

# THE ARMENIAN Mirror-Spectator

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Armenian Olympic Athletes Victorious



YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The Olympic Games finished in Rio de Janeiro on Saturday.

Representatives of Armenia have received one gold and three silver medals. Wrestler Artur Aleksanyan has conquered the gold medal, wrestler Mihran Harutyunyan, weightlifters Simon Martirosyan and Gor Minasyan earned silver medals.

see OLYMPICS, page 4



Artur Aleksanyan



Artem Harutyunyan

### Armenian Boxer Representing Germany Wins Bronze Medal

RIO (Armenpress) – Armenian-born boxer Artem Harutyunyan, representing Germany, won a bronze medal in the 31st Summer Olympic Games, archysde.com reports.

It is a great success for the 26-year-old athlete. Although he was very close to winning a gold medal, he expressed his satisfaction at winning the Olympic bronze.

“I am very proud to be able to win the bronze medal for Germany. I have always dreamed of taking part in the Olympic Games. I am very satisfied and proud of my performances,” Harutyunyan said.

In the quarter finals Harutyunyan defeated Turkish boxer Batukhan Gyozegek, but in the semi-finals he lost the bout to the representative of Azerbaijan.

### Top Armenian Opposition Party Member Released On Bail

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – A Yerevan appeals court has granted bail to another leading member of the Heritage opposition party who was charged in connection with his participation at a recent rally.

The court on August 19 ordered David Sanasarian, who serves as a member of Yerevan’s municipal assembly as part of an opposition faction, to pay 1.5 million drams (about \$3,150) before being freed pending his trial.

On August 17, the court released the deputy chairman of the Heritage party, Armen Martirosian, on bail.

Sanasarian and Martirosian were arrested on July 29 along with another top Heritage party member and an opposition activist on charges of organizing mass disturbances during public protests on that day and remanded to pretrial detention earlier this month.

On August 16, the Heritage party announced it was pulling out of local elections scheduled for September-October because of the arrests of its leading members.

### Trial Ends For Russian Soldier Charged with Murder of Armenian Family

GYUMRI, Armenia (RFE/RL) – An Armenian court has finished hearings in the high-profile case of a Russian army private accused of killing an Armenian family of seven. Valery Permyakov was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison on August 23.

Permyakov, who previously pleaded guilty, waived his right for a final statement in the courtroom.

On August 12, the prosecutor demanded a life sentence for Permyakov.

On January 12, 2015, six members of the Avetisian family were found dead in their house, including a 2-year-old girl. All the victims were shot or stabbed to death. A 6-month-old boy who was seriously wounded died a week later.

Permyakov was later detained near the Armenian-Turkish border.

The case led to mass protests in Gumri and Yerevan against Russia’s military presence in the country and calls for the trial to be heard by Armenian judges instead of Russian military judges.

In August 2015, a Russian court found Permyakov guilty of desertion and other charges. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

He was then handed over to Armenia for trial on murder charges.

### Aleppo Aid through Houston Armenian Church

HOUSTON, Texas – In 2015, the Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable Organization (CCO) initiated and up to this day continues to implement the Save a Life program. The name of the program is self-explanatory – it indicates its vital role for the lives of Syrian Armenians. As a result of the catastrophic situation in Aleppo in 2015, a large group of members of the Syrian community settled in Armenia addressed the office of the Aleppo CCO. They requested help for their relatives left behind in Syria,

who were facing financial and psychological hardship and were fighting for life. They suggested buying them each a one-way ticket to Armenia as a safe country.

Realizing the urgent need for such a program, the Aleppo CCO immediately initiated this life-saving program. In May 2015, the Aleppo CCO called upon Armenian benefactors in Armenia and the diaspora not to ignore the calls for help of those who found themselves in a difficult situation and support them within their abilities.

Responses to the call came from all over the world. It included the Parish Council of the St. Kevork Armenian Apostolic Church of Houston, Texas. Uniting people in the cause of providing humanitarian assistance, the Parish Council of the St. Kevork



Syrian Armenians arriving in Yerevan for resettlement

Armenian Apostolic Church of Houston, and in particular its chairman, Vrej Kolandjian, managed to secure tickets for 160 individuals, making it possible for them to leave the war zone for safety in Armenia.

Today, 130 Syrians who rediscovered the sense of safety and faith into a better future thanks to the goodwill of the Parish Council of the St. Kevork Armenian Apostolic Church of Houston, are slowly building their new lives in Armenia.

The Parish Council of the St. Kevork Armenian Apostolic Church stands by these families and contributes to their settlement in Armenia by also providing financial support. Another 30 individuals are getting ready to depart for Armenia these days.

The Executive Body of the Aleppo CCO expresses its deepest gratitude for the efforts of the Parish Council.

As far as the broader picture of the Save a Life program, as of July 2016, one-way tickets to Armenia were purchased with aid see REFUGEES, page 20

### Combining Words, Art & Space to Tell a Story

WESTON, Mass. – Todd Bartel is an artist who not only creates art himself, but through his vocation and avocation, he teaches art and also presents the art of other artists to the world. He has also brought the story of the Armenian



Todd Bartel

By Alin K. Gregorian  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

Genocide, through art, to his gallery.

Bartel has been teaching at the Cambridge School of Weston (CSW) for the past 16 years. In addition, he is the founder of the school’s Thompson Gallery.

In a recent interview see ART, page 20

## INSIDE

### Jazzed Up Armenian

Page 13

#### INDEX

Arts and Living . . . . .	13
Armenia . . . . .	2,3
Community News. . . . .	6
Editorial . . . . .	18
International . . . . .	4,5



## News From Armenia

### Khachkar Eternalizes Memory of Armenian Captain Killed during April Fighting

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – A park and a khachkar or cross-stone dedicated to Captain Hovsep Kirakosyan, killed during the April war unleashed by Azerbaijan were inaugurated in the Apaga village of Armavir Province in Armenia on August 23. Armavir's Governor Ashot Ghahramanyan, Etchmiadzin Mayor Karen Grigoryan, representatives of the armed forces and fellow villagers participated in the ceremony.

The ribbon-cutting was conducted by Hovsep Kirakosyan's sons, 3-year old Erik and 4-year old Gegham. On August 23 Hovsep would have become 29 years old. He was from Apaga village but resided in Artsakh with his family most recently. At the moment the adversary attacked, during the early morning of April 2, Hovsep was at home. He barely managed to tell his wife to take the children and hide in the basement, and left them to hurry to the side of his 25 soldiers.

### Karabagh President, Armenia's Defense Minister Talk Army Building Strategies

STEPANAKERT (PanArmenian.net) – Nagorno Karabagh President Bako Sahakyan on August 22 received Armenia's Defense Minister Seyran Ohanyan. At the meeting, the two discussed a number of issues related to army building and cooperation between the two Armenian states in this sector.

Karabagh Prime Minister Arayik Haroutyunyan, Vice Premier Arthur Aghabekyan, Defense Minister Levon Mnatsakanyan, Armenia's Deputy Defense Minister and Head of the Logistic Support Department Movses Hakobyan, and other officials were present at the meeting.

### Azerbaijanis Violate Ceasefire 30 Times Over One Night

STEPANAKERT, Republic of Mountainous Karabagh (Public Radio of Armenia) – About 30 cases of ceasefire violations by the Azerbaijani side were registered at the line of contact with the Karabagh forces on the night of August 22-23, according to the Karabagh Defense Ministry.

More than 30 shots from firearms of different calibers were fired in the direction of the Armenian positions.

The frontline divisions of the RMK Defense Army are maintaining full control of the situation at the border and continue to protect its military positions.

### NKR Foreign Minister Receives Personal Representative of OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

STEPANAKERT (Armenpress) – On August 15, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nagorno Karabagh Karen Mirzoyan received the personal representative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Chairman-in-Office, Ambassador Andrzej Kasprzyk, the foreign ministry announced.

During the meeting, the sides exchanged views on the situation in the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabagh and Azerbaijan, as well as the monitoring conducted by the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office.

The two emphasized the need for the maintenance of stability and the ceasefire regime on the line of contact.



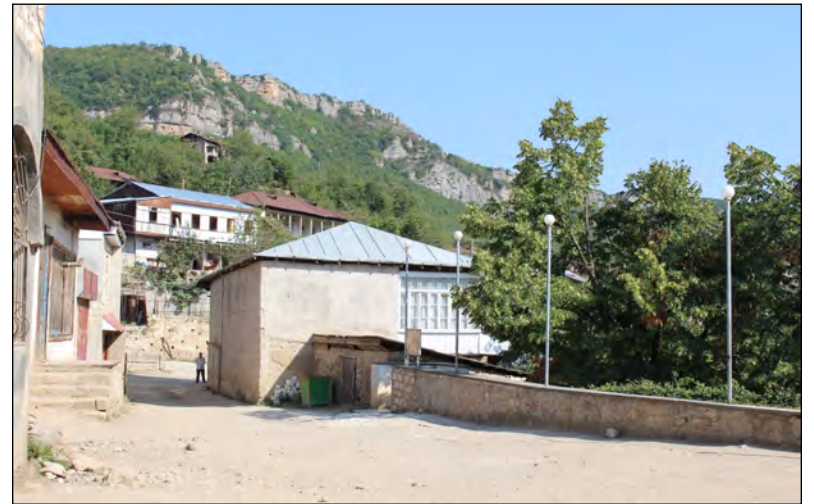
Jet fighter of Air Marshal Armenag Khudiakov

## Unseen Armenia: Mets Tagher

By Hovsep Daghdigian

METS TAGHER, Armenia – Mets Tagher is a village in the Hadrut district of Artsakh/Nagorno Karabagh. Legend indicates that settlers were brought to the region from Tigranagert (in Artsakh) by a priest named Daniel Gzhetsi in the 5th to 6th centuries, settling with the local inhabitants. Gzhetsi established the first "free" community called Kazh. It is not clear from what or whom it was "free." According to my slightly dated *Discovered Paradise, Karabagh Guide* (2006) the village boasts fine examples of civil architecture, which, indeed, it does.

The road from Stepanakert through Karmir Shuga to the access road to Mets Tagher is fine, with the exception of a few spots that need repaving. The access road to the village is unpaved but entirely passable. As we drove by some spectacular cliffs the village appeared in the distance, with its Soorp Amenaprgitch (All Saviors) church clearly visible. The inscription over the



Mets Tagher village

highest-ranking air force officer, and was born in that house. During Stalin's infamous purges, Khudiakov was falsely accused of being an "enemy of the state." This designation indicated that the accused individual was too powerful or too popular and, if he or she wished, potentially could pose a threat

Inside the museum there is information about Khudiakov, his uniform, and photographs both of him and of recent Armenian freedom fighters. The museum and plane could use some renovation but, given the situation, its existence is an example of the heroism of Artsakh's people and their resolve to remember and honor our heroes.

Handmade products from Mets Tagher village are available at Karabagh Carpets, 35 Mashtots Ave., Yerevan.

### Lydian Armenia Begins Construction of New Amulsar Gold Mine

YEREVAN (PanArmenian.net) – Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan of Armenia traveled to Vayots Dzor province to attend a ceremony marking the start of construction of Lydian Armenia's Amulsar gold mine. This is one of the largest international investment projects in Armenia. The capital construction, which will run from 2016 to 2018, is set to cost \$370 million, according to the government press office.

In the most active construction phase the project will involve 1,300 people. In ten years Lydian Armenia, the subsidiary of the British Lydian International, will provide 700 permanent jobs.

The Amulsar gold mine is the second largest gold mine in Armenia with pure gold reserves, located in the southeast of the country, 13 km from the resort town of Jermuk, between the rivers Arpa and Vorotan. The field contains about 31 million tons of ore and 40 tons of pure gold.



Relatives and Home of Air Marshal Armenag Khudiakov

door of the recently renovated church indicates 1846. However, a document posted within the church indicates that Soorp Amenaprgitch existed here in the 13th century. In the 19th century a new church was built on the site with efforts to preserve the surviving elements of the old church.

We met the family in the house next to the church. They were relatives of USSR Air Marshal Armenag Khudiakov, head of the Soviet Air Force until 1950. He was the Soviet Union's

to Stalin. Khudiakov was executed.

After Stalin's death and the subsequent execution of Soviet Secret Police chief Berria, a trial of Khudiakov was held. He was found innocent of any crime. As a friend commented, "How nice!"

Within the village is a museum dedicated to Khudiakov, with his jet fighter mounted outside. The museum and plane dedicated to this Armenian hero were established only after Artsakh won its independence from Azerbaijan.



## ARMENIA

# Armenian Olympic Champion Gor Needs A Home

By Levon Barseghyan

GYUMRI, Armenia (shabat.am) - Yesterday [August 17], several people became greatly upset when I published pictures of [Olympic wrestler] Artur [Aleksanyan]'s school.

This [see photos] is the "domik" or shack of Gor Minasyan, who won a silver medal in the Olympics. His family has lived here for years. We have said for years that there are around 3,500 to 4,000 families in the city - nobody knows the exact figure - who are homeless. One out of seven or eight people in the city is homeless. Gor is too.

One out of seven or eight of our champions is the child of shacks, having been born in shacks, having gone to school while in a shack, to stores, barbers, and training schools in shacks, and still now is still in a shack.

Gor lives in a neighborhood of shacks at Gyumri's bus station. There are 96 neighborhoods of shacks in the city. During the last 28 years, of course the number of their shacks decreased. They are identified by two three-digit numbers. The first three-digit figure is the number of the quarter of the shacks, while the second three-digit figure is the number of the shack in the quarter. They consist of 2 to 3 up to 300 shack households.

They are all rotten and in ruins. In some cases, the owners have succeeded in covering them with stones and wood, but the conditions are unbearable. It is not possible to describe them. You could not understand through any film what it is without living there for a few days. You could not imagine it.

In many huts, they place bread for the rats in passages between the floor and the walls so that they do not creep into other places, especially in the winter, when they go under blankets and gnaw on children's ears and fingers. In the summer, these huts practically turn red from the sun's heat. It is not possible to breathe then. In the winter, half an hour after turning off the furnace, it becomes an icebox. In the morning, water is frozen. You have to break the surface of the ice of the container so that you can wash yourself. The holes in the floor are covered by thick rugs. They are no longer subject to repair. These huts were intended for two or three years of use. However already people have been born and lived there 28 years, with marriages, first nights, and removing the dead from the window because it is cramped.

We said for years on end that it appeared to the Robiks [i.e.



Gor's family home ("domik") in Gumri.



Weightlifter Gor Minasyan

were reviling their observation point for taking pictures of Mt. Ararat from nearby, which bears the name of the Republic of Armenia, out of idleness...No, this is incomparably serious.

Gyumri has several dozen serious problems, including homelessness, ruined streets, ruined playgrounds, unbearable dust in the air, streams that are garbage dumps, other contamination

of the surrounding environment, corruption at the local and state levels, unemployment, poverty higher than 15 percent greater than the average in the country on the whole, on the average one family emigrating per day, ruined sports schools, smelly libraries, slowly crawling public transportation, ignored handicapped people, and starving children. We can demonstrate each set of words with hundreds of proofs. I cannot be bothered to write many statistics here.

Approximately 120 million dollars are necessary just in order to fix the first two problems (around 35 million to take care of the homelessness and 85 million for a fundamental renovation of the streets), while the city budget for ten years is barely 7 million dollars. This is obviously not an issue that can be solved through the city budget.

The state - hurrah for the state, let them gorge themselves and run around at our expense. Every time that they come, if they come, the bigwigs of the nation, they look, shake their heads, and leave. I do not understand where we became responsible for the cost of their abortions. Excuse me for this barking. They do not understand human speech. They do not understand, that's all. Whoever does not like this, should not read it.

Gyumri now is exhausting the remnants of its glory. The inertia of its richness is being exhausted. It is like the pleasure of a car rolling down from the peak of a mountain. It rolls, reaches the base and stops. Either the travelers have to get out and sit in another car, or by pushing it they take it to be repaired. Either it can be repaired or it cannot.

Our glory is also our brave people, the heroes of war, sport and culture. Look and see how Gor's family wins and keeps his medals with care - with what heart and love. Compare the Olympic pictures with those of the shack. It is unbelievably. Which country's government in which such a boy lives would not stride around proudly showing him off?

I would very much like Gor's family tomorrow to have a house, to be someone who would be able to give a house as a gift to this boy and to do so. I have never asked for such a thing before. Now I ask for it. Whoever can do it should stand up for him. The city authorities have no money. The Shirak Center and SOS over the last six years have gotten approximately 100 homes through donors, and moved 100 families from shacks to houses, but who will solve the matter of the remaining 3,500 families? The state authorities have died. They are not ours. It is a government of casinos and saunas. If they were ours, we would not have starving children and champions who live in mold.

(Translated from the Armenian)

## Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia, Art Lunch Team up for Anti-pollution Initiative along Dalar River Bank

YEREVAN (Armenpress) - The Coca-Cola Hellenic Bottling Company Armenia has implemented another sustainability project, in the framework of which 5.5 kilometers of the Dalar River bank in Aghveran, Kotayk province, have been cleaned up.

"Apart from doing business, Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia always has priorities in environmental protection and sustainable development. This is something we advocate to our employees, partners, as well as the whole community. Today's river cleaning initiative is part of the series of activities we have been implementing for a number of years. The next one is planned for

autumn, when we will join forces for a tree planting project," said Sayyora Ayupova, General Manager of Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia Company.

Employees of Art Lunch, a longtime partner of Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia, have teamed up as well, contributing to the success of this important initiative. As a result of a full-day's work, teams cleaned up and collected 220 bags of waste from the area.

"Apart from cleaning the garbage from the river bank we think it is equally important to spread the culture against environmental pollution. After this initiative we will not only reduce pollution ourselves but as well prevent

others from doing so," said Bakur Melkonyan, representative of Art Lunch.

Over the course of its 20-years of activity, Coca-Cola Hellenic Armenia Company has continuously worked to speak out and increase awareness of the importance of environmental sustainability and responsible use of water resources among Armenians. Among other projects completed in this domain is the recently launched Hayanist initiative, implemented in partnership with USAID, which is aimed at improving water stewardship and restoring irrigation system in the Ararat valley.



## INTERNATIONAL

## International News

## Catholicos Aram I Holds Consultations in Geneva for Syrian-Armenians

GENEVA (Armenpress) – Aram I, Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia, held consultations on assisting Armenians of Syria in Geneva, according to the press service of the Great House of Cilicia.

Catholicos Aram I held a meeting with UN special envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura. He also held meetings with the representatives of inter-church organizations who provide assistance to the Christian communities of Syria through the Middle East Council of Churches.

Aram I has been one of the chairmen of the Middle East Council of Churches for the last eight years.

He also met the president of the Swiss-Armenian Armenofas humanitarian foundation Teny Simonian, to whom he emphasized the necessity of providing assistance to Syrian-Armenians.

Before departing for Geneva, Catholicos Aram I held a meeting with the president of the Hayastan All Armenian Fund of France, Bedros Terzian. He expressed his satisfaction that the foundation has provided assistance to the Armenian schools of Syria while stressing that continued support is necessary.

## Sixty Armenian Families Trapped in Syrian City

HASAKAH, Syria (PanArmenian.net) – Despite heavy fighting in the Syrian city of Hasakah, 60 Armenian families are still living there, Arevk reports. Situated in the far northeastern corner of Syria, the city was trapped in fighting between the Kurdish forces and troops loyal to President Bashar-al-Assad. As the Syrian air force hit Kurdish positions in the city, the United States declared it will send fighter aircraft in support of the Kurdish forces.

According to a source from the Syrian city of Al-Qamishli situated nearby, Armenians in Hasakah are relatively safe. However, intense battles occurred in a number of neighborhoods where Armenians live. The source also said that those in Al-Qamishli are instructed to host Armenians from Hasakah should the latter decide to evacuate the city.

## Nakhchivan Authorities Return Henrik Aghekyan to Armenia

YEREVAN (News.am) – Armenian citizen Henrik Aghekyan has been returned to his homeland.

The leader of the Working Group by the Armenian Commission for POWs, Captives and Missing People, Armen Kaprielyan announced that the citizen was handed over on August 23 at 6:00 pm.

Aghekyan, 61, a resident of Aygepat village in the Ararat Province of Armenia, had crossed the border and found himself on the Azerbaijani side. He has mental disorders, and often went missing from home. This time he had left his house a week ago and had not returned.

According to the preliminary information, the health condition of Henrik Aghekyan is normal. He will be taken to a hospital for medical examination.

## 'Ancient Turkey' Hall Renamed 'Anatolia and Urartu' in British Museum

LONDON (Armenpress) – The "Ancient Turkey" hall of London's British Museum has been renamed "Anatolia and Urartu," according to the Facebook page of a leader of an Armenian protest, Zeyur Batikyan.

"Of course, I would prefer it to be named Armenia or Armenian Highlands, but this was the first step towards restoration of justice. First and foremost, I am thankful to the late Karine Ghazinyan, Ambassador of Armenia to Great Britain, who supported my initiative, as well as to the Minister of Culture, and those Armenian and British historians who had their contribution to this work," Batikyan wrote, expressing gratitude to those who helped organize the petition and gathered over twelve thousand signatures.

## Armenian Olympic Athletes Victorious

OLYMPICS, from page 1

Speaker of the Armenian Parliament Galust Sahakyan addressed a congratulatory message to Armenian athletes to captured gold and silver at the ongoing Rio Olympics. The message reads: "I wholeheartedly congratulate our athletes who achieved glorious victories at "Rio 2016" – Artur Aleksanyan – for



Mihran Harutyunyan



Gor Minasyan

capturing the high title of champion at the 31st Summer Olympic Games, vice-champions Mihran Harutyunyan, Gor Minasyan and Simon Martirosyan. We are proud of you, proud of your professional and literate performances at the Olympic Games. Thanks to you the Armenian flag has risen and the Armenian anthem heard for the world. I also congratulate all Armenians, because we are proud of you and we are sure victories will be continuous in the future and in other international sports

competitions. I am confident that your victories will be an example for Armenia's future champions. I congratulate you dear athletes. I wish new achievements and ups. And the fact that you dedicated your victories to our courageous sons who are standing at the border and the hero men who fell during April's war, indicates your patriotism and high human values. Glory and honor to you, dear athletes."

The Armenian Olympic Delegation will arrive in Yerevan on August 27.

## Turkey Hunts Alleged Coup Plotter Who was Clinton Donor

By Paul Singer

WASHINGTON (USA Today) – An Istanbul-based college professor, who has been accused by the Turkish government of coordinating last month's failed coup attempt, is at the center of a group of suspicious 2014 contributions to a super PAC supporting Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, a USA Today analysis shows.

Dr. Adil Oksuz is the subject of a massive manhunt in Turkey. Two years ago, an apparently fictitious company that Oksuz created made a \$5,000 donation to the Ready for Hillary PAC, a group preparing for Clinton's presidential campaign.

The Clinton campaign did not provide a response to USA Today's questions about the donations. The campaign did not control the operations of the Super PAC.

A company called Harmony Enterprises gave \$5,000 to the PAC on June 27, 2014, campaign finance records show. Oksuz registered Harmony in New Jersey in 2010, according to state corporate records. It is the only campaign donation the company has ever made. The company website suggests it is a paper manufacturing business, but the address listed on the corporate records is actually a used car lot on a highway in Lodi, NJ. Harmony's phone number is disconnected.

Foreign nationals are not allowed by law to make campaign donations, but foreign-owned companies are allowed to donate as long as they are using U.S.-generated profits and the decision to donate is made by U.S. citizens who work for the company, according to election lawyer Charlie Spies. There is no public information showing whether the Harmony donation complied with campaign finance laws.

The donation was one of a half-dozen donations made to Ready PAC that same day totaling more than \$62,000 from Turkish Americans in and around Lodi. Much of that money came from companies that no longer exist or may have never existed, or from donors who cannot be located, campaign and corporate records show. Other donors in the group were also donors to the Clinton presidential campaign as well as the Clinton Global Initiative.

Most of the donors have clear ties to the religious movement led by a cleric named

Fethullah Gülen, who lives on a compound in the Pennsylvania countryside.

The Turkish government believes Gülen is running a worldwide network that is trying to overthrow the regime there. Turkish President Recep Erdogan has repeatedly called on the United States to extradite Gülen. In the wake of the July 15 coup attempt, the Turkish government has declared that Oksuz was the "imam of the Air Force" and a leader of the plot in Turkey. He was briefly detained and then released after the coup but is now being hunted by the government.

Gülen denounced the coup attempt and told USA Today that he and his movement had nothing to do with it. "I condemn and reject in the strongest terms the attempted coup," he said in an interview with USA Today and several other reporters in July.

The Gülen movement, also known as Hizmet, has been active in American politics. A network of Gülen-affiliated organizations provided members of Congress and staff hundreds of free trips to Turkey, many of which USA Today discovered were secretly funded by Turkish entities in violation of congressional travel rules.

Gülen-affiliated Turkish-Americans have also provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in suspicious donations to political campaigns in the United States. The donations often arrive in groups of 5 to 10 high-dollar contributions from first-time political donors whose employment declarations provide no evidence they can afford the checks they are writing.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., returned \$43,100 in Turkish-American donations last year after USA Today's reporting indicated that some of the contributors were unaware even of basic facts about Ayotte – such as the fact that she is a woman.

The pattern re-emerges in the donations to Clinton's PAC on June 27, 2014. Along with Oksuz's Harmony Enterprises, a second business at the Lodi, NJ, address – Under 70 Auto Sales, also a used car lot – donated \$7,500 to Ready PAC that day. That company was owned by Abdulhadi Yildirim, whom Turkish news reports identify as Oksuz's U.S.-based brother-in-law. Yildirim's LinkedIn page lists him as "Executive Director at Harmony Enterprises." The phone number at Under 70 Auto Sales is disconnected.

Bergen County land records indicate that a company called Sansun USA LLC, owned by Abdulhadi Yildirim, sold

the car lot for \$510,000 the day before the donations were made.

Two other used car lots on that same stretch of U.S. Highway 46 also made donations to Ready PAC on the same day, totaling \$12,500. Both lots were registered to do business in New Jersey by Mustafa Urgulu; one appears to have closed, the other was sold. Neither company has ever made another political donation, but Urgulu is a regular Democratic contributor. He did not respond to messages left at the number he lists on his LinkedIn page.

That same day in 2014, two leaders of the Gülen-affiliated Turkish Cultural Center of New York also made large donations to Ready PAC.

Recep Ozkan, who served as the center's president a decade ago, donated \$20,000 to Ready PAC. He served as a national finance co-chairman for the PAC. He has also given nearly \$5,000 to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign, and earlier this year he gave between \$500,000 and \$1 million to the Clinton Global Initiative. Ozkan is variously listed on campaign finance records as president of Baharu Inc. and chairman of Everglobe Partners LLC, but neither company has a functioning telephone number or email address. Ozkan could not be reached for this story.

Gokhan Ozkok – also listed as a past president of the TCC and a finance co-chairman of Ready PAC – gave \$5,000 to the PAC that day and also in March 2014, and he has also given \$8,000 to Clinton's campaigns over the years. He is also a donor to the Clinton Global Initiative. His company, White Tulip Global, has a website, but the phone number rings to an answering machine and an email inquiry was returned as undeliverable. Its listed address is a "virtual office" in New York that serves as a mail drop. Ozkok could not be reached for this story.

Ozkan and Ozkok both corresponded with Clinton aide Huma Abedin via Clinton's personal email server, according to new emails released by the State Department to the watchdog group Judicial Watch. After Clinton broke her elbow in a fall in 2009, Ozkok sent best wishes via Abedin and added, "I would also like to convey the prayers of Mr. Gülen."

Contributing: Herb Jackson, The (Bergen County, NJ) Record



## INTERNATIONAL

## Turkey Vows to 'Cleanse' Border of IS After Deadly Attack

ANKARA (Associated Press) – Turkey vowed on Monday August 22 to fight Islamic State militants at home and to “cleanse” the group from its borders after a weekend suicide bombing at a Kurdish wedding, an attack that came amid recent gains by Syrian Kurdish militia forces against the extremists in neighboring Syria.

The bombing on August 20 in the southern city of Gaziantep, near the border with Syria, killed at least 54 people – many of them children. Nearly 70 others were wounded in the attack, the deadliest in Turkey this year.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but officials said it appeared to be the work of the Islamic State group. Authorities were trying to identify the attacker, who President Recep Tayyip Erdogan initially said was a child. However, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Monday that it was unclear whether the bomber was “a child or a grown-up.”

“A clue has not yet been found concerning the perpetrator,” Yildirim told reporters following a weekly Cabinet meeting. He said the earlier assertion that the attacker was child was a “guess” based on witness accounts.

At least 22 of those killed were children younger than 14, according to a Turkish official who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with Turkish government rules.

The attack came after the Syria Democratic Forces, a coalition led by the main Kurdish militia groups in Syria, captured the former IS stronghold of Manbij in northern Syria under the cover of airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition.

“It appears to be an act to punish the PYD,”

said Nihat Ali Ozcan a security and terrorism expert at the Ankara-based Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey, referring to a Syrian Kurdish group whose militia is fighting IS. “It’s the cross-border settlement of scores by two actors fighting in Syria.”

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters Monday that Turkey would press ahead with its fight against the Islamic State group inside Turkey and support efforts to remove IS fighters from its borders.

“Our border has to be completely cleansed of Daesh,” Cavusoglu said, using an Arabic acronym for the extremists. IS “martyred our ... citizens. It is natural for us to struggle against such an organization both inside and outside of Turkey.”

Cavusoglu said Turkey had become a main IS target because of measures it has implemented to stop recruits from crossing into Syria to join the fighting, as well as hundreds of arrests of IS suspects in Turkey.

“Turkey has always been Daesh’s primary target, because Turkey has dried out the source of Daesh’s supply of foreign fighters. ... It has stopped them from crossing into Syria,” he said.

The deadly attack also came amid ongoing struggles between the government and Kurdish militants linked to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party, known as the PKK, and as the country was still reeling from the aftermath of last month’s failed coup attempt, which the government has blamed on a U.S.-based Muslim cleric, Fethullah Gulen, and his followers.

The bombing follows a suspected IS attack in

June on Istanbul’s main airport that killed 44 people; a double suicide bombing blamed on IS at a peace rally in Turkey’s capital, Ankara, in October killed 103 people.

Ozcan, the security expert, said Saturday’s attack was likely carried out by a local IS cell whose members would have known the wedding was a Kurdish one and targeted the wedding party for the “shock” value.

The bride and groom, who survived the bombing, urged authorities to act to prevent future bloodshed.

“They turned our best day to hell. We have no relatives left. They all died,” said the groom, Nurettin Akdogan. “I hope this will be the last one. Let no one else get hurt.”

“From now on, find a solution,” added the bride, Besna Akdogan, sobbing.

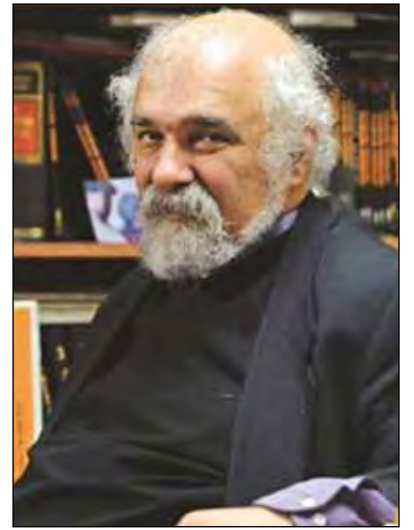
One of the wedding guests, Nursel Saglam, was on a rooftop overlooking the outdoor celebrations when the bomb went off. When she looked down after the explosion, everyone below was hurt or dead, she said.

“I can’t forget that moment,” she said, adding that she hasn’t been able to return to her house near the scene of the attack and was staying with her sister.

Halil Ilter said he was at home when he heard the blast and rushed to the scene to check on his relatives.

“I cannot recount what I saw,” said Ilter, who lost five young cousins. “I am not myself since. There is nothing to say. It was murder.”

“My uncle’s children died. They were aged 13, 14. One was only 5,” he said.



## I Protest the Closure of the Ozgur Gundem Newspaper and the Raid of My Son's House...

By Ragip Zarakolu

STOCKHOLM – The newspaper *Ozgur Gundem*, in which I worked in the past as editor and columnist, was closed down today [August 16]. The building was raided by a mob of so-called police, and having been battered, my journalist colleagues were taken into custody. Among them were, also, a chief copy editor, Zara Kaya, an operating manager, Davut Ucar, a critic, Bayram Balci, a cartoonist, Dogan Guzel, and a poet, M. Ender Ondes.

There were raids of the houses of the solidarity editor-in-chief of our newspaper, lawyer and human rights defender Eren Keskin, and of columnist Filiz Kocali. Asli Erdogan, whose books have been translated into many languages, was taken into custody.

On the ground that the house was my legal residence, the home of my son, who happened to be on vacation, was raided this afternoon by destroying its steel

The books that I had given [my son] as gifts, which I had translated, published, and which are related to the genocide, are all confiscated.

door. The books that I had given him as gifts, which I had translated, published, and which are related to the genocide, are all confiscated.

I protest this attitude.

I have been tried for 40 years in media lawsuits. I have been served notices by prosecution offices. And I always defended my writings and responded to those nonsense allegations. And not once in my life have I seen such a disgrace. Not even during the years of the dirty war of the 90s.

Neither barbarity, nor racism, nor hostility toward books shall prevail; in their stead, it shall be truth, humanity, freedom, and democracy.

A lesson of civilization to those who broke down the steel door: If a door is knocked but no one has replied, the door should not be broken down; a legal summons should be attached to the door, saying that the person should report to this or that police station or report to the prosecutor to give a statement! This cannot be done just because the “reis” (chief) has said that these people had not lain down in front of the tanks. But to whom are we teaching this civilization lesson, anyway?

## Armenian Prime Minister Receives Chinese Commerce Vice Minister

YEREVAN (News.am) – Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan on August 22 received a delegation headed by the Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Qian Keming.

Abrahamyan expressed satisfaction with the high level of the Armenian-Chinese cooperation and the readiness of both sides to deepen it, the proof of which is the recent frequent high-level mutual visits. He noted that China is a friendly country and important partner for Armenia. In his words, the bilateral trade and economic relations are dynamically developing with the volume of bilateral trade turnover having significantly increased in recent years. The prime minister underscored the importance of the work carried out by the Armenian-Chinese joint commission on trade and economic cooperation, the ninth ongoing session of which took place in Yerevan on that day. Qian Keming is the Chinese side’s co-president of the commission.

The Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce noted that Armenia and China are not only good friends, but also reliable partners and the present stable political dialogue enables to bring the cooperation to a new level. According to Keming, Armenian-Chinese trade and economic ties are developing efficiently, and there is great potential for their further deepening. The vice minister briefed Abrahamyan on the results of the ninth session of the commission, noting that further steps aimed at implementing the arrangements reached between the leadership of both states on deepening the cooperation in several spheres were identified and discussed.

The interlocutors expressed satisfaction with the implementation of joint projects in the areas of road construction, agriculture, tourism, education and other fields and discussed issues



Left, Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Qian Keming shakes hands with Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan

related to the deepening of cooperation aimed at the development of the aforementioned spheres, as well as mining, power production, food industry and transportation infrastructure of regional significance.

Reference was made to the cooperation in the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Keming attached importance

to the role of Armenia in the development of China-EAEU ties. In response, Abrahamyan noted that Armenia welcomes and is ready to support that process. According to him, China is an important partner for Armenia, and the government welcomes large-scale Chinese investments in the country’s economy.

## Georgian PM Hails Security Service for Foiling Terror Act on Russia-Armenia Gas Pipeline

TBILISI (Public Radio of Armenia) – Georgia’s Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili on August 22 thanked the country’s State Security Service (SSS) for preventing a terror attack in Georgia that had the potential to instigate a major threat, Agenda.ge reports.

Kvirikashvili’s comments came several hours after a special briefing by the SSS, which revealed the agency had taken definitive action to prevent a terrorist attack on several sections of the Russia-Armenia pipeline that pass

through Georgian territory.

Kvirikashvili said that thanks to the actions of the SSS, this “huge threat” was averted.

“I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to each person involved in this operation, as a major disaster was averted. Making such timely and effective decisions and actions is of utmost importance,” said the prime minister. He refused to make any further comment as an investigation is now underway into the incident.

The SSS announced seven people had been

arrested on August 20 for attempting to blow up several sections of the gas pipeline, located in at Saguramo Village about 21 kilometers from Georgia’s capital Tbilisi. They were arrested and charged with terrorism-related offenses moments before they were due to blow up the pipeline.

Five people were charged with organizing a terrorist act, illegal purchase and possession of explosives and military weapons. The other two were charged with other illegalities in relation to the case.

# Community News

## Alien Megastructure?

'Tabby's Star' Continues to Baffle Scientists

By Mike Wall

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (Space.com) — Nearly a year after first making headlines around the world, "Tabby's star" is still guarding its secrets.

In September 2015, a team led by Yale University astronomer Tabetha Boyajian announced that a star about 1,500 light-years from Earth called KIC 8462852 had dimmed oddly and dramatically several times over the past few years.

These dimming events, which were detected by NASA's planet-hunting Kepler space telescope, were far too substantial to be caused by an orbiting planet, scientists said. In one case, 22 percent of the star's light was blocked; when huge Jupiter crosses the sun's face, the result is a dimming of just 1 percent or so.

Boyajian and her colleagues suggested that a cloud of fragmented comets or planetesimals might be responsible, but other researchers noted that the signal was also consistent with a possible "alien megastructure" — perhaps a giant swarm of energy-collecting solar panels known as a Dyson sphere.



Tabetha Boyajian

Astronomers around the world soon began studying

Tabby's star with a variety of instruments, and re-analyzing old observations of the object, in an attempt to figure out what exactly is going on. But they have yet to solve the puzzle.

"I'd say we have no good explanation right now for what's going on with Tabby's star," Jason Wright, an astronomer at Pennsylvania State University, said earlier this month during a talk at the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute in Mountain View, California. "For now, it's still a mystery."

That mystery may even have deepened over the past 12 months.

For example, in January, Bradley Schaefer of Louisiana State University determined that, in addition to the weird short-term dimming events, the brightness of Tabby's star had dropped by about 20 percent overall between 1890 and 1989 — a pattern very difficult to explain by known natural means, he said.

Schaefer came to this conclusion after poring over old photographic plates of the night sky that captured Tabby's star. Other researchers suggested that the trend Schaefer saw could have been caused by changes in the instruments used to take those photos over the century-long timespan. However, a new study bolsters Schaefer's interpretation.

In the new work, Benjamin Montet (of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena and the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts) and Joshua Simon (of the Observatories of the Carnegie Institution of Washington) re-analyzed Kepler observations of Tabby's star from 2009 through 2013. They found that the object dimmed by 3 percent over that span, with a rapid 2-percent brightness dip over one 200-day period.

"Of a sample of 193 nearby comparison stars and 355 stars with similar stellar parameters, 0.6 percent change brightness at a rate as fast see STARS, page 7



Group Picture of AEUNA General Assembly 2016

## Armenian Evangelical Union of North America Holds 23rd Biennial General Assembly

CHICAGO — The Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) held its 23rd Biennial General Assembly June 23-26, in Skokie, hosted by the Armenian Evangelical Church of Chicago.

The theme of the convention was "Reclaiming the Zeal of Our Founders" and Rev. Jackson Crum was its main speaker. 280 participants, including the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship (AEYF), which was also having its 20th General Convention, enjoyed three days of worship and fellowship, and conducted business meetings.

During the General Assembly AEUNA celebrated the 170th Anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church, and The hosting church (of Chicago) celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

The assembly concluded on Saturday evening with a Gala Banquet, where retired Armenian Evangelical Pastors were honored for their faithful ministry in AEUNA, and a joint worship service on Sunday morning with the local Armenian Evangelical Church.

The following elections/appointments were adopted by the session:

- Rev. Berdj Djambazian was elected for four-year term of service as Minister to the Union.
- Rev. Dr. Ara Chakerian was elected as Moderator and Rev. Dr. Avedis Boynerian as vice-moderator of the Board of Directors of the AEUNA.
- Rev. Dr. Ara Jizmejjan was appointed as Eastern Region Director of AEUNA/AEYF ministries.

The revised AEUNA By-Laws was ratified by the General Assembly.



Group Picture of AEUNA General Assembly 2016

## Los Angeles Unified Expands Dual-Language, Bilingual Programs

LOS ANGELES (LA Times) — The Los Angeles Unified School District is redoubling its commitment to language immersion and bilingual education, starting

By Corey Mitchell

with the addition of nine dual-language programs this school year.

The expansion is part of an effort to teach more children in the nation's second-largest school system to read and write, not just speak, in multiple languages.

"In the workplace of tomorrow, expectations for speaking and understanding multiple languages will continue to grow. Particularly in cities like Los Angeles, multilingualism will no longer be simply a good skill to have but instead it will become a prerequisite for the globally flattened world," first-year Superintendent Michelle King said during her 'state of the district' address this month.

"My expectation is that we will increase the number of graduates who are bilingual and biliterate so that all our students are prepared for the diverse workforce, and the world they will enter," King said.

The expansion and ambition would seem a natural fit for L.A. Unified, where nearly one in every four students is an English-language learner. The district has more than 140,000 ELLs, more than all but five states.

L.A. Unified now has 65 dual-language programs, marking a 25 percent increase over the past three years, EdSource reports. The piece also points out that growth has exploded statewide, with the number of dual-language programs quadrupling over the past decade.

The *Los Angeles Daily News* reports that adding the dual-language immersion schools is part of a broader effort to stem enrollment loss in L.A. Unified, which has seen its enrollment drop 15 percent since the 2009-10 school year due to the growth in charter school enrollment and declining immigration.

With the language-immersion expansion in L.A. Unified, the district now has programs in Arabic, French, Korean, Mandarin, Spanish—and now Armenian, thanks in part to parent demand.

The vast majority of California's, and L.A. Unified's, dual-language-immersion programs are Spanish-based, but districts there and elsewhere are adding options for families who want to preserve and pass on their native languages.

"The identity and family connection that language brings is important for us to recognize," said Hilda Maldonado, the executive director of the district's multilingual and multicultural education department.

But the district and state also have mixed records when it comes to support of dual-language and bilingual programs, especially as it concerns English-learners.

The growth in dual-language programs in L.A. Unified and California comes despite Proposition 227, a statewide measure approved by voters in 1998 initiative that nearly dismantled bilingual education in California. But that all could change soon. Proposition 58, which is on the statewide ballot in California this November, seeks to overturn key components of Proposition 227.

The longer-term impact of Proposition 227 can be seen in a comparison of the sheer number of dual-language and bilingual programs in L.A. Unified and New York, the nation's largest school district.

The 1.1-million student New York City schools has nearly twice the enrollment of L.A. Unified, but more than five times as many dual-language and bilingual programs. L.A. Unified also has a higher proportion of overall of ELLs than NYC.

The total number of programs in New York has expanded to more than 500 since Chancellor Carmen Farina announced an aggressive expansion program nearly two years ago. By comparison, L.A. Unified has about 90 dual-language and bilingual programs, King said in her 'state of the district' address.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Washington, D.C. Parish Celebrates Name Day

WASHINGTON — Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Diocesan Primate, visited St. Mary Church of Washington, D.C., on Sunday, August 14, as the community observed the church's name day.

During the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, Barsamian blessed the veil of youngsters Mariam Karapetyan and ordained Ruben Karapetyan, Hovsep Seferian, Ashot Hovhannisyian, and Andre Alexandrian to the

rank of acolyte. During the Liturgy he performed the Blessing of Grapes service and blessed the madagh.

Later that afternoon, the community honored three parishioners at a special luncheon hosted by the parish council. Sarine Zenian and Dr. Ara Avetisian served as masters of ceremonies.

Parishioners Onnik and Hripsime Sivaslian, longtime members of St. Mary Church, were honored with the Diocese's St. Vartan Award.

Their daughters, Tamar and Maral, spoke about their parents' journey to the United States from Turkey more than 30 years ago, describing how they settled in the Washington area, attended school, launched their careers, and raised a family while also dedicating time to St. Mary Church. Hripsime Sivaslian serves on the Women's Guild while Onnik Sivaslian has

served several terms on the parish council.

The parish also honored Annie Simonian Totah, another longtime parishioner who is a recent recipient of a pontifical encyclical issued by Karekin II, the Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians.

Grigor Hovhannissian, Armenia's ambassador to the United States, spoke about Totah's support of Armenian causes nationally and internationally. The honoree's daughter gave a loving tribute to her mother, speaking about

her role as a caring wife, parent, and grandmother.

Natalia Kazaryan performed piano selections from Chopin, Babajanian, Ravel and Khachaturian. Kazaryan, who recently arrived in Washington to pursue a doctoral degree in musical arts, has played and studied around the world.

Karapetyan congratulated the honorees and noted that their dedication is an inspiration to the entire community.



Rev. Fr. Hovsep Karapetyan, Archbishop Khajag Barsamian and Annie Simonian Totah, receiving the Pontifical Encyclical



Fr. Gulgulian with Zabelle Zartarian

## Help us to relocate Syrian Armenian families to Armenia from the conflict zone.

### Donate Now — Save a Life

"Save a Life" is humanitarian campaign, aimed at providing support to Syrian Armenian refugees, who escaped the war in Aleppo and moved to Lebanon, to obtain one-way ticket to travel to Armenia. Since the launch of the "Save a Life" campaign, the Aleppo Compatriotic Charitable Organization (ACCO) has successfully relocated more than 221 Syrian refugees from Lebanon to Yerevan.



Currently, there are more than 550 requests registered at Aleppo CCO. People are in despair and are seeking ways to flee for a safer life in Armenia.

The cost of saving one Armenian life is \$500, which includes:

- Ground transportation from Aleppo to Beirut;
- Exit visa to leave Syria and enter Lebanon;
- Transportation from the Lebanese border to Beirut International Airport;
- Flight from Beirut to Yerevan;

ACCO calls on the Armenian community and to join its life-saving mission by donating to the "Save a Life" initiative to help remove Syrian-Armenians to safety in the motherland.

Detailed information on people and families relocated to Armenia will be provided to each contributor and sponsor. Aleppo CCO is ready to answer to all the questions regarding the campaign.

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SWIFT: COVBAM22

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Beneficiary's account No: 1930048910350101

#### Donations by mail:

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PO Box 155  
Belford, NJ 07718

For inquiries please call Ani Bakhian  
(+374) 77-260-715

## Wynnewood Parishioner Turns 100

WYNEWOOD, Penn. — On Sunday, August 14, parishioners of St. Sahag and St. Mesrob Church of Wynnewood, PA, came together to celebrate the 100th birthday of Zabelle Zartarian.

Sunday School students sang songs and parish council chair Robert Zakian presented Zartarian with a plaque. The Very Rev. Fr. Oshagan Gulgulian, parish pastor, presented the honoree with a letter and certificate issued by Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian.

Steve Barsamian, parish council vice chair, served as master of ceremonies, and read aloud a birthday card Zartarian had received from President Obama. Lisa Kazanjian, parish council corresponding secretary, spoke about Zartarian's life and accomplishments; click here to read a biographical sketch of a remarkable, joy-filled life.

Zartarian taught at the parish Sunday School for more than 50 years. The Sunday School will dedicate a classroom in her name.

## 'Tabby's Star' Continues to Baffle Scientists

STARS, from page 6

as 0.341 percent [per year], and none exhibit either the rapid decline by > 2 percent or the cumulative fading by 3 percent of KIC 8462852," Montet and Simon wrote in the new study, which they uploaded to the online preprint site ArXiv on Aug. 5. "No known or proposed stellar phenomena can fully explain all aspects of the observed light curve."

Schaefer's results, combined with those of Montet and Simon, make the comet hypothesis look less and less likely, Wright said in his SETI talk.

"Why would comets, over a century, make the star dimmer?" he said. "What's going on?"

The sustained dimming of Tabby's star is still consistent with at least some variants of the "alien megastructure" hypothesis, Wright said.

"Some people have sort of facetiously offered that perhaps this is a Dyson sphere under construction: You're seeing lots of material getting built," he said. "In just 100 years, they've blotting out 20 percent of the starlight. That seems kind of fast to me, but, you know, aliens, right?"

It's also possible that the alien megastructure — if it exists — is fully constructed, and some parts are just denser than others, Wright added.

"That would naturally make the star get

brighter and dimmer, as dense parts of the swarm came around," he said. "So if I had to invoke megastructures to explain it, that seems consistent. You've got lots of panels of different shapes, different sizes, and the big ones make big dips and the little ones make little dips, and the whole swarm is sort of like a translucent screen that makes the whole thing dimmer."

But Wright and others have always stressed that "E.T. did it" is a very unlikely scenario, and that a more prosaic explanation will probably rise to the top eventually. And indeed, other recent observations throw some cold water on the alien-megastructure idea — and any other hypothesis that invokes some object or phenomenon near Tabby's star.

Any structure surrounding the star, be it alien-made or naturally occurring, would heat up and give off infrared radiation, Wright said. But he and his colleagues saw no signatures of such "waste heat" in data gathered by NASA's Wide-Field Infrared Explorer spacecraft. And another research team — which analyzed observations by the Submillimeter Array telescope and Submillimeter Common-User Bolometer Array-2 instrument, both of which are in Hawaii — also came up empty.



## OBITUARY

# Tribute: Sosy Kadian Danced to Her Own Beat

By Tom Vartabedian

CRESSKILL, N.J. — Sosy Krikorian Kadian was a true devotee of dance, feeling it, embracing it and teaching it. She loved it and loved teaching it to younger generations and imparting the joys of moving to the beat.

That's how I shall remember this magnificent Armenian. That is how we shall all cherish her friendship. She put the "class" in classic; she was the grand dame of her genre.

Her death on August 12 closes the chapter on the life of an iconic Armenian who served her ambassadorship through dance and the arts. She was 87 but never used her age as an excuse to refrain from a solo or a dance class.

I caught up with her a few times, whether it was aboard a cruise ship or at the Poconos during Armenian Week. While most of us were there to *kef* the night away, Sosy came with a mission. Like the Pied Piper, she would summon the children to her side and teach them the rudiments.

Gradually, these same youngsters grew into adulthood and brought their own kids to Sosy.

I was there one bustling day when a child was glued to the wall. His mother brought him to the class but couldn't get him to join the activity.

Sosy made it a point to encourage the child and took him by the hand like a grandmother. She brought him to the forefront and taught him all the moves. The boy was thrilled and took to the dance.



The image of a grown woman dancing with a child inside a circle of enthusiasts was a sight to behold. Her charm and charisma induced yet another student of the arts. Had you seen the look on that mother's face, you would have melted.

Crooner Onnik Dinkjian included her in a

song titled Karnan Dzaghig.

For years, she staged productions in the Mid-Atlantic area, teaming up with sidekick Hourig Sahagian-Papazian to form an eclectic ensemble called "The Way We Were." The musical revue depicted first-generation Armenians arriving here to set the tone for community life.

At a talk one day honoring the work of writer/author Lucine Kasbarian, Sosy Kadian was in her element. She did not dance but rather displayed her true Armenian colors with a powerful message to Hamazkayin listeners at Sts. Vartanantz Church.

"We often believe that miracles occurred only in olden times — that they don't really

happen in this day and age," she said. "And yet, isn't it a miracle that we are gathering here today, a group of Armenians, in a building where the Armenian flag is raised beside the American flag, sitting here at a lecture presentation in the Armenian language?"

"We are living in an age of miracles. We see them all around us. But because there is a disconnect among us, because we are constantly rushing and seeking immediate gratification, we do not always notice these miracles," she resumed.

Sosy was enamored by Kasbarian's book, *Armenia: A Rugged Land, an Enduring People* and got to applaud both the author and her work that day in 1998.

One cannot think about Sosy without fondly recalling her husband Hagop, who died in 1994. They formed a dance partnership throughout their married lives.

"Everyone who knew Sosy, even in merely a casual way, was saddened to hear the news," said Mark Gavoor, a close family friend. "She was part of that great American generation but in a very American-Armenian way. She carried that noble spirit of her land, the yergir, and its people in her heart and soul. Sosy created a new Armenia in everything she did. Her Armenia was an inspiration to countless Armenians."

Musician Ara Topouzian couldn't say enough about the impact she had upon his career and life in general, despite the age difference. Sosy put him on stage to play tambourine in a presentation at Atlantic City and took an immediate shine to Armenian music.

The other musicians he stood with were the second-generation Vosbikian. Topouzian was merely 9 at the time and matured into a prominent musicologist and recording artist in Detroit.

"Deegeen Sosy, preserved and passed along Armenian cultural traditions," he said. "It was important that she exposed younger generations to our rich heritage. She sang, danced, wrote and read poetry. She played music."

Sosy Krikorian leaves her children Raffi Kadian and Nvair Beylerian; her son-in-law Zareh, her four grandchildren Adi, Raffi Jr., Tamar and Lucine, as well as three great-grandchildren.

She was a career educator in the Fort Lee Public Schools, and a uniquely prominent keeper of the Armenian tradition, through her endless dedication to writing and performing, and teaching song, language and dance to so many generations.

May her powerful spirit shine.

## Nancy Megurian Arabian

LOS ANGELES — Nancy was born on February 17, 1939 as the first child of Haig and Angel Megurian in Nicosia, Cyprus. As the United States entered World War II, her father, being a citizen, was called back to the United States without his family. In 1944, Nancy was able to come to America with her mother on an

referred to her as an "Angel of California."

Nancy Arabian's life reflected a love for her church, her Armenian heritage and culture, and her dedication to public service. In 2001, she became the first and only woman to ever receive the Saint James the Apostle Medal, which was granted by Patriarch Torkom Manoogian in Jerusalem. For her many volunteer efforts, she received the Saint Gregory Illuminator Medal. In 2003, Nancy and her husband were instrumental for the restoration of the sixth century Saint Gayane Monastery in Armenia. During her 10th trip to Armenia, she was one of the assistants to Catholicos of All Armenians Karekin II for the Holy Muron celebrations.

In 2012, she received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor on Ellis Island.

Arabian was a passionate volunteer and fundraiser. Her many volunteer activities included serving as president of the Hai Benefit Circle (2006-2007) in Los Angeles; a long time board member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Western Diocese of the Armenian Church of North America and a Godparent of the Saint Leon cathedral of the Western Diocese; a board member of the Westside Guild of the Ararat Home of Los Angeles; a member of the Saint Peter Armenian Church Ladies Society; a member of the Daughters of Vartan; and a board member of the Executive Committee of the Los Angeles Affiliate of the Armenian International Women's Association (past vice president).

For many years, she actively supported the Los Angeles Philharmonic Committee, the National Charity League, and the San Fernando Valley Bar Association. She served as a board member for the Foundation of Children, and was an active fundraiser for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley.

She passed away peacefully on July 21, 2016. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, Armand Arabian, former Justice of the California Supreme Court; her daughter Allison Demurjian, and her son Robert Arabian and daughter-in-law Jennifer Arabian. She is also survived by her sister Diana Hekimian, sister-in-law Maral Hairabedian, cousin Silva Kalfayan, grandchildren, Robert, Ashley, Nicole, and Thomas, and her nieces and nephews.

The family held a private service on July 28, at Forest Lawn in Glendale.



American warship called the William Rawle through New York Harbor. She was 5 years old. Her first view of America was of the Statue of Liberty.

The eldest of three children, Nancy grew up in Southern California. Her parents, Haig and Angel Megurian, were founding members of St. James Armenian Church, where she and her siblings, Diana Hekimian, and her late brother, Greg Megurian, spent their formative years.

Nancy was educated in the California school system. In high school, she was a member of the drill team and marched in the Rose Parade. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from California State University, Northridge in art history.

She was also an accomplished pianist.

On August 26, 1962, she married attorney Armand Arabian, who served on the Municipal and Superior Court, the Court of Appeal, and as the first Armenian Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court. Armand called Nancy "the wind under my wings." For advising him and helping victims of rape, Gloria Allred

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## OBITUARY

## Jacques Terzian

### Founder Of Artist Community 'The Point'

By Sam Whiting

SAN FRANCISCO (*San Francisco Chronicle*) — Jacques Terzian, a sculptor who foresaw the coming San Francisco art-space squeeze and did something about it, died Aug. 6 at his home in Walnut Creek. He was 94 and died peacefully, according to his daughter Leslie Terzian Markoff.

In the early 1970s, Terzian was among a group of artisans forced out of warehouse space to make way for Levi's Plaza toward the northern waterfront. He knew this was the beginning of the great exodus, and he went south as far as he could get, to the old Hunters Point Shipyard, which was being decommissioned by the U.S. Navy. Terzian got a sublease on the barracks and remodeled it into an artist colony he called the Point.

Opened in 1984, the Point grew to become what was considered to be the largest artist colony operating in the United States. It is still one of the largest, with 250 artists in residence.



"The shipyard arts community has lost the person whose inspiration, vision and love for the arts and artists brought it into being, the person who was, for more than two decades, its animated and animating spirit," longtime tenant Scott Madison said in a posting on the shipyard website.

Always handy, Terzian maintained the place himself, doing plumbing and carpentry while also practicing his own art. He turned one of the buildings into a welding studio where he used found objects to create sculpture in a

range of sizes. He founded Patterns Ltd., where he designed and built industrial art and custom furniture.

When he wasn't in his welding mask, he was in his trademark cap and black-rimmed glasses, going around in the studios of his artists. He helped set up a mentoring program to go into the public schools and community centers to teach art to minority youths.

"A lot of people don't realize the effort Jacques put into making sure the Point did not turn into the Alamo, a fort in the middle of Bayview-Hunters Point," said Joe Sam, who was the first African American artist to join the colony 35 years ago and is still in the same space.

In the early 1980s, Terzian spearheaded the artists at the Point to form one of the first, if not the first, open studio weekends in San Francisco.

"We'd have bands on the porches with volleyball, and barbecues," said his daughter Leslie. "It was just a gathering of troops and a celebration of life, and my father was the catalyst."

Hagop Terzian was born in Fresno on Aug. 31, 1921, and grew up in the Armenian section of town, raised by his immigrant parents, along with four siblings and lots of cousins. Armenian was the only language in the household, and

Terzian assimilated himself by changing his name to Jacques.

After graduating from Fresno High School, he became a welder and came to the Bay Area to work in both the Richmond and Hunters Point shipyards, as they built and maintained ships for World War II. He later enrolled in the Army Air Forces and was being trained as a navigator in Texas when the war ended.

While heading toward Texas, in uniform, he encountered Margaret Banner of Camarillo (Ventura County). They traded addresses and kept in touch. When Mr. Terzian enrolled at UC Berkeley on the GI Bill, Banner transferred up from UC Santa Barbara and they were married in 1949.

After a year in New York and several more in Berkeley, the growing family settled in an Eichler in southern Palo Alto. Mr. Terzian, who came from a family of five, raised five children of his own. He commuted by the old Southern Pacific train to an interior design partnership he started on Battery Street called Chambers and Terzian.

There was a retail shop in front, and in back he built the furniture and sculpture that was to become his signature artwork once he had been evicted and found his way to Hunters Point.

Terzian was always interested in arts and ideas and civil rights, and the places where those converged on the Peninsula were Kepler's Books in Menlo Park and the Peninsula School. His other main passion was the classical arts.

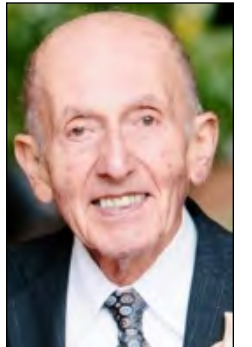
Terzian was divorced in the 1970s. He later dated San Francisco artist Sally Seymour and international opera singer Tatiana Troyanos. With both women he pursued his love of opera here, in New York and abroad. He died listening to an oboe concerto.

Survivors include son Stephan Terzian and his wife, Kay Marie Terzian; daughter Paula Terzian; daughter Leslie Terzian Markoff and her husband, John Markoff; daughter Carla Terzian Pierce; son David Terzian; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

## Edward G. Topalian

ACTON, Mass. — Edward G. Topalian of Acton, formerly of Andover, Brighton and Dorchester, died on August 4, 2016.

He was the husband of Judy (Nodwell); father of Julia Topalian and her fiancé Kevin Flaherty and Alan Topalian and his wife Danielle; grand-father of Charles Topalian; Brother of Paul and Robert Topalian and the late Calvin Topalian. He was the son of the late Galvin and Zabel Topalian.



Funeral services were at the Armenian Memorial Church, Watertown on August 6. Interment services were private.

## Kalost Purut

WATERTOWN — Kalost Purut of Watertown passed away on Thursday, August 4, at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Brighton. He was 89.

He was the husband of Zabel (Arslanoglu) Purut; father of Harutyun Purut and his wife Taline of New Jersey, Herman Purutyan and his wife Laura of Concord and the late Sarkis and Zarman Purut; grandfather of Tamar Purut, Lorig Purutyan, Jivan Purutyan and Nina Purut. He was the brother of Alis Purut Phillips of Florida, Arev Purut Kutlukaya of Turkey and the late Kevork Purut.

The funeral was held on Saturday, August 6, at St. James Armenian Church, Watertown. Interment followed at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord.



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## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Armenian Martyrs Find Home at Morton Grove Shrine

By Michelle Martin

EVANSTON, Ill. (*Catholic New World*) – For Father Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan and his parishioners at the St. James Armenian Apostolic Church in Evanston, the Armenian Genocide of the early 20th century is not a distant historical event.

It's something that happened to their families, Khoja-Eynatyan said after a brief liturgy on August 10 to welcome the relics of martyrs of that genocide to the Shrine of All Saints at St. Martha Parish in Morton Grove.

"For me, it was my great-great uncle," he said. "April 24 is the day when Armenians remember the victims of the genocide, and on that day, my family did not go to any of the memorials. We went to his house."



Deacon Thomas Ohanian venerates the relics of the Armenian Martyrs. (Karen Callaway/Catholic New World)



Relics of martyrs from the Armenian genocide are on display in reliquaries. (Karen Callaway/Catholic New World)



People lit candles in front of the Armenian relics on display. (Karen Callaway/Catholic New World)

icon," he said.

During the same spring when the martyrs were canonized by the Armenian Apostolic Church – an early eastern Christian church similar in tradition and practice to the Armenian Catholic

Church – members of St. James made a pilgrimage to St. Martha, which houses the relics of more than 1,600 saints, from the apostles and martyrs of the Roman Empire to St. John Paul II, John XXIII and Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata.

"We have a long tradition of venerating relics, just like all the Christian churches," Khoja-Eynatyan said.

When they visited, Father Dennis O'Neill gave him relics of St. Thaddeus and St. Bartholomew, the apostles believed to have brought Christianity to Armenia, to be kept in St. James.

"I was not expecting that," Khoja-Eynatyan said. "I was overwhelmed."

After that, members of St. James decided to bring relics of the Armenian martyrs to St.



Deacon Thomas Ohanian, Father Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan and Deacon Larry Farsakian lead prayers before the area of the shrine where the relics are on display. (Karen Callaway/Catholic New World)

Martha, which was designated as the Shrine of All Saints on November 1, 2015, so that they could rest and be venerated among the relics of other martyrs.

"We just wanted our martyrs to have a home with other saints, and for people to learn about them and venerate them," Khoja-Eynatyan said.

The relics came from the memorial chapel to the genocide in Der Zor, Syria. The memorial was destroyed by the Islamic State in 2014.

O'Neill, the pastor at St. Martha, made the church into a shrine to house mostly relics that he has been able to obtain from European churches that have been closed and demolished.

Over the past several years, it has welcomed many pilgrims, both Catholic and those of other faiths, who wish to venerate the relics. Praying among them, O'Neill said, is like worshipping with the "clouds of witnesses" described in the Letter to the Hebrews.

Now the unnamed Armenian martyrs whose remains are there will join those witnesses.

"You bring great blessings when you come," O'Neill said, welcoming the group from St. James. "I know many of you were so deeply touched by the events of 1915. ... To bring relics of your martyrs – it's an unspeakable gift."

In return, he gave St. James another gift: a relic of St. Stephen, the first martyr, and a relic of Blessed Ignatius Maloyan, the Armenian Catholic archbishop of Mardin, who also died in 1915.

(*Catholic New World* is the publication of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago.)

During the genocide, which started in 1915 when ethnic Turks forcibly deported Armenians in the Ottoman Empire to the Syrian desert, where many died of starvation and dehydration and others were massacred. An estimated 1.5 million Armenians were killed between 1915 and 1923, when the Republic of Turkey was declared.

Khoja-Eynatyan's great-great uncle did not die, but was made to watch as his wife and children were slaughtered and was left alive to suffer, Khoja-Eynatyan said. He later made his way to Armenia, married again and had another family, a modern resurrection story. But still, he never spoke about it.

"He was our relic," Khoja-Eynatyan said.

In April 2015, 100 years after the genocide began, the Armenian Apostolic church declared that those who died were martyrs. "That meant that every picture hanging in homes of family members of people who died became a genuine



Father Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan, left, expresses his gratitude to Father Dennis O'Neill for relics given to their church from the people at St. Martha's. (Karen Callaway/Catholic New World)



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COMMUNITY NEWS

# Andrea Tilbian Halejian Memorial Fund Donates to Feeding Low-Income Children

ENGLEWOOD, N.J. – The Northern New Jersey Community Foundation’s (NNJCF) charitable fund, the Andrea Tilbian Halejian Memorial Fund, announces the Center for Food Action (CFA), a nonprofit organization based in Englewood was awarded a grant of \$1,000. The NNJCF donor-advised fund memorializes Andrea Tilbian Halejian and contributes to qualified charitable organizations she supported.

“CFA was chosen for this grant because Andrea volunteered her time to this organization. The purpose of the Andrea Tilbian Halejian Memorial Fund is to help local nonprofit organizations, continuing Andrea’s legacy of community involvement and support. The grant to CFA will be used to help sponsor their National Day of Service and Remembrance scheduled for September 11, 2016 to benefit local children experiencing weekend food insecurity,” said Alexis Halejian, a member of the Andrea Tilbian Halejian Memorial Fund’s advisory committee.

During the event, community members will join together to assemble over 3,000-weekend snack packs for low-income children. “Often times, children who receive free or reduced-price school meals during

the week are left without adequate nutrition on the weekends. Our Weekend Snack Pack Program fills this gap. The Andrea Tilbian Halejian Memorial Fund grant will assure that 222 snack packs will be distributed from area schools to help local children in need,” said Jennifer Johnson, director of communications and community relations, CFA.

The NNJCF offers a comprehensive menu of philanthropic opportunities in the areas of donor-advised funds, tax-saving annuities, and trust options that provide donors with flexible, efficient, and tax-effective ways to ensure their charitable giving has maximum impact. “The donor -services allow our advisory committee flexibility in the selection of nonprofit organizations for funds and in the amount of disbursement of funds to those organizations,” explained Halejian.

“NNJCF’s donor services program offers flexible and easy ways for people to contribute to the community on an ongoing basis. The Foundation perpetuates the important causes individuals and their loved ones care about,” said Danielle De Laurentis, associate director, NNJCF.

The Northern New Jersey Community Foundation (NNJCF), a not-for-profit



From left, Sarah Halejian, Jennifer Johnson from Center for Food Action, Barry Halejian

501(c) 3 organization based in Englewood, New Jersey, focuses primarily on educa-

tion, public health, civic engagement, environment, and the arts.



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## Major US Pastirma Manufacturer Temporarily Halts Production for USDA Study

By Aram Arkun  
Mirror-Spectator Staff

FRESNO, Calif. – Ohanyan’s Bastirma and Soujouk Company is one of the major US producers of pastirma (or bastirma), a cured meat delicacy loved by Armenians and non-Armenians alike. Recently, supplies have been dwindling in stores in the Boston area and elsewhere which obtain their pastirma from Ohanyan’s.

According to Jirayr Hancer, owner of the Fresno-based company, the reason is that the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture has asked that a validation study be conducted by scientists for bacterial safety. During this



Ohanyan’s Pastirma

process, the factory, which also makes sujuk and manti, cannot make any new pastirma. The scientists in an outside laboratory must duplicate the process used by Ohanyan’s.

Hancer, in this business for 35 years, said that this is a new process, and his company appears to be the first of the pastirma makers to go through it. He estimates that there may be around ten pastirma makers in the US. The study began in July, and hopefully will be finished soon. However, once it is finished, it will take at least another month to get a new batch of pastirma aged and ready. Ohanyan’s sells pastirma both retail and wholesale in the US.



## COMMUNITY NEWS

## St. Nersess Seminarians Study in Armenia During the Summer

ARMONK, N.Y. — An integral part of a St. Nersess Seminary education is engaging with the church on the local, regional, diocesan, and global levels. The Master of Divinity degree offered through St. Nersess and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary includes opportunities for students to travel to different parishes, participate and lead discussions at retreats and conferences, attend annual assemblies and youth weekends and study abroad at sister theological institutions.

This summer, with the blessing of Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, two St. Nersess seminarians, Deacon Michael Sabounjian and Deacon Alex Calikyan, traveled to Armenia to participate in a two-month course of study at the Gevorgyan Theological Seminary of the Mother See of Holy Echmiadzin.

On June 14, the Very Rev. Garegin Hambardzumyan, dean of Gevorgyan Theological Seminary, welcomed the St. Nersess students to a specially-tailored course of study at the seminary where they had Monday through Friday classes in Modern Armenian Language, Classical Armenian Language and Armenian Literature. "I was able to make considerable improvement in Classical and Modern Armenian language skills," said Sabounjian. "By living in the Mother See, I was able to compare and contrast the lifestyle, local customs and pastoral approach in Echmiadzin with my experience in the United States."

Calikyan had a similar experience. "The

daily church services that we attended in Holy Echmiadzin not only inspired us with its grand splendor and beauty, but also strengthened our practical experience in liturgics and singing," he commented. "The classes we participated in were very instructive and improved our language skills exponentially."

The two seminarians also traveled to historical sites in Armenia, including Tatev Monastery in Goris. "One of the experiences that left the biggest mark on me was being able to integrate my faith and seminary education into its geographical context. To have learned about Gregory of Tatev in a lecture by Dr. Roberta Ervine at St. Nersess and then to travel to Tatev to pray in the same monastery where he prayed leaves a big impact on the way I will approach his works going forward," said Sabounjian. Similarly, Calikyan exclaimed, "the summer experience in Armenia opened up my mind to how my faith, as well as daily life, is lived out in my homeland and taught me how appreciative I should be of the sacrifices of my forefathers."

In addition to hands on learning, Sabounjian gained "practical knowledge of understanding the similarities and differences between various communities of the global Armenian Church and having the proper sensitivity and collaboration to work with brother clergymen." Calikyan was also reminded of their primary mission which is to "continue practicing the traditions of our faith and serving Jesus Christ and spreading



Dn. Michael Sabounjian, the Very Rev. Fr. Garegin Hambardzumyan, and Dn. Alex Calikyan

His Gospel message of love and forgiveness to the Armenian people."

Both expressed their thanks to Fr.

Garegin Hambardzumyan and Fr. Mardiros Chevian, St. Nersess Dean, for setting up a program of study at the Mother See.

## Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian to Speak on Lebanon Diaspora

FRESNO — Armenian Studies Program Director Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian will give a presentation on "The Armenian Diaspora: Lebanon" on Friday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the University Business Center, Alice Peters Auditorium, Room 191, on the Fresno State campus.

The presentation will be the first in the Fall Lecture Series of the Armenian Studies Program, with financial support from the Leon S. Peters Foundation.

Der Mugrdechian will discuss the significance of the Armenian community in



Prof. Barlow Der Mugrdechian

Lebanon, one of the most important Diasporan centers. The Armenians have maintained a vibrant communal life in the midst of the general political instability of the Middle East. Der Mugrdechian's talk will focus on the current community and the

challenges that it faces, while emphasizing the continued vitality of the Armenians in Lebanon. Der Mugrdechian was invited by the Tekeyan Cultural Association to Beirut in the summer of 2016 to give a talk. While in Lebanon he visited some of the major Armenian institutions in the country.

Der Mugrdechian is director of the Armenian Studies Program at Fresno State and teaches courses in Armenian language, art, literature, and history. He is the President of the Society for Armenian Studies and is the editor of the Armenian Series of The Press at California State University, Fresno.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

## Inaugural 'Gayane Games' at Holy Translators' Church Picnic on September 11

HOLLISTON, Mass. — The "Gayane Games," a year-long series of competitions, events, games, sports, educational quizzes and contests, will open this year on Sunday, September 11, starting at noon at the Fatima Shrine in Holliston.

The Gayane Games will open as part of the annual church picnic of Framingham-based Armenian Church of the Holy Translators. Several events, games, pop quizzes and other contests of all kinds will take place during the picnic. The Gayane Games are for all Sunday School and Armenian School children in grades K through 12. The competition will continue on Sundays, feast days and other Armenian and American holidays and online throughout the 2016-2017 school year. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team and for outstanding individual efforts during the closing of the Games in May 2017.

Four teams will be participating in this year's Inaugural Games: Teams Mesrob, Hripsime, Nersess the Great and Vartan will have members spanning the ages of 5 through 18. Every Sunday School and Armenian School student is assigned to a team. Members will need to be ready at all times as an event or quiz can be announced at any time throughout the year, starting with knowing about their team's namesake saint and what that person did. Each team will also have team captains and coach/mentors.

The Gayane Games, modeled on the idea of "color wars" that are often part of summer camp programming, serve several purposes. "One purpose is to engage as many students — new and old — as we can in learning about their Armenian Church, its teachings, history, sacraments, saints, traditions, etc. in a friendly but competitive way that is fun and creative," said Michael Zeytoonian, the new superintendent of the Holy Translators' Sunday School. "We want to build energy, enthusiasm, fellowship and joy into our teaching and find ways to touch every student on many levels, reaching out to where they are, rather than wait for them to come and find the church."

"Today's Internet-based, activity-crammed society presents several challenges to Sunday Schools, families and teaching our youth; it is up to us to meet those challenges and engage our young people in many ways," Michael

notes. "These Games will give us several opportunities to interact with students — through sports, physical, educational and cultural contests, and online, all year long, not just on Sunday mornings," he adds. Opening Day is set in a traditional Armenian Church picnic setting on beautiful grounds with food, music and

dancing as a backdrop. The Games will involve everyone, crossing age, gender and generational lines, as older people will be involved as mentors, coaches and judges. For younger children and those not involved in the Gayane Games, there will also be children's entertainment at the picnic from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.



Dr. Daniel Karadjian and Maral Karakashian

## A Special Celebration In Elberon

ELBERON, N.J. — On Sunday, August 14, St. Stepanos Church celebrated the Feast of the Assumption of the Holy Mother of God with a special luncheon.

The Rev. Daniel Karadjian, parish pastor, celebrated the Divine Liturgy and performed the "Blessing of the Grapes" ceremony.

Later that day, more than 100 parishioners gathered in the Kevoork and Sirvart Hovnanian Hall for a luncheon. The parish council honored Maral Karakashian as "The Mother and the Woman of the Year."

Karakashian has served the church in many capacities, including on the parish council, choir, school, social events, and Women's Guild. She was presented with a plaque and flowers.

# Arts & Living

## Geoffrey Zakarian's Restaurant at The Trump Hotel Won't Be Replaced

WASHINGTON (Dc eater.com) – The space that was originally planned to house a restaurant from Geoffrey Zakarian in The Trump Hotel in D.C. will not be filled by another restaurant.

Donald Trump appeared in DC court back in June to testify in a deposition that arose from a legal dispute between the chef and the hotel company. Zakarian, along with chef José Andrés, pulled out of the Trump project after the mogul and presidential candidate made controversial statements about Mexican immigrants. Both chefs were sued by Trump, and filed counter-suits against him.

Politico first obtained transcripts of the recent deposition. In them, Trump says the restaurant space will be replaced by a “very large conference room,” claiming there wasn't time to fill the space with a new restaurant concept after the chef pulled out.

BLT Prime is filling the specific vacan-



Chef Geoffrey Zakarian

cy left by Andrés, according to the deposition. That restaurant is being helmed by chef David Burke. The hotel also has plans for a high-end lobby lounge called Opo. Washingtonian reports that at one point (before Zakarian), Jean-Georges Vongerichten was also in talks for the space.

In the deposition, Trump says the exiting chefs were “grandstanding,” and therefore caused him damages. In the deposition, Trump claims patrons of all political stripes would want to visit any restaurants in the hotel, claiming the city doesn't have a lot of great options.

“There aren't that many in Washington, believe me. There aren't that many in Washington, as you know,” he said.

According to Politico, video of the deposition is expected to be made public. The Trump Hotel in D.C. is expected to open in September in the Old Post Office Building.



John Baboian performing with Ben Vereen in New Jersey, 2009.

## John Baboian Armenian Soul in New England's Jazz World

BOSTON – Guitarist, composer and educator John Baboian brings a bright Armenian voice to New England's world of jazz music.

Sixty-year-old Baboian, of Belmont, is a freelance musician who does various gigs in the US and other countries playing jazz, rock, classical and Armenian music. At the same time, he is a guitar professor at the Berklee College of Music, his alma mater, and has been on faculty there for 36 years. He teaches guitar classes and ensembles, including techniques of jazz improvisation and vocal accompaniment.

Baboian is an accomplished musician, but being naturally humble, he does not speak a lot about his achievements, his compositions and arrangements, many of which have been heard on a number of TV series, including “The Sopranos,” “All My Children” and “Seven Days.”

Music runs in his family. His father played several brass instruments, which were always around the house. His sister, June, is also a highly regarded vocalist in the greater Boston area.



John Baboian performing with Davetik Hovanesian in Los Angeles, 2008.

“I started out as a rock guitar player – Jimi Hendrix was my idol – and then became a jazz musician, because I heard Dizzy Gillespie and some other musicians,” Baboian said.

After graduating Baboian got a teaching position at Berklee and soon started his Master's degree at New England Conservatory, where he particularly focused on composition, writing songs and short orchestral pieces.

Baboian has also been composing from a young age; for him it is a natural process, a genuine continuation of improvisation.

“Jazz musicians in general tend to be composers, because what we do is we improvise, and improvisation is a spontaneous composition,” Baboian said, stressing that improvisation is an essential part of jazz performances.

see JAZZ, page 15

## Getty Foundation to Renovate Armenian Writers' Union Resort

LOS ANGELES – Getty Foundation has chosen the Armenian Writers' Union Sevan guesthouse as a heritage of Soviet modernism and will support the scientific analysis of the building providing \$130,000.

“A Getty grant will support the methodical and scientific analysis of the Sevan resort, and the resulting conservation management plan will set a precedent for valuing modernist heritage not only in Armenia, but also in other post-Soviet and post-socialist countries,” Getty Foundation has stated in a press release.

Between 1932 and 1965 during Soviet rule, a picturesque retreat for the Writers' Union of Armenia was built on the sprawling shore of Lake Sevan outside the nearby capital of Yerevan. The two buildings that form the Sevan Writers' Resort – the guest house (1932-1935) and the lounge (1963-1965) – were designed with strikingly divergent aesthetics, but share the same architect. The markedly different stylistic choices are the result of Armenia's close, but often fraught relationship with the Soviet Union.

The guest house, designed by Gevorg Kochar (1901-1973) and Mikael Mazmanyan (1899-1971), is a model of early Soviet avant-garde ideals, utilizing abstract forms to represent social utopianism and creating a functional, progressive and egalitarian space that exemplified the ideals of the revolution. Two years after the completion of the guesthouse, the architects fell victim to the Stalinist regime; they were arrested and exiled to Siberia for 15 years. Rehabilitated after Stalin's death, Kochar was commissioned to add the lounge and reconstruct the guesthouse in 1963.

Emulating the international style, the new building complemented the guest house and harmonized the ensemble with the natural landscape, incorporating the view of medieval monastic churches located at the end of the peninsula. To this day, the site continues to be used by Armenian authors for rest and contemplation.

The restoration project will last three to four years, but the funding will cover only the first stage of the development of scientific research and conservation plan.

## Ukraine Calls for Boycott Of Moscow Museum Exhibiting Works by Crimean Armenian Artist Aivazovsky

KIEV (artforum.com) – Ukraine's Culture Ministry is urging international institutions to boycott Moscow's State Tretyakov Gallery claiming that it is exhibiting works that were illegally exported from Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, Sophia Kishkovsky of the Art Newspaper reports.

At the heart of the controversy is a retrospective of Crimean-born artist Ivan Aivazovsky, which opened at Tretyakov Gallery on July 29, and is drawing up to 5,000 visitors each day. Thirty-eight of the artist's works are on loan from Aivazovsky National Art Gallery located in Feodosia, a Crimean town located on the coast of the Black Sea. Since the works are considered the cultural holdings of Ukraine, which doesn't recognize Russia's control over Crimea, Moscow needs state authorization to borrow them.

Ukraine's ministry of culture said, “Due to the gross violation by the Russian Federation of all norms of international law, including those stemming from its occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine, our state is deprived of any kind of oversight over the preservation of cultural property on the temporarily occupied territories, especially those that are an integral part of the museum fund of Ukraine.”



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Onnik Dinkjian, Top-Notch Band to Perform at Dance to Raise Funds for Merrimack Valley Churches

ANDOVER, Mass. — World-renowned singer Onnik Dinkjian, an enduring Armenian singer and performer, will perform at Doubletree by Hilton (formerly Wyndham) on Saturday, October 22, to raise funds for local churches.



Onnik Dinkjian singing.

The Armenian Friends of America, Inc., have confirmed that Dinkjian will be accompanied by his son Ara (“Night Ark,” “An Armenian in America”) and a local all-star ensemble for Hye Kef 5. Tickets are available for this exceptional opportunity to hear and enjoy the music, dance and the Armenian community.

Tickets are \$55 until September 1 and will be go up to \$65 after this date.

Hye Kef 5 will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight and along with headliner Onnik Dinkjian will feature John Berberian, oud; Mal Barsamian, clarinet; Ara Dinkjian, keyboard and Jason Naroian, dumbeg. Hye Kef 5 is an annual event organized by the Armenian Friends of America (AFA) organization. AFA was established 5 years ago to honor, celebrate and most importantly unite the four Armenian churches in the Merrimack Valley.

“It is without a doubt, that having Onnik agree to perform for Hye Kef 5 is extraordinary. At 87 years old, he is a legend, with boundless energy and a timeless love for his music and culture. Please join us for this exceptional opportunity to witness history and enjoy the true spirit of what brings us together as Armenian Americans. All indications are that this will be a sell-out event”, said John Azigian, AFA Chairman.

Dinkjian was born in Paris, France in 1929. His parents were born in Dikranagerd (Diyarbakir), Turkey. He overcame the difficulties of being orphaned at a very early age by finding comfort and happiness in singing, initially in the Armenian Church of Paris. Upon arriving in America in the late 1940s, he began performing at secular functions and quickly became the most-loved singer of the Armenian-American community. To meet the demands of his

audience, he released several recordings of Armenian folk and popular music. However, Dinkjian, an ordained deacon, never lost his great love of Armenian liturgical music, and released an entire CD (“Havadamk”) of emotionally performed sacred hymns of the Armenian Church. His fame as a great interpreter of Armenian song has brought him to concert halls throughout Europe, Jerusalem,



Ara Dinkjian

United States, and South America. In addition to his singing, Dinkjian has composed many songs, some of which are sung in his native (Dikranagerd) dialect.

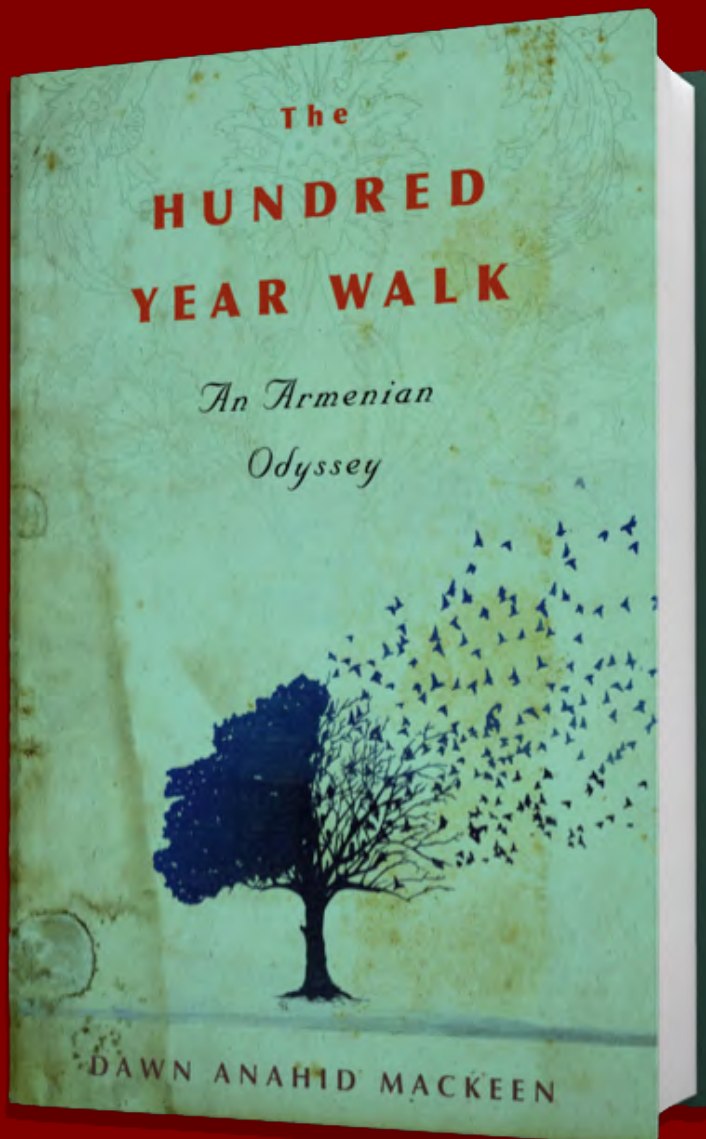
He has passed his love and passion of Armenian music to his son, oud player and composer Ara. The younger Dinkjian will be playing along with his father at this event. He is also considered one of the top oud players in the world. He was chosen to represent the Armenians in the international oud festivals of Jerusalem and Greece.

“It’s been a wonderful and exciting experience to be a part of this grassroots organization. We have been able to bring together hundreds of Armenians from the Greater Merrimack Valley and beyond, to connect and reconnect who would not have otherwise done

so,” said Sharke’ Der Apkarian of the AFA Committee.

“The goal of the AFA was to bring all Armenians in the Merrimack Valley and New England together for Christian brotherhood. The four Armenian Church communities in the Valley have supported this effort with the proceeds being donated back to each church community,” Arzigian added.

All proceeds for this event will benefit the Armenian Churches of the Merrimack Valley including: St Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church of North Andover, the Armenian Apostolic Church of Hye Point, Bradford; Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church of Chelmsford and the Ararat Armenian Congregational Church of Salem, NH and other Armenian charities.



The Tekeyan Cultural Association  
& the Armenian Mirror Spectator

Present

## The Hundred-Year Walk: An Armenian Odyssey



A Book Talk Retracing the Steps of a Genocide Survivor Grandfather through Turkey and Syria  
By author Dawn Anahid MacKeen  
Award-winning journalist from Southern California, one of the last journalists to travel through Syria

**Sunday, October 16, 1:00 pm**

Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall  
Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church  
145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA

For more info, contact [tcadirector@aol.com](mailto:tcadirector@aol.com)/617 924-4455  
Complimentary admission and reception

Cosponsored by the Holy Trinity Armenian Church and The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research

**DONATIONS BEING RAISED FOR SYRIAN ARMENIAN RELIEF**



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# Hachikian Score Enhances Netflix Series 'Marco Polo'

By Tom Vartabedian

LOS ANGELES – The man who brought the scintillating “Voyage to Amasia” to audiences as a tribute to his grandmother has taken a quantum leap forward in the musical world.

Eric Hachikian has composed the score for the Netflix series “Marco Polo” that carries a budget of \$90 million.

The fact that he is Armenian draws a connection to the historic adventurer whose travels date back to the 13th and 14th centuries. The television series was conceived by John Fusco who explored, followed and traveled the locations mentioned in Marco Polo’s journal with his son.

Hachikian was brought into the production to score the series with his long-time friend Peter Nashel.

“Before I was hired, in my initial meeting with John, he asked me about my Armenian background,” Hachikian explained. “Knowing that Marco had traveled the Silk Road, I wanted to include some Armenian-themed music in our audition reel.”

Hachikian knew the first season takes place primarily in Mongolia and China so he wanted to make sure a range was shown. And somehow, author Chris Bohjalian crept into the picture.

“John asked me about Amasia where my grandmother had lived during the Genocide, revealing that Bohjalian was a friend of his,” Hachikian pointed out. “From there, I developed camaraderie with John, who was the most supportive producer we could ever imagine.”

Fusco encouraged, challenged and inspired Hachikian and his collaborator to learn the indigenous instruments and transform them into a modern cinematic blend, thus enhancing the dramatic experience.

Included in the score are Armenian instruments such as the oud, kanoun and duduk, along with exploring a choir to sing Latin text and the ancient chants for the Christian stories.

“A particularly great thread for us musically this season was developing Ahmad’s Lullaby throughout the episodes,” said Hachikian. “Truthfully, the entire season was epic.”

Each season has 10 hour-long episodes. There’s an additional half-hour special detailing the background of the character 100 Eyes. Though the schedule was very similar to a broadcast television show, the depth of storytelling, acting and breath-taking visuals make it seem like scoring a feature film with each episode.

Seasons 1 and 2 as well as the 100 Eyes Special are now streaming on Netflix.

“Season 1 happened at a breakneck speed,” Hachikian described. “We were doing an episode every three days. There’s between 30-

40 minutes of music in each episode and we were working on multiple episodes at once, developing themes that would be used across multi-episode arcs.”

Season 2’s timeline was a bit more reasonable, according to the composer, though still fast-paced, with about a week on each episode.

“Since the first season’s music was so well received by the team, we generally knew the tone to pursue, but always strived to expand upon that and enhance the scene,” Hachikian pointed out. “Through thematic melodies, counterpoint and instrumentation, we always aimed to have the music help drive and connect the narrative. My feeling is that we advanced the film and very proud of what we’ve done.”

Hachikian’s music has been hailed by the New York Times as “lovely and original.” His compositions can be heard in a variety of motion pictures such as “The Wrestler” and “The Place Beyond the Pines.”

His credits also include “The Mindy Project,” Discovery Channel’s “Life: The Series” and ABC’s “Mixology and Revenge.”

As creative director and co-founder of Soundcat Productions, a boutique music company with studios in New York City and Los Angeles, Hachikian has written and produced music for numerous national and international ad campaigns, including Apple, Google, Budweiser, BMW, Kate Spade and Wendy’s.

He has also written for Off-Broadway productions. His compositions have been performed by Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York and Boston Pops Orchestras and Baltimore Symphony.

A classically-trained composer, as well as a self-taught DJ and perpetual student of world music, Hachikian’s musical instincts have no boundaries. His multi-genre interests result in a unique and personal sound.

Eric studied Nadia Boulanger’s methods in Paris. He also studied composition and audio engineering at the Aspen and Tanglewood Music Festivals.

He received his Bachelor of Music with highest honors from the University of Michigan and his Master of Arts from New York University. Also a performer, he plays piano and tuba, is a classically-trained vocalist, and an accomplished conductor.

During his undergraduate studies, Hachikian began exploring his Armenian musical roots. “Voyage to Amasia” was first a piano trio (violin, cello, piano) commissioned by the Prelacy for its 2005 Musical Armenia concert at Carnegie Hall.

Origins of the music extend to his childhood memories with his grandmother Helen Zorigian Shushan to her birthplace in Amasia, now in modern-day Turkey – a place she was never able to visit after her forced exile during the

Genocide at only 40 days old.

“After my grandmother passed away in 2004, I wrote and presented an Armenian music concert for my graduation recital,” Hachikian recalled. “There is nothing more passionate and symbolic of my Armenian heritage than my grandmother and her triumph over impossible odds. Her strength inspired the music and filled with her stories and memories, this piece was born.”

Randy Bell, a filmmaker friend, was in the audience of “Voyage to Amasia” when it was being premiered and convinced Hachikian to make a real voyage to Amasia and film the experience.

The two spend nearly a month following the route of his family’s exile march from Amasia to Malatya and ultimately to Istanbul, visiting modern-day Armenia while exploring Yerevan and villages settled by Amasia exiles.

The film has the same name and traces a path through the past, honoring Hachikian’s relationship with his grandmother and uncovering what her family’s life in Turkey might have resembled.

It also explores how the events of nearly a century ago continue to strain a relationship between Armenians and Turks.

“Inspired by my family’s story, we embarked upon our own journey in the hopes of finding a greater understanding between two peoples still at odds,” Hachikian noted.

The film premiered in 2011 at the Pomegranate Film Festival where it won Best



Composer Eric Hachikian has a new gem with the Netflix series “Marco Polo.”

Documentary. It also screened in Yerevan at the Golden Apricot International Film Festival, won the Jury Award at the Alexandria Film Festival and screened on Capitol Hill.

It has and continues to screen at film festivals, schools and throughout the Armenian community.

## Armenian Soul in New England’s Jazz World

JAZZ, from page 13

Baboian thinks that despite the creative nature of jazz, this genre of music usually does not attract large audiences. “Jazz is a type of music outside the normal channels. It is not popular music; it never will be,” Baboian said. “It is in the same category as classical music.”

Born and raised in Watertown, Baboian has strong ties with the Armenian community and feels connected to his roots. He teaches at Belmont’s First Armenian Church on Sundays.

Baboian said he grew up with Armenian music and its influence can be heard in his performances.

“Regardless of the fact that I am a jazz musician, there is no change in the fact that my roots come from Armenian music too. And even though it is not primarily what I do, I think there is the soul of Armenian music in everything I do,” Baboian said.

He believes that ethnic elements are seen in music people from various ethnic background play, even if they are not “immediately evident.”

“So someone who comes to hear me play jazz might say that’s not really Armenian music. Well, maybe not in the most obvious of terms, but I was influenced by Armenian music as much as by anything when I was young,”

Baboian added.

Baboian regularly collaborates with Armenian musicians. In the late 1970s, Baboian, together with clarinetist Leon Janikian, was part of the Watertown-based Armenian Performing Artists group, a community orchestra, comprised of about 30 semi-professional and amateur musicians. In the 2000s



John Baboian with Rex Trailer, 2009

he was working with jazz singer Datevik Hovanesian from Armenia.

Traditions and a love for music continues to be passed down through the generations in the Baboian family. His three children play musical instruments, though only two of them decided to pursue music professionally. His elder son, Alex Baboian, a graduate of Berklee College of Music, is a guitar player, who currently lives in Berlin. His daughter Christina is a multi-instrumental musician, who also wants to study at Berklee.

Teaching and playing various gigs on his own or with his John Baboian Ensemble always keep him busy. Baboian recently returned from a jazz camp in Brussels, his third year teaching there. Closer to home, he is running the Berklee Jazz Series at the Arsenal Center for Arts in Watertown. The ninth season will kick off with Berklee New Orleans Jazz Band under his direction on September 28.

For more information about Baboian and his upcoming performances, visit <http://www.johnbaboian.com/>.



### Armenian Church of the Holy Translators Annual Picnic



Come and enjoy a day filled with Friends, Family and Fellowship!

\*\*\*Live Armenian Music and Dancing\*\*\*Children’s Activities\*\*\*

Traditional Armenian Food!

**Sunday, September 11 from noon – 5 PM**

on the beautiful grounds of the **Fatima Shrine**

Route 126, Holliston, MA

For further information, contact the church office: 508-875-0868.



## ARTS &amp; LIVING

# 'Sandcastle Girls' Making Film Inroads

By Tom Vartabedian

LINCOLN, VT. — At a time when the Armenian community is bursting at the seams for a legitimate film about the genocide, Chris Bohjalian's gem "The Sandcastle Girls" is making headway. It's enough to celebrate what is destined to become a monumental achievement for Armenians who have waited patiently for such a Hollywood breakthrough in light of persistent Turkish intervention.

Yes, we've had Atom Egoyan's "Ararat" and "1915." We've applauded the French film "Mayrig" with Claudia Cardinale and the late Omar Sharif. And let's not forget "The Lark Farm," an Italian drama which caused much dissension with Turkish naysayers.

"The Sandcastle Girls" film has been a work in progress ever since 2012 when Bohjalian gushed forth with his prized work of the same name. The prolific author remains buoyant in seeing his epic tale transferred to the silver screen. An earlier attempt at a genocide book, he admits, failed miserably.

In his 15th book, Bohjalian brings us on a very different kind of journey as his spellbinding tale travels between Aleppo, Syria, in 1915 and Bronxville, NY, in 2012 — a sweeping historical love story steeped in the author's Armenian heritage, making it his most personal novel to date.

Although Bohjalian is unsure as to how many copies his book has sold, suffice it to say that the hardcover edition went through seven printings and the paperback is currently into its tenth. It has spread to 15 different countries, including Turkey and Russia, and spent two months on the bestseller list.

In all, some 5 million copies have slipped into the hands of readers. Since then, Bohjalian came forth with three other bestsellers, including his most recent, *The Guest Room*, this year.

"The *Sandcastle* book was received very well in Armenia," he confirmed. "I loved meeting with students who have read the Armenian or Russian editions at Yerevan State University. It brings me a smile when I see copies of it at places like Artbridge Bookstore on Abovyan Street or at the Cafesjian in downtown Yerevan."

A day seldom passes when Bohjalian doesn't hear from readers of book groups telling him how much the book



Chris Bohjalian

moved them because previously they had known nothing — nothing at all — of the Genocide.

"At least three or four times a week, other readers ask me why Turkey still denies the Genocide," he points out. "And many others of non-Armenian descent express their frustration as to why the United States refuses to use the word 'genocide' or recognize it officially."

A Turkish publisher's edition is slated to hit the streets this winter. How it will be received becomes a matter of conjecture.

"In the current environment there, I think their decision to publish my book is an act of real bravery," the author agrees.

Bohjalian film liaison Eric Nazarian tells us there's "a ton going on with the film at the moment."

"It's in prep and we're casting," he confirms. "It remains an intricate process. We're still in the crewing-up phase and planning a lot. There is still a lot to do."

In his multi-faceted role with the film, Nazarian actually wears three hats: screenwriter, director and producer. Thanks to a mutual friend (former *Armenian Weekly* editor Khatchig Mouradian), the connection with Bohjalian grew stronger.

Their friendship was cemented on trips to Western Armenia and Istanbul. Since then, Nazarian has given his heart and soul to get this movie debuted. His script remains poignant and powerful, according to Bohjalian, and utterly perfect.

"It's magisterial," added Bohjalian. "I love every scene and every word — the myriad ways his vision brings my

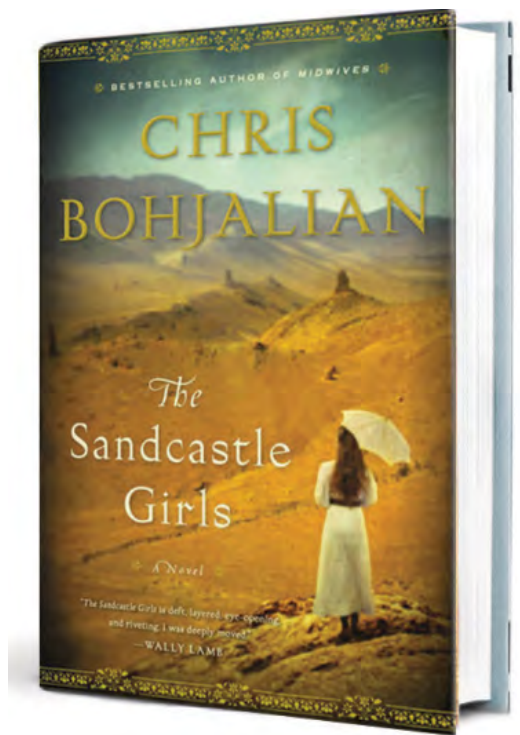
novel to life. It has been through his Herculean efforts as a director and producer. If necessary, Eric will run craft services and wire klieg lights to himself if that's what it will take to get this film out. He has been spectacularly generous with his wisdom and research."

Ever since he was 17 and saw 'Schindler's List,' and 'America, America,' Nazarian had a dream of telling the Armenian Genocide story on film. It was a dream, a duty, a calling, whatever one wishes to label it.

"The images I wanted to make had me by the gills," he revealed. "The hope and dream of some day doing it only got stronger over the years when I was at USC School of Cinematic Arts."

Nazarian is currently figuring out scheduling contingencies and budget considerations. He says he's hand-picking his crew. As to a specific timetable, that remains to be seen at the moment.

"I would honestly not prefer to speculate," Nazarian confirms. "I want to let my finished film and the aftermath



speak for itself."

The collaboration with Bohjalian has become bona fide and sustainable. Nazarian cannot say enough positives about the film and how adaptable it will become into a full-scale production.

"As a screenwriter, I have to get to the filet mignon of the novel and condense the tale," Nazarian points out. "Chris is one of the most remarkable authors I have ever adapted with an intrinsic sense of cinema. He graciously gave me his blessing to adapt the novel to fit my vision for the film while, at the same time, retaining the colorful and fundamental characters that made this such a human,

## Manchester United Fans Came up with a Brilliant Chant for Henrikh Mkhitaryan

By Thomas Hautmann

MANCHESTER, UK (foxsports.com) — Apologies in advance for getting this stuck in your head for the rest of the day, but Manchester United fans have come up with the perfect song for summer signing Henrikh Mkhitaryan.

You haven't fully arrived in the Premier League until your team's fans devise a chant for you, but with such a tricky name and so many syllables to deal with, United fans figured to have their work cut out for them with Mkhitaryan. But once again, the Brits have proven they're among the finest fan song creators in the world:

Set to Sting's "Englishman in New York," the simple yet wonderfully effective lyrics go like this:

"Whoah, Mkhitaryan!

Henrikh Mkhitaryan!

He's our midfield Armenian."

Told you. Good luck un-hearing that whenever Mkhitaryan hits the Old Trafford pitch this season.

And guess what? The 27-year-old has already caught wind of the new song, and he's apparently quite fond of it, liking this post on his Twitter account.

Congrats, Henrikh. You made it.

## 'The Promise' Film Debuts at Toronto Film Festival

TORONTO, Canada (IndieWire) — The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) is right around the corner, with new titles being added to their lineup every week. One very special film that was just included under the Gala section is Terry George's

"The Promise," which will be making its world premiere at the festival.

Starring Oscar Isaac as Michael, a humble Armenian apothecary who leaves his village to study medicine in cosmopolitan Constantinople, the drama follows him during the Armenian genocide. Christian Bale also co-stars as Chris, an American photojournalist who has come to the country to partly cover the geopolitics and is in a relationship with the talented Ana (Charlotte Le Bon), a Paris-educated, Armenian artist. The first images of "The Promise" were revealed by the TIFF website, and you can take a look at them below.

The real drama in the story begins when Michael meets Ana and their shared heritage sparks an attraction that explodes into a romantic rivalry between the two men. After the Turks join the war on the German side, the Ottoman Empire turns violently against its own ethnic minori-

ties and despite their conflicts, everyone must find a way to survive.

The screenplay for "The Promise" hails from George and Robin Swicord. The film is executive produced by Kirk Kerkorian, Ralph Winter, Denise O'Dell, Mark Albela, Anthony Mandekic, Patricia L. Glaser, Dan Taylor, Sheri Sani. The picture's helmer is best known for his smash film "Hotel Rwanda," which was nominated for three Oscars back in 2005.

The Toronto Film Festival runs from September 8 - 18.



Charlotte Le Bon as Ana, and Christian Bale as Chris, in 'The Promise'





# C A L E N D A R

## CONNECTICUT

**SEPTEMBER 11** — **St. Stephen's Armenian Church, Tremont St., New Britain** will hold its annual picnic at 12:30 p.m. (rain or shine), at Knights of Columbus Club (K of C, 301 New Britain Ave., Unionville, Ct.) Admission is Free. The afternoon will feature dancing to live Armenian music by the Mugrditchian Ensemble. Traditional Armenian food, including many delicacies and pastries will be offered. Shish, Chicken, Lu-lu Kebabs, hot dogs, pilaf and salad. Directions: Route 4 to Unionville, Center, turn left over the green bridge, take an immediate left onto New Britain Ave. K of C is on the left.

## MASSACHUSETTS

**SEPTEMBER 10** — **Sayat Nova Dance Company of Boston 30th anniversary gala.**

**SEPTEMBER 11** — **Trinity Family Festival**, Sunday, 12-5 p.m., Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Delicious Armenian food with take-out available. Armenian music for your listening and dancing pleasure featuring the Greg Krikorian Ensemble with Greg Krikorian, oud and vocals; George Righellis, guitar and vocals; Bob Raphaelian, violin; Charlie Dermenjian, dumbeg; and Steve Surabian, tambourine. Fun activities for children. Blessing of the Madagh at 4 p.m.; raffle drawing and more. For further information, log onto <http://www.htaac.org/calendar/event/303/>, contact the Holy Trinity Church office, 617.354.0632, or emailoffice@htaac.org.

**SEPTEMBER 11** — **Picnic Festival sponsored by St. Gregory Armenian Church of Merrimack Valley**, noon-5:30 p.m., 158 Main St., North Andover; music by Leon Janikian, John Berberian, Jason Naroian and John Arzigian; celebrating Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross; shish, losh, chicken kebab, vegetarian dinners, take outs; family games and activities. For further information, visit [www.saintgregory.org](http://www.saintgregory.org) or by call (978) 685-5038.

**SEPTEMBER 11** — **Armenian Church of the Holy Translators Annual Picnic**, to be held at Fatima Shrine (Route 126, Holliston, MA), Noon – 5 P.M. Traditional Armenian food menu includes Shish, Losh; Chicken Kebabs, dinners, beverages and pastries. Entertainment includes live Armenian music, dancing and children's activities. Hall is available on picnic grounds for unwanted weather conditions. Picnic tables available. Bring own chair. For further information, contact the church office: 508-875-0868.

**SEPTEMBER 11** — **Exhibition Opening & Reception, "Crossroads: Art of Gagik Aroutiunian"** at 2 p.m., in the Adele and Haig Der Manuelian Galleries. The opening of this exhibition, which will feature artwork from three of Aroutiunian's series', will include a reception where light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

**SEPTEMBER 14** — **"Learn About Addiction: Save A Life," A Forum for the Community** – Free and Open to the Public. Co-Sponsored by St. James Armenian Church and the Watertown Task Force on Substance Use Disorder Wednesday, 7-9 p.m., St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. For more information, [info@stthagop.com](mailto:info@stthagop.com)

**SEPTEMBER 18** — **Armenian Independence Day Celebration**, Dinner and Program. Guest Speaker: Dr. Anna Ohanyan, Professor of Political Science and International Relations and Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Studies at Stonehill College. Topic: "The Republic of Armenia, Twenty-five Years of Independence: Challenges and Opportunities for the Future." Jaffarian Hall, 158 Main St., No. Andover, 12:30 p.m. Adults - \$20 and Students - \$5. For further information and reservations, contact Armen Jeknavorian, 978-256-2538, [armenj@comcast.net](mailto:armenj@comcast.net). Sponsored by the Lowell Aharonian Gomideh of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation.

**SEPTEMBER 18** — **Sunday Afternoon at the Park for Families and Friends**, Celebrating Traditions through Music and Dance, 2-4 p.m. Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston. Enjoy The Leon Janikian Ensemble. Dance Instruction with Apo Ashjian, Founder, Sayat Nova Dance Company, Hoodsies. "Find Someone Game" for a chance to win six tickets to a Boston Duck Tour and much more. All are invited.



**Sunday Afternoon at the Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston, for Families and Friends, on September 18, 2 to 4 p.m. All are invited.**

**SEPTEMBER 23** — **St. James Hye Café**, Friday, Join us for delicious food and fellowship! Kebab, Falafel, Imam Bayeldi, and more. Doors open at 6:15pm. For more information visit [www.stjameswatertown.org](http://www.stjameswatertown.org). St. James Armenian Church, 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown.

**SEPTEMBER 26** — **Walking the Labyrinth: Reducing and Managing Stress**, 5:30 p.m., Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston. Followed by Networking Reception at Hollister Staffing, 75 State Street. Featured program during HUBweek. Advance Reservations required. RSVP at [HUBweek.org](http://HUBweek.org)

**SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 2** — **The 25th Anniversary Celebration, "Inspiring Our Future, Honoring Our Past," Armenian International Women's Association**. Charles Hotel, Cambridge. September 29 – Welcome Wine Reception, September 30 & October 1, 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. Conference Sessions, September 30 – 7 p.m., Mix & Mingle Reception, Regatta Bar, October 1 – 6 p.m., Cocktails; 7:30 p.m., Gala Anniversary Dinner. October 2, 9 a.m., Leadership Breakfast. For information & registration, contact 617-926-0171; [AIWA25@aiwainternational.org](mailto:AIWA25@aiwainternational.org); or visit [www.aiwainternational.org](http://www.aiwainternational.org)

**SEPTEMBER** — **Throughout the month, the Knights of Vartan Worcester Chapter, Arshavir Lodge, No. 2, are celebrating their 100th Anniversaries**, the former having been organized on May 29, 1916 in Philadelphia PA and the latter on August 28, 1916. To commemorate these milestones, Arshavir Lodge is sponsoring an exhibit at the Worcester Public Library tracing the history of their origins and a pictorial overview of major events with photographs and documents. The Opening Ceremony in the Saxe Room on Wednesday, September 7 at 6 p.m. features a City Proclamation from Mayor Joseph Petty, a performance by the Greater Worcester Armenian Chorale (including two selections about the Knights Of Vartan), and the showing of "Artsakh: Another Armenian Eden," a film about an ancient Armenian land also known as Nagorno-Karabagh. A reception with refreshments follows the program. The exhibit and Opening Ceremony are free and open to the public. For additional information call 508-963-2076.

**OCTOBER 1** — **35th Anniversary of Armenian Independent Broadcasting of Boston**. Celebration at the Armenian Cultural and Educational Center (ACED), 47 Nichols Ave., Watertown. Details to follow.

**OCTOBER 6** — **New Citizens Welcome Reception following the naturalization ceremony** at Faneuil Hall. 12:30 p.m., Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston. Featured program during ArtWeek Boston.

**OCTOBER 14-15** — **St. James 69th Annual Bazaar** - Delicious Armenian Food and Pastries. Silent Auction, Attic Treasures, Booths and Vendors. Raffles, Children's Activities, and more. Details to follow. St. James Armenian Church – 465 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown. For more information contact 617.923.8860 or [info@stthagop.com](mailto:info@stthagop.com) or visit [www.stjameswatertown.org](http://www.stjameswatertown.org).

**OCTOBER 15** — **Gala Centennial Banquet. 100th Anniversary of Sts. Vartanantz Church Lowell-Chelmsford**. Dinner and Program. Kazanjian Memorial Ballroom. His Eminence Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, Primate, to preside. Cocktail Reception – 6:00

p.m. Dinner and program – 7:00 p.m. Banquet Donation: \$75. Please contact Patty Kayajanian for reservations [atstsv100th@comcast.net](mailto:atstsv100th@comcast.net); 978-937-9379.

**OCTOBER 16** — **SAVE THE DATE. Dawn MacKeen**, author of noted memoir *The 100 Year Walk: An Armenian Odyssey*, will speak at Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, after Sunday Badarak. Organized by the Tekeyan Cultural Association and the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*. Further details to come.

**OCTOBER 22** — **Armenian Friends of America presents Hye Kef 5**, a 5-hour dance, 7 p.m. to midnight with buffet; Andover Windham, 123 Old River Road, featuring musicians Onnik and Ara Dinkjian, Johnny Berberian, Mal Barsamian, Jason Naroian and Paul Mooradian, with proceeds benefiting area churches. Advance tickets before Sept. 1 @ \$55, call either John Arzigian, (603) 560-3826; Sharke Der Apkarian, (978) 808-0598; Lucy Sirmaian, (978) 683-9121, or Peter Gulezian, (978) 375-1616.

**OCTOBER 23** — **Save the Date. YerazArt** will celebrate its 10th anniversary. Concert followed by reception, Cambridge.

**OCTOBER 23** — **Opening reception marking joint photograph exhibit titled: "East Meets West,"** compiled by Tom Vartabedian and Sona (Dulgarian) Gevorkian, featuring eclectic pictures of Armenia and Artsakh, 2-5 pm, at Armenian Museum of America (AMA), 65 Main St., Watertown, MA, co-sponsored by Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives; exhibit will be displayed during the entire months of October and November.

**NOVEMBER 3** — **Najarian Lecture on Human Rights at Faneuil Hall**, at 7:30 p.m., Doors open at 6:45 p.m., "Justice & Equality: Inspiring Activism." Speaker: Harry Belafonte, Activist and Entertainer. Mr. Belafonte will be introduced by Roger H. Brown, President, Berklee College of Music. Reception follows at Bostonian Hotel. All are invited; free and open to the public. An endowed public program of Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway

**NOVEMBER 15** — **Thank You Reception for All Supporters of Armenian Heritage Park**. Armenian Cultural and Educational Center. Watertown. 7:30 p.m. During the evening, supporters will receive the Armenian Heritage Park Commemorative Book, which will acknowledge all supporters in the category of giving that combines all their contributions since the campaign's inception. Deadline for first time supporters and for supporters to increase their contribution is September 22. Contributors are tax-deductible as allowed by law. All supporters are invited.

**NOVEMBER 19** — **Armenian Women's Welfare Association's 40th Annual Luncheon/Auction**. The Oakley Country Club, 410 Belmont Street, Watertown, MA. Details to follow.

**DECEMBER 2 and DECEMBER 3** — **Trinity Christmas Bazaar**, Friday, 12 noon-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Holy Trinity Armenian Church, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Save the date; details to follow.

**DECEMBER 11** — **Christmas Holiday Concert – Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra**, Sunday, 7 p.m., Church Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle St., Cambridge. Details to follow.

**DECEMBER 18** — **Candlelit Labyrinth Peace Walk**. Coming Together on Common Ground in Peace and Harmony. 5:00-6:30 p.m., Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway, Boston. All are invited. Details forthcoming.

## NEW JERSEY

**NOVEMBER 12** — **Save the Date! Official opening of the new St. Nersess Armenian Seminary campus and consecration of new chapel**, 11a.m., His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians, Officiating. 486 Bedford Road, Armonk, NY. Further details to be announced.

## RHODE ISLAND

**OCTOBER 22** — **Saints Sahag & Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church Cultural Committee Presents a special "Tribute to Armenia,"** with guest speaker Zohrab Mnatsakanyan, Armenia's Ambassador to the United Nations; and "Our Favorite Armenian Songs" featuring renowned vocal group, "The Bostonians" (Premier Performance in Rhode Island), Saturday, 7 p.m. Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson St., Providence.

# Mirror Spectator



Established 1932  
An ADL Publication

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## COMMENTARY

# Gold and Rust from Olympic Games

By Edmond Y. Azadian

During the 31st summer Olympic Games held in Rio de Janeiro as the US swimming legend Michael Phelps was hoarding gold, I was reminded of a parable told by an Armenian hero, Khrimian Hairig, upon his return from Berlin to Constantinople, dashing Armenia's dreams of emancipation. The year was 1878 and the scene was the Conference of Berlin, a follow-up conference to that of San Stefano the same year, when the Armenian Case was brought to an international forum for the first time in modern history.

Upon his return to Constantinople, Khrimian Hairig related his famous parable of "The Iron Ladle." He compared the conference in Berlin to a feast with a huge pot of harissa on the table. Those participants who had iron ladles in their hands were able to take their share of harissa. He, on the other hand, had only a paper ladle, which disintegrated in the harissa and therefore he had returned home empty handed.

Watching the Olympic games, I was waiting for the Armenian iron ladle, which finally was capable of getting something for the nation with the gold medal won by Artur Aleksanyan in the 98-kilogram category of Greco-Roman wrestling.

It was not enough that he defeated his Cuban opponent, Yasmany Lugo Cabrera; he had made it to the finals by defeating the Turkish wrestler Cenk Ildem, rendering his gold medal victory all the more meaningful. Aleksanyan, whose nickname is the White Bear, let off a roar after winning, which was cheered on by many around the world.

The Olympic Games represent the ultimate test for all the participating athletes, who train and prepare for years, pampered by associations and supported by their respective governments.

For Armenian athletes, deprivation and neglect are the first challenges they have to meet, before they can concentrate on their train-

time when all wars and hostilities were suspended through the duration of the games. Unfortunately, in modern times, the pure spirit of competition is not always observed. Throughout the last Olympics, Azerbaijan continued violating the ceasefire, thereby fueling hatred – rather than the spirit of competition – between the two nations.

Another sad story which was dragged all the way into the limelight of Rio was the case of silver medalist Gor Minasyan. An article was circulated on the Internet by Levon Barseghyan, titled "Gor Minasyan's family deserves a new home" (see its English translation on page 3 of this issue). The article was accompanied by photos of the athlete's training facility, a dilapidated shed contaminated with all kinds of hazardous agents. On top of that it is reported that the Olympic champion has been living since his childhood in one of the *domiks* in Gyumri. Those metal shackles are not meant to be used for more than two or three years. However, Gor's family, among the 3,000 there, have called *domiks* home for the past 28 years.

It is said that Shirak Center and SOS have built 100 apartments for *domik* dwellers during the last six years. God knows when the rest of the 3,000 families can move to decent living quarters. It is claimed that the city has no funds to build homes for those destitute families, never mind that the mayor or one of his cronies has built a Versailles-style opulent hotel for the tourists.

Imagine the glorious hero, Gor Minasyan, returning to his *domik* in Gyumri after the limelight and glitz of Rio.

Other athletes of Armenian descent have chosen to represent Armenia, though they were not born there. Houry Gebeshian left her mark on the Olympics history by introducing a new move named for her. She was the first Armenian female gymnast in the Olympics, bringing pride to Armenians not only in Armenia, but especially Massachusetts, where she was born.

There are also Armenian-born athletes who represent other countries, such as boxer Artem Harutyunyan, who won a bronze medal for Germany.



ing and dream about the medals they can win.

Those athletes carry their national tragedies with them. It was heart-wrenching to witness the champion Aleksanyan, during the medal ceremony, wearing a t-shirt with the picture of a 19-year-old war hero Artur Abadjian, who had been killed during the April Karabagh attack by Azerbaijan. Aleksanyan also dedicated his gold medal to all Karabagh heroes.

Compared to Turkey, which has a population of 75 million, and Azerbaijan, with a population of 9 million, Armenia did really well, winning one gold medal and three silvers.

Armenia's team had 32 members, while Azerbaijan, with its 56 members won four silvers and six bronzes, and Turkey, with its 103 athletes, only won two silver and two bronze.

One of the most controversial contests was again in the Greco-Roman category wrestling, where Mihran Harutyunyan received a silver medal, which he later tossed away disdainfully, an obvious challenge to the referee's unjust verdict. The latter declared that Harutyunyan's Serbian opponent, Davon Stefanek, was the winner, a decision which elicited boos from the crowd. Had he won what was due to him, Armenia would have been far ahead of its neighbors in the medal count. Already a petition is being circulated to restore the gold medal to Harutyunyan.

On the other hand, Rasul Chunayev, the Azeri athlete who was defeated by Harutyunyan, is in hot water. He has received many death threats upon his return home, because an Armenian athlete defeated him.

In ancient Greece, the Olympic games represented a sacrosanct

Millions of sports fans watched the Olympics on TV screens, while many made sacrifices to attend the games. For all the enthusiasts, the games present entertainment in the pure spirit of competition.

As we delve into the life stories of each Armenian athlete, we realize that they carry with them the tragedies of their nation. They have to overcome challenges to be able to compete with the champions from around the world, which makes every victory a cause for national pride and every medal that much more meaningful.

As we can see, all these athletes also bring home some rust with the glitter of gold and silver. They bring also pride to a battered nation, much in need of some cheer.

During the last two years, Armenians have been on a rollercoaster. The Genocide centennial commemoration marked the revival of a nation, despite all machinations by the Turks. Germany recognized the Genocide and France renewed its efforts to criminalize Genocide denial and the message reverberated around the globe.

Then came the Aurora Prize and the Pope's visit to Armenia, once again focusing world attention on that tiny country, tucked away in the Caucasus.

But whatever was gained in terms of international attention was clouded over by the sacrifices of the April war and the unrest which followed domestically as a result.

Compared to its size, Armenia attained a respectable place in the Rio Olympics. The athletes will return home to a hero's welcome. We do hope that this time, the spotlight of glory proves to be more enduring.



## COMMENTARY

# Donald Trump Is Making America Meaner

By Nicholas Kristof

We need not be apocalyptic about it. This is not Kristallnacht. But Trump's harsh rhetoric tears away the veneer of civility and betrays our national motto of "e pluribus unum." He has unleashed a beast and fed its hunger, and long after this campaign is over we will be struggling to corral it again.

A delegate with a "Trump Wall" hat attends the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia in July. Lucy Nicholson/Reuters

"We've spent the last 15 years fighting bullying in schools, and the example set by the Trump campaign has broken down the doors, and a tidal wave of bullying has come through," said Maureen Costello of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

The center issued a report documenting how Trump's venom has poisoned schools across the country. It quoted a North Carolina teacher as saying she has "Latino students who carry their birth certificates and Social Security cards to school because they are afraid they will be deported." Another teacher reported that a fifth grader told a Muslim student "that he was supporting Donald Trump because he was going to kill all of the Muslims if he became president!"

Here in the Forest Grove area, west of Portland, students of Mexican heritage at four high schools — most of them born in the United States — described to me how some local whites take cues from Trump.

"They say, 'We're going to deport your ass,'" said Melina McGlothen, 17, whose mother is Mexican. "I don't want to say I hate them, but I hate their stupidity."

Ana Sally Gonzalez, 17, said a school club had put up posters criticizing racism, and they were then marred by graffiti such as "Go back where you came from" and "Trump 2016."

The tension reflects deep resentment among some white working-class families. They are angry at immigrants who have taken over some jobs, at the way communities they cherish are changing demographically and linguistically, and at what they perceive as a stifling political correctness that leaves whites accused of racism when they speak up.

Many of my old Oregon farm-town friends are strong Trump supporters, and they will completely disagree with this column. Their headline would be, "Big Media Suffocates Real Americans With Political Correctness."

The upshot is that this election year, we're divided not only by political party and ideology, but also by identity. So the weave of our national fabric unravels. And while our eyes have mostly been on Donald

Trump and Hillary Clinton, the nation's history is being written not just in the capital and grand cities but also in small towns and etched in the lives of ordinary people.

I wrote a column recently exploring whether Trump is a racist, and a result was anti-Semitic vitriol from Trump followers, one of whom suggested I should be sent to the ovens for writing "a typical Jewish hit piece." In fact, I'm Armenian and Christian, not Jewish, but the responses underscored that the Trump campaign is enveloped by a cloud of racial, ethnic and religious animosity — much of it poorly informed.

The Trump-inspired malice seems ubiquitous. A Georgetown University study found a surge of anti-Muslim violence, from murders to attacks on mosques, coinciding with Trump's hostility toward Muslims. In March, a man attacked Muslim and Latino students in Kansas, shouting "brown trash" and "Trump will take our country from you guys."

I hope Trump and his aides will soon come to recognize that words have consequences that go far beyond politics, consequences that cannot be undone. It's perhaps inevitable that some overzealous supporters will periodically go too far, but Trump need not incite them, and he certainly shouldn't joke about harming protesters or tolerate advisers who propose a firing squad for his rival.

So far, Trump has arguably benefited from his fondness for over-the-top rhetoric. He gets attention and television time and is always at the center of his own hurricane. But in November, after the ballots have been counted and the crowds have gone home, we will still have a country to share, and I fear it may be a harsher and more fragile society because of Trump's campaigning today.

Inflammatory talk isn't entertaining, but dangerous. It's past time for Trump to grow up.

Yet if bigotry has been amplified by his candidacy, let's remember that there are still deep reservoirs of social capital — including in conservative neighborhoods — that have proved impervious to Trump's insinuations.

In Georgia, an India-born Muslim named Malik Waliyani bought a gas station and convenience store a few months ago and was horrified when it was recently burglarized and damaged. He struggled to keep it going. But then the nearby Smoke Rise Baptist Church heard what had happened.

"Let's shower our neighbor with love," Chris George, the pastor, told his congregation at the end of his sermon, and more than 200 members drove over to assist, mostly by making purchases. One man drove his car around until the gas tank was empty, so he could buy more gas.

"Our faith inspires us to build bridges, not to label people as us and them, but to recognize that we're all part of the same family," the pastor told me. "Our world is a stronger place when we choose to look past labels and embrace others with love."

This is a wrenching, divisive, polarizing time in America, and we have a major party nominee who is sowing hatred and perhaps violence. Let's not succumb. Good people, like the members of Smoke Rise Baptist, are reweaving our nation's social fabric even as it is being torn.

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/14/opinion/sunday/donald-trump-is-making-america-meaner.html?smprod=nytcore-ipad&smid=nytcore-ipad-share>)

# Erdogan's New Prisoners Could Languish for Years Without Trial

By Robert Fisk

The numbers game is intriguing. There were 187,000 prisoners in Turkey's jails back in March. Since the failed coup in mid July, the cops have picked up, imprisoned or "detained" for interrogation at least 23,000 soldiers and civilians, judges, journalists, teachers and civil servants. The figure may be as high as 32,000, even 35,000.

And now, out of the blue, Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government empties from its jails 38,000 inmates who have been in clink since before July 1 — in other words, criminals who could not have participated in the attempt to overthrow Erdogan 14 days later.

So 38,000 convicts walk out of their cells to make way for the Sultan's new batch of prisoners. The government insisted this was no amnesty; which, of course, it was, since there appears to be no system of ensuring that newly-released inmates will not repeat their offenses. Incredibly, the release decree was described as part of a "penal reform" across the country's 364 jails.

It's also an interesting reflection not only on the ease with which Turkey can free its prison population — albeit that inmates guilty of serious crime such as murder or rape will not benefit — but also of how one major political crisis can so swiftly overwhelm the country's security system.

When the Turkish army itself staged a coup in 1980, the prison capacity had to be raised from 55,000 to 80,000 to accommodate a vast selection of new "security" detainees. These mostly male prisoners, from the far left and far right in Turkey and who participated in what was largely regarded as an incipient civil war, languished for many years, often without trial. There is no reason to suppose that the next lot of inmates will fare much better for their supposedly Gulenist crimes.

Already made infamous by the depiction of corruption and sadism in the movie "Midnight Express," Turkey's jails have a sinister reputation for cruelty that goes back to the Ottoman days. The country's most famous prisoner, the Kurdistan Workers Party leader Abdullah Ocalan, will presumably continue to endure his eight-and-a-half-year incarceration on Imrali island in the Sea of Marmara in solitary confinement.

While his followers have often filled Turkey's prisons in the south-east of the country — especially in Diyarbakir — the ferocious battles in which they have been engaged by the Turkish army have been so bloody that they appear to have produced more dead bodies than prisoners. More than 21,000 Kurds are believed to have been killed between 1984 and 2012, and another 2,000 between July and September last year.

Oddly, the same set of decrees that have freed 38,000 prisoners included the dismissal of 2,360 more police, at least 100 more officers and soldiers and about 190 civil servants. We can presumably take it for granted — given their new batch of inmates — that prison wardens will not be included in future dismissals.

(This column originally appeared in the August 17 edition of the *Independent*, where Robert Fisk is a columnist.)

## LETTERS

# Observations from a Visitor to Armenia

To the Editor:

I last visited Soviet Armenia in 1984 when travel was restricted, many consumer goods were unavailable and people were generally afraid to speak their mind.

My family was blessed to tour the Republic of Armenia and Artsakh on a trip organized by Fund for Armenian Relief (FAR) from July 14-28, 2016. The food, the sites and the people were great. Mountains and honey were everywhere. We even got to see a *gampr* (native dog of Armenia). People expressed their thoughts without fear and my daughters and I even participated in a peaceful demonstration that began in Republic Square one night.

It was hard to make sense of Yerevan, with its five star hotels, shops and restaurants. Now it seemed every consumer good is available and every fifth car is a Mercedes Benz. Just outside the city center we found many luxury homes, partially-built, abandoned luxury homes and run down homes in close proximity to one another.

I was told government corruption and mafia activity was strangling the country politically, economically and militarily. Multiple sources reported the 109 young soldiers died in April because they lacked the proper weapons to defend themselves. Too many ordinary people had left the country since independence.

The people I spoke with appeared divided into three factions. Many were not interested in politics and were focused entirely on making a living. Some argue if meaningful political and legal reform is not undertaken soon the country will not survive. Others argue the nation is young

and weak and a comparison with wealthy, mature nations is unrealistic. They suggested we cannot afford division while our enemies are hovering at the door. This seemed to be in keeping with His Holiness Karekin II's comment during our meeting on July 26, 2016 when he said while he understood people were unhappy and had good reason to protest and demand change "now is not the time."

It was important to be reminded by our guide Garik that the Republic of Armenia is not a separate entity, but the remnant of huge territory known as Historic Armenia from which all Armenians can trace their ancestry. It was sobering to pause and reflect upon all the land, people and cultural monuments that have been lost in the last 130 years, but it was uplifting to stand in a sovereign Armenian nation where Armenian culture predominates. While underdevelopment predominates, FAR and other charities are making a positive difference in Armenia and Artsakh. FAR built a technology center and music school in Gumri were inspiring, while the soup kitchen there fills a critical need for many seniors.

Visits with the children at the FAR center for abused children in Yerevan were another heart-warming experience. We also met many Armenian and non-Armenian volunteers helping to build homes in Vanadzor with the Fuller Center. While in Stepanakert I met a young British couple with their infant child and was surprised to learn they lived in Stepanakert. They were working with the HALO trust with a goal of making Artsakh landmine free by 2020.

In Stepanakert while our cell phones said we were in Azerbaijan our eyes told us we were in free Artsakh. The people there seemed content and happy. A visit to the small museum containing photographs of all the brave men and women who perished in the war of liberation was a sobering reminder of the heavy price paid for that freedom. The most poignant moment of the trip for me was a visit to the Gandzasar Monastery. Two busloads of soldiers were leaving just as we arrived. How young and full of life they were. Had they come to be blessed before heading to the front? Inside Saint John the Baptist church we learned one Armenian priest, two men and two angels had saved the monastery from destruction during the Artsakh war of liberation.

What can we do in the diaspora? We must all be *gampr*s for Armenia. Remember Armenia and Artsakh in your prayers. Encourage your Armenian and non-Armenian friends to visit Armenia. Donate your time and labor to reputable charities operating in Armenia. Do everything possible to reduce your energy consumption since Armenia is an energy importing country. Make sure your political representatives know Armenian issues matter to you.

When I told non-Armenians I was traveling to Armenia they often asked do you have family there? My response was no, my ancestors came from what is now Turkey, and those who did not escape were killed. I now answer yes; I have three million brothers and sisters there.

Gregory C. Norsigian  
Wethersfield, CT



# Combining Words, Art & Space to Tell a Story

ART, from page 1

he said that as far as he is concerned, the gallery should be dedicated to the work of the students, so that “those in the outside world” can come in and see the creativity of the students.

In addition, the gallery holds many installations by outside artists that are “forward looking.” That spirit is in keeping with the school, which is a progressive coed school.

“In 2007, we had our first show. It was related to science and art, based on the theme of climate change,” Bartel said. He received 150 applications from around the world to participate in that exhibit. He came up with the idea of having one theme, and three venues where students approach the issue from separate angles.

“It allowed me to focus in a deep way on a single idea,” Bartel said.

Through his work, as well as through his personal life, he has become knowledgeable about Armenian artists as well as history. He has put together several exhibits at the CSW with the themes of Armenia and the Armenian Genocide.

He put together several exhibits in 2015 to coincide with the centennial of the Armenian Genocide. Those shows coupled various media that expanded on the theme of the Armenian Genocide. He stressed that another reason for the exhibit there was the Cambridge School’s focus on social justice.

In the foreword to the “Kiss the Ground” exhibition dedicated to the Armenian Genocide, he thanks Adrienne Der Marderosian, who proposed most of the roster of artists for the

gallery’s 2014-15 lineup.

“In many ways, she acted as a co-curator, not only searching the local community for strong visual artists and bringing outstanding creations to my attention, but also suggesting writers, filmmakers and historians for accompanying programming.”

For the exhibit, he collaborated with the Armenian Museum of America for a five-part exhibition series centering on the work of 12 Armenian artists. The exhibitions examine and celebrate contemporary Armenian art at a particular moment in history, organized to coincide with the centennial memorialization of the 1915 Armenian Genocide.

The first portion of the show was in September 2014. With the centennial in 2015, the gallery saw the most visitors it had ever seen, Bartel said.

Bartel married fellow artist Talin Megherian in 1990. Through her, he was exposed not only to a different artist, but a different culture and a history that came with a lot of cultural pain.

Bartel said that as a teacher, as well as artist, his goal is to communicate what is happening with the work. “I like to see a great variety of works from a small number of artists,” he said.

In the catalog dedicated to artist John Avakian, titled “If I Begin to Cry,” pictures of Avakian’s works are paired with a play by Elliot Baker, titled “The Past Is Not the Past,” about surviving the Armenian Genocide.

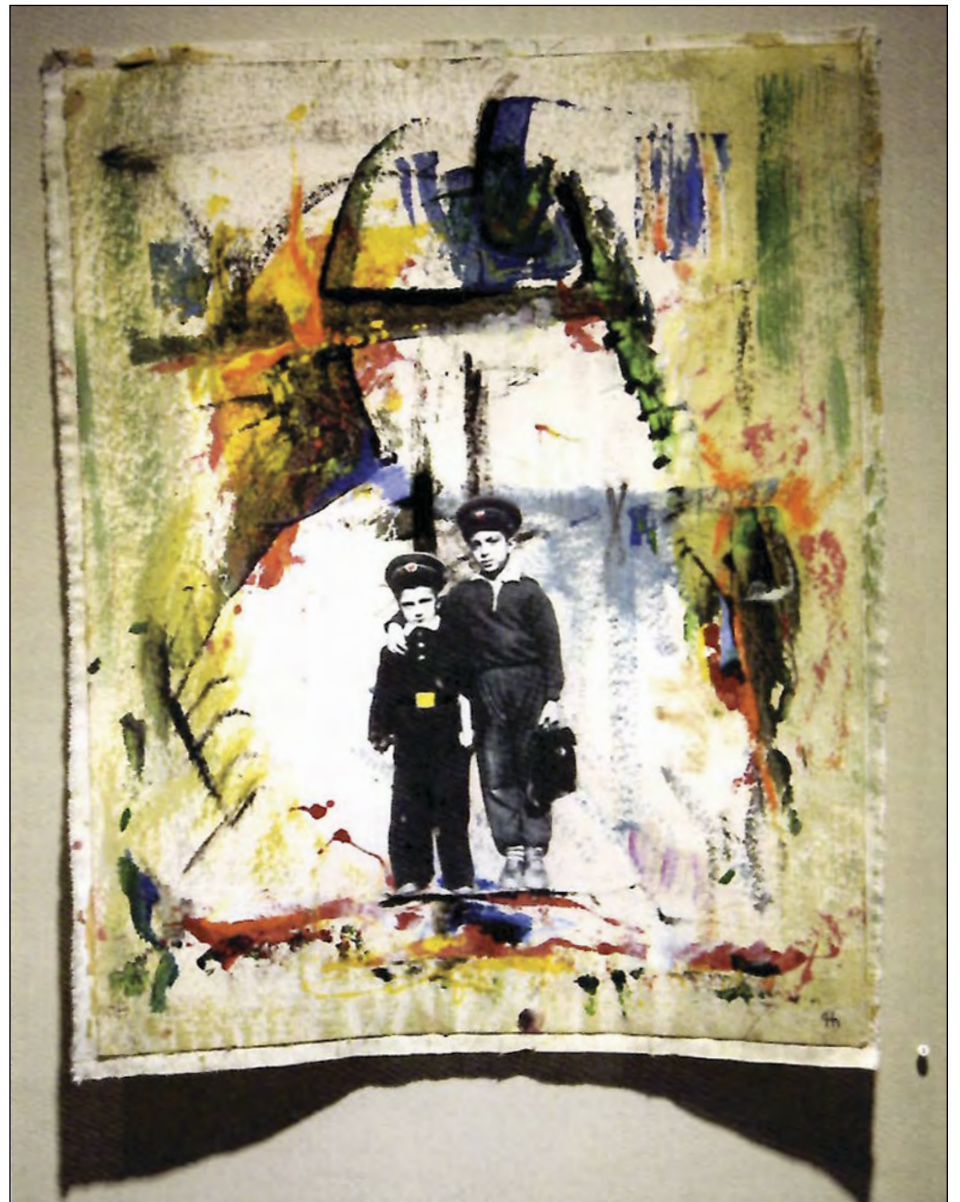
Bartel has created top-notch catalogs to go with the exhibit. He printed the play, he said, “so that our students can read it. He is the non-visual artist in this exhibit. I experimented with the show that way, to include Elliot’s work.”

“I wanted it to help bring the hard-hitting truth of genocide to the family level,” Bartel said.

All together, there are seven catalogs.

The Armenian Genocide exhibits, he said, “made me better informed and it humbled me.”

“Digging in as a white male, a gallery director in an affluent country, it is very humbling, very



Gagik Aroutiunian, “Family Portrait—The Brothers No. 1,” 2010 (from Bartel’s catalogue, Gagik Aroutiunian—Kiss the Ground, p. 105)

## Aleppo Aid Through Houston Armenian Church

REFUGEES, from page 1

from benefactors in Armenia and throughout the world for a total of 251 Syrians. As a consequence, 221 Syrians have already moved to Armenia and settled there, while another 30 individuals are about to relocate to Armenia in the coming days. The cost of sending one person to Armenia via Beirut is \$500.

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian, Legate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America (Eastern), proclaimed, “The Save a Life program supported by the Houston church is one of the most trustworthy efforts helping Syrian Armenians during their time of crisis. It is a wonderful project directly helping vulnerable individuals.”

Currently, there are 600 petitions at the Aleppo CCO, asking for help and assistance in moving to Armenia. Those who wish to support the Save a Life program can send a check made out to the St. Kevork Armenian Church, Memo: SOS Aleppo at 3211 Synott Road, Houston, TX 77082. The telephone number is 281-558-0166 (www.stkevork.org). All donations are tax deductible. Five hundred dollars can save one life.



Gagik Aroutiunian, photo of part of his “To My Mother – Between Two Stones,” 1986 (from Bartel’s catalogue, Gagik Aroutiunian—Kiss the Ground, p. 28)

moving. There is so much turmoil, so much angst,” he said. “The Armenian people are holding on to the memory of those they lost. You can’t just dig into them and not be moved. The breadth of what I read was very, very informative.”

Bartel is a collage-based artist. His work assumes assembled forms of painting, drawing and sculpture that examine the roles of landscape and nature in contemporary culture.

He received his bachelor’s degree in painting from Rhode Island School of Design in 1985 and also studied in Rome as part of RISD’s European Honors Program between 1984-1985. He achieved his MFA in painting from Carnegie Mellon University in 1993.

In 1990, Bartel was a recipient of the Jacob K. Javits Fellowship (U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.) and in 2000, he was awarded a Connecticut Council on the Arts Fellowship Grant in support of the continuation of his drawing series, “Garden Studies” and related “Terra Reverentia” series.

Bartel has taught at Harvard University, Brown University, Carnegie Mellon University, Manhattanville College and Bridgeport University. He has been a guest critic at Rhode Island School of Design, Vermont College and New Hampshire Institute of Art and has lectured at Alfred University, Chatham College, Western Connecticut State University, Montclair State University and The New England Teaching Conference.

Currently, Bartel teaches drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, installation art and conceptual art at the Cambridge School of Weston, Weston, MA. Bartel is the founder of IS (Installation Space) a proposal-based installation gallery and he is the founder and Gallery Director of the Cambridge School’s Thompson Gallery, a teaching gallery dedicated to thematic inquiry.

Currently, Bartel is working on an exhibit titled “Utopia/Dystopia” as well as one titled “Light and Dark.” Again, he is taking the themes and focusing on different contexts and meanings to bring in more layers.

The exhibits at the CSW Thompson Gallery are open to the public.