIVING

## Crocheting for Change

TALIN, from page 12

(Erzroum), Zeytoun, Sebastia, Khotourjour, Artsakh and Van. While the dolls themselves are collectors' items for people of Armenian descent to reconnect to the lost regions of Armenia, for the artisans, the dolls provide much more. They offer skilled women the opportunity to provide a steady income for their families. By selling only 10 dolls, a woman can afford the monthly utility payments for her home. By selling upwards of 20 dolls, a woman can afford to feed a family of four for a month. With the income from Talin Dolls, TWRC will be able to help disabled children and their families who often struggle in private to provide better care for their loved ones. With the success of the Talin Doll project, TWRC hopes to also hire a regular driver to connect more children from the surrounding communities with the resource center.

Today, the women of Talin work to transfer love of country, community and family into each of the finished Armenian dolls. Through the Indiegogo campaign (hyperlink) for Talin Dolls, the women hope to expand their collection through requests for Armenian districts

not yet represented among the original ten. The possibilities are endless for this budding project. No sooner had Straight left Talin with the first 10 collectables, than someone approached him in a Yerevan cafe to purchase a doll before official photographs, let alone sales, had started. The women working with the Talin Dolls project embody the true spirit of Armenia — where, despite a difficult past and an uncertain future, the permeating message is one of hope, family and positivity about the direction of both their project and country.

Bokhart, Khachatryan and Straight have done something special for Talin. Not only have they created a community for women, but they have also tapped into the pride of the Armenian people — allowing women to renew their hopes and aspirations to merge traditional values with the reality of a never ending list of family needs.

The women of TWRC are working to complete all orders for mailing by December 1, with the plans for all dolls to arrive to their new homes by Christmas.

For more information regarding the project, women, how to purchase a doll, visit talin-dolls.com.

(Published with permission from the *Armenian Weekly*.)



Some of the dolls

## 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

**OCTOBER 4 — Dr. Taner Akçam lecture at Harvard Kennedy School, 4 p.m., Star Auditorium, Belfer Building, second floor. Akçam is the Robert Aram, Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen Marion Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies, Department of History, Clark University.**

**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 JERSEY

**OCTOBER 21 — Hye Doon (Armenian American Support and Educational Center), 35th Anniversary Celebration, with the par-**



**On Thursday, October 4, at 4 p.m., Dr. Taner Akçam, the Robert Aram, Marianne Kaloosdian and Stephen Marion Mugar Chair in Armenian Genocide Studies, Department of History, at Clark University, Worcester, Mass., will deliver a lecture at Harvard Kennedy School, Star Auditorium, in the Belfer Building, second floor, in Cambridge, Mass.**

icipation 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.**



## An Ode to Eastern Lamejun

from Logan I am visiting  
my brother George in New Mexico  
and they call me out of the line  
near the airport gate  
stern-faced security people bring me  
to a room where my suitcase waits  
in a monotone one says  
our drug detection dog  
pulled your bag  
we have never seen it so excited  
and this dog has never been wrong  
the monotone continues Fred, bring on  
Bobo  
and I expect  
a huge German shepherd  
or a Weimaraner or a Doberman  
and in comes in a portly sort of Beagle  
that's absolutely thrilled to see my suitcase

—Michael Casey  
Andover, MA

839 Washington Street  
Newtonville, MA 02160  
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## COMMENTARY

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror- Spectator

Established 1932

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## COMMENTARY

## Is Another French Betrayal in the Offing?

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Armenian culture has been favorably impacted by French culture, especially in the West. Armenians have recognized that fact and have been appreciative of the influence, which dates back many centuries.

There is an inherent affinity between the two nations, as far as culture is concerned. But when it comes to politics, that special relationship disappears. Armenians have incorrectly assumed that the cultural affinity is a substitute for political support or cooperation, and they have been disappointed bitterly time and again.

The Armenian-French relations go back to the Middle Ages when French conquerors invaded the Middle East with the Crusaders to wrench the Holy Land away from Muslims and claim it in the name of Christianity. The Armenian principalities in Cilicia became accessories to those European imperialistic invasions, ultimately to their own detriment; when the Crusades failed or faded, the Armenians were left to their own devices, unable to defend their kingdom.

Indeed, when the Egyptian Mamluk rulers overran Cilicia in 1375 and kidnapped its King Leo VI, ending a 300-year-old kingdom, neither the Crusaders nor the French came to defend their Armenian allies. Granted, France belatedly obliged to pay a ransom to the Mamluks to buy the king's freedom, hosting him in France until his death, mainly because they considered King Leo VI Lousignan to be of French lineage.

The most blatant betrayal was in the 20th century, again in Cilicia. The Allies – especially the French – during World War I recruited some 5,000 Armenian volunteers as part of the Eastern Legion, to fight the most crucial battles of Arara, in Palestine, promising home rule in Cilicia to the Armenians under a French protectorate. But when the Ottoman army collapsed and Cilicia was liberated, the Armenian volunteers were disarmed and the French government brokered a deal with the emerging Kemalist movement behind the back of the Cilician Armenians who had returned to their homes after the deportations of 1915. The French abandoned Cilicia and its population – literally in the middle of the night in November 1921 – and retreated in a cowardly manner.

When former French President Nicholas Sarkozy moved through the French Senate the law criminalizing the denial of the Armenian Genocide, almost identical to the Gaysot law criminalizing the denial of the Jewish Holocaust, Armenians were tempted to believe that finally the French were making amends for their monumental betrayal of the Armenians in Cilicia. But that turned out to be another deception, since Mr. Sarkozy was slow to sign the resolution into law, while the opposition was recruiting members of the parliament to take the resolution to the Constitutional Court. Having full knowledge of the gathering storm, he failed to use his prerogative before the measure was brought to the Constitutional Court, which rendered an unfavorable decision. Mr. Sarkozy did not put his money where his mouth was.

Enter candidate François Hollande – the prospect seemed more promising because he had pledged to use such a tight legal framework that the resolution would become fail proof.

The pledge is still on the table but there are already ominous signs that his pledge may not go beyond election rhetoric. This column had already made reference to an interview in the French magazine *Express* by the new French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius who stated that the newly-elected Hollande was searching for a way to balance a policy of accommodating Turkey while keeping his pledge to the large and loud French-Armenian community.

These days Mr. Hollande and his prime minister are busy dedicating museums and monuments throughout France. On September 21, he was in Drancy, a city north of Paris, which was the site of the major transit camp for Jews being deported to death camps. "Our work is no longer about establishing the truth," said Mr. Hollande at the Drancy Shoah memorial. "Today, our work is to transmit. That is the spirit of this memorial. Transmission –

there resides the future of remembrance."

In 2005, a larger Holocaust Museum had opened in 2005 in central Paris. A new memorial is being inaugurated at the center of the Cité de la Muette. Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault inaugurated a similar memorial in Aix-en-Provence last month.

All these memorials demonstrate that the new French president and his government are sensitive to human suffering and loss of life through the organized actions of brutal rulers. The only thing remains to be seen if the Armenian losses are also counted as human suffering.

Mr. Hollande went further than his predecessors in defending the dignity of human life; former President François Mitterrand had acknowledged a general French role in the detentions and deportations of the Jews during World War II, whereas President Jacques Chirac had taken a step further in a speech in 1995 acknowledging "collective wrongdoing." Mr. Hollande went all the way by admitting "a crime committed by France."

Most French attribute that crime to Marshall Petin, whose government in Vichy collaborated with the occupying Nazi forces. (Incidentally, several French-Armenians were leaders and/or fearless members of the French Underground battling the Vichy government and Nazis. The most famous in that group is Missak Manouchian, who led the legendary eponymous group.)

Besides commemorating Jewish losses in France, Mr. Hollande has also demonstrated moral courage to take positive action; indeed, last August he stripped the British fashion designer and former creative director of Dior, John Galliano, of the Legion of Honor he had received in 2009. Mr. Galliano was found guilty in 2011 of making anti-Semitic remarks.

All these actions indicate that we are dealing with a statesman of solid moral fiber when it comes to upholding human dignity. The question remains if those qualities are applied selectively to one group only.

A recent roundtable discussion in Paris casts some doubt, whether those principles are impacted by political tides or considerations. The discussions were held in Paris by Bosphorous University to analyze the law criminalizing the Armenian Genocide. Participants of the roundtable included Elizabeth Guigou, president of the Foreign Relations Committee of the French Parliament; Jacques Lang, former education culture minister of France, and former foreign minister of Turkey, Yasar Yakis.

Any symposium or roundtable discussion may be confined to the level of academic discourse, but when the participants are current legislators or former statesmen, the format takes a different dimension, with serious political ramifications. Ms. Guigou has stated that the Constitutional Court has considered the law criminalizing the Genocide denial without legal foundation. She continued her statement by adding: "Although President Hollande is very sensitive to the issue of this draft law, it is very improbable that he may take a new initiative since the Constitutional Court has refuted its legal premise." Mr. Lang also endorsed the same view. The Turkish representative cautioned against the deterioration of French-Turkish relations. Then, he magnanimously added that the law not only damages French-Turkish relations, but will also jeopardize Armenian-Turkish relations.

Turkologist Hagop Chakerian, reporting about the above roundtable discussion, in the daily *Azg* of Yerevan concluded by stating: "The law may damage French-Turkish relations, but it cannot damage Armenian-Turkish relations, because there are none."

Since his election, Mr. Hollande has yet to address his pledge on the Genocide law. But all these developments and statements do not augur well for the prospects of adopting the law. If it is a crime to deny the Holocaust in France there is no easy way to reason in any other fashion, that it is a crime to deny the Armenian Genocide. Only political expediency, rather than any legal premise can derail the law against denying the Armenian Genocide.

Only time will tell how extensive Mr. Hollande's moral fortitude is.

Perhaps it is not fair to jump to early conclusions, but all indications point to a French betrayal in the making, once again.

## Let's Honor Manoog Young by Continuing His Quest

By Marc Mamigonian

The founding chairman of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR), Manoog S. Young, passed away July 3, 2012, a few months shy of his 95th birthday. He is mourned by his family and friends, recognizing that Manoog lived a productive, long life. He was a founder and the long-serving (1955-2001) board chairman of the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR).

On Thursday, October 4, at 7:30 p.m., two days shy of what would have been Manoog's

95th birthday, NAASR will welcome all who wish to gather to remember and honor Manoog Young's life and work. We hope that the Armenian community will come and join with us in looking back, remembering and honoring a man who worked tirelessly towards worthy goals. In addition, a fund has been established in his name – because no one understood better than Manoog that nothing gets done without money. We hope that those who value the importance of Armenian Studies will give in order to make possible the continuation of that work – work that is never finished.

As NAASR's director of academic affairs, I acknowledge that I am not necessarily an objective voice on Manoog. He hired me back

in 1998, for which I remain grateful. I worked directly for him for four years: I regard that as no small accomplishment, since he was, famously, not the easiest person in the world to work for. Some who read this will understand what this means; others can work it out for themselves.

Whether or not Manoog was easy to work for or with, there is no question of his unswerving dedication to the ideals and the goals of NAASR. These ideals and goals can be summarized as: Armenian history and culture in all its forms are subjects worthy of study not only by Armenians but also by the larger scholarly world; this work should be carried out at

*continued on next page*



## COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

## Azeri and Turkish-American Groups Denigrate US-Armenian Executive

Four Azeri and Turkish-American organizations launched a coordinated anti-Armenian campaign last week, attacking the integrity of Mark Hoplamazian, chief executive officer of Hyatt Hotels Corporation, in order to intimidate him and other Armenian-American executives.

In a letter to Thomas Pritzker, executive chairman of Hyatt Board of Directors, leaders of the Assembly of Turkish-American Associations (ATAA), Azerbaijani-American Council (AAC), Federation of Turkish-American Associations (FTAA) and Azerbaijan Society of America (ASA) accused Hoplamazian of involvement in "ethnic propaganda campaigns."

The Azeri and Turkish groups attacked Hoplamazian for speaking at the September 22 banquet of "the Armenian Assembly of America (AAA), an Armenian-American lobbying group, as a Hyatt executive." They also expressed their unhappiness that he "serves on the Advisory Board of 'Facing History and Ourselves,' a non-profit group that 'teaches about the Armenian genocide.'"

The four Turkic organizations claimed that "Mr. Hoplamazian's engagement with ethnic special interest

groups that spread antagonisms against Turkey and Azerbaijan may be in violation of the Conflicts of Interest clause of Hyatt's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics." However, a review of the hotel chain's code, posted on its website, does not provide the slightest hint that the Hyatt executive violated any of its provisions.

In their letter, the Azeri and Turkish groups made a series of malicious statements by referring to the Armenian Genocide as an "allegation" and "World War I-era intercommunal atrocities." They falsely alleged that these "atrocities" were "never tried in any tribunal and no intent to exterminate Armenians was ever established. No sentences or court verdicts were issued in terms of the 1948 United Nations Convention on Prevention and Punishment of Genocide."

By making such ridiculous claims, the leaders of these Turkic organizations simply exposed their ignorance of the basic facts of the Armenian Genocide. They conveniently forgot about the Turkish Military Tribunals of 1919 that sentenced the Turkish ringleaders of the Armenian Genocide to death. US, Swiss and Argentinean Federal Courts have also reaffirmed the veracity of the Armenian Genocide. Furthermore, the UN Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities adopted in 1985 a report classifying the Armenian Genocide as an example of genocide.

The Azeri and Turkish groups also claimed that they represent "over half million Americans of Turkic descent." This cannot be true simply because there aren't that many Turkic people living in the United States, according to the latest US census. Even if there were half a million Turkic Americans, it is highly doubtful if all of them would have given their consent to be represented by these organizations for such absurd misadventures. Most probably, these four groups altogether have a tiny fraction of the constituencies they claim!

Clearly, the faulty statements and silly accusations of these Turkic groups are intended to intimidate Hoplamazian and force him to disengage from any involvement in Armenian or genocide-related issues. More ominously, by targeting and making an example of the Hyatt CEO, Azeri and Turkish groups hope to discourage other Armenian-American executives from pursuing similar activities.

In their joint letter, the Azeri and Turkish groups have indirectly threatened Hyatt's corporate interests by indicating that the company "currently runs a total of four successful hotels in Istanbul, Turkey and Baku, Azerbaijan." One wonders if the governments of Azerbaijan and Turkey have authorized these two-bit groups to speak on their behalf. Moreover, do these organizations realize that they are undermining the business interests of their native countries by foolishly threatening a global corporation like Hyatt?

It would be highly regrettable if the unwise Azeri and Turkish campaign against prominent Armenian-American executives would start an undesirable chain of events that could lead the Armenian community to take counteractions against successful Turkish-American businessmen, such as Muhtar Kent, chairman and CEO of Coca Cola Company.

The Azeri-Turkish letter is highly unlikely to bring any tangible benefits to these groups, as Hyatt's Board of Directors would most probably dismiss their baseless allegations. More importantly, such a racist assault on the integrity of an exemplary Armenian-American executive would energize Armenians on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Genocide to pursue more vigorously their just demands from both Turkey and Azerbaijan!

Lastly, it is outrageous that these Azeri and Turkish groupings kept totally silent when an Azeri officer axed to death a sleeping Armenian in Budapest, but are now alarmed when an Armenian-American CEO exercises his right to free speech in Beverly Hills!

## Let's Honor Young by Continuing Quest

from previous page

leading universities and colleges by top-level scholars; and that there is a need to support and disseminate to the wider public scholarship in Armenian Studies.

Manoog Young was not the first person to recognize these ideals or pursue these goals, nor was he alone in creating an entity, NAASR, that would lead to their institutionalization. The names of Richard N. Frye, who more than anyone else provided the catalyst to the creation of NAASR in the first place, and those of Thomas T. Amirian and Arra S. Avakian, who joined with Manoog as the first three founders of NAASR, especially must be remembered, as well as the other men and women who became founding members in 1955, not to mention all who served as volunteers, Board members and staff through the decades. But I think it was Manoog's tenacity that led to NAASR's success, the creation of the Harvard chair in Armenian studies and the establishment of other Armenian Studies chairs and programs in the US. Prof. Robert W. Thomson, who in 1969 became the first occupant of Harvard's Mashtots chair, wrote recently: "Programs of Armenian Studies are expanding like ripples in a pool, but the stone that caused those ripples was cast by Manoog Young. And these ever-widening ripples are now reaching successive generations."

Unfortunately, but inevitably, time passes and people forget things. (One might say it is precisely for that reason that there was a need for NAASR in the first place.) Manoog has passed on now. NAASR has existed for nearly 60 years. Numerous other Armenian chairs and programs have been established by various entities and philanthropic individuals. There are no longer so many people who remember that things have not always been as they are – that not so long ago there were no more than a handful of worthwhile books on Armenian subjects in English, that there were no Armenian chairs, there were not regular lectures by scholars and writers, there were not places to carry out research.

Manoog lived a long life: long enough to see NAASR make the transition to new leadership and the institution as well as the field of Armenian studies develop and mature in ways that could not have been foreseen; and long enough to see the almost unimaginable achievements hoped for in NAASR's early days become facts of life and, indeed, taken for granted.

It may be that all that came to pass would have happened without Manoog Young. Maybe, but I doubt it. We are all beneficiaries of his hard work and dedication, and we all owe him and the other farsighted men and women who worked with him, an enormous debt. The debt cannot be repaid but by one way: by remembering and by carrying on the work.

(Marc A. Mamigonian is director of academic affairs at NAASR and vice president of the Society for Armenian Studies.)

## Missed Opportunity

By Nubar Dorian

Poor Homeland! She missed another opportunity. The leadership is so involved in intrigue, partisanship and infighting that it failed to consider a proclamation to invite all Syrian Armenians to their ancestral home to settle and invite the world Armenians to help finance this important undertaking. The diaspora world have gladly not only welcomed it, but would have played an important role in making this endeavor a success.

Unfortunately, Armenia slept through it all. Granted that such an undertaking would have required good planning, leadership and unified action, it would have brought admiration, gratitude not only to the more than 60,000 Armenians, but pride and praise to all Armenians across the world, as well as closer ties and unity. Armenia's caring love would have given Syrian Armenians not just a place, but a homeland that invites them, needs them, cares for them.

If nothing else, this invitation would have helped minimize the pain that caused the tragedy of hundreds of thousands of Homeland Armenians leaving the homeland to seek better lives elsewhere. This exodus was the most shameful, AND most tragic event in the history of independent Armenia since it has been deprived of a huge number of brains, muscles, love and caring. Instead of action, the Syrian-Armenians heard some speeches, empty declarations and some talk about helping educate small children.

The Syrian Armenians are well educated, but citizens of their adopted Syria after the Genocide. Syria has benefited from their ability, creativity and intelligence. They held important positions as educators, professionals and especially their good citizenship. With Syria in great turmoil, confusion of an uncertain future leaves Armenians no choice but to seek security, happiness and comfort in other lands. With no warm, sincere inhibition from homeland they will be forced to leave hearth and home and if lucky become Diaspora Armenians.

In spite of all the problems and difficulty, Armenians should have had a "Welcome Home" drive and asked Diaspora Armenians to help in this honorable and necessary plan. Armenians worldwide would have gladly taken the opportunity to help. True, His Holiness Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians ask all churches to pass a plate collection for financial help to Syrian Armenians. The appeal's few dollars was a pittance and pitiful. Armenia missed another opportunity to act maturely, lovingly, wisely and well. This was the shame

of the Sargisian's government.

The Syrian Armenians eventually will settle somewhere else and join the Diaspora Armenians. Just like us, they will forget the Armenian language and literature, become citizens of another country, send their children to learn, speak, talk the language of their adopted country and will be forced to live just like their neighbors and become just like us – Diaspora Armenians, the majority of whom will say farewell to the Armenian language, literature, newspapers, books, traditions. Tragically, they will reduce our numbers still more.

Based on what has happened since Armenia's independence, Diaspora Armenians do not expect miracles any time soon, but are extremely disappointed. From experience, they have learned that dreams about making new plans are unimportant, an illusion. Only results count. It seems the governing body of Armenia have cloaked themselves in a blanket of words and promises. The agony of dream making and promising better times here has become their permanent trademark.

With the exception of a few billionaires and a considerable number of millionaires – where money making is suspect – the majority of Homeland Armenians dream of the Soviet Era which in itself reveals conditions under which Armenian precisely live. Impressing tourists by directing them to a few blocks of Yerevan with opulence, lights, five-star hotels or bars or high-class shops and boutiques cannot and will never hide the abject poverty, suffering and desire to find ways to get out of Armenia.

It seems like paganism to fall on our knees and ask providence, all our saints and martyrs to keep our cause alive, demand our lands and homes from Turkey and keep Armenia safe and strong when Armenia is no longer making us dreamers. Instead, we are witnesses to internal power struggles, disunity and desire to leave the homeland. The answer lies in Armenia coming to her senses. President Sargisian must sound an alarm, invite all presidents of our political parties to an urgent conference to hopefully and carefully review the situation with unified efforts, spirit and will to decide to unite and work together and publish a proclamation to world Armenians that on the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, Armenia will have no more than two political parties and democratically govern Armenia. This is doable and reasonable and just. The universe will then realize that Armenians in homeland has come to maturity, govern democratically and well, and there will be warm welcome to any Armenian anywhere who wishes to return to the homeland.

(Nubar Dorian is a resident of Cliffside, NJ. He is active in the community, including as a Diocesan Delegate.)



# Armenia Celebrates 21st on the 21st

ANNIVERSARY, from page 1

and enduring. The United States is firmly committed to supporting Armenia's continued economic development and democratization, and looks forward to enhancing our close partnership even further in the years to come. ... We deeply appreciate Armenia's contributions to international security efforts in Afghanistan and Kosovo, where brave Armenian soldiers serve with American forces in NATO missions."

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton issued a similar statement on the occasion. "This is a special occasion to honor the achievements of Armenians and those of Armenian descent," she said. "In the United States, Armenian-Americans have enriched the fabric of our society, further strengthening the longstanding bonds of friendship between our two countries."

"I had the opportunity to once again experience the warm hospitality of the Armenian people when I visited Yerevan this past June," read the statement. "As I said then, America is committed to helping Armenia strengthen its demo-

cratic institutions, deepen its economic reforms, and foster a future of peace and prosperity."

"As you celebrate 21 years of independence, know that the United States stands with Armenia as a partner and friend," added Clinton.

During the June trip, Clinton praised the Armenian authorities' handling of parliamentary elections held in May and their efforts to improve the domestic business environment. In a further boost to Sargisian, she again endorsed official Yerevan's view that Turkey should stop linking parliamentary ratification of US-brokered normalization agreements, signed with Armenia in 2009, to a resolution of the (Artsakh) Nagorno-Karabagh conflict.

Sargisian, for his part, reaffirmed his commitment to expanding relations with the United States "in all areas." He told Clinton that US-Armenian ties have already have "reached the highest point in history."

Sargisian referred to America as his country's "traditional and sincere friend" when he met with a visiting U.S. congressman in Yerevan earlier this month.

US Ambassador to Armenia John Heffern congratulated Armenians on Independence Day.

"Armenia Independence Day today. Congratulations on 21 years of independence. fireworks tonite?" he wrote on Twitter.

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), a member of the Armenian Caucus, in a statement said, "I rejoice with the dynamic Armenian community that I represent and proudly say Oorakh Angakhootyan Or. Congratulations to the people of Armenia, to Armenians in America and around the world on this joyous day. The road to independence has not always been easy for this nation, but time has proven that Armenians are survivors – survivors of foreign domination and survivors of the first genocide of the 20th century. And to this day, Armenian-Americans continue to illustrate what a valuable asset they are to our society, breaking new ground economically, socially and politically in California and across the nation."

He continued, "Over the years, I have been privileged to work with many individuals in the Armenian community to end our government's tragic failure to recognize the Armenian genocide, ensure the victims receive just compensation, and secure aid for Armenia and Nagorno Karabagh."

French President François Hollande issued a congratulatory note to his Armenian counter-

part. He said, in part, "I am delighted to send best wishes to you and Armenian people on the occasion of the national holiday. Armenia may be proud of the road it passed after it gained independence, of the democratic progress and prosperity, whilst strengthening its positions in international arena. I stand ready to continue the mission started 20 years ago, aimed at establishment of French-Armenian relations in all the fields."

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko congratulated Sargisian, saying, "Belarus gives a high assessment to its relations with Armenia, which are anchored in mutual respect and strategic cooperation. I am confident that the Armenian-Belarusian cooperation will develop in the future as well."

Separately, Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said of Oman sent a congratulatory message to Sargisian. The Sultan congratulated and extended his sincere wishes to the president and people of Armenia, the Oman Observer reports.

Emir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah of Kuwait likewise sent a congratulatory letter to Sargisian.

(PanArmenian.net and news.am contributed to this report.)

## ALMA Appoints Dr. Susan Pattie As New Director

ALMA, from page 1

*Who Are the Armenians?* (with Gagik Stepan Sarkissian and Maral Kerovpyan), written for 6-12-year-olds, coincidentally bears the same title as a major exhibition designed and showcased at ALMA. Both serve to present Armenian heritage and culture to a broad public, Armenian and non-Armenian alike. Pattie's most recent book, *Treasured Objects: Armenians in the Ottoman Empire 100 Years Ago* (with Vazken Davidian and Gagik Stepan Sarkissian) is also a serendipitous match with ALMA and its rich collections.

ALMA holds the most extensive collection of Armenian artifacts in the diaspora as well as a large library of many valuable books. ALMA has numerous outreach programs, from curator-led tours of its galleries to traveling exhibitions. Pattie's work with the Armenian Institute has also focused on raising awareness of Armenian heritage and culture as well as encouraging the exploration of what it means to be Armenian in the 21st century diaspora in all its diverse dimensions.

Pattie is married to Levon Chilingirian, violinist and leader of the Chilingirian Quartet, and has one son, Stepan.

### Armenian Becomes Champion in Moscow Blitz Championship

MOSCOW (Armenpress) – An Armenian chess player living in Russia, Grand Master Karine Hambardzumova, earned 14 out of 19 possible points and won the title of the Moscow champion in blitz chess tournament, according to the Armenian Chess Federation.

Hambardzumova is one of the most promising chess players in Russia and this was not the first time she achieved success in an international chess tournament. Armenian Grand Master Sergey Kasparov, representing Belarus, scored 4.5 out of 6 possible points and shared the third through 10th places at the international chess tournament, which took place in Roosendaal, the Netherlands. Kasparov surrendered to the winner of the tournament, the grand master representing the Netherlands, Sergey Tivjakov, with half a point.

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