

Genocide Studies Pioneer Vahakn Dadrian Dies

GENESE, N.Y. — Prof. Vahakn Dadrian, one of the pioneers of modern genocide studies and one of the founders of Armenian Genocide studies, died on Friday, August 2. He was 93.

Dadrian's interest in the Armenian Genocide was not only academic; he was born in 1926 to a family in Turkey that had lost many members to the Armenian Genocide.

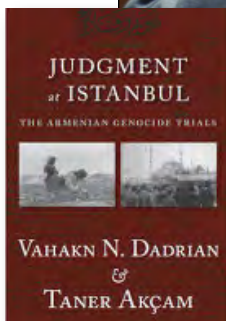
Dadrian first studied mathematics at the University of Berlin, after which he decided to switch to a completely different field, and studied philosophy at the University of Vienna, and later, international law at the University of Zürich. He completed his PhD in sociology at the University of Chicago.

In the 1970s, Dadrian participated in the creation of the comparative study of genocide.

He was awarded an honorary doctorate degree for his research in the field of Armenian Genocide Studies by the Armenian National Academy of Sciences, and later, in 1998, he was made a member of the Academy and honored by the President of Armenia, the republic's highest cultural award, the Khorenatsi medal. In 1999, Dadrian was awarded on behalf of the Holy See of Cilicia the Mesrob Mashdotes Medal.



Prof. Vahakn Dadrian



The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation sponsored him as director of a large Genocide study project, which culminated with the publication of articles, mainly in the Holocaust and Genocide studies magazines. He was the keynote speaker at the centennial of the John Marshall Law School and delivered a lecture

to the British House of Commons in 1995. He also received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

He lectured extensively in French, English and German in the Free University of Berlin, the Universities of Munich, Parma, Torino, Zürich, Uppsala, Frankfurt am Main, Cologne, Bochum, Münster, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Geneva, Brussels and UNESCO's Paris center.

From 1970 to 1991, Dadrian was a professor of sociology at State University of New York College at Geneseo.

Dadrian was the director of Genocide Research at Zoryan Institute.

Dadrian had degrees in mathematics, history and law. His interdisciplinary background gave him a multifaceted look at historical and social problems, especially genocide. Dadrian was not only an authority on Armenian genocide, but also on genocide studies and theory in general, being part of the so-called "first generation" of genocide scholars, who created this area of study in the 1970s.

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Summer Interns At the Armenian Mirror-Spectator

WATERTOWN — This summer, the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* has had two interns in its offices, Nicholas Zoraian and Suren Mkrtchyan.

Zoraian is currently participating in the Armenian General Benevolent Union Summer Internship Program in Boston, and came to the newspaper through it.

A native of Allendale, NJ, Zoraian, 21, has two siblings. He is a rising senior at High Point University in North Carolina, where he studies sports communications and journalism.

He hopes to one day work for a big sports network such as ESPN as a sports talk show host.

"I am very passionate about journalism, so interning for the *Mirror-Spectator* has been an amazing and extremely enlightening experience. I have learned a lot here about editing, writing, and so much more. The *Mirror-Spectator* has really helped me get a better understanding of how the world of journalism works. I am very grateful to the AGBU and to the *Mirror-Spectator* for giving me this opportunity."

He recently wrote a feature story about the Armenia-based car hailing service, GG, and is working on a video report.

Aram Arkun, assistant editor (and Tekeyan Cultural Association of the US and Canada executive director), declared: "The *Mirror* and Tekeyan congratulate the AGBU on the success of its inaugural Boston summer internship program. It is clear that AGBU did a wonderful job in choosing interns, because Nick is both capable and intelligent. With his help, the *Mirror* website has been expanded to include new back issues and articles, and he is also contributing his own content to the paper and the website."

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The destroyer named in his honor

New US Navy Destroyer Honors Armenian-American Paul Ignatius

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (PanARMENIAN.Net) — The US Navy has commissioned its newest Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, the future USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117), during a ceremony on July 27, at Port Everglades here.

The ship is named in honor of Ignatius, the official with Armenian roots who served in the US Navy during World War II, and later during the Lyndon B. Johnson administration as assistant secretary of defense for installations and logistics from 1964 – 1967, and secretary of the Navy from 1967 – 1969.

Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer, who is also performing the duties of deputy secretary of defense, delivered the commissioning ceremony's principal address. Ignatius' wife, Nancy, who passed away earlier this year, is the ship's sponsor. Dr. Elisa Ignatius, granddaughter of the late Nancy Ignatius, served as the ship sponsor representative. Dr. Ignatius honored naval tradition when she gave the first order to "man our ship and bring her to life!"

"The future USS Paul Ignatius stands as proof of what the teamwork of all our people – civilian, contractor and military – can accomplish together," said

see IGNATIUS, page 9



Paul Ignatius

NEWS IN BRIEF

Armenia's Population On the Decline

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — Armenia's permanent population keeps dropping. According to the latest figures released by the Statistical Committee, the population shrank by 8,200 people to 2,961,600 as of July 1, 2019 from 2018.

The country's population numbered 2,965,300 as of January 1, falling by 3,700 in six months.

Some 1,892,800 people live urban communities, while 1,068,800 live in rural communities. The population stands at 1,081,300 in capital Yerevan.

The regions with the largest population are Armavir and Ararat with 263,800 and 256,600 people, respectively. Vayots Dzor is the least populated region in Armenia with 48,800 residents.

In January-June 2019, the population viability rate, i.e. the ratio of birth and death rates stood at 116.8 percent against the 123.0 percent recorded in the same period of 2018.

Monument Honors April War Hero

YEREVAN (Panorama.am) — A monument paying tribute to Sasha Galstyan and other Armenian soldiers fallen during the 2016 April War will be erected in Metsamor, Galstyan's hometown on August 12.

Galstyan was studying to be a doctor. He was drafted into the army in 2015, receiving the military rank of junior sergeant and then sergeant during his 14 months of service.

He and his three fellow soldiers died while repelling the Azerbaijani attacks on Jebrail (Jrakn).

In 2016, Galstyan was posthumously honored with the Medals of Combat Service, Courage and Homeland Protection.

Aronian 8th on Latest FIDE Ratings

PARIS — Armenian grandmaster Levon Aronian moved up six spots to 8th on the latest World Chess Federation (FIDE) ratings.

Norwegian GM Magnus Carlsen continues to top the list of 100 strongest chess players of the world.

Three other Armenian chess players Gabriel Sargissian, Hrant Melkumyan and Sergei Movsesian rank 46th, 87th and 98th on the list, respectively.

Armenian players Elina Danielian and Lilit Mkrtchian are included in the Top 100 Women list, taking the 64th and 72nd spots, respectively.

The FIDE ratings of 100 strongest junior players feature three Armenians – Haik Martirosyan sitting 10th, Aram Hakobyan placing 30th and Shant Sargsyan coming 41st on the list.

Armenian chess player Anna Sargsyan ranks 76th on the top100 girls' list.

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ARMENIA

News From Armenia

Khorovats Center of Food Festival in Akhtala

YEREVAN (Armenpress) – The highly-anticipated traditional 11th Akhtala Barbeque Festival will take place August 18, gathering tourists, chefs and food enthusiasts in the small town in Lori Province.

According to chef Sedrak Mamulyan, who is organizing the festival through his Development and Preservation of Armenian Culinary Traditions NGO, the event is of great interest for both locals and foreigners.

The idea is simple, cooks and chefs compete to find out who can make the best barbeque, or as Armenians call it *Khorovats*, one of the most popular dishes of the Armenian cuisine.

“We will have participation from Russia, Belarus and Georgia. They’ve already informed that tour packages have been sold especially for the participation in the barbeque festival. This reaction and interest inspires us, and it’s no coincidence that we are organizing this event already for the 11th time,” Mamulyan said.

The *khorovats* culture will be presented by participants during the event, and a competition will be held. A panel of judges will select winners for the categories “Best Taste,” “Best Presentation,” “Best Idea,” and a Grand Prix will also be awarded.

Mamulyan especially highlighted the festival’s significance in terms of boosting tourism in the region. He says it has developed the local infrastructures.

“If we look at the infrastructures of the town of Akhtala of Lori Province 10 years ago and now, we will see a significant difference. Today, the local communities and the Akhtala City Hall are seriously interested in the festival being organized every year,” he said.

Mayor Vows Yerevan Trash Cleanup

YEREVAN (RFE/RL) – Yerevan authorities will go ahead with their efforts to try to solve the current garbage crisis in the city “with or without” the current monopolist waste management operator, mayor Hayk Marutyan told a local online publication on Friday, August 2.

Marutyan rejected the terms offered by Sanitek, an underperforming Lebanese-run waste management company, for a joint quick fix to the problem.

Sanitek has for months been under fire for its poor work in the Armenian capital, with the city authorities fining the company a total of 90 million drams (about \$190,000) since the beginning of this year for falling short of required standards in waste management.

The company has blamed its difficulties in organizing proper garbage disposal in Yerevan on poor infrastructure and excessive damage to its equipment. The company has also claimed that the Yerevan municipality is not willing to cooperate with it on acceptable terms.

At a press conference in Yerevan on Friday, speaking via Skype, Sanitek’s director Nicholas El Tawil offered his vision of short-term and long-term solutions to the garbage crisis in Yerevan. In particular, he said that the company is ready to immediately invest \$4 million for the purchase of new garbage trucks and containers and keep annually investing in the purchase of 500 containers and upgrading the available fleet of trucks.

Sanitek’s director, however, called on the municipality to improve the infrastructure at the landfill near Yerevan, revise the existing contract price and repay the already applied “unlawful deductions.”

“Yerevan must be cleaned,” Marutyan emphasized. “We will clean up Yerevan with or without Sanitek.”

Marutyan said that efforts in this direction are underway and until the end of September almost the entire required quantity of garbage trucks will be available for Yerevan.

Sanitek Armenia, which is a branch of the Lebanese-headquartered Sanitek International Group, has a 12-year contract with Yerevan as a monopolistic waste management operator. It began its work in Yerevan in December 2014.

The company has threatened to apply for international arbitration to resolve its dispute with the Yerevan municipality.



The ceremonies in Stepanakert

Seventh Pan-Armenian Games Get Underway

STEPANAKERT (RFE/RL) – The Seventh Summer Pan-Armenian Games opened in Stepanakert in a ceremony held at the Nagorno-Karabakh capital’s stadium on August 6.

The quadrennial games bringing together hundreds of ethnic Armenian athletes from around the world are designed to foster closer relationships between Armenia and its far-flung Diaspora.

This year Stepanakert has been chosen to co-host the games. Most of the competitions, however, will still be held the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

Summer Pan-Armenian games have been held in Armenia since 1999. In 2014, the first winter Pan-Armenian Games took place in the Armenian ski resort town of Tsaghkadzor.

Nearly 5,300 athletes and sports del-

egation members coming from more than three dozen countries are attending the current games that feature sports like soccer, basketball, volleyball, golf, swimming, badminton, tennis, track and field athletics, cycling and others. The Games will close in Yerevan on August 17.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan also attended the opening ceremony at Stepanakert’s Stepan Shahumian Republican Stadium.

Meeting with organizers of the games earlier on Tuesday, Pashinyan called it “symbolic” that this year the opening of the pan-Armenian sporting event takes place in the Nagorno-Karabakh capital. He said that the Games can become “a good platform for our pan-national conversation.”

“I think that it will be very useful if we really manage to expand the idea of pan-Armenianism. In this sense, of course, the Pan-Armenian Games have a very important and exceptional significance,” the head of the Armenian government underscored.

Addressing a rally in Stepanakert the day before, Pashinyan also called for a pan-Armenian consolidation. Outlining a number of strategic goals that he said Armenians should achieve by 2050, Pashinyan said that “Artsakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] is Armenia, period.”

An internationally mediated peace process spearheaded by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s Minsk Group has so far failed to produce a lasting settlement of the conflict.

Pashinyan in Stepanakert Reveals ‘Strategic Goals’ for Armenia

STEPANAKERT (RFE/RL) – Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan called for concentration of the pan-Armenian potential for the realization of long-term strategic goals of the nation as he addressed thousands of people in the central square here on Monday, August 5.

Pashinyan several times sought to emphasize the unity of different parts of the Armenian people, including the people of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, in the realization of pan-Armenian goals.

At the rally, the popular head of the Armenian government who came to power as the leader of nationwide protests in the spring of 2018 also laid out what he described as a long-term strategic vision of goals of the Armenian government until 2050.

According to this vision, in the next three decades Armenia’s population should grow from the current 3 million to at least 5 million people.

“Our goal is to create 1.5 million jobs, provide employment for 2.5 million, stamp out poverty and turn Armenia into an industrial country,” Pashinyan stressed.

In the indicated period Pashinyan sees Armenia’s gross domestic product increasing 15 times, average salaries rising seven times, and funding for medicine, education and science growing 20 times.

“Our goal is to have at least five Armenian technological companies whose values will be over \$10 billion and 10,000 working startups,” he said. “By the index of combat readiness our army should be at least among the world’s top 20 armies and we should have one of the world’s top ten most efficient intelligence

services.”

According to the Pashinyan government’s vision, by 2050 Armenia will become a country annually attracting 15 million tourists and excelling in sports. “We will strive to make Armenia’s national soccer team a medal winner at a European or world championship, gain 25 Olympic gold medals and get an individual world champion in chess,” he said.

“I am convinced that many of you wonder why I am saying nothing about Artsakh [Karabakh]. The answer is very simple: Artsakh is Armenia. Period,” Pashinyan said, drawing cheers from the crowd.

The Armenian premier stressed that while his government sees a comprehensive fulfillment of the goals by 2050, some of these goals can be fulfilled much earlier. “So, it does not mean that we should sit and wait until then. We start working on the realization of these goal already today,” said Pashinyan, adding that it is equally important to have a “roadmap” for the realization of these “mega-goals.”

“The realization of these strategic goals should become the backbone of the pan-Armenian agenda,” he said.

At the same time, Pashinyan stressed that the Armenian people should agree on a number of “consensuses” for the achievement of the ambitious goals. Thus, according to him, violence should be excluded in solving domestic issues; free and fair elections should be the only source of forming governments; any attempt to bring in foreign forces in settling domestic Armenian affairs should entail a strong reaction from the govern-

ment; Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh should be free from corruption and abide by the principles of rule of law, equality of all before law, which includes independent courts.

The quadrennial games that will be held mostly in Yerevan through August 17 are bringing together hundreds of ethnic Armenian athletes from around the world.

Pashinyan Urges Women to Set up Micro Enterprises

YEREVAN (news.am) – Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan encouraged women to set up micro enterprises and help their families.

During a live on Facebook this week, Pashinyan noted that he knows many cases where men do not allow their wives to engage in entrepreneurship fearing that women would suddenly get more income.

“I couldn’t understand them as a man, and know I cannot understand them being a prime minister. It is illogical: you can change the social condition of your family, but you are not allowed to. Speaking about the company, I mean making baked goods or candied fruits and selling them to stores,” he explained. “I consider women one of the forces with the greatest potential of the economic revolution. If women are more active in this regard, we will succeed.”



ARMENIA

Sustainable Development Goals Innovation Lab Pioneering for Armenia and the World

By Aram Arkun

Mirror-Spectator Staff

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – Armenia has a unique and technologically advanced research and development institution called Armenia National Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Innovation Lab (<https://www.sdglab.am>). It was established in 2017 as a joint venture of the Armenian government and the United Nations Office in Armenia, with support from the UN Development Programme, in order to accelerate the achievement of the 17 SDG goals set by the UN which the Armenian government agreed in 2015 to accomplish by 2030 (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>). These include ending poverty and hunger, defending the environment and human rights, and fashioning peaceful, just and inclusive societies with economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all.

Stepan Margaryan was appointed as director of the lab after the change of regime in 2018, at the end of the year, when some restructuring took place. Margaryan traveled in the official Armenian delegation with Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Avinyan to Boston in the latter half of this July. He said that the vision of the lab initially was centered on the SDG and currently “is intended to attain sustainable development with the aid of public policy innovation.” The lab or center has a large portfolio of plans which basically correspond to the priorities of the Armenian government as well as the SDG.

Margaryan previously worked as vice president and director of the academic programs and awards of the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST), created by entrepreneur/philanthropists Ruben Vardanyan and Noubar Afeyan to develop science and education in Armenia. Margaryan said that he began his involvement in technologies like biotech, artificial intelligence (AI), drones and robots at that time.

He started his higher education with a bachelor's degree from Yerevan State Linguistic University (2008) but switched to international relations for his master's degree from London's Metropolitan University (2010) and managerial economics for his doctorate from the State Academy of Public Administration of the Republic of Armenia (2013). Finally, he obtained an MBA in Rome from LUISS Business School (2017).

Margaryan said that at present the SDG lab has a staff of 14, which includes three data scientists who work with largescale data and create AI algorithms. What the lab does and the policies it pursues, Margaryan said, are “maximally human-centered so that people can benefit from them.” The results of the work of governments can be measured by seeing how satisfied and happy people are, and how well they live in their country, he explained.

The Armenian government is the chief partner of the lab. Consequently, he said, “We always participate in discussions on various topics with ministries, including the ministers and deputy ministers, and issues always come up. We try to find solutions to their problems.” When interesting ideas lead to program proposals, Margaryan said that funding was not a problem, exclaiming, “Believe me, the money is always found to carry them out. There are various donors ready to help Armenia do those programs.” The pilot programs that work, Margaryan said, can be carried out on the national level. In other words, he said, “we are insuring the government from the risks, if it first would try them on a large scale and fail and lose large sums.”

Though the lab works with different bodies of the Armenian government, it does not belong to nor is it subject to any particular body of that government, according to Margaryan. It has a governing council which approves of its operations and plans. The council includes through



Stepan Margaryan

rotation two representatives each of the UN and the Armenian government in addition to its regular members. At present, Armenian Deputy Prime Minister Tigran Avinyan and UN Resident Coordinator for the Republic of Armenia Shombi Sharp are cochairmen of the council, and Russian-Armenian Ruben Vardanyan is one of the council members.

The lab uses behavioral experimentation and various innovative approaches to data to develop new policy approaches. Among the behavioral projects it has carried out is an attempt to promote the use of preventative medicine in Armenia, where people only go to the doctor when they have great pain and it is late for treatment. Cancer is one such illness the treatment of which could benefit from early prevention.

An experiment was conducted on increasing cervical cancer screening rates. A “sterile environment” was maintained, with no advertisements, radio and tv mentions from the government, or speaking in public, so that the true results and effectiveness could be measured. The experiment has been concluded and the final results will be ready in September. Even before the official report, it is clear, Margaryan said, that there is great excitement in the hospitals and the Health Ministry for using this approach in various capacities. Furthermore, the World Bank wants to work with the lab on similar test programs for diabetics and breast cancer.

In the realm of taxes, Margaryan says his center was inspired by Italian and Spanish examples to do a behavioral experiment. One reason people and businesses do not pay taxes is that they do not know where they go. In order to try to change this, he said, the lab prepared 13 types of letters for 39,000 small and medium enterprises. The letters explain where taxes goes percentage wise. One type asks where the firm would like 10 percent of its taxes to be spent and offered to try to make this happen to the extent feasible. A different type of letter concerning social norm states that 90 out of 100 pay their taxes so do not be the exception. This experiment will indicate which approach produces results.

Margaryan said that such behavioral experiments, new in Armenia, are now being carried out in five spheres. In a project done with the My Step Foundation, the goal is to get people to use reusable bags with the goal of creating a plastic-free environment. A project working with UNICEF attempts to decrease gender-based abortions. Other fields of experimentation include renewable energy.

In addition to behavioral experiments, the lab

works with artificial intelligence. For its UN work, the lab has created a tool which is a type of SDG barometer. It allows measuring Armenia's progress concretely on the UN goals in real time through a machine learning algorithm. Margaryan said that although other countries have such barometers, this one is unique because of the real time component.

In the field of tourism, Margaryan said, the lab was the first in the world to create a platform providing real time assessments of touristic issues in a country – in this case, of course, Armenia (<https://www.travelinsights.ai>). It continually analyzes social media and websites like Trip Adviser, Airbnb, booking.com and Facebook to divide the expressed sentiments into three basic categories, and 27 subcategories. The Tourism Committee of Armenia's Ministry of the Economy constantly receives information to be used for marketing and for solving problems. Eventually, Margaryan said, tools will be made available for private use of this data as well.

During May of this year, Margaryan and others from the Innovation Lab visited Switzerland for meetings with various UN bodies and went to Canton Valais, important as a touristic center. There they introduced their tourism tool to Techno-Pole de Sierre, a university, where there interest in its use to provide solutions for Swiss issues. Margaryan said at this point negotiations are in progress to determine the best

example of cooperation between a nation-state and the UN for the implementation of SDG goals, the UNDP has decided to use it as a model for the creation of similar centers in some 60 more countries. Margaryan declared that his lab would aid these new centers to set correct theoretical foundations and practices so they understand how they must operate.

Similarly, Armenia's government uses the reports from the lab to apply policies on a national level. Margaryan said, “This is the advantage of a small country: we can be more flexible and fast.” He added that modernization of the sphere of state governance will require, in his opinion, great reforms, in which digitization must be a large component. He said, “Digitization is not always innovation but innovation without digitization is not possible. We must move towards transparency fast, and turn to the minimal the contact between citizens and governmental bodies. No one wants to lose time; no one wants to wait in line...Everyone wants fast, transparent and effective work.”

Margaryan said that digitization will help diasporan Armenians to participate in Armenian life and the economy more easily, when many services can be accessed via the internet.

The lab works with many local and international nongovernmental bodies and private associations in addition to the Armenian government and the UN.



approach for both sides.

Another program which will provide real-time data is Edu2Work, which will analyze job advertisements, including skills demanded and wages offered, and help bridge the gap between the worlds of education and the employment market. Behavioral interventions based on the results will help direct youth to choose the fields most in demand in the market, and correspondingly, informational campaigns can be organized. This program is being carried out within the framework of the Work Armenia program, together with the British Nesta (<https://www.nesta.org.uk/>) and the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT, <https://www.bi.team>).

The lab is carrying out a variety of other mass data assemblage projects, such as the creation of an Armenian farm registry to learn what Armenian farmers produce and their capacity. There are some 272,000 farms in Armenia today. Real-time satellite and drone imagery will be supplemented with on the ground information. Artificial intelligence will help monitor crop growth. With greater information, Margaryan explained that the efficiency of agriculture can be maximized. It can be determined what grows best, for example, in a particular zone of land, and when.

As the Armenian innovation lab is the first

In the United States, one of the labs it works with is Stanford ChangeLabs (<https://changelabs.stanford.edu/>). Margaryan said that during his Boston visit, there was the opportunity to meet with the leaders of various centers, and relations established with the director of a Harvard center dealing with technology transfer.

Margaryan estimated that the lab's budget is roughly 1.5 million dollars, including 1 million from a Russian Federation fund for specific programs, 250,000 sterling pounds from the English government for an education program, and 100,000 dollars from the UN Development Coordination Office. While this is a small sum for the US, he said, this is not a bad budget if the lab is considered a startup organization.

Margaryan concluded: “I want to say that we work in a very open fashion. You see that I am in Boston and met with many different people. It is important for me that we have many different partners. I want the representatives of our community here in Boston to know that there is such a thing in Armenia and we are always ready to cooperate, and are ready to accept, host and in the case of proposals for work, always are ready to collaborate with our diaspora of Boston and the various universities there.” For questions about the lab, write to info@sdginnovationlab.am.



INTERNATIONAL

International News

Summer Space School Opens in Yerevan

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — The International Summer Space School has opened at the A. Shahinyan Physics and Mathematics School in Yerevan, Armenia.

Deputy Minister of High-Tech Industry Armen Abroyan attended the opening ceremony on August 5. He emphasized that the event will give results in the future when the participating young people will make contributions in space science.

Astronaut Sergei Avdeyev was also in attendance at the opening ceremony and delivered remarks.

Lectures will be organized for children from Armenia and Russia during the 12-day program.

They will also visit the Byurakan Observatory for practical training.

UN Ambassador Speaks About Azeri Targeting of Civilians

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — On August 2, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations, Mher Margaryan, participated in the United Nations Security Council open debate on “Children and Armed Conflict.”

Close to 80 delegations took part in the meeting presided by the Foreign Minister of Poland, Jacek Czaputowicz.

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Virginia Gamba and Executive Director of UNICEF Henrietta Fore were briefed on the issues of protection of children in conflict situations.

Margaryan underscored that Armenia prioritizes the protection of children’s rights and referred to the steps undertaken by Armenia to ensure safety of schools located in border regions, including creation of safe rooms and shelters in cooperation with the International Committee of Red Cross.

The ambassador drew the attention of the Council to the deliberate targeting of civilian population and infrastructure of Nagorno-Karabakh and bordering regions of Armenia, as a result of which civilians and children had been killed and injured.

Ceremony Remembers Hiroshima Tragedy

YEREVAN (Armenpress) — A ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic bombing in 1945 was held in Armenia on August 6.

Lanterns of Peace made by Armenian children will be sent to Japan, where Japanese children will put them into the water, a symbolic way to remind the world of the victims of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, Armenian-Japanese Hikari Center Chair Karine Piliposyan said at the ceremony in Yerevan at the Peace Covenant Memorial.

Hikari Center students recited haikus in Armenian and Japanese dedicated to the memory of the victims of the bombings.

The Deputy Head of Mission of Japan in Armenia, Japanese tourists and others were in attendance.

Artsakh Delegates Meet With Australian Premier

SYDNEY (Armenpress) — Within the framework of the working visit to Australia, the delegation headed by Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh Republic) Masis Mayilian met with Prime Minister of the Australian State of New South Wales Gladys Berejiklian on August 1.

During the meeting, the sides exchanged views on the development of cooperation and strengthening the ties between Artsakh and the State of New South Wales, taking into account that the Parliament of New South Wales recognized the Republic of Artsakh in 2012.

The sides also touched upon issues related to the increase of the role of the Armenian Diaspora in promoting the foreign policy agenda of Artsakh. Mayilian presented the priorities of Artsakh’s foreign policy and the challenges in this sphere.

Virtual Tour in Akhtamar Church

VAN (*Hurriyet*) — Witnessing thousands of years of a church’s history that lies in Anatolia is now a click away. The Turkish Presidency’s Directorate of Communications has prepared a website dedicated to the 1,100-year-old Akdamar (Akhtamar) Church, a medieval Armenian church in the eastern Van province.

Located on Akdamar Island in Lake Van, the church was built between 915 A.D. and 921 A.D. by architect Bishop Manuel, under the supervision of Gagik I Artsruni, an Armenian king.

The website www.akdamarkilisesei.gov.tr, provides comprehensive information and visual materials in three different languages, Turkish, English and Armenian, is now open to visitors, some who cannot physically go to the island, or those perhaps interested in seeing a masterpiece that has stood strong in their ancestral lands for centuries.

Efforts to bring together the cultural and historical monuments and museums with visitors in a digital environment gain importance in the world as well as in Turkey.

The website, which was created as a result of meticulous work with the help of technology, many natural and historical beauties are shown to people who don’t have the chance to see them physically.

VR videos and 360-degree photos prepared using advanced imaging technologies give visitors the feeling of closely seeing the unique harmony of history and nature.

The reliefs and frescoes of the church, the white flowers of the almond trees surrounding it, and the unique blue of Lake Van are some of the visual beauties that bring the divine atmosphere of this historical place to visitors. In addition, the unique nature of Akdamar is presented to visitors through the lens of famous photography artist zzet Keribar.

Speaking about the project, the Presidency’s communications director, Fahrettin Altun, said that they carried out various research and promotional activities in order to increase awareness about the rich cultural heritage that Turkey possesses.

As part of the project, the opening of an exhibition featuring the photos of Akdamar Church taken by Keribar was made by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on July 23 at the Hagia Irene Church in Istanbul’s Topkapı Palace.

Speaking to Anadolu Agency, Keribar



Akhtamar Church

In this context, Altun stated that they realized the first project for Akdamar Church, which is an important faith center of the Christian and Armenian people.

He said that thanks to the interest of the state and investments, both the island and the historic church became one of the most popular spots in Turkish tourism.

“Anatolia is a mosaic of different cultures and beliefs. The Armenian community is a part of this mosaic. We will continue to strengthen the bridge of friendship that we have established by living together for centuries and set an example for the world,” Altun said.

said that he had been taking photos for 65 years and won many awards, and that the exhibition was one of the milestones of his professional life.

He said that he took some 1,000 photos in four days. “One day I got a call from Istanbul. ‘You are in Akdamar, we wonder if you can take pictures before sunrise?’ they said. We needed to be there at 4:30 a.m. We got there in the dark and I took the photos. Here you see 40-50 photos out of some 1,000.”

The exhibition will be open to visitors for the next 20 days. The website also displays Keribar’s Akdamar photos taken from 14 different spots.

Armenians Make Pilgrimage to St. Thaddeus Monastery in Iran

TEHRAN — More than 3,000 Christian worshippers, who are natives of Iran or other countries, are on pilgrimage at St. Thaddeus Monastery, which is located in Iran’s West Azerbaijan province.

The essential core of the pilgrimage, the main service, called a Badarak, was held on Saturday, attended by guests from Iran, Armenia, Syria, Lebanon, the Netherlands, France, Austria, Germany, Canada and some other countries, IRNA reported.

The province’s cultural heritage department has endeavored to provide the necessary infrastructure, including camping sites, sanitary services, catering services, outdoor lighting, and setting up tents for ritual ceremonies and other services, chief of the department Jalil Jabbari said.

Baptism of children and youngsters along with performances of traditional songs and dances are amongst highlights the event.

The festivity is of high importance for Iranian-Armenians who mostly come from the cities of Tabriz, Urmia, Tehran, Isfahan and Qazvin, to stage the reunion in groups and families. It also provides them an opportunity to go on holiday and visit distant relatives.

Attendees commemorate the martyrdom of St. Thaddeus, one of the twelve disciples killed while he was preaching the Gospel. The legend says, a church dedicated to him was first built in 68 CE where Qareh Klise is standing.

Thaddeus was an apostle of Christ and the ceremony is rooted in the last supper with Jesus Christ on the night of his arrest and execution by the Roman soldiers.

Also known as the Qareh Klise (“the Black Church”), the monastery is one of the oldest surviving Christian monuments in the country. It is situated in Chaldoran county some 20 kilometers from Maku, adjacent to the borders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey.

The ancient church shows off elaborate bas-reliefs of flowers, animals and human figures on its façade and exterior walls. It bears verses of Old and New Testament in Armenian calligraphy as well.

Together with St. Stepanos Monastery and the Chapel of Dzordzor, Qareh Klise

was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2008 under the name “Armenian Monastic Ensembles of Iran.” All the three sites are located in West Azerbaijan and are of high significance from historical and cultural perspectives. They bear credible testimony to interchanges with the ancient regional societies in particular the Byzantine, Orthodox and Persian.

UNESCO has it that the churches bear examples of outstanding universal value of the Armenian architectural and decorative traditions.

Istanbul Patriarchate Elections in December

ISTANBUL (Armenpress) — Nearly five months since the passing of Mesrob II, the Armenian Patriarchate of Constantinople (Istanbul) has launched its organizational work to hold an election of a new patriarch.

A new patriarch will be elected by spiritual and secular delegates, who themselves are yet to be elected. The election of these delegates will take place on December 7 and 8. The patriarchate seeks to hold the election of a patriarch on December 11, and it has applied to the Ministry of Interior of Turkey through the Government of Istanbul Province with a request to confirm the dates, the patriarchate said on its social media account.

Mesrob II Mutafyan of Constantinople was elected patriarch in 1998, but ten years later was incapacitated due to Alzheimer’s disease. He died in a comatose condition on March 8, 2019 in hospital at the age of 62.

In July, the Patriarchate chose Bishop Sahak Mashalian to fill the role of “locum tenens”: the “placeholder” who will administer the Patriarchate until a new Armenian Patriarch is chosen.

The election of Mashalian was the result of a closed-door meeting of the patriarchal congregation on July 4.

Mashalian’s principle task will be to organize a patriarchal election, while managing the operations of the Patriarchate until then.

The Istanbul native has previously served in the Armenian Church’s Jerusalem Patriarchate; in Armenia as dean of Holy Etchmiadzin’s Kevorkian Seminary; and at the Istanbul Patriarchate as director of ecumenical and interfaith relations, and secretary of the Religious Council.

Bishop Mashalian is expected to be among the candidates for Istanbul Patriarch.

Community News

Former Flynn Associate Convicted Of Illegal Lobbying For Turkey

By Brandi Buchman

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Courthouse News) – Just hours into deliberations on July 23, a jury found a former business partner of convicted ex-national security adviser Michael Flynn guilty of acting as an illegal lobbyist for the Turkish government.

Bijan Kian, 66-year-old Iranian-American businessman who also goes by Bijan Rafiekian, was found guilty of conspiracy and failure to register as a foreign agent.

The charges stemmed from lobbying work done by Kian and Flynn in 2016 aimed at discrediting Fethullah Gulen, a cleric Turkish President Recep Erdogan has blamed for a failed coup against him.

Jurors deliberated for less than six hours at the federal courthouse in Alexandria, Virginia. Despite their guilty verdict, US District Judge Anthony Trenga indicated last week he may acquit Kian on both charges due to a lack of evidence.

As vice chairman of Flynn's Alexandria-based consulting firm Flynn Intel Group, prosecutors claimed Kian helped hide work on a secret lobbying campaign that ran from September to November 2016.

Prosecutors said Kian and Dutch-Turkish businessman Kamil Ekim Alptekin – who was also indicted last year but never appeared in court to face charges – conspired to hide \$600,000 in payments given to Flynn Intel



Bijan Kian

Group from the Turkish government for a project aimed at helping Turkey extradite Gulen.

But during the week-long trial, Judge Trenga said the evidence was “very, very circumstantial” and “speculative.” In particular, he took issue with a lack of evidence indicating Turkey was directly involved in the scheme against Gulen. Prosecutors were unable to provide a paper trail of emails or text messages explicitly showing who directly controlled Flynn Intel Group's actions.

But other evidence presented at trial persuaded jurors to convict Kian, like testimony from Jim Courtovich, managing partner of Sphere Consulting. Courtovich told jurors he met with Flynn, Kian and Alptekin in November 2016 just ahead of the US election. Sphere was hired to produce a documentary smearing Gulen but Alptekin reportedly lost his temper when he learned Sphere's work on the project would not also include congressional hearings, stories in major news outlets or the launching of federal investigations into Gulen.

“What do I tell Ankara?” Courtovich recalled Alptekin saying angrily at the meeting.

Questions over how Kian recorded payments also appeared to generate suspicion in jurors: he first labeled payments to Alptekin's company Inovo BV as “outsider adviser” fees, and they were later listed as “refunds.”

Judge Trenga will issue a ruling on whether to acquit Kian on September 5.

Sentencing is currently set for October 18. Kian faces up to 15 years in prison.



Judge Armenui Amy Ashvanian

Meet Judge Armenui Amy Ashvanian

By Kevork Keushkerian

LOS ANGELES – I was invited to meet for interview with Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Armenui Amy Ashvanian on Wednesday, July 31, in her chambers at the East Los Angeles Courthouse.

The interview was informative and eye-opening regarding the many challenges Judge Armenui faced and overcame with determination and hard work.

Kevork: Good morning, your Honor. Can you introduce yourself to our community, stating where were you born and when did you come to the United States?

Ashvanian: Good morning, Kevork. I was born in the Soviet Republic of Armenia, and I immigrated to the United States with my parents when I was 17 years old. When I came to America, I did not know one word of English. Back in Armenia, the education I received all the way through high school was in Armenian. My second language was Russian and the foreign language in my school was French. I had to learn English and support my elderly parents.

Kevork: Where did you go to school to learn English?

Ashvanian: I enrolled in the Glendale Unified School District solely to learn the language, because I had already received a high school diploma from the Republic of Armenia, when it was still the Soviet Republic of Armenia. I learned the language well enough to get a job at the Bank of America, only a few months after I came to America.

Then I enrolled in the Glendale Community College and received my associate degree in business administration. After that, I received my Bachelor of Arts Degree in business administration from the American University of Hawaii.

Kevork: What school did you attend to study law?

Ashvanian: A B.A. in business administration was not enough for me, because growing up in Soviet Armenia and seeing injustices and corruption, it became my life's passion to be a part of a system that makes a difference. I wanted to make a change in the world and that perseverance made me grasp every opportunity I could to be someone important. That opportunity was given to me by the Glendale University College of Law. I took my law degree in 2004 and passed the bar. During that time, I was working at a law firm as a paralegal, but my passion was to go into the criminal field.

Kevork: What did you do, before becoming a judge?

Ashvanian: I applied to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office and became a prosecutor. I worked there for 14 years, from 2005 to 2018. Half of that time, I worked in the elite unit, which covers the hard-core, gang-related prosecution. This helped me learn about the community at large, including the victims, the defendants and the witnesses, who were all entrenched in the gang culture.

Shortly after I joined the District Attorney's office, the US State Department had tapped me to assist them in overseas prosecution development and training

see ASHVANIAN, page 7

A Lifelong Calling to the Priesthood

HARTFORD, Conn. – For the second time this summer, a new priest has been welcomed into the ranks of the Armenian clergy, as Diocesan Primate Bishop Daniel Findikyan performed the sacrament of holy orders on the former Deacon Arman Galstyan.

The ordination service took place at the St. George Church of Harford, during a special Divine Liturgy on Saturday, July 27. It was preceded by a



Diocesan Primate Bishop Daniel blesses the newly anointed Fr. Voski Galstyan.

Service of Calling on Friday evening, July 26.

Bishop Daniel gave the newly ordained priest the name “Voski,” after an ancient saint who holds a special significance for the Primate.

see FR. VOSKI, page 7

New Priest Ordained at The Diocese

CHICAGO – The Armenian Church was blessed with a new priest this weekend, as Diocesan Primate Bishop Daniel performed the sacrament of holy orders on the former Deacon Narek Garabedian.

As part of the ordination, the Primate conferred a new name on the candidate, who will henceforth be known as Fr. Andreas (Andrew) Garabedian.

The ceremonies, which included a Service of Calling on Friday, June 28,



The newly anointed Fr. Andreas Garabedian prays at the altar beside Diocesan Primate Bishop Daniel.

and a Divine Liturgy on Saturday, June 29, took place at the St. Gregory the Illuminator Church of Chicago, where Fr. Andreas had served for the past two years as Deacon-in-Charge, and where he will return as pastor following the traditional 40-day period of seclusion.

Clergy and faithful from throughout the region joined the local parishioners to take part in the service and its subsequent celebratory banquet, and to honor the start of Fr. Andreas' priestly ministry in the vineyard of the Lord.

see FR. ANDREAS, page 7



OBITUARY

Genocide Studies Pioneer Vahakn Dadrian Dies

DADRIAN, from page 1

Given his command of several languages, Dadrian was able to do research in various archives around the world, revealing previously unknown documents about the Armenian genocide and creating sociological typologies about the event that have become a reference for all scholars of the subject. One of his last works was the book *Judgments in Istanbul*, co-authored with Prof. Taner Akcam.

Reactions from Around the World

President of Armenia Armen Sarkissian sent a letter of condolence to Dadrian's family and friends.

"I knew Doctor Dadrian not only as a brilliant scholar but also as an excellent expert of international relations and a person communication with whom was instructive and gratifying. These recollections and memories of him will always stay bright with those who knew him

and appreciated his accomplishments," the President said.

Istanbul-Armenian Member of Turkish Parliament Garo Paylan, representing the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), took to Twitter on Sunday to pay tribute to Dadrian.

"Istanbul-born academician Vahakn Dadrian, who was best known for his works on the Armenian Genocide, has passed away. His books published in Turkey played an important role in the international recognition of the Armenian Genocide. God bless his soul!" Paylan tweeted, according to Ermenihaber.

In addition, many Armenian organizations expressed their condolences.

Society for Armenian Studies President Bedross Der Matossian announced: "Dadrian was the founder of the field of Armenian Genocide Studies and one of founders of the field of Comparative Genocide Studies. After studying mathematics at the University of

Berlin, he pursued Philosophy at the University of Vienna, and later, International Law at the University of Zürich. He received his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago. From 1970-1991 he was a professor of sociology at the State University of New York-College at Geneseo.

"In 1999 he joined the Academic Board of Directors of the Zoryan Institute. Since then he served as the Director of Genocide Research and oversaw some of the Institute's most important projects. He was the author of more than 10 books and 100 articles the most important of which was *The History of the Armenian Genocide: Ethnic Conflict from the Balkans to Anatolia to the Caucasus* (Berghahn, 2019). His books and articles have been translated into more than 10 languages."

Dadrian's books and articles have been translated into more than 10 languages. Among his

books are:

- *Autopsie du Génocide Arménien*. Trans. Marc & Mikaël Nishanian. Brussels: Éditions Complexe, 1995, 266p.
- *Haykakan Tseghaspanut`i une Khorhtaranayin ev Patmagitakan Knnarkumnerov* (The treatment of the Ottoman genocide by the Ottoman parliament and its historical analysis). Watertown, MA: Baika, 1995, 147p.
- *The History of the Armenian Genocide: Ethnic Conflict from the Balkans to Anatolia to the Caucasus*. Providence, RI & Oxford: Berghahn Books, 1995, 452p.
- *German Responsibility in the Armenian Genocide: A Review of the Historical Evidence of German Complicity*. Watertown, MA: Blue Crane Books, 1996, 304p.
- *The Key Elements in the Turkish Denial of the Armenian Genocide: A Case Study of Distortion and Falsification*. Cambridge, MA and Toronto: Zoryan Institute, 1999, 84p.
- *Warrant for Genocide: Key Elements of Turko-Armenian Conflict*. New Brunswick and London: Transaction Publishers, 1999, 214p.

Krikor Pidedjian Noted Musicologist

NEW YORK – Musicologist Krikor Pidedjian died on July 30 at age 84. He was internationally recognized as a talented musicologist, whose long career contributed much to furthering the quality of Armenian cultural life and depth of knowledge in Armenian music.

Pidedjian was born into a musical family in Alexandria, Egypt, on August 17, 1935. His father, Bedros, had been a volunteer in the Armenian Legion. His mother, Marie, was a fountain of knowledge insofar



as Armenian song was concerned. His love of music was further nurtured by his music teacher, Garbis Aprigian, at the Boghosian National School.

Years later, he studied at the Theological Seminary of the Holy See of the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon under hymnologist Knel Vardapet Jerejian and famed musicologist Hampartzoum Berberian. He subsequently studied at the Beirut Conservatory while he bore the dual responsibilities of teacher at the Seminary and musical director of the St. Gregory the Illuminator Cathedral of the Catholicosate. In 1960, he formed a 30-member male chorus to sing the mass composed by Komitas Vardapet on solemn occasions.

In 1962, he came to New York and with the blessings of one of Komitas Vardapet's famous students, ethnomusicologist and song collector

Mihran Toumajan, he formed the Kousan Chorus. This group performed for more than a decade, eventually forming the core of the Armenian Cultural Association, now known as Hamazkayin. Pidedjian was one of that association's founders.

In 1964, together with dance director Nvart Hamparian, he organized the first Armenian song and dance ensemble in America. The 120-member group showcased its talent on "Armenia Day" at the World's Fair in the same year to an audience of over 10,000. Pidedjian was recognized for his work by New York State Governor Nelson Rockefeller.

In 1970, he received a BS degree in choral conducting from the Mannes School of Music, where in his senior year he had been the assistant conductor of the choir of the Mannes College of Music. He received an MS from Hunter College thereafter. For many years he taught music in the New York City public school system.

In 1970 he also established the professional choir at St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City and conducted it until 1981.

Pidedjian's arrangements, and original compositions of religious, patriotic and folk music have drawn audiences in Armenia, Argentina, Canada, Egypt, France, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and the United States. His string orchestral and brass concerts were unique in their creativity and inspiration. He was always a generous source of information for all with an interest in Armenian music.

His music has appeared in the official publications of the Catholicosate of Echmiadzin (*Echmiadzin*), the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia (*Hask*), as well as in many religious and secular publications in the United States. He regularly contributed essays and critiques of books and musical compositions to the Armenian press in both Armenia and the Diaspora. He continually gave lectures to the Armenian communities in the United States. A compact disc recording titled "Yergapsak"

("Wreath of Song") dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide was made in Armenia under the directorship of Pidedjian.

His books in Armenian include *Andzink Nviryalk* ("Devoted Persons"); *The Place of Armenian Revolutionary Songs in Armenian Music*; *Is Krikor Narekatzi a Hymnographer?*; *Kristapor Kara-Murza*; and *The Music of the Armenian Church* (in Armenian and English).

On October 17, 2008, Pidedjian was made a member of Armenia's Society of Composers and Musicologists. On October 23, 2010, a grand celebration marking Pidedjian's 75th birthday and the 50th anniversary of his contribution to the world of Armenian music was organized by the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory Director Sergey Sarajian and Publication Department Director Gohar Shagoyan at the House-Museum of Aram Khatchaturian. On this occasion, *Yerazhshtakan Hayastan* ("Musical Armenia") periodical director Gohar Shagoyan dedicated issue 2(37) to the Pidedjian's life and contributions to Armenian music.

Primate Bishop Daniel Findikyan in a statement praised Pidedjian for his contributions and recalled meeting him. "About a year ago, Mr. Pidedjian warmly invited me to his home in Yonkers when I called on him for assistance in reconstructing and notating an old, forgotten

melody from the Armenian Morning Service. The late Yeghishe Srpazan had sung it once for me years ago, and I yearned to notate it and teach it to our young deacons. Not surprisingly, Mr. Pidedjian recalled the melody instantly. We spent a remarkable afternoon together at his kitchen table, notating music, singing and talking about the sacred gold that is our inheritance as children of the Armenian Church. For this I will always remember him. His gracious wife Berjoughie added to the joy and warmth of that afternoon."

Pidedjian was the recipient of numerous awards and commendations, including the St. Nerses Shnorhali medal from Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, a gold medal from the Central Committee of Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society and an Honorary Professor Diploma from the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory.

The visitation took place on August 1 at St. Gregory the Enlightener Armenian Church in White Plains, followed by funeral services at the same church and interment at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Flushing on August 2.

Pidedjian is survived by his wife, Beatrice (Kachian), son, Datev and wife Jeanne, son, Antovk and wife Ani; grandchildren, Alexandra, Adam, Stephen, Kyle and Daron; brother, Boghos and wife Takouhie and sister, Haigouhie Ganimian.

Nazareth Salbashian

Longtime Staff Member at Diocesan Center

NEW YORK – Nazareth Salbashian, a longtime staff member at the Diocesan Center in New York, and manager of its St. Vartan Bookstore, died on July 2, following several weeks of hospitalization in Englewood, NJ.

From his birth in Beirut, Lebanon on November 21, 1943, to his last day, he nourished those around him with his positive spirit, sense of humor, kindness and love. Born to Khosrov and Haigouhi Salbashian, he graduated from the AGBU Hovagimian-Manoogian Secondary School and was educated at Haigazian University in Beirut. He worked in textiles for over two decades and dedicated the past 20 years to serving as the bookstore manager of the Eastern Diocese.

He cherished his family and friends, and was loved and respected in return. He will be remembered as a ray of light who emanated warmth and generosity.

Diocesan Primate Bishop Daniel Findikyan presided over the funeral service on Monday, July 8, at St. Vartan Armenian Cathedral.

Cathedral Vicar Fr. Mesrop Parsamyan, Diocesan Vicar Fr. Simeon Odabashian, Fr. Karekin Kasparian and Fr. Arshen Aivazian all participated.

In a touching eulogy, Findikyan characterized Nazareth as "faithful to a fault" - citing his intense devotion to his family, his industriousness, and his lifelong embrace of the Armenian heritage. The Primate remembered him as a man who spoke the truth fearlessly, in a spirit of love and generosity towards others.

He is survived by his wife, Azniv, and three children, Maral, Lisa and Sevag; his brothers Simpad and Koko Salbashian, his sisters Takouhie Pidedjian and Hermineh Babayan, and their families. He was predeceased by his brothers Hagop and Drtdad, as well as his parents.

He will be sorely missed by his colleagues at the Diocesan Center, who prayed for his recovery and looked forward to their friend's eventual return among them.

Giragosian

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Meet Judge Armenui Amy Ashvanian

ASHVANIAN, from page 5

in the now the Independent Republic of Armenia. I was both humbled and honored to have been offered that position and, since then, I have been working with the Republic of Armenia to reform their criminal justice system for almost 11 years. We are happy that the US Government is willing to train judges, law enforcement officials, and defense attorneys to have transparency in the system. I have also been working, in the last three years, with the government officials in the Republic of Artsakh to reform their judicial system.

Kevoork: When did you become a judge?

Ashvanian: I applied for the position and I was fortunate enough to be appointed as Superior Court Judge by Governor Brown in February of 2018. Now, I serve as a judge in the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles in East Los Angeles. This was a dream come true, as I am the only immigrant born in Armenia to become a Superior Court Judge.

Kevoork: Tell us about your family.

Ashvanian: I am happily married to my high school sweetheart, and we have two children.

Kevoork: I understand that you also teach law classes. Can you tell me where?

Ashvanian: Yes, for the last five years, I have been teaching at the Glendale University College of Law, my alma mater. I teach professional responsibilities for attorneys, criminal and constitutional procedures, and criminal prosecution as an elective. Besides teaching, mentoring young people has been a passion of mine.

Also, I became a volunteer coach at the AGBU Vatche and Tamar Manoukian High School in Pasadena and for the last three years, I have been teaching their mock trial team for constitutional rights foundation and I am very happy to say that last year my team went all the way to the playoffs.

Besides, I mentor law students in the Armenian community and tell them that they could achieve anything, if they have the right mindset. I present myself as an example to them saying, if I could do it, then you could do it.

Kevoork: Have you been back to Armenia?

Ashvanian: Yes, I go a minimum of once a year, and since 2008, I have been back to Armenia on average twice a year. Every summer I try to take my kids there, because I want them to have a strong connection with Armenia. I have been very fortunate to have two children who have such strong ties to Armenia. I have also taken them to Artsakh. It has been highly educational for them to see how people live in the villages day-by-day, and how kids their age act. They come back with a different perspective of life.

Kevoork: What do you like and dislike about being a judge?

Ashvanian: I keep telling everyone that this has been the most fulfilling job any one can have. If you really have passion and care for the system, and you want to make a difference in the system, then this is the job for you. Having this job for the last year and a half is a blessing for me. I love coming to work every day, not being an advocate for one side or the other, but

listening to both sides and using my discretion, based on the law and following the constitution. I have nothing negative to say about this job.

Kevoork: Do you encourage our lawyers to become judges?

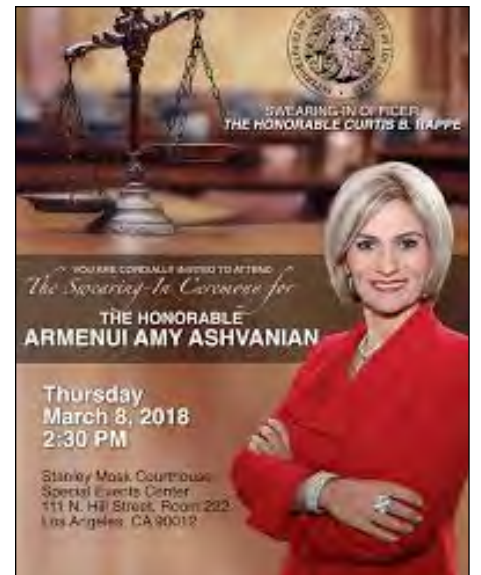
Ashvanian: Absolutely. We do not have enough Armenian-American judges on the bench. Every opportunity I have, such as mentoring or giving panel discussions, I take the time to say to graduates of law school, or to lawyers: don't ever say no or limit yourselves. We should have a diverse population of judges on the bench.

Kevoork: What is the right path for obtaining a judgeship?

Ashvanian: There is no one formula or path for judgeship. I teach professional responsibilities at the Glendale University College of Law, and when students ask me that question, I tell them it is your reputation and credibility that matters the most. An honest and hard-working lawyer who has respect for the court, the litigants, and the defendants are the key for success. Also, another important aspect is participating in works, such as community service, pro bono work, and community outreach.

Kevoork: To be honest with you, I was impressed with your presence at the last two Armenian community outreach meetings with Congresswoman Judy Chu and Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

Ashvanian: I never miss an opportunity to attend those meetings, because it is very important to me to be a part of the community. I was



very lucky to see there some of my mentees, who were inspired by me. It is inspiring for me to see that I was able to make a difference.

Kevoork: What is your final message for our community?

Ashvanian: We have a great and large Armenian community in Los Angeles, full of people who are very successful. We do a lot of good for our youth, for example, through the Armenian Bar Association. My message would be: don't give up, work hard, have confidence in your ability, and don't be discouraged. If you need help, find someone you really connect with. You can reach the stars with hard work and keep doing what you want to do. Don't be pressured to do what your parents want you to do. This helps the future generations of our community.

Kevoork: Thank you, Judge Ashvanian.

A Lifelong Calling To the Priesthood

FR. VOSKI, from page 5

In his sermon at the ordination badarak, Findikyan related the story of St. Voski: a diplomatic visitor to the kingdom of Armenia during the Apostolic Age, who met Christ's apostle St. Thaddeus and became a convert to Christianity. Voski was the earliest priest of the Armenians to be remembered by name, and zealously evangelized the countryside prior to his martyrdom.

The Primate urged listeners to revive the passionate faith exhibited by St. Voski, whose name in Armenian means "gold." "Our genuine faith is more precious than gold," he said. "And today we have a new priest who is more precious than gold, and I have given him the name Voski."

Taking the Pastoral Staff

The new Rev. Voski Galstyan will formally take up duties as pastor of the St. George Church, where he has been serving as Deacon-in-Charge for the past several months. His tenure will begin after he undergoes the traditional 40-day period of seclusion for new clergy.

During the ordination ceremonies, the Rev.

Gomidas Zohrabian stood as the sponsoring priest. Fr. Gomidas was Fr. Voski's predecessor as pastor in Hartford, and currently leads the St. David Church in Boca Raton, Fla.

Mr. and Mrs. Sarkis and Ruth Bedevian (from the St. Leon Church of Fair Lawn, NJ) were the godparents of the new priest.

The Hartford parishioners as well as clergy and faithful from the region gathered for the services and the celebratory banquet honoring Fr. Voski's consecration.

A Lifelong Calling

Arman Galstyan was born in Yerevan, Armenia. He began his altar service as a teenager, and shortly thereafter enrolled at the Gevorgian Seminary of the Mother See of Holy Ekmadzin. Freshly out of the seminary he worked at Yerevan's Gandzasar Theological Center translating writings by Anania Narekatsi from classical to modern Armenian.

In 1997, at the invitation of then-Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, he

moved to the US to continue his education at Concordia College and St. Vladimir's Seminary, and was ordained as a deacon in 2003. During the intervening time he served in St. Vartan Cathedral in New York, and also worked in the Diocesan Complex in the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center and the Fund for Armenian Relief.

For a decade, he pursued a business career in Canada. But as Bishop Daniel affirmed in his ordination sermon, the former Dn. Arman felt his calling so strongly that he returned to St. Nersess Seminary in 2016 to complete his studies for the priesthood. After graduating in 2018 he served as a pastoral intern under the supervision of the Rev. Fr. Diran Bohajian at the St. Leon Church in Fair Lawn, NJ.

His ordination is the culmination of a lifelong calling to serve Christ, his church, and the Armenian people. Fr. Voski and his wife Yeretzhin Margarita have three children: Alexander, Emma and Michael.

New Priest Ordained at the Diocese

FR. ANDREAS, from page 5

Vital Thread of Ministry

The Armenian priesthood has been a vital thread running through Fr. Andreas' entire life. He is the son of the Rev. Keghart Garabedian, the former secretary to the late Catholicos of All Armenians, Vasken I. Indeed, Fr. Keghart was the sponsoring priest at his son's ordination. Fr. Andreas' godfather was H. Nicolas Berberian.

The 31-year-old Fr. Andreas is a native of Yerevan, Armenia, who grew up in Canada among the Armenian parishes his father served. He has been serving on the altar in one capacity or another since the age of three, and has been guided along his spiritual path by two former primates of the Canadian Diocese, Archbishop Hovnan Derderian and Bishop Bagrat Galstyan. It was the latter who ordained Narek as a deacon in 2006.

Subsequently he studied at the seminary of the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, with the blessing of the late Patriarch Torkom Manoogian. He graduated at the top of his class and shortly thereafter, in Armenia, married

Nune Chukhajyan. The couple settled in New Rochelle, NY, so he could attend St. Nersess Armenian Seminary and St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary. He received a Master of Divinity degree in 2016, and a year later was assigned by then-Diocesan Primate Archbishop Khajag Barsamian as Deacon-in-Charge of Chicago's St. Gregory the Illuminator Church.

Fr. Andreas has a special love for music, and has honed his skill as both an instrumental and vocal artist. He will spend his 40-day period of retreat at the Armonk, NY, campus of St. Nersess Seminary, after which Fr. Andreas and Yeretzhin Nune Garabedian will take up their new roles at the Chicago parish.

Primate's First Ordination

Important as ordination was to Fr. Andreas, the occasion was also a milestone in the ministry of Bishop Daniel. With his elevation to the episcopal rank this past May, the Primate became authorized to confer the sacrament of Holy Orders. Fr. Andreas represents the first priestly ordination performed by Bishop Daniel's hand.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

AMAA 2019 Summer Internship to Armenia Provides Interns Vision for a Mission

By Rev. Serop and Alina Megerditchian

PASADENA, Calif. — The theme of the Internship “Vision for Mission,” organized by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), which took place July 4 to 19 in Armenia, was to provide the youth from dif-



Visiting an impoverished family in Vanadzor

ferent parts of the world – the United States, Canada, Australia, South America, Europe and the Middle East the opportunity to learn about and appreciate many ministries of the AMAA and the Evangelical Churches of Armenia (ECA) in the Homeland.

The interns provided different types of services, such as visiting, cleaning houses, cooking and having prayer time and lunch with the lonely, elderly and needy families in Vanadzor and Shiragamout, assisting at Vacation Bible School (VBS) for children and children with special needs in Vanadzor, making jam (Mourabba) for Shogh Center’s kids in Vanadzor and working

with children at AMAA’s Sheen Shoghig Camp in Hankavan.

Fifteen interns from eight countries bonded with each other very quickly and very well, as one family, and each day actively participated in the program and praised God for witnessing AMAA’s and ECA’s ministries for the children, youth, adult, elderly and needy of Armenia.

Interns toured significant AMAA ministries such as AMAA’s Avedisian School and the Shogh Day Centers. They met with local church pastors and congregations supported by the AMAA through the network of the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA). They had the opportunity to spend two days working alongside leaders at AMAA’s Sheen Shoghig Camp in Hankavan. They spent five days doing mission projects in Shiragamout and Vanadzor and they also visited cultural sites to discover their rich, Armenian cultural roots.

We would like to commend the interns for having the vision and implementing it through mission and, with their own money, sponsoring a child at Shogh Day Center in Vanadzor.

The success of the AMAA Summer Internship relies heavily on the support of the leadership at the AMAA Offices both in Paramus, NJ and Armenia. Special thanks go to AMAA Executive Director/CEO Zaven Khanjian, AMAA-Armenia Representative Harout Nercessian, Senior Pastor Evangelical Church of Armenia Rev. Mgrditch Melkonian,



VBS at Evangelical Church of Armenia in Vanadzor

Associate Pastor of Evangelical Church of Armenia in Yerevan Rev. Hovhannes Hovsepyan, AMAA-Yerevan Headquarters Office Administrator Anna Ohanyan, Vanadzor AMAA Office Administrator Janna Danielyan and AMAA’s PR/Communication’s Coordinator Louisa Janbazian for their continued willing-

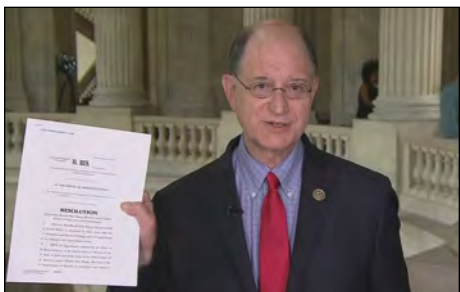
ness to make this program thrive for the benefit of our young Armenians all over the Diaspora.

(Rev. Serop Megerditchian is the senior pastor of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, CA.)

US House Rallies in Support of Halo Trust Demining Efforts in Artsakh

WASHINGTON — Eighty-nine US House of Representatives rallied together to support the HALO Trust’s demining efforts in Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) in a letter spearheaded by Representatives TJ Cox (D-CA) and Brad Sherman (D-CA). In addition, a similar letter is being considered in the Senate, reported the Armenian Assembly of America.

“We strongly urge USAID to reconsider the decision to stop funding for humanitarian landmine clearance in Nagorno Karabakh at the end of this year. It’s more important than ever that we continue to support the humanitarian demining program in the region until mine-free sta-



Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA)

tus is achieved,” the letter reads.

The Members of Congress point out in the letter that if USAID halts all support for demining in the region, the move “would leave the people of Nagorno Karabakh to live in fear of death or injury from landmines, with no local capacity in place to address this ongoing threat.”

“With thousands of landmines still left in the ground, and families living daily in the shadow of death or devastating injury, this is no time for the United States to back away from its historic commitment to the people of Nagorno Karabakh,” the HALO Trust USA Executive Director Chris Whatley said.

“The Armenian Assembly of America appreciates the strong support from so many Members of Congress on this important humanitarian initiative. We would also like to thank the HALO Trust for their critically important life-saving work,” Assembly Congressional Relations Director Mariam Khaloyan stated.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Armenian Assembly Summer Interns Welcomed by Parliament Speaker Ararat Mirzoyan

YEREVAN and WASHINGTON – The Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) eight-week internship program, based in Yerevan, offers international work experience opportunities, promotes better understanding of the socio-political situation in the region, and introduces participants to life in Armenia through visiting cultural sites, participating in educational activities, and meeting with civil society and political leaders.

During the first week of the Assembly's Summer Internship Program (SIP) in Armenia, participants toured the National Assembly of Armenia, and watched from the gallery part of a morning session on the budget, during which Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and members of the government were present. At the beginning of the session, Speaker of Parliament Ararat Mirzoyan welcomed the Armenian Assembly of America Internship Program participants to the Parliament. Afterwards, the interns met with two members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Relations, Tatevik Hayrapetyan and Sos Avetisyan.

"Our 2019 group of remarkable and impressive college-age students are engaged and open to discovering, exploring and embracing all that



Armenian Assembly of America SIP participants with Artsakh President Bako Sahakyan and Foreign Minister Masis Mayilyan

Officials of Armenia Chairperson Siranush Sahakyan.

- Megan Jakob, from Lexington, MA, studied economics and macroeconomics and Spanish language and culture at University of Massachusetts, Amherst and will be transferring to the University of Virginia in the College of Arts and Sciences. She is interning at the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and the City of Smile Foundation, which supports children with cancer.

- Adrian Kromelian, from Washington, D.C., attends Marymount University in Virginia studying molecular and cellular biology. He is interning at the Institute of Molecular Biology of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia and the Pirouzyan Medical Center.

- Adriana Maljanian, from Altadena, CA, attends Hillsdale College in Michigan studying history. She is interning at the AMAP Human Development NGO and the Matenadaran, The Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts

- Michelle Ohanian, from North Hollywood, CA, attends the University of California, Los Angeles studying history. She is interning with the Permanent Representation of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (Artsakh) in Armenia.

- Christopher Tusan, from Laguna Niguel, CA, is a recent graduate of California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He is interning with YerevanRide, a commuting alternative in Armenia's capital city providing clean, affordable, and effective methods of transportation.

- Hagop Zakaryan, from Anaheim, CA, attends California State University of Fullerton studying political science, with a focus on law

and international relations. He is interning with the Path of Law NGO, working for former Artsakh Ombudsman Ruben Melikyan and former Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking Officials of Armenia Chairperson Siranush Sahakyan.

"It is a great pleasure and so gratifying to be part of the Armenian Assembly team as the Summer Internship Program Coordinator. I am delighted to be part of this comprehensive program that promotes the integration of Armenian American students into modern Armenian society, provides them a unique opportunity to better understand the current situation in Armenia and Artsakh, and helps our internship participants reconnect with their roots," Assembly Summer Internship Program Coordinator Anna Avagyan said.

The summer internship program participants have met with Security Council of Armenia Secretary Armen Grigoryan, High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs Zareh Sinanyan and his Chief of Staff Sara Anjargolian, Regional Studies Center Director Richard Giragosian, Maro Matosian of the Women's Support Center, and former Armenian Assembly SIP intern alumna (class of 2007) and founder of Hayrenaser Organization Nelli Martirosyan. Hayrenaser contributes to

the preservation and development of Armenia's independent statehood by identifying and addressing critical challenges, and is currently rebuilding and expanding the school in Moshatagh Village in Artsakh.

The interns were given a behind-the-scenes tour of ArmComedy, the first satiric news site in Armenia, and met hosts Narek Margaryan and Sergey Sargsyan. The SIP participants also had the opportunity to watch a taping of the show, and guest star briefly at the end of the episode.

The Armenian Assembly visited Karin Village, the site of the Armenia Tree Project's (ATP) first nursery in Armenia, and invited Assembly Life Trustee Flora Dunaian and her family to join. Together, they planted ash trees at Ashtarak Park and learned about ATP's amazing work. Today, 25 years since its establishment, with all its nurseries, community tree plantings, and strong worldwide support, ATP has planted close to 6 million trees.

As part of their excursions around Armenia, interns rode the Wings of Tatev and visited the Armenian Genocide Memorial and Museum, Charents Arch, Geghard Monastery, Garni Temple, Etchmiadzin, Khor Virap, Lake Sevan and Sevan Monastery, Matenadaran, Noravank Monastery, Sardarapat Memorial Complex and Ethnography Museum, Zvartnots Cathedral, and more. They also traveled to Saralanj Village in the Kotayk Region to help build a home through the Fuller Center for Housing.

SIP interns recently returned from Artsakh, where they met with President Bako Sahakyan, National Assembly Speaker Ashot Ghouljian, Foreign Minister Masis Mayilyan, Ombudsman Artak Beglaryan, and Head of the Kashatagh Regional Administration Stepan Sargsyan. At The HALO Trust, interns received a sombering briefing on the demining efforts taking place.

In Artsakh, interns also visited Shushi, Tigranakert, Tatik-Papik, the newly-consecrated Church of the Intercession in Stepanakert, Gandzasar Monastery, and Dadivank Monastery. They had the opportunity to try their hand at making carpets at Karabakh Carpet, and more.

To find out more about the 2019 summer interns' journey in Armenia and see more photos, follow the Assembly's accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.



Parliament Speaker Ararat Mirzoyan

Armenia has to offer, including active participation during meetings, with very thoughtful questions leading to fascinating discussions with leaders here," Assembly Regional Director Arpi Vartanian said.

The Armenian Assembly Summer Internship Program in Yerevan class of 2019 includes:

- Emily Ekshian, from Pasadena, CA, attends the University of California, Berkeley studying political economy and Armenian language and literature, with a minor in human rights. She is interning at the Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute and Path of Law NGO, with former Artsakh Ombudsman Ruben Melikyan and former Commission on Ethics of High-Ranking

Summer Interns At the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*

INTERNS, from page 1

"Nicholas has been a great addition to our office. He is willing to help with proofing pages and whatever else we ask him to do. He has a bright future ahead of him," said editor Alin K. Gregorian.

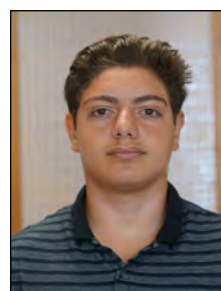
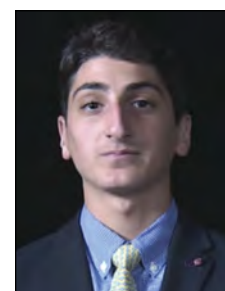
Mkrtchyan, 16, hails from Armenia. He and his family moved from Yerevan to the US when he was in the seventh grade. He currently is a junior at Weymouth High School.

He graduated from St. James Armenian School, in Watertown, one year ago. He is fluent in English, Armenian and Russian.

"The *Mirror-Spectator* has helped me a lot to understand journalism and its inner workings. Also, it is helping me to become a better writer with better grammar," Mkrtchyan said.

"Suren has helped us with organizing much of our photographs this summer. We wish him well as he continues his high school journey," Gregorian noted.

Arkun added that Suren is very tech-savvy and



Nicholas Zorain, left, and Suren Mkrtchyan

helpful both in organizing the *Mirror* archives and making additions to the *Mirror* website. "Having industrious interns is always an enriching experience for the *Mirror*, and we hope that our interns will keep in touch with us and the Armenian community in the future," he said.

The *Armenian Mirror-Spectator* offers internships during the year as well as during the summer.

Navy Destroyer Honors Armenian-American Paul Ignatius

IGNATIUS, from page 1

Spencer. "From the start of the acquisition process, to the keel laying and christening, to today's commissioning and the many missions she will fulfill going forward, this destroyer enhances our capabilities for air, undersea, surface, strike and ballistic missile defense."

The future USS Paul Ignatius will be the 67th Arleigh Burke-class destroyer, and is one of 21 ships currently under contract for the DDG 51 program. Arleigh Burke-class destroyers conduct a variety of missions from peace-time presence and humanitarian assistance/disaster relief to sea control and power projection.

Built in the Flight IIA configuration, the ship delivers rapid reaction time, high firepower, and improved electronic warfare capabilities.

Ignatius was born in 1920 in Glendale, the son of Armenian parents who migrated to the United States, Elisa (née Jamgochian) and Hovsep "Joseph" B. Ignatius (original last name - Ignatosian). Ignatius currently resides in Washington, D.C.

He has two sons, one of which, David Ignatius, is a columnist for the Washington Post, as well as a novelist. Another son, Adi Ignatius, is editor in chief of *Harvard Business Review*.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

ATG Delivers Portable Veterinary Lab to Armenia

FRESNO and YEREVAN — The fifth Portable Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (PVDL) was delivered to Armenia by the Armenian Technology Group, Inc. (ATG). This time the portable laboratory was stationed in Kavar, by Lake Sevan, in Geghargunik region of Armenia.

Garik Degoyan, head of Kavar regional veterinary services was excited to take possession of the latest PVDL. “I have been anxiously waiting to have received this amazing package since I first saw it demonstrated few years ago! We never had such flexibility and efficacy in our hands. This will be very useful to us; we can reach the farmers and provide fast service to their animal health concerns, no matter where they might be located.”

The PVDL and its components were hand carried to Armenia by the president of the ATG Board of Directors, Dr. James P. Reynolds,

The PVDLs could be used by veterinarians to conduct an on-farm and on-site diagnoses of animals for Complete blood counts, including WBC and RBC; Culturing and incubation of bacteria; Fecal examinations; Staining and microscopy of tissues, fluids, bacteria and parasites; Semen analysis; Serum chemistries and Urinalysis.

“In celebration of our 30th anniversary in serving the people of Armenia, ATG is pleased to have stationed another PVDL in Armenia,” said Reynolds. “We believe these portable laboratories present the opportunity to significantly enhance the veterinary diagnostic capabilities of livestock industry in Armenia.”

The Armenian Technology Group was founded 30 years ago, in 1989, to assist the people of Armenia toward agricultural development. Since 2015 however, ATG has placed five PVDLs at the Regional Centers for Veterinary



Garik Degoyan taking possession of PVDL in Kavar from Dr. James Reynolds



Varoujan Der Simoian handing a PVDL to Ijevan regional Veterinary Service Center

DVM, MPVM, who had initiated the concept of PVDL and the executive director of the organization, Varoujan Der Simonian.

The Portable Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories enables local veterinarians to provide on farm and on-site veterinary services to domestic, cattle and dairy producing livestock, thereby helping prevent the loss of farm animals and subsequently farm income.

Services in Yerevan, Vanadzor, Ijevan, Goris and Gavar.

During their trip representatives of the ATG board members met with Berg Tumanyan, DVM, the head of Central Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Armenia and Georgi Avetisyan, director of State Food Safety Services.

Avetisyan also oversees Veterinary Services, which, after restructuring of the government,

these services were moved outside of the ministry and placed under direct supervision of the Prime Minister’s Cabinet. They visited with local veterinarians as well, and evaluated previously stationed PVDL sites.

ATG is a California based non-profit organization. Tax-deductible donations could be made on line through the organizations website [atgusa.org] or mailed to Armenian Technology Group, Inc. P.O. BOX 5929 Fresno, CA 93755.



Dr. Reynolds presenting the PVDL to Garik Degoyan



Varoujan Der Simoian of ATG handing a PVDL unit to Ijevan regional Veterinary Service Center



Dr. James Reynolds with the staff of Kavar Regional Veterinary Service Center



COMMUNITY NEWS

NAASR Expands Its Worldwide Reach While Building New Headquarters

BELMONT, Mass. — In the midst of constructing its new state-of-the-art headquarters in Belmont, MA, the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) has also expanded its programs and scholar support worldwide with an unprecedented level of activity in the first half of 2019.

To date, in 2019, NAASR has sponsored or co-sponsored 38 programs on a variety of subjects and in many locations, the most in its history for a six-month period. These events have taken place in Massachusetts, California, New York, New Jersey, Washington, DC, Maryland, and, for the first time ever, with the AGBU Cairo in Heliopolis, Egypt. The programs have touched on numerous aspects of Armenian history and culture and included several NAASR/Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Lectures on Contemporary Armenian Issues.

Among these programs were co-sponsorships of four major conferences: “Armeno-Iranica: A Shared History,” at UCLA and UC Irvine; the 17th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies, at UCLA; “Entangled Encounters: Antiquity and Modernity in Armenian Studies,” at Harvard University; and the 2nd Feminist Armenian Studies Workshop: Gendering Resistance and Revolution, at the University of California, Irvine. NAASR also supported the screening of Armenian films at the 2019 Socially Relevant Film Festival in New York City and partnered with the Columbia University Armenian Center and other groups to present a series of lectures.

In keeping with its tradition of collaboration, NAASR works with many Armenian organizations, including frequent co-sponsorships with the Ararat-Eskijian Museum in California and St. Leon Armenian Church in New Jersey, as well as academic and other institutions such as Harvard, Tufts, Columbia, Georgetown, UCLA, and UC Irvine, as well as the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

During this time, NAASR received its largest ever number of grant requests from scholars around the world, and on its own and in collaboration with the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies with which it has partnered since 2007, increased its scholar grants, issuing 19 from January to June of 2019 to the following scholars:

2019 Grant Recipients

Dr. Taner Akçam, Kaloosdian-Mugar Professor of Armenian Genocide Studies, Clark University, Worcester, Mass., grant to conduct archival in Ottoman, German, British, and American archives for new research project on Cemal Pasha and his role during Armenian Genocide. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Tigran Aleksanyan, archaeologist, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia, support for project to document monuments preserved in the Republic of Armenia and Artsakh associated with the memory of Vardanants’ martyrs.

Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Dr. Anahit Avagyan, Senior Researcher, Department of Researching and Editing of the Ancient Armenian Texts, Mashtots Matenadaran—Research Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Yerevan, travel grant to present paper “Armenian Translation of the Pseudo-Athanasian Dialogue ‘Quaestiones ad Antiochum ducem’ (CPG 2257): Some Preliminary Remarks on its Possible Critical Edition,” at the 18th International Conference on Patristic Studies in August 19-24, 2019, at Oxford. Grant issued by NAASR.

Anoush Baghdassarian, MA student at Columbia University, New York City, travel grant to go to Armenia to conduct research for thesis on the attitudes of Syrian-Armenian refugees in Armenia toward efforts of redress and transitional justice in post-conflict Syria. Grant issued by NAASR.

Dmytro Dymydyuk, PhD candidate in History, Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine), travel grant request to take part in the conference “Military Campaigns, Weaponry, and Military Equipment (Antiquity and Middle Ages),” May 16-18, 2019, in Varna, Bulgaria, to present paper “One-Edged and Curved Blade in Bagratid Armenia (late 9th-mid 11th c.): Problem of Interpretation of Sources.” Grant issued by NAASR.

Khoren Grigoryan, PhD student, Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography, National Academy of Sciences, Republic of Armenia, travel grant to participate in 16th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies at UCLA, February 2, 2019, presenting paper “Transforming Identity after 1915: Case of Musa Dagh.” Grant issued by NAASR.

Julia Hintlian, PhD student in Religion, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, travel



NAASR Academic Director Marc Mamigonian speaking at Columbia University in April.

grant to present paper at the XVIII International Conference on Patristic Studies at the University of Oxford, August 19-24, 2019, presenting paper “Metz Mayr Miriam: The Embellished Armenian Lineage of Marutha of Maipherkat.” Grant issued by NAASR.

Vahe Hovsepyan, PhD student in Department of History, Yerevan State University, travel grant to conduct research in the St. Petersburg Russian State Historic Archive for dissertation on “Eastern Armenia in Caucasian Viceroyalty (1844-1882).” Grant issued by NAASR.

Carla Kekejian, PhD student in Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, travel grant to support participation in “Entangled Encounters” Armenian Studies Conference at Harvard University, March 28-29, 2019, to present paper “Harsneren: ‘Language of the Armenian Bride.’” Grant issued by NAASR.

Hratch Kestenian, PhD candidate in History at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, travel grant to consult the Ottoman archives housed at the Ba bakanlık and archives of Surp Prgich (Holy Savior) hospital in Istanbul for doctoral research for thesis entitled “The Making of a Social Disease: Tuberculosis and the Medicalization of Ottoman Society (1827-1922).” Grant issued by NAASR.

Dr. Umit Kurt, Polonsky Postdoctoral Fellow, The Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, publication grant to support editorial work on English translation of his book Antep 1915: Soykırım ve Failler for publication by Palgrave. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Marco Marsili, PhD student in Studies of Security and Defense from the ISCTE-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL), travel grant to conduct fieldwork in Armenia and Karabagh in fall 2019 for thesis on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Pauline Mari Pechakjian, MA student, Department of History, University of California, Irvine, travel grant to support research in Armenia for thesis “Rethinking ‘Repatriation’: A Social History of the Mass Migration of Diaspora Armenians to Soviet Armenia, 1946-49.” Grant issued by NAASR.

Amine Alkan Reis, PhD student, Fakultät VI Planen, Bauen, Umwelt of Technische Universität, Berlin, support for travel and fieldwork for thesis, “A Model Proposal for a Holistic Approach to the Conservation of Evacuated Rural Settlements in the North Eastern Anatolia’s Armenian Heritage: Case Study of Aprank (St. David) Monastery and Üçpınar (Aprank) Village.” Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Anoush Sargsyan, PhD candidate and Junior Researcher, Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts—Matenadaran, Yerevan, travel grant to attend conference “The Surrounding Forest: Trees in the Medieval Imaginary,” organized by the Department of English and Humanities School of Arts, Birkbeck, University of London, June 22, 2019, to present paper “Genealogical Tree of Christ in the Context of the Armenian Version of Peter’s Compendium in Historiae Genealogia Christi.” Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Henry Shapiro, Van Leer Institute, Fellow at the Polonsky

Academy for Advanced Study Jerusalem, and Visiting Researcher at the Faculty for Humanities, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, travel grant to visit Istanbul to access materials on Eremia Chelebi for transformation of thesis “The Great Armenian Flight: The Celali Revolts and the Rise of Western Armenian Society” into book. Grant issued by NAASR.

Dr. Abraham Terian, retired Professor of Armenian Patristics and Academic Dean at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary, New Rochelle, NY, grant to support preparation of *The Life of Mashtots’ by His Disciple Koriwn*, with an introduction, translation, and commentary. Grant issued by the Knights of Vartan Fund for Armenian Studies.

Dr. Daria Vorobyeva, travel grant to expand PhD thesis “Forced Ethnic Migrants’ Integration: Syrian Armenians in



Tigran Alexanyan, archaeologist, received a Knights of Vartan Grant in January to support work on monuments associated with the memory of Vardanants’ victims in Armenia and Artsakh.

Armenia and Lebanon (2011-2016),” completed at University of St. Andrews, Scotland (2018), leading to a book and an article publications. Grant issued by NAASR.

Ani Yenokyan, PhD student, Armenian State Academy of Fine Arts, and Junior researcher at the department of Art History and Writing Center of Research, Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts—Matenadaran, Yerevan, travel grant to participate in 16th Annual Graduate Student Colloquium in Armenian Studies at UCLA, February 2, 2018, presenting paper “The Illustrations of Armenian Printed Books in the Context of Early Modern Armenian Culture (16th-18th Centuries).” Grant issued by NAASR.

Grant Deadlines and Academic Committee

All relevant grant proposals are reviewed four times per year (March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15) by NAASR’s Director of Academic Affairs Marc A. Mamigonian and the NAASR Academic Advisory Committee, currently consisting of Prof. Kevork Bardakjian, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Prof. Valentina Calzolari, University of Geneva; Prof. Michael J. Connolly, Boston College; Prof. Bedross Der Matossian, University of Nebraska; and Prof. Christina Maranci, Tufts University. In January 2019 Prof. Dennis Papazian (University of Michigan, Dearborn) and Prof. James R. Russell (Harvard University) stepped down from the committee after many years of dedicated service.

For more information contact NAASR at hq@naasr.org.



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Arts & Living

Concert to Honor New Diocesan Primate

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — Grammy Nominee Lexington composer Hayg Boyadjian's composition *Armenian Suite* will be performed at a concert Sunday, August 25, at 1:30 p.m. at St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church, Binghamton, by violinist Armen Boyajian and pianist Pej Reitz. They will also perform works by Komitas as well as Armenian folk melodies.

The event is to honor Bishop Daniel Findikyan, who was recently elected Primate for the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America.

Reitz and Boyajian are both Binghamton, NY natives and attended Binghamton University. Reitz also studied at Boston University and the New England Conservatory of Music; Boyajian attended the Eastman School of Music.

Reitz has accompanied at concerts in the US, Great Britain, Austria, and South America and is on the faculty at Binghamton University and Ithaca College.

Boyajian is also a jazz pianist and founded Air Apparent in 1979 in Washington, DC, performing at Blues Alley, Carter Barron Amphitheatre, New York City, Baltimore, Augusta, Ga. and Charlotte, NC.

Boyadjian's *Armenian Suite* was first written as a commissioned work for trombone and piano. The composer then realized that the work had potential for different versions for different instruments, as the present one for violin and piano, including one for symphonic orchestra which became recorded on CD, "Opus One CD #198."

The suite uses a set of Armenian folk melodies (songs and dances). Twelve melodies are quoted, either in full, or in part, or with minor changes. All the melodies are single voiced and the composer's duty was to add harmony to them and work out musical material for transitions from one melody to the next, taking into account the changes in



Violinist Armen Boyajian, Pianist Pej Reitz

tonality, rhythm and tempo. The melodies range from the religious (spiritual), to the patriotic, to the idyllic (shepherd's song), to the nostalgic (The Crane), to the happy dance (Tamzara).

Regarding the suite the composer wrote: "Armenian folk music is like most eastern music, often modal (especially the Dorian mode), or in a minor key, sometimes combining two minor keys. These melodies often use complex and uneven meters in their rhythms. My task was to make a coherent whole of this diverse material. Since my musical training as a composer has been in the tradition of western music, I decided, and found interesting to combine the eastern and the western musical traditions in the melodic and harmonic language of this suite."

The concert is free.



Poster for "Aurora's Sunrise"

Animating History

The Zoryan Institute Brings the Testimonies Of Genocide Survivors to Life

TORONTO — Can you imagine if you, as a kid, could see the animated story of your grandparents on screen? What if you could watch them recount their life story and learn more about who you are and where you come from? What if you could not only listen to the testimonies of Armenian genocide survivors, your grandparents or great-grandparents, from the survivors personally, but also watch the story in animation on screen?

The Zoryan Institute is working to make that a reality! The Institute, in partnership with BARS Media of Armenia, is converting its oral history accounts of the survivors of the Armenian genocide into animation. To illustrate the courageous and inspiring life story of one such survivor, Aurora Mardiganian's testimony will be the first to be made into an animated film, titled "Aurora's Sunrise," to be shown worldwide some 100 years later since the first silent movie of 1919.

Aurora Mardiganian was one of the biggest celebrities of the Golden Age of silent film. She was a survivor of the 1915-1918 Armenian Genocide, a refugee turned actress, and the unlikely star of one of the highest grossing films of her time.

As described in her interview, three years after her escape from the Armenian Genocide, Aurora wrote the best-selling book, *Ravished Armenia*, in which she shared her harrowing experiences. A year later, she starred in a film adaptation of the book, which became one of the biggest blockbusters of the silent era. Aurora was also the face of an unparalleled humanitarian campaign for victims of the genocide that raised awareness and over \$30 million in 1919.

Along with breathtaking animation and recovered segments of Aurora's original silent film, "Aurora's Sunrise" resurrects her inspiring story of female empowerment. Aurora stands alongside figures such as Anne Frank, Malala Yousafzai and Nadia Murad as a champion of human dignity. She is not a victim but a hero — a fighter for justice and humanity.

Through this medium, future generations will be exposed to engaging and visceral adaptations of the Zoryan Institute's Oral History Archives. The Archive can be used to illustrate not only Aurora's story, but the thousands of hours of filmed interviews in the collection including the Institute's interview with non-Armenian survivors of the Armenian Genocide such as Eleanor Ussher-Baker.

Ussher-Baker was the daughter of the medical missionary, Clarence Ussher, who served as a doctor and missionary in Marsovan, Harput and Van from 1898 to 1915 and was a witness during the massacres of Van in 1915.

This project is a massive undertaking and still requires a great deal of time as well as human and financial resources. A project of this caliber and importance can cost upwards of \$1 million. "Aurora's Sunrise" has received a commitment from ZDF/ARTE, one of the biggest public broadcasters in Europe to include Aurora's Sunrise in one of the six spots on their channel dedicated to theatrically released documentaries. The film has also won support from Eurimages, "Best Pitch" at the Belgrade Women in Film's Film Festival and the "Best Project" award from the Armenia-Turkey Cinema Platform. The film is scheduled to be premiered in 2020.

Howling Prowling, The Beat:

Intersecting Lines, Lives, Memory, History

LUXEMBOURG — The poetry of *The Silent G* (Corrupt Press, 2019) comes from an inability to be distracted into an extinction of reality — an extinction that stems from the arcane democratization of matter over time, and the resulting expansion of capitalization into the personal domain, our gods — quasi god, demi god, God god, all; and we, with the body and status of an absent body, without the need to establish voice.

Arpine Konyalian Grenier, author of *The Silent G*, was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon. She spent the summers with her family in the Kessab province of Syria where her maternal grandparents (Apelians) had been landowners for centuries. Her father, Krikor was an orphan from Konya.

She holds graduate degrees from the American University of Beirut, and the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, Bard College.

The collection may be considered a songbook of whats, why and hows, experienced ontologically, culturally, socially and multi-nationally against a backdrop deemed Armenian — its prolific and full-bodied history, all too subtle and volatile a song for legal restraint, as enchanted syllables lash the wind, unwilling to match desire to the attenuation of the passion it comes from. It is dedicated to

Nora Rose, the poet's granddaughter, and Grandma Gul the grandmother she never had the chance to meet (Gul is rose in Turkish).

The love I love is one, but one, the only rose!" reads the inscription under the statue of priest, scholar, historian, poet and community leader, Fray Angelico Chavez (1910-1996) at the downtown plaza in Santa Fe. And Celan, translated reads, "Bolt the door: There are roses in the house ... where they beat my father and mother to death: what bloomed there, what blooms there?"

Rhetoric is out. Persuasion, unnecessary. One ponders the chaos sustaining the world of languages, after a derivative of the past, the longing to connect just because we're human overshadowing the politic of the human. Pli by pli, the beat provides position, that minutia, while the excessive endorses disposition; form, therefore perception, sensation, plasticity. If it weren't for love, weren't for ethics, cured of speech, she says and writes.

Her work has appeared in numerous publications, often awarded or as finalist. Other credits include published collections, multi-disciplinary collaborations, guest editing, and participating at conferences, both as co-convenor and presenter. Her archives are being held at the Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington.

Academic and corporate years were devoted to cardiovascular research, human resources development, and regulatory finance. She wrote during lunch breaks and the weekend, music first then poetry. Her work has appeared in numerous publications, often awarded or as finalist. Other credits include multi-disciplinary collaborations, guest editing, and co-convening or presenting at conferences.

To purchase a copy visit www.corruptpress.com





ARTS & LIVING

Armenian Artists in Research And Dialogue

By Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

BERLIN – Websites and blogs are generally the voice of an individual. This one speaks for a family, three generations, all of them artists of renown. The Galentz Research Center, launched by third generation artist Archi Galentz, is a blog platform – in Armenian, English and Russian – and a meeting place for persons active in the cultural realm. Especially those interested in Armenian visual art and its history are welcome visitors.

Archi Galentz, who launched the website <https://galentz-research.org> in July, explains that it is based on the history and experience of his own family, from grandparents Harutyun Harmandanyan Kalentz (Galentz) (1910-1967) and his wife, Armine Baronyan-Kalentz (Galentz) (1920-2007), to father Saro Galentz (1946-2017), to himself, Harutyun Archi Galentz, born in 1971.

Educated in Moscow, Yerevan and Berlin, he has been living and working in the German capital for many years. In his atelier, InteriorDasein, he has hosted exhibitions of his own and other artists' works. In 2016, he curated a unique exhibition of works by his grandparents. (See <https://galentz-research.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Artistic-Journeys-through-National-Destinies-The-Armenian-Mirror-Spectator.pdf>)

Last year he opened a new gallery, Wolf & Galentz, together with Andreas Wolf. In addition to organizing exhibitions, the two artists serve as consultants for collectors and estates. Galentz himself has a vast, impressive collection of modern and contemporary works.

His latest initiative is the new site, which offers information on this rich family heritage, in the form of published articles as well as new research. With the help of the site, Galentz hopes to lay the basis for a Galentz Research Center,



Andreas Wolf, left, and Archi Galentz

an independent institute “based on part of Harutyun Galentz’s house-museum in Yerevan, after its restructuring.” In addition to promoting cultural studies, including art history, the new entity will take part in educational activities.

A Contested Legacy

Galentz’s plan to establish a new research center is an uphill struggle. Following his father Saro’s fatal heart attack in 2017, strife erupted regarding his estate, as there was no last will and testament. Nor had a proper inventory been compiled of the numerous artworks left in his home, works by the deceased, and family members, including Archi’s maternal grandfather, sculptor Nikolai Nikogosyan. In addition, there were artworks done by Archi Galentz himself and others from his private collection.

As Galentz explained in an article published the *Armenian Mirror-Spectator*, the inheritance battle was more than a personal matter and involved a broader, public dimension. (See <https://mirrorspectator.com/2019/04/04/the-debate-about-culture-and-the-culture-of-debate/>) This is due to the nature of the legal framework – or lack thereof – in Armenia regarding intellectual property rights of artworks or manuscripts, as well as the legal status of museums and their

exhibits. Attempts to compile a notarized list of artworks in the home-museum of the deceased met with difficulties that successive courts had to deal with, all the way up to the Supreme Court.

The issue of the contested legacy occupies a prominent place in Galentz’s new site, and numerous documents (in Armenian) related to the legal battle are available, in addition to a film clip of a news item from state television in June of this year.

Repatriate Artists

The site also functions as a blog, with discussion of topics that go beyond the Galentz family story. Most welcome to the site is information regarding the works of repatriate artists to the Soviet Union and others; site visitors with knowledge of works or photographs of Petros Kontrajyan, Aramik, Manuk Ghrdian, among others, are invited to contact info@galentz-research.org. Another topic of interest is Armenian surrealism, in the visual arts, cinema and theatre, both in the Soviet Union during the 1970s-80s and in the diaspora. Finally, Galentz places great importance on the cultural dialogue between the Republic of Armenia and the diaspora, aimed at forging unifying strategies.

Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway: Coming Together on Common Ground

BOSTON – Many who work and live nearby and beyond visit Armenian Heritage Park on the Greenway often. Many walk the labyrinth daily or enjoy quiet moments on a bench. Most all they marvel at the Abstract Sculpture’s annual configuration, its newest, dramatic sculptural shape and read the inscription on the Reflecting Pool upon which the Abstract Sculpture sits. Visitors are from all over the world, and those who come to Boston to visit the Park.

Summer programs at the park are also engaging all ages, coming together on common ground. Upcoming events include Under the August Moon on Thursday, August 22 at 7:30 p.m. promises to be a highlight again this summer.

Hosted by anoush’ella co-owners, Chef Nina and Raffi Festekjian, also benefactors of the park, this evening under the August moonlight showcases their signature dishes.

“Their use of fresh, authentic ingredients can be detected in every bite of crave-worthy mezze,” states the *Boston Globe*.

The evening also brings the chance to extend congratulations to the Festekjians for the opening of anoush’ella in two new locations – Time Out Market Boston near Fenway Park and 1205 Market Street in Lynnfield. Their original location at 35 Newton Street, Boston is a South End favorite.

The moonlit evening also features an All-Star Jazz Trio, courtesy of the Berklee College of Music. RSVP is appreciated; email hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

Another summer favorite is Tea & Tranquility on Wednesday, August 14 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Many enjoy the monthly program to meet and greet, enjoy MEM Ice Teas

and desserts, walk the labyrinth and get to know one another. RSVP is appreciated; email, hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org.

Exciting planning is also underway for Celebrating the Contributions of Our Nation’s Immigrants! a gala benefit on Wednesday, September 18, at the InterContinental Hotel, Boston. Funds raised support the park’s Endowed Fund for Care and Maintenance to ensure that the park is impeccably cared for and maintained year-round. A group of philanthropic and corporate and community leaders are attending, the gala honoring Dr. Noubar Afeyan, founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering. The benefit shines a light on the park and Afeyan’s outstanding leadership and philanthropy. At his suggestion, organizations serving immigrants and refugees will be recognized during the evening. Benefactors of the Park from the outset, Anna and Noubar Afeyan have endowed the Park’s Fund for Programs which annually supports the genocide commemoration and the Welcome Reception for New Citizens, Their Families & Friends at the Park following their Naturalization Ceremony at historic Faneuil Hall.

Advance reservations are required. To receive an invitation, email hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org with mailing address.

Programs at the Park are planned by an exceptional team providing key leadership and include Armine Afeyan, Kristin Asadourian, Jason Behrens, Alexis Demirjan, Susan Deranian, Tom Dow, Manneh Ghazarians, Carol Ishkanian, Martha

Mensoian, Catherine Minassian, Dr. Armineh Mirzabegian, Tsoleen Sarian, Barbara Tellalian, Chiara Megighian Zenati, Arlette Yegumians, Ann Zacarian, and Zareh Zurabyan with many others joining the team planning specific programs and initiatives. The commitment and dedication of many volunteers involved in implementing these programs add immeasurably to the program’s success as do all who join us.



Armenian Heritage Park



ARTS & LIVING

Katherine Hodgson: Researching the Beautiful, Fascinating Armenian Language

By Artsvi Bakhchinyan

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

YEREVAN/CAMBRIDGE — Katherine Hodgson is a British linguist whose main subject of research is Armenian and its dialects. She spent four years living in Armenia, conducting linguistic research and teaching at the Vazgenyan Theological Seminary by Lake Sevan. She left Armenia to complete the final year of her PhD in Paris, where she was welcomed by the large Armenian community and regularly took part in Armenian cultural activities...

There is an expression among expats in Armenia – ABC – Armenian by choice. Can we call you like that taking into account not only

your mastering the Armenian but also the fact you have baptized in an Armenian church?

Yes, I'm happy with that.

Lord Byron studied the Armenian language in order to make his brain busy with a difficult and charming task. What was the motivation after some 200 years Byron's compatriot studied the same language?

The original motivation was because of my work in linguistics, specifically on modern Greek dialects spoken in Armenia, I was interested in studying the contacts between Greek and Armenian, as these two peoples have been in contact for thousands of years, but while engaged in this 'difficult and charming task' I met some really wonderful and interesting people who helped me on the way, and it became a real pleasure in itself.

It is interesting to note that among the

researchers of Armenian dialects there are non-Armenians, like Polish Andrzej Pisowicz and American Bert Vaux. To examine a language's dialects means first to master a high knowledge of the literary language...

Not necessarily in that order, but knowing one certainly helps to learn and understand the other.

Please tell our readers about your academic activities – what path you have crossed and where are you now.

I have just finished my PhD at Inalco in Paris, under the supervision of the French-Armenian linguist and head of the Armenian Studies department Anaid Donabedian. Because of this I spent the last year in Paris, to finish and defend my thesis. I have just been accepted for a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Cambridge, funded by the Endangered Languages



Documentation Project, which will involve working with the few remaining speakers of the dialect of Agulis ('zokeren') and the surrounding villages who left Nakhijevan for Armenia in 1988. I hope to be back in Armenia after the New Year to work on this project. The results will be made publicly available online for anyone to look at and make use of.

You lived in Yerevan for four years – how can you characterize the life here?

I found it a very pleasant place to live, very relaxed and friendly. I never once had the feeling of being alone in a foreign country. I was particularly struck by the level of trust and humanity in interactions with strangers (people in Armenia couldn't believe that children in England are taught not to talk to strangers, and people in England couldn't believe that in Armenia, people let strangers hold their bags and even their children on public transport). I also found the sense of humour strangely familiar, which was a big part of why I felt at home; an Armenian bishop I worked with who spent several years studying in England made the same observation.

How was your teaching experience at Vazgenian Seminary in Sevan?

I really felt like part of a big family there. I think I learnt at least as much from my students as they did from me, I am still in touch with a lot of them, it was the start of what I am sure will be lifelong friendships. And it is a very special place, that has some sort of indescribable spiritual power. I still miss it.

Are you familiar with Armenian literature? Do you have a favorite author?

I particularly liked *Hin Astvachner* (Ancient Gods) by Levon Shant, I read it before I ever imagined I would end up working at Sevan, at first I didn't realize it was the same place!

What can a non-Armenian do in this society, eager for a better life and full of expectations for positive changes?

I think the most important thing is to help young people to believe that there are opportunities for the future in Armenia, and that there are some positive things in Armenia that could make a person choose to leave another country and live there. From this point of view, just living in Armenia in itself can have a small positive impact. But of course the most important thing would be to actually create opportunities. Working with young people in Armenia, I was most impressed by their outward-looking attitude and readiness to embrace and create innovative ideas, while remaining very much connected to their cultural roots. Foreigners and diaspora Armenians living in Armenia can provide links to the wider world that could help these people to realize their dreams. If a way can be found to allow them to make and exploit international connections while remaining in Armenia, and use the results of their efforts to benefit Armenia, then the future of this country will be bright indeed. But if they can't support themselves, let alone a family, with their work, then of course they will try to move to a country where they can, and no-one can blame them for that.

Do you intend to continue your research in the Armenian language?

Sure. As I told you I plan to return to Armenia in the near future with a project documenting the Agulis dialect. I hope that my work will help to spread appreciation among both Armenians and non-Armenians for the beautiful and fascinating Armenian language and its historical and cultural heritage.

Recipe Corner



by Christine Vartanian Datian

Bulgur, Mint and Peach Salad

INGREDIENTS

1 cup medium or coarse bulgur
2 or 3 medium peaches (or nectarines), diced or cut into wedges
1 medium green, red or yellow bell pepper, seeded and chopped
1 cup chopped flat-leaf parsley
1/2 cup green scallions, white and green portions, chopped
1/2 medium chopped red onion (or 1 small chopped yellow onion)
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese, optional
1/2 cup chopped mint leaves
1/2 cup olive oil and juice of 2 lemons, to taste
1 1/4 cups boiling water
Salt, pepper, cayenne pepper, paprika, and cumin, to taste
1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil
1 head romaine lettuce or Bibb lettuce or Belgian endive, sliced avocado, chopped mint as garnish

PREPARATION

Place bulgur in a medium bowl and cover with the boiling water. Top with a plate or plastic wrap and let sit for 15-20 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. If any liquid is leftover, strain it out. Let bulgur cool while you prep the rest of the salad.

In a serving bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice, salt, pepper, cayenne pepper, paprika, cumin, and basil.

When bulgur is cooled, add it to the serving bowl and toss with the remaining ingredients and the dressing already in the bowl.

Garnish with lettuce leaves, avocado and mint, and drizzle with olive oil. Top with paprika, if desired.

*Substitute fresh shallots for red onions in this recipe, and try a pomegranate dressing instead of olive oil and lemon juice.



Pomegranate Dressing

INGREDIENTS

1/2 cup olive oil, or a little more
4 tablespoons pomegranate molasses
3 tablespoons honey or maple syrup
2-3 tablespoons water
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1/4 teaspoon salt, to taste
1/8 teaspoon pepper
Chopped toasted walnuts or pecans as garnish
Arils from 1 pomegranate as garnish

PREPARATION

Put all ingredients (except walnuts and pomegranate arils) in a blender; blend on low speed and gradually increase to high. Continue blending for 30-60 seconds until dressing is smooth. Toss salad with dressing and garnish with walnuts and pomegranate arils. Serve extra dressing on the side.

Christine's recipes have been published in the *Fresno Bee* newspaper, *Sunset* magazine, *Cooking Light* magazine, and at <http://www.thearmeniankitchen.com/>



ARTS & LIVING

Edmond Kherlopian: From Kenya to South Africa and Zambia

By Artsvi Bakhchinian

Special to the Mirror-Spectator

LUSAKA, Zambia – My interviewee is Edmond (Eddy) Kherlopian, an Armenian who was born in 1942 in Kenya and now lives in Zambia with his wife Wendy Mansfield Kherlopian. He went to Prince of Wales High School in Nairobi, Kenya and was the managing director of Aquilla Printers Ltd in Lusaka.

Dear Edmond, for many years I have collected information about Armenians in Africa. I first read about your family in the travel notes of Mardiros Mozian, published in 1957. He wrote that in 1954 he has been in Nairobi where he visited the Kherlopian and Simonian families. He particularly mentioned that those families showed him “top traditional Armenian hosting...”

I do not recall Mardiros Mozian visiting us. We had so many visitors during those years. I would be very interested to read his memoirs.

I assume your family history goes back to Aintab; the family has given two representatives to Armenian culture – editor Dikran Kherlopian and philosopher Kevork Kherlopian.

My father was born in Van and at age 7 with his 9-year-old sister became a refugee since his complete family was wiped out by the Turks. As I recall he travelled through Iran, Iraq and Syria and the sister ended up in Beirut.

And how did your family end up in Africa?

By now my dad was in his 20s and due to the war, the French government collected many Armenian families and settled them in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A very large community developed there. After getting married to my mother, my two elder brothers were born there; then they moved to Nairobi, Kenya, in 1938, where I was born in 1942.

As far as I know there were 10 Armenian families in Kenya – the Tekerian, Saatjian and Dasnabedian families. Have you any idea if there are Armenians there?

To my knowledge all Armenians left Kenya when it achieved independence due to a very violent transition from British administration and non-Blacks were targeted simply because they were white or Asian. I left in 1969 for South Africa. My dad passed away in 1975 leaving my mother alone and she was attacked in her home and terrorized by a gang of thugs who were allowed into the property by the security guard. She never recovered from that assault. I moved her to Johannesburg after that and she lived with my family and with her younger sister Juliette, who was also in Johannesburg with her family.

The family names I remember in Nairobi besides ourselves was my grandmother’s family, the Hindoians, five sisters and two brothers; my mother Ossana, the eldest child; Virginia Tekerian, Louise Essoyan, Juliette Kelly and Violet Scheidat. Two brothers Moses and Krikor. All except Virginia (US) and Violet (Australia) are late. Also there apart from all the above, were the Tomasyans, and many others whom I don’t seem to remember but it will come back as I think more about them.

Now you live in Zambia. So far I knew only the name of surgeon Krikor Ertzingatsian. According to a statistic from 2002, there are only 10 Armenians in that country. Do you agree?

We moved to Zambia in 1993, supposedly to undertake a contract I was given for three months and 26 years later we are still here, but we are in the process of winding up here as the economy is totally destroyed due to massive corruption and very bad governance. I have already wound up my business and sold my property with a view of moving to Armenia, but the authorities are in doubt as to my birth since my birth certificate was issued by the British authorities as Kenya was under their rule then. So I was not able to get my Armenian passport; it seems they don’t believe I am Armenian, even though I was able to give them as much docu-

mentation as I had left from my parents. I’m sure if they saw my nose that would be sufficient proof! I will try again when I am there in September. This trip is exploratory to see if we can assimilate into the society, whether we would be accepted, the living conditions and whether we would be able to find a small business to keep us fed and housed.

To my knowledge there are only three Armenians in Zambia: myself Ara Hovhannessian (who is related to Dr. Krikor whom I have never met. He is a complete recluse and only interested in his work). Another lady married to a Greek left for Cyprus and another dentist left for Zimbabwe several years ago.

Is there an African-Armenian identity? Are there traditions you maintain and you know they come from your Armenian family?

Although I grew up and was educated in a complete English-speaking society, we did live at home as Armenians, spoke the language at home and we cooked and ate as my parents were taught.

So, *hayeren ge haskenas?* (So do you understand Armenian?).

Anshousht ge haskenam. (Surely I do). However I did not have the privilege of learning



Edmond Kherlopian and his wife, Wendy Mansfield Kherlopian

to read and write Armenian as there was no schooling facility available. Besides all my friends were English, except for the three

Tomasyan brothers who were of a similar age to me and my two brothers.



Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc.

Dr. Nubar Berberian Annual Awards

Dr. Nubar Berberian, intellectual, journalist, activist and editor of many ADL daily newspapers for more than 50 years passed away at the age of 94 in November 23, 2016. In his Will, Dr. Berberian directed his Trust Fund managers to appropriate awards every year to college students of Armenian descent worldwide who major in either International Law or Political Science.

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Eligible recipients are college students of Armenian descent who major in either International Law or Political Science.
- 2) Applicant must be enrolled in a full-time graduate program in a fully accredited college or university in the world.
- 3) Applicant must provide all of the information requested on the application form.
- 4) Applicant must submit a copy of his or her most recent college transcript.
- 5) Applicant is to include a small head and shoulders self-portrait.
- 6) Application could be received by requesting from Tcadirector@Aol.com.
- 7) Applicants should submit applications electronically (via email) to: Tcadirector@Aol.com, The Paper submissions will be accepted by the deadline at:

Tekeyan Cultural Association, Inc.
Dr. Nubar Berberian Trust Fund
755 Mt. Auburn Street
Watertown, MA 02472
USA

but electronic application is preferred.

- 8) The deadline of receiving the applications is **September 15, 2019**.
- 9) The administrators and managers of the fund will vote the qualified winners in **October, 2019** based on the merits of each applicant.
- 10) The winner or winners will receive their awards in **November, 2019**
- 11) Winning applicants are not eligible to apply again.
- 12) This announcement is published in Armenian, English, French and Spanish.

Watertown, MA, July 15, 2019



ARTS & LIVING

C A L E N D A R

ARIZONA

NOVEMBER 2-3 — ARMENIAFest at St. Apkar Armenian Apostolic Church. Weekend food and cultural festival featuring traditional Armenian foods, beverages, exhibits, music and dance performances. 8849 E. Cholla St., Scottsdale.

NOVEMBER 16 — SOAR (Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief) Annual Golf Tournament. Saturday 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Stonecreek Golf Club, 4435 E. Paradise Village Pkwy, Phoenix. This is a fundraising event for Armenian orphans. For more information, contact Dr. Alan Haroian, 603-540-1961.

MASSACHUSETTS

AUGUST 11 — Annual Picnic, 12 — 5 p.m., Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Church, 180 Old Westford Rd., Chelmsford. Music and dancing to the Jason Naroian Ensemble. Shish, Chicken, and Losh Kebabs. Armenian Pastries. Children's Activities. In the event of rain, picnic will be in the Kazanjian Memorial Ballroom.

AUGUST 14 — Tea and Tranquility. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. Meet & Greet. Walk the Labyrinth. Enjoy refreshing Ice Teas, hosted by MEM Tea Imports and dessert. Introduction to walking the labyrinth, mindful and meditative walking at 4:45pm. RSVP appreciated hello@armenianheritagepark.org

AUGUST 14-23 — Wednesday and Fridays Summer Studio Art Classes for kids, Session 2. Armenian Museum of America, Adele & Haig Der Manuelian galleries, 3rd floor, 65 Main Street, Watertown. Artists are explore the amazing objects in the galleries and create art from this inspiration. Ages 6-10: 11 am to 1 pm; Ages 11-14: 3 pm to 5 pm; Session 2 Dates: August 14-23, Wednesdays and Fridays. Cost per student: \$120. Members (family or higher) \$96! Individual drop-in classes can be purchased for \$35. Members \$28. A 10% discount will be offered for each additional sibling in the same course and/or class. For individual classes and siblings, please call Education Coordinator, Garin Habeshian at 617-926-2562, ext. 103.

AUGUST 22 — Under the August Moon. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. Thursday from 7:30- 9 p.m. Delightful evening for supporters, partners & friends featuring fabulous signature dishes, hosted by anoush'ella and the Berklee Jazz Trio. RSVP appreciated hello@armenianheritagepark.org

AUGUST 25 — Armenian Church at Hye Pointe Picnic. 12 to 5 p.m., Armenian Church at Hye Pointe Picnic to be held at our new Family Life & Cultural Center, 1280 Boston Road (RTE. 125) Haverhill MA Music by the fabulous Jason Naroian Ensemble. Menu includes Lamb Shish, Losh, & Chicken Kebab Dinners, Kheyma, Pastries, & Beverages. Air Conditioned Hall. Bring your lawn chairs for sitting outside. For more info visit www.hypointearmenianchurch.org or call (978) 372-9227. Take Rte. 495 N to exit 48, bear right at the end of the ramp and follow the signs. Additional parking at Osgood Landing with free shuttle bus to the picnic grounds.

SEPTEMBER 15 — Trinity Annual Picnic, 12 -5 p.m., Church Grounds and Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge MA. Food, fun and fellowship for all. Join us for an afternoon of delicious Armenian food, Armenian music, children's activities, raffle drawing, and more. Blessing of the Madagh at 4 p.m. For further information, call the Church Office, 617.354.0632, or email office@htaac.org.

SEPTEMBER 16 — Registration is now open for the 2019-2020 sessions of the Abaka Dance Academy, 101 Bigelow Ave., Watertown, MA. Principal/director Apo Ashjian. Classes begin September 16 for grades Nursery II - Grade 10 students. Check the schedule and enroll today at www.abakadanceacademy.com. For more info, email abakadanceacademy@gmail.com or call 617-283-2010.

SEPTEMBER 18 — Celebrating Contributions of Our Nation's Immigrants – Gala Benefit for the Endowed Fund for Care of Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway Honoring Dr. Noubar Afeyan, Leader & Philanthropist Recognizing Organizations Serving Immigrants & Refugees InterContinental Hotel Boston. Advance Reservations only. For information, hello@ArmenianHeritagePark.org

SEPTEMBER 22 — Sunday Afternoon for Families and Friends. Armenian Heritage Park on The Greenway, Boston. 2-4 pm. Wonderful afternoon with The Hye



The Armenian Heritage Park will host a celebration called "Tea and Tranquility" on Wednesday, August 14, the park on the Greenway in Boston. The program will take place 4.30 to 6 p.m. Visitors can walk the labyrinth and enjoy tea and dessert. To RSVP write to hello@armenianheritagepark.org.

GuysEnsemble featuring Ron Sahatjian and Joe Kouyoumjian. Hoodsies, Face Painting and more RSVP appreciated hello@armenianheritagepark.org

SEPTEMBER 29 — Sunday, at 6 p.m. The screening of "The Stateless Diplomat," a documentary film by Mimi Malayan on the heroic life and legacy of Diana A. Apcar (1859-1937), Armenia's Honorary Consul to Japan in 1920 at Mosesian Center for Arts, 321 Arsenal St, Watertown. Organized by the Armenian Cultural Foundation and co-sponsored by Amaras Art Alliance, Arlington International Film Festival, Armenian International Women's Association, Armenian Museum of America, Armenian Women's Welfare Association, National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, and Tekeyan Cultural Association. Details to follow. For more details contact ACF during office or email: armeniancultural.fdn@gmail.com

OCTOBER 19 — The Vosbikians are coming to the Merrimack Valley. The Armenian Friends of America proudly present their Annual HYE KEF 5 Dance, featuring The Vosbikians. The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Andover, MA. Tickets Purchased before 9/13/19 will include the Great Venue, Outstanding Buffet, The Vosbikian Band and 5 Free Raffle Tickets Adults \$75.00 & Students 21 & under \$65 Specially priced AFA Rooms available through 9/17/19. For Tickets and more information, Contact: Lu Sirmaian 978-683-9121 or Sharke' Der Apkarian at 978-808-0598 Visit www.Armenia-FriendsofAmerica.org

OCTOBER 20 — Annual Banquet of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, Celebrating the 58th Anniversary of the Consecration of Holy Trinity and honoring Bruce Newell as the "Parishioner of the Year," 12:30 p.m., Charles and Nevart Talanian Cultural Hall, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. Save the date; details to follow.

NOVEMBER 1,2 — NAASR Grand Opening and Gala. Friday, November 1 – Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting, NAASR Vartan Gregorian Building, at NAASR's new world headquarters, 395 Concord Avenue, Belmont, MA. Saturday, November 2 – NAASR 65th Anniversary Gala, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel, Cambridge. 6 pm Reception, 7 pm Dinner and Program. Honoree Dr. Vartan Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York; Master of Ceremonies David Ignatius, columnist for the *Washington Post* and novelist; Featuring renowned soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, accompanied by the Borromeo String Quartet, performing a program of songs by Komitas. Further details to follow.

NOVEMBER 16 — St. Stephen's Armenian Elementary School 35th Anniversary Celebration. 6:30 PM Cocktail Reception, 7:30 PM Dinner and Program. The Westin Waltham - Boston, MA \$150 per person.

DECEMBER 6 and 7 — Friday and Saturday, Trinity Christmas Bazaar, Friday, 12 noon-9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge. For further information, contact the Church Office, 617.354.0632.

DECEMBER 15 — Christmas Holiday Concert – Erevan Choral Society and Orchestra, 3:00 p.m., Church Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Greater Boston, 145 Brattle Street, Cambridge, MA. Save the date; details to follow. For further information, call the Church Office, 617.354.0632, or email office@htaac.org.

MICHIGAN

OCTOBER 26 — Kef Time Keghi IV 6:30 p.m. Saturday, at St John Armenian Cultural Hall, Southfield, headlined with Traditional Keghetzi Pagharch feast, full buffet dinner with dancing, music by the Keghi All-Star Armenian Band. Reservations call Laura Negosian Lucassian at 248-376-3794 or email at Llucassian@TBEonline.org. Donation: Adults \$45, Children under 17, \$20. Cash Bar. Mail checks to Karen Nigosian, 21919 Michigan Ave, Dearborn. MI 48124 Checks payable to Nor Keghi Association. Proceeds to support continuing renovations at public schools and community projects in Nor Keghi, Armenia. Supported by parishioners of the four Armenian churches in Greater Detroit.

NOVEMBER 16 — The Knights of Vartan, Nareg-Shavarshan Lodge #6 and the Daughters of Vartan, Zabelle Otyag #12 will celebrate their respective 100th and 70th organization anniversaries. Featuring: Kevork Artinian and his All Star Band at St. Mary's Cultural Hall, 18100 Merriman Rd, Livonia. This is a fundraiser Dinner/Kef Dance to celebrate Knights and Daughters as well as a chance for future members to observe how our community puts our heritage on display. All proceeds to fund renovation of school gymnasium, Knights of Vartan #106, Elementary School, Yerevan, Armenia. For Reservations Contact: Laura Lucassian, (248) 376-3794, Cost \$75 per person, \$40 after 9:30 pm

NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 25 — Banquet Honoring Dr. Taner Akcam Abajian Hall St. Leon complex Fair Lawn, NJ Sponsored by Knights & Daughters of Vartan- Under the Auspices of His Grace Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate. For Reservations please call Sona Manuelian 551-427-8763. \$125 p.p. early reservations recommended.

RHODE ISLAND

SEPTEMBER 20 — The Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence will host a book presentation, "The World of Konstantin Petrossian" (English and Armenian), Published by Institute of Arts National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia, and Composers Union of Armenia. Friday at 7 p.m., Egavian Cultural Center, 70 Jefferson street, Providence. Details to follow.

SEPTEMBER 22 — The Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence Presents Meet With The Doctors - Questions & Answers. We invite everyone to avail themselves of this opportunity and "Meet with our Armenian Doctors" Dr. Martin Papazian, ear, nose and throat specialist. Steven Zaroogian, Moderator. Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Hanoian Hall, 70 Jefferson St., Providence.

OCTOBER 20 — The Cultural Committee of Sts. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Church, Providence Presents Meet With The Doctors - Questions & Answers. We invite everyone to avail themselves of this opportunity and "Meet with our Armenian Doctors" Dr. Herman Aqvazyan Internal Medicine. Topic: New Trends in Primary Care Medicine. Ara Boghigian, Moderator. Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Hanoian Hall, 70 Jefferson St., Providence.

WASHINGTON, DC

SEPTEMBER 16-17 — Armenian Assembly of America's National Advocacy Conference and Gala will take place. It will include the Conference, Gala honoring Armenian American Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill, and a Congressional Reception celebrating U.S.-Armenia relations. Special room rates available at The Wharf InterContinental Hotel. Visit www.aimhye.com for tickets, sponsorships, special hotel room rates, and more information.



COMMENTARY

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Mirror Spectator

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‘Abandoned’ Armenian Properties Around the World

By Edmond Y. Azadian

Armenians all over the world are eager to recover properties left within the borders of the Republic of Turkey after the Genocide. The Ittihadist Party, which perpetrated the Genocide and carried out the expulsion of the Armenian population from the Ottoman Empire, intended not only to make the country more homogenously Turkic by the elimination of the Armenians, but to enrich their coffers by confiscating the properties and wealth from the Armenians.

Talaat Pasha's *Black Book*, discovered and published by Turkish historian Murad Bardakci, fully demonstrates how meticulously Talaat had tabulated Armenian properties and population demographics for extermination and expropriation purposes.

Later on, the Kemalist government passed a law designating as “abandoned properties” what was not claimed by the Armenians. Today, every piece of confiscated property, returned to the Armenian community by the government of Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is hailed with gratification. At one point, even Archbishop Aram Atesian claimed that the Istanbul Armenian community cannot manage any more returned properties.

Catholicos of the Great House of Cilicia Aram I is suing the Turkish government to acquire the Monastery of Sis and lawyers are after the lands in Incirlik on which a US air base operates, owned by Armenians and their surviving descendants.

Every effort to recover lost or confiscated properties is commendable. It must also not be forgotten that we have valuable properties outside Turkey's borders. We consider many of them abandoned; however the use of the term is relative because they are not technically abandoned but somehow their use by the larger Armenian community is hampered, denied or limited.

The case of the “abandoned” properties became a topical issue, when the fate of the lands at Sevres, near Paris, owned by the Mekhitarist congregation, was brought to public attention. A 13,000-square-meter of property in the historic city of Sevres,

Even the island monastery on San Lazzaro was at stake and it was saved through Alex Manoogian's generosity.

The fate of the Sevres property has been a topic of private and public discussion by many parties, some consideration was given to the idea of converting it into a Genocide studies center. At other times, it was suggested that it be converted to a conference center. But nothing has been achieved because of internal dissensions.

In 2016, Pope Francis appointed Monsignor Zekiyan as his representative to save the property. Zekiyan is known for his organizational skills and currently is serving as the head of the Armenian Catholic community in Turkey. At this time, a plan is underway to build income-generating facilities to finance the needs of the complex as a cultural and educational center.

It may be a deviation from the topic if we discuss the fate of both Mekhitarist congregations, in Venice and Vienna, which are in hot water.

Mkhitar Sebastatsi moved his congregation to the island of San Lazzaro in 1717. Later on, some disgruntled priests severed ties with the congregation and moved to Trieste. But when Napoleon occupied Austria, they were given official recognition to establish a monastery in Vienna in 1810.

Political parties have always been criticized that they are at each other's throats. Few realize that these God-fearing members of the clergy have not talked to each other for almost a century. But their competition has benefitted the Armenian communities as both have become bastions of scholarship and have run networks of schools throughout the diaspora.

With the loss of many of the priests, the Vienna congregation was weakened and eventually fell under the jurisdiction of the Venice one, compounding the woes of the entire Mekhitarist movement.

The fate of the Mekhitarist congregation is not a singular case. There are many similar cases in other parts of the world.

Now that Armenia is independent, all these cases must become part of Armenia's diasporan agenda. We claim that the various succeeding administrations in Armenia have not invested enough

resources to study and learn about the diaspora's assets and problems. Granted, Armenia is not a powerful country to intervene in the affairs of other countries to protect the interest of their fellow Armenians, as Turkey does defending the rights of Turkmens in Iraq or the rights of Tatars in Crimea and even the fate of the Uyghurs in China.

In terms of Armenian interests, the Calcutta Armenian academy is another case to be studied.

Through the 16th to the 19th centuries, Jughha Armenians in Iran had ventured to develop commerce and trade in the Far East, establishing prosperous Armenian trading posts and communities as far away as Manchuria, Harbin, China; Surabaya, Indonesia; Singapore, India and more. Most of the wealth accumulated in those communities has been lost. In addition, many assets have disappeared in India. But one institution is alive – the Armenian Philanthropic Academy in Calcutta, founded by Astvatsatur Muradghanian and Mnatsakan Vartanian.

It was established in 1821 and has educated many generations of Armenians from Iran. Over

the years, the academy has also educated students from India, Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Azerbaijan, mostly from Armenian communities.

When the Armenian community numbers dwindled, the academy fell into disrepair and for a long time, its fate was in limbo. Many assets in India were lost in the community because the laws did not allow the transfer of funds to other countries. Finally, in 1999, the High Court of West Bengal ordered that the Catholicos of the Armenian Church “administrate the school” along the terms of the submissions made in the application to the Calcutta High Court.

In the same year, the first group of students from Armenia arrived. His Holiness Karekin II has visited the academy twice.

By sheer luck, this case has somehow had a happy ending, by bringing a “lost” institution under the jurisdiction of the supreme Patriarch of the Armenians.

The church and government authorities must have a policy to pursue and recover assets scattered all over the world by the Armenian people and today, they have to be considered endangered properties.

Next week, we will discuss other cases whose destiny may not be as promising.

(This is the first part of a three-part series on the fate of Armenian properties in the diaspora.)



where the eponymous treaty was signed in 1920, is at stake at this point.

A recent visit by Monsignor Levon Zekiyan and President Armen Sarkissian brought the plight of the property into public debate.

This is not the first Armenian property to be lost in France. The French-Armenian community has experienced similar losses before, when unscrupulous wheeler dealers took over the Armenian center on Rue de Trevis, evicting all Armenian organizations housed there.

At this time, a serious debate is raging in the French-Armenian community and the Mekhitarist congregation which owns the property and was the site of the Samuel Mouradian School which opened in 1928 and closed in 1997.

The school educated many teachers, priests, educators and community leaders. Since its closure, it has been left to deteriorate and has become an eyesore and thus the municipal authorities have threatened to take over the property.

This is again the fate of many Armenian institutions which grow through community donations and then are left to the mercies of aging lay or religious leaders, before they are lost in controversial deals when they are swindled by third parties.

Several decades ago, the Mekhitarist congregation of Venice fell victim to a bank fraud and lost properties on Lido island and Asolo, valued at that time worth more than \$50 million.



COMMENTARY



My Turn

By Harut Sassounian

Turkish and Armenian Prisoners Of War Held in India and Burma During WWI

The Ottoman Empire entered World War I on the side of Germany against the alliance of France, United Kingdom, Russia, the United States and several others.

Out of 2.6 million Ottoman soldiers, 250,000 were captured by the Allied Powers as prisoners of war. Tens of thousands of them died during captivity from disease, starvation and harsh weather conditions. The great majority of the Ottoman soldiers were Turks, but there were also a smaller number of Armenians, Assyrians, Greeks, Jews, Kurds, Laz, Circassians, and Arabs. Most Armenian soldiers were disarmed and either killed or forced to work in labor battalions. Around half-a-million Ottoman soldiers deserted the army during World War I.

Dr. Hamid Hussain published in the Defence Journal of Pakistan a fascinating account of the fate of Ottoman war prisoners captured by the British army in Iraq and subsequently dispatched to India and Burma (today's Myanmar). Burma was then part of India before it was separated in 1937.

The largest number of Turkish prisoners of war were captured by the British and held in Cyprus, Egypt, and Malta, in addition to Iraq, India and Burma. Russia, France, Romania and Italy also captured a large number of Turkish war prisoners.

Dr. Hussain wrote that the Turkish POWs (prisoners of war) captured in Iraq by the British were first held in two camps in Basra, an isolation camp "to quarantine prisoners

with disease and an observation camp. Usually prisoners stayed for 2-4 weeks at [the] observation camp before transportation to India and Burma. Prisoners were transported by boats to Karachi and Bombay and were then transported by rail to two camps in India. At Bellary, most POWs were ethnic Turks, while [the] majority of [3,336] POWs at Sumerpur were non-Turkish (Arabs, Christians and Jews)."

Interestingly, Dr. Hussain revealed that at the Sumerpur camp "two Armenians fluent in English, French and Arabic acted as interpreters. The Muslims prayed in a small mosque of the camp. A French monk came regularly to camp for mass for Catholic Christians of the camp. Armenian Bishop of Cairo Thorgom Koushagian visited the camp during Christmas of 1916."

Dr. Hussain also reported that the POW camp at Bellary, India, contained only 137 Ottoman prisoners, almost all officers. Later, more prisoners were brought there. "Turkish officers were [the] product of military reforms and secular in outlook. Many regularly consumed alcohol that was forbidden for Muslims. It needed doctor's order and an officer could buy three bottles of liquor per month. Whisky and soda were popular among officers. Some POWs who died here were buried outside the camp. Most of the graves disappeared during expansion of the military airport. In 1997, [the] Turkish government erected a memorial at the camp site and restored two remaining graves."

The camp in Thayetmyo, Burma, "contained 3,591 Ottoman prisoners of which the majority were Turks but there were some Armenians, Syrian Christians and Jews. Muslim, Armenian and Jewish religious communities of Rangoon sent gifts to their co-religionist prisoners," according to Dr. Hussain.

Interestingly, "the British camp commandant recommended to Turkish officers that a mosque should be built, however, Subhi Bey, who had significant influence among prisoners, opposed the suggestion on religious grounds. He stated that when POWs left, the mosque would be abandoned and that was not permitted in religious texts," wrote Dr. Hussain.

The camp at Meiktila, Burma, housed around 10,000

Ottoman POWs. "Most prisoners spent the day sitting idly and playing cards or backgammon. Some Ottoman prisoners were used as laborers on tobacco plantations, digging for a dam and on Shan state railways," according to Dr. Hussain.

Around a thousand Ottoman prisoners died at the two camps in Burma. "In 2012 relations between Myanmar and Turkey improved and the two governments agreed to restore the cemeteries. Thayetmyo cemetery was restored with Turkish funding and work was completed in 2016," reported Dr. Hussain. However, due to anti-Muslim emotions in Burma, a false rumor was spread that a mosque would be built in addition to restoring the "old and dilapidated cemetery where Ottoman prisoners were buried at Meiktila.... [The] Turkish government had agreed to restore the cemetery, however, there was no plan for building a mosque. This rumor resulted in anti-Muslim violence and the plan to restore the cemetery was shelved.... Gravestones were plundered in the Second World War and seventy years of neglect erased most marks of the past. Over the years, local Muslims retrieved around 200 gravestones and moved them to the courtyard of a local mosque. In 2013, the Turkish government also planned to restore [the] POW cemetery at Sumerpur [India] that had about 149 graves. This area is [the] heartland of proud Rajputs who fought on [the] British side in First and Second World Wars. Some locals protested the restoration project arguing that there is no memorial of Rajputs who fought all over the globe while a memorial was being planned for foreign soldiers."

It is heartbreaking to learn that Armenian soldiers in the Ottoman Army were captured and held in India and Burma during the years of the Armenian Genocide. They escaped from one disaster to end up in a horrendous situation in captivity. Many of them died and were buried in those faraway lands.

Armenian, Turkish and soldiers of other ethnic groups suffered tremendously because of the reckless decisions of the Young Turk junta to enter World War I on the side of Germany and give the death warrant to millions of Armenians, Assyrians and Greeks.

Genocides Begin in the Wilderness, Far from Prying Eyes – In Ottoman Turkey as well as Nazi Germany

By Robert Fisk

MANY believe the Jewish Holocaust was planned by the Nazis at a Berlin lakeside villa at Wannsee on January 20, 1942. Most historians still think the Armenian Holocaust was hatched up by the Ottoman Turks in Istanbul in 1915. Of course, we've long known that the mass slaughter of Europe's Jews began the moment the Germans crossed the Polish border on 1 September 1939 – and carried on across the Soviet Union in 1941, seven months before Wannsee.

But now, almost incredibly, we discover that the liquidation of Christian Armenian men, women and children was first instigated on 1 December 1914 in the far away city of Erzurum – not on 24 April 1915, when Armenians commemorate the first killings of the genocide perpetrated against them. And that back in that fatal December month, the Turkish "Special Organization" – the Ottoman equivalent of the later German SS and Einsatzgruppen – organized the immediate liquidation of Armenians "liable to carry out attacks against Muslims."

We already know the terrifying statistics of the two genocides. The Armenian Medz Yeghern (Great Crime) destroyed a million and a half souls. The Jewish Shoah (Holocaust), which began less than a quarter of a century later, destroyed at least six million souls.

The Turks – and, alas, the Kurds – committed these crimes against humanity of the First World War. The Germans – and, alas, many Slavic peoples of the Nazi-occupied states – committed these crimes against humanity of the Second World War.

The Turks have never, to this day, accepted their responsibility. The Germans have. We still respectfully record how the Turks "hotly dispute" their genocide of the Armenians. We always – rightly – condemn the right-wing Europeans who deny the Nazi genocide of the Jews.

But it is that fine Turkish historian Taner Akçam, in his self-imposed American exile, to whom we this month owe the historically seminal revelation that the Armenians were targeted for death exactly 31 days after the Ottoman Empire entered the First World War on October 31, 1914. The first Armenian victims were only men – the bloodlust to kill their families would come later – in the provinces of Van and Bitlis. But they prove how deeply this war crime was embedded in the countryside of eastern Turkey, in the cities of the periphery rather than the capital.

And thanks to Akçam's research in hitherto unexplored prime ministerial Ottoman archives, we find, for the first time, a secret order from the local Erzurum government headquarters to the governors of Van and Bitlis to arrest Armenians who might be rebel leaders or might attack Muslims, and ordering them "to be deported to Bitlis immediately in order that they be exterminated." No euphemisms here – like the Nazis' infamous "final solution." The Ottoman officials use the Turkish word for extermination: imha.

In some villages near the town of Baskale, the entire male population above the age of 10 was killed. Two months later, in February 1915, an Armenian deputy in the Ottoman parliament sent a report from Van to Talaat Pasha, the Ottoman interior minister in Istanbul, who would be held responsible for the entire genocide of a million and a half Armenians, telling him that "massacres are being carried out in some villages and townships in the environs of Baskale and Saray." Clearly, local Ottoman officials were instigating the genocide – and then asking their masters in Istanbul to approve their decisions.

Akçam has unearthed evidence that local governors would sometimes travel to Erzurum – almost 800 miles from the Ottoman capital – to hold joint meetings on the killings and then communicate their decisions to Talaat Pasha. One of them – only days before the date on which Armenians today recognise the start of their genocide – records an instruction from Erzurum to the governor of Bitlis to send Kurdish militias after the Armenians. On some occasions, it is apparent that regional governors would gather around a single telegraph machine in Erzurum and conspire together with Istanbul in an early 20th-century version of a social media conference call: meetings by telegram.

That the governors fully understood the wicked nature of their acts – and clear evidence that Talaat was well aware of their criminal nature – is reflected in the constant instruction that their telegrams were "top secret" and "to be decoded by the recipient only." One telegram stated that "the copy of the cable was burned here on the spot. Please ensure that Istanbul burns their copy."

On 17 November 1914 – scarcely two weeks after Turkey had joined its German and Austro-Hungarian allies in their war against Britain and France, and long before the previously regarded date of the genocide's commencement – Erzurum governor Tahsin wrote to Talaat that the time had come "to take permanent decisions and orders in regard to the Armenians." Talaat archly replied that Tahsin should "carry out what the situation demands ... until definitive orders are given in regard to the Armenians."

As historian Akçam writes in his essay in this month's issue of the Journal of Genocide Research, Istanbul was essentially "giving the green light to Erzurum for the violent actions that it would subsequently carry out." At the end of November 1914, we find Talaat slyly instructing Governor Cevdet of Van that "until decisive orders are given, it is necessary to carry out the measures demanded by the situation, but judiciously [sic] implemented."

Cevdet, under whose authority 55,000 Armenians would be killed, had warned Istanbul that gangs of Armenians were fighting on the side of the Russians in Iran and the Caucasus and that this had been viewed as a "general uprising by the Armenians." Armenians did indeed ally themselves with Russian troops – for the Tsar was an ally of the Anglo-French entente against the Ottomans – advancing into eastern Turkey. Armenian historians acknowledge this historical fact but point out, correctly, that when Armenians usually took up arms, it was to defend themselves against the Turkish genociders. Around Van, however, there was also evidence, later in the war, that Armenians had revenged their own persecution by massacring the inhabitants of local Turkish Muslim villages.

Hitherto, Turkish historians – other than Akçam and a few brave colleagues – have refused to recognise the Armenian genocide as a genocide.

They have suggested that the deportation of the Armenians may have been prompted by the Allied landings at Gallipoli in the fourth week of April 1915, a few hours before the first Armenian leaders were arrested in Istanbul, or by the Turkish defeat at the battle of Sarikamish in January 1915. But to suggest that the mass killings of a million and a half people could have been devised in so short a time is ridiculous. For example, Governor Resit of Diyarbakir told Istanbul of his plans weeks before Gallipoli, expressing the view that "it would be profitable ... to implement practices as harsh and effective as necessary against the Armenians."

Still apparently concerned that the killings in his own district of Sivas had not been given an official imprimatur, Governor Muammer wrote to Istanbul in a telegram on 29 March 1915 that "if a decision has been taken by the central [government]...that would ensure the orderly mass removal and elimination [sic], I ask that you permit its communication without delay." Other governors referred to the Armenians' "annihilation" and the "implementation of exterminatory measures."

The start of the Armenian genocide in December 1914 could have been no surprise to the authorities in Istanbul, see GENOCIDES, page 20



AUA Hosts Delegation from the United States Sponsored by ANC

YEREVAN — Earlier this August, the American University of Armenia (AUA) welcomed a representative delegation from California State Government, Los Angeles County Government and Arizona and Colorado State Legislatures sponsored by the Armenian National Committee (ANC) Western Region.

Led by California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, the delegation included Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Chief of Staff to Supervisor Barger Anna Mouradian, Arizona State Senator Paul Boyer, Arizona State Senator Otoniel Navarrete, Colorado State Senator Dominick Moreno, Colorado State Representative Daneya Esgar, as well as ANC Western Region members Nora Hovsepian, Chair, Sako Berberian and Lina Davidian, and Simon Maghakyan.

AUA President Dr. Karin Markides, Provost Dr. Randall Rhodes, Director of Admissions Arina Zohrabian and Director of Communications Narek Ghazaryan welcomed the delegates.

Rhodes briefed the guests on the history of the University and led them through a tour of the AUA campus with stops at the AGBU Papazian Library, the Large Auditorium, and the Student Union, and classrooms in the Paramaz Avedisian Building. A small reception

Simone College of Business and Economics (CBE) Dr. Vache Gabrielyan, dean of the Gerald and Patricia Turpanjian School of Public Health (SPH) Dr. Varduhi Petrosyan, dean of General Education Dr. Sharistan Melkonian, Director of AUA Acopian Center for the Environment Alen Amirkhanian; and Prof. Gregory Areshian representing the College of Humanities & Social Sciences (CHSS). During the round table, the attendees gave brief presentations on their respective programs and research centers and proposed points of mutual interest and collaborations.

One of the key topics of discussion was marketing AUA and Armenia as a study abroad destination for students in the US. “I hope we can find common goals and see how we can help this country develop further,” said Markides. She highlighted the importance of collaboration between AUA and the U.S. government to encourage students from the US to study at AUA and experience Armenia’s rich culture.

“It’s very fascinating to see what was built here and the idea that so many years ago the University of California was at the table with the US government to help establish this University and to think that you’re doing everything possible to give students the benefits of the American system of education without leav-



From left, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis and Arizona State Senator Paul Boyer

followed at the Akian Art Gallery during which the group discussed a vision for future collaborations between the University and the states and counties represented.

Joining the delegation at the round table that followed were the Dean of Zaven and Sonia Akian College of Science & Engineering (CSE) Dr. Aram Hajian, dean of the Manoogian

ing the country is just awesome,” noted Kounalakis.

Talking about international student mobility opportunities, she added, “I see a lot of interest coming from the diaspora, especially now when this country is exponentially changing and becoming more attractive for tourism.” In her turn, Lina Davidian, ANCA, expressed willing-

ness to help spread awareness and attract more American students to study at AUA.

The visit concluded with the presentation of a state legislative citation to Markides by Kounalakis stating:

“It gives me immense pleasure to visit the campus of the American University of Armenia, an esteemed institution of higher education which enjoys longstanding and close ties with the public institutions of higher education in the state of California. As a member of the Board of Regents of the University of California and the Board of Trustees of the California State University system, I am particularly mindful of the criti-

‘Unacceptable’: US Warns Turkey of Operation in Northern Syria

ISTANBUL (Al Jazeera) — The United States has warned that any Turkish operation in northern Syria would be “unacceptable” and vowed to step up talks to prevent unilateral incursions, as tensions between Washington and Ankara simmer.

On Sunday, August 4, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey, which already has a foothold in northwest Syria, will carry out a military operation in a Kurdish-controlled area east of the Euphrates in northern Syria against the US-backed Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) that Ankara views as a terrorist group.

“Clearly we believe any unilateral action by them [Turkey] would be unacceptable,” US Defense Secretary Mark Esper told reporters in Tokyo on a trip through Asia on Tuesday, August 6.

“And so what we are trying to do now is work out with them an arrangement to address their concerns and I’m hopeful we’ll get there,” said Esper.

“What we’re going to do is prevent unilateral incursions that would upset, again, these mutual interests ... the United States, Turkey and the SDF [Syrian Democratic Forces] share with regard to northern Syria,” the new Pentagon chief added.

Erdogan has threatened an imminent attack in the northeast and he renewed that pledge on Tuesday.

“Turkey has the right to eliminate all threats against its national security... God willing, we will carry the process started with [previous offensives into Syria] to the next stage very soon,” he said in a televised speech in Ankara.

With US backing, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which includes the YPG, have taken control of much of northeastern Syria from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) over the last four years.

Esper suggested that a Turkish operation into northern Syria could affect the SDF’s focus on ensuring ISIL did not retake the territory it once held in Syria and the ability of the US-backed forces to hold the thousands of alleged ISIL fighters in detention.

Esper said the US did not have any “ambition” to abandon the SDF, but stopped short of guaranteeing that the US would protect them in case of a Turkish operation.

A team from the Pentagon was in Turkey to speak with Turkish officials about the issue and Esper said he was hopeful that an agreement could be reached with Ankara.

The Turkish-led campaign, which has for months been delayed due to resistance from Washington, is aimed at evicting Kurdish YPG forces from a string of border towns in Raqqa and Hasaka provinces.

Ankara accused Washington of stalling progress on setting up a “safe zone” inside Syria’s northeastern border with Turkey that would be cleared of the Kurdish YPG.

This week, Erdogan said both Russia and the US had been told of the planned operation, but did not say when it would begin.

It would mark the third unilateral Turkish incursion into northern Syria in as many years.

Ties between the two NATO allies have been strained over a host of issues, including the US’s removal of Turkey from the F-35 fighter jet program after Ankara bought and took delivery of Russian S-400 missile defenses that Washington sees as a threat.

cal role education plays in the advancement of our common humanity. Progress, prosperity, even civilization itself would not be possible without continual development of the human mind and our unquenchable thirst for more advanced knowledge.”

After reading the citation, the lieutenant governor remarked: “We in California are proud to say that from its earlier days, the American University of Armenia has enjoyed the close, strong and indispensable support of the University of California. It is my fervent hope that this cooperation will continue, unabated, for the benefit of all those associated with both universities.

Genocides Begin in the Wilderness, Far from Prying Eyes in Ottoman Turkey as well as Nazi Germany

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certainly not to Talaat. The Erzurum decision was originally taken by Bahaettin Shakir, the head of the “Special Organization” and the man largely regarded as the architect of the Armenian genocide. But he was himself a central committee member of the governing Union and Progress Party and had arrived in Erzurum from Istanbul. Perhaps Talaat found it expedient to begin the genocide — or to give the project a trial run — far from the capital and its foreign ambassadors, especially the Americans who would publicly reveal the later massacres to the world.

Akcam himself is still bemused as to why Ottoman archive personnel produced the incriminating papers for him. “The decision and following exterminations resemble ... the first killings of Einsatzgruppen in Poland,” he told me. “I discovered other telegrams from local governors again in the Ottoman archive where the term ‘extermination’ of Armenians is openly used. These are amazing discoveries. I don’t know why they made these documents available for researchers.”

They certainly disprove the idea — widely disseminated by Turkish genocide deniers — that the Armenian deportations and killings

occurred when Turkey was experiencing serious military difficulties and the prospect of losing the war. Not only were the Erzurum decisions taken five months before Gallipoli and a month before the Russians destroyed Turkish forces in the forests of Sarikamish; the killing of Armenians was underway well before the Ottoman state was endangered.

The early massacres of Armenians in the far east of Turkey — long before the Armenian community in Istanbul felt threatened — oddly parallels the experience of Jews in Vienna after Hitler’s 1938 Anschluss, when the Nazis incorporated Austria into the Third Reich.

Jews who fled the mass killing and anti-Semitism of the Austrian capital for Germany found that Jews suffered less discrimination in Berlin. This, of course, was not to last. The Germans preferred to commit their grossest crimes of humanity against the Jews outside the Reich: in the ghettos of Poland and the Ukraine — in Babi Yar — in the killing fields of Belarus and Russia and then, after Wannsee, in the extermination camps and gas chambers set up in Poland.

Hitler followed the history of the Armenian massacres closely and often referred to them in the years before the Second World War. Nazi

Germany envied the Turks for having “purified” the Turkic race and German diplomats in Turkey during the First World War witnessed the Armenian deportations in cities far from Istanbul. Rural Muslim Turkish and Kurdish communities far from the sophistication of Istanbul or Smyrna might have more easily accepted the first brutalities; they were certainly to participate in them.

In other words, local towns provided the impetus for killing the Ottoman empires’ minorities, just as Baltic and Ukrainian militias allied to the Nazis did not need to be instructed to murder their Jewish neighbors. Nor were the Croats ordered by Berlin to slaughter their Serbian neighbors after Germany occupied Yugoslavia in 1941; they did so without orders from Berlin. The roots of their genocidal racism already existed.

Does this apply to Rwanda, where up to a million Tutsi and moderate Hutus — including 70 per cent of the Tutsi population — were massacred in the 1994 genocide? This was centrally organized and planned, but the execution of these crimes against humanity was in the hands of Hutus across the entire country, where neighbors killed neighbors. And in their persecution and murder of Christians and Yazidis in

Iraq and Syria, Isis — which included Muslims from around the world — may not have been specifically aided by the local population; but while Arabs tried to protect their neighbors, others systematically looted their homes and property after Isis had slaughtered or deported the owners.

Hebrew University of Jerusalem lecturer Umit Kurt studied the 1915 dispossession and killing of Armenians in the southern city of Aintab and found that local Turkish Muslims freely and willingly participated in the crimes. What he discovered was that a genocidal government must have the local support of every branch of respectable society: tax officials, judges, magistrates, junior police officers, clergymen, lawyers, bankers and, most painfully, the neighbors of the victims. Not to mention the governors.

In other words, leaders do not commit genocide, not on their own. Ordinary people do. And holocausts can start far from home, in the frozen east, and long before the date we all believed the bloodbaths began.

(Robert Fisk is a regular columnist for the *Independent* newspaper in the UK. This column originally appeared in that newspaper on July 25.)